

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 6c

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SONIC BOOMS FOR STANSTED?

OUR FOREFATHERS said that if God had meant man to fly he would have given him wings; yet if God had meant man to make sonic booms he would have...

Science marches on but man stays where he is. Science has given us aircraft, jet engines and airports, it has also given us noise.

I thought I knew all about noise until I experienced a sonic boom. It was a thunderclap of a jet fighter passing over Central Europe. One minute there was silence, the next just noise, powerful and overbearing. I realise now that then I had experienced a sonic boom from the worst possible position, that is directly underneath a low flying aircraft. The newspapers and radio all agree that the present sonic boom tests are no inconvenience, in fact 'similar to a gun being fired a block away'. Yet are these tests of public reaction in the same decibel range as that likely from a Concorde airliner? I must be forgiven for this observation but not very long ago I was informed by government experts that the Concorde would only break the sound barrier over the Atlantic far from populated areas, but these experts have changed their minds, the Concorde will now boom over Bristol or Cardiff. I do not doubt their minds will change as often as their estimates of the Concorde's costing.

I do not question the government's morality in making bangs over the

countryside as I know full well that they do not know any better; but I am questioning everyone's seemingly calm acceptance of this situation. Where I live, in Hendon, we are well out of the noise zone around London Airport but quite often we are deafened by some Boeing or other, screaming loudly overhead drowning all conversation. Just as much I will not be surprised if the Concorde booms louder than expected and over the unsuspecting, in fact we are all likely victims.

We know full well, however, that nothing can be done about it. The Members of Parliament and the Courts of Law are powerless against delegated legislation. To march through the streets proves nothing but our presence—in fact all areas of permitted political and social protest are designed to produce no effect. So what can we do to protect our sanity? We all know that if we shout in the streets we can be arrested for 'disturbing the police' or 'assaulting a police officer', but what if several hundred people gathered in one spot, outside No. 10 for instance, and shouted 'Bang' at the one and the same time. What if the people who live around Stansted destroy the new airport as it is being built, as Harold knows they don't want it. They must realise that government can only exist by the docile acceptance of the governed; and they must ask what came first, the government or the people?

NIGEL WILSON.

POT SHOTS FOR THE PRESS

THE INCREASED BLATANCY of the narcissism and hedonism of English youth have boosted exports, tourism and the circulation figures of the gutter press. The gratitude of the press and the Wilson government seems to have taken the form of persecuting the geese that have been laying the balance of payments eggs—swinging young dealers like Robert Fraser, groups like the Rolling Stones and types like pot smokers. The persecuted have been quick to fight back in their own idiom.

Their idiom is the be-in—a type of gathering that has as much in common with a picnic as it does with a demonstration. At a be-in organising and marshalling are at a minimum or are non-existent. The conveners seldom give out more information than the rough nature of the occasion, the time and place. In the case of Sunday's pot rally, the conveners (the *International Times*) refused to give more than this essential information to anyone. They consistently refused

to say whether they intended or expected the rally to take the form of a smoke-in, as a consequence a number of people, especially the police, were extremely apprehensive.

As it turned out, the rally went surprisingly smoothly, a number of speakers and poets appeared briefly. They included Michael X, Brian Patten, and of course Mr. Ginsberg. Only twice did the police noticeably intrude themselves: on the first occasion to get the few placards that had been brought along put down on the ground out of sight of the TV cameras, and then to tell Mr. Ginsberg that he couldn't play his harmonium in the park. From the centre of the rally it seemed that the photographers who wouldn't comply with repeated requests to sit down had greater nuisance-value than the police and their little regulations.

It must be asked what the rally as such accomplished. It certainly provided the press with a lot of attractive pictures and television with offbeat footage, but whether the rally nudged the state a single inch toward the toleration of cannabis is extremely doubtful.

Once officially over, the rally spawned half a dozen or so focuses of attention which were much more effective exercises in communication than the rally itself. A few girls wandered around blowing soap bubbles and offering children a turn at it, a few people scattered flower petals, conversations were struck up between those for and those against the smoking of pot, despite park regulations instruments of various kinds were played and people started dancing. The dancers were surrounded by large numbers of on-lookers who seemed to find the flower children better entertainment than the regular corner speakers. To these people the nature of the 'flower power now' message became fairly apparent.

THE CAMPAIGN for Stuart Christie's release is now meeting with stiff opposition from the British Foreign Office.

Stuart Christie, now 21, and three years of his 20-year sentence almost behind him, has received practically no help from the Foreign Office. Now that Stuart is appealing for clemency, Lord Chalfont has told a deputation of MPs that the time was 'inappropriate' and left it in doubt whether the British Government will support this appeal.

Two members of the deputation have accepted the Foreign Office line.

One of them is Mr. Niall MacDermot, a junior Minister, and as such he is bound by Cabinet considerations. Another is Tom Fraser, the MP for Hamilton, in whose constituency Stuart's mother lives (in Blantyre). He has accepted the offer of two appointments to Government boards and is resigning his seat. This was announced five days after the deputation saw Lord Chalfont.

Two of the MPs who have not been frightened off are Hugh Delargy and Alfred Morris. They have now been joined by Eric Lubbock, the Liberal Whip and MP for Orpington. Together they will continue to do what they can to change the FO attitude.

The reason for this attitude is still not clear. Ever since the renewed publicity (especially the excellent articles by George Gardiner in the *Sunday Times*) and the efforts of Mr. Morris and Mr. Delargy, Stuart has received very good treatment and was transferred to the Alcala de Henares jail where he has his own cell, where he is allowed letters from friends by a more liberal censor, and where, at his birthday party on July 10, he was allowed beer and wine to offer his guests.

When the police came by they were very well behaved and didn't bother to enforce the music-making by-law. They were greeted with chants of either 'down with fuzz' or 'we love fuzz', and to both sides the two phrases seemed virtually interchangeable. From what could be seen, no pot was smoked and so the police had nothing very substantial to fuss over. They did move into action a few times, but surprisingly few. When they did it was hard to determine whether or not the victim was actually 'escorted' all the way off the park. Treated to flowers and protestations of love, the police seemed very ill at ease and uncertain as to what game they should decide to play.

In every national assembly a great deal of status is conferred on the official opposition. The reason is quite simple—governments thrive on confrontations with oppositions, lobbies, dissenters and rebels. They thrive on these disagreements because they are over-agreed upon issues. If you quarrel with the government or the police over a specific issue, you in fact validate them and the game they are playing.

But say you love them, say they're just silly children playing silly games, say you don't care what kinds of knots they get themselves into provided they leave you pretty well alone—start saying that kind of thing and then you start deflating them and all their pompous self-righteous hypocritical scandalous inhuman games.

At their be-ins the hippies have stumbled onto this fundamental truth. This posture of total rejection and indifference is potentially even more effective than civil disobedience. If the technique doesn't pass with the summer, the state is in for some real trouble.

DAVID WILSON.

Release Stuart Christie!



This photograph of Stuart Christie was taken in Carabanchel Jail in November 1965. This is his fourth summer in prison.

One reason Lord Chalfont gave was that on no account must anything be said that will irritate the Spanish authorities. He instanced a long report (Spanish readers please oblige) which appeared in *ABC*, the Spanish newspaper, and which was 'pointedly adverse'. He did not say whether this was adverse to Stuart or to the British Government!

Lord Chalfont seems particularly ignorant, even for a Minister, of the situation in Spain. There are many people in Spain, and not only revolutionaries, who are now openly critical of this sentence meted out to Stuart. They are also embarrassed by the 'adverse reaction' abroad on their ever-increasing number of political prisoners. There are many who are similarly outraged for sentences of 12 years each on two British youths recently for 'joy-riding'. The British Government does not back up this protest, it even encourages soothing stories in newspapers to the effect that the 'sentences may seem harsh but they are part of Spain's 1,000-year-old penal code'.

MORE IMPRISONMENTS IN SPAIN

ACCORDING to the Spanish news agency 'Efe', the group of comrades belonging to the 'Federacion Iberica de Juventudes Libertarias' received over 13 years in prison sentences between them. Charged by the 'Tribunal of Public Order' with intending to kidnap an officer of United States army, they have been sentenced as follows:

Luis Edo to three years' jail, fined, plus six months of detention, apparently to cover the time he was awaiting trial. He was charged with illegal association, conspiracy and using a false name.

Antonio Cañete got three years for illegal association. Alicia Mur was given three years' prison and six months detention for illegal association, conspiracy and use of a false name. Alfredo Herrera Davito received three months' detention for conspiracy. Jesús Andrés, held by the prosecution to be an alcoholic and not responsible for his actions, was given three years for possession of armaments and three months' detention for illegal association. Andrés, it is believed, was

Another point to remember is that the British Government is now so right wing that even in Franco's Cabinet there are Ministers who are more 'liberal' than them. This praise, however faint, must go to Fraga Iribarne who, as Minister for Tourism, has no other choice but to be liberal. Whilst Stuart Christie, or any other foreigner, is in jail in Madrid, any mention of them abroad will have an adverse effect on the Spanish tourist trade.

It is also true to say that Stuart's forthright behaviour and direct action in the Carabanchel jail has earned him the grudging respect of his opponents. His threat that he will go on hunger strike must have influenced the sentences on Luis Edo and the four other anarchists who were tried on July 4. Sentences of 15 years each were expected. In the end they only received a sentence of three years each. This in itself is monstrous on a trumped up charge; but not large enough (by Spanish standards) to have produced more than a paragraph in the British Press, and so the Spanish tourist trade was not affected.

George Gardiner has summarised the case for remission of sentence which the MPs are pursuing.

He writes: 'Christie was only 18 at the time of his crime which he did not instigate. He was undoubtedly foolish, but the sentence seems unnecessarily savage. In gaol he has proved a well-behaved prisoner. Once released, he obviously would not enter Spain again'.

There is no need here to disagree with any of the assumptions. They are clearly written in a political language by people who are versed in the language of politics.

What matters is that Stuart Christie has not changed his mind about the validity of his ideas or his action. He had written to friends emphasising this point. He also had written to the Spanish authorities affirming that his action was activated by the highest motives. This is understood by people in Spain where he is now a nationally-known person.

The least the Foreign Office can do is to support Stuart's appeal for clemency. Stuart is very hopeful at the moment that his appeal will succeed. Friends of Stuart Christie must urge Lord Chalfont to reconsider his decision.

first to be caught and it was from him the Spanish police extracted information which led to the other arrests.

The sentences seem light compared with past experience of Franco's justice, especially since the prosecution was demanding 15 years apiece for Luis, Antonio and Alicia. Six-and-a-half years for Jesús Andrés, and another six for Davito. The failure of the prosecution to pin the charge of the successful kidnapping which took place in Italy last year, may have helped here.

A CORRESPONDENT.

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AT THE MOMENT of writing Robert Fraser is still imprisoned awaiting the outcome of the Rolling Stones appeal. Fraser is young, rich and very much a creature of his time in that he is of that second generation of acquired wealth who use money not only for their hedonistic creature comforts, but as a drum to attract the attention of the Town to that which happens to amuse them at the moment.

Yet it was always so, and many a Greek and Roman ancient sored his papyrus by reflecting on the evils of inherited wealth, and many a desert prophet joined hands over the dusty years with the American wealthy of World War One to cry calamity as the second generation buy the applause of the pseudo-intelligentsia and play tootsie with this month's Beautiful People on the strength of a free meal and the use of the key to the wine cellar. And, like that sad old woman who lifts her stained skirts and dances a grotesque jig across the floor of the public bar after a few free drinks, we are amused and then, on reflection, ashamed that we dared to be amused.

Robert Fraser, of his bank-book, gave us the Robert Fraser Gallery and from across the deep waters flowed all those American performers who made up for their lack of talent by the audacity of the monumental trivia that they offered the pseudos and the Beautiful People. And we wandered around the gallery viewing the huge plastic false teeth, examined with a jaundiced eye Johnny Apple's sauce bottles cast in bronze, searched with an aesthetic eye for the clumsily-drawn fanny in Dimes trashy paintings, sighed over Peter Blake's lost talent, and cursed the Arts Council for wasting public money in buying the public posturing of men and women whose major crime is that they take themselves seriously.

ROUND THE GALLERIES

But Fraser is in prison and, despite the open warfare that exists between him and those performers who have primed into his gallery and left face down screaming vengeance over his alleged financial dealings with them, a major group of these minor artists have publicly protested at the State's intrusion into the private lives of Fraser and, by association, the Rolling Stones, by opening up the locked gallery and exhibiting their work. It is a gesture to be commended in that, like the jongler of Christ, they have displayed their public acceptance by offering their widow's mite of talent when public support is sorely needed, for again and again let it be known that, if Robert Fraser is broken by the State, then one more avenue of communication is closed to us and the right, even to be outraged, will be denied us.

But the third generation of acquired wealth is still with us, as they pad from their suites from within the Hilton Hotel onto the alien pavements, they can turn for relief and pleasure into the Hilton Art Gallery in Park Lane, W.1. This is a beautiful little gallery forming part of that expensive necklace of shops that cluster around the central figure of the Hilton doorman, so very tiny yet so attuned to wealth that nothing is priced. Forming a costly background to the tiny decorated clocks that silently fill each table, hang the water colours of Salvador Dali. I have always held, of my cynicism, that one of the least harmless con games of the art world was the reproduction of some particular literary classic. Having decided on the minor problem of which literary printed work

should be so honoured, the publishers would then announce that one of the Great Masters of our Age would dedicate his brush to illustrating this glorious rhubarb and, five, or ten years later, a limited edition would be flogged to those with money and little taste for, let us be brutally frank, these huge and unmanageable volumes are valueless as works of art or as reading matter.

Like the encyclopaedias that are hawked from suburban door to door, they are to be owned but never opened for they are but a visual sign of social affluence and a claim to good taste. Dali, who dearly loves the dollar, has been called upon to illustrate Dante's *Divine Comedy* and though by the 19th century there were at least 350 different versions of this book floating around, one feels that Dali's will not enhance the score for, in all honesty, one feels that Dali could have amused us more and been more effective if he had been paid to illustrate the London Telephone Directory for it is at least one book that can claim a mass readership. It is claimed that Dali worked from 1950 until 1959 to produce these 100 watercolours and judging from the work on display one feels that the old exhibitionist was slipping for I would have held that in the old days Dali could have churned this inferior work out in two or three months and still found time to pose for his photograph.

All the old Dali cliches are there, and they range from his *soft watch* period to his perennial use of exciting rock formations. Yet by Dali's standards this is bad work and never more so than in his profile of Dante and his clumsy and

ham-fisted pastiches of William Blake's watercolours.

It is said that it took five years to produce this book and 3,500 blocks had to be hand-cut yet there is a lunatic logic in this demonstration of how the skill of an artist, blockmaker and publisher can be wasted. Yet now let us pray that the greatest comic artist of our generation will waste no more time on these snob brochures for the Hilton habitués and return to his oils and his stretched canvases, for the world owes Dali a debt, and we are eager to add to it by bending our knee in mock homage to his mock majesty for, though we may jeer at him, our world would be much sadder without him. ARTHUR MOYSE.

POLICE AT IT AGAIN

RECENT events make us think that the police are paying a lot of attention to the anarchists in Liverpool. Two pubs in the city, the 'Cracke' and 'O'Connor's Tavern', in which a large number of anarchists and anarchist-sympathisers gather, have recently been raided and several arrests were made on drunk and disorderly charges. Two uniformed policemen came into the 'Cracke' at 10.25 p.m. one Saturday just as we were finishing the third verse of 'All Coppers Are Bastards'. They said that they would give everybody two minutes to clear the place. In the meantime they sent for a couple of vanloads of reinforcements who managed to make four arrests. Gerry Bree, who was one of those arrested, was driven round town in a police car before being taken to the station and was beaten up in the back of it. His watch and glasses were broken and one of his teeth knocked out and he had to spend a few days in hospital.

There have also been raids on the flats of a few people. Terry opened the door to the police one day but it turned out to be a friendly visit. They asked him if he was one of 'those anarchist blokes'. A little further up the road from him, Mark has also been visited. The police knew which rooms they lived in at both houses, and even how to open a faulty lock on Terry's front door, and we suspect that one of our number is a rare type of anarchist who is a friend of the police or a rare type of policeman who is a friend of the anarchists. We haven't decided yet but we are waiting for developments with great interest.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHISTS.

Genocide Square

TWO FURTHER CASES arising out of the re-naming of Genocide Square were heard on Monday last. Lenny Payne was fined £5 for insulting behaviour and £1 for illegally affixing a poster. He was bound over in the sum of £50 to be of good behaviour. In the course of his evidence P.c. 518C Roth said that Payne gave a Nazi salute and made insulting obscene remarks about the Americans, whereas no Nazi salute was given and no such remark was made.

Tommy Farr was refused permission for an adjournment since the magistrate said that it was only a minor offence, nevertheless he was fined £2 with costs. He wished to call Jim Radford as a witness—this also was not granted.

JACK ROBINSON.

Through the Anarchist Press

USA

DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS' have brought lessons to a standstill in a school in New York's East Bronx slum, reports the teachers' bulletin of the British school magazine *Everyweek*. A breakdown of the student body of 2,000 gives figures of 75% Puerto Rican, 19% Negro and 6% 'others'; racial tension is not regarded as a problem in comparison with the endemic violence that has led to the resignation of 79 teachers, 60% of the staff. After emergency discussions with the school board, the United Federation of Teachers stated that its members would return to their classrooms only if the total of 14 security guards—nicknamed the 'brat patrol'—were on hand to protect staff against assaults by pupils, as teachers may not defend themselves by counter-attack.

An investigation has been promised; but only into the situation at the school, not into the personal degradation and unheeded squalor which engender such frightening problems and such barbaric 'solutions'.

USSR

As a protest against US policy in Vietnam, Russia last year cancelled a trip by its athletics team to Los Angeles for a big USA-USSR track and field competition. Now, however, the Russian Government has come across with

\$100,000 worth of compensation. Some protest.

YUGOSLAVIA

Sentencing the writer Mihajlo Mihajlov to four and a half years' imprisonment, the judge who announced the verdict declared that 'the freedom of thought and expression guaranteed by the constitution does not entitle anybody to express ideas hostile to socialism or the well-being of the state'.

PAKISTAN

The building or expansion of a modern city almost always involves wholesale massacre of the countryside. Things are different in Pakistan if a recent official bulletin is to be believed: 'Islamabad, the new capital, will be a city of gardens and open spaces, with the emphasis on beauty and the enjoyment of leisure... 700,000 trees have already been planted... an overall harmony between landscape and architecture is aimed at'.

It might be interesting to see just *who* will live in the lovely houses and enjoy their leisure in the delightful gardens of this marvellous new city.

INDIA

The Government of India has conducted an enquiry on the financing of political campaigns and has found that the CIA (the notorious American espionage organization) has contributed to the electoral campaigns of right-wing

parties and reactionary candidates. The sums are not stated, but it is suggested that they are sums varying between a few tens of thousands to less than one million dollars.

The Government has also added that Communist countries have financed parties and candidates of the left in a more open manner.

USA

In its last sitting of the judicial year 1966-67 (June 12 ult.), the Supreme Court of the US has given its judgement in the case of the married couple Richard and Mildred Loving, condemned in the state of Virginia for the offence of miscegenation, marriage between individuals of different races. The nine judges were unanimous in declaring that everyone has right to love and marry whom he wishes and there is no authority in USA territory which has the constitutional power to prevent it.

We are not surprised that they agree on this point; but we are surprised that in the last third of the twentieth century there are still 16 of the 50 states of the Union which prohibit marriage between individuals of different races: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

JOHN THURSTON & J.W.S.

(Sources: *La Revolution proletarienne*, *Défense de l'Homme*, *Le Monde libertaire*, *Adunata dei Refrattari* (New York), Vol. XLVI, No. 13, June 24, 1967.)

Anarchist Federation of Britain

(As there is no national secretariat for enquiries, speakers, etc., please contact local groups.)

1967 AFB CONFERENCE. Oct. 6, 7, 8. For details of London venue and proposals for agenda apply to LFA.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. Temporary address c/o Wooden Shoe, 42 New Compton Street, London, W.C.2. Sunday evening meetings 8 p.m. Lamb & Flag, Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2 (Leicester Square tube). Literature seller at Speakers' Corner, Sunday afternoons.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 138 Penryn Road, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping. July 22. LFA at Harlow. Public meeting, leafletting, selling, social. Write for information.

LEWISHAM. Locations of meetings temporarily altered because of new baby. Further details of meetings from 61b Granville Park, S.E.13 or ring LEE 8879.

SOUTHWARK ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Dave Burden, 45b Barry Road, East Dulwich, S.E.22. Proposed meetings to be held on first and third Thursday of each month.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex.

EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Ken King, 54 Norwood Road, Southall.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS
 3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canina's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.
 3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald and Irene Room's, now at 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS
 ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP. Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Cheshire.
 ABERDEEN GROUP. Correspondence to

Michael Day, 86 Rosemount Place, Aberdeen.
 BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnhurst, Kent.
 BELFAST. Contact Tony Adams, 11 Winetavern Street, Smithfield Square, Belfast.
 BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Geoff Charlton, 8 Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood, Smethwick, 41. Regular meetings at Geoff and Caroline's above address, top flat. First Wednesday of month.
 BIRMINGHAM PEACE ACTION CENTRE (formerly CND office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.
 BOLTON. Get in touch with Les Smith, 74 Arnold Street, Bolton, Lancs.
 BRIGHTON. Get in touch with 79 Coleman Street, Brighton, 7. Poetry readings every Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Fishmarket. All poets welcome.
 BRISTOL. Contact: Dave Thorne, 49 Cotham Brow, Bristol, 6.
 DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar, Fife.
 GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, G.1.
 HULL ANARCHIST GROUP. J. Tempest, 8 p.m. 1st and 3rd Mondays of month. The Cabin, Blue Bell Inn, Queen Street.
 IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.
 KILBURN, LONDON. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.
 LEE, LONDON, S.E.12. Anarchist-Radical Group. Contact Paul, c/o Lewisham Group (above).
 ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 23. Brian and Maureen Richardson.
 PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.
 ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Eryl Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester. Fortnightly meetings.
 SLOUGH. Contact Sid Rawle, 4 Hillperton Road, Slough, Bucks.
 SOUTH EAST ESSEX ANARCHIST GROUP. We would love to hear from fellow-sympathisers in area. All enquiries to M. Powell, 7 Lingeroff, Basildon, Essex.
 SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP meets alternate Thursdays and Saturdays, on Ed Pie Island. Contact P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.
 TROWBRIDGE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact P. Weston, Chivele, Butts Lane, Keevil, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Meetings every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. Friends' Meeting House (opp. Bus Station).

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION
 Regional Secretary: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.
 NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION.
 BUXTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: F. A. Gresty, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton.
 CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Anne Marie Fearon, 16 Devonshire Road, Chorley.
 LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP. Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings.
 MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION
 WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.
 LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 82 North Road, Highgate, N.6. (Tel: MOU 5702.)

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION
 CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA

ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to: Julian Ross, 11 Wellfield Close, Bishopston, Swansea.

PROPOSED GROUPS
 NORTH EAST ESSEX. Would readers interested in proposed group write to P. Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex.
 ELTHAM. 'Sons of Durrutti' Group. Get in touch with T. Liddle, 83 Gregory Crescent, London, S.E.9.
 BIRKENHEAD. Please get in touch with G. Woodhouse, 59 Cambridge Road, Woodchurch, Birkenhead.
 MUCH HADHAM, HERTS. Get in touch with Leslie Riordan, High Street, Much Hadham, Herts.
 ROCHEDALE. Please contact Richard Crawford, 4 Hargreaves Street, Sudden, Rochdale.

ABROAD
 AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box A 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.
 DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. 52 Mindevej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.
 VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel: 987-2693.
 U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion group meets weekly. Contact Ed Strauss at RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.
 SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.
 CANADA: Winnipeg. Anyone interested in Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.
 BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclessin-Liege, Belgium.
 EAST AFRICA. George Matthews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from UK. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.
 USA: NORTH-EASTERN MINNESOTA. Contact James W. Cain, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minn. 55720, USA.
 GROUP-TREASON. Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or A.R. Giles Peters, c/o same.

Don't Mourn—Organise!

BOTH JIM RADFORD and Nicolas Walter emphasised, during the evening meeting in Brighton on the eve of commencing their two-month sentence for interrupting the Labour Party church service, that members of the anarchist and peace movement should not waste time in sympathetic demonstrations on their behalf. Their sentence of two months was a great nuisance, they do not wish to be separated from their families but they would rather that people continue demonstrations about Vietnam rather than about Jim Radford and Nicolas Walter.

Nevertheless Tony Smythe of the NCCL promised the meeting that he will see if there is any legal precedent whereby their sentence still could be quashed. He also thought that the civil liberties aspects of the case ought to be reviewed and instanced thirteen examples of breaches of the law by police and Bench.

Tony Smythe was especially concerned about the growing assumption of power (to an almost 'political' extent) by the police.

The first speaker was Dr. Birnstingl who visited North Vietnam last March and told the meeting of the effects of American anti-personnel bombing and of the destruction of towns, schools and hospitals. He showed us a 'pineapple bomb' which contained thousands of pellets which when discharged would destroy anything round about to the area of a football pitch.

Nicolas Walter summarised the lessons to be learned from the demonstration and traced its historical antecedents back

to the Peasants' Revolt. He hoped that at the Labour Party conference at Scarborough, even if there were no similar demonstrations, Harold Wilson would still have to be protected by hundreds of policemen—this would show that Harold Wilson was not safe—even amongst his own people.

Jim Radford in a forceful speech asked the meeting to sign a pledge that they will neither vote or work for the Labour Party as long as the Party continues to support the Americans in Vietnam. He also spoke out against the sentence of one month against Terry Liddle for the demonstration at Genocide Square and condemned the continued imprisonment of Stuart Christie. He also issued a statement which is available from Vietnam Action, 5 Clockhouse Road, Beckenham, Kent. He called upon organisations to consider it and re-issue it.

We were also given a long rambling talk by William Warby (ex-MP) about social justice as it appears to a young and an old man. Those that were patient enough to wait were provided with vague evidence of secret treaties signed by Wilson and Johnson, by Home and Johnson, and by Eden and Kennedy. Some research to check is being done on this.

Meanwhile the fund for Nicolas and Jim and their dependants is open. Please send to Jean Smythe at 68 Hewitt Road, London, N.8.

It must be an insane society that sends men to prison for murder and for protesting against murder.

M.H.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

THE LONG HOT SUMMER of discontent continued despite attempts of hippies to play it cool. Negro riots continued in America, Charles Humana suggested (in the *Guardian*) swimming-pools for Hong-Kong, Egypt and Israel confronted each other in the Suez, reports of cannibalism in the Congo were discounted, but MPs after a long hot night of abortion were annoyed with their philosopher-king Mr. Crossman for opening his trap too wide. Nigeria continued its war without benefit of newspaper correspondents and General Westmoreland conned more lives from President Johnson to squander in the Vietnam gamble. As if this were not enough the Institute of Phenomenological Studies commenced its series of lectures 'The Dialectics of Liberation' in an attempt 'to demystify violence' for which feat they have enlisted the aid of Stokeley Carmichael among others.

THERE WAS NO MYSTIQUE about the violence in a report from Dong Ha in the *International Herald Tribune* by Richard Harwood commencing, 'The bodies of the dead Marines, antiseptically encased in green plastic bags, were heaped along the airstrip this morning ready for loading in a cargo-plane. A dry-eyed sergeant was cursing, grinding his teeth, "They're killing us off one by one and what's it getting us? Not a goddam thing. Why don't they wipe out Hanoi or Haiphong or do something? Why do we have to fight on their terms?"' . . . What had frustrated the sergeant and no doubt the generals who sent the Marines into action was the apparent purposelessness of the fight. It had as far as one could tell, no territorial objective. Like many of the bloodiest engagements in South Vietnam

this summer, it was simply a fight between men who had no clear tactical or strategic purpose on either side.

JIM RADFORD, now jailed for the Brighton demonstration, has suggested a movement round a pledge 'I affirm that I will never vote or work for the Labour Party as long as they continue to support the American military presence in Vietnam'. He suggests mass burnings of Labour Party cards by dissident workers throughout the country and a badge to be worn by supporters saying, 'Labour—No'. A worthy citizen in California has started a campaign against the Vietnam war by a petition affirming that the petitioners will not buy a new car until the Vietnam war is discontinued. A third worthy is wearing a black tie and leaving his car lights on for the duration; when asked 'why' he explains about the Vietnam war.

THOUSANDS OF UNNAMED CITIZENS of the Mid-Western United States and the City of Chicago, Illinois, paid *The Times* to explain their support for the war in Vietnam. Jeremy Campbell, the *Evening Standard's* Washington correspondent, reports a panel's findings that whereas in 1962 the US had up to 50,000 nuclear megatons of weapons compared to 12,000 megatons of the Russians; in 1967 the US has only 29,000 compared to Russia's 37,000 and in 1971 it is expected that the Russians will increase to 50,000 megatons leaving the US with 15,000 megatons. The Pentagon's reply to this is that it is quality that counts. Campbell explains, 'At the root of this thinking is the philosophy of Defence Secretary Robert McNamara who calculated that the US has ample nuclear security when it can destroy any enemy who initiates a nuclear attack'.

THE GREEK GOVERNMENT explained that the reason why *The Suppliants* and *The Phoenician Women* by Euripides; *Ajax* by Sophocles; *Prometheus Bound* by Aeschylus and three comedies by Aristophanes have been suppressed from this summer's festival programme was not because of the texts, but because the background music had been composed by Mikis Theodorakis, the communist youth leader. The Greek Minister of the Interior announced that Melina Mercouri, the actress, would be deprived of her Greek citizenship. 'The order,' said the minister, 'will be signed soon and it will apply not only to Miss Mercouri but to all those who act anti-nationally.' Miss Mercouri's property in Greece will be confiscated.

THE SPANISH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR announced the arrest of twenty-five active members of the Communist Party. Tibor Szamuely in *The Spectator* describes a recent account of conditions in Potma, a Soviet labour camp, about 200 miles south-east of Moscow. It occupies 750 square miles and Sinyavsky, Daniel and Brooke are among the 100,000 labourers. The daily ration is twenty ounces of bread, three bowls of soup and a bowl of porridge. It is now prohibited to wear 'non-convict' clothing and the weight of parcels permitted has been reduced to less than it was under Stalin, the number allowed in the Stalin era was unlimited.

DR. TREVOR WESTON addressing the British Medical scientific meeting solemnly told the assembled doctors that people whose names began with the letters S to Z were twice as likely to get ulcers and three times more prone to 'coronaries'. Their life expectancy was on an average twelve years shorter than the rest of the population. JON QUIXOTE.

Laing at the Roundhouse

A UNIQUE gathering to demystify human violence in all its forms and the social systems from which it emanates and to explore new forms of action. This is how the handouts describe a series of lectures, seminars, meetings and happenings that are taking place at the Roundhouse daily until July 22.

When you consider that the word 'violence' is used here in its widest sense, to include coercion of every kind, physical and mental, and that 'demystification' means simply seeing through the propaganda—not believing that 'our policemen are wonderful', 'it is better to be dead than Red', 'mother knows best', etc.—it is clear that the basic ideas and aims of this congress are very close to those of anarchism.

Ronald Laing, who addressed the opening meeting last Saturday, made it quite clear what this congress was about: namely, revolution. His main theme (see *Anarchy 70*) was the part played by coercion and mystification both in causing mental illness and in present attempts to 'cure' it.

But he went on to point out that the violence found in the home and the mental hospital is only a part of a vast network of violence and mystification that pervades every aspect of our lives, from toilet training to the Vietnam war. He wound up by talking about that chief cornerstone of the whole mad edifice—obedience.

He described an experiment conducted in the psychology department of a university, in which a number of volunteers were asked to take part in a so-called 'experiment to test the effects of punishment on learning'. The apparatus consisted of some simple learning material and a control panel apparently connected

up to an 'electric chair' arrangement.

Each volunteer was led to believe that the 'victim' strapped into the chair was a volunteer like himself, and that the controls he was to operate would inflict electric shocks of up to 400 volts. Each time the 'victim' made a mistake in his learning, the volunteer had to administer an 'electric shock', each time more severe. The 'victims' had been trained to simulate the appropriate degree of agony according to the voltage shown on the control panel.

Most of the volunteers began to show signs of distress as soon as their victims registered pain, and they eventually protested to the experimenters in charge; when this happened, they were firmly told to carry on. Some nevertheless refused at an early stage to continue the experiment; others dropped out at later stages; but a few, sweating profusely and trembling in every limb, continued to obey orders, administering (as they thought) electric shocks to an innocent fellow-human right up to the point clearly marked on the control panel: DANGEROUS.

I think few anarchists would dispute the relevance to us of this kind of information; and if Dr. Laing's lecture was characteristic, this congress has a great deal to offer to anarchist thought.

CONGRESS AND ORGANISATION

After the lecture there was a meeting of the 200-odd 'participants' (those who have paid the 15 guineas to attend all the seminars, happenings, etc.), to arrange the timetable for first few days. The public lectures obviously had to be at a fixed time and place, but we were told that seminars would be arranged according to demand.

Some people had been asked in advance to conduct seminars on their particular subjects, but anyone was invited to add his own interest to the list of proposed topics (which ranged from transcendental experience to the Middle East war).

The evenings would be given over to any artistic activities, happenings, dances or what-not that anyone cared to organise, and all these arrangements would be reviewed and, if necessary, altered after three days. Even this was not spontaneous enough for everyone: a speaker from the floor proposed that even for the public lectures, the seats should be arranged in a circle: since our aim was demystification, we should start by demystifying the roles of 'speaker' and 'audience'. Someone else was anxious that we should not regard the seminars as being 'conducted' by anyone in particular. On the other hand, a chap at the back kept protesting that the whole thing was too vague and disorganised, and that we must have a definite timetable.

The whole situation was neatly summed up by a distinguished Dane, who quoted an old saying that 'confusion is sweet when taken to heart', and added, 'I should like to congratulate the people who have dared not to organise this congress.'

A. M. FEARON.

Free Art

Dear Friends,

I have a few words to say about the article 'What Price Free Art' by 'Hubert Selby Senior' in your issue of July 15. I don't intend to plunge into the murky waters swirling around the subject of British and American copyright: there is a good deal to be said for all three interested parties (publisher/bookseller/member of the reading public) and as a modest member of the fourth estate (writer) I have my own reasons for being occasionally exasperated by the fact that translation rights are frequently held by separate publishers in Britain and America for the same work (or series of works by the same author) and failure to negotiate a co-publishing arrangement inevitably entails the frustration of mutual exclusion or the wastefulness of 'rival' translations (two of my books have recently appeared in paperback in America, and neither of them can be imported into this country because in each case a hard-cover English edition is still available).

But I definitely want to set the record straight in regard to your pseudonymous correspondent's accusations against John Calder and the fact that he controls the translation rights for Britain of the work of Antonin Artaud. John Calder has most certainly not been 'sitting on these rights for three years'. I can inform your correspondent that he has been making the most strenuous efforts to find an adequate translator for this supremely difficult author since the time he acquired the British rights. He asked me in June 1965 if I could undertake the translation of the entire *Works* and I declined, with great regret, because of prior commitments. I know that he has never stopped looking for the right person to tackle this most demanding job.

Your correspondent is equally misinformed when he continues: '... there is no sign that [he] will publish an Artaud book even in the near future'. I can inform him that John Calder has found an excellent translator who is at present working on the entire Artaud oeuvre, and that the first volume of the *Collected Works* will be appearing this autumn, and the second volume before the end of this year. I understand that the third volume should be out early in the New Year and the fourth volume next summer.

I am truly sorry to hear from your correspondent (although he is so abysmally misinformed that I hope that in this instance too he is incorrect) that John Calder is no longer opposing the sale in this country of the City Lights publication called the *Artaud Anthology*, since reasons of scholarship and aesthetics alone would demand that the farther this bungled hotchpotch is kept from our shores the better: the appalling incompetence of most of the translations is matched only by the disgraceful editing which makes a travesty of Artaud's thought by juxtaposing texts of absolutely separate intention and by printing (through ignorance) false documents. Mme. Paule Thévenin, the literary executor of the Artaud estate, has already published a scathing and justified indict-

LETTERS

ment of this meretricious attempt to canonize Artaud as the patron saint of the hippies. I have no intention of entering into correspondence about my rude remarks in this paragraph: I refer the reader to the review *Tel Quel*, No. 24, Winter 1966, Paris, containing Paule Thévenin's article 'L'imbécillisation par la Beat Generation' (any university reference library or the Institut Français in London).

Yours fraternally,
SIMON WATSON TAYLOR.

London, S.W.10
14.7.67

Libraries & Freedom

Dear Editors,

I noticed with regret the decision of Glasgow libraries to cancel their subscriptions to FREEDOM but, being a librarian myself, I am probably more aware than the majority of your readers as to the likely reason behind this decision. The number of periodicals on the market is increasing rapidly and a conservative estimate of the number available in England alone would run into many thousands. Librarians are constantly badgered by their clientele to take this or that periodical but, unfortunately, library committees, who are responsible for providing public libraries with funds, are notoriously niggardly when asked for increases. Librarians, therefore, find themselves in the unpleasant position of having to make economies where they can, and this usually means cancelling their subscriptions to the less popular papers.

Because of this, though, they usually welcome a gift subscription to practically any periodical that can get past the censor, and this being so, it should be possible for nearly every group in the country to get a copy of FREEDOM regularly displayed in their public library. Here is the recommended technique.

First, create a demand. This can be done quite simply if each member of the group, within a fairly prolonged period (say a month, no less), asks the library staff if they take FREEDOM. Don't forget to ask by phone, thus enabling everyone to ask twice . . . at least.

Secondly, provide the librarian with the means to meet the demand by offering him FREEDOM free. Perhaps the editors themselves can co-operate in this matter by introducing a special subscription rate for any group or individual who wishes thus to endow a library? Alternatively, any group already receiving bundles can make a point of providing their library with one of the inevitable unsold copies. Naturally the thing would have to be done carefully, and with subtlety, but I think it extremely worthwhile to increase the readership of FREEDOM in any way.

I hope people will comment on this idea, either to criticize, or record success and failure.

Yours fraternally,
Manchester 14 DAVEY JONES.

Whose Responsibility?

THERE HAS BEEN a great outcry of anger and disgust at the harm done to natural life in the sea, and to the beaches of Cornwall and Brittany by the oil tanker which recently ran onto the Seven Stones. But while there have been attempts to pin the responsibility on various persons and organizations, I do not know if anybody has thought of condemning the true instigator, an impersonal one if you wish, but cluttered with vested interests, that is to say, technological progress tied to more and more production and maximum profit.

If the *Torrey Canyon* had been much smaller, the damage would have been far less and much more easily rectified. However, small tankers, with which oil magnates made themselves rich in the past, no longer satisfy them now they have found means of constructing giant vessels. Japan, which this year has made 47% of the world's tanker tonnage, has already built monsters such as the *Tokio Maru* of 150,000 tons and the *Idenitsu Maru* of 210,000 tons, and expect to make, within the next dozen years, some of half a million tons!

Industrial greed and megalomania know no limits. They are implicit in our industrial civilisation which also includes the state capitalism of the communist countries. It is the mentality according to which the whole earth is just a deposit of raw materials and all nature is for exploitation. Fortunately, it is now not only poets who are revolting against this type of mind but also scientists are joining them in ever greater numbers. It is, in fact, in the Soviet Union that for over a year now there has been a battle against those production fanatics for whom nature has only economic aspects. It is a question of preserving from harm, due to the construction of paper mills, the flora and fauna of Lake Baikal, 70% of which has not been found in any other part of the world, nor has any other part the extremely pure water and natural beauty of this region. . . . tr.: j.w.s.

(Source: *Umanita Nova*.)

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Reject this Sham!

WE HAVE long maintained in these columns that in many ways British capitalism would be better served by a Labour Government than by another Tory one. This is especially true where basic industries have grown unwieldy and their manufacturing processes are out of date.

Even the Tories, or at least the majority, recognise that capitalism needs the intervention of the State for often it is only by State invest-

ment that reorganisation of industry can be carried out. Certainly the reorganisation is needed in the steel industry. The Labour Party is honouring its election pledge of nationalisation of this industry, but who will benefit from this reorganisation? Certainly not the workers in the industry.

Many Socialist groupings and workers think that nationalisation is a step in the right direction. It may have brought certain benefits, such as higher safety standard in coal mines, but all it has really meant is a change of boss, and a much bigger and more powerful one at that. However, the nationalisation of steel will mean a departure from what is usually recognised in that the National Steel Corporation have plans for the 'involvement' of shop-floor steel workers in management. The decision to have steel workers on the steel boards is no doubt a result of the pressure exerted by some left-wing Labour MPs and organisations such as the *Week* and the *Voice of the Unions*. However, even the Corporation's proposals fall a long way short of what these organisations had campaigned for.

WORKERS SELECTED

The Corporation allows for three steel workers on each divisional board of the nationalised sectors of the industry. These men will not be elected by their workmates, but will be selected by the Corporation from names submitted by the TUC. Numbering only three on a board of 12, they will only be a minority. If they are shop stewards, they will have to give up this position if they want to go on the board. As such, they will act in a personal capacity and will not be subject to recall by the people they are supposed to represent.

The only concession the TUC gained from the Corporation was that the men would sit on the Regional Group Board that represents the area in which they work, at least they are only part-time and so will not be completely cut off from the shop floor. Even the *Guardian* has called the scheme a 'sham'. Under this system the Corporation will still maintain control and the so-called workers' representatives will soon be absorbed in the routine of management. At best their good intentions, to represent workers' interests, will be frustrated at every turn.

These 'workers directors' will be involved with decisions affecting the reorganising of industry, so they could be held responsible for the redundancies that will be brought about during this reorganisation. According to one investigation, steel capacity will be cut by 25% in the next ten years, which would mean sacking about a third of the present labour force.

It is important that this scheme be exposed and pointed out as not being what anarchists mean by workers' control. It was dreamed up by Ron Smith, Ex-General Secretary of the Union of Postal Workers, and even the *Director*, the journal of the Institute of Directors, which is all in favour of the scheme, has said, 'More important, they (the Government) want the unions to share the responsibility for some of the expected unpopular decision.'

The Minister of Power, Mr. Marsh, has said this about the scheme, 'Management clearly has to have the right to hire and fire. They will have the right to make decisions, but the people involved also have the right to express their point of view.' This is it in a nutshell. It has nothing to do with real workers' control, because the deci-

sion will not be made by them. The steel workers on the shop floor might be able to put 'their point of view', but that is all.

REJECT THE SCHEME

There is a great danger that not only will the idea of workers' control of industry be discredited in all this, but that shop floor union organisation will be emasculated. Steel workers should reject the whole scheme because it does nothing in the way of altering the power structure of the industry. It may be a reform, but like many other reforms carried out by the State, it serves to divert people from real revolutionary demands and keeps the present system intact.

Reforms as such are worth striving for, but should be recognised for what they are. The capitalist system has proved very flexible and is quite clever at adapting itself to pressure. This is not to say that steel workers should reject the scheme and that's that. I think it must be recognised and accepted that steel workers are not in a strong position to fight the Corporation's future plans of reorganisation. Many rivalries exist, especially between process and craft workers. The Corporation wants to see three unions for all steel workers.

There is no doubt that this will happen, but it is some time off yet. But what is essential is that all steel workers, whatever the job, organise themselves at rank and file level to fight the sackings in the reorganisation plans. If steel capacity is to be cut or new methods need less men, then the only answer is a shorter working week. This will be control, because this is a decision acted upon by the collective power of workers. While the Corporation holds control, participation by workers on these boards will lead to disillusionment, while strong shop floor organisation can not only constrain the Corporation's plans, but also make demands which give steel workers far more control than any scheme of 'workers directors' can.

A challenge to the management's so-called 'right to hire and fire' would be a good start. The real extent of control over the job depends on the solidarity and strength of the men on the shop floor.

P.T.

Vauxhall Try it on

THE HIGH-HANDED attitude of Vauxhall's management forced a stoppage at their Luton plant last week. The company issued leaflets on the new wages proposals. The union officials begged the management not to take this action as nothing had been negotiated—they were purely management proposals.

The idea was to by-pass both union officials and the shop stewards. The suggested wage increases had strings attached with regards to productivity, shift work, women employees and transfers from one part of the factory to the other.

Vauxhall car workers reacted to the proposals as forecast by union officials—there was a stoppage of work. A reluctant return to work has been accepted by the workers, with counter-proposals being submitted to the management.

A few months ago Vauxhall management tried the 'big stick' with their draughtsmen, but were forced to fall in line. Vauxhall's new group of American executives think they are still in the land of the Pinkerton men. The car workers will have to cut them down to size or their jobs will not be worth a carrot.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Freedom For Workers' Control

JULY 22 1967 Vol 28 No 22

ROUND 1 TO PRINTWORKERS

SCOTTISH printworkers accepted the challenge of the Scottish Daily Newspaper Society (SDNS) when they banned overtime and worked to rule last week. The printing union concerned was the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) which was seeking to secure a three-year package deal with the employers. The offer made by the employers was 2% for day workers and 2½% for night workers and was conditional on the elimination of restrictive practices, and the non-continuation of the cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements. In other words the SDNS wanted to draw blood, and they succeeded.

The union's claim was for 5% immediately and a further 5% next July with the continuation of the cost-of-living sliding scale agreement. The previous contract expired at the end of 1966, since that date no agreement has been in operation, due to the Government's incomes policy.

Most of the main Scottish daily newspapers were affected by the dispute, except the traditional enemy of Scottish printworkers, D. C. Thomson, which continued to print the *Dundee Courier*.

English national newspapers were prevented from sending their Scottish editions across the Border. SOGAT warned the Newspaper Proprietors' Association that any such action could endanger their other editions, and the dispute could spread south.

The employers referred the matter to the Ministry of Labour who claimed to be 'considering the matter', but only in terms of the incomes policy. The Scot-

tish newspaper owners then threatened to use 'the big stick' by suggesting that thousands of printworkers would get the sack if production was not resumed.

Production was interrupted for about four days, after which printworkers returned to work on the understanding that the employers would make an improved pay offer.

This should be a warning to printworkers in Fleet Street, for when their agreement terminates at the end of the year they have no reason to suppose that the NPA will be any more generous than their Scottish counterparts.

It would not be at all surprising if within the next few months rumours of possible closures of newspapers again take the air. Cecil King has always threatened closure of the *Sun* up his sleeve even though it has a three year lease of life.

Rumours of closures are an excellent dampener of militancy, and the question posed is a simple one. How long are we, as printworkers, to be blackmailed? Answer that question, we then can get down to the fundamental questions of not only increased benefits from the industry but holding on to present conditions.

The *Sunday Citizen* was murdered by managerial incompetence, it said nothing and ended up being nothing. The print unions administered blood transfusions, but the blood was poured down the drain. Print unions have been blood donors for other papers, but there must be a limit to the amount of blood available.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

THE T&GWU at their annual conference claimed the right to discipline their sponsored MPs. The union is on record as being opposed to the Government's Prices and Incomes policy which is more than can be said for the majority of its 26 sponsored MPs. One of the conference delegates put the position very clearly when he said, 'You cannot expect us to buy dog licences for dogs that bite us.'

A new Parliamentary panel of prospective candidates is to be made up before the next General Election. Candidates are to be asked if they broadly support union policy. Obviously the answer can always be truthfully 'yes' at that stage but when elected, the MP is responsible to his parliamentary party. Whilst it is true that there appears to be rebels in abundance at the moment, it must be obvious to all that the Government can tolerate such a situation with their present majority and, besides, it presents a show of democracy.

Cousins knows the score when during the debate he said, 'Before the 1964 and 1966 elections the union had questioned the candidates. Some replies convinced us they were a bit ahead of Lenin, but Parliament would tame them down to be nice Social Democrats.'

We always knew that the House of Commons and the other place was full of actors, it's nice to have confirmation now and again.

The Speaker in the Commons is to be asked whether the suggestion by the

T&GWU is a breach of Parliamentary privilege. The rules of the GAME must be observed at all times, otherwise the Parliamentary sham would be exposed for all to see.

Jack Jones, Assistant Executive Secretary of the T&GWU, called for workers participation in industry based not on 'tea parties' but on trade unionists backed by powerful organisations. His idea is that trade unionists should have a say and report back to the members, thus involving the whole of the membership.

The delegate from Walsall exposed the fallacy of Jones' case when he said, 'It is impossible to sit on two sides of the fence. It is still a problem of us and them.'

The Walsall delegate was probably thought to be old-fashioned, by the 'we must work together school', but fundamentally they know he is right; it's just easier their way, and the risks are not so great. Ask the boys who have ratted and now sit on the nationalised boards.

B.C.

WE GO TO PRESS ON MONDAY. LATEST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF MSS., LETTERS, MEETING NOTICES IS THE MONDAY IN EACH WEEK OF PUBLICATION.

Contact Column

This column exists for mutual aid. Donations towards cost of typesetting will be welcome.

Floor Space Required, Sheffield. For three comrades, July 21-23, in or around Sheffield. Contact B. P. Norcott, 116 Lower Cippinham Lane, Slough.

Camping. Weekend camp in bucolic surroundings. If anyone is interested in a camping holiday in late August in Lyme Regis, please contact B. Shuttleworth, 103 City Road, Bristol, 2.

Experimental Non-Violent Sabotage. At Porton. Planning Meeting, Duffell's Cafe, Market Place, Salisbury, 2.30 p.m., Sunday, July 23.

Change of address. Ian and Peggy Sutherland are now at 8 Eslemont Avenue, Aberdeen.

Accommodation. One or two comrades offered share of country cottage (West Country) in return for few hours work weekly. Own transport essential. Box.

Libertarian Teachers' Association Bulletin No. 3 now on sale from bookshops and by post (2/- p.o.) from P. Ford, 82 North Road, Highgate, London, N.6.

Holiday Camp. There's a few vacancies left. Come and join us in Kent, either or both of first two weeks in September, it's only £9 full board, less for children. I've organised speakers, films and poetry readings so far. Information: B. McDonald, 80 Marten Road, E.17.

Holiday for Children. Weekend holiday offered for children in Kent. Deprived or hard-up, gardenless children welcome. Small contribution 8a Montacute Gardens, Tunbridge Wells.

Flats and Houses Cleaned. Simple redecoration and gardening jobs wanted. A. W. Uloth, 75 Templars Avenue, London, N.W.11.

Come Home All is Forgiven. Wanted news of whereabouts of Lewisham Anarchist banner arrested in Genocide Square. News to Lewisham Group.

Accommodation—London. Any kind of accommodation wanted from Aug./Sept./Oct. for anarchist-inclined student (male). No petty restrictions. Apply Paul Kiddey, 1 West Hill Way, Totteridge, London, N.20.

Wanted. Financial help to establish anarchist press (or printing facilities) in Far East. Box 62.

Dialectics of Liberation. July 15-28. Roundhouse, Chalk Farm. Laing, Bateson, Carmichael, Marcuse, Goodman, Ginsberg, etc. 10/- per lecture, 7/6 students. Further details: The Roundhouse.

Summer School. Committee of 100. Aylesmore Farm, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwicks. July 29-August 9. Details from John and April Majoram, 47 St. Alban's Road, Leicester.

Broadmoor patient soon to be released needs job. Replies to A.R. Reading Group.

Former Junkie. Wants job and accommodation in London. Box 54.

Accommodation. Anarchist seeks accommodation in Camden Town or Islington. Box 50.

Musicians. Required for a South-East London Anarchist Social on September 23. Enquiries and quotes to Lewisham Anarchists address.

Blues. Piano player wishes to join/form R & B group. Please phone Eddie, 722 9188.

If you wish to make contact let us know.