

BRITISH BOMBS ON BIAFRA?

We received a copy of a letter (dated August 5, 1967) that was sent to the Prime Minister by the Biafra Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 12 Beresford Road, London, N.5. We are printing it without comment, leaving it to our readers to evaluate the information.

Certain items in The Times (August 7) tend to confirm some of the allegations.

If such a sell-out and impending massacre is pending it is as well that we know some of the facts beforehand.

Here is the relevant parts of the letter to Mr. Wilson:

DESPITE our demonstrations and protests it is firmly confirmed that your Government has decided to exterminate Biafrans.

According to the arrangements completed today by the British Government and Nigerian Federal Government:

1. Britain has told the Nigerian Government that Biafra will not last more than three weeks from today.

2. Mr. Horne of Military Supplies has prepared delivery documents for

(a) Twenty-one T.28 bombers; (b) Seven B.26 bombers; (c) Heavy Armour and Rockets; (d) Bailey Bridges. All these are to be paid for by Shell-BP and Elder Dempster Lines Ltd., who have actually made a part payment of £1,000,000.

3. Capt. Tarrant has been instructed to lead the delivery crew of the bombers.

4. British Government has despatched some warships which sailed from Barrow-in-Furness, at 9 a.m., on Thursday, August 3, 1967.

Prior to these transactions, Lt. Col. Gowon's envoy, Chief Enahoro, recently led a mission to Moscow with two objectives:

(a) To nationalise and hand over British oil interests in Biafra and Nigeria to the Soviet Union, provided that the Russians will help Nigeria militarily to exterminate Biafrans; and

(b) To ensure that by controlling both Biafran/Nigerian oil and the Middle East oil, Russia and their stooges will be in a position to distribute the oils to whomsoever they want, hence the so-called Cultural Agreement between Nigeria and Russia.

From the foregoing, are the British Government and the Russians acting in

competition or in collusion, to exterminate Biafrans? Whichever applies, it is most alarming that Britain and Russia should, for the sake of Biafran oil, compromise.

By this latest British decision they are adding to their already unpleasant activities against Biafra. For example:

(a) The brutal massacre of 30,000 Biafrans in cold blood, all over Nigeria, especially the North, was master-minded by British citizens rendering 2,000,000 people refugees in their own country;

(b) The advice to Lt. Col. Gowon to reject Aburi and other subsequent constitutional decisions which could have brought normalcy to the already strife-torn country, Nigeria;

(c) Sir David Hunt's open support for Gowon and his uncalculated evacuation of British and other foreign nationals from Biafra;

(d) Shell-BP's withholding of the payment of oil royalty, despite an agreement reached in New York by the oil companies to pay Biafra in the event of outbreak of hostilities;

(e) The invasion of the port of Bonny by the Federal troops using the vessels supplied and manned by Shell-BP, U.A.C. Ltd., John Holts Ltd. and Elder Dempster Lines Ltd.;

(f) The suppression and distortion of Biafran news by the British Press and Radio;

(g) That *The Times* of July 17, 1967, has suggested that a swift campaign is required in Nigeria (i.e. against Biafra) if the economy of Nigeria and the interest of Britain are to be safeguarded. It is on this suggestion that massive military aid is being given by Britain to Nigeria; and

(h) British Government's refusal to declare their stand in the present Nigerian aggression against Biafra whilst America has categorically declared their stand.

Britain should consider the similarity between Israeli/Arab war and Biafra/Nigeria war.

We therefore ask the British Prime Minister to think again because even now it is not too late for Britain to save her face by making a categorical statement on her stand in the dispute between Biafra and Nigeria.

Britain should advise oil companies not to take sides in the dispute, but to follow established commercial precedents in the world.

Please remember that the life of 15 million Biafrans rests on your decision from this appeal.

E. E. BRIGGS,
President.

FINE AGI,
General Secretary.

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ANARCHY 77

ON SALE NOW
DISCUSSES

LIBERATORY TECHNOLOGY

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MISS MARGARET HERBISON has finally done the human thing (remarkable in a politician) of resigning from Wilson's Government over the matter of the niggardly increases in family allowances. She considers the increases (which will be wiped out by price increases long before they are paid) too little and too late.

For the past couple of years or so the good lady must have been looking the other way, it seems. Only now has she discovered that poverty, real, grinding, rotten poverty exists amid the 'affluent society', and she, probably, has failed to recognise that much of that poverty exists not in spite of, but because of the Ministry of Social Security. Miss Herbison resigns over seven measly bob, but for years (at a salary of over £160 a week, which might have a lot to do with it) she sat complacently ignoring one of the

ON OCTOBER 21, 1966, 116 small children died in the ruin of Pantglas Junior School. They died because of the arrogance and the stupidity of bureaucrats in high office who knowingly and deliberately failed to carry out the functions of their highly paid office. On October 26 a tribunal was set in motion by Cledwyn Hughes, the Secretary of State for Wales, and Lord Justice Edmund Davies has now handed history its report. It is a scathing and a bitter document that cries of a *terrifying tale of bungling ineptitude that could and should have been prevented* and it names nine men who must bear the blame for the deaths of the 144 people who died in the village of Aberfan on that tragic day.

We who were but spectators to the publicised carnage of that day can neither demand revenge nor claim forgiveness for these men, for neither gifts are ours to dispense, only the living who were unwillingly forced to sacrifice their children can make these decisions.

Our role is but to record the facts and examine our own position in relation to these tragedies, for every man that claims a cheaper bag of coal, or sells his vote for a cheaper loaf without questioning the source of his saving, must bear his share of the responsibility for the pressures that his actions exert on those who seek political and economic power by pandering to his desires.

On the Easter of 1958 TIP 7 was started in Aberfan and slowly this mound of industrial scum rose above the village, and two years later the murmured warnings of the village streets became public, only to be brushed aside as the groundless gossip of those forced to live in the shadow of TIP 7, for, claimed authority, this was the *economic* place to tip the NCB's industrial scum.

In 1963 the NCB began to tip *tailings* onto TIP 7 and these fine particles of coal waste quickly turned into a grey quicksand because of the rain above and the hidden spring below. But still the NCB failed to investigate the repeated complaints even when there was a slide in TIP 7 in 1963. And this is the key to the tragedy, for if the NCB had halted the use of TIP 7 at that time, the 1966 disaster would not have taken place.

In January of 1964, Mrs. Williams told a town planning committee of her fears concerning TIP 7, and one can only quote the tribunal who state that not only was nothing done, but there was a *sorry tale of inertia and neglect and one from which the taint of subterfuge and arrogance by the National Coal Board is not wholly absent.*

I have neither the wish nor the intention to name the nine men pilloried in the tribunal's report for

they will bear their black cross until the day of their own deaths. If we have sympathies let it be for the parents of Aberfan who lost their children and for that very small minority of those nine men named in the report who, because of our human failings, will be forever damned within the communities wherein they will live.

Yet there is one man who not only deserves to be named but should be named for when this tragedy was taking place My Lord Robens was prancing along in the brand new robes of the first Chancellor of the University of Surrey. This political appointee spread out his arms to an indifferent world as the father figure of the coal industry, a man prepared to give true and honest evidence before the world and to accept the responsibilities of his highly paid office, yet when the cards were laid upon the tribunal tables he has shuffled to the political rat holes of Whitehall for comfort and advice, for this is the man whom the tribunal personally criticised for his misleading remarks on television concerning TIP 7 and the tribunal accuses Robens of deliberately misinforming the Secretary for Wales that these tips were regularly inspected when this was not so.

Whether Robens resigns or not is now a matter of indifference for this £12,000 a year hollow man is already at the head of the queue for other well-paid jobs should this particular coal caper turn sour. The Establishment has, almost to a man, decided to rally around one of its adopted sons, even to the Prime Minister, and it is claimed that all those ill involved in the Aberfan tragedy have found their escape clause in the belief that if they offer a collective resignation then nothing will be done for one does not decimate an entire platoon of the boys.

It is now argued that men in authority cannot be expected to resign every time a lorry crashes or a plane fails to land right way up, but in the matter of Aberfan these are false analogies, for these minehead pits are an active, daily and self-evident part of the coal industry and must, by their very nature, form part of the policy directives of any capitalistic mine owner or State manager.

When Sir Thomas Dugdale found that his advisers within the Civil Service had let him down he resigned, and when Miss Herbison felt that the Cabinet was betraying the Party she too resigned. Whatever Robens does now is a matter of indifference, for he has earned contempt by his very hesitation. He does not need time to contemplate these matters for, like the parents of the children, he has had many months to think out his future pattern of action.

Yet when the sentimental Left accuse they do not stand on the

platform of hindsight for for too many years these men and women stood on dark and windy corners propagating the New Jerusalem. Year by year, in small back-street rooms, they have poured out their dreams into the tatty leaflet that men pushed into their pockets to read in an idle hour. And in the Welsh hills and the shadowed valleys men spoke of a Wales without the industrial scabs that littered its countryside, a Wales where men did not spit out their lives in a dark sub-world that coal might be shipped for State or Private Profit to the cancerous industrial hells that we call England, and the politicians waxed fat on these splendid dreams and brought the morality of the secondhand car market to take its place.

And when TIP 7 turned into a flowing sewer of filth to destroy the children of Aberfan, the Rt. Hon. Emanuel Shinwell, MP, raised his ancient social democratic head and from the London seat of power, chanted that as much as he would like to clear away the pit-heap monstrosities, for safety and amenity reasons, the cost would be beyond our resources for some years ahead. AND THE COST? £10,000,000 to £15,000,000 over a period of four years.

Wales, Wales, you have reason to weep when knaves and fools claim your loyalties and your allegiance and of their witless thoughtlessness mock your sacred dead.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

LABOUR PEERS

HAROLD WILSON has just ennobled 14 people to further the cause of the working class in the House of Lords. If one really believes that socialism can be achieved through Parliament, there might be an arguable case for this—after all at present the House of Lords isn't as bad as the Commons.

But who are these doughty Proletarian Peers, these knights in armour and barons fighting the battles of Labour, raising high the banner of Justice against old entrenched privileges, sacrificing their own socialist principles in order to take titles in which no doubt they do not believe and sit in those objectionable halls? (Actually they can collect their three quid a day without necessarily entering the Chamber—they have only to call in for a drink or possibly have lunch at the extremely comfortable subsidized canteen there maintained to qualify; but of course no Labour-man would ever dream of so doing.)

- Well there's:—
- No. 1—the wife of a director of the company that owns the *Daily Mirror*;
 - No. 2—Lady Llewelyn-Davies, wife of Lord Llewelyn-Davies;
 - No. 3—the managing director of Trollope & Colls (builders and civil engineers)—a bemedalled colonel;
 - Nos. 4 and 5—a couple of accountants, one a company director of Grampian Television, the other retained by the TUC;
 - No. 6—an ex-Liberal MP;
 - Nos. 7 and 8—the former chairmen of two county councils (who lost their posts when the voters registered their lack of confidence in Labour last May as a result of Wilsundra's policies);
 - No. 9—the former chairman of a committee to present a gift to Winston Churchill;
 - No. 10—an university don—emeritus;
 - No. 11—one social worker, and 'gentleman farmer';
 - Nos. 12-14—three TU officials (or former TU officials).

One could hardly expect Labour to state its class interests more clearly than that! (The same number of company directors as TU officials, and all jobs representing those who have in some way or another succeeded within class society.)

Robens and the Aberfan Dead

THE SOCIAL SECURITY MYTH

most infamous bureaucratic devices of all—the 'wage stop rule'.

Under this, hundreds of thousands of working men—not unemployed—are prevented from receiving what the Ministry itself considers a 'living income'. Should these unfortunates stop work and claim benefit, they will be (a) suspended from benefit for six weeks because they gave up employment, and (b) prevented from receiving any more than they would have got working. So they stay poor.

Herbison's resignation proves, for me, one point. The affair confirms completely the anarchist contention that the bureaucrats, not MPs and ministers, really make the decisions. Social Security officials are probably the worst (or best!) examples

of bureaucrats around. They are the hardest, cruellest and most power-crazed people I have ever come into contact with. Consider the Social Security offices—at least the public part. These places are mostly dingy and very dirty. Never once have I seen a Social Security office which had a public toilet. Requests to use staff toilets are rudely turned down. If you go outside, you've lost your place in the queue. When, finally (and it can be a very long time—bureaucrats need tea and fags), your name's called, you sit on a (screwed down) seat in front of a usually brisk and overbearing character. No matter how tall you may be, you will find that you are always beneath him.

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Obituary: MARIE GOLDBERG

NATURAL as it is that old comrades should die and young ones fill the scene with new ways of bringing the anarchist idea to bear on new situations, there is in the passing of such comrades as Marie Goldberg a grief that is more than sentiment and a memory that is more than nostalgia. Never a political figure, in all her 80-odd years' life (even the year of her birth was not thought sufficiently momentous to be put on record) she never wrote an article or spoke from a platform, yet her life and her part in our movement are worth setting down as a heartener for we rank-and-file anarchists who may sometimes feel that we can do so little it is hardly worth trying.

Marie started out, it is true, with an unusual endowment of courage and independence but little else. Born in Minsk, one of the three children of a tinsmith who worked in the one room which housed all five of the family and who fell victim early in his children's life to T.B., Marie knew hardship from the earliest age. She met it at the age of nine by getting herself accepted for employment as a millinery assistant. Her employers were two sisters of Polish nationality and speech, the Ukraine at that point in the wrangle between Russia and Poland being under Polish rule. The work was demanding, the employers not kind; Marie was bitterly unhappy and proudly stuck it out. It is a high tribute to her untaught intellect that this, her first worldly experience, never hoodwinked Marie into confusing nationalism with liberation and thus into diverting time and energy from the essential struggle against exploitation. She is reputed at the age of twelve to have organized a strike in the dressmaking enterprise in which she was by then apprenticed. For the next 70 years this was her means of livelihood, in which she practised a degree of craftsmanship which amounted to art. Her early political activities were carried on in the Left Social Revolutionaries, and although these were serious matters to which she devoted herself conscientiously she told some droll stories of the political meetings carried on in the forest on Sundays, the participants approaching in couples, arms entwined around waists, as lovers seeking seclusion; the ammunition stored in the workbasket underneath the stuffs and cottons, the raid by police in search of arms—hurriedly buried the night before and successfully concealed by a providential overnight snowfall; the more successful raids by her devoted and devout mother on any literature printed in any language other than Hebrew, which was the only writing she could read, in attempts to save her rebellious daughter

from the perils of both temporal and spiritual damnation. Marie left Russia at the beginning of the century, after her colleague in the party had been arrested, and she went to Paris. Here she quickly added a second self-taught language to her achievements (she eventually spoke and read fluently, although she always found writing difficult, as well as the Yiddish she had first learned at home, Russian, French and English, all without one single day's formal teaching in her whole life). Here also she met her companion, Henri Goldberg, who was an anarchist, and here their daughter was born. This I think was the happiest period of Marie's life, and somehow despite the fact that she lived longer in England than anywhere else, she seemed to remain 'French'. But many of their fellow-exiles being in England, and the shorter English working hours in his trade being an attraction to her companion, the family came to London. They arrived and went to live in Stepney in 1912, just in time to take in the two children of a striking docker, as their share in the scheme of help to the strikers that was operated throughout the East End. From then on this was the style of contribution to the movement which replaced her earlier more exciting and one might say, violent, activities. She took part in all the activities of the *Freie Arbeiter Stimme*, in the club in Jubilee Street, Stepney, and the later one in Charlotte Street in Central London, did her share towards keeping alive conscientious objectors on the run in the First World War and doing all that friendship could for those of her comrades and friends in internment camps, and opened her home throughout the years to newly arrived comrades and to escapees from the succession of tyrannies by which the peoples of Europe continued to be pursued long after the overthrow of the Russian Czar.

Anarchism was a moral ideal to Marie—and indeed she could be hard in her strictures upon those whom she judged fell short while professing anarchism—rather than a utopian theory. While anti-militarist as a matter of course, she never went into theoretical discussions concerning anarchism-and-pacifism, contenting herself with one of her apt and wise comments: 'In our days you could go into an arsenal and blow it up; what can you do with an atomic weapons factory?'

What, indeed. But whatever we have to do, will be better done if it contains the qualities of courage and generosity and faithfulness that were in Marie Goldberg.

M.C.

Anarchists at Army Open-Day

IN VIEW of the increasing bloodshed in Aden—the mutiny of Federal Troops and the uprising in the Crater district—Aberdeen Anarchists decided to make their anti-militarist and anti-imperialist views felt at the Open Day of the Gordon Highlanders at Den Barracks, last Saturday.

About two dozen of us turned up, many of the younger ones dressed in top hats, bearskins and such like, making us the centre of attraction, and we began giving out leaflets to the troops and public saying that the British Government was responsible for all the killings in Aden, and demanding that British troops be withdrawn from the area immediately. A series of arguments with soldiers drew crowds from the public, who watched and read our leaflets with evident surprise and interest.

Three of us were soon thrown out by threat-muttering, barely self-controlled militarists for giving out leaflets near the gates; where we then gave leaflets and pamphlets to bored guards who were delighted to be relieved of their ennui. More large crowds gathered as the Open Day ended and we argued with the soldiers outside. They were mostly cretinously stupid, strutting in clichéd poses of toughness or blatantly mercenary—I get £1,200 a year. I'd kill anybody for that', said one. However, at least one soldier was seen to be disturbed by our arguments and didn't join with his friends in hurling insults at us; and for the general public we were definitely the highlight of the whole affair.

J.R.M.

This is the leaflet

22 BRITONS KILLED IN ADEN!

Recently, 22 British soldiers were killed in an uprising in Aden, adding to the hundreds of Britons and Arabs already killed.

Who were the real murderers?

If an Arab army occupied Britain and closed our elected government, we would all fight this interference in our lives. The British Government dismissed the elected government of Aden—and then wonders why the Adenis are in revolt.

The British (Labour) Government sent the soldiers to die in Aden. THEY ARE THE MURDERERS.

To pay for the military costs in Aden and elsewhere, our wages are frozen, and plans for the replacement of slums, and for new schools and hospitals are abandoned. Meanwhile ministers in the government draw £160 PER WEEK!

We demand:

NO MORE MURDERS IN ADEN! Let the Adenis determine their own future. Bring home the troops.

FULL EMPLOYMENT! Demobilised troops to work, with the rest of us, for the benefit of all. Military bases to be turned to use for production and leisure of the citizens.

NO WAGE FREEZE! There is plenty of money about, it is time we demanded that we get control of it. After all we do all the work!

DOWN WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MURDERERS!

(Aberdeen YCND, c/o I. R. Mitchell, 137 Faulds Gate, Aberdeen.)

GENERAL DE GAULLE left Canada in a huff after inciting French-Canadians to throw off their Canadian oppressors (or words to that effect). Stokeley Carmichael (from Cuba) incited the American negroes to greater efforts but the riots seem to have temporarily abated. . . .

THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, junior, is reported by the US Inf. Service to have said (in Atlanta, Georgia, July 26), 'I'm very sorry that Federal troops had to be called in [in Detroit] but there's no question that when a riot erupts it has to be halted.' *Gone With The Wind*, the 1939 film classic, is to be 'blown-up' for a sixth release in a wide-screen version, starting at Atlanta, Georgia, on October 6. . . .

ON JULY 27 a statement was issued by Martin Luther King, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins and Whitney M. Young, Jr.—all prominent in Civil Rights movement stating (among other things), 'We call upon Negro citizens throughout the nation to forgo the temptation to disregard the law. This does not mean that we would submit tamely to joblessness, inadequate housing, poor schooling, insult, humiliation and attack. It does require a redoubling of efforts through legitimate means to end these wrongs and disabilities.' . . .

US INF. SERVICE carries a headline 'Number of Negroes in Universities Rising' which unfortunately and inevitably only means that *US News and World Report* has proved to its own satisfaction that 'the prospect of being able to get into a college or university is today much greater for young Negro Americans than for young Europeans'. A 'Backgrounder' issued by USIS starts with the immortal words, 'It may be some time before the real meaning of the urban riots, with their widespread burning of buildings, looting and shooting from rooftops, be-

comes clear. Frustration and resentment are involved, perhaps an element of economic distress, a measure of race consciousness, and a large portion of urban malaise.' . . .

PRESIDENT JOHNSON commenting on the riots said, 'We will not tolerate lawlessness. We will not endure violence. It matters not by whom it is done or under what slogan or banner. It will not be tolerated. This nation will do whatever is necessary to suppress or punish those who engage in it.' . . .

THE WAR IN VIETNAM continued despite rumours of peace. The US made its second heaviest raid on the North. The aircraft-carrier *Forrestal* (named after a Secretary of Defence who went insane and committed suicide because he thought the Russians were after him) caught fire after the crash of a bomb-laden plane and killed 71 Americans, a further 112 are missing. Had this not happened the dead and missing from the plane's bombs would have been North Vietnamese. A US captain was acquitted on a charge of premeditated murder in the shooting of a Vietnamese prisoner. Six soldiers testified that they heard the captain tell a lieutenant to kill the prisoner. Two lieutenants and three enlisted men gave evidence that the captain did not order the Vietnamese to be killed, he only asked if he was dead. . . .

THE AMERICAN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, William B. Macomber, Jr., replying to a senator, indicated that virtually all free world shipping to North Vietnam was being conducted by vessels flying the British flag, registered in Hong Kong and under charter to Communist China or North Vietnam. Mr. Macomber added, 'In this connection, the British Government will no doubt take into consideration the likely reaction of Communist China towards the Crown Colony of

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Hong Kong.' . . .

ANNA LOUISE STRONG, in her *Letter from China*, prints an interview with Mr. Le Mai, Press Attache of the SV Liberation Front's mission in Peking in which he said that 'the US programme of rural pacification sustained heavy failure. In three months 5,000 "pacification agents" were killed by the people.' . . .

WRITING OF THE CHINESE BOMB, Anna Louise Strong says, 'In China's cities the bomb brought crowds into the street for all-night singing, dancing, firecrackers, parades. More important, it was hailed by many Afro-Asian nations—the only bomb cheered by any nation except its creator. Ho Chi Minh called it a "powerful inspiration".' . . .

WRITING ON THE SAME SUBJECT in *Sanity*, the voice of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Mr. Malcolm Caldwell (a member of the editorial committee) writes, '... whatever we in the West think about it, there is no doubt that progressive people throughout the coloured world—including the Afro-Americans—have given a whole-hearted welcome to the "Peasants' Bomb". Of course there will be a statistically calculable incidence of deaths, mutant births, etc., which would not have occurred had the Chinese never carried out tests of nuclear weapons. On the other hand...' etc. Mr. Caldwell elsewhere pens the well-known phrase, 'Moreover, China's declared policy is the total and absolute abolition of all nuclear weapons.' . . .

A POLICEMAN INTERVIEWED on television was asked if it was easier or more difficult to keep the peace. He replied, 'More difficult among the teenagers. They are so much more knowledgeable about the law, it makes our job more difficult.'

JON QUIXOTE.

LETTERS

Hippies & Anarchism

Dear Editor,

We note that in *FREEDOM*, of 29.7.67, the anarchist group in Liverpool, which was listed for some months as the Liverpool Anarchist Propaganda Group, is now listed as the Liverpool Anarchist Propaganda Group and 'Hippy' Movement. We understand the Hippy Movement currently to be a cross between a movement for free love and brotherhood and a revival of the beatnik society of old Greenwich Village days. We don't know of any Liverpool anarchists who claim to be Hippy Movement people, and although there must be many sympathizers among us, we are not aware of any definite link with the Hippy Movement. Therefore it was a surprise to us to see that line of print. We find it both strange and awe-inspiring. Could this be a suggestion from some unknown friend that we all join the Hippy Movement?

Liverpool, 8 A. CHANNING.

Dear Comrades,

In an otherwise quite sensible article about a sonic boom test in Downing Street (*FREEDOM*, 29.7.67) Dave Burden made a rather ambiguous reference to the 'peace movement' which could have given the impression that anarchism is a part of that body. Just in case some new reader thought this, let it be stated loud and clear: anarchism is NOT part of the same movement as CND, PPU, C100, etc. Some people came into the anarchist movement from those organisations. Others, like myself, came by other routes.

I'm sure Dave Burden agrees with this but his article was a bit ambiguous. Another spreader of confusion is Gerry Bree, who has linked anarchism and the Hippy Movement. There's a lot of sense in the hippy attitude to sex. But on other things they are foolish. Stop people in the street and ask them 'What's a hippy?'—you get answers like 'a drug addict', 'the flower people'. I take a

AVOIDING GREECE

A LETTER in *The Times* from Mrs. Margaret Curwen, Honorary Secretary of the British Liaison Committee for Women's Peace Groups, is asking for a tourist boycott of Greece.

Mrs. Curwen wants people to postpone their visits to Greece. She asks them to inform the Greek authorities of their decision.

This, she hopes, might improve the lot of the many thousands of political prisoners.

Another method is more effective. By all means cancel that holiday in Greece but there is much to be done on the spot.

There are many comrades in Greece now, from the International Movement, to see what they can do.

R.

drug—alcohol—but I'm not so daft as to make a religion of it. And as for giving flowers to the police!!! (contd.!!)

Anarchism is revolt, an act of rebellion, a refusal to obey, an assertion of freedom. It is anti-war because war is a restriction of freedom. It is against all laws, which is not the same thing as wanting law reform. There are people in the 'peace' and 'hippy' movements with anarchist sympathies. But the word on their lips is 'peace'. Peace—in this society. They have got to be kidding. Cry liberty, and pass the ammunition!

DAVE COULL.

Credit & Debit

Dear Comrades,

We should like to give a brief report of the public meeting held in Harlow last Saturday.

The meeting was held in the main shopping centre and attracted the largest crowd of any public meeting in Harlow. We had some hostility, but also many friendly reactions.

On the credit side, we have gained tacit acceptance of our speaking place from the police, we have made new contacts, been promised publicity, as well as sold literature and distributed leaflets.

NOT DEAD BUT . . .

Dear Editors,

In 'Talking Points' your contributor talks about the complete failure of CND, saying CND is finished.

Could I begin by pointing out one of the salient facts of life, unpalatable as it may be to some, that when CND organises a national or large regional demo, they can still get many more supporters than a similarly organised anarchist demo—for a group that no longer exists, this is, don't you think, just a little curious?

CND is not what it was, this is quite obvious, but while it has failed to mobilise more action for real revolutionary ends, it did show what was possible. It has now entered what Max Weber called the bureaucratic stage and its organisation and tactics are rather different. But exist it does.

What we as anarchists must do, is work with CND in places where CND is the only effective group for action, and where we are strong, try and work with CND on the basis of equality. This latter, of course, is often very difficult, as CND in many places, including nationally, regards itself as an umbrella organisation and will not meet us on this basis. What we must also do is be a little bit more disciplined in our actions.

What I mean here is that we must lay our cards on the table and say: 'If you follow our wishes then we will work with you, but if you try and pull the wool over our eyes, like, for example, Labour MPs at an Easter Monday Trafalgar Square platform contrary to our expressed wishes, then this washes our agreement out'.

Perhaps as important, the activity left us with interest in furthering such projects (offers of speakers for these and our monthly indoor discussions will be welcomed) rather than with the post-demonstration depression we are used to.

We should like to, thank all our friends, our speakers Albert Meltzer, Roger Sandell, Nigel Wilson, Bob Bartrop, John Rety and Philip Sansom, and our helpers from Lewisham, Kilburn, *FREEDOM* and elsewhere.

The aid we received made the meeting possible, but we feel we should mention the poor performance of the London Federation Secretariat despite the excellent performance of individual members. We received none of the aid we were promised—neither leaflets, a stand (we made our own) nor a list of speakers we were promised. Perhaps if some people could leave the rarified atmosphere of meaningless international conferences, and organisations which are either fossils or mirages, they might be more use as anarchist propagandists themselves.

KEITH NATHAN.
DAVID POOLMAN.
FRANCIS JARMAN.
JEAN ROGERS.
GEOFF HARDY.

This means if we decide to participate in a demo, we do so on the basis of equality, not under the CND leadership umbrella. And those who do not participate in the liaison and decision-making do not come on the demo, or if they do, do so according to agreements previously worded (if they don't like this, they can stay away).

Much of the ill-feeling between CND and the anarchists is due to them trying to pull the wool over our eyes but much of it is due to the complete inability to communicate with each other.

As I said once, about two years ago, I'm sick of getting fairly confidential letters and circulars returned marked 'Not Known' by the GPO and also of having letters not replied to (though here sometimes 'even' I err). Contact between anarchist groups is often closer than CND groups but not much closer. Also we are very unreliable. We often say we will do things but these never come off, appointments made are forgotten, and promises broken. The anarchist movement is not going to be at all effective unless it starts to work consistently and fully for peace/political action. When it does so, something tangible will come of it. But until then we must admit that CND is doing more action than us and a darned sight more effectively—in Birmingham, for example, CND is still more effective than the anarchists, because the latter have still never realised that to succeed one must work as a Commune—a team—and until we do so we will never achieve anything as a group.

Fraternally,
PETER NEVILLE.

An Injustice to One is an Injustice to All

IT SEEMS we have heard this call before. Rootes at Stoke are calling for voluntary redundancy or else. Rootes are having a 'shake out' in all their plants. Rootes at Ryton are in the process of sacking 100 workers. At their service depot at Acton 34 men were given their cards with cash in lieu of notice. No consultation on the problem. Workers at the Canterbury plant are also threatened.

The secretary of the shop stewards combine, who was convener of the now closed Thrupp and Maberley plant, expressed the view that the Thrupp closure was taken lying down. 'We should have fought to the death to prevent closure.'

Contact Column

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

Floor Space Required, Sheffield. For three comrades August 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.

Change of address. Ian and Peggy Sutherland are now at 8 Esslemont 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 63.

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.

Margaret Lathey. Please contact Freedom Press.

Janet Chatten. Please contact Freedom Press.

Lewisham Anarchist Group. Wish to thank contributors to the Dave and Terry Fund especially 'L' of Hounslow.

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. Comrade seeks accommodation in West Country. Box 64.

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.

Brixton Prison to Downing Street. Saturday, August 12 assemble 2 p.m. for meeting. March to Down (Lyhan Road—back of Prison) at 5 p.m. in support of Jim Radford and Nicolas Walter.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Three thousand workers at Rootes Stoke factory have voted to resist redundancy by strike action. Their policy is work-sharing even on the basis of a three-day week. They argue that they must fight now or see their shop organisation smashed to pieces.

This struggle could be a hard and difficult one, there cannot be a repetition of the BMC fiasco where at the end the workers were split amongst themselves.

These sackings are not just haphazard but a deliberate plan to cut back the labour force, and maintain, if not increase, production. Those fortunate enough to be retained, obtain a few more crumbs from the cake, those sacked receive the dole.

Ford Motor Company are trying their utmost to push through a new pay and grading structure, tied in with productivity, which in fact means the workers pay for their own increases. The Ford management plead poverty. 'No more money in the kitty' is their snivelling whine.

Ford's management are not fools, they play one union against another. It is understood that the major unions are near to agreement, but the smaller ones have problems. Many unions means many problems, dividing the workers, helping them to lose sight of the common enemy.

Vauxhall Motors are attempting to introduce a new wages structure—tied to PRODUCTIVITY (the most revered word in the English language). The unions are claiming a £2 per week interim agreement with a further £2 tied in with productivity.

The TUC hatchet committee is expected to agree with Vauxhall that every increase must be geared to

productivity.

The theme is the same throughout the motor industry. The employers have an obvious joint policy backed by the Government and the TUC. All car workers must have a joint form of action. If they have not, then they will be cut to ribbons.

DATA PREPARES TO FIGHT

DATA PROPOSES to terminate its national wages agreement with the Engineering Employers' Federation, and attempt to secure agreements with individual employers. If necessary it will resort to strike action to secure its claim.

This policy has the first appearance of being militant and meaning business, but on the other hand it could be rather dangerous. All offices organised by DATA or having DATA members may not have the ability or the shop organisation to fight, and in consequence get trampled to death, whilst the better organised shops can possibly win the day. Under a national agreement all employers are forced to pay when an agreement has been reached, and therefore the weaker organised shops are protected.

Having said that, DATA will most certainly have a fight on its hands with the Government because, if any employer does agree to an increase, the Government could implement the new Prices and Incomes Act which can delay wage increases up to seven months. If this situation does arise then DATA merits the support of all industrial workers.

To be perfectly frank the Government is literally getting away with murder on the wages question.

The majority of workers have taken the medicine like good Labour Party stooges—'My Party Right or Wrong'. It is not a bit of use blaming leaders or lack of leadership. We are to blame for our misguided bloody loyalty. If action is not taken soon it will be too late, and we will wonder what has hit us.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND FOR GROWN-UPS

ON JULY 20, Mrs. Wilson gave a tea-party at No. 10 Downing Street, to raise the money for Centre 42 to buy the freehold of the Roundhouse at Chalk Farm. When the party was over, the money was there. So it seems that at last Arnold Wesker's plans for purveying culture to the masses will go ahead. The first phase of development will be to convert the building for use as a rehearsal hall for three London symphony orchestras. The cost—£8,000—is to be paid by the Arts Council. The Centre hopes to open in two years' time with its own theatre company, ballet rehearsal rooms, opera, writers' workshops, etc. For me, the whole scheme makes a grim and sad contrast to the use the Roundhouse was put to during the last two weeks of July.

The building is Victorian, functional, magnificent, and extremely shabby. The roof leaks in several places, the floor is covered in dust, the yard is full of junk. There, for two weeks we heard lectures by some of the most revolutionary thinkers in the western world, we sang mantras with Allen Ginsberg, we rebelled, we organised, we talked, we learnt how to get high on oxygen, how to get stoned on human communication. Several people brought sleeping-bags and actually lived there. The local kids, too, wandered in and made themselves at home. A huge swing had been hung from the gallery, and kids and grown-ups swung and climbed. One afternoon, when a large audience was sitting waiting for Herbert Marcuse to arrive for a lecture, the kids settled themselves on the platform; one urchin took the microphone and announced that he would now recite some of his own verses. He did so, to enthusiastic applause.

On the last day, a gang of kids

appeared with some hollyhocks each about six feet tall: goodness knows where they had nicked them from, but they made a splendid parade around the hall, and gave a hollyhock away to anybody who wanted one, saying they could easily get more.

Meanwhile, the grown-ups also played. A pedal organ in one corner was in constant use. Impromptu poetry recitals were held. Poems were pinned up on the wall, and were joined by a set of charcoal drawings. Someone discovered an old piano frame in the yard and began playing on it with two sticks: others joined in with metal pipes, milk crates, tin cans, and produced a mind-blowing sound. At odd moments people played flutes, banjos, recorders. Another time, a middle-aged Dane announced that he felt like dancing: he danced, someone played a tambourine, others clapped or beat a rhythm on the hollow iron pillars.

I doubt if Centre 42 will see as much real creativity in ten years as we saw in these two weeks of the 'Dialectics of Liberation' congress. And I doubt if, when the Roundhouse has become Arnold Wesker's People's Palace of Culture, the local Chalk Farm kids will come within spitting distance of it. Or if they do, it will probably be to break a window or chalk rude words on the newly-smart walls, not to recite poems and hand out flowers.

ANNE MARIE FEARON.

SIX SHILLINGS EACH WILL BRING THEM 'FREEDOM' AND 'ANARCHY' FOR TWO MONTHS WITH YOUR COMPLIMENTS.

Freedom For Workers' Control

AUGUST 12 1967 Vol 28 No 24

MYTON'S TRYING TO GET OFF THE HOOK

MYTON, the building contractors, are starting legal proceedings against the City of London in an attempt to end the existing contract or to negotiate a new one on the Barbican scheme. The company gave notice to the City of London Corporation that they wished to end their contract, but the Corporation disputes the legality of this notice and so now they have gone to law.

Mytons were to have finished the contract by the end of next year. However, no work has been done on the site since last October when the management sacked three steel fixers for not working hard enough. The whole job came out on strike in support, but returned to work for negotiations, only to be sacked two days later.

This dispute and the one at Sunleys, Westminster, were the subject of a Government Court of Inquiry under Lord Cameron. Although this inquiry took place in June, the report of their findings has still to be published. It is not expected for some weeks and no doubt it is this delay that has prompted Mytons to take this unusual action.

In a statement to the Corporation, Mytons say that they were prevented from carrying out the £5,500,000 contract by circumstances 'amounting to *force majeure*'. They also say that their attempts to re-open the site were 'frustrated by the disruptive activities of a group of agitators who are outside the control of the trade unions and who have organised mass picketing and intimidation of men willing to work on the site'.

However, when Mytons gave their evidence at the Court of Inquiry, they put more blame on the architects, Chamberlain, Powell and Bonn, than they did on site union organisation. Then they said it was the constant changes in the architects' plans, with late and contradictory instructions which made a bonus scheme difficult to operate. Under these circumstances, Mytons said, the men demanded extra bonus payment to make up for that lost through alterations of plans, and that labour relations 'had been greatly aggravated by the complicated and non-repetitive nature of the

design and also by repeated changes and alterations'.

Mytons are now trying to get out of the mess by blaming the stewards who still picket the site. Mytons thought that by sacking the whole labour force last October, they would smash the union organisation. They never bargained for the continual support by the men for the stewards after the official union-management agreement in February for a return to work without them. (See FREEDOM, 25.2.67.) The attempt to move in scabs, with union consent, was also thwarted by the Myton lads, with the support from the neighbouring Laing and Turriff jobs.

Mytons would not give in to the pickets and so now they are trying to cut what must already be very substantial losses. With the job only just about out of the ground, Mytons could afford a long dispute and, after smashing the site's union organisation, they could have made up their losses. This was even possible in February, but it failed. So without waiting for the Cameron report, they are trying to get themselves off the hook.

What has beaten Mytons is the continual picketing by a handful of militants. These pickets have had the support of the men sacked in October by Mytons and, although they found other jobs then, they were not prepared to 'scab' when the union and management wanted them back without their stewards. The solidarity shown by the men on the rest of the Barbican scheme has soon put paid to any further ideas of moving in 'scabs'.

Both the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers and the Plumbers' Trade Union have expelled members for continuing to picket the site, but they are still there, only because other workers have helped them by keeping them in funds, at least enough to get by on. Readers can help in keeping the picket there until all the men are taken back on the site by sending donations to:—

Bro. M. Houlihan, 94 Gayton House, Knapp Road, Bow, E.3.

P.T.

Work-to-rule Works

THE TOP BUREAUCRATS who make the decisions on the British Railways Board, either do not take the trouble to see how their decisions affect people, or just do not care. They live in a world which seems not to have any human feeling, and their scheme started without first getting an agreement with those involved.

To think that the bureaucrats who run BR are any different from those who run private industry is being naive. If anything they are worse. Take this week's one-day strike and work-to-rule by footplatemen at Stratford depot. They have described themselves as the 'forgotten men'. They took action over the question of allocation of the long-distance driving. This pays a higher bonus rate than the shorter hauls and they felt that they were being left out, as most of the former was going to other depots.

This was probably the straw that broke the camel's back, because there were long-standing complaints about the 'deplorable' state of their nineteenth century canteen which, they claim, is bug-infested. Railwaymen have also complained about the delays in issuing protective clothing and new uniforms.

The action of the footplatemen brought chaos to train services, even though the work-to-rule was not applied in a strict way. Union officials of both unions involved, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the National Union of Railwaymen, tried to get the men to work normally, but they only called off their work-to-rule when they had got guarantees that there would be a 'more equitable' sharing between depots of the long-distance schedules and that welfare facilities would be improved.

However, further action can be expected if BR do not carry out their promises and, as every railwayman knows, that has been often. Next time the footplatemen's work-to-rule could be applied far more drastically.

P.T.