

POLICE VIOLENCE AT BARBICAN

TELEPHONE CALLS were received at this office this afternoon, as we are going to press, protesting against police brutality at the Barbican this morning. We are told that six policemen have beaten up and kicked to the ground a young workman who was picketing the site. A mass demonstration is called for tomorrow.

The employers were using the police force to bring 'scabs' onto the site. We are told 300 policemen were engaged by the employers.

Early morning a police van drove through workmen's lines with 30 'scabs' in a covered vehicle. Picketers were

physically assaulted by the police.

Many arbitrary arrests were made of known militants and stewards. Although the first telephone caller reported great feeling of demoralisation, later a man who said he was from a large contingent from the Taylor Woodrow Site in Leadenhall Street, told us that the news of the beatings up spread to many sites and workmen are gathering in large numbers in defiance of the police.

A man, practically sobbing, said over the telephone: 'The police had no right to beat people up. Why are they doing this? This is not their job.'

M.H.

Support Barbican Strikers!
MASS MEETING - November 2
7.30 a.m. onwards - Myton Site
(opposite Aldersgate Tube)

Polaris Action

ONE THING is increasingly clear for the peace movement. The pussy-footing has to stop. After more than three years virtual grace, the Wilson Administration has acted out so successfully the role of the Conservative Party that the Tories themselves are having to move even further to the right to maintain any *raison d'être*. The fourteenth Mr. Wilson might as well be the fourteenth Earl Home.

The last major civil disobedience

demonstration against nuclear weapons was probably at Ruislip in 1964. It now looks as though the next will be at Barrow on Saturday, November 4, 1967.

At a meeting in Manchester last Saturday a group of people from a number of different organisations met to discuss what could be done in opposition to the next Polaris submarine launch. Only a few days before the meeting Vickers Armstrong had announced details of the launch. The CND demonstration planned for November 11 was hurriedly brought forward a week. After the 'disturbances' at Birkenhead at the last launch, nobody had expected another Saturday ceremony!

As the demonstration was now to take place on the actual day of the launch, it was decided that we should avoid purely symbolic action and attempt to actually obstruct some part of the proceedings. We have decided to block the entrance to the shipyard shortly before the arrival of the VIPs.

We are meeting one hour before the launch time—which will be announced shortly—at the junction of Michaelson Road and Bridge Road. From there we shall walk the short distance to the shipyard entrance and sit down. If we have not been arrested by the time the submarine has been launched, then we shall hold a public assembly outside Barrow Town Hall, where it is likely that the dignitaries will be lunching. This may involve further civil disobedience.

We are asking people willing to pledge themselves to take part in the action to write to Pat Roberts, 32 Alderfield Drive, Liverpool 24. Volunteers will receive a detailed briefing document outlining details of the action. Further information about the demonstration is available from Tony Hetherington, 47 Teilo Street, Liverpool (phone 051 LAR 5311).

Needless to say, it will cost a certain amount to organise this demonstration, and any donations will be very gratefully received.

Step Up Resistance on Vietnam!

ONCE AGAIN this weekend there will be massive demonstrations against the war in Vietnam, both in the USA and in this country. This 'autumn mobilisation' for peace has been initiated by many peace organisations in the United States.

Here in this country there will be marches and indoor rallies in London and Manchester. The march in London on Saturday will start from six different points and will arrive in Trafalgar Square at 2.30 p.m. An anarchist contingent will gather at Kilburn Underground Station at 11 a.m.

On Sunday there will be a second rally in Trafalgar Square followed by a march to the US Embassy.

On Saturday evening, at an indoor rally in Finsbury Town Hall, there will be a direct link with demonstrations in America and European capitals.

Momentum is added to the campaign by the direct refusal of many young Americans who are refusing to serve in the Army.

Many of them have returned their draft (conscription) cards.

Members of the Stop-It Committee (all Americans resident here) have done so at the American Embassy today (October 16).

The American authorities refused to accept the draft cards, claiming that this would make them an 'accomplice in an illegal act'.

A large brown envelope containing the draft cards was then stuck to the glass door of the Embassy by Harry Pincus, one of the 15 draft

refusers.

As they entered the Embassy, jostled by dozens of press and television men, they were loudly applauded by onlookers.

The press attache of the Embassy told reporters that they had instructions not to accept the draft cards.

CIA men earlier ordered British policemen to clear the steps of the Embassy.

Hundreds of other young Americans today were returning their draft cards in many cities throughout the United States. Thousands of other supporters have also handed in letters, thereby implicating themselves.

Their action is not undertaken lightly, for by violating the US Selective Service Act they can be jailed for five years or fined up to \$10,000, or the option of not returning to the United States under penalty of arrest.

Their action is the first act of mass civil disobedience for many years. In a leaflet issued on the day they say:

'We have been driven to this act of civil disobedience because of the way the American Government has systematically ignored our marches, our protests, our reasoned dissent.'

They also quote Thoreau: 'The time has come for honest men to resist.'

Ironically they also quote a passage from the transcript of the Nuremberg Tribunal (1946): 'Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience imposed by the

individual states.'

Judging the reaction of Embassy staff and CIA men present, their act of civil disobedience is the most effective way to fight the war machine. They are confident that their action will spark off a mass civil disobedience by young Americans eligible for military service.

Anarchists will welcome this new call for civil disobedience. We and the Committee of 100 have been arguing this for years. We have said repeatedly that governments ignore marches, protests and disregard reasoned dissent. The peace movement, led by CND and the British Council for Peace in Vietnam, have always tried to channel genuine dissent into futile lobbies and appeals to governments. Even this weekend's march asks supporters to: 'walk, cycle, motor, bus, train, hitch-hike and proceed from their own door-steps to Harold Wilson's in Downing Street...'. Much good that will do.

Mass civil disobedience is the only peaceful political tactic of which governments are afraid.

It was said at the recent conference of the Anarchist Federation of Britain that 'quiet subversion of the soldiery and the war machine in general was far more profitable than all the banner waving'.

We must also give every effective help possible to the draft refusers. Their call for conscientious resistance to the war and to the threat of militarism must not go unanswered!

JOHN RETY.

OBLIVION INCORPORATED

THE LATEST TWO additions to the vast military weapons stockpile are the 'Death Ray' bomb and the 'electronic' gun. These two new instruments of destruction prove conclusively that the maniacs governing us have reached the psychopathic stage.

The 'Death Ray' bomb, also called the 'clean' bomb (whatever that means), is a pure nuclear device under development by the six European nations in Euratom, the capitalistic Common Market's nuclear organization. A story in the *Washington Post* said no one knew what progress Euratom had made in its research, but it noted that such a device would have far-reaching effects—militarily, scientifically, and politically.

The device would be an almost perfect battlefield weapon. Bursting at low altitude, it would have relatively little heat and blast effect and produce no radioactive fall-out.

Quoting Dr. Samuel Cohen, a research scientist with the Rand Corporation of California (one of the firms cashing in on genocide), the *Post* said that Euratom was doing pure research work at the Laboratori Nazionali Nucleari at Frascati, near Rome.

Dr. Cohen said the work, under the direction of J. G. Linhart, a Czech-born physicist, aimed at producing a device which could be used primarily for peaceful purposes (sic)—digging trenches, releasing underground supplies of gas and oil, and heating underground water sources.

Scientists say, and this is its principle purpose, that if it was developed as a weapon of war a pure fusion bomb would release 14,000,000 volts, roughly 10 times as powerful as the neutrons released by a thermo-nuclear or hydrogen weapon.

Such particles would be able to build up sufficient radiation in people three

miles away from the detonation to kill them within an hour. (How insane can these ghoulish scientific bastards become?)

The second abominable weapon comes from the deranged mind of Los Angeles police chief, a man apparently in the inhuman Himmler-Beria retarded group, one Thomas Reddin, who pleads for the perfection of an electronic gun, now under development, that causes loss of control of the bowels by emitting a low vibration tone. He said: 'This gun would not only stop riots, but would end world wars' (*Daily Express*, 13.9.67).

These then are just two of the most recent acquisitions in the now monstrous collection of infernal contrivances that the capitalist and communist crackpots have available for our instant extermination should the occasion arise. This is also an example of where the major bulk of taxpayers' hard-earned money is being squandered.

If the money being spent in one year on these damned weapons were directed towards the projects the world cries out for, we would soon have:

All the hospitals we require.
An end to cancer, leukaemia, thrombosis, arteriosclerosis and every other major disease.
Houses fit for every human being.
Educational opportunities for all.
The absolute and total elimination of world-wide poverty, malnutrition and degrading squalor.

This will not, of course, come under the present nefarious system of capitalist shioocracy or communist arseology. It can never happen while wars are continuously fought—from Vietnam to the Middle East—over territorial rights, trade routes, petty differences, foreign markets, prestige, or any other stupid, inane grievance. It will never occur while the monetary system of greed,

covetousness, avarice and sheer hypocrisy exists.

The mad race, therefore, towards thermo-nuclear conflagration and Armageddon will continue, political thugs will stockpile, until some crackpot moron will go too far and press the button that will hurl us into nuclear OBLIVION. It is all right arguing and pretending that one side will resist a nuclear confrontation or showdown with the other because too much is at stake. Rot. History shows conclusively that it only requires some potential megalomaniac to do something daft and we're all off-sky. It may be a Nasser or a Mao Tse Tung, a Johnson or a Kosygin, a Polaris submarine commander or a Pakistani politico, but it is quite within the realms of possibility. And don't forget, the biggest piss spewers of Russia, America, France and Britain have their underground hideouts prepared. What are a few hundred million lives to them in a world they already consider over-populated, a world where too much shagging goes on? After the conflagration, they hope, they would be able to pop out like rabbits and start the whole thing over again.

It only remains now for every thinking man, every intelligent human, every Libertarian, Liberal and Anarchist to ensure that this world-wide crime is resisted. Let us make our weight felt by overthrowing the system which spawns on monetary greed.

How? By protesting, shouting, organizing and demonstrating. Let us win over the younger generation, already showing determined signs that they detest the state of present-day society, by instilling into them the sensible philosophy of Anarchism. This is a big job—though one quite within the meritorious capabilities of Anarchist writers and orators. If capitalism and communism can indoctrinate them into a life of anti-freedom, let us indoctrinate them towards a life of FREEDOM. Viva Anarchism! Our one and only hope.

JONATHAN TELFER.

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Iris Murdoch in a front page article, 'Political Morality', in The Listener opposed British support of the US War in Vietnam. In view of the highly controversial nature of the subject, I think it odd that the following letter was not published and that there has been no other discussion of Miss Murdoch's article in that magazine. The Listener has a new editor, Karl Miller, recently from the New Statesman.

SIR: Iris Murdoch's position against the US War of Aggression in Vietnam (The Listener, 21.9.67) is so admirable—all the more so because although it is obviously the only attitude any still human individual may have, a great many intellectuals have been either dishonourable: Kingsley Amis assures us that the Vietnamese are being roasted alive in a good cause; or evasive: Auden opts out of any commitment on the grounds of his ignorance.

Yet, however admiring I am of Miss Murdoch's humaneness and however grateful, as a reluctant American, I am for her courage in protesting the actions

of my most foul and murderous government, I am saddened by the reflection that much of her reasoning could be undone by a late countryman of mine, Randolph Bourne, in one sentence: 'War is the health of the State'. Miss Murdoch's very title, 'Political Morality', is paradoxical. Morality is individual always; politics amoral always—in varying degrees, true. Nevertheless, man's failure to derive any benefit from supporting 'lesser' evils has been adequately demonstrated in this century. Increasing doses of sophistry are necessary to make such choices.

Not only is Miss Murdoch's title a useless concept, but several of her remarks echo the error: 'Our government ought to use our position of comparative detachment to make a more searching criticism of American policy

and to make moral judgments upon it... one advantage of being a second-class power is that one can be moral with comparative impunity.' But that Great Britain is supporting United States foreign policy means precisely that it is not detached; its economic links are multitudinous and cancerous. Further, to speak of governments, 'second-class' or not, as moral is remarkably silly. No government can be moral ever. Whatever its current domestic and international power determines its relative capacity for atrocity. It is immune to value judgments; it functions on the grounds of expediency. It can never be 'moral with comparative impunity' for its sole goal is its own survival. When a government blunders or when the people under its control stop blundering and withdraw their support in sufficient

numbers, it falls. Hopefully, the Vietnam War (possibly in conjunction with the race riots) may cause this to happen in the US. One dare not be overly optimistic, but our survival may depend on understanding political processes somewhat better than a wavering sentimentality allows.

A final quote from Miss Murdoch: 'One cannot, and doubtless should not, attempt unilaterally to end the traditional game of "power politics"'. Indeed, one can and must. Miss Murdoch's article demands, if only obliquely (liberals seldom appreciate the consequences of their own position) that each individual in England and the United States condemn its own government. If there are too few of us (Miss Murdoch must remember she is talking not about quantity but morality) it will not work. But nothing else will.

Finally, I am sorry since so much of what Miss Murdoch does say is agreeable and necessary, to find that what I regard as a basic misunderstanding of war and government reduces her arguments; this is all the more unfortunate because after several of her heroic and befuddled sentences she is bound to be unjustly accused of being pro-Communist. Although I shall leap to her defence, I believe she has let herself in for the charge by having the same tolerant and understanding approach towards communist governments as she has towards her own, and possibly even towards the US. Her position is morally wrong because an adequate understanding of any of these governments—communist, colonial or imperialist (I agree, do let's use old fashioned words)—must lead not to tolerance but to condemnation and individual disassociation.

I can hear Miss Murdoch and indeed, any decent, nervous person protest: 'Your lack of reality!' They will cry Hobbes, the wicked nature of men, the complexity of civilizations that necessitate organized states, withal the need for minimal government, less militarization, true democracy, etc. I will reply here only to the most significantly absurd and most central of these anxieties: Even were I to regard man as basically deranged (as it happens I now so regard a certain number of my fellow Americans), were I to see man as so bestial and amoral that his greatest pleasure—if unrestrained by law—would come from murdering my mother, molesting my child, breaking into my house and stealing my Bonington or kicking my most doted upon dog, I would still throw in my fate with him. Consider the alternative: that strange and dangerous edifice invariably run by one variety or another of psychotic that man has allowed be erected for my protection and for his (am I and you, too, not a combination of cat burglar and homicidal maniac whose pleasure it will be—unless restrained—to murder our neighbour, steal his piano and frighten his children?). Is it on behalf of Miss Murdoch and myself and our neighbours that we, however reluctantly, tolerate American barbarism in Vietnam? But I don't know any political reality greater than that which distinguishes between individuals wherever they are and however bad we are informed they may be, and atomic dust, which is the property of government, and consequently anti every man.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

London, S.W.1

DACHINE RAINER.

Around the Galleries

IT IS THE purpose, and I quote, of this annual exhibition to show relatively new or unknown work and thereby help to fill the large gaps which exist in the representation of artists in London. So begins the preface within the magnificent catalogue of SURVEY '67 Abstract Painters.

Unknown works there may be, but so much of it is already passé for, by the very nature of this type of painting, it becomes dated within a matter of months. It was the Kasmin Gallery who, many year months ago, pioneered this lucrative minor artform with these works that demand little of the spectator beyond a passive acceptance. Canvases were cleared of all social and emotional content, the world of reality and imagination was rejected, and in its place we were offered huge sterile areas of space of a nihilistic public washhouse pastel irritated by an occasional addition of a single thin line or a small scab of paint festering at the margin of the unframed canvas.

The limitations of this type of work is obvious and the intruding marks became just that little wider and on occasions just that little brighter and once more the joy of flooding the canvas with stagnant pools of single colour engaged the eye and the happy hours of the practitioners of this popular artifact. The boys and girls painted it, the Bond Street galleries sold it to the various public bodies for the mystification of the barbarians dwelling within the mists north of the Thames and happiness was the keyword.

When commercial galleries hawk this trivia to public bodies we have a right and a duty to protest at what I hold to be a perversion of a truth as related to the art of painting, for a six-foot square of hardboard illuminated with but a single spot of paint can be accepted and dismissed within the framework of the diversities of the London galleries but,

when sold by a Bond Street gallery to some worthy public body and then to be placed on exhibition in alien isolation within some small provincial gallery, it gives to this valueless trivia an importance and a mystic completely at variance to its aesthetic content.

And when this happens, too, many an unfortunate has walked away believing that, at the altar of the arts, he has been found unworthy when all that has faced him has been a six-foot square of one-toned tinted hardboard. But those who aspire to paint have the right to explore their limitations to the full and, if that is their only claim upon us, then we must judge them by their own standards.

It is for this reason that one welcomes the exhibition mounted by the Camden Art Centre at Arkwright Road, N.W.3, and within their frame of reference applaud and approve the combined efforts of all those involved.

It is the four women exhibitors who carry the palm with work that ranges from a Brigid Riley-type of abstract by Sarah Kent, a de Staël abstraction by Margot Perryman, and a good academic exercise in three-dimensional abstractionism by Jennifer Durrant. It is left to Edwina Leapman to bridge the gap into the world of the imagination, for her interplay of sombre planes demands that the spectator must attempt to come to terms with what she is attempting to formulate.

If it is felt that I am unfair towards what I consider is a pretty little cul-de-sac of the arts then let me, in conclusion, quote Margot Perryman whose large areas of bright flat colours are so pleasant on the unengaged eye, for she quotes with approval Ray Chandler that *Ideas are poison. The more you reason the less you create.* At another time and at another place this could have been paraphrased as thinking with one's blood, and Chandler's quotation within the official catalogue must surely be

accepted as the death speech for this entire artform.

Bob Cobbing has his own cross to bear with the collapse of Better Books and The Wooden Shoe for he was actively engaged at various social, economic and physical levels in both these cultural enterprises. Of his own efforts he was one of that small group of poet/artists who attempted to breathe life into the art of concrete poetry. Of my innocence, I regard it as a pleasant artform that must, by its very nature, be parochial, for the emotive use of words demands a literate audience who vanish before an alien language, for the mystery may be the word but, without the knowledge that it is a communicable word, it is nought but a meaningless mark on a markable surface of pleasure to the cognoscenti seeking pretty patterns, penny-plain or tuppenny-coloured.

This, I feel, Cobbing has recognised and tried to come to terms with, and his work on display at the Everyman Cinema, Hampstead, N.W.3, bridges the wide gulf between poetry and painting in that one can accept them as products of either artforms. His work has strong affinities with the typecasts of Don Silvester Houedard who, as practitioner and theorist, has been a pleasant and amiable leader in this type of work.

Cobbing's work, however, has always veered to the more fluid visual aspects of concrete poetry so that his work was of importance when an exhibition of concrete art was offered to the public, while Don Silvester Houedard found his natural outlet within the bleak intellectualism of the printed page.

A new Pope has arisen within the movement, and colour and gaiety are, for the moment, out and with them goes Bob Cobbing, for Stephen Bann has decreed. A new Rome has arisen for the concrete poets beneath the domes of Brighton Pavilion and the heretics and those of the Old Faith make joy within the catacomb of the Everyman Cinema waiting for the Brighton Pope to readmit them to the true glory.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

Temporary address, c/o Wooden Shoe, 42 New Compton Street, London, W.C.2

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).

Oct. 22 S. E. Parker. Ayn Rand, or the Virtues of Selfishness Oct. 29 L. Harvey

What is Wrong with Individualist Anarchism LEWISHAM. Contact Mike Malet, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13

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 Canipa'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 Rounou's, now at 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month at M. Dey's, 142 Walker Road, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Liz Smith's, 3 Sinclair Road. Correspondence to either address.

ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP. Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Cheshire.

BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barneburst, Kent.

BELFAST: Contact Tony Adams, 11 Winetavern Street, Smithfield Square, Belfast.

BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN GROUP. All anarchists, syndicalists, individualists, etc., please contact Geoff and Caroline Charlton, top flat, 8 Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, Warley, Worcs. 25 mins. from Birmingham City Centre. No. 9 bus.

RESISTANCE GROUP. C/o 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 Tuesday in Archway 187 on the Seaford. Admission is free and all poets welcome. 8.30 p.m. onwards.

BRISTOL. Contact: Dave and Pat Thorne, 22 Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol, 6.

DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar, Fife.

EXETER ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Anthony Webb, 39 Cowick Lane, St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to John Deards, 184 Carters Mead, Harlow and/or Geoff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow.

HERTS. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Potters Heath Lane, Potters Heath, Welwyn, Herts OR Jeff Cloves, 46 Hughendon Road, Marshalswick, St. Albans, Herts. Saturday, October 28. Harlow anarchists on 'Anarchy in New Towns' at 10 Fry Road, Chelms, Stevenage, 8 p.m.

HULL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact J. Contact 34 Durham Street, Holderness Road.

HULL INDIVIDUALIST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact 34 Outram Street, Holderness Road, Hull, Yorks.

IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

ISLINGTON, LONDON. Next meeting at the General Picton pub, Caledonian Road (near Kings Cross) at 8 p.m., Friday, October 13.

KILBURN, LONDON. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Group meets the first Monday in each month 7.15 p.m. at 91 Brook Street, Tolleshurst Knights, Tiptree, Essex. For further information write P. Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. 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

ROCHDALE. Please contact Richard Crawford, 4 Hargreaves Street, Sudden, Rochdale.

SHEFFIELD RADICAL GROUP. Contact S.R.G., 31 Harcourt Road, Sheffield, 10.

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY GROUP. Contact Robin Lovell c/o Students' Union, Sheffield University

SLOUGH ANARCHIST GROUP AND 'HIPPIE' GROUP. Contact B. P. Norcott, 116 Lower Cippenham Lane, Slough, Bucks. Meetings every other Friday.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX ANARCHIST GROUP. We would love to hear from fellow-sympathisers in area. All enquiries to M. Powell, 7 Lingcroft, Basildon, Essex.

SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP meets alternate Thursdays and Saturdays on Eel Pie Island. Contact P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.

TROWBRIDGE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact P. Weston, Chivell, Butts Lane, Keevil, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Meetings every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. Friends' Meeting House (opp. Bus Station)

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

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: Alistair T. Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP AND 'HIPPIE' MOVEMENT. 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.

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to: Julian Ross, 111 King Edwards Road, Brynmill, Swansea.

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 42 North Road, Highgate, N.6. (Tel.: MOU 5707.)

MOU 5707.)

PROPOSED GROUPS

MUCH HADHAM, HERTS. Get in touch with Leslie Riordan, High Street, Much Hadham, Herts.

LONDON: NOTTING HILL. Please get in touch with John Bennett and Marilyn Faddy, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, London, W.11 Tel: 727 9745

TORONTO, CANADA. Any Torontonians interested in Anarchism please contact Leonard Tarka, 108 Silverhill Drive, Islington, Ontario, Canada.

S.W. LONDON. Syndicalists, Anarchists, Pacifists and Libertarian-Socialists wanted to form S.W. London Libertarians. Correspondence to: Martin Page, 15 Thornton Avenue, London, S.W.2.

EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS. Please contact Tim Deane, 'Juliet', West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset. Ferndown 3588.

CORNWALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact A. C. Jacob, 76 East Hill, St. Austell, Cornwall.

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. Gøthersgade, 27, Viborg, 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

USA: VERMONT. New Hampshire Anarchist Group. Meets weekly—discussion—individual action. Contact Ed. Strauss at RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.

CANADA: Winnipeg. Anybody interested in Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, J7, Manitoba.

BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclésin-Liege, Belgium.

EAST AFRICA. George Matthews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from UK. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.

USA. James W. Cain, secretary, Insurgency Anarchist Association, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.

GROUP (T) REASON. Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or A.R. Giles Peters, c/o same.

The Real Sentences in the Madrid Trial

A CORRECTION is necessary in connection with the trial of our five Spanish comrades which took place before the so called 'Tribunal of Public Order' in Madrid on July 5 last. We are informed that there were errors in recording the sentences, as given out by the press. It seems certain that Comrade Luis Andres Edo received nine years, three months and one day in prison, and 30,000 pesetas fine; Antonio Canete received three years and 25,000 pesetas fine; Rodriguez Piney three years, a month and 10,000 pesetas fine; on the other hand Comrades Alfredo Herrera and Alicia Mur Sin were sentenced respectively to three years, three months and 5,000 pesetas fine, and three years, three months and 35,000 pesetas fine. The press announcements for these two

comrades spoke only of three months, forgetting the three years! May we also add that the Spanish 'Counsel' for the Defence of Comrade Andres Edo, the reputed 'international' criminal, carried out his role in such a revolting manner that it had aroused the indignant protests and total disavowal on the part of our Comrade. But all this does not interest the official press and 'information services'. It is not an affair of clergymen seeking an alibi, or political 'democratic' careerists who hope to follow the Madrid dictator. They are anarchists and therefore they can be pushed around in the name of 'public order', either today, on behalf of the 'Caudillo', or tomorrow, on behalf of others, even of Social Christian Democrats, in the Italian style.

tr.: j.w.s.

Chairman Mao in Hongkong

DURING THE PAST few months thousands of Red Books have been waved in the faces of British colonial administrators and their Chinese policemen, tens of thousands of throats have chanted Chairman Mao's thoughts, dozens of clandestine struggle committees have been set up in Hongkong and a number of trade union offices have been turned into Communist bastions engaged in physical resistance to the police. The number of arrests relating to the unrest is now approaching 5,000, and temporary prisons have had to be set up. The offences have ranged from unlawful assembly and intimidation to strike, to the more terrorist activities of murder, arson and bomb-throwing, but the commonest 'crime', at least from the number of arrests, has concerned the battle to plaster walls, shops, ferries and vehicles with 'large-character' posters of Mao's thoughts. Since much of the violence has revolved round attempts to propagate the Thoughts rather than for an improvement in living conditions or an advance towards socialism, what achievements can be claimed? A reading and analysis of the Red Book will quickly reveal that it has been compiled for a very specific purpose. It is neither a handbook for Communists nor an adequate selection of Chairman Mao's thoughts. The 'Quotations', in fact, is the Leader's Digest of a lifetime of revolutionary activity—diary pronouncements, warnings and latter-day Confucian-type sayings, and its purpose, as with other 'digests', is to bridge the gap between a hierarchy and the less literate masses it wishes to influence. This is nowhere more apparent than in the international revolu-

tionary rôle China sees itself as playing. The Red Book is being pressed on the coloured peoples and on those dominated by Western powers, including Russia, as China's message of hope and guidance, an attempt to seize the initiative as the true (communist) faith. It has the virtues of simplicity and brevity, and the power of dogma and religious guidance, a very heady propaganda weapon among the masses of Africa and Asia. Why, then, has the Red Book failed to stir more than a small section of the Chinese in Hongkong? In the first instance it must be remembered that the great mass came to Hongkong as refugees from Communism. Many of them are enjoying a standard of living higher than they have ever had, contented to keep out of politics or anything identifying them with an ideology. Others still have sympathies with the Kuomintang and many are in Government service, which completely precludes any stand on social or political issues. There remain the more militant trades unions, that section of youth which identifies itself with the Red Guards across the frontier, and the thousands of children attending schools run by Communist teachers. In all perhaps five per cent of the population. Before the latest Cultural Revolution, during the 18 years of Chinese Communist rule, there had been enough evidence of social stability and economic progress to attract some goodwill among those Hongkong Chinese most hostile to the regime. The natural ties of background, of culture, and of families still living in China, had tended to make them regard the mainland as their own country even if they preferred to live outside it. In the last year, however, with the evidence of division approaching civil war in China, and first-hand reports of the excessive zeal of the Red Guards, the pendulum has swung the other way and the flirtation of the 'Overseas' Chinese with their compatriots has cooled off considerably.

On the hard core supporters of Chairman Mao in Hongkong, his thoughts have served not so much to win converts to his ideological stand as to increase Chinese nationalistic militancy. The chanting of slogans hardly understood, unquestioning faith in Mao's thoughts, a xenophobic opposition to the European imperialist presence, hardly form the basis for a coherent and efficient revolutionary party. The emphasis is on agitation, confrontation, the loss or gain of 'face', rather than on the real issues of living and working conditions and the evolution of a socialist society. And nowhere is this 'propaganda' battle more obvious than in the failure of the Hongkong Communists to win over university students and the more impressionable liberal Chinese.

Within the context of the Hongkong troubles one must regretfully confess, despite many admirable thoughts and ideals, that the Red Book has become a symbol of Chinese nationalism and orientalism rather than a token of the experience and the wisdom of a man involved all his life in the struggle for international workers' solidarity and brotherhood.

If we tried to go on the offensive when the masses are not yet awakened, writes Chairman Mao, that would be adventurism. If we insisted on leading the masses to do anything against their will, we would certainly fail.

In Hongkong the local Party has been guilty of adventurism, and as their leader predicted, they have certainly failed.

WEST BROTHER.

'Hogg Tells of Rumours about Wilson'—Daily Express

MR. EDWARD HEATH and Mr. David Frost were faded out by an ITV electricians' strike. It was accepted by Dr. Castro, after much speculation, that Che Guevara had definitely been killed in guerilla warfare in Bolivia, but the *Guardian* points out that this is not the end of guerilla warfare in South America.

HELEN VLACHOU, Greek newspaper owner, who is under house arrest, smuggled a letter out of Athens asking the world press not to stop attacking the Greek regime until it restores press freedom. Several letters appeared in the *Guardian* attacking the British regime for imprisoning demonstrators against the Greek regime.

MR. WILSON, conference safely over, told the seven MPs who were sacked from their PPS jobs for opposing his Common Market policy, that they can come back to their jobs if they wanted to. He did not say all was forgiven. Mr. Quintin Hogg, Conservative QC, said that the Prime Minister has been aware for some years of false and malicious rumours concerning his character and integrity. Mr. Wilson had always considered it right to treat these rumours with the contempt they deserve. However the scurrility of a card circulated widely by a pop group ('The Move') 'had left him no alternative but to assert his legal rights and thereby to make plain his determination to establish the complete falsity of these rumours'. Mr. Hogg, QC, was successfully bringing an action for Mr. Wilson against 'The Move'.

GILES, SON OF HAROLD WILSON, it is rumoured by the *Evening Standard*, saw on television a glass teapot. He said, according to his mother Mary (otherwise Gladys) Wilson, 'Why can't we have one of those?' Later Mrs. Wilson was seen to accept one from the sales director of a table and ovenware firm and was pictured in the *Guardian* peering coyly through a teapot. She confessed to being hooked on the tea habit. She said,

'I love my cup of tea. I couldn't face up to all the crises without my cuppa.' She later said revealingly, 'My husband drinks tea although he hasn't the same preference for tea as myself.' Mrs. Wilson confessed herself an unbeliever on one of the tenets of the tea-set faith—she does not believe that one should warm the pot—however she believes in the creed of boiling water and affirms the importance of local blends to confirm with the local waters. A following headline in the *Standard* reads, 'Mr. Wilson—we can't afford it.' However this merely refers to the brain drain and not to tea or tea-pots.

A BBC WOMAN ANNOUNCER had just read the weather forecast on Radio Four when a man's voice said, 'Come on. Be a devil. Give us a bit.' It was learned that the accidental reference was to a piece of chocolate.

WRITING IN *Problems of History*, a journal of the Soviet Academy of Science, a Soviet historian, Dr. Nikolai Yakovlev, criticised the Yugoslav writer Dr. S. N. Kostic's textbook *International Relations and International Law* for distorting history, peddling American propaganda, and slandering Soviet policies toward Eastern Europe. Among the accusations made by the Yugoslav, said Dr. Yakovlev, were that Stalin and the Soviet Government had used the 1939 German-Soviet pact as a pretext to seize Eastern Poland. Other false charges were that the Soviet Government had held back the advance of the Red Army in the early autumn of 1944 to allow the Germans to suppress the Warsaw uprising of non-Communist Poles and that the Soviet Union had, post-war, followed an imperialist policy aiming to subject East European countries to Soviet domination. Dr. Yakovlev said that the German-Soviet pact not only gave the Soviet Union a breathing-space, but encouraged a split between Franco and Mussolini and Hitler. The occupation of Eastern Poland strengthened world Socialism by expanding the defensive base of the Soviet Union. The Soviet

Army could not have moved against Warsaw in 1944 because its supply lines were stretched and he blamed the bloodshed of the rising on Winston Churchill and the Polish emigre government in London.

PRODUCTION OF HOCHHUTH'S *The Soldiers* in Berlin revived controversy over Churchill's responsibility for the obliteration bombing policy and for the death of General Sikorski, the latter was the main subject of controversy. Publishers of a book on the death of Sikorski were claimed to have inserted passages which cast a different light on the alleged accident.

REBECCA WEST, reviewing in the *Sunday Telegraph* Svetlana Alluyeva Stalin's memoirs, says, 'Svetlana is one of those writers, like the late Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and others still with us, whose appearances in print are due to eminent relatives rather than crude literary merit.' The same issue of the *Telegraph* carries an instalment of Winston Churchill's biography, by his son, Randolph. Randolph's son, Winston, is standing for Parliament for a seat in Gorton, Lancashire. Mr. Godfrey Winn confessed on the BBC that he was approached by both the Conservatives and the Labour Party to stand as a candidate. He declined both offers although he had no doubt he would have been elected for either party. Auberon Waugh in the *Spectator* estimates that there are 'four million voters who can be relied upon not to vote at any election'.

ADRIAN MITCHELL, writing in the *Guardian* series the 'Permissive Society', says, 'It seems likely that, given the growing distrust of major political parties, the anarchists, and "Third World" groups will be recruiting heavily in the next five years', and Mr. Mitchell does some heavy recruiting himself by describing Castro as 'a man who is developing his own synthesis of anarchist and socialist principles'.

JON QUIXOTE.

A Plea for Non-Violence

Dear Comrades, Having read the letter 'CD up in smoke' I fail to see how wanton acts of sabotage will hasten the advent of a free society.

Anarchists wish to see free co-operation between individuals, and this will never be achieved by violent attempts to eliminate opposition.

The attempted suppression of opposition has always widened the breach between differing ideologies, instead of winning adherents.

By resorting to violence, Anarchists use the same methods which are decried when used by Governments.

Yours against the state,
CARL PINEL.

Little Magazines Still Alive

Dear Sir, It would be sad if Dave Cunliffe's article on little magazines gives your readers the impression that the entire small press scene is liable to fold up. The unethical activities he describes do occasionally go on, but I believe they are only peripheral to the main, expanding current of the small press movement. I think that two things are happening: offset and stencil duplicating processes are making more small editions possible while the buying public is becoming more specialised. I suggest that in a few years the basic pattern will be one of a larger number of presses printing very small editions, often in poster, envelope or other free formats. Such small circulation publications will avoid most of the commercial problems Dave outlines; being so specialised they will also treat bookshops as sources of contacts rather than money and will sell mainly by prepaid postal subscription, thus simultaneously putting themselves on a firmer financial footing and dodging direct competition.

There will be both anarchist and reactionary presses working their own specialised veins; there will be more than enough room for everyone and we should be encouraging more people to go into the small press field, not writing it off because of temporary difficulties and nuisances.

CAVAN MCCARTHY,
European editor,
Directory of Little Magazines
& Small Press Review.
Blackburn, Lancs.

LETTERS

Stuart Christie

Dear Comrades, Several Anarchists have said that Stuart Christie's article in the *People* should not have been written and that it will do a lot of damage to Anarchism. Intelligent people don't read the *People* and if they see the headlines, or are told about anything in it, they don't believe it as they know the paper contains mainly fiction. Considering Stuart's financial position, who can blame him for trying to get out of debt.

I don't think the article will affect any amnesty that Carballo might receive as the Spanish authorities knew he was guilty all the time. However it will affect any Anarchist who visits Spain in the future as he may be arrested and charged with the same offence as Stuart and very few people will believe in his innocence or be prepared to help him.

ROBERT HALSTEAD.
(Only four political prisoners have ever been pardoned by Franco. They are Pecunia, Batoux, Ferri and Christie. None of them are Spanish.—Editors.)

Take Shelter, Rety!

Dear Sir, With reference to John Rety's article on SHELTER:

Firstly, although Mr. Rety claims that he spoke to somebody at our office, he did not speak to me or any of my executives. Thus the quotes in his article are unauthorised.

They are also inaccurate. This is, in fact, an article so vicious and unwarranted that one can only assume that it was written by somebody with a diseased mind.

The British Churches Housing Trust and the Catholic Housing Aid Society, with which we are proud to be connected, own no slums. On the contrary, they buy property in slum districts and give it a new lease of life. They depend on local authority improvement grants to do this and would not get these unless the houses are up to the required standard. The houses are bought on the open market and we have no record of any house, already owned by a church, having been bought by a housing association.

It is not true to say that SHELTER is 'a PR firm for the churches'. Many involved in SHELTER, including myself, would not claim to be Christians, but we would claim to be passionately con-

cerned with helping those in the community who are in urgent need.

Contrary to your comments, SHELTER does require assurances from the voluntary bodies that it assists that homeless families in the most urgent need will be housed. There is no need for an assurance that rents will be low—if they were anything but low the most needy families could not afford the homes.

SHELTER has never asserted as Mr. Rety claims that these voluntary bodies are not burdened with the repayment of mortgages. On the contrary, they are.

Had he bothered to speak to anybody in authority he would have been told that the houses are purchased with the help of gift capital, but mainly with loans from the local authorities and improvement grants. Wherever possible a housing association will try to charge an economic rent but where the family cannot afford this, the rent will be subsidised.

I could go on and on correcting one mis-statement and one lie after another but it seems to me that you would not have the space for my reply. Indeed, I would not bother to reply to Mr. Rety but there is a possibility that one or two sensible people may read your newspaper and be misled.

If they have been concerned by his article, I hope that they will get in touch with me and arrange to visit SHELTER and hear and see the true situation for themselves.

LINDA KAUFMAN,
pp. Des Wilson, Director.
SHELTER, National Campaign
for the Homeless,
86 The Strand, W.C.2

Take Shelter (2)

Dear Editors, So good to see you knock that malicious, pretty faced and club-footed SHELTER. So good—thanks.
Nottingham RAY GOSLING.

HELP!

AS REPORTED at the AFB Conference, a young Polish comrade is being harassed by the Polish Police because of her anarchist activities in London. She would like to come back to London, but the return fare (Polish Government regulations) has to be paid in this country.

She needs approx. £30. She can repay this on arrival in London. Guy Gladstone and myself are organising funds. Please try and help.
46 Howitt Road,
London, N.W.3 LENNY PAYNE.

£124 down!

WEEK 41, NOVEMBER 14, 1967:
Expenses: 41 weeks at £90: £3690
Incomes: Sales and Subs.: £2718
DEFICIT: £972

Chicago: R.S. £1/3/9; Alberta: B.G. 3/2;
London, N.W.3: L.P. 10/-; St. German-
town: R.S. £1/4/-; St. Cloud, Minn.:
M.A. £4/18/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.*
2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Woodstock, Vt.: E.S. £7;
Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Glasgow:
A.J. 3/9; Manchester: D.P. 10/11;
Cloquet, Minn.: J.C. 7/-; Tiptree: P.N.
£1.

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Previously Acknowledged: £830 7 6

1967 Total to Date: £848 3 1

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Direct Action Gets Results

IT HAS been well over a month since Vauxhall car workers rejected the management's pay offer, and it has taken all this time for the management to come to their senses. Vauxhall management chose to learn the hard way and have finally accepted the sense in the car workers' proposals.

In 1956 earnings at Vauxhall Motors were based on a group bonus, but during that year an agreement was reached consolidating average earnings into a basic time rate. This agreement which included fringe benefits was a good agreement as far as the workers were concerned it stabilised their take home pay.

Productivity was gradually increased by cuts in standard times on the production lines, plus a vast investment programme. This meant Vauxhall Motors were doing very nicely thank you, but the lads on the shop floor found that none of the increased profit was coming their way, the much talked of 'larger slice of the cake' turned out to be a very few crumbs.

In view of this deteriorating situa-

Contact Column

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

Work Wanted. 19-year-old male seeks employment. Anything considered. Liberal boss preferred who will allow absences for major demos. Phone Brian at GAL 1130.

International Anarchist Camp 1969. Proposed to hold it in S.E. England—offers of assistance, suggestions for suitable sites to Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex.

'Save Greece Now' Defence Fund. Donations to Bretta Carthey, 8 Vincent Square Mansions, Walcott Street, London, S.W.1.

Correspondent. Young anarchist wishes to correspond on anarchistic philosophy and principles. J. Weissmiller, 802 W. 12th, Topeka, Kansas 66612, USA.

North London Situationist Group. If you are interested in creating the situation and direct action in all spheres, please contact Jean-Paul Bouchenoire, 285a Alexandra Park Road, London, N.22.

Pirate Press. In spite of savage sentence passed on Terry Chandler, the Pirate Press is still going, under the management of Mike Seaman and Neill Collins, 116 Whitfield Street, W.1. 01-387 8864.

Community. Men and women with radical socialist orientation, introverted, with reasonable IQ, pagan sentiments and interest in the group family. SAE to Selene Community, Rhydowmerau, Llandeilo, Carmarthen, Wales.

Going East? Lift offered to young man overland to India-Nepal. Leave UK November 6, 1967. In return share petrol. Apply G. Parker, 2 Talton Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, 15.

Free University: Manchester. Any interest in forming one? If so, write to me with any questions or ideas. Box 66.

Just off the Press. Anthology of protest-poetry by Flemish, Dutch and English poets, with many drawings and photo-collages. 125 pages, only 10/-. To be had from Freedom Bookshop or direct from Gerda Ides, Post Box 772, Haarlem, Holland (send Int. M.O. in latter case). A Dutch anarchist publication.

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If you wish to make contact let us know.

tion the unions represented at Vauxhall's submitted wage proposals which endeavoured to claim hold of this so-called 'larger slice of the cake'. Negotiations dragged on stimulating the frustration of the car workers. Finally the management printed and circulated proposals all over the plant which contained a revised wages structure tied up with a productivity plan. This action by the management was carried out despite the objections of the union negotiator. The shop stewards rejected the proposals completely.

A couple of months later Vauxhall management submitted fresh proposals which were still tied to the productivity gimmicks of the original offer. This was rejected by the workers of all three factories—Luton, Dunstable and Ellesmere Port—followed by the imposition of an overtime ban.

As Vauxhall Motors began to feel the effects of the ban, a smell of 'sell out' began to circulate around the plants. Certain sections of the official union machinery with the management were trying to get normal working re-started on the basis of an 'open agenda'. Such a move, if successful, would have isolated the militant joint works committee and the NUVB Luton organiser, A. Leary. The move was not successful and pressure on the management by the rank and file was maintained.

Vauxhall Motors tried every stroke to split the solidarity of the car workers, to the extent of inviting selected workers to clock on after they had closed sections of the plant down. Workers who did clock on continued to work to union instructions, therefore the management's plans were bugged completely.

The situation then started to take a slightly different turn. Robert Maxwell, Labour MP for Buckingham, intervened—it is reported that it was at the request of some of his constituents who work at Vauxhall. Whilst this is possibly true, bigger

wheels than that were set in motion to get such an intervention.

Certain assurances were sought and gained from the management by Maxwell and Leary, NUVB organiser, and within a few days the plant was reopened.

Then came the bombshell. A. Leary, NUVB organiser, was sacked by the Executive Committee of the NUVB after Leary had refused to resign. According to J. Orford, assistant general secretary of the NUVB, Arthur Leary's dismissal had nothing to do with his handling of the Vauxhall pay dispute. Who is the NUVB trying to kid? If such was the case, why not clear up the Vauxhall negotiations first, then deal with Leary. Unless one wants to SABOTAGE negotiations one does not pull out the spearhead of the workers' attack half way through the battle. Obviously A. Leary had trod on some official toes over the Vauxhall dispute; if it had been left to some of the union officials they would have 'swallowed' weeks earlier.

Despite the action by the NUVB, A. Leary led the union delegation at the talks. By a series of legitimate moves Leary was voted in as district secretary. The whole move would have done any chess master proud. The job of district secretary is unpaid so a fund was established to assist A. Leary financially.

The outcome of the talks and the terms of the agreement have been accepted by the Vauxhall shop stewards and, to quote A. Leary, 'This is what we have been fighting for since 1956. My dream is now becoming a reality'.

Vauxhall workers at all three plants have had to struggle to obtain what they want, and this surely is going to be the pattern throughout industry for the future. Railwaymen, printers, busmen and dockers have all got struggles on their hands, struggles which are only going to be won by action and not by resolution.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

GUEVARA DEAD

THERE SEEMS LITTLE doubt now that Ernesto 'Che' Guevara was killed this week by Bolivian rangers, the anti-guerrilla section of the army.

'Che' Guevara landed with Fidel Castro's expedition in Cuba in 1956. He became Minister of Industry in Castro's Government, but in 1965 he disappeared from Cuba, and it was some months before Castro announced that Guevara had written to say that he had left Cuba for 'a new field of struggle against imperialism'.

From that time, Guevara was reputed to be organising guerrilla units in a number of Latin American countries. Then reports came through that he was in Bolivia and Regis Debray, a French Marxist journalist who was captured last April by the Bolivian army and now on trial on a charge of conspiring with guerrilla forces, said that he had interviewed Guevara.

With the Cuban revolution as an example and inspiration, Guevara believed that the armed struggle of guerrilla units was the best method of ridding Latin America of its reactionary American-backed regimes. In these countries, Parliamentary reforms have failed to alleviate the suffering and poverty. Few avenues of struggle are left, one being the popular armed one. Tin miners in Bolivia found this out years ago and on many occasions they have taken over the mines and farms nearby, defending them by force of arms.

Although a Marxist, Guevara could not really be classified into a Russian or Chinese orthodoxy. The armed struggle

against the Batista regime, for him, set the pattern which other Latin American countries could follow. The American Government is well aware of this danger to its interests. It has been equipping the Government forces in the countries where guerrilla forces are operating and also running centres where Latin American officers are taught methods to counter these guerrilla activities.

A report in the *Guardian*, from Richard Gott in Bolivia, indicates that members of the United States intelligence agencies operate in the country. One of these was in the helicopter that brought Guevara's body to Vallegrande. Gott says that the American agent 'made desperate efforts to keep off the crowds. He was a very nervous man and looked furious whenever cameras were pointed in his direction. He knew that I knew who he was and he also knew that I knew that he should not be there, for this is a way in which the Americans are not supposed to be taking part'.

I should not think that the death of Guevara will mean the end of the guerrilla campaign in Latin America. They no doubt have the support of the oppressed peoples of these countries and I, for one, would not say that they are wrong.

P.T.

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

Freedom For Workers' Control

OCTOBER 21 1967 Vo. 28 No 32

RAILWAY SHOWDOWN?

ONCE AGAIN railwaymen have been told that they are going to have to pay the price in order to get the railways out of the red. This point is made only too clearly in Professor Robertson's recommendations, following his Court of Inquiry, ordered by Mr. Gunter, the Minister of Labour, into the dispute over pay and productivity of guards and shunters.

The report comes out firmly against the claim of the National Union of Railwaymen, for an increase of 4s. 9d. per day for carrying out extra duties on single-manned trains, these duties formerly being done by the second man on the footplate. The union, to back their claim, instructed members not to carry out these extra duties. In some areas these men were sent home by British Railways and this led to strike action by those affected. The NUR executive turned down proposals for an outright strike.

Prof. Robertson says that BR have in fact been over-generous in their offer of 2s. 4½d. extra per day for about 2,000 guards. He says: 'To my mind the reasonable way to deal with the matter of paying guards for single manning arrangements introduced under the 1965 agreement is to pay guards, as was proposed by the Board, 2s. 4½d. per turn when they are engaged on duties arising from operating locomotives running light and for working rafts of vehicles on or across main lines.' Other payments, in return for increased productivity, should be paid on a flat-rate basis to all the 14,600 guards. In other words, all increases will have to be paid by the railwaymen themselves, with BR taking the lion share of the money that in the past went to the second man on the footplate.

BR 'GRAVELY MISCALCULATED'

The Report says that the estimated saving on the single-manning agreement for footplatemen did not materialise. The Board 'gravely miscalculated' in 1965 'and did not sufficiently analyse probabilities which would appear to have been within the realm of prediction'. So, according to Prof. Robertson, the 1965 agreement was too generous and so his conclusions about the guards' claims, which are based on the previous agreement, are that they are far too much and that the Board's offer of 2s. 4½d. is 'reasonable and even generous'.

What the 'probabilities' are which were not sufficiently analysed, are not mentioned, but probably the Board have not been able to sack as many railwaymen as they would have liked. For this is what is happening. The railways are trying to run on commercial lines, by cutting back on services and manpower. The technical breakthrough in automatic signalling, which is now being pushed ahead, is also going to mean a loss of jobs. Mr. Fiennes, the 'sacked' Chairman of the Eastern Region, has strong

views on the reduction of manpower. He says: 'Management must not allow the monetary savings achieved by reducing the number of staff to be frittered away on so-called "productivity" payments to the staff who remain.'

BAN CONTINUES

Perhaps the Board will adopt this stand later on. From the attitude of Mr. Green, the General Secretary of the NUR, they haven't much to fear if they do. He said: 'We did not know that their figures were wrong. If we had known, we would not have been so adamant in pressing our claim.' Referring to the present claim, he said, 'There is no point in trying to burgle the house twice.' His executive, however, think differently and have instructed their members to continue to refuse second man duties on single-manned trains.

Workers cannot expect much to emerge in their favour from Courts of Inquiry. However, railwaymen should have been even more prepared for this because Mr. Gunter has really only substituted an inquiry for the railway's own arbitration court. The NUR turned down arbitration and so Mr. Gunter appointed Prof. Robertson to head the inquiry and he is also the railway arbitrator. At the same time, the findings and the recommendations of Prof. Robertson are a calculated face-saver for Mr. Green and his moderates. 'Well, brothers, we were misinformed', and gives them a way out from their present, reluctantly taken, position.

The *Economist* has long advocated a showdown with the NUR. The present position could lead to this, if the Board takes disciplinary action against the guards and shunters for refusing extra duties. Before the Inquiry, this led to unofficial strikes by other railwaymen and calls for a national stoppage. The *Economist* says that the NUR could only finance a three week strike and it would be better to force a showdown now, because any postponement to the winter would be more damaging.

Railwaymen would be unwise to take strike action on a national scale, unless other transport workers come out in sympathy. However, the work-to-rule would be a more effective weapon for them. A showdown is on the cards, but one, led by Mr. Green would be disastrous for the rank and file. It has got to be on the basis that the men themselves run the dispute. Already they have shown that, despite having the stuffing knocked out of them, they are still determined to put up a fight to safeguard their jobs and livelihoods. Recent disputes at Stratford East and the present campaign of 24-hour strikes by signalmen, who are protesting against delays in negotiations on improved shift-working arrangements, have shown this. If the right tactics are used, then railwaymen could win the showdown the *Economist* is so longing for.

P.T.

LETTER

Make War—but not on WANT!

Dear Editors,

Today all the third and fourth year boys at the school where I teach were allowed to miss lessons so they could enjoy the dubious pleasure of listening to a squadron-leader talk about the ATC with a view to forming a group in school.

Today I approached the headmaster with a request to show a War-on-Want Exhibition on school premises. The head replied that the boys' first priority must be school work, then they could start thinking about other people. This

also applied to the staff—there was no time to bother with such things.

When I asked why he did not apply this logic to the ATC, he said I was being offensive and he hadn't asked for my opinion!

I've now lost my chance of a reference, but this is just an example of what happens, and is allowed to happen, every day in our bureaucratic schools.

Yours fraternally,

MANCHESTER STUDENT.