

BLACK REBELLION

PEOPLE who read the posh papers (daily and Sunday) may have noticed that they have been paying attention to the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination. You had headings like 'How Mr. James Played His Card' (*Sunday Times*), 'Battle For Power Among Colour Bar Campaigners' (*Observer*), 'Racial Group In Crisis Talks' (*Times*), and so on. I hope to deal with some of the stuff that did not make the headlines.

CARD was formed three years ago to combat racial discrimination in Britain. Prominent founders included Mr. David Pitt, Miss Julia Gaitskell, Mr. Anthony Lester. A friend of mine described the constitution they drew up as 'a Labour Party front' (he should know—he helped to draft it!). Personally I don't doubt the sincerity of those who go in for parliamentary lobbying—just their wisdom. Many people in CARD felt what was needed was more emphasis on the struggle in the community, in the ghetto. At this year's convention a take-over bid was made, amid charges and counter-charges of cheating. The new (but disputed) leadership issued a statement:

'An alliance was built up of all militant coloured organisations and all militant native organisations of our blood brothers—a fusion of workers, students, and intellectuals on all sides.

'We decided (1) that CARD must become and remain a broad mass of grass roots organisations in which there will be all races; (2) that it must be militant and it must be officered by the coloured sufferers of racial discrimination who know the problems and know the way to struggle against it; (3) that without attacking the root cause, imperialist oppression, our struggle will not win support among coloured people and/or natives of Britain.'

ACTIVITY IN ISLINGTON

What all this will mean in practice remains to be seen—however, that's enough about ye convention. Let's look at a Local Branch, the Islington one because it is the only one I know anything about. It has a membership consisting of West Indians, Pakistanis and 'natives'. Some good work has been done on the housing issue. A demonstration was held supported by tenants of a slum landlord. Reaction of a local Councillor: 'These people live in overcrowded conditions because they want

to!' Of an Alderman: 'They're a lot of hooligans.'

Another issue with which Islington CARD is much concerned is police brutality. A march to Islington and Caledonian Road Police Stations was supported by over a hundred people.

At a Branch Meeting held shortly before the yearly convention, relations with Central CARD were discussed. It was decided (not unanimously) to have relations with Central CARD.

A lot of black (West Indian) teenagers have come into Islington CARD and want action. These kids, descended from slaves and 'Uncle Toms', are naturally attracted to Black Power. Some of their ideas are sensible, some are not. 'We must be disciplined,' said one. What for? That's slave talk. Only slaves need discipline. However, as regards militancy, these kids will be setting the pace in future.

COULD IT HAPPEN HERE?

The October issue of Islington CARD's *Newsletter* contained, besides an excellent article on the police, a report on the Detroit insurrection. It's worth quoting part of it:

'They asked for no aid, they expected none. They, the most exploited, demonstrated, as Stokeley Carmichael insisted when in London, that no man can die for another. And when white youth and white Southern workers who are heavily exploited in Detroit created integrated looting when they joined in the destruction of the shops which exploited them, and joined in the sniping against the police who are also their enemies, no one said "Whitey go home". Black Power had expressed itself fully when white men joined in the struggle that black men started and which they led.'

Now this is not America. The proportion of 'coloured' people is smaller. Black Americans are many generations in the land, whereas black and brown people in this country do not necessarily even speak the same language. Indians do not always love Pakistanis and vice versa. The West Indian, more sure of himself, tends to be impatient with both. The shops in the Detroit ghetto were run by whites, in British ghettos this is less common. But mass communications mean that events in America do influence events here. Insurrection is a serious business, but there is one reason why it could happen—in a deaf society, it may be the only way to make yourself heard.

J. McLEAN.

CONSULATE RAIDED

The Editors,

In response to the *Guardian's* call for further demonstrations against the Greek fascist regime, the Greek Consulate in Glasgow was broken into and the plaque taken; a swastika was applied and the result photographed (enclosed).

The plaque is now in London to be used for propaganda purposes.

SAVE GREECE NOW
(Glasgow Group)



DURHAM BUILDINGS—some success

THE STRUGGLE of the homeless people of Wandsworth against the Labour-controlled Council continues. As I wrote in *FREEDOM* two weeks ago, the demands are:—

1. Withdrawal of the nine-month eviction threat;
2. Assurance that no family will be evicted onto the streets;
3. Assurance that no children will be taken into care, and all families given a decent place to live.

A deputation of tenants has visited the home of Mr. Kenneth Robinson, Minister of Health, and handed in a letter pointing out that the Wandsworth Council eviction threat is contrary to Labour's election pledge of no evictions, and asking him to see that the Council withdraw it.

The march on November 12 to the home of the Chairman of the Welfare Committee, Alderman Jack Parker, went very well. About 120 people took part. A meeting was held outside Parker's house and a letter handed in, demanding that the assurances be given at the Council meeting the following Wednesday.

THE STUPIDITY of the British Government is almost beyond belief.

After having spent three years bolstering up the external value of the pound with every device in the book in order to avoid devaluation, which should have taken place years ago, it has allowed itself to be forced into a devaluation which not only takes place at the worst possible time, when Britain has made huge borrowings from the International Monetary Fund and from the Americans and Continentals which must be paid back at the old exchange rate, but also is too small to be of any real use.

So we can look forward to a continuation of the speculation by international bankers against the pound, even while the authorities, with Bank Rate at 8 per cent, do their best to produce the highest level of unemployment since the War.

In 1949 when the pound was devalued, it went from \$4.03 to the pound to \$2.80—about a third. Now its dollar value has been cut by only about 14 per cent, to \$2.40. The reason for the smallness of the cut this time is the pressure exerted by the other major countries of the world, particularly the United States, who were afraid of the threat to their own currencies which would come from the creation of such a large differential in favour of British exports. If Britain had devalued by a sufficient margin to obviate the danger of a further devaluation, other countries, including perhaps even America, could have been forced to devalue also. The net effect then would be a collapse of the world monetary system like that of 1931, the competitive advantage deriving from devaluation would be lost, and nations would resort to restrictions on international trade and resulting mass unemployment.

A similar outcome may yet be the result of the British action. Despite the promise by the other major countries of a \$3,000 million loan to support sterling at the new rate, there is going to be continued doubt that the devaluation was sufficient to produce the substantial balance of trade surplus which Britain needs to pay off its present debts, as well as to bear the estimated £500 million a year additional burden which, it was officially estimated last year, entry into the Common Market would involve. In other words, the sterling crisis is not yet finished.

LOWERING OF LIVING STANDARDS

What the practical outcome, as far as we here are concerned is going to be, is very briefly said. Within two years the British people are going to be on an average living standard lower than that of the French and the Germans, and perhaps even lower than most Italians. This is going to be brought about by sharp rises in the cost of living in the next year or so. Depending upon which of the Sterling Area countries follow Britain in devaluing their currencies in terms of the dollar and the major European currencies, the cost of living should rise by three or four per cent. Entry into the EEC, which is now almost certain, should add another three or four per cent to this. To translate this into practical terms, the food bill of an average family of four would, under the combined impact of the present devaluation and entry into the Common Market, increase by something like fifty shillings a week. And on top of this we are going to have an increase in unemployment and measures to prevent any increase in wage rates.

It would be a mistake to blame all this simply on the sub-Churchillian posturings of Harold Wilson. Although the economists have been advocating devaluation for years, they have done so with very little understanding of the real problems involved: devaluation has been a panacea which has enabled them to avoid any serious analysis of the causes of Britain's payments difficulties. On the other hand, there have been the Bank of England and the financial interests of the City who, with the support of the Treasury, have been chiefly concerned with the defence of their own interests.

There is in fact no simple explanation of what has gone wrong with Britain's balance of payments. Certain elements can be immediately distinguished, like the huge one-way expenditure overseas by the Government for military and associated purposes, and the rise in the prices of British exports on overseas markets relative to other countries' products, but to tie all the elements together into a coherent and convincing explanation is something that no one has yet achieved. But it seems likely that at the root of Britain's troubles is the long-term structural adjustment that has been

taking place since the First World War, as Britain declines in relative importance. Her head start in industrialisation and economic development, and her acquisition and maintenance, even during the Second World War, of large overseas capital investments, and the income deriving from them, enabled Britain for many years to enjoy a national income much greater on a per capita basis than that of most other major countries.

HISTORICAL CHANGE

Now the process of historical change has reduced Britain to a relatively insignificant country. But she has nevertheless endeavoured with the help of, and perhaps for the preservation of, her income from overseas investments, to maintain an important role in the structure of international power-politics, while at the same time not possessing the domestic economic strength to justify such a role. The reason for the inadequate domestic economic strength in turn is partly simply one of size and natural resources, and partly explicable in terms of the 'maturity' of the economy relative to that of the other major industrial powers: Britain no longer has a numerically large but relatively declining agricultural sector from which to draw the supplies of labour which are necessary to rapid industrial expansion. Nor has she been able (partly because of stupid xenophobia) to draw upon the labour force of countries or areas with a large agricultural labour surplus.

Thus a devaluation of some kind was inevitable. But the activities of the British authorities have had the effect of making a bad situation worse; and there is no important difference between the Labour Party and the Conservatives in this.

As a result, all we have to look forward to for the next few years is hardship and insecurity. Whether the electorate in 1970 votes for Wilson or Heath will of course make not a jot of difference to Britain's place in the world, and her necessary further decline.

BRON SHATOV.

EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. *FREEDOM* will be published without a break until Christmas. We shall have an eight-page issue next week and also on December 23 and that will be the last issue of the year.

2. We need help in folding *FREEDOM* on November 28 and 30, at Express Printers, 84 Whitechapel High Street, E.1, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Social Evening

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Anarchist Black X

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RON BAILEY.

BY THE PEOPLE—FOR THE PEOPLE!

But Without The State!

DISGUST with the Labour Government's treatment of the miners is finding immediate outlet in the stopping of the political levy to the Labour Party. Last week we reported that the miners' lodges in Silksworth (Durham) and Bankhall (Lanes) had stopped the levy and forecast that others would follow their example. They have. The press reports that the Central Area Workshop Branch and the Blidworth Colliery have also stopped the levy. According to the *Sunday Telegraph*, the Area Secretary of the Nottingham miners has said: 'Most of the 36 branches in my area will be calling meetings to discuss the White Paper and several have told me that they are considering stopping the political levy.' It is also reported that some lodges in Yorkshire are likely to ignore the advice of the Area Council to keep paying the levy.

Meanwhile the leadership of the Miners' Union is doing its best to stop the rot and urging its members to keep paying the levy so as to

'bring pressure to bear' on MPs to 'change Government policy'.

Such futile advice reflects the bankruptcy of the miners' leadership. To ask Wilson, Brown and Callaghan to change their policies in the interests of working men and women is like preaching morals to a brothel-keeper. These Labour 'statesmen', besotted with their own importance, whose chief delight in life is to dress up in white ties and tail suits and address a gathering of financiers in the Guildhall, have nothing but contempt for the working men and women who elected them to office. Speaking to a delegation of miners who came to London to seek help from their MPs, Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, said: 'You miners have never had it so good. What do you mean by coming here and protesting about a Labour Government.'

And what Brown says openly and brutally, the others say in private. It is the ruler's mentality. How dare they, the common herd, the voting cattle, question the wisdom of the 'experts'.

COMMUNISTS ENTER THE FIELD

Despite this experience, the Communist Party is doing its best to stop the mass exodus from the Labour Party. Their policy is to change the Labour Party policy (with the help of a few Communist MPs if they can get them) so they propose a campaign of resolutions calling on the Government to withdraw its fuel policy. But for those who are sick to death of the Labour Party they are willing to open their doors to membership of the Communist Party.

It is a policy compounded of futility and treachery. Futile because nothing short of insurrection will change Government policy, and treacherous because, of all the parties, the Communists more than any other stand for the all powerful State, owning everything, controlling everything, and denying even the slightest initiative on the part of the people themselves.

Yet what is required is not larger doses of State control, but ownership and control vested in the people themselves acting in free, voluntary associations. No government has ever handed over the resources of a country to the producers, to the workers. No government has ever admitted that people are capable of administering their own affairs. Not even the Bolshevik Government of 1917. They merely made legal what had already been accomplished by the people themselves—the seizure of the land and the occupation of

Support Needed

CONTRARY to what appeared in last week's *FREEDOM*, Preben Meedom was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Preben Meedom was arrested at a demonstration against the military dictatorship in Greece. He was beaten up by the police and suffered concussion. The Danish comrades have requested that we demonstrate our solidarity. The new proposed group, Fulham and Chelsea, have taken up this request and are asking comrades for their support. They are also printing a leaflet for distribution. Help wanted.

DANISH EMBASSY,
29 PONT STREET,
S.W.1
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2,
at 10 a.m.

the factories. And having made it legal and established a government, they proceeded to take back the people's conquests, substituting for direct workers' control the management by State functionaries and Party officials.

And to do this they had perforce to resort to the use of that monstrous repressive machinery which is the common possession of all governments—the police, the army, the prisons, and the firing squads. The free Soviet of Kronstadt was crushed by Lenin and Trotsky who thereby laid the foundations for that vast prison camp which Russia was eventually to become under Stalin and which, with minor modifications, it has remained to this day.

That's not what the miners and the British workers want. They want just the opposite. Large numbers—especially among the youth—are becoming completely disillusioned not only with the truly nauseating antics of the Labour Party but with the whole stinking business of entrusting their lives to self-seeking politicians. A considerable section of the people is beginning to see through the parliamentary farce. **What is now required is a positive alternative.**

THE FREE SOCIETY

We don't need campaigns to change government policies, nor campaigns to elect 'lefts' to Parliament (Wilson was once a 'left'). What we all need is a new society brought about by our own free endeavours.

The general shape of that society has been known for a hundred years at least. Communities which live without coercion, without government, without police, without armies; where the instruments of production are commonly owned and where no man lives off the work of another—a society in which there is real freedom for all to participate in the day to day running of industrial and cultural affairs. It was the dream of John Ball, of Gerard Winstanley, of William Morris and many others. And it is a dream which ordinary people still hold deep in their hearts. (Indeed most people who join the Communist Party, and many who join the Labour Party, do so to make that dream come true—not to pass resolutions to a Labour Government.)

But over the years the dream has become dimmed mainly because the authoritarians have convinced ordinary people that society is so 'complex', that people are so ignorant and selfish, that governments are necessary to avoid chaos. This is just not true.

IT IS POSSIBLE

Modern technology has now made it entirely possible for relatively small communities to exist with an abundance of all the good things of life and with all the benefits of modern science—but small enough to allow direct, face to face democracy in the control and management of society's affairs.

Lewis Herber, a scientist and an anarchist, has written a pamphlet *Liberatory Technology* (published by Freedom Press in *Anarchy* 78) which makes this abundantly clear. I will quote only one passage:

I do not profess to claim that all man's economic activity can be completely decentralised, but the majority can surely be scaled to human and communitarian dimensions. It is enough to say that we can shift the overwhelming weight of the economy from national to communitarian bodies, from centralised bureaucratic forms to local, popular assemblies in order to secure the sovereignty of the free community on solid industrial foundations. This shift would comprise a historic change of qualitative proportions, a revolutionary social change of vast proportions, unprecedented in man's technological and social development.

IT'S UP TO US

The miners (and the railwaymen) are the first to be forced to reconsider all their old ideas because they are the first to see that nationalisation (State ownership and bureaucratic control) has brought not socialism but the murder of their communities. They are being freed from the grinding toil of coal-getting only to face the demoralisation of the dole queue or, at best, a £12 a week job as a factory labourer.

Had the miners owned and controlled the mines, it is inconceivable that this could have happened. There would have been a planned reduction of hard work, a planned introduction of modern

Freedom

For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 25 1967 Vol 28 No 36

JOURNALISTS FACE REDUNDANCIES

AN UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE of solidarity and militancy in deeds not words has been urged by Mr. Allen Hutt, President of the National Union of Journalists, to his members.

He had just heard a resolution at Sheffield branch demanding that the union should seek not less than a 20% wage increase when negotiating next year's agreement with the Newspaper Society. It pledged total support for any action needed to secure this.

President Hutt welcomed the militant spirit of the resolution but added that militancy did not end with rhetoric at a meeting or the passing of strike resolutions. What mattered was what members were prepared unitedly to do when it came to the crunch—hence his stress on solidarity as well as militancy.

Without firm will and chapel unity in action the National Executive Committee could negotiate so much—and no more. Negotiations were made even more complicated by the interference of the Ministry of Labour and the TUC, he said.

These circumstances called emphatically for solidarity and militancy in deeds not words down to the last chapel or the smallest weekly paper.

In Northern Ireland two branches have called for strike action unless the employers meet the NUJ forthwith to discuss parity of pay with Newspaper Society rates in Britain.

Nearly three years ago the employers promised to meet the union on this issue **WITHIN A YEAR**. There has been no meeting and no parity since. Mid-Ulster and Derry branches called for a strike if necessary.

Redundancy has resulted among journalists as a result of the merger between British Printing Corporation magazines

and the Haymarket Press. Already six have been made redundant—including some of the chapel's leading lights and the PBC father of the chapel, Mrs. Sheila Gettings.

Two of them have not received redundancy money, while in the case of the other four it is not known whether the redundancy payment is in accordance with the NUJ scale. The need for a strong chapel to avoid further redundancy was pointed out at the last branch meeting.

The question of manning in the newspaper industry is discussed in this month's issue of the *Journalist* by General Secretary, Mr. H. J. Bradley. The International Publishing Corporation (which owns the *Daily Mirror*, the *Sun*, etc.) had just announced a drop of nearly £2,000,000 in pre-trading profits over six months. The industry was being told to reduce costs by cuts in manning, said Mr. Bradley, but this would offset only a fraction of £2,000,000.

The effect of cutting down manning would be negligible.

On the same day the Government's Prices and Incomes Board refused the *Daily Mirror's* application to increase its price by a penny. Writes Mr. Bradley: 'Presumably the *Mirror* thought of all the possibilities in advance. If the application succeeded it could offset the slump in revenue, if it failed it would be likely to provide yet another stick with which to beat the unions.'

A large part of the drop was due to the cut in advertising as a result of the Government's freeze.

On eruptions in other industries in recent weeks he writes: 'These are the aftermath of the freeze and the difficulties that arise in productivity bargaining or from changes in working.'

'If politicians pretend that the resulting ferment is merely due to political agitation or use it as a pretext to urge restrictive legislation against unions they are kidding the public. Of course they may succeed, but if they do there will be a price to be paid by industry—and by politicians whose credibility is now at a low ebb among trade unionists.'

'One of the drawbacks of the freeze, and legislative control of earnings, has been to put many trade union leaders into such difficulties and compromises as to undermine their own members' confidence in them. This is the atmosphere in which explosions, including unofficial strikes, occur.'

'To shout that the remedy is new laws against unions may go down well at party conferences but it ignores and diverts attention from the main causes of the trouble. Perhaps that is precisely the intention.'

JOHN LAWRENCE.

Contact Column

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

Greek Embassy, Prisoners Picket. Sunday, November 26. Meet Greek Embassy, 49 Upper Brook Street, 12 noon. March to Roy Jenkins' house. Picket and Meeting till 2 p.m.

Greek Tourist Boycott? 1968 Conference, Saturday, December 2, 1967, at Camden Assembly Rooms, Camden Town Hall, Euston Road, London, N.W.1, at 1.45 p.m.

National Committee of 100. Quarterly Meeting, Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10. Birmingham, The Old Crown, High Street (near Bull Ring). Saturday 2.30 p.m. Evening Party. Sunday 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Woman with Four Children needs accommodation in cottage/flat/caravan, ANYWHERE where a little toleration is shown towards children. Box

Anarchist Black Cross. To send money and food to anarchists in prison. Secretary: Stuart Christie (c/o Freedom Press).

Inadmitt—Ugo 2 Provos. To American soldiers in Europe. Leaflet 60/- a thousand. To be reprinted soon. Enquiries P.P.U., 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

Wanted. Folksingers for libertarian folk club. Please contact Iain Macdonald, 15 Cotton Street, Aberdeen, for details.

Information wanted. CID surveillance on politically activist students. University journal. Box 68.

Girl wants flat in Anarchist/Left household in Islington / North / N.W. London. Solvent. Box 69.

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 for Terry, Mike and Del) to Bretta Carthey, 8 Vincent Square Mansions, Walcott Street, London, S.W.1.

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If you wish to make contact let us know.

M.P.

ANARCHY 82

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ANARCHY is Published by
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