

## Anarchists Burn the Forms . . .

IN AN ASTONISHINGLY frank interview with the *Daily Telegraph* on April 19, Mr. Michael Reed, the Registrar General, revealed the basic purpose of the national census.

'What we wanted,' he said, 'was to get at the ethnic origins of the immigrant communities. It was thought best, for political reasons, not to ask for ethnic origins in so many words but to get at it in another way by asking for the birthplaces of the people filling in the forms, and of their parents.' He pointed out that quite a few people in this country have British parents who were not born in Britain. Mr. Reed was very sympathetic to such people. 'Everyone understands,' he said, 'that British people who were born in India don't want to be considered Indians' (but 'none of these people need fear that they will be future potential candidates for repatriation.'

I am sure he is right. The offspring of the old British empire-builders have no need to worry—but what of the Indians, the Pakistanis, the West Indians, the Africans, the Cypriots and all the other immigrants now living and working in this country? There were no words of comfort for them from the Registrar General, and it is therefore reasonable to assume that they will be candidates for repatriation. The Government propaganda which accompanied the census form implying that our rulers needed these vital statistics to enable them

to build more homes, more hospitals and a better health service was sheer hypocrisy. The ethnic origins of candidates for future repatriation was, as Mr. Reed phrased it, 'what we wanted to get at'.

### ETHNIC HOGWASH

Mankind is a single species—*Homo Sapiens*. We all have the same 'ethnic' origins—we have all evolved from apes. Of course there is a great diversity within the human species. These are physical variations such as skin and eye colour, degrees of hairiness and so on, and have been termed 'ethnic' or racial differences. They exist within all plant and animal species. Some roses are red and some are yellow—but they are all roses. You can prove it because they can be cross-fertilised. And so it is with human beings. Some are black, some are yellow and some a grey-pink colour, but they are all of the same species. They can intermarry and breed healthy children, who can also intermarry and have healthy children.

### BEWARE 'ETHNIC ORIGINS'

An anthropologist could have an interest in 'ethnic origins' for a bona-fide scientific reason, but a politician never! The Nazis used such information to seize people with even one Jewish grandparent and send them to the concentration camps and gas chambers.

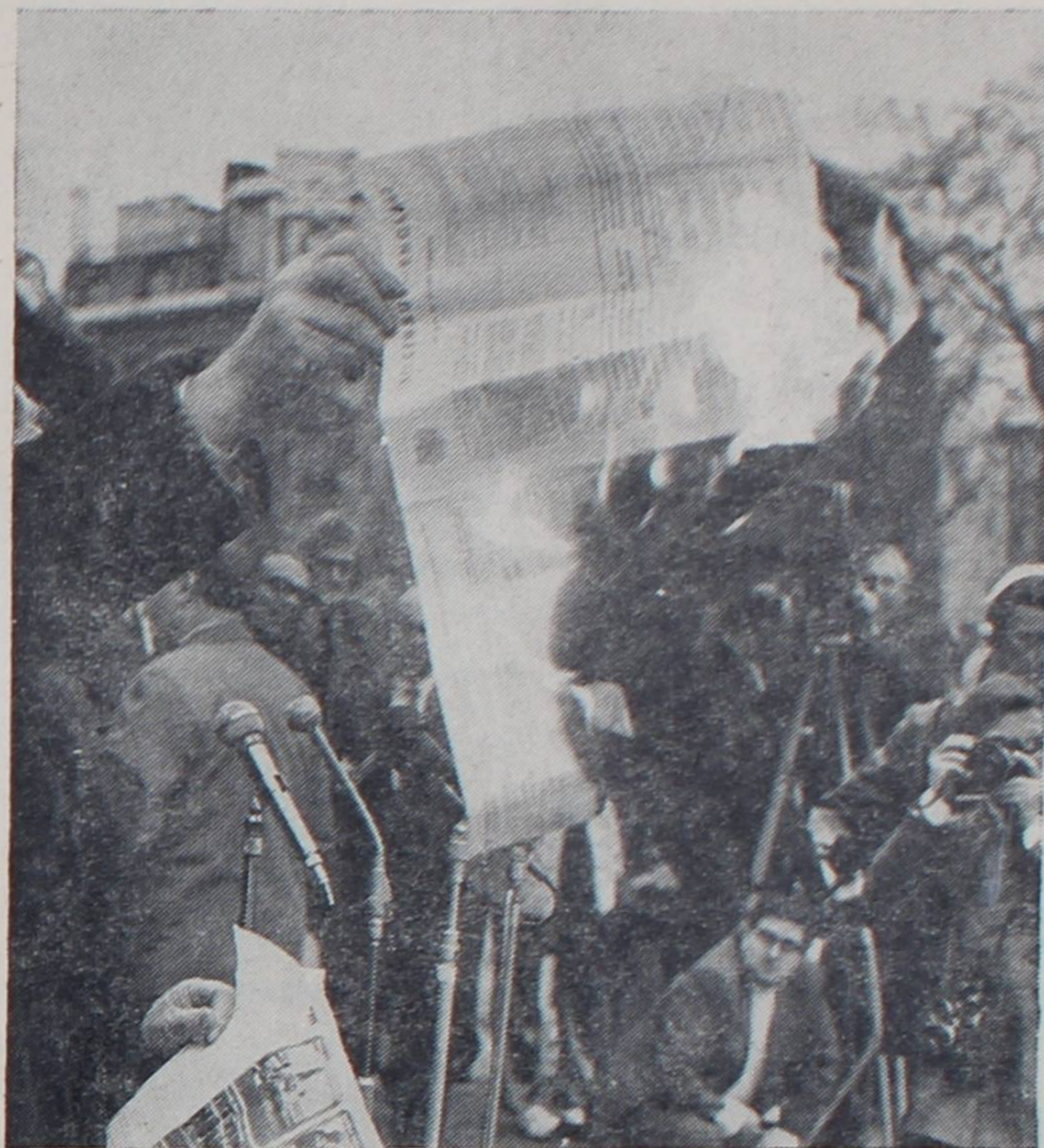
If a government wants to know

your ethnic origins, it can't have any good purpose in mind. If it's houses, new hospitals and schools you're after—then you want brick-layers, carpenters, plumbers and electricians—and whether they are black, blue or purple has no bearing on the matter whatever. But of course this is not their object. The fact that this Government has asked these racial questions proves that it has evil ends in view. Forcible repatriation of our black brothers is just one of them.

With unemployment and prices rising fast, and living conditions getting worse all round—they are preparing a scapegoat on which people can vent their wrath—diverting attention from the fact that while so many live in misery, the rich get away with the loot as they always have. We will be asked to hate West Indian nurses, bus drivers and building labourers, rather than the lords and ladies who live off our labours—the oldest trick in the world. Powell has already spelled out for us how he will make use of it.

### THEY DIDN'T FOOL EVERYBODY

This sinister aspect of the national census was understood by many people and, coupled with widespread hostility to Government prying, led to considerable resistance. The Registrar General, while maintaining that almost everybody in the country was co-operative, made repeated references to the penalties attached to non-compliance—up to a £50 fine or a month 'inside'. The truth is that without these penalties very few people would have filled in the form at all. It was to try and alleviate the obvious public hostility



Trafalgar Square on Census Day

that Mr. Reed planned a 'meet the people' tour, which he abandoned after the angry reception he met in Liverpool.

In Northern Ireland, where the State appears openly in battle-dress armed with CS gas and rubber bullets, it is estimated by *The Times* that more than 1,000 census forms were burned in public and an attempt was made to blow up the Registrar General's office.

### STATE WORSHIP

Resistance to the census was certainly not inspired by the political parties. The sole and honourable exception was the Young Liberals, who held a public burn-up of census forms in Trafalgar Square on census day. The anarchists, utterly opposed to the State and all its works, called for sabotage of the census. But

otherwise, ALL the political parties—of the right, the left and the 'revolutionary'—co-operated with the State in the census. After all, if the 'revolutionaries' call for opposition to the capitalist state on the grounds of individual freedom and civil liberty, it does not leave them in a very healthy position to call for the suppression of these things in the interests of a 'Socialist' or 'Workers' State if we ever got one.

It is this worship of the State—as such—that inhibits these parties (no matter how uneasy individual members of the CP or IS may feel about it), and has led them in this instance to give tacit support to an operation which could lead to State-inspired racial persecution of immigrant communities in Britain.

JOHN LAWRENCE.

## Two Faces of Chairman Mao

WE ANARCHISTS, who condemn political parties and leadership as being authoritarian and deadly to individual expression and creativity, do not have the discomfort of being required to justify the inconsistent twists of policy of some 'revolutionary' leader or party, or some deviation from the sacred theoretical scroll.

At the present time the Maoists must be 'shitting bricks'. (Perhaps they will not even notice the change of 'line'?) From an all-out (verbal) attack on the 'American imperialists', Chairman Mao suddenly changed scripts and welcomed an American table tennis team. The banners with the slogan 'People of the world unite to fight American imperialism and all its running dogs' were put back in the theatrical props cupboard and replaced by banners proclaiming: 'Long live the great unity of world's peoples'.

Of course, Mao's change of face has nothing to do with his love of the noble sport of table tennis. His motive is common to all politicians whatever their ideology: political and economic power. The ruling clique in China obviously now feels in a relatively safe position after the struggle for power between rival factions in recent years. Economic expansion and international trade (even with the 'imperialist aggressors') is now the order of the day. The ultra-aggressive foreign policy (really no more than loud-mouthed rhetoric) which created a smoke-screen to divert attention from internal difficulties is hardly helpful to a state-capitalist regime on the make in a world of eager capitalist traders. Burning down embassies does not help trade.

British exports to China are currently running at a rate of £40 million to £50 million a year but America has virtually to start from scratch. However, Professor Robert Dernberger, an American economist, predicts that 'by 1980, under liberalised conditions, China could be buying between £10 million and £270 million worth of American merchandise annually, and China might be able to sell about £104 million worth of materials to America'. Not bad for a 'communist' regime dedicated to world revolution and the overthrow of capitalism!

Having consolidated its own power, the ruling group in China is now in a position to create its own empire to challenge those of Russia and America. It appears likely that by 1972 China will enter the United Nations. The Chinese rulers are seeking to extend their 'sphere of influence' over any co-operative dictator (actual or potential) in search of arms or economic aid.

The Chinese people are learning by bitter experience that a revolution controlled by a bureaucratic clique of leaders inevitably leads to a new tyranny and continuing economic exploitation. Workers, East and West, will not be free until they cease to be pawns in other people's power games, and they have the confidence to seize the land and means of production THEMSELVES. Only they, as individuals, can create a free, moneyless society based on voluntary co-operation and mutual aid, where production is to satisfy the real and urgent needs of all, and not for the enrichment of capitalists or the glorification of the Party.

TERRY PHILLIPS.

## ... Powellites Burn Immigrant Homes

On Wednesday night, April 14, a flaming plastic bottle filled with petrol was thrown through the door of a house in Osborne Road, Forest Gate, occupied by ten people, mainly West Indians. All were asleep at the time, but none were injured. Forty minutes later, petrol was poured through the letter-box of a house in Monega Road, Manor Park, owned by a Kenyan Asian family. The front door and the hall carpet were badly burned. Five occupants were choked by the fumes.

### THESE ARE NOT isolated incidents.

There have been a number of fire-bomb and other attacks on immigrant workers' homes in East and South East London. Not long ago, a fire-bomb was thrown into a house in S.E. London. A number of West Indians were treated in hospital for burns after that attack. The local press reported that 'right-wing extremists' were said to have been involved.

Back in 1969, *Roti*, a restaurant run by the Walthamstow 'United Front of Immigrants and Anti-Racialists', was attacked. One evening, a man on a motorcycle threw a brick at the window. It stayed intact. So, later in the evening, a motorcycle passed again, and this time a brick went straight through the plate glass. *Roti's* profits went to finance a

multi-racial housing and play group. But certain local racists did not like that kind of 'race mixing', and members of the National Front openly boasted that they would 'get the UFIA out'. UFIA activists received threatening—but always anonymous or unsigned—phone calls and letters, stating that the restaurant would be 'closed down' if they did not get out.

On Thursday, March 11, this year, a clothing shop in Barking Road, East Ham, owned by a Mr. Wali Mohamed, was gutted by fire. And the following evening, in the very same road, a gang attacked the *Sweet & Salt* café run by a Pakistani, Mr. Ghulam Rubani. A number of men went into the café, ordered tea and then deliberately smashed some cups. Meanwhile, other members of the group crowded the pavement outside and smashed his plate glass window. Previously to the fire, Mr. Mohamed had also had the windows smashed in his clothing shop, and another café—

this time in Woodford Road, Forest Gate—had been attacked twice, causing extensive damage on each occasion. No one has been arrested.

### BOVVER FROM THE RIGHT

Community relations workers in Newham say that the immigrant community is becoming extremely anxious. They also say that trouble has been deliberately stirred up among youth groups, and that

In fifteen years they [black and white people in England] will be fighting.  
Enoch Powell, BBC TV, May 2, 1971.

'one particular political organisation' is behind it. Under banner headlines, 'Right-wing extremists accused—ARSON RAIDS ON IMMIGRANT FAMILIES',

Continued on page 4

# The glorious armies of the dust

THE ESTABLISHMENT dearly loves success even when it is the international political *nouveaux riches* getting their well-shod feet under the table and the Town, in bowler hat and pin stripes or the flash finery of the gelled branch of the Gay Liberation front, have voted with their Hush Puppy feet in favour of the Russian government-sponsored exhibition of *Russian Art Since 1917* at the Hayward Gallery. A mild scandal of suppressed paintings on the order of the Russian government, a few protests and the matter is ended and the school parties, the State-sponsored student pass-holders, card-carrying Conservatives and hawkish Liberals from St. John's Wood continued to make the pilgrimage to the Hayward Gallery to bend the knee to their untroubled conscience, yea even to the closing day. The Hayward Gallery's *Russian Art Since 1917* was a triumph for the Russian government in that they publicly humiliated the Kultural Establishment of this country and that establishment ate shit rather than offend a government of a major power who is in danger of accepting this country as a small-fry ally. So the work of accepted artists was deliberately suppressed. We choose to fight our battles on our own terms and it would appear that, the more militant the persecuted minority, the greater support that they can receive from the God-lovers.

All those men and women doing their agonising thing in the Russian State prisons and the Labour Camps have voices in the West and we who boycott cricket games in the worthy cause of racial equality could have made the same slight denial at the pay box of

the Hayward Gallery. But we did not and the Hayward Gallery's exhibition of *Russian Art Since 1917* can be counted as a major success and should raise one small pathetic cheer from any chauvinistic inmate of the Russian State prison or Labour Camps and of our conscience we played a sad part. One hundred years ago the people of Paris took to the streets to defend their city from the onslaught of the French middle class and its German military masters. In a country that stank of corruption and betrayals by an incompetent monarchy and its jackal government, only the working class could stand with clean hands. When capitulation and betrayal was the order of the day, the men and women of Paris took to the streets and in a few brief days fashioned a battle standard that will be a rallying flag as long as men and women wipe the sweat from their faces and stand guard against newly festering privileged classes. On March 1, 1871, the German army, on its own terms, entered Paris and on March 18, 1871, the people of Paris rose like angry dogs to stop the middle-class government of Versailles removing the city's guns. The people of Paris placed their guns on the heights of Montmartre and when Thiers sent in his German-controlled troops to try to retake the guns Louise Michel sounded a call to arms and from the streets and alleys of Paris came the army of the people. From that call to arms flowered the Commune as, within days, the people of Paris created their own machinery of social administration. Existing in isolation and doomed from the beginning by being unable to feed themselves, the Commune of the

Paris working class stood guard over its street barricades while in clubs, churches and coffee houses they planned and put into operation their social programme. The men and women of Paris were conscious of their historic role and they added to its glory. On May 29, 1871, the German-controlled troops of the French middle class, after a week of savage street fighting, had won back control of the Paris streets and the final massacre of the Paris working class took place in the Cemetery of Pere Lachaise. In all the confusion, all the tragic comedies, the squabbles over the wearing of gold braid by the lunatic fringe glory boys, all the silly speeches and all the incompetencies, one fact cannot be denied and that is that the Paris working class were worthy of their hour. Valles's in his *Le Cri du Peuple* wrote that they must 'choose between the white flag and the red, the old world and the new' and the working class of Paris died in the making of that choice for as Gustave Paul Cluseret wrote, 'Workers, you have for the first time brought about a revolution' and he continued, 'Let us not deny our origins and above all let us not be ashamed of them. We have been, we are and we shall remain workers.'

The old hatred still burns in Paris and the French middle class still keep the black flame of that hate alight and the men and women of the Left still pay their homage at the wall within the cemetery of Pere Lachaise that was sanctified with the blood of the slaughtered people of the Paris Commune. The Paris Commune is and should be an emotional issue for our times and the Centenary exhibition of the *Seige*

of Paris and the Commune of 1870-71 in the King's Library of the British Museum has received far too little notice in our national press. Here, within this exhibition, is a small selection of the newspapers, posters, pamphlets, books and prints of that hot and tragic week in May of 1871 when the men, the women and the children of Paris wrote their page in the history of the working class and died to make their

statement valid. We are worthy of no man's death, so let us remember that in those besieged and bloody weeks the working class of Paris rose from a masterless rabble in search of new masters to men and women accepting their declared freedom in that in the midst of battle they began to work out and to put into practice their future as an association of free men and women in the knowledge that death was but days away.

If, in its blind turn, history should choose us, let us pray that we, in our turn, may be worthy of the hour as were the working class of the Paris Commune of May of 1871.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

## ADVANCING BACKWARDS

ENCOURAGED BY the ever-growing unemployment, and solidly backed by the Government, employers are now going on the offensive against active trade unionists. A particularly vicious example of victimisation against a comrade recently is reported from Essex.

On Friday, March 26, Brian Light, a former Chelmsford secretary of DATA (the draughtsmen and allied technicians' union), distributed a leaflet at Advance Electronics, a mainly non-union and anti-union company in N.W. Essex where he then worked.

Headed 'Advance and be Recognised', his leaflet first gave considerable statistical evidence (gleaned from the official DEP figures) of yearly and monthly increases in the Retail Price Index from 1968 to the end of 1970. He showed, for example, that prices had risen almost 8% between December 1969 and December 1970. He estimated that even if a worker received a wage increase in March of 9.3%, his standard of living, on average, would be below that of last year. And, he continued, as price rises are accelerating and show every sign of continuing to do so, '... increases of around 12% can only be regarded as a standstill. ... Anything below means a cut in living standards.'

a certain 'creep' informed the management as to who was responsible; and at 4.10 p.m. Brian Light was 'called in' and given exactly five minutes' notice!

After a weekend of getting nowhere, he managed early in the week to get the backing of the AUEW in the person of Ernie French. The union ran off a leaflet 'Advance and Fight', in which it said that all the information in Brian's leaflet was publicly available by law, and that he was being punished for telling the truth. The AUEW called a meeting of all interested employees of Advance Electronics at Bishops Stortford on the following Monday. The only immediate support that Comrade Light got was from a few members of IS in Harlow (where were all those anarchist militants?) who assisted in leafletting the factory. The meeting was quite successful, with 45 workers turning up. There was quite a lot of support for a union due to the extremely low wages, mainly among the women on the shop floor. Some have already joined up. There was a further meeting on March 21, which was also encouraging; and Brian—now on the 'stones'—produced another 'unofficial' leaflet called 'How Advance Electronics Exploit Their Assembly Workers'.

It was, however, his ultimate paragraph which caused the storm. Comrade Light listed the company's pre-tax profits and dividends for the years 1965 to 1970. Pre-tax profits had risen from £291,626 in 1965 to £600,000 (est.) in December 1970. Dividends had risen steadily from 7.9% in 1965 to 12% in 1970. Directors' emoluments for 1969 were just on £40,000. Brian commented: 'Perhaps those at the lower levels may now be permitted a proportionate increase of the extraordinary wealth being generated by our own efforts.'

Brian Light got no support from the Communists, who largely control the Essex and E. Herts. AUEW, which wasn't surprising as he obviously doesn't support their policies! Meanwhile, he still looks for a job, which for draughtsmen (he is an electronics' draughtsman and technical illustrator) and technicians is almost impossible now in Essex, once unemployed—even when they keep their noses clean. Another of our draughtsman comrades (from Colchester) has had to go as far as the Bristol area for a job.

**ON THE CARPET**  
Copies of the leaflet soon circulated throughout the laboratory and most of the factory, and was on the whole well received. However, during the morning

RANK-AND-FILE TRADE UNIONIST.

Another 4-page leaflet. Two articles from **FREEDOM**: *The relevance of Anarchism today* and *Anarchism and Nationalism*. Available from Freedom Bookshop for 30p a hundred including postage.

## GEORGE FOULSER

GEORGE FOULSER, now in Pentonville Prison, wishes to thank all those who have sent him letters, books, etc., or who have visited him. He will be happy if people will continue to write to him. He can receive as much mail as is sent to him, but unfortunately, is only allowed to write one letter a week, so he cannot reply. If you want to write to our comrade his address is:—  
George Foulser,  
090123,  
Pentonville Prison,  
Caledonian Road,  
London, N.7.



All correspondence to  
Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,  
Rotton Park, Birmingham 16

### ANARCHIST FEDERATION of BRITAIN

**AFBIB—To all Groups.**  
Next AFBIB Meeting and Production, Sunday, June 6. Please send a delegate to Birmingham. (Accommodation provided if necessary.) Address all letters to:  
**Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Tel. 021-454 6871. Material that cannot wait for the bulletin to be sent to R. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York. The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information.**  
Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

**AFB REGIONAL GROUPS**  
There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:  
North West Federation: Secretary, Les Smith, 47 Clarence Street, Primrose, Lancaster.  
Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell. (M, Ma, B.)  
Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegon', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, PL.)  
Sussex: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.  
Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, Flat D, 90 Clarendon Road, Leeds, LS2 9L.  
Scotland: Temporary Secretary, Neil Munro, 203 Cornhill Drive, Aberdeen.  
Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).  
N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.  
S. Ireland: 20 College Lane, Dublin, 2.  
University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare. (Aberystwyth: M—meeting; M—magazine; B—badges; Q—Quarterly; PL—free leaflet)

## AVOIDING THE UNAVOIDABLE

**THE UNAVOIDABLE CRISIS AND WAYS OF AVOIDING IT**, by Jeff Robinson (published and produced by Gregory Hill, 2 Church Crescent, London, N.10, no price given).

FACING THE WORST that can happen may sometimes give relief. Many rationalists have felt happier after discarding their hopes of immortality, and some anarchists may feel better after discarding their hopes for human progress (or the social revolution) along with Jeff Robinson.

The unavoidable crisis is threefold: The Population Explosion, the Scientific Explosion, especially with regard to biology, and the Military Explosion. Jeff Robinson considers that mankind's best period was the Neolithic Age, when technology had reached a level which could provide a certain amount of security to people, but did not face them with situations too complicated to handle and a too rapid pace of change. Lewis Mumford, H. J. Massingham and other writers have come to the same conclusion. The introduction of copper, followed by bronze and finally iron, brought this simple agricultural and pastoral society to its end. It was not a Golden Age, but a bully or braggart was just a social nuisance, in the new city states of Sumeria he became a soldier and a public menace.

The population explosion threatens us with starvation or sheer shortage of room, the scientific explosion with all sorts of weird experiments upon the human mind and body, drugs to increase the intelligence, to erase memory (or create false memories, thus changing the personality, since one is what one remembers), to control ageing and postpone death, while the military explosion we all know about, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The social effects of the introduction of such techniques will be chaos, a chaos that can only be "solved" by a totalitarianism using certain of the above techniques plus brute force.

Britain, on account of its small size

and enormous population, is particularly vulnerable to harm from these developments. Jeff Robinson sees no hope in democratic reforms (except a palliation of the evils here and there), nor does he have any faith in revolution.

The various revolutionary movements are all totally useless from the point of view of combating the crisis. Indeed they are factors contributing to it. In fact the basis of the whole essay is the idea that no human progress is possible. 'If you think the view is erroneous please produce some evidence, concrete evidence, not just pious hopes.'

The author rejects the hippy underground. 'By "alternative society", however, I am not referring to activities such as way-out magazines or experimental film groups which properly belong to the fringes of ordinary society, nor do I mean things like the drug cult which, with its dependence on pushers and chemicals is an extreme example of one of the worst aspects of conventional society, namely physical and mental slavery. I mean rather, turning one's back on aspects of the modern world one dislikes, regarding as few as possible of its products and services as indispensable and becoming physically, mentally and spiritually self-sufficient as far as one's resources and abilities will permit. ...'

Jeff Robinson is an unashamed Luddite and disciple of Thoreau. He believes in individual resistance and in communities of individualists. 'A community is more likely to succeed if there is another motive besides dislike of conventional society and inability to get along with it. If people are friends of long-standing, or share some religious or philosophical belief or have some sexual or cultural taste in common it is a great help. Vegetarianism, epicureanism, polyandry, Zen, pottery-making, Quakerism, esperanto could all serve. Communities of individualists, united in solving economic problems but respecting each other's privacy is also a possibility.'

There is a lot packed into the fourteen or so quarto pages of typescript, of

which this pamphlet consists. No doubt some of Jeff Robinson's theories are open to question. No doubt many will reject his pessimistic ideas with indignation. I would have done so myself a few years ago. Though his picture of Neolithic society may be too pleasant (or it may not be, but we know very little about its social life, because of the absence of written records), and some long-standing friendships have been ended by the strains and stresses of communal life, the great strength of this pamphlet is that there is very little in it that cannot be shown to be true.

Progress, and its related idea, the social revolution leading to a free society, are based upon hopes only. We know what we can accomplish in our own lives, but by working for the future of mankind we work for abstractions that may never become flesh and blood realities, and we miss opportunities for doing things in our own lifetimes. Progress cannot be shown to be true, except in very limited areas. The conditions in which the working class live have improved since before the Second World War, and vastly improved since the Victorian Age. The conditions of the Tasmanians deteriorated during the nineteenth century to such a degree that by the end of the period they were all dead. Progress takes place in one area, retrogress in another. Universal progress is something which requires the same kind of faith that the Christian Heaven requires.

The social revolution, the idea that people who for countless generations have submitted to authority, including revolutionary governments, will suddenly throw off the yoke and create a new world, is an even more incredible idea.

I like Jeff Robinson's brand of individualist anarchism. It has an adventurous, romantic quality, involves the minimum of mythology and lacks the slightly sour taste and narrow tendencies that one finds in some individualist writings.

ARTHUR W. ULOTH.

## 'Freedom' & 'Anarchy'

Starting with *Anarchy 4*, *Anarchy* will be editorially and financially autonomous. All subscriptions, including joint ones, and back number orders, will still be handled by Freedom Press at 84B Whitechapel High Street, London, E.1. All editorial matter, bundle orders and street sales for *Anarchy* will be handled by

the Anarchy Group at 95 West Green Road, London, N.15, as from May Day. (Phone number to be notified.)  
Press Fund donations for both publications will still be welcomed at their respective addresses, and it would be appreciated if, when writing, comrades would put on the

envelope some indication of the contents, such as **Editors, Subscriptions, Bundle, Bookshop**, etc. Freedom Bookshop will continue as now with new books and Freedom Press publications, but the secondhand department will be allowed to run down.

# MORE WASTED WEEKS

## POST OFFICE Dispute

THE MAIN FINDINGS of the Hardman committee of inquiry into the Post Office dispute has been leaked to the national press. The full report is expected to be published later this week—after we have gone to press.

Originally, the UPW claimed a 15% increase for all grades, or up to £3 a week for grades on the maximum, and a drastic reduction of the incremental scales. The Post Office offered first 8% and, later, 9% with 'strings'. The UPW lowered its demand to 13% during the seven-week strike, and finally withdrew its claim altogether and left it to the committee to decide. Now, the committee is expected to recommend 9%. The *Daily Mirror* says that postal workers will be offered an extra 18p a week on top of the £1.45 first offered by the Post Office Corporation. The only significant 'extra', it says, is a proposal for an additional £1 a week in areas of acute staff shortage, such as the Midlands, the North West and, presumably, the Inner London area.

The *Times* reported that Sir Henry Hardman is understood to have been impressed by the Post Office's arguments about its inability to pay more; and the *Guardian* says that, in effect, the committee has made the lowest award it could, but that in the circumstances the UPW can do little but accept the findings. It says that the Post Office is delighted. Naturally!

### THE INQUIRY

The inquiry began its hearings on March 6. Tom Jackson mentioned the recent Ford agreement which gave workers there an immediate 16% and a total of 33% over two years. He said that UPW members broke their own strike. 'They refused pay and yet continued to perform essential services to the community.'

The union then called a number of its members—a Postman, a Cleaner, a PHG and two Telephonists—to give the committee an idea of what they had to do, and how many hours they had to work, to earn between £12 and £33

a week. Mr. Jackson also criticised the 'sumptuous' offices so quickly provided for the Post Office board of directors, and the continual increase in the number of management and supervisors, despite a drop in the number of manipulative staff handling mail or dealing with telephone calls, telegrams and counter work. He claimed that in the last three years the number of directors at PO headquarters had risen from 13 to 21, and in the Regions from 10 to 19.

And, concluded the UPW general secretary during the first day: 'The Department of Employment wages index for 1970 showed a move forward of 13.3 per cent, likely to come close to 14 per cent. If the 8 per cent offer made by the Post Office is forced upon our members then violence will have been done to them and their families. They will be 6 per cent worse off in 1971 than they were in 1970.' Tom Jackson spoke for six hours!

On the next day, the Post Office brought in, as one of its witnesses, a Mr. John Buckley who purported to be the SWDO Postmaster. He made himself and the Post Office look very ridiculous indeed. Mr. Jackson immediately asked him if he considered his office an important one, serving as it did such places as Buckingham Palace and Parliament. 'Yes, of course,' said Mr. Buckley. 'Is it true, Mr. Buckley, that your office is a former women's prison, built 100 years ago?' asked Tom Jackson. Mr. Buckley said he did not know—which only goes to prove that he had either only been Postmaster at the SWDO for an hour or so, or he never moved out of his office. Every new entrant knows that it was a jail after a day or so. Indeed, it still very much resembles a prison: there are scores of 'screws' (they call them Inspectors and AIs) and, of course, the 'narks' (members of the Investigation Branch who spy on the inmates from blackened-glass windows throughout the building!). Mr. Buckley did, however, agree that accommodation, if not exactly disgusting,

was 'generally unsatisfactory', and that his loading facilities were designed for horse traffic—with only four vans at a time in the bays. 'And you have 64 vans,' said Tom Jackson. (I can personally back up Mr. Jackson on this, as I worked for a time on that very loading bank.)

Unfortunately, the UPW's long and reasoned case had no effect at all, either on the Post Office, the Government or the committee of enquiry. Sweet reasonableness gets you nowhere after you have been beaten back to work, as Post Office workers had. The UPW say that they will abide by the committee's findings.

### THE FUTURE

But we shall see whether the rank-and-file will accept the findings as meekly as the executive council. The union meets in conference at Bournemouth in a week's time. Inevitably, there will be accusations and counter-accusations, and the executive—and particularly the so-

called Communist militants on the EC—will probably be criticised for calling the strike off.

Opposition at conference may come from some Trotskyist and Anarchist militants, and particularly from SLL factions among Postmen and Telephonists. Indeed, it will be interesting to hear what the volatile and fiery 'Healyite' secretary of Paddington No. 1 Branch, Jock Cowan, will say when he goes to the rostrum. However, the debate will be counter-productive unless delegates decide on future action and tactics. As I said previously, non-co-operation with management—at all levels—should be first priority. Secondly, the UPW must try and win over all the 'scab' Telephonists. This will be a difficult task. Moreover, the scab Telecommunications Staff Association (formerly the National Guild of Telephonists) will have to be smashed. Unfortunately, some people who should know better still look with some sympathy towards this secessionist outfit. In an article which did not condemn the former NGT for scabbing, 'Operator', writing in the *Socialist Standard* (April), says:—

'The strike altered nothing insofar as the employer/employee relationship goes. The employer always has the upper hand, even if the workers gain their full demands. It is not enough to be loyal

to a union; both the UPW and the NGT lost and the employer won.'

The first three statements are true, but to say that 'both the UPW and the NGT lost' is nonsense: UPW members lost up to £200 in wages, but the former NGT members lost nothing. Their so-called union did not put in a wage claim, it did not call its members out in sympathy, but it in fact encouraged Telephonists to scab and, as I wrote previously in these columns, actually crowed that it had been loyal to the employer—the very day that the UPW threw in the towel. Lost indeed! And they'll still take the 9%.

RANK-AND-FILE TRADE UNIONIST.



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# Anyone for Tennis?

Whoever sides with the revolutionary people is a revolutionary. Whoever sides with imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism is a counter-revolutionary. Whoever sides with the revolutionary people in words only but acts otherwise is a revolutionary in speech. Whoever sides with the revolutionary people in deed as well as in word is a revolutionary in the full sense. 'Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung' (1950), 1966 edn., p.14.

ONE OF THE EXPLODED myths of the twentieth century is that sport and politics do not mix. True, sport has degenerated so much in its performance and reception that it has got low enough even to be practised by politicians. But South Africa has shown how the two are intertwined.

Recently, in China we saw another demonstration of the use of sport in politics. The American team was allowed into China to play table tennis. This opened up vistas and speculation that diplomatic relations, United Nations membership and even an anti-Russian rapprochement would follow. The words of Sinologists are generally spherical objects in themselves but this invitation to tennis seems only one stage in a gradual process.

The British, never loth to take the great pratfall forward, chose the occasion to publicize the reopening of the China-England telephone line which took place (after the usual four-hour delay) with the BBC getting an operator who seemed to believe that Peking was in Japan.

It is impossible to believe that ping-pong is a Chinese word—in fact it is definitely non-U among its practitioners but one thing for sure is that there is more 'pong' than 'ping' in these Chinese reconciliations.

During the Korean war, Richard Nixon, then in opposition, suggested that if the 'Chinese communists' continued their aggression in Korea, the Americans should bomb Manchurian bases, and introduce a naval blockade of China. He backed General McArthur (who was sacked by President Truman) and he thought the only way to end the war in Korea was 'to win it on the battlefield'.

When Eisenhower became President in 1953, he made Nixon Vice-President and, as we all know, Eisenhower ended the war in Korea without victory. Politicians have no fixed principles (except power) so it is no surprise to find Nixon muttering equivocal words about China, almost suggesting that Tricia spends her honeymoon there—it could be that he doesn't like his son-in-law!

JACK ROBINSON.

# THE RED ALERT

WE ALL NOW KNOW the result of the electricity workers' work-to-rule in December, but since then a few more things have happened in the industry.

Firstly the engineering staff, after, I quote, 'long and difficult negotiations' by the EPEA, the staff 'union', have received a 9% rise with a ceiling of £351. This is less than the workers received, in percentage, and still leaves some ridiculous differentials such as

charge engineers, in some stations, getting less than their foreman. It also means that the £351 rise for those on £3,800 and above goes to the managerial staff whose wages are negotiated by the union but who in general are not in the union because they regard themselves as the 'other side'. I don't know of any other union which negotiates bigger rises for its non-members than its mem-

Continued on page 4

# No Promised Land

THE LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT of further redundancies by the British Steel Corporation once again poses the question—is nationalisation the answer from the workers' point of view? Another 7,200 workers are going to lose their jobs in the next two years and a large number of these will join the large pool of steelmen already sacked, of which the Department of Employment has 30,000 on its books.

In fact these present redundancies are part of a long-term rationalisation programme which aims at a reduction of 50,000, by 1975, in the labour force which stood at 270,000 in 1967. The BSC is going to discuss further sackings of 7,000 men and the closure of 10 out-of-date plants with the union. Most of the latest sackings affect the Irlam plant, near Manchester, and this, like the other places affected, is in an area which already has high unemployment figures. It is difficult for steelmen to find alternative work, even if there are the jobs vacant.

### COMMANDING HEIGHTS

By comparison with other countries, the steel industry here is overmanned and mostly out of date. The Labour Government's nationalisation of the industry was not done in a desire to bring about a better industry for those who worked in it, but in order to ensure the programme of rationalisation, modernisation and redundancies which are now taking place. For many, the capturing of the Commanding Heights of the Economy, which for many years formed a part of the Labour Party's programme, was part of a socialist philosophy. However all it has done is to provide a cheap source of raw material for private industry. The steel industry's present programme and the question of future investments which are now under review will ensure the continuation of this service to private industry. In fact private steel manufacturers could not have found sufficient capital to make the necessary changes.

### NOT A DAY LOST

Really the BSC has had it all its own way. Next to nothing in the way of opposition has come from the unions concerned and they have only bargained on the question of redundancy pay. A

clear indication of the unions' attitude to sackings and productivity deals has come from Sir Harry Douglas, General Secretary of the Iron and Steel Trade Confederation, which is the biggest union in the industry. In evidence before the Donovan Commission on Trade Unions he said, 'We have not introduced one machine in steel that has waited one day to go into operation, but it has gone into operation the day that it has been put in completed. We have had to agree there is going to be a certain amount of redundancy in the steel industry. What nearly always happens to the men is that they get a worse job than the ones they have had.' The only militancy that Sir Harry has shown is when other unions move in and start recruiting. Then he threatens strike action if another union is given negotiating rights.

No doubt Ron Smith as Labour Director of BSC has helped to draw up the list of redundancies. Now Mr. Smith was at one time—yes! you've guessed it!—the General Secretary of the Post Office Workers' Union. His role and that of Sir Harry shows how union leaders are quite willing to go along with massive redundancies. They deplore them at TUC Congresses, but at the same time they sign agreements that make sackings inevitable.

Nationalisation of the steel industry has not led to the promised land, only to the Labour Exchange. The Commanding Heights are no more controlled by the workers now than they were under private ownership. The boss may have changed, but his motive remains the same—namely profit. Superficial conflicts might arise between the Government and the BSC over the question of the rise in the price of steel, but the main conflict between workers and the boss remains the same. The exploitation of men's labour for profit and for gain is the same now as it was under private control, with the only difference being that today's boss is more powerful. The same criteria apply to both the State and the private sector and when these cannot be met then sackings and closures are the outcome.

Until workers, and the community of which they are a part, plan and produce only what is necessary to provide for needs, then the same exploitation and insecurity will continue. P.T.

OVER FIVE HUNDRED people packed the Conway Hall on Wednesday evening, April 28, for the meeting sponsored by *Anarchy* magazine coinciding with the publication of this year's third issue—'The Acid Issue'. One lesson from the evening was that if anarchists bring before people issues that they are interested in and that are related to their lives and everyday issues they will not fail to gain support for their ideas. With the daily police harassment of heads, who themselves are naturally anarchistic, we have the very lively issue of suppression of basic rights to champion. Quite apart from the fact that the gentleness, spirit of mutual aid and co-operation that characterises this new counter-culture should appeal to all who are interested in freedom and the evolution of social ethics to goodwill and peace.

Evidence of police brutality marked the close of the evening. As many were walking to Holborn tube station some twenty policemen set upon them and searched them for 'dangerous drugs'. Frustrated at finding nothing one cop brutally smashed one fellow across the head knocking him to the ground. I

# THIS WORLD

have spoken to a dozen eye-witnesses of this event who were naturally outraged by what is becoming a commonplace but also represents a growing persecution of innocent and peaceful persons.

The meeting itself, despite the large attendance and keen interest of the vast majority in an intelligent and serious discussion, was not an unqualified success. Largely responsible was a busload of Brighton freaks who seemed to have anticipated some sort of festival if not an orgy. Entering the hall in a state of advanced exhilaration, with their minds blown, they stood right in the centre rendering by their buffoonery discussion in the latter part of the meeting virtually impossible. Despite this a solid foundation was laid for a Head Liberation Movement, future meetings to

combat the prejudiced ignorance of the yellow press and the authorities. More immediately, the meeting was a psychological success in that fresh hope and mutual confidence were instilled in the greater part of those who attended. A further meeting for those most interested and who have left their names and addresses will be called within the next few weeks.

### Pornography?

From Lord Longford, peering around the strip joints in Soho, to our daily press the establishment professes to be upset about sex in society. The *Daily Express* (20.4.71) had a banner headline 'Sexploitors who destroy society with a snigger'. The same paper liberally sprinkles its pages with tit-and-bum, known in the vulgar journalistic profession as 'wank' material.

The vastly more sophisticated and enlightened country of Denmark has shown conclusively by abolishing the laws against pornography that society does not then go sex-made and depraved. On the contrary the thirst for salaciousness that is typical of Britain (and fully catered for by rags like the *Express*) vanishes and people tend to evaluate literature and art on their own merits—not for their sexual content alone. The real question is when are we and old authoritarian fogies like Lord Longford going to grow up?

An ex-Dictator reflects

'It's funny, until now I had never

realized that power tends to brutalise one.'—Juan Peron recently in Madrid.

### Police Wisdom

Part of the restrictive legislation being introduced by the present Government is registration of immigrants. This innovation which puts this category of the population at the mercy of employers or even older residents is deeply resented and being fought by immigrant organisations. (Needless to say the legislation also has a strong racist bias.) The Government proposes that the police shall be entrusted with the work of registration.

To give it its due the Police Federation is strongly critical of this proposal. Police-immigrant relations are already strained and there have been a number of nasty incidents such as the Mangrove Restaurant incident in Notting Hill at which time the police were bluntly told that their whole attitude to coloured people is prejudiced and aggressive. Such incidents involved violence for which the police are largely responsible both for provocation and actual brutal assaults. The new responsibility would greatly increase the bitterness and sense of injustice of the victims. The Government is bowing to the intellectual thuggery of Enoch Powell and finds the only practical enforcement agency—in the words of the Minister of State, Mr. Sharples—is the police. The whole piece of legislation reflects the antediluvian thinking of the Government with its determination to employ violence and intimidation to enforce it.

### Murder?

Stephen McCarthy died recently in Wormwood Scrubs prison. He was a healthy lad who had minor brushes with the law such as many of the dissatisfied youth of today fall into. The answer to juvenile delinquency must

surely be, at least in part, understanding and sympathy combined with the opportunity to fulfil aspirations. Brute repression is the law's only answer. In the case of young Stephen he found things too unbearable in the borstal at Dover. He escaped—and almost inevitably was recaptured.

It is at this point that the question arises—who killed the boy? There is some doubt as to whether police brutality or prison neglect of his injuries afterwards was responsible. It seems beyond doubt that somewhere the authorities are responsible for the homicide. Even the conservative jury at the inquest indicated some neglect at least. The public demonstrations voicing his parents', friends' and neighbours' indignation, grief and suspicion of foul play have brought the matter to the public notice. Predictably the Home Office has tried to hush up the matter and cover up with lying platitudes. The demonstrations will continue and deserve our support.

BILL DWYER.

## Contact

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## Stop the Sex Witch-Hunt

IN VIEW OF THE relative calm on the industrial front at the moment, it is not surprising that the gutter press has turned its attention away from 'wicked' strikers and has reported with glee the witch-hunt conducted against those connected with the 'depraved' sex education film *Growing Up* which includes sequences of intercourse and masturbation.

The film was made by Dr. Martin Cole, genetics lecturer at Aston University, who became a controversial figure in the Midlands in 1965 when he organised the Birmingham branch of the Brook Clinic, the first group to give contraception specifically for young unmarried girls. In 1968 he formed a branch of the Abortion Law Reform Association in Birmingham and, when the Act was passed, he helped set up the Birmingham pregnancy advisory service with a group of social workers and doctors.

Appearing in the film sequence on masturbation is Mrs. Jennifer Muscutt, a teacher at Garretts Green Technical College in Birmingham. Mrs. Muscutt is variously reported as appearing in the film 'nude' or 'partly clothed' participating in 'masturbation' or 'supposedly masturbating'. Her contribution was filmed two years ago before she became a teacher.

After a showing of the film in a London cinema, Alderman Sydney Dawes, chairman of Birmingham Education Committee, called for an inquiry into Mrs. Muscutt's appearance in the film. Consequently, she was suspended from duty pending a private showing of the film to the Education Committee. After the showing it was described as 'depraved' and 'not fit for adults, let alone children' by Alderman Sir Francis Griffin, leader of the Conservative-controlled Birmingham Council. Alderman Dawes said the film 'encouraged sexual licence and depravity'. However, the Rev. Alfred Howell said: 'The film did not shock me. I do not condemn it out of hand.' Earlier, Alderman Kenneth Hardeman, senior Liberal (sic) member of the Committee,

had called for the dismissal of Dr. Cole from his post at Aston University before he had even seen the film. (Likewise, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Secretary for Education, was moved to say that she was 'very perturbed at the idea that the film might be seen by children' even though she had not seen the film herself!) Anyway, the upshot was that Mrs. Muscutt has been ordered to appear before Birmingham Further Education Committee in May. Unless there is a public clamour in her defence it seems likely that she will be sacked.

Evidence of the 'depravity' of the film was provided by its critics who quoted the following sane advice from Dr. Cole's commentary:

'Boys and girls often have sexual intercourse long before they are ready to have babies. There is nothing wrong with this and many people believe that sexual experience in adolescence is essential for normal development.

'However, unless the girl is taking the contraceptive or birth pill, or the boy always uses a sheath, she is very likely to become pregnant. Unmarried teenagers don't make the best parents.

'It is neither fair on yourselves nor your children that you should become parents so young. But making love is important to a lot of young people so be prepared; never make love without taking precautions.'

The most alarming aspect of the controversy is the realization that a large number of the members of Birmingham Education Committee have such an unhealthy, repressive attitude towards sex. The 'sin' is that such people should have the power to dictate what will be taught, how and by whom. Parents, teachers and pupils should give maximum support to Mrs. Muscutt and Dr. Cole to ensure that they are not victimized. Furthermore, they should take positive action to take power away from these local dictators and ensure that education policy is decided by the people who matter: pupils, parents and teachers.

TERRY PHILLIPS.

## Powell's Words Spark Racist Fires

Continued from page 1

Mr. Jerry Westall, Newham's Community Relations Officer is reported by the *Stratford and Newham Express* (16.4.71) as saying that 'he thought a few right-wing fanatics—possibly belonging to the National Front or the National Democratic Party—could be responsible'. Others have been more specific. Mr. Westall said that he had had 'frequent talks with the police, who had assured him they were doing all they could to ease the situation, although the amount of manpower they could allocate was limited because of other crime'.

Immigrant workers, however, do not believe that the police are interested, or that they are getting proper protection. They feel that arson is a more serious crime than the ones that the police appear to be concerned with. They say, therefore, that they are going to set up their own defence organisation, in conjunction with other anti-racist groups in the borough. Obviously, they have no alternative.

Interference from the extreme right is not new in Newham. During the latter part of 1968 and throughout 1969, the National Front campaigned against Mr. Alexander Kirby of the Newham International Community and the borough's Community Relations Officer. Kirby, of course, was, like most of his type, a typical reformist do-gooder who imagined that, in some miraculous way, he could convert the racists of the NF to his way of thinking. The Newham International Community was formed in August 1968. Attacks on Kirby came largely from Mr. Ronald Tear (former Hitler worshipper), Mr. John James Cook (late of the Post Office and Barkingside Magistrates' Court) and Mr. Stephen Wade (of whom more later).

First, the National Front challenged Kirby to a public debate on 'coloured immigration'. Mr. Kirby declined. So the *Newham Recorder* arranged a semi-private confrontation between Kirby and Tear—which, of course, it published for the benefit of the populace of Newham. At the meeting, Tear is reported as saying that the tax-payers of Newham did not want the services of Mr. Kirby or the International Community, and that the only fair solution for Newham's 'race problem' was repatriation. The NF then started a letter-writing campaign to the local press, and flooded the area with 'Stop Immigration' leaflets. In February, they put up a candidate in the East Ham Ward, but he naturally got nowhere. However, they kept up the pressure on Mr. Kirby, who did not help the cause of 'community relations' much by flirting with supporters of the Black Power movement.

This was the beginning of the end for Alexander Kirby. On January 1, 1970, he resigned and announced that he was leaving Newham in order to take up the editorship of the journal, *Race Today*. This was a victory for the racists of the National Front; though it must be said that in a person like Kirby, with his reformist and do-good, rather than class,

mentality, they had very little to oppose. However, politically-speaking things have not gone too well for the NF in Newham recently. They are, no doubt, getting desperate.

### BOV'VER WITHIN THE RIGHT

Readers will remember the by-election at Walthamstow, in March, 1969, when members of the NF pelted Denis Healy with flour bombs and tomatoes, and Stephen Wade, the NF Newham Branch organiser, was accused of knocking Arthur Bottomley, MP, to the ground and kicking him in the groin. Well, Mr. Wade has been in trouble again.

Last October, the local press reported that Wade had been suspended by National Front headquarters, unless he produced 'a satisfactory explanation for his part in a very serious matter'. If not, he would be expelled within seven days. NF headquarters refused to say why he had been suspended, except that he had broken the party's 'code of conduct'. Wade did not produce a satisfactory explanation; and the following week he was expelled by a disciplinary tribunal for, it was claimed, leaking confidential information about the National Front activities in the area to 'organisations hostile to the NF'. He was declared *persona non grata* to all other party members!

In January this year, Mr. Wade again hit the local headlines. The *Stratford and Newham Express* reported that he had joined the National Democratic Party, had been appointed chairman of their Newham Branch (presumably the rump of the NF Branch) and had been adopted as NDP candidate in the Stratford Ward, in the forthcoming council elections. He said that he would fight the election on the subject of race and immigration (naturally!), and his main target would be, once again, the Newham Community organisation. It is conceivably possible that he may not be allowed to stand as he doesn't even live in the borough. The NDP, which has more support in backward, semi-feudal areas like East Anglia and is said to be largely financed by capitalist farmers, has a similar programme to that of the NF. Only, it claims to be opposed to some of the Front's methods.

Immigrant workers should, however, be just as wary of Mr. Wade and the NDP as they were of Mr. Wade when he was still *persona grata* with the NF. All workers, whether 'coloured' or 'white', local or immigrant, should have nothing to do with people like Cook, Tear or Wade whose main aim is to divide them in the interests of capitalism and exploitation. Moreover, they must unite against those who attack, or encourage others to attack, immigrants' homes and property. It's not much use relying on the police. They're far too busy chasing motorists without current licences and the like.

WORKERS! 'BLACK' AND 'WHITE', UNITE—AND FIGHT!

EAST LONDON WORKERS.

## THE RED ALERT

Continued from page 3

bers! Not only that, they backed down yet again on their threatened work-to-rule.

This apart, the third section of the industry, the clerical staff (NJC), have received no rise, in fact there aren't even any negotiations. Poor sods you may say, bloody bureaucrats, but the top pay for the lower grades is only £15 a week gross which doesn't make them rich sods, poorer than the labourers, in fact, who now get £21.50. Needless to say they are almost totally non-unionized.

The most interesting of all, however, are a few facts I managed to glean regarding the men's work-to-rule and in direct conflict with reports and statements by the Press and Minister of Technology at the time.

Firstly, despite reports in the *Mirror*, the position of all dialysis (kidney) machines is known and they are marked in the Area Electricity Board control rooms to ensure that they are not cut off.

Secondly, all switches connected to mines, hospitals and old people's homes

are marked as such both in the control rooms and at the points of operation so that they cannot be disconnected in ignorance.

Thirdly (and this is a FREEDOM SCOOP), in the middle of January a 'Red Alert' was sent to all power stations and control centres. This means that there is a shortage of generating plant and power cuts are imminent. In fact the weather held and power cuts were not necessary but if it had got colder there would have been widespread cuts. This was after the work-to-rule, and proves that many of the cuts during the work-to-rule were due to the weather, not the men's actions. This is why the union's proposals to stop disconnections to essential supplies were not implemented, there was nothing they could have done. Most important of all was the instruction, which still stands, to keep the 'Red Alert' secret in case it affected public opinion during the Wilberforce enquiry!

Yet again our on-the-spot sleuth shows the lie of the yellow press and power bureaucrats! Shame he's only three months too late. A.B.