

LAST FRIDAY'S popular press headlined on the front page the story of the finding of a six-year-old girl's body on a rubbish dump. This is a staple story and never ceases to attract a suitable *frisson* in the great British public. True, it is a tragedy for those concerned, even for the poor perverted creature who is generally found to be responsible but this is a sick symptom in a sicker society. At the same time somewhere in smaller type there was perhaps a story of the outbreak of cholera among refugees from the East Pakistan holocaust. This story could never elicit the same responses, the great British public could not put itself in the place of a Bengali refugee. The death of one is more to be identified with than the deaths of one million.

It has been said by individualist anarchists that the death of Indian peasants from starvation is no concern of theirs. It is quite true that we are all politically impotent to remedy the situation; the emancipation of the Indian peasant is the task of the peasant himself. As for charity, no one has enough wealth to solve the problems of famine, plague and poverty. We can accept too the Stirnerite thesis that charitable contributions and 'good works' are more for the benefit of the donor than the recipient or as Blake put it (before Stirner), 'Pity would be no more, if we did not make somebody poor.' But leaving all that aside we must realize that 'no man is an island' to reiterate the hackneyed truth of John Donne,

## NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

and a concern for all mankind is even at its lowest point enlightened self-interest.

The outbreak of cholera among Pakistani refugees has physically brought it home to the Indian Government and some of the great powers that what has happened in East Pakistan may affect us all. But it has been obvious during months of unembarrassed silence, uneasy compromises and shifty evasions that the genocide which took place in East Pakistan in March and April would bring retribution in its train.

Governments, whatever their complexion, are only interested in the maintenance of stability or 'law and order'. President Yahya's recipe for the restoration of order in East Pakistan was that of the Carthaginians, of the anonymous Czarist general who reported 'order reigns in Warsaw' and the new order of Adolf Hitler. All governments are ready to wait, like vultures, to see who emerges 'victorious' and weak from the conflict. They may supply arms impartially to whatever side can pay; or seems, for a while at least, to be the most politically advantageous, but nobody loves a loser. God and the big powers are on the side of the winning battalions.

Spain, Nigeria, the Congo and Hungary bear testament to this.

It is significant that in such major disasters governments stand idly by brooding on complex protocols and the voluntary charity organisations move in. One of the non-anarchist (or even anarchist) taunts against Kropotkin is because of the insignificance of his examples of 'mutual aid'. The growth of Oxfam, from a 1945 'Save Greece' organization founded by Roy Walker, gives the lie to these criticisms.

We all know the school of Marxist thought that believes in the theory of increasing misery. That believes (without reason) that if human misery increases—as in Bangla Desh—it will provoke revolution, therefore any charitable efforts are counter-revolutionary. There are depths of misery—and they exist in India and Pakistan—when no revolutionary hopes can flourish and mere survival is the only human aim. Testimony from concentration camps bears witness to the awful conditioning power of misery without hope. There is also a counter-revolution—of nihilism—thrown up by despair as witness the rise of Hitler.

Many of us do not have the urge, or the training to become relief

workers; each of us works, one hopes, for anarchism in whatever sphere temperament, training, environment or chance has thrown us; but this does not call upon us to criticize those whose temperament, training or environment is different to that of ours. Anarchism entails a respect for differences. Whatever we feel, think or do about it ourselves, the following from the *Guardian* (7.6.71) commands some admiration:—

The initiative of a group of young people in Kent led to the departure of the first British relief aircraft last night.

In 15 hours they chartered a plane and organised 25 tons of emergency supplies, spending £3,000 of their own money.

At midnight yesterday their spokesman, Richard le Jeune, telephoned Mr. Guy Stringer, Oxfam's commercial director and duty officer. Oxfam knew the Bromley group because they had raised money for Kastur, a village in South India.

The group said they had £3,000 in the kitty and wanted it to be used for buying supplies. 'I told them to go ahead and to get their hands on as many syringes as they could,' said Mr. Stringer. At about 4 a.m. they rang back and said they had found an aircraft.

By 5 a.m., Mr. Stringer had found a source of saline—the most needed supply. The local policeman at Thetford, Norfolk, got out of bed to find Mr. B. Steer, managing director of Baxter Laboratories, and within a few hours lorries were moving the saline.

By 7 p.m. 10,000 bottles of saline drip and about 10,000 tube units were at the airfield. 'And for good measure the young people had also got six tons of syringes and other medical equipment.'

By 9 p.m. the plane was ready to leave.

It is quite true that, given the nature of the capitalist-imperialist State set-up, such catastrophes will occur and recur but such is the nature of things that the cumbrous machine-State is unable to take swift and effective action despite its boasts of power. It is ironical that whilst death in the mud comes to many Bengalis the mighty Union of Soviet Socialist Republics demonstrates (like a boy peeing up a wall) how much faster and further into space it can go. (Ironical too, that the only people to get direct news of this Soviet space shot were a group of schoolboy amateur radio 'hams' in Kettering.)

Whilst we marvel at the cricketing prowess of the West Pakistanis and the Foreign Office meditates as to when President Yahya will have stabilised the country enough to receive economic aid and the balance of the East Pakistan Cyclone Relief Fund, the cholera germ stalks Calcutta (still without sanitation in twenty years of 'independence'). President Yahya could have been stopped, Hitler could have been stopped, but the alternatives were, to the great powers, even more undesirable. China and Russia stood by in Pakistan in the same way that Russia stood by in Europe in 1939.

It is doubtful whether President Yahya will survive; you can do anything with bayonets except sit on them, but certainly millions of Pakistanis—and Indians—will not survive. Once again the State has shown its incapacity and its inability to deal with the claims of humanity. JACK ROBINSON.

## How to Learn Russian

ON MAY 28, David and Olive Markham were detained for 24 hours by the Secret Police at Moscow Airport. They were interrogated continuously for a period of 8 hours on Friday night, and again for 6 hours on Saturday.

While in Russia they had met people concerned in the Civil Rights Movement in Russia, and a paper was confiscated which David thinks was an Open Letter to the UN from the Civil Rights Movement—who are people who are openly declaring themselves.

After the customs examination of their luggage, and David's protests against being personally searched, he (David) agreed to turn out his pockets in exchange for a solemn promise that they would then be allowed to go. A man was brought in who stood to attention with epaulettes bristling, then shook hands with them, and there was a long delay while David signed the customs protocol.

Then of course the promises went by the board, and the authorities said, 'We'd like to keep you for a while for further questioning.' David and Olive were then politely shepherd along into two separate rooms. This is an experience that does not come to everyone! There were threats and bullyings, and then the customs men would pull themselves together and be polite.

There were some childish things—they kept trying to trap David by speaking Russian—he had told them he didn't

know what was in the confiscated paper, as he doesn't know any Russian, and they told him he might have plenty of time to learn. One of the attractions in the Soviet Union for David was the theatre, and he told them they had been to Chekhov's house—whereupon they asked him to say where it was. He replied that this was just silly and childish. But he was very pleased with himself for getting in that the performance of *The Seagull* he had seen was the worst. It was a crime against the arts, and he was able to draw them into a long discussion on Chekhov, etc.

The press reports were fairly correct. David was not stripped, but Olive was—but here again their disappointment was as great as when they failed to trap David into speaking Russian, because Olive didn't react with fear or humiliation.

David had taken in quite a bit of NCCL literature. Russian people were very surprised that we should have any cause to protest or protect our civil rights. David showed them that although our position is nowhere like theirs—yet—we have our troubles. He tried to imagine the situation of a Russian visitor leaving this country with a NCCL brochure, and being told 'This is a slander on the British people and their Government'. We are going towards that stage, but we're not there yet.

He didn't say he was an anarchist. He said he had no party politics whatever—this again is almost as criminal there as it is here—one is expected to have some label slung on you. He mentioned that he had been mixed up in various demonstrations, Committee of 100, etc. He told them that they could not have any conception of somebody like him.

He said that if they arrested him perhaps they would let him see his Ambassador. That rather threw them. He was trying not to sink into silence, but trying to humanize the situation. Even a KGB man might have a remnant of humanity in him. But when you are in close up, and these faces are looming over you, sometimes three or four, and sometimes just one, it's no use. Though one can try to withdraw into sulky silence.

The whole thing lasted from 5.30 in the afternoon until 2.30 in the morning, almost non-stop, and then the couple were put into a guest house place, which was obviously 'bugged'. Again there was disappointment in store for the interrogators. David and Olive exchanged only very banal remarks.

David had never heard the word 'sincere' used so often or so basely. 'If you tell us all you know, what people you know, then we know you are being sincere, and you can go on the next plane.'

On the other hand, it did have its unexpected side. I don't know whether it was the mention of the Ambassador or the British old school tie, but when they did say, 'You will be kicked out now, and you will never come back to the Soviet Union', David's reaction was, 'Now you have said something which will make me very unhappy. I hope you

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## SELL 'FREEDOM' ON SUNDAY!

DON'T FORGET Sunday's demo in London. Rain or shine there's going to be a crowd. Will you be there? Will you sell FREEDOM?

There will be a comrade at the Park Lane end of North Audley Street, from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m., and another comrade at the corner of Spring Gardens on the south side of Trafalgar Square, from 1 p.m. onwards. Both will have bundles of FREEDOM and other pamphlets at 10 for 40p. If we can't exactly achieve freedom tomorrow, at least let's try and sell it!

There are still a number of subscriptions outstanding from January. Is yours?

PETER NEWELL  
(Circulation Manager)

## Blast Furnacemen's Strike

## Storm in a Tea-cup

LAST WEEK'S OFFICIAL strike by members of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen has a number of relevant and interesting aspects affecting anarchists and trade unionists.

The strike was firstly over before it really started and yet in the space of four days the 12,000 men who came out went a long way towards bringing the steel industry virtually to a standstill. They showed just how important a relatively small section of a huge industry is to the manufacture of steel.

The decision of the union executive to call out the blastfurnacemen was, on the face of it, an unexpected move, but seen in the light of an early return-to-work they have achieved a number of things without damaging the financial position of the union. Certainly executive members of unions are cautious when the balance sheets of their unions are at stake, especially after the recent example of the Union of Post Office Workers.

The NUB was claiming a 35% increase which had first been submitted last November. For a long time the Steel Corporation had made no reply to the increase of the cost of living claim, arguing that the current three-year agreement had specifically done away with this type of award. So in fact the underlying causes of the dispute go back to 1969 when all the steel unions signed long-term agreements eliminating cost-of-living awards.<sup>1</sup>

The 1969 agreement was made even more farcical by the omission of an increase this year. Steel workers are expected to rely on their increases of June 1969 and March 1970, totalling

about £2 per week, for now and wait until May of next year for the final increase of the agreement. It is small wonder that the blastfurnacemen were incensed by this, especially since this period has seen an ever-increasing rise in the cost of living.

These men are also annoyed at having to play second fiddle among the steel unions. All are dominated by the arch-conservative union of the Iron and Steel Trades' Confederation, with 110,564 members. Mr. Dai Davies, its leader, has the usual aspirations of the big fish in the pool and would like to swallow up the 18,000 members of the NUB in his organisation. To a great extent the Confederation has called the tune in the steel industry.

### 'GREEN BOOK' AGREEMENT

Wage awards and productivity agreements laid down in the 'Green Book' of the industry show the extent to which the unions have allowed conditions to be negotiated away in return for wage increases. This Book also illustrates the disciplined conditions under which steel men earn their living, with entries relating to strict instructions about reaching the canteen; washing and cleaning utensils and returning to work places are all included in the 30 minute meal break. It also states that 'tea may be drunk provided the programme of work is not interrupted'.

However the NUB was a party to this collaboration and to the reactionary attitude when they lined up with the other unions (including 'left-wing' AEF-TGWU) in resisting the Steel Corpor-

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## SHORTS . . .

A car hits a pedestrian on the pavement and there is an immediate call to ban pedestrians (particularly charity walkers) at night—not cars!

A magistrate called Hector MacLean in Norfolk has sentenced kids for pinching birds' eggs to work in a wild fowl sanctuary in their own time, free, so that they can learn to love rather than destroy nature. In a county renowned for its huntin' and shootin' the mind boggles at the future prospect opened!

# In Search of Robert Zimmerman

HAVING FOLLOWED the career of Bob Dylan with avid interest (nay, fanaticism), ever since I first heard him—way back in 1964, on *Freewheelin'*, and fully aware of the futility of trying to pin a label onto him, and the follies that arise from over-zealous 'reading-into' his every word (let Alan Webberman be a warning to you!), I cannot deny a feeling of disillusionment I get every time I see the man performing 'live' (i.e. out of the recording studio).

In the middle of this latest offering (only 5 years old!), I found myself for the first time understanding just why his earlier admirers felt outraged enough to boo him offstage when he first appeared with the very un-purist trappings of electric guitars, organ and backing group. Indeed, I'd read that this happened at Newport, and although the film covers the Festival there from '63 to '66, we hear nothing but applause.

One of Dylan's great attractions, for me, has been his deliberate refusal to be stereotyped, categorised, and targeted—to the obvious dislike of those who want him to be just that. With a Buddha-like detachment and a fondness for the cryptic that leave all the sycophants and strait-laced critics tearing their hair out, Dylan manages to remain an isolated, yet revered, hero of our times. Yet contradictions should not surprise us. 'I accept chaos' he wrote, though 'I am not sure whether it accepts me'.

Yet the fact remains that if all his public appearances have been up to this standard, then it's no wonder there have been so few of them. As in *Don't Look Back* (and it's not always a question of editing), his songs are rushed through at double-speed, the musical content is nil, and overall there is no control or

balance at all. Whereas the recorded albums bear the marks of a truly great and wonderful poet, this film, if nothing else, at least belies the commercially-inspired mythology of a faultless god.

He sings three songs—or bits of them: 'All I Really Want To Do' (from *Another Side of Bob Dylan*); 'Maggie's Farm', and 'Mr. Tambourine Man' (both from *Bringing It All Back Home*). I hope you'll love him as much as I still do, but I think maybe you'll wonder, like me, just why he inexplicably decided to play with the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. You can't miss it... somewhere in the midst of a solid wall of electronic scream, you can just make out the words of 'Maggie's Farm'. Still, that was—by way of consolation?—long enough ago for Dylan, characteristically, to since denounce it all.

Another thing which he denounced (or rather, renounced), was his one and only book, *Tarantula*.<sup>2</sup> Subtitled 'A Fragmentary Novel', this weird and woolly extravaganza of the ego is the book he wrote in answer to a contract from Macmillan's, some time before his motorcycle accident in 1966. Due to a change of mind, he decided against letting it be published, after re-reading the first paragraph, when he got the proofs to correct. Since then however, enterprising outlaws all over the west, in defiance of the sanctity of copyright and upholding the banner of private enterprise, have been copying copies ad infinitum, and circulating the book undercover and under-counter.

Five years of lost readers (not to mention profits!) must have been the publisher's incentive in deciding now to bring out Bob Dylan's masterpiece. Macmillan's announce the news in a

small advertisement at the back of the current *Rolling Stone*. However, Better Books are selling it for 40p.

It reads like a mixture of Ginsberg, Burroughs' cut-up nightmare imagery and surrealist stream-of-consciousness prose, all high-speed stuff, interposed at intervals with very funny letters, when the Dylan we like to think we know really comes across:

'... got a new song against cigarette lighters. this matchbook company offered me free matches for the rest of my life, plus my picture on all the matchbooks, but you know me, it'd take a helluva lot more'n that before i'd sell out—see you around nomination time

your fellow rebel  
kid tiger'

If you remember the sleeve notes on *Highway 61 Revisited* ('On the slow train, time does not interfere...'), then you'll know the kind of thing to expect. This is a book of crazy pronouns with a lot of zany action thrown in. The whole thing, as the subtitle indicates, is a collection of fragments; bits and pieces jotted down, tongue-in-cheek, but some delightful insights too:

'... it couldn't've been mor'n a few hours later when i happened to be passing by again in the spot where the tree was, a lightbulb factory now stood—"did there used to be a gut here in a tree?" i yelled up to one of the windows—"are you looking for work?" was the reply... it was then that i decided that marxism did not have all the answers'

This is a great gushing of poetry, nonsense and superficial observations. There is no real depth to the book, but this fact is curiously appropriate to the

themes of the pieces themselves. The world the action takes place in, and through which the characters glide in and out, is a world without substance. Hollow. The people are as much of a facade as their surroundings. People talk all right, but they don't really say anything. In this plastic circus of the American Dream, nothing really matters... no action is outrageous, everything is timeless, and the reality is the image in this asylum of artificiality. Chaos and meaninglessness overwhelm conceptions of the ordered mind, and their all-too-fallible symbols:

'standing on a bullet holed volkswagen, a bearded leprachaun and he's wearing a topless mafia cape—holding up some burning green stamps and he speaks out to the automobile graveyard "four score and seven beers ago" and then he say "etcetera" but his voice is drowned out by Mickey Mantle hitting a grand slam...'

Not so much an apocalypse as the exploding now. Like Burroughs' writing, you can take it as awful vision or, what is perhaps nearer the truth, a piece of straight reporting on the chaos and delirious dirt of the contemporary scene.

The best thing to do with this book is not to bother trying to interpret it, or explain its muddle, but just to read it through. It's not a guide to, so much as a reflection of, our times, recorded by a fellow-victim. '... there are only three things that continue—Life-Death and the lumberjacks are coming.' That's how the novel finishes—without an end. But he doesn't omit an epitaph, which, mysterious as it is, gives us a quiet and touching respite from the confusion all around:

'here lies bob dylan/murdered/from behind/by trembling flesh/who after being refused by Lazarus/jumped on him/for solitude/but was amazed to discover/that he was already/ a street car and/that was exactly the end/of bob dylan

here lies bob dylan/demolished by Vienna politeness—which will now claim to have invented him/the cool people can/now write fugues about him/and Cupid can now kick over his kerosene lamp/bob dylan—killed by discarded Oedipus/who turned around/to investigate a ghost/and discovered that/the ghost too/was more than one person'

BRIAN BOREHAM.

<sup>1</sup>Film: *Festival At Newport* (Times Cinema, Baker Street Station).

<sup>2</sup>Book: *Tarantula* ('Bootlegger' publications) Better Books, 40p.

## Storm in a Tea-cup

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ation's intention to recognise the Clerical and Administrative Workers Union and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

The discipline exerted by both the Steel Corporation and the ISTC has not been challenged by the rank and file to any great extent. When it has happened the ISTC has been quick to discipline and expel members. The NUB, like the ISTC, had until last week not called an official stoppage since 1926, but one will always remember the magnificent stand made two years ago by the blastfurnacemen at Port Talbot, who stayed out for eight weeks and continually refused the advice and the threats of discipline from their officials.<sup>2</sup> The Court of Inquiry virtually conceded the men's claim and the strike showed how effectively a stoppage can be run and fully controlled by the rank and file. This control and the attitude of the strikers to their union both shook and amazed Dan McGarvey, union leader and member of the Inquiry.<sup>3</sup>

### DATE ADVANCED

The present leader of the NUB is Hector Smith, who was a local official at the time of the Port Talbot strike. No doubt he still has nightmares about that stoppage and thought that an official strike now would spike the guns of any militants. With the help of Mr. Feather, General Secretary of the TUC, he has got the Steel Corporation to advance the date of their reply to the claim from June 14 to this week, but no amount has been mentioned so far.

The first official strike of the NUB has been a storm in a teacup, unless Mr. Smith has a startling offer which he is keeping to himself at present, and seems to have been just an exercise of independence from Dai Davies and the ISTC. The latter was scared stiff that his members were going to be without work, although he and his predecessor, Sir Harry Douglas, have signed many an agreement doing just that. It has also been suggested that this strike was to impress Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers' Union, but it remains to be seen what the members will get from their strike and whether it was worth it.

It seems unlikely that the Government will allow the Steel Corporation to go above 10%, which is probably the figure that was contemplated for announcement at the meeting on June 14. Although they are planning closures and sacking affecting over 7,000 men, the Steel Corporation was realising just how damaging a strike of blastfurnacemen would be. They were taken by surprise when the NUB refused to wait and were caught with the Treasury breathing down their necks. The present return to work is a victory for the Government, the Steel Corporation, Hector Smith and

especially Mr. Feather's diplomatic and statesman-like intervention, but not for the strikers.

### PORT TALBOT AND TODAY

The comparisons between the local Port Talbot strike of two years ago and the present one are of chalk and cheese. At Port Talbot it was the members who were completely in control from start to finish. Their strike committee had no powers and everything was reported back for discussion and decision. Today it is the national officials who have asserted the authority and control and who have led and channelled the discontent and militancy along the path of poor compromise and disillusionment.

The lessons of Port Talbot and today are plain for all workers to see. It is no good relying on those whose life and career is at the negotiating table of compromise. Reliance must be placed on the people who are involved in the dispute and whose toil is affected. Control at the bottom is worth more than all the promises and negotiating techniques of union officials. Rank and file control at Port Talbot led to victory while union support meant the cynical use of the strike weapon for ends which had nothing to do with the men's claim and struggle.

P.T.

<sup>1</sup>Steel unions were by no means the only unions to do this. Unions in the building industry accepted the recommendation of the Prices and Incomes Board and omitted cost-of-living index clauses from agreements. Printing unions did likewise.

<sup>2</sup>See FREEDOMS, July 26, August 9, 16, 23 and 30, 1969, for the full coverage of what proved to be one of the most important strikes for the rank and file during 1969.

<sup>3</sup>See FREEDOM, August 23, 1969—'Court of Inquiry'.



### PRESS FUND

May 25-June 2 inc.

Corby: T.P. 25p; Reading: I.D.T. £6.75; Wolverhampton: J.K.W. 10p; J.L. 40p; London: A.W.U. £10; Chesham: E.C. 50p; Nevada: D.U.M. 27p; Coventry: R.W. £1; Billericay: M.T. 17p; Derry: I.B. 7p; Barling: B. 50p; Ontario, Canada: D.B. £16; Portsmouth: M.B. 45p; Wolverhampton: J.L. 40p; J.K.W. 10p; York: K.N./R.A. 50p; London, S.W.6: J.P. 35p; London, N.W.3: D.R. 50p; Anon: 12p; Anon: 14p; Leics.: A.R. 30p.

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DEFICIT:	£440.12½

## Riff-Raff

prisons they are counting and locking up, counting and locking up. In the mental hospitals handing out the drugs and electric shocks. In the schools damping down the energy and curiosity; drawing off the individual potential into petty concerns of Victorian syllabus and compulsory silence. But, what can we do about it? Well, hell, you can get together with friends and print/duplicate a broadsheet on your ideas-news-wants in your area. You can hold regular anarchist meetings with guest speakers-poets-singers. You can leaflet and sell literature in the market or on a grass verge or pavement site. You can write to Freedom Press for a speaker and selection of pamphlets. You can organize your own activities... with a little effort.

*Children's Rights* is a collection of articles by libertarians and anarchists. It is an important book in the struggle to liberate the lives of children. Dr. Ollendorf, Michael Duane and A. S. Neill plus Leila Berg, Paul Adams and Nan Berger each contribute a manifesto. Michael Duane's final chapter I would like to see reprinted as a pamphlet for it is of great importance in saying how unfree are the State Schools! Can we afford not to reprint it? I think it is the

sort of pamphlet which really does help to change the climate—the atmosphere of thought and action within education and society. It should be reprinted separately precisely because the book is a huge one and costs £2.50. Which means few people are going to see it, never mind read it, until it comes out in paperback. *Children's Rights* (Elek, £2.50).

There are so many information services, books, magazines and voluntary agencies that the mind is swamped with choice which is bewildering. In cynical moments I feel they are of more use to police departments than poor people. However one useful and very necessary publication is the *Unsupported Mothers' Handbook* written by unsupported mothers which is more unusual than it sounds since so often such handbooks are written by social workers not at all likely to suffer such indignities and abuse as do those needing what are, after all, *their rights*, their money, their community benefits! *Unsupported Mothers' Handbook* can be had from 66 Ivor Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham. (No price so make a guess at 10p plus postage.) Also anyone on Social Security and wishing to gain full rights are advised to write to *Claimants' Union*, 74a Stratford Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham, B11 1AH. Otherwise form your own group of people on SS. (Always take a witness in when making a claim.)

*Unsupported Mothers And The Care Of Their Children* is a good 25p-worth of documentation on their experiences in society. Published by Mothers-In-Action it is worth every new penny, from: 25 Milton Road, London, N.6.

And if you are a woman getting over your own problems, looking outward, you may be interested in the *Woman's Newspaper*, a liberation paper indeed. 10p from 12 Little Newport Street, London, W.C.2.

If you should visit Cornwall call in on Books & Things at 6 Penryn Street, Redruth, where we can probably help you to avoid the plague-spots like St. Ives and Newquay and suggest quieter places where tents and sleeping bags are not signs to call in the police or dogs.

DENNIS GOULD.

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Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,  
Rotton Park, Birmingham 16

**ANARCHIST  
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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: Ray Brookes, 79 Norfolk Street, Skerton, Lancs.

Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell. (M. Ma. B.)

Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, FL.)

Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.

Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, Flat D, 90 Clarendon Road, Leeds, LS2 9L.

Scotland: Secretary, Mike Malet, 1 Lynnewood Place, Maryfield, Dundee.

Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).

N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.

The American Federation of Anarchists: P.O. Box 9885, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440, USA.

S. Ireland: 20 College Lane, Dublin, 2.

University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare. (Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine; B—badges; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets.)

# DISUNITING IRISHMEN

DESPITE THE FACT that our 'revolutionary' republicans admit that, in the past, they have made many errors, they do not seem to learn much from them. They still come thick and fast. This is more than evident from the arguments espoused by John Garland in *The United Irishman* (Bealtaine, 1971). 'In the past, the Republican Movement through concentrating all its energies and resources on the question of national liberation alone, neglected the task of organising the people in their everyday struggles', he admits. Now, all they seem to have done is to have 'progressed' from nationalism to national 'socialism'!

Garland quite correctly says that, for a

movement to be a revolutionary one, it must have a revolutionary objective. And what is his 'revolutionary objective'? It is, of course, National Freedom and 'the establishment in Ireland of a Democratic Socialist Republic'. Such a revolution will mean 'THE CHANGE OF STATE POWER FROM ONE CLASS TO ANOTHER CLASS'. And, he continues in a revealing passage:—

'The central point of any revolution, and particularly in a Socialist Revolution, is that the key positions in the State, in Government, many National organisations, Civil Service, Army, Police, Judiciary, Unions, TV, Radio and Press should pass out of the hands of those

who are loyal to the establishment and into the hands of those who represent the vast majority of the people who will use this power to build socialism, where the means of production, distribution and exchange are socially owned.'

Mr. Garland then says that support has to be won by helping the people in their immediate struggles 'for jobs, houses, land and civil liberties', and above all by giving them—leadership!

## ARMED STRUGGLE?

Furthermore, argues John Garland:— 'We must first recognise that physical force is a tactic, and that despite all the errors, all the shortcomings over the years, the history of all successful revolutions prove that the road of armed struggle was, and is, the only correct one.'

Through such struggles can the workers build the actual organs through which they can tomorrow take over the administration of the economy and the State, he concludes.

Such is the objective, programme and tactics of the so-called United Irishmen! Is it so new? Is it devoid of past errors? Will it bring Socialism and Freedom as Mr. Garland and *The United Irishman* seem to imagine? Will they even achieve another 'ninety-eight'?

The word 'republic' is fairly clear, but the word 'socialist' conjures up more images and definitions than there are counties in Ireland. Garland's 'socialism', however, is no more than the usual Stalinist-Trotskyist-Maoist dose of bureaucratic state-capitalism. Presumably, the 'united' leaders will 'take over the administration of the economy and the State'. Indeed, the 'socialist revolution' will mean that the 'people' (represented by their republican 'leaders', of course!) will merely take over all the 'key positions' of the State. The means of

production, distribution and exchange (money) will become, not common property as suggested by Mr. Garland, but State property. Instead of being exploited by a multiplicity of Irish, English and 'foreign' employers, the Irish working class will be exploited by a new 'revolutionary' bureaucratic capitalist state. Only it will be more authoritarian than the present administrations in either the Twenty-six or Six counties—and that's saying something!

## REAL REVOLUTION

The Disunited Irishmen have learned nothing from their past errors. Irish workers, like workers the world over, should strive for freedom—real freedom, not the spurious National Freedom of Mr. Garland.

Of course, for a movement to be a revolutionary one, it must have a revolutionary objective. Such an objective will not be the same old capitalist (or State-capitalist, 'democratic', authoritarian wage-labour and capital relationship. Such a movement may, of course, throw up its 'heroes'—its Zapatas, its Makhnos, its Durutis—but they will not be leaders; they will not be Wolfe Tones, or Henry MacCrackers, or Daniel O'Connells. The emancipation of the working-class (Irish or any other) must be the task of the working class itself. It must not capture the State or its 'key positions'—it must abolish, destroy, dismantle it! Such a movement—a revolutionary movement, Mr. Garland—must not change State power; it must get rid of power for good. It will not rationalise the wages system or the national economy. It will abolish the wages system, and transform the economy from one of production-for-profit to one of production-for-use. Moreover, such a movement will be—already is—an international, not national, one.

Nor will it necessarily need to be an armed struggle. A majority can achieve the social revolution peacefully, merely by taking over the means of production. It may, however, have to defend itself—perhaps in certain areas—from counter-revolutionary forces. It

may, in defence of its revolution, have to take up arms, like Makhno and his insurgents did in the Ukraine, or as Durutti and the Spanish workers and peasants did in 1936. But that is something entirely different from what Mr. Garland and his IRA friends have in mind.

Disunited Irishmen, unite!! Not for the spurious freedom of a so-called Democratic Socialist Republic, but for real, international, classless and stateless freedom. Learn by past mistakes and errors.

INTERNATIONALIST.



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## Test Case in Newham

THAT THE CASE of Newham's Community Relations Officer, who has the backing of his local Governing Council but the disapproval of the Community Relations Commission, has far wider implications has become more and more obvious.

'Crucifer', writing in the *New Statesman* (4.6.71), claims the CRC, by refusing to pay the salary of the CRO 'has, to all intents and purposes, acted as Mr. Westall's employer'. On June 1, *The Times* carried a story on the matter which quoted the spokesman of the Association of Community Relations Officers (ACRO) as saying: 'Strong action is likely to be proposed (to members) if a satisfactory solution is not in sight.'

Crucifer in the *NS* asserts that against the wish of three-quarters of the community relations officers in the field, the HQ—the Community Relations Commission—is going to centralise the whole operation by employing the CROs, instead of leaving employment with local voluntary councils. CROs see this as an attempt to create social workers subtly committed 'to authority's side'. In a sphere such as community relations, with such questions as complaints against the police and criticism of the local authority as part of the work, the front of governmental concern for community relations can be seen for what it is—a sham cover for the racial beliefs of government as made visible in trading with South Africa and the introduction of the Immigration Bill this year. In other words the instrument set up by the State, the Community Relations Commission, to look after the explosive area of race and community relations, is stopping anything that looks like a radical attempt to look at race relations from any viewpoint other than that approved of by the Establishment. Did anyone say 'freedom'?

The local newspapers in Newham have been full of this story for weeks. One suspects that there is not much regard for the improvement of community relations in the Borough on their part. There is a suggestion in the *Newham Recorder* from a supposedly 'informed observer' that CROs will go on strike over this question whilst the adviser on race relations to the Liberal Party reveals the yellow nature of that organisation by inaccurately claiming that ACRO is not recognised and implying that CROs are not helping the immigrant community. According to the *Morning Star* (2.6.71), Mr. Westall 'is understood to have wide support among local immigrants' so it seems reasonable to assume that if the CRC has its way, along with the Liberals, the immigrant community will simply leave community relations a lifeless hulk which will have no real function in society.

The Communist *Star* however is misinformed about the situation when it claims the fascist organisations linked with arson attacks on immigrant homes by Mr. Westall have received an apology. The local nuts from those organisations have been writing to the papers complaining simply because they have not received an apology or an acknowledgement of letters of complaint having been received by Newham International Community. In the local elections the National Front fared disastrously in Newham.

A delegation for Mr. Westall's employers, Newham International Community, are said to be approaching the Community Relations Commission with a view to changing their mind over the CRO's salary. Many people will be interested to know the outcome of this test case for community relations in this country.

K.B.C.

## Revolt inside the Bureaucracy

THE UNIONS representing clerical workers in the Civil Service have traditionally been amongst the most conservative. However, during the 1960s there was an influx of young workers who entered the Civil Service not because of the 'security' which had attracted previous generations, but because it was seen as a quiet backwater away from the harsh realities of life in productive industry, away from the stifling competitive atmosphere. For someone who wasn't too interested in money (young workers have to wait until the age of 32 before attaining the full rate for the job) and could tolerate a futile job it was indeed a good place to 'drop-out'.

However, let's get back to the present. These young workers who are now challenging the conservative and strictly apolitical stance of the old guard are having an effect. In recent years the prospect of industrial action—previously unthinkable—has appeared on the agenda.

This year matters came to a head. A pay increase for the clerical grades was due from January 1, 1971, under the Pay Research Unit procedure whereby pay in the public sector is brought up to date with increases in the private sector. (Unfortunately, the private sector workers compared with are amongst the most poorly organised and, hence, the most poorly paid!) When this year's round of union conferences was held in May it was obvious that the Government was deliberately dragging its feet in negotiating a settlement. As the Post Office workers' struggle had shown, the

Government was clearly trying to set a trend of low wage increases in the public sector. (The PRU report on movements of pay in the private sector during the previous year was itself political dynamite: the low-paid, lower-grade analogues only gave a figure of 6% or so, but the highly-paid top jobs gave a figure of 23%!) The delegates at the union conferences were hopping-mad and there were numerous motions from the branches for immediate industrial action. However, at all the conferences the union leaders managed to stave-off calls for immediate industrial action with promises of action later if a 'satisfactory offer' was not received by early June. At the time of writing it is impossible to predict if such an offer will be received, but if it is not then we can expect a mixture of selective strikes, overtime bans and non-co-operation.

Whilst this awakening of militancy over economic demands is to be welcomed, the revolutionaries have a long way to go in widening the scope of the struggle to opposition to the capitalist system and the State. The long-term objective for workers inside the bureaucracy must be their re-deployment to work which is both socially useful and satisfying to individual creativity. This will only be achieved through the creation of a free society based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation instead of exploitation and authority.

TERRY PHILLIPS.

## Wigwam Democracy

Dear Comrades,

When anarchists advance the old (and well-worn) arguments against representative, parliamentary 'democracy', the whole argument is very abstract unless we can say what 'in this situation' (be it town, village or general elections) we would put in place, and what we are actually doing at the moment to change it.

So, one of the views I have on Brian Behan's idea of referenda as an instrument of popular power is that, like proportional representation—the last straw of the Liberal Party, it's just a nice idea and doesn't relate to things going on at the moment. It's abstract in the way that even a reformist Neighbourhood Council (not all of which are reformist) isn't. Further, I think he's cooked his references no end to prove its pedigree. Yes, De Gaulle used the referenda, it was the basis of the very strong regime now in power. The French ruling class did use De Gaulle to tame the 'ultras' and end the Algerian war—but the situation of Algeria as a colony, and of the French people as victims of exploitation, has not been changed.

The problem with referenda is that they cut out debate totally—in the same way as the secret ballot is a strike-breaking weapon because it isolates men and cuts them off from their fellows (a thing which can be said of all ballots),

so the referenda gives people the chance of saying 'yes' or 'no' to a proposition which other people have phrased—it is not open to amendment and people won't have heard the point debated. This explains why referenda are used widely in places other than those Brian Behan mentions—Greece, Portugal, Brazil, Argentina.

## LETTERS

Finally (there are many other points), the referenda is a process of exclusion—we put our idea in, it gets mixed up with everyone else's—out comes the 'General Will' perhaps? Anarchists are concerned about practical means of including people in getting ideas sorted out, and work done. Some of the internal stuff now circulating is relevant to this.

K.N.

## The Years of Boredom

Dear Comrades,  
Colin Wilson's piece in *FREEDOM*

proved that there are grounds for disputing his claim to the title 'anarchist'. His statement that 'development depends on judging exactly how much freedom each one needs and can take' clearly implies an elite who are to do the judging.

This is a straightforward political disagreement, Mr. Wilson. It has nothing to do with the strangeness of life—a phenomenon which you did not discover, and didn't even make a very good job of describing.

Fraternally,

D. Y. COULL.

## Differentials

Dear Editors,

In writing about pay claims in the electricity industry in the May 8 issue, 'A.B.' refers to 'ridiculous differentials' which give some charge engineers less than their foremen. About the only meaning this could have in anarchist terms would be that differentials ought not to exist at all, and everyone should get the same. Is this in fact what A.B. meant, or did he mean something else?

Best wishes,

Lancashire

G. BOARDMAN.

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# THESE DAYS IN IRELAND

**JOHN MCKEAGUE**, of the Shankill Defence, has been charged with inciting Racial Hatred. The first charge under this act. Being a 'Prod' he has been released on a paltry bail of £25. Catholics, if they are allowed bail at all (which is seldom), are always fined at £500 or something equally impossible. Yet there are still people who say it is not a sectarian war in the six counties. Of course it is. An artificial one, fostered for generations by the Protestants but now a monster out of control. Yesterday more than 100 WOMEN from the Protestant areas of Belfast marched, carrying banners to Stormont demanding the re-arming of the RUC and the re-call of the B Specials, and they were met at Stormont and congratulated for their action by Paisley and Craig. Not sectarian? Paisley said there must be a general election as the government had had no mandate for dissolving the B Specials or disarming the police and to do so was undemocratic. By democracy he means Orange jack-boot and baton rule, and intern all who do not agree with his narrow, mean, sectarian ways.

Everything that happens in the six counties is, by Faulkner, blamed on the 'wicked IRA'. I do not doubt they are guilty of some of the outrages, but the extreme Protestants are guilty of as many if not more, and further the IRA always say, 'We did that', while the others try to put the blame on the IRA.

Meanwhile in all Ireland unemployment and prices rise and rise and rise. In the vernacular, 'There is no living in it at all'. Strikes are daily occurrences because a man cannot feed his children even inadequately upon what he earns. No one has homes, the poor live 24 to a two-bedroom house. That is an actual case I know and O'Malley's 'cure' is 'put anyone who squats in an empty building due for demolition for offices for the rich speculator into prison'.

There was murder about this so-called Forcible Entry and Occupation Bill in the Dail this week, but O'Malley and Fianna Fail stuck to their guns. Even

the garda don't like it. I had a lot of them signing my petition against it, and they in uniform too.

The Royal Scots Fusiliers behaved worse than the old 'Black and Tans' in the six counties, and even Jack Lynch bleated a tiny bit, but their commanding officer and the rest of those in power up there defended them.

I forgot to say McKeague's crime was publishing a book of Loyalist songs. One line of one ran, 'The only good teag (i.e. Catholic) is one with a bullet in his back!' He will get off with a tiny fine at most.

I have been ill and this is all I can manage this week. Women's Lib and the rest must wait till another time, but you can take it battle, murder, sudden death, unemployment and near starvation are the everyday rule of this heartbreak island, and the privileged are jolly well sticking to their privileges come hell or high water and to perdition with the ordinary human being. Poodles are Far More Important.

## THE HORRORS OF IRELAND

'What have I to do with peace?' How true are Jehu's words for us both sides of the border. Horrible things come to light every day and the ordinary person despairs. For example it has come out that the gardai are using the census forms to get information which they are copying into their own record books. One has no safety or privacy. I know I have a dossier and am a political agitator and suspect, but there are many innocent old people to whom anything like this is anathema, and who could easily be victimized.

Another thing that has come out is that the English are inventing rumours in the six counties and about the IRA, i.e. the plot to murder Queen Elizabeth was a pure English fiction spread for the purpose of spreading alarm and making ordinary people cry out for the internment that both Stormont and Leinster House are so longing for and yet are afraid to start until they get the 'silent majority' on their side.

It is quite obvious that many of the IRA explosions are the work of extreme

Protestants and the UVF and the work of the provisionals, both being eager to discredit the other side. Meanwhile innocent people, including a little child of two, get hurt and killed.

To send the bigoted Scots Fusiliers to the six counties was the work of a mad government. A baby would have known it would lead to bitter sectarianism and resentment and indeed it does make the Catholic population of Belfast turn to the IRA for help. They have never got over the way the Government of Dublin after Jack's brave words 'We will not stand idly by' when the first brutality and pogroms broke, then proceeded to let them down and do nothing.

Brian Faulkner sits on a very tottery throne. He has given the British troops licence to kill. If in the future a frightened 18-year-old soldier thinks someone is acting suspiciously he has been told to shoot to kill, and anyhow these poor lads have only been taught to shoot to kill. We are all still numb with the shock of the way the Scots Fusiliers rioted on the New Lodge Road batoning everyone in sight, cursing and arresting and wrecking a public house. Even MPs, Councillors, and solicitors were stood up against a wall and searched and then taken to the police station.

Meanwhile the feeble Bleakley comes to Dublin to cement good relations with the Dublin ruling class, and at Westminster Faulkner praises Lynch for his moderation and statesmanship, but keeps on his talk of shooting civilians on suspicion to placate the tough Orangemen and right-wingers, what with July and the parade season coming up. How many of you comrades have seen an Orange Parade, with grown-up men dressed in bowler hats and all hung about with provocative orange sashes and women wearing whole frocks made of Union Jacks and carrying Union Jack umbrellas and always the terrible war drums which carry this writer back to Central Africa and are as primitive as the war drums there and arouse the same emotions.

We are afraid the so-called Forcible Entry and Occupation Bill will reach the committee stage next week. Tomorrow we of the executive committee are having a very special meeting to lay and consolidate our plans. I think we are all prepared to go to prison except the mothers of young children.

## THE FATE OF THE CHILDREN

Tuesday being the day the 15p a week children's allowance is paid we held an all-day picket outside the GPO

as in law only the father can draw this money in Ireland. The older passers-by gave us plenty of abuse even to calling one young mother there with her pram full of babies and toddlers a whore. Women in Ireland have NO rights. If a woman goes away from her husband he can refuse ever to have her back or let her see her children again even if he has been a drunken brute who beat her up. If however a man slips off to England and leaves his wife and three children for a year totally unsupported he can come back and she must take him in and let him impregnate her again before he goes off for another year!!! I know one wretched woman who has had three children like this and the priest and state tell her she MUST receive him. Only the very rich can afford a divorce from *mensa et toro*.

In the past after our young left the primary schools and went to the 'Tees' they were undenominational. Now the hierarchy are insisting on having the running of the comprehensive schools. It is a scandal but the Government is ruled by the Church. One brave TD, Doctor Noel Browne, has condemned both Church and State, and what is being written and said about him beggars description. I honestly believe our people LIKE being in chains. I was recently in hospital and there were several elderly working-class women in the ward who hated what I write and say and kept on with such remarks as, 'The Pope is good enough for me', 'I had twenty children and reared 10. God knows best', etc., etc. Such smug hypocrisy I have never known. It sickens one.

The Dunlaoghaire Housing Action Committee have had a victory. Last Saturday they put two families into a perfect house that has been acquired by the multi-millionaire Garfield Weston, most of whose money is invested in South Africa and who is rapidly acquiring all Ireland. The outcome was he was afraid of the adverse publicity of a court case and fight and has given both families a decent house lease and all for a nominal rent. So two homeless families are housed at last.

## FORCIBLE ENTRY BILL PASSED

June 3. I wrote so far when I came home last night, then soon after midnight I went to bed. I awoke to turn on the 6.30 news this morning. The ghastly Forcible Entry Bill has passed the committee stage, in spite of Labour members calling it a 'Gestapo' Bill, which indeed it is with its guilt by association and muzzling of the news media. Another TD said it was aimed specifically at Sinn Fein and the Dublin Housing Association Committee (of which I am one of the earliest and most active members as well as being treasurer).

# How to Learn Russian

Continued from page 1

I will think twice, because we have so many good friends here.

'It is very difficult to be absolutely honest about it, but I think I was more sorry not to be able to go back than relieved to go on the next plane,' says Olive Markham.

David Markham wrote us later: 'One of the strangest phenomena following this adventure was the attitude of the Markhams' friends, particularly those who see themselves as the "committed" Left. For, whilst this experience was, of course, negligible when compared with what others are suffering, not for a matter of hours, but over years, even decades, still, it's not every day in the week that one has even a slight opportunity of examining the methods of the KGB at close quarters, and one might have expected some, well, curiosity.'

'Instead, there has been a resounding silence; or, in a couple of cases, a mixture of guarded disapproval and ignorant criticism.'

'For example, it is invariably assumed that whilst it may be one thing to indulge in some vague form of do-goodism (bourgeois variety), any conceivable action will only do "other people" more harm than good—who "other people" are is never specified.'

'But the rebuke has been made, and with it the implication that the self-appointed critic would have acted very differently. How differently is again not specified. And this is a pity, because little enough is being done.'

'The tiny minority of writers, physicists and lawyers who still defy the Soviet bureaucracy welcome any ally, provided that he too believes in the same things that they believe in—open trials (if one must have trials), total freedom of expression for writers, and the right to disagree with the authorities without the fear of being declared insane. They demand in other words that the Soviet authorities respect their own laws!'

M.H.

# Pattern for Tyranny

Dear Friends,

However widely acknowledged it may be that the Immigration Bill's distinction between patrials and non-patrials is racial, nevertheless the facts are that it is not, and whilst one can understand and sympathise with Kali for his (or her) opinion, in your paper facts should be sacred.

Granted what the Tory intention undoubtedly was, yet their own habitual incompetence has resulted in the patrial business having nothing at all to do with race. As E. Powell has pointed out, all Anglo-Indians with a UK-born grandparent would be eligible. More to the point, NO French-Canadian is, and the

majority of other Canadians would not be either, many being from non-British ancestry anyway, and many more being fourth-generation Canadians or more. When it is considered that third-generation Australians were playing a prominent part in Australian life over one hundred years ago, it can also be realised that not many Australians will come in under the patrial clause either. Much the same applies to New Zealanders.

If Kali were in touch with Australian opinion, as I am, he would quickly realise how very angry Australians generally have been made by this Bill. Helston ROWLAND BOWEN.

Derry burned everywhere last night, and what point there is in trying to burn a public library beats me hollow. Surely the more people read the more they will learn and understand? Brian Faulkner says EEC notwithstanding there will be no united Ireland. Hate, hate,, hate and cruelty of man towards man is all there is to read unless you happen to like photos of the 'broke' queen of England in purple and fine linen at the Derby, while on the next page is a photo of the kids who live seven to a bed in the broken-down Hollyfield buildings of our Rathmines, and whose out of work parents are squatting, and just as soon as this Bill becomes law will go to prison, kids and all, plus a fine of £50. They have not 50p. God save Ireland.

Did you know that the two greatest killers of man are man himself first and next the little anopheles mosquito. They each kill more than all the poisonous snakes, tigers, lions, buffalo, wolves and bears put together. A thought worth brooding on, and man wins. Anopheles is only second.

H.

## Contact

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**American couple** touring England and Europe June-July would like modest accommodation London part of the time. Write Ron Pearl, c/o Freedom Press.

**Australia.** Will A.A.G. please get in touch with Freedom Press.

**Debate** on 'Problem of Libertarian Organisation', June 28, 7.30 p.m., between the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists and the Socialist Current Group. Chairman: John Downey, Editor of 'Socialist Leader'. At Post Box Public House, corner of Mount Pleasant and Laystall Street (off Gray's Inn Road and Theobalds Road).

**Anarchist Leicester.** Will anyone who has any information about the Anarchist movement in Leicester before 1965 contact Black Flag Bookshop, 1 Wilne Street, Leicester.

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**Axis Bookshop,** 6a Hunters Lane, off Yorkshire Street, Rochdale. Call if in town.

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**Anyone interested** in forming a Cambridge Anarchist Group contact John Jenkins, 75 York Street, Cambridge.

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# ACADEMICS ON ANARCHISM

(Repeat)

**ANARCHISM TODAY**, edited by David E. Apter and James Joll (Macmillan, paperback, 75p).

**THIS VOLUME** in the Macmillan Student editions series is reprinted from the special issue of *Government and Opposition* which appeared last autumn (and was reviewed in *FREEDOM* on October 31, 1970), with smaller type and poorer paper, with a few corrections, and with the addition of three more essays.

Geoffrey Ostergaard of Birmingham University (well known to readers of both *FREEDOM* and *Anarchy*) discusses the anarchist aspects of the post-Ghandian Sarvodaya movement in India—drawing

largely on the forthcoming book he has written with Melville Currell: *The Gentle Anarchists* (Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press). Rudolf de Jong of the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam (where he is in charge of the anarchist collections), discusses the anarchist aspects of the Provo and Kabouter movements in the Netherlands. And Eduardo Colombo, formerly of Buenos Aires National University, gives a detailed account of the anarchist movements in Argentina and Uruguay from their beginnings to the present day.

The result is an uneven but useful collection of eleven essays, at least half which are worth reading, and which are offered at a reasonable price. J.V.

# How much Unemployment?

To the editors:

Jack Robinson's recent tirade against 'the wage system and monetary system' (*FREEDOM*, 24.4.71) shows a disturbing lack of economic sense unhappily all too characteristic of today's communists. Borrowing Thomas Carlyle's famous phrase, Mr. Robinson indicts 'the dismal science of economics'. He attacks economists for revealing laws which, in his opinion, are not 'useful' or 'desirable'. What strange criteria for judging the

of nature's as well.

This leads him into the wonderland of anarcho-communism where 'the law of supply and demand' and 'the iron law of wages' are abolished forever. Referring to the latter, Mr. Robinson bemoans the fact that 'wages could never rise above a certain level. This level can be pointed out as the price of the product'. I agree that it's unfortunate that a man can't receive more for his product than his product is worth. But this is reality; the communist something-for-nothing dream is not.

The chemist long ago demonstrated the absurdity of the alchemist trying to turn his urine into gold. How long will it take for the communist to see the futility of turning his bullshit into Utopia?

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\*Mr. Robinson inaccurately attributes this law to Ricardo, 'one of the most dismal of the economic theologians', when in fact the phrase was coined by Lasalle some decades after Ricardo's death.

Reply:

Laws of economics are not laws of nature!—J.R.

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laws of nature. Should a physicist attack the second law of thermodynamics simply because a perpetual motion machine would be 'useful' and 'desirable', his sanity would be regarded by his colleagues with the utmost suspicion. But this is just what Mr. Robinson is doing with the science of economics. Apparently carried away by his anarchistic zeal to abolish man-made laws, he thinks how nice it would be to do away with a few