

## Repression Spreads to England

ON THE LAST occasion when Freedom Press was raided (Anarchy and Libertaria Bookshop have been raided since) we examined the ease with which search warrants were granted and the subtle change in British law (through a precedent case) whereby police making raids with a search warrant were not limited to the precise boundaries of the offence for which the warrant was issued.

Sixty houses were raided last week including those of four leading IS members. Up to six hours was spent examining documents (police are notoriously slow readers). David Widgery has his passport taken away which, Roger Protz, editor of IS says, was done 'illegally'. Their search warrants give the police no powers to seize private property.

We are afraid that Mr. Protz is, not for the first time, mistaken. Police powers on search warrants—this was for explosives—are unlimited.

What is significant about these raids is not IS's squealing about civil liberties, using MP sympathisers and threatening to sue the police, but that they are indicative of a hardening of the Government's standpoint on Ireland—perhaps as a prelude to the 'initiative'.

In addition to these raids—which culminated in the deportation of a comrade to Northern Ireland—to face charges on cheque frauds!—other steps have been taken.

The Ministry of Works, who control Trafalgar Square, have decided that meetings 'concerning Irish affairs' shall be banned from the Square. This does not prohibit

marches on Ireland or meetings on Ireland elsewhere—as yet! It is possibly the outbreaks of violence which have accompanied such demonstrations as there have been on Ireland, which will be given as the reason for the ban. But official reasons are not the only motives for a clamp-down on public opinion.

In Bristol an even more farcical situation has arisen. The Glorious Gloucesters wished to operate their feudal right to march with fixed bayonets through the town on their return from preserving peace in Ireland. The Tory and Labour leaders thought, that in view of Bristol's Irish population (27,000—about 5%) it would be unwise to march—even without bloodstained trophies or captives. This decision, which is a democratic right, was criticized by

the Army and the Press. The councillors got cold feet and allowed the march. We shall see what happens in Bristol.

We are seeing now the slow stain of a bleeding Ireland spreading to England. The existence of the Irish problem has spread to England and it is made an excuse for repression and denial of civil liberties here. There have been reputedly sensible men who suggested that for every soldier shot there should be parallel

execution lists for Long Kesh (this was an MP). A radio programme suggested that Irishmen should be barred from entry to this country. Another casual bomb with its attendant slaughters has gone off. William Craig, MP, made a lunatic speech rousing his rabble of a Vanguard Party before an illegal march of 75,000 Protestants. God (preferably a secular one!) help Ireland!

JACK ROBINSON.

## Sky-High Rents

SINCE THE WAR the respective sizes of the three different tenure groups in housing have rapidly changed. In 1947 there was only 26% of the population who were owner-occupiers, 13% lived in housing owned by a public authority and 61% lived in privately rented property. In 1965, we find that the proportions have radically altered to 44.5%, 28.5% and 25% respectively.

According to the Government, we are now living in a 'property-owning democracy'. This tenure group is increasing and the Government gives them back-payments of taxes on mortgage interest. Last year these payments amounted to £302m. Contrary to the impression given by the Government and many local authorities, it is the owner occupiers who are highly subsidised and not the council tenants who only received £157m last year.

The Government's Housing Finance Bill aims at eliminating all subsidies to the council tenant while continuing to offer financial inducements to house purchasers. The Bill will totally reverse the original concept of council housing as non-profit-making. Under the so-called 'fair rents' Bill it has been calculated that this will bring in an extra £470m. After taxpayers' and ratepayers' subsidies have been eliminated, this will leave a £250m profit, which is divided equally between the local councils and the Government.

### OVER DOUBLE INCREASE

The Bill will mean that tenants both in the private and public sector will be paying just over double the rent that they are paying at present. Average rents in London now stand at £3.50 plus rates. By 1976 they will be £7.45 plus rates which are usually well over £1 per week.

Rents will go up every year by a minimum of 50p and a maximum of 75p

In areas where local councils are not starting the scheme until the last possible moment, tenants will pay £1 per week increase in October and 50p or 75p thereafter.

The concept of 'fair rents' was introduced by the Labour Government in 1965. Although it can be argued that they intended to assist tenants with the Bill, in the long run it helped landlords to increase their rents. Cases brought before the Rent Assessment Committees between January 1966 and May 1966 showed that 64% of rents were reduced and only 22% increased. However the balance had changed by 1969 when 67.3% were increased and only 24.6% lowered.

Such a change is not surprising since it reflects the prejudices of those who sit on these committees, mainly lawyers and surveyors. Such committees are obviously weighted against the tenants and the same applies to the committees who will assess the 'fair rent' under the Government's new Bill.

These new committees will be the Rent Scrutiny Committees who are accountable to no one except the Government and will be given powers to enter and inspect the homes of tenants. They will arbitrarily set the level of 'fair rents' for council tenants who will have no right of appeal. If any tenant obstructs these scrutineers, he could be found guilty of an offence and fined £50. The Government has also taken the precaution against any local authority who refuses to operate the Bill by sending in Housing Commissioners to operate the law.

As part of the Bill, the Government proposes a means test rebate scheme. Every government knows the reluctance of people to fill up forms, even though they might benefit. Pride, dignity, ignorance of rights and general difficulty in grappling with the numerous questions

all play their part in this.

The National Rebate Scheme allocates a 'needs allowance' of £9.50 for a single person, £13.50 for a husband and wife and £2.50 for each child. If the husband and wife's gross incomes are the same as the needs allowance, the family will pay 40% of the 'fair rent'. However for every £1 by which the income exceeds the needs allowance, the 40% rent will go up by 17p.

### A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES

This Bill gives central government further powers over our lives. It gives power to those who have a vested interest to push up rents. The lawyers, surveyors and housing agents are a law unto themselves and do not even come up for election. They are accountable to no one. Although private tenants can appeal against their assessments, council tenants cannot. The same applies to any decision on rent rebates.

So far most Labour-controlled councils are delaying the operation of the scheme until the last lawful moment. Many are playing a 'wait and see' role. In London, Camden and Greenwich are not implementing the Bill and are risking the Commissioners moving in. Others may well follow this lead. The Labour Party's Greater London Regional Council voted against operating the Bill despite the advice of the Executive. Even some Tory Councils are having doubts.

What is important is for tenants to form or strengthen their associations and then to unite and mount such a storm of opposition that the Government will be forced to abandon its plans. The Bill poses a direct attack both on our living standards and our civil liberties.

This new piece of legislation once again demonstrates the class divisions within our society. The State is once again squeezing more money out of working people and social necessity is being used to make a profit.

Tenants' associations can bring tenants together and give individuals the strength and solidarity which will be needed to defeat the Bill.

P.T.

## Turkish Delight

FOLLOWING the Timothy Davey case. It is reported by Reuters that in Ankara, a Turkish Minister said that several members of the Turkish Senate have been implicated in a drug smuggling ring following arrests and seizures of morphine in France and Istanbul last week.

It is also reported that the death sentence was confirmed on one of the founders of 'The Turkish People's Liberation Army' and two others had their

death sentences confirmed by a parliamentary commission after a year of trials and appeals. This is in spite of a petition against the death penalty for political offences signed by 1,764 prominent Turks.

The Guardian correspondent Michael Lake points out that the Foreign Office's concern for Turkey's feelings over the Davey case is not unconnected with Turkey's membership of NATO and CENTO. Turkey grants Britain over-flying rights for military aircraft to the

Far East, a privilege denied to Britain by Libya, Syria or Iraq.

The Turks have apparently taken the criticism about the Davey case very badly, responding, according to the Sunday Times with blaming Britain for breaking up the Ottoman empire, attacking Turkey in Gallipoli. The Turks dragged up British colonial repression in Kenya, but, says The Times, tactfully avoided mentioning Cyprus. An editorial on Ulster referred to the 'barbaric' spectacle of English MPs setting about each other and referred to Bernadette Devlin as 'the leading authority on English barbarism'.

J.R.

## IRISH ACTION

SEVERAL PEOPLE joined us in the leafletting of troops in Belfast. We had very informative dialogues with the troops. (Full report available on request.) Adrian and Sue went on the 'Bloody Sunday' march in Derry. Consequently 8 people from Irish Action/Leeds Peace Action went on the Newry march.

Irish Action have on several occasions leafletted army bases in England, as well as picketed 'Murder Shops' (Army Recruitment Offices) and volunteered twice for the army (refused twice surprisingly!). We would like to act as an Info/Advice Centre for people wishing to act against these 'shops' and also to disseminate all the information we obtain both on N. Ireland and the army to all interested people and groups. We are an ad hoc group which means our door is open for you; we need you to be able to keep it open with your ideas, support, and sustenance.

Please, please contact

01-263 0940  
Irish Action,  
c/o 5 Caledonian Road,  
London, N.1  
and  
c/o 2 Bayswater Avenue,  
Leeds 8.

## ABOLISH MOTORWAYS!

THE FIGURES of road accidents are to most of us, for most of the time, mere impersonal statistics, but the sad news has just reached us that Grace and Joan, two young women who were in the Rumbold Road squat in 1970, have been killed in a car crash. It is always particularly shocking when young people, who would normally have many years of life before them, die, and of course such tragedies occurred before the car. But this invention has killed so many of all ages. What is to be done?

The latest motorway horror has roused the usual reactions. The neurotic urge to punish has raised its head, with the proposal that reckless drivers be imprisoned. The passion for speed is something inherent in modern industrial society, and punishment will hardly act as a deterrent when the whole culture is encouraging the individual to drive as fast and as furiously as he can. The folly of encouraging people to do something and then punishing them for it needs no enlarging upon.

The car has been described by Freudians as a sex or virility symbol, and by Alan Watts (the writer on Zen) as a 'toy space ship'. It has become as obligatory a piece of equipment for the complete modern man as was the horse for the warrior of old. A man without a car is but a serf, a foot soldier, a mere churl, a peasant. Some cities in America are already so dominated by the car that it is impossible for a pedestrian to live in them.

The designers of the M1 can hardly have realised the murder machine that they were constructing. I well remember, in the days when I used often to see TV, the late 1950s, how motor cars were shown on the screen, and the announcer's voice would say something like this,

'Well, there are the new super-cars, now we need to build the roads for them'.

Now we have the roads. Motor accidents were a commonplace before the M1, of course, but now we have super-cars, super-roads and super-accidents. Did nobody see something like this would happen? Presumably not, unless we are to assume that men are just devils, and prepared to accept this sort of thing as 'the price that has to be paid for progress'.

Although people seem to think that there is some kind of mystery as to why these pile-ups occur, the main cause seems clear enough. Drivers feel they have a vast wide road ahead of them, and a powerful car at their command, and they drive faster and faster. I have only twice been upon the M1, going and coming on a trip to North Wales. The driver of our minibus was a good driver, but nevertheless I can only point out that as fast as the vehicle could go, because of the width of the road, and the speed of the other vehicles on it, which made any slower pace seem like a crawl, although it would have seemed fast enough on an ordinary road.

The fast driving is a product of the design of the road, the design of the cars and cult of virility and power which underlies all. As far as the present writer can see, there is no real solution, except the abolition of motorways, and the rebuilding of a satisfactory system of public transport, mainly railways. If this seems too retrograde I can only point out that many human inventions were found to be just too dangerous to be worth it, and were given up. The airship filled with inflammable gas is an example. There is a move now to reintroduce the airship, lifted by non-inflammable gas, and I

Continued on page 3



# Tolstoy on the Telly

MOST PEOPLE know that Leo Tolstoy was a Russian nobleman who wrote two world-famous masterpieces, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*. Few know that he was also an unceasing opponent of the State and all forms of Authority; that he openly espoused the cause of the oppressed workers and peasants; that he believed that all land and the means of production should be free for everyone to use; that he castigated the greed and cruelty of his own class; and that he denounced the Church as the handmaiden of the exploiters and for this was excommunicated.

Not all these facts emerged clearly from the BBC's seventy-five minute programme on the Life of Tolstoy shown last Saturday evening, but the programme did enough to show that the author of *War and Peace* was also an anarchist and a remarkable human being.

The early part of the film showing Tolstoy's attitude to education was excellent. He believed that education was, in the main, a weapon used by the State to mould the minds of little children into accepting the role of patient toiler and dutiful citizen of the almighty State. The rich and privileged used education to confuse and intimidate the people and to create 'discipline' and 'respect' for an educated elite. One of the two programme commentators — Theodore Roszak — rightly commented that Tolstoy's attitude was more advanced than most of today's libertarian 'educationists'.

For me, Tolstoy was the best of all the anarchists, although he himself denied he was one. He has that disturbing ability of making the individual face up to his own responsibilities for

the evils of society. I find this both uncomfortable (we are all forced to compromise) and at the same time refreshing because it gives each man the feeling that he as a person is important and can make things change. He puts the individual at the centre of things. There is no hiding behind 'historical processes', 'economic laws', the 'party line' or any other of the many excuses which are put forward for justifying inaction in the face of injustice.

Even Tolstoy's religious beliefs (which put him beyond the pale for all marxists and even some anarchists) don't offend me in the least. His powerful denunciations of all the hocus-pocus of organised religion, his contempt and scorn for the authority of Church and State, and his repeated assertion that each man and woman has a right to live his own life in accordance with his own conscience, endear him to me. He was an opponent of oppression, of coercion, of cruelty and violence, of exploitation, of pomp and patriotism and, above all, of humbug. If that is 'religion' then all I can say is—let's have more of it.

Of course, being human, Tolstoy didn't always live up to his principles. But he tried and, oh how he tried! He gave away his estates and lived like a peasant, ate peasant food, worked in the fields, made his own clothes and even his own boots. He waged a cam-

paign against the Russian State in support of all the poor and the persecuted but, being a married man with a wife and family to support, he compromised. He gave his possessions to his wife and children—but continued to live under their roof, thereby enjoying a lot more comfort than the peasants with whom he was completely aligned against the nobility.

This continual compromise caused him agonies of conscience for the last years of his long life until, right at the end, he broke away to live in a peasant hut. He never made it. He died in a railway station en route for freedom. All this was movingly portrayed in the programme with the help of some old film, some of which showed poor Mrs. Tolstoy arriving to see her dying husband and being refused entry by the rest of the family.

Then the funeral. Thousands of poor peasants followed the coffin to the grave in the woods of Yasnaya Polyana—but no priest was there, for Tolstoy died an unrepentant excommunicant.

Malcolm Muggeridge, the other programme commentator, tried his best to make Tolstoy out to be some sort of a saintly nut-case and called his robust opposition to Authority 'un-christian' and 'absurd'. On the other hand, the programme ended with a 'tribute' to Tolstoy from a Soviet Academician who praised

his literary genius and his compassion for the poor people suffering under Czarist oppression. This gentleman was the very embodiment of everything that Tolstoy detested. A comfortable, well-fed 'communist' bureaucrat mouthing platitudes about the fight against oppression while the State which pays his

## American Anarchist Monthly

THE MATCH! An Anarchist Journal, published monthly, from Freedom Press, or Box 3488, Tucson, Arizona.

WE HAVE RECEIVED copies of the American anarchist journal *The Match*, it is published monthly and in England costs 8p. It is money well spent. It is rather an old-fashioned anarchist paper. To start with it's legible. This may seem rather an odd commendation, but FREEDOM has been criticised often enough in the past for being conservative in its presentation. It does not have surrealist pictures, or pornographic prints all over it, nor have things printed in black on a dark blue background, thus making the article totally illegible. Neither has *The Match*. If you want a picture of lovable Rupert Bear raping a woman at gunpoint, and an article on communes overprinted with the signs of the zodiac, do not buy *The Match*. De Sade is praised for his political and social insight, but there are no illustrations of the activities for which his name is famous, so if sex-violence is your thing do not buy *The Match*.

But if you want a paper that expounds anarchist ideas, and is not limited to a particular dogma, syndicalism, individualism or communism, but will discuss all, freely and without pulling any punches, then you will probably enjoy this paper.

In this issue there is a reprint of Voltarine de Cleyre's *Anarchism and American Traditions*, an article on Van der Lubbe, a much-maligned (by Communists and Nazis) near-anarchist or

salary has brought oppression and persecution to a fine art. Were Tolstoy alive today he would undoubtedly be in a Labour Camp or a Cancer Ward—with people like Alexander Solzhenitsyn who are the true continuators of the Tolstoy tradition in Russia today.

Let's hope that this TV programme inspires a lot of people to read the works of Tolstoy for themselves. Freedom Press still has copies of a good little pamphlet on Tolstoy by Jack Robinson. It makes a fine introduction and costs only 74p post free.

JOHN LAWRENCE.

## The Great French Revolution

THE GREAT FRENCH REVOLUTION by Peter Kropotkin (Orbach and Chambers, 582 pages). £3.75

KROPOTKIN describes this study, of documents of the French Revolution, as a history of popular movements during the period. For this reason he concentrates on the economic detail largely ignored by previous historians of the revolution. However, Kropotkin repeats many times that the revolution was the creation of the mass of people,

who were harassed by the monarchy, the church and eventually the 'third estate'. To this end he quotes sources describing attacks on the Paris poor by the middle-class militias after the storming of the Bastille. Everywhere Kropotkin sees proof of his theory of revolution and evolution. He concentrates his efforts to show the sequence of subsequent revolutions during the next century is nothing more than an accelerating 'evolution to a revolution'.

Another use of the history is to provide

information towards a model of the evolution of particularly agricultural autocracies into a revolutionary situation. Kropotkin uses this comparison with reference to Russia (the history was first published in 1909) and sees strong similarities between agricultural practices in France from 1770 to 1789 and in Russia at the time of writing. Despite this oversimplification many valid points are raised most of which will be familiar to readers of *Conquest of Bread* and *Mutual Aid*. DAVID BROWN.

## School for Sackings

I RECENTLY had the 'privilege' of 'sitting-in' on a rather expensively organized day's education course designed for 'management' on the *Industrial Relations Bill*, its implications for management, and drilling them in the correct procedure for handling workers in the new legal situation.

The course, one of many designed for the 'top thirty most profitable companies in the UK' was organized by a little body of ex-Ministry and Labour Relations men who call themselves INCOPAL (Industrial Counsellors Partnership Limited). They sell themselves to the larger employers (ICI, GKN, for example) on the basis of being 'professionals' in dealing with trade unions.

For example there was Sam Gifford, MBE, employed by the State for 17 years as an expert on productivity and profitability, who emphasised how 'helpless' management has always been in negotiations with trade union officials, and how the complicated *Industrial Relations Bill* (so 'complicated' that course members were 'very strongly' recommended NOT to attempt to read it) would make it even more essential that management had 'professional' negotiators (such as INCOPAL, of course!). In a highly dramatised account he described how he had brought industrial peace to Gatwick Airport single-handed, when a strike threatened following the dismissal of a canteen worker.

His colleague, Pat O'Hara, was full of similar achievements based on 25 years of 'handling industrial problems', and after serving the State as a 'manpower adviser' in the Department of Employment under both Barbara Castle and Robert Carr, he assured his audience he could look at industrial relations from 'both sides of the fence!' He held aloft four little pamphlets produced by the TUC on Carr's bill, and warned management of the consequences of not using the professional expertise of INCOPAL.

Of course it will be now obvious to the reader that INCOPAL is a fraud flourishing on the ignorance and fear of top management, of trade unions and the

working class. It relies especially on management's ignorance of the relationship between the democratic rank and file and the unrepresentative trade union official. It is a fraud based on the fallacy that disputes are settled by 'negotiation', that they are won by the 'best' negotiators.

Although they almost grudgingly admitted that 95% of Britain's strikes are unofficial, they were not interested in discussing this or its implications, which meant that the real meaninglessness of the bill was never spotlighted. This is all beside the point, I know. The fact that our rulers pay well for rather useless advice is their problem, not ours.

I found the course particularly interesting in that right throughout there was no pretence from the lecturers, employees and ex-employees of Robert Carr's ministry, that we were talking about anything other than class struggle, pure and simple, and that their function was to serve management. At no time did they pretend to any mythical 'neutrality'. Nor was there any confusion in their minds about the purpose of the *Industrial Relations Act*. It was designed to strengthen the official trade union apparatus, this being seen quite clearly as the surest and simplest way to discipline 'the wild men'. The jargon was all that of 'friendly warfare', the union official always being 'the other side', but rather like an opposing cricket team. It was only when they were forced into passing references to the 'wild cats' in the 'jungle' that the language became vitriolic, but coupled with this I found it almost unbelievable that men who had for so many years been involved in 'industry' (true on the employers' side) could remain so fundamentally ignorant of workers, their actions, their motivations and their aspirations. To these men workers are simply mindless robots acting according to the dictates of 'agitators' and 'trouble makers'.

There was considerable discussion as to how the new bill should change 'the approach' of the manager to his job vis-à-vis the worker.

These were the main recommendations:

- (1) Never tell a trade union official to

'fuck off'. On the contrary, remember he is almost certainly a good man doing a good job. Work with him, not against him.

- (2) Be more careful when you recruit labour. Remember, if he's a trouble-maker he's harder to get rid of. Never admit to having a 'black list'. Always refuse the worker 'because his qualifications are inadequate' and put it in writing at the time.
- (3) Never ostensibly sack a man (or refuse to employ a man) for union membership or non-membership. At the time of the sacking make a written note somewhere saying 'why' so you can later 'prove' it was not discrimination. (A firm can be fined up to £4,106 for unfair dismissal!)
- (4) Decide on who is to do the hiring and firing. Don't leave it to any old site manager or depot foreman who, being 'uneducated' in the workings of the new Act, might cost the firm a lot of money in fines for wrongful dismissal.
- (5) Do more to make the worker love his job. Integrate him. Tell him why he does things, treat him like a human being, then he'll love the firm and won't listen to 'agitators'.

Considerable time was devoted to this last recommendation and we were all handed a 17-point document based on the 'personnel policy' of ICI, which detailed all the little things the worker should know to help create the illusion that the factory belongs to him.

Unfortunately for the employers of labour, their professional advisers and tutors, industrial disputes are decided by neither negotiating wizards nor Acts of Parliament. Towards the end of the day our panel of experts was asked how the miners' strike would have been 'different' if the Act had been passed six months earlier. The answer? . . . after lots of waffle . . . no difference at all!

Not to worry. INCOPAL were well paid for their day's lecturing. It obviously pays better than the Department of Employment and Productivity did!

JOE BLOGGS.

## A Magazine called Bogg

I'VE NEVER been satisfied with poetry magazines or anthologies. They establish no strong mood and one gets the feeling that one would have looking at one eye cut from the Mona Lisa. What else is there to it? These magazines are necessary, though, and the best must be made of them.

BOGG is a collection of poems, essays and reviews. The poems are free enough but could use some structure to control ideas and emotions which often collapse into heaps of vague imagery and undirected sentiment. It would be better if a little more anger and a little less pity were evinced in poems concerning social issues. There is a tendency for self-pity, a sanguine indulgence in those minor mishaps and impoverished viewpoints we take of ourselves and others of those less fortunate. Even a good poem like 'Vinegar and Brown Paper' settles into a self-conscious embrace with what can best be termed 'soft-sordidness'. Details once foreign to poetry have become its stock in trade and no reorganisation of oft-used images can relieve this banal effect.

There are good things. The essay on cars—for and against—should be taken more seriously than it will be. An article reprinted from FREEDOM exposes the ritualistic superficiality of many leftists.

There are indications in the poetry of humour which is often lost in the heat of liberal rhetoric. George Otigbach is mainly responsible for this in poems

like:

Dear Sister/  
I know a little house/  
called cest/  
let's go in.

Better than Ogden Nash any day.

Well, good luck to the revolutionary poet. I hope some day he finds his voice and uses it. Even Pablo Neruda wrote bad Marxist verse. There seems to be no limit to what poetry can do, but I sometimes wonder if people can do anything with poetry.

DREW FONDRIK.

BOGG—15p from Fiasco Publications, 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, E. Yorks

## LICENCE TO KILL

NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT to deny a person the opportunity to defend himself or herself, but the case of the schoolmaster who broke a fifteen-year-old boy's jaw in two places and got away with it requires some comment.

This morning on the radio there was a discussion of the incident where the problems of discipline in schools was gone into very thoroughly, but nothing at all was said about the child's point of view. It never seemed to occur to anyone that children often need protecting against the wanton brutality of school teachers.

The court's acquittal of this man looks rather like giving the green light to any form of physical violence against school children, provided of course that it is in the interests of discipline.

One wonders how long it will be, in the present climate of universal brutality, before a child is actually killed. Does the profession of school teacher automatically carry with it the license to kill?

A.W.U.



# Anarchism Shock Report

ONE ANARCHIST conference a year is enough for me—to voluntarily attend another suggests there is a masochistic streak somewhere in me hitherto unsuspected. Still, it wasn't too bad as it happens, and for the benefit of those who stuck to 'Pick of the Pops'—instead of dragging themselves down to Toynbee Hall on Sunday, March 12—here is a partisan and highly subjective report.

I arrived half an hour or so after the Conference opened and found, to my considerable amazement, that there are another 150 masochists loose in the anarchist movement—however, as events turned out, we held ourselves in check and departed bearing only one or two mild flesh wounds. 'The purpose of the meeting is to see whether anarchist ideas and activity can be made more effective in the present situation.' . . . Well of course no one took much notice of that but simply sailed in on their own particular life rafts, shouting 'I am saved' to anyone who would listen—and surprisingly, though few climbed aboard, many listened. In fact, compared with the last Conference I attended (AFB Conference at Liverpool), the mood was almost conciliatory and rarely reached the depths of personal abuse so familiar at Anarchist Conferences. The large attendance and the willingness to listen to opposing views indicated, perhaps, a certain closing of the ranks in face of 'the present situation' and contributed to the fact that I left the Conference feeling, if not elated, certainly less brought-down than usual.

Such a report as this can only try to recall the mood of the Conference and it seems to me that one or two concerns were more evident than in previous Conferences I've attended. The presence of John Lawrence and Brian Behan, in particular, produced much more discussion about the industrial situation and although no strategy emerged I felt there was much more concern and determination to be involved in this sector than is usual. With their slambang style of oratory and charismatic presences these two made a considerable impact but many other speakers (whose names I don't know) spoke with a wealth of authority and experience on the industrial

front—certainly the miners' strike seems to have stiffened the resolve of many who have been spiritedly toiling away for years. The 'right to work march' produced some heated condemnation and there appeared to be a strong platform for an anarchist position on 'the right not to work'—a point seized upon by Brian Behan who wanted us to have a few campaign slogans to identify our position more strongly. 'No Universities unless open to all' was another, plus his well-known advocacy of referendums—this was probably the most lively and exhilarating part of the Conference, with the groundlings cheering completely opposing points of view with fine impartiality.

There were the usual attacks on FREEDOM—the usual accusations of elitism, lack of contact with the movement, insistence upon pushing a particular stance and so on—for myself I believe that FREEDOM will never be (can never be) right but the persistence of these criticisms must mean something—mustn't they?

Those who would organise us—although careful to counter criticism before it was even made—were well in evidence again. I thought I detected. I'm sorry to say, an increase in willingness to be convinced by their arguments and, if they go on gaining ground like this, it is just possible that the 'movement' will be turned into The Movement. Obviously feelings run very strongly on this topic but it was a relief that the debate—it recurred throughout most discussion on whatever topic—was conducted on a more intelligent and less emotional level than usual. As it was, many comrades were sufficiently organised personally to get themselves to the Conference from places as far away as Leicester, Manchester, Brighton and even St. Albans, and it was by no means a private jamboree for London comrades. Another noticeable feature was that, if certain well-known persons and groups within the movement were conspicuously absent, then a number of other comrades I haven't seen for ages reappeared and a majority of faces were completely unknown to me.

What is ultimately encouraging about the London Conference is that despite some deep divisions within our ranks

we have survived—and, judging by this Conference, we even seem somewhat revitalised. Somehow that nebulous philosophy to which we variously subscribe has a dynamic of its own and it was revealed quite strongly last Sunday. One aspect of this was expressed by the derision with which calls for revolution were greeted and that may not be such a paradox as it sounds. There were too many people at the Conference with long

## GKN Sit-In

IT MUST have been a sickener for the GKN management at Bredbury Steelworks, near Stockport, last week, when after they threatened to lock-out their 1,000 workers, who were on a work-to-rule with a ban on overtime and piece-work, their employees replied with a sit-in.

The GKN workers had jumped the gun on general work-to-rule, due to start at all engineering plants throughout the Greater Manchester area next Monday, in support of claims for extra holidays, a 35-hour week, and a 40% rise in pay. Managements in the Stockport area had been trying to rush work through before the start of the official work-to-rule, and this made workers at several plants start their campaign immediately. But it was only at the twin GKN plants where the managers cracked down with an ultimatum threatening a lock-out.

experience in industry to be gulled by emotional dream-wishes, but the realistic nature of much of the discussion produced more real idealism and commitment than I've heard expressed for a long time—even if nearly every speaker felt constrained to explain his own vision of anarchy before he got to his main point. One thing about Anarchists—they're bloody good at lecturing each other.

I am sorry if this report sounds a trifle euphoric—we're in a sorry state on many fronts, but as some old blues singer once croaked . . . 'been down so long—it feels like up to me' to which I can only add 'so it does old cock!' Rock on Children!

JEFF CLOVES.

This action has now produced the first occupation of recent times to be directed, not just at stopping redundancy, but in support of a pay claim.

The firm hit back by cutting off supplies of water and electricity to the works. Though the men are organising a round-the-clock occupation, the security men are trying to close the factory down in stages. But this is being resisted and locks are being rapidly picked and re-opened, the men have also rigged up their own lighting, and are organising card schools to pass the time.

As a result of the Bredbury sit-in the 15,000 engineering workers of Stockport are now starting their action a week earlier than was planned, and by next Monday another 200,000 Manchester workers will be restricting output in support of their claim.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

## The Great Pollutant

ALONG THE COUNTRY LANES admired by motors and tractors is spreading the annual blight, the stippling of banks with multi-coloured shoots of strange growths. From the trees dangle dusty green ropes, the boughs are scarred and split with green cracks like boils rising to the surface.

The serried ranks of brown, machined fields are broken by movements from beneath, spikes protrude from the furrows. The paths are decked with this growth; even in the quieter towns it is seen forcing its way up through the pavement. It has the power to split concrete, to erode the carved traces of man's handiwork.

The effects on animal life are reflected

in their bizarre behaviour; except where the broiler house has controlled their aberrant departure from their predestined path, strange mutations and strivings are seen in all species. The birds behave with erratic customs, inexplicable even to scientists.

Mornings are made clamorous with the pollution of silence by the aerial visitants. Not only is this clamour unstoppable, its participants are protected by law. Their construction activity proceeds apace.

Strange smells fill the air. Is it cyanide? Is it phosgene? Is it CS gas?

No, it is spring.

J.R.

## UDI at Castlemains

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 11, about 30 people took part in the 'colonisation' of Alec Douglas-Home's estate at Castlemains in Lanarkshire. The purpose of this event (organised by Edinburgh anarchists) was to illustrate certain

aspects of the proposed sell-out over Zimbabwe and the Foreign Secretary's part in arranging this. On arrival there, we found the house and driveway ringed by 60 police complete with dogs. The Chief Superintendent and two underlings asked to speak with our leader and, on being told we had none, asked what we intended to do. We told them we were declaring the land independent, and trusted Sir Alec would be as generous with his lands as he was with those of the Africans.

We then declared the area of the house to be a 'tribal area' and its inhabitants were thereafter to be known as the native population subject, of course, to our firm but benevolent rule. A mock flag was then planted and we read out our Declaration of Independence, which was a parody of the 'Rhodesian Constitution'. We are confident that Castlemains will remain a stable, civilised republic as long as the damn natives remember their place and pay no heed to commie agitators.

C.K.

## PRESS FUND

### Contributions

March 9-15 inc.

St. Albans: R.A.P. 20p; Western Australia: C.K. £5; Glasgow: A.J. 17p; Surrey: B.B. 23p; St. Cloud, USA: M.G.A. £2.60; Wolverhampton: J.L. 40p; J.K.W. 10p; Italian Comrades of Los Angeles: per A.R. £20.  
Total: £28.70

Sales (Voline): £2.00

TOTAL: £30.70

(1) INCOME FROM POSTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SALES (Target for 1972—£4,500)

Amount received to March 15 £1,178.44

(2) PRESS FUND CONTRIBUTIONS (Target for 1972—£1,500)

Contributions received March 9-15 inc. £30.70

Previously acknowledged £412.02

TOTAL TO DATE £442.72

## Solutions for Ireland

WHAT ARE WE going to do about Northern Ireland? More and more people are beginning to realise that something must be done to break the deadlock, and that, quite apart from the wrong that is being already done there, there is also the danger that the violence will spread to this country also. That the Army will be used to shoot strikers as it has been used to shoot demonstrators seems only too likely.

Several groups are already active; the Second City Movement, Community Research and Action Group (CRAG), which is based on Manchester, the Peace Pledge Union and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. In essentials they are at one in demanding a cease-fire, an end to internment and a withdrawal of the troops. The Catholic minority should be given equal rights.

This is easy to say. These groups however realise that this will be extremely difficult to bring about. First of all it will involve a vigorous campaign in England itself, against internment and to bring the troops home. The PPU has issued a leaflet headed, 'There is no way to peace, peace is the way'. It lists the things which are an absolute necessity for both sides to do if the conflict is to end. Basically they are the same on both sides: 'tolerance' for both, 'no gun licences' for the Orange majority, 'disarm' for the Green minority, and so on.

The FOR has issued a statement which goes as follows:

'The problems of Northern Ireland are not being solved by the armed conflict, which itself appears to have reached stalemate. The military and guerrilla violence of all sorts should be suspended. This will not, of itself, guarantee justice and security. As a major step towards mutual tolerance and reconciliation it could open the way to the solutions required. A cease-fire with the necessary initiatives to make this possible, must be followed by talks between representatives of all parties to the dispute. Therefore, we offer to help achieve in 1972—

an agreed and supervised CEASE-FIRE with an END OF INTERNMENT WITHOUT TRIAL and immediately afterwards an EXPLORATION OF ALL PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT.

This requires responsible risk-taking. We believe there is sufficient goodwill to justify this.'

There surely must be. By now almost everyone must be heartily sick of what is going on. The present wave of bombings appears at first sight to be entirely without purpose, random and striking at everyone indiscriminately, although there may be some deep plot behind it. At all events no one, Protestant or Catholic, is safe.

CRAG proposes a campaign which would be much like the old 'Ban the Bomb' campaigns of my lost youth. The proposals are all sound in themselves. We still have The Bomb, but the present issue is so much more immediate and close to home that there seems more hope of achieving success. And of course The Bomb is an integral part of the great myth of 'Progress, progress', Western Man's Faustian Quest and all that, while the British Empire is on the downward slope.

All these groups could be described by anarchists as 'reformist', and it is true. But reforms are worth having. An anarchist can hardly discuss whether or not people should be permitted to own firearms, for instance. As far as he is concerned a person can own whatever he likes. What he is opposed to is coercion. Both sides are coercing individuals on the opposing side. The problem is to change the situation so that nobody is coercing anybody. In fact there is very little in the programmes put out by these three groups that any anarchist could object to. All three are equally convinced that it will not do to take sides. No 'Victory to the IRA!' No sloganising.

The addresses of the three organisations are:

Community Research and Action Group, 38 High Lane, Chorlton, Manchester 21.

The Peace Pledge Union, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation, 9 Coombe Road, New Malden, Surrey. 942 6521.

Or: Hill Cottage, Ballycairn, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

Or: 12 Princes Street, Derry.

JOHN BRENT.



Any book not in stock, but in print can be promptly supplied. Please add postage & cash with order helps.

- Any book not in stock, but in print can be promptly supplied. Please add postage & cash with order helps.
- Character Analysis  
Wilhelm Reich £2.00 (20p)  
Hungary '56  
Andy Andersen £0.25 (3½p)
- What is to be done  
Nicolai Chernyshevsky £0.85 (5p)
- The General Idea of Revolution in the Nineteenth Century  
Pierre-Joseph Proudhon £6.00 (20p)
- The Little Red School Book £0.30 (2½p)
- The Fall of Paris  
Alistair Horne £0.67½ (13½p)
- The Essential Works of Anarchism  
(ed.) Marshall D. Shatz £0.80 (9p)
- Anarchist Thought in India  
Adi H. Doctor £1.65 (9p)
- The Russian Anarchists  
Paul Avrich £4.50 (21p)
- French Utopias  
(ed.) Manuel & Manuel £2.20 (13½p)
- Non Violent Direct Action  
Hare & Blumberg £1.00 (21p)
- Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist  
Alexander Berkman £1.50 (21p)
- The Parts Are All Around Us  
Bob Dickens £0.16 (2½p)

Please send foolscap (9" x 4") S.A.E. if you would like to receive regular booklists.



publish FREEDOM weekly and distribute ANARCHY monthly

84b Whitechapel High Street London E1 01-247 9249  
Entrance Angel Alley, Whitechapel Art Gallery exit, Aldgate East Underground Stn  
SPECIMEN COPIES ON REQUEST

### Bookshop

Open Afternoons  
Tuesday to Friday  
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Open Evenings  
Thursday close at 8.30 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES, 1972

FREEDOM  
Inland, and Surface Mail abroad  
for one year £3.00 (\$7.50)  
six months £1.50 (\$3.75)  
three months £0.80 (\$2.00)

Airmail  
Europe & Middle East 1 year £4.00  
6 months £2.00  
The Americas 1 year \$12.50  
6 months \$6.25  
India, Africa, &c. 1 year £4.50  
6 months £2.25

Australasia & Far East 1 year £5.00  
6 months £2.50

ANARCHY  
Inland, and Surface Mail abroad  
12 issues £2.25 (\$6.00)  
6 issues £1.13 (\$3.00)

Airmail  
USA & Canada 12 issues \$11.00  
6 issues \$6.00  
Australasia & Far East 12 issues £4.50  
6 issues £2.25

A.W.U.



# The Defence Rests

IN THE FIRST INSTALMENT, I stated that Hackney Council had begun an anti-squatter campaign and, after getting an eviction order granted against a woman squatter with young children and with no man to protect her, hired thugs to invade her home armed with iron bars at dead of night, to evict her with brutal treatment, filthy language and mistreatment of her furniture by slinging it out into the street like so much rubbish. Her young baby ended up by having its toes smashed by an iron bar.

The Council became a bit bolder, not to say daring, after this famous victory, and applied for eviction orders against four families, all with young children, squatting in Grayling Road, Stoke Newington. The families were determined to fight to retain their homes. Mrs. Helen Vennard, who is a very capable person re (1) Standing up for her rights; (2) Organising squatter activity in her neighbourhood; asked Bill Dwyer if he would help the families with the legal side of it. This was a very smart move, for Bill not only has the voice and presence, he has the legal knowledge to help him dominate a court hearing such as the case 'HACKNEY COUNCIL VERSUS THE PEOPLE' at the High Courts of Justice on March 9. The Judge adjourned the case; he had asked Bill whether he'd like the case dismissed, or adjourned, and Bill's answer is still reverberating and rumbling around the Council Chamber and scaring the shit out of whoever feels himself a guilty party. Bill said statements handed to the court for the council were within the precincts of perjury or thereabouts, and the case must not be dismissed but adjourned. And that's where the case is now, adjourned.

Since then, the four Grayling Road families have potted along, being just ordinary families, which is what they are, but they're much more cheerful than before March 9. They have all seen the way ordinary people sticking together are a match for a bunch of no-hoping politicians, no matter how big and influential and bolstered by the best of legal help, when the people do stick together and have right on their side.

People have begun to rally round the families. They know that if worst came to worst and the Council were granted the eviction orders, the families would be helped in a very practical way to beat the tearaways if they were employed again by the worse criminals, their employers. Some of the reinforcements took part in the Battle of Redbridge in 1969, where Quarterman's thug-'bailliffs' were beaten so decisively that they never returned, to try to terrorise ordinary British people asking only the right to a home of their own.

Regarding the publicity, various organisations including: the local Claimants' Union, Tenants' Association, and various political organisations, will be doing their bit towards letting the public know the score. Nevertheless (Oh? Nevertheless!),

I am very glad to say that the libertarian movement is well in front when it comes to practical displays of solidarity here. Freedom Press began publicising the case before the hearing, and will carry the latest details of the case as long as we send them said details.

Unfortunately, Freedom Press's attitude with regard to the gangsters mockingly styled bailiffs has changed since Redbridge days, when FREEDOM's then editor was right in there punching it out with the thugs, I'm talking about John Rety. The talk there is all pacifist now, the people there are almost my equal in years and may be superior in intelligence but they have not yet learned that one cannot pet a snake.

I met some of the toughest kind of thugs in Brixton, men to whom violence and cruelty are the accepted way of their life, the way they earn their living. Some of them told me how Quartermain had offered them a job evicting squatters at Redbridge, and how they had all told him more or less, what one bloke said: 'I told Quartermain to piss in his boot—I said to him, I don't fight women and kids!'

Obviously the thugs that are recruited by Councils to do this beastly task must be the lowest kind of tearaway, taking on this job of beating-up women and kids because they aren't able to get a better-paid job attacking a few men—or maybe some of them haven't the 'bottle' (guts) for those jobs, only for the terrorising women and kids jobs.

What sort of animals calling themselves politicians would even speak to such scum never mind hire them. Don't forget, you citizens of the Borough of Hackney, that the Council does these wicked things in your name.

If all of us have a go about this business, we can make the Council draw

## HACKNEY SQUATTERS

its horns in a bit lively—and maybe we can do something about the councillors too, that hire the scum of the criminal class to terrorise ordinary innocent families living ordinary decent lives in the Borough of Hackney.

Both Freedom Press and the ORA Newsletter are publishing the fullest reports on our campaign (I'm a Stoke Newington squatter myself), I try to send them the same article for publication. ORA also cut a leaflet and printed it for us, a hurry-up job, it was done including stencil and printing in a couple of hours. In less than four hours, ORA knocked out 1,000 copies of that leaflet and 100 copies of the *Speed-Freak* (I edit it) and donated the leaflets as a token of solidarity. Freedom Press suggested putting a tin by the 200 leaflets of the 1,000 they got, and any dough collected to go to ORA, to which I replied not half!

Before I close (I'm half-asleep at the moment), please remember that three of the four families have never been involved in anything of this kind before. They are game, yes, but the more they see of supporters like yourselves, when the latter visit the squat and assure the lady at No. 32, Helen Vennard, of their backing, the more their morale and their gameness will be strengthened.

I'd have preferred to be feeling a bit more lively while doing this report, however it gives all relevant details except that the families will be getting the loan of a duplicator on a temporary basis with myself assuming responsibility for same. And just before beginning this report, I was told of a 35-cwt. van in good nick which the squatters can have the use of for the next three weeks. . . . Pity it isn't the end of August, the van could take all the families down hopping to get nice and sunburnt.

Stoke Newington GEORGE FOULSER.

## Up Jenkins! LETTERS

Dear Editors,

There is usually more sense in FREEDOM than in all the rest of the British press put together—but I'm afraid that is not saying much!

I cannot agree, for instance, with your editorial 'Up Jenkins!' in which you castigate R.J. for his statement that motor car workers have an obligation to low-paid workers in the public sector. You try to pass the buck to the boards of the nationalised industries—but who, ultimately, pays their wage bills anyway?

As long as workers in profitable industries go on demanding rises based on productivity and profits, everyone else's purchasing power is bound to decline. Money (until we manage to get rid of it altogether) surely ought not to be distributed on the basis of whether one works in a profitable industry such as

motor car manufacture or in something like the post office or the railways, which, though providing a necessary public service, cannot pay its way. Therefore, negotiations for wages on the basis of productivity are immoral—even apart from the immorality of the productivity itself, with its concomitant pollution of the environment and plunder of finite resources.

Much as I dislike the idea of banning anything, I think the time has come when we must ban the private car altogether (except, perhaps, for doctors and people with certain handicaps), replacing it with plenty of free public transport, possibly including free (or, anyway, subsidised) taxi or minibus services for, e.g., housewives taking young children to the local shops.

London, S.E.6 BARBARA SMOKER.

I agree with Barbara Smoker. But 'Comrade Jenkins' point was not for any reform of the system or abolition of the motor car but for a re-sharing of the GNP cake!—J.R.

## Violence

Dear Comrades,

It is my opinion that people who advocate bloody massacre and terrorism, especially to the exclusion of anything else, are as much nutters as those who advocate complete pacifism.

I can see that it may be necessary at certain times to use violence—but this is always the violence of self-defence designed to protect libertarian achievements against State reaction—the State will not so easily relinquish its power. Besides, we're under attack from it every minute of our lives.

I believe those advocates of pacifism in the Anarchist movement are mostly students and intellectuals, divorced from the bitter realities of life on the shopfloor and the estates. This view is not current among Anarchist workers—I myself am a worker—and it comes as a great surprise to me to see Laurens Otter, a print-worker, defending such ideas; especially as he is a member of the ORA, a professedly revolutionary body.

Brighton N.H.

## Revolutionary Pacifism

Dear Editors,

Without prolonging this correspondence too much, I would like to come back on some of the points made by both of last week's letters.

Firstly, I utterly reject that revolution and pacifism are a contradiction in terms. Only pacifism and violence are contradictions in terms. The Worcester Anarchists' letter has the ugly smell about it

# Contact

Contact Column is for making contact! Use is free, but donations towards typesetting costs are welcome

Help Fold and Despatch 'Freedom', Thursdays from 2 p.m.

Petition forms against The Night Assemblies Bill—from Bill Dwyer, 40e Holland Road, London, W.14, Phone 01-602 4027.

Libertarian Teacher 8 now on sale 10p + 3p post from Black Flag Bookshop, 1 Wilne Street, Leicester or Freedom Bookshop.

Croydon Group meeting at Top Flat, 4 Warminster Road, S. Norwood, S.E.25, at 7.30, Tuesday, April 4. Speaker: Vik van Brantegem, Flemish Catholic Students Union, on 'The Work of SMOG Committees'.

Anarchist Dwarf Group forming in Enfield area; contact Terry and Val, 89 Mapleton Crescent, Enfield, Middlesex.

Oxford. Anarchist meetings every Friday 8 p.m. Clarendon Press Institute, Walton Street, Oxford.

Could friends in Whitby please write again as we have mislaid their address. Georgie and Russell Fell, 2 Pilgrims Close, Marks Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Would Box 001 please send Freedom Press his address as we have mislaid it. We have a number of replies from your ad.

Corby. Public meeting on 'Anarchism and Workers' Control' planned for June 29. Green Room, Civic Centre at 7.30 p.m. Local help with publicity appreciated. Contact Terry Phillips, 70 Blenheim Walk.

The 'East London Speed-Freak' is out again (the Editor came out a few months ago). On sale at Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High Street, E.1, Libertaria Bookshop, 95 West Green Road, Tottenham, N.15, or direct from G. Foulser, 1A Nevill Road, Stoke Newington, N.16. Price 6p. Please add postage with mail orders.

Cards from 'A Flight of Silver Birds' start a revolution in communication. Magical and wondrous designs with original poems by Tina Morris. Send 24p for 6 cards (3 different designs)

to—18 Pemberton Street, Blackburn, Lancs.

Comrade who might return to UK and live in Hay (Herefordshire/Breconshire) would like to get low-down on area from comrade living in these parts. Box No. 002.

Spanish Civil War Film Cycle. March 26: 'Fury over Spain'; April 2: 'To die in Madrid'. Centre Iberico, 125 Kingsway, Holborn, at 7.30 p.m.

Harringay and District Anarchists meet every Thursday from 8 p.m. in the Saloon Bar of the Osborn Tavern, Stroud Green Road, Finsbury Park.

S.E. London Dwarfs newly established. Anyone interested should contact Jeff Dixon, 44 Pendragon Road, Bromley, BR1 5JY (Phone 01-698 8596); or Nick Brown, 185 Hawes Lane, West Wickham, Kent (Phone 01-777 5103).

Edinburgh Group. New Secretary is Chris Kerr, 9 Mayfield Terrace, Edinburgh, 9. Tel. 667 2939.

Anarchist Meetings. Wednesdays 7.30 p.m. 271 Commercial Road, E.1 (1st floor).

London Anarchists meet socially at 'The Marquis of Granby', Cambridge Circus, Charing Cross Road, Sundays from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

'Peace News'—the other anarchist weekly—every Friday 7p from your newsagent or by subscription. FREE with trial sub. of 7 issues for 50p two sample copies which include Illich on Deschooling and Communes Special. 'Peace News' for the theory and practice of nonviolent anarchism, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

Free Valpreda Campaign needs help, not just by way of support, but also involvement in planning and organising. Please contact c/o N. & E. London Group ORA.

Libertarian Book Club. Spring Lectures Series. Thursday evenings, 7 p.m., 369 Eighth Avenue, New York City. April 13, Irving Levitas; G. B. Shaw and the Anarchists. April 27, Sam Dolgoff; Bakunin and Nechaev. May 11, Murray Bookchin: Marxism and Anarchism.

Help! Stoke Newington 8 Fund. Comrades now on remand in Brixton and Holloway need financial aid urgently for meals, fruit, papers, books (which must be new) and cigarettes. Please send donations to the Stoke Newington 6 Fund, c/o Compendium Books, 240 Camden High Street, London, N.W.1, a.s.a.p.

Liverpool Anarchist discussions normally held first Sunday in month. Write to 39 Lilley Road, Liverpool, 7, for venue, or ring 263 4890. John Cowan.

S.E. Anarchist Groups. Conference April 8/9. Suggested discussion on industrial activity and regional organization. Details from c/o Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton, Sussex.

## THIS WEEK IN IRELAND

WILSON has come and gone. Widgery has come and gone. Heath's famous initiative has not come, and will not now until after Faulkner's visit to London, and probably not until after the Easter recess. The fact is, Heath HAS NO INITIATIVE. He is too under-the-thumb of the hardliners in the six counties because of the EEC vote. He was given a chance when the Provos announced and kept to a 72-hour truce but he let it slip by. He could do either of two things—but he won't do either: (1) He could withdraw not only troops but all monies and investments and businesses from all 32 counties of Ireland absolutely. If it was a question of 'root hog or die', i.e. get on with each other and work together or starve, we'd work together and root. (2) His other plan could be a complete crushing of Stormont and Unionist power with the whole might of the British Army behind him.

We are all so tired over here, physically and mentally. The explosions and deaths every day, the destruction, not only by bomb in the six counties but by exploitation for the prestige office of the capitalist down here leading to utter insecurity and the homelessness of thousands, and it goes on and on and on endlessly and one can see no hope or end.

The ordinary UK citizens in the street care about the six-county slaughter about as much as they care about Vietnam, which is not at all. They say 'Oh isn't it dreadful', and turn on a Western on the TV. Nothing will emerge from

Widgery. He will say, 'Perhaps the Paratroopers reacted a bit too much but they were under very great strain.' We've heard it all before. We've been hearing it for 800 years, so lest we should grow quite mad we make jests to serve us in a time when jests are few. Our new song is

'Rule Britannia, Britannia waives the rules.'

I have before me a seed catalogue. Among the potatoes listed as free from black scab are

Ulster Premier  
Home Guard  
Craig's Alliance  
Craig's Royal  
and  
Craig's Red Royal.

What, no Vanguard?

The petty things that happen, such as our local elections being postponed for a year, leaving us without the Corporation that Boland dismissed several years ago in a temper tantrum, don't seem to matter any more, yet they do. All the time we grow more and more of a police state with less liberty. Our Press is not free and prices rise and rise.

However seed time and harvest do not fail and the gardens are ablaze with lovely spring blossoms. Perhaps one should find comfort in this. The Chinese have no tenses in their language so that only the context tells one whether they refer to yesterday or 800 years ago or 800 years in the future. Perhaps we should all learn to be tenseless.

H.