

THE PRISON REVOLT highlighted by the one-day national prison strike a few weeks ago continues to spread. Spontaneous demonstrations have since then taken place in various prisons in different parts of the country.

The new wave of protests began at Albany Prison on the Isle of Wight after the discovery of an escape plan. Consequently prisoners were locked in their cells for two days whilst the prison was searched for escape materials. As a result of their frustration at being locked in their cells the prisoners threw clothing, blankets and furniture into the yard in protest. The authorities then kept the men locked in their cells in retaliation. After the

GAOL FEVER

Albany men had been locked in their cells for four days, about 22 prisoners at the nearby Parkhurst Prison climbed onto the roof of their prison as a gesture of solidarity. This in turn led to solidarity action by 95 prisoners who climbed onto the roof at Camp Hill Prison.

There have also been other unrelated spontaneous actions in other parts of the country. At Gartree Prison in Leicestershire, 363 pris-

oners refused to leave their cells and go to the workshops in protest at the maltreatment of a man in the prison hospital. At Chelmsford Prison, 70 men climbed onto the roof in protest at conditions. At Peterhead in Scotland 170 prisoners did likewise and tried to explain to onlookers outside that they were protesting about the lack of rehabilitation in prison. The police reacted immediately by sealing off surrounding streets and moving onlookers as far away as possible.

The reaction of the prison officers to the prisoners' militancy has been typical of the authoritarian personality. These men who are the willing subjects of petty discipline and mindless authority have reacted with anger at the prisoners' flouting of authority. In a wave of unaccustomed militancy they have threatened to work-to-rule, ban

overtime and even strike if the Home Office does not cease the 'appeasement of prisoners' and 'soft conditions'.

The popular press has done its best to present the prisoners' actions as being instigated by a few notoriously violent prisoners — the characters whose lurid biographies make millions for the press barons — rather than the spontaneous acts of solidarity which they are. In fact, the well-known gangsters seem to have played little part in the demonstrations—or have even threatened violence to those participating—because the reaction of the authorities may make life more uncomfortable for them. The men disciplined as the main 'ringleaders' at Albany, for instance, were not notoriously violent persons and, indeed, most were not considered serious escape risks.

Meanwhile, the Home Office continues to refuse to recognise PROP, the prisoners' trade union which claims the support of 10,000 prisoners. I would recommend PROP magazine to everyone who is interested in what they are trying to achieve. (It is available from PROP, 96 Victoria Avenue, Hull, price 15p.)

The prisoners have shown that they are learning—perhaps for the first time in their lives—that solidarity works. But as they face growing repression from the prison authorities, and a campaign of distortions and downright lies from the press, they will need the active support of those of us outside in what George Jackson aptly described as the 'minimum security wing'. The demonstrations inside prison must be matched by sympathetic demonstrations outside prison. It was instructive to see which 'revolutionary' papers totally ignored the national prison strike. They obviously recognise the usefulness of prisons to the revolutionary party. But anarchists are opposed to all prisons, everywhere, aren't they?

TERRY PHILLIPS.

RACE & SPORT

THE DAILY EXPRESS has suggested that a new medal for hypocrisy should be awarded to the African countries competing at the Munich Olympic Games. They caused many a wry smile from those who had expected Britain to win the medal—or perhaps the Olympic movement could award the hypocrisy medal to itself. Every schoolboy hears the old chime that what matters about sport is not the winning but the taking part yet competition driven to insane degrees is the overwhelming ethos of the Games, and *competition to win!*

The *Express* felt inclined to speak of hypocrisy due to the African victory in obtaining the departure of the Rhodesian delegation from the Olympic Games, whilst Uganda was excluded (at that time) its own Asian citizens from its land. Yet it was an African whom the *Express* has never loved conspicuously, Julius Nyerere, from Uganda's neighbour Tanzania, who was one of the most outspoken critics of General Amin's policy directed at the Asian Ugandans—it was Tanzania furthermore who really got the ball rolling which excluded Rhodesia from the Olympic Games.

The exclusion of the Rhodesians gave great pleasure to those of us with an admiration for the have-nots who are discovering not only how to hit back but, very importantly, *when*. Smith was made to look a right fool, having crept

into the Games agreeing to be Southern Rhodesia and make required gestures at the Union Jack and then having to slink away because Africans—whom all white Rhodesians know to be incapable—had swung the Olympic movement over at the best possible moment.

We have written before of the nagging worry for Southern Africa of the non-acceptance of their sporting teams. It is not something for revolutionaries to treat lightly. Sporting activities might seem to be of slight importance but one has only to note the reaction to Peter Hain and the Stop the Seventies Tour campaign to note that the white elite of Southern Africa don't like having their overseas sporting teams reminded of what is going on at home. I suppose the Peter Hain trial for conspiracy was the biggest mistake the South Africans could have made. He got publicity daily throughout the trial (unlike that other trial) and finished up winning game, set and match!

Sad to relate Peter Hain was heard to say that his trial had shown that a fair trial was possible in Britain today. Are those 'liberal' bigwigs twisting his arm or something? Ever heard of Stuart Christie and the others on trial and already imprisoned for over a year? Or of Jake Prescott whose trial was possibly the most staggering display of injustice this country has witnessed in the 20th century? J.W.

RESIST RENT RISES

WITH THE LAST DAY for councils to make provision for the October rent rises gone, only 42 out of 1,600 councils with 500,000 out of 5½ million tenants have rejected the Rent Act, and some of these may slide out of a confrontation with the government by gaining a full rent-rise reprieve. The *Sunday Times* says that only two councils, Camden and Birmingham, would be able to really resist the government. The Tories can of course suspend the unco-operative councils to collect rents direct, as they did with Strabane and Newry councils in Ireland during the civil disobedience campaign. As for the legalistic games of Lambeth council, the redrafting of the Act will quickly seal off these loopholes and leave Lambeth faced with the choice of the other 1,600 councils, comply or revolt.

There is of course no such choice for many millions of tenants who will see more of their wages disappear into the Treasury and landowners' pockets. It is known that committees to fight the rent rises have been formed or strengthened in recent weeks. One way of recommended non-co-operation was to burn the means test forms used to assess the new rents, however only by a full rent strike can any pressure be put on the government and councils to withdraw. This can only in turn be produced by rank and file rejection of the rises and the formation of rank and file tenants' groups to fight off any attempts to im-

plement eviction orders or court proceedings against strikers. There has been precious little work done in these areas, many local tenants' associations are either controlled by politicians wanting only 'settlements' or outraged liberals with yet another issue.

The real fight is not only against one government's greedy financial policy but against the whole control system where council houses may be sold to rich tenants but denied to homeless families and individuals. The basic problem is one of control without which any gains can be immediately taken away again. This is shown by the defeats in many rent campaigns and strikes in recent years. Needless to say control will not be handed over as housing is one of the very profitable aspects of capitalism based on huge land charges, numerous profitable building sub-contracts and large loans from the banks. Finally the poor wages and dangerous conditions of building workers with huge variations in employment complete the picture of rent exploitation.

Only one consideration can remain after this battle. Houses are necessary and our right and all the profiteers are useless ponces. It's not a few bob to be taken off the rent but several pounds overcharged each week. To demand the latter will of course be laughed at as unrealistic but anything less is not worth having.

D.B.

A Total Stoppage is needed!

ONE OF THE MOST surprising things about the building workers' strike is that it ever happened at all. For years the employers' federation and the unions maintained a cosy relationship. Building workers have suffered low wages and poor conditions as a consequence and in recent years, the advent of labour-only self-employed sub-contracting has brought chaos to the industry.

From what the employers are saying I don't think they expected such a good response to the strike. In an industry where less than half of the workers are in a union the employers thought they had it made. What they underestimated was the enthusiasm which many trade unionists have shown in spreading the strike.

The miners showed building workers that it was necessary to organise pickets to travel round the country. In the miners' case they were all members of their union. But they had the job of stopping supplies of coal and other materials reaching the power stations. Building worker pickets are having to stop sites where the operatives are unorganised and where there are self-employed men working for a 'subby'.

Many of these self-employed operatives are very reluctant to join the strike. The added illegal status under which many operate prevents them from seeking social security benefits, for once they register the tax-man could also be after them.

Many married and single strikers are having difficulties in obtaining social security benefits. As strikers are not receiving strike pay from the unions it has now become necessary to organise our own claimants' unions within each picketing area. A delegate from each area has the responsibility of becoming an expert on social security payments, advising and organising mass visits to the SS offices.

Contrary to the allegations about taxpayers subsidising our strike, we are not getting the payments we are entitled to. To explain to those who make these allegations that we have also paid our taxes and have made our contributions to the National Insurance Scheme will not change the minds of these irrational and prejudiced people. The national press has used this to attack strikers.

The Minister for Social Services, Sir Keith Joseph, has said that payments to strikers and their families are under 'urgent' review.

STRIKERS UNDER ATTACK

But workers should not be surprised at these attacks. Any sections of the working class who are in struggle can be expected to be attacked by the press and television. We would not expect sympathy from Sir Keither either, since he was a director of the large building firm of Bovis, in which his family still holds a financial interest.

As with most strikes, the national leaders of the unions involved, the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians and the Transport and General Workers Union are being out-run by the membership. The leaders are still talking of selecting sites and sections of the industry, while the 'flying pickets' are moving from area to area closing down sites. The union leaders attitude can only confuse and weaken members' response. Rank and file demands to make it a full national stoppage have so far gone unheeded by George Smith, general secretary of UCATT and Jack Jones of T&GWU.

TOP HEAVY

Both of these unions see big pickings in members to be made in the building industry. Financially the T&GWU are stronger but UCATT has more members in the industry. The recent amalgamations of unions to form UCATT also means that at national level we are top heavy with full-time trade union bureaucrats. These are well-paid and underworked, leading a parasitical life on the rank and file members. Both unions have been forced to make a show of strength against the employers but neither of them expected the strike to go on so long.

This strike can be won. The large companies have a considerable amount of capital investment lying idle. Advance contract tendering is being held up because of the uncertainty of future wage rates. But the strike has to spread into a full national stoppage involving everyone.

As building workers we have to do it ourselves. It is no good attacking the national union leaders for not doing it

when past history shows that they have always tried to contain and control any strike situation.

As anarchists we do not attack leaders, whether union or government, for failing to do things, but urge ordinary people to do them for themselves. We want people to take control and not let others in power do it. The strikers have to run and control a strike in the same way we advocate that workers should run and control the industries they work in.

Unlike the Socialist Labour League, the International Socialists and the Communist Party, anarchists do not want to replace bad leaders with good leaders since it has been shown that they inevitably turn out more or less the same as their predecessors.

We want a society where building workers would build what is necessary and useful for the real needs of people and not what is just profitable. The priorities of capitalism are hotels, motorways, factories and offices. Priorities for people are homes, hospitals and schools.

P.T.

The Congress of St. Imier

To commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the CONGRESS OF SAINT-IMIER of the International Association of Workingmen (September 15, 1872), the anarchists of Switzerland invite their comrades to an OUTING AND PICNIC

on Sunday, September 17, 1972, at Saint-Imier (Swiss Jura, between Bienne and La Chaux-de-Fonds). There will be a sign on the Place du Marché from ten o'clock to midday to show the way to the scene of the picnic. In case of rain a shelter will be provided.

Bring something to eat, to drink, to read aloud and also bring some musical instruments. No official entertainments have been organised. Impromptu speakers will be welcome. Comrades coming from a distance will be able to camp.

For all correspondence: Case postale 44, 1211 GENEVA 6 Eaux Vives, Switzerland.

Gang-Bang

THE GODFATHER (Empire).
FAT CITY (Columbia).
PULP (London Pavilion).

THE BOOK and the film of *The Godfather* is a massive con job that has over-exposed itself. A third-rate book and a third-rate film have been given the full Madison Avenue hard sell with the result that reading and viewing becomes an anti-climax. The front-office boys, however, will make another billion dollar profit, Mario Puzo—the author of this salami soap opera—a modest million, and we shall spend a pleasant escapist two to three hours watching another gangster film.

The morality of the film stinks to the higher heavens for, despite all the protests, it offers us a picture of an anti-social set-up that draws its power and its wealth by a rule of terror aimed always at the mass of the American Italian working class, or sacred cows to misquote a correspondent. It is said that the Mafia approved this film as a massive PR job on their behalf and that members of the Family were strong-armed into various acting roles, but whatever the truth of this they have little to complain about in the final and edited film. Only Frank Sinatra feels hard done by and is beating his tiny chest in a bird-like rage at the suggestion that the singer portrayed within the film is Frankie Boy himself. If this is so, then Frankie Boy has reason to turn an angry and ancient eye to the film and the box office, for it offers a character who sings, whines, is pressured into star billing by Mafia money and wins the star role in a fine film, FHTE, by sheer blood and terror by his Mafia protectors.

The Mafia is and always was a verminous organised mob of criminals who won their wealth from the sweat and misery of the Italian working class, and through terror came money and through money power and access into the national chambers of economic, political and social hierarchy of the American nation.

GROSS MISCASTING

The film of *The Godfather* gives us

the Mafia in its new form and in its second generation, with the third sleek generation taking over. Within ten years the fourth generation will be with us but they will be the cultured, educated, high-minded spawn of the Mafia wealth, for the dollar and the gun have won them a place within the American social and political Establishment.

Mario Puzo based his book of the film on the 'life' of Joseph Colombo, and Marlon Brando, with a mouth full of cotton wool, mumbles his way through the role in that annoying impersonation that clouds the judgement of all actors, of an 'old man'. One knows that there is a sufficiency of elderly star quality actors who could have walked through this minor role, therefore to use a young actor such as Brando is gross miscasting for it detracts from the pull of a good third-rate bang-bang gangster film.

The film offers us Brando as Don Coreone, a country boy who has made it in the Mafia councils with a following ready and willing to kiss his hand, and, one feels, if called upon, his arse in public, and in return Don Coreone dispenses Mafia justice among 'his people'. Relate it to the mob justice of Northern Ireland or the Black Power movements and it, as with their justice, is less than just. The film would have us believe that Don Coreone's troubles came from the other Mafia Families willing and ready to peddle drugs as a new money-making market while lovable old Don Coreone would have none of it, so that one by one his friends and family were shot down until his grandson, now of age, takes over the old man's burden and slaughters, by abstract orders, all the opposition in good ol' John Wayne style. If only the world was that clean and beautiful with all the goodies wearing white hats and wearing CND badges, and all the baddies wearing black hats and wearing their membership cards of the Tory Party in their lapels, but life in the living is not as simple as that.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Brando's Don Coreone is based on Joseph Colombo and Joe is a Mafia hood now lying unconscious in hospital waiting to die after falling out with his

own personal family after a family squabble over the sharing of the money. The Colombo, once known as the Profaci family, control the area around the piers of South Brooklyn and in the 1960's Crazy Joe Gallo, Kid Blast Albert Gallo and his brother Larry decided to go into business on their own and their first Green Shield Stamp move was to kidnap four of old Profaci's top guns. The Gallos lost that round of industrial negotiation with one of their men permanently swimming in the sea and Larry Gallo being publicly strangled to death in a Brooklyn bar only to be saved by, shame, shame, shame, a policeman looking for a drink.

In 1962 Profaci died and Joseph Colombo won his Donship by ratting to the top brass of the Mafia that he had been assigned to kill them. But Colombo loved the limelight and it was he who lined up the New York Italians to protest at the slur on their good names by mentioning that the Mafia ponced and lived off them.

Joe formed the Italian-American Civil Rights League and it won, at a great cost to the respect of the American-Italian people, such minor victories as getting any references to the Mafia taken out of the film *The Godfather*. Joe called the organisation Civil Rights, and many a good and stupid liberal defended it by virtue of its prostituted title. In 1971 Crazy Joe Gallo was released from prison and as part of his first public affairs programme publicly kicked the shit out of Colombo and once more the boys were murdering each other. At the second annual outing of the Italian-American Civil Rights League, Joe Colombo was shot down at point blank range and now lies, a human meatball, in hospital.

SOCIAL SCUM

Within that single family there has been over 22 killings in the last year and this does not include the innocent passers-by, such as the two unfortunate meat dealers who were gunned down in mistake for five of Colombo's men. One missed all this innocent gunplay among the family in the film of *The Godfather*, for all we are given is a whitewash job on a poisonous murderer who lives off his fellow men and women by the sheer terror of his hired guns.

Wave a flag or sing a national song and an oppressed people or group will defend the social scum that fouls their lives, because they believe, and too often rightly, that there is no other organisation ready to come to their defence. That is the veiled basis of the film *The Godfather*, and we are given a good public con job that can only enhance the image of the Mafia.

The acting within the film is competent, the sets and the lighting less than adequate, with impressionistic exteriors and Victorian academic gloomy interiors. Where the major failing of the film lies, ignoring its doubtful morality, is in its failure to relate this fiction to the reality of its period. The failure for this must lie with the director for when one recalls Corman's *The St. Valentine's Day Massacre*, and its marvellous evocation of the 1920s, one can only protest at the shoddy workmanship of *The Godfather*. The American Left and its militants have protested bravely and nobly against so many social evils within the American society yet the Mafia is strangely omitted from their protests, by black virtue, one must believe, of its grip on the emotions of the Italian working class within its overcrowded cities, for one cannot blame the oppressed for turning to false saviours if their cause is not deemed worthy by the Jesus-freaks of permanent instant salvation.

PULP AND FAT

What can one say of Mike Hodges' film *Pulp* than to give it a happy bird? In this shambling crime thriller shot in Malta we have a confused and boring tale told throughout by Michael Caine in his flat whining cockney monotone. Only Mickey Rooney as the ex-film gangster makes the film worth seeing, for as always he outlives his second-rate roles. He speaks a single line and a quick shadow of sadness clouds that puckered face giving truth to the script-writer's banality, but for Michael Caine, the John Braine of the film world, a simple personal note why was a simple Oscar-winning raspberry, and on nun in full gear sitting next to me in the dark gallery of the Empire Cinema among the needle freaks, the hippies and the beer fumes?

Huston has made many good films and

many bad ones, but never a failure, and this film of his called *Fat City* will still be in circulation when *The Godfather* is corn for late, late-night movie on switched-off TV.

When the Americans move within their own country and society they have made some brilliant films and never more so than when exploring their small towns and its societies. *A Member of the Wedding*, *The Heat of the Night* and a hundred other films have shown us the heartland of America, for the film crews move into the small community, fix it on film and then move out, and we are left with a record of one of the saddest nations on this earth. *Fat City* was shot in Stockton, California, an arid desert of dead streets, dim bars, back street gyms and sun-bleached houses.

DEADNESS

There is an American school of painting who have caught this dead area of American life and painted its silent sunburned street, and its small silent shops nailed down by their own shadows. There are no villains in Huston's *Fat City*, only hopeless men and women living out their lives with a small and vain hope that somewhere there is a small gain waiting for them. Two fighters, one past it, and one young and third-rate, act out their pointless lives in this forgotten town. The fighter's manager, the seconds, the promoter, the negroes, the alcoholic woman living from man to man, move in this sun-drenched dance of death in this town that we love to view yet will always avoid. It is a brilliant film that generation after generation will, nay must, see again and again, for Stacy Keach and Jeff Bridges as the two fighters and Susan Tyrrell as the drunken Oma act out their parts in huge areas of realities as they walk the streets of Stockton in California. We know that when they finished filming *The Godfather* they pulled down the sets for the play was now on film for the fun palaces, but when the film crew moves away from Stockton in California the sun will still drench its dusty streets and within the dim bars the drunks will still dream and in the boxing gyms the third raters will still train for a glory that will never be theirs.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

My Brother's Keeper? LETTER

Dear Comrades,

Whilst I wholeheartedly endorse the view expressed in FREEDOM editorial that every sane individual should do everything in his power to make our new 'invaders' welcome, I feel that the opposition amongst the people and press of Britain is overstressed.

I do not read the national press widely, nor do I listen to more than the bare news items broadcast by the BBC. The majority of the views I have heard show an eminently practical approach to a situation which could present problems. Measures must be taken to ensure that our immigrants are absorbed into our society—not in ways that swamp their individual tastes, but in economic, housing, and social and job-happiness. I gain the impression that the majority of the population do accept that we are responsible for our neighbours, and that very positive moves are being made to ensure as smooth a

reception as possible for people now homeless, entering a strange land, probably penniless. Britain, for all its faults (no need to enumerate them in FREEDOM!) is still a country chosen as home by, over the years, millions of both refugees and non-refugees from other lands.

We do have freedom to express our views—so have the anti-life lovers: in general, it is, over the years, the lovers of life and of humanity who gain their points, however frustrating those years of gradual compromise may be to those who hope for Utopia tomorrow. It will come; every word and action in the cause (not only the name) of love will bring it a step nearer. But—don't over-estimate those who, since the anti-life brigade grows ever smaller and is in the minority, shout the loudest.

Fraternally,

London

PEGGY KING.

Participatory Democracy

THE CASE FOR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY. Edited by C. George Benello and Dimitrios Roussopoulos. Grossman, \$15.

THE Case for Participatory Democracy, which was published in the United States last year, is a very expensive symposium edited by two of the leading figures in the Canadian group which has produced the quarterly magazine *Our Generation* for ten years. George Benello is best known here for his article on 'Wasteland Culture', first published in *Our Generation* and reprinted in *Anarchy* 88 and also as a separate pamphlet; Dimitri Roussopoulos was once known here as an active member of the international unilateralist movement and is now known as the editor of *The New Left in Canada*, a book published last year by Black Rose Books, the publishing side of *Our Generation*.

Benello and Roussopoulos complain that the phrase 'participatory democracy' has recently become fashionable, but only in a false sense: 'Those who uphold the status quo, in order not to disclose their intellectual and ideological barrenness, have usurped New Left rhetoric in an effort to swing with the style of ideas now emerging from the base of society. A book on the real meaning of participatory democracy is long overdue.' They have therefore assembled 21 essays by 19 contributors to reaffirm the true significance of participatory democracy.

The result is rather like a gigantic issue of *Anarchy* in the old days when it was edited by Colin Ward—an attempt to discover a libertarian consensus among middle-class radicals who are mainly active in education and social science, are neither liberals nor Marxists, and are dubious about both reform and revolution. Indeed three of the most interesting contributions did first appear in *Anarchy*—'The Cybernetics of Self-Organising Systems' by John D. McEwan, 'Towards Freedom in Work' by James Gillespie, and 'Towards a Liberatory Technology' by Murray Bookchin—and no doubt several more would have done so if Colin Ward had continued to edit it: especially his own essay on 'The Anarchist Contribution' (to the critique of the state).

Many other essays are good examples of the kind of material that used to appear in *Anarchy*—a rather vague

examination of 'The Yugoslav System of Decentralisation and Self-Management' by Gerry Hunnius; 'How Many Make Too Many?', a neat account of the problems of numbers of people in various activities by Arthur W. Chickering; 'The Human Material', a rather confused attack on biological views of man by Don Calhoun; 'Freedom as a Tool of Oppression', a rather abstract warning about the dangers of psychological rather than political oppression by Christian Bay.

Some of the essays seem too abstruse for ordinary readers—two by Benello, arguing for a return to small groups as the basis of society and for a libertarian organisation of such groups, are written in a sociological jargon which will be far above the heads of most people. On the other hand, some of the essays seem too elementary—George Woodcock's introductory survey of direct democracy from ancient Athens to the New Left strikes a superficial note which is out of key with the rest of the book; Roussopoulos's description of the small urban commune as the cell of future society growing within the organism of present society is attractive but too simplistic to carry much conviction; Sidney Lens's view of 'The Road to Power and Beyond' and John R. Seeley's view of 'Revulsion and Revolt: Revolution in Our Times' are both stridently banal; and even Martin Oppenheimer's analysis of 'The Limitations of Socialism' doesn't manage to say much more than that 'socialism from below' is a good thing. People who are interested enough in the subject to tackle a book like this will probably find such contributions rather disappointing.

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The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information. Groups should send latest addresses to Oxford. 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:

N.E. England: Mick Renwick, 34 Durham Road, Gateshead, Co. Durham.
East: E. Hertz, P. Newell, 'Aegaeus', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colechester. (Old, PL.)
Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.
Yorkshire: Trevor Savage, Flat 3, 35 Richmond Road, Leeds, 6.
Manchester: Mat Cunningham, 9 Briar Hill Avenue, Little Hulton, Worsley, Lancs.
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.

The refugee is hated everywhere,
For his misery . . .
Anglo-Saxon poem.

THE NEW BIGOTRY

And naked shingles of the world.

The good Matthew Arnold need not have worried. A new age of faith was due to come in on the tide. It no longer mattered whether or not you believed in the Real Presence or the Virgin Birth, or crossed yourself with two fingers or three, or threw the whole thing over and became a freethinker. The important thing was going to be your race or nationality, whether you were a Slav or a Teuton, an Irishman or an Englishman, a Black or a White. The men of the eighteenth century, the Age of Reason, had looked towards the time when all men would come together as citizens of the world, but this cosmopolitan attitude did not fit in with the aggressive imperial ambitions of the European and North American peoples.

Interestingly enough however of the two peoples destined first to feel the full weight of the new doctrines one was white, the Irish, the other was the Tasmanians. Everyone knows how the Irish were allowed to perish when the potato crops failed, and some Victorians said quite openly that the Celtic peoples were an out of date kind of European, doomed to disappear in any case sooner or later. It would be mere sentimentality to help them with free issues of corn, which was being profitably exported from Ireland at the time. The Tasmanians of course were simply regarded as wild animals and hunted to extinction.

Racism and nationalism go together. The First World War was a product of the new national spirit in Europe, and from it sprang Mussolini and Hitler, Fascism and Nazism, creeds of nation, race, blood and soil. The defeat of the Axis caused a brief set-back to racist and nationalist doctrines. For a while it became unfashionable to believe in superior and inferior peoples, but as we can see today this was a mere eddy in the current. There is a school of thought today which claims that one gains more advantage if one is defeated in war than if one is victorious. The revival of racist and nationalist doctrines would seem to suggest that this is correct, Hitler lost the war, but his ideas are more widely spread today, and more respectable than they were when he was alive.

JENSEN AND CO.

According to the *Guardian* (4.8.72), 'Support for the Jensenites [is coming] from a major slice of the American (and British) scientific establishments.' Jensen believes that Negroes are innately inferior to whites, and fifty 'very eminent' scientists have signed a resolution in his support, published in *The American Psychologist*. As often happens with people who already possess great power, but want more, and hope to win sympathy for their cause, the 'hereditarians' claim that they are being persecuted by those who believe that environmental factors are the more important in intellectual development. As one goes about the world, talking to ordinary people, one soon discovers that the 'hereditarians' far outnumber the 'environmentalists' among the population at large, and indeed most men and perhaps nearly all women are profoundly reactionary in their feelings. So that it is unlikely on the face of it that the 'environmentalists' are strong enough in numbers to persecute the 'hereditarians'. A minority can rarely persecute a majority, but the trick of pretending to be a victim, when in fact in a strong position that one wishes to make yet stronger, is one of the oldest dodges in politics. The 'hereditarians' seem already to have won over the writer of the *Guardian's* 'Miscellany' column, who is firmly on their side. The liberalism of the English liberal press is always somewhat dubious.

USEFUL SCAPEGOATS

The reaction of the illiberal sections of the British press, such as the *Daily Express* for example, to the admission of the Ugandan Asians, was of course no more than one would expect. One wonders why the British government, the most illiberal for a long time, agreed to admit the Asians. Since humanitarian feeling was unlikely to be the cause one must look elsewhere. Probably it was the realisation that the

economic situation was going to get worse and therefore it would be a good idea to have something to distract the public, some topic that would take their minds off real problems. If this is true it has turned out to be a shrewd move. The protesters say, 'What about unemployment and the housing shortage?' But they do not protest about these things. They do not come out on the streets and scream about them. They will turn out with a will however if it is a matter of attacking a helpless minority. This should surely tell us something.

THE WEAK ARE HATED

In almost all cases of persecution known to history it has been the weaker groups that have suffered. The strong do not persecute the strong. No doubt this is because the strong can defend themselves, but I think that there is a deeper reason. The strong are not resented, perhaps they are not even feared, the weak are, because they show what might happen to the strong one day. Antisemitism is much less respectable today, since the foundation of the state of Israel. The Jews themselves have become persecutors (of Arabs and non-conformist Jews), and have thereby 'joined the club', and proved themselves worthy of respect. When some African, imperialist state has invaded a part of Europe and devastated it, we shall hear no more of Jensen and his supporters in the Establishment. Ironically enough black people will probably become more popular with whites than they have ever been before. If this seems a nonsensical statement consider the present popularity of Nazi gear among young, and some not so young people. The Germans were defeated, but they were militarily strong, efficient and tough. They laid flat large areas of British cities. Now their helmets, daggers and other paraphernalia sell for high prices, and reproductions are manufactured for those unable to afford the originals.

WHITES ARE MADE VICTIMS TOO

If the Irish were among the first to suffer the effects of the new racial doctrines, with their pseudo-scientific basis, the next large body of victims were also impeccably European—the Jews of Germany and all those parts of Europe the Nazis reached. One might be able to explain away the earlier pogroms in Russia by saying that Russia was a backward country, dominated by the Greek Orthodox Church, but this soothing syrup cannot be applied to the German actions. Germany was (and is) one of the most technically advanced countries in the world. Its science is of the very latest and most up to date.

So that it will not do for white people to think, 'Ah well, it can't happen to me. I'm pale-skinned and fair-haired and all that.' Many European Jews were (and are) physically indistinguishable from other Europeans. There is no such thing as a Jewish race. Their fellow Europeans killed them just the same. The gypsies strictly speaking are the most perfect Aryans imaginable.

Continued on page 4

THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY to being the official religion of the Roman Empire, and subsequently of medieval Europe, introduced a new idea into European civilisation, namely that there could only be one true faith, and all those who did not adhere to it must be punished. It took Europeans many centuries to free themselves from this horrible notion, and it is not quite dead yet. The age of science which followed the age of religion seems by comparison much more enlightened and humane, yet it bore within itself the seeds of a new bigotry, as dreadful as that of the past.

By the nineteenth century the dominance of European and North American civilisation was complete, and the idea was fast developing that Europeans were innately superior to all other peoples, more intelligent from birth in fact. Darwinism was invoked to strengthen this idea. The Europeans were the fittest to survive, and had proved this by their steam engines, their improved medical knowledge and their many inventions which served to make life easier and safer.

The poet Matthew Arnold wrote:
The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full and round
earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle
furled.
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges
drear

Trouble at Mill

THE ARROW MILL SIT-IN. A Case for Shop Stewards in Textiles. Price 5p post paid from Bob Lees, 6 Coniston Avenue, Wernett, Oldham.

MOST TRADE UNIONISTS take the election and the work of shop stewards for granted. Shop stewards have become the very backbone of trade unionism and are a thorn in the flesh of both the employer and the executives of the trade unions. To those who read the *Daily Telegraph*, a shop steward is the devil incarnate.

However, members of the National Textile and Allied Workers' Union have no provision in their rules for the election of shop stewards. The pamphlet's reportage of the struggles at Arrow Mill in Rochdale, provides ample evidence of the need for shop stewards. It shows how the NTAUW acts as an employers' union giving little or no protection for its members. Arrow Mill is a story of poor conditions, low wages, speed up, shift work, sackings and victimisation.

Courtaulds, who own Arrow Mill, operate with the union a system of work's councillors. Although the councillors are elected by the men, and sit on a work's council, they have very few powers. Judging by the management's attitude at Arrow Mill, they have appointed who they wanted in the past, but when a councillor like Bro. Bamford tries to do a job of work for the men,

he is victimised and arrested by the police during a sit-in strike.

Most of the workers at Arrow Mill are Pakistanis. Courtaulds, with the union's able assistance, made pre-tax profits of £45,500,000 last year. Courtaulds have said they are not against shop stewards 'in principle'.

The union's bureaucracy has so far prevented attempts by members to change the union's rules about shop stewards. One member was expelled from the union for his involvement in the sit-in and for campaigning for shop stewards. Only legal action restored his membership and the union is now making another bid to expel him.

The NTAUW is against shop stewards because they might affect their power. A shop stewards' movement would threaten the control of the full-time union officials and the way they openly side with the employer. It would bring decision-making and power to the shop floor. The union is nothing but a dues-collecting agency giving trade union officials a soft job for life.

It is not surprising that the leader of the textile union, Joe King, is a member of the TUC and CBI's Conciliation Board.

This pamphlet is a useful reminder to all trade unionists who take shop stewards for granted and shows the appalling conditions in the textile industry.

P.T.

Houses—not Penthouses

A RECENTLY FORMED 'Redevelopment Action Group' is planning a campaign to prevent the building of luxury flats and office blocks when Morgan Crucible and Philips Mills move from their riverfront sites near Battersea Bridge. The group considers that in view of the grave housing shortage in the Borough and rapidly rising house prices, the sites should be used for Council housing. More than 2,000 people could be rehoused on the 16 acre sites, which would substantially reduce the massive 6,000 housing waiting list in Wandsworth. The housing gain on the two sites would be 100% since no displacement of existing tenants would be necessary.

The threat is that property developers, District and Suburban Properties, are planning luxury homes, studios and penthouses with health and sauna clubs on the Philips Mills site, and have already obtained outline planning permission from the Council. The building firm Wates is negotiating with Morgan Crucible for the redevelopment of the adjacent 11½ acre Morganite site. Architects Chapman Taylor and Partners have been commissioned to draw up plans for luxury flats and possibly offices and a marina, and will be seeking planning

permission in the near future. The Action Group believes that the Council's plan for a riverside walk is a poor exchange for giving up housing land to provide amenities for the rich.

They demand that:—

1. Plans of the development of the two sites should be made public, by exhibitions and meetings. This would ensure the public participation in community affairs originally promised by the Labour Council.
2. Planning permission should be refused to the property developers for luxury accommodation, especially as under the Housing Finance Act such development would undoubtedly raise local rents.
3. The Borough should take over the sites and redevelop them with Council housing and other amenities for the benefit of the local people.

The Action Group's campaign plans include the holding of public meetings, displays and demonstrations, and the group is working with local Tenants' Associations, the Tenants' Union and local Community groups. For further information please contact Eve Muir on 622 1753 or phone 228 2526/223 2223.

CRYING WOLF

BRIGADIER THOMPSON writing in the *Daily Telegraph* (28.8.72) on British Security in an article entitled 'Dealing with the wolf in the fold' has some interesting things to say.

His concern is internal security:—'near civil war in Northern Ireland, increasing violence in industrial disputes, intimidation of witnesses and workers, and general disregard by minority groups for the rule of law'. Brig. Thompson thinks Britain is particularly vulnerable to subversion, sabotage and insurgency due to dependency on massive exports. In his view 'if these facts were rammed home every term throughout the educational system we might be spared much futile social lionising by intellectuals and self-destructive action by trade unionists. Anarchy or a Marxist solution to our social problems would surely lead to mass starvation'.

Brig. Thompson wants to maintain 'our open society based on the rule of law, with individual freedom within the law, tolerance for minority opinion, and government by the consent of the majority'. He thus has a problem in dealing with 'extremist groups determined on undermining established institutions' whilst continuing support for 'our liberal institutions and the rule of law'.

A review is made of the forces of the State: the police who 'must be acceptable to the majority of citizens' and the army which 'needs no acceptance'. Thompson believes that 'for political reasons there is great diffidence in associating the police and the military in internal security exercises and discus-

sions' yet he contends 'in a period of crisis leading to the possibility of nuclear war there is likely to be organised protest, rioting and sabotage on a scale not previously seen' but 'the situation, though serious, should not be exaggerated'.

A few comments on Brig. Thompson's exposition might be worth making.

1. Internal security for the State cannot be maintained by 'liberal institutions' as Thompson acknowledges by reference to the Army needing 'no acceptance' and by speaking of teachers 'ramming home' the situation as he sees it into children's minds.

2. For a Marxist solution I have no defence but anarchy in Britain would be unlikely to lead to mass starvation since large-scale redistribution of wealth would mean a fair and just portion for everyone in accordance with their needs.

3. Confusing the issue by talking of nuclear war is diversionary nonsense.

4. The 'rule of law' is only 'the rule of the hierarchy'. Government by consent of the majority through elections has little influence on State power which backs the rule of law with force or the threat of force and, as Thompson says, needs no acceptance.

5. Someone's scared by the nature of the developing situation in Britain. But crying wolf to a small section of the revolt in our society ignores the causes of our discontent. We are the ones who are going to deal with those matters and Brig. Thompson won't know what the hell to do because he doesn't begin to understand what is going on.

J.W.



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Back in This World

THE NOTORIOUS law-abiding creep, Peter Gladstone Smith of the *Sunday Telegraph*, informs us that 'the Kray brothers in Parkhurst are reported to spend £2.50 a week on newspapers'. Without questioning how P.G.S. got round the Official Secrets Act to get this valuable information, one can ask other questions such as—does he mean 'each' or 'together'? Does this mean that the Krays earn over this? Or don't they smoke? Or have they got an organization going which works for them and pays over this huge sum (in prison earnings that is)? Without doubting P.G.S.'s figures I only question the possibility of being allowed so many newspapers—he obviously has got a figure for monthly periodicals included.

At the certainty of boring everybody to death I remember that about 1943 when I was first imprisoned newspapers were contraband and, of course, 'floating' copies found their way about the prison as contraband has a knack of doing. I was offered a copy of the *Daily Mirror* and young and priggish and cowardly as I then was (I am no longer young) I refused it since I would hate to be 'cased' for possession of such a journal.

Long ago I realized that newspapers were a narcotic and as I have been hooked for years, I thought that my long-impending prison spell would be a cold-turkey cure. I might even, like Tolstoy, kick the habit and emerge from jail a new, liberated individual.

However it was not long to be. For a week I was off the stuff and felt no withdrawal symptoms. However when I visited the library I found that one could become a registered addict and pay from one's earnings. The usual bureaucratic delays cut off the supply for another week and when I was finally feeding the habit supplies had a knack of breaking down through sheer inefficiency, which is one of the things that makes prison life almost bearable;

and incidentally one of the few evidences that it is run by human beings. The snarl-up over my supply of newspapers was so utter and complex that I left prison under the illusion that I owed them money.

However my newspaper reading in prison lacked the escapist value which one normally found. The reality of life was in this meal, this bed, this exercise, this shit (and I write literally) and by a strange irony—the big news stories were inside the prisons!

But on my return to this world I found, in fact, that despite all the momentary sensations (the release of the dockers, the invasion of the Bogside, the discovery that the Vice-Presidential candidate for the USA had had mental trouble), very little had changed. The Big stories—the dock strike, Northern Ireland, Vietnam, the American elections, the Middle East situation—had changed hardly at all in twenty-eight days, all were their old hopeless selves. One story, that of the Old Bailey 'Angry Brigade' trial had actually been suspended—for the holidays—unfortunately the Brixton sentences still continue.

In the light of my experiences, the press treatment of prison demonstrations has been laughable, the sinister implying of a Mafia-like organization forcing prisoners to riot and the threat of prison officers to go on strike are farcical. It is always implied that there must, in the nature of things, be some close-knit conspiracy to create dissension against British institutions—otherwise no one would dream of rioting, rebelling or striking. The idea that the work of a prison would cease, no meals, no late-night telly if the officers were not on duty is ridiculous, the officers do work to rule and they have a great big book of them. Just try stepping out of line. Rules are relaxed for the convenience of officers, not for the prisoners! As for the optimistic outlook of PROP

(Preservation of the Rights of Prisoners)—one may enquire—what rights? *The Times* (2.9.72) in an editorial put it more blandly but truthfully, 'Men do not enter prison by consent and their approval need not be required for their style of life there' or as it was more crudely put once 'You're here for punishment, not for nourishment!'

Prison interest in newsprint is the same as among the working-class anywhere. An interest in sport, crime (naturally), pin-ups and a little pornography finds its way around. Copies of a German publication famed for its pin-ups are faithfully bound and issued in the Library to non-German, non-readers. Cuttings about one's own case are carefully treasured and shown around, although cutting papers is officially forbidden.

One prisoner-friend on a drug charge showed me a brave letter in the local paper criticising the sentence he had received and the remarks of the magistrate that 'X' had made the pretty little Suffolk village 'a cesspool of iniquity'.

Other prison news is internal. Good

rumours are relished even more. The unheralded increase of 50% in the price of (Government) cigarette-papers—from one penny to one-and-a-half must have shipwrecked many precarious incomes. The remoteness of prison life from the life lived by *Times* readers is illustrated by a recent letter that because prisoners had set fire to their bedding obviously means of ignition must be provided. 'Might it not be as well to withdraw those means or even the cigarette ration?' it was asked. Perhaps the *Times* reader does not know of the latest prison invention (following the computer) of flints and tinder to produce a light or even the introduction of a piece of metal into an electric lamp socket to produce heat—not highly recommended!

Since I have been back in this world I have returned to my old drug-crazed newspaper reading and slowly my symptoms of a quickened pulse, a heightened awareness, intermittent comas and a tendency to giggle at the *Daily Telegraph* and vomit over the *Daily Express* are returning. I think I shall never recover.

JACK ROBINSON.

Progress - The End of the Road at Last?

THE FREETHINKER, the Secular Humanist Weekly, in an editorial on Saturday, August 26, questions the doctrine of Progress, and asks if perhaps we are heading for a tragedy instead of a technological Utopia. I find this staggering. For many years *The Freethinker* kept aloft the banner of Progress. After all, as the editorial points out 'the founder of this paper even ran a monthly called *Progress*. Progress, it was thought, was more or less inevitable so long as everybody contributed a fair share to the commonweal, and the term was loosely understood to mean an overall increase in living standards and the quality of life, coupled with an increasing liberalism, justice and efficiency in administration.'

In spite of two world wars and all their attendant horrors, the doctrine did survive, not only in the pages of *The Freethinker*, but among the majority of the population. The fact that *The Freethinker* has now questioned it shows what a tremendous shift in public feeling has taken place.

The reason that belief in Progress could survive the wars and persecutions of the twentieth century was that in some areas it was still going on, just as recently a Neolithic village was discovered still carrying happily on in the Philippines. In Britain conditions were improving during the 1950s and 1960s, and in other parts of Europe too.

So it was possible to say, 'Yes, world wars . . . very terrible. Mankind has not yet learned to master the problem of warfare, but in other spheres we are going ahead.'

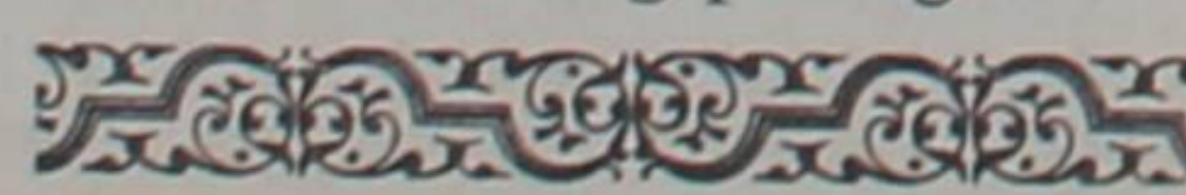
Now however the threat of the exhaustion of natural resources, the pollution of the environment and the population explosion, seem to indicate that peaceable progress is as dangerous to mankind as war. Also the Victorian belief that increased technological power somehow made people better morally speaking, is called in question.

'There has been general rejoicing, for example, at the finding of vast oil deposits in the North Sea which will mean Britain's virtual self-sufficiency in oil and perhaps natural gas. These will provide cheap sources of power for the public, and a considerable rise in living standards for some of the small Scottish coastal towns where the crude oil will be brought ashore and refined. The discovery will bring immediate material prosperity but whether it will, in the long term, bring progress is not so certain.' (My italics.)

The present writer in the past often had articles published in *FREEDOM*, in which he made statements similar to the above, and was regarded by his fellow anarchists as a gloomy crank. Ecology was not fashionable in the 1950s.



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



A nobler man than I would refrain from saying 'I told you so', but I am not strong enough to resist the temptation. I foresaw that the man-caused myxomatosis epidemic, enthusiastically supported by many at the time as a means of exterminating a pest, was the beginning of a major war of man against nature, and so it proved to be.

The Freethinker rightly avoids falling into the trap of mysticism, which the hippies, in revolt against our present abuse of science, tumble happily into. It also warns against the continuing power of the churches (the Catholic Church still opposes birth control, but the Lord will not provide). But at last this bastion of Victorian optimism has capitulated, and, although Progress was a noble idea in its day, like alchemy, astrology and other ancient beliefs, it has turned out in the long run to be false. And now it will, I suppose, gradually fade away.

ARTHUR W. ULOTH.

Bigots

Continued from page 3

Indo-European-speaking nomads they are the last representatives of a way of life lived by all the ancestral European peoples at one time. It did not save them.

The way Aryans can treat their fellow Aryans is shockingly revealed by the *Sunday Times* (3.9.72). Mrs. van der Schyff came with her family from South Africa to settle in England a year ago. Of course they are white. Black South Africans are not usually allowed to travel abroad. 'In February this year her husband was arrested and charged with fraud and since March has been on remand in Brixton prison awaiting trial.' Not only has the Home Office instructed the Social Security to suspend the payments on which she lives, it has also gone to the trouble to get in touch with the hospital where she had reserved a bed, on the National Health, because she is due to have a baby soon, and told them to cancel it. She is not entitled to it because she is an alien. She is presumably entitled, with her children, to starve to death or die in childbirth. No government has yet been able to punish people for dying.

A less ghastly, but quite distressing, example of the same kind of ethnocentrism was the case of Carol Sarrett, a baby born in Spain to an English barmaid working there. According to the old regulations, in force until last year, when her mother wished to return to England the child would travel on her passport. But now the regulations have been changed. At first it was thought that the child would be 'stateless', but now she is to be given Spanish citizenship.

The British authorities graciously stated that the mother would not of course be separated from her child. She could bring her to England and after five years apply for naturalisation for her.

In other words, wogs can be white.

THE BITER BIT

Australia has long been notorious for its 'White Australia' policy on immigration. The six Australian State

Contact

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Help Fold and Despatch 'FREEDOM' Thursdays from 2 p.m., followed by discussion at 7.30 p.m.

WEA Central London Evening Classes.

Beginning week September 25. There are ten subjects and most of the classes will be at 32 Tavistock Square, W.C.1. Write for details to Billsons, 33 Compton Road, N.1.

Italian comrade requires to borrow a bike for the second week in September. Or will buy second-hand motor-scooter for about £20.00. Contact Claudio Paterna, c/o Freedom Press.

100 Years of Libertarian Revolution: A Progress Report. Meeting to commemorate the St. Imier Congress of the First International. Sunday, September 10, 7.30 p.m., at the Centro Iberico (Trinity Church Hall, Holborn—opposite Holborn Tube). Libertarian Communist speakers from UK and the Continent. Organised by North London ORA.

ASA contact in SE England: c/o Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton.

British Society for Social Responsibility in Science. Community Science Conference. Contact H. Saddler, 70 Great Russell Street, W.C.1. 01-242 8535.

'Peace News' for theory and practice of non-violent revolution. £4.95 p.a. (students less 10%). Trial sub. 7 weeks for 50p with free M. Duane 'Biological Basis of Anarchism'. 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

Electro-Stencils made. 75p each. ORA, 68 Chingford Road, E.17.

'Inside Story' for the stories Fleet Street won't print. Sample copy 25p from 3 Belmont Road, London, S.W.4.

Gartree Prison, Leicestershire. Comrades interested in organizing picket in sympathy with prisoners contact Terry Phillips, 7 Cresswell Walk, Corby, Northants. Phone: Corby 66781.

Libertarian Aid Committee for the Hyde Park '3'. Visiting: Phone 677 1526 (Mrs. Carty). Letters-gifts (must have Prison No.): 110305 M. Callinan, 110281 L. Marcantonio, 110280 Stan Quinn. Donations: Mrs. Callinan, 59 Brondebury Villas, London, N.W.6.

Syndicalist Publications from Syndicalist Workers Federation, BCM-Box SWF, London, WC1V 6XX.

Stoke Newington 8 Trial. Send all aid to '8' Fund, Compendium Bookshop, 240 Camden High Street. Meals, fruit, papers, books (new ones only), cigarettes and money needed.

Governments have just complained to the Home Office about the discrimination against white Commonwealth citizens who wish to enter Britain.

An Australian official said, 'We are getting a growing volume of complaints about the treatment visitors are getting at sea and air ports. There seems to be no rhyme nor reason to it. A few weeks ago, twin sisters arrived at London. One was given permission to stay for a year by one immigration officer, but the man at the next desk gave her sister only three months.'

A young Australian girl was turned away altogether by an immigration official who hailed originally from Pakistan.

'There are far too many Australians here,' said the official severely.

The Australians pointed out the much greater freedom possessed by the citizens of Eire in entering Britain. Their indignation is shared by Canadian and New Zealand officials. Although so far they have had no satisfactory answer from the Home Office they intend to keep up the pressure.

And there you have it. I don't believe men and women are born 'in sin'. This is merely religious Jensenism. I believe they behave badly because they have been taught ideas which may in earlier ages have had some justification but which are now outdated, useless, harmful and evil in their effects. Race and nation are concepts which are now wholly bad, and people who have been brought up to respect them will behave badly and commit cruelties upon their fellow human beings.

JOHN BRENT.

This week in Ireland

THE SDLP are seeing Heath next week. There have been so many speculations as to their suggestions to be made IF Whitelaw's proposed meeting of parties on September 25 takes place (it will not unless ALL internees are released). I will wait to comment until they issue a statement themselves; however it does seem probable they will suggest some sort of condominium with Stormont, Westminster AND Leinster all represented. 'This will be violently opposed by the hard-line unionists who want nothing but the old Stormont back with full control of security, i.e. armed police, B Specials and a pogrom against the Catholic population.'

Monday's gun battle in the Ardoyne is veiled in lies and mystery. Over 1,000 rounds were fired. At first it was blamed (as usual) on the IRA, but they have categorically denied they had anything whatsoever to do with it. I don't like the IRA, but giving the Devil his due they DO speak the truth about their militant activities and own up

when they are responsible for fights. The next proposition, and offered by the army, was that extreme Protestants started it all. This is denied by the EPs but upheld by locals. Then the IRA (Provos) say it was agents provocateurs of the British Army.

Several schools are still occupied by the Army, including the 800-pupil secondary school in the Ardoyne, St. Genevieve's. The Army refuse to move out and have put up little prefabricated huts in the grounds for the pupils. The parents say it is far too dangerous to send their children to school while the Army is in it. Bishop Philbin had an interview yesterday with Challenger and is to have another today. Much bitterness is also engendered by the continued occupation of Casement Park by the Army, thus preventing the GGA from playing.

A young girl of 17, Anne Walsh, was arrested and kept seven days, being questioned continually and accused of being a member of the IRA. Her lawyer applied for an act of Habeas Corpus. Whereupon the child was immediately freed and no charge preferred.

The Newry branch of NICRA has had two of its members resign as a protest against the infiltration of Civil Rights by militants. Their action is approved by all NICRA. The vigilantes stopped a car and after being threatened by a gun were able to remove and briefly hold one man. The others drove away quickly. The man confessed he was a member of the SAS, this is denied by the Army who say the men were merely a plainclothes patrol. NICRA have asked Whitelaw to make a statement.

Down here there continues to be much disquiet about the Government's misappropriation of £72,000 subscribed for relief in the six counties, but they remain mum and keep the guilty ministers in office and sit tight themselves. I am sure any other country in the world would have screamed for a general election after such blatant dishonesty. The once-proposed coalition between Labour and Fianna Gael down here is petering out.

Robin Bailly, once Minister for Commerce under Faulkner, has resigned from the Unionist Party, the third cabinet minister to do so. Meanwhile bombs and sudden death go on unabated.

H.

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