

## WHEN THE WAR ENDS

THE Republican President, faithful to his pre-election promises, brought the futile Far Eastern war to an end. A war which was wasteful of American lives, destructive of the country and people they were 'liberating' and carrying nothing but defeat for both sides. Who would prophesy that both parts of the country will unite, that the Communist cult of personality in the North will merge peacefully with the 'democratic' South?

Since whatever is happening in Vietnam is a secret between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger (not even the North Vietnamese are being told!), the above paragraph is not an accurate forecast but a retelling of what happened in Korea. It is highly probable that this is what will happen.

The war in Vietnam has become a liability both to the United States and to North Vietnam and her quarrelling allies, Russia and China. If, as we are assured by both sides, it is a war of liberation—what is left to liberate, after bombs, napalm, defoliants and bulldozers have done their work? Who is there to liberate after North and South peoples have been wounded, tortured, killed and

imprisoned in the name of democracy and/or communism?

Even the profits have by now been taken out of the war by stockpiling and overproduction, the North especially must feel the pinch in that the money available for social reconstruction is eroded by war costs. Her debts, political, even if not financial, to Russia and China must some day require settlement. The social cost of the war in crime, corruption and prostitution is obvious in South Vietnam and has gradually become a factor in the United States' calculations.

The almost complete collapse of American military morale and the almost complete failure of the South Vietnamese to build up morale, both make it urgent for the US to pull out. Successive scandals, like the Lavell affair, the Calley court-martial have shown that even the top brass of the Army are no longer

under Presidential control. As for the GIs, the evidence of numerous Army dissent newspapers, statistics of drug-addiction, the persistence of 'fragging' (i.e. killing superior officers usually by fragmentation bombs), and the ever-ready presence of the absentee deserter.

In one of the innumerable papers for the dissident armed forces there is printed this mock (or real?) letter to a Congressman: 'Dear Congressman. I take pen in hand to complain about my Piece [i.e. gun]. After months of assiduous care and maintenance of the weapon (M.16), it failed to function at a crucial moment endangering my life and the lives of the other men in this company. Last night, at 0300 hours I had a clear unobstructed shot at the captain. To my chagrin the weapon misfired. It may be weeks before I get another crack at the bastard and in the meantime I

am subjected to the ridicule of my associates and can kiss goodbye the \$2,000 in the company pool. (Signed) One Mad GI.' Even if this letter is a joke it indicates a state of feeling in the American forces verging on complete mutiny and breakdown.

It has become increasingly obvious that the Americans cannot win the war in Vietnam—come to that, no one can. For one thing the Americans are waging the wrong kind of war. If the American State could wage guerilla warfare to win the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people, it would no longer be the United States capitalist military complex, but would hand over the land to the peasants—to pay the Vietnamese landlords adequate compensation (a truly liberal socialist gesture) would have cost less than the war.

Apart from Nixon's winning the election—and it is difficult to find anything apart from that—there is obviously plenty of work for American capital, and labour, in reconstructing South Vietnam from the shattered pieces. Additionally a truce, declaration of peace, or even an armistice will give a chance for America to reconstruct and help in North Vietnam. There will be those who, trapped in their ideological thinking, will 'pooh pooh' this thought as starry idealism. But who

reconstructed Germany—East and West? And Japan? These nations are now the leading technological and commercial powers in the world. The same could happen (alas!) to Vietnam.

As we started with a paragraph about Korea, it is fitting that we should end with what the contemporary editor (1952) wrote twenty years ago. With very little change it may all apply to Vietnam. 'FREEDOM has often drawn attention to the role of war as an institution, a permanent activity having a definite function in our society. We drew attention to the revivifying effects on trade at the beginning of hostilities. Since then, Korea must have absorbed a considerable amount of production. . . . In addition to its economic importance in a world forever on the edge of slump, Korea has proved an invaluable testing ground for both the United Nations, the Russian and the Chinese governments. The North and South Korean administrations have probably not learned anything valuable to them, but the great powers undoubtedly have.'

Now, twenty years later, North and South Korea are resolving their supposedly irreconcilable ideological differences. How long will it take North and South Vietnam?

JACK ROBINSON.

## Doing a George Brown

WITH THE SECOND knock-about show over at Blackpool, it is interesting to speculate just what contributions those in attendance at the Tory Conference actually make to society. One can presume that there were a fair number of delegates at the Labour Party Conference who were elected from the shop floor by their fellow workers. But with the Tories it is unlikely that any one of them spends their working lives producing or performing a service that is really useful to their fellow man.

That is why they are quick to condemn those who do produce and work at essential services. As soon as this section of the community withdraws its labour they are attacked for 'holding the country to ransom'. If they are able to win a substantial wage increase they are causing inflation. They have become envious of the power which workers have achieved by organising themselves.

When workers were organisationally weak, the same Tories felt no compunction in starving men and women back to work. When capital investment needed for a factory was low, it did not matter so much how long it stood idle. At a time when the capitalist system stumbled from boom to slump the Tory supporters only wanted your labour during the boom.

The same Tories who tell you that they believe in free enterprise, every man for himself, free play of market forces, minimum state intervention, will do and have done the opposite to safeguard and promote the profit motive system.

Mr. Heath's Government, when it first came to power, prided itself for its return to Conservative ideology. They believed firmly in the 'virtues of capitalism'. They wanted everyone to 'stand on their own feet'. All the 'lame ducks' would have to be killed off. Taxes were reduced, which only really helped the very well shod. Universal social benefits were either curtailed or abandoned. In fact controls, to allow the free market forces to exert themselves and provide a healthy economy with greater efficiency and increased investment, were lifted.

However, the realities of power soon made the Tories abandon these policies. Governing has nothing to do with ideologies and principles. The Government

has to provide a framework within which the capitalist system can best operate. Today that system needs the intervention of the State far more than it did in the past. The need for more checks and balances to control the flow of money, the level of unemployment, the subsidies for expanding industries. All this means State intervention.

Nowadays it is only the very small firms who really abhor State intervention. The Tories attacked the Labour Government for aiding ailing companies, now they have done the same thing. They attacked Mr. Wilson for his *In Place of Strife*. Now the Tories have the 'Industrial Relations Act'. The then George Brown's Prices and Incomes Policy was attacked and now the Tories are seeking the unions' co-operation on a similar plan. Nothing really changes because the system demands certain policies and Governments provide them. It was the Labour Party when they were in power who promoted and assisted the mergers and takeovers which were a necessary prelude to the entry into the Common Market. By doing this a Labour Government also started the 'shake out' which has led to the present high unemployment rate.

The faces and the labels of those in power change, but the same policies are carried out. Probably there has been more 'back door nationalisation' under the Tories than with the last Labour Government. This favourite jibe of the Tories has now become a sick joke for Tories who really believe there is a basic Conservative ideology.

The rank and file Tories, in my opinion, have a certain fear of the working class and the unions. A fear of the great unwashed. It is, unfortunately, misplaced. However, there are plenty of signs that workers are prepared to take on the employers and the State in order to fight for demands which they feel to be justified. This spirit is not found among the leadership of the trade unions. They, like the Government, are trying to solve the capitalist system's problems at the expense of their members. It is the non-producers, whether they are members of the general council of the TUC, Government Ministers, or the employers, who are seeking solutions for the producers to operate.

All sorts of figures for wage increases have been bandied about, but it is reported that four out of five of the

City's money men want a statutory wage freeze. As anarchists we think that, despite the Tories' abhorrence of State intervention, by the time this article appears in print the Government will have done just that. They are quite capable of doing a George Brown on the working people of this country.

A wage freeze would also allow the TUC and all union executives to point to a villain. The hurt cry could go up, 'It's not our fault, brothers, it's the Government's.' And, 'What can we do? It's the law.' The TUC would be assisted out of a difficult spot, because in their eagerness to act as statesmen, they had to put up alternatives to the Government's figures. With a wage freeze, all the blame can be passed on to the evil Tories, 'the traditional enemies of the workers'.

We might be wrong, but with their conference safely over and the start of a new Parliament, this week would be an ideal time to spring a statutory wage freeze.

The switching of policies by those in power illustrates the anarchists' view of Government and the State. Both administer the exploitation of man by man in order that a minority may live from the work of others. So that a few can have power and privilege and keep a majority under their subjection.

P.T.

## What Free Press?

THE HOWLS of indignation which reverberated from Lord Goodman, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association, to every not-so-humble Fleet Street hack at the suggestion by Anthony Wedgwood Benn that the Press is biased against what he called 'the working-class movement', is some indication of the strength of the hoary myth about our 'free Press' which is so conveniently perpetuated by journalists, editors and newspaper proprietors. The fact that Benn recanted after a comradely hand on his throat from Harold Wilson, and that he only really objects to criticism of the Labour Party in general and himself in particular is another matter!

Unfortunately, this much vaunted 'freedom' is merely the freedom of these people to decide what we can read and, if they have their way, what we think. The power of the Press barons to make or break politicians through their daily doses of triviality to dull the senses, mixed with the propaganda about 'the national interest', 'troublemakers in industry', 'our democratic way of life', etc., was clearly recognised by Wilson in his repudiation of Benn's remarks. He knows only too well that to be returned to power he needs the cynical support of another mind-bender like Hugh Cudlipp of the *Daily Mirror* to sell himself to the suckers. Such a successful hack can afford to believe in nothing but his own power to manipulate people—and make money.

The role that the gutter Press has played in moulding attitudes in recent times is only too evident. Racism has been made 'respectable' by hiding behind concern for the problems 'created' by coloured immigrants: all the problems of poor housing, etc., which, as the poor know to their cost, would be ignored if it were not for the racialist conclusions which can be drawn. Every group of low-paid workers who go on strike for a decent wage are denounced as 'greedy

bullies holding the country to ransom' from the screaming headlines to the editorial columns, and presumably the journalists are happy to write the kinds of lies and distortions which would do credit to Goebbels. The hacks who scream about 'violent pickets' provoke violent attacks on isolated workers—as in the cases of the power-workers and the railwaymen—and report the resultant incidents with glee. Denunciations of industrial action taken by printworkers causing the reader the dubious loss of his daily dose of poison is fine page-one stuff, but similar action by highly-paid journalists is reported in an inconspicuous corner somewhere—they see to that!

In a world where words like 'socialist' and 'democracy' have been robbed of their meaning by the politicians who have claimed them as their own, 'anarchist' used in anything but the popular abusive sense is still taboo and will remain so until we achieve a free society, or until anarchists abandon their principles. My local paper which is considered a liberal kind of a rag happily accepts advertisements from the Communist Party but will not accept others which include the word 'anarchist'. 'Libertarian' is acceptable and invariably brings forth the revealing response, 'How do you spell that?'

We hope the day will come when workers in the newspaper industry will refuse to allow themselves to be used to attack their fellow-workers and to prop up a corrupt system. In the meantime it is essential that everything is done to assure the continued survival of papers like FREEDOM to print the truth about those who struggle against exploitation and injustice, and to provide a platform for the idea that men and women are fit to control their own lives without governments, employers and all the other paraphernalia of authority.

TERRY PHILLIPS.

IT'S ALL A PLOT  
TOYNBEE HALL  
LECTURE ROOM  
— 7.45 p.m. —  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5  
A Documentary Reading  
presented by  
Friends of Freedom  
Admission 25p  
Tickets from Freedom Press  
Proceeds shared between  
FREEDOM PRESS FUND  
and  
STOKE NEWINGTON  
EIGHT FUND

# The Death of Innocence

AS OUR WAY of life becomes more sophisticated and as our technology yearly usurps the functions of the hand and the eye, we seek to salve our puritan disquiet by believing that there was a golden dawn of human innocence. We dream of fair women and the sun-bronzed savages one spear's length removed from God and a world whereon the grass was always green and the raging heavens but a gallery to applaud man, bare-footed, bowel free and master of his own destiny. But it was never so, little comrade, for men have always lived out their lives fearful of the morrow, conscious of their own death and ever ready, and rightly so, to deny nature and the quickening years access to their private world within the closed cell or the locked room. And cosmopolitan, technological man seeks out his private zoo of untainted primitives that they may continue to live out his dream fantasies in a controlled environment where, in exchange for disease-killing drugs, a well-balanced diet and competent and elementary schooling, the inmates of our human zoos act out the role of the noble savage.

Yet it can never be so, for not in a generation but in a single lifetime the ancient cultures and the old ways of life are rejected once the sociologist, the priest, the liberal politician or the recruiting sergeant have offered a more complex, more comfortable or more intriguing way of living. The mystic, the tourist and the don may protest at the loss of innocence but, given the choice of a short and brutal life, the seasons of near starvation and all its attendant fears, primitive man does not choose the greater evil when he settles for a centrally-heated council flat, a free library ticket and a pensionable job behind a Post Office counter.

I know, little comrade, the manifest

evils within our society but I am conscious that we, mean, fallible man, have, by virtue of the knowledge of our past, offered a way of living for the future of man that we believe is worthy of the human struggle. What we believe and how we act makes us the tools in the fashioning of that future. Without a belief in that future our lives are but brutish animal existences, therefore let us enjoy all the fruits of our age, let us fill the carnal husks of our bodies with any or every life-prolonging, pain-reducing drug. Let the tongue savour, the stomach accept and the bowels reject the manufactured factory foods rather than play puritan priest to the appetites, for when the body dies so dies the mind, and the tomb was never built as a debating chamber.

But of all cosmopolitan man's amusements or communal evils none is more vicious or so over-rationalised than his segregation of his fellow men for social or economic reasons. The Jew, the Gypsy, the Negro, the Indian, Protestant, Catholic, the aged poor, all have been allotted their area of overcrowded wasteland in the name of God, the banks and higher learning, and at the British Museum's Museum of Mankind at 6 Burlington Gardens, W.1, we have Eskimo Art.

## ESKIMO ART

The major part of this exhibition consists of Eskimo artifacts gathered by the Canadian Government while in the smaller room there is a collection of Eskimo bone carvings from the Sir Hans

Sloane collection. On the press day one tiptoed over the television cables, avoided the flapping notebooks, gazed with due awe at the Eskimo relations officers and wondered what would happen to all the photographs that the cameramen were flash-bulbing, for against the far wall stood the refreshments table. That day was whisky and Smoked Sliced Arctic Char, and, as we slowly and meaningfully drank ourselves into an alcoholic stupor on glass after glass of whisky, we listened to the spiel on the merits of Smoked Arctic Char, and we were told that it was a cross between salmon and trout and quickly became wormy, and the Eskimo fed it to his dogs, and we drank glass after glass of whisky and ate the Arctic Char with the rest of the seasoned free-loaders.

There all around us was case after guarded case of carved black stone, green mottled stone and dark grey stone, and one admired the strength and sure touch of the carvers in stone. Almost always it was of the Eskimo with his small child on his back or a bird or an animal native to the Eskimo way of life, and one ran one's finger along the massive carved stones by these native craftsmen. In the smaller room were the tiny carvings from soft whale-bone from Sir Hans Sloane's collection. Much, nay most of these, are of unknown origin, for they are work of the ancient Dorset culture, hidden for over a thousand years or more beneath the permafrost. About AD 1000 an eastward migration from Alaska gave place

to the tougher, cruder, Thule culture, and they left their carvings and their myths as part of Eskimo folklore. And one duly inspected this work in soft bone, and dreamed of an ancient and almost forgotten race, and then to the whisky, the Smoked Sliced Arctic Char and Bond Street again.

## AIRPORT ART

With most of the Town's dealers away at the International Market for Current Art in the New Fair Grounds Halle at Dusseldorf, one felt duty-bound to inspect Gimpel Fils new gallery at 30 Davies Street, W.1, for here were two boys who could now put Zurich and New York on their London business cards. The new gallery is bright and well-lit and filled with that sense of higher purpose that one finds in the better type of motor car showrooms, for art has its price, little comrade, yea, even as man has. There was no whisky and Smoked Sliced Arctic Char at Gimpel's, but a goodly display of Eskimo carvings for sale. One gave a sage nod to the carvings and to the back room where one believed the safe to be, and then continued to patrol the wards of those one has chosen to guide and protect.

And there it was at the Moss Gallery at 12 Bruton Street, W.1, another exhibition of Eskimo art. This Oriental gallery listened to the soft pleadings of Ian Clark, the former Cultural Counsellor at the Canadian High Commission, and agreed to display the prints of Parr. Parr was a crippled ex-hunter, and in that field he was, by Eskimo standards, rather small beer, but between 1961 and his death in 1969, in his seventies, he produced 32 prints. They are of a naive and childish beauty, such as an old man newly arrived at a new art form would produce, but what I find disquieting about them is that they are the acknowledged production of a number of skilled and professional hands, for the prints are the products of engraving, etching, stencil and various combinations of these methods. All that old Parr, the crippled Eskimo hunter, was called upon to do was to 'produce the drawing, which is then passed on to the print maker who carves the blocks, inks them and pulls the prints'. In other words we have a sophisticated art industry offering 'Eskimo Prints' in which the native son plays but a small part, for if we take old Parr's original drawings as works of art in themselves I would hold that they are of little value, for like much at the Eskimo Art exhibition at the Museum of Mankind they are, to quote a cynical viewer, Airport art.

Having questioned one aspect of these works one has then to do one's mental homework, and ask oneself how could a small group of nomadic people, using the most primitive of bone tools to cut their animal skins and shape their whale bones, produce the large rock carvings that have been shunted from Vancouver to Paris, Copenhagen, Leningrad and Moscow, before arriving in London as 'Eskimo Sculpture: Masterworks of the Canadian Arctic', and the answer is that no group of primitive nomadic people did produce this art school art, for it is no more than the common product of every sociological slum that our societies create when they take a nomadic group of primitive people and settle them around a government agency. A folk culture can only be produced by a primitive minority while in isolation, and it is conditioned by their way of life, their materials and their native tools and stone carving tools, for large stones and engraving and etching tools are no part of the way of life of the small Eskimo families fighting to live in that bleak and barren wilderness. All the Murphys and the Kellys on their State grants in the London art schools can never produce Irish art, only an addition to Westernised art, so too with any primitive tribe taken into care by a paternal government, for with the first teacher from the teachers' training college comes the Westernised tools of production, and all else is but a prostitution of ancient dreams, myths and forgotten folklore rediscovered by earnest sociologists, for a people who have lost their past and have no future.

With more enthusiasm than caution I argued my case to an official within the Students' Room of the Museum of Mankind, but as with the American Indian, the Canadian Eskimo and the Australian Aborigines, we are lost in a world of liberal but official misunderstanding, so back to the whisky and the Smoked Sliced Arctic Char.

## BEAUTY AND CHARM

Yet there is beauty and charm within the Town, for in the forbidding heights of Tooth & Sons' top floor gallery at 31 Bruton Street, W.1, are the paintings of Lilli Palmer. She was born in 1914, and we remember her as an actress of very great loveliness. Remember Vienna and each class will have their own selected memories. The music of Strauss canned from Hollywood for the blue tinted ancients of the tea room set, or the religion of Freud for the pseudo-intelligentsia, but for the romantic and the dreamers it was Lilli Palmer with her soft brown hair, dark melting eyes and hesitant English seducing the darkness from the cinema screens. She was the Vienna that we should have remembered.

A society in decay, with all its minor masters and warless officers dancing their frightened waltzes before Hitler's Walpurgis-night, and all we have to admire is the beauty and the talent of Lilli Palmer. She is the bane and the envy of the rank and file of Women's Lib, for she is alien to their cause by her very way of life, and many a butch neurotic must have rent her sweat shirt and snapped her girdle in bitter anger that one woman can combine beauty and talent and independence in her own living. Her figure paintings are strong and powerful works, for in her draftsmanship she captures the slouching sagging figure, and with her broad flat masses of colours she creates a depth of vision without any attempt at academic use of perspective. As for her landscapes, they are of little value, but as a figure painter she has earned the title of artist. She is Lilli Palmer who graced a last performance in the film *De Sade* in 1969, yet I think that she will be remembered in the noble company of the artists, for she is worthy of that title. But let us remember Vienna, little comrade, not for the music of Strauss, or the jargon of Freud, nay, not even for the beauty of Lilli Palmer's dark eyes and soft and gentle hesitant English, but in memory of the men and women of Vienna who, on February 15, 1934, fought and died in their working-class flats as the artillery of Colonel-General Schonburg-Hartenstein fired point blank into their homes on the orders of little Doctor Dollfuss, the Austrian Chancellor. It was a long war, my comrades, and on February 15, 1934, the working-class men and women of Vienna died as part of that vanguard. Honour their memory.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

# UNDERCURRENTS

'UNDERCURRENTS' is, to say the least, an unusual magazine. It arrives in a visually stimulating jamboree bag of assorted articles printed on sheets of varying size and colour, and is given a rough physical unity by the enclosure of the whole lot in an attractively designed folder. The result is good and aesthetically pleasing and makes the conventional stapled magazine seem dull and monotonous by comparison. There are sound organisational reasons behind this novel format too. Instead of the usual central typesetting of articles, *Undercurrents* encourages the sending of already typeset pieces by their authors and thereby eliminates some of the perhaps unwitting misinterpretations of editors and typesetters. It also reduces the costs of a non-profit-making publication relying on unpaid staff and voluntary helpers.

Content-wise, there seems to be no hard and fast ideology other than that articles should present a genuinely alternative solution to a contemporary technological or scientific problem. 'Science with a Human Face' leads the editorial to the first edition, which then goes on to highlight the anomaly that science and technology, potentially our deliverers from ignorance and oppression, have in fact conspired with the monopoly companies to create additional chains around our necks, chains that are somehow sanctified by an aura of 'objective truth'. In reality, this 'truth' is a falsehood and the only objective is one of further economic gain, an objective which demands the suppression of technological ideas more suited to alternative forms

of social organisation and which thereby pose a direct threat to the life source of mass industrial society.

Science too has been tainted with the perversion of its avaricious offspring, and has abandoned its original quest for truth in favour of arid attachments to nationalistic prestige and academic reputation. It has become arrogant as it must do in a status-orientated society, and its practitioners are steadily trying to forge for themselves an aluminium throne for the new elite. To quote: '*Undercurrents* believes it is possible to evolve a "sadder but wiser" science, a science which is aware of its limitations as well as its strengths, which will search the hitherto ignored areas of human experience for clues to a more meaningful and relevant synthesis than is dreamt of in our present philosophies.' Change the base level from which you start, cultivate a different soil, and watch strange and exciting new plants evolve.

Our own experience teaches us the intuitive truth of all this, and *Undercurrents* seeks to feed and stimulate our hazy awareness. It firmly brings science and technology to heel, subjects them to ethical considerations, and proceeds to build from this point a patchwork of original thought on our most urgent problems, a patchwork that may well expand into a comprehensive and new understanding of man in relation to himself and to his environment, and a patchwork that draws on many aspects of our total knowledge. Science doesn't exist in vacuum: it is dependent on and to a large extent reflects the aspi-

rations and preoccupations of the society which sustains it.


*Undercurrents* reflects very different considerations. For example, in the first issue is an article written by Dr. E. F. Schumacher originally produced for *Resurgence*. In this he attacks the contemporary belief that the 'soundest foundation for peace is universal prosperity' by analysing the ecological implications of the world power consumption needed to achieve this. The pollution problem, he concludes, would be apocalyptic and totally self-defeating, so a radical rethink becomes necessary. Shift the capitalist emphasis on greed and envy to the more neglected and palatable sides of man's nature, turn your backs on mass organisation and urban agglomeration (there's nothing 'inevitable' about either of these, though to hear economists and geographers talk you'd think there were), toss aside the idea that the economy is governed by fixed and immutable laws, and you hold in your hand the key to your own salvation. It's good stuff and it's a 'socio-political' problem written about from a different viewpoint. The more approaches the better.

On a different level altogether, in the second issue is a serious interview with Harold Bate—'Mr. Chickenshit'—a man whom the media had convinced me was little more than an interesting eccentric. Take a different approach and look at the implications of what he has achieved and suddenly the cartoon character assumes a human dimension and his ideas hold an import for us all. View through serious eyes his utilisation of chicken manure to manufacture methane gas and then run a cheaply converted car on it, learn of the pressure he's been under from the oil companies who obviously take him to be a threat, and this figure of fun suddenly becomes a beacon in the darkness, pointing the way forward.

Overall, then, *Undercurrents* looks like a good buy. Most of its more technical pieces are intelligible to the layman, and the majority of its articles overtly take account of the social implications of an idea. There's something in it for everyone—a section on the arts is included—and the individualistic presentation should appeal to all. Even if you don't read all the articles, there's almost guaranteed to be something to stimulate you, and it's well worth the 25p charged. I hope it succeeds in its aims and grows apace.

*Undercurrents* is obtainable from 34 Cholmley Gardens, Aldred Road, London NW6 1AG and a year's subscription (4 copies) costs £1.20 p.p.

*Resurgence* is available from 24 Abercorn Place, London, N.W.8, at a yearly subscription (6 copies) of £1.50 p.p.



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**ANARCHIST  
FEDERATION  
of BRITAIN**

## AFBIB—To all Groups.

AFBIB is produced at 34 Cowley Road, Oxford. Send all news, reports, subs., etc., to Oxford.

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.

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

Yorkshire: Trevor Savage, Flat 3, 35 Richmond Road, Leeds, 6.

Manchester: Matt Cunningham, 9 Briar Hill Avenue, Little Hulton, Worsley, Lancs.

Scotland: Secretary, Mike Malet, 1 Lynwood 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.

# WHY P.R.O.P.?

THIS ARTICLE could be seen to supplement a previous one, 'GAOL FEVER', related to recent PROP activities which appeared in FREEDOM (9.9.72). Anarchists are fundamentally opposed to the State so they more than most are conscious of what prisons represent. However, before setting down some sort of answer to the question under which this article appears, I think it fair, because FREEDOM is an Anarchist journal, to acknowledge the continued concern shown over the last few years, by those who have, in one way and another, helped to produce the monthly bulletin *Anarchist Black Flag* which concerned itself with the fate of 'political prisoners' wherever they happened to be imprisoned. I would not want it thought that the hard work and achievements of *Black Flag* have been ignored in any way by what follows. The only other point I wish to make—a suggestion really—in view of what follows, is that with the movement that has manifested itself in the prisons it may be necessary to reconsider whether the description 'political prisoner' is likely to prove, at least divisive. This might be a matter on which readers of FREEDOM might speculate... this article will take the matter no further.

Heading this article 'WHY PROP?' is, of course, quite deliberate. Stating the matter more accurately one should ask 'WHY PRESERVATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PRISONERS?' It's important to keep in mind what the abbreviation PROP stands for because although prisoners do enjoy some 'rights' and 'privileges' in theory, and sometimes in practice, those very same 'rights' and 'privileges' can easily be curtailed by the prison authorities with, or without, the knowledge, or agreement, of the Home Secretary.\* 'Preservation of the Rights of Prisoners' may sound conservative but of course the implementation of the prisoners' CHARTER OF RIGHTS will mean that the campaign as a whole will constitute a considerable gain in terms of freedom. On balance then the campaign will be expansive rather than preservative.

## PARLIAMENT NO SAFEGUARD

The 'rights' of people whether they are in prison or not are not guarded by Parliament, witness the long and extensive history of extra-Parliamentary agitation. Anyone who thinks that his or

\*This alone is sufficient reason for PROP's existence.

her 'rights' or 'civil liberties' and the mere existence of Parliament are indivisible (and there are those who appear to do so) is quite wrong. After all up until the earlier part of this century the majority of the prisons that exist today were already built. Parliament saw clearly that prisons came before Parliament and what's more a majority of the prisons came before political rights. The majority of the prisoners who were held in them were not deprived of their political rights on entry, for they never had any. Had they had political rights when they were imprisoned they would have been deprived of them—Parliament you can be sure had catered for every eventuality.

The political rights which we now 'enjoy' were not concessions which a paternal Parliament had been guarding, pending the maturity of the majority of the population. For centuries Parliament ignored or dismissed the political aspirations, agitations and demands of ordinary people (one recalls the criminal sanctions against trade unionists, and in view of recent events the situation ought to be doubly clear—and one recalls the contemptuous reactions inside Parliament towards Chartism). The present Home Secretary, Robert Carr, not unaware of these historical precedents or what eventually transpired, has, one could say, in spite of them, asserted that he will not recognise PROP. Nor will he implement the 'Prisoners' Charter of Rights' which forms the basis on which all PROP members and supporters, both prisoners and non-prisoners, are agitating. Prisons and Parliament alike have always been able to oppress people and the ongoing struggle for the 'Preservation of the Rights' of all prisoners is simply a continuation of the struggle which people have waged in the past against the privileges enjoyed by the few who were members of the 'self styled' Parliamentary elite.

## COLLECTIVE SOLIDARITY

Just as Parliament freed the five dockers it recently took hostage (that's a factual, not dramatic way of putting the case), because it recognised only too well what was happening on the streets and among the trade unions, so Carr, like Parliament, will eventually recognise PROP and its 'Prisoners' Charter of Rights' and more shortly, the Prisoners'

†The media has tried to discredit PROP's origins and very existence by defining it as a 'self styled organisation'.

Union. Reviewing the period of sit-ins and prison protests a writer in *Socialist Worker* (9.9.72) wrote, as an aside designed to counter the lies which the Press had printed about Prisoners' Union supporters, 'It is as well Bernie Steer is out now. Otherwise the prisoners' struggle would all have been put down to him.' Certainly a factor which the Home Secretary/Cabinet/Law Lords/Uncle Tom Cobley, the Official Solicitor and the Police may well have carefully considered, regarding the continued imprisonment of the 'PENTONVILLE FIVE', was the imminence of the 'PRISONERS' UNION NATIONAL STRIKE' scheduled for August 4.

PROP, in fact, is the more public manifestation of a continuing sense of self-awareness and collective solidarity that has been increasing among prisoners over the past four or five years at least. It's to be hoped that somebody well informed on the earlier period will write up the 'Inside Story', and thereby put the present Prisoners' Rights movement into perspective. Obviously a strong Prisoners' Union, whose demands will be rubber stamped by the Home Office, will not appear overnight. We on the outside are the prisoners' voices and we intend to make prisoners' demands heard. The Home Office's traditional silence about matters concerning the day-to-day fate of those it is holding captive will have to be broken. It was noted in the brief account of 'The Brixton Prison Riots' (*Black Flag*, June, 1972) that the Home Office only acknowledged the situation in Brixton because they could no longer deny it—so the conspiracy of silence can be broken. One of the results of having enveloped the prisons in a wall of silence is that it has conditioned people. People view them with a sense of awe and foreboding... you know the old line about people being apprehensive about the unknown. Add to this the alarming stereotype of the 'monstrous' and 'maniacal' criminal, and one begins to realise the extra-statutory problems that PROP will also have to counter. Not surprisingly the 'criminal stereotype' has flourished even among those agitating within the trade union movement. The spectre of the 'criminal' no less than the 'bomb throwing Anarchist' has been allowed to undermine solidarity among working people. (The State's propagation of these stereotypes to its own benefit, and the way it can use the criminal stereotype to counter political advances, is something I could expand on at some length but this is not the appropriate occasion.)

## ATTITUDES ARE CHANGING

However, attitudes are changing, despite the current onslaught, and PROP's campaign will ensure that the process continues, as indeed it must if prisoners are to get their rights. In almost every country in Europe prisoners are making their demands inside the gaols and continued and increasing support is coming from the outside too. (PROP is establishing international contacts.) Here in

Britain groups, whose ideological traditions have nurtured their continued indifference to those heaped into the State's prisons, are now re-evaluating their allegiances. *Red Mole*, the 'paper of the International Marxist Group' (18.9.72), carried a valuable discussion, 'THE PRISONERS REVOLT: Criminals or Militants' by Brian Slocock. The September 9 issue of the International Socialists' paper *Socialist Worker*, carried another useful discussion 'SOLIDARITY PAYS: THE WORKERS' MESSAGE REACHES THROUGH THE PRISON BARS' by Laurie Flynn. Both these papers, as FREEDOM readers will probably know, are read by militants usually preoccupied with activities around orthodox trade unionism, and although members of these organisations do not appear to have been in evidence at PROP meetings there can be little doubt that the message and concept of the 'PRISONERS' UNION' is seeping through.

The question 'WHY PROP?' may appear to suggest that PROP's emergence is a trifle sudden and quaint. Earlier comment has suggested that this is incorrect and in fact PROP could be seen as just a part of an emergent pattern of allegiances synthesising the old and the new. PROP has some direct contacts with orthodox Trade Unionism, besides the more pervasive examples referred to in the preceding paragraph. However the publication of the 'CLAIMANTS HANDBOOK FOR STRIKERS' by the Claimants' Union (printed by the Briant Colour Work-In Committee)—and the support which Claimants' Unions have given to strikers recently—is, hopefully, symptomatic of the wider matrix of changing allegiances. These new allegiances give strength and encouragement to those sections of the community most in need and should complement the 'PRISONERS' UNION' agitation, partly because many of the imprisoned members have dependants who have little means of support. The more support these dependants receive the greater strength they will have to withstand the short-term repression (solitary and loss of remission) which many prisoners (1,000 plus at present have been disciplined) will experience, without which initial sacrifices few, if any, political rights have ever been established.

To attain the 'PRISONERS' CHARTER OF RIGHTS' will be difficult and PROP needs all the support it can muster. Contrary to what the media has been asserting, PROP is not folding up nor does it have any intention of doing so. On NOVEMBER 24 a PUBLIC MEETING is taking place at Dame Colet House, Ben Jonson Road, London, E.1 (nearest tube station Stepney Green) at 7 p.m. Weekly meetings are held in North London (usually Wednesdays) and details can be had from Ted Ward (phone 607 2698). In addition a South London Prop Group has now been formed which meets at 7.30 p.m. on Thursdays at 81 Stonhouse Street, London, S.W.4 (nearest tube Clapham Common).

IAN CAMERON.

# THE DEFENCE TAKES THE STAND

THE PROSECUTION case against the eight young people accused of being members of the Angry Brigade was continued when the trial resumed after a month's adjournment on September 5, and was not concluded until October 3—more than four months after the trial began.

Towards the end of the case both Commander Ernest Bond and Detective Chief Superintendent Roy Habershon, the police officers in charge of the investigations, finally gave evidence which was interesting mainly because it contained nothing interesting. Both men gave away virtually nothing, even under repeated cross-examination, and refused to answer any questions that might illuminate the political aspects of the trial.

When the prosecution case ended, the judge directed that Christopher Bott should be acquitted on all the specific charges of possessing explosive substances or firearms; he still faces the general charge of conspiracy to cause explosions—though there is precious little evidence against him and several of the other defendants.

The defence case was opened on October 3 by Ian Macdonald, James Greenfield's barrister, with a very aggressive speech, claiming that the trial had been made a political one by the prosecution; since there is virtually no material evidence against any of the accused and indeed virtually no evidence at all to suggest who was responsible for the explosions in question, the political opinions of the eight accused have become crucially important to the prosecution case.

The four defendants who were living in the Amhurst Road flat at the time of the police raid in August 1971 have now given evidence, all strongly denying that the explosives were there before the raid and all insistently alleging that the police planted them to provide the necessary evidence. They have described their political activity before their arrest, mainly in industrial agitation, the claimants' movement, and women's liberation, and have stated that it did not involve explosions—though John Barker remarked on October 13 that he had met two members of the Angry Brigade during 1971.

The press coverage of the hearing has been rather better than before the adjournment, partly perhaps because of a very strongly expressed letter in the *Guardian* from Alex Comfort on September 9—to which the *Guardian* made the strange reply that 'it is impracticable (for news agencies as well as newspapers) to cover a trial continuously when it lasts for several months', although the Old Bailey is only five minutes' walk from the offices of the national newspapers and news agencies—but mainly because there is more acceptable news in the evidence for the defence than in that for the prosecution. The media are used to defendants denying that they are guilty of conspiracy, but not to policemen being accused of conspiracy themselves.

By contrast, the defence committee has not continued to produce regular bulletins of the proceedings, so that despite reports in *Time Out* it is difficult for outsiders to know what is going on.

CORRESPONDENT.

# POLITICS OF TRANSPORT

THE CAMPAIGN against the dominance of the motor car continues. Commitment, the society which is organising it in London, has arranged a rail trip by special train, which will circle London, including stops at Richmond, Woolwich Dockyard, South Tottenham, North Woolwich and Dalston Junction. The journey is to be enlivened with poetry readings, music and balloons. It is to be a follow up of the recent bike-in which (nearly) encircled London. The purpose is to demonstrate that one can go anywhere in London by rail, that is if there are trains running. The lines are still there and usable.

The excursion starts at 11.28 a.m. from Broad Street Station, the forgotten or little-known terminus of the North London Line, situated next door to Liverpool Street Station. Tickets can be obtained from Chris Parrish, 47 Beresford Road, St. Albans, Herts. (St. Albans 52381). They cost £1.25 each (75p for a child). Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The North London Line is a neglected railway. Originally it was planned as the nucleus of a railway network to do for North London what the Southern Railway has done for the South. But the development of bus transport discouraged its development, and it remains, limited in its services, its stations half

run down, but still ticking over, since it is so useful even as it is.

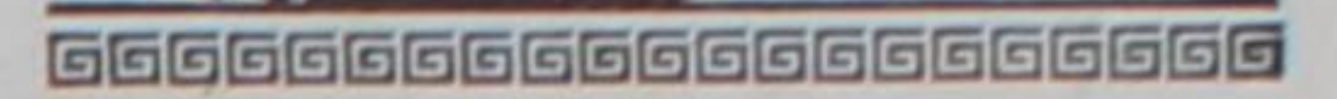
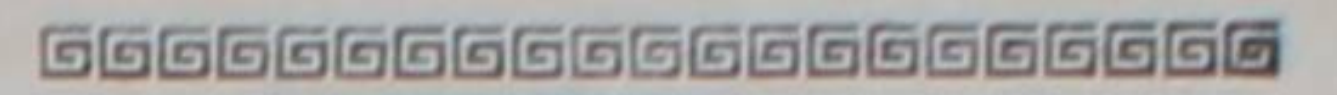
To encourage interest in this railway Hackney Citizens' Rights Group are producing a plastic overlay showing the North London Line, which can be stuck onto Underground Station maps. There is to be a meeting to discuss this at Centreprise, 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 2. The idea is to organise a stick-on or stick-in before the train excursion. Anyone interested please contact Tony Rogers, 37 Highbury Park, N.5, telephone: 226 3220.

Plans are also under way to organise a campaign in Camden, the purpose of which will be the creation of traffic lanes for buses and bicycles.

The closing of London roads to cars is going ahead, if only on a small scale as yet. There will be a meeting on November 25 to celebrate the closing of Albert Bridge, Battersea. It will start at 2.30 p.m., and culminate at 4 p.m. with the ritual beating to death of a car for intruding on the bridge and committing crimes against the environment. Bring your own hammer.

These things all cost time, effort and money. Offers of help and cash should be sent to Commitment, Commitment House, 26 Grosvenor Road, St. Albans, Herts.

A.W.U.



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## No Rent is Fair Rent

Dear Comrades,

Jack Robinson's article 'No Rent is Fair Rent' (FREEDOM, 30.9.72) was, I thought, very good. But why did he have to go and spoil it with such a weak ending by calling for a partial rent strike? Surely Jack knows that a partial rent strike won't do much good. As I see it the idea is not to scratch the (Un)Fair Rents Bill but to destroy it and the only way the tenants can do it is to go for a total rent and rates strike and if possible the full backing of the rank and file on the shop floor to back up the tenants with industrial action in the event of evictions or the threat of evictions. Jack's article would have been that bit better if it had ended with, rent and rates strike.

Yours,  
ANDY MCGOWAN.

REPLY: I would like to see a rent strike but it would be baying for the moon. The Tory policy of rebates is cunning enough to divide and conquer any proposed strike.—J.R.

## Plastic Shop Stewards

Dear Comrades,

Since Andy McGowan's article (FREEDOM, 14.10.72) I've taken the opportunity to have a talk with one of the Birds Eye shop stewards, Billy Costley, who was sacked because he took part in the demonstration in protest against the 'Fair

## Letters

Rents Act' in Liverpool on October 2.

On that day when they arrived home, they had received letters telling them that they (the two shop stewards) had been suspended with pay along with another 22 workers. They were issued with two letters, one from the company and the other from their union, which is the T&GWU.

The letter from the union told them that they had gone against the union's decision in taking part in the demo and would be answerable to them. The employer's letter was similar and stated that they would have to report to the personnel department at 10.30 a.m. the following day which was Tuesday, October 3. The normal procedure when you have a day off is to clock on with a pink card and report to the supervisor. But this was not allowed with the two stewards, because their letter stated that they had to report to the personnel department.

While in the presence of the shop stewards' convener they were asked why they were absent from work on the Monday. In reply to this they stated that they had attended a demonstration the day before. The management replied to this by telling the two shop stewards that they were sacked. The shop stewards' convener, Bobby Lamb, then asked, 'Isn't that a bit harsh? On what grounds?' To this the management replied, 'It is industrial misconduct.' And this was accepted by Bro. Lamb (definitely a plastic man).

The stewards were asked to vacate the premises. Was Bro. Lamb afraid to take industrial action by calling the workers of Birds Eye out on strike in support of the two shop stewards and the other 22 men? Yes, because he is afraid of making decisions like this! It's about time the workers of 'Birds Eye' recognised that Bro. Lamb and other stewards are nothing more than wolves in sheep's clothing.

Fraternally,  
MAY STONE.

## On Conferences

Dear Editors,

The bemusing pen of Jack Robinson trundles its way across the pages of FREEDOM again. We are now presented with the idea that conferences are a worthless experience in that anarchists should not communicate or decide things together because, he says: '... all party conferences—and anarchist conferences in my experience are no exception—are full of gas and promises.'

He also neatly lumps the Liberals, Labour, Tory, IS and ORA conferences into the same file, along with individual proverbial discussions that anarchists might have on telephones or elsewhere. Perhaps, at Mr. Robinson's suggestion, anarchists should not discuss things they consider important or perhaps elasto-plasticised mouths should be the badge

of our collective discussion. For Mr. Robinson this would be an excellent state of affairs, as not all anarchists have the opportunity of writing the frequent and gaseous editorials in FREEDOM that he does.

To criticise anarchists for having conferences—to imply their right to discuss in conference as hot air, and the same kind of hot air that comes from a Tory conference—is a bit too much of a smear to swallow.

To recall the gas of the last AFB conference (Liverpool, December 1970) we can recall Jack Robinson's most constructive non-gaseous contribution. Organisation was being debated when Jack Robinson arose to speak. He said (not verbatim):

'I'm tired of people relating to people and tired of being related to—I just don't want to relate' (forgetting that everyone long ago gave up relating to him and that, as he no longer related to anyone, he was to all purposes irrelevant).

The speech then proceeded to continue as a personal attack on a very hard-working Manchester anarcho-syndicalist by Jack telling us that, 'X had no sense of humour' and that...

'the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist movement had failed because it was organised.' (Jack Robinson knew better, by George if only he'd been there at the time it would have been different) and he continued to say...

'I don't want anarcho-syndicalists organising me' (forgetting that very few people would want him in any anarchist organisation). The speech then ended, and the conference drifted on to its pacifist-riddled end.

There has not been an anarchist AFB conference since (for obvious reasons). The large majority of those present now have local or regional conferences, or go to ASA or ORA conferences where they find they can have a reasonable quality of debate with good anarchist militants who consider the discussion and decision-making on practical and political work a valuable activity. They have also discovered that at these conferences they can avoid farts of gaseous trivia permeating their discussion, most of which has come from the like of Jack Robinson.

The anarchist movement has moved past the old fart-ins of the AFB to better grounds where discussion reaches a better level than the weekly gassings of Jack Robinson's leader articles in FREEDOM. ORA and other groupings will always have shit heaped on them by Jack, they will be trivialised by him, distorted by him because in the long and short term they are opposed to his political ideas and his political confusions.

Signed 'FRIENDS OF THE JACK ROBINSON COLUMN'.  
Alias TREVOR BAVAGE  
(An ORA Member).

## AMIN— Man of Our Time

Dear Editors,

John Brent is mistaken in comparing General Amin to Hitler and Stalin (FREEDOM, 7.10.72). No Asians have been driven into gas ovens and no purges of thousands of people have taken place in Uganda. As a dictator Amin is pretty much like the rest, in some ways he has a manner which is almost human, which is more than can be said of Franco, for instance.

Many Asians were disliked in Uganda because of their racial attitudes to Africans, who simply resented being exploited by capitalists. This is not something anarchists should decry. Also the British Government has only behaved reasonably for fear of the international consequences of refusing entrance to thousands of British passport holders, not for humanitarian reasons.

P.S. Tribalism, as such, is not always a negative community of Peoples. In fact the stateless tribes of Africa, the Tiv, Nuer and Ibo, together with the decentralist Kikuyu and Shona, are among those tribes anarchists could fruitfully study as possible models of our future social relationships.

John Brent replies:

Hitler did not begin by gassing the Jews. This was the Final Solution. First he tried to drive them out, but other countries would not accept them readily. Then the war started, which made expulsion impossible and brought a lot more Jews into his empire.

Amin may well be personally amiable. Hitler could be charming if he liked. Stalin also played the role of the rugged, tough old warrior, with a heart of gold under a harsh exterior.

Many Jews were disliked because of their racial exclusiveness. Some did well in business and were exploiters of

## This Week in Ireland

INTERNECINE QUARRELS on all sides of the divide, everyone saying everyone else is wrong and splits by the hundred thousand. I'd hate to try even to count the number of *soi-disant* political parties there are in Ireland now. Unionists screaming the same old 'Kill all the teagues!' cant at the Conservative Conference in Blackpool, and Whitelaw pretending he is so reasonable and moderate and fair to all. He is a dyed-in-the-wool Conservative under his sheepskin.

Clover Meats closing down, among other factories here, as the big monopolies take over and merge. More people redundant every day. Our Government really only caring about the EEC and the plums for their Cabinet in it. Let the poor eat cake. I was up in the six counties for the weekend for a discussion on the implications of the EEC and what we can do to counter the evil effects. Dundalk, when we went through, looked as if it had been bombed, though at first we thought it was extreme prods, we now learn

it was the SAS, Kitson's infamous men, who on his own words are being trained in Ireland as the time is coming when they will be used on strikers in Britain. They are trained like guard dogs to kill when they are ordered without thought or reason. Many of the inexplicable murders and explosions in the six counties are their work. So many people up there want an excuse to say, 'Look, everything has failed. We must go in and wipe out the teagues.' The minority are treated as if they were bedbugs. Newry looked like Dresden or Coventry.

The prods went on the rampage last night as the paras arrested some men one of whom they thought was Gusto Spence (actually it was his brother Willie). They (the prods) then went and attacked and burned a Catholic Church hacking the altar and tabernacle inside to bits, and desecrating the Host. You can imagine the effect of this on devout Catholics. Tonight there will inevitably be reprisals. So we go on. Insane, the lot of us. H.

## Bailiffs Join the Anarchists

I AM AN avid reader of the *Court Officer*, the monthly journal of the Court Officers' Association, a very respectable and law-abiding Trade Union for chief clerks of County Courts, ushers, supervising bailiffs and the like. I was, however, more than surprised when I opened my October issue, and saw the headline: 'Must We Align Ourselves With Anarchists?'

What followed was an irate letter from a Mr. Powell (!) of Nottingham County Court, complaining about the Court Officers' Association being affiliated to the TUC. He asked: 'How can an organisation of Civil Servants whose prime duty is to administer the law as efficiently as possible affiliate themselves to an organisation which supports five men who blatantly and deliberately flouted the law?' A very good question, Mr. Powell.

He then remarks: 'In being affiliated to the TUC, we are, at the best of times, associating ourselves with a fairly left-wing body. Now we are associating ourselves with Anarchists and Communists. Surely the members of this Association must see that, in doing so, we are doing ourselves a great disservice. ... Let us disassociate ourselves from this movement which is following a path which is so obviously opposed to our interests. We must disaffiliate

at the earliest opportunity.'

But, Mr. Powell, you are in for another shock!

The Court Officers' Association is presently balloting its members on the question of whether they should amalgamate with, and transfer their engagements to, the Civil and Public Services Association, formerly the Civil Service Clerical Association. The majority of the members of the COA are likely to vote 'yes', which will mean that Mr. Powell and his bailiff friends will then be members of yet another 'left-wing' organisation. The CPSA (CSCA) has always had a 'left-wing' leadership. The Communists have always been well-entrenched in the Union, as they have been in other former Civil Service and Post Office Unions such as the Society of Civil Servants, the POEU and the UPW. Indeed, the Civil Service Clerical Association at one time had a prominent member of the old SPGB as its general secretary. The supervising bailiffs and County Court chief clerks, including Mr. Powell of Nottingham County Court, should get on well with their new Union colleagues. Most of them supported the dockers, and were prepared to go on strike to get them out of jail—and, of course, Court!

RANK-AND-FILE TRADE UNIONIST.

## Armageddon, anyone?

IN A FEW MORE YEARS, lacking effective public action, this is how these [American] cities will look:

Central business districts in the heart of the city, surrounded by mixed areas of accelerating deterioration, will be partially protected by large numbers of people shopping or working in commercial buildings during daytime hours, plus a substantial police presence, and will be largely deserted, except for police patrols, during night-time hours.

High-rise apartment buildings and residential compounds, protected by private guards and security devices, will be fortified cells for upper middle and high-income populations living at prime locations in the city.

Suburban neighbourhoods, geographically far removed from the central city, will be protected mainly by economic homogeneity... homes will be fortified by an array of devices from window grilles to electronic surveillance equipment, armed citizen volunteers in cars will supplement inadequate police patrols in neighbourhoods closer to the central city.

High-speed, patrolled expressways will be sanitized corridors connecting safe areas, and private automobiles, taxicabs

and commercial vehicles will be routinely equipped with unbreakable glass, light armour and other security features. ... Armed guards will 'ride shotgun' on all forms of public transportation.

Streets and residential neighbourhoods in the central city will be unsafe in differing degrees, and the ghetto slum neighbourhoods will be places of terror, with widespread crime, perhaps entirely out of police control during night-time hours. Armed guards will protect all public facilities such as schools, libraries and playgrounds in these areas.

Between the unsafe, deteriorating central city on the one hand and the network of safe, prosperous areas and sanitized corridors on the other, there will be, not unnaturally, intensifying hatred and deepening division. Violence will increase further and the defensive response of the affluent will become still more elaborate.

From *To Establish Justice. To Ensure Domestic Tranquility*. Final Report of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence. US Government Printing Office, December 1969. Pages 44-5.

Reprinted in *Housing Action*, Scans Publications, September 1972.

Gentle workers or other, poorer Jews. The oppressed are sometimes quite detestable people. They still deserve consideration. The English are among the most arrogant people on earth. But they still deserve to be treated humanely. If whole ethnic groups are to be uprooted and driven from country to country because some of their members behave badly, there is no people on earth, except perhaps the Bushmen, who do not deserve exile or massacre. And

are there no black capitalists in Uganda?

Yes, I doubt that the British Government was moved by humane considerations. They admitted the Asians, without enthusiasm, out of policy. But the government of the Hitler period would not admit the Jewish refugees, without stringent conditions, and probably many died who might have been saved. No doubt it's the old story of doing the right thing for the wrong reason, but at any rate it was done this time, which is

# C

## ontact

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., followed by discussion at 7.30 p.m.

**Volunteers Wanted**, with theatrical experience preferred, for Anarchist project. Possibly November 5th, London. Quite legal and not a demo. Box 9, Freedom Press.

**Corby, November 10.** Public Meeting on 'Libertarian Education'. Speaker: Arthur Humphrey. Green Room, Civic Centre, 7.30 p.m. Contact Terry Phillips, 7 Cresswell Walk.

American comrades would like to hear from feminist and anarchist women in Britain and obtain info. on Women's Lib. Contact Siren, c/o Chicago Seed, 950 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614, USA.

**Libertarian Book Club Fall Lecture Series**, Thursdays, 7 p.m., 369 8th Avenue at 29th Street, New York: October 26, Olga Lang, 'The Problem of Conscience in Russian Literature'; November 9, Terry Perlin, 'Anarchism and Elitism'; November 23, Judith Malina and Julian Beck, 'Anarchism and Organization'; December 14, Murray Bookchin, 'Ecology and Anarchism'.

'Anarchy' magazine now at 29 Grosvenor Avenue, London, N.5, not 95 West Green Road. (Subscriptions still to Freedom Press.)

**Libertarian Women's Newsheet**. Comes out once every three weeks. From 68 Chingford Road, E.17, 3p plus postage.

**Subversity**. Student magazine produced by ORA. Copies 5p plus postage. Neil Hunt, 104 Bishopthorpe Road, York.

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**Anarchist Calendars 1973**, 10p each, 24p post from Kropotkin Lighthouse Publications, c/o Freedom Press.

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**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 Bronesbury Villas, London, N.W.6.

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something.

Tribalism can mean libertarian social institutions and mutual aid, but in modern conditions it can also be exploited by politicians. In Ghana there have recently been massive expulsions of those 'who did not fit into the tribal pattern', even when they had lived in the country all their lives. The British press have hardly mentioned this, why? And what on earth happened to the Ibos in Nigeria?