

NO MORE CRUMBS!

THE EASE with which the Conservative Government has managed to throw away its often quoted ideological opposition to a statutory wages and prices freeze should not surprise anarchists who realize that anything is possible when politicians are struggling for survival. The exaggerated distinction between the 'State control' of the Labour Party and the 'private enterprise' of the Conservative Party is quite unreal as State control becomes increasingly important for the smooth running of a capitalist economy by any government. Therefore, the corpse of the last Labour Government's wage freeze and prices and incomes policy is resurrected by Edward Heath who covers his embarrassment in a smokescreen of clichés about the 'national interest'. Harold Wilson raises his hands in horror at the Tory freeze and tries in vain to convince us that his wage freeze was an altogether superior variety. The result is merely to underline the futility of the political game with its meaningless choice of poisons.

Trade union militancy has in recent years managed to achieve small gains in real wages despite the way in which the capitalists' eternal quest for profit forces up prices and thus eats away purchasing power. The result is that State control of wages and prices—with the emphasis on wage control—is

acceptable to the capitalists because stabilized profits are more attractive than the serious risk of declining profits.

It has been clearly shown that working-class solidarity will not allow militant workers to be imprisoned under the Industrial Relations Act; nothing shows more clearly the role of the State as the defender of the rich and the oppressor of the poor. This is why the Government is so eager to do a deal with the union bureaucrats of the TUC who will then impose a 'voluntary' agreement on their members. Although the Government and the TUC have adopted suitably aggressive poses, and although the talks have temporarily broken down, there can be little doubt that an eventual deal is very likely as both react with fear to the increasing militancy of rank and file workers.

After the present freeze ends it is certain that further controls will be introduced, with or without the collaboration of the TUC. Indeed, authoritarian control of our working lives by the State and union bureaucrats is likely to grow if it is not

resisted now. Of course, the State has always defended and perpetuated the kind of society in which most of us are forced to do futile, boring work for the enrichment of others, but it has managed to maintain a facade of a generous benefactor pampering us with the benefits of the Welfare State. However, faced with militant trade unionism the State is increasingly forced to bare its oppressive face.

Past experience shows that from the Government's point of view a wages and (ineffective) prices freeze is an efficient means of cutting the living standards of workers in the short term, although it merely defers the day of reckoning and builds up pressure for wage demands

when the freeze ends. In the coming months it is certain that various groups of workers—with little or no official union support—will challenge the dictates of the State. The Press which is presently doing its best to show uncharacteristic concern for our interests with an unsuccessful quest for price-raising shopkeepers will turn its full capacity for hate and misrepresentation towards industrial militants. The hacks of Fleet Street will do their best to exploit the divisions between different groups of workers, and try to isolate those who have the courage to challenge the authority of the State. It is up to all of us to ensure that this Press campaign will not be successful.

For too long trade unionists have concerned themselves merely with struggling for increases in wages, with all the divisive differentials between one group of workers and another. The time is long overdue for us to raise our sights above the crumbs from the capitalists' table, above the drudgery of a lifetime's work as wage slaves. When we have the confidence to use our collective strength to throw off the authority of the State and all leaders we can start to build the good life of freedom, brotherhood and the joy of useful, creative labour freely undertaken.

Why not NOW?

TERRY PHILLIPS.

No More Rhodesian Bastards

GENERALLY THE WORD 'bastard' forms no part of the anarchist invective, but Sir Alec Douglas-Home in his recent reluctant sponsorship of a further instalment of sanctions against Rhodesia has made concessions which lower the bastardy rate in Rhodesia. He announced that 'there have been cases of persons of impeccable character who believed they were properly married but had discovered, often several years after the ceremony, that it was invalid and that any of their children during that time were illegitimate. That was totally wrong and must be put right [Conservative and Labour cheers]. Individuals innocent of political offences should not suffer. The Government had decided to put a stop to this unjust situation.'

This was not the only concession made by the Government to Rhodesians. Passports are to be issued for medical purposes; there is to be some relaxation of exchange control for the elderly, hardship cases and charities; increase of visitors' allowances and of money sent into Rhodesia. Whilst all these concessions are represented as easing personal hardships (it would be a stone-heart that would cavil at such measures) but they do serve to indicate a cracking of the sanctions 'freeze'.

The Times (10.11.72) says that the Conservative pro-Rhodesian lobby point out that it is probably the last time that sanctions would be imposed. On paper only 29 MPs voted against the renewal of the annual order but about 300 MPs (of both parties) were absent from a vote on what was once a very live political issue. In the House of Lords (in spite of a letter to *The Times* signed by 80 Conservative anti-sanction peers) only 43 peers voted against sanctions.

The usual idea is that sanctions are not harming the Rhodesian economy, but in the *Sunday Telegraph's* financial pages (generally financial pages are politically reliable) it is made plain that sanctions are harming Rhodesia's economy. The combination of apparent political indifference and Sir Alec's concessions, will no doubt open up the way for the end of sanctions.

Rhodesian Commentary and *African Times* are two publications of the Rhodesian Ministry of Information, Immigration and Tourism which tell in brief detail Rhodesian viewpoints and progress, presumably to inform, thereby encouraging tourism and immigration. Our appetite for information is not very well satisfied but such as there is does not impel us to tour or emigrate. For example, and examples must suffice, in July 1972 *Commentary* has a speech by Doctor C. E. Barlow in Parliament headlined 'Africans must change their

irresponsible ways'. Dr. Barlow says 'he had been appalled at the conditions in the African townships when he had visited them at night with the police—Africans lying under a few sheets of plastic or in holes in the banks of a river. And always being moved on. This was (Dr. Barlow went on) the end product that Africans would continue to experience while they continued in their irresponsible way.' He 'wanted Africans to have the same standards of homes and services as Europeans, but this was absolutely impossible unless the Africans reversed their present trend.'

In *Commentary* there are attacks on the Pearce Commission from Uncle Tom chiefs and success stories of natives who went 'back to the land' (*RC* and *AT* are always plugging the theme of going back to the land). *African Times* is running a competition on the theme of 'Be A Countryman', obviously designed to get people interested in going

into Tribal Trust Lands which, it is admitted at one point, contain a great deal of inferior land. '95% being spoiled by poor farming and the African population explosion' (*RC*, August 1972). Prospective farmers are warned by Senator Morris, 'I am well aware of the extended family system in your tribal structure where an individual may be called upon to support a host of distant relatives. But if you allow your farms to become over-populated as well as overstocked, you will be turning them into agricultural slums and your farms will be completely unproductive' (*African Times*, September 27, 1972).

The Minister of Education elsewhere (*Rhodesian Commentary*, October 1972) rather testily, in a paragraph headed 'Too many children', says 'Until African parents learn to control the size of their families there would always be a demand for more African primary schools and it

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CONTEMPT FOR THE LAW?

THE AMALGAMATED UNION of Engineering Workers has until November 21 to decide whether it will pay £5,000 fine for contempt of court imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court. The fine has been imposed because of the refusal by the Sudbury branch of the union, in Suffolk, to admit to membership a Mr. Goad who works at the CAV factory in the town. The union are in contempt because they did not attend the proceedings and in their absence Mr. Goad has been decreed a member of the union.

It is ironic that the courts of this country are now taking up the cases of people who want to become members of unions. In the past working people have suffered at the hands of the law because they joined together with fellow workers to form a union. But the case of Mr. Goad is an important and central point for many who oppose the Government's Industrial Relations Act. By denying the Sudbury branch of the AUEW the right to choose who they want as members, the Act attacks the very independence of the trade unions.

As anarchists who play an active part in the trade union movement know, the rules of the unions heavily favour the executive. They often give the executive dictatorial powers over the rank and file. But at the same time the branches should be able to accept who they want as a member. The members of a union branch should have this autonomy.

Mr. Goad in fact had been a member of the union but left after he refused to take part in an unofficial strike. That was in 1967 and in October last year he reapplied for membership. Understandably the members of the branch rejected his application. All this time he has continued to work at CAVs as a quality controller. Union members did not try to force him out of a job. But his determination to join the union however is not so much because he believes in trade unions but to be able to move to other departments and so gain experience necessary for promotion.

Before he worked at CAVs Mr. Goad was a full-time £8-a-week preacher for the Strict Baptists. He started work in a factory because he could not live on his salary from the church. No doubt

Mr. Goad is not anti-union as he says, but he admits to supporting the Act.

Far from really wanting to join the union purely from a moral standpoint, Mr. Goad's reasons are very materialistic. How he squares this with his Strict Baptist faith is both easy and hard to understand, depending on how sceptical you are about those professing to hold religious convictions.

The AUEW has maintained a total boycott of the Court and has refused voluntarily to pay the fine. If the union continues with this stand, commissioners will have to carry out the sequestration of union assets.

Mr. Scanlon, president of the AUEW, has said he is willing to go to jail rather than pay the fine. We applaud this stand by the AUEW but are doubtful whether it will end that way. The Transport and General Workers' Union paid their fine and have been attending sessions of the Industrial Relations Court. The TUC's retreat at the time of the railwaymen's dispute now allows unions to defend themselves. Those called are doing so rather than face contempt fines. But this co-operation is only tying the legal rope more tightly round the trade union neck. The Act is really the go-ahead for trade union leaders to clamp down on their militants.

It remains to be seen whether the executive of the AUEW changes its mind and pays up. Such action would be contrary to union policy agreed by members at their conference. If the Sudbury branch again refuse to accept Mr. Goad, further fines could be imposed.

In instances when a union and its members are in conflict with the law the only answer is expressions of solidarity from all trade unionists. Examples abound of the strength of industrial action when opposed to the law. The State will obviously avoid the jailing of a trade union leader if they can. But such an act should be the signal for countrywide direct action. The workers only answer to the Industrial Relations Act and the day-to-day exploitation is to stop the means by which the employers make their profits. Strength lies where we work and our ability to act together in solidarity.

P.T.

VICTIMISATION AT THE PRESS ASSOCIATION WHY NO ACTION FROM NATSOPA?

DO YOU KNOW that the Father of the Chapel at the Press Association (Mr. John Lawrence) was sacked on October 19 for being on strike with his Chapel members over a pay claim? Out of 220 members on strike the FOC was the only one to be sacked. Is this victimisation—or isn't it?

DO YOU KNOW that the London Clerical Branch of NATSOPA has twice instructed the Branch Secretary (Mr. John Lewis) to go into the PA and demand the FOC's reinstatement?

DO YOU KNOW that the General Secretary (Mr. Briginshaw) has twice set aside the Branch decision and told Mr. Lewis to make NO APPROACHES TO THE PA MANAGEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIMISED FOC?

DO YOU KNOW that the victimised FOC has now been out of work for a month without wages or dole money (he is disqualified from unemployment benefit as his dismissal comes under the heading of 'industrial misconduct')?

Is Lawrence to be victimised TWICE? The employer has already put the boot in. Are certain officials of NATSOPA planning to do likewise by expelling him?

Raise the question urgently with your own FOC. Demand to know . . .

WHAT IS GOING ON?

14.11.72

NED LUD (NATSOPA Member)

This leaflet is circulating in Fleet Street. We reproduce it as, in our opinion, it has a particular significance for trade unionists.

Facts are Sacred?

WE AGE into our adulthood accepting a number of platitudes as inspired truths. Of these, 'facts are sacred, comment is free' is one that has ruined more minority newspapers than any government secret police. If facts were sacred there would be little need for lawyers but facts are manifold and comment, given with head and hand high and eyes shining, is the only thing that is sacred. Every politician, every economist political hack will give you facts but we judge the truth within them by how much we trust and/or respect the man making the comment on those facts.

Roy Strong, of the tailored suits and the swanning hands, has, as Director of the National Portrait Gallery, turned the warren over to the *Sunday Times* that they should mount their 150th Anniversary of the national bladder within its galleries, and *Scene on Sunday* is their exhibition, seeking to cover four decades in the life of the country and the newspaper. *Scene on Sunday* can, as an exhibition, be included among the great non-events of the 1962-72 decade, for it fails, most abysmally, in portraying the inner history of a great national bladder.

Those responsible for the exhibition have gone far outside their brief, and, as with all inferior exhibitions of this type, they have filled their wall space with any historical junk of the periods they sought to cover.

INCOMPETENT

There is that incompetent style of historical writing that has now become an accepted joke, in which the writer, to cloak his meagre supply of information, dredges up any public writings from the press of the period under review, and we will have to read of who or what was playing at the local music-hall, the price of socks, the Parliamentary Bill of the day, and any other dross of irrelevant information to fill in the background of the author's chosen subject.

The *Sunday Times* have reversed this act, and instead of giving us a good and competent inside history of their paper they have turned the National Portrait Gallery into an inferior Blackpool side show. We have, and I can do no better than quote the official handout, 'Wellington's fears during the Reform riots, for instance, are epitomised in the dagger-umbrella he had made to protect himself. The crash of the R-101 meant death to British airship dreamers—some of its wreckage is on show. If Mr. Stanley raised his hat to Dr. Livingstone—here is the hat, and the doctor's. When Graham Bell visited Queen Victoria with his new-fangled invention, the story made interesting reading: the telephone itself is fascinating. In a score of similar ways reality approaches a little nearer', end of quote. If this exhibition had been mounted by the local scouts, or some drear teachers' training college activists, this, with sinking heart, is what we would expect to see. But the *Sunday Times* has wasted a great opportunity to do a service to the men and women who worked and created their paper.

LOST OPPORTUNITY

There is the exhibition and those who value the means of printed communication have a right and a reason to feel bitter concerning the lost opportunity that this exhibition has thrown

away. Its failure must surely lie in the simple 'fact' that one could leave the exhibits where they lay and merely by changing the title of the action or the paper reopen it the following month, for it is no more than instant history with the tiny thread of the name of a great newspaper to give it any slight validity.

From a platform of pure ignorance I would claim that Britain has as good a national press as any that the other countries of the world have to offer. It is informative and it entertains, and from the dock of the Old Bailey should come the cry that our national press have deliberately and knowingly suppressed the reporting of the men and women now standing trial in the matter of the Angry Brigade charges. But let us have no illusions about this, little comrade, that we have a national press that is corrupt, venial, fearful for its own safety and in the final choice ready to give way to the ultimate State authority. It is because it is corrupt that we are well served, for the press is no more than shit-house gossip of a more informed order, and all we can demand and strive for is an increase in the numbers of newspapers, for when dog eats dog in the circulation wars we will live high on the bone of inside information.

Show me a paper that is honest and uncorrupted, and you will show me no more than a house organ of some major industry, or the newspaper of a totalitarian society wherein all information is printed without comment, and has the official seal of official truth, for as the ancients say we had a happier society and better newspapers during the war and they were right, for within a society of official handouts there are no social worries, for the chosen facts fulfilled the purpose of a united society.

MAJESTIC CLANGER

So there is the *Sunday Times'* majestic clanger and one had a right and a duty to get stoned on the free handout of whisky at the press preview, but for the visiting paying public there will be no free whisky to dull the pain. I am of the Old School, LCC nine years out, and I have little use for the new type of newspaper proprietors all of the mode, Fabian-Society-Angry-Brigade-types calling Prime Ministers 'Mr. Prime Minister', slim-waisted, fashionably dressed and too busy to dine at the Palace.

I believe that the great days of newspaper proprietors lay back in the immediate past. They were a body of men whose like will never be seen again, except in the Soho pubs, for they were stark raving mad in the Grand Tradition, unlike the present-day neurotics, forever being psychoanalysed as part of their fringe benefits, and their lives and their thinking was made ugly by all the sad and odd little sexual peccadilloes that they acquired in some Kafka nursery of their miserable childhood. They scribbled notes to God to be sent via the night editors, they conspired with and they despised the politicians, who sold them their hereditary peerages, and they had incestuous relationships with sisterly looking, pathetic mistresses, for they were corrupt, mean-minded men who used their control of their newspaper to fight their own private sick battle that ranged within their disordered minds, and it was a time of great newspapers, for the reader had to be a cynic and

informed enough to examine and reject, and from that gay sewer of print flowered the best of the papers of the militant left.

We now have a responsible press, liberal-minded and informed, yet for all that we know no more than the readers of the old *Star, News* and *Standard*, for in the end the historians will turn to our Underground press and the papers of the type of *The News of the World* to form a realistic picture of our age, and if you believe that my judgement is wrong then let me turn to the *Sunday Times* organisation to confirm it, for in the current reprinting of the major stories of the past it is this very type of newspaper that they have to reprint. Meanwhile anyone who wishes to see Wellington's dagger-umbrella should visit the National Portrait Gallery.

LOST CAUSES

I have a great respect for lost causes and those who give them active support, and no gallery has carried the banner or the can better than the Situation Gallery, lost in a small yard called Horseshoe Yard, off Bond Street. The gallery is always empty as I gently drift in and out, and one never knows whether the bare and empty gallery is a new gesture by the art scene, or simply a bare and empty gallery. Howard Selina is holding court there at this moment, and he offers the Town and his bemused frau four huge frameless canvases. Howard left the RA School this summer, and this 24-year-old artist has given us his impression and interpretation of Leeds, New Forest, North London and the Yorkshire Dales. He has mixed the earth of each region with his paint before applying it, and each canvas seems to have little to differentiate it from the other three, for all four canvases are no more than a loose pattern of brush strokes in a single all-embracing silver grey.

Howard Selina must have spent many hours on these unframed canvases and

the Situation Gallery have found them worthy of a public exhibition, but in the end they are no more than a gallant gesture. It is a time of small losers, for at the Whitechapel Art Gallery next door to Freedom Press is DECADE, an exhibition of painting, sculpture and drawing in Britain 1940-49, and one can only wonder why the misery and the fury of those years by-passed the artists of that period. The work, almost without exception, is pretty, charming and superficial, and I would hold that the reason was that artists of that period were the tired back-lash of the enclosed society of middle-class artists, who now survive only through the Summer Show at the Royal Academy.

IGNORING THE WAR

The magazine *Horizon* was condemned by, among others, the Russian intelligentsia for ignoring the war, but this London magazine was right to do so, for nothing worthwhile in regards to writing or poetry came out of the Second World War, within the British scene. Writing and poetry was dominated by images of First World War barbed wire and trench warfare, and the war of fast movement left our poets and writers still trying to thumb a lift to glory. For the British painters it was a time of retreat and introspective navel searching, and their small and gentle talents were unworthy of the hours.

Only men like John Piper sought to come to terms with the age, but his small painterly world of broken and burning buildings became in the end no more than a backcloth for café memories. Only Henry Moore transcended his time and caught the image and the agony of the hour, but for the rest a sad record of men and women who retreated into a private world of sweet colours and two dimensional images.

Within the upper gallery at the Whitechapel is a retrospective exhibition of the works of Evelyn Williams. Her wax sculptures are brutal and bitter reflections. One breath away from death

she shares Elizabeth Frink's obsession with the decay of human mind and matter. The children stare with blind eyes and her lovers perform a ritual love-making within their wax frames. There were those, at this exhibition, who chose to turn their heads because of the subject matter, and in doing so denied the sympathy and the understanding with which Evelyn Williams had fashioned them.

APOLOGIES

For Una Stephenson and Alison M. Malet the must humble and chauvinist of apologies for knocking the militants of Women's Liberation, no matter what their sex. I swear on my honour that I did not mean a word that I wrote about them and I think, nay believe, nay know, that we are all beautiful and women more so, so please don't hit me any more.

For the record however I think of Women's Liberation movements as another good, solid, middle class, liberal cause. Every morning this week I have walked to work at four-thirty in the morning to my job as an unskilled labourer. At that time of the morning, and within the signing-on room there are eight to ten of us waiting to begin work, of whom four or five are women whose ages range from 20 to 60, and whose colours range from pale white to deep black. There is no segregation of the sexes at four-thirty in the morning. We do the same work, draw equal pay, are voted on and off union committees with never the question of a person's sex being brought into question, and these were conditions fought for and won by men and women within the union set-up. There is an economic level within the field and the factory where the battle for equal rights has been fought and is still being fought, and is being won, and as with all working-class battles the working class of men and women must and do fight it themselves.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

We're Staying Here!

TODAY THIS HOUSE—TOMORROW THE CITY (printed at 11 Hemingford Road, London, N.1, by the Community Press for the Nieuwmarkt Neighbourhood Action Group, Amsterdam, in collaboration with Islington Housing Research Action Group, London) 5p.

INTRODUCED WITH these words, 'This is the story of a struggle against "redevelopment", waged by the people of a neighbourhood which city planners had decided must be destroyed. Stimulated by a group of squatters they decided to resist...' this pamphlet takes us to the old Nieuwmarkt district of Amsterdam, and tells a tale of determined opposition, stretching over several years and at present neither victorious nor defeated.

The situation in Amsterdam is similar to that in London, but the Dutch seem less prone to the fatalistic 'you can't stop Them', or 'you can't stop Progress' philosophy, which has ensured that in England whole districts have been swept away without the flicker of resistance.

In contrast to the Nieuwmarkt, who liked their neighbourhood and wanted to stay there, most English people living in the old parts of cities seem only too keen to be moved to new estates—from the old slums to the new slums, whose bathrooms, hot water, central heating and "clean" surroundings disguise the inhumanity of the environment. No doubt, since the Dutch seem much better organisers than the English, an old Dutch working-class house is probably much more worthwhile defending. I remember some years ago walking in Amsterdam with a Dutch friend. 'Those are dirty old houses, and should come down,' he remarked, pointing to some quite attractive, and still quite new-looking buildings, across the road.

Anyhow, be that as it may, although at the beginning of the demolitions in 1965 there was the usual hopeless feeling of inevitability and little resistance, by 1968 resistance stiffened, and after three years and 150 homes demolished (and 300 people driven out), the destruction was temporarily halted.

At the same time the City Council had not given up its plans. A motorway was to be built through the district and an underground railway. What gave the council pause was the thought that if the old and picturesque parts of the town were to be demolished the tourists

would not come. But even financial profit sometimes gives way to the overwhelming demand of an ideology, no matter how irrational.

Consider the following statement, as mystifying as the Athanasian Creed:

'There is a social development that points in the direction of scale increases which are concentrated on business centres, offices, universities, hospital complexes, high density flats, shopping centres and sports complexes.'

There is no such thing as 'a social development' existing in its own right, like a god or a Stinerite 'spook', pointing like Duty or Lord Kitchener the way that all must go. Buildings are built or not as people desire. 'Development' does not build them.

When the demolitions were halted there were 130 houses left empty. Everything was done to destroy them inside so that they could not be inhabited, but young people, who had not a roof over their heads, moved in despite this, and more or less rebuilt the houses.

From then on to the present time the struggle has been continuous, with the squatters and the local people joining forces to defeat the demolition men and the police. It has been sometimes a violent battle, in which even firearms have been used against the forces of 'law and order'. The appearance on the scene of hippies, with their drugs and odd practices, was used by the authorities to drive a wedge between the original inhabitants and the serious squatters, on the 'divide and rule principle'. But at the time of writing it does not appear that the people of the Nieuwmarkt have been beaten.

Holland was the country which in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries waged a long war for survival against the forces of royal absolutism and the Counter-Reformation. It was also the first country where a citizen could openly

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belong to any religious sect or none.

The modern equivalent of the Spanish Empire and the Jesuits is monopoly capitalism and managerial authoritarianism, so perhaps we are witnessing the beginning of another century-long struggle in Europe, which let us hope will be equally victorious!

ARTHUR WARDO.

RHODESIA

Continued from page 1

would be impossible for the Government to provide them.' (Information by the Ministry: 'Many Africans have more than one wife.') We are not surprised to find that the Minister of Health said (August 1972) that staff at African hospitals would soon receive compulsory instruction on family planning. He accused African politicians of dragging politics into the issue and said, 'They seem to be happy to see people starve as long as they can step on their back to get into power.'

There is talk in these information sheets of the threat of Communism and 'our duty to our unsophisticated peoples'. A fund for victims of the Wankie colliery disaster (in which hundreds of miners were killed) and proposals to open up a new colliery on the site—'There has been no problem in recruiting labour' said a spokesman. There is an illustrated article on the Courtauld home (where have we heard that name before?), given to the nation. There is an account of clemency for 55 under death sentence—this for acts of terrorism or 'crimes of a political nature' has been commuted to life imprisonment.

It may be thought that with all this self-damning revelation of the state of things in Rhodesia the imposition of sanctions is quite justified against such a regime. However, from Britain's point of view all this opposition to Rhodesia and Ian Smith is on purely legalistic grounds that she is, technically, still a member of the Commonwealth and the unilateral declaration of independence is illegal, and she should still recognise the Queen. What is happening to the blacks is really no affair of the British Government, or the United Nations, for this is an internal matter. The Rhodesian regime is in the eyes of constitutional imperialist lawyers—a bastard.

However—all is not lost. *Rhodesian Commentary*, August 1972, informs a waiting world that 'Mr. Michael Jones, chairman of the Salisbury branch of the Rhodesian Heraldry and Genealogy Society, has returned from Britain and the Continent where experts felt that heraldry in Rhodesia was developing well.' No bars sinister?

JACK ROBINSON.



Secretary:
**Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,
 Rotton Park, Birmingham 16**

**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: 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.

Has FREEDOM a Future?

A PROGRAMME FOR 1973

FACED WITH the prospect of a deficit of at least £2,000 on FREEDOM for the current year (this is in addition to the accumulated deficit with which we started 1972), we have reluctantly decided that we cannot continue to publish a weekly FREEDOM in 1973 unless guarantees totalling £2,500 are forthcoming between now and the end of the year. This is, of course, in addition to the Press Fund which will remain at the same target figure of £1,500.

Those of you who have supported FREEDOM over the years by subscribing to the paper and to the Press Fund know that we are not given to crying wolf. Our financial situation is critical. The financial struggle to keep FREEDOM going during the past three years has virtually precluded any other publishing activity by FREEDOM PRESS. The 10-volume sets of *Anarchy* and the new edition of *Lessons of the Spanish Revolution* were published because we raised loans exceeding £2,000 (for which individual members of the group are responsible to the lenders) and though we have all but sold out a 3,000 edition of the Malatesta selections we are still indebted to our good anarchist friends of San Francisco to the tune of £500, the balance of the money they put up to print the book. We have had that amount and much more from the sales of the book, but it has been absorbed in keeping FREEDOM's creditors at bay. Most of these creditors are working people and we may be considered old fashioned and even bourgeois by some when we say that we are not prepared to involve our suppliers in financial risks without their prior consent, but the fact remains that without talking big, without proposing to take the place of Fleet Street, FREEDOM has been appearing as an anarchist weekly for the past twenty-one years, during which time it has paid neither editors nor contributors but has paid its bills AND issued about ONE THOUSAND numbers of FREEDOM. (The Alternative Press, so-called, tends to be more concerned with paying the editors and contributors than the printers, and after the initial splash—drowns in the wake of a £20,000 launch.)

Some of you may ask: Why the crisis after 21 years as a weekly and 86 years of existence? Firstly because unlike the ILP, the Fabians and other Establishment groups of the Left, FREEDOM PRESS have no investments, property, trusts or what have you, which automatically provide either an income or jobs, or even the obligation to justify them vis-a-vis the law. So let us make it quite clear to all and sundry that FREEDOM PRESS continues to operate as a functional group, concerned with propagating anarchist ideas on a voluntary basis but depending on the financial support of those who trust them to propagate these ideas. On this basis we appeal to our readers to guarantee a deficit (apart from the target of £1,500 for the Press Fund) of £2,500 between now and December 31 if we are to produce an issue of FREEDOM on January 6, 1973. This is not bluff or blackmail. It is pure fact.

There are three other reasons for

FREEDOM's 'crisis'. The first and obvious one is the escalation in production costs, which on the basis of our present circulation would, but for the fact that Express Printers print the paper, make it quite impossible for FREEDOM to be published. Secondly there has been a falling-off in paid circulation of our weekly in spite of the fact that by all reports the anarchist movement in this country—not to mention the USA, Canada and other English-speaking territories—is more vocal than it has ever been. It is obvious that there are more anarchist publications being issued than at any time, and relatively fewer people therefore willing to distribute FREEDOM. We also realise that the content of FREEDOM in the past few years has appealed less than it did to its international readership with a consequent falling off in subscriptions outside this country.

We will only deal briefly with the third reason: with what they call in business parlance 'bad debts'. We have written off, in the past five years, more than £3,000 in money owing to us for literature, arrears in subscriptions, cheques that 'bounced', etc. It is always difficult for a publishing group to refuse to supply new, enthusiastic groups with material for their propaganda when they appeal to us to help them to get going. But quite clearly we are not in a position to 'finance' groups and individuals and this must be understood by comrades.

Some of you may also ask whether we think the FREEDOM 'crisis' is a permanent financial problem to be faced each year by the paper's well-wishers or whether we have any plans for reducing the present financial imbalance. We are convinced that the circulation problem can be resolved by increasing the 'coverage' of the paper, and this we feel can only be achieved by increasing the number of pages. Therefore if the guarantees we are asking for will be forthcoming then on our part we will undertake to produce an 8-page FREEDOM next year with an outside 4-page FREEDOM which will seek to give wider coverage to International news as well as home affairs, and to include regular features each of which will have particular interest for different sections of our readership. Obviously we cannot produce a paper all of which will be equally interesting to all readers all the time!

Inside there will be a 4-page supplement which on one week of the month will be a 'FREEDOM-REVIEW' and will seek to review and discuss in depth books, pamphlets and periodicals that are being published in the world today and which are of direct interest to anarchists. The REVIEW supplement will include a section on the Arts, and we hope that this feature will also reflect an anarchist approach to the Arts.

On another week of the month the supplement will be 'FREEDOM-ANARCHIST FORUM' which we hope will quickly become an international anarchist forum where anarchists can discuss ideas, tactics, projects. This supplement will in fact be entirely written by our readers, and we hope to be able to arrange for the selection of material for the FORUM

to be made by a group outside the editorial group of FREEDOM.

On a third week of the month the supplement will be 'FREEDOM-ANARCHIST ANTHOLOGY'. We have long felt that it was time anarchists produced an anarchist anthology; everybody else is doing so, and most of them are quite unsatisfactory though better than nothing. Our aim is to produce a 20th century anarchist anthology, drawing on anarchist writings from contemporary sources all over the world. This supplement will be printed as a 16-page sheet of a book which readers will fold themselves and, at the end of each year they will have a 200-page book which they will be able to bind for themselves or have bound. (We may even be able to provide a do-it-yourself 'kit'!)

On the fourth week of the month the Supplement will be 'FREEDOM—Here and Now'. Again the success of this Supplement will depend on a large reader-participation. Its function will differ from the FORUM supplement in that whereas the latter will be more concerned with ideology, propaganda tactics towards the realisation of the social revolution, the HERE AND NOW supplement will be more involved with what anarchists can actually do here and now, outside the political parties and institutions, to improve the 'quality of life' (a phrase which is being used more and more in the 'affluent' half of the world, and reflects a *malaise* of the consumer society which anarchists should seek to encourage and develop in a positive manner). It is in this Supplement that we hope to publish valuable contributions from individuals and groups from all parts of the globe who are 'doing their own thing'; we must also publicise the positive things ordinary people are doing every day, as well as discuss in practical terms if and how anarchists can play a part in issues such as civil liberties, conservation, pollution of all kinds, free education outside the State system, Mutual Aid, work communities and 101 other initiatives which should concern anarchists, here and now.

Those four supplements in the month, twelve times a year make 48, and we are left with four supplements which will appear quarterly and will be the concern of the Anarchist Library which we hope to launch as an independent body in the course of 1973 and be available to our subscribers, and to students and researchers in 1974. Our aim is to link the Library activities with those of the International Centre for Anarchist Research (CIRA) in Lausanne. The 4 Library Supplements in 1973 will therefore seek to tell FREEDOM readers what we would like to do with the Library, give them an idea of the material so far accumulated, and possibly publish one major article of a bibliographical nature in each of the four issues. Last but not least we will seek financial support to develop this important aspect of anarchist propaganda.

Some of you after reading our project for FREEDOM 1973 apart from, we hope, approving of our 'programme', will ask how we expect to finance that lot! Our answer is that in the first place as already stated if we are to publish FREEDOM in 1973 as it is now we need guarantees totalling £2,500 before the end of this

year, and the prospect is that at the end of 1973 we will be making the same appeal. What we are proposing instead to our friends and comrades throughout the world is to produce the kind of paper which will appeal to all anarchists in the English-speaking world who will also feel sufficiently involved to introduce it to friends and sympathisers. And we think that the cost of the extra four pages will be covered not by doubling the subscription rates but by the 1,000 new subscriptions we intend to get, with your help, in 1973, and by a very modest increase in the subscription rates to FREEDOM.

On the present £3 annual subscription to FREEDOM we spend £1.30 on postage alone, which means that our subscribers pay a fraction over three new pence per copy. Assuming that postal rates are not increased in 1973 we are proposing to double the price of FREEDOM to 10p a copy but subscriptions will only be increased to £4.50 a year. For the benefit of groups we will be introducing bundle-subscriptions at very advantageous rates for short periods, which will suit our University comrades, as well as for long periods, which will we hope encourage groups. So that only the casual reader of FREEDOM need pay 10p for his copy of the new 8-page journal. Apart from the fact that our paper is not directed to the casual reader—we need regular readers in order to put over our ideas in depth—with a few notable exceptions the normal 'commercial channels' will not handle our paper on equal terms with others, but will only order it if they have orders, and this creates an enormous amount of administrative work for a very small number of copies and is a wasting valuable time which could be so much better employed. So, unlike the Alternative Press, which seeks its circulation and financial salvation in the good offices of the Wholesale Newspaper Distributors, we continue to pin all our hopes on our subscribers—that is our regular readers—for our purpose is not to produce a financially viable paper but to establish and maintain a relationship, and a dialogue with our readers. Obviously we are anxious that FREEDOM should be available in public and university libraries, that it should be read by journalists and publicists for this kind of circulation helps to bring us to the notice of sympathetic readers who might otherwise ignore our existence. But basically we have always depended financially and morally on our subscribers and they in turn, over the years, have reciprocated by trusting FREEDOM PRESS not only to honour its financial commitments to its subscribers, but to honour its commitment to the cause of Anarchy.

This programme to launch a better FREEDOM in 1973 as the positive alternative to suspending publication, is our response as a group to our paper's financial crisis. And it is to those of our readers who have over the years responded whenever danger threatened, and to those among our new readers who appreciate that FREEDOM has a future as well as a past, that we address this programme and financial appeal.

FREEDOM PRESS GROUP.



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

- The Floodgates of Anarchy
Stuart Christie
& Albert Meltzer £0.35 (5p)
- Deschooling Society
Ivan D. Illich £0.95 (5p)
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Leo Tolstoy £0.25 (3½p)
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Murray Bookchin £1.50 (8p)

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

Freedom Press

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Profits from Apartheid

SINCE THE PUBLISHERS of *South African Connection* won't send a review copy to me there is no way to do a review since the exorbitant price of £3.50 is too much for my pocket; yet it can be said that the book by Ruth First, Jonathan Steele and Christabel Gurney will be coming out in paperback next year... so it's a matter of waiting or getting your library to put the publication on their shelves.

However from the Anti-Apartheid Movement (89 Charlotte Street, W.1) can be obtained free of charge (send a donation) *The Role of Western Investment and the Apartheid Environment* which covers much useful information and is by Ruth First. A conclusion worthy of note is that 'Racialism has not been an impediment to capitalist exploitation in South Africa; on the contrary, it has been an essential function of it and has deepened its effectiveness'. From the pamphlets of some years ago, 'The Unholy Alliance' and 'The Collaborators', the anti-apartheid movement has always presented a well-documented account of British capital's vital stabilising power in Southern Africa. Its recent annual

report speaks of the campaign against investment and of 'the possibility of the British Steel Corporation hugely expanding its already considerable links with South Africa, by siting a new steel plant there'. This brings the question of apartheid very much to the trade unionists door because the BSC expansion in South Africa will undoubtedly lead to more redundancies in the UK and simply because African wages ensure a bigger profit to BSC.

Information to hand that the following firms are expanding in South Africa whilst laying off workers in the UK. British Leyland 900 laid off in Birmingham, GEC 1,200 laid off, Reckitt and Colman 250 workers laid off in Peterborough, Guest, Keen and Nettlefold closed a factory in Cwmbran New Town and laid off 1,000 workers, ICI laid off 285 workers in Welwyn Garden City at their plastic factory and 1,450 workers at their fibres division in Doncaster, International Computers Ltd. laid off 1,800 spread over Croydon, Belfast and Stevenage, Rio Tinto Zinc laid off 900 at Avonmouth. Reed Corporation, Dunlop, African Oxygen, Tube Invest-

ments, Joseph Lucas are also following the same trend.

Rio Tinto Zinc have 8% of their assets in South Africa but 42% of their profits come from the apartheid system which keeps African wages low. The same tendency exists with all British companies investing in South Africa. J.W.

INDIANS BREAK CAMP

THE AMERICAN INDIAN demonstrators have left the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, which they had occupied for a week to draw attention to their grievances. The present writer does not know if they secured any concessions from the government, but they certainly achieved publicity at the time of the presidential election.

They seem to have thoroughly wrecked the place anyway. They claim to have removed three lorry loads of government documents from the building during the period of their occupation, and before leaving they destroyed every piece of furniture and equipment in the building.

J.B.

PRESS FUND

Contributions

November 1-8 inc.

Long Island, USA: J.W. £1.95; Leicester: M.B. 50p; Cambridge: W.P.S. £2; Scarborough: J.F. 32p; London: O.B. 50p; Wolverhampton: J.L. 50p; J.K.W. 10p; London, S.W.1: A.E.G. 50p; London, S.W.19: D.T. 37p; Proceeds from 'It's all a plot' production at Toynbee Hall: £4.50.

TOTAL: £11.24

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

Amount received

to November 8 £2,455.68

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

Amount received

November 1-8 inc. £11.24

Previously acknowledged £1,152.27

TOTAL TO DATE £1,163.51

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, 1972

FREEDOM

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

Airmail

Europe & Middle East	1 year	£4.00
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	1 year	\$12.50
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ANARCHY

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

Airmail

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

IT IS DIFFICULT to understand the atmosphere of self-congratulation that the discovery of a possibly two-million-year-old proto-human skull has aroused. If mankind has been evolving for two million years one can only say the result is disappointing.

Richard Leakey, the discoverer, observes that man's evolutionary time-scale has been extended by two-thirds. So that what formerly seemed to be a rapid rate of development of the brain is now seen to be much slower. We should therefore be more cautious when we claim great adaptive capacities for man.

Probably '1470-Man' was slightly built, and there is no evidence that he was particularly ferocious. Those popular writers who think in terms of violent early man are probably in error.

While the writer of these lines is delighted with this last statement, he does not forget the earlier remark about adaptability. The horrors which surround us today are due not so much to that 'aggression' about which we hear such a lot, but to lack of adaptability, to the inability to exchange a cruel or futile policy for a humane one.

SON OF AMCHITKA

The Soviet Union last week carried out a nuclear bomb test, very similar to that carried out last year at Amchitka by the United States, at Semipalatinsk in Siberia. The blast was between 1 and 5 megatons, says the Uppsala Seismological Institute (Sweden). It may even have been more.

The Americans have their little bomb, and so the dear old Soviet Union must have one too. Never mind the dangers of earthquakes, the destruction of wild life and the threat to all humanity.

IT HAPPENS HERE

But let us not get too self-righteous about totalitarian countries, and their inability to adapt or change with the times. There are some mighty funny things going on in dear, sweet, liberal England.

As long ago as the eighteenth century the Marquis de Sade noted the way that

BE YOUR AGE!

England, despite a relatively enlightened regime at home, tended to work hand in glove with repressive foreign governments, like those of Spain or Portugal, in defence of 'British interests'.

This is still true today, in fact it is probably worse now. According to the *Sunday Times* (12.11.72), British immigration officials are sending back Ugandan Asians, who, although they possess Ugandan nationality and Ugandan passports, have lost their nerve presumably and fled to Britain.

General Amin has announced that they will not be welcome back and will have to face the consequences of 'running away'. Needless to say this does not bother the immigration officials, members of the species *homo inadaptabilis* to a man. (Else, why would they take up such a disgusting job in the first place?)

In returning these unfortunate people to Uganda, the British Government, with the tacit consent of the electorate, for, make no mistake, immigration controls were brought in in the first place in response to public demand, may have sent them to their deaths.

A liberal country thus acts in collusion with a tyranny.

ATTEMPTING TO ADAPT

Not all humans are so rigid and cruel as the Soviet leaders and their tame scientists, or the British electorate and their immigration officials. Some people, possibly only a small minority, are capable of changing their outlooks and going on from that to attempting to change the world.

The impact of the car on our environment has been a disaster. Some people believe that the answer lies in reviving interest in the railway, and for Saturday,

November 11, Commitment, the body which has previously organised 'bike-ins' through central London, organised an excursion by rail all round the city.

Beginning at Broad Street, the excursion train, decorated with coloured streamers and balloons, went the complete length of the semi-derelict North London Line to Richmond. After a pause here for refreshments, and some entertainment by people wearing devil masks or dressed as Red Indians, the train went by Southern Region to Woolwich Dockyard, where there were more refreshments and a band, which played the deafening music so popular with the

young.

After a rather long wait here another circuit was made, which ended up at the unbelievably desolate terminus of North Woolwich, opposite Woolwich Dockyard, more or less, but on the north side of the Thames. Here for the first time we saw some police, but were not molested. Finally we returned by the now closed-to-passengers, 'missing link' line (Stratford to Highbury and Islington), arriving back at Broad Street. We had been travelling from about 11.30 in the morning till 6 in the evening, although a fair amount of this time had been spent in waiting for the train to cross over, or to move on to still busy main lines.

This journey demonstrated that even today, despite the destruction of many branch lines and small and not so small stations, London still has an admirable network of lines, which, if they were used properly, could take people about everywhere, far more conveniently than the car, with less strain, less danger, less trouble altogether.

But will *homo inadaptabilis* give up his

VICTIMISATION AT THE PRESS ASSOCIATION

LETTER

Dear Editors,

All sorts of rumours are being spread among printworkers about the recent victimisation of John Lawrence, the Father of the Chapel at the Press Association. It is being said, for example, that he was not really victimised at all and that an inquiry is being set up to investigate some unspecified misdemeanours he is supposed to have committed and which had nothing to do with our recent ten-day strike over a pay claim. The *Socialist Worker* (in an otherwise sympathetic report) has lent credence to one of these rumours by asserting that John Lawrence has been 'suspended on full pay'.

In fact our FOC was, on the third day of the strike, sacked—without either notice or money in lieu—for alleged 'breach of contract' which was defined in his letter of dismissal as 'refusing to do the work for which you were employed'. As all 220 members of the NATSOPA Clerical Chapel were on strike and therefore 'refusing to do the work for which they were employed' and as only the FOC was sacked, this is one of the clearest cases of victimisation that has ever been.

Our strike ended on October 26 and

since that time the London Clerical Branch has twice decided to meet the PA management to seek the reinstatement of the FOC but their decisions have been set aside by Mr. Briginshaw, the General Secretary, who has so far given this Chapel no reason as to why he has thus prevented the Branch from acting on behalf of a victimised FOC.

The matter is now in the hands of the Executive Council which does not meet until December. Meanwhile John Lawrence remains unemployed without either wages or dole money as his dismissal comes under the heading of industrial misconduct.

Victimisation is a weapon used by employers for centuries to break those who fight for justice for working people. John is the latest in a long line of such victims. Those who try to cover up the brutality of his victimisation are no friends of the workers—even though they call themselves socialists and even hold high office in the Trade Unions.

Yours sincerely,

MIKE COOPER,
Deputy FOC,
Press Association
NATSOPA Clerical Chapel.

STOP THE SQUASH TOUR

IN SPITE of the cancellation of the 1970 Cricket Tour of Britain by a White South African team and the disastrous rugby tour by the Springboks, the Squash Rackets Association has extended an invitation to a Springbok Squash Team for a full tour of Britain with Test matches at Edgbaston, Sheffield and London. Squash in South Africa is organised along strict racial lines—all the white squash clubs being out of bounds to black South Africans. Black South Africans are not permitted to compete at the Provincial or National Championships.

We call on all those opposed to sports apartheid and the importation of sports racialism into Britain to protest against this tour.

These protests should be addressed to the Squash Rackets Association, 26 Park Crescent, London, W.1. Tel. 636 6901. Letters can be addressed to the President, Lt.-Col. Le Gros.

Demonstrations are already being planned by various groups at the different centres where the matches will be played. It is important that this tour be opposed with utmost vigour, to show to the sports establishment that South African racialist teams are not welcome in Britain, whether in squash, rugby, cricket, tennis or croquet.

FIXTURES

- 1972
Dec. 2 White S. African Team arrives.
Dec. 8- SA Whites compete in Amateur and Lansdowne Club, London.
Dec. 20 Championships at RAC Club, London.
Dec. 21 vs. Wales, Cardiff.
Dec. 23 vs. Britain, Edgbaston (TEST).
Dec. 27 vs. Ireland, Dublin.
Dec. 29 vs. Scotland, Edinburgh.
1973
Jan. 2 vs. Britain, Abbeydale Park, Sheffield (TEST).
Jan. 5 vs. Britain, RAC Club, London (TEST).

The *Guardian* of October 14 reported that two ranked British squash players are refusing to play against South Africa, as a protest against apartheid. They are Kim Bruce-Lockhart, who played for

Scotland against South Africa four years ago. The other is Rhodesian-born Mike Hepker.

'Squash is not only dragging its feet,' said Mr. Bruce-Lockhart, 'but it is being provocative in the opposite direction. It has not even discussed the matters it is involving itself in.' Mr. Hepker described the association's attitude as that 'of hypocrisy and humbug', and said: 'The threat of direct action will result in the tour being called off. It is a necessary evil. It wouldn't take much to disrupt the tour.'

We call on the Squash Rackets Association to cancel the tour on the grounds of fair play and sportsmanship, because it is a racially composed team which will greatly damage the good image of the game of squash.

More details from STST, 69 Blackfriars Road, London, S.E.1.

EXPLOITATION INSIDE

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE to escape exploitation of our labour, even in prison. While prisoners' families struggle to survive the State is making a handsome profit out of prisoners' labours.

Viscount Colville, Minister of State Home Office, described prison industries as 'a success story' when he recently announced a £500,000 profit for the last financial year. A considerable amount of work is sub-contracted for outside industry: 200 firms, including Rolls-Royce, have used prison industries and it is intended to expand this work. From last week goods have gone out under a new trademark, Prindus.

As long as prisons are allowed to exist we can, at least, take action to halt the gross exploitation of slave labour in prison.

BOYCOTT PRINDUS!

T.P.

darling car for a safe, convenient, non-destructive means of transport? And will Big Business let the car go without a struggle? I think it is hardly likely, and Commitment seems to think the same, for in its leaflet, published for the occasion, it looks forward to 'a long series of struggles' culminating in a full-scale 'confrontation' between conservationists on the one hand and both employers and trade unions on the other. If the conservationists are victorious there will be 'a reversal in the direction of technocratic society'.

I believe Commitment is right, and I would go further and say that the struggle against the technological religion (for it is nothing else) will probably end by being as bloody as any political conflict or religious war in the past.

JOHN BRENT.

Contact

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

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

David Waters, Tower E, Box 1005, Hempstead, New York 11551. Phone: 516 560-4941.

S.E. London Dwarfs meet on Sundays, 2 p.m., at 61B Granville Park, S.E.13. Community newspaper and Street Theatre Group in formation.

Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists. Contact Secretary for information, pamphlets, etc. 68A Chingford Road, London, E.17.

Coventry. People wanted to work on a free school and/or live communally with three adults and three kids. 37 Beaconsfield Road, Stoke, Coventry. 0203 452135.

Libertarian German Underground Papers can be ordered from Kommunikationszentrum, 45 Osnaabrück, Postfach 1641. One Parcel for 5 DM. or English Publications (Pamphlets and Underground Papers) in exchange. We would like to correspond with translators.

ORA North London. Meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at 68A Chingford Road, E.17.

Libertarian Book Club Fall Lecture Series, Thursdays, 7 p.m., 369 8th Avenue at 29th Street, New York; November 23, Judith Malina and Julian Beck, 'Anarchism and Organisation'; December 14, Murray Bookchin, 'Ecology and Anarchism'.

Harlech ASA. A group of anarchist-syndicalist alliance is now forming in Harlech, Merioneth, N. Wales; anyone interested in helping and supporting from the N. Wales area, please contact G. & B. Briggs, c/o Coleg Harlech, Harlech, Merioneth, N. Wales.

The Organisational Platform of the Libertarian Communists is now available plus other pamphlets from 68A Chingford Road, E.17.

Anarchist Calendars 1973, 10p each, 2½p post from Kropotkin Lighthouse Publications, c/o Freedom Press.

Translations wanted from Anarchist journals for FREEDOM. Languages needed are French, Italian, Spanish, German, Swedish, Japanese. Present translators please confirm. Get in touch with Eds.

PROP. Public Meeting at Dame Colet House, Ben Jonson Road, Stepney Green, E.1, on November 24 at 7 p.m.

Brighton Anarchist Group. New secretary is Roy Carr-Hill, 2nd Floor, 29 St. Micheals Place, Brighton (0273 25546).

'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.

Michael Tobin Defence Committee, c/o 265 Dale Street, Chatham, Kent.

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.

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.

It's all a Plot

Review

THIRTY-FIVE people had the pleasure of listening to this timely reading, which began after the pubs opened and ended before they closed. Seven comrades read extracts from accounts of nearly twenty conspiracies in history, while another linked them by brief commentary. The plots ranged far and wide: starting with Guy Fawkes, then an obscure but all too typically vile case of antisemitism in Hungary in the 1880s, via the Dreyfus frame-up, Titus Oates and the anti-Catholic plot, the founding of the British police heralded by their professional informer network, Oliver the stooge, Bent the informer (yes, Bent), The Cato Street Conspiracy of 1820, a short account of Donald Room's interrogation read by himself, an extract from G. K. Chesterton's pendant and lunatic novel *The Man Who Was Thursday* about anarchists who were all—yes, all of you, comrades—police informers, through the manic Nechaev to Trotsky on the Moscow Trials, Kronstadt, the Haymarket massacre, ending with a letter from Vanzetti to his daughter.

Every moment was enjoyable, dotted with odd facts I didn't know like the founding of Special Branch in 1884 as the Special Irish Branch. The account of an amazing 8-hour court performance in 1820 by the imaginative police informer Castle was, to borrow the words of an ancient apoplectic stalwart of my union, 'so Victorian as to be not untrue'. It was hilarious as well as salutary. When we hear Bakunin describe Nechaev as 'ambitious, because he has come to identify the revolutionary cause with his own personality', we think of many others, not least of Stalin. The concluding words at the Moscow Trials of Prosecutor Vyshinsky, who was to Stalinism what Fouquier-Thinville was to the French Revolution, will always be horrific: 'I demand that dogs which have gone mad should be shot, all of them!'

You may wonder what Kronstadt was doing in a compilation of conspiracies. Well, whitewashing the Bolshevik villains who ordered the rebels to be 'shot like partridges' was indeed part of a Bolshevik conspiracy against the truth; but the campaign of rewriting Soviet history and suppressing the truth went on so long, had so many aspects and so many millions of victims that we have to raise a cheer for other victims too, and nearer our own times. Those who are interested in the fate of Russian dissidents now and in the morality of psy-

chiatrists, should read what Major-General Grigorenko had to say about his continuing imprisonment, as well as the article in the current *Inside Story* number 6 on Soviet 'mental health'. (Will someone define health for me? In my experience doctors of all kinds only spring to life when I tell them I'm ill, or when my boss tells them I'm ill.)

Another trouble with anarchists talking about Sacco and Vanzetti and Kronstadt is that they assume with the air of Mr. Cheeryble that all has been said and read on the subject by other anarchists. Some of us were not there, comrade.

The same could be said about Donald Room's testimony, which was the most vital as well as the only present-day testimony. Thank God he was there, to inject a note of contemporary insanity into the proceedings. This was the reading which blew the dust off all the others. It was the only one which breathed the air of the trial of the Stoke Newington 9. But who remembers Inspector Challenger now? All we have to go on is a rather feeble liberal Penguin Special called *The Challenger Case* by Mary Grigg (which is out of print anyway). Donald Room's own account in *Anarchy* raises the basic questions: What are the police for? What are their methods? What is a 'good' policeman? The Challenger Case is what conspiracy is all about, and it should have been the last word tonight, instead of the reading of the Vanzetti letter, which alas oozed not poignancy but the sentimentality of *Modern Times'* Charlie Chaplin. Or Nicolas Walter's accounts in *FREEDOM* of the Prescott-Purdie frame-up, or the Cambridge Trial, to name only the most obvious political-judicial plots of the last few years. From these accounts and from *The Bust Book*, and the Black Book of the Political Police in Britain, we get a clear hard idea of what plots are about, of what the Stoke Newington 9 trial is about. Less hagiography, more contemporaneity please. JULIUS.

To imagine that contemporary events are more 'real' than historical events is an illusion. 'It's A Plot' was intended to demonstrate that the basic situations—man versus authority which is determined by any means fair or foul to imprison, repress or eliminate him—changes very little. Certain principles are basic to all conspiracies. The use made by police spies of conspiracies is a factor common to all the extracts.

THE COMPILER.