

BUTTER IN THE WORKS

ANARCHY ELECTED!

"WHAT DAY OF THE MONTH IS IT?" HE SAID TURNING TO ALICE: HE HAD TAKEN HIS WATCH OUT OF HIS POCKET, AND WAS LOOKING AT IT UNEASILY, SHAKING IT EVERY NOW AND THEN, AND HOLDING IT TO HIS EAR. ALICE CONSIDERED A LITTLE AND THEN SAID, "THE FOURTH". "TWO DAYS WRONG!" SIGHED THE HATTER. "I TOLD YOU BUTTER WOULDN'T SUIT THE WORKS!" HE ADDED LOOKING ANGRILY AT THE MARCH HARE. "IT WAS THE BEST BUTTER, YOU KNOW." THE MARCH HARE MEEKLY REPLIED. "YES, BUT SOME CRUMBS MUST HAVE GOT IN AS WELL," THE HATTER GRUMLED. "YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT IT IN WITH A BREAD-KNIFE".

(Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll.)

THERE ARE TIMES when compared to present-day political and economic events Alice in Wonderland sounds like downright common-sense. The recent episode of the sale of a "mountain" of 200,000 tons of surplus butter to the Soviet Union from the E.E.C. at a price below the retail price of butter in Britain, and well below prices in the Common Market countries, bids fair to equal the dialogue between the March Hare and the Mad Hatter.

The brilliantly conceived price-mechanism of the European Economic Community is of such ponderous complexity as to baffle interpretation as well as fulfilment, as in the case of the mountain of butter upon whose slippery slope whatever hopes there were in the E.E.C. have tobogganned to their doom.

Many years ago the obnoxious Reichs-Minister Hermann Goering introduced the choice before a re-arming, rationing Germany of 'guns before butter'. At the moment there is no dazzling prospect of choice before us. The butter does not suit the works, even best butter. With the good offices of a French communist-millionaire (surely straight out of Lewis Carroll?) the butter has been sold to Soviet Russia at, we are told, no profit to the millionaire, M. Jean Doumeng. He said, "I am so rich from the deals I do all around the world that I am fixing this for nothing, just for the pleasure of the thing."

In the Sunday Telegraph (15.4.73) M. Doumeng further explains his philosophy: "I don't live for money, and would be happy to put my fortune at the service of the poor. But I think the best way to fight capitalism while waiting for the Revolution is to make money by exploiting capitalists." This is a clear and familiar exposition of what Reinhold Niebuhr called, and justified as, the interim-ethik.

But M. Doumeng's personal pleasure is not his, or anybody else's only motive for this incredible deal. Frequent reports have appeared in the press of a disastrous harvest in Russia. For example The Times of 19th November 1972

wrote that the harvest of grain was twenty-three million tons short of target. At the same time it was reported (Guardian 14th November 1972) that the sunflower seed crop had declined, and that the production of butter and fats had not kept pace with consumer demands. Consequently, the USSR had to import wheat from Canada and U.S.A. (China is in a similar position but refused to pay the high prices asked). It was estimated that the USSR purchased seventeen million tons of wheat and corn last year.

The Russians also took the usual futile step of appointing a new Minister of Agriculture, a Mr. Polyansky, member of the Politburo; Mr. Matskevich, his predecessor, was "relieved of his job in connection with another appointment" as Tass put it. The head of the tractor supply agency was dismissed for "violating State discipline".

In March it was reported from Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad) that butter was rationed, the same was reported from Gorky, and potatoes were limited to purchasers in Astrakhan. The Sunday Telegraph with its usual anti-Soviet bias reported: "A proposal to introduce food rationing in Leningrad was rejected. The morale of industrial workers in the city was already low. Officials fear a reaction like that in the Baltic ports in 1970 when the Polish workers rioted and brought about the downfall of Mr. Gomulka, the party leader".

Such pleasure in disaster is common with the Sunday Telegraph. On 29th October 1972 they ran a story about Russia and the Communist countries taking over as suppliers of horse-meat for human consumption in France. The Telegraph estimates that more than 1,000 a month (live) are shipped to French ports. Prices are up to £80 a head. The French eat about 110,000 horses a year. Such a story is obviously calculated to raise the horse-loving hackles of the average Englishman, but it is obvious that such a trade does take place, at what cost to the Soviet consumer can only be guessed.

If there are food shortages in Russia, obviously the low-price butter - providing it is not resold - will solve some of the problem. If anyone believes the Telegraph account of the likelihood of Leningrad food riots they are quite likely to acquiesce in the cut-rate sale of the butter, in the name of law and order. But the butter may be intended, as it were, to oil the wheels of Soviet trade with the E.E.C. If butter is going so cheaply may it not oil the track for industrial goods to follow?

But the function of E.E.C. is not to remedy food shortages. If it were the butter would have gone to India or Bangladesh or Vietnam or any of the thousand and one places where poverty and famine are the commonplaces of life. Today (April 17) the Telegraph has a short (4½" 2-column) story on the bottom of page 5: "Twenty Million Face Starvation in Indian Famine".

E.E.C. is centered round capitalist economics and had not the Russians been short, the butter (already turning rancid by some accounts) would have been turned into butter-oil or destroyed.

Membership of E.E.C. has forced the Ministry of Agriculture to follow up their grant for grubbing up old apple trees with a grant of an extra £200 per acre to remove entire orchards of dessert and cooking apples. It is estimated by the Guardian's Peter Chippindale that £5million will be spent on this project and 22,500 acres of orchards will be removed, entailing one quarter of Britain's 1,800 growers. This scarcity, economics stalks through Brussels like the starved phantoms it produces. In June 1970 The Guardian carried the headline: "New Moves to end Glut of Wheat in the World". "New Use for Eggs Sought" (East Anglian Daily Times, July 1971); "Glut of Manure on the Farm" (Guardian 1971) and, most subtle of all, from the Financial Times 6th February 1973: "Brazilian Coffee: Smaller Harvest a Source of Strength".

We have already heard of wheat being "denatured" (a fine word meaning unfit for human consumption) to keep up the price. We can expect nothing more from the E.E.C. except the crazy capitalist economics of artificial scarcity. Judging by their strenuous efforts to keep prices up - and we are assured that farm prices will rise - the Common Agricultural Policy is just another price ramp, which works very well, butter or no butter.

Jack Robinson

DESPITE the promises and threats of the assorted aspirants to power and the widespread press advertising by the Government urging us to vote, the local government elections aroused a laudable display of cynicism by the two-thirds or so of the electorate who did not bother to vote.

If the crop of "No Motorway" posters in the windows of houses along the route of the proposed Ringways in London is any guide, then the Labour Party owes its success in the GLC election to its promise to scrap the plan which would have meant the demolition of at least 15,000 houses in the path of the advancing concrete monster. Sir Reginald Goodwin, the new GLC leader, with his cynical eye more on votes than theories of "participation" promised that the GLC would in future pay regard to the views of community groups outside the party machines. The Labour Party's "long-term" ideal of free public transport in London has been advocated for so long by anarchists and others as an immediate necessity to prevent the city grinding to a halt as a result of congestion by private cars. Indeed, when politicians admit that they have to take advantage of the initiative and constructive ideas of community groups it merely underlines how superfluous the political windbags are in satisfying social needs.

The poll at local government elections is traditionally low but there is a trend for increasing abstentions at General Elections too. In fact, whether the Labour Party or the Conservative Party is returned to power depends more on the relative rate of abstentionism reflecting disillusionment within the two camps than on dramatic swings in "public opinion". Politicians rarely feel the need to justify their abuse of power but the Labour Party's high-priest of "participation", Anthony Wedgwood Benn, suggested in a rare moment of perception a few years ago that compulsory voting might have to be introduced one day! Ultimately, "democracy" legitimises itself by the threat of imprisonment or the use of violence against those who simply choose to love their own lives in their own way. The liberal myth that the "democratic processes" defend us from potential tyrants ignores the tyrants past and present who have used their constitutions and "democratic institutions" to legitimise their actions as they trample on the last vestiges of freedom of speech and thought. The first and last defence for liberty consists of the men and women who are prepared to defy and resist any Government or authority which tries to impose its will on them.

Already millions of people have shown by their refusal to vote that they have seen through the empty promises of politicians and the futility of trusting others to solve their problems. However, it is not enough to settle for mere cynicism which leaves power in the hands of the politicians and capitalists. It is time we seized control of our communities and work-places so that we are all involved in the decision-making and the resources of society are used to satisfy the needs of all.

Terry Phillips

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CAPITALISM — Drug on the Market

EMPLOYERS are often heard complaining on TV and radio interviews that the public thinks that making a profit is wrong. These spokesmen for the profit motive system are quick to point out that without profits they cannot expand their industries and that our standard of living would suffer. However, ordinary people do seem to have a natural aversion to profits being made by others from their labour. People naturally resent this exploitation and without going into any complicated economic explanation of surplus value, working people know they are being caught every time they clock in for work.

The employers are in business to make profits, but when one of them makes an enormous amount, there is an outcry. Of course what these outraged people are worried about is that such examples expose the real exploitation which goes on all the time. When the Monopolies Commission report on Roche Products says that the drug company was making a profit far in excess

of what is justifiable" we would reply that profits cannot be justified. That no one should exploit the labour of another in order to gain power or monetary rewards.

But another aspect of the Roche Products case is that it concerns the National Health Scheme. We get a little tired of politicians accusing people of abusing the Scheme when it is common knowledge that the drug firms were doing very nicely from supplying it with drugs. In fact the whole business of nationalisation is to ensure that basic industries supply the private sector with cheap power and give them a profitable outlet for their products. The recent case with the National Coal Board is another example of private industry being caught with their hands in the public till.

It is estimated from the limited information that the Commission could obtain from this very secretive company that they made £24million profit from the two tranquilisers, Librium and Valium, from 1966 to 1972. Out of this, £19m.

was sent back to Switzerland. This massive transference of profits shows up the sort of monetary manipulations companies operate. We are then expected to believe that higher wages cause inflation.

The Basle headquarters of Hoffmann La Roche have said they are not "concerned about this report". Probably they are not, since every effort will be made to explain that this is only an exception and that companies have to and should make profits for the wealth and benefit of us all.

At the other end of the scale the low wages paid to imported women workers is also condemned. This was highlighted recently in the textile industry in this country, and our own correspondent wrote of the pay and housing conditions of those employed by Alderglen in Rochdale. In The Observer, further investigations show that Filipino girls are employed in Rome on a four-year contract at domestic work for as little as £4 a week.

Continued on p. 3...

ON INDIA'S BACK

THE DEATH OF THE GREEN REVOLUTION, by the North London Haslemere Group c/o 515 Liverpool Road, London N.7 12p.

THE EXPRESSION "The Green Revolution" goes back at least as far as the 1950s and meant originally a movement "back to the land" and the "simple life". Though it had its religious and puritanical elements it was in advance of its time. Its adherents recognised that industrial society could not go on forever exhausting the earth's resources.

The "Green Revolution" described in this pamphlet was something quite different, an attempt to apply advanced technology to Indian agriculture, with disastrous consequences. Following the drought years of 1966 and 1967 U.S. agencies pressured the Indian government into distributing the High Yield Varieties of Mexican dwarf wheat and of rice, instead of the Locally Improved Varieties. Propaganda was put out to the effect that HYV crops were "miracle wheat" and "miracle rice", and thanks to the efforts of the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, plus Yankee know-how, which had made these "miracles" possible, there would never be a famine again.

Unfortunately it has not worked out like that. The new varieties need a fair amount of technical gadgetry, which only the more prosperous farmers can afford. The result is that the already well-off are favoured at the expense of the poor, a tendency noticeable all over the world today (the tendency towards greater egalitarianism of the late forties and the fifties is now being reversed). As to whether this was accident or design is an interesting but probably useless speculation. Nevertheless "a leading American protagonist of the Green Revolution has said that the tremendous problem of supplying the vast quantities of fertilizers, pesticides and financial resources for irrigation projects can only be handled by the giant corporations based principally in the USA and that therefore they should be given effective control of these new agricultural developments." (US House of Representatives, Committee of Foreign Affairs, Symposium on Science Policy: The Green Revolution, published by the US Government Printing Office, Washington DC, in 1970). Although it is easy to shout "Neo-colonialism!" or "CIA!" this does rather look like a genuine conspiracy, though the Americans would be well advised to avoid attempting to take over the sprawling chaos of modern India. The British backed out, and the Chinese took one look and wisely withdrew.

It is pleasing to record that in a number of areas where the HYV crops were sown farmers are now giving them up in favour of the LIV. It has been found that the LIV requires less technology, is more resistant to disease and pleases the customer much more. Unfortunately that is not the end of the story. As a by-product of the "Green Revolution" there occurred an event which would have been more appropriate as an episode of the Hundred Years War.

The authors of this pamphlet write: "We visited the 'Untouchable' village of Kilavenmani in East Thanjavur (Tanjore) District in 1972... what really happened was this: The Kilavenmani villagers went on strike demanding higher wages to cultivate the lands of the local landlords. The strike-breakers who were imported by the landowners from another part of the district were prevented by the villagers from entering the fields. Infuriated by the success of the strike, the landlords and their henchmen attacked the village one night in December 1968, setting it on fire and shooting at the fugitives. Most of the male labourers managed to reach the relative safety of the open rice fields in time to escape being murdered. But forty-four women and children took refuge in a single hut, because the women dared not run to the fields for fear of being caught individually and raped by the attackers. The landlords poured fuel all round this hut and set fire to it, burning alive all the forty-four women and children inside. When we went to Kilavenmani in August 1972... we found that the feudal landlord accused of the killings was still out on bail... the police had managed to get several Kilavenmani villagers sentenced to various terms of imprisonment on a trumped up charge of killing one of the imported labourers."

The Death of the Green Revolution is one of a series of studies produced by the Haslemere Group and Third World First. The purpose of the series is to reveal the way in which the richer countries exploit the poorer ones, often under the guise of helping them. The publishers take as their text the quotation from Tolstoy,

"I sit on a man's back, choking him and making him carry me and yet assure myself and others that I am sorry for him and wish to lighten his load by all possible means - except by getting off his back."

John Brent.

5) I asked for evidence that "individualism...tends to propagate that great syphilitic germ - capitalism" and Waters replies by citing certain individuals who were "robber barons" in the 19th century. He then states that "capitalism is not necessarily equated with individualism". That is my point, but it does not follow from his previous statement which, if it has any meaning at all, implies that individualism is the cause of capitalism and that if capitalism is to disappear individualism must be eliminated. David Waters, however, appears to want to keep both the individualist penny (individualism is not necessarily capitalism) and the socialist bun (individualism is capitalism) and cannot understand how one statement excludes the other.

As for his assertion that I failed to "address" the real problems posed by his article which were specifically "elitism and anarchism", I cannot, after several readings, see anything in it that can in any way be construed as referring to such problems.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that anarchist-individualism and anarcho-capitalism are not the same thing. I entered this "dialogue" not in order to champion the Rothbards and the Rands, but because I am pissed off by the intellectual impoverishment and the leftist myopia shown in the kind of argument deployed by most of their "anarchist" critics.

S. E. PARKER
London, W. 2.

We hope this correspondence can be closed.--Eds.

Was Your Grandmother Jewish?

CIVIL RIGHTS IN ISRAEL TODAY, by Dr. Israel Shahak, The Committee for Justice in the Middle East, P.O. Box 295, London N4 3JX. 10p

THEY ARE in a pretty bad state according to this pamphlet, which is the text of a talk, followed by questions and discussion, delivered by Dr. Shahak at a meeting at Friends House, London, last September. The position of the Arab population is almost as bad as that of the black people in South Africa. The speaker illustrated his case with the example of the Jews-only town of Carmiel, founded on land taken from the Arabs. Only Jews may live there, or have businesses there, but Arabs may of course come in to do menial jobs.

The South African practice of restricting people to certain areas, from which they may not move, is also adopted, as in the case of Sami'ah Al-Qassem, who is not only an Arab, but also a poet, and therefore presumably doubly dangerous in the eyes of the Israeli authorities. He is restricted to the town of Haifa, and cannot travel to the village of Rama, twenty-five miles away, to visit his mother.

The marriage laws are as crazy as those of South Africa also. Palestinian Arabs who have married foreigners have been told that if they wish to stay married they must leave Israel. Dr. Shahak says that such cases have occurred in Israel in their thousands, particularly since 1967. In Israel it is impossible for two people of different denominations to marry, in any case, so some of these marriages must have been made abroad. There is no civil marriage. In fact the speaker goes so far as to say that in his opinion "when civil marriage is within sight peace and justice in Israel will be within sight."

The whole situation sounds like an attempt by some imaginative demon to make a mixture of South Africa and Ireland. Nor is it just a question of Jews versus Arabs. Quite apart from the "Oriental Jews", who are subjected to much the same kind of persecution black people receive in our happy country, there are the Jews who (can one believe it?) are legally harassed because they had non-Jewish grandmothers.

"Now according to Israeli law a person is Jewish if his mother or grandmother was Jewish or if he was converted by an Orthodox Rabbi. If it is suddenly discovered, as it often is, that an Israeli man or woman's grandmother was not Jewish, he will be called to the Government office and an attempt will be made to confiscate his identity card and to change the entry from Jew to non-Jew, in most cases." Pressure is then brought to bear on the individual and his family to be converted to Judaism.

Worse still is the fate of the so-called "Jewish bastards". This, in Jewish law, means the offspring of bigamous marriages, and includes not merely them but their children and descendants forever. They are prohibited from marrying, and a list of such people is kept. When anybody, especially a Jew, wants to marry his or her name is checked. The speaker estimates that 20,000 names are on the list.

In spite of all this Dr. Shahak believes that there is a growing movement towards Arab-Jewish unity, and towards secularisation, and he does not despair, as does the writer of these lines, at this display of human folly.

Arthur Wardo.

Dr. Shahak is Senior Lecturer in Organic Chemistry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Chairman of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights.

INSIDE STORY

THE EIGHTH issue of *Inside Story*, which marks the first anniversary of this libertarian news magazine edited by Wynford Hicks, continues its tradition of printing factual material available nowhere else with a long article on the Spies for Peace, whose pamphlet about the RSGs appeared on the Aldermaston March exactly ten years ago. It is described as the first 'full acc-

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ount' of that episode, and, though the actual names of the people responsible are still concealed, it is certainly packed with fascinating details and brings back stirring memories of one of the very few successful actions in the whole history of the nuclear disarmament movement. It is announced that the story will be continued in the next issue, due in May, which should be interesting.

Inside Story, 3 Belmont Road, London S.W.4. 20p

Letter

ANARCHIST COMMUNISM
versus
INDIVIDUALISM

Dear Editors,

In reply to David Waters (31.3.73):

1) If his 'tale' of the young man who was a terrorist and an anarcho-capitalist was not meant to imply a connection between terrorism and anarcho-capitalism then why tell it? This is the question I asked in my original letter (I drew no "conclusion") and David Waters has not answered it.

2) I still ask what other conclusion can be drawn from his sequence "serious anarchists... anarcho-communists... individualists or anarcho-capitalists... there are some dedicated anarchists here, and all of us are not individualists" than that "anarcho-communists" are the only "serious" or "dedicated" anarchists?

3) See my original letter. No other comment necessary.

4) For the sake of the argument, I will accept his restriction of the use of "cretin" to "anarchists" who "admire Hughes". Again, how does this, in itself, make them cretinous?

REVOLUTIONARY ANARCHISM ITS AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

An organisation of revolutionary anarchists:

a) works for the establishment and strengthening of rank-and-file groups and organisations at the place of work. Against co-operation with the employers and the State, which largely reflects their interests, we advocate the co-operation and solidarity of all workers (whatever their national or so-called origins), as a necessary weapon for any successful struggle against a ruthless class - enemy.

In order to implement this, we must fight for Trade Union democracy; for rank-and-file control over decisions and communications at present in the hands of permanent paid officials, whose lifestyles and interests are often nearer to those of the employers than to ordinary working people. Revolutionary anarchists, therefore, work to achieve a network of rank-and-file organisations (an Industrial Network) by which means workers will be able to more successfully defend their interests and, even more importantly, organise to take over, and control, industry and all the means of production and distribution in their own interests, and in the interests of society as a whole.

b) works for the establishment and the strengthening of tenants' associations and neighbourhood councils, not merely to fight local authorities for better housing, or against increased rents, or better services within the present capitalist system, but to create community organisations capable of running such services in their own interests, within a free society.

c) seeks to break the control of "education" by industrial interests and academic élites. Anarchists, therefore, support moves towards a system which will encourage the individual through such measures as libertarian education - at best, the de-schooling of society and, at worst, the abolition of streaming. We also work for the control of schools, colleges and universities by those who work in, work for, and use them, by means of their democratic control of all decision-making.

d) opposes all forms of racism. We consider racial prejudice and discrimination to have developed, not through a fixed biological inequality, but as a result of past economic interests of colonial nations, who continue to use the myth of racial inequality as a justification for exploitation, and as a result of present capitalist policies and pressures upon sections of the working class. The effect of racism, and of racist programmes expounded by Fascist and Right-wing political groups and politicians (like Enoch Powell), is to divide and set work-

ers against each other, and thereby hamper the achievement of their own common interests in their struggles against their exploiters and the State. We call for the ruthless exposure of all racists as the enemies of ordinary working people, whether "Black" or "White", indigenous or immigrant.

e) supports the movement of Women's Liberation, both in society at large and within the radical and revolutionary movement itself. Anarchists are, of course, aware that, in itself, the Women's Liberation struggle will not necessarily end with the revolution we advocate, but must be a continuing process of education and action to break centuries of conditioning. Again, as with racism, the low and often restricted status, and opportunity, of women is a means by which people are divided. Revolutionary anarchists do not, however, defend "Woman" Power any more than they defend "Black" Power!

f) opposes political reformism. We do not oppose all and every reform put on the statute book. We do argue that very few reforms have ever benefitted the working class as a whole, though some reforms may have benefitted sections of the working class (whilst, at the same time, having an adverse effect on other sections and groups). Basically, we do not think that the present capitalist system can be reformed in the interests of the majority of the population; nor do we think that it can be reformed out of existence, as has been argued by Fabians and the like. Furthermore, political reformism takes the initiative away from the people themselves. However, even from the purely reformist viewpoint, the more that the workers strive and organise for taking possession of the means of life - of the whole bakery as it were - so will the politicians and owners of property offer them more reforms, offer them a larger and larger slice of the cake. From a practical and pragmatic viewpoint, therefore, our cry must be: Revolution! Not reform!

To make a successful revolution, the struggle against all forms of alienation, discrimination and exploitation must be co-ordinated, and turned from the defensive attempts to gain crumbs from our rulers to a determined, offensive, battle to take over and seize control of our society. Such is the long-term, and short-term, aim of revolutionary anarchists. Whether the social revolution we desire, and are working for, takes a long or a short time to come about, compared with political reformism, it will be the straightest and most direct road to a free society.

(to be continued)

Peter E. Newell

THE CASE OF TZU TSAI CHENG

At a press conference on April 16, Benedict Bernberg, the lawyer in the case, announced that, despite the decision of the law lords, with Lords Simon and Wilberforce dissenting, that Tzu Tsai Cheng should be deported to the U.S., the fight would go on. An all-party deputation of M.P.s will be going to the Home Secretary and asking him to use his discretionary powers.

Apparently, according to Mr. Birnberg, and Mr. Kinnoch, M.P. who was present and also spoke, Tzu Tsai Cheng has considerable support, on purely humanitarian grounds, among members of Parliament. Both men expressed a cautious optimism about the outcome, as the government did not want a repetition of the Soblen case in 1964. Soblen's deportation to the U.S. was rushed through, but he escaped even so, by committing suicide.

It was something of a victory, the speakers maintained, that the law lords "even those against us", admitted that it was a political case. It was also something that the U.S. should go through the regular legal channels, in securing repatriation, instead of just pushing it through, Soblen-fashion.

Readers of last week's FREEDOM will know that the U.S. wants Mr. Cheng because he is an active opponent of the regime of Chiang Kai Shek's son in the island of Taiwan (Formosa), an American puppet regime. This point was not brought up in the entire conference by either Mr. Birnberg or Mr. Kinnoch, or by any of the newspapermen present (including myself). Even Britain is in fact, if not a U.S. puppet at least very much under U.S. influence, as evidently are Sweden and Denmark too.

If Mr. Cheng cannot settle permanently in Britain those organising the campaign on his behalf hope to be able to get him into a Third World country.

Mrs. Cheng was present and spoke of her and her husband's hopes for an independent, social-democratic and non-aligned Taiwan.

For those who wish to help, the address of the Tzu Tsai Cheng Defence Group is: - c/o I.C.D.P., 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C1 telephone 387 5755.

Arthur Stone.

PRISONERS' RIGHTS

A DEFENCE COMMITTEE has been formed for the assistance of the ten people held in Brixton prison on charges following the explosions outside the Courts of Justice (Old Bailey) and near Whitehall on March 8th. (see FREEDOM 17/3/73 "Cops and Bombers")

There will be a regular picket each Sunday outside the Home Office starting on 29th April at 2 p.m. Its theme will be a protest about the prisoners' being kept initially in police detention for 4 days before being charged, and their subsequent treatment. Our information is that these 10 people, all held in Brixton while awaiting trial, are not being afforded the 'rights' of remand prisoners.

Remember that all people not convicted by a court are innocent by the standards of those who are holding them in prison, and by their own logic the granting of a daily visit, and meals, books and newspapers provided by friends from outside, is not a magnanimous gift provided by the authorities but the minimum duty they owe to free men and women until such time as they have legal sanction to hold them as convicted prisoners.

It is very important that in no case - even where you might think they'd probably got the people who did a thing which you regard as stupid or harmful - should the authorities be allowed to go back on the already lamentably miserable 'rights' they accord to unconvicted prisoners.

If you want fuller information on the "Belfast 10" Defence Committee contact Maureen Maguire, 88 Roslyn Road, London, N.15 (tel. 01-800 9392).

M.C.

LETTER

A HEALTHIER MOVEMENT

Dear Comrades,

Comrade Bamford recently mentioned the ASA Industrial Network, in FREEDOM. He did not seem to be greatly impressed at its progress.

Perhaps he was being a little too harsh. Perhaps he was expecting too much from a small organisation. In my view, such a network should embrace libertarian militants, not only in ASA, but in the SWF, the ORA and Solidarity as well. I have already suggested this to the ORA comrades. Furthermore, I feel that such a network should attempt to be more than a mere list of addresses or a telephone directory. I would, therefore, be pleased to hear from any comrades who have any ideas on this subject and, at least at this stage, would be willing to add their name, address, name of Union and nature of work, to my list of ASA and ORA members.

My list, at present, includes: Postal Workers (General & Engineers), Public Service Workers (General, Nurses, Administrative & Technical), Building Workers, Road Transport, Shipbuilding, Teachers, Busmen, Packing Case, Printworkers and Unemployed.

If or when, the list becomes more comprehensive, I shall send it to all comrades who would like it, subject to consent of those listed. Yours fraternally, PETER E. NEWELL "Aegean", Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester, Essex.

...continued from p. 1

These examples are all part of the capitalist ethic. Making profits is justified no matter by what means. But in all this hue and cry about excessive profits and low wages, it should not be forgotten that we are all exploited by the profit motive system. The whole conception of using a person's labour for another's gain is immoral, degrading and exploitative. Until we replace the present system with a society based on the principle of "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs", companies like Roche Products will continue to make profits excessive or otherwise from the work of others. Anarchists want a society that produces for the needs of people and not for profits. A society where people and not companies and governments control their own lives and make the decisions that affect them.

P.T.

WOMEN IN THE CITY

"Women's Liberation certainly celebrated a rousing victory when on Monday women appeared as full members of the Stock Exchange. But the City of London is still a man's world. It will take another generation before a School Careers Officer can sincerely advise a girl that by going into a City firm after taking her A levels she will have equal opportunity with a boy of the same age.

"When Lady Astor took her seat as the first woman member of the House she said that she felt like a gate crasher in a man's West End club, and complained that her close personal friends like Winston Churchill were not at all friendly during her first few days as an M.P. Let us hope not too many women will feel the same during the early years of women's emancipation in the City.

"The City of London is very much a salesman's world. There are so many competing brokers, merchant banks, advertising agents, etc. who all offer almost identical services that personal friendship and charm is most important for getting new business. Women ought to be ideally suitable for attracting new business from City competitors, and should not be looked upon as blue stockings to be locked away in back rooms. The day of the attractive woman as a City salesman for money lending and new stockbroking clients must be only around the corner.

"But women's advance into upper echelons of the City cannot be stopped. In thirty years' time many of the top brass in all sectors of the City will be women and those who try to oppose the unfettered

throwing down of barriers to women now may find before their business careers are over that arousing female anger now may prejudice their careers when women straddle the corridors of power of the major City Institutions."

Weekly City Press
29/3/73

Well sisters, it appears that once more, the British Establishment is prepared to absorb, depoliticise and turn to its own advantage another emancipative movement, in the case the Women's Liberation Movement, as indeed with Trade Unions, the Cooperative Movement, the Suffragettes and other reformist waves of protest, that in the past have brilliantly denounced the inhuman and unjust nature of the Capitalist system, without being, for that, prepared to destroy it at any price.

After several years now of political and social agitation in the USA, Britain and other European countries, the various flavours of Women's Lib. have failed to make contact with the women that most urgently need to be liberated from their exploitation at work and their dreary life at home - the working class women

It is one of the saddest failures of the Women's liberation Movement that, instead of a preliminary class analysis of society, it has assumed that women, both bourgeois and working class, form a homogeneous group with a common interest and aim. This has resulted in such follies as the advent of women guards at San Quentin prison and

federal F.B.I. agents being greeted as progressive by women's liberationists. Consequently middle class and professional women have been cashing in on the benefits unleashed by the political pressures and the cynical publicity given by the bourgeois press to the Women's Liberation Movement.

Unless "our" women are reached and willingly prepared to embrace the political leanings of the Women's Lib., I see no future for the libertarian potentials that can be traced in women's struggles.

How much should the Women's Liberation Movement integrate itself in the main stream of our struggle is not for me, being a man, to say, but it seems to me that the highly articulated political phraseology used in leaflets and other Women's Lib. literature reflects sectarian or middle class intellectual preoccupations nursed by the majority of women involved in their Movement.

Without wanting to sound cynical, I would like to suggest that more positive contacts at grass root levels should be made, and where possible, for the more dedicated and sincere sisters to seek employment in firms that traditionally employ feminine labour. By sharing their exploitation and their social problems, I am sure that liberating women and exploited workers will fill the gap of communication and understanding for the benefit and emancipation of the most exploited sector of the working people - the working class women.

C.P. & S.C.

ANIMALS AS STUPID AS MEN

ALL OF my life I have been astounded by the perversity of the human race as expressed collectively through governments, and individually in terms of prejudice, superstition and hatred. When at school an older comrade told me that homosexuality was illegal I was speechless and unbelieving, since at that time it seemed as natural as swimming, football, basketball or cycling, and in any case, I felt certain he must be lying otherwise the whole of the fourth forms would be languishing in jail! Orthodox medicine men will often affirm that a homosexual phase is a perfectly normal part of a young person's sexual development, but nobody ever explains why, if this is so, should society see fit to discourage and suppress this part of growing up. The answer of course lies in the fact that this is only one "perfectly natural" impulse out of many that is perverted by society. Many young children display a revulsion to eat flesh foods, and this natural impulse towards a non-carnivorous diet is soon demolished, hopefully to re-emerge at a later date when one has more personal autonomy. One is equally as optimistic that the homosexual impulse will again surface at a later date to perhaps counteract against the excesses of the gender roles that so many men play.

Bjorn Vilson of Stockholm recently circulated the text of an open letter that he wrote to the Secretary of the United Nations in the hope of finally ending "the homosexual superstition within our culture". It is not without significance now that returning veterans from Vietnam are complaining that they were subjected to torture and other forms of affront during captivity, that a parallel dossier is being unofficially compiled on the treatment meted out to homosexual or suspected homosexual members of the American Armed Forces by their "normal" compatriots. The working team, who are investigating this, report of "young boys who have been tortured for hours and then thrown overboard from ships or into the air from helicopters and planes, how their private parts have been cut off, how they have been used as targets for shooting exercises".

As Bjorn rightly points out, homosexuals are probably the greatest minority on earth, and yet, most people are so hidebound by their fears and superstitions that they somehow think they must be less sensitive to pain, outrage and hurt than the so-called heterosexual. It is exactly the same sort of mentality that was incapable of even considering that black people were human, (traces of which still linger and fester in some people's minds to this day), and the general mentality that reckons that there is no atrocity or pain to which an animal should not be subjected so long as human

beings benefit, thus proving the evolutionary probability that we are not creation's last word.

Man it seems must always have something to worship, and now that we have replaced the Company of Heaven with the God of Science we have surrendered rights over our souls for rights over our bodies, and medical science in particular prides itself on that detached clinical non-emotional posture that performs wicked acts as it plays out its role as the moist-eyed saviour of frail humanity. Having allowed modern witch-doctors full rein to do just as they please with animals, we must accept the fact that their blood-lust is now beginning to demand human "research material". Most doctors suffer from the delusion that they are the divine chalice through which god will speak with a new wonder cure that will ensure that the name of Doctor So-and-So will ring down through history alongside the murderer Jenner, Pasteur and those who have genuinely helped mankind with their discoveries about ourselves.

The Nazi regime found that there is no shortage of criminal doctors given the chance to surface, because like so many professional people they feel that they are slightly above the law and conventional morality, which means that they look upon the vast majority of us as being just slightly below. Bjorn spotlights this in his letter with accounts of the "stereotactical operation technique" which involves drilling a hole into the skull of the "offender" and with an electric shock "burn" away a small part of the brain. Accounts of similar atrocities in American hospitals have recently appeared in "The Guardian", one such operation having taken place on a nine-year-old child. One of the superstitions against homosexuality is that it is a sort of magic condition that can somehow "rub off" onto those who come into contact with it, and so by outlawing it society protects itself from its influences, but here we have people actually changing the nature of human beings, not by magic, but by scalpel, laser beam and other wonders of science, and instead of outlawing these atrocities people fall into a reverential silence when listening to the pronouncements of these manipulators who have developed a taste for playing god.

So brainwashed are we by the medical fraternity that even a totalitarian act like fluoridating our drinking water brings little response from those who should know better, and be aware of the potential (or, indeed, actual) threat it poses to us. We begin by doing it to safeguard our teeth because it is such a bore to eat wholesome food which will prevent dental caries forming, and we pave the way for any future tinpot authoritarian to admin-

ister similar "cures" when he thinks we are too restless, or too ungovernable, or too contrary to his regime. There will be no shortage of scientists with a chemical remedy to hand. All this presents an Orwellian vision of our future perhaps, but I can not divorce my anarchism from everything else in which I believe, and all the while there is one person undergoing the "1984" nightmare on this earth then it has in fact started for all of us.

Anarchists have always supported the weak, the frail and (most significantly) the most unpopular causes and minorities, and yet at the same time we can not totally cut ourselves adrift from the brainwashing process that all of society is subjected to. When I wrote a piece called "The Case For Rational Bisexuality" in "Anarchy" I was amazed at some of the letters I received from so-called anarchists and libertarians, as if by the mere writing of it I was forcing them to participate in sexual acts that were not to their taste. God forbid I should ever be marooned on a desert island with any of them, because surely Freud proved quite conclusively that repressed homosexual impulses are those which are most likely to erupt into acts of sadism and cruelty. I have often wondered why mankind is so cruel, and if progressive psychologists are right when they say that much sadism stems from repressed homosexuality, then the cruelty of some homosexuals must stem from the repression of their heterosexual impulses. In the Central African Republic General Bokassa allows his henchmen to cut off the hands and ears of thieves, and we have only progressed a little in that we castrate, mutilate and bury alive by proxy, which is the only concession to civilised behaviour we want to make.

If it is also true that cancer is a physical manifestation of our own basic psychological rottenness within, then we are being reminded that the dictum "reap what you sow" is no empty, mystical homily, but a pretty common-sense observance of a fact of life. There is no point either in turning to "Nature" as a substitute for previous gods that have proved unsatisfactory, for nature is both cruel and haphazard, and we have seen where narrow definitions of "naturalness" can lead. We are in nature little different from any other species of animal that walks the earth, but we are superior because we have imagination which is "unnatural" and "perverse". In our cruelties and wickedness we exercise this to an elaborate degree and conspire together to excuse these faults because "everybody does it", and it is mostly in terms of sexual behaviour that we scorn a person by saying "he behaves like an animal". Sexually few of us can aspire to such uninhibited spontaneity, but in our savagery the human, with his guns, bombs, poisons, gases, and economic tyranny, should remind us constantly that there are no animals as stupid as men, and it would be the supreme irony for us if we gained the revolutionary struggle only to forfeit the evolutionary one in the process. And, as flippant as this may sound, staying horny is a part of staying alive.

David Godin

precedent of a 1970 divorce case of McKenzie v. McKenzie, in which it was ruled that a defendant could have a friend sitting with them in court, taking notes and advising on any matter which arises in the trial.

Up Against the Law cites the Mangrove and Stoke Newington trials as ones in which the people defending themselves had talked with a jury rather than at them.

The task of "demystifying the legal process" is under way. More people are now aware of the function of the law, a system which maintains the status quo. The fact that so many people can (a) have access to legal advice and (b) obtain assistance over defending themselves in court lends weight to the requirement for a system of defence. It is defence against an onslaught from the State which might lead to the courts becoming less reactionary. Non the less the anarchist advocacy of a society without such unpleasant machinery possibly calls for a boycott of the whole nasty spectacle.

A Correspondent



Peace Pledge Union's FESTIVAL OF PEACE from 6th to 13th October 1973
Organisational meeting Monday 30th April 7.30 p.m. at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, W. C. 1.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD AREA - anarchists/libertarians interested in forming group please contact Roderick Parkes, 90 Queensway, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Teachers wanted for Free Schools. Write to Tony Brantingham c/o Dwarf News, 14a Hansard Mews, London, W14 8BJ

LONDON ASA meets every Wednesday at 7.30 pm at 3 Grange House, Highbury Grange, N.5. Black & Red Outlook always available, by post 5p + 2p

LIVERPOOL ASA, contact May Stone, C.32 Summerfield, Tower Hill, Kirkby, near Liverpool.

NOTTINGHAM: Trent Polytechnic anarchist group forming. Contact Shirley Moreno or John Hingsley through Fine Art Dept., Dryden St. Nottingham

CARDIFF: Dwarf Group starting. Contact Ian Metheson, 35 Corporation Road, Grangetown, Cardiff.

"Alternative shop" opening this summer needs advice, suggestions; in particular legal help. Please write Box 103, Freedom Press

BARNESLEY DWARFS starting Adventure Playground. Any help on this & possible other projects appreciated. Contact Charlie Robinson at Info Service BAGINS, 12 Regent Street South, Barnsley, Yorkshire

Mental Patients Union, S.E. London. Meetings will be held at 170A Deptford High Street, S.E.8 each Tuesday at 8 p.m. Mental hospital patients and ex-patients welcome. Contact Andrew Dewar above address.

NEW YORK LIBERTARIAN BOOK CLUB lectures, fortnightly on Thursdays 7 p.m. at Workmen's Circle Center, 369 8th Ave. corner 29 Street, admission free. May 10 Nunzio Pernicone: Terrorism and the Italian Anarchist.

PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL - RENT STRIKE: The second free festival commences in Windsor Great Park on August 25. Work preparing for it has just started. Details: Bill Dwyer, 26A Elmbourne Road, London SW17 8JR

MICHAEL TOBIN DEFENCE COMMITTEE
265 Dale Street, Chatham, Kent

STOKE NEWINGTON FIVE SOLIDARITY Committee, 54 Harcombe Road, London, N. 16

STOP THE FRENCH TESTS, Contact Greenpeace, c/o 176 Finchley Road London, N.W.3.

S.E. London Gutter Press, contact Vera Krishek, 01-852 8879

Libertarian Struggle, monthly paper of ORA, 5p + 2p post, or sub £1 12 issues from 29 Cardigan Road Leeds (also in Freedom Bkshop)

"Spies for Peace" the INSIDE STORY March/April issue, also containing more on prisons. 20p + 3p post from 3 Belmont Road, S.W.4. or from Freedom Bookshop

Marked for Life, anarchist booklet against exams. in univs. & colleges 18p from M.F.L., 36a Fairfield Gardens, London N.8 or from Freedom Bookshop

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'NO MAN IS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ANOTHER MAN'S MASTER'

WILLIAM MORRIS

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Review

UP AGAINST THE LAW

BY AN ODD coincidence a collective of defendants and radical law students are launching their publication Up Against the Law* at the same time as the Government is extending the legal advice scheme.

The Law Society and the Central Office of Information are spending £300,000 over 9 months on the Legal Advice scheme. A pilot project in the North East has indicated that there will be a very big response to the advertising, which includes television adverts. Information on the scheme should be available from Post Offices, Citizens Advice Bureaux and possibly libraries. Briefly, under Part I of the Legal Advice and Assistance Act, 1972, legal advice to the "value" of approximately £25 is available to those with up to £20 weekly take-home pay (if single) or £32 (if married) with allowances for children. Savings are allowed lower than about £350 but some payment is required from a client on a sliding scale.

It is expected that the largest response will come from the deprived areas where there are very few solicitors, which means that they must be over-burdened. The Law Society consider that this will strengthen the campaign to implement Part II of the Act, which allows funding of Legal Advice Centres in such areas.

A comparison with the publicity for rate rebates and means-tested benefits of all types indicates that it is recognised that extensive publicity is required for schemes of this nature to work. It is obvious that there is a desire for the Legal Advice extension to be used and it is likely that it will be.

The solicitors can, in fact, be "very vague" about means tests and can disregard the dwelling house as a factor if it is impractical to value the property (which it always is). Readers who are in the lower income bracket and have trouble with landlords, employers, or have suffered injury at work may be interested in the scheme, if they can stomach the legal system.

However, from reform to revolution! Those who want to establish a defendants' union are "absolutely appalled at trials in which interests of the people in the dock have been sold out by the people who were supposed to be defending them". They cite the

* Up Against the Law 21p inc. post from 1 Elgin Ave., W.9 or Freedom Bookshop