

WITHDRAW THE TROOPS!

DESPITE WHITE-LAW's elaborate plans for "power sharing" as the result of the Northern Ireland Assembly election it is clear that what is about to emerge is a novel display of political acrobatics. The mind boggles at the possible coalitions between the four major groups: the official Unionists of Faulkner, the unofficial Unionists opposed to Faulkner, the Loyalist Coalition of Craig and Paisley, and the Social Democratic and Labour Party with its Catholic support and long-term republican aspirations. The poor support for candidates with IRA and UDA connections confirms the suspicion that their political lines are ignored by communities who are only interested in defence from sectarian attacks. Even in the areas where support for the IRA is strongest there seems little clear commitment to the political objectives of republicanism.

The most sought after bed-mate is undoubtedly the SDLP which can best fulfil the Whitelaw dream of a stable government with Catholic and Protestant participation by entering into a coalition with

Faulkner's Unionists. However, if Faulkner cannot provide a substantial dowry then our maiden SDLP may well turn her fickle attention to the Loyalist Coalition. This politically "impossible" coalition between the Protestant "loyalists" and the republican aspirations of the Catholic SDLP would, after all, merely be a continuation of the discussion which took place some time ago between Craig and the SDLP on the possibility of a N. Ireland state independent of Britain and the Irish Republic.

Since the election - and perhaps in recognition of the growing pressure in Britain for withdrawal of troops - the Irish prime minister, Liam Cosgrave, has announced that such an act would be "a recipe for civil war". He forgets that the "peacekeeping role of the British Army has consisted of children killed by a soldier's bullet, blinded by a rubber bullet or run down by an armoured car. Obviously it is ludicrous to expect an army to impose "peace", and sooner or later the people of Ireland, North and South, will have to find their own solutions to

their problems. It would be naive to suggest that the withdrawal of troops would in itself eliminate violent sectarian confrontations but it is easy to see from the history of the last five years how the presence of the British Army has led to an escalation of IRA violence (and Catholic support for it), and, hence, to the growth of violence by the UDA. The suggestion that the withdrawal of troops would result in a massacre of the Catholic population in Northern Ireland forgets the crude balance of power which exists in the situation. The Catholic population in the South is not normally greatly concerned about the situation in the North, but would not allow a massacre of Catholics in the North.

However, the future of Ireland - as everywhere else, - depends not on the balance of power and terror, constitutional prescriptions, political programmes or Utopian blueprints, but on the desire of men and women to live their lives as they choose. The withdrawal of the British troops will be the first step on the long walk to freedom. Terry Phillips

Petrol Crisis

DENIALS FROM the Government lent credence to a report in the Sunday Telegraph (1.7.73) that confidential plans were being drawn up for petrol rationing in Britain later this year. Indeed the detailed report in the Sunday Telegraph certainly had the mark of authenticity.

Apparently the decision to create a contingency scheme was taken after a warning of impending energy shortages made in Brussels in May at the European Energy Conference. With characteristic myopia the cause of the crisis is put down to "hoarding by inter-

national speculators" and "rapidly deteriorating relations between Western Governments and the main Arab oil-producing nations". In fact the hoarding of oil is extremely difficult and expensive and the profit from such hoarding would have to be monumental. The crisis is more likely to be the sudden realisation by the European countries that there is something in what the ecologists and environmentalists have been saying all along about the critical shortage of finite resources.

We are informed that Nixon has disclosed that demand for petrol in America now exceeds supply by 5% and a 50 m.p.h. speed limit is being called for. (It's as serious as that!) The visit of Brezhnev to America was certainly so cordial because of the oil under Russian soil. In Britain there are signs that, at last, cars will be stopped from ruining the urban environment and according to Fuel Economy Consultants, advisers

to Rolls Royce and Hawker Siddely, serious petrol shortages are likely by the end of the year. The head of Fuel Economy Consultants is reported as saying: "I can see a situation potentially more dangerous than that caused by the Suez crisis in 1956. The Western world will soon be at the financial mercy of the Arabs".

Of course it is nothing "financial", but simply the increasing scarcity of oil which puts the Western world in this position. As for seeing the dangerous crisis, maybe the truth will really come home only when no crisis can be seen at all - when the lights go out, caused by an energy gap. The world is in for an interesting decade and the importance of the ecologist is likely to be more widely recognised than hitherto. Fortunately the ecologist is a politically educated person today who, unlike other professors of the sciences, knows what his responsibility to society means. J.W.

THE TEMPORARY NEW FORMAT IS
BECAUSE OF PRINTERS' HOLIDAY
(for 2 weeks)

TOO MUCH POLITICAL ECONOMY

THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM is facing a period of rapid world inflation. All the efforts of Governments seem to no avail in stemming the worst inflation since the war.

Figures published last week show that the Tory Government's wage freeze was effective in holding down incomes, while prices continued to rise. While wages in effect bought less, people still managed to buy more, even allowing for the increased prices, by borrowing and the withdrawal of savings.

While wages have been kept down, unemployment has continued to fall. British industry has experienced a boom with profit margins of companies increasing. But now the international monetary system faces a crisis. Heavy selling of the United States dollar and sterling sent the dollar to its lowest level against the Common Market currencies. This sort of devaluation has had an immediate effect on British tourists abroad and will also be felt soon when imports go up in price. This will further affect the continuing inflation and will bring about a huge deficit in the balance of payments.

The Government and the employers always blame wage increases for inflation. Recently we have seen from the Government's point of view, a successful wage freeze whereby incomes were held down to a norm. Despite this, prices of food went up and now manufacturers of all kinds are applying to the prices commission for increases.

Governments still talk of the continuing growth of the national product. The TUC agrees with this and although its methods might be different it wants to achieve the same result. But it is just impossible to keep on expanding, as energy crisis is now beginning to highlight. In a society where everything has a price tag those who make the profit know the value of nothing.

In America the Government has operated a prices and in-

comes policy where during their phase 3, just ended on June 13, inflation went up to an annual rate of 9.2%. They are now operating a 60-day price freeze, with certain exceptions on food, and allowing wage increases.

The person who has nothing to sell but his labour is a victim of these ups and downs of the monetary system. For some it can be the difference between life and death whether a profit can be made by increasing the amount of land under cultivation.

All the reforms put forward by an increasing number of economists and other experts are not solving the ever recurring crises that face the capitalist system. William Morris put it plainly and basically it still holds today: "It is enough political economy for me to know that the idle class is rich and the working class is poor and that the rich are rich because they rob the poor."

The rich and powerful might not show off their wealth as they used to but the vast differences still exist. The managerial class who have taken over do not show off their wealth but the position of those who actually work remains the same.

Anarchists are opposed to the wages system. As there is no way of assessing what work is the most important socially, wages and money should be abolished. At the moment many people spend their lives doing useless and monotonous jobs. If we only produced for needs and not useless things for profit, with these people released to do useful work, less hours would be needed to satisfy our requirements.

Meanwhile people's living standards are threatened by the monetary crisis of confidence. If new measures are taken to protect the European Economic Community's foreign trade there could be a trade war between the two blocks. After all, the American Government has already sensed which way the economic wind is blowing by reaching an agreement with the Soviet Union.

It looks like inflation is here to stay. The system stumbles from one crisis to the next with all the hardship and insecurity that this brings.

While it is important to fight for higher wages our demands should exceed the monetary rewards of this system and take the necessary action to abolish wage slavery once and for all.

P.T.

No Bail

GIOVANNI MARINI has just passed the anniversary of one year in prison, not yet come to trial. He is an anarchist from Salerno.

Salerno, in a mainly agricultural area in the southern part of Italy, is a town where the plague of neo-fascism and violence which sickens the whole body of Italy is acute and intense. Marini has been individually persecuted by the fascists for some time. On July 7th last year another anarchist, Mastrogiovanni, and Marini were attacked in the street by a band of fascists. Fists and knives were used; Marini drew a knife, and a prominent member of the neo-fascist M.S.I., Carlo Flavella, died from a knife wound.

The Italian comrades (as reported in Umanita Nova and Rivista A) have been campaigning against the bias of the judiciary towards the fascists in what is a case of legitimate self-defence.

Marini's legal defence is harassed and hampered by his continual removal from prison to prison (from Salerno to Avellino, Sumona, Regina Coeli, Matera, Brindisi, and at present Lagonegro. This also means he is deprived of regular visits and receipt of letters.

There is in Salerno a defence committee. For information write to ANTONIO CENTURINI, CASELLA POSTALE 163, SALERNO. In the meantime, a few hundred postcards from abroad might have some effect on the authorities as well as on the morale of the comrade.

His present address is:

Giovanni Marini
Carcere Lagonegro
(PZ)
Italy.

M.C.

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LETTERS

AFB and ORGANISATION

Dear Comrades,

Peter Neville and any supporters are not going to get away with their attempts to place the blame for the total uselessness of the "anarchist movement" onto the few libertarian revolutionaries who are doing things to make anarchist ideas relevant and to apply them in this country.

His accusation that there was a deliberate scheme to disrupt the "AFB" is full of holes, viz.:

1) AFB Internal Bulletin

(founded mid-1969) was not synonymous with the beginning of ORA, it was created two years before the idea of ORA occurred in March 1971, and 2½ years before the founding of ORA in November 1971. Check back to your AFBIBs.

2) Those accused of killing

AFBIB were in fact those who helped to start AFBIB in the first place. This was at the 1969 Conway Hall Conference and those who proposed AFBIB were not only the Le Mares from Birmingham but also Ro Atkins and Keith Nathan from York and comrades from Black Knight, Hornsey (some of whom are now in ORA). If you further check AFBIB you'll find that the above two groups were among the handful who sent delegates to Brum for the productions (let alone the even smaller number who sent reports regularly). You will not find evidence of the 60 groups Neville remembers.

3) When AFBIB failed in its

task of helping to pull the movement together to give it any chance of effectiveness (the long-winded character assassination of Albert Meltzer and others by - you know who, Neville - helped discourage the few who did help AFBIB), various groups of comrades published statements and suggestions to give the AFB some agreed base and some way of making decisions. Among these were comrades in Swansea (who joined Solidarity), in Manchester (who helped found ASA) and York (who helped found ORA). NONE of the suggestions were ever dealt with politically, most of them met with smears and innuendo. The North West Federation comrades tried for a number of YEARS to argue within the 'AFB' before cutting their losses. We took a year to recognise that 'the movement' was full of very small fish who wanted to make

the pond even smaller so that they could look bigger. We went through three conferences of useless rowing (it wasn't argument or discussion), widely spread rumours that Keith Nathan was a police spy and other comrades were agents for I.S., etc., etc. Eventually all the active groups had 'left the AFB' or given up their illusions about it. If you want to check this read AFBIB and FREEDOM for the period and compare the work reported and discussed by the 'opposition' and the rest. Check also the comrades who worked on the national election campaign in 1970 - to a man they are in ORA or ASA or otherwise 'out of AFB'.

4) We don't miss the AFB much.

The 'opposition' has started on the creation of the first effective national network for communication and cooperation in this country, as well as establishing papers whose total sales are some 3 to 4 times that of FREEDOM, and whose sales to people in the street (they do not live off subs) must be 10 to 20 times greater. The more activity we are involved in, the more we realise that the AFB was 'disorganised' in such a way as to prevent us learning skills and the approaches necessary to make revolutionary ideas relevant to ordinary, everyday struggles. Most of us were very young when we entered "AFB". The record shows that, for what it was worth, we were the best and most active "AFB" groups, but the years in it were wasted, as we're having to learn things that the AFB couldn't conceive of, let alone pass onto and teach younger members.

Neville states that he will "work outside organised political groups, rejecting the pompous shibboleths and cliches of the mob, for what (he)

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believes is right and important, irrespective of the results to others who should be looking out for themselves anyway". In other words he congratulates himself on irrelevance, and condemns the whole world for not digging up the rock he hides under. He imagines that he can be 'right' without being effective. The only way to be right is to try out one's ideas in reality.

If Neville wants to know what we are doing, let him read the papers of the libertarian revolutionaries. Let him help on the campaigns that have been, and will be organised. Let him get out of his long habit of doing bugger-all, or else one day he'll find, and pretty soon, that the pond has dried up completely.

Steve Kibble,
Ro Nathan, Keith Nathan.

Stoke Newington Five

Readers of the Guardian may have seen a short letter from me published on June 26th concerning the serious illness of one of those allegedly involved in the 'Angry Brigade', Hilary Creek.

Briefly, she is suffering from anorexia nervosa, is unable to eat and has lost two stones in weight since being in prison. Medical reports indicate that her treatment can only be effective if she is treated outside prison.

In view of the jury's plea for clemency at the trial of the Stoke Newington Eight it is meaningful to bring pressure on the Home Secretary and Mrs. Shirley Williams, Shadow Home Secretary, for steps to be taken to give Hilary Creek effective help. Such action implies no approval of any alleged actions taken by Hilary Creek in the past. Can I especially urge you to contact Shirley Williams, House of Commons, S.W.1., as special efforts are being made to interest her in Hilary Creek's distress.

Jeremy Westall
London, E. 6.

According to the Guardian 10.7.73 the Home Office has agreed that Hilary Creek should be removed to a psychiatric hospital 'as soon as there is a bed available'

Eds.]

A HEAD OF STEAM

I was sitting in the bus in my nearest market town when a piece of conversation floated up from two other passengers. How much more interesting other people's conversation is! Overheard melodies are sweeter.

"I think the heavy horses... the Suffolk Punch... are coming back."

For one wild intoxicating moment I thought this was soft-technology with a vengeance, straight from the horse's mouth as it were. The energy crisis must be nearer than we think. Vision of petrol-less Juggernauts towed by glorious teams of Suffolk Punches blurred my gaze. However it was not so. The man who had made the remark concluded by saying, "For shows, that is."

My euphoria was not entirely dispelled since I had just come away from five hours at the Mammoth Old Tyme Rallye, a glorious melange of Model T's, Hot-air balloons, bellringers, Suffolk Punches, model railways, commemorative covers, candy-floss, steam-railway preservationists, steel quoits, fencing, toxophily, Morris dancers, pierrot shows, hot-dogs, Judo, Silver Ghost, De Dion Boutons, Sunbeams, Hand milkprams, showmen's engines, sentinel steam wagons, Burrell Agricultural Engines, International Mogul Tractors, Victorian butter churns, bygones, bottles, relics, lawn mowers, antique arms and armour, sewing machines, period dress dolls, newspapers, coopering, corn-dollies, thatching, sheep shearing, horse-hair drawing, weaving, pottery, boots and shoes, bricks and tiles, Welsh ponies, gypsy wagons, miniature shetlands, landaus, gigs, phaetons, wagonettes, steam-organs. This is not to say I had fully absorbed all these multitudinous phenomena but I had partaken of some and witnessed some. I was sated.

Emerging from all this with a head full of steam, as it were, I was not entirely consumed with nostalgia but impressed by what still exists. For, apart from all the com-

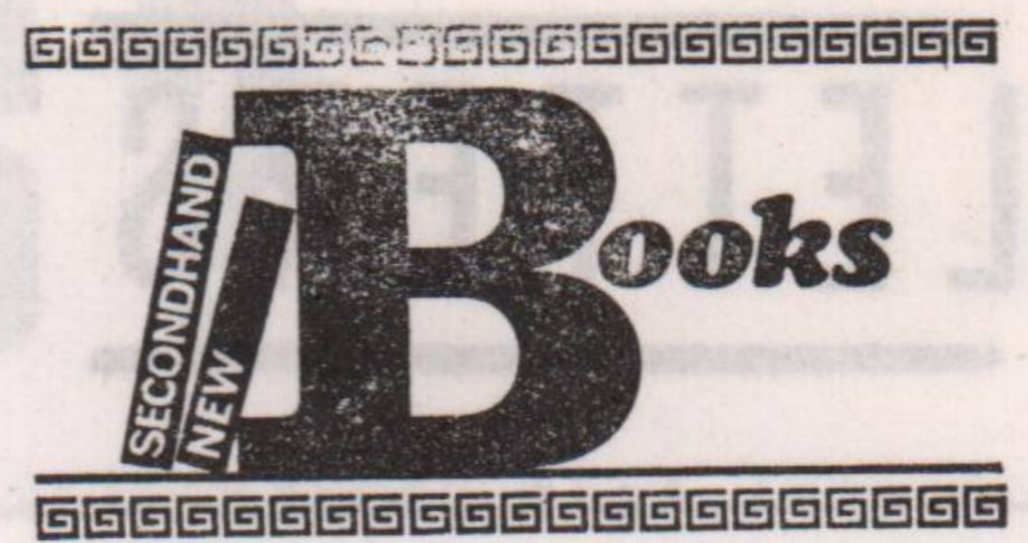
mercial flummery of the Post Office exhibit, the commercial vehicles still used for advertising purposes, the brougham of the cigarette firm and the dray of the brewery (both of whose names Suffolk Punches could not drag from me), and the inevitable recruiting stand, I was cheered and impressed.

Cheered to know that in a world of shoddy entertainment, shoddy sport and sordid international affairs people still existed whose interests (though seeming dotty to some) still were part of the rich and useful fabric of human life, both past, present and future. That numerous organisations (for some people, thank goodness, the only organisations they voluntarily belong to) like the Stour Valley Railway Preservation Society, Steam Plough Tractor Engine Club, Fair Organ Preservation Society, Steam Plough Club exist for pure pleasure in workmanship - and the exercise of craftsmanship in restoration generally without thought of gain except to society's knowledge of the past. They were all part of that rich fabric of voluntary associations which, as Kropotkin often stressed, made up the real society of men; not its pale menacing shadow the State.

Indeed the major function of many such societies is correcting, averting and protesting about the errors of the State. That is, apart from extracting one's own money from an unwilling State, which is always fair game.

And, given the major technological errors which the State seems bent on subsidizing, it may be that the Mammoth Old Times confront us with a soft technological future when we have wasted our substance in riotous motor, road, drought, erosion and general disaster-making and exhausted our oil, atomic energy and water, our Windmill presevers, Model T collectors, steam ploughs and Suffolk Punches will be waiting to haul us out of our metaphorical last ditch, with a full on head of steam.

J.R.



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LITTLE BLACK MORALS ARE

GOOD FOR YOU *

(*apologies to Jules Feiffer)

IN THEIR eagerness to shield our adult eyes from the immodesties of the various media Lord Longford and Mrs. Whitehouse have overlooked the young lives that are being Blyted by Enid.

"My goodness, Pam, did you ever see such a pair of boobs". Shades of Sigmund! Worse is to follow. What strange perversion have we here? "Well, as you've both come, you can do a spot of work for me. I want my boots cleaned and Pam's too. You'll find water just down the passage". (The Twins at St. Clare's, p. 24. Paperback edition).

I am also disturbed by the amount of graffiti that has been stimulated by our pornohounds. On a public wall I recently had to face the query: "Can Mrs. Whitehouse tell Marlon Brandon's stalk from butter?" Luckily I was seated at the time.

But before I fold my Marquis and steal into the grateful shadows, there are several points I would like to raise on behalf of suffering humanity - not to sound too hung up with regard to my own moral welfare. Among the few generally accepted facts floating around in the clouds of polemic, one of the better demonstrated is that nothing excites the salacious imagination quite so much as the efforts of Mrs. Grundy to dress the legs of the piano. Another is that Mrs. Grundy's own deeper psychological motives are necessarily suspect.

If I were the devil (and who knows what I get up to in my spare time?) I should be considering the lord and lady for high distinctions on my Birthday Honours list. Plus a small medal, just for the record, as a token of my regard for the dedicated efforts of Mr. McWhirter. With a sure eye and fiery spirit, between them they have struck at the very roots of morality, and in such a manner that guilty and innocent alike are meshed in their toils. Top marks, too, for a well veiled arrogance that takes to itself the right to stunt the moral growth of young and old, intelligent and stupid, saint and sinner alike, while purporting to promote it.

Wearing my other hat - the one sporting a crumpled burnished halo, albeit at a rakish angle - I feel the righteous wrath of Jehovah rising in my gorge. Quite a few things

separate man from other animals, including the ability to play with fire. More significant is his knowledge of the fruit of good and evil.

Whether or not this is an acquired taste is not an immediate issue. If it be acquired, then the lord and lady would deny us the right to acquire the taste. If we already have the flavour on our palates, then we are being urged to spit it out and wash our mouths with carbolic.

Like others, I have my predilections. Mein Kampf is not a book that meets with my approval, yet to ban it would be to suggest that the force of its arguments compels assent. To my mind the Old Testament is the most vicious book to which I have ever been exposed, but I survived its blandishments, at least to the extent that I would never dream of murdering a blameless son to propitiate a savage god. I am content - though not happy - that it should be available to manure sick minds. Which is not to say that the muck spreaders should go unchallenged. It is in the free marketplace of ideas that good and evil must be measured - and not just by the self-appointed arbiters of public morals, either.

What our latter day moralists appear to be unable to grasp is the very simple truism that morality involves choice. In order to choose the better I must be free to choose the worse. Forbid me that choice and I am no more than the moralists' lap dog. This may well inflate and inflame their egos, but it will rot their souls - and everyone else's too.

Bob Green



I just asked him what he thought of the 'withdrawal' method.

PRISONERS IN the U.K.

BELFAST TEN

THE CONDITION of the Irish men and women remanded in custody in Brixton Prison for the last three months, charged with conspiring to cause explosions in London are such that they should cause grave concern to all who are aware of the progressive erosion of civil liberties in this country.

In particular, the attitude of Prison Officer Bean needs publicising. This particular prison officer has shown particular prejudice against the Belfast prisoners, having forced several of the Belfast Ten to clean their prison cells more than once on the same day, having ensured that they are always served with cold food and that they are continually subjected to verbal abuse, that their letters are intercepted.

Apart from the activities of this particular prison officer, we have the general attitude of the authorities. Anyone who wishes to see any one of the prisoners from Belfast must give SIX WEEKS' NOTICE. No one who has known any of the accused previously in Ireland is allowed to visit them. They are not allowed visits from anyone they do not know. The only exceptions to these stipulations are relatives. Therefore effectively visitors are restricted to close relatives and friends they have known in England.

The prisoners are not allowed old books for some unaccountable reason.* They are not allowed butter, and their margarine ration per day is the size of a shilling piece.

Trial by garrison town is scheduled for these Irish people when they go to Winchester Assizes. This is the town which handed down the infamous 30 year sentence based on perjured evidence against Noel Jenkinson.

Belfast Ten Defence
Committee,
88 Roslyn Road, N.15
tel. 800 9392

*The regulation for all remand prisoners in Brixton that books must be new paperbacks.--Eds.

ON THE RIGHT LINES?

TO THOSE, like the writer, with little Latin and less Greek, it was mystifying to read Mr. Peyton (Minister of Transport) say that Draconian cuts were 'not in the Government's view the answer to the [railway] industry's or the nation's problems.' Particularly if one has to look up that Draco was a Greek statesman who codified the laws of Athens, which were notorious for their severity.

This would seem to be a somersault on previous policies and Mr. Peyton took the occasion to belabour the 'leak' which forecast further cuts in services and closing-down of lines. Whether this slight change of policy was due to the economically-determined cuts in road-building, electoral reverses, the public outcry from the 'leaks', or the assumedly threatening fuel crisis cannot be foretold, but by sheer coincidence it would seem the Minister has arrived at a commonsense decision almost amounting to the necessity of making rail transport a public service.

The Tory bastion of non-subsidization of 'lame ducks' has long been abandoned. Rolls Royce, Concorde, computers, shipyards, house-improvers have all received the blessings of Tory financial help, so it is straining at a gnat to oppose continuance of help to the railways. Particularly if one reflects that £94million was paid to shareholders for the run-down railways in 1948 under the Labour government, and that in 1969 British Rail were still apparently paying £35 million a year 'interest charges'; presumably to the Treasury.

However, the 'hiving off' of marketable assets of British Rail continues, which should be balm to Tory hearts. According to The Observer (8.7.73) the Government plans to sell sites over railway stations for office developments, half the proceeds to go to property developers. There is still the possibility of selling railway hotel property and The Guardian (3.7.73) reported talks between the Post Office (another commercially lamed-duck) and British Rail 'which are likely to lead to a massive shift of mail from the railways and on to the roads... British Rail set out a programme... which would reduce its present 300 [parcel] depots to 90 super-depots'. What Mr.

Peyton gives with one hand he apparently takes and shares with private-enterprise friends with the other.

We do not know exactly what happened about the hover-train which could possibly have solved some of the problems of transport. However, the Government seem to have been content to turn over the product of subsidized research (as usual) to private enterprise.

The usual accusation that nationalization has ruined the railways can be refuted by the fact that there is nowhere in the world where large railway systems have been profitable. In America, where nationalization is a dirty word, Amtrak, a corporation set up to run America's failing railways, lost £61 million last year, and in Germany the state is to subsidize the railways by £1,000 million per year.

The truth emerges that large railways units dedicated purely to profit-making are no go. Smaller units, even those run by enthusiastic amateurs, can combine profit and service. Bureaucratic government aided by computers is no substitute for railways run by railwaymen.

* * *

THE FAILURE of the railways has been laid at the door of the road-transport interests and in the growth of the motor-car. There have been second thoughts (particularly in London) about the place of the motor-car in transport and of the provision of motor-ways.

The arrogant assumption by the motorist that the world was made (and must be remade) for him is pricked once again by a P.E.P. survey pointing out that two out of three adults do not have the optional use of a car (to these must be added the 27% of the population under driving age). Even by 2000 A.D. over half of the population will not have the optional use of a car.

As for the usage of cars, personal observation in London alone will show that the overwhelming majority of cars are in use for only two or three hours per day. London Transport calculated that whereas an average of 41 passengers are carried in buses the average commuter car carries 1.4 people.

It is argued that 'free' transport long recommended as a solution to commuter-traffic problems is not valid since the car is not only a means of transport (however inconvenient at times) but a status symbol and even, a sex symbol. Can we socially afford such symbolism when one reflects on the destruction by accidents (one in three, according to Gallup have been involved in accidents), the purposeful destruction of physical communities for motorways and the supplementary destruction of communal and social life by the motor car (the growth of the hypermarket aiding the destruction of the village shop, for example).

Conservationists have long pointed out the pollutant effects of the internal combustion engine. Now, by extraordinary railway statistics the long-distance lorry has been given further sanction to burden our already overburdened roads. Additionally, chauvinistic fervour condemns the foreign juggernauts who are deemed through EEC machinations to be hurtling dangerously overloaded through our towns and villages, checks have shown that British lorries are equally culpable. Sweden, not a recklessly socialist state, recently passed legislation forcing freight from lorries to the railways if concern for the quality of human life and not mere profitability or 'paying the way' was the concern of Governments it would long ago have been done here.

The vested interests in private profit are seen at work not only on the railways. The city-centre development racket sold a lot of 'pup' roadways to town councils, some of whom have had the intelligence to abandon some of the half-baked schemes. The roads themselves find their lobbying advocates in the Road Haulage Association, the Freight Transport Association, the Road Users Federation, the Automobile Association, the Royal Automobile Club (particularly vociferous about parking), the motor-car manufacturers - with their perpetual blackmail of 'the export trade' - and the Press with its dependence upon motor-car and petrol advertisements - at one time even accidents were soft-pedalled in papers in the cause of ad-

vertising revenue. The Road Haulage Association, according to The Guardian (13.1.73) rejected a suggestion by the injuries research group at the Birmingham Accident Hospital that because of the greater number of deaths caused by heavy vehicles, more goods should go by rail rather than by road. Well, they would, wouldn't they?

* * *

We have all become involved in the planned irresponsibility, the de-centralized centralization of the capitalist State. The State insists on taking over the planning of our lives, but plans badly since there are sacred areas in which it cannot interfere. Capitalism has its plans too but since very little is done that is not concerned with profits our welfare is ignored and we are treated purely as consumers.

In these dual quests any integration of re-creation of society is ignored. Planned chaos is our lot.

In the same way that the railways bought out and closed down the canals, road transport, through vested interests is squeezing out the railways. If aeroplanes were commercially exploitable on mass-production individual consumer lines they would squeeze out road transport regardless of the marginal usefulness of such methods. There is no room in an exploitative State for a multiplicity of forms of transport all useful in their own way.

The problems are many, the solutions are many. Community transport, free transport, 'white cars', 'white bicycles', revival of the canals are all short-term solutions. A de-centralist society with self-supporting communities and workers' control of transport, the integration of home-life, agriculture and industry, are all long-range solutions to this tangled skein of roadways and railways which is slowly strangling life itself.

Jack Robinson

We welcome news, articles, letters. Latest date for receipt of MSS, notices &c. is the Monday of week of publication. Earlier receipt is helpful.

SQUATTING

[The following continues the article last week giving our contributor's personal experience of moving in to an empty house.]

SQUATTING means changing your life-style and many, many of the values of the slave-society.

For example, in the slave-society you either pay rent to the landlord or you pay off the mortgage to the finance companies. This means you must have a steady weekly income, which means you must jump out of bed when the alarm clock is ringing and you must run like mad to work -- year in year out till you get the gold watch at retirement. This indeed is the life-style of the majority of people in the slave-society.

When you squat you don't pay rent, which means you don't have to have a steady weekly income, in other words you don't have to go to work. You don't have to get up when you prefer to lay in bed.

And the reason why we have 100,000 empty houses in London and no people willing to live in them rent-free is precisely because people have been so indoctrinated into the life-style and values of the slave-society that most of us can't imagine that there is any other way.

No wonder the handful of persons in authority who parasite on the people are terror-stricken at the rapid growth of squatting and are plotting all kinds of schemes to arrest this growth and smash squatting.

For example the dictator Denning ruled in the Court of Appeal (The Times, 25.5.73) that squatters are guilty of the offence of forcible entry "with strong hand" and should be prosecuted for trespass.

The empty houses

Empty houses in London can be divided into three categories - those owned by the borough council or the GLC, those owned by private landlords, and those huge buildings owned by finance companies.

We have experienced squatting in council houses and private houses. We squatters didn't feel strong enough to tackle buildings like Centre Point, though a few months ago a group of us had advanced plans for its takeover.

The easiest to squat are council houses and there are

thousands of them all over London. Each council has plans for redevelopment. Once the council decides to redevelop an area it empties the houses of tenants and this process may take a year or two. It means that some houses are empty while others are still lived in.

Then as soon as the tenant moves out the council sends in official vandals to rip out of the house its electric wires and lead and copper pipes and generally to make the house uninhabitable.

So the squatter has two things to consider: how long is the house likely to remain empty before the redeveloppers move in, and can it be repaired reasonably cheaply.

Reverend Fr. Fuck D.D.

(to be continued)

BOOKSHOP NOTES

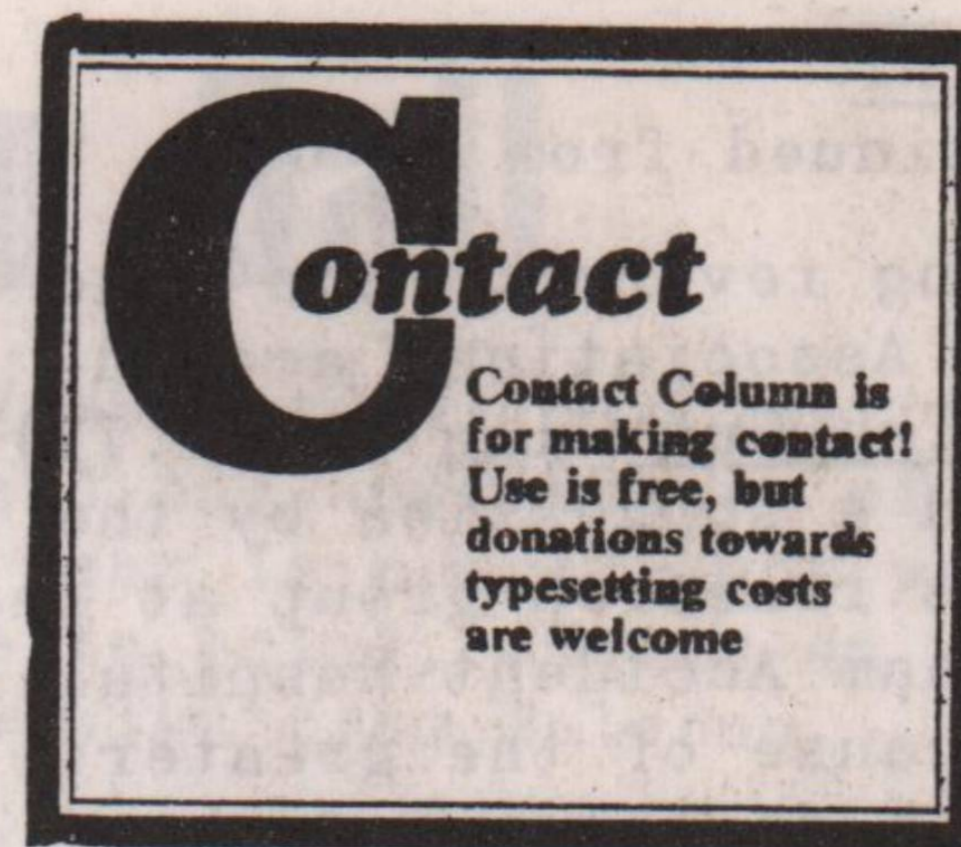
We have recently received new supplies of a number of anarchist posters. Below is a selection.

- *LUCY PARSONS - "Let every dirty, lousy tramp arm himself with a revolver or knife and lay in wait on the steps of the palaces of the rich and stab or shoot the owners as they come out". 20p (5p)
- FREEDOM IN FASCIST ULSTER - "Take a trip, walk around, see the pigs who run our town". 5p (5p)
- A POLITICIAN IS AN ARSE UPON WHICH EVERYONE HAS SAT EXCEPT A MAN - e.e. cummings 3p (3p)
- *AND EVEN IF IT SEEMS TO YOU THAT YOU NEVER HAD SO MUCH, THAT IS ONLY THE SLOGAN OF THOSE WHO STILL HAVE MUCH MORE THAN YOU - Peter Weiss "Marat/Sade" 20p (5p)
- *BUENAVENTURA DURRUTI 20p (5p)
- *LOUIS LING "I despise you, I despise your order, your laws, your force-propped authority. Hang me for it!" 20p (5p)
- *ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS 5p(5p)
- *SHOULD WE VOTE" - graffiti style comments on the ethics & pros and cons of voting 40p (5p)

Order now from Freedom Bookshop - cash with order if possible please. J.H.

Anarchist Classics Series
ABC OF ANARCHISM
 —Alexander Berkman
 20p (2½p)

Reprint of Freedom Press Edition with a new Introduction by Peter E. Newell, Biographical Notes and Historical Background



Dear Editors.

A propos of Gianfranco Bertoli, the following is extracted from a letter I have received from an anarchist-individualist living in Milan:

"What I know of Bertoli is what I've learnt from the papers... It is Bertoli himself who has insisted that he is an anarchist-individualist, while, at the time, it was the papers who defined Valpreda as an individualist. It is the case now in Italy, one way or another, that anyone who throws a bomb is automatically referred to as being an anarchist-individualist, at least initially...

"The only proof for Bertoli's affirmation is that in his suitcase was found a copy of Max Stirner's The Ego and his Own, published two or three years ago by the Ennesse Press of Giovanni Ventura... suspected of being involved in the slaughter at the Bank of Agriculture in Milan in 1969.

"The finding of Stirner's book gave the Italian weekly intel-

lectual press (Espresso, Europea, Panorama) a chance to speak of Stirner, but in a superficial way, farcical and negative, echoing the criticism of Marx and Hans G. Helms that he was the ideologist of the petty bourgeoisie. . .

"Instead of being an anarchist individualist, everything leads one to regard Bertoli as a fascist provocateur; his relations with a fascist syndicalist whom he met the evening before the attempt, his relations with two Arabs in Venice, his difficulty in leaving Israel and travelling with a bomb in his pocket, his mysterious sojourn in France some days before the attempt, the impossibility of hiding the bomb - all this permits one to suppose he did not act alone, as he claims..."

(Milan, 24.6.73)

S. E. Parker

/Ed. note: We have received other letters indicating that there is some controversy in the Italian movement about Bertoli's background.

LETTER FROM SWEDEN

Dear Friends,

Whilst I'm enjoying London I'll just make a short comment on my article "Big Brother in Sweden" (FREEDOM 14.4.73). It certainly didn't go unnoticed. The Dagens Nyheter, probably one of the biggest papers in Scandinavia, gave us a month of very well-meaning articles concerning the Stockholm immigrants situation. One can deal with them very briefly as they are not worth a lot of space. The author of the articles wasn't really qualified to deal with the subject (at least not from a socialist stand-point) and as usual scratched the surface of the subject. Unfortunately, the most that professional journalists (being tied to a paper) can hope to do is to entertain and try to provide a forum for a brain-washed public conscience which more or less supports the status-quo. Some of the headlines read "Immigrants are politically homeless", "We'll be nothing more than strangers here", and "Is Swedish freedom exaggerated?". One article stressed that immigrants should be allowed the vote after two or three years in the country. As we have an election coming up in September I suppose dangling this kind of carrot is as good as anything else in our framework of romantic nationalism

and all-party reformism where everyone is saying the same thing only in a different language.

Soon after the publication of my article TV gave us a programme where one of our ministers in the "justice" business was interviewed by two or three immigrants. I didn't see the programme myself but I can imagine what it was like. However, the fact that they had such a programme at all is commendable. Apart from this, the radio presented a short talk called: "Anarchism the misunderstood ideology", which although I thought was very good, it should have been called "An outline of anarchism".

Incidentally, we have a new C.P. party which is Marxist in nature, calling itself KFLM(r) who are although disappointingly standing for election seem to call the bluff of reformism, and in certain cases they advocate violence. They seem to be frightening the life out of everyone.

Speaking of violence, I notice that someone had been scratching round the hinges of my Stockholm flat door, probably wanting to take it away as a souvenir. I feel flattered I'm receiving so much attention.

Fraternally,
H.

THURSDAYS 2 p.m. onwards. Help fold & despatch FREEDOM at Freedom Press

EVERY SATURDAY 2 - 4 p.m. Picket outside Brixton Prison. BELFAST TEN DEFENCE COMMITTEE (More information from the committee 88 Roslyn Road, London, N.15)

ANARCHO-FEMINISM: any women interested in forming group in London please ring Jan at 229 0784

CORBY ANARCHISTS. Discussion meeting first Friday in every month at 7 Cresswell Walk, 7.30 p.m.

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

LONDON ASA for details of meetings phone 226-0817. Black & Red Outlook always available 5p + 2½p post. 3 Grange House Highbury Grange, N.5.

S.E. LONDON MENTAL PATIENTS UNION meets every Tuesday 8 p.m at The Albany Community Centre, Creek Rd., Deptford, S.E.8

LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION NETWORK. Letters, material for Bulletin circulars, etc. to Libertarian Education c/o 1 Wilne Street Leicester.

INTERNATIONAL CAMP this year July 25 - Aug. 20 (possibly to 30th) at SAINTE ENGRACE (Basses Pyrenees), Bayonne-Pau route & via Tardets-Sorholus. Camp will be indicated "Citoyens de la Nature". Or write before 23 July to Richard Ladmira le thalus 95VETHEUIL France

VISITING IRELAND? Why not drop a line to NEW EARTH, 112 Thomas Street, Dublin 8 (But write first).

SCOTTISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION: New Secretary is Chris Kerr, 9 Mayfield Terrace, Edinburgh 9.

If Nudity, Pure and Simple interests you, write to newly-launched protest/liberation movement NUDIST CHALLENGE, c/o Box 985, Peace News, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

Schoolchildren's Strike of 1911 Half Moon Theatre, Alie St. E1 is doing a play on this. Any comrades who would like to join others in a party to see it (probably on Friday, 20th July) leave message for Mike at Freedom Press (seats 50p)