

Freedom

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THEY GOT IN!

IN SPITE of previous failures, ridiculous promises, barely-concealed scandals, highly vested interests, dubious contacts, they got in!

In spite of an impossibly complex governmental mechanism, an antiquated voting system, a biased press and an ill-informed electorate, they got in!

In spite of inability to take effective measures against, solve the problems of, or even hint at a feasible solution to inflation, possible unemployment, continued lack of housing, world starvation, British malnutrition, pollution, the threat of general nuclear war, for the control of localized war; to solve the problems of property and the utilization of juvenile frustration-aggression, the restoration of vocation and the giving of meaning to meaningless work; the problem of loneliness in old age and big cities; the provision of a balance between town and country... These problems

and many more they ignored, but they got in!

Because of a need to believe in miracles, because of a fear of freedom, because of a shrugging off of responsibility for one's own life, they got in. Because of a failure of human solidarity they got in. Because

of a dependence upon and a belief in law and order they got in. Because of apathy (not because of frank mistrust) they got in.

It matters not whether the red, blue, yellow or black rosettes triumph. Government is still a failure and something alien to human life. Politics hitches itself to the human greed of a great and prosperous Britain, and the gaseous pride of a great nation. We have been deluged with hog-washes of so-called self-interest, of fears, of personal scandals and of complex statistical pillow-fights which although deplored are the very stuff of which elections are made.

As long as these saturnalias of illusory choices continue we can retain the idea of 'democracy'. The reality is not available through such channels. Only the present gaggle of deluding and deluded power-seekers will get in.

Jack Robinson



ARTHUR MOYSE

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?

DIRECT ACTION PAYS OFF

WHICHEVER PARTY is elected to form a government this Thursday, people will still have to get up on Friday morning in order to earn a living. That is the bleak reality for the working class. This same prospect equally awaits workers at the Ford Motor Company. It applies also to all coalminers. But both of these groups of workers have been singled out because they have broken, or threaten to break, the Labour government's 'social contract'.

By the very nature of the coalminers' job public sympathy will support them in any wage claim they make. However, the car worker is seen as a greedy money grabbing 'militant wild-cat'. While it is true that the coalminer's job is of far more importance to the community, the Ford workers' struggle

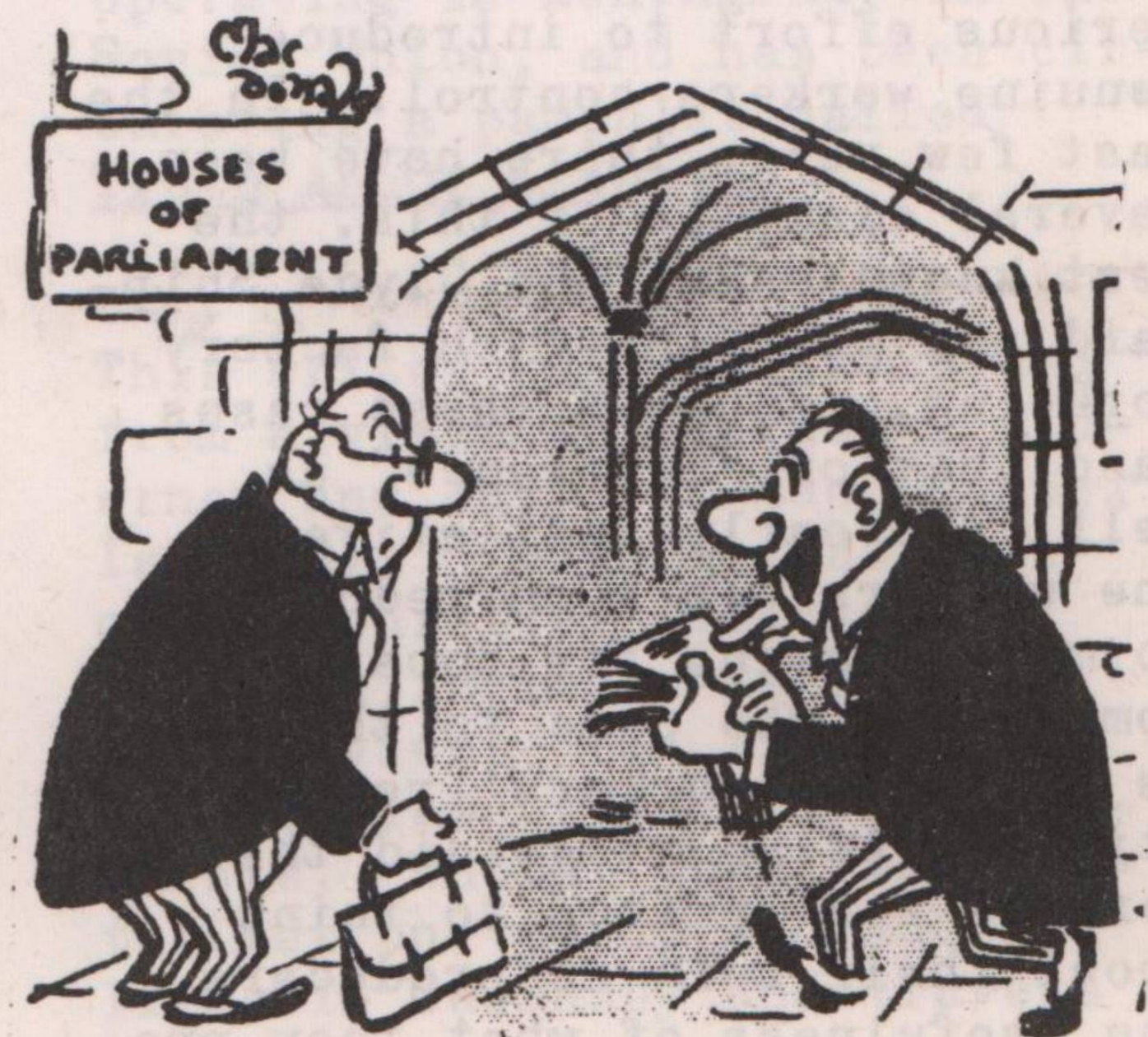
strengthens the working class against all employers and governments who expect workers to solve the problems of inflation.

Ford's offer certainly breaks the 'social contract'. But really this shouldn't surprise anyone too much. Employers are quite willing to pay above the norm when it suits them. Ford is such an example. Their employees relations director has said that the contract "can provide a sound basis for lasting industrial peace and make a considerable contribution to the nation's economic recovery". Obviously a long-term agreement will suit Fords because they hope to prevent expensive stoppages in the future.

Wage claims do not as such bring us any closer to a social revolution, but the strug-

gles involved do give those taking part a feeling of self-reliance and experience in organisation. Some might say car workers earn too much and that if they accepted less others with a more deserving claim could themselves get more. But it never works out that way. No employer is go-

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"Ah'm new here. Where dae ye dump yer promises?"

[With acknowledgements to Glasgow Weekly News (1951).]

BREAKING THE VICIOUS CIRCLE

EQUAL PAY was the issue underlying two disputes raging at engineering firms in the Manchester area last week. In Milnrow, 90 women members of APEX struck at Holroyd Gear Works against being used as cheap labour, but it was in Heywood, where 400 women at S.E.I. (A.E.I.-G.E.C. combine) have been locked out for over six weeks in a dispute over piecework rates, that the most dramatic move took place. S.E.I. pay men a 100% bonus compared with 85% for women, which means that the women have to work faster to get the same pay.

Now, whether it was the colder weather or simply impatience with their pigheaded area manager, Brian White, the main cause of three recent strikes at S.E.I., some of the women decided to take over the plant and bring off the first occupation over equal pay in this country.

Though the management knew in advance of the rumours of a takeover, they reacted rather stupidly when it happened. The security men moved in dogs immediately and at first an effort was made to starve the occupiers out. The police were equally wild to begin with, the sergeant in charge asking that his men be allowed to move in to drag the girls out. The situation was finally

defused after the women threaded a plastic tube through one of the windows to supply the occupiers with soup and coffee. The management then agreed to let food supplies in. At the time of writing the women are still occupying the lodge and switchboard.

Meanwhile the men, who are all members of the same union, broke into the factory and I am told had even clocked on before the buzzer went. And when, at a meeting later in the day, the A.E.W.U. (union) official tried to get them to back the women he was shouted down by the men. But before anyone says anything about human nature or male chauvinism, let me say that one man, the works' convenor, has joined the women's sit-in -- so where does that leave human nature; at the same time there are about 30 female scabs regularly breaking the picket line.

None of your instant cliches about deadly union officials, male prejudice, or workers' greed will do here. Indeed, I would bet that if the roles were reversed and the men were out on strike, the chances are the women would offer them the same lack of solidarity.

How do I know this? Well, I don't, because if human nature

is anything it's unpredictable, but what I do know is that earlier this year, when the skilled men were on strike the women didn't support them, and when a year ago the APEX workers at S.E.I. fought a 12-week strike for equal pay on staff, the other workers, including the women at present in dispute, only gave them limited support in terms of cash and brief token strikes. So in each of these long drawn out disputes there have been people who think that their own fight could have been won more quickly had they had more help from the other groups.

The result has been a vicious circle, but what can we learn from this? Well to my mind it is essential that we come to grasp how the working man and woman interprets and sees these 'real life' situations. It is important I think, not because there is any solution to the S.E.I. vicious circle, but because it will help us to gear our propaganda to the 'real life' local struggles. Until we get to know the meaning the worker puts on his or her actions or how he or she sees the daily grind, our propaganda will always lack impact.

North West Worker

LATEST: A Manchester offer of an extra 62p has been rejected.

WORK AND WORKERS' CONTROL

THE RECENT sit in by the crew of the transatlantic liner "Le France" has shown once again that working people must think and act for themselves in the face of capitalist and state incompetence. Yet unfortunately many such sit- or work-ins are only a reaction against impending redundancies rather than a serious effort to introduce genuine workers control. In the past few years there have been several examples of this, the best known being the Clyde Shipyard and the Lip watch factory work-ins. In both these cases (and that of "Le France" as well) the early initiative of the workers was soon reduced to mere begging for jobs by the communists who came to the fore as so-called workers' representatives. At no stage did the workers really stop to think about their role as producers, the usefulness of what they produced, and how they produced it.

At the moment there exists an economic dictatorship where working people are used as mere wage slaves by the capitalists

and the state or both. They have no say whatsoever on what is produced, where or how it is produced, and least of all to what use it should be put when it is finished. The liner "Le France" is a very fine example of this. The shipyard workers who built the ship would never have the opportunity to use it or get any use from its construction other than their wages (which, ten years ago in France could not have been all that much). Now the owners claim that it is no longer profitable to run and want to sell it for scrap. Even the state's idea to use it as a holiday social centre was rejected. So in ten years the hard work of thousands of working people has been wasted in the construction of the ship, and now the crew of 600 are to be made redundant. All was decided by the capitalists. Not a word from the workers. The same happened with the Brabazon air liner and the same will happen with Concorde. The list is endless, from the poor

girls working in the rag trade making tomorrow's fashions to wear, to the building workers who build large and expensive houses for the bourgeoisie, while they themselves are reduced to living in flats or houses and being exploited by the private landlord system.

As anarchists, we believe that the only way to break out from the vicious circle of one class producing for the exclusive use of another class is to create a society where working people themselves will not only control the factories and fields where they work, but will also control the method of production and, more important, what is produced. Only then will this wasteful use and exploitation of working people stop. We want to go from a society where the many produces for the few, to where everyone produces for everyone else. Only then will working people be able to enjoy the fruits of work, and not sacrifice all their working lives for the private profit of the capitalists or the state. D. P.

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NALGO's Revolutionaries

TEN YEARS ago, NALGO was merely the National Association of Local Government Officers. Despite its size, it was hardly a trade union at all. It was not - and still is not - affiliated to the Labour Party. Almost all its leading officials were also senior officers in their respective Town Halls. The word 'strike' would be met with a cry of horror.

But over the years things began to change. Lower "orders" within NALGO became more actively involved. NALGO joined the TUC. And, later, a strike fund was begun. NALGO became a trade union.

Furthermore, small "action groups", under the general but far from complete control of the International Socialists, were formed. A rank-and-file paper, aptly called NALGO Action News, was started and edited by John Whitfield of Chelmsford, who is a former anarchist now in I.S. For some time, the NALGO Action Group was looked upon as something of a joke by the extremely reactionary NALGO leadership. Now, however, some of them - backed by the right-wing bosses' outfit, the Economic League - are panicking. These "moderates" (Sunday Telegraph euphemism for backwoodsmen), led by John Fraser, a senior Leeds City Council officer, and four other NALGO executive council members, have started a campaign against a supposed "revolutionary" take-over of the Union.

This group has, of course, not "alerted" the membership in the normal "democratic" manner. It has published its views in the Local Government Chronicle, which circulates exclusively among principle officers and the like. Say these "moder-

ates": "NALGO Action Group's prime concern is not local government but political power. It seeks to control NALGO, and to use it for its own political ends. It must be fought everywhere and its influence must be destroyed." And, says Fraser, "by controlling the union their aim is to undermine this society".

That the members of I.S. aim to use NALGO (and, like the C.P. before them, any other union) for political purposes, is true; but in their reactionary "apolitical" way so do the "moderates". I.S. is not revolutionary, but some people think it is. So, Fraser and Co. can use the old "red revolutionary" bogey.

Is I.S. likely to take over NALGO? We should look at this rationally. NALGO has almost 550,000 members - well over half a million! It has an executive council of 63 members. Of that number the majority are either Conservative or Labour supporters. There are three Communists and seven International Socialists, including the very well-known I.S. member Will Fancy. And that is all. Out of 550,000 members, there are approximately 300 members of NALGO Action Group - and only 165 members of I.S. There are probably about 30 members of the I.M.G. and up to 50 anarchists. If the N.A.G. is able to take over NALGO with these numbers, then NALGO must be asking to be taken over!

NALGO Action Group
member.

P.S. According to the Sunday Times (29 Sept. 1974) Mr. Fraser's information (and backing?) comes from the Economic League and from the League's book, The Agitators. With friends like the Economic League, who needs enemies, Mr. Fraser?

IN BRIEF

IT WAS stated in the Guardian that members of a crime syndicate (recently sentenced) known as the Wembley Mob had no leader. Any member who 'cased a job' could collect the right men to do it, and afterwards the team would disperse and reform for the next job.

FILM MEN ATTACKED

POLICE ATTACKED foreign journalists in Saigon (Sept. 30) as they filmed a demonstration by Buddhist nuns who were calling for the release of political prisoners and an end to fighting in the country.

(The Times, 1,10.74)

TIMOTHY LEARY, former 'high priest' of the drug L.S.D., is now alleged to be telling a Federal Grand Jury in Chicago

all he knows about illegal drug activities, the Weathermen (some of whom freed Leary from jail) and certain Left-wing lawyers. A committee has been set up - "People to investigate Leary's lies" - including Jerry Rubin (a reformed Yippie) and Allen Ginsberg.

TYPHOONS AREN'T ENOUGH?

The Soviet Union has proposed an international treaty to ban the use of weather modification as a weapon of war. The Americans have already used such methods in Vietnam and use a computer which could predict the development point of a rain-storm, moving towards an enemy's wheat-growing area. Then it could designate the most effective seeding of clouds so that the rain would fall before it reached growing wheat. Conversely, the computer could suggest the time for cloud-merging that would flood a field of seedlings.

HOW BOLSHEVISM WON POWER

By Robert Minor.

Robert Minor was, in 1919, a left-wing journalist writing in the U.S. press. In October, 1935 the anarchist monthly, MAN ! (Vol. 3 No. 10) published the following, abstracted from two articles by Robert Minor published in 1919 in the labour paper Daily Bulletin of Butte, Montana. The editor of MAN ! (Marcus Graham) prefaced the article with the note: "...Minor has subsequently recanted, and since 1920 has been one of the leading editors of the communist press of this country [U.S.A.]. The truth, as he penned it in 1919, remains nevertheless the truth."

A YEAR AGO the "Soviet Republic" was a loose federation of workmen, soldiers and peasants. It was governed by no man and was repugnant to State Socialists and bourgeois alike.

Today the Soviets are submerged in a semi-social democratic state with which any capitalistic government can easily make treaties. Bolsheviki can't afford to say that the old type of Soviets exists no longer in Russia, but I, not being a Bolshevik, can. The Bolsheviki did not create the early anarchistic condition of Russia, but on the contrary, they have created the only real government by which it could have been done.

In the Czar's Russia, everybody of enlightenment considered himself a revolutionist, and when the crash came in March, 1917, everyone thought it was his kind of revolution. But 180,000,000 men bursting chains make a force before which all theories have to break or bend. Miliukoff's, Teretschenko's and Kerensky's theories broke. The theories of the subtle analyst Lenin bent before the blind giant force, and carefully fitted themselves around it.

Despite the childish habit that we all have of thinking that each event of history is due to the particular act of some individual, I shall have to ask the reader to believe that Lenin did not make the October revolution. The whole substance of that revolution was roughly mapped out in advance in the minds of dumb millions.

I was in San Francisco in the summer of 1917, when immigrants returning to Russia poured through that city.

Being intensely interested in the social phenomenon of the Russian revolution, I asked many of these travellers who and what Lenin and the Bolsheviki were. None of them knew. But no less than a dozen obscure workmen told me that the workers and peasants were forcibly to stop the war, overthrow Kerensky, and seize land and industries, which they would run by Soviets such as had cropped up in the 1905 revolution, and of which they had a miniature imitation then in San Francisco for handling their business of travel.

No, Lenin did not make the October revolution.

By July, 1917, the peasants had covered the valley of the Volga and Central Russia with a network of land committees, and the annihilation of the landlords and the lawless taking of the land had gotten under way. None of these peasants knew at that time what a Bolshevik was. A month before the October revolution a wave of chateau-burning and landlord-killing swept those parts of Russia where Bolsheviki were least known.

As soon as the Czar's policemen were safely jailed or shot, the Petrograd workmen broke up the old government-fostered craft unions, formed industrial unions with shop steward committees, demanded wages that amounted to confiscation of the factories, and elected Soviets for the express purpose of dictating to the government. These city workmen determined their own wages, dictated management of the business, and by force prevented the closing of the factories and

removal of raw materials - but all the while they had a holy horror of "Bolshevism".

It wasn't Lenin; it was a lack of policemen.

Government machinery had no connection whatever with the social body.

There were many political experts trying to analyse the situation, and the most successful analyst was Lenin. He knew that the State was dead and that there was nothing in Russia that could be made into another state but this giant force of Soviets, if it could be bent under authority. He set about doing it. There was only one way to get control of the giant. It was a way at which we may turn up our noses, but I think it is the only way in which political power was ever won -- to say the things your crowd want to hear. Lenin knew what the active masses wanted before the masses knew it themselves.

General Korniloff speeded the oncoming storm more than Lenin did. His uprising simply laid bare the powder magazine under Kerensky's feet, and gave the match to Lenin; it showed that nearly everyone capable of fighting was willing to fight for the most radical phase of the revolution. When Korniloff and Kerensky awoke from their dream, they found every workman in Petrograd armed and in an ugly mood. From that time on there was nothing more to be done than to let the workmen and sailors throw themselves on the shell of a government and crush it in. A little practical organizing by the Bolsheviki and the thing was done.

In the first months after the revolution which they had led, the Bolshevik chiefs did not rule Russia, for no man can rule Soviets of the kind that then existed. The workmen had taken the factories, and the peasant the land, at a time the Bolsheviki could not have prevented it had they tried. The Bolsheviki passed laws legalizing what the workmen and peasants had already done. That was the only way they had of making their power real. Gradually some of the workmen and peasants began to regard these laws as the sources of their games. They were lawless, but if the law brought them what they wanted - well, they were won back to law.

The spirit of lawless but fullhearted communism into which all Russia was plunged for several months is infectious. The military forces were a series of armed groups voluntarily cooperating throughout European and Asiatic Russia in harmony due to their common aims, but taking orders from no man. Regiments elected their own officers, marched where they pleased, fought as they pleased - many of them under the black flag of anarchy - and supported the nominal government from week to week only as a committee that suited them. When orders came from Moscow, regiments decided by vote whether to obey or not, and any dissatisfied minority would secede and pursue its own campaigns.

That was the thing that Lenin found growing out of the wild, dreary soul of Russia, and which by circumstances was tagged with his lit-



the political party's name, "Bolshevism". It might be said that Lenin was for a time swayed from his orthodox Socialism by the thundering charm of the thing. The tremendousness and romance of it, flowing as it did in crude form from the lips and arms of millions of peasants and workmen who had been peasants, seemed for a brief while to make Lenin sweep aside the dusty volumes of Marx and to join in the song. Perhaps, though, it was only "real-politic". I am sure Lenin would deny ever having been unorthodox. Very soon he began to weld this raw material into something vastly different. The anarchistic song still faintly echoes down the Volga and the Don and the Dnieper, and in the Moscow and Petrograd workshops, and a note or two of it may still creep into Lenin's State affairs; but he very soon began suppressing the anarchy and building a police force.

At Brest-Litovsk the departure began. Then and there the Bolsheviks had to decide whether the revolution was simply a fiery [catalyst] to pour over Europe in uncompromising purity at any cost, or whether the revolution's value lay in crystalizing a State.

But the Bolsheviks wanted to build a Socialist State at any cost. In November, December, and in January they quietly pleaded with the Allied embassies for 300 or 400 officers to help them organize a military defence, while in public they denounced "all imperialistic governments" alike in the hope of arousing the German working class by their attitude. The French Government assigned three officers about March 25th and the British Government appointed Colonel Boyle whom Trotsky immediately made dictator of railroads, though Colonel Boyle left in three days. A few American officers appeared and were put to work drilling the Red Guard. The American Ambassador was understood to promise 350 engineers but they did not come. Paris and Washington had been misled to believe that the Bolsheviks were German spies. On February 28th the Bolsheviks made their last appeal to the Allied Governments.

Then they signed peace at Brest-Litovsk. They came back to Moscow to get the treaty ratified. Karl Radek (who is by feverish imaginations classed as a German spy - and is now in a German gaol) bitterly denounced the surrender to the German Imperialists and declared that the revolution would stand before Europe in moral bankruptcy if the treaty were ratified. Ryazanoff, president of the All-Russian Industrial Unions, demanded that the revolution should die with honour rather than live in shame. Lenin, with state-building in his head, in his heart and in his hand, was almost the only man in the Soviet Central Committee who dared to raise his voice for ratification. "We are not children," he said. "Let us look facts in the face; do not become the victims of a phrase."

Lenin had his way, and the revolution cast off from anarchy and started on its State career.

AS NOBODY can build a state on the foundation of an officer-defying, ambassador-killing volatile minority, the Bolsheviks had to shift their

governing structure more completely on to the steadier support of the inactive majority - in other words, to establish what practically amounts to "democracy".

They felt that they had to do to the industrial unions what they had done to the army -- bring them under the central political authority. Anarchistic syndicalism was practically controlling all the industries of Russia. Political power cannot exist and tolerate an independent economic power. Syndicalism was to give way to government ownership, political control.

It was hard to make the industrial workers submit to it. Throughout the summer, while Trotsky wrestled over the Russian prairies with the independent regiments to make them accept him as war minister instead of an adviser, Lenin wrestled in the towns to down his syndicalists.

A "Council of Public Economy", consisting of political and technical specialists, was first appointed by the government to overlook and advise the industrial unions in their production.

There was no objection as long as the council had nothing but advisory power, and the syndicalists worked with it harmoniously. Little by little the skilled hand of Lenin began to weld into the council of public economy an absolute authority over all production and all matters pertaining to the factories, mines and railroads.

To disentangle the government from syndicalism, it was arranged for the industrial unionists to have two separate ways of voting.

Each has one vote for a political delegate and another vote for his factory council, which no longer has any political power.

In the political field the worker has become a voter by occupational division instead of by geographical district as in England and America. In the industrial field the worker is a member of an industrial union in a government-owned plant, the government controlling everything, except some internal shop labour matters.

Lenin succeeded in this tremendous change, ditching syndicalism and substituting conventional government ownership, only by telling the industrial unions that it was a temporary measure, due to military necessity, and that later the political authority would fall away again and leave the purely industrial organization. But I don't think it ever will unless many years from now by another violent revolution against the most revolutionary-proof government in the world.

The ideal of the original simon-pure Soviet system was that: The constitution of future society shall be defined, not upon geographical lines, but the lines of industrial unionism.

Without central (enforced) authority that would come pretty close to anarchist syndicalism. With central (enforced) authority it would amount to the programme of the American Socialist Labor Party as set forth by Daniel De Leon. But after going through the anarchist phase, which the Bolsheviks could not prevent, and then through the De Leon phase, which Lenin calls his ideal, the Russian Soviet republic is now being tempered by arrangements to let in foreign capital.

It is important to trace the way in which the Bolshevik government eradicated anarchist syndicalism, because that government is at present planning great industrial concession to Entente bondholders and American capital. As things are now, these operations would not be embarrassed by lawless syndicalism. Capital has before learned the value of dealing with the centre in labour matters, and the present Russian government is the most successful labour centre in the world.

An anthology of selections from MAN ! (1933-1940) will shortly be published by Cienfuegos.

MICHAEL BROWN AND EDWARD G.

ALL MY YESTERDAYS. By Edward G. Robinson, with Leonard Spigelgass. W.H. Allen 385 pp., £ 3.50.

There comes that moment in time when the desire and the need for punitive vengeance finally finds its point of no return and culminates in the bloody slaughter of the innocent and the guilty. When the gates of the concentration camp are opened or when the barricades fall, then death in the name of primitive justice demands reparation in blood and no man can cry halt for reason has abrogated its claim and the debate is adjourned

It is when a man or woman believes, and too often rightly, that God and their society no longer offers them any help or protection, and that they are too frail of body or mind to save themselves that they find salvation for their hurt in the physical destruction of others even unto their own death.

We bear witness to this too often within the American scene when some unfortunate freaks out, and in a mind blowing session guns down half a dozen innocent people or some pathetic creature slaughters himself and his family before taking his own life. And there is no answer, for the knowledge follows on the deed.

Michael Brown was 31 years of age. He was less than five foot tall as a result of pituitary infantilism, and unemployed, and this was his bleak and miserable world and in the end, on Thursday October the 3rd, he walked into the Labour Exchange in Torquay, in residential Devon and gunned to death a woman and two men employed within the Labour Exchange, and let us be trite and say that all were the victims. Let all those who advocate a return to the death penalty, all those who advocate political terrorism know this, that Michael Brown acted in their name, except that he became his own judge and executioner, and he and they are wrong.

The blue rinsed tory, the saloon bar liberal or the weekend revolutionary demanding State or People's Justice via the rope or the firing squad should march behind the coffin of Michael Brown for he put their theory into action and solved nothing. There was an answer, Michael, and not a very good one, that would have meant that you and John Leggo, Sally Yeo and Kenneth Watkins would still be alive today. Clerks in offices would still be rude, we would still be patronised by our economic superiors, the bleak days of the physical handicapped would become longer and more meaningless, but the death of you and others is not the solution, only a few seconds of escape from the everlasting hurt.

Edward G. Robinson was a man such as Michael who suffered at the hands and mouths of his society. But Edward G., as he admits in his book, "All my yesterdays", publicly crawled and ate his persecutors' shit that in the end he might live out his life as a hired actor, in that degree of comfort that the star system granted its hirelings.

Edward G. was the little tough guy snarling out of the corner of his mouth, and we, the factory fodder of the thirties, sat in the ninepenny womb of darkness and watched and listened to him act out our fantasies of killing the foreman or the Labour Exchange clerk. But, for his liberal opinions, Edward G. was blacklisted by the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals, and found that no one would employ him until he had been cleared by creatures such as Duke John Big C Wayne.

I have a great admiration for actors and one comes across them on the Town's corners waiting and waiting to be cued into the camera's range for the mass makings of the commercial television films, and I admire their patience while they are small time, but Edward G. was big time, and the sacrifice was too great.

His story makes sad reading, and after the third time of appearing before the committee, he caved in and agreed that he was "a dupe, a sucker, a fool, an idiot, a tool, and an unsuspecting agent of the Communist conspiracy". Edward G.'s 'crime' was that he voiced humanitarian opinions, and he held that the political scum of the day had in relation to these particular victims was that they were rich by virtue of their trade as public entertainers. Edward G. gave THEM the list of every organisation he had ever joined and a copy of every cheque he had ever sent, but the FBI ignored him. He made the pilgrimage almost on his knees time and again to Washington, and publicly praised William Randolph 'Rosebud' Hearst, but all to no avail until in the end he was down to playing Rubashov in Koestler's "Darkness at Noon", and even this anti-communist in the second road company was not a sufficient penance.

But time drifted on and Edward G. made it the hard way back on his belly, and he can now lie in the sun and read of the misery of the small minded crook, Nixon, who helped to break him. Edward G. was foolish enough to take his fame seriously, and to give his opinions, and your answer, Edward G., is to stick to the script and draw the big pay. There was no such easy answer for Michael Brown and he solved his problem the wrong way with the wrong courage, but of the two he is worthy of our sympathy.

Arthur Moyses.

IN BRIEF

THE UNITED States Government banned until further notice all production of the widely-used agricultural pesticides, Aldrin and Dieldrin, because of strong evidence that they are cancer-forming.

FRANCIS BOYD of the Guardian found it a depressing link with the slump of 1931 that one of Ramsay MacDonald's daughters was addressing envelopes for Sir Keith Joseph, the Conservative hard-liner on unemployment.

AN EDITOR and assistant editor of the Durban Daily News have appeared in court charged with publicising a banned meeting by giving the venue and time of a rally to demonstrate solidarity with Frelimo in Mozambique, which was held despite a Government ban. Fourteen South African editors have protested about the arrests.

SIXTY IMPRISONED West German 'Red Army' urban revolutionaries are in the fourth week of a hunger strike against torture of 'political prisoners' in West Germany. The militants say they are prepared to fast until death, but the authorities say they are getting ready to force-feed them.

NON-HEROIN POPPIES

Turkish farmers are to begin planting opium poppy seeds on almost 50,000 acres this month. New government measures it is said will prevent the crop from being used for the production of heroin.

ARGENTINA - anti-subversion law

Buenos Aires, Sept. 26--President Isabel Peron said today that she had handed Congress a proposed law which she claimed would stop subversive activity.

ANIMAL DEFENDERS DEFENCE FUND

Members of the Band of Mercy, an anti-vivisection group, have been charged on counts of arson and criminal damage amounting to £57,000. They carried out attacks on property connected with animal experiments, seal hunting and other aspects of cruelty to animals which they, rightly or wrongly, consider to be morally wrong. They claim that in all their actions they took great care that nobody should (would?) be harmed. A defence fund has been set up at 'Bicester Three Defence Fund', c/o 91 Home Close, Hockwell Ring, Luton, Beds., LU4 9NS.

Sancho Panza

C.I.R.A.

THE CENTRE International de Recherches sur l'Anarchisme, which was founded in Geneva in 1956 but has been located in Lausanne since 1965, is moving back to Geneva at the beginning of 1975. The library will close at 24 avenue de Beaumont, Lausanne 1012, on October 15 and will re-open at 15 rue Necker, Geneve 1201, on January 15.

CIRA requests that all printed material should continue to be sent to the Lausanne address until the end of December, and regrets that it will be unable to lend material or answer correspondence during the three-

We wish our old friends at CIRA the best of luck during this difficult time, and hope they will do as well during the next ten years as they have during the past ten years. In the meantime CIRA Bulletin number 28 is available free to CIRA members.

After its second meeting, the C.A.R.D. (Collective for Anarchist Documentation and Research) is a bit more organised. Help is still required, and requested from anyone with a talent for reading foreign anarchist periodicals and literature of all kinds, and making up index entries for their contents. The next working meeting towards the production of the CARD Catalogue will take place on Sunday October 20th. Anybody wanting to lend a helping hand, please contact C.A.R.D. c/o Dave Mansell, 1 Glebe Road, Barnes, London S.W. 13.

WILDCAT 2

THE SECOND issue of Wildcat, the libertarian monthly paper, contains an inset on the general election which includes a useful anti-election poster. Wildcat 2 also has features on the ghosted memoirs of Victor Kelaher, the retired drug-busting and drug-planting policeman, and on the fortnight of freedom enjoyed by Pat Arrowsmith last month between her escape from Askham Grange open prison and her recapture at the London office of Peace News, as well as reviews (including Colin Ward on town-planning), arguments (including Maurice Brinton on the Solidarity leaflet attacking simplistic anti-fascism), letters (including Mark Hendy defending the murder of a police spy in Germany), and news (including the police search of the Wildcat office on September 10). In comparison with the first issue, the coverage seems rather narrower and the design rather better. Wildcat costs 15p per copy*, or £2.50 for an annual subscription, from Box 999, 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

J. N.

*Please add 5p postage if ordering copy from Freedom Bookshop

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libertarian news

It is reported in the Bulletin of ORA that:

At the recent annual conference of the British ORA in London, it was decided by the delegates (eight votes to six with one abstention) to change the name of the organisation to Anarchist Workers' Association, as from Jan., 1975.

- Libertarian Struggle, which ceased publication for three months due to financial problems, is now being produced again.

THE FRENCH ORA, which has just over 1000 members, is contemplating changing its name. The organisation has been under continual attack by various Trotskyist groups, who have conducted a smear campaign against it. The ORA's paper, Front Liberaire, now has a circulation of 15,000 copies a fortnight, and discussions have taken place on the possibility of making it a daily.

BOULOGNE ORA is responsible for all contacts with comrades in Britain.

THE GERMAN ORA recently held a national conference of libertarian communists. News from ITALY suggests that there are now three distinct tendencies in that country: the "traditional" anarchist movement, the libertarian communists (about twenty large groups of "Platformists") and a breakaway from the "Platformists" who argue that the former are involved in industry to the exclusion of everything else.

CHINESE ORA members in France are now producing a paper in their own language. Though very little can be written at the moment, an anarchist/libertarian communist group is now operating in Leningrad, in the Soviet Union, and has been circulating a pamphlet called Truth About Kronstadt.

This writer has just returned from a visit to Guernsey, Alderney and Sark (in the Channel Islands). There is, as yet, no anarchist or libertarian movement in those islands. Nevertheless, the islands are not completely devoid of anarchists. Whilst there the writer met one young comrade who lives in Guernsey and travels regularly to Sark (the last bastion of feudalism in Europe?) The seed has been planted!

DIRECT ACTION...from Front Page

ing to pay out more than he has to. It is, however, possible for those in a position of strength to use it for their less fortunate and less well organised fellow workers. Even in industries like coalmining, those working in pits and areas where the coal is more accessible will vote in favour of the National Coal Board productivity deal, when it is obvious that regions like South Wales and Scotland will get very little from such a deal.

Such deals are a classic example of divide and rule, by which the ruling class of this country have held onto their privileges and power. If this productivity deal doesn't go through we are told that there will be a shortage of coal this winter. The miners' answer to that should be -- well, so be it. Workers have only their labour to sell and so they should get what they think is the best price in wages and conditions.

While coal is still an essential basic fuel, the car is fast destroying our environment. We do not want more cars although they could be better made. But as the Nottingham miner might have, under the present capitalist system, a vested interest in the NCB's productivity deal, the car worker does not want less cars on the road but more. While cars make a profit men and women will be employed. But we as anarchists would ask not just car workers but all workers to consider the social value of their work and what value would their products have in a free society where there is no profit motive. We say that workers can organise and control their work places and produce goods that are essential and worthwhile to the community. That this work could be done in less hours and that everyone should have free access to these goods.

The ruling class defend their property and the ownership of the means of production with laws. These are backed up by the police, the courts, the prisons and finally the army. On Thursday workers will once again give politicians power over their lives, but the real power lies at the point of production. It is here, on the streets and housing estates, where the real changes will take place and where direct action can overthrow the capitalist system and make a social revolution.

P. T.

WE WELCOME NEWS, ARTICLES, LETTERS. We go to press on the Monday preceding Saturday date of each issue.

I.S.

MARCH OF THE SPERMATAZOA

IN YOUR comments on last week's New Statesman Sedgwick, you must admit that you missed out one of the finest metaphors of our time, when Sedgwick declared triumphantly that I.S. is the future: "It is the march of the spermatozoa into the eggs..."

On the principle that there are, say, 5 million sperms to one fertilized egg, this means that a terribly large number of I.S. cells are needed per worker. With only 3000 members, I.S. is indeed fighting the fight of the future. Never mind, comrades! Keep the spermatazoa flowing!

Julius.

PRESS FUND

Donations

26 September - 3 October

STOCKHOLM: L.P. 40p; LONDON N6: D.B. 95p; WOLVERHAMPTON: J.L. 50p; J.K.W. 10p; RAMSGATE Commune £1; KINGSBRIDGE: G.H. 27p; GILESGATE: S.K.J. £1; BANGOR, N.I.: J.T. £5.00; HOVE: B.P.B. 90p; PHOENIX, Ariz.: D.M. £2.25; WOLVERHAMPTON: K/F. and K.C. £2.

TOTAL: £ 14.37

Previously acknowledged: £ 893.03

TOTAL TO DATE £ 907.40

Contact

HELP fold and despatch FREEDOM on Thursdays from 2 p.m. at Freedom Press, followed by get together with refreshments

London, Thurs. 17 Oct.: Public Meeting "After the Election: Where do we go from here?" 8 p.m. in The Earl Russell pub, St. Pancras Rd. (Org. of Rev. Anarchists)

POEMS wanted for "Abolish War Encyclopaedia/Anthology: anarchistic, pacifist, anti-militarist, anti-racialist; also Conscientious Objectors' Tribunal Statements. Any Language. All welcome. Send to Mark Wm. Kramrisch, 55 Camberwell Church Street, London S.E.5.

SWF pamphlet Workers' Control 10p from Nat. Sec. Box SWF London WC1V 6XX. Direct Action #3 (Sept.) 5p = 3 p from SWF c/o Grass Roots, 178 Oxford Rd. Manchester 13. (or Freedom Bookshop).

CLASS WAR COMIX No. 1 New Times 25p (post 7p) Epic Publications, 76 Packham Rd. S.E.5 (or Freedom Bookshop)

NEW GROUP at Warwick University. Contact Peter Corne, c/o Union of Students, Univ. of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL.

ANARCHIST WOMEN's group meets Mondays. Tel. 01-883 2457

CORBY ANARCHISTS. For meetings and activities write 7 Cresswell Walk, Corby.

Some London anarchists meet socially at the Duke of York pub, 47 Rathbone St. London W.1 at 7.30 p.m. Sundays. Tube: Northern Line, Goodge Street.

ALTERNATE SUNDAYS Hyde Park Anarchist Forum, Speakers' Corner 1 p.m. Speakers, listeners & hecklers welcome.

INTERNATIONAL LIBERTARIAN CENTRE /CENTRO IBERICO, Sats & Suns from 7.30 Disco &c. 83A Haverstock Hill, London NW3 (entrance Steele's Rd., 2nd door) Tube Chalk Farm or Belsize Park.

EVERY SATURDAY, Mental Patients Union 2 pm at 37 Mayola Rd. Clapton E.5. (tel. 01-985 5251). Information on activities elsewhere from same address.

PLAYERS wanted for London based Anarchist football team(s). Contact Jim at Freedom Press.

PORTUGUESE Libertarian Movement needs books, pamphlets, free copies of anarchist publications, money & ideological support Movimento Libertario Portugues, Rua Angalina Vidal, 17-2^o-E, LISBOA I.

NEW YORK: Libertarian Book Club Fall Lectures, Thurs. evenings 7.30 at Workmen's Circle Center, 369 8th Ave. (SW corner 29 St). Admission Free. Oct 24: Samuel H. Friedmann, The Middle East Problem, can it be solved? Nov. 14: Irving Levitas, Anarchism in New England Dec. 12: Don Georgokas and Leonard Rubenstein, Art and Anarchy.

Prisoners:

PAUL PAWLOWSKI doing two years. Postcards to Paul Pawlowski, 219089, H.M. Prison, Heathfield Rd. London SW18 3HS

DUBLIN ANARCHISTS Bob Cullen (7 yrs) Des Keane (5 yrs), Columba Longmore (4 yrs). Address for letters & papers Military Detention Centre, Curragh Camp, County Kildare, Eire.

STOKE NEWINGTON FIVE Solidarity Committee, 54 Harcombe Road, London N.15. Needs donations to supply study books for these long-term prisoners.

GIOVANNI MARINI Defence Committee: Paolo Braschi, C.P. 4263, 2100 MILANO, Italy.

7 held re kidnapping of Spanish banker: postcards to Octavio Alberola Sunilach, Georges Riviere, Lucio Urtubia Gimenez and Arnaud Chastel at Prison de Fresnes, 1 Av. de la Division Leclerc, 94261 FRESNES, France; and to Ariane Gransac-Sadori, Jane Helen Weir and Chantal Chastel at Prison de Femmes, Fleury Merogis, 9 av. des Peupliers, 91700 ST. GENEVIEVE DES BOIS, France

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