

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 6d

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May Day brings out Big Brother

THE MAY DAY RALLY and March organised by the London Workers' May Day Committee has raised some issues which could usefully be discussed.

FREEDOM readers probably know that it was organised early this year and was alone in the field until two weeks ago, when an announcement was made in the *Morning Star* that a march of printers, building workers and others would be held against Mrs. Castle's Industrial Relations Bill, also starting from Tower Hill.

The Editor of the *Morning Star*, George Matthews, refused any information as to the identity of these workers, and also refused to make a statement from the May Day Committee which would clear up the confusion caused by this announcement. However, the May Day Committee was later invited by the Building Workers' Joint Sites Committee to send a delegation to a meeting held to organise the second march.

Our delegates arrived to find that the organisers of the march were in fact the 'Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions' which is a Communist Party front organisation. At which point it will come as no surprise to anyone to hear that the May Day Committee delegates were turned out of the meeting by the chairman and well-known Communist, Kevin Halpin. Also 'evicted' were delegates from three big tenants' associations.

The May Day Committee issued a leaflet to explain the situation to the marchers, which said in part:

... our Committee sends fraternal greetings to all fellow-workers who are on strike this May Day, wherever they may march. We are not working, and that is the main thing.

This is the third year (we have) fought for a stoppage of work ON MAY 1 as a means of defying the government and all their wicked anti-working class measures. We marched in 1967 and again in 1968, in the middle of the Powell uproar.

We do not ourselves believe in lobbying Parliament. We honestly think it is a waste of time, as well as giving people the illusion that they can depend upon politicians to save them. The Rent Act, the wage freeze Act and many other reactionary laws were lobbied against to no avail. Appealing to MPs will not stop anti-union laws. They may pass their bloody laws—but operating them will be quite another matter if we are strong and have confidence in our strength. The only answer, in our opinion, is mass working class defiance. When the Labour government arrested dockers in 1951 and put them on trial, they were eventually released by a mass strike of London dockers and not by a lobby of Parliament.

If this government—or any other government—fines any worker under the new laws, it must be the signal for a complete stoppage of work throughout Britain. That is our May Day Message.

May Day dawned fine and sunny and brought a big crowd of trades unionists on one-day strike to Tower Hill for a march to Lincoln's Inn Fields and a lobby of Parliament. To cut a long, dirty and familiar story short, they were shepherded into line by—guess who?—Brother Halpin—whose identity I am sure few people there knew. Some SOGAT members, for instance, took

it for granted that he was a member of their Union, which he is not.

A speech by Brian Behan from the May Day Committee platform was cut short after two minutes when someone wrenched the lead from the microphone (shades of Czechoslovakia). There was no hostility toward us from the crowd itself who, on the contrary, appeared very interested in our anti-parliamentary placards. However they loyally marched off, as was to be expected, behind their union banners.

IS SUCCUMBS

The International Socialist group, which originally opposed the idea of a May Day March, and has vacillated wildly ever since between sup-

porting the May Day Committee, holding its own meeting and march, or joining in any other march which happened to be taking place, melted into the big march taking with them their paper which carried a big article attacking Parliament!

Of the 'left' groups, only the anarchists, members of Workers' Mutual Aid and members of 'Solidarity' remained with the May Day Committee to carry on with the march to Victoria Park as planned. Luckily, Tenants' Associations which had promised their support turned up trumps and we were able to rally about 500 people to march.

COMMUNISTS AND PARLIAMENT

One issue this march has raised is the conspiratorial nature of the Communist Party, never acting in its own name when another will do, and prepared to use violence on anyone who stands in its way. On this occasion the mask was made to slip a little, and the oftener this happens, the better it will be for everybody's health.

In our small way, we also raised the issue of Parliament. For too long the Communist Party has been allowed to march workers up hill and down dale on futile expeditions to Parliament, trade unions headquarters, the TUC, etc. We are quite sure that the majority of workers would agree with us that it is a waste of time. Certainly on May Day the vast majority of marchers retired to the pub and not to Parliament when the meeting was over.

For the non-Communist 'left' groups, it raised the problem as to whether you go along with numbers, on the grounds that you must 'stay with the masses' or 'go through the experience with them'. In this case we think that the 'masses' are way



ahead of their would-be saviours.

Of course if you are government orientated, even revolutionary-government orientated, you must be eternally trying to make members, future voters for your party even—so the lure of the big battalions must be very strong, and on May Day all the political groups succumbed to it.

For the remaining few, theory was consistent with practice—we did not believe in marching to Parliament, so we marched away from it.

THROUGH THE EAST END

The march was quite a gay affair—nobody shouted 'Wilson Out' from start to finish, and that alone made the slog worthwhile.

The route lay partly through mean streets lined with little sweatshop factories—West Indian workers and others gathering at the doors to look in astonishment at this interruption in the daily routine. It must be many a long day since anything resembling the May Day March has been seen in these parts. Then through tall blocks of council flats,

which were never designed with human beings in mind, and for which the tenants are having to pay ever-soaring rents.

To see this district, which is duplicated all over London, is a sobering reminder of the tremendous job it will be to end exploitation and change society—it should be a regular compulsory exercise for all would-be 'leaders'.

Still, as we entered Victoria Park to the strains of a jazzy rendering of 'The Red Flag', I could not help feeling that, in a small way, we may have started something.

For FREEDOM readers and others, May Day has also raised an issue. Do you think it worth while? Is it, as has been implied in *Socialist Worker* (IS), a romantic gesture? If enough people now believe it is a job which must be done, then more people must come forward to do it. It cannot always be left to the same small number of people, who are in any case heavily committed to trade union and other work as well as earning a living.

J. ALEXANDER.

AVRO MANHATTAN

IN THE EARLY 1950s I remember reading a book by Avro Manhattan, which impressed me. It was called *The Roman Catholic Church Against the Twentieth Century*. It documented the relationship the Catholic Church had had with the various reactionary movements in the twenties and thirties, including Fascism and Nazism. Now it would appear that Mr. Manhattan's justifiable detestation of Catholicism has thrown him into the arms of a rival totalitarian movement, the militant Protestantism of Ian Paisley. Mr. Manhattan has a regular column in *The Protestant Telegraph*. In the issue dated the 5.4.69 there appears in this column an article called *Inky Rats of the Press*.

The title is enough. Gone is the elaborate documentation of his book. Instead we get a long diatribe against Catholic 'hooligans', written in the style of some reactionary old colonel, and containing a hint or two of racism. No doubt Catholic (as well as Protestant) 'hooligans' exist, but the answer to hooliganism is not more of the same thing. By joining up with Ian Paisley's band Mr. Manhattan is uniting himself with a sort of miniature Catholic Church. Of course it is not a dangerous, world-wide force. It is confined to Ulster. But it is the same thing in principle.

A.W.U.

News from Fascist Ulster

THE SORDID SAGA of the bungling O'Neill has come to the end of another chapter. Last week, realising that he cocked it all up yet again, he told Chichester-Clark, his aristocratic relative and Cabinet Minister, to resign. Then on Monday O'Neill announced his resignation. Only two candidates came modestly forward as his successor—'Smiler' Faulkner who had resigned in January after knifing Terence in the back and had long been covetous of the leadership, and, surprise, surprise, Major James Chichester-Clark, the Castledawson squire and agricultural Rachman.

The division was predictable. The O'Neills all voting for the major, and the backwoodsmen and Paisleyites voting Faulkner. The gallant major, Eton and Irish Guards, won 17-16. His first fatuous statement after this was 'after this vote the parliamentary party gave me a unanimous vote of confidence there-

fore the party is united at last'. All that has been achieved is that O'Neill has managed to stick it up the hated Faulkner once again at the expense of having to include in the Cabinet some of the hard-line loonies such as Brooke, who recently claimed that one man, one vote would only come over the dead bodies of half a million loyalists. The whole farce has demonstrated yet again the sickening hypocrisy and lies of the double-dealing parliamentary place-seekers and satisfied no one. The Paisleyites are pleased that O'Neill has finally tottered off to the obscurity of the back benches but, since the Civil Rights people are totally unsatisfied with a vague promise of one man one vote in 1971 and are now starting a massed campaign of massive civil disobedience, we can hardly expect the situation to improve for the unionist backs.

On the police front things are becom-

ing worrying for the RUC. The acquittal of Farrell on a framed disorderly behaviour charge was a bad blow, and the events in the Armagh courthouse have established a shocking precedent. On November 30 the RUC baton-charged a crowd of civil rights supporters with the usual savagery. On May 1 Judge Rory Conaghan accused members of the RUC of 'having been guilty of a frightening and shameful attack on three men' and awarded each of the victims £250. A man whose door was battered down by the pigs was awarded £35 against them for their 'totally unprovoked and vicious conduct'. This sets an incredible precedent and is of great interest to other CR demonstrators who will doubtless find the odd pig to sue.

Meanwhile in Derry the police, recovering from their battering on the 18th are in trouble again. Panic-stricken by the implications of the Devenny case, the

police have ordered an official investigation. The Cameron Commission have already visited them and their case is well in hand. On the night of the 18th, while the pigs were getting their revenge on the people of the Bogside with indiscriminate use of the baton and water cannon and firing shots 'over' demonstrators' heads, the Devenny family were sitting quietly in their house in William Street in the Bogside. Suddenly a gang of police who had been stoned by youths nearby smashed down the front door and burst in upon the family. Devenny, a quiet inoffensive man who has no connection with the CR, was savagely assaulted and left lying in a pool of blood. Two daughters, one of them only just out of hospital after an appendix operation and the younger one aged ten were battered as was a young son and a

friend of the family who was visiting. Devenny was rushed to hospital in a serious condition and suffering from brain damage. He was released a week later only to have a coronary and be rushed back to Altnagelvin. It has become the cause celebre which the CR are going to prosecute. The Devennys have sued for £35,000 and the police in Derry are scared still that he might die and become Derry's latest martyr. If he did the whole town would erupt and this time they would be more organized than last.

Those who were with the PD march when the friendly police force of Lurgan were in action will be interested to learn that the prosecution of the head constable is going ahead. Full report when case takes place is promised.

JAMES SIMPSON.

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A LOT OF dangerous nonsense has been talked about the RUC of late and I say 'enough is enough'. It is time to put a stop to this denigration of the finest body of men since the SS. Don't these people realize that without the police force we might well have ANARCHY!

The latest betrayal of the force occurred in Belfast on April 21 when a thoroughly biased magistrate created the dangerous precedent of refusing to take the word of a police constable against five scruffy, nay, scurvy members of the public. The constable reported that he had seen 'Mr.' Michael Farrell of the PD throw a stone at the body of RUC who were peacefully bating charging a crowd of Catholics back into their ghetto. Surely this was enough! Of what relevance was the fact that Mr. Farrell received head wounds when he assaulted their batons with his skull? Of what relevance was the fact that some constables good-naturedly pushed him to his knees and uttered a few jocose words, viz. 'that'll teach you,

WE HAVE RECEIVED a number of leaflets, dealing with different aspects of the social struggle. *The International Times* is in trouble again. Two years ago the offices of the paper were raided. It was part of a general campaign against 'obscenity' on the part of the police. It is commonly believed today that 'the heat is off' sexual matters, and that the persecution has moved over to 'drugs'. This of course is quite untrue. The authorities are avoiding publicity this time, and are bringing pressure to bear upon *IT*, *OZ* and *Rolling Stone*. *IT* has been raided again. About 2,000 copies of the last six issues have been seized, and materials (letters, addresses, etc.), connected with the small ads. column, in which people advertise for partners, some of them being homosexuals. This means that people who have put advertisements in this column, or who have answered them, even though a box number was used, are now known to the police. The printers of these magazines are being bullied by the police. This vicious campaign should be brought to the public notice, as every effort is being made to keep it quiet.

The Community Action Union is organising a sponsored walk to raise money. The date is Whitsun, May 24-25, and the route a serpentine one, beginning at Trafalgar Square, and proceeding to Notting Hill, and thence through the 'twilight areas' of London in a vast loop, ending in Brixton. There is a form on the back of the leaflet by means of which one may find a sponsor or sponsors who will pay a walker so much a mile. The money collected goes to the cause. 'Half the money we raise will go to these ("twilight") areas to be used to fight the crisis of poverty and powerlessness. The rest will go to giving a national voice to the poor.'

Immediately afterwards, on May 26,

OPEN LETTER FROM SIR POX-CUNNINGHAM

you bastard?

Why was Farrell's smart alec lawyer allowed to cross-examine this young constable who had obviously been through a trying ordeal? So he made a few mistakes in his testimony—perfectly natural, surely! Does the RM not realize that by dismissing the case he has sorely damaged the morale of the force? Why bother to prepare an elaborate story, if your word is not going to be automatically accepted? I saw the looks of disbelief on the faces of the police in court at Farrell's acquittal and I heard their jocular rough oaths, and, like them, I shed a tear for authority.

When, oh! when, are so-called 'tax-payers' going to learn that when the police break into houses in the notorious Bogside of Derry and rouse the Catholics from their feigned slumber at 4 in the

morning and good-humouredly administer a friendly drubbing with their batons, it is for everyone's good? The recipients will, in the course of time, realize this and harbour no malice, and the innocent middle-class taxpayer will have the satisfaction of seeing punishment administered impartially—to men, women and, to avoid any charges of discrimination, children.

What do we pay the police for if it is not to maintain law and order? Recently they received a well-earned pay rise but with it was a productivity deal. I would vouchsafe the men of the riot squad have increased productivity!

This brings me to a final point. Because of the IRA, communists, anarchists, CR and PD, all policemen's leave has been cancelled for the summer, as well as sporting fixtures. This means the RUC

will have to give vent to their aggression off the playing fields and on the streets. I would appeal to all concerned with CR for policemen to offer a late summer holiday to all members of the riot squad by putting them up in your homes this autumn. Show the boys in blue how much you appreciate them. All offers of accommodation should be sent to C.I. Hood, c/o The Riot Squad, Londonderry.

Finally may I say I fully support the Methodist Council's 'Pray for a Pig' week and add my supplication, trusting that the Almighty will as usual stand firm with the forces of authority.

SIR POX-CUNNINGHAM.

Editor's Note.—In order to be nearer his constituents in North Antrim Sir Pox-Cunningham has moved his residence from Sussex to Berkshire.

On a Wide Front

Whit Monday, Trafalgar Square will be the scene of another demonstration. This is to protest against the racist regime in South Africa, and is the culmination of a march organised by the Kitson Committee, Ruskin College, Oxford. The march, on its final day, will leave Chiswick at 10 a.m. and will arrive at Hyde Park Corner at 12 noon. At 1 p.m. the march will move off for Trafalgar Square. The rally there will begin at 2 p.m. There will be speeches by George Doughty, Trevor Huddleston and others.

From South Africa we return to local poverty and oppression once again. The Brent Squatters are active, following on from those in other parts of London. Their leaflet describes how Mrs. Peggy Jolly and her family have been rehoused with the help of several organisations. 'If she had relied on Brent Council... she and her family would be split up, or sent to the "Halfway House" hostel in Dartmouth Road.' Offers of assistance should be made to The Brent Squatters, 59 Denzil Road, N.W.10.

Squatters' News is a newsheet, rather than a leaflet strictly speaking. Published on May Day it deals with the savage attack made by bailiffs employed by Redbridge Borough on several squatting families. It gives a list of addresses to contact in various parts of London if one wishes to help the campaign. It is published by the East London Squatters Group, 23 Audrey Road, Ilford, Essex.

The *Notting Hill Squatters* and *People's Association* call upon trade unionists, students, tenants organisations and anyone concerned with these

problems to support a demonstration they are organising. Its purpose is 'to expose bad housing and to stress the alternative'. On Saturday, May 17, there will be a street meeting at 2.30 p.m. in Colville Gardens, W.11. This will be followed by a 'conducted tour' of the area. 'Revealing exposures' are promised. The Notting Hill Housing Service has just published a report, revealing the appalling conditions of over-crowding, high rents and slum conditions existing in this area. There are more people per acre here than anywhere else in London. Poverty is a kind of trap. Once caught in this way of life it is extraordinarily difficult to get out. The character of the individual disintegrates, a sense of defeat and hopelessness sets in.

However the poor are not the only victims of our society. Everyone has to eat, and the food he gets may be a form of slow poison. The 'Animal Machines' Action Group, 9 Oakley Street, London, S.W.3, is inspired by Ruth Harrison's book *Animal Machines*. Its leaflet gives a brief description of the various forms of 'factory farming'. It describes the horrible way veal is made, how chickens are raised in broiler houses, how battery hens are crowded together in tiny cages, how pigs are massed together, and so on. The meat thus created, the eggs thus produced, cannot possibly be healthy, but it is very profitable. The crowding of animals and the crowding of humans seem to go together! The animals are prone to disease, and have to be pumped full of antibiotics. Synthetic hormones are used to fatten the animals. So serious is the

position that the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a committee to investigate the use of antibiotics, but nothing has been done beyond that. Unfortunately the leaflet does no more than advise you to write to your MP and the Minister of Agriculture. More than this is needed.

ARTHUR STONE.

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FREEDOM PRESS

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LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press. **LAVENDER HILL MOB.** Contact C. Broad, 116 Tynham Road, S.W.11 (228 4086). **LEWISHAM.** Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, S.E.13. (852 8872). **MALATESTA GROUP.** Contact Reg Broad, 5 Welbeck Court, Addison Bridge Place, W.14. 603 0550. Meetings every Thursday at 'The Cedars', (upstairs rooms), next to Baron's Court library, 8 p.m. **PORTOBELLO ROAD ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday. **FORWARD WITH FINCH'S ANARCHISTS.** Regular meetings. Contact P.P., 246 Portobello Road, W.11.

BEXLEY ANARCHIST MOVEMENT. Steve Leman, 28 New Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2. Tel: ET 35377. Meetings every Friday, 8 p.m., Lord Bexley, Bexleyheath Broadway.

S.W. LONDON ANARCHISTS. Meeting alternate Wednesdays. Phone Brian 672 8484.

EAST LONDON LIBERTARIAN FEDERATION

Support wanted for numerous activities in area. Secretary: Anthony Matthews, 35 Mayville Road, London, E.11. Meetings fortnightly on Sundays at Ron Bailey's, 128 Hainault Road, E.11 (LEYS 8059). Ten minutes from Leytonstone Underground.

Active groups in: LEYTONSTONE, STEPNEY, NEWHAM, ILFORD, DAGENHAM, WOODFORD and LIMEHOUSE.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Every Wednesday at Jack Robinson's and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.

SIEGE OF SIDNEY STREET APPRECIATION SOCIETY. Frances Cooper, 2a Fairfield Gardens, Hornsey, N.8. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary, Peter Le Mare, 22 Hallowell Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16. Libertarian discussion groups held 8 p.m. on each Tuesday at 'The Crown', Corporation Street (Opp. Law Courts), Birmingham City. S.a.e. to Secretary for details.

BOURNEMOUTH AREA. Local anarchists can be contacted through Nigel Holt, Rosmore, Harvey Road, Canford, Wimborne, Dorset. (Wimborne 2991.)

JACOBS, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Meetings on the second Friday of each month at 42 Penardus Street, Beacon, Camborne. 7.30 p.m. Visiting comrades very welcome.

CROYDON LIBERTARIANS. Meetings every 2nd Friday of each month. Laurens and Celia Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath (LIV 7546).

EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact Melyna Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx.

HERTS. Contact Val and John Funnell, 10 Fry Road, Chells, Stevenage.

LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester.

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.

NOTTING HILL. Meetings at John Bennett's, Flat 4, Clarendon Road, W.11. Every Monday evening, 8 p.m.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316 Brian and Maureen Richardson. Next meeting: May 10 at 5 p.m.

REDDITCH ANARCHISTS AND LIBERTARIANS. Contact Dave Lloyd, 37 Feckenham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings and activities contact Mr. T. Plant, 10 Thackeray Road, East Ham, E.6. Tel.: 552 4162.

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Peter Newell (see N.E. Essex Group).

Group Addresses:—**BASILDON & WICKFORD.** Steve Grant, 'Piccola Casa', London Road, Wickford, Essex.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex. Regular meetings.

BISHOPS STORTFORD. Vic Mount, 'Eastview', Castle Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts.

CHELMSFORD. (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House, Purligh, Chelmsford, Essex.

EPPING. John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping, Essex.

HARLOW. Ian Dallas, 18 Brookline Field, Harlow and Annette Gunning, 37 Longbanks, Harlow.

Monday at 8 p.m. Phil Woodhead's, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Regular literature sales.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. 'The Secretary', Felix Phillips, 6 Draycott Street, Manchester, 10.

Regular weekly meetings. Contact Secretary for venue.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHISTS. Contact Jenny Rathbone, 20 Sefton Park Road, Liverpool, 8.

Meetings: Tuesdays at 8 p.m., at Pete Duke's, Flat 6, 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool, 8.

NORTH EAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Peter Ridley, 4 Rockcliffe Gardens, Whiteley Bay, Northumberland. Phone 25759.

PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact J. B. Cowburn, 140 Watling Street, Redwood, Fulwood, Preston. Meetings: 'The Wellington Hotel', Glovers Court, Preston. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

STOCKPORT. Dave Crowther, 1 Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport.

SURREY FEDERATION

EPSOM. G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom. Tel. Epsom 23806.

KINGSTON. Michael Squirrel, 4 Woodgate Ave., Hook, Chesham.

GUILDFORD. Peter Cartwright, 33 Denzil Road, Guildford.

DORKING. Mungo Park, 16 Overdale, Dorking.

MERTON. Elliot Burns, 13 Amity Grove, London, S.W.19. Tel. 01-946 1444.

SUSSEX FEDERATION

Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tilbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.

BRIGHTON & HOVE ANARCHIST GROUP. Sebastian Melmoth, 6 Foundry Street, Brighton. Regular fortnightly meetings. On Saturday, May 17, a FREE SCHOOLS meeting, 3 p.m., Unitarian Church Hall, New Road, Brighton.

CRAWLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Richard Ashwell, 87 Buckswood Drive, Gossops Green, Crawley, Sussex.

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP (see details under Student Groups).

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to—Pete Raymond, 18 Marion Street, Splott, Cardiff.

SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 22 Glamor Road, Uplands, Swansea. Weekly meetings, 'Freedom' sales and action projects.

LLANELLI. Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llwynnedy Road, Llanelli, Carm. Tel: Llanelli 2548.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION

All correspondence to Bobby Lynn, Secretary, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow, S.E.

ABERDEEN ANARCHIST GROUP. Bob Comrie, 288 Hardgate.

ABERDEEN FREEDOM GROUP. All those wishing to sell both national and Scottish editions of 'Freedom' contact Ian S. Sutherland, 8 Eslemont Avenue, Aberdeen.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Lynn, 12 Ross Street, S.E.

EDINBURGH. Tony Hughes, Top Flat, 40 Angle Park Terrace, Edinburgh 11.

HAMILTON AND DISTRICT ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Linton, 7a Station Road, New Stevenston, Motherwell.

FIFE. Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, By Cupar.

MONROSE. Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden, Montrose, Angus.

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Meetings every Saturday, 2 p.m., 44a Upper Arthur Street (top floor). 'Freedom' sales.

SOUTHERN IRELAND

ALLIANCE OF LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUPS IN IRELAND. Please send all communications with stamped envelope to The Secretary, c/o Freedom Press.

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box A 389, Sydney South, NSW 2000. Phone No. 69-8095. Open discussion and literature sale in the Domain—Sunday, 2 p.m. Call at 59 Eveleigh Street, Redfern, NSW 2015 for personal discourse, tea and overnight accommodation.

BELGIUM/QUEBEC. Anyone interested in forming a Montreal area Anarchist group please contact Ron Sigler. Tel. 489-6432.

Spread the News

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on a very fine edition of your newspaper. The article on the front page by 'J.L.' called 'Power to the People' was very inspiring and decent. Also the article on the eviction of the unfortunate Squatters was very enlightening, as the newspaper I subscribe to regularly, the bloody *Times*, had not a word of this terrible incident on the morning of April 21. I subscribe to that goddamned newspaper simply because one has to comprehend, in the deepest historical sense, just how 'effective' a completely Reactionary press can be, who owns it and what he thinks about things, what the dodge is, who's pushing what war and how whoever is doing it, etc., etc.

Anyway, your little newspaper is very fine, though I think your own effectiveness is hampered by distribution, and the frequency with which you can get it on the streets. The last is the most important, because for instance if *The Times* had devoted as much space, percentage-wise, of its own pages to the Squatters problem, and had banged that into the heads of the 'public', instead of the just slightly more remote Miss Devlin, then something more completely could have been effected directly against the Local Ministry responsible for the utterly despicable actions of their 'bailiffs'. That is, effected immediately. I, for one, though of no importance, simply did not know what was going on, so that if I had been, theoretically, in a position to do something about it, and had gotten my information like any other 'ordinary' citizen, through the newspapers, as in the case of my subscribing to *The Times*, there would have been the very 'blank' that there was to act upon... your article didn't come out about it until April 26, although you have been warning about the problems all along.

I've written to *The Times* about it, but, you see, it is too late, I mean, what is happening to those people now, what

happened to them on that morning after they had been chucked out? You see, the bloody *Times* has the wherewithal to cope with the sort of frequency of transmission, even though they won't do so. That's the tragedy. And your tragedy is that even though you are willing to really, in an honest way, cope with the underlying horror of this society, you can't get the pages to the street with sufficient frequency. I mean, that was a real happening, this thing about not knowing about those squatters being violently evicted. And it was only this last Saturday (April 26) that I learned anything of the incidence, and from your paper, so you see the problem.

Yours sincerely,

J. CAIUS.

Our correspondent is of course correct in his conclusions on distribution. Firstly, no wholesaler will distribute the paper simply because we do not have a large enough circulation. Secondly, many shops refuse to sell FREEDOM because they don't sell enough copies to make the space on the counter a viable proposition. (They can probably sell more girlie or glossy women's magazines.) Thirdly, the outlets available for possible distribution, like meetings, demonstrations, street selling and libraries are generally not exploited enough.

There is still scope for improvement even from these limited outlets (letters on anarchism to local and national newspapers usually bring in orders); it is up to us to use them.—EDS.

Centre Point

Comrades,

Why is Centre Point at Tottenham Court Road empty? Do the people of London know that it has been empty for several years? Do they know that there are 34 floors, each of them big enough for five or six families? Should they not be made aware of these facts?

Slough

GEORGE MATTHEWS.

May Day in Lincoln's Inn ..

LOOKING BACK on it, the result of this May Day, was, for the libertarian left, inevitable. We still have too much charity in our bones. None of us believe what we preach, none of us believe that the traditional left is capable of stooping to the depths which it is all too willing to plumb. This breeds an optimistic inflexibility amongst the ranks of the revolutionaries—but I fear we presume too much.

Thus it was that the CP, armed with banners, stewards, tight discipline, loud-speakers to drown any competition, and with the judicious help of a little sabotage, 'captured' the May Day march. Ambivalent to the last, they had one aim in sight—the leadership of the rank and file militants and by god they got it! Not that they know what to do with it, but they know their priorities and this time they were inexorably right.

Having 'captured' the march, or the bulk of it, they did not know what to do

and led the march around a cross-country circuit of Central London just to see Vic Feather and the 'brothers' of the TUC General Council. The procession led to Lincoln's Inn, near LSE (no students spoke, of course), with the majority of speakers from the left labour MPs and officials of various TUs. Only the chairman of the meeting and 'happy' Jack Dash, the famous Russian patriot, were in the CP and they were the most unpolitical.

Never mind, the leadership exerted its magnetism and Stan Nevens, MP, and Bill Keys of SOGAT, together with the other left hack, pumped the usual 'lobby Parliament and support those who support you'. Guess who that is!

After the speeches, rallying the lads—who were rapidly drifting to the pub—a few went down to Parliament and prayed to their mentors. Most adjourned highly disgruntled to the pubs. No one was satisfied with this farce. DIGGER.

.. and in Victoria Park

THERE WAS A GROWING response to the call to workers in general—and thanks to the efforts of John Lawrence, printworkers in particular—to come out on May 1. This year there was a clear issue: resistance to Barbara Castle's 'corporate state' bill (legalise the unions and illegalise strike action). Realising that the printworkers were ready for action, the CP (Corpse Party) staged a takeover in its old fashion. Acting behind a stooge 'Liaison Committee', they called for a demonstration starting from Tower Hill two hours before the May Day Committee march starting from the same spot. Thus their committee had all the TU (mostly SOGAT) banners rallying behind them.

Off they marched to Parliament. 'International Socialism' had supported the May Day Committee, but seeing the real live proletarians marching behind half-a-dozen SOGAT banners was too much for them, and they switched sides rapidly. (Varying opinions on this: some said 'treacherous bastards', some said 'it's the old Trotskyist tactic coming back in again', but the truth is that if a political movement is led by a political opportunist like John Palmer, it will always behave in this fashion. The journalists of today—like the financial speculators of Marx's day, who relied on the market tips of revolutionaries—may

or may not have their place in a 'revolutionary' organisation, but as leaders this is how they will behave.) Miss Devlin, MP, belied all the journalists who have been patronising her as a mere sweet little girl knowing nothing of the political mess she has got into: she spoke on the May Day Committee platform and marched off with the CP contingent to Westminster. Such an ability for two-facedness will stand the girl well in her career.

It must have been mortifying for John Lawrence to stand by the platform with half-a-dozen supporters, while two thousand SOGAT boys marched off behind the CP through the office workers and American tourists in Bloomsbury to harangue the lawyers in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and send a few representatives to Parliament to see their MPs. However, by 11.30 there were five hundred or so who marched off through the East End to Victoria Park. (Many of the printworkers and others who had supported the original May Day Committee but gone behind their Union banners on the Stalino-Trotskyist march later turned up at the Park.)

Once again, of course, the Anarchists failed to pull their full strength at their own demo, but it was good to show the banner through the old familiar streets of the East End once again. The decline

A WARNING

ANARCHISTS, at least those who might be described as 'main-stream' anarchists, in this country have long been accused by those who describe themselves as 'individualists' of 'being political'. In the past this charge was laughable. Today, when the possibility of our becoming 'political' is there, the individualists have run out of steam, and are saying nothing. In reality there was no basis in the old days for their charge. Now there are dangers that have to be discussed. The situation in this country is pre-revolutionary. What we do today may well determine what will happen five years from now. After all, the anarchists' participation in the Spanish Republican Government was no more than the logical outcome of years of United Front activity (with whatever ideological differences or reservations there may have been).

In order that history should not repeat itself, and that anarchists for once should remain true to their principles, every one of us must appreciate the dangers.

Years of principled protest on various issues have produced a moderately-sized, young and intelligent anarchist movement in this country. It has not become 'political' (that is, involved with other political groupings) for two reasons. One, that in our opposition to the Bomb and the Vietnam War, etc., we as anarchists took a moral and uncompromising position with which political groupings could not co-operate. Two, in direct action issues like the Squatters' Movement, other groupings were afraid of the total implication of our actions.

But now, with the emergence of a sympathetic working people's mutual aid group, and a principled May Day Committee, we have taken part for the first time in many years in political action. This action was threatening enough to our political opponents to make them feel that they had to take it over for their own ends.

The issue centres round the Government's intention to tame the Trade Unions, making them even more part of the state machine than they already are. (Incidentally we haven't been able to purchase a copy of 'In Place of Strife' from the Stationery Office, because of a trades dispute in their warehouse!)

We are told by comrades in the press that Wilson embarked on this project after a market research team had given him the go-ahead about the 'mood of the country'.

The TUC congress, which will discuss the proposals on June 5, has been sandwiched between the first and second readings of the Bill. This was an ingenious move on the part of the Government. After all, it is easy to picture the scene at the congress. First there will be vehement speeches attacking the 'slave-owners' charter'. Then a 'moderate' will simply say, 'Let's be realistic, comrades. You know that I am against this Bill as much as you are. I would fight it on the barricades. But even if our friendly MPs vote against it, the Government can still win the day with the support of the Tories. So we cannot do anything else, comrades, except try to use our great influence with the Government, who will listen to us, to get the Bill modified. After all, we are only against certain proposals in the Bill, some of them, such as State Loans to Trade Unions, we actually welcome.'

Comrades can see from the above that even this minute part of the whole 'machine of politics' is full of lies and deceit. And for anarchists it is also full of dangers and pitfalls. This is no longer a matter of shaking one's head about the treachery and stupidity of the novice rogues of IS. This is the whole cauldron.

The opponents of the Bill, with the exception of the anarchists, are in this political game for power and in order to recruit members. As anarchists we have no more reason to support a united front with the Stalinists and the Trots than we do with the Wilson junta. We would in any case be wasting our energy in supporting actions likely to be ineffective.

We ought to call a free assembly of anarchists to discuss the matter. We ask groups to discuss the problem amongst themselves. Comrades will not expect us to work out a 'line'.

One further point; even if our movement is moderately-sized, we are still the only opposition to the State. There are no other movements that want the social revolution and the free society.

ARTHUR W. ULOTH,
JOHN RETY.

of the Labour Party has also meant that socialism itself is discredited: there were 'Daily Mirror'-type cries of friendly derision and some Powellite jeers, but on the whole it was a sort of good-humoured surprise and anyway certainly more rewarding than going off in the other direction. Biggest laugh of the day must have been with the City of London cops who were assigned to watch the red-and-black banners—one hears that this is sometimes meted out to the less popular, whose turn it is to get where the fighting is thickest

... they had a nice peaceable stroll through East London, while the blue-eyed boys in blue following the TU banners had to sweat it out through the West End traffic, though it didn't come to a punch-up there either.

At arrival time, an Agit-Prop tenant show, a few speeches and musical takeover of the bandstand at Victoria Park, to the consternation of the keepers and the melting away of the fuzziest thankful it was all over without fuss. Pleasant day out in all, thanks to J.L. a.m.

Waiting for Mallam's dogs

EARLY on Saturday, April 26, two families from Battersea Bridge Buildings, a 'halfway house', occupied 17 and 19 Bullen Street, S.W.11, two empty houses recently bought by Wandsworth Council. At the time of writing (Monday, May 5) they are still there.

On Saturday the police, who arrived on the scene after the occupation had taken place, caused no trouble. An avuncular inspector confided: 'I don't want any enthusiastic young copper arresting anyone for obstruction.' Someone replied politely: 'Nor do we.'

The same day Councillor Dennis Mallam, chairman of the Wandsworth housing committee, arranged to meet members of the South London Squatters Group in a pub opposite the Town Hall. It was obvious that Mallam was as anxious to avoid confrontation as the police inspector.

Mallam saw no reason why the families shouldn't be rehoused in two other empty houses in Wandsworth if the squatters could persuade a housing charity to help. He offered to 'hold the dogs off for a reasonable time if they're prepared to leave quietly'.

If there was no objection to the families occupying empty houses via a charity why couldn't they stay where they were? First because the two houses were due to be sold to the London Housing Trust. (The Trust plans to buy up a number of houses in the area, then renovate and relet them; this scheme has come up against considerable local opposition.) And secondly because the occupation was illegal, Councillor Mallam was not going to have anything illegal: 'I've got to save face the same as you,' he told the squatters.

Mallam's proposed deal was not mentioned at last week's council meeting. In reply to another Tory councillor's question the chairman of the housing committee proudly announced: 'We are taking the necessary steps to regain possession. We are not prepared to countenance anarchy.' Mallam also said that the families were not from Wandsworth but from the Borough of Hammer-smith—which had agreed to keep 'responsibility' for them. Mallam was pleased about that.

Later on members of the Squatters Group in the public gallery tried to ask questions themselves: 'Why couldn't the families stay in Bullen Street? Who told two bailiffs to smash open a window in one of the houses to serve notice-to-quit letters?' But the council wasn't going to have anything unorthodox. The meeting was adjourned and the public gallery cleared by the law.

The attempt to serve notice-to-quit letters came on Monday. On Thursday a writ was served on Mrs. Joan Foster who decided to accept it and appear in the High Court this Tuesday (May 6): the council will presumably ask for a possession order. The writ for Mrs. Janet Sheppard however was not served—the bailiff did not appear particularly enthusiastic.

Also this Tuesday is a meeting between Mallam, representatives of two housing charities and members of the Squatters Group. It's possible that if Mallam doesn't want a confrontation he will try to persuade one of the charities to take his problem off his hands.

But Mallam may be unlucky: if he succeeds in passing the two families over to a charity other homeless families will get the message—squat for a fortnight and the council will persuade someone else to find you a house.

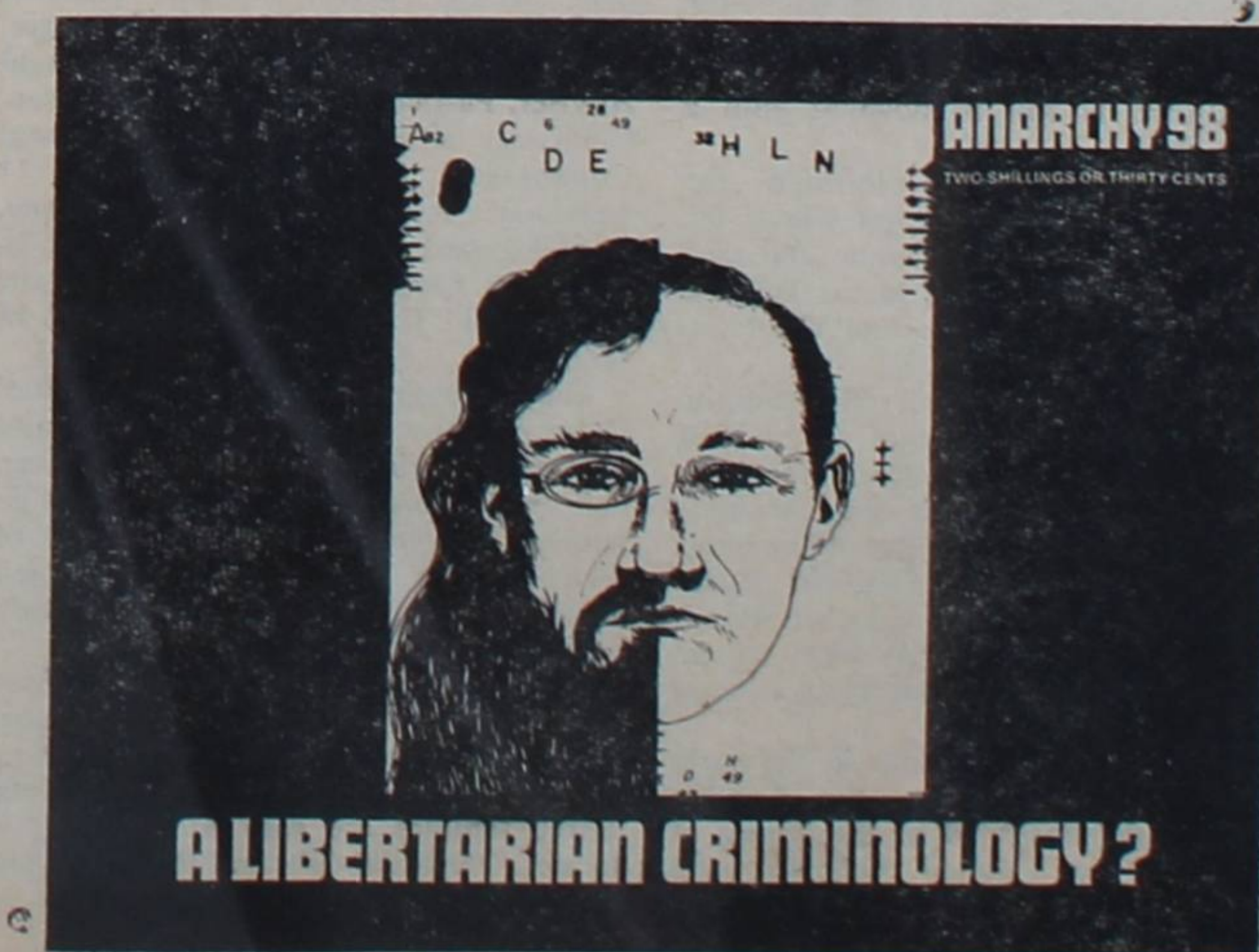
All the Sheppards and the Fosters want is a decent place to live. They don't mind if they get it by direct action or through the official channels—or by a combination of the two methods. But they are determined to succeed somehow.

If no alternative houses are found, if the council gets its possession order against Mrs. Foster—and Mrs. Sheppard by claiming that her writ was also served—and if Mallam stops worrying about his public image we shall see his dogs in Bullen Street yet. Offers of help—and money—to South London Squatters Group, 39 Upper Tulse Hill, S.W.2; phone: 674 7886.

A Slip of the Tongue

A JUDGE wanted to send a mother of three children to jail for two years but by a slip of the tongue actually said 'two months'. A few days later he called her back and changed the sentence to: two years suspended (i.e. immediate release) and a £1,000 fine. Still she wasn't hanged.

WYNFORD HICKS.



Taking over Industry

SINCE THE LABOUR PARTY was elected to power in 1964, the Wilson Government has pursued policies which have attacked trade union organisation throughout industry. Workers have not only suffered frozen wages, but many have also faced redundancies. Under the Labour Government, vast changes and reorganisation have taken place and men and women, who until quite recently felt relatively safe in their jobs, have been

told, out of the blue, that their factory is closing down.

Industry as a whole is becoming far more centralised and concentrated. Like the old domestic weaver at the time of the Industrial Revolution, the small factory carrying out a certain process in the production of commodities, is today becoming less viable. One has only to look at the number of engineering factories that have closed in North-West and South London to realise the changes and concentration in production that have taken place in recent years.

This process is a natural outcome of the capitalist system. The very competitive nature of the system leads to monopoly, the ownership and control being concentrated into fewer and fewer hands. The State itself has and still is playing an active part in this process. The present Government has rationalised steel and has encouraged many of the company mergers, all in the name of increased efficiency and competitiveness.

Contact Column

This column exists for mutual aid. Donations towards cost of typesetting will be welcome.

Surrey Free Schools Campaign. K. W. Bennett, 63 Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey.

Manchester Squatters. Meetings every Wed., 8 p.m. Manchester University Union, Oxford Road, Manchester.

International Anarchism. No. 1 is now ready 1/- post free, from C. Beadle, c/o Oakwood Farm, Lund, near Selby, East Yorks.

Chemical and Biological Warfare Action Group. Action at Porton—Meeting Thursday, May 15, 7.30 p.m., at 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

Free School. A preliminary meeting to discuss the school will take place on Saturday, May 10, at 2.30 p.m. in LSE, Room S100.

Wanted, to buy or borrow, a large tent (up to 15 people) for the International Summer Camp. Offers to J.N., 25 North Villas, N.W.1.

Read the Northern Informer, 1/- from Janet Wilcox, 103 Balham Park Road, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W.12.

Lock-up shop to let. £6 a week. Stoke Newington. Ring Barbara TER 4473.

School students in North London are forming a Schools Anarchist Fed. and Libertarian Group, any Comrades wishing to help or who could give advice please write to John Mann, 133 Haden Court, Seven Sisters Road, London, N.4.

Freedom Press Manager needs room (living accommodation) near Aldgate East. Box No. 35.

Rest, Recuperation, Holiday? Accommodation available with vegetarian/anarchist household. Nominal charge. Write to: Peter & Iris Allen, The Old Vicarage, Honington, Grantham, Lincs.

Peace News. Six weeks trial offer for 5/- 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

Hyde Park Sunday meetings. 3 p.m. Speakers and literature sellers required.

Support 'Freedom' sales. Start now or with Scottish edition, May 31. Contact Ian J. Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen.

Seminar on Anarchism, Leeds. A six-week course starting on April 25, at Swarthmore Educational Centre (10 mins. walk from Leeds City Station). Starts 7 p.m.

Alan Barlow—Comrades wishing to visit in Brixton please contact Defence Committee, c/o Freedom Press for roster.

Glasgow Anarchists meet socially at the Station Bar, London Road, every Tuesday evening. Folk-singing.

S. London Free School Campaign. Regular activities, projects. Mike Rowley or Roger Sadiev, 81 Ermine Road, S.E.13. 01-690 1572 (6-7 p.m. preferably.)

International Summer Camp. £1 booking fees to Ann Lindsay, 39 Upper Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2.

North London Free Schools Campaign, contact T. Swash, 49 Popham Road, London, N.1.

Help Increase 'Freedom's' Circulation. Are you willing to take 'Freedom' and 'Anarchy' regularly to local newsagents and collect returns and cash? If so we'd like to hear from you. — CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

VERY LITTLE CONTROL

However, centralisation in industry places workers still further from the people who control our working lives. The decisions affecting our lives are that much more remote and they are taken without asking us how we feel about them. In fact, we have very little control over our working lives and when a company decides to close a factory, there is little that can be done to prevent it.

Trade union organisation at shop floor level is mainly concerned with wages and conditions and depending upon its strength, workers achieve some control over production. The bargaining over targets and piece-work rates gives workers some control over the speed at which they work. This is a continuing process, sometimes the workers gain control and at others the advantage goes to the management. The changing over to measured day work in the motor industry is in fact a re-assertion by the management in an attempt to regain the control it had lost to job organisation under piece-work. However, the management has the upper hand ultimately and with increasing international competitiveness, it is continually seeking ways of lowering costs, i.e. increased production with as small a wage increase as possible.

WORKERS' CONTROL

Trade union organisation both at official and shop-floor level seeks improvements and more control, but under the auspices of management. What is necessary is that workers should strive for workers' control.

A Cause for Concern

NEW STARTLING EVIDENCE brought up by an anarchist imposter planted in the special branch has revealed that the police force has been infiltrated by communist drug-takers. Our man, cunningly disguised in trilby hat, blue shirt, black tie, boots and a large mac, has sent reports of a growing dissent amongst the rank and file of the 'specials'. In one instance a constable actually refused to carry his government issue newspaper designed to make him look inconspicuous, on the somewhat dubious grounds that he could not read. Numerous cases involving the wearing of 'abnormal' clothes have been exposed including five of wearing variously coloured shirts and one of having no hat—a student pinched it' was the excuse.

The flaunting of police greetings, carefully conceived by MI5 to infiltrate groups of plotting students, has been very common—indeed, as many as 30 per cent are now openly admitting to not saying 'Hello hello hello what have we here then?' when confronted by a group of subversives. Other complaints involve the refusal to salute senior officers when they are engaged in detective work. In a recent interview Supt. Cock Wilson admitted that several instances of such disobedience have been brought to his notice: 'Obviously we are taking steps to stamp out this blatant

subversion by a minority dissident element,' he said, 'we will not tolerate such a threat to the security of our country.'

There have also been complaints by the police against unfair student tactics, which are aggravating the tense situation. Students are allegedly talking in whispers so that they cannot be heard clearly, and when they do speak out it is invariably at such a speed that constables cannot write it down. Accusations of sitting or treading on microphones have been particularly prevalent. Reports have also been handed in concerning cars leaving Aberystwyth at such a speed that police cars were unable to follow them.

However let us not underestimate the fine work done by the majority of our police. They have already, using courage, cunning and notebooks, foiled an abominable plot by unloyal citizens to blow up Charles using bombs disguised as sweets, and also a Chinese inspired plan to shoot him with a plastic gun was averted.

In spite of this we anarchists deplore a situation where such 'abnormal' elements have been entrusted to guard our beloved monarchy. We have therefore formed a student vigilante group to protect Charles from this dissident police force, and we are now infiltrating groups of police in public houses, following police cars out of Aber, and

a drugs raid on the police station in the near future is a distinct possibility.

'When the people cheer the Queen and sing her praises they are also cheering our free democracy'—Lord Morrison.

BE THANKFUL you're not living in Czechoslovakia where every other person you meet is a policeman; where no conversation is a private conversation; where individuals and premises are subject to arbitrary search; where free-thinking persons are subject to continual harassment. Be thankful!

This is Britain 1969! At least we have our freedom. Incredibly some have claimed that recent events in Wales and particularly Aberystwyth have shown otherwise. The invasion of a massive force of special branch officers has created wild talk of a police state.

Let us look at the facts. A recent investigation revealed that anyone wishing to take a stroll along the promenade (less than ¼ mile) at Aber (pop. 10,000) after midnight would encounter two dozen uniformed officers many of whom were desirous of a chat. However, amongst the large number of plain clothes men it is becoming increasingly difficult to pick

Smash the Bailiffs!

OUR READERS are well aware of the brutal eviction of families in Ilford by Council hired bailiffs. Our comrade Jake Brown is still in hospital with a broken jaw.

Bricks were thrown through the windows of Roti's restaurant where the squatters were always welcome and now the place is closed. Next to the William Morris Gallery, what else had Walthamstow to be proud of?

But it is good to report that despite all the intimidation none of the evicted families stayed on the streets for very long. Their courage and desperation is shown by the fact that the Flemings are now squatting in Oakfield Road, Ilford and Pat McNeal in Audrey Road, Ilford, and the Beresfords want to get out of the hostel and squat again as soon as possible.

A day after the evictions in the early hours of the morning, the London Squatters demonstrated at the homes of some of the Council Officials who instigated these evictions. They are: Mayor of Redbridge, Ald. Sidney Gleed

(500 0165); Town Clerk, Kenneth Nicholls (554 4646); Housing Manager, David Perry (504 7402); Senior Legal Adviser, Patrick Walsh, and Ald. Cowan, Chairman of the Ilford Redevelopment Committee. On Tuesday night, 11 squatters, including Chris Flemming, were arrested at the home of Nicholls, the Town Clerk, and charged under the 600-year-old Justice of the Peace Act of 1360.

They appear at Barking Magistrates' Court on May 29 to answer a complaint of disturbing the peace. They were given bail on the conditions that they didn't go within 100 yards of the homes of Nicholls or Walsh, or harass any Council official. Two of them have already broken that bail.

These actions by the authorities show that they want to smash squatting now before it spreads any more. We know the answer to evictions and arrests. Three families are easy to evict, 30 is harder, 300 is difficult, and thousands are impossible. So act now!

M.C.

Freedom For Workers' Control

MAY 10 1969 Vol 30 No 14

At any given factory, building site, etc., they should run and control the jobs they are doing and that collectively they should be responsible for the work they are doing.

Workers have the skills and knowledge to turn raw materials into finished products and the output of these goods can be co-ordinated and regulated to the needs of the community. The State, the Government and the employers are not a necessary part of the production or distribution processes. It is these forces, in fact, that use the wealth created by the labour of others to maintain their position of power. Workers' control would reverse this and power would be in the hands of the people. However, this cannot come about while we tolerate employers sacking us, governments taxing us and the

State increasingly directing our lives.

While the struggle for higher wages and better conditions is important, and this also goes for the resistance of tenants to rent increases, unless we, as people, take control of the means of production, run and control the housing estates and kick out the council bureaucrats, then the decisions affecting our lives will not be in our hands.

The occupation of the factories and the lock-out of the management in France last year was a start. It was a concrete symbol of workers asserting themselves and showing that they wanted to run and control their own place of work. Once workers recognise this and desire it, no State could resist this revolutionary aim.

P.T.

out such UNIFORMED police, and in fact many people are now collecting numbers in a new game: 'Spot the UNIFORMED fuzz'. The more obvious security forces (i.e. those in 'plain clothes'), while enjoying a half with the lads, are in the habit of intruding into private conversation with subtle introductions such as 'I'd like to put a bullet in the prince, wouldn't you?'. However others operate on a more sophisticated level: a student pulled a water pistol on his girl friend and immediately found his arm twisted behind his back by a 'mature' student who exclaimed, 'Ha, ha, you want to be careful with all these special branch about!'

But not everything is amusing. The tapping of college phones and the opening of mail is a deliberate cynical disregard for the freedom of the individual. Moreover, comrades are subject to particular attention: their movements, especially by car, are followed; their landlords are visited and comrades have returned to Aber to find themselves faced with eviction for no revealed reason; one comrade in college accommodation has definite proof that his room was searched in his absence; others have been stopped and searched in the main college building. But of course any talk of a police state is ridiculous. We all realise that these restrictions are to protect our right to think as we choose.

STOP PRESS: A group of Welsh Nationalists have been refused service in one of Aber's pubs on the grounds that they are anarchists!

Manchester's May Day

THOUGH THE PAPERS came out here on May Day they were in the main reduced to a couple of sheets.

Among the firms really hit, in this Manchester's first May Day stoppage for a long time, were the docks with 1,500 out, Shell Carrington with over 1,000 on strike, and Hawker Siddeley with 1,000 out; also out were several engineering firms, an Oldham print shop as well as local building workers. And as the over-1,000-strong May Day march wound through the Manchester streets, with the Internationale blaring from the anarchist group tape recorder, the *Manchester Evening News* reported that 'several major building sites ground to a halt'.

Local nurses and several colleges were represented on the march. But at Stretford, which was officially on strike during May Day, some anarchist students have been threatened with expulsion.

Over 100 anarchists and libertarians turned out behind the Manchester Anarchist banner. Some were students but most were clearly workers.

At Albert Square, scene of bitter battles between anarchists and police in October 1965, the communists seemed to collaborate with the police in clearing the

square before the proposed May Day rally had had a chance to take place. Aided by police intimidators and contrary to all previous plans of the Manchester May Day Committee, the communists called on everyone to go to an out of the way site where some TV personality would address them.

The anarchists then began to chant their slogan of free speech in Manchester; they have been the main protagonists of free speech both here and in Bolton, as there is no real central site for open air meetings in Manchester. About half the march stayed with them while Felix Phillips, secretary of the Manchester anarchists, gave a brave but brief speech. Then we made for the silly site suggested by the communists and free speech was left to be fought another day.

The anarchists here have been very active in the May Day Campaign. A couple of our comrades were charged with illegal fly-posting during the campaign and we leafleted many factories in the area. Also, it was in part due to the efforts of the local anarchists, that a call for trade unionists to withdraw their political levy was included on the leaflet of the Manchester May Day Committee.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.