

# Freedom

## Anarchist Weekly

JUNE 14 1969 Vol 30 No 18

6d

# STAND BY THE SQUATTERS!

THE STORY OF THE BRUTAL evictions of three squatting families in Ilford by the 'bailiffs' is told in a new, well-documented 2/6d. pamphlet *Evicted!*, published by the London Squatters' Campaign. Readers of this paper should be well-informed, but all the material evidence has now been gathered together and it is the best ammunition for anarchist groups working for and with the homeless. The London Squatters deserve the help of all anarchists, they have not only been manning the barricades, fighting the council and its hired thugs, they have also found time to produce this large foolscap 26-page pamphlet with a dramatic photograph (see this page) on the cover. They are resilient and deserve more help from the movement than they have got up till now. In the old days FREEDOM used to carry a slogan 'If you don't sit down—PAY UP!' This applies more than ever—can this movement (with its 100 groups all over the country) take the beatings lying down, allow our best comrade's jaw being broken without as much as a murmur? This is not happening in Biafra or Vietnam, it is happening here. The reference to Biafra is not irrelevant. Mr. Quatermain, the hired thug, boasted to a reporter that 'The Squatters were a pushover—it was as easy as to smash the skulls of starving Biafran babies'.



Today nine squatters are being tried at Woodford Quarter Sessions; we cannot allow them to go down. What law have they broken? None in our eyes. Whilst there is a single house empty and there is a single family homeless, the guilty men are not the squatters but the councils and the property speculators, the State and the whole system.

The pamphlet gives a graphic account of what happened, prints the names of all those in the GLC and the Redbridge Council who have planned this vile operation. Redbridge Council, by smashing houses which will be empty for years, and when they were defeated in the courts employing the Quatermain thugs, showed clearly the despotic nature of authority desperately holding on to power. But the pamphlet reveals more than that. The depth of collusion which exists

between the courts and the Home Office. The London Squatters say: 'In challenging the policy of Redbridge Council we have challenged the whole concept of control and ownership of property, not only in Redbridge but throughout the country (and perhaps beyond). We must not be blind to the fact that central government must have known of the decision to illegally evict three families in Redbridge on April 21, 1969. Central Government and the Home Office cannot act Pontius Pilate and wash their hands of this affair. They are guilty by default. In challenging Redbridge Council we have challenged the government's lack of a human housing policy. By indicting Redbridge Council, we indict the whole system. The authorities, both local and central, have failed to solve the housing problem. It is now up to ordinary people to act.'

And here is what happened to the Flemings in Mary Fleming's own words (printed as an affidavit in the pamphlet):

**AFFIDAVIT OF Mary Fleming**  
re: 43 Cleveland Road.

1. I was living at 43 Cleveland Road, Ilford, and on the morning of the 21st April while I was in bed I heard a noise downstairs. I cannot really say what happened as I was still half asleep. The first thing that I knew was when

six or eight men burst into the bedroom shouting at us to 'Get out' and using foul and abusive language at us. They grabbed hold of my children, pulled the bedclothes off them, shook them violently and threw them down on the bed. I was terrified and my husband told the bailiffs that we would go quietly if they left the children alone.

2. They told us to hurry up, once again swearing at us and threatening us. They even refused to go out of the room while I got dressed and to enable me to calm the children down. All the time they were pushing and punching us, particularly my husband, and the children were screaming and terrified.

3. At some time in the proceedings someone who seemed to be a Welfare Official came into the room but he too seemed afraid of these bailiffs.

4. When I was dressed I went into the spare room to get some cases with children's clothes in, but these were already gone and two bailiffs pushed me against the wall and punched me and told me: 'Get the fuck out of here.' I was crying and frightened and somehow myself and my husband eventually got out of the house, carrying the children. The bannisters were already broken up. Our furniture was all over the front garden.

5. I was in a kind of daze and cannot remember exactly what happened in the next half hour, but I know that the Welfare Officials took us to the Welfare Department for a cup of tea; however, when we got there the door was locked and we were left standing on the doorstep. This seemed the last straw and I started crying again and we went with

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## Unity at What Price?

SINCE THE INCEPTION of the Civil Rights Campaign in Northern Ireland, which, despite the proud claims of various individuals, only gained any impetus from last October 5, the universal cry has been 'Unity'. In essence this is very natural. The corrupt Unionist regime has dominated the province for half a century with a policy of divide and rule and until the Civil Rights movement hove in sight there has been no popular front or united attack upon the stultifying status quo. Therefore, during the initial activity, it was desirable that republican, liberal, nationalist, socialist, communist and anarchist marched together. Now, however, some of us feel the position has changed.

As the Campaign grew in strength it solidified. The bureaucracy took over inevitably in the Civil Rights Associations throughout the country. The PD in Belfast was able to retain a libertarian structure but this has proven hard to 'export' to the provinces—witness the Newry farce—and at present only Lurgan, Armagh and Fermanagh have viable PDs outside Belfast. From the beginning Civil Rights has attracted undesirable hangers on; the first and most noticeable one being the aged Betty Sinclair, Stalinist, who was the authoritarian chairman of the CRA at the time of October 5. From the moment she spoke in Duke Street, her power was on the wane, since her 'do nothing' policy met with little reciprocity from the people, and inevitably as the movement grew and events overtook her, she and three of her reactionary cronies were forced out of the executive.

The 'green tories' too have always been there. As usual late to jump on the bandwagon, they still exercise their feudal RC patronage in the country areas and dominate most of the newly-formed Civil Rights Associations. Their raison d'être is that they have 'experience in public life necessary to tell the people what to do'. Lurgan, Newry, Armagh and Enniskillen CRAs are good examples of this mentality. To these people the only thing they want out of Civil Rights is the transference of the power to discriminate from the hands of Unionist bigots to the clutches of RC bigots. To them 'one man, one vote' merely means a green tory council allocating houses instead of an orange one. Inaction. No marches. No public meetings. No pickets and no squatting is their motto.

The first signs of a 'split' in the CRA came in Derry, where the bourgeois citizens' action committee, the plaything of Hume and Cooper (ex-young Unionist treasurer who left the party rather hastily) who rode to power (i.e. to the giddy heights of Stormont) on the CAC's reputation, was attacked by Eamonn McCann. He has convinced more and more people that class war rather than creed war is what is required. The latest squatting venture, the take-over of the Ministry of Defence's property at Clooney Park, has been a big kudos for the Derry Labour Party and he has increasingly levelled his attacks against erstwhile popular heroes. The victim who lives in the slum cannot march shoulder to shoulder for CR with his RC landlord, he rightly proclaims. This line is supported by most of the PD (Armagh PD have for months been denouncing the green tories) and PD candidates stood against senile nationalists of the 'calibre' of John Carron in Fermanagh and the Keogh in S. Down, but some feel that this is not enough.

This was what was behind the walkout of the Belfast and District's CRA meeting. There it was obvious that the CP (Stalinist in N. Ireland) had rigged the

meeting, aided and abetted by some reactionary republican elements. The CP policy of infiltrating committees and then adopting a policy of inaction is widespread here. This attack on the CP has been described by some (e.g. Toman) as 'sectarian'. This may be so, but we would suggest that just as one cannot have any truck with fascists and green tories so one should have no truck with those who have shown themselves to be no friends of CR. To cry 'CR in Ulster' and remain silent over Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Daniel and Sinayevsky, is a clear indication of the hypocrisy of the Stalinists.

Certainly those members of the CP who are prepared to march, work, squat, organize and fight purely for Civil Rights, should be welcomed, but freedom of speech is also a civil right and it has not been much in evidence in meetings chaired by la belle Sinclair or Derek Peters. If, in order to foster a spurious united front, we have to accommodate reactionaries, the rot has set in. It is not easy to convince the oppressed Protestant working class of your sincerity if he can point to, among your ranks, RC bigots who discriminate by employing only co-religious, Rachman landlords, ex-Blueshirts and Stalinists. The time has come for us to say that it's not enough to be able to say three 'hail Marys' to be accepted as a CR worker. It's not enough to be anti-Unionist, you must be pro-liberty, pro-freedom and pro-humanity.

FATHER AUGUSTUS O'BERKES.

IN the *Tale of Two Cities*, Dickens expresses the idea of the 'foundation myth' of monarchy and its continual reaffirmation of authority. The starving and oppressed peasants come up to Paris to witness the cause of all their suffering and misery. They have come to see the splendour and wonder of their sovereign, their king and master, the embodiment of the state, authority, and absolutism.

Dazzled by the spectacle of the royal procession, overwhelmed by its magnificence, the peasants cheer Louis XVI as loudly as they had, before, cursed his very name. It is simple magic, a little regal glitter every so often and the peasants will get high on obedience and, raising their coronation mugs, sing of

loyalty to their monarch and may God save Phil and Liz, they are such respectable screwers.

The Investiture of authority's new

public relations man, the crash-course Harry Seycombe, merely represents this underlying process of mass internalization of the norms of conformism and obedience. The 'foundation myth' anaesthetizes, the 'ignoble lies' pacify and authority is reinforced.

If there is anywhere in the next few weeks anarchists should be, then that should be in Wales, fighting the Investiture and exposing the utter sham of the system it represents. Our comrades in Swansea have already entered enthusiastically into the festivities. We have received the following communication from them:

Swansea Anarchists will be arranging an INVESTITURE FOR THE POOR on Saturday, June 21. We invite everyone to come and participate in this event. The procession will leave the Guildhall at 2.30 p.m.

This Investiture is taking place because we believe that the vast amount of money being spent on the Investiture at Caernarvon is both WASTEFUL and IMMORAL, especially considering the widespread poverty and gross inequalities which exist in this country today.

During the INVESTITURE FOR THE POOR, money will be collected to go to the section of people who suffer the most from the way our society is organised—THE HOMELESS. This money

will be given to the Squatters. The INVESTITURE FOR THE POOR will entertain and involve people in serious matters instead of relegating them to the level of inactive onlookers at a pompous pageant. For this purpose there will be street theatre, music and discussion which will attempt to enlighten and entertain people.

All those interested and all those who have ideas or who could help are invited to contact Swansea Anarchists. Accommodation can be arranged.

SWANSEA ANARCHISTS.

Our Welsh comrades want to turn the Investiture into an almighty 'piss-taker' and expose the whole absurdity of it all, in a similar way to the Provos' celebrations at the Dutch Royal Wedding, and the Yippies at the inauguration of Nixon. Chas. has already been approached by our comrades in Aberystwyth as to whether he would welcome such a change in plans. He was given a letter which contrasted his position with that of the more obviously underprivileged sections of the population in particular the homeless, and was asked to join us in our fight for freedom. Well, of course, he is working for the other side and besides he gets promotion in the next few years.

Yet kings and queens and dukes are not jokes, they are the reality of oppression; they must be smashed like every other device that strengthens authoritarians and oppression.

## FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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Public viewing all day every weekday.

SALE will commence at 4.30 p.m. on SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 1969, outside this desirable residence in ALBERT SQUARE, MANCHESTER. Please come equipped with posters, banners or just as you are.

Please come.

Manchester Corporation have run Langho Colony on the cheap for years.

We are giving the people of Manchester a chance to regain the people's hall.

The auction will be conducted by an exploited section of the working community.

Enquiries to Langho Colony Action Committee

Dave Cunliffe, SEN,  
11 Clematis Street,  
Blackburn,  
Lancs., BB2 6JP.

Tony Casey, SEN,  
41 Lowergate Road,  
Huncoat, Accrington,  
Lancs., BB5 6LN.



# books?

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POSTAGE EXTRA

## Freedom Bookshop

## HERE WE ARE!

Editorial office open Friday, June 13, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, June 16, 2-8 p.m.

Note new telephone number:

BISHopgate 9249

New address:

84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, (entrance Angel Alley), WHITECHAPEL, E.1. (Underground: Aldgate East. Exit: Whitechapel Art Gallery. Turn right on emerging from station.)

## FREEDOM PRESS and Bookshop

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THE SOCIAL WORLD appears to us every day like a giant leaded globe turning with a crushing and inevitable weight nothing can alter; our ideas and enthusiasms, our visions, appear like flimsy muslin by contrast, a smoke of feelings with no purchase on fact. Then, in the revolutionary situation, it is seen and felt that this is utterly, radically untrue. Alienation is this very idea: the feeling of being a passenger in a lead world one has no power over. The irresistible leaden force is only our absence from the turning mass. And we are absent, because we can't think of being present. Then when an act of presence—a revolution—is accomplished, among any considerable number of people, they realize the comic truth. All they have to do is breathe heavily in approximate unison, and the thing stops. Touch it, and it disintegrates like Humpty-Dumpty beyond possibility of repair, carrying all the snorting, pipe-puffing realism of the world with it in a pile of rubble.

This is the vivid sensibility behind the exhilaration of the revolution. To those outside it looks like destructiveness, the 'violence' everyone keeps harping on. In fact, it is just the understanding that it

## Stand by the Squatters!

Continued from page 1

some of our friends in the Squatters to one of their houses for a cup of tea.

6. Later on that morning a number of us returned to the Welfare Department, and although wary and even afraid of going near the place I realised that I had to, to apply for accommodation. My husband asked Mr. Bailey if he would stay with us during any interviews, and I was glad he did so.

7. At the Welfare Department we were seen in a corridor by two officials and both said that under no circumstances could Mr. Bailey remain with us. I was not prepared to be interviewed without him present, and we went home, promising to come back in the afternoon.

8. At about 3 o'clock we went back. We were again met in the corridor by a tall man who I think is Mr. Hall. He appeared to be in charge. He again refused the request of both myself and my husband to have Mr. Bailey present, and when we explained that we wanted accommodation he replied something like: 'Oh, I can't help you there. I'm under instructions not to offer you anything.'

9. Mr. Jim Radford, who was present, told Mr. Hall that he was legally obliged to do so under the Welfare Act, or some-

is possible to stop doing the normal extreme violence to ourselves which keeps the old order going.

People also ask constantly: 'Can it spread?' I don't know whether it will spread to other parts of the education system, or beyond. But there is no doubt whatever that it can spread everywhere, into every crevice of the kind of society we have.

People also ask: 'What does it mean? What do they want?' Or even: 'What is the world coming to?' I think that the world is coming to itself, or—in the most literal meaning of the phrase—coming to its senses, for the first time. It is not really surprising that the old trance should be broken first in knotty, improbable, eccentric places like Nanterre and Hornsey.

In the Soviet art schools after the Revolution, the students constituted themselves into groups or 'currents' of at

least twenty people with common aims and interests. These groups elected teachers, who had security of tenure for two years unless attendance at their classes ceased altogether (in which case they could stay to the end of the year in course). Stalin put a stop to all that after a few years, naturally.

To most people, the idea of controlling one's work like this is as unthinkable as it was to Stalin. They feel the world will founder into a sort of formlessness if the rigid directing structures, the bosses and the bureaucrats, are removed from it. Even though we have escaped from scarcity (so that the means of life don't have to be rationed from above) we can never be responsible enough to be free. But the unthinkable is relative. Any realist of June 1789 knew that the idea of giving a vote to just anybody was a piece of philosopher's nonsense: as if the faceless, irresponsible

Oakfield Road, Ilford, in the County of Essex this nineteenth day of May 1969. (Signed) M. Fleming.

BEFORE ME (Signed) R. Garland. A Commissioner for Oaths.

It is also salutary to print this extract from the minutes of the 'proceedings' of Redbridge Council: REDBRIDGE COUNCIL: QUESTION. Minute 2,435. Ilford Central Area: Boarding up of Premises. Councillor Carradice asked the Chairman of the Town Centre Redevelopment Committee what it had cost the Council to board up and render uninhabitable the properties in the Ilford Central Area... and how many properties were so dealt with.

The Chairman replied that 36 Central Area properties had been boarded up, of which 29 were uninhabitable, and that the total estimated cost of boarding up and rendering the properties uninhabitable in the Area concerned was £2,520. This question was asked at the Council meeting on 1st April, 1969.

IT IS TIME THERE WAS AN ACTIVE ANARCHIST MOVEMENT TO SWEEP AWAY THIS FOUL SYSTEM! JOHN RETY. BILL LEVY.

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

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 8875). MALATESTA GROUP. Contact Reg Broad, 5 Welbeck Court, Addison Bridge Place, W.14, 603 0550. Meetings every Thursday at 'The Cedars', (upstairs room), 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. FINCH'S ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings. Contact P.P., 271 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 8494. SIEGE OF SIDNEY STREET APPRECIATION SOCIETY. Frances Cooper, 2a Fairfield Gardens, Hornsey, N.8. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester. MUTUAL AID GROUP. c/o Borrowdale, Carriage Drive, Frodsham, Cheshire. NORTH EAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Peter Ridley, 4 Rockcliffe Gardens, Whitley Bay, Northumberland. Phone 25759. NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emory, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells. NOTTING HILL. Meetings at John Bennett's, Flat 4, 88 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. READING (town and university) and WOKINGHAM. Contact address: Larry Law, 57 Kiln Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire. REDDITCH ANARCHISTS AND LIBERTARIANS. Contact Dave Lloyd, 57 Feckenham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Wores. WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings and activities contact Mr. T. Plant, 10 Thackeray Road, East Ham, E.6. Tel: 552 4162.

## 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 (LE 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.

## 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 Arts Lab, Summer Lane (not the Crown). S.a.e. to Secretary for details. BOURNEMOUTH AREA. Local anarchists can be contacted through Nigel Holt, Rossmore, Harvey Road, Canford, Wimborne, Dorset. (Wimborne 2991.) CORNWALL ANARCHISTS. Contact Arthur Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Meetings on the second Friday of each month at 42 Pendarves 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 (LV 7546) or contact Keith McCain, 1 Langmead Street, West Norwood, S.E.27. Phone 670 2797. EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact Melvyn Estrin, 34 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx. HERTS. Contact Val and John Funnell, 10 Fry Road, Chells, Stevenage.

## 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, Purleigh, Chelmsford, Essex. EPPING. John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping, Essex. HARLOW. Ian Dallas, 18 Brookline Field, Harlow and Annette Gunning, 37 Longbanks, Harlow. LOUGHTON. Group c/o Students' Union, Loughton College of Further Education, Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex.

## NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Secretary: Phil, 9 Boland Street, Manchester, 14. BLACKPOOL. Contact Christine and Graham, Top flat, 4 Ruskin Avenue, South Shore, Blackpool. BOLTON. Contact John Hayes, 51 Rydal Road, Bolton. CHORLEY. Contact Kevin Lynch, 6 Garfield Terrace, Chorley. LANCASTER and MORECAMBE. Contact Les Smith, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Meetings 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 every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., at Pete Duke's, Flat 6, 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool, 8. PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact J. B. Cowburn, 140 Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston. Meetings: 'The Wellington Hotel', Grovers 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, Chessington. GUILDFORD. Peter Cartwright, 33 Denzil Road, Guildford. 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 Tilsbury, 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).

## YORKSHIRE FEDERATION

Next meeting: Sunday, June 15 in York. Contact Regional Secretary c/o York Group (see below). HARROGATE. Contact David Howes, 16 Park Parade, Harrogate. HULL: Jim Young, 3 Fredericks Crescent, Hawthorn Avenue, Hull. KEIGHLEY: Steve Wood, 26B Cavendish Street, Keighley. LEEDS: Direct Action Society. Contact Martin Watkins, 6 Ebberton Terrace, Leeds, 6. SHEFFIELD: Dave Jeffries, c/o Students Union, Western Bank, Sheffield, 10. YORK. Keith Nathan, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York.

## STUDENT GROUPS

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY GROUP. C/o Ian and Peggy Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, AB2 45L. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Matthew Robertson, Trinity College, Cambridge. CARDIFF UNIVERSITY LIBERTARIAN/ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Chris Short, UWIST Union, Cathays Park, or Chas. Ball, UCC Union, Dumphries Place. College, or John Fullerton, Jesus College. SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. John Byford, 26 Bedford Square, Brighton, Sussex. Meetings every second Thursday jointly with Brighton Group; bookstall every Monday outside J.C.R., 12-2.30 p.m. YORK UNIVERSITY. Contact Nigel Wilson, Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York. EAST ANGLIA UNIVERSITY. Contact Dave Lomax, E.A.S. II, U.E.A., Norwich, NOR 88C. LIBERTARIAN STUDENTS FEDERATION. Contact address: Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow. LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact us at the bookstall in the Students Union Foyer every Friday lunchtime. OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Francis Casline, Pembroke College, or Steve Watts, Trinity College. MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY. Contact Mike Don or Bill Jamieson, c/o University Union, Oxford Road, Manchester, 13. SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY Revolutionary Anarchist Federation. Contact Student Union Bookstall lunchtimes on Tuesday and Friday. LSE ANARCHIST GROUP. C/o Students' Union, LSE, Houghton Street, W.C.2. KINGSTON COLLEGE of Technology, Penrhyn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. Contact G. Wright.

mob without a culotte to their name could ever be entrusted with a say in running things! Common sense told one that blind anarchy would result.

Now that we have lived in the blind anarchy of democracy for a century or so, and experienced its limitations as well as its advantages, the time has come to try more extensive control from below: social and economic democracy. If people are not responsible enough now for real anarchy, they never will be...

'Notes towards the definition of Anti-Culture' by T. N. (from *The Hornsey Affair*, published by Penguin Books).

## 219 Words to Quicken the Revolution

THE LIVING THEATRE, under the direction of Julian Beck and Judith Malina, have been happening for 18 years and during the last four years have developed their pacific-anarchist ideas to fit a nomadic form. Since September 1968 they, thirty plus and eight children, camp-followers, etc., have travelled 30,000 miles to give over 200 performances. Their performances, in spite of being given media coverage by trad theatre journalists, are not theatre, but something around which the community can gather, give and get energy with ease. In *The Life of Theatre*, a book which will be published by City Lights (San Francisco) later this year, Julian Beck declares his intention 'The Theatre is the Wooden Horse by which we can take the Town'. Judith Malina asks 'How can theatre serve the revolution?' The Living do it and call it 'theatre'. They say if it can happen here, now in this space (we call a theatre), then it can and will happen everywhere. Joy freaks of the UK vicinity. Listen close.

The Living Theatre are in London for the month of June at the Round House doing their full shot: *Frankenstein*, *Mysteries*, *Antigone* and *Paradise Now*. Let us put an end to talking. There is no end of talking. See 'em. The Living Theatre are a security leak from the future. You are the Living Theatre. Remember: 'It feels good to feel good.'

JOHN RETY. BILL LEVY.

MANCHESTER COLLEGE of Commerce. Contact Kevin Hill, c/o Students' Union, College of Commerce, Aytoun Street, Manchester, 1.

## WELSH FEDERATION

ABERYSTWYTH ANARCHISTS. Contact Steve Mills, 4 St. Michael's Place, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, Wales. CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to—Pete Raymond, 18 Marion Street, Spott, Cardiff. SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 18 Windsor Street, Uplands, Swansea. Weekly meetings at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Cardiff Arms (in the Strand). 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 Hargate. ABERDEEN FREEDOM GROUP. All those wishing to sell both national and Scottish editions of 'Freedom' contact Ian S. Sutherland, 8 Esslemont 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. MONTROSE. Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden, Montrose, Angus. ROSS-SHIRE. Contact David Rodgers, Broomfield, Evanton, Ross-shire, Scotland.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

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

## SOUTHERN IRELAND

ALLIANCE OF LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUPS IN IRELAND. 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. Groupe du journal Le Libertaire, 220 rue Vivegnis, Liège. U.S.A. James W. Cain, secretary, the Anarchist Committee of Correspondence, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA. TORONTO LIBERTARIAN-ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 Torvork Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

## PROPOSED GROUPS

NORTH DEVON. All those interested in forming a local group please contact Hugh Benseley, 'Boat-hyde', Northam, Bideford, Devon. MONTREAL, QUEBEC. Anyone interested in forming a Montreal area Anarchist group please contact Ron Sigler, Tel. 489-6432. ASTON UNIVERSITY. Colleges of Art and Commerce. Anarchists and Libertarians wishing to form group please contact Malvern Hostick at 62 Wheeles Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15. VANCOUVER I.W.W. and Libertarian group. Box 512, Postal St. 'A', Vancouver 1, B.C., Canada. Read 'The Rebel'—please send donation for postage.



# VISITING ALAN BARLOW

HAVING VISITED ALAN twice in Brixton recently, I thought FREEDOM readers might like to know how he is. He seems remarkably cheerful, although I gather from other visitors that this is understandably not always the case. My impression was that Alan has achieved an attitude of considerable detachment that enables him to look at his plight now as it were from outside himself—no mean achievement in the circumstances. It is this kind of acceptance of the situation that enables him to retain that cheerfulness. This may be a totally false impression and it may be all part of an act on Alan's part to fool his visitors, the screws, and possibly himself; but I do not think so. He is merely preparing himself for whatever might happen, but at the same time isolating himself from that future, and also incidentally from the past, and living only for the present. This must not be taken as any indication whatsoever of apathy on his part—exactly the opposite, he seems not only cheerful, but also determined to keep up the struggle against the system even from the inside.



We have just been told that the trial of our comrades Alan Barlow and Phil Carver will start at the Old Bailey on June 23.

When visiting, you are directed around by the totally impersonal automaton screws—they do not even seem to be able to generate the humanity to be bastards, perhaps this complete lack of involvement of any kind in the prisoner's plight is even worse than some kind of brutalisation of the individual, that is the popular caricature of the screw.

You can visit only for twenty minutes or so—or at least this was so, due to pressure of visitors, on the two Saturdays on which I have visited him so far. Other times are less crowded. You stand either side of a glass window in a

cubicle, and speak through a mesh grille at the side. You must stand, otherwise you can neither see nor hear each other. As it is, it is very difficult to see and hear Alan at the same time—you must keep moving your head back and forth from window to grille.

He can receive food—but only complete meals, not extras like biscuits, sweets or cakes; and he can receive beer and wine as well—though strictly rationed of course. All these, however, are only received instead of and not in addition to prison diet—for one meal of that day. In order I suppose to save the governor a bit of cash—still, it must be a welcome change from prison food.

All the food, along with paperback books are handed in at the food counter. Paperbacks only of course, hardbacks might be used for tunnelling your way out. The food is methodically dissected to ensure that no keys, files, drugs or obscene photographs of the Home Secretary—and there are none that are not—are being illicitly smuggled in.

In the very crowded waiting room—you meet the other visitors—young wives dressed up in their very best to raise their loved one's morale.

Alan's case is not likely to come up in court for quite some time yet, no date has been fixed for the hearing at present. So there is plenty of time for other visitors and more letters. (Visitors please contact

FREEDOM for the rota as he is not allowed more than two at a time—but anyone can write—or visit—although mail is of course censored.) Alan would also like books, NEW paperbacks only are permitted, but second-hand ones in perfect condition and judiciously wrapped in a WHS bag would be OK. Books are not returnable, of course, and Alan cannot send or take them out. When Alan leaves they are put into the prison library, which is one way of filling the prison libraries with anarchist books.

Regarding Alan's attitude to his trial, he says if demonstrations are to be organised by friends at that time or before, he asks that these be mainly focussed upon the present state of affairs in Spain, especially upon the struggle of trade unionists persecuted and imprisoned there, rather than upon him as an individual.

Alan is receiving some FREEDOMS inside although most have NOT reached him. The main criteria of censorship seems to be concerned with any prevalence of four-letter words or comment on his case, rather than with political ideas unacceptable to the screw mentality.

IF this FREEDOM is not censored into oblivion too, Alan—our regards—many people are thinking of you. 'Don't let the bastards grind you down.'

PADDY FIELDS.

## FIFTH COLUMN

### Farewell—and Welcome to the Open Forum

THIS is the last time I shall occupy this space in FREEDOM. I have suggested to the editors that *Fifth Column* should from now on be a series of articles by different anarchists: each person in turn giving his own view of anarchism. What follows is therefore my last column and the first article in this new series.

For me anarchism begins with a negative. I doubt, question, deny, rebel. I start by repudiating everything and only accept what I have to.

Anarchy means simply society without authority. Those who have supported this idea have developed it in various ways: there is no single anarchist tradition. This fact in itself makes it impossible for anybody to say: I am an anarchist so I will believe what my predecessors have believed.

But even if all those who ever called themselves anarchists have thought alike there would still be no sense in accepting their views without question. An idea which starts by opposing political authority will not get very far if those who hold it accept intellectual authorities. Academics have a nasty habit of turning into politicians; those who can't think for themselves make crude and unsuccessful propagandists—for anarchism.

So first and always the anarchist is an individualist: he can never lose himself in a movement or abandon the habit of questioning what his comrades say. I suppose I must spell this out: I am not saying that the anarchist cannot join a movement, only that if he gives it the kind of mindless loyalty appropriate to most organisations he becomes a less effective anarchist.

And secondly the anarchist is a rebel. To deny the principle of political authority is to challenge those who support it. Other political ideas can be adapted in various ways by those who have power—or want it. But the anarchist is a threat to authority itself—and therefore always a rebel.

Thirdly the anarchist is a propagandist. He can rebel against authority by himself but he will always fail. Authority is quite happy about individual rebels. In fact if they didn't exist the Special Branch would spend half its time inventing them.

Authority can only be destroyed by the mass of the people. If the work of revolution is left to a small group it is inevitable that this group will, if successful, replace those they struggle against. Only by demanding freedom—and then taking it—can people learn to use and guard it.

The traditional sneer of the bourgeois—that anarchy means chaos—makes sense to him because he's unable to see how people can run their own lives. If authority were to be destroyed by any means other than the action of the people anarchy would probably become chaos very quickly (and the chaos would in turn spawn a new authority). People do not learn new patterns of behaviour overnight: they cannot suddenly be presented with anarchy and expected to make it work.

Thus the anarchist is necessarily a propagandist: his function is to get across the idea that people can take control of their own lives.

I think that so far most anarchists would agree. They tend to be individualists, rebels and propagandists (even though the first of these labels is repudiated by some). Disagreement comes when you get down to working out a theory of revolution: do you shoot the cops or sit down in front of them? do you hurl abuse at Marxists or try to work with them? do you align yourself with the working-class or attack them for being reactionary? (This last is a curious one: It's rather like saying—do you align yourself with the people or attack them for being reactionary? How exactly do you hope to convince others that you have something sensible to say if you start by calling them names?)

I have expressed my opinions on these questions frequently. I won't bore regular readers by repeating at length the arguments I have used before. But briefly: I align myself with the working-class not because they are saints but because they are the people at work—if there is to be a revolution they have to make it; I am in favour of working with other propagandists who are not anarchists when this does not obscure what I have to say; and I don't go for shooting cops.

WYNFORD HICKS.

This column consists of about 750 words: contributors to this series should write to this length. We look forward to YOUR contribution.—Editors.

## Local Politics are Real Politics!

HERBERT READ in one of his essays made the above observation in a plea for regionalism. Indeed the question of local politics has always been a moot point with anarchists. Local elections do not seem to have the same lack of contact with reality that national politics have, the scale is smaller, the party system should be less dominating.

It was therefore with high hopes that Fulham squatters made their way to the old Fulham Town Hall for the London Borough of Hammersmith's public meeting on the Borough Structure Plan. It was thought that this would once more be an opportunity to raise the case of Mrs. Joan Foster squatting in a Council-owned house. It was thought to question the wisdom of maintaining a hostel for the homeless whilst good homes stood empty, awaiting sale.

There were about 75 people in the audience of whom about 20 were squatters. Except, surprisingly enough, for the squatters, the audience was predominantly middle-class. A complex public address system was in use at this meeting at an estimated cost of £40. Tape recordings were being made of contributions from the floor—no doubt some of these will give the Council many happy hours.

To relax us all the public address system was playing pop music before the serious business of the evening and one of the happier selections was 'Something's gotta give'. We hoped it was Hammersmith Council.

The presentation of the meeting was hopeful enough: 'You can help to plan Hammersmith's future.' 'What do you like about Hammersmith?' 'What ought to be changed?' 'Our aim is to create a Borough that we all want to live in.' 'Constructive suggestions will be incorporated in the Plan wherever possible.' 'Suggestions made at these meetings will be carefully considered in the preparation of the Borough Structure Plan. Before it is finalised, further meetings will be held so that you can comment on the proposals.' And, following the timed programme of subjects, 'We would like to thank you most sincerely for attending.'

Five sections were dealt with—'What Planning is about'; 'Transportation' (i.e. Transport); 'Housing and Environment'; 'Industry and Employment'; 'Open Spaces and Amenity'; with time given for general discussion and time after the meeting for 'detailed personal questions'.

THE TRIKE.

## SQUATTING IN N. IRELAND

### DERRY

THIRTY FAMILIES are now in Clooney Park, South Derry (owned by Ministry of Defence); they came out of the overcrowded slums all over the city. The move was initiated by the Derry Labour Party, but most moved in on their own after the first few families had been squatted until every empty house on the estate was occupied. Electricity, gas, water, milk and papers were swiftly set up, even the rates man called and told them how much to pay. Albert Anderson, Unionist MP, *Burntoltlet Spectator* must be very happy with his new neighbours.

### ARMAGH

Mrs. Grimley and her five children squatting in a three-bedroomed house in Cregagh Gardens had her electricity and

water cut off by the authorities. But she said, 'During the sixteen years I lived in Mill Row, I had to carry buckets and cook on an open fire every day.'

Most of the houses in Mill Row have been condemned for thirty years, all for twenty years. They are rat-infested and totally insanitary. The aged say they will not stay another winter for they are sure they will be unable to survive. Twenty-six families are still in Mill Row.

Now Mrs. Grimley has been offered a new house with the added inducement of two weeks' rent free (or at least paid by some of the Councillors). But after looking at the house she refused to move in until it had been cleaned up, as she stated that in the condition it is now, a pig would refuse to live there.

Armagh PD have had continuous pickets towards the Council, had sit-ins, the Council called the Police to throw them out, and stated that they are going to meet in camera for the next six weeks.

Armagh PD are now threatening to squat the rest of the families of Mill Row—or what about Armagh Council's town hall?

### LISNASKEA

(Pigs rise early in Ulster)

Meanwhile in Lisnaskea (as Fermanagh), in the Land of Brookeborough and West, squatting has commenced. A 65-year-old man has been waiting for a council house since 1933!

Nine people, the youngest ten months, have been living in a decaying shack 12 ft. square while new houses stand empty. Police swooped at 4 a.m. on a Sunday morning to evict the Squatters' Committee.

Trouble is promised for the notoriously reactionary and gerrymandered Fermanagh County Council, whose record of religious discrimination in housing and jobs is even worse than Derry's.

## DIG—DEEP!

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Week Ending June 7, 1969

#### Estimated Expenses

23 weeks at £90:	£2,070
Income: Sales and Subs.:	£1,661
<b>DEFICIT:</b>	<b>£409</b>

### PRESS FUND

Southall: D.S. 8/9; Leeds: C.A. 10/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.\* 2/-; J.L.\* 3/-; K.F. & C.F. 2/-; J.W. & R.W. 3/-; Peterborough: F.W. 4/-; Goteborg: Y.T. 9/-; Durham: S.C. 5/-; Grantham: G.I. 3/-; London, S.W.11: C.B. 5/8; London, N.W.9: A.D. 5/8; Birmingham: R.F. 5/8; London, W.C.1: A.J. 5/8; London, E.4: J.G. 6/8; Leicester: J.P. £2/5/8; London, E.17: J.F. £1/3/-; Birmingham: J.C. 13/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.\* 2/-; J.L.\* 3/-; K.F. & C.F. 2/-; London, S.E.11: M.D. £1/5/8; London, N.8: C.C. 5/8; London, S.W.9: P.S. £1; London, N.W.6: M.F. 5/8; Oxford: Anon\* 5/-; Penzance: D.R. £1; London, W.1: H.P. £2/5/8; Hamilton: J.T. 3/5; London, S.W.18: A.H. 5/8; Cheshire: D.P. 13/-; London, E.C.1: D.M. 15/-; London, S.W.15: J.M. 5/8; London, N.W.7: R.B. 6/4; Taunton: D.P. 5/-; London, N.9: T.B. £1; London, E.17: K.B. 10/-; Swansea: T.L. 10/-; Wakefield: R.M. 3/-; Peterborough: F.W. 2/-; Los Angeles: S.S. £11/10/-; Kansas City: J.S. £1; Grantham: M.A. 10/-; Bangor, N.I.: J.T. £5; Dunstable: J.D. 5/8; Hants.: M.T. 13/-; London, N.W.6: D.K. 8d.; London: Anon 5/-.

TOTAL:	£31 3 9
Previously Acknowledged:	£312 17 10

1969 Total to Date:	£344 1 7
Deficit B/F:	£409 0 0

<b>TOTAL DEFICIT:</b>	<b>£64 18 5</b>
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\*Denotes Regular Contributor.  
Gift of Books—M.W.K.

## What can we DO to Help?

Friends,

I am writing to ask you for your support for the Radical/Student Movement in Berkeley, which is now facing severe repression. The immediate issue is seemingly trivial: the creation of a 'People's Park' by informal groups of students and local residents on a small piece of land owned by the University of California. Governor Reagan, ostensibly to protect the University's property, proclaimed a 'State of extreme emergency', indefinitely suspending free speech and assembly. His real aim is clear enough: to destroy Berkeley as a centre of radical resistance in the United States.

Since May 15 Berkeley has been occupied by 600 police and 2,700 of the National Guard. The Campus area, including a hospital and children's playgrounds, has been repeatedly and indis-

criminatedly gassed, once by an Army helicopter. One student has been shot dead, one blinded, and over a hundred others injured by police guns. More than 900 have been arrested so far, with bail ranging from \$800 to \$5,000 each.

We desperately need money for medical treatment, bail, and legal defence. When the troops have left, we will need to defend many of our people against criminal charges for conspiracy and incitement to riot—state officials have already declared their intention to prosecute. We are asking your help because we believe that the current repression in Berkeley is of more than local significance. It is clear that the Nixon administration, acting through Reagan, intends to make us a test case of his 'law and order' policy for the American Student Movement. If the Movement in Berkeley is stifled or

intimidated by this massive repression in the streets and the courts, Nixon's domestic policy will have made a significant advance.

I realise that I may have given either too much or too little explanation of these events. It is difficult for us to tell how fully the situation is being reported abroad. We do know that there is a virtual blackout of this and other student revolts by the major liberal newspapers in this country. Apart from financial help, political support and informed publicity in England would of course be very valuable. If you want more information, pamphlets and so on, please write to me at the address below. Cheques and money orders should be sent directly to: 'THE PEOPLE'S PARK DEFENSE FUND', c/o The Free Church, 2200 Parker Street, Berkeley, California.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN HANLEY,

For the Park Defense Committee.

2111 McKinley Avenue,  
Berkeley, California.



# Strike Action is the Answer

TRADE UNIONISTS should take no comfort from the massive defeat of the Government's 'In Place of Strife' at the Trades Union Congress last Thursday, for the equally massive vote in favour of the TUC's 'Programme for Action' was in fact a vote for the so-called lesser of two evils. But, in reality, the two plans

are not alternatives, but variations on how to deal with workers who take unofficial action.

What the vote meant was that they, the trade union bureaucrats, would rather discipline their members than have Government interference. The vote only said that they were ready to act as policemen to the trade union movement. As we have said before, it will be small consolation that the TUC is doing the disciplining rather than the State. Expulsion from a trade union under the TUC's plans could mean a loss of livelihood for militants where a 'closed shop' was operating.

Many trade union leaders welcome parts of 'In Place of Strife' (some also welcome the penal sanctions). They particularly like compulsory union 'recognition' by the employers, which would mean more members and dues. The ailing and extremely reactionary union, the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, is one which sees this legislation as an opportunity of gaining membership. But these are things that the trade union movement should have won a long time ago.

However, as we know, recognition of trade union organisation, that is at shop floor level, is only won by struggle. What they mean by 'recognition' is the right of trade union executives to negotiate deals without consulting the members concerned in any way. That sort of 'recognition' is worth nothing and it is only the stupid and reactionary managements who do not give it.

## 'MUST' AND 'WILL'

In fact, both Mrs. Castle and Mr. Wilson seem doubtful whether the TUC would in fact carry out the 'Programme for Action'. Indications are that they want paragraph 42 of the TUC's plan strengthened and that the present 'can' and 'will' should be changed to 'must' and 'will' in order to ensure that the TUC's recommendations on unofficial strikes are carried out. The Government wants to make certain that the TUC will do the work for them before they decide to give up the penal clauses in their Bill.

Mr. Vic Feather, Acting General Secretary of the TUC, said at the congress: 'And so, I am authorised, by the General Council, to say that a necessary prerequisite of the operation of "Programme of Action" is that the Government do not proceed with their proposed penal clauses.'

But what are the TUC plans if the Government does go ahead? The answer is nothing! True, both Mr. Cousins and Mr. Scanlon have made militant noises, 'We will fight; we must protect our members', and 'This united trade union movement cannot content itself merely with the passing of resolutions', respectively. They have no alternative because a decision on this would destroy their so-called 'united trade union movement'. Mr. Hayday of the NGMW was right when he said that it was nonsense to think the TUC would ever support strikes against penal

sanctions.

When all the block votes have been cast and all the resolutions have been passed, the only way to defend the strike weapon is to use it. The only answer to both the TUC and Government interference is strike action. The blaming of unofficial or 'unconstitutional' strikes for our ailing economy is really ludicrous. Unofficial strikes represent the loss of one day's production in every four years. But if penal sanctions do exist, this will decrease the bargaining power of the workers with the management. The employers will know that their workers will have to defy the law if they decide to back their demands with action.

## THE ALTERNATIVE

This is why the TUC's compromise is no alternative. Penal sanctions will not be defeated by the TUC. They are only 'shadow boxing' and to think otherwise is both foolhardy and dangerous. There is no choice to be made between 'two evils'. The only alternative is to build rank and file organisation at the place of work, to make workers conscious of the fact that there is no choice between being hanged or electrocuted and that the only way to defeat these attacks is for the rank and file to act themselves by taking industrial action.

All past experiences have proved this. It is the only thing that the State, the employers and, finally, the trade union bureaucrats understand. It is the one thing that scares them all stiff. P.T.

HOW MUCH LONGER are the ship-owners and dock employers going to hold the country to ransom? Ignoring the national interest completely they are driving more and more trade from our docks into the hands of our European competitors.

Due to their stubborn attitude we have the farcical situation at Tilbury where dockers are not being allowed to load and unload containers on the UK-Australia service for Overseas Container Limited.

As a result much of this lucrative trade has been lost to Antwerp. The situation is that containerisation and other modern methods mean that one man can do the work of about ten. This of course means that the labour force of dockers will eventually be cut by about 90 per cent. The National Ports Council have indicated they want the country's dockers cut from 55,000 to 35,000 by 1972.

This will be done by paying redundancy money to men who volunteer to leave the industry and by not replacing those who retire through old age or sickness.

The dockers have co-operated remarkably well in this modernisation so far and have not selfishly demanded a reduction of hours without loss of pay instead of reducing the labour force. They are already working several mechanised berths at greatly reduced manning and have agreed to work the OCL berth with 54 men working 18 to a shift right round the clock.

This way they would do 30,000 tons in 48 hours which by conventional methods would take 200 men three weeks.

There is one condition, however, before they will agree to work under such greatly reduced manning. There must be a guarantee that the vast majority of dockers working under conventional methods will not lose money as a result of containerisation.

This is because piecework is soon to be abolished and instead a fixed weekly wage paid to dockers. Under piecework they get about £30 a week on average in the Port of London. But the employers want to keep the basic wage

# Freedom

## For Workers' Control

JUNE 14 1969 Vol 30 No 18

# Leyland's Industrial Blackmail

IT IS NOW three weeks since workers at Leyland's plant decided to take industrial action in support of their wage demands. It has been quoted many times that this is the first serious industrial dispute at Leyland for 40 years so one has a right to presume 'that the final straw' has been found.

Prior to the merging of Leyland into a large corporation the majority of disputes were settled at plant level, and again one has the right to presume that this method worked fairly satisfactorily in the past. Now Leyland management claim that they must go through the engineering industry's procedure for settling disputes at national level. This procedure, as everyone is fully aware, is long-winded and cumbersome and is in urgent need of reform.

One remarkable thing about this dispute—no one has found any anarchists or communists under the work benches. Usually the national press industrial correspondents can find someone, even if that one poor bugger only wears his hair long.

Lord Stokes, chairman of British Leyland, has really climbed up in his cot, so much so that Hugh Scanlon, president of the AEF, accused Leyland of industrial blackmail. Scanlon points out after 40 years of frustrations, now because there is a dispute and if the men do not return to work, the factory might have to close.

The usual situation has now been reached. The company insist that the strike must be called off before negotia-

tions can begin, and the union claim that the management must agree in principle to meet their claims before work is resumed. Len Brindle, the works convenor, makes the valid point, 'How can we settle this issue without it being in writing?' At one stage, one can verbally be promised half the cake but once back at work the half-cake has evaporated into mere crumbs.

Another interesting factor emerges, Stokes supports the White Paper 'In Place of Strife'. Obviously he hopes that the situation at Leyland will strengthen Wilson's hand. He may feel that Wilson might be wavering in view of the TUC vote.

The National Union of Vehicle Builders are to ask the Confed. of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to intervene in the dispute. It is reported that management welcomed this step. Obviously they hope that such intervention might isolate the AEF, although this would be difficult as 85% of the workers in dispute are AEF members.

After three weeks Leyland workers must 'be pushed' cash-wise, if they are to win they need the support of all car workers. This is not only a dispute in terms of cash but also the right of negotiation at shop floor level where it rightly belongs.

Contributions are urgently needed. Send to Leyland Motors Emergency Fund, c/o Treasurer, J. Catterall, 94 Shevington Moor, Standish, Wigan, Lancs.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

# DOCKS FARCE

down to about £25 (according to which kind of docker) and bring the wage up to the £30 mark with bonuses.

The union lay officials fear, however, that if this is accepted and containerisation is allowed to spread too quickly there will not be enough work left for dockers on conventional berths to earn the bonus. So instead of a bonus scheme they want a simple basic wage of at least £30. Once they get that security they would willingly work the container berths on reduced manning.

But so far the employers have refused to do this and instead are trying to twist the arms of the dockers and endanger the national interest by taking the work abroad.

OCL are not willing to tighten their belts to help out the country and employ the conventional number of men until this is all sorted out. Instead they are thinking of their own selfish interests and giving the trade to foreigners.

The companies that make up the OCL combine have been making record profits recently and are certainly in no danger of bankruptcy by employing the standard number of men temporarily.

One of the companies in the combine, P & O, recorded their highest net profit for ten years last year—£9,577,050. Shared between the workers who produced it this would be £235 each. This would have been more but because of the Government's incomes policy some was held back until the tax is lower.

Another of the companies, the Ocean Steam Ship Company, made pre-tax profits of £8,100,000 compared with £5,600,000 the previous year.

Considering that these companies are themselves consortiums of other companies, OCL represents easily enough

shipping lines to exert pressure on the dock employers to give a higher basic wage under further modernisation instead of offering bonuses.

The dockers would much prefer to press a button on a crane than strain their backs lifting heavy cargoes and risk a fall down ships' holds. But they can only work under the conditions which the employers agree to offer them. Unfortunately the employers have taken full advantage of their position and are holding the dockers to ransom before allowing them to work the modern methods.

They are blackmailing the country for greedy self interest. 'PORTWORKER.'

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## Contact Column

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

Martin Small is seriously ill. He is in Barnet General Hospital. Phone before going to see him.

June 29. Spanish Protest March. Assemble Hyde Park, 3 p.m.

'Husband' urgently required to gain British nationality for girl who must beat the Home Office. Box No. 38, Freedom Press.

Strike. Play about 1926 General Strike by Arnold Hinchliffe. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7.45 p.m. Unity Theatre, 1 Goldington Street, N.W.1.

'The Libertarian Teacher', No. 5. Journal of the Libertarian Teachers Association, now available, 3/- postal order, inc. postage. 36 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

The Colchester Tattoo (July 30 to August 2) is regarded as one of the Army's foremost recruiting and publicity displays. Last year it attracted 25,000 people; this year it will be even bigger. Some sort of protest must be made against this revolting spectacle of mock-battles and marching soldiers. If anyone has any ideas how this can be done, or wants to help in any way, however small, contact Mark Johnston at 3 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex.

Rest, holiday, recuperation in peaceful Lincolnshire. Anarchist, pacifist household. Vegetarian if preferred. Nominal charges. Iris and Peter Allen, The Old Vicarage, Honington, Grantham, Lincs.

Protest March. Civil Rights in N. Ireland. June 22, 3 p.m., Hyde Park. London P.D. Contact: Janet Wilkins, 103 Balham Park Road, London, S.W.12.

Travelling companions wanted to Japan in August/September. And/or information on cheapest routes. Ring Barbara, TER 4473.

La Mama Troupe at the Arts Theatre, June 29-July 13.

Black and Red. Published by the North West Federation. Clear, concise and deserves a wide circulation. Orders to F. Phillips, 9 Boland Street, Manchester 14.

### Freedom Meeting Hall.

Friday, June 13 at 7.30 p.m. Workers' Mutual Aid. Abolish work and industrial slavery. Pre-assembly of Freedom discussion. All libertarians welcome.

Help! Can you help with the despatch of FREEDOM (June 19, Thursday p.m.) and also on Friday.

Rectangular metal badges (red/black or plain black) 2/6 each post free. Bulk rate (10 or more) 1/- each. Flags from 10/-. Cash with order please. Hazel McGee, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne, Cornwall.

Birmingham discussions. Every Tuesday 8 p.m. at the Arts Lab, Summer Lane (Not the Crown).

International Anarchism. First issue out now. 1/- from C. Beadle, c/o Oakwood Farm, Lund, near Selby, E. Yorkshire, England.

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

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.

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

If you wish to make contact let us know.