

NINE MONTHS AFTER the first token demonstration for the homeless at a luxury block of flats in Wanstead, the squatters' movement has now wide support all over the country. Reports are coming in of occupation of empty properties from many boroughs of London and also from the major towns of the country such as Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Brighton and Reading. A full list is not available as information is hard to come by. Not only squatters' groups but the homeless themselves have been occupying empty properties on their own initiative (e.g., Stoke Newington—see story below).

The fiercest struggle to date has been in Ilford but it would be a mistake to ignore the less dramatic ones such as in Fulham and Brighton



and, although the reports are scanty from St. Ives, we are told there was a seven-hour siege to evict 30 young people.

It is important also to remember that the homeless problem produces tragedies unconnected with the squatters' struggle. The tragic death in Oxford of a man threatened with eviction who blew himself up with gellignite was something that the popular press tried to obscure—first

representing it as the act of a madman and then gratefully using an emotional entanglement as the reason. The desperate act of the man in Camden who, when the bailiffs started smashing his door with crowbars, climbed onto the roof and threatened to throw himself off, is just another example of the fight of the individual against criminally incompetent housing authorities and city planners.

### IMPORTANT STRUGGLE

Nevertheless the struggle in Ilford is very important for at least two reasons. Firstly, that the struggle was started in the area and has a natural development with a growing number of active supporters whose serious involvement has brought them to the point of being prepared to risk their lives in defence of their ideas. Secondly, should they win the struggle, this will make Councils all over the country chary of using brutal violence by the use of private armies of hired thugs.

The tremendous support that working journalists of the press and television have given the squatters has also had a beneficial effect to their cause. This is comparable to the attitude of the press in France in the struggle of last May. Their serious concern and thorough investigations has led to some accurate reporting for a change. As TV and press men are usually regarded as the most cynical race on earth it is an indication that the squatters' case is unassailable. The moment any observer sees houses wantonly destroyed and blinded and realises that families live in filthy, rat-

infested slums, his human compassion must override the demands of his employer to obscure the facts.

### NATIONAL FRONT BAILIFFS

Another important breakthrough the squatters have achieved in Ilford was the identification of the fascist National Front with the evicting Council and the bailiffs. It was again a journalist of *Ilford Pictorial* who noticed that two of Quartermain's men wore NF badges. This is the



kind of proof that can stem the tide of fascism when the homeless and dispossessed realise the role of the National Front—the dividers of the working class by irrational emotionalism. The squatters have proved in Ilford that coloured families do not cause housing problems, they are caused by the closing of perfectly good empty property.

The squatters' campaign has also highlighted the fact that Councils are more willing to spend millions

been informed of a possible eviction soon after the guard had seen the water being turned off. A second warning was given by the guard when a Council worker came to put on a new padlock, but help was not available. The lessons learnt from this failure should be borne well in mind for the future.

On Wednesday, Mrs. Foster's case comes up in court and from then on it is even more important that there are sufficient people to maintain a 24-hour guard on the place. Phone REN 2014.

### 'STREET FAYRE'

To further the squatters' campaign, a 'Street Fayre' was held in Rumbold Road on Saturday afternoon following a street corner meeting in the local market. We were overwhelmed by the response, for one half of the street was full of people enjoying themselves.

A number of improvised stalls, built during the week, were erected, including a bottle-smashing stall, sales and information and jumble, while the amusements included eating apples and sticky buns on a string, finding the treasure and covering pennies in buckets of water.

### FULHAM SQUAT

Mrs. Joan Foster has been given 3 weeks to quit by the High Court.

Agit-Prop also put on two very fine street plays, one about the squatters and the other about the GLC rent increases. Lamp posts were decorated with balloons and paper chains. The only time the police interfered was when a panda car drove slowly down the street, holding up one of the plays for a few minutes, and was greeted with boos and hisses.

I think that everyone enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment, especially the kids who went home with some sweets or fruit. The 'Street Fayre' also afforded an opportunity to talk to other people living in the area and to hear the many problems facing tenants, many of whom are being told by the Council to vacate their homes and move to another part of the Borough. It was also a chance for people to get to know one another and it was an event that should be repeated.

P.T.

## Fight to the Finish for the Homeless

# Squatters Win Support of Public

(Photos in this issue show Eviction attempts by Bailiffs and Council)

of pounds on the building of prestige office blocks and motorways, etc., than build homes for the local population. In Ilford they have destroyed sound homes knowing that planning permission for their grandiose schemes has already once been refused and that there are 2,093 objections to the plan to be heard not sooner than the end of 1971. Should the plan be accepted, four thousand families will have to look for new homes and in the meantime live in the continual fear of eviction till 1971 when the plan might come into action.

The value of property in the neighbourhood has dropped by £2,000 a house since the Council started buying and boarding up dwellings. Private owners, if they wish to sell, can only sell to the Council because of the uncertainty of tenure. The Council also insists on vacant possession thus adding to the list of homeless families. John Clare in an excellent article in *The Times* quotes the following figures: the Council is planning to destroy a thousand houses whilst it has 4,500 families on its housing list.

The struggle has brought together an extraordinary mixture of people, not just idealists but people with practical skills able and willing to join with them to restore the maliciously damaged homes. There has not been great support from the thousand organisations of the 'revolutionary' left but people of the rank and file have come despite objections from their leadership. Many of the most active supporters are in fact

people who have never belonged to any of the left wing organisations which is a good thing considering that International Socialists, in their wisdom, have actually disciplined their members for daring to take part in the squatters' struggle. This has not stopped the best of them.

As for random accusations by those who stay away from the



struggle of reformism and adventurism, it shows their poor understanding of what makes a revolution. Kropotkin said: 'There are three requirements: one, the idea; two, convinced idealists; three, the will of the people.' All these are present at Ilford.

The present struggle is against the callousness of the Council whose hidden motives are yet to be fathomed. The State, with its ponderous might, has not thrown its full face against the homeless. We in the anarchist movement must be prepared for the assault that is to come. The feeling of the squatters' movement is best summarised by the words of one of their posters which simply says: Families First—Politics (out/or) Second.

THE SQUATTERS.

## MANCHESTER SQUATTERS' CAMPAIGN

ON SUNDAY, June 15, about 25 members of the three-month-old Manchester Squatters' Group occupied a house, on an estate in Moston, Manchester, belonging to the National Coal Board.

The following day the first squatter family, Mrs. Mary Jordan, and her two young children, took tenancy of the house. Apart from initial resentment, the squatters obtained the full support of the residents, the Tenants Association and of the local MP, Paul Rose.

### WATER SWITCHED OFF

On the Monday a Coal Board caretaker turned the water off and the Coal Board then insisted that the water had been off all the time despite the fact that there had been running water when the squatters moved into the house.

On Tuesday, June 17, a summons was served on Mrs. Mary Jordan and the squatters, to obtain an injunction against their entering the occupied house and any other dwellings on the Moston estate. The Coal Board failed to obtain this injunction despite the fact that the squatters did not oppose it when the case was heard on Monday, June 23.

On the estate in Moston there was an empty twelve-storey block of flats, most of the flats never having been occupied, two empty blocks of maisonettes and of the 300 houses on the estate, 110 were empty. The Coal Board and Manchester City Council had been negotiating transfer of ownership for 18 months without reaching agreement. Within seven days of the squatters moving in, the transaction was completed and the Council promised that 50 families would be moved into the empty houses within one week. Mrs. Mary Jordan has been given a house by the Council and it would seem that the Manchester Squatters' Group's first action was 100% successful.

J.M.

## Squat in Stoke Newington...

TWO BAILIFFS were repulsed by one old lady at 85 Prince George Avenue, Stoke Newington, when they called round to evict the family of Mr. and Mrs. Shields.

Only Mrs. Shields was at home and had it not been for the prompt intervention of their elderly neighbour she would by now have lost her house. Since then the house has been guarded and barricaded up in case the bailiffs make a return visit. Sympathisers in the area are asked to give whatever support they can.

## ... and in Brighton

Brighton Squatters have been given 28 days to vacate their property, but the group is determined to stay unless the family is offered suitable accommodation by the Council.

## Fulham Eviction and 'Street Fayre'

ON JULY 1, the Hammersmith and Fulham Squatters Group moved Mrs. Grace Craig and her young boys into an empty Council house at 39 Moore Park Road. Until then Mrs. Craig had been living in a small basement flat in West Kensington which was not only far too small for her needs, but also damp, affected by dry rot and had sizeable pieces of plaster missing from the walls.

However, this new squat was not to last long, for on Thursday morning after a Water Board employee had cut off the water supply, a bailiff and some Council officials, accompanied by four policemen, arrived to evict Mrs. Craig and her children. The single guard on the front tried to obstruct the bailiff as he approached the front door to prise off the padlock. After doing this and lunging at the door with his shoulder and failing to open it, the bailiff pushed our guard to one side and went round to the back of the house. The guard protested to both the bailiff and the policemen about the illegality of this action, but he was told by the officer in charge that he was not to block the pavement.

By this time the bailiff had managed to force an entry at the back of the house, which was followed by cries from Mrs. Craig. The guard sat down to obstruct the bailiff's exit and he was carried away by the police. Louder screams and cries were heard from the house, and the policeman in charge and the Council official entered the premises.

Mrs. Craig and her children continued to scream and cry and at one point she appeared dangerously near an open window with her children in her arms. Our guard once again protested to the police about the bailiff's actions and took note of their numbers (F374, F41, and F193). He attempted to re-enter the house by the basement door, which had been forced open, but was apprehended by the police. Later Mrs. Craig came out of the house escorted by the police and Council officials.

In his efforts to evict Mrs. Craig, the bailiff had grabbed the two children and pushed them down the stairs, together with their mother who was trying to grab hold of them. In a completely unnecessary act of malice, the bailiff tore down a huge photograph of Mrs. Craig's children, which was up at the window, and tore it up.

When Mrs. Craig returned to the house to collect her belongings, the Council officials only let her have a few personal things and told her to contact the Welfare Department. They said they did not like evictions and that they were sorry, especially for the children. Later her furniture was moved by the Squatters' Group to Mrs. Foster's place in Rumbold Road.

We went back in and formed a human chain, passing out the furniture on to the pavement and carrying it round to Rumbold Road, a receipt for the furniture was pinned to the door.

We, of the Fulham Squatters' Group, were caught off our guard. Contacts had

### ILFORD TOWN HALL DEMONSTRATION

Assemble 6 p.m. on July 15 at 6 Woodlands Road, Ilford, and march to Town Hall where Council meeting starts at 6.30 p.m. Maximum support wanted.

East London Squatters.

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POSTAGE EXTRA

## Freedom Bookshop

## HERE WE ARE!

Editorial office open Friday, July 4, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, July 7, 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.)

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Woodcock's THE WRITER & POLITICS 7/6

Full list on application.

A day and night journal of the squat at 6 Woodlands Road, Ilford, was duplicated and distributed exclusively to the residents of Woodlands Road. This may have helped the good relations that exists between the squatters and the residents. Here are some extracts:

**THE HOUSE WE ARE** occupying at the moment was by prophetic coincidence called *Freelands* by a past owner. The people who live in it now are free men and women, besieged by authority. The house we are occupying at 6 Woodlands Road is one of the 63 homes made uninhabitable by the Tory Redbridge Council. Its floorboards were ripped up, its staircase razed, electricity cables ripped out. The Council workmen missed the scullery, for the house's stone floor is solid. Neighbours in the area say it was a good house to live with nine rooms on two floors, and a 'lovely grassy garden'. It is now a blinded wreck between two tidy homes with pleasing facades.

There are a lot of people who would be happy to live here who now live in halfway houses, in hostels, in dirty, rat-infested slums. But according to the Council, highways and city planning come before people. This property is earmarked for a theatre to be built many years from now. Until then, the Council wishes to leave it empty, one less piece of property to worry about, one less family with a home.

Our intention was and still is to repair this building and to hand it over to a family in need. We made no decision who this family should be and wanted no payment for our work. We could have finished our job in another week. But the Council acted swiftly. They hired a gang of known thugs, Mr. Barry Quartermain's private detective agency, a firm well-noted for its unscrupulous dealings, to violently evict us from this house and to stop us from doing our work.

The following, an eye witness account, is also reproduced from *The Squatters' Chronicle*.

### EVENTS OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

We were awakened by the smash and splinter of glass. It was 5.30, just after dawn. A band of rampaging thugs, decked out in a curious armour of steel helmets, long clubs, and dustbin lids, charged on to the lawn, whooping and hollering out battle cries. Barry Quartermain and his celebrated henchmen had come to visit us.

In seconds, we had scrambled out of our sleeping bags and stood ready to welcome him.

# The Squatters' Chronicle

Clattering their dustbin shields, they hurled rocks at the front of the house, smashing every window.

Another regiment snuck up to the back of the house, scrambling over a car park wall and a roof owned by the Redbridge Council.

The bailiffs in the front smashed the door down with a battering ram and then promptly met a booby trap. Groaning and cursing our 'unwashed barbarian army', they fell through the open joists



## EXTREMISTS CAUSE DEATH

**THE SECRETARY** of State for Wales expressed himself of the view that if the extremists persisted in their policies they would cause someone's death, and then later stated that his words had tragically been proved justified.

As he said, the small minority of extremist monarchists by persisting in staging their charades in Caernarvon, in the face of the obvious opposition of all reasonable Welsh men, brought about this tragic result.

What is disturbing—however typical of politicians—is that a formerly radical Welshman was so anxious to disassociate himself from those who protested that he suggested they were not Welsh.

Though one understands for the wrong reasons, Mrs. Hart, standing in for the Secretary of State for Wales, condemned this act of betrayal by Gwynfor Evans.

and lay grovelling like wounded dogs five feet down on the cellar floor.

Only one reached the gaping hole which was once a staircase. He was the seven-foot wonder of Mr. Quartermain's private bodyguard, Brian Morely.

We let him ascend the ladder to the top floor where he met his Waterloo. A half-brick and a glass of water sent him tumbling down, whimpering, to the ground.

Meanwhile, we grabbed the ladder,

bailiffs' property, and pulled it up to our own base.

Suddenly, black smoke belched out of the back room on the ground floor.

The bailiffs, in desperation, had started a fire. On instructions of the Council, they also turned off the water.

But we were prepared. We had filled the bathtub with water, knowing that fire was the only way the bailiffs could get through our defences.

Meanwhile, the police stood by, standing as still as wax figures on the sidewalk. Inspector Millner and his men observed casually and did nothing.

One of the squatters jumped down from the top floor and smothered the fire with a tarpaulin captured from the bailiffs. By the time the firemen arrived, we had the situation under control.

During the scuffle, we also were able to seize two ladders, a crowbar, shields, and a pair of goggles. Their insignia: London Borough of Redbridge.

Exhausted, Quartermain's army retreated. They stood on the lawn shouting abuse. They offered us a battle in the streets, which we declined.

Finally, they moved off, but not before Quartermain had proclaimed in a booming voice which could be heard from one end of Woodlands Road to the other: 'I'll be back with a hundred men!'

After the dejected thugs had retreated, a newspaper reporter shouted up: 'You anarchists can't organize but you sure can fight!'

Ever since that day, children around the neighbourhood have been playing a new game called 'bailiffs and squatters'.

On Saturday, Barry Quartermain announced he had called off the illegal eviction and would seek to take action through legal channels. His defeat must have been hard on his pride. Until now he has met victory after victory, his victims being frightened families—women and small children. It must have been quite a blow for him to meet up with people who were able to confront him with his own military tactics.

But we do not expect such a megalomaniac as Barry Quartermain to give up so easily. He will be back with his Gestapo-style army for another dawn raid. And we will be ready.

We consider that we are doing the right thing. Our home, which we intend to turn over to a family in need, must be defended.

L.O.

THE SQUATTERS.

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

**LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.** All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press. **FREEDOM MEETING HALL:** Sunday meetings at 7 p.m. commence on July 6 with Philip Sansom on 'Anarchist Identity'. July 13 Albert Meltzer on 'Spain and Revolution'.

**LAVERNE HILL MOB.** Contact C. Broad, 116 Tyneham Road, S.W.11 (228 4086).

**LEWISHAM.** Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, S.E.13. (852 8879).

**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, Bexley Heath 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.

### 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. 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 Hallelwell 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, Rosmore, 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 Celis Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath, CR4 8QH (653 7546) or contact Keith McCain, 1 Langmead Street, West Norwood, S.E.27. Phone 670 2797.

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

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

**LIVERPOOL ANARCHISTS & SITUATIONISTS.** Contact Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool.

**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, Carnegie Drive, Frodsham, Cheshire.

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

**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, 88 Claremont Road, W.11. Every Monday evening, 8 p.m.

**OXFORD 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, 37 Fockenham 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.

**WOKINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP.** c/o Larry Law, 57 Kiln Ride, Wokingham.

### ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

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

**Group Addresses:**—

**BASHLTON & WICKFORD.** Steve Grant, 'Piccola Casa' London Road, Wickford, Essex.

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

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

**CHELMSFORD.** (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House, Purliegh, 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, 8 Stonecroft Road, Leyland, PR5 3AE.

**BLACKPOOL.** Contact Christine and Graham, Brook 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.** Rob Wilkin, 73 Trafford Street, 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, 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.** Contact Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton 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.

**KINGFISHER:** Steve Wood, 26B Cavendish Street, Keighley.

**LEEDS:** Direct Action Society. Contact Martin Watkins, 6 Eberston Terrace, Leeds, 6.

**SHIFFIELD:** Dave Jeffries, c/o Students Union, Western Bank, Sheffield, 10.

**YORK.** Keith Nathan, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York.

### STUDENT GROUPS

**SCHOOLS ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact T. Swash, 49 Popham Road, London, N.1. Regular meetings each Friday.

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Matthew Robertson, Trinity College, or John Fullerton, Jesus College.

**CARDIFF UNIVERSITY LIBERTARIAN/ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Chris Short, UWIST Union, Cathays Park, or Chas. Ball, UCC Union, Dumfries Place.

**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., 12-23 p.m.

**YORK UNIVERSITY.** Contact Nigel Wilson, Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York.

**EAST ANGLIA UNIVERSITY.** Contact Dave Lomax, E.A.S., 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 Calhoun, 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.

**LEEDS 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.

**READING TOWN & UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP.** Correspondence c/o 3 Crown Place, Reading. Meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m. at 26 Bulmershe Road, Reading.

**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, Spaint, 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 Llynwenny Road, Llanelli, Carm. Tel: Llanelli 2548.

### SCOTTISH FEDERATION

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

**ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS & SYNDICALISTS.** Contact Ian & Peggy Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen. Regular 'Freedom' Sale, leafletting, etc. Visiting comrades welcome.

**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 Cuppar.

**MONROE.** Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden, Monroe, 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' 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, text and overnight accommodation.

**BELGIUM.** Groupe du journal Le Libertaire, 220 rue Vivignis, Liège.

**USA.** James W. Cain, secretary, the Anarchist Committee of Correspondence, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.

**TORONTO.** TORONTO ANARCHIST-ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 Torvor Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

**PROPOSED GROUPS**

**NORTH DEVON.** All those interested in forming a local group please contact Hugh Bensley, '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 Wheelers Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

**VANCOUVER I.W.W.** and Libertarian group. Box 512, Postal St., Vancouver 1, B.C., Canada. Read 'The Rebel'—please send donation for postage.

OF COURSE THERE were no full-page newspaper spreads, no broadcasts in hushed tones, and despite the many reporters present, silence throughout the press (with the exception of the Welsh Language papers who, due to their small circulation, have been allowed to oppose the Investiture) and distortion on radio and television for the Investiture of the Poor held in Swansea on June 21.

However, in a colourful procession led by the Prince and Drag Queen, waving benignly to the watching crowds, 250 people, including some from up to 50 miles away, marched through the centre of Swansea. Arriving at Castle Gardens, they were joined by another 300, who participated in a mock ceremony closely modelled upon the Caernarvon charade (though without the 10,000 fuzz that were an essential part of that spectacle). Our investiture showed (and this was hardly difficult!) just how absurd and costly the July 1 investiture was. The ceremony ended with the Prince collapsed on the ground under the weight of his medals and personal fortune, foaming at the mouth, shouting abuse and being held up by the Queen, still smiling. Towards this juncture, the fuzz became noticeably edgy, through not nearly as edgy as they were on the occasion of the Prince's visit to Swansea. Despite police harassment, a street collection succeeded in collecting over ten guineas for the London Squatters. The theme of the demonstra-

# Investiture of the Poor

tion was 'Homes—not Princes'.

The basis of this protest, expressing repugnance at the £2,000,000 extravagance while there are so many unemployed and homeless, differs from that of the nationalists, who are purely concerned with what side of the border the Prince comes from. Charles himself in admitting in a *Western Mail* interview last month that his investiture would divert peoples' minds from the economic troubles shows a shrewd understanding of the rôle of the spectacle in bourgeois society.

However, even the nationalist opposition, posing no threat to capitalism or the bourgeois state has been ruthlessly suppressed by the police. In Caernarvon, new bye-laws were hysterically rushed through to give the police extra powers and special courts were held upon the evening of the Investiture to fine all the many people arrested (out of sight while the embarrassed television cameras were panning all over Caernarvon to find the desired 250,000 spectators—they found only hundreds of SB and foreign visitors and quickly turned back to the Investiture concert)—their crime was to show dissent with the Investiture. Two

young people were each fined £5 for booing and giving a V-sign. The exact extent of the arrests can only be guessed at as there has been a virtual press silence (as is to be expected). Neatly timed to arouse little attention, the Free Wales Army trial was dragged out for 54 days and the sentences made only small print beneath the publicity of Investiture day itself. The accused were imprisoned, initially in solitary confinement, for five months. Even those found innocent were bound over to keep the peace.

On July 3, Charles came to Swansea, escorted by his armed camp of followers. He gave everyone something to cheer about when he turned Swansea from a town into a city!!! A small group of seven Anarchists watching this farce were surrounded by Special Branch and told 'One squeak and you're inside'. Other people showing dissent were similarly threatened. When Charles arrived, our comrades cheered loudly and dutifully as ordered to do by the SB. As they were leaving, they were followed and pounced upon by the SB. Four of the Pigs grabbed a comrade with a red and black badge and one said to another:

'That badge, that's the symbol of Anarchy!' One schoolboy was punched in the face while another comrade and his girl friend who had a bag full of clothes were grabbed, and the contents of the bag were tipped out on the grass. A small poetry magazine and a copy of *Socialist Standard* were minutely examined. Even more pathetic was the way in which one big brave policeman attached himself to a pair of the girl's panties—refusing to let them go until the

last moment. Long after Charles had left Swansea for his yacht in the bay, scores of squad cars were roaming the streets in search of victims. As this is being written on the morrow of this night of police violence in Swansea, we do not know yet how many people were arrested.

The most amazing and most shameful fact to emerge is the way in which ordinary people are being conned into supporting the Prince and in fact doing the work of the police (a person who threw an egg at Caernarvon was almost lynched by the crowd). In this respect, the propaganda machine of the state is far more advanced here than in most other countries.

SWANSEA ANARCHISTS.

## A BLOODY INSULT

**I**N THE SYMBOLIC ruins of Caernarvon Castle, the symbolic leaders of every aspect of Welsh and English affairs played out a complicated game involving ancient hierarchies, dignities and traditions which was a symbolic insult to anybody with some ideas about the future of our society.

A twentieth-century Lord Snowdon in a green uniform which he designed himself, also provided the design for a cross made of slate used during the ceremony. (Did he mean it to be symbolic of the grey poverty of the typical Welsh mining village?)

Without any noticeable embarrassment the television commentator continued to say things like truly resplendent, our prince, his people, solemn and dignified, fervent crowd and so on. It was hard to believe. Half way through it all, Prince Charles, who the *Daily Mirror* has discovered is just an ordinary lad really, didn't jump from his seat, take off the crown, grin and say: 'It's okay folks, I was only kidding.'

After living in Notting Hill for a couple of years, beginning to be fooled into thinking that society and its institutions must be changing as fast as the minds of the people round about, it comes as a shock to watch something like the Investiture of the Prince of Wales on television.

In a journal for breeders of pedigree dogs, I read an article once about the decline in physique and intelligence among pekinese dogs because of decades of in-breeding. Such gruesomely unenlightened people as most of Europe's Royalty appear to be, they could probably find a reasonable excuse on sociological and biological grounds. But the Labour politicians who took part can't be excused, they suspect even if they don't know.

The Labour Home Secretary, James Callaghan, responsible for 35,000 men and women in Her Majesty's Prisons (what strange thoughts must go through that man's head on a warm and sunny, Royal day), read out the words of a medieval document which invested Prince Charles with the duty of holding and defending Wales to keep it loyal 'to him and his heirs, Kings of the United Kingdom of Great Britain...'. At the last general election some of the liber-

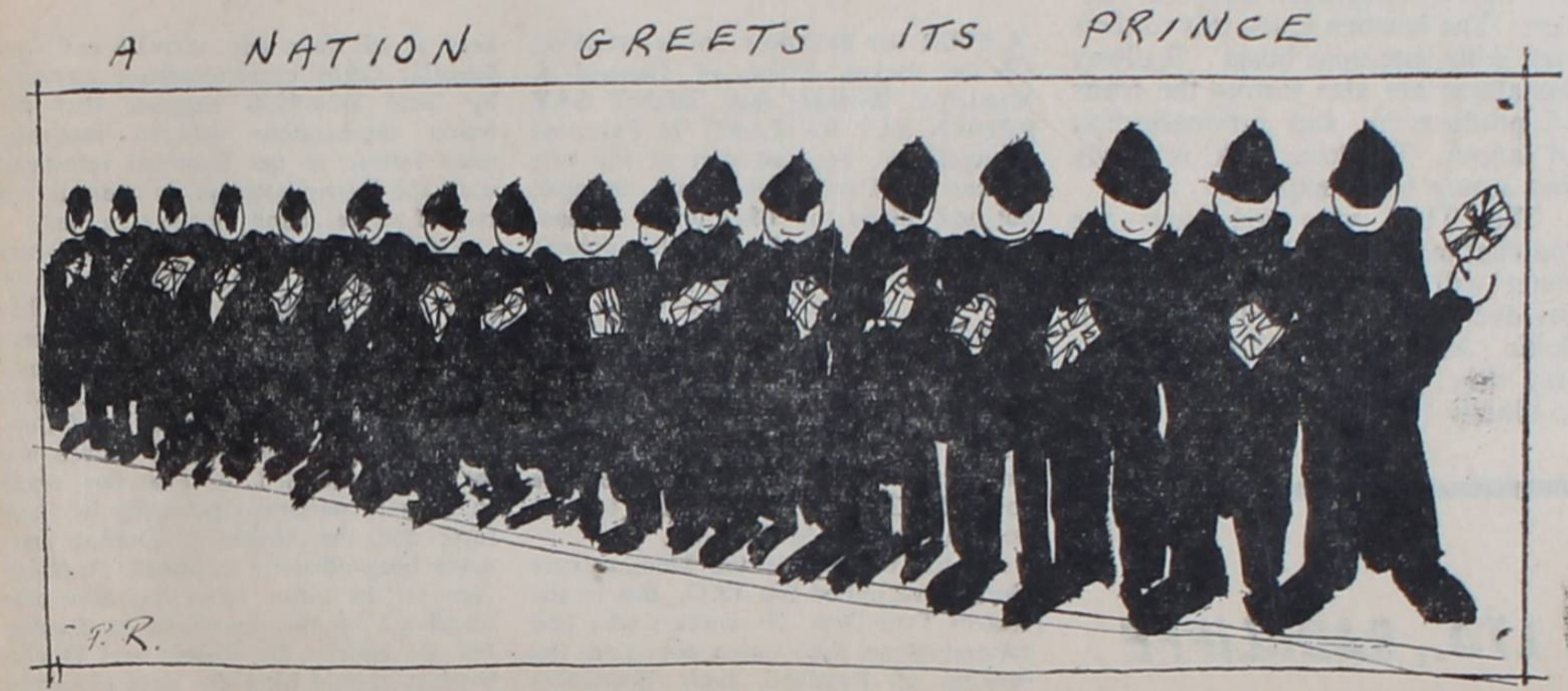
tarian left voted for Labour—as a compromise because they're better than the Conservatives. Would they do the same thing again, now that it has become even plainer that a political party must go through with the worn gestures of the institutions in which it becomes trapped?

The Investiture was a play on a stage, complete in itself, not needing a preface as long as one of Shaw's explaining how foreign bankers, capitalists, power and privilege make it certain that no government, because it is a government, can act in the interest of the people. In the battle for the minds and souls of the next generation, these ceremonial shows of strength by both sides—like the 'October Revolution' which cost the ratepayer as much as this did—become important symbols, their practical and effective value following from this.

The success of this particular ceremony, in the way intended because revolutionaries haven't learnt yet to turn these occasions into their own theatre, was mainly due to newspapers and television, cute stories about royalty over the past few months leading up to the great day. True, delightful crowds can be found to cheer any procession, even if it's only a lot of mothers who bring their children to see the horses. But I suspect that this sort of success eventually goes deeper than that. The Welsh Nationalists, by providing some ineffective but shadowy bomb-planters, only served to strengthen and add another dimension to the bright clear ceremony watched on television all over the world—fulfilling the same mental necessity as the holiday accident figures do for people who indulge in the happy orgy of capitalist consumption over Christmas.

We needn't quibble about the few hundred thousand pounds which the ceremony cost—cheap by any standards. We live in a rich country, and in the most rationally organised society, after the bread and houses have been seen to, it would be good to think that different sorts of ceremonial extravagance, carnivals and street parties, would evolve in the community. We can take it for what it was instead—a bloody insult—and think of trying to reply in a suitable way.

J. O'CONNOR.



## THE MILLS OF THE LAW

**T**HE MILLS OF THE LAW have ground slowly to a halt and at the Old Bailey (Court W3) on Friday, July 4, Allan Barlow was sentenced to three sentences of one year (to run concurrently) and Phillip Carver was given suspended sentences of two years (concurrently). Carver has to pay £150 towards the legal costs of the prosecution. We cannot demonstrate at a savage sentence nor rejoice at an acquittal, Mr. Christmas Humphreys, the Judge, seems to have done the right thing for the wrong reasons.

Whether this Buddhist convert was motivated by the saying of the Buddha that 'violence does not cease by violence' or by the terrorist act of three petrol bombs setting fire to the doorways of three assorted Spanish establishments on Thursday night; or whether he really (as he is reported to have said) 'didn't want to make martyrs' no one knows, and it would be contempt of court to speculate. Or maybe Spain is just unpopular now.

Whether the strange silence of the newspapers on the subject was due to the pressure on space due to events in Caernarvon or Wimbledon, or whether it was due to a conspiracy to keep it out of the papers, Buddha only knows.

Suffice it that our comrades were duly found guilty on the charges by ten good men and one woman. They were, according to evidence, caught metaphorically 'red-handed' by police in a patrol-car who were keeping observation 'on the bank and the street'. It may be that the Middle Earth was open and they were watching out for the notorious teenage hippy beatnik layabout nuclear disarmar drug-addicts who once frequented that street. But maybe the police were just passing the time away and our comrades fell into their laps like ripe plums.

The whole trial is illustrative of the grotesque aspects of English law. It was held four months after the offence was committed. Allen Barlow was adjudged to be too much of a risk to be left at liberty. His companion in crime was adjudged respectable enough and settled enough to be at liberty although at law they were both tried for the same offence.

Allen Barlow seemed to have lost

four months' wages and four months' liberty. As it turns out he has gained four months of regular visits and non-prison food, for the months on remand are deductible from sentence. Were he found innocent those months would be his loss! . . . he could, of course, sue for wrongful arrest.

The case was postponed for a week. The reason may have been that Inspector Jack was in Caernarvon on some errand or another—he seems to be connected with Special Branch.

The case led a strange gypsy life for its three days. We were warned it had to finish before Monday for the Judge had some engagement for then, I didn't catch what it was. In the *Observer*, July 6, there is given an instance of the law's delays when a judge adjourned a case because he had to get to a meeting at the All England Lawn Tennis Club. I hope Mr. Christmas Humphreys had a better reason.

The case started on Wednesday morning at the Old Bailey and after the jury had been sworn in we made our separate ways (the jury *en bloc*) to the Law Courts in the Strand. Cloak and dagger experts may see this as 'security precautions' but it seemed just part of the general lunacy after all those wigs, shouts of 'oyer and terminal' 'be ye upstanding!' and the general flummery of the law. Nothing is ever explained to anybody, the counsel seem to be playing a friendly game with each other, the Judge joining in occasionally, but the rules are never disclosed or even seem to be made up as we go along; all this takes place over the head of the luckless, hapless prisoner, who is merely paying for all this and will be the chief sufferer at the end should 'his side' lose the contest.

Unfortunately our two comrades had engaged different advocates. Lawyers must do their best for their clients and in this case, as in many of this type, the best defence (in fact, in the circumstances the *only* defence was to attack the other party as instigator). It does not hold that a defence lawyer, or his client, believe for a moment one bit of this defence, it is all a game.

There was, and still is, a great deal of mystery about what happened at Bow Street Police Station. Detective Chief

Inspector Phillips is reported by Phillip Carver to have commenced his cross-examination in the cell with the words, 'This cell smells. Did you shit yourself?' He denies having said this. He also denies that the interview had two sessions, one rough and harsh in the cell at 2 a.m. and one smooth and matey with coffee and cigarettes which ended at 4 a.m. Detective Inspector Phillips also denied that Carver was refused contact with a solicitor. As is usual Phillip Carver was told that Barlow had confessed although it is probable that Barlow had said nothing. What is known is that between 10 p.m. and midnight the police had made a series of raids in one of which they were sent back for a search warrant.

The Judge ruled out at one point the discussion of political questions in cross-examination, it was like *Hamlet* without the Prince or *Memoirs of a Revolutionist* without Kropotkin. However political points were introduced by the police in evidence, such as Barlow and Carver knowing the notorious 'X'. Defence counsel pointed out that this was purely 'guilt by association' and reminiscent of McCarthyism. But the whole matter was in a very low key, in fact two court functionaries (one of whom we never discovered *what* was his function) was blatantly observed dozing off from time to time.

The case was the usual tissue of faulty recollections, of outright lies and genuine mistaken impressions which any criminal case contains. In this case the basic issue was clearer than most cases—Allen Barlow, having pleaded guilty of all charges (there were four originally) except that of being likely to endanger life. On a complex technicality the first charge was dropped by the prosecution. The rest of the case was mere mitigation and exculpation on behalf of Phillip Carver.

One further fact needs pointing out. The final stages of the case were heard in West 3 Court of the Old Bailey. West Three is a 'temporary' court until new extensions to the Old Bailey are completed; but in its arrangements there is only room for, at the most, eight spectators so the men in charge (there seem to be three of them with equal authority) make room for relatives only, so no representative of FREEDOM got into the court during the final stages.

Justice was not heard but apparently seen to be done through a glass darkly. Which about sums up the case.

JACK ROBINSON.

## Struggle in the Schools

**L**AST SATURDAY A GROUP of young anarchists went down to Wokingham to distribute leaflets at Wellington College. No sooner had they left the train than they were stopped by a policeman who said, 'You look like demonstrators'. He threatened to charge them with carrying offensive weapons (black flags!). Nevertheless they reached the school, entered the grounds and gave out hundreds of leaflets. These were well received by the boys, but the headmaster and some police appeared upon the scene, and our comrades were turned out of the school grounds. Outside the police searched them for weapons and drugs. One or two were forced to remove their shoes and socks and these were taken away. The victims were forced to return to London barefoot. Why?

In spite of this, the participants feel that it was a worthwhile action. If anyone wishes to contact the Public Schools Anarchist Committee pin your notice to the board in the Arts Lab, Drury Lane. If you want to contact the Schools Anarchist Group the address is under Student Groups.

On June 21 Dulwich College held an Open Day. SAU organised a demo at which over fifty turned out, school boys, students, YS, RSSF and Anarchists. They marched through Dulwich Village to the College. The police were waiting, never-

theless a rush was successfully made through a side entrance, and there was a spectacular charge across the cricket pitch. South West London Anarchists got into the school itself. They sprayed the word 'Anarchy' in two foot high letters across a wall. Leaflets and other literature were distributed both inside and outside the school.

On June 19 the headmaster of St. Clement Dane's Grammar School, Shepherd's Bush walked into the GCE Art, A-Level, examination room and told a boy, while the exam was in progress, to get his hair cut, or his paper would be torn up. The headmaster, Dr. Allan W. Badcock, disturbed the entire body of candidates by this action. Pupils in protest sent letters to Dr. Badcock and the Board of Governors. It is the opinion of some of the pupils that the headmaster is suffering from paranoia. Persecution of long-haired-boys continues.

On June 10 Andy Anderson appeared before Dartford, magistrates on the charge that he 'did fail to cause' his son to attend regularly at the Dartford West Secondary Boys School. Again it was a case of hair. Why, oh why is so much made of this issue? What can it possibly matter how long or short a person's hair is? A sort of insanity seems to be infecting the entire Western World!

Continued on page 4

# Productivity! For Whom?

THE 10,000 LIVERPOOL dockers return to work after their four-day strike having secured the position that only registered dockers should be employed at the new container base at Aintree. The problem is not completely solved. There are many anomalies to be settled, such as rates of pay and conditions of work. The employers will try to claim that containerisation means unskilled work and as such rates of pay should be less.

Containerisation is not a completely new method of dock working, it has been worked on the Irish routes for many years and then to Europe. Deep sea routes have only been affected in the last twelve months. Moving goods in bulk in a container is a revolutionary method of transportation and as such is far quicker and in the long term far cheaper. Dockers take the view that whilst they are prepared to cooperate in these new methods of transportation they are not going to bear the full cost.

The containerisation plan for Tilbury was that 40-50 dockers and nine container ships would be doing the work of several hundred men and 40 conventional ships on the UK-Australia run. In terms of redundancies for dockers, seamen and lorry drivers, obviously the transport workers are paying for the modernisation.

The employers claim that retirement and other wastage would take up the redundancies and it might even be necessary to open up recruitment again to prevent the labour force dropping too low. On the surface this all sounds very fine and humanitarian—BUT! it is the amount of 'job opportunities' that will be lost, this is the important point.

The object of the lesson throughout industry, not only involving dockers, is a higher-paid smaller labour force, and the inevitable follow-on is 'What about the people who are NOT one of the higher-paid labour force, people who are physically unable to cope with a smaller labour force doing the same work?' Golden handshakes may be very welcome at 63-64 years of age but they are not a great help at 45-50.

There can be only one solution to the problem—it will not go away because we try to 'skate round it' or ignore it. The solution is earlier retirement on a pension that allows one to live in comfort, plus a shorter working week. Modernisation and labour-saving are acceptable to industrial workers provided they are

in receipt of the full benefits. Men must rule machines not vice versa. Obviously this type of thinking is not acceptable to the present form of society, but on the other hand this type of thinking will benefit the majority in society, therefore if the majority own and control, all benefits must accrue to them.

Post Office engineers appear to have had enough of productivity bargaining. The last agreement the engineers made saved the Post Office £89 million out of which the engineers received only £18 million in increased wages. The Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) have submitted a modest claim for 10% increase in wages; the Post Office have offered 4% with strings or 3% without. The General Secretary of POEU stated that the offer made a 'complete mockery of productivity bargaining'.

Brother, productivity is a mockery; it works only in one direction—80% for the employer, 20% for workers. The busmen know this to their cost with 'one-man buses'. Railway signalmen are also tasting the fruits of productivity and rationalisation of labour. The 'con trick' is slowly but surely being exposed.

The TUC who are now the 'hatchet men' of the Labour Government will be running around like scalded cats as the whole facade unfolds. Maybe they will regret the day they volunteered to carry such a bloody hatchet.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

## STRIKE QUALITEX LTD., RADCLIFFE

THERE IS A STRONG smell of shit over Qualitex Ltd., Radcliffe. It is not all due to the prevailing wind and local sewage works.

The strike at this factory, recently reported, ended on Thursday, June 17, after the strikers had been implored by a Pakistani welfare worker to return to work before it became a racial issue.

The men had a perfectly good case in their demand to join a TU of their choice—and an even stronger case when one considers their overwhelming majority. Five hundred process workers out—70 workers all grades in!

No racial issue was involved, and only the gutter press coverage sought to make one. Process workers returned through the gates below the blue and gold Queen's Award flag, and under the agreement reached between management and union, without any reference to the men themselves.

Typically bureaucratic, the agreement which was partly reported earlier by FREEDOM would not be accepted by any supposing Trade Unionist as shit house paper (although as bum paper it would probably gain Qualitex a further Queen's Award).

## STRUGGLE IN THE SCHOOLS

Continued from page 3

In the particular case under discussion the boy was only eleven, and his hair was not in fact very long by modern standards. But he was subjected to such vicious persecution that it was impossible for him to remain at this school, and for some reason it was impossible to arrange for him to attend another. Hence the prosecution.

The Free Schools Campaign, 90 Ermine Road, London, S.E.13, is doing all it can to publicise this monstrous case.

From the schools to the 'underground'. Twenty thousand copies of a questionnaire have been sent out by Mazin Zeki (who is he?) to people whom he considers to form part of this amorphous entity. The questions asked could be exceedingly dangerous, although the whole thing is presented in the guise of a scientific survey. This seems to be one of the first studies of how members of the 'underground' get enough money to eat. It can clearly be seen that this will prove exceedingly useful to authority, who desires if possible to cut the 'hippies' off from their sources of supply. The best plan would be for people who

receive this questionnaire to send back the pre-paid envelopes empty.

From June 9 to 13 some 400 students were gathered in Gordon Square to sit for their finals of the London University External Degree in Sociology. Some students, who have come to regard the whole examination system as farcical devoted half an hour of every examination period to writing essays of their own about 'the banality of sociology, about politics, about the coming revolution and about the potential of society which they, as liberal academics instead of revolutionaries, were frustrating from being achieved'. On the last day they set their own examination paper, 'B.Sc. Revolution', with satirical or ludicrous questions.

George Foulser was brought to court (June 24), charged with insulting language, insulting behaviour and exhibiting indecent prints. His real crime was selling his own humorous paper *The Speed Freak*, FREEDOM and *Evicted* (a squatter pamphlet) outside a college. The police tried to make out that it was a school for the under-fifteens, but in fact it is a college for students. Our comrade was found guilty of 'insulting behaviour', and has to pay a total of £7.

A.W.U.

# Freedom For Workers' Control

JULY 12 1969 Vol 30 No 21

## DUNLOP DROP-OUTS

AFTER the FREEDOM article attacking the useless Union of General & Municipal Workers (see 'DON'T SAY BROWN SAY BASTARD' in FREEDOM of April 26), the best part of 100 tyre workers at Dunlop, Rochdale, dropped out and joined the T&G union instead. The bunglings of Brown, the union's incompetent local secretary; the fiddling of Foster, personnel; and a whole host of other reasons, including the Bamford business, led to this switch from the G&M to the T&G by the Dunlop lads.

At Dunlop, the General & Municipal Union has been guilty of neglect and stupidity. The firm wants to keep the cowardly G&M, and is refusing to deal with the workers in the T&G.

All the workers in the Dunlop Tyre Dept. have joined the T&G. But in the Regent Tyre Dept. 20 workers who had refused to pay their union dues since the sacking of Bamford, their libertarian shop steward, four months ago, suddenly got 6d. an hour rise to keep them in the G&M rag-bag union. It must be worth a tanner an hour to the firm to have Brown of the G&M negotiating for the men. Some Dunlop workers even reckon he's on a backhand from the firm, but this writer thinks he's daft enough to do what he does free of charge.

It could well be that Dunlop want to keep the men divided into two different unions, especially when the firm's planning to put through a time and motion scheme. The 6d. rise has been won by the blokes' refusal to pay their union, but the Regent workers should back the Dunlop lads, who want the right to choose their own union, free from management interference.

Remember membership of different unions shouldn't prevent workers supporting each other, even the Trades Dispute Act of 1927, allowed for sympathy strikes if by workers in same trade or industry.

### RECLAIM THE TEA BREAK

As the Dunlop management are trying to take away their workers' right to freely choose their own trade union, why don't the lads reclaim their afternoon tea break, surrendered in a shotgun agreement between the G&M and the firm? Surely such a move would now be in order, as the Regent men got their rise without giving up their tea break.

We are behind the Dunlop lads in their fight to have the union they want and not the one their boss wants. But because we now have proof that suggests the G&M officers have been sucking up to the Dunlop bosses, we are especially

keen to see them win. Private and confidential G&M correspondence captured by local anarchists suggests that the union deliberately delayed reporting their failure to get Bamford reinstated until the Easter holidays, in order to cut risk of strike action by the tyre men.

According to our information the case of Bamford was dealt with on March 19, 1969, at a meeting in Manchester. The letter reporting the outcome was not sent to the Rochdale office of the G&M until Friday, March 28, and the contents were not released to Bamford until the following Thursday. The union's failure was therefore concealed for over two weeks in spite of persistent pestering by Bamford, and the blokes at Dunlop have never been officially informed. A photocopy of the union letter has now been circulated by the anarchists at Dunlop, but we believe the Regent and Dunlop workers should have the right to regular union meetings on the premises so that the union can be more easily called to account for itself.

### ANTIDOTE TO DICTATORSHIP

For me trade unionism is the only organisation a working man has to better his lot and bring the day when he will take over the control of the factories. But the crawling legalistic type of union like the G&M which puts the bosses' rule book before the blokes and is merely after political power for its officers and the gathering of titles, is repugnant careerism.

Luckily, with so many twisted officials about, it's a good job the English have a deep-seated distrust of all those in dressed-up jobs. In fact many workingmen often arrive by instinct at the same conclusion the anarchist achieves by reason.

Party politics, thank God, leaves the English workers cold. That stagnant pool of political propaganda runs off them like water off a duck's back, for them only the sports pages have any appeal.

Even the Good Soldier Schweik has nowt on our Andy Capp of England, where dictatorship goes to the dogs, and politics and politicians get the contempt they deserve.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

### NEW SITE FOR INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMP

The International Summer Camp has been transferred to a new site in Cornwall. The change had been forced on the organisers by a chatty piece in 'The Times'. This has put the farmer's back up and he cancelled the arrangements. Fortunately an even better site was found nearby, but for obvious reasons the address will only be revealed by the organisers to those wishing to go. Please write direct to Mrs. Anne Lindsay, 39 Upper Tulse Hill, S.W.2. Please also see Contact Column advertisement for advance work-team.

## Contact Column

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

**Northolt Area.** Any Anarchist activity? Jim, Tel. 01-845 7907.

**Aberdeen Anarchists** want a duplicator or small press, gift, extended loan or on H.P. terms. Contact, see 'Groups Column'. Scottish comrades are invited to contribute to buy above. Purchase will be available to all. Donations received.

**Anne Lindsay,** 39 Upper Tulse Hill, S.W.2. 674 7886. For July 20 six big strong blokes to dig trenches, make wooden structure, run pipe for water, make tables, etc.

**Synic (July):** now available. A 'Left Information Sheet' by Libertarian Socialists. Sub.: 6 issues 7/-, sellers 30 for 5/-, from Leveller.

**Leveller: No. One.** A quarterly Libertarian mag. (2/6 post paid) from 209 Abbey House, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

**Man,** 31, wishes any work involving human communication. 876 1404 between 9-11 a.m.

**Lift needed,** for couple and quiet dog to International Camp. Share expenses. Bob Blakeman, 116 Hassal Street, Newcastle, Staffs.

**No to Fascism:** Teach-in on the National Front. Field next to new Town Hall, Wokingham, 3 p.m., Sunday, July 13.

**'Freedom' sales in Birmingham.** On the ramp of New Street Station, every night and Saturday afternoons.

**'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.

**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).

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

**International Summer Camp,** July 27-August 23 in Cornwall. £1 booking fees to Ann Lindsay, 39 Upper Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2. Information leaflet and map now available.

If you wish to make contact let us know.