

OPPOSE THE MILITARY!

The anger of the people of Derry started the series of struggles in Northern Ireland over jobs and housing. From this a Civil Rights and Peoples' Democracy Campaign grew that demanded reforms. Now, after many months, the people have returned to the streets. None of their problems have been solved, either by the Government or by sympathetic friends, and the rage of the people is now more incoherent, and they strike out at friend and foe alike.

The situation is serious. By the time you read this N. Ireland may well be occupied by British troops. Next time the people go on the rampage they must work out objectives which need not be different from those of Derry in October. Jobs and houses for all, in fact a different social system. Those that fight among themselves play into the hands of their oppressors. Protestants, Catholics, Jews and Moslems of N. Ireland—fight together or not at all!

THE RIOTING IN BELFAST last weekend need surely surprise no one. As far as one can see, the situation in Ulster will continue to deteriorate in the immediate future. If the army is brought in, and the Northern Ireland Government says it may ask for its help, there is a grave danger of a real civil war.

Poverty lies at the basis of the entire situation, Protestant poverty as well as Catholic poverty. In some places Protestant mobs were more interested in looting shops than in attacking Catholics. The Shankill Road area, where barricades were erected, is a Protestant area. It is also a shopping centre. The barricades were intended to keep the police away while looting went on. Some people even loaded goods into cars, filling them up and then packing more things onto the roof racks.

The police themselves claim not to have taken sides, and perhaps for once this may have been true. They were bombarded by both Protestant and Catholic crowds, and in turn appear to have baton-charged both.

The only hope for Ulster is a union of Protestants and Catholics against their rulers, and perhaps something of the sort is on the way. It would be a mistake to be over-optimistic. It is very much easier to drive wedges between people than to draw them together. It is the old politicians' trick to stress differences between people, so as to 'divide and rule'. People fall for it, but sometimes economic pressures overcome all other considerations. In the riots in the American cities in recent years black and white united to loot.

SUMMER CAMP

THE CAMP is slowly filling up. Many comrades, especially those in the squatters movement, have been unable to spare the time for a holiday. On the opening day there were about 40 people, many of them French and there was also a Dutch couple. But there was a constant trickle of arrivals and a large contingent from France was expected to arrive on August 4. The camp is in a large field and there is plenty of room for more tents. The farmer and his wife are splendid people and everything runs smoothly thanks to the work of the advance party and to the excellent organisational work of London and Cornwall comrades.

The first site was lost because of a stupid article in *The Times*, which nevertheless described the camp as 'pastoral' and in a way it is. Some of us had to hurry back to London where

At the time of writing, the Northern Ireland Cabinet is in emergency session. A curfew for the Shankill and Crumlin Road areas is on the cards. Protestants have formed The Shankill Defence Association, which will patrol the area. The association has issued a statement deploring looting by 'so-called loyalists'. It is impossible not to feel that it is more healthy to break shop windows and remove the goods, because one is short of cash, than to break one's neighbour's head on account of some difference of religious doctrine or colour of skin.

On August 12 there will be processions and celebrations organised by the Apprentice Boys, who are militant Protestants. Unless, as sometimes happens when disturbances are most expected, everyone has simply become exhausted by then, there will probably be more rioting. If troops were to be called in, the whole situation would become infinitely more complicated and dangerous than it already is. Neither the Ulster Government, nor the British, are likely to want to go so far, but there is no doubt that if they feel that their power is threatened they will stop at nothing. The Minister of Home Affairs in the Northern Ireland Cabinet as good as says as much when he states that his Government 'would not shrink from any action, however exceptional, to maintain law and order'.

Perhaps the reluctance of the two Governments stems in part from a fear that if they bring the troops in it may cause the adherents of the two religious factions to begin to join forces.

A.S.

we thought the barricades were up in Fulham, but we hope to snatch the time to return even for a few days.

The camp is open until August 23. Go to Truro, take the Falmouth Road (A39), then take the right fork at Carnon Downs Filling Station and follow the signs (A) from there. It is well worth the visit.

L.S.

BRIGHTON SQUAT

More families have moved in and the Group urgently need money, material and Guards. Please send any donations c/o Freedom Press (see page 2)

Power: The Kennedy Curse

THE LATEST EPISODE in the Kennedy-Camelot saga unfolds like something from a movie. Handsome, rich Teddy, future Prince of the American Dream, drives from a cottage party late one night with a girl called Mary Jo Kopechne. They turn inexplicably down a dirt-track leading to the Atlantic Ocean.

By next morning the girl is dead, drowned in the wreckage of Kennedy's car, and Teddy's future hopes lay bedraggled in an entanglement of mysteries and half-truths. Will the last-surviving son of millionaire Joe Kennedy rise from the dust and hold the 'fallen standard' aloft?

But we shouldn't just dismiss the incident as a colourful drama of little relevance to our struggle—it is a prime example of the dangers and effects of all political power and authority, almost a morality tale.

During his TV show, attempting to defend what he himself called the 'undefensible', Kennedy said he had wondered 'whether some awful curse did not actually hang over all the Kennedys'.

And recent history has proved that such a curse does indeed exist—a relentless lust for power, an overwhelming sense of dynastic destiny, which has twice found its bloody culmination at the point of

an assassin's gun.

Kennedy's strange behaviour throughout the affair takes some explaining. Either he did, as he claimed on TV, 'panic'—and what an admission from a man who seeks to control the destiny of the world—or, which is as bad, he didn't panic. And this, if true, would be a devastating indictment of the politician's mind.

Let's look at the panic side first. Large numbers of Americans claim that the drowning of Mary Kopechne and Kennedy's conduct afterwards are shattering evidence of his unsuitability to, as they fondly call it, 'lead the Nation'.

We must go even further—it is evidence that no man, however rich, educated and intelligent, is fit to lead any nation. Kennedy was unfortunate. He was put to the test as an individual, unprotected by the trappings of authority, unmasked, naked, without an armoury of PR-men. And he collapsed, the crisis just overwhelmed him.

Who can say what anyone else would have done—you, me, Nixon, Brezhnev or Wilson? People must realise one thing—we can't be certain what anyone's reaction would be. And because of this we cannot afford to put our lives in any hands but our own.

But what if Kennedy didn't panic? Nora Beloff in the *Observer* said what a Massachusetts Democrat thought. 'He suggests that, after trying to save the girl and realising this was impossible, the Senator's two friends may well have hoped that the outside world could be made to believe that Mary Jo was driving alone, having borrowed the Senator's car when she lost her way.'

'He believed that it was only when one of the other five girls in the cottage revealed that she had seen the Senator and the girl go off together that they finally decided that there was nothing left to do but tell the police.'

Add to this that a local diver believes the girl had a slim chance of being saved if Kennedy had reported the accident immediately and you begin to suspect that Kennedy was acting quite calmly, hoping that he could deny all knowledge, crawl away from any responsibility, and so preserve himself from any potential political embarrassment.

If he were willing to let an innocent girl drown in order to be President, what wouldn't he do for power? Can anyone really support a system of authority that could so dehumanise a man?

HARRY HARMER.

DERRY—How the People

Fought!

THE STREET-FIGHTING in Derry

last weekend has been loudly condemned from pulpit and political platform, and civil rights 'leaders' have been falling over themselves to join in the chorus. It is interesting to reflect on the reasons for such unanimity of views. In a situation where there is agreement between reactionary Unionists and the political opportunists of the Civil Rights movement, there can only be one reason—the people have ignored the politicians and decided to take action for themselves. The clergy who denounced the people from the pulpit, and the politicians who described the people as hooligans and rioters, were both suffering from the same malady—injured pride. When the clergy had arrived on the scene to try to prevent a confrontation between the people and the police they were told to 'get back to the bingo halls'. The politicians were similarly told to 'get stuffed'.

In the welter of condemnation from these enraged bastions of bourgeois morality something has tended to be overlooked—the courage and daring of the young people in their battles with the police. Since October they have evolved, by trial and error, street-fighting tactics, some rudimentary, some sophisticated enough to be included in a manual of urban guerrilla warfare.

The people armed themselves with clubs, iron bars and dustbin lids for close hand-to-hand fighting. Barricades were constructed at strategic points using iron girders, concrete blocks and planks from a building site, as well as lorries, cars and a very useful JCB.

These barricades performed two functions. They made it impossible for a police attack to be made on foot into the barricaded area (as the police learned to their cost very early on when they were repeatedly met with a hail of missiles and petrol bombs as they tried to storm the barricades). Secondly, they channelled the armoured cars and the water-cannon into twisting sidestreets where their progress was slowed down by the nature of the terrain, and this made them admirable targets for the people waiting in the

doorways along the street to lob petrol-bombs at them.

Petrol, in fact, was plentiful. A petrol pump had been commandeered and its lock broken. For most people there, however, a petrol bomb consisted of a bottle filled with petrol and the neck stuffed with rags. They were unaware of the adhesive qualities of oil and sand (though some were substituting sugar).

The chief problem after a few hours' fighting was a shortage of bottles, and some people had to go around knocking on doors asking for empty bottles. The people devised some ingenious methods of overcoming this problem. A bakery and a paint store nearby supplied the necessary materials—flour and paint.

Several roads in the area were turned into miniature rivers of paint and petrol. Some groups would stand about fifty yards away waiting for the armoured cars and Landrovers to make an attack. When they did, their windows were bombarded with flour which stuck to them, obscuring the drivers' vision. Before they knew where they were, they were driving over the mixture of paint and petrol which was set alight turning the roadway into a lake of fire. The cars, some with tyres still blazing, others with no tyres left, drove crazily down the road on their wheel-hubs.

Some incidents stand out. As a Land-rover, with eight policemen inside, slowly negotiated the burned-out hulks of two police tenders, six young lads ran out and, as it was moving, lifted it up on two wheels and then managed to tip it over on its side with the screaming fuzzi inside.

A group of youths cornered seven policemen in a cul-de-sac. As they advanced the fuzzi drew their revolvers. Still the youths came on and the police began shooting 'in the air' according to their statement afterwards. Two of the lads were taken to hospital with bullets in the leg and foot.

A platoon of police stood outside the City Hotel. Across the street was a group of young men. The sergeant in command said, 'When I count to three, charge. One, two, . . .' The group of

youths shouted 'three' and charged at the police who turned and ran back into the safe darkness of the docks.

Perhaps the most memorable incident occurred at the barricade in William Street. A boy aged fifteen stood on top of the barricade with a bucket of petrol. A water-cannon came racing up the street to try to smash through the barricade. As it hit the barricade the first time, the boy threw the bucket of petrol over it. The water-cannon reversed to ram the barricade again. As it did so the boy threw a lighted cigarette at it and turned the water-cannon into the biggest tea-urn in Western Europe. The four fuzzi inside jumped out, two with their uniforms blazing, and ran down the street to cries of 'Burn Baby Burn'.

It is important to recognise that the confrontation was between the police and the people and to remember that the Labour Exchange was a prime target. It is true that there were religious sectarian elements initially, but most of the people recognise that it is the police, as the armed enforcers of the dictates of an authoritarian government, who are the enemy.

They are also not taken in by the victory claims of people like John Hume, MP, who say that the CR movement has forced the Unionist government to concede such democratic rights as one man one vote.

As one young lad said to me as he stuffed his handkerchief into the neck of a bottle of petrol:

'They can do what they like with their one man one vote. My father, my four brothers and myself are unemployed and we live in a house that was condemned six years ago. But nobody gives a damn about us. That's why I'm here tonight.'

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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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ON SUNDAY, July 13, Manchester Squatters moved their second family into a four-bedroomed house on Moston Colliery Estate. The family, the Ruddocks, consists of husband, wife and five girls, also a son who would come to live with them if they had room.

The house which the Ruddocks had previously lived in was a three-bedroomed Council flat. This sounds OK until one sees the flat, which has damp in the bedrooms, and the rooms could only be described as minute. Also one of the children had been badly burned, and the hospital recommended that she should have a room of her own. Mr. Ruddock has sent letters and visited the Town Hall to try to arrange an exchange, without satisfaction. So the family

The Manchester Squat

approached the squatters.

The Ruddocks moved into a house on Woodstock Road a couple of hours after the squatters took possession of the house. The tenants on the Estate supported the squat and everything went well for a couple of weeks, until the NCB served notice of an injunction on Mr. Ruddock and his 'servants or agents'. They also spent a few hours trying to find Mrs. Ruddock to serve her with one, but she managed to avoid

them. In court, the action was defended by NCCL solicitors, but the judge was obviously prejudiced against the squatters from the start. Two examples of the kind of remark he passed—'a man has every right to keep a house which he owns, empty, if he so wishes' (even though the defence pointed out that the NCB is a public body). Also, 'We must put an end to this kind of nonsense' (presumably squatting). Perhaps Judge

Burgess has some empty property somewhere?

However, the squatters have decided to appeal against the injunction, for which we will need money (donations to Felix Phillips). In the meantime we intend to get as much publicity as possible for the disgusting way in which the NCB are preventing good houses and flats from being occupied.

MANCHESTER SQUATTERS.

Sausage Rolls at County Hall

THE WEEK HORACE CUTLER, chairman of the GLC, threatened to evict 6,000 tenants who have been withholding the rent increases, he also entertained Mayors and dignitaries from all over the country and from abroad to a slap-up dinner on the occasion of the summer recess. Also attending his 'do' were the uninvited guests from the GLC's estates

who marched into the vicinity of the town hall with colours flying to the tunes of a jazz and a brass band. As the powdered ladies arrived with their dinner-jacketed escorts they were greeted by the raucous cries of the Cockneys. 'Sausage rolls, tonight?' asked a woman in a green dress from the uncertain-stepped ladies in high-heeled shoes tottering to their sumptuous banquet.

While there was still light the crowd surged to the side of the town hall but were separated from the revellers inside by a deep concrete ditch. Although rocks were thrown at the wooden panel protected windows, no damage could be caused because of the distance. There were no catapults, which would have come in useful. The rocket on the front car of the procession was also only symbolic.

There was much robust entertainment, the dancing of 'Knees up Mother Brown', the boke-cokey and the conga, before an earnest comrade reminded us that whilst we were living it up by the riverside, the bejewelled guests were leaving the town hall unmolested. The crowd lumbered back to the entrances and fairly abused the departing celebrities. As the Rolls Royces left the building, the crowd, despite police pushing, closed in on them. The red and black flag, as usual, was there in the thick of it. A man with a megaphone shouted at the departing guests, his voice echoing through the courtyard, mimicking the pompous tones of the Master of Ceremonies (also microphoned) announcing the arrival and departure of honoured guests. 'Make way for the Mayor of Richmond,' boomed the pompous ass. 'Mayor of Richmond, your days are numbered,' shouted our champion.

Then Horace Cutler ventured to the gate. In his pocket was the writ issued to 25 tenants by a High Court judge, trying to restrain Horace the Menace going on with evictions before the due processes of the law are exhausted. 'I am

just a clerk,' said Horace to an incredulous crowd. 'You can't hide behind that,' a man told him. The crowd was more precise. 'Resign,' they yelled. By that time the girls were dancing on their own. The tottering ladies came out slightly inebriated and their grey-haired escorts looked greedily at the strapping

Mytchett Farm Caravan Site

NEW DEVELOPMENTS have occurred. At least a dozen site tenants have received notices that, unless they pay up their site rent arrears by July 31, proceedings will be instituted against them by Modern Cars & Caravans (Kingston) Ltd., the company which owns the site and sells the tenants their caravans. This can only mean one thing... more evictions! The tenants are standing firm in their refusal to pay the increase of 7/- per week which the company claim to offset the cost of new amenities. These consist of two sinks (Laundry) and a patch of ground near some wrecked cars (Playground). The tenants are continuing to keep up their site rent payments at the old rate, in most cases £2 2s. 4d. per week.

One tenant, Mr. Foley, finds himself in a particularly tricky position. A couple of months ago he fell behind with the H.P. payments on his £400 caravan. He had paid off about £170. Local Council officials visited him to see about helping with his arrears and assessed the value of the van at not more than £50! The caravan in which the Foleys were living with their four children was considered unfit for human habitation. The Foleys were moved into another van. That sounds fine... but Mr. Foley is still waiting for an agreement to be drawn up on this caravan. He has no legal right to be in it, and he has lost his old van and his £170.

To pile on the agony, the letter Mr.

working-class girls. On the coaches back to the estates there were many arms around many shoulders and the babies slept peacefully amidst the confident noise of talk, laughter and the songs, the curious songs of the inter-war years.

'Good-bye and Remember: Not a Penny on the Rent,' they shouted when we got off at our stop. 'No rent at all,' we shouted back instantly regretting the impudence of our remark.

LITTLE SWELL.

Brighton Squatters Occupy Drill Hall

ON AUGUST 3 Brighton Squatters have occupied another huge complex of buildings at the back of Wykeham Terrace which they have been successfully holding now for a fortnight. At the moment of writing they are intending to move in four more families and to use the enormous drill hall as a playground for the squatters' children.

The occupation was accomplished in a matter of minutes and comrades have straight away begun the work of cleaning and fortification in readiness for the families to move in.

Brighton comrades consider that the attack on repossession will not come before a court order some time in September, by which time they hope that the movement will rally round them with offers of help.

They also feel that what happened in Ilford was a borderline case between a 'bad agreement' or a 'sell-out' and are determined to avoid the mistakes in the Ilford campaign.

L.S.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press, LAVENDER 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, Bexleyheath Broadway.
S.W. LONDON ANARCHISTS. Meeting alternate Wednesdays. Phone Brian 672 8494.
NOTTING HILL S.P.S.H. 18 Powis Square, W.11.

Meivyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx.

BERTS. 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, 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 Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.

NOTTING HILL. Meetings at John Bennett's, Flat 4, 88 Cleveland 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, 37 Feckenham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs.

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

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

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 LIMESHOUSE.

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 Birmingham, 16.

BLACKBURN. 'Global Tapestry', c/o BB Books, 11 Clematis Street, Blackburn, BB2 6JP.

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, CR4 8QH (653 7546) or contact Keith McCain, 1 Langmead Street, West Norwood, S.E.27. Phone 670 7297.
EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact

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, 8 Stonecroft Road, Leyland, PR3 3AE.

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 Pete Duke, Flat 6, 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool, 8.

PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Rob Wilkinson, 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

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

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

GUILDFORD. Peter Cartwright, 33 Denzil Road, Brighton.

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, Gossposs Green, Crawley, Sussex.

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

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION

Secretary: Contact Leeds Group.

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 Eberston Terrace, Leeds, 6.

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

YORK. Keith Nathan, Vanbrugh College, Hestlington, York.

WELSH FEDERATION

ABERYSTWYTH ANARCHISTS. Contact Steve Mills, 4 St. Michael's Place, Aberystwyth, Cardif.

ganshire, Wales. Aug.-Sept. correspondence only.

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

SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 18 Windsor Street, Uplands, Swansea. Meetings at the above address every Sunday at 7 p.m.

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 ANARCHISTS & SYNDICALISTS. Contact Ian & Peggy Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen. Regular 'Freedom' Sale, leafleting, 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 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' sales.

SOUTHERN IRELAND

ALLIANCE OF LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUPS IN IRELAND. c/o Freedom Press.

AUSTRALIA

ABSTRACTION. 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 Vivignis, Liege.

TORONTO LIBERTARIAN ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 TorYork Drive, Watson, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

PROPOSED GROUPS

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

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.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. All those interested in forming a group contact Terry Phillips, 40 Grosvenor Way, Kettering, Northants.

The Fight for the Soul of the Movement

THIS NEWSPAPER has been supporting the Squatters Movement right from the early days of a token occupation of luxury flats in Wanstead. It has given extensive accounts of the campaign at its every stage, so that our readers should be well informed of the many trials and successes of the campaign. The campaign grew and left the confines of East London and daily new occupations of empty properties were reported from Brighton to Manchester.

Nevertheless the struggle at Redbridge had a significance of its own. After the attack by the council's private army a call went out from Ilford: send us reinforcements. Many of us who have responded, have temporarily given up our jobs and left our own families to take part in the struggle to defend the embattled homeless families. 23 Audrey Road and 'Freelands' in Woodlands Road became symbols of resistance.

But Quartermain's men never returned and the waiting has taken its toll. First the barricades had to be removed from 23 Audrey Road where the 'tenant' Chris Fleming, who is an epileptic, had a relapse. This meant two things. One, that the people who had defended Audrey Road so valiantly had nothing to do, and two, the defenders of 'Freelands' were subjected to trivial attacks by those who were left outside in the cold. The communal spirit that was so tremendous at 'Freelands' was slowly eroded from without and from within. Waiting for an enemy that did not come meant that many of the original com-

rades have left.

Nevertheless it was noticeable that a leadership emerged on the outside who wanted to settle with the council at whatever cost. A bad agreement was finally negotiated and last Thursday it was enforced against the wishes of the remaining people at Woodlands Road. This happened when most of the comrades were away at Fulham where they were asked to help in the setting up of the barricades. While they were away Ron Bailey and others have evicted the occupants of Woodlands Road, amidst scenes that professional bailiffs would have been proud of.

It has been said by those who were in favour of the agreement that 'it was necessary to save the face of the council' and that the agreement (which in return for the squatters leaving council occupied property has promised a review of all empty houses; not to wreck any more properties; rehouse two families; and to give the squatters a detailed explanation on any house which they find uninhabitable) was a tactical necessity and should the council not keep their word the campaign can restart again.

But the manner by which 'Freelands' was handed over to the council and the police; the disgusting press statements made by the leaders of the East London Squatters will make many militants think again before they are prepared to fight alongside these comrades.

The militants have been called dossers, die-hards, would-be martyrs. What was their crime? None other than that they

were in the way of a dishonourable agreement.

The campaign may not be in the 'business to provide homes for single men' but neither is it desirable to provide a platform for the emergence of career politicians.

If the East London Squatters have only limited aims, they need not have involved the militants by asking them to come to their aid. The Lewisham Squatters have gone about their business quietly and efficiently doing precisely that.

But it is in Brighton now that the spirit of the squatters movement is kept alive. The *Morning Star* may claim that what happened in Ilford was a victory. For us it was a temporary defeat.

The campaign continues.

JOHN RETY.

LETTERS

Send Your Poems

Sir,

I am editing, for Panther Books, an anthology of revolutionary and radical poetry by young British poets. The point of the book is to demonstrate, justify and reflect the political aspirations of young people today. I would be pleased to consider contributions from your readers who should send poems, with s.a.e. please, directly to me.

ALAN BOLD.

19 Gayfield Square, Edinburgh 1.

At the next barricades they will be found to be beside us (or behind us). Sometimes one has the feeling that they would be much more suitable on the other side of the barricade.

It was said of one inglorious general that he had the knack of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. What seems on paper to be victories in the squatting campaigns in Ilford and Hammersmith could be real defeats if we do not realize the necessity of pushing on with the campaign for the provision of housing. To this many would add the necessity of housing without the intervention of councils, housing societies or landlords. Some may feel that squatting as a technique has been overworked and lost its publicity value but nevertheless it has a unique value as a method of direct action. What one can say is that participation into local affairs proves that one does not have to create Vietnams everywhere, there are Vietnams on your door-step. When the weak are victimized just for being the weak, when destruction, in a world of homeless poverty, takes place side by side with the conspicuous consumption of the affluent in a world of interior decorating, ideal homes, two-house families, two-car families on six-lane highways.

JACK ROBINSON.

TAKEN TOKENS

MONEY, as we all know, is an aid to capitalism—that is, it helps the rich buggers grind us poor buggers down. But just how far can it go?

Since the extermination of the half-penny last week I have found myself in a predicament. I dare not use what pittance is granted to me by 'them' in order that 'they' can remain 'them'. Halfcrowns I just can't spend—they are being withdrawn from circulation so I get precious few anyway—because I need them for the launderette. New ten penny pieces I need for the gas, and to supply my friends with change for fag machines. I have to use new five penny pieces for electricity or a bath. Sixpences? There are the pay-as-you-enter buses, there are the tube station chocolate machines, there are the STD public telephones, there are the one-arm bandits, there are... And now that British Railly charge threepence for the use of their loo at Euston Station all my threepences and pennies are tied up too.

So, you see, each time I change a note I'm left with a pocket full of change which it would be suicidal to spend, and I don't get that many notes a week. The sooner we anarchists really get down to it and abolish money the better it will be for all of us. (And now I've got to change the last of this week's notes to get a stamp to post this damn letter.)

H.D.T.

STATEMENT BY EAST LONDON SQUATTERS

THE AGREEMENT reached between the East London Squatters and the Redbridge Council on Saturday, July 26, was a crucial victory for the squatting campaign as a whole. If it is not sabotaged by the intransigents on either side, it will undoubtedly affect the attitude of other local authorities and lead to the encouragement and acceptance of squatting on a wider scale in areas where empty houses are being left unused.

The Council have undertaken to review all empty houses acquired under the five year plan with a view to using them for short term housing purposes. They have agreed to complete this review within three weeks and to give us detailed reasons for any houses they consider to be unsuitable. They have agreed to stop demolishing or making uninhabitable empty houses acquired in future and they have agreed to give the two families who successfully fought off the bailiffs (the Flemings and McNeils) first refusal of the houses found suitable for use.

In return we have agreed only to vacate the houses we have taken in readiness for occupation (but in which families have not yet been installed) and to refrain from occupying more houses.

It cannot be denied that the months of increasingly bitter struggle culminating in the early morning attacks by Quartermain and his thugs, have left a residue of bitterness and distrust that will take some time to dispel, and before the agreement was signed, fears were expressed that this might be simply another attempt by the Redbridge Council to buy us off with promises that would not be fulfilled.

However, it is known that because of our campaign the Council has been under pressure from various sources, including the Minister of Housing, to stop wrecking houses and to make some use of them. There is also reason to believe that some members of the Council were as horrified at the crude violence of the so-called bailiffs they had employed, as they were dismayed by the reaction to it. Majority opinion amongst the squatting activists was that the Council offer probably was genuine and that they had finally conceded the main points of the campaign. Certainly it was felt that the Council's sincerity ought to be tested and that it was well worth while suspending our activities in Ilford for this to be done.

Unfortunately, a small group who are currently occupying one of the houses we have agreed to vacate, feel unable to accept this majority decision and have stated their intention to remain in occupation. Most of these people became involved only after a general call for militant support to resist the bailiffs was sent out, and they have since been living together under siege conditions at 6 Woodlands Road. It can be understood that they have come to regard continued occupation of this particular house as synonymous with victory and leaving it with defeat, but to those of us concerned with the overall campaign

it seems that they have completely lost sight of what it is we are trying to achieve.

This is a campaign to help the homeless and badly housed. More important it is a campaign to encourage them to organise and help themselves. We are in business to help families who need them, to take over houses that would otherwise remain empty. Our strength has always lain in our flexibility as much as in our determination. We recognise that we are not big enough or strong enough to defeat authority and landlordism if we fight them on their own terms, so we have chosen our own ground and changed our tactics when necessary. We need the confidence of the families we become involved with, that we will put their interests first and not sacrifice them in battles we cannot win. To a lesser degree we need the respect and sympathy of the general public and press to embarrass and inhibit those who would dearly like to discredit us. To gain this confidence and support we must show that we are practical as well as idealistic. We must demonstrate to many who do not share our political or anti-authoritarian attitudes that we are intelligent and reasonable people.

This does not add up to compromise.

It means knowing when to take direct action and when to use the courts. It means fighting the bailiffs one day and transferring from one house to another to frustrate a possession order, the next. It means leaving our opponents an escape route and understanding that revolution is a piecemeal process.

If Redbridge Council live up to their agreement—the Squatters have won in that Borough, because the empty houses will soon be used. If they are insincere it is vitally important that it should be they who break the agreement and not us. All this has been explained to the diehards in Woodlands Road. The agreement was that they should move out by noon Thursday, and many members of the campaign including representatives of other squatting groups in London, have endeavoured to persuade them that this is in the best interest of the movement.

However, since argument and common sense have so far proved useless, it must now be made clear that these few people are deliberately jeopardising the fruits of six months continuous struggle, and that therefore they can no longer claim to be connected in any way with the East London Squatters Campaign. We ask all those who agree with our aims to recognise this situation and to channel their support accordingly.

We deeply regret the need for this statement. We have done everything we can to avoid it. But it has now become necessary to publicly dissociate ourselves from those who have already dissociated themselves from us. The Squatting Campaign exists to fight for the basic human rights of those who are denied a decent place to live—not to set up permanent communal doss houses for would-be martyrs.

July 30, 1969

DEFEAT IN VICTORY

THERE IS ALWAYS something of an anticlimax in an achievement, one is left battling with thin air and is apt to turn upon those nearest and inflict some damage upon them.

The parallel (and entirely coincidental) cessation of the Ilford and Fulham squats have left an undesirable vacuum which has led to some recriminations upon both sides between groups, the one viewing itself as 'militant' and considering the other at best a 'reformer' and at worst a 'betrayal'. All settlements, based as they are in real circumstances, are a betrayal of the ideal. The settlement at Ilford seems to have been lacking in guarantees and it is doubtful if some of the homeless involved will be rehoused. The Fulham arrangement has been made without Hammersmith Council conceding anything on the vital point of their responsibility for re-housing of the homeless.

Ilford 'militants' seem to have dispersed themselves elsewhere. The house at Fulham was effectively barricaded by and with advice and material from Ilford but it was not, and now seems unlikely to be tested by the bailiffs. However, the house is being retained and it seems likely that another family will come forward to squat. There has been some difference of opinion on methods of resistance between the original Fulham and Hammersmith squatters and their reinforcements, it having been pointed out that the Ilford and Fulham circumstances were entirely different. Be that as it may, the newly-formed South-West London Squatters are carrying on in Fulham, they need help, financial and otherwise, and are determined that no 'leadership' will arise which inevitably leads to a sell-out.

However the whole squatting project is in the experimental stage and it is sometimes in the nature of experiments to fail. The utter failure of the 'squat' in Moore Park Road is a case in point. Many people who have been involved in squatting have never partaken in political or social action before. The tenants are a particular concern in themselves, one still feels that they should come first despite occasional troubles with the nervous strains on already sorely tried temperaments by the ordeal of 'squatting', often with a motley crew of completely 'alien' protesters. It is not to be wondered that the tenants rarely achieve a state of revolutionary awareness or even rudimentary class-consciousness.

Many of the people involved have partaken in too much political and social action before and are apt to regard squatting as just another method of political agitation and tailor the situation to fit whatever coat they happen to be wearing. The reduction of squatting to the sheer

practicalities of domestic arrangements and guard duties has eliminated much of the political clap-trap but unfortunately there are those who have evaded duties and subjected us to the clap-trap, clap-trap pure and uncompromised with any sordid realities of furniture removing or keeping a sharp look-out. There have also been those with a strange attachment to the discredited theory of the increasing misery who believe that any improvement in housing conditions for individual cases is a bar to the revolution and therefore feel that any settlement is a betrayal.

There have also been the political 'Johnny-come-latelies' who have seen the wisdom of squatting long after Ron Bailey started his campaign—and will deplore the political unwisdom of whatever campaign is next felt to be necessary.

Mrs. Foster Gets House

THE HIGH COURT'S order to Mrs. Joan Foster to relinquish the home she had acquired by squatting on May 13 in a Hammersmith Council-owned house in 22 Rumbold Road, Fulham, came into effect at midnight on Wednesday, July 30. Impregnable barricades had been built to defend Mrs. Foster against any and all attempts to evict, but in the end they were not needed as at the last moment the Catholic Housing Aid Society were able independently to make a firm offer of rehousing in another borough, having failed to get the slightest degree of co-operation from Hammersmith Council in the two-and-a-half months in which they had been patiently and doggedly trying to come to some arrangement with that Council, whose responsibility Mrs. Foster is. Mrs. Foster is in process of moving into the first home she and her three children have ever had.

Meanwhile, large numbers of families in Battersea Bridge Buildings remain in that appalling 'Temporary Accommodation' where Mrs. Foster spent a temporary period three years long. At the same time Hammersmith Council continues as fast as it can to reduce its housing stock by selling the numerous empty houses in the borough which it owns and which it refuses to let to homeless families and those on its 4,000-odd housing waiting list.

FULHAM AND HAMMERSMITH SQUATTERS.

21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6.
RENown 2014.

ANARCHY 101 & ANARCHY 102

Approved Schools—on Sale Now Squatters—on Sale Soon

ANARCHY102



PORT TALBOT STEELMEN

A Magnificent Stand

THE TUC'S FORMULA for a settlement of the unofficial strike of 1,300 blastfurnacemen at the Port Talbot steelworks of the British Steel Corporation has been unanimously rejected at three mass meetings of strikers.

The formula recommended a return to work and assured strikers that negotiations on their £1 a week claim would start immediately. If failure resulted after seven days of negotiations, then the dispute would be declared official by the union. This is really saying that the strikers' case is a just one, but that they want that all-important return-to-work first. It also shows how unofficial action can alter the attitudes of union officials.

The TUC, the union officials of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen and the management are taking the usual line that negotiations cannot take place while the men are out on unofficial strike. The strikers say that the management has procrastinated too long and action is the only way to make them concede their demands. The men feel so strongly about their claim and other issues and grievances that they would welcome a union-management inquiry.

THE SAME PEOPLE

A lot of the trouble stems from the fact that before nationalisation,

Contact Column

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

Accommodation wanted for American comrade and 9 months' old daughter in London in August for 3 weeks. Reasonable rent paid. Box No. 40.

Neal Drew. Please contact editor, *Some Things Magazine*, 1/69 Sandon Road, Birmingham 17.

Voluntary work team. Now team at: The Poplars, The Broadoak, Newnham, Gloucestershire.

BURNTOLLET!

The Story of the Long March. Details of the ambush planning, the role of N. Ireland's B Specials and the complicity of the RUC authorities. 10/- (plus postage) from Freedom Bookshop.

GLC Rent Struggle. United Tenants Action Committee, 119 Poplar High Street, E.14.

Oppose Germ Warfare. The Chemical Biological Warfare Action Group are campaigning against the manufacture and use of chemical warfare agents. Contact: 77 High Street, Penze, S.E.20. Tel. SYD 0940.

Schools Anarchists. Meetings on Fridays, July 25, August 1, 8 and 15, will be at 133 Haden Court, Seven Sisters Road (opp. Astoria Cinema, Finsbury Park tube), London, N.4, at 7.30 p.m. Then will resume at advertised address.

Exhibition of Sculpture by Pete Raymond. The form of the exhibition and the sculpture is meant to be of social use. Journey to 'Journey', 66 Bridge Street, Cardiff, August 4-16. Children's Festival—Saturday, July 26, from 10.30 a.m. all day. Puppets, sculptures, mazes, inflatables.

Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo. Oppose blatant militarist propaganda. Help leaflet. Contact: Gwyneth Williams, 17 Insole Gardens, Llandaff, Cardiff.

Anarchist Group meets Mondays, 7 p.m., at 'Two Chairmen', Warwick House Street, off Trafalgar Square. And then they go elsewhere.

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.

the Port Talbot steelworks negotiated separately and was outside the Employers' Federation. Local management, which is composed of mainly the same people as before nationalisation, is trying to take advantage of this and has refused to pay a £1 per week national increase.

While it refuses to do this, it is only too willing to pay staff and white collar workers wages totalling £50 per week to act as strike-breakers. But this ludicrous situation is sanctioned by an old union-management agreement which allows staff workers to blackleg during unofficial strikes.

The General Secretary of the union, Jim Barry, has said, 'We are absolutely 100 per cent behind this claim. It is a question of method.' However, so far, they have refused to make the strike official. But indications are that because the management are now shutting down and laying off other workers at the plant, the union will make it official. This seems to be a way of getting the management, the TUC and themselves off the hook. By doing this, formal negotiations can be started, while during the last five weeks because of the strike-breaking agreement, the production of steel has at least been maintained at half the normal rate.

TUC'S FAILURE

The refusal of the strikers to accept the return-to-work formula is proving extremely embarrassing for the leadership of the TUC. They obviously want to impress the Government with their new powers and their ability to intervene in disputes and get the men back to work. However, in their first major intervention, they have failed to do this. They, and the union for that matter, are reluctant to use their disciplinary powers because of the overwhelming evidence that management and union attitudes have provoked this dispute. They also realise that it would be very difficult to discipline such a large number of men, especially after the solid way they have maintained their strike action for all these weeks, in spite of the fact that only 140 labourers will gain from any increase that is won.

LIVING SCHOOL?

THE LIVING SCHOOL marked another attempt by the authoritarian Left to take over the education movement. Fortunately it was only partly successful. In order to understand what happened it is necessary to go into the structure of the schools movement. There are two main schools organisations. The Free Schools Campaign which is libertarian, and the Schools Action Union which varies. In London there is the SAU London Executive Committee, which is a law unto itself and represents only itself, and the SAU schools groups which are basically libertarian. The Living School was arranged by certain members of the Committee in collaboration with *Black Dwarf* and the LSE Socialist Society. It was seen from the point of view of the organisers as partly an exchange of ideas and experience, partly political indoctrination, and partly to establish the SAU's claim to be THE schools organisation.

Attendance was mixed, being composed of teachers, professional revolutionaries, and school students. The first day was marked by anarchist comrades occupying the LSE against the opposition of the IS and *Black Dwarf*. We got no support from Conway Hall because our case was completely misrepresented by the organisers. So we drifted back.

One must pay tribute to this magnificent stand against their union and the management, and now the TUC, in their determination to struggle for their demands. The dispute highlights the general failure of union officials to fight for and secure demands of the rank and file. It shows how negotiations are carried out while the men are kept in the dark about their outcome. How decisions and agreements are made without any consultation or representation of the rank and file at these meetings.

CUTTING THE LABOUR FORCE

Years of this sort of experience are just as much a part of this dispute as the management's refusal to pay the increase. The breakdown between the rank and file and the union leadership is common throughout the trade union movement. It is a grievance that all trade unionists feel at one time or another. The blastfurnacemen are also discontented about the long-term pay and productivity plans by which the management hopes to reduce the labour force from 16,000 to 11,000 by 1971.

The men have no confidence in their union and this dispute is as much an act against the union as against the management. It has occurred because of past failures of the union and because of everyday tensions which have built up. These are tensions and anxieties about their jobs in the future and the fact that they have in no way determined that future. It is small wonder that the strikers adapted the song 'John Brown's Body' to 'Old Jim Barry wants a rope around his neck' and sang it as they went to a recent mass meeting.

Whatever the outcome of this dispute (official sanction with a Government inquiry will probably be part of it), the strikers have shown a fine example of solidarity, which should now not be wasted, but be utilised to press home the claim. It should also be used to keep full control of the dispute and so prevent any of the usual compromised settlements being worked out and imposed on the rank and file.

P.T.

Freedom For Workers' Control

AUGUST 9 1969 Vol 30 No 24

BUSMEN— BETRAYAL AFTER BETRAYAL

THE BEHAVIOUR of the TGWU is as ritualistic as a No play. The TGWU demand, they reject, they accept and then they weep on the gunvor's shoulder that the workers have dishonoured the blank agreements signed in their names. When it became necessary for the London-based TGWU to face up to London Transport for the new long overdue agreement on wages and working conditions one knew what to expect. The LTB handed over its usual vicious and unacceptable offer to the TGWU and the delegates indignantly rejected it on behalf of the rank and file. The LTB leaped from the wings complete with their ravished virgin make-up on and cried to the apathetic press that they could not and would not accept the busworkers' outrageous demands and many a banker wept into his brandy as he read his *Financial Times* story of this epic struggle between good and evil.

It was then that the rank and file went into action and refused to work VOLUNTARY overtime until their claim for a wage increase, five hour stints on Sundays, new schedules, London weighting allowance and a pox on the One Man Operated buses were accepted by the LTB. Here was the time-honoured deadlock; yet for once the LTB seemed completely indifferent, and justifiably so, for they appeared to know that the sham battle was already won. The garage delegates had in the name of the branches, voted for a ban on VOLUNTARY overtime and it was put into operation reluctantly or enthusiastically according to the individual garage. A week later the delegates again met to study the new LTB offer and on that Friday at the special branch meeting called to endorse the delegate's action in ordering the ban on VOLUNTARY overtime we were told, on a note of high drama that always seems to precede the pratfall, that our delegate was even at that moment speeding back with the good news of the LTB's new offer. But it was no message from Garcia that the rank and file got but a bleak newspaper item the following day that the TGWU had accepted the LTB's original offer and that the ban on VOLUNTARY overtime had now been called off. And we have lost all along the line because for a £1 increase we are to continue to work the LTB's new schedules, which means that we do not gain a penny on our average wage for to balance out the £1 increase the LTB has slashed the Sunday payments. No five hour stints on Sundays, no London

tionaries only contributed sterile political clichés and displayed a profound lack of understanding of the schools movement. Their teachers viciously attacked Michael Duane for developing Risinghill 'in isolation' and for encouraging the 'egocentric development of children'. Perhaps he should never have done anything at all. The authoritarians showed themselves in their true colours and utterly discredited themselves. However the battle is not over. They still control their little committees. Until they are got rid of they will keep trying to do a Lenin in the schools.

G. WRIGHT.

47 College Road, Epsom, Surrey.

weighting allowance, acceptance of bus cuts and all for a 'now-you-have-it', 'now-you-don't', £1. What is the ultimate betrayal, is the blanket working agreements to be negotiated between the LTB and the TGWU at their own time and place and binding on the rank and file.

The heart has been taken out of the busworkers by betrayal after betrayal that culminated in the selling out of 30,000 bus conductors jobs for a few now-lost shillings and this is done not by stupid or evil men but by a trade union bureaucracy that sees the busworkers as merely one small group within the major union's managerial setup. Year by year the British unions are drifting into the faceless, complex type of American and European type of union setup. It negotiates on government and monopoly capitalistic level and, in this situation, the questioning rank and file are simply a bloody nuisance whose function is to act out its role as a dues-paying slab of work fodder. For them it is no longer a matter of throwing a brick through the mill owner's window for the negotiation of a penny an hour, for some grimy slob loading a lorry for seven shillings an hour must now be viewed from some esoteric angle beyond the understanding of the horny-handed rank and file.

But fortunately for the London busworkers there are still those who will blow the vulgar raspberry at this whole stinking setup and at least eight London bus garages have so far refused to accept the LTB and the TGWU offer and orders and, for the second week, they have come out on a one-day strike. With the ban on VOLUNTARY overtime we had a weapon that would have hurt the LTB and the government and now we, the London busworkers, have refused to use it, because the greed and the stupidity of too many busworkers placed its enforcement in jeopardy. But our salvation as militants now lies in the marching feet of the men of Port Talbot and the garage-bound buses of those eight London garages who, in this elementary struggle for economic and social survival, are fighting our battle.

LUMPENPROLETARIAT.

FOLLOW YOUR LEADERS

A RECOMMENDATION has been made for MPs to have better travel allowances for themselves and to have first class rail tickets for their wives. This is to compensate for the inconvenience caused by being separated from wife and family.

In this instance railway workers, why not follow your leaders?

Why not railway guards press for suitable accommodation for your wives to accompany you at weekends?

'SYNDICALIST'

URGENT

Send in Now! Reports, photos and drawings of Squatting and Direct Action activities.