

# Freedom

## Anarchist Weekly

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# SUPER MARKET, SUPER STATE

**I**GNORANCE about the Common Market is widespread, mainly because most people get bogged down in details about the price of butter or meat, or will wine be cheaper. This, after all, is what politics is all about for most people.

General elections are fought on the cost of living from day to day; the real issues of power politics which govern the overall pattern of exploitation are not election issues because political parties are not in conflict over the necessity to exploit the people.

They will bicker over details, based carefully on what they think would be the more acceptable direction for exploitation to take. You can have direct or indirect taxation; rationing by the book or by the purse; direction by bureaucrat or by boss. You cannot have freedom from taxation or rationing or direction because these are the means by

which you are governed.

In approaching the 'problems' of the Common Market, therefore, we must start off with the clear understanding that freedom is not an issue. On the contrary, since the extension of State power is the one common motivation of governments, when governments get together, this is what they are planning.

And the Common Market is nothing more than governments getting together. There is nothing new in this. What is different from previous get-togethers is the extent involved in this particular exercise. In the past governments have co-operated mainly in the military sphere, leaving their internal affairs strictly out of it. In Europe since the war, this has been expressed in the West through NATO and in the East through the Warsaw Pact.

### VISIONS OF POWER

Since these two power blocs were

established, however, new factors have emerged. One is the economic recovery of war-torn Europe, with which is bound up the technological revolution, not only in Europe but, of course, in America, Russia and Japan also. And the emergence of China as a unified State, bringing economic, technological and military development at a rate alarming to East and West Europe alike. There are also side-issues like the growth of nation-states in Africa and Asia and other ex-dependent/colonial areas.

These factors all add up to the appearance in this century of Super States. The tremendous populations at the disposal of the USA, Russia, China, taking into account their respective satellites, and the enor-

industrial revolution, and, as a dominant world power, the lack of any need to make deals with other, lesser, European states—except as military necessity demanded.

But now things are different. We've lost the Empire and the other European nations have caught up with us in the industrial revolution. Ironically, the very destruction they suffered in the war and their lack of involvement in world politics, with its military demands on the economy, has enabled Germany, for example, to start from scratch with modern techniques and to leap ahead. France has lost an Empire, but gained a Bomb. So Britain, levelled down, is now just another European nation state.

the international trade union movement is doing to prepare its members.

Very little it seems, and very little is being said on what the Common Market is going to mean in political terms. For make no doubt about it, if the business men are interested in it for capitalist reasons the politicians are going for it because it looks good to them for political reasons.

As Groucho Marx once famously sang: 'Whatever it is, I'm against it!' and it is not a bad rule of thumb for anarchists to be against anything that politicians are for. Now all three of our political parties are in favour of the Common Market. Back benchers on both sides of the

mous natural resources upon which their new-found technology can be set to work, open up visions of power in the hands of relatively few men that make the mind boggle.

Of all the great land masses, only Western Europe has remained economically and politically divided. The historical reasons for this are obvious: this is where it all began. Here was where the industrial revolution enabled the modern military nation state to develop—and we have two World Wars to prove it.

The Western European nations which suffered most from those wars, the countries in which the actual fighting took place and which were the most destroyed, have learned a bitter lesson. They have come to terms with their suicidal nationalism, and, taking into account what politicians are and what capitalism is, the Common Market is what could be expected.

The reasons for Britain remaining outside were also historical, as well as geographical. After all, we are just outside Europe, and because of that have not been destroyed on the same scale as the other combatants in the two wars. More important, however, has been our imperial past. Governorship of the Empire gave Britain a vast population and vast natural resources to draw upon. Hence in part our head start in the

### THE TREND TO MONOPOLY

As such, the capitalist advantages of being part of a larger power bloc become apparent. The bigger you get in the capitalist world the more you can see that competition doesn't pay. Competition is for the small fry to knock themselves out with; the winner becomes big fry and doesn't want to compete any more. (It's like the class struggle; the Upper Class don't wish to know about that!) Co-operation is not just a pretty word, it is an economic necessity when you get so big and have so much to lose that you have more in common with your competitors than your customers. Hence the trend to take-overs, mergers, monopoly. One example in the Common Market context is, ironically, the co-operation between Britain and France, which opposes British entry, on the development of the Concorde. The pooling of resources has put this plane ahead of both America and Russia in the supersonic stakes, and this lesson has not been missed.

The reasons that are put forward for Britain's application to join are simple economic ones—like the opening up of a huge 'home' market for our industrial products. There is of course more to it than that, as can be imagined if we think of merger between say, British Leyland, Volkswagen and Fiat—or, if not merger, at least agreement on 'zoning' within Europe and rationalisation of markets in the rest of the world. It is going to mean capitalist organisation on enormous scale, and we can only wonder what

House have 'serious reservations'—we suspect mainly on matters of national pride, since they relate more to the terms on which Britain goes in than to the main issue. But party line for Labour, Tories and Liberals is that Britain cannot afford to stay out.

What this really means is that in the era of the Super State, the 'advanced' trading nations can expect to keep their fingers in the gravy and their places at the tables of the mighty only if they are at the very least part of a Super State.

America, Russia, China, have the land masses, the natural resources and the populations to be Super States all on their own. Only if the smaller Western European nations get together can they stand up to them. The population of the proposed Common Market entity will be in excess of 200 million of the most technically advanced people in the world. The politicians who are in charge of these people will be very powerful men indeed.

Isn't this attractive to Messrs. Wilson, Heath and Thorpe—and all their ambitious friends?

For the suckers—not so good. Day by day we are getting more and more of an inkling of what life under the computer is going to mean. And Super States are only possible because of computers. We are all pigeon-holed, ticketed and docketed; the State can keep efficient tabs on all of us, only by computers. This is the great new instrument of government. And this is why the Common Market looks so attractive to the State-minded politicians of today.

JUSTIN.

## Tchad, Colonial Reconquest

**T**OTALLY IGNORED by the press, the French Foreign Legion is now engaged in trying to put down a peasants' and workers' revolt in this 'former' French colony of 3 million persons. Officially, it is a religious dispute between the Catholics of the South and the Moslems of the North (shades of Northern Ireland?). In reality, the North has refused to recognise the central government for seven years and to understand this, one must understand neo-colonialism. Tchad was given its 'independence' in 1960, but obviously French capitalism was not going to let such a good source of profit go. A native middle class was created to carry out the orders of French capitalism while giving the appearance of independence.

The Tchad industrial scene is largely dominated by subsidiaries of French firms with Pompidou's bosses, the Banque Rothschild, having a very large share. Everything depends upon the cotton crop and the exploitation of this is firmly in French hands. Provoked by hunger and misery, the North seceded and they are starting to organise themselves. This example was obviously a menace to the puppet government and so they called in French troops who have little chance of crushing the revolt as this is very much a guerrilla war. Their problem is our problem. They, like us, are fighting the exploitation of man by man.

(Le Combat Syndicaliste)  
(Translated T.L.)

## A Letter from Chile

**A**CCORDING TO EXCELLENT government sources, the true Christ here is the working man and the Christian Democratic Party is his vicar on earth. Outside of Government circles (which seem to daily grow larger) it is now very difficult to meet a worker as even official figures say there are 560,000 out of work. To work for the Government it is of course necessary to belong to the ruling party. Expertise, rights and justice mean nothing if one has not a party card. Our comrade Bravo Morales came top in all his exams, but has been passed over and jobs given

to party members who have failed the exams of technical competence.

To end this letter from the Christian Democratic Paradise of Chile, let me quote the case of 90 families who took over a piece of unused common land to grow some food. Achurri, Interior Minister, sent a troop of gendarmes to evict them and this was done in the best Democratic Christian way with 8 killed and 60 wounded. Another joy of Christian Democracy! Very similar to non-Christian Democracy!

(Tierra y Libertad)  
(Translated T.L.)

## CHRISTMAS ON REMAND?

**T**HE FIVE squatters arrested after the Rumbold Road, Fulham, eviction are still remanded in custody. Two are at Brixton and the other three are at the Ashford Remand Centre, Middx.

It is ironic that this is the case, while magistrates have been complaining about the number of cases coming before them and the difficulty they are having in dealing with them which necessitates many being held in custody for longer periods than normal. Certainly this could

be remedied if these people were given bail.

Their case has received some publicity recently in a few national newspapers. Obviously they are not an exception and the National Council for Civil Liberties is genuinely disturbed at the lengthening periods on remand awaiting trial. Maybe the situation is not as bad as in Italy where, to quote *The Economist*, 19469, 'the prisons in Turin and Milan—the two richest cities in Italy, whose prisons

would make Dickens shudder — have been totally wrecked. The wreckers are mostly young men awaiting trial. One of the oddities of Italian law is that you can spend longer in prison waiting for your trial than the total period of your sentence if you are found guilty.' It happens here too!

In a recent letter to the Home Secretary concerning this case and those relating to the Endell Street squat, the NCCL said, 'It may be that these cases merely represent a general and certainly unfortunate trend . . . or that the implications are more disturbing. One possible interpretation is that the police and the courts are in effect using remands in custody as a punitive sanction to deal with demonstrators and unpopular minorities.'

Comrade David Griffiths, one of the three in Ashford, has no previous convictions and yet for the last ten weeks his freedom has been denied him. At the West London Magistrates Court a defence lawyer said that the defendants were 'remanded in custody because of their political faith'.

Appeals to Judge in Chambers have been made without success. As it is now, the refusal to give bail is a punishment for something yet to be proved.

The NCCL have made the following recommendations to the Home Secretary: (i) the police have to present 'compelling evidence' in support of objections to bail; (ii) a standard procedure for magistrates regarding bail applications should be laid down; (iii) accused people should be given a detailed court procedure sheet in advance of their first court appearance; (iv) the accused should be specifically told they have the right to appeal to a judge in chambers; and (v) legal aid should be made freely available when bail is refused, at least for the making of such an appeal.

P.T.

### LATER

Dave Griffiths has been granted bail.

## News from Ireland

**A**S A RESULT of the constant pressure of threatened demonstrations, the Stormont Government called off the Springbok's match scheduled for Belfast on November 29. Needless to say they cancelled it not because they disapprove of the racist ambassadors but because the army told them that they were not keen on being used against the several thousand demonstrators who had promised to answer the PD and UNSA call. Therefore the Special Powers Act was used again to ban the match, to the fury of the Rugby vigilantes, all geared up to 'smash the fuckin' lefties', as one of their spokesmen so beautifully put it.

The attention of the anti-apartheid groups now focuses on Dublin where the Springboks are due to play on January 10. Pickets at the RFU are a daily occurrence and the Government has already said that they will personally boycott the match. Much more important, however, has been the attitude of the unions. The Irish Congress of TUs urged all its members to give no assistance whatsoever to the South Africans. This has meant that in order to get food and accommodation they have had to move out of Dublin to a hotel which has non-union staff. The ICTU, however, have indicated that if the match goes on traffic will be fouled up in Dublin by a strike—moreover, as they say, 'I doubt if we'll even let them into the country.' Certainly the Government will probably consider that they can't afford the 2,000

Guardai needed to cope with the demonstrations. All in all it looks as if the racists won't foul Ireland with their presence.

In NI the so-called opposition have now at last wised up to the fact that the UDR Bill means the B-men in new uniforms with better weapons—the army won't be able to control some of the killers even if it tries. While the Unionists try to deal with their own 'moderates', Eddie McAteer presided over the interment of the Green Tory Nationalists, the old Redmondites. At their 'conference' they spent most of their time denouncing the PD, who they see as the 'real enemies to the old Catholic virtues'. A new 'united front' opposition to the Unionists is being canvassed while the Green Tories run around like a chicken with its head cut off. Rumours of arms smuggling are rife—it is definitely known that a large cache was brought into Portaferry (Co. Down) for the UVF, who have also claimed responsibility for a £20,000 postal robbery. The army 'is said to have everything under control'. Despite these 'reassuring' words, many do not rest easy in their beds at night—especially those families who were burnt out of their homes and reside in rotting chalets or caravans, generously rented them by the Government. For them, Christmas this year will be a sick joke.

AUGUSTUS BERKE.



**THE ROTTEN ELEMENTS**, by Edward Upward. Heinemann, London, £1 10s.  
**CHILDREN OF ALBION**, edited by Michael Horowitz. Penguin Books, 10/-.  
**UP AGAINST THE GLOBAL WALL**, by Dave Cunliffe. Freedom Bookshop.  
**POETS OF THE THIRTIES**, by D. E. S. Maxwell. Routledge & Kegan Paul, £2 10s.  
**NINETEENTH CENTURY MINOR POETS**, edited by W. H. Auden. Faber & Faber, £2 10s.  
**TO MASTURBATE IS HUMAN TO FUCK DIVINE**, by Tuli Kupferberg. Silk screen, private circulation.  
 (All published in 1969)

**T**OO OFTEN and too easily men choose to bask in the reflected glories and the martyrdoms of others. By assuming the title they claim the applause, without the blood they claim the scars for non-existent wounds. In a dozen countries, poets, writers, painters and philosophers share a common cell with the workers and the peasants for the crime of seeking to communicate their uncertainties about their society to an audience who are prepared to listen.

After Jeff Claves' sympathetic review of Horowitz's anthology of poetry, one hesitated to put the boot in, but Horowitz has chosen to call his anthology of minor poetry, the *Poetry of the 'Underground' in Britain* and when poets in America and in Russia have been sent to prison for the act of writing and distributing their poetry, it becomes a sour joke to label these sixty or more, 'Underground' poets for they are as private and as accessible as the Piccadilly Underground railway.

A. Alvarez in his review pointed out that Adrian Mitchell who is one of the

# Seeking to Communicate

major contributors is 'about as underground as the statue of Eros' in the Hippy Circus but I would hesitate to use such abuse. It is poetry of the mode, introspective and subjective and with the current lack of discipline that allows too many of the pleasant phrasemongers to teeter over into Café Royal-style prose. Jeff Claves has written of the help that poetry has given to him in a time of great personal unhappiness and this is a valid point but when that emotional and traumatic experience has gone a work of art must be revalued as a work of art and by this standard this gentle book of poesies fails.

If this is a harsh judgement I would refer them to Auden's *Nineteenth Century Minor Poets* and realise that he has included Housman, Morris, Butler, Blunt, Bridges, Patmore, Rossetti, Coleridge, Clare and Scott for the chopper, so let Mike Horowitz use these names as his measure of judgement and not the imprisoned poets in other countries who are forced to risk their liberties and their lives for a single sonnet. One does not like to hurt Mike Horowitz for the world of poetry and the world of men would be a poorer place without him but he will insist on treading in the dog shit every time he raises his eyes unto the hills.

Of the committed poets Adrian Mitchell is our best known for he has played the muse to all our public wars and private riots but never with the mighty line and never with the agony

crystallised into a single stanza, only the popular polemic of the day broken down into forgettable lines. In this he is in good company for, no matter how much one may be committed to a particular social protest, it can only give one's art a parochial appeal as long as the particular protest holds the public attention and one is surely justified in asking what happened to all that poetry of protest against the war in Korea. Vietnam, Prague and Alabama, we use your public dead for our public tears, only changing the names to suit the title of the poetry of the hour and the meeting. Among the many tragedies of the Spanish civil war was that of Christopher Caudwell and John Cornford for they hold a special place in the hearts of many by virtue of their youth and their talents. It can be said, with sorrow, that like so many others they accepted the total commitment of the day and paid it to the full upon the Spanish dust among the Spanish dead.

Maxwell in his analysis of the *Poets of the Thirties* examines the poetry of these two young men with sympathy and understanding and though they were committed even unto death in that Spanish tragedy they wrote verse whose only interest can be in an understanding of the background that shaped these two young men before, and I think that this is the sterile importance of their verse, they went to fight in Spain.

For Dave Cunliffe all admiration and a sad shake of the head, for, like a

number of anarchists he has the courage to live out his beliefs each and every day of his working life. A man fanatically committed to the practice of his beliefs, as I could never have the courage to, he wrote not only the finest but the most socially committed poetry of his generation and it still remains valid as fine work but for our loss he became immersed in the misty world of the mystical and the metaphysical.

*Up Against the Global Wall* hints at a return of the fugitive though still trailing star-like the winged and unrelated phrases that appear to end when the page ends but we await his return for we can ill afford to lose him.

Poetry is not a craft but a gift of tongues and the saddest book of the day is for me Edward Upward's *The Rotten Elements*, A Novel of Fact. For many a week the genus of this sad novel haunted and eluded me until I placed it with George Grossmith's *Diary of a Nobody*. The same ineffectual little man involved in the fringe activities of group activities over which he has no command yet fashioning his pathetic life around it. *The Rotten Elements* was a Communist Party piece of jargon applied to those members of the Party who, from the 1940's on, deviated from the official Party line. We within our own small groupings would use the more primitive name of shit-stirrers but, as we have no centralised authority and as we use the term indiscriminately against all and everybody, it carries no

social stigma but for the Party member it spelt expulsion and ostracism. At the moment when the Communist Party is holding its private séance in the cloakroom of Camden Town Hall, Upward's story of Alan Sebrill should make interesting reading for the more literate members of the closed society, for Upward spells out in colourless prose the events leading up to the expulsion of his pale hero and his wife from the Communist Party for protesting against the Communist Party's wartime policy of revisionism.

I find it hard to accept that King Street would have wasted its time on these two rather dim lower middle class suburban types waffling away at their local cell meeting but Upward insists that it is so, so I bow my head. I find Upward's attitude not only naive but rather stupid for in the world of *realpolitik* any means are justified to attain an immoral end and that the only judgement is failure.

Now that the Communist Party is at the moment impotent and with a membership of only 30,607 in the country it can well afford a public airing of high-minded principles and that could be the siren call for a fresh batch of Upwards. But Edward, when you write your next novel of the displaced hero, don't allow him to turn to the writing of poetry as an alternative to his ruptured political conscience for, by God's grace, poetry is neither an excuse nor an alternative but an art vouchsafed to few but abused by many.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

## POLY'S FIRST SIT-IN

**N**ORTH-WESTERN POLYTECHNIC is the largest Polytechnic in the country, with a student population in excess of 3,000. The college is housed in four separate buildings in North London, at Kentish Town, Highbury Grove, Camden Town, and Essex Road, Islington. The students, for so long divided geographically, have been ruled easily by an autocratic Principal, Mr. Harris.

Until last year the Student Union had been run by its executive, which was not answerable to the student body, once elected. Early this year the students demanded, and in the face of stiff opposition eventually obtained, a constitution which gave all power to a general assembly of students. This was probably the first example of inter-branch student solidarity and its net result was the transfer of power from a bureaucratic élite into the hands of all the Union members. The students were then in control of their own Union. This was by no means a victory, the executive didn't relinquish power without a struggle and they were supported by the Principal and his administrative cohorts.

Encouraged by this success, the student body then set about trying to obtain full representation on the Academic Board, the chief policy-making body of the college. In April this year the student general assembly mandated its officers to request 50% representation on the Main Academic Board. On May 14 the college Academic Board referred the matter to its executive committee. Since that date the Principal has employed delaying tactics to hinder discussion of the matter and a variety of excuses have been employed to sidestep student requests for negotiations to take place.

Finally, on November 5, a meeting of the Academic Board offered the students a 30% representation on the Board. This offer was rejected by the students at a meeting a week later when the students voted to hold out for student parity with the staff Board members. Since then the Principal has delayed requests for further negotiations, claiming next February as

the earliest possible date for another Board meeting.

The Student Union President and Vice-President met the Principal on November 25 to discuss the matter and were ejected from his office by Mr. Harris, after only two minutes, Harris shouting that he had better things to discuss than student representation. This rejection of their representatives after 7 months' prevarication by the Principal, was the final straw on the Union's back. A show of strength was both necessary and forthcoming.

A Union meeting on the evening of Tuesday, December 2, voted overwhelmingly to occupy the college main building in Kentish Town for 24 hours as a token of its determination to get negotiations re-opened immediately. The meeting set a time limit of 7 days, after which if nothing was forthcoming from the administration, further action would be taken. The occupation commenced immediately. During the night the 250 or so students who remained overnight decided to hit the college where it hurt most, in its bureaucratic solar plexus, by barricading the administrative block, which is part of the Kentish Town building. The barricades remained throughout the Wednesday and prevented the senior staff and administration from using their offices. No attempt was made to interfere with the academic functioning of the college and the Arts and Teaching Studies Departments, which are both housed in the Kentish Town building, continued lectures as normal. The secretaries, filing clerks and typists all went home for the day. The Principal avoided his students by scurrying off to the Northern Polytechnic in Holloway, along with his senior staff.

The occupation finished at 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday and by that time the students were in a mood for self-congratulation. The final assembly felt sure that all their, admittedly modest, aims had been achieved. The student body had demonstrated its strength, solidarity and determination to fight for its principles. The

next move lies with the administration and if it doesn't come within 7 days there is no doubt in the minds of the NW Poly students that there will be further and more forceful direct action. The administration will face more than a day's disruption if it continues to ignore student demands.

Perhaps the most important thing to bear in mind is that this action was formulated and carried out by the section of the student body who are normally termed 'moderates'. The so-called 'student left' neither needed to lead, guide nor interfere with these events. The student majority eventually realized themselves that direct action is the only way to deal with an intractable power clique. Perhaps it is too much to hope for that once victory has been achieved in this struggle the next step will be towards getting an elected principal and thence to the removal of the Board of Governors.

Whatever happens the Students' Union at the Poly will never again be the docile puppets of a Union hierarchy and an autocratic Principal, which they once were. Further one can hope that workers/students/school-pupils in similar situations will also take direct action to achieve just ends.

L.J.D., 2nd Year Teaching Student.

## A REPLY

To the Editors,

As that editor of *FREEDOM* who has been a temporary victim of a virus infection I must protest against the editorial by two fellow editors and two members of Freedom Press Group which appeared in the last issue (December 5, 1969). I intend to return in the new year but in the meantime surely the anarchist movement in this country deserves a better paper than it is getting at the moment. 'Prudhomme'—indeed. Illiterate mumbings find their way into *FREEDOM*; petulant quarrels abound.

For five years I have tried to work with your clique at Freedom Press excusing your lack of belief in anarchism on one ground only: that you are 'good people' and as such work harder than the movement that meets once a year for a get-together and general belly-aching.

Now letters on apartheid (in favour of!) go unanswered in your columns and advertisements for bird-cages for prisoners mingle with the anarchist gardeners' preference for roses. How clever!

To these four I say: you point out that I'm off sick. That was true but that did not mean that I agreed with your opinions.

You cannot dismiss my N.W. comrades (or even *Solidarity*) as a bunch of idiots. It is no use saying that articles by Bill Christopher, Peter Turner and Justin are four square and true, if you allow the rest of the paper to be either rubbish or even anti-anarchist hostile propaganda. And lastly you are expected to defend your comrade Meltzer or any other comrades against unfounded slan-

## Letters

ders.

No doubt you think I have turned against you. This is not so. But the movement should know that you (not individually but collectively) have successfully stifled all attempts to make *FREEDOM* what it should be: a coherent voice advocating anarchism.

JOHN RETY.

8.12.69

\**Prudhomme* was the name in the copy submitted. We could not verify except by airmail. There is indeed a French philosopher Sully Prudhomme.—EDS.

## The Way to a Classless Society

Dear Comrades,

I am appalled by the ever-increasing prominence you give in *FREEDOM* to biased reports on strikes and articles supporting the 'working class' against the 'bosses'. Is this the way to a classless society? The fact is that strikers are motivated by pure bourgeois greed. Union recognition at BSR East Kilbride will only mean agreements between management and the union, and as we know trade unions are legally allowed to break their contracts, unlike other bodies. As for the London dockers, they are already earning considerably more than they could hope to get in either a communist or a collectivist society. It is possible, or was last February (as I know from personal experience), to live happily in Central London on a take-home pay of £7. Charges against strikers of 'holding the country to ransom' are perfectly valid. All the dockers want is even more money to spend on beer and other luxuries.

The sooner the editors of *FREEDOM* stop promoting the dictatorship of the proletariat the better. Bear in mind that this is supposed to be an anarchist paper, not a complaining-ground for all vaguely left-wing aggrieved elements in society.

Irrelevantly, if you wasted less space on sick 'humour' in the 'Money Matters' column you might have more room to print views different from your own.

Yours with feeling,  
CHRISTOPHER HARGREAVES.

Colchester, Essex

## AFB Conference

Comrades,

As you will have heard from the Manchester Group, there is to be an AFB Conference on December 13 and 14 at the Manchester University Union.

The topics for discussion should give rise to a worthwhile gathering with plenty of opportunity to examine the state and direction of the anarchist movement. However I and other comrades of

the Yorkshire Federation find the idea of delegates and voting obnoxious. Voting to decide policies for the AFB seems totally opposed to anarchy, and just who are delegates supposed to represent anyway? How can they be mandated for a discussion which will cover the roots of anarchy, if that is the idea?

Many complaints can be levelled at the British anarchist movement but turning this into just another political party is not the answer. Let those interested in forming a group based on a set of stated principles, such as 'Where We Stand', do so; but to limit the entire scope of the anarchist movement in Britain to one definition is completely out of the question.

Please get as many comrades as possible to come, and tell them to forget the division into delegates and observers for ways can be found to eliminate any voting procedures which would go against freedom (if only on paper) and anarchy. See you at Manchester I hope.

Anarchically yours,  
DAVE JEFFERIES,  
and others of like mind in the YAF.

Sheffield

## State Violence Bad, Revolutionary Violence Good?

Comrades,

Thank you for the splendid front page on the atrocities of war. Of course this is what anarchists have always known, and always said. War is the atrocity; all governments make war on their peoples. We would say the American soldiers are fighting a Capitalist Imperialist war and the Viet Cong are fighting to extend the modified State Capitalist regime of the north over the whole of the area called Vietnam.

Can we stop there, or can we look with an equally honest eye at the concept of revolutionary struggle which sometimes appears in *FREEDOM*? The Viet Cong are after all fighting a 'war of liberation'—in case we've all forgotten, President Eisenhower admitted he kept his troops in Vietnam because if free elections had been held they would have resulted in an overwhelming vote for the Viet Minh. The 'revolutionary' cause has not preserved the Viet Cong from committing atrocities. Can we feel so sure about the difference between war waged at the command of a state and revolutionary armed struggle?

In a non-violent revolution, some of the atrocities in the anthology last week (The greatest atrocity of all) would be done to us. In a violent revolution I fear that our names would fill some of those blank spaces.

Fraternally,  
M. CANIPA.

## Give a Subscription for Freedom for the Feast of Saturnalia

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

The AFB information office will produce an internal bulletin. Comrades interested in its production are to meet in Birmingham on the first weekend of each month, from November onwards. All groups will be informed in detail. Address all letters to:

Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Tel. 021-454 6871. Material that cannot wait for the bulletin to be sent to R. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York. The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information.

Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should

write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

### AFB REGIONAL GROUPS

North West Federation: John Walker, 92 Clyde Road, Manchester, 20.  
 There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:  
 Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell, (M. Ma. B.).  
 Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester, (QM, FL.)  
 Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.  
 Sussex: E. Poole, 5 Tilbury, Finton Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.  
 Scotland: B. Lynn, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow.  
 Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).  
 N. Ireland: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).  
 University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare.  
 (Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine; B—badges; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets.)



# The Springboks in Aberdeen

ABERDEEN HAS LONG had a reputation as a city with a very strong public feeling on the issue of apartheid. The 98 arrests at the Linksfield ground on the tour so far—showed that the feeling is still very much there. But had it not been for the militancy of students—especially the determination of the University Socialist Society—it is very doubtful if any real action would have been taken at all.

As the date of the game approached, the Socialist Society called a mass meeting in the Students' Union, attended by 350 people. From this meeting sprang the Aberdeen Anti-Apartheid Committee, comprising of representatives from every sector of student opinion, with the rather obvious exception of the university's near racist Tories. As the students' organisation began to gain momentum and support, certain other people decided to hold their own protest against apartheid. Calling themselves the Aberdeen Anti-Apartheid Group, they announced their demo and their existence long after the students. Chief among them was Donald Dewar, MP for South Aberdeen and apologist for the British Government's support for US aggression in Vietnam, and to show what a great anti-racistist he is, he voted for the Government's Immigration Acts, which are, of course, clearly based on a colour bar. We still wait for Mr. Dewar to publicly attack Powellism.

## HIGHLY PAID SOCIALIST

Yet another supporter of this group is Councillor Norman Hogg. Hogg is one of those dedicated Socialists who, like a true working man, lives in a great big bungalow at the top of ex-

clusive King's Gate. A very highly paid organiser for the Scottish Bakers' Union—his salary is said to be well over £2,000 a year—he used to live in a luxury flat in Great Western Road, which, by the purest coincidence of course, happened to be directly above a shop owned by the largest bakers firm in Aberdeen. As Lord Provost, he was entitled to a fancy set of lamps outside his door at Great Western Road. When he left this house, the lamps (which cost the city £1,000) were shifted to his new bungalow. The ratepayers were stung to the tune of £300 for this. As proof of his militancy and efforts on behalf of the workers who support him, we may cite the fact that a baker's basic wage is £15 a week.

Along with a gang of ministers from the local Presbytery (a body which has consistently refused to condemn the Vietnam War), they called for a 'silent march of protest', going from the University, up King Street to the Market Stance—a hidden side street. Their 'protest' went no nearer the match than St. Peter's graveyard—which was a rather apt spot for a crew of political corpses. Did they somehow think that we weren't good enough to march with?

## HALF-PAGE AD.

In the *Press and Journal*, the day before the match, appeared a half-page advert by this lot, calling for people not to support the match. You'll note they didn't call for people to support either of the two demos called. Among the people who signed the ad was Professor Gaskin of Aberdeen University, who believes British troops ought to be fighting in Vietnam. The Aberdeen Communist Party, you might imagine,

would be violently opposed to such rubbish. Not at all. Mr. Sid English, CP 'militant', asked the Trades Council to support this march, and, on the day, there were the ageing comrades, carrying the banner of the Peace Committee. CP, it seems, can quickly become PC.

The let of Linksfield to the Rugby Union was made while the Tories were in control of the Town Council, an excuse which was used by the Labourites throughout the whole controversy. An attempt by Bob Hughes (Labour candidate for North Aberdeen and councillor for Ferryhill) to get the let cancelled was defeated by the majority of his Labour colleagues voting with the Tories.

## Freedom Bookshop Closed December 25 to December 29 inclusive.

They claimed that there was no legal way of reversing the let. This is not strictly true. Aberdeen Anarchists gave certain information about possible violence by Rugby Club stewards to Bob Hughes, information which would have made an excellent defence in court in the event of breach of contract action. As it turned out, it was perfectly obvious that the Rugby Club, under pressure from all sides, would not have sued. And was it really necessary for a Labour councillor to move the motion that the let should stand? Surely that should have been left to the Powellite local Tories?

## MOVES AGAINST THE MARCH

Moves to repress the planned march of the students were soon under way. The chief constable talked of 'groups merely out to cause trouble and violence'. He was very careful not to name these groups. He meant, of course, people like Aberdeen Anarchists, and had he been stupid enough to name us, we'd have been delighted to serve him with a writ for libel. This, of course, was nothing more than an attempt to whip up anti-student feeling among the public. The only violence we've heard about lately are the cases of beating up people in Lodge Walk which have been reported in this newspaper. One of these was in fact investigated by Donald Dewar.

While the university bureaucrats were unable to do much about university students taking part, their counterparts in the local College of Education and the Commercial College did everything they could to keep their students out of it. The Principal of the Commercial College, Bernie Edwards, made it clear that any student who was absent from classes that afternoon would be sus-

pending. A mass meeting of students was called, more or less told him to get stuffed, and Bernie was quick to guarantee no suspensions. He may however, and we cannot make this warning strongly enough, attempt to victimise the ringleaders when the public fuss has died down. University Socialists and Anarchists stand ready to assist the Commercial College students against future actions of Adolf Edwards. At the Technical College a similar move was made by the authorities. This assumes the proportions of a massive piece of hypocrisy when it can be seen that G. S. Osborne, Vice Principal of the College, was one of the signatories to the anti-apartheid ad in the *P&J*.

At the meeting outside the ground, we were addressed by Messrs. Hughes and Newton. Newton, Communist lecturer at the Technical College, had nothing to say about the College ban on students attending the demo, and when he asked for a chant of 'Apartheid out', he was greeted with a cry of 'Stalinism out'—courtesy of Aberdeen Anarchists. When Hughes climbed up to speak, our comrades of the Aberdeen Solidarity Group asked the rather obvious question, 'What about the dustmen?' He wasn't very pleased. You see, he only cares about sweated labour and poor pay in South Africa.

## SPECIAL BRANCH ACTIVE

As for the chief constable's drivellings about violence from the demonstrators, one of his non-violent inspectors was overheard to say to a constable inside the ground, 'Get them off the field, and I don't care how you do it'. As a result one student lost a tooth and another was kicked in the face. One bluebottle broke his shoulder, while making a flying tackle at a girl who was sitting quietly on the ground. He missed.

Getting the day off from ITV were the Special Branch. Three were seen for certain, one going right up the march in King Street taking pretty pictures. Ian and Peggy Sutherland were photographed the day before in St. Machar Drive, and other SB men were poking about the University SRC offices on Monday. Not to be forgotten was dear old Det.-Sgt. Simmonds—Aberdeen's political policeman (known on the Left as the James Bond of East North Street)—who was observed trying to look like a Corporation bus stop in King Street. The press reporting was reasonably fair, with the exception of the *Daily Express*. We can only assume that their team of reporters must have been attending another match.

In making their protest, students have unwittingly revealed the true character of our local politicians and have exposed the educational bureaucracy for the repressive force it is. Perhaps some of them will realise that the pictures which were taken of them after they had been arrested are destined for the files of the most efficient secret police in Europe, the Special Branch. And perhaps, above all, they will have realised that racialism is an essential part of the capitalist system and can only be ended when that system is destroyed.

PETER THE PAINTER.

# FREEDOM & ANARCHY

FROM JANUARY 1 we are to tie the 'profit' of 'Freedom' directly to the amount of pages produced which, as previously indicated, necessitates a few changes in the way subscriptions are calculated. Firstly, all present subscribers are going to receive before the new year, a sheet showing their subscription credit for 1970, or as is sadly too often the case, debit for 1969. Credits into 1970 will show the balance due to take the expiry date to next December, or June for those who want six month subscriptions; those in debit at the end of 1969, will show that amount and the sum needed for a six or twelve month sub for 1970. The reasons for this are mainly:

(a) It will reduce the amount of time spent on renewals in the office here;  
(b) It will make the monthly calculation on which depends the size of the following month's 'Freedom', a figure that can be worked out a minimum of six months in advance, so we have plenty of warning if we're slipping too far into debt again;  
(c) It should help you to remember when your sub is due, and therefore able to pay without a reminder. In fact by using this method we can prepare the reminders a month or more in advance, therefore knowing that we can quite safely stop those who have not renewed by the time due and saving a few pounds every week that is at present spent on sending copies to people who have no intention of renewing. Sure, we'd like to send a free copy to everyone, but would the comrade who can foot the bill please step forward, we've been looking for you for a long time now!

All in all, this will save us time and postage stamps, as well as ensuring that we know if we're overspending. Two months to raise £1,000 is tough, and look at what we've got. So in future we'll give six months to raise it!

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# National Liberation— A Front?

WHO SAID THIS? 'The great lesson of the invincibility of the guerrillas will take root in the dispossessed masses. The galvanizing of national spirit, preparation for harder tasks, for resisting even more violent repressions. Hatred as an element of struggle, relentless hatred of the enemy that impels us over and beyond the natural limitations of man and transforms us into effective, violent, selective and cold killing machines. Our soldiers must be thus; a people without hatred cannot vanquish a brutal enemy. We must carry the war as far as the enemy carry it: to his home, to his centres of entertainment, in a total war.'

These are the words of the professional revolutionary Ernesto 'Che' Guevara whose Christ-like portrait adorns many a parlour-revolutionary's bedroom. In these days when we are meditating daily upon the horrors of the wars in Vietnam and Biafra, with their attendant suffering to the civil population, it is salutary to meditate also upon the implications of the correlation of 'progressive', humanitarian anarchistic views with support for liberation fronts.

The following words are from the same speech. 'What a luminous, near future would be visible to us if two, three or many Vietnams flourished throughout the world with their share of death and their immense tragedies, their everyday heroism and their repeated blows against imperialism obliging it to disperse its forces under the attack and the increasing hatred of all the people of the earth!'

This bears all the stigmata of the dialectic process. The creation of wars for the promoting of peace. The application of the theory of increasing misery which leads to the cheerful acceptance by the Marxist of war, poverty and oppression as being the method by which the revolution will emerge.

Guevara's own diary is just a trivia of petty events whilst waiting for the glorious revolutionary dawn when the Bolivian peasants would join him in the mountains and they would eventually sweep down (as Castro did) and overthrow the ruling classes. It is a chronicle of an inglorious failure.

Inspired by this myth of revolution, a new generation of 'revolutionaries' have grown up, some even in the anarchist movement, reared on snippets of Guevara, Mao, Castro, Marcuse, Marx and Trotsky, not indeed on the writings of these pundits for myths cannot stand the examination of texts.

Regardless of the fact that anarchists have been purged in Cuba and China; that Trotsky, at Kronstadt, was responsible for the killing of 14,000 men, women and children including many anarchists—he wrote *In Defence of Terrorism* and appropriately enough died by terrorism — and promoted much of the USSR repression of anarchists; or that Marx was as hostile to the theories of Bakunin as Lenin was to those of Kropotkin. All this is forgotten, and in some cases, not even known, and we have the 'anarchists' chanting, 'Ho, Ho Chi Min' or 'Yankies out' in company with those who, by their doctrines, will purge the anarchists immediately on seizing state power. This doctrine of support for national liberation leads to some very unanarchistic activities.

In the same way that anarchists can draw a distinction between society and the state so can we distinguish between 'the nation' and 'the people'. The nation is a comparatively recent institution in the life of man. It found its summit in the nation-state with its utilization of the mystical concepts of patriotism and the holiness of the state and all its activities. Rudolf Rocker in his *Nationalism and Culture* has examined and documented this process. All the determining factors of what makes a nation are accidental and there is no glorious determining factor of the greatness of any peoples or the beauty of any language. Allied to the concept of a state; that special talent, way of thinking and working and speaking becomes a mystical entity, for which men will kill, sacrifice and die, known as 'the nation'.

The emotions of 'nationalism' are easily triggered off, but they are not revolutionary material since they can be used, and have been, ever since Napoleon, by power-seekers and great powers who use newly-created nations as pawns in their own game.

And what of the men these revolutions raise to power? If it is not a frustrated bourgeoisie which seeks nationhood for their own aggrandisement (e.g. India, Africa); it is a new technocratic managerial class (as in the Soviet Union) which seeks power in the creation of new states, using nationalism as an excuse.

The national liberation fronts we have seen in the world are in no instance determined to destroy the institutions of power. All these Guevaras, Maos, Ben Bellas, Ho Chi Mins, Castros sought to do is to impose a new system of power—their own!

JACK ROBINSON.



## BUILDING WORKERS

# A Deal With Strings

AS FAR AS I can remember, building workers have never received a really substantial pay increase through national agreements. A few coppers was the usual expectation and when the unions did manage 6d. an hour, in 1961, they signed away our tea-breaks. It was left to the rank and file and our unofficial action to restore them.

Since then we have been lumbered with the two package deals of 1963 and 1965, and last year, after over twelve months of negotiations, an increase of 3½d. was agreed to, only to have the Prices and Incomes Board cut it by a penny.

As far as the national basic rates are concerned, the employers have had it all their own way. What has been secured above the basic rates of £16 1s. 8d. for craftsmen and £13 15s. for labourers (London and Liverpool rates, which are 1d. an hour less elsewhere), has either been given as plus payments and bonus schemes to attract labour or has

been negotiated on the site by the elected stewards of the operatives. Where this site organisation has been strong, the bonus schemes have yielded good earnings, while the earnings on the less well-organised sites have suffered.

### PRODUCTIVITY STRINGS

Once again building workers seem about to be trussed up for another package deal, plus productivity strings, for the executive councils of the unions who make up the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives have unanimously agreed to accept latest wages and conditions offer by the employers. This gives reasonable increases (by our union's standards anyway) for craftsmen of 10½d. an hour next February, 5½d. the following November and 9d. in June 1971. It will finally give craftsmen and labourers a basic wage of £20 and £17 respectively. However, like most national agreements nowadays, the productivity strings are considerable and could, depending on the strength of site organisation and the determination of the employers, cut these increases to almost nothing.

These strings will mean the ending of public holiday stamps and will mean that if you do not have a job during the week a holiday falls, then you will receive no holiday pay. It will encourage the more unscrupulous employer, of which there are many, to sack workers in the week prior to a public holiday.

The clause relating to the inter-availability of labour will mean that an operative will not only be expected to work at his own trade, but also do someone else's if his own is short or held up. For instance, carpenters might be told to do painting or to fill their own shuttering with concrete and certainly do their own labouring. Craftsmen who still have mates, such as plumbers, will lose them. It will also mean that employers will use that clause to transfer men to another section or even another site and will prove a handy weapon for employers who want to get rid of a militant. Revised training schemes will mean the grading of craft trades, trained to do only a part of a trade at a lower rate of pay of course.

While this new agreement lasts, a new wage structure will be worked out jointly by the unions and employers on a job evaluation basis. This can only mean that they will introduce a system of grading, similar to the one the contract electricians have been saddled with, with a lower rate of pay for the majority of the operatives. This will obviously create divisions among workers of the same trade.

### WORK STUDY

The agreement also removes the negotiating of incentive bonus schemes from rank and file control at site level to a national level, with union officials and the employers' consultants working out schemes described as being 'more in line with output'. The strings also include a clause whereby the industry's National Joint Council will have the authority to send out work study experts to prepare bonus schemes for sites and these experts will later be in full-time employment with the union-employer joint council.

The latest offer by the employers has also brought forward a new clause in the agreement which abolishes all 'unofficial plus payments'. This will include all those standing bonus payments, ordinary

hourly plus rates and any other extra payment negotiated at site level. From all these, it is obvious that the wage increases could be totally written off when a worker starts on a new job. Reports in the employers' trade journals show that they are putting the widest possible interpretation on these strings and whereas union executive members, who were recently questioned on them, are uncertain what they mean, the employers have a clear picture. They have already urged Barbara Castle not to intervene and have assured her that productivity improvements will cover the increased wages.

As usual this agreement, which still has to be finalised by the National Joint Council, will mean that we, as operatives, will have to pick up the pieces on the site. We will have a continuing battle over the interpretation of these strings and at every turn the management will be squeezing out as much work as is possible. Added to this is the cutback in building which can only strengthen the position of management.

### £20 NOW PLUS

Throughout these negotiations the unions have never really explained what was involved to the full membership. It is true that the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers called area meetings of branch officers to explain it to them and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers sent out a ballot on the first offer of the employers, but there has been no move to consult the members on the last offer. Both the ballot, which did not give any real details of the strings, and the area meetings, rejected the first offer, but the latter also made it quite clear that we wanted a £20 basic wage now, without any strings and plus a 33½% minimum bonus, which was in line with our conference decision of last year.

While the unions have failed to inform members, the Joint Sites Committee in London has produced leaflets explaining the background to the negotiations and what the employers aim to do with these strings. They have campaigned for the ASW conference decision and have tried to mobilise building workers into a struggle to gain the demands.

Branches are also seeing the necessity of carrying on the struggle and the Hampstead branch of the AUBTW has convened a meeting with other branches. It has also issued a leaflet and a letter to branches urging a stoppage to demonstrate opposition to the signing of the agreement on December 17 (see Contact Column).

It is doubtful if we will be successful, but this agreement will certainly have to be fought and with what strength we have on the sites. If the opposition is determined and strong enough, the worst effect of the agreement can be defeated there. But other lessons must be learned from these negotiations. It is no good leaving it to the union leadership. Resolutions at the union Annual Delegate Conference are no more binding than the Labour Party Conference decisions are to the Government. We have to continually wage a campaign to organise the building sites in Britain, because the organised sites, with their elected stewards and works committees, are a base on which to build a country-wide federated organisation. The works committees on the sites are the amalgamation of the unions based on common interest and solidarity rather than the greed for power, which is the reason of union officials for amalgamation.

Works committees, often with the help of local union officials, have in fact negotiated far better agreements than the national leaders are capable of. On this basis, the strength built up from site organisation would nullify any productivity deal by the unions. It would be the rank and file who would be in control and not a bunch of collaborating national union officials.

'CHIPPIE'

# Freedom For Workers' Control

DECEMBER 13 1969 Vol 30 No 39

## TEACHERS & NURSES

# PHONEY UNIONS PHONEY STRUGGLE

FOR MANY YEARS, the National Union of Teachers has been totally under the control of middle-aged Tory headmasters, who set their grim old faces against the militant pressing of wage claims and against any militant action by the union's poorly paid rank and file members. Of recent years, there has been an increasing pressure from the membership, who have to wait 14 years to reach the top of their salary scale, for firm action on the wages front by the union, NOW.

The fact is that the NUT is not only a dud union, but a phoney union. In the vast majority of schools, the headmaster is a petty tyrant both to staff and pupils. It must be recognised that a headmaster is in exactly the same position as a factory manager. He represents the bosses. How in hell's name can the bosses' toady represent the ordinary teacher? It's like electing the boss to be your union secretary.

Many of the teachers are crippling their own cause by continuing to regard themselves as being somehow 'better' than manual workers, who, by their struggles, are leaving the teachers miles behind in the struggle to beat the Government's wage racket. NUT spokesmen have complained of dustmen getting more than teachers, there is more than a note of snobbery in this. Everyone knows that both teachers and dustmen get a raw deal, and from the same employers. All are employed by local councils.

This smearing of other workers is typical of the reactionary middle-class leaders of the NUT. The union has consistently refused, by a large majority, to apply for membership of the TUC. They want everything, without admitting that whether people work with their hands or their head, the fight is the same. Many of the teachers' leaders are solid Tories, intent on embarrassing a Labour Government. They fail to realise that no matter what government is in power, education, which produces no direct profits for capitalism, will suffer. The teachers face two enemies—the Labour Government which serves the interests of international finance, and their own treacherous leaders, who seek to crush their militancy and deliver them bound hand and foot to the employers and to a future Tory government, whose sole interest in education extends to the playing fields of Eton.

Teachers must struggle, not only for their well-deserved increase, but to build new teachers' organisations which will remain under the control of the rank and file teacher, and prohibit headmasters from membership. Political groups, foremost among them the International Socialist Group, in their paper *Socialist Worker*, have suggested that teachers should fight to 'reform' the NUT; similar advice has come from the Socialist Labour League in their unreadable daily, *The Workers' Press*. Teachers must not fall for this line; basically it boils down to the age-old cry of the political leader, as he shoots his line, flashes his nice sharp white teeth and says, 'Put me in instead'. Once they sell us out, no doubt the SLL and IS will turn up with yet another 'revolutionary leadership', and when that goes the way of all flesh, a quick dip into the political bag of tricks will produce yet another.

Some Scottish teachers are advocating that teachers should totally abandon the

NUT and similar bodies and join up with Clive Jenkins' Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs. Rather than waste precious fighting time sitting around draughty meeting rooms trying to clean out the Tory cesspools of the NUT, this does seem a better idea. But real advances in education lie, not only in a militant fight for better wages, but in a struggle to defeat the Government cuts in staff, equipment and space for schools and, in the final analysis, in the overthrow of the capitalist system. Over to our comrades of the Libertarian Teachers Association for action.

As the teachers' union is under the control of the managers, i.e. the headmasters, so the nurses' organisations—which are even less like real unions than the NUT—are also under the control of the bosses' puppets, the hospital matrons. We continually hear young nurses complain of the dreadful rules and strict discipline ruthlessly imposed by these frustrated, middle-aged spinsters dragons. Can the nurses really believe that the same hatchet-faced nightmare who searches young nurses' rooms for traces of boyfriends—and that has happened—can really care a tuppenny damn about the nurse who lives on tinned soup and does a part-time job to keep alive?

For it is the matrons who have for years drummed into the heads of nurses the old hoary Florence Nightingale drivel about doing the job for 'love'. Love keeps shoes on your feet and bread in your belly, we suppose. For years, the hospital Gestapo has told the nurses that strike action is not only somehow 'unprofessional', but also impossible. This is nonsense and the nurses should stop listening to it. Anyone, whatever their job or responsibilities, can go on strike. But to do that, you need a good union and strong united organisation. The nurses don't have a union, they have an abortion of a thing called the Royal College of Nursing, a nice, steady, respectable, 'professional' body.

As a militant feeling spreads among the nurses, in come the bosses' voices, in the form of the matronly RCN, to lead the struggle up a blind alley. The RCN is planning to send out a million letters, asking the public to sign these and send them to Crossman, Minister of Social Services. We suggest that the public takes these letters, writes 'Unionisation, not employers stooges' on top of them and sends them right back to the RCN. The pseudo campaign, at which the Government is laughing, will crash to a useless defeat and the fight of the miserably underpaid nurses will suffer. It is precisely to prevent the emergence of organised trade unionism among nurses that the previously sound asleep RCN has gone into action. Nurses! A union card is worth a thousand empty speeches about the dignity of the job, or a nice smile from matron for 'her' girls.

We support both teachers and nurses in their just demands, but they must learn to ditch their leaders and fight as part of the working-class resistance movement which will sweep the Incomes Policy, the NUT, the RCN, headmasters and matrons, governments, bankers and capitalists, right into the dustbin of history.

IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

## Contact Column

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

**Wales Rejects Apartheid.** Mass Cardiff Rally, December 13. Meet 12.30 Civic Centre (by Museum). Bring Banners.

**Anarchist Revolution.** (Leaflet back in print.) 5/- per hundred. Cash with order please.

**Building Workers.** March off from Barbican, December 17, 1.30 p.m., to Employers Headquarters, New Cavendish Street.

**Malatesta Poster Screen Printed.** 7/6 (inc. post) from Freedom Bookshop.

**Schools Action Union.** Conference on 'Revolution'. December 19, 20 & 21. Arts Lab, 1 Robert Street, N.W.1.

**Agitprop Information.** 160 North Gower Street, London, N.W.1. Tel. 01-387 5406. Information and Communication for the Left: Contacts—Diary—Skills—Red Notes—International—Media. Send SAE for literature list and Brochure.

**Floodgates of Anarchy** by Stuart Christie and Albert Meltzer. Available mid-January at 22/- inc. post. Advance orders to Freedom Bookshop.

**Off-Centre Discussion Group.** Thursday 8 p.m., Flat 10, Chessington Lodge, Regents Park Road, N.3.

**'Computers for communication not control.'** Real Time. Sub. 9/- six issues. 66 Hargrave Park, London, N.19. 01-272 0093.

**Nova Scotia.** Comrades please contact Pete Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office.

**Anarchistic films wanted.** Please contact Ulf Arnström, Pedagoggränd 9B-104 902 54 Umea, Sweden.

**Vietnam War.** Statistics and information wanted on medical aspects by students and faculty of University of Nebraska. Write: Jim Hartford, 3326 Harney Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131, USA.

**Speaking From Experience:** Libertarian teachers discuss problems of freedom and control. L.T.A. 7 p.m. Saturday, December 13 at Jacquetta Benjamins, 4 Warminster Road, S.E.25.

**Urgent.** Help fold and dispatch FREEDOM every Thursday from 4 p.m. onwards. Tea served.

**Visits Please!** Three of five squatters remanded in custody do not have family in London, and would welcome visits. Brixton: Diarmuid Breatnach ('Buzz'); Ashford Remand Centre, Middx.: David Griffiths, Michael Ali. For rota please phone Sonia Markham at RENOWN 2014. (Letters also welcomed.)

**Schools Anarchist Group** in Gloucestershire? Contact Kate & Joe, 3 Withy Lea, Leonard Stanly, nr. Stonehouse, GL10 3NS, Glos.

If you wish to make contact let us know.