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MEETINGS

London Anarchist Forum Fridays at 8pm at Mary Ward Centre, 42 Queen Square, London WC1. 9th February 1990 'Robbing the Grave of God'

(speaker Peter Lumsden). 16th February 1990 'The Three Ages of Ecology'

(Speaker: George Walford).

23rd February 1990 Open Discussion 2nd March 1990 'The Main Weaknes-

ses of Anarchism' (Speaker: Andrew Lainton).

9th March 1990 Radical Roots of Open Discussion

16th March 1990 Radical Roots or Open Discussion

23rd March 1990 Never Utopia (Speaker: Michael Murray). Further meetings being planned. Details later. Anyone interested in leading a discussion please contact Dave Dane or Peter Neville at the meeting or Peter Neville, c/o Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High 900 pages of history actually written as the bookshops Street, London E1 7QX. Dates still available at writing are: 30th March, 27th April 4th May 11th May 25th May or orders. Overseas please add 10%. April 4th May 11th May 25th May or orders. Overseas please add 10%. April, 4th May, 11th May, 25th May or 1st June 1990.

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INDUSTRIAL PAGE

More Coal Job Losses 'SOCIALISM' AT TAMESIDE

Hard on the heels of the announcement that the National Coal Board and the Electricity | Anyone who has tried to paddle two canoes courtesy and control' over the NALGO branch Generating Board had agreed on a three year contract providing for a reduction in at once will tell you that it ain't easy. Yet this whose officers are seen to be both obdurate the amount of coal to be used by 10 million tonnes by the end of the three year period, is precisely what many Labour Party bureaucrats and militant. Councillor Clark is also on the inevitably resulting in further contraction in coal mining and job losses, the ruling do daily with what appears to be consumate T&GWU's list of sponsored MPs and she capitalist class of this country are taking measures to impose yet greater insecurity, ease coupled with a remarkable ingenuity. No hopes one day to establish a career in national and economic and social misery, on the long-suffering coal mining community. problems with role conflict or ambivalence for politics. Although Councillor Clark is rapidly

As part of the systematic step-by-step destruction of the industry's past depend- of capitalism continues with its drive to them they'll wear it. Take as an example the appears to enjoy the support and confidence ence upon organised labour, posing as a maintain and increase profit, expropriating current dispute between Tameside Council of her union and the T&GWU, whose objects so-called private member's bill the Associ- wealth created by labour and exploiting and the local branch of NALGO over trade are, amongst other things, to further the ated Ports Bill has been given passage domestic consumers of goods and services, union facilities. to the Upper House.

preferential use of British coal, in the clear altars of economic necessity.

cheap imported coal from the low cost where.

could lose their jobs throughout Britain national control. areas.

fleece the domestic coal consumer.

So long as the present economic system

through the House of Commons en route so will miners together with workers as a Tameside is one of the borough councils unionists. whole be victims of the system, have their which together form Greater Manchester and It is the consensus within NALGO that the Apart from effectively putting an end lives disrupted, jobs and livelihoods des- is located in the east of the conurbation, dispute over facilities is essentially about counto any previous obligation regarding troyed, become human sacrifices on the bordering on the Peak District. It is the proud cil control over the branch and its officers. The boast of the Labour controlled council and its council's actions have been provocative and interests of the port employers and dock Inexorably the use of high cost (orga- leader Roy Oldham, that socialism is at work the branch believe that they have been owners, the Bill provides for dock schemes nised) labour in this country necessitates in Tameside. The dispute between the council manoeuvred into a position which made the to build massive new facilities in east coast the adoption of methods of nationalisa- and NALGO is now entering its ninth month. present dispute inevitable. In contrast, the ports which would enable the docks to tion, streamlining and other euphemisms | Last March, the NALGO branch entered into local NUPE branch whose officers are seen to handle millions of tons of cheap imported for unemployment and redundancy in the joint discussions with the council about paid be moderate, accommodating, and relatively attempt to overcome the competition secondment for union duties. In spite of an inexperienced, have in fact increased their The consequences of such a flood of from the low cost labour employed else- existing agreement, the council insisted that number of paid seconded staff on union duties NALGO should agree to a reduction in the during the dispute. They have also chosen to areas of the world destined for industry Because capital is not patriotic — i.e. amount of time off with pay for union duties. distance themselves from their colleagues - to the delight and profit of the docks neither knows nor honours frontiers, and The NALGO secretary, former SWP member in NALGO in spite of the NUPE slogan of and electricity, etc. — will be disastrous inevitably follows the greater margins of John Pearson, and his assistant Brian Malkin NALGO and NUPE 'working together'. Last for the British coal mining community. profit in the competitive struggle of the were told that if they did not agree, all paid March Councillor Clark was quick to stress There will be a rapid speed-up of the commercial market place — the cheaper- time off for union duties would be withdrawn. that NUPE were not affected by the dispute. number of coal mines deemed to be no priced commodity must win, production The branch refused to be intimidated and The NALGO branch have continued to longer viable and more pit closures. expand and, in turn, the higher-priced to would not accept that the council had the right support their officers during the dispute and Something in the region of 40,000 miners, be attacked by the cheaper-priced until to unilaterally change a ten year old agreement the NALGO secretary John Pearson was reor one-third of the present diminishing the process of total monopoly takes over on facilities. As a consequence, all paid time elected unopposed at the last AGM. Although workforce, plus others in supply industries in the form of either national or multi- off for union duties was withdrawn. Without the branch have received numerous messages doubt, the most appalling aspect of the council's of support and resolutions from other trade - the losses falling heavily on the Not- And so it will go on until we as a species action has been that throughout the nine union branches, calling upon the council to tinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire self-destruct and/or totally deplete the months of the dispute neither the secretary or reinstate all facilities and to enter into a connatural life-supporting resources of this assistant secretary have received pay from structive dialogue with NALGO, the council under the leadership of Roy Oldham appear Coal Board as a coal monopoly, leaving assurances of the profit-makers and their At the forefront of the council's campaign determined to break the NALGO branch perhaps only the privatised new super-pits politician aides and collectively seek ways to break the NALGO branch has been councillor because they have consistently refused to sanction to battle it out with the remaining work- and means of establishing free associa- Patricia Clark, the Chair of the Personnel council policies which have been considered force in the face of cheap imported coal tions of peoples co-operatively combining Committee and member of the Transport and detrimental to the interests of NALGO memfor industry and otherwise continue to to produce and enjoy what are decided to General Workers Union (T&GWU). Last bers. At the time of writing, the branch are March she told members of her management now planning to ballot members on industrial Johnny Miner I team that it was important to display 'firmness, action within Tameside council.

This will hasten the end of the National world or, alternatively, reject the false Tameside council. be the real necessities of life.

Subversive Strikebreakers

ing noises now coming from Eric Ham- 1945-1950. Freedom Press, 81 pages, £1.95 mond's union of electricians at Fords, where the 'craftsmen' are in dispute over last month's 10% pay deal, is an obvious case.

1960s, to succumb to the rule of boss- summons up much enthusiasm for it. make all electricians bonkers. More like- floor.

his electricians' union (EETPU) scabbed in the Miners' Strike in 1984-5. Now the EEPTU members at Fords have voted to strike over what they see as an erosion of their pay differentials in comparison to the unskilled workers. Because tradesmen, on the shopfloor, operate like warlike tribes — it is likely that other craftsmen (who amount to 12% of the Fords workforce) will join the electricians in a strike, if there is no negotiated settlement at the beginning of February.

A craftsmen's strike would be bad for Fords. They perform essential maintenance work, and an unofficial craftsmen's strike at Fords Halewood, has already led to the closure of two factories.

Bosses would do well to remember that using strikebreakers is often like shopkeepers paying protection money to gangsters. And strikebreakers, like gangsters, are not usually creatures strong on moral obligations.

Brian Bamford



STRIKEBREAKERS can become a | Neither Nationalisation nor Privatisation — An For the worker the panorama as seen from It seems that the further one is from carrying potential threat to employers! The menac- Anarchist Approach: Selections from Freedom the factory floor is much the same no matter out the work, the less able one is, but the which country the worker is in, no matter who greater the reward. Tom Carlile gave his forethe owner is: family concern; public liability cast in 1946: 'To sum up this examination of THIS small book is about myth and self decep- company; joint venture enterprise; or state the Coal Mines Nationalisation Bill, we are tion in political life, but mostly it's about the controlled monopoly. In 1979 TASS, the tech- convinced that, . . . the immediate result will great political illusion which has sustained the nical section of the AUEW (Engineer's Un- be a rapid rise in the size of the bureaucracy, British left for generations - the belief in the ion), declared: 'When you are on the shop the industry becoming inundated with place-Every trade has its own queer quirks liberation of the working class through natio- floor in other countries, you cannot tell hunters, but few miners'. Naturally the natioand idiosyncracies; most other tradesmen nalisation and state control. The workers were whether you are in this country, the States, nalised industries became top-heavy with well will tell you that electricians are the big quick to rumble the farce of so-called public the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, or Hun- paid hangers-on. heads — the egomaniacs — of the skilled ownership; until in the end only a bunch of gary, because the production lines all look the How does one con the workers into believing crafts. That's why they went from a union backward politicians, screwed-up sectarians, same'. Recent accounts from inside East they have a stake in the firm where they work? led by ballot rigging Stalinists in the early and careerists in public administration could Europe of working in nationalised industries Slave labour is inefficient, so politicians and suggest that it differs little from in the West businessmen must devise ways to make work-The problem of nationalisation for libera- with regard to hierarchy, division of labour, ers content, if not cheerful. loving barmpots like Hammond and Cha- tion is mixed up with the dilemma of the and payment systems. Chekhov, who along with Tolstoy, Zola and



With people power expressing itself in Eastern Europe, issue number 8 of The Raven is of special interest. It deals with the general subject of revolution both from a theoretical standpoint with a debate between Herbert Read and a Bulgarian comrade way back in 1938, and the reality of revolution as described by Ernst Schneider in his account of the Wilhelmshaven Revolt of 1918, and by Spanish participants in the Spanish struggle of 1936-39. And a lot more in this bumper issue

(112 pages) of The Raven, £2.50 post paid inland, £3.00 overseas.

the Labour Party bureaucrat — if the cap fits acquiring a reputation as a union basher, she interests of labour, trade unionism and trade

Tamesider

Everyone knows how Hammond and some nationalised utility, as it is for some well in *Freedom* thus: 'Now another great illusion (EETPLI) somehold. in *Freedom* thus: 'Now another great illusion The Japs have gone in for more lively ways than the private employers . . .'

I suppose, to certain glassy-eyed socialists, the government. the beauty of nationalisation must have been Of course socialists, like Sir Stafford Cripps cal salary of £200,000 a year for the new British owned shares in firms where they worked). the time of the next train'

pel more recently. Some say the electric idealistic boss figure. The notion of the kind- Most people, even socialists, sociologists our own D. H. Lawrence, saw factory work shocks received in the course of our work hearted boss is not easy to sustain on the shop- and socialites, accept that today nationalisa- as an incurable disease poisoning all its particition is a dead duck when it comes to liberating pants, had a boss character describe her facly, being a relatively modern trade, which For the boss the snag is summed up by a the workers. What this book shows is that the tory: 'The workers are very happy. Every winlacks the tools and manual skills of the Chekhov character, a factory owner, who says anarchists in Freedom were exploding the myth ter in the factory we have amateur dramatics, older crafts, its practitioners tend to claim of his idealistic son 'Ha, ha, ha - he thinks of nationalisation almost half a century ago, the workers play the parts themselves, there more technical know-how which makes he'll change the business, but what he doesn't just as about the same time other libertarians, are lectures with magic lantern slides, a marthem seem like clever-dicks to everyone know is that the business will change him'. This like Tom Brown, were producing a pamphlet vellous canteen and a lot more.' In the 20th is as true for an ex-trade union manager of called 'Nationalisation - The New Boss century we have been stuffed to the gills with

> is being exposed. The nationalised industry is of getting their workers to work harder by proving a more ruthless opponent of decent having them beat up effigies of the boss and wages and conditions than the private railway sing company hymns before breakfast. The companies, and precisely because the industry Labour Party after 1945 went in for a piece of is controlled by the state. The full powers of deception (mostly self-deception) called the state can now be directed against the work- 'Nationalisation', in which the workers and the ers; the state power is vastly more powerful public were to be led to believe that they were the owners of certain key industries through

> that however brutal or incompetent the state in 1946, were quick to point out that workers bosses were, at least they didn't make any ob- were not fitted to be managers. Only the other vious profits or draw dividends. But this ig- day I was listening to a City analyst arguing a nores the career opportunities which the ad- similar theme: 'workers are not natural manavent of wide-scale nationalisation opened up gers' and it would be bad if they had any dayto certain blue-eyed folk. In 1949 W. P. Allen to-day control over their workplaces. The city (ex-General Secretary of the train drivers' un- slicker was not advocating 'nationalisation', ion ASLEF) was given £5,000 a year to sit on but recommending a wider share ownership by the Railway Executive. Now, in 1990, I've just workers of their own companies (last March, read a letter in my local paper: 'An astronomi- a stock market survey showed 1.5 million

> Rail supremo, Bob Reid, and I bet he can't Neither privatisation nor nationalisation drive an engine, operate a signal, or even tell gives workers real influence or control over (continued on p.3)

INTERNATIONAL PAGE

ANARCHIST STIRRINGS IN THE USSR IN THE seething political scene in the Soviet Union numerous anarchist groups have sprung union it will be. It is a big jump from propaganda Union numerous anarchist groups have sprung union it will be. It is a big jump from propaganda group to industrial organisation! The accepted at KAS's founding congress in May 'Greens'. Membership in international organ-

up. Many of them are united in the Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (KAS). To get an overview of the situation I spoke with Vladimir Gubarev, an editor of the monthly magazine Obschina ('Commune') which has come out in Moscow since May 1987. He traced the path many of its activists were involved in broad circles of the opposition and in the Federation of Socialist Clubs. In 1986 they entered a clearly anarchist phase, which culminated in the following year with the launching of Obschina.

The new political climate under perestroika meant that publishing efforts and political activism in general attracted less repression. Obschina played a catalytic role in bringing together anarcho-syndicalists, a process which led to the founding of KAS in May 1989. 1989 was a boom year in anarchist activity. I was at a meeting in mid-November when representatives of Leningrad, Gorky and Kharkov's KAS publications came together to meet with Moscombined print-run of their publications in September 1989 was over 30,000. By comparison, the only anarcho-syndicalist publication in January 1989 was Obschina, which then came out with 200 copies.

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KAS currently unites over 300 activists in member-groups in the European part of the USSR and several Siberian centres (Irkutsk, Khabarovsk, Vladivostock). Outside Russian and Ukranian territory it is only sparsely represented. Gubarev finds this understandable as the identity of smaller nationalities has been systematically denied under Soviet rule. Their struggle for national independence usually envisages the formation of a sovereign state. Although such new states could initially be less monolithic than the USSR, this all leads to major differences with an anarchist approach, which is opposed to States organisation as

The main thrust of KAS activity is informational and educational work. This is particularly true of the Moscow group of KAS, which to teachers and students. There is a bulletin, Kenguru, issues. And an anarchist education platform received high profile during a national students' congress in November 1989. Seminars, public meetings and demonstrations are the Moscow group's main activities. Recently it State hands). was decided after considerable discussion that KAS should form a union. At present there seems to be little clarity about what type of

The Great Illusion (continued from p.2)

piece of deception.

interest. In Britain it is the big institutions and within a framework of self-management. fund managers who dominate the Stock Market. According to the Financial Times 'the proportion of direct investment by small investors has been declining and is now much below institutional shareholding . . .'

The fund managers of pension funds, unit trusts, and insurance companies care little for the products of the companies in their portfolios, their only yardstick being the 'fast buck' and share performance in the market. The analysts call it 'short termism'. 'Short termism' is the issue which divided the city slickers from the captains of industry at last year's Confederation of British Industry (CBI) conference. Industrial businessmen object to the City's 'fast buck' philosophy, because the fund managers are forever ducking in and out of shares, like butteflies in a flower garden, chasing the best performers. It's shallow investment, because so little of it reaches to where it can do any

Naturally Neither Nationalisation Nor Privatisation does not go into these more contemporary issues. Both nationalisation and privatisation offer a political mirage for the unwary. But the idea that we are all capitalists, because some workers are drawing divis off a water company is no more convincing than the idea that we are all socialists because most of us shop at the Co-op from time to time. No-one in their right minds feels they own the railways or coal mines just because they pay taxes, doubt if anyone feels they own Hanson plc just for having paid into a pension fund.

In his introduction to this booklet V.R. says: 'one of the salutory lessons this volume can provide is that Labour politicians in office are no better than the others'. The Boss is the Boss, however they wrap it up.

Brian Bamford

suggested name of the union is 'Soprotivlenie' 1989. ('Resistance').

KAS has no member groups directly financial and commodity relations are ourselves to any particular platform or forum involved in current mass working-class militancy, unavoidable. Attempts to suppress them will for international activity'. The widening split e.g. in the coal miners' strikes of the Vorkuta incapacitate the economy, lead to stagnation, between the Spanish CNT-AIT and Renovaand Donbas regions. But it has responded to forced and exploitative labour, and the total dos, for example, is of little relevance. For the of the group around Obschina from 1983, when requests from workers' groups there for infor- crushing of people's individuality.'

mation on forming independent unions. 'KAS 'All current trends in the public sector exchange of ideas with all groups. is not dogmatic', says Gubarev. 'We're with sphere of production reveal the increasing Due to difficult material conditions in the the people. We're not trying to be a vanguard inefficiency of State-controlled economic rela- USSR, material help is particularly sought and convert people to our line at all costs'. tions. It follows that the bureaucratic system after. Money donations are very useful. Even KAS has good relations with many of industrial management must be dismantled. a small amount of Western currency goes a individual members of 'Sotsprof', a reformist And government authorities in individual long way in the USSR. Badges, posters, magaunion group which has penetrated some branches of production should be transformed zines and of course books are always welcome. official unions. But there are significant differ- into firms of paid management consultants or The interest in anarchist writings is directed towards a 'rediscovering' of Russian anarchist ences. While preaching the need for federalist research and information services.' organisations, Sotsprof has in fact evolved a 'There must be a gradual transition to a traditions. Books on Russian anarchism or by very hierarchical structure. KAS also has system of free price formation, together with Russian anarchists, especially in Russian, are contacts with SMOT, the free inter- the introduction of a packet of anti- very important in breaking down the lies and professional workers' organisation. For many monopolistic measures. Initially, price rises on stereotypes about anarchism built up under years SMOT worked underground collecting essential products produced in the State sector Bolshevik rule. and distributing news on labour developments can be permitted only if regional popular Perhaps most necessary of all is printing cow colleagues. It was established that the in the USSR. But Gubarev and others told me referendums so allow.' that SMOT is small and has been 'left behind the times'. There is little practical co-operation KAS is a new political force and its members desk-top photocopier with reduction facility between KAS and SMOT.

equipment. Stencils and offset printers are in great demand, as are computer discs. A are largely in their twenties. Few women are or a computer printer would multiply the involved, and feminist issues are not on the output and efficiency of anarchist printing On some points KAS overlaps politically with agenda. To a large extent this is due to the tremendously. The existing conditions are very the Democratic Union (DU), another of the strongly patriarchal nature of Russian society. primitive. Anarchists in Western countries active alternative groups at present. A major Also the severe accommodation shortage please note: it is both legal and duty free to difference between the organisations is that throughout most of the USSR allows no free- import computer hardware into the USSR 'for whereas the DU believes in confronting the dom for alternative living arrangements. Life- personal use'! And even simple paper is in authorities as a means of popular mobilisation style experimentation and free personal great demand here - clean, white A4 paper (e.g. provoking the police at demonstrations), development are virtually impossible. There is exceedingly hard to get in the USSR. KAS prefers to avoid confrontations unlikely are almost no communes, group houses and to lead to clearly positive results. The question the like, which play such a vital part in radical You can contact Moscow KAS and Obschina of using political violence has come on to the life in many Western countries. In my opinion at the following addresses: agenda of many radical groups, and discussions this is another reason why anarchist activism 113209 Moskva have weighed up whether such violence is takes on sterile, dry and 'male' forms. ul Bolotnikovskaya dom 38, korp 6, kv 47 realistic, productive or ethically acceptable. In It is interesting to note an interest in Christ-A.V. Shershukov November 1989 KAS adopted a pacifist stance, ianity among some anarchists. The Russian Tel: 121-70-01 seeing 'political terrorism' as leading to the Orthodox Church is seen as a source of (ethnic strengthening of totalitarian structures and Russian) identity after seven decades of 117279 Moskva ul Miklukho-Maklaya dom 38, kv 136 thus as counter-productive. authoritarian 'moral vacuum'. The availability KAS has called for a boycott of the elections of the Bible and the spreading of church groups V. Gubarev Tel: 420-37-70 to the Soviet parliament. However, participa- in the USSR, they feel, signals a kind of tion in municipal elections is considered spiritual pluralism. You can also channel mail through me, as I will be in Moscow until June 1990.

a large extent is a movement of anarchist appropriate because at the local level it is easier to exert influence. It is hoped that KAS's priorities are firmly 'at home'. Interwhich specifically addresses educational having sympathetic members in municipal national contacts are welcome, but they are councils will bring greater freedom to organise not well developed at present. Strongest links public events, to use communal premises with- exist with Swedish anarcho-syndicalists, and out discrimination, and to have direct access apparently there are contacts with French and to printing facilities (which presently are in

The platform of KAS is identifiably anarchand capitalist control of production. The tran- | Events in Northern Ireland always provide The political side of this is the need to make sition from the present social and economic vidual private shareholders have much real countries may find surprising, e.g. a transition control over companies in which they have an to certain market-economic principles, albeit

RAVEN 9 January 1990

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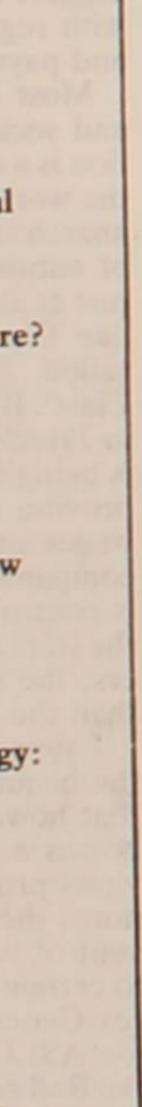
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isations is not a question of current relevance. 'At the current stage of social development, 'It's much too early', Gubarev says, 'to commit time being it seems, KAS welcomes the

> 117485 Moskva ul Volgina dom 6, kv 318

Will Firth

Will Firth

ist. For example, it envisages a federation of workplace organisations networking activities in the sphere of production. This would do

events here well worth watching, especially by development be challenged, and anarchists.

was brought to bear on three young men who job creation can anarchists offer? only to the holders.

when the army and judiciary close ranks after orders are made. Quite a scam! an incident like this.

Belfast.

some Department of Employment money and, exclusion order. most interestingly, £20 million in venture capi- But what can we, anarchists, offer George This influx of cash from the USA has prompted town? Now there's a question! local wags to predict another name change for the city — this time to Bostonderry.

talking points for anarchists. State repression, the Anglo-Irish Agreement work, particularly system to a system of decentralised self- armed resistance to the State, community in the home town of John Hume MP, one of management is a formidable task. All the more | agitation, economic regeneration, mass unem- its main architects. In the light of this form of their companies. Privatisation's just another so given the conditions in the USSR! On ployment, nationalism at loggerheads and economic regeneration anarchists are faced this topic there are several points of the KAS other features of late 20th century capitalism with a number of questions, among which are: In this country I'm not even sure that indi- programme which anarchists from Western are in sharp focus in Northern Ireland, making a) in what forum can this type of economic

b) in an economically depressed region with The full rigour of violent state repression mass unemployment what real alternatives to

had just robbed a bookie's shop on the Falls All local elected representatives, even those Road in West Belfast recently. They were shot in dispute with the State for one one reason and then finished off by plain clothes soldiers. or another such as Sinn Fein or the DUP, have The robbers were carrying replica guns, lethal welcomed the economic moves at least cautiously. Thus the city council offers no The shootings raised again the concern opportunity for debating the issue. There will about 'shoot to kill' policies for State forces be a public inquiry into the Boston-backed and demands that the 'rules of engagement' retail development simply because local be tightened. As anarchists we know that capitalists have been buying up land in the armed security forces always effectively designated area in the hope of making a killing operate on a 'shoot to kill' basis, particularly from the DoE when the compulsory purchase

And spare a thought for George McBrearty, The incident also drew into focus the role citizen of Derry/Londonderry who took the of the army in defence of property. The Thatcherite advice and 'got on his bike' to look robbers were not terrorists nor members of for work in London. Instead he got three any paramilitary organisation. In robbing a months in Brixton Prison and almost had the bookie's shop they were threatening the large Deal bombing pinned on him in a concoction subsidy paid by working class people in West of dodgy forensic evidence and police collusion Belfast to the 'Sport of Kings' through the levy that echoes Guildford and Birmingham. Natioon betting placed by the Turf Club. Killing the nalists and Republicans here cite this as an three men was the State's way of saying 'we're example of the corruption of British justice. having none of that'. And you won't find many For anarchists it means much more, highlighting members of the Turf Club living on the Falls the lengths to which the State will go, regardor the Shankill or any other part of West less of individual freedoms, to get the answers that it wants. Though cleared of all charges, The city of Derry/Londonderry is enjoying George McBrearty was deported within this a boom, if you believe the local press. Certainly State and cannot mount the Thatcherite it is receiving a lot of government attention, bike to London for three years because of an

tal from Boston for a new shopping centre. McBrearty in the way of a job in his home

Dave Duggan Derry, Northern Ireland

ELENA'S SCIENCE: **Out of Step?**

research in Romania, in her role of presi- worthy an aspiration is this? of science.

Plessey, the MoD, elite members of University Departments and the Science and Engineering Research Council. The government were successful in diverting researchers and resources from work in food to be irradiated, inviting some quesareas like Linguistics, Psychology, and tions: THE overthrow of the Ceausescu regime destroyed institutions and suppressed free Biology to IT research because individuals in Romania bought a number of revelations thought under a cloud of scientific obscur- and institutions were only too willing to about life under the despotic president antism'. Malita celebrates the passing of chase the lucrative and prestigious and his wife Elena. A perfect illustration Ceausescu with the promise that Romania ALVEY funding. In university and polytechnic of the late Elena Ceausescu's megalomania will be 'back in step with world science in Psychology departments this development was provided by her control of scientific the shortest possible time'. Just how has resulted in a proliferation of research into Man-Machine Interaction and for life processes. It is virtually impossible dent of the National Council for Science Consider the way in which science is Artificial Intelligence to the detriment of to establish the safety of such a complex and Technology. Fundamental research in controlled in Britain — where Elena studying human behaviour: I know of one subjects such as maths and physics was Ceausescu was honoured with election to Psychology department which no longer. not seen as a legitimate concern for scien- the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1978. employs a full-time lecturer in Clinical thick fog. tists on the grounds that this work did One of the most systematic attempts to Psychology but has a plethora of state-ofnothing to meet the immediate economic steer British science in a particular direc- the-art computer equipment. So much for needs of the state. Ceausescu's tactic of tion was the big business and defence Alexander Pope's assertion that 'the frequently re-accrediting academic dominated ALVEY initiative of the late proper study of Mankind is Man'. The degrees aimed to ensure that scientists 1980s. As a response to the economic and ALVEY project has been discontinued, were trained to conform to her conception military threat posed by Japan's '5th but the tendency for 'legitimate' areas of generation computer' project, the govern- research to be defined in terms of produc-New Scientist (6th January 1990) reports ment employed state funding to produce ing a marketable product will no doubt | tent. This question can be looked at in a the comments of Mircea Malita, a former marketable Information Technology continue with the massive European IT

minister of education in Romania: products under the aegis of a committee initiative, ESPRIT. Ceausescu had 'banned scientific disciplines, representing the GEC, Logica, Ferranti, Elena Ceausescu saw Romania's

The Mystification of the Market

bility of unleaded petrol, for example (so society. the argument goes) — if it were not for a One only has to go into any superdemand-led market economy, the citizens market to find dozens of 'green' products. of this country would simply be helpless Yet, according to the survey by Which? and the quality of products poor.

assumptions of what is known as metho- ingless and unrealistic. There is clearly a dological individualism, an approach to deliberate attempt to deceive by painting social science very much favoured by the the same old products of capitalism a right-wing economists who inspired much different colour. of the current administration's economic One example: a 'phosphate-free' label policy. There is little mention of 'society' on a bottle of washing up liquid suggests in such circles, since the behaviour of the that rival brands do contain phosphates group can apparently be deduced from (phosphates being harmful to river ecology) Bills reach their committee stages. of the effects of specific pollutants. If at statements about 'the individual'.

possible that people generally will become the fetishistic pursuit of wealth. even more environment-conscious in their habits in the future. In that eventuality, producers will indeed simply have to follow suit, or pretend to at least.

The question that needs to be asked is why the 'green consumer' has taken so long to come into existence. This is something that methodological individualism cannot answer, since by focussing on the individual instead of on group behaviour it ignores the likely possibility of social influence, particularly persuasive communications. We live in a competitive economy, where the aim of businesses is to corner the market. An important strategy in the quest for domination of a market is the attempt at manipulation of

petrochemical industry as its economic saviour while the Thatcher government sees IT in a similar role. In both cases about using science and technology to considerations of social welfare have been avoid hard work or ensure 'freedom' from subordinated to the short-term aims of the the physical limitations of our environstate. The 'gulf' between Ceausescu's ment. In dismantling the present system heavy handed control of Romanian science and the British government's manipulation of research was merely one of style. To freedom from secrecy and wide scientific It has been suggested that the concessions it — this translates into the manipulation continue A. K. Brown's theme (Freedom made by business to the 'green consumer' of individual consciousness and beliefs. In 13th January 1990) scientific research is participate. demonstrate that our capitalist economy other words, capitalism has not been the yet another domain where we should be is indeed flexible to respond (albeit slowly) medium for the efficient spread of positive asking 'awkward questions' about the new developments whilst better use is to changes in public need. The sheer volume attitudes and practices towards the en- values of our government, rather than of pressure-group lobbying and individual vironment, but has continued to facilitate feeling smug about their superiority to demand has caused the increased availa- attempts at large-scale mystification of those of more repressive regimes. Mark Topiar

magazine (January 1990), many of the This type of argument rests on the claims on the labels are excessive, mean-

but no washing up liquids on sale in the

Johnny Yen

On Politicians

The swarms of cringers; doughfaces, lice of politics, planners of sly innovations for their own preferment.

Walt Whitman Preface to Leaves of Grass



SCIENCE-ECONOMICS

IRRADIATED FOOD What next?

1 The government says that it will permit

Is it safe? Food preservation either kills or slows down the growth of microorganisms, some of which can be harmful, and must therefore change the chemistry. Irradiation splits molecules into smaller fragments, many of which will be dangerous operation. Better to abstain or to proceed very slowly as if you were on the M25 in

Who will benefit? This is an easy question — it is the owners of the companies engaged in providing low grade food for

It is wise to be vigilent to avoid taking part in such an experiment, although we are now all being irradiated to some exmore general way. The preservation of food is at times desirable, although many of the agents used were later shown to be poisonous to humans as well as bugs. Some anarchists have been enthusiastic we will still need decisions about the introduction of new technology. These require understanding so that all involved can

I can envisage a slowing of the rate of made of existing knowledge. We would avoid the expensive mistakes which result from decisions made by too few people. N. Albon

Secrecy and Public Safety

amendments would permit food inspectors ageable'. to reveal information about food manufacture Neither of these bills provides a definition in order to protect the health of the public of what the government believe the public from 'imminent risk'. The Ministry of is entitled to know in relation to food Agriculture Fisheries and Food claim that dangers and environmental hazards - so these amendments are not necessary, and there will be plenty of scope for carrying that the only purpose of the secrecy clause out cover-ups in both areas. The is to 'protect commercial secrets'. I doubt government's continuing obsession with that food inspectors will be encouraged to secrecy makes it clear that avoiding political disclose information, even in the case of embarrassment and defending commercial an immediate risk to the public, if there secrets are more important considerations is a chance that they could be putting their than protecting the safety of the community careers — or even their liberty — at risk. and the environment.

THE streamlined Official Secrets Act While the Environment Protection Bill does not apply to most issues relating to (AKA the 'Green' Bill) does not contain health, environment or food — but a security clause to silence pollution controversy has blown up over the issue inspectors, it is no less problematic in of public access to information as the Food terms of freedom of information. The bill Safety and Environmental Protection proposes the setting up of a 'public register' At present, the Food Safety Bill contains first glance this seems to be 'good news', The critique of this type of position rests UK contain such chemicals. Only in a la clause which makes environmental a closer analysis of the government's proposals not on the assertion that the current society where products are developed health and trading standards food inspec- gives little cause for enthusiasm. Not only 'green' trend in marketing is just that — expressly for the needs of that society (and | tors liable to a jail sentence of up to two do our rulers wish to place restrictions on a fad that will disappear as suddenly and the environment it depends upon) will years if they disclose information about pollution data on the grounds of 'national mysteriously as it appeared. It is quite there be no attempts at mystification in food manufacturing processes. By the secrecy' and 'trade security', they also time you read this item Lord Tordoff plan to EDIT information which is not (Liberal Democrat) is expected to have covered by such considerations. The proposed amendments, drawn up by the Department of the Environment claims Campaign for Freedom of Information, at that unrestricted freedom of access to the committee stage of the bill. These this data would be 'expensive and unman-

Andrew Hedgecock



station and is indoctrinated.

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shoplifters. In a public convenience it is second Edmund-Davies pay formula of 1978. nature to hand around and see if they are proposi- A stable society is a compliant society. Yet mum's handbag when she is not looking.

man to every 500 of us.

Like civil servants, the police still back up the presence.

of us are not burglars or bank robbers, we tend that police violence is always a possibility. police.

constables and the use of guard dogs.

which are beginning to make themselves **120,000 Suspicious Policemen** heard. Even so, there is always a turning point in natural evolution which persuades us that a police-less state could eventually become a reality. Evolution is linked to widespread After the recent spate of inquiries into wrongful Today's picture of the policeman in action What we now have to do is balance our economic reform, a gradual reconsideration of imprisonment, corruption within the Force, which reaches us through the TV screen is not attitude towards the police. On the face of it, money and how it is best used. This would disciplinary hearings and many other disturbing too far from the truth, even though the action they have no role whatever within the anarchist influence change in many institutions, includallegations which cast a dark shadow over the old is heavily compressed in order to heighten the society. Yet there may be different views about ing policing. We can still agree with Proudhon image of the friendly copper, it does seem that drama. On both sides of the screen the tough this. Anarchism is not a single doctrine, but a (1809-1865), father of anarchism, when he the psychological testing of candidates must be detective is usually cynical but he is also pessi- cluster of doctrines and attitudes, as George said: 'To be governed is to be watched over, tightened up. Maybe it would not work very well. mistic. One part of him regards the job as a Woodcock pointed out in his essay Anarchism: inspected, spied on, directed, legislated over, In the police force the attitudes are forged later framework for his machismo, while the more A Historical Introduction. regulated, docketed, indoctrinated, preached on, after the young constable goes to his first philosophical part seriously believes that he A society without government would not at, controlled, assessed, weighed, censored, has a true mission in life. Some policemen even need a police force. Yet the concept of self- ordered about, by men who have neither right, Policemen quickly become suspicious people. believe that they have a vocation, like priests. regulating man becomes harder and harder to nor knowledge, nor virtue. That is govern-If they see a man in a raincoat loitering near a Above all, they are inordinately proud of the accept as we struggle on through this century, ment, that is its justice, that is its morality.' school, they start polishing the handcuffs. When fact that they cannot strike. As a public service despite the strongly moralistic undertones **Stephen Bonner** shopping with their wives, they watch out for group they were successfully bought off by the

tioned. And heaven help their own children if stable societies no longer exist. Even the most one of them fishes so much as a 10p piece from remote tribes in what remains of the distant jungle are now conscious of the political and This means that we have about 120,000 habitually industrial issues which may seriously affect suspicious individuals to watch over a popula- their lives. Yet in countries like Britain, where tion in England and Wales of about 46 million. the lid is barely kept on the pot and there are It works out - very roughly - at one police- no frontiers through which thousands of

CLEAN-HANDED crime in the shape of police strength is now 126,127 — an increase citizens can burst when they want to express fraud is on the increase. Since 1985 the record of 14,634 since May 1979. By a miracle, the force itself remains apolitical their desire for freedom, there is still an almost steal, in a phoney commission case was £2.5 Keeping an eye on the possibility of civil despite the frequent affrays of the politicians. universal agreement that we do need a police million. This was outdone in an attempt at disturbance such as pensioners marching on lifting £20, but it did not come off. Ernst and the now heavily guarded premises in Downing government of the day. Oddly, chief constables Stability is a political issue. In any people- Young, the City accountancy firm, has been Street, the Home Office has just appointed like the anti-Marxist James Anderton feel free versus-Westminster confrontation the police looking into fraud and its growth, and reached David Brook as the first Civil Emergencies to pontificate on crucial issues. If a Socialist become what Neil Kinnock once described as the conclusion that the financial sector no Adviser. He is obviously the right stuff, overnment instructed the police to go and 'the meat in the sandwich'. No government longer has confidence in the police when it because he previously held the rank of Air club dissident factory workers to the ground, welcomes anything more than token protest. comes to computer crime, which is now the Vice Marshall in the RAF. During the Falkthey would do it, and they would perform the The protest itself is always symbolised by the prime ingredient of fraud. About 38% of the lands fiasco he was a principal staff officer at same act for a Tory government. In this sense presence of the police. It is a ritual which has companies polled by Ernst and Young said that the Royal College of Defence Studies. they are a coercive force in support of power. developed in Britain to such an extent than they would not report fraud because it was 'too At a time when there is an alarming scarcity Joining the police force has been likened to even a hundred old age pensioners lobbying embarrassing'. becoming a member of a neo-religious sect Parliament for pension increases must be Crime is big business, though not necessarily which is dedicated to fighting crime and main- accompanied by the police. Kid-glove tactics for the criminal. It is the police who benefit to justify at least part of its existence. Last taining order. The Tory Party itself is the fore- have taken the steam out of many demonstra- with the inflation of their profession and its November it organised two large civil defence

of both real and imaginary enemies of the Queen's Realm the Home Office is fidgeting most devotee of law and order. Because most tions, although the 1984 miner's strike showed supposed importance. In 1990/91 some 1160 exercises. It was felt that most of the local extra posts will be filled, and 1,200 civilians authorities had become indifferent to the whole to broadly agree with such notions without By permitting themselves to be manipulated will get jobs in the police service to release idea of civil defence and their reaction to what bothering to reflect that most people are and used on all sorts of occasions and in all officers for operational duties. In recent years the Whitehall warriors term 'a period of rising capable of conducting themselves properly sorts of ways - many of them totally unneces- 70% of civilian posts have enabled policemen international tension'. This at a time when the and chically without the aid or support of the sary — the individual policeman has isolated to plod the beat or speed through the streets Berlin Wall was falling fast and the regimes of in their cars. In the provinces 37 forces have Eastern Europe were crumbling daily. Exercise himself. He cannot count on a good social life. Since the days of Hur Moheb (c. 1340BC) Divorce is commonplace. All he can be sure applied for increases in manpower, and they Ivy involved government departments and who introduced a form of river police to arrest of is a substantial amount of support by his will receive 957 extra posts, including 58 posts local authorities in Bedfordshire, Camthe Nile pirates, the police have mercifully lost colleagues if he has to face an internal inquiry where costs are reimbursed by what the Home bridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk many of their punitive powers. In Ancient as a result of misconduct. Attempts at creating Office coyly refers to as a 'third party', meaning and Suffolk. Exercise Triex was based in the Egypt the police not only made the arrests but closer links with the community have made local authority funds. also tried and sentenced criminals. When tomb little progress since the patrol cars were taken East Midlands, featuring Leicestershire, No less than 51 provincial posts are reserved robbery was prevalent in the Valley of the away and officers were told to cycle or walk Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottingfor allocation to regional crime squads. hamshire. This sick pantomime lasted for three Kings there was an elaborate system of special round residential areas. In the inner cities the Airport policing is to be strengthened to the friendly bobby image has vanished for good. (continued on p.6)

FEATURES PAGE **Our Boys in Blue**

turns out that you may get more than you month sentence and was fined £250. While bargain for. Not that Freedom readers are likely kerb crawling does offend the sensibilities, to appeal to the police for help. Experience lying - when it comes from a policeman - is has shown that they are only superficially help- undoubtedly offensive. ful, and they sometimes tend to take an intense Harking back to the miners' strike, 78-year

and paying for them out of the public purse. grabbed by the arms and transported to the Enough has been written about the Guildford van by two officers. A third dragged me inside proposition that crime may well pay if you are The police charged her with obstructing the one of the boys in blue.

prison for 21/2 years and ordered to pay £20,000 accused her of begging. compensation after pleading guilty to the theft When her case came to trial, the police did as an inspector in the warrants office where all charge, awarding her £60 costs. the fines were paid. As much as £1 million a Kathleen kept at it. She wrote to the Police £7,536.50 a year.

concerned about money, because they earn evidence for disciplining the officers.' respectable salaries. They have their reputation to consider too. Warwick Crown Court

Ever since the investigative journalist Duncan recently wended its way through a tortuous Campbell was mysteriously knocked off his case in which a policeman - now resigned pushbike down Islington way, losing a brief- was caught in a car with a prostitute. He case stuffed full of information about defence persuaded his cousin to make a false confession matters, it has paid to desist from dialing 999 in order to protect himself. He was jailed for or even asking a policeman for the time. It eight months and his cousin received a six

interest in you rather than the character who old Kathleen Gibbons must still feel less than stole your car, horse or the family jewels. appeased by the county court award in 1986 In the last year it is likely that the police of a compensatory £1,300 after an incident on have spent more time investigating their own the patio of Collet's bookshop in Charing crimes than the increased number of offences Cross Road, London. There she was, happily within the wider community. On this basis we selling copies of The Yorkshire Miner - with may be entitled to a rates rebate. The police the agreement of Collet's management should pay for their own investigations rather when all of a sudden a paddy-wagon arrived than conducting them 'in the public interest' and two officers bundled her inside. 'I was

Four and the falsification of evidence, so we and I ended up on the floor with my knees up will pass over the case and move on to the in the air. They were all laughing and jeering.'

highway by extending her arm across the pave-Take the case of the 49-year old Alan Singleton, ment. In the meantime, they called her a West a retired police inspector who was sent to End tart and an Old Commie. A policewoman

of £45,219. He must have worked quite hard not appear. The magistrate dismissed the

year passed over the counter, and it took him Complaints Authority, which said: 'The six years to lay up his nest egg, an average of authority is happy with the way the enquiry was carried out and happy with the conclusion Not that all police officers are actually that the Metropolitan police did not have sufficient

Fungus

Whitehall's Criminal

Industry

tune of 23 for Greater Manchester and 25 for Gatwick.

Expenditure on the police was up by 55% to the end of September 1989, and the total

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Undermining the Central Line

Undermining The Central Line by Ruth Rendell and Colin Ward Chatto & Windus £2.99

more widely recognised as a writer of fiction, the tradition of pamphleteering. My only Britain.

In Undermining The Central Line they argue a paperback book. that much of the groundwork for Thatcherism was a product of Labour Party policy since the Second World War. The transfer of power from the municipality towards increasingly monopolistic commercial concerns has been a two stage process. Firstly, Labour governments initiated, or at least accelerated a process whereby political control was taken away from the community and concentrated in Central Government. The effect of this was that, secondly, when the Conservatives regained power in 1979 they were able to take advantage of the opportunity raised by 'much greater control and influence on the part of Central Government' to exercise their 'absolute right to sell off services in the private market' in the present political system.

However, Rendell and Ward are confident that the central line can be undermined and this process reversed. They maintain that the people do have a will to win back control over their lives, as evidenced by the ferocity of local campaigns, for example, against the closure of village schools. It is necessary that this sentiment is elevated into a coherent consciousness that can motivate organisation and action against centralisation. It is pointed out (with some irony given the events of the past month) that, in Europe, only Romania and Albania are more centralised than the United Kingdom. In the rest of the continent there is a trend towards greater devolution of power. The authors give a fictional description of a regionalist Suffolk, after the 'Switzerisation of Britain', governed along the lines of Swiss federalism, as one possible scenario for the Twenty-First Century.

The pamphlet elaborates upon some of the issues, such as housing and education, first

continued from p.5)

ever descending plunge.

reveal the value of the shoplifted goods, but Germany. it may have been a can of soup taken by a hungry and homeless person. As shop prices into the inner mysteries of my Guinness glass Peace we will never get round to reading them. liberty as an individual. continue to rise there is a possibility that other and I hear some flowering politicians pontifi- Oscar produced prose that glittered on the cases will surface and be treated with the same cating on the virtues of their version of an page like costume jewellery and too many fools heavy-handed severity in a country which Anarchist Society my tiny toes curl for I have waited on his lips and his pen for the witty The Soul of Man under Socialism by Oscar Wilde cuddles a criminal code where crime against seen their future and the dead demonstrate phrase and in doing so he destroyed his (Charles Kerr Chicago) £2.50 property is a damn sight more serious than another dark road to human misery. It is not deserved reputation as an intellectual leaving urinating on a church altar.

and does anarchism begin? Is it a difference in kind or merely a difference of degree?

Undermining the Central Line is a part of the Counter Blasts series published by Chatto Colin Ward has collaborated with Ruth Rendell, & Windus with the laudable aim of revitalising to produce a stimulating polemic against the criticism would be that it is only the length of centralising tendencies of Twentieth Century the essay that is pamphlet sized - in format and in price (£2.99) it more closely resembles

SEH

ignored academically researched material and writings, not even Labour in Irish History. 'straight' journalism in favour of political prop- Having made these criticisms, the conclusion The Spirit of Freedom: The War in Ireland aganda which is largely socialist and pro- is pretty good. It is not an anarchist analysis, Attack International, 72 pages, £1 nationalist, the booklet has a heavy if uninten- however — 'real freedom will only come about This is a short book on an important topic tional pro-IRA bias, as if the Provisional IRA by asking which class will wield power in a often ignored by anarchists, probably because were fighting for freedom and not — as they united Ireland' (page 45), and is still biased by of its complexity and the difficulty of reaching obviously are - for power. This needs to be a second-hand Catholic/Nationalist/Provo outan ideologically sound position vis-a-vis the clearly understood by people who are not look — the last chapter is actually entitled 'armed struggle' in the north of Ireland. Attack merely opposed to the Capitalist state but have 'Tiocfaidh ar la'. Fortunately, the rather International have tried to explain the history an anarchist view of what to replace it with. uncritical support for the Provos is eventually of the present situation and make an analysis There is nothing intrinsically wrong with tempered by a healthy dose of realism. This compatible with a commitment to mass anar- supporting the IRA, although basing support leads to some conclusions most anarchists chistic class struggle. Unfortunately they have on the mere fact that its activists are largely would endorse, such as 'all the guns and bombs working class is a bit suspect, but as the IRA in the world will not bring real freedom' (page not entirely succeeded. As usual with English material on Northern does not have an anarchist perspective this 44), 'nationalism will always be a dead end' Ireland, it is the history that most lets this distortion renders 'The Spirit of Freedom' (page 45), 'we begin by taking sides with those pamphlet down. It's like a silent Western, with highly dubious from an anarchistic point of fighting back against oppression . . . it is in

Catholic Nationalists in white hats and Brits, view.

Proddies and the bosses of all shades in black Finally, I was saddened that Attack think it Ireland may take the form of a fight against hats. This has some validity, but gives rise to laughable 'to argue that Protestant and Catho- imperialism, but the spectre of war against a lot of sweeping generalisations and historical lic workers will have to unite before anything capitalism is never very far behind' (page 58). inaccuracy, compounded here by a sad lack of can be achieved' (page 55). Were this not so, Again on page 58 we read: 'if Sinn Féin aims references or substantiation of supposed why should the bosses have encouraged secta- to be not part of a revolution but a socialist rianism, as Attack state? It strikes me as pretty government, with workers obediently follow-'facts'. There is also ignorance or misinterpretation obvious that if anything worthwhile is going to ing their leaders, then we can only repeat on several points, such as 'Republicanism come out of the present mess then it will have james Connolly's advice on the eve of the 1916 today ... is a working class movement ... it to be worthwhile for all the oppressed of Rising: "in the event of victory hold on to your has revolutionary potential . . . the British Ireland. Sooner or later, one hopes, instead rifles, as those with whom we're fighting may state has persistently tried to define Republi- of one section of the population believing the stop before our goal is reached". canism as "the IRA". The state will always try other is entirely in league with the masters, all



raised in Ward's popular Anarchy in Action. MY approach to all philosophical, social, the self proclaiming anarchist, like that of the one else's thought'. Oscar primped and he His gradualist approach to anarchism is com- religious and political analytical dissertations hedgerow priest, is to preach what one believes posed as he square danced within the Café bined with an eagerness to deal in topical is with the simplistic innocence and naive and, with God's Grace, try to live it. The world Royal and the Town and his humourless frau everyday issues. At the same time, a reading charm of a child, for I have spent my wasted of Kropotkin is long gone. He saw it as a world waited and then destroyed the sad old clown of this pamphlet does raise one question very life seeking, not truth, but answers. With the of rational discussion when in that pre-1914 and Oscar left us his wit and his minor works. clearly. At what point do democracy and republication of Oscar Wilde's The Soul of era the sky was blue, grass green and eggs of literature. For that I thank him and layed devolution, taken to their ultimate logic, end Man under Socialism and Berkman's What is freshly laid but in the 1990s we are part of a a small bouquet of flowers on Oscar's tomb in Communist Anarchism? one is back on the ol' world where international technology outraces Paris. And I can recite his poetry 'Down the ideological treadmill. Whenever a group of us and abstract bureaucracies daily change by long and silent street / the dawn on silver people are herded together for what they law, rule and regulation, our daily living. Only sandal'd feet / crept like a frightened girl'. But believe is a common cause, each, in their heart, Bakunin's world of hollow secret societies Oscar failed when he poured his emotional their mind and their mouth have their own captures the romantic imagination of the writing into the world of social politics for like Anybody with even half an eye must view interpretation of what they will finally achieve. young and then for most, anarchism is a tran- a middle class Mediterranean metropolitan all this activity with cynicism. The authorita- Every supporter of a political, social or sitional period in their lives towards the casual middle class member of the Communist Party rian element in society constantly strengthens religious cause will, when questioned, give X for Thatcher toryism or Hattersley radical- Oscar wrote of a socialist society through rose itself in the knowledge that crime is created their own vision of what the final outcome will ism, for those young have gone through that tinted glasses. It is all about the lovely boy and by worsening social conditions, including debt. be when They take over in the name of the period when they rebelled against the ol' dad, Art and Beauty for, writes Oscar 'Under The extent of debt within the British popula- people. Generations have given, willingly, the Head and the Prime Minister and their socialism there will be no people living in fetid tion now stands at £330 billion, not only to an their lives to what they believe is a noble cause Oedipus complex will have run full circle and dens and fetid rags' and on and on as Oscar is like the sweet old lady who cannot understand induced credit boom but also the deliberate and at each stepping stone the dream and the they become the irritant authority. and cynical manipulation by the financial sec- vision are betrayed. Not by evil men and Berkman in his What is Communist Anarchism? why the government does not end poverty by tor to create a great barrier against which the women but by those who having achieved states: 'Christianity is about 2,000 years old. printing more money so that we all could go government can borrow from overseas sources power cannot surrender it. The basic flaw and Has it abolished any evil? Has it done away into the supermarkets and buy what we want. while continuing to ride an alleged prosperity the saving grace lies in the Old Adam that man with crime and murder, has it delivered us from It is this same dream-like fantasy that every curve. The curve itself will turn out to be an within any assembly of the human herd will, poverty and misery, from despotism and tyranny? one out of authority or political power dreams You know it has not.' and the flaw in of. But in all that saccharin prose Oscar makes for good or ill, stampede the herd. Crime has become a business in other ways. Communism as an ideal has been destroyed Berkman's question and answer is that it was the relevant point when he wrote

In the year ended 31 March 1989 the Criminal by its totalitarian élites while socialism has never offered, 2,000 years ago, as a take-over 'individualism, then, is what through Socialism 1964 over 498,000 applications have been Within this life time we have watched the about their version of an 'anarchist society' made, and over £431 million has been paid to destruction of dreams and ideals. We saw for, comrade, the same question will be asked of government are failures.' victims. The highest award in the recent period communism in Russia become genocide, fascism of you when the religious freaks and the crazy detective in stopping a suspected shoplifter and Low Countries become middle class paternalism business. fell, sustaining permanent back injuries. The and in Germany the Nazi National Socialism Oscar Wilde's The Soul of Man Under award contained an assessment of his future become middle class Black Shirt Nationalism Socialism is one of those marvellous essays that loss in earnings in the computer business. The as they destroyed the Hitler Brown Shirt no one ever reads like unto Das Kapital and Criminal Injuries Compensation Board did not working class illusion of Socialism for 1933 the introduction to the King James translation

the role of the anarchist to officiate in the the waste lands of literature to the bore and What is Communist Anarchism by Alexander Berkman J. Jackson ordering of other people's lives. The role of the academic and those 'always deep in some (Phoenix Press) £3.00

BOOK REVIEWS

the actions of a few hundred men and women' duped by the state, the churches, the capitalists (page 41). Sorry, comrades, but just because and the bosses in whatever guise, and will start it's the government line doesn't make it com- fighting their real enemies, together. plete myth. True, Republicanism has a lot of Most of the best books on 'the history of support, but the movement itself really is a the Irish struggle' aimed at the general reader pamphlet soon admits (page 44) that the 1980s do not toe the ideological line of Attack Interhave seen an attempt by the Provisionals to national. The most glaring omission is James 'break out of the dead-end of militarism'. The Connolly, who is favoured with a large number mass involvement Attack believe in ended with of quotes, mostly acknowledged. Connolly was the rise of the Provos and the emergence of a a leading organiser of trades unions in Britain corps d'élite. Why not ask who encouraged and Ireland and of the IWW in the USA, and them or how they so quickly managed to buy in October 1913 in response to police brutality guns through Dublin after the 1970 split? The against striking workers he organised the Irish Provisional IRA was a force the British Army Citizens Army (which launched the 1916 could handle, whereas ordinary people on the Easter Rising in Dublin along with IRB streets and behind barricades, armed and volunteers). He was a great syndicalist writer politicised and organising their own communi- and theoretician whose work deserves to be ties wasn't. Now, by the time the Provos have better known. Twice, on pages 16 and 20, the realised this, the momentum has gone.

to pretend that a mass movement is really just the people of Ireland will realise they're being

matter of a few hundreds. The are not mentioned, presumably because they text states unequivocally 'Connolly was right' One of the main problems is that having — yet nowhere is there reference to any of his

our interests too' (page 51), 'the struggle in

The Thoughts of Chairman Moyse! **Communal Pie in the Sky**

Injuries Compensation Board received 43,385 become a dirty word having become a road to of that society but was argued as a new way we are to attain to. As a natural result the applications, and paid out a record £69,381,286 political power for the scum that will float on of life for those who chose to practice it and State must give up all idea of government. It in compensation. Since the scheme started in every society: the middle class bureaucracy. therein lies the danger of those who rabbit on must give it up because as a wise man once a thing as leaving mankind alone. All modes

For the anarchists are individuals and our was £307,781. The applicant assisted a store in Italy become Comic Opera, socialism in the nationalists and the power brokers continue in own personal liberty shall be ONE of our major priorities and people must work out their own salvation for a just and humane society. And if the society within which I exist chooses a socialist economy based on from each according to their ability to each according to their of the Holy Bible. We would all die for the need I will accept, but as an anarchist within Whenever I sit in the White Hart pub gazing publishers right to print them but like War and that society I will always seek to defend my

Arthur Moyse

terested in the tradition he represented.

to found'.

on 'Mutual Aid and Social Evolution', which, down by the party he voted for. dating back to 1946, was, I would say, just as provided.

who had travelled the same ground, that

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perceptive study of that ideal land that I have the years before the first world war. enemy to the forces that would degrade man Hell and Heaven that Dante visited under Virlet the reader draw his own conclusions. Altogether an admirable book on a subject too important to be neglected because of the contempt expressed by the dogmatic right wing (Macaulay) or the authoritarian 'Left' (Marx faith in this book.

Lewis Mumford, who died in January aged 94, I have always thought this comment a very iron, Neotechnic to the world of electricity and 1930s they had a series of partial, flawed sucperformed a vital service because in half a valuable confession of Mumford's own posi- light alloys. cesses like the Tennessee Valley Authority, dozen widely-read books in the 30s, 40s and tion. He was what, in American terms, is called Most of us have a healtny distrust of the new the Appalacian Trail, and new towns like Rad-50s he drew attention to the significance of a 'liberal', but he was determined not to be words that specialists thrust upon us, but for burn and Greenbelt. several of Kropotkin's books at a time when identified with the academic and Marxist a discussion of the Geddes-Mumford categor-Mumford, meanwhile, was struggling to enno-one was reading Kropotkin nor was in- 'Left'. He called himself a 'radical conserva- ies, please see my introduction to the Freedom _ compass his accumulated wisdom in a trilogy tive' in precisely the same sense in which Paul Press 1986 edition of Mumford's The Future of major books. He began in 1934 with Tech-In 1948 I wrote to him on behalf of Freedom Goodman once described himself as a of Technics and Civilisation, which celebrated nics and Civilisation, a wonderfully perceptive Press to ask him to contribute an introduction 'neolithic conservative'. Political descriptions Freedom's centenary and Mumford's 90th history of the relationship between people and to a new edition of Mutual Aid, then proposed change their meanings in each generation, and birthday. As I explained there, citing the geog- their technology. It was followed in 1938 by by Freedom Press. He was hard at work on neither of these implied the slightest sympathy rapher Peter Hall, Mumford was essentially a The Culture of Cities, by far the most iconoclasthe book that became The Conduct of Life, with the American 'New Right'. Ideologists synthesizer, whose major works put together tic, and most translated, study of urban civilisabut promised to write, saying, 'I shall be very insist on 'placing' people on their political 'most clearly and most passionately' the ideas tion, which, paradoxically, inspired vast numproud to have any thing of mine appear under maps and this seldom does justice to indi- of others who never got an adequate hearing bers of people to enter the planning profesthe imprint of a press that Kropotkin helped viduals. It is more sensible to categorise them themselves. sions, but to do the wrong things. Many years as authoritarians or libertarians, whatever It is a bit late in the history of the human later, Mumford rewrote it completely as The That new edition was in fact a long time stop-gap political choices they make, or de- species for anyone to lay claim to an 'original' City in History, still around as a Penguin, which coming. When it actually appeared in 1987 it cline to make. In voting terms Mumford was idea, but we all have something to drop into once more emphasised the regional visions of had as an introduction John Hewetson's essay a 'New Deal Democrat', resigned to being let the pool and the three figures whose neglected Geddes, Howard and Kropotkin. legacy Mumford did most to promote were Patrick Geddes, Ebenezer Howard and Peter

The third volume of Mumford's series, The valuable as anything Mumford could have If anything, what his life displays is the impor- Kropotkin, people so marginal in any acade- Condition of Man, was a disappointment. Like tance of creative individuals. As a 20-year-old mic account of the history of ideas that you many writers, he was better at discussing parti-But Mumford really wanted to be help- student in New York in 1915 he had the luck could go through a university course on the cular issues than in attempting to embrace evful. When Marie Louise Berneri's Journey to find a just-published book Cities in Evolu- history of human settlements and not hear a erything. His little post-war book City De-Through Utopia appeared, posthumously, in tion by Patrick Geddes. This was the book word about any of them. Just in persuading velopment, like many of his subsequent collec-1950, he wrote, with the authority of a writer prised out of its author to accompany the Town people to take notice of the ideas behind them tions of essays, is full of gems of humane analy-Planning Exhibition that Geddes had assem- I myself have endlessly quoted, in half a dozen sis, including his profound critique of Aber-'it is the most comprehensive and the most bled at the Outlook Tower in Edinburgh in books, Mumford's stress on the relevance of crombie's plans for post-war London.

Kropotkin's Fields, Factories and Workshops. come across in any language. As a work of Geddes was a non-academic biologist whose It is characteristic that Mumford's closest But the urgencies of American power polischolarship, it is superior, both to my own brilliant, discursive and rambling thoughts English friend was Frederic Osborn, the city tics in the 60s and 70s led him in books like study and that of Hertzler; but what gives it both enthralled and exasperated the people he clerk and rent-collector who became the driv- The Myth of the Machine and The Pentagon even more special merit is the fact that it is met. But among these people were anarchists ing force of the Town & Country Planning of Power to a devastating criticism of the US such a book as only a brave intelligence and who happened to be geographers, like Peter Association (the unofficial body, not the Town military-industrial-scientific élite, of the way it an ardent spirit can produce: one who was an Kropotkin and like Elisée, Elie and Paul Planning Institute which is the professionals' dominated decision-making in the federal capiinto a servile automaton, and a friend to all Réclus. Among them too, were socialists like trade union). In libraries you can find the fasci- tal, and of 'the mass atrocities coldbloodedly that fosters freedom and creative expression. William Morris and apostles of co-operation nating volume, Michael Hughes (ed) The Let- perpetrated with the aid of napalm bombs and Utopia itself has almost as many circles as the like the garden city pioneer Ebenezer Howard. ters of Lewis Mumford and Frederic Osborn defoliation poisons, by the military forces of This was the unorthodox political luggage (Adams & Dart 1971) which illustrates both the United States on the helpless peasant gil's tutelage; and Marie Louise Berneri is the that Mumford carried with him through an the strengths and weaknesses of his standpoint. populations of Vietnam: and innocent people, best of guides to this superworld: not afraid to impressive series of books that owed nothing Back home in the USA he was one of a small uprooted, terrorized, poisoned and roasted let its inhabitants speak for themselves or to to the mainstream of American or British aca- group of outstanding individuals who, in the _alive'. demic thought. Geddes had adapted the lan- period of boom and bust leading up to Roose- This was his final word on urban civilisation guage of archaeology to define the successive velt's New Deal, formed the Regional Plan- and its centralisation of power. In most things, phases of industrialisation, and Mumford ela- ning Association of America. The RPAA was Mumford, like many a great outsider, was borated these labels in terms of the motive busy promoting among the city and state bos- right. and Engels). Those who retain a healthy hope power and typical materials of these technolo- ses and technocrats the vision learned from for the future will find sustenance for their gies. Eotechnic referred to water power and Geddes, Howard and British planners like timber, Paleotechnic to the age of coal and Raymond Unwin, of regional planning. In the

The Simplicity of Anarchism

ted mind is the simplicity of the truths it contains. Whilst administering to the selfishness of drones. society is quite prepared to accept the feasibility of plane- He has no faith in the infallibility of politicians, nor in fanatical to say the least.

brazenly presumes the helpless imbecility of its subjects, he works for their destruction. would be the order of the day!

people are so incapable of self-restraint they should be of equity and mutual aid. majorities are such potential lunatics?

bayonets in their bodies or dropping atom bombs on their ruthlessly suppress. he is prepared to give freely and of his best in co-operation obey. Where none obey, none has power to rule.

The most frightening aspect of anarchism to the regimen- with others for the commonweal, he taks exception to

tary flight, alchemistry and other things within, and the wisdom of kings. Whilst he repudiates the necessity of LANDLORD, n. A pillar of society as necessary to its existence as a tick is to a hound. See also Vampire. beyond, the realms of logic, the simple possibility of man law, he concedes the necessity for order: not the kind of being self-governing and capable of standing on his own order decreed by politicians and enforced threats, but natural LIBERTARIAN PARTY, n. 1) An oxymoron. 2) A group feet — without the aid of political and legal crutches — is order resulting from the harmonious development of mutual of Republicans who dislike paying taxes. Finding genuine regarded as something akin to lunacy, or dangerously respect within society, when once freed from political libertarians in a political party would be as unlikely as finding Cardinal Spellman in a steam room for reasons of health.

The potential horrors of atomic warfare and the possible There is something radically wrong, he declares, in a LIFE INSURANCE, n. A form of gambling in which the obliteration of the human race, although here and there system of society that functions and maintains its existence bettor wins if s/he dies before the insurer wagers s/he will. invoking a sundry voice of protestation, is presumably by the impetus of violence and force. He sees nothing nowhere near as terrifying as the prospect of society being praiseworthy in political society which has recourse to LONELINESS, n. A condition so pervasive in American socifreed from political bondage and given independence to periodic wars, or the need of jails, gallows and bludgeons ety that people will even flock to A.A. meetings to alleviate it. organise its own economy by mutual aid and co-operation. — and it is because he is aware that these brutal weapons Government provides its own indictment when it so are the instruments of every government and State that MODERATE, n. A bought and paid for politician, much admired by journalists because of mutual resemblance.

which it regards as a mass of potential lunatics restrained To him, freedom is something more than mere political MORMON, n. A common misspelling. Only one 'm' is necesonly by the leash of politics and law. It would seem that clap-trap — it is the quintessence of being and living. It sary. without the saving grace of politicians, Bedlam itself would gives focus to the ego's expanding universe, and eclipses MUSIC, n. An area of universal expertise. The less formal be let loose, and that arson, rape, murder and looting the power of ignorance and fear. Given the freedom to musical training persons have, the more certain they are to assert its inherent qualities, he believes humanity capable know what is 'good', and the more certain they are that their One might be impertinent enough to ask why, then, if of solving its own social problems by the simple application opinions on the subject are just as valid as those who have spent their lives playing and composing music.

deemed sufficiently sane to elect others to control them? Unlike the politician, he does not regard dishonesty, NEW AGE, adj. 1) Devoid of meaning; 2) Lobotomized. Sec Why, for instance, do politicians shout, manoeuvre brutality and avariciousness as natural characteristics of also Spiritual. and contrive to get elected by large majorities if those human nature, but as the inevitable consequences of coercion and frustration engendered by artificial law, and he PATRIOT, n. A dangerous tool of the powers that be. A The anarchist believes that freedom is what its name believes that these social evils are best eradicated not by identifying with an abstraction. An enemy of individual freeimplies, and he can't conceive how it is possible to be free greater penalties and further legislation, but by the free dom. See also Bootlicker. and at the same time be governed by others - nor can he development of the latent forces of solidarity and see how it is possible to help others to be free by sticking sympathetic understanding which government and law so PATRIOTISM, n. 1) The inability to distinguish between the

government and one's 'country'; 2) A highly praiseworthy homes. He considers himself capable of goodness without Freedom will be possible when people understand and first, last, and perennial refuge of scoundrels. virtue characterised by the desire to dominate and kill; 3) The religion and of dignity without the aid of law, and whilst desire it — for man can only rule where others subserviently

FEATURES PAGE LEWIS MUMFORD Not at all an anarchist but . . .

COLIN WARD

George Nicholson

Chaz Bufe's American HERETIC'S DICTIONARY (continued)

PENIS, n. A male organ often employed in place of the brain.

(to be continued)

READERS' PAGE

More on IT in Schools Contradictions for the number - two letters, two numbers, two letters (if the first letter

tion share Andrew Hedgecock's nised? The products of many pupils the Conservative Party are now in its shoes if the ambulance workers | SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS. There concern over the government's stress have in the past been undervalued beginning to attack the Cabinet hand- extend their action. Backbench Tory are still a number of subscribers on IT within the National Curriculum because of a lack of presentation ling of the ambulance dispute? Why MPs are not covered by this and will (Freedom, 13 January 1990), but let's skills and too quick a move on to the is it that, apart from damage to electoral have to order and pay for private not be totally pessimistic.

want children trained to the role of allows a more thorough approach, it they dial 999 and ask for an ambu- they are so supportive of the ambu- ber and earlier. A number of subcomputer operator, there is nothing positively encourages it. | lance it is unlikely to come. I conjec- lance workers. They are beginning to scriptions are due this month and wrong in their being educated as com- And when those children move out ture its indifference is largely because realise on which side their bread is in March, and reminders will be puter users. The outcome here will of the classroom will there not be a when Cabinet members dial 999 they buttered. depend on the classroom teacher and political arena in which those desk- know that they will be instantly picked This RAMC service is, as always, the quality of training available to top publishing skills will be welcome? up and delivered to the hospital of paid for out of public funds as part him or her, rather than the intentions The real danger with the proposed their choice as always. And this does of Defence Department spending in of the government.

lishing packages. Is this necessarily must hang on to is the retention of (RAMC) Military Hospital at Millbank, Rail's recurrent losses. I just thought an end in itself? Might their motiva- programmes of Personal and Social a short distance away from Parliament you'd like to know these kind of facts. tion not be increased if that protest Education (PSE) which openly or (near the Tate Gallery). In times of I would appreciate it if you would printed so that it can be performed squeeze them out. If IT can be taught Millbank, and not one of the cranky which you feel the public need to have been stamped with our newby the class? Is there not virtue in the in a cross-curricular fashion so can old mothball fleet which has been know. idea that there be an accepted stage PSE. of drafting in the work they do, thereby giving status to early attempts which can be honed and refined to a

Secondly, within English departments tioned in Andrew's last paragraph, but a state service.

Many of us with an interest in educa- point where achievement is recog- Why is it that backbench members of That is why the Cabinet is not shaking next assignment because there is not chances in the future, the Cabinet is ambulances or rely on the army/ cross-curricular use of IT is men- not necessarily mean private medicine the same way that the monarchy's JANUARY has been a busy month

resurrected from mobilisation stock

Tourism in Albania Dear Editors,

According to H. I. Jones (Freedom, | Can 'Johnny Miner' ('Coal Privatisa- under the impression that London is for the 'Less Developed Countries' 13 January), Albania 'permits no tion' in Freedom, 13 January) really filled with the descendants of people to buy our goods, if they can afford tourists and jams all foreign be supporting the old coal policy? If who 'lost their jobs' when typewriters them, but when it comes to allowing broadcasts'. I must therefore it had not been for the War and the were invented. The idea that domes- them to sell anything in which they **CONTACTS**: Our note in the first have dreamt paying my three totally artificial state capitalism of the tic consumers somehow benefited have a 'comparative advantage' visits to Alabania as a tourist (the post-war years, the coal industry from expensive coal is interesting, such as coal or food — Oh no! The ble for the entries in our Contacts first in 1980, the third only last would have released its resources but unusual. The only people who politicians and the unions are having Column (not to be confused with November), listening in my slowly, forty years ago. As it was, this really benefited - apart from the old far too much of a jolly good time in the FREEDOM CONTACTS) to confirm various hotel bedrooms to unjammed foreign broadcasts and, on the last occasion, watching TV programmes from Greece, Italy and Yugoslavia.

in the long run. Had it not been for real losers were those who would exceeds even her lust for power in have written to them and got no Yours sincerely, the politicians playing at 'financiers', otherwise have produced the coal. this area, actually changes anything. reply, no longer function. We shall John L. Broom the miners would have got other work This is what is meant by 'exploita-Orkney years ago — unless Johnny Miner is tion', if it means anything: it's fine

Local News

South Wales

emergency service, after their will lose out on their rebate entitlefull pay was rejected — some are on understanding the forms. only 15% of their normal pay, despite A further development is that the responding to emergency calls. Man- council 'are considering a scheme agement have said they will call in whereby we can pay our poll tax at the police and the Welsh Office con- the local corner shop. 'Pick up a pinta service? firmed that contingency plans to use and pay your poll tax' the local paper troops are being drawn up.

Wimbush is supporting calls for a Obviously there's a good profit to be nationwide ballot on strike action. made in the poll tax. 'The only way to make the government move and bring about an end ment move and bring about an end to this dispute is to have a ballot on Hampshire national action rather than having different action being taken in different Labour councillors who argue that we and simple. Organic psychiatrists and Having regard to the known effects lance workers appear to have it poll tax reveal themselves in their dominance of drug cures - not only dancy and unemployment, changes Simonstone: T.V. £1; Berkeley: 100%. Letters in the Press over- true colours - they are people more are patients given less opportunity to which are primarily in the interests whelmingly back the crews and interested in power per se than in think rationally (and, perhaps, to of private profit, the reaction of collecting buckets quickly overflow. immediate moral issues. I was im- question) and thus really to take miners and others concerned is not So the support is there - perhaps it's pressed by the recent example of a responsibility for themselces, some- only to be expected but also fully time to step up the action.

what their poll tax for this coming the idea of prosecuting non-payers so in 1986, in the face of worldwide reference to Mrs T's efficiency cader: R.A. £1.30. year will be - £253 per person. This objectionable that she resigned in recession. (Source: The Health Con- changes in Johnny Peon's comments is £90 more than the Welsh Office protest (cited on 'Today' on Radio 4, spiracy: how doctors, the drug industry indicate support for the policy prediction of £175 - a figure that the January). Even if Labour councillors and the government undermine our imposed in the primary interest of ruling Labour group claimed would haven't got the guts to break the law, health by Dr Joe Collier.)

lead to job losses and cuts in services. the least they can do is resign to make Therefore in my area, Canton, implementation of the tax virtually where the average rates bill is £341 impossible. per house, a couple will be around £150 worse off a year — without the **Surrey** benefit of a better standard of services. Couples in the wealthier areas of like £200 per year better off.

reported. The scheme would be run NUPE branch secretary Roger by Bristol-based Payment Points Ltd.

anachronistic, dying industry was owners, who got a good price for their bed together, and besides, they can supported with coercive taxation: ghastly mines at a very opportune always depend in people like the and who paid? Not the people who time - were the politicians, who saw misguided Miner to howl with injured could afford accountants, anyway. 'nationalisation' as a quick way of self interest when someone like

Coal Privatisation

Cardiff can expect to be something The only psychiatric hospital in the be supporting the current coal policy country which does not use drugs is of Mrs T and those the government For those who have trouble under- about to' close - for economic represents?' A policy which seeks to standing English, the council have reasons, apparently. The Cassells continue to exploit natural resources been negligent in their duty, to say Hospital in Surrey uses psychotherapy and labour for the profit of private In south Wales 200 ambulance workers the least. It was recently reported in an attempt to promote in patients interests. are preparing to set up their own that hundreds of people in Cardiff a sense of self-responsibility (which If Johnny Peon will re-read the often struggles to flourish in cases of Freedom article, which was largely demand that all crews be put back on ments because of their difficulty in so-called 'mental illness' and is sub- devoted to - albeit sympathetic merged altogether in drug therapy). reportage of recent happenings in the But 'self-responsibility' is one of coal industry and likely consequ-Thatcher's favourite phrases - could ences, it will be found that the article it be that she's only paying it lip- contained little or nothing at variance

never been considered cost effective cers, politicians and unions, with the enough for widespread application in possible exception of a difference of the NHS (indeed, how can it be cost opinion on the effect of Mrs T's soeffective when many of its practitioners called efficiency changes on people eschew ideas of 'illness' and thus immediately and directly involved in 'cure rate'?). Drugs and behaviour the coal industry, causing them '. therapy (focussing on the body more like the misguided miner to howl with than the mind) are relatively cheap injured self-interest . . .' magistrate living in a solidly Tory one is also taking a hefty profit. Total warranted. area in Hampshire who was so dis- UK sales of medicine have risen from Misguided or not, to repeat the The people of Cardiff at last know gusted by the poll tax and who found £597 million in 1976 to £2,460 million above question differently, does the £10; Berkeley: A.G. £. Pen-

identical to the civilian fleet except is an A it is an air force vehicle, it the letters are RN it is a naval vehicle)

London standard where home ambulances Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 4AW

Johnny Miner replies:

The short answer to the query regarding . supporting the old coal policy?' is an emphatic (and obvious?) No! Using the same technique of rhetori-

Quite likely — psychotherapy has capitalism, nationalisation, finan- subscriptions.

capitalism?

News from **Angel Alley**

who have not responded to our reminders. We are sending out another reminder with this issue It will be a FINAL NOTICE where Firstly, although I agree we do not time to draft and re-draft. IT not only so indifferent to the fact that when police-controlled service. This is why subscriptions expired in Decemenclosed with this issue. Please give them your prompt attention and save us extra work sending out more reminders.

private yacht is paid for. In times of with us with two issues of FREEDOM all over the country children are where he says the state aims to teach All cabinet members are Privy war the latter has the designation of and one of The Raven to dispatch acquiring skills in the use of compu- pupils to use computer systems with- Councillors. Privy Councillors, the a hospital ship. No doubt the Queen's as well as receiving some 20 carters which, as you say, include fresh out questioning the implications of ones with the prefix Right Honour- flight in the Royal Air Force will be tons of books from Black Rose ways of presenting their work and the their application to human affairs. able, like the monarchy, have access part of Transport Command just as Books of Canada and sending off use of sophisticated desk-top pub- True. What those of us in schools to the Royal Army Medical Corps the Royal train is hidden in British outstanding orders for their titles. With the growing amount of office work we have at last decided to invest in a couple of labour saving devices: a Strapping Kit for securpoem is attractively laid out, that co- subversively examine such issues - emergency they will be collected by send to me any further facts of a ing large parcels, and if not with operatively created playlet quickly don't let the National Curriculum a military ambulance and taken to sociological or social policy nature this issue, your next envelope will ly acquired franking machine. This Peter Neville | latter bit of equipment will save us GG at a Central Ordanance Depot, but 4 Copper Beeches, Witham Road many hours of work, rubber stamping and licking on postage stamps, which we can now put to better use. The only fly in the ointment is that these two modest pieces of equipment are costing over £800! So any sympathetic reader who feels it is money well spent and wants to help, FREEDOM PRESS' Overheads Fund will welcome all contributions large and small!

> issue asking comrades responsithat such contacts are live, has met with almost complete silence. Perhaps, as we suspected, a large number of these contacts don't read FREEDOM and that some of Who benefitted? Not the miners, vastly extending their power. But the Mrs T, whose fetish for efficiency them, according to readers who Johnny Peon publish a Contacts list in our March 9th issue and it will consist of only the comrades who bother to reply to our request for news of their existence.

> > **ILLUSTRATIONS:** We would like to have a few illustrations in every issue of FREEDOM but cannot afford cal questioning, it may be asked the reproduction fees charged by contrariwise, 'Can Johnny Peon really the Agencies. Can any of our readers help with suitable photographs and other illustrations. And what about the cartoonists in our midst?

> > > TRANSLATORS: Last but not least we need competent translators who can read Dutch, Polish, German and select for translation material for inclusion in FREEDOM.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST our thanks to all who have contributed material to this issue of FREEDOM and to those readers listed below who have added a donation to our with his own views regarding state Funds when renewing their

DONATIONS

JANUARY 14th - 28th

Freedom fortnightly fighting fund London SW11: M.G. £5; Wolparts of the country', he said. In must wait for their party to achieve the present administration have a of such 'changes' involving being verhampton: J.L. £2; Aylesbury: terms of public support, the ambu- power instead of refusing to pay the shared interest in the continued pre- thrown on the scrap heap of redun- P.C. £1.30; London SE24: J.J. £5; A.G. £20; Chelmsford: E.A. £1. TOTAL = £35.301990 TOTAL TO DATE = £337.30

> Freedom Press Overheads Fund London SW15: J. McG. £1; Norwich: T.J.A. £5; London SE19; H.S.

TOTAL = £34.301990 TOTAL TO DATE = £83.40