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comprehensive, critical history of the

Spanish Civil War and the role played in i

and anarchists.

by the CNT-FAI, the anarcho-syndicalist

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INDUSTRIAL PAGE

on recent events in the Soviet Union.

The working class hero is back in the dustbin of just in case. history. As the engine of social revolution and now being built up as the last heroic class capable firms, having interests in six other companies, posof fuelling revolution.

In the last decade our own anarcho-syndicalist Di- four ranches and three motor cars. rect Action Movement ditched its traditional syndi- Last year Juan Guerra made a disposal: he dicalist base and turned to community issues, femin- vorced his wife. Now she is offering to sell her story ism and anti-racism, and now the trendy Marxism of his rise from rags to riches for six million pese-Today has replaced the Morning Star as the voice tas. Negotiations are proceeding for rights to the of British Communism. The left is fast despairing "scandal". of blue collar workers as a progressive force, and in It is calles an "escandalo" because Juan Guerra's this country it is no longer fashionable to turn up at good fortune seems to stem directly from the entry leftist party meetings with some tame proletarian in of the Socialists into the Government of Spain. So-

but if the workers of Berlin demanding reunifica- treasure trove appears to have been made available tion start claiming restoration of the 1937 German to him through his brother Alfonso Guerra, vice

THE AMBULANCE DISPUTE

sults of their national ballot on the latest pay fonso has nine other brothers. offer. Seeing no ambulance workers collecting money on the streets of Brighton and Hove last Burglary is out of fashion - why rob a bank when week, I wondered whether crews here had al- you can be brother of the Socialist vice president? ready decided to accept it. But an ambulance worker I spoke to said that the industrial action in Spain have benefitted by getting jobs from the Socialist establishment, and being appointed into is continuing. He expected that the vote would be in favour of acceptance, however.

The resignation and weariness he expressed contrasted sharply with the triumphant language of union chief negotiator Roger Poole on Friday, 23rd February. Clearly if ambulance workers do call off all industrial action it will be through sheer fatigue rather than with a

kers buy this, then they will see no need to de- the pay formula is achieved. production

own hide (and pride) to consider, thus the con- both hands tied behind their backs. flict of interests is actually increased by the in-

kers to step up industrial action.

Comrade there is no Father Christmas: "It ob- frontiers or Solidarity lets us down and becomes a the administration through their membership of the Where to put it? Gold is no longer the safe home for money in unstable times it once was. Swiss bank accounts are boring and Japanese shares are risky They have also been the beneficiaries of exceeding- diverted into the art market, which is widely ... perly large salary rises. As owners of shares they have ceived as offering better opportunities for risk inpurchase of Van Gogh's Irises."

viously wasn't a workers' state, and nobody in the Vatican pawn, we may yet cease to be viewed on Socialist Party. Soviet Union ever believed it was a workers' state, the left as harmless cultural dopes and acquire the and the workers knew it wasn't a workers' state." mantle of the class enemy. It doesn't bear thinking On being better off in Britain: S. D. Dover, writ- with the elections coming up. Peter Fuller, editor of Eric Hobsbawn, communist historian, commenting about, and the nightmare vision of hand and nail ing in the Financial Times, claims that "in recent Modern Painters (winter issue) reckons that owing examinations by feminist commissars has led me to years the better-off have had their tax rates cut sub- to the excess of money in the West "a growing probooking a regular appointment with my manicurist stantially ... from a top marginal rate of 85% to 40%. portion of speculative finance capital is now being human liberation the working class is knackered, at Brotherly love on the dole: If you are on the dole, had dividend rises averaging many percentage vestment than equities or property ... Corporate least so far as modern Marxism and post Marxism don't despair, all you need it a brother like Alfonso points above inflation. In the next few weeks their spending on art is increasing day by day. is concerned. Now it's the community, the womens' Guerra. movement, the green movement, the civil rights Juan Guerra was down on his luck in 1982, the halved." Mr Dover adds that while the average which in the 1980s has furiously stoked and fired movement and the peace movement, which are seen year the Socialist Party (PSOE) took over the Gov- worker is only asking for a 10% pay rise (inflation the market. Everyone now knows how back in the as the real agents of social change by most of the ernment of Spain. When he was not traipsing around + 2%) he estimates that most Financial Times autumn of 1987 Sotheby's lent money to the West British left. Even the peasants - who Marx, we were Seville selling books he was on the dole. Today readers will have had "disposable income rises of Australian businessman Alan Bond, to assist in the once led to believe, condemned as rural idiots - are Senor Guerra is a sterling millionaire, owning five more like inflation + 10% in the past 12 months".

sessing three blocks of flats, one shop, two houses,

cialism has been a Godsend for certain people in It is not yet a political sin to work on the shopfloor, Spain who thrive on corruption. Senor Guerra's president of the Government of Spain. In what has become known as the "caso Guerra" the vice president is being called before the Spanish parliament to explain the miraculous improvement in the fortunes of his brother during his own term of office in Government.

It has been said in their defence that what the Guerra's lacked in capital they made up for in en-As I write, ambulance workers await the re- ergy. But what must worry some in Spain is that Al-



sense of victory or satisfaction. They represent In what has been prematurely claimed by the garded as the ultimate actions to be taken an essential part of a viable profit-making soanother martyr to the tyrannical dogma of the media as the end of the five and a half month against legislation, albeit democratically (40% ciety. present administration. Monetarism is narrow long ambulance dispute, the union negotiators of the electorate?) enacted to favour em- The trade union officials/negotiators overall and inhuman enough as it is without being have reached an agreement with the Health ployers by curbing the use of strike action. concern is not looking after the immediate incompounded by an incredibly stubborn and ar- Service employers providing for a variable If, as in the case of health workers, pensio- terests of the individual or group members, but rogant personality and its professional imita- percentage increase in wage rates spread over ners and patients, industrial action is limited or the preservation of the corporate body and the two years but without a firm clear undertaking non-existent, solidarity and justice demands continuance of the acceptance of the need for In Freedom (24th February) Tom Carlile on the matter of pay parity and pay formula. sympathetic strike action by those in a better the union's role and function, and its officials. rightly attributed the cause of the failure of Although at the time of writing, in parts of position to do so, against all forms of indus- The practice of "negotiation and comtrade unions genuinely to serve the interests of the country ambulance crews are continuing trial, social, economic and political injustice promise" by unions, often seen as a "sell-out" those they represent to the virtually inevitable their industrial action, and in some cases are imposed by the state. Why then did the unions of their expressed demands for justice by secconflict of interests between managers and on all-out strike, the negotiated agreement is restrict the use of the overwhelming public tions of union membership, will continue "managed". The impotence of the trade unions subject to acceptance by a national ballot of support for the ambulance workers to simply while the aims and objectives of trade unions seems to be part of their function. It is built into the ambulance workers. While it is being pre- putting coins in a bucket, blowing car hooters remain limited to simply defending and/or improving working and living standards within

the role that the compromises they achieve will dicted that after such a long drawn- out dis- and a token quarter of an hour demo? largely comprise only token improvements for pute, during which most of the ambulance men Could it be that sympathetic strike action by the current economic and political system. the workers, while the long-term interests of and women were suspended though answering those prepared to put their industrial muscle But because nothing remains the same after employers aere usually consolidated. Unions 999 calls, without pay, the result of the ballot where their union officials mouths are, might all forms of human activity and experiences, generally function to give workers the im- will be for acceptance, voices among the more be more effective and otherwise threaten the lessons can be drawn from what might appear pression that the right to negotiate in this man- militant ambulance workers are speaking of a cosy union media image? to be the end of the ambulance workers dispute ner constitutes an equal relationship - if wor- "sell-out" and a determination to stay out until with their employers and the Government.

mand a more meaningful share in the means of There has been an increasing awareness The limitations of trade unionism among sections of the ambulance workers dur- Unfortunately for the ambulance workers blacklegging and scabbing by the police, the In a strong sense, this conflict is not simply ing this dispute that, apart from legal and fin- and all other workers, the primary function of army and others, and by the imposition of lidue to our particular capitalist socio-economic ancial restrictions imposed by their employers their trade unions is not to win each and every censing, insurance and legal restrictions. system. It seems to flow from the social roles and the Government the ambulance crews battle in an industrial war fought to rid society However, in the process of combatting these in themselves. The piggy-in-the-middle has its have been fighting this industrial battle with of the very concept of employers and em- difficulties, ambulance crews savoured the

both hands tied behind their backs. From the very beginning, and throughout the Trade unions, like other institutions, exist be- workers' solidarity, which helped end encourtrusion of this third party. In the present case, five and a half month period, the official union cause they are functional within the current aged them to look to their own ability not only Roger Poole has characterised the pay offer as line has been "no all-out strike". In this way economic and political system of society and to maintain existing emergency services but a victory, while most of the ambulance wor- the union negotiators, led by Roger Poole are primarily concerned with their own conti- also to devise ways and means of providing an kers I heard quoted in the media complained NUPE, Danny Bryan TGWU and the COHSE nuing existence in such a society. As an in- alternative service to that which was denied to that the whole point of the dispute had been representative, intent on preserving at all costs stitution, the trade union will frequently be them by the employers and the Government. missed - it was a pay formula they wanted. In the favourable media image of the caring am- seen to sacrifice the interests of individual and It follows that although ostensibly seeking to other words, they wanted the structure of their bulance workers, voluntarily gave up the most sectional memberships to preserve its own ex- avoid similar disputes by the provision of a pay annual pay increase built into the system. This effective way to win the dispute in the shortest istence, larger identity and image. formula, in its absence ambulance workers would deprive Roger Poole of part of his own possible time, involving sympathetic action by If the perceived function of trade unionism might well adopt the practice of bringing into function, hence it was easier for him to sacri- all sections of working people in support and includes recognised acceptance of its role in play their own alternative emergency service fice this demand than that for this year's in- in defiance of restrictive legal prohibition. society by the "other side", it is inevitable that during the disputes which they predict now ap-Because at this point in time trade unionists its officials, negotiators and the membership pear to lie ahead - even the formation of an am-

Two sides out of three have expressed satis- collectively regard the all-out strike as the ul- loyal to the institution should continually seek bulance workers co-operative. faction with the deal. As a rule of thumb, timate action to be used to resolve disputes in to convince and reassure the "other side" that Henceforth, the ability to offer an alternative whenever Kenneth Clarke, Thatcher, Kinnock their favour against their employers, for rea- trade unions ultimately act in the best interests means of satisfying all human needs, controland the union officials are happy with a pay sons best known to the union leadership am- of both sides. led by those working within such undertakdeal, then that's an excellent reason for wor- bulance workers were systematically denied Indeed, the trade union sales pitch has always ings, must become part of the struggle to the use of the strike weapon. Logically, also, been much emphasised in recent times, that a achieve social justice for one and all. Johnny Yen the all-out and sympathetic strikes must be re- "recognised" union with negotiating rights is Tom Carlile







Les Constructeurs Fernand Leger

Now this is seen as manipulation of the market by Sotheby's to create bullish conditions for works of art in the aftermath of the stock market crash. Art to replace shares as an alternative investment. Peter Fuller says we still don't know the full story about Sotheby's attempt to launch a false market, but, he says, it is now common practice for Sotheby's to lend to art dealers to buy pictures in their auctions. Sotheby's charges these clients 18% interest, and Mr Fuller says the company should now be "looked upon more as a financial institution than an art in-

Mr Fuller, as an art critic, is concerned about the widening gap corporate speculation produces between aesthetic standards and the commercial pricing of works of art. Workers will wonder about the amount of money swilling around, the manipulation of markets by institutions like Sotheby's and the waste involved in artificially inflating art prices, only to have the pictures lie in Sotheby's vaults as collatoral for loans.

Shorter hours: The old anarchists in Spain were always against piece work. Those in this country can be counted on to favour less work. In this respect they will welcome reports that the number of companies agreeing to shorter hours in response to the national engineering union's campaign for a shorter working week has now reached over 30.

(continued on p.3)

Lessons of the Ambulance Dispute

In this dispute the powers-that-be were able to introduce new variations of strike breaking,



SCIENCE-

Nuclear Power in France and Britain

media here give the impression that the French operated, there are already corrosion problems 1960s. are happy with their nuclear power. Last Oc- (rust) similar to those which led to the reactors The story of the nuclear industry in both tober I attended meetings and demonstrations at Cattenom being shut down eleven times last France and Britain is one of incompetence and achamedlus a form of social angineering in

Garonne has dropped for the last five years and to the overall debt of £25 billion. productive region of intensive small farms is In Britain we had revelations about the true now threatened by the loss of vital water sup- cost of nuclear power during the summer, alplies and by the real threat of radioactive con- though even these did not take into account ' tamination. Even the suspicion of this could past expenditures. Now we have recently reduce sales of their produce.

The Factory and **Beyond**

(continued from p.2)

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All the same, workers at British Aerospace (BEe) Preston have turned down their firm's offer of a 37hour week with strings. At a mass meeting they threw out the company offer with only 20 votes against. They object to the bosses demands for job flexibility and that they give up their tea break. BAe are now threatening to close the Preston plant, and to sub- contract the work out.

It has also been reported that Fords has used Bel- lin Wall did not seem likely. gian electricians to break the strike by the electri-

Any attempt to understand the current craftsmen's dispute at Fords, with the bizarre example of a strike themselves. ring-a-ring-a-roses with the feminists and others.

to discover how this relates to state politics.

learnt more details of how wind and wave power projects have been sabotaged in order to maintain nuclear power.

A report has finally been published admitting to a statistical connection between working at Windscale (sorry, Sellafield) and leukemia in

DRUGS SUMMIT Cocaine to be Decriminalised

The fantastic cost of the "Latin American stock of drug tax stamps. A secondary effect occur when opportunities are provided to dis-Drugs Summit" at Cartagena, Columbia, is a small increase in state revenues - not many cuss and investigate the consequences of livwhere George Bush met the Presidents of Co- admitted users buy the stamps, but an inter- ing in a society where some people define lombia, Bolivia and Peru on a tiny isthmus state collectors' market exists, akin to the mar- themselves as British and some people define themselves as Irish. It is no good for anarchists guarded by an army and a navy, seems to have ket for postage stamps. If drugs are decrimito brush aside the importance of nationalism. been incurred for the sole purpose of showing nalised, revenues to the state will be enormout tricians continues at Fords, though some "sparks" at the talks between officials, which have The recent drugs war in Colombia seemed at As the front page article in Freedom (10th February) stated: nationalisms are a very importthe Swansea plant are said to have voted to recom- been going on for some time and are still going the time like an attempt by the governments of ant tool in the suppression of internationalism. mend a return to work. Ford claim that production on, have Presidential approval. The substance Colombia and the United States to eradicate It is not to be expected that the new massive at their 21 UK plants is close to normal. This may of the negotiations is secret, but it is not im- the cocaine trade. In retrospect, it has rather government interest in this area will foster this be because the electricians are maintenance wor- possible that the decriminalisation of the co- the appearance of a campaign to clean the cokers, and the impact of their strike depends on break- caine trade is underway. It does not seem like- caine trade up. The defeated are the thugs who type of radical approach. Nonetheless the setting up of a Community Relations Council downs. It takes time for such strikes to hit output. ly, but at this time last year the fall of the Ber- rose from the slums, Pablo Escobar who is on with a huge influx of cash (£4 million this the run, and Rodriguez Gacha who has been year) will be worth watching in particular as Until recently, there was a movement for the killed. Following their demise, the most cian's union (the EETPU). certainly earlier this month production of the Sierra at Ford's Genk plant legalisation of cannabis, but hardly anybody powerful people in the revived cocaine market on "justice and rights", speaking of the work in Belgium was halted. At dagenham and some spoke for the legalisation of heroin and co- are the Ochoa family, not upstarts from the on "justice and rights", speaking of the work other plants the effects of the EETPU action has caine. Within the past few months. all sorts of barrios but members of the old Colombian as "pre-political". Marie Fitzduff has also said that she will want to direct the Council into beenr educed through the decision of the leftist elec- establishment figures and newspaper pundits aristocracy. Although three of them are on the work on sectarianism, intimidation and polititrician's union the EPIU (TUC affiliated) to work have remarked that until about a century ago list of persons wanted for extradition to the normally. But the engineering craftsmen in the AEU these drugs were freely available, and it has USA, they were not attacked in the governcal options. These words are far removed from are as unhappy as the electricians of the EETPU become fashionable to point out (what Free- ment offensive, and are not blamed for any of the notions of "togetherness and harmony" about the company plans for flexible working teams dom was one of the first to point out) that more the 269 bombings and 198 killings perpetrated being touted by the government. and other strings attached to last month's pay deal harm is done by violence due to the illegality by the losing side. The head of the family, Don If community relations work allows memof the drugs than was ever done by the drugs Fabio Ochoa (not himself on the list of "extra- bers of the British and Irish working classes ditables"), has issued a press statement saying (and this is not the two-statism of the Combeing led by a union of dedicated strikebreakers, the One sign that decriminalisation is expected that the Cartagena talks can achieve nothing of munist party of Ireland) to break down bar-EETPU must consider the politics of factory life as is that American State legislatures are impos- value so long as drug cartel leaders, such as riers of sectarianism then it may form part of distinct from state politics. We need a tool which ing drug axes. Louisiana has just become the himself, are excluded.

the process of designing the libertarian future goes beyond simple-minded syndicalism but which sixteenth state to impose such a tax - \$200 per Smoke exists without fire, and straws in the for Northern Ireland. avoids us becoming fashionable addicts playing gram on heroin, cocaine and LSD, \$3.50 per wind do not necessarily blow from a cartload, Other government activity of note here at gram on cannabis. Of course it is not yet feas- but I hope that the drug laws will be relaxed. I present is the Stevens Enquiry into alleged We need to penetrate the world of the worker by ible to require the dealers to collect the tax. do not approve of people using drugs for rec- collusion between security force personnel seeing the factory as a regime with its own politics of production. One aim of this column, or this page, the customer is supposed to buy drug tax reation, damaging themselves and enriching the customer of confidential domust be to uncover and understand the everyday politics of the shopfloor. Another objective must be to far, is that anyone charged with possession of the shopfloor. Another objective must be can also be charged with tax evasion, unless it at the individual level. (continued on page 4) Mack the Knife they have taken the precaution of laying in a DR

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POLITICS

HEALTH ---

children. I believe that this would have been accepted long ago but for the desire to maintain nuclear power whatever its effects, and remember Dr Ernie Sternglass, a physicist, As part of their policy of disinformation, the Although the power station has never been warning about just such dangers in the early I lavour of the month in government circles

against the nuclear reactor at Golfech in south year. A reactor at Nogent was shut down on megalomania on a grand scale quite comwest France. These protests continue, as I have 22nd April of last year with the same problems parable to anything in Eastern Europe. The tended to put pressure on politicians. For Rejust heard from Vivre Sans Le Danger Nu- and radioactive cobalt 58 was released into the ease with which evident dangers were kept se- publicans, community relations work is nothcleaire de Golfech, BP 343, 47008 Agen Seine. Evidently, our fish may be irradiated cret shows that democracy in these countries ing less than counter-insurgency. For Cedex, France. even before they have been caught! This reac- is purely a facade. Idiotic policies have been Loyalists it is treachery, pure and simple. But The reactor at Golfech would evaporate over tor has not yet been restarted, perhaps because, adopted and followed because of election sys- what is it for anarchists? 28 million cubic metres of water a year if it ran also, it has subsided by 28-30 cms, leading to tems in which the populace can choose be- In so much as it puts pressure on politicians continuously. Consumption for the depart- problems with the pipes for cooling the tween groups of power-seeking individuals. anarchists will welcome community relations ment of Lot et Garonne, for both irrigation and radioactive core. Last year, French electricity France and Britain have progressed from the work. But we will also be aware that the pressdomestic use, is 18 millions. The level of the (EDF) made a loss of about £0.5 billion to add time when these "countries" were united by ure being sought is solely for the governarmed force into kingdoms to a state of rule ment's benefit and not towards a radical redrinking water is now of poor quality with out- A camp to protest against this madness has by economic force. We need further progress think of politics and power. There are elebreaks of water borne diseases. This hitherto been set up at the Golfech power station. to survive the desire of some for greater power. ments of community relations work that an-

> "Between the government which does evil and the people who accept it there is a certain shameful solidarity." Victor Hugo

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

(from our correspondent)

these days is "Community Relations". For one ashamedly a form of social engineering in-

Norman Albon archists can be interested in. There are also approaches to inter-community contact in Northern Ireland that empower people, that effectively address sectarianism and, more rarely, challenge the very notion of authority.

There is no doubt that movement in the Northern Ireland situation will be meaningful not when so-called constitutional parties get together to divide up the post-imperialist cake, but when working class people unite to redesign their society on libertarian lines. The gradualist approach a la Colin Ward would seem to point to the need for anarchists to involve themselves in projects that address sectarianism and that offer opportunities for Nationalist and Loyalist members of the working class to get together in various ways. Some of the most productive work in this area will

I used to go along to this Friends of the Earth He also made many more cogent points. Group. You know, nice people, if you like . Now most anarchists I know appear to take bike-riding vegetarians. Don't get me wrong on a contradictory line on this. They appear they were hard working and committed and to be in love with the notion of public transport on the side of the angels. And like angels just (even if some of them try and avoid paying -

work on the other side of London. It was not motor-driven transport. on the tube so I used my car. They of course Why are we, as anarchists, not advocating came on their bikes. Mind you they were a bit support of 'the great liberator'? Motor vehicles younger than I. When I drove up in my car I give you greater freedom. 'Not everyone can got the usual ribbing about poisoning the have them' did I hear someone say? Yes, I atmosphere and brain damage to children and agree, but not everyone can have everything so on. I ignored the fact that the room was anyway. I have always been the one that didn't filled with tobacco smoke. Then one day some- get the girl. We live in an unequal world and thing happened.

to the meeting place I surprisingly could not ter than most in the Third World. Is the anarchfind anywhere to park as the area was jammed ist movement supposed to be a charity organwith cars. When I got there I found everyone isation restricting everyone's freedom until a else was nice and dry. It was only later I found common mean is reached? It is like the oppo-

are always pontificating their beliefs about facts. Take the elderly. The average elderly what you should do with your life, financial person will be better off under the poll tax. angrily name-calling if you do not concede but tax than rates. It is the young anarchists that when you find out more about their circumst- are going to get hit. So they protest and rightly than honest about their own resources.

This makes me think of once in Birmingham Do we seriously want to aim at converting in the mid-sixties when I had been to visit the average member of the working class or someone in Longridge and was walking to the are we advocating the charity approach, if so bus stop when suddenly the whistle went for where do we start, the meths drinkers who the shift to come out of Austins and I thought sleep opposite Angel Alley? I'd never get on the bus. But the bus left half Let us look to where we stand and look obempty. The reason? These workers did not go jectively. Personally I would, like most workfor the bus. They drove home. These were the ing class people, prefer to use a car and would working class.

are the unemployed or single parent families but integrated within a motorised economy. living in squats and the like. Live your lives as remember asking a bloke on the Welsh border you wish say I but a great many pontificators if a recent rail strike had affected them? 'Rail. working class by any recognisable criterion and ago. Without road transport we would be imtoday are house owners, car owners, live in and make the whole basis of the transport sysmonogamous family relationships and are very tem safer. little convinced by the protestations of those Of course if you want to drop out of the

quaintance commenting about the 'student' the universal soup bowl your entitlement to Trotskyists that came to union meetings to con- take anything out might be restricted a little vert the workers. They were very easily spotted by the producers: I have never heard of anarchas they were the only ones who dressed like ists advocating social security. When I oppose workers. No worker worth his salt would go those who ponce off the rest of us such as to a public meeting in his work clothes. 'And' capitalists and landowners and the like the list he said 'they were so blinded by their rhetoric is inclusive of all. We the producers have the that they never saw this'. As if wearing a donk- right to decide whether we want to put that ey jacket and designer jeans made you a work- extra hour in to support the non-worker. In

Jones (The Guardian have this rather juvenile freedom of the individual and one of the best

venient form of transport so far invented. Un- tions? like the bus, train or tube it goes from where you are to where you want to be, when you want to, and can carry you and your baggage far more comfortably. It is easier for the old, the disabled and children to move by car than by any form of mass transit.'

NEWS FROM NORTHERN **IRELAND**

(continued from page 3)

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in Belfast saying there was more where that came from. The Stevens Enquiry is now desperate for a breakthrough and recently arrested a loyalist spokesman in Derry/Londonderry for possession of government documents. It turned out they were traffic warden note books that look very similar to ones used by the RUC. Apparently a relative of his wife gave them to her and the family shopping lists and other such domestic details are recorded along?" therein. The man concerned has been released without charge and the Stevens Enquiry rumbles on.

Let that be a whimsical note on which to end news from the police state.

Dave Duggan

a bit smug with it too. rejection of the money system no doubt) yet I went to the meeting on the way home from almost all have, or have had, some form of

an anarchist society would hardly change this.

It was raining very heavily and when I got Anyway the poor in the West do rather betthe reason. They'd all arrived in their cars. nents of the poll tax who bring in every group I find a lot of comrades are like that. They to support their aim without looking at the resources and assets and expect you to give The largest group of elderly is the single way to all their current attitudes and demands woman householder. They will pay less in poll ances you realise they are sometimes being less so but why the smokescreen of inaccurate

advocate much more social spending from my There is a common misapprehension taxes and poll tax on the roads rather than amongst the movement that the working class public transport although this has a place too would be hard pressed to be categorised as what rail, Beeching closed them down years what's more the working class knows it too. mobilised.' And yes it is not outside the bounds Most members of the working class in Britain of reason to produce pollution free engines

they see as 'the middle class'. They mean you. system, avoid work and follow your interests, I remember an elderly communist of my ac- well fair enough but if you put nothing into this I support the genuine meths drinker who A recent article in The Guardian (24th does not ask for support. As things stand an November 1989) 'Auto try harder' by George anarchist society is any society that extends the thing about pithy titles) was well worth quot- ways to do this is to have a motor vehicle. Many comrades appear to see anarchism in a more restrictive welfare statist sense. I con-. the car is the great liberator. As an exten- tinue to find this puzzling. Surely we should sion of the legs it enhances mobility and widens be finding more ways to extend our freedom, opportunities for individuals. It is the most con- not more ways to hedge ourselves in by restric-





"Marvellous. We've got the theatre, all the finance and the entire cast on full contract, but we still can't cast the bloody dog for the supporting lead role."

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Collage by Doug Spencer

Waiting for the Bus

for the bus that doesn't turn up, we talk above Gorbachev . . . I wouldn't chance it, he might the roar of speeding cars, empty but for the run into a wall ... Somebody said in the paper drivers, to the reek of exhaust fumes: the Wall there's a wall north of Watford. That straight has come down . . . Must be terrible for those up? . . . There's a wall all round Slough to keep poor East Germans . . . You can tell they're us out of Gerrards Cross and Stoke Poges . . . hard up, from the state of their cars . . . Mind Don't be daft . . . it's not made of bricks, it's you, we couldn't afford one ourselves . . . And a financial wall - even Gorby can't knock walls Peter Neville the queues out there, poor devils . . . Did you like that down, even if he was driving a tank see on the news, they're buying stuff in East ... shall we walk it - how's the leg? ... Come if they pay poll tax? ... Did both sides of change their minds ... What's she got to Germany lose the War? . . . They say what the change her mind for anyway? . . . Because the East Germans really want is the freedom they've wall's come down . . . Our old MP Sir Anthony got in the West — you know, free elections — Meyer will get my vote again if he comes down that's how Hitler got to power, but he couldn't to Slough again - I liked him. Wouldn't mind do it now, not in East Germany anyway . . . I him as Prime Minister . . . What? He hasn't buses run on time . . . I did a lot of queueing . . . What's he going for Prime Minister for during the War, but I didn't feel the cold like I them? . . . He's not. He's been put up because carrying these shopping bags will warm us up Who's it going to be then? . . . Better ask the a country with less than a quarter of our popula- Northern Ireland. Maybe it'll have to be Perhaps the starter's guns have live cartridges we're nearly home now. over there . . . Wonder if they've got Neighbours on their tellies . . . Look! there's the . bloke next door just gone by in his car — never seems to see us, it's all the traffic I suppose. That bus spokesman said in the local paper that 97% of the buses go out on time . . . He didn't "How's your Eric Gill musical coming say anything about the buses that never start out. . . Well, we only pay half fare so I suppose we're lucky if half of them turn up . . . They say that Kylie looks gorgeous in colour. You don't even watch Neighbours in black and

white, so . . . I'd like colour for Wildlife . I wouldn't mind a black and white bus, or even a sky blue pink one . . . I wouldn't mind if a

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As we wait, bus passes at the ready, in the cold Communist bus came along driven by

Berlin and flogging it for a profit in the West on then . . . They'll have to drop Maggie now - or is it the other way round? . . . Wonder . . . Why? . . . Well, she can't change her mind, where they get the money to buy it? . . . Wonder can she . . . Why not? . . . Politicians can't uppose Hitler would have at least made the got enough parache to influence a schoolboy . Shall we walk it? . . . At least he's got nothing to gain and nothing to lose Wait another five minutes? . . . Wonder of White House. It's got to be someone who can those East Germans get enough to eat? . . . For trade in the Falklands and Gib, and maybe tion, they don't do too bad at the Olympics . . . • Kinnock. How's your leg? . . . It's all right,

> Capitalism, which along with war played such a stimulating part in the development of technics, now remains with war the chief obstacle toward its further improvement.

EFC

AN ANARCHIST APPROACH

Is the Wage System Right?

in engineering or any other industry. If you three years. Selling yourself has many meanings.

are redundant after being used. It has hap- and it pays £30,000 a year. When you learn ism' as long ago as 1929 seems to be completely pened to a lot of us in many industries.

fuel life. In the Brazilian Matto Grosso huge you knock up about £2.60 an hour. No doubt tracts of land are being grabbed and sold for about it, the jobs are there. their timber and gold by the richest people The pattern which the government has crewho want to grow even richer. Their attitude ated suggests that the biggest problems will is no different from the chap who fiddles his come to a head at the time of the next General benefit payments in Britain. Both of them want Election. By that time inflation will be even. more and both want to be sure that they will more inflamed, because it is a factor which have enough to eat tomorrow. In various ways cannot be quelled, and every country in the a fence to be hurdled in pursuit of a goal.

Thatcher's Enterprise Culture

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out for themselves.

popped up. Pizza parlours fizz every few yards card operators. in many cities. Young people everywhere have had a go. About 50% failed in their first year. Alternatives to the Wage System

impressive curriculum vitae to show.

how to fly a Tornado for the RAF, they will Work equals money and money seems to give you £8,242 a year. As an office cleaner

receivership and bankruptcy. In the past the When a job is less than socially useful, it be- tional insurance numbers". But they did accept the 01-387 5501). bankrupt had to apply for a discharge from his comes worthless. How to get out of it is another letter, and a public fuss had been made. Unfortu-



anarchists. History has shown us that no matter how indeed, it ever fell out of favour. power brings it round to the Right, for every govern- authoritarian means brings the wheel full circle. The ment wants to maintain the status quo; wants to extend ideologies and justifications for lack of freedom - inthe control it has over the people, and isn't this what deed for ruthless totalitarian control of the entire coun-

by Left-wing parties — until they become useful in the the same, if not worse. power game. 'Divide and Rule', for example, can be played with many variations, from wage differentials to religious and colour prejudice, and although nationalberate cunning on the part of a so-called 'revolutionary from the start?

everyone does his bit.

Cuperficially, anarchism is a movement of the Left, the people enthusiastic for service to the state, a leader applied - but, in spite of Russian 'friendship', the Com-Dbut this is not strictly so, since it implies being part comes forward to give every citizen someone to identify munist Party banned and Egyptian Communists put in of the political spectrum. Anarchists reject this, asser- with on a personal level. In order to provide the cozy prison. Meanwhile rabid nationalism was whipped up, ting that there is more in common between Right and feeling of collective security, of belonging to the corpo- patriotism by the imperial pint kept on the boil, but Left political parties (like the struggle for power) than rate body around him, the idea of the nation is encour- nothing prospers like the state and the international between even extreme Left political groups and the aged and patriotism becomes a virtue once again - if, arms merchants. But your authoritarian left - the Trotskyists and the CP — supported the new Egyptian 'Left' a party is when it starts off, the achievement of Thus the service of the revolution achieved through state!

the Right really means? try — will differ from those of the old regime, but in Certain Right-wing attitudes are specifically rejected fact the institutions and the realities of life are exactly A narchists do not play this political game. We are

government', the logic of authoritarianism leads to it. Into this category fall the movements for national supported the Czech people and their right to choose Even allowing for soviets or workers' councils, the liberation which are frankly nationalistic and call for — even though choosing Dubcek (as the lesser evil!) actual operation of state power cannot be carried out opposition against a ruling or occupying power purely — because this is a right that all people must have, and by the entire population. This demands the workers' on xenophobic grounds. Although revolutionary means also because they were using revolutionary means (if own revolutionary party sitting at the top doing the may be used in such a struggle, it has no more to do only because there were no others) and so were learning actual governing, like suppressing all opposition in the with social revolution as the anarchist sees it than the how to do things for themselves. In the event, what name of the revolution and ensuring internal security xenophobia of a Hitler or an Enoch Powell. Pathetic opposition there was came from the people and not by the perpetual policing of the population in its own examples of this are to be found in Wales and Scotland. from Dubcek. Our attitude was the same on Vietnam interests to effect the immediate spotting of any devia- In fact — and here is where the situation seems to get (against US imperialism), but not for the Vietcong); tionary elements. At the same time as this defence of confused - 'movements for national liberation' in the Cuba (against Batista, not for Castro); Black Power the revolution is strenuously maintained, the population trouble-spots of the world today tend to give a social- (the answer to white racism is not black racism!); the also has to be kept safe from external aggression, so an revolutionary veneer to their claims, in order to get American Revolution of 1776 (to hell with George III efficient army, navy and air force is kept at the ready, support from the Communist states. The classic example and the American state that followed him!); and all and since a workers' state is the most democratic state, of this was in Egypt, where a successful anti-colonial Arab, Jewish, Indian, African nationalisms. a form of conscription becomes desirable to ensure that struggle established a nationalistic, military regime The answer to Imperialism is not nationalism and (much like the Greek colonels!) with the aid of Russian reactionary regimes - it is international social revolu-This is really no sacrifice since the state belongs to arms and technology. By using devices like nationalisa- tion, destroying all national, religious, racial barriers. everyone and everyone belongs to the state, but to keep tion and land reform, the veneer of socialism was We have learnt from history!

portant, dozens of communities were started, idea of 'putting the boss out' so that he 'may all with a common purpose, their resources remain only on equal terms with the rest' can created by pooling money. They acquired large be equated to some extent with the new device rundown houses, worked the land and tried to of the management buy-out. The snag is that create a new sort of social status within the management buy-outs usually spawn much the State framework. Threads from William Mor- same sort of boss. People have come to believe Celling yourself for money is the OK thing if miserable condition. The government has now ris to Plato were all drawn together. The that a boss is absolutely necessary. Our crip-You happen to be a computer hotshot or big decided that discharge will be automatic after disease of wages seemed to be evaporating. pled unions have no say in it, even when repre-All goods were held in common. The insidious sentatives reach the boardroom. pace the Paddington or Nottingham pave- What we now have is a parasitic rather than profit motive was laid to rest. Less than ten We are down in the dumps. In our hearts ments as a female prostitute or a rent boy, it an enterprise culture. Bankrupts will have to years later many of these communities began we know that the real exchange rate is the true is quite another matter in the eyes of society. look for jobs, but few of them will have a very to close down. After all, the new Welfare State value of a commodity. Wages are nothing more seemd to be a projection of the community than a temptation. In 1990 we are haunted by When you work, you sell yourself. Work o: A political system which exploits the citizen ideal. It was time to join the world again. By the idea that there must be something better practically any sort is usually either under or in this way puts the State in the position of a this time a lot of people were not very happy than this. If only our voices were stronger we over valued. Most of us despise wage-labour, carcase on which the opportunist flies can feed. with community life. Most of them wanted might be able to evolve new ways of thinking because we are forced to do it against our will. Job recruitment breeds some of the busiest more than food, arduous labour and evenings and better ways of living. Struggle itself is on Even the most dedicated craftsman will soon bluebottles in the business. The first bait is the spent arguing about how to run things. Com- the wane in Britain. The government cannot discover that he is at the mercy of a grasping display advertisement - 'Considerable in- munity life demonstrated that man was not allow itself to be abolished. Now that we have market. In the end he becomes nothing more terest and challenge in highly attractive sur- quite as gregarious as the social psychologists lived through the Thatcher Revolution and

proceeds of the property boom. A lot of them tion expenses, BUPA and a pension scheme, Alexander Berkman in his 'ABC of Anarch- somewhere must be considering the first move.

matter. After the war, when survival was im- unachievable in Thatcher's Britain. Berkman's

than a bloke who happens to know how to do rounds', paying £20,000 a year. Another one once claimed. some of us have survived, it may be time for a tricky job. At the moment the carpenters, says: 'If you have drive and expertise, meet The Welfare State has come and gone. counter measures, just as bloodless as those plumbers and electricians are still living on the this challenge' with a generous salary, reloca- Achieving the sort of brotherhood defined by of Thatcher, but more effective. Somebody C. A. Hall

ISRAELI PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE nately, whatever the outcome this time, there will be many more Adam Kellers in Israel.

Modest - but not to be sniffed at - grants illusions and irritations. In the home the out- nuing occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip even in the left wing in the political scene. taken from public funds are put into their pock- goings will have increased out of all proportion and the oppression of the Arab population by the War Resisters International can supply informaets. There has been a boom in side-street hair- to earnings. If the poor are harassed by loan Israeli army. Besides a banner and leafletting pass- tion about war resistance in Israel and elsewhere dressers. Service industries of all kinds have sharks, the wage-rich are beleaguered by credit ers-by, two of the group went to the Israeli Embas- WRI are at 55 Dawes Street, London SE17 (Tel: sy to hand in a letter from War Resisters Interna- 01-703 7189). The British affiliate of WRI is the tional. The security people wanted to know if the Peace Pledge Union which organises campaigns letter was sealed or not and, in the words of one of here and jointly with pacifists in other countries It all helps to prop up that other business, of Paid work is a very unattractive way of life.] the two, "asked us everything but out fathers' na- PPU are at 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1 (Tel:

Virtually the entire Israeli male population and over half the young women have to do compulsory military service after leaving school - the men for they are working hard for what they can fiddle world is suffering from it. By that time there | On Monday 12th February, a small group com- up to three years, women for less. All men are reout of the system. To them the law is simply will be many more loan sharks nibbling away posed mainly of members of War Resisters Inter- quired to do 4-6 weeks "miluim" (temporary miliat the very poor. And there will be even more national held a lunchtime picket at Kensington Pa- tary service) annually up to the age of 55. No-one salary-rich people. Both classes of the popula- | lace Gardens, the site of the Israeli Embassy in Lon- eligible for miluim can leave the country to travel tion will have their particular forms of dis- don, to call for the immediate and unconditional re- abroad without "p'tor" (exemption certificate) islease of Israeli prisoner of conscience Adam Kel- sued by Tzahal. The army is a central and influen-In Thatcher's enterprise culture - 'enterprise' Anybody who has ever drawn a high salary ler, who is on hunger strike in an Israeli jail having tial feature of Israeli life, involving almost the has never been government-translated, but the will know that discontent sets in after about been sentenced to 28 days imprisonment for refus- whole population, so anti-militarists have a difficult Shorter Oxford declares that it is a 'bold, one year. The first flush is over, the imperfec- ing to serve in the Israel Defence Forces ("Tzahal"). time of it putting their views forward. In the siege arduous, or dangerous undertaking' - tions of the company erupt like blackheads on In Israel, the Ministry of Defence was picketed by mentality of the Zionist state, any lack of support thousands of people are encouraged to strike a lovely face. Quite suddenly the money means the Committee to Defend Prisoners of Conscience, for the army is construed as tantamount to pro-Padamn all. 'Targets' and 'objectives' become pacifist groups, and others who oppose the conti- lestinian terroism. Pacifism doesn't figure much

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Anarchism & Nationalism

not jockeying for position all the time and trying to further one or other of the power blocs that divide the world and its workers. We are truly international and oppose all those forces which divide people. Hence ism is intellectually rejected by the political Left, they Dor this reason anarchists do not enthuse about re- it is quite logical for anarchists to oppose an imperial quite shamelessly use what are quaintly called 'National Γ volutions which are mounted in order to bring to power and the indigenous politicians who lead national Liberation Movements' when it suits their political power another set of governors. Our interpretation resistance. For example, in condemning the Russian ambitions - and a 'Left' party in power knows very above has been of a so-called revolutionary change in military occupation of Czechoslovakia, we did not therewell the usefulness of nationalism and indeed patriotism society; how much less, then, can we enthuse about by support the Dubcek Communist state which was in as a weapon of government. Even if this were not deli- changes which do not even pretend to be revolutionary conflict with the Kosygin Communist state, in the sense that we wanted to see Dubcek remain in power. We

AUSTRALIA 1990: All Worries!

FEATURES PAGE

social life.

we've thrown in the towel.

via of superficial exchanges still matches the flat, they'd lose their offices. "No worries mate", "There you go", or the achie- ly credible among a people with a reputation for in- lost. lary is called for. But the frantic rush of living, the shoved back in the bottle. For the contemporary just evaporated in the sun? What has happened to achievements, are the order of the day. Such behayears ago - "Australia is an absolutely doomed leaders. In keeping with this corporate subservience macy over nature. The confidence does not extend tralia? Precisely. place. The notion that 10 million people can go on the most governed nation in the world is fed a daily to self and others. Through material wealth and getting richer and richer and happier and happier is diet of parliamentary antics and political pro- technology the tyranny of space and distance, out absolute fantasy." And there are now 16 million nouncements. The public world of the politician is

perpetuate and extend the orgy of consumption, travel rip-off, move on. The residue of the old "stay and cultivate" ethos is all but gone - banished to the travel rip-off, move on the residue of the old "stay and cultivate" ethos is all but gone - banished to the to the public and private are fed to an audience of inghettos of country town and bush. The only satiable consumers. possible resistance to this Faustian deal with the Australia suffers socially most of all from a lack

"Never return to the place where you've had a beaten by the system. Up to school age and there- tensely empirical society cannot tolerate the past. there always threatening, has been imported into good time. You'll only be disappointed." How after for a while, Oz is still the best place in the often I have laughed off this dictum in numerous world for kids. Until the institutional world gets to returns to the country of my youth. But this time them. Then they are regimented, coerced and ex- the Australian way of life. Consequently we find a terialistic people to value invisible, transitory relamy travels around old haunts did raise many doubts ploited without mercy by school, government, ad-and disappointments. I found it difficult to re-live vertiser, financial institution and drug racketeer. dustrial man. Our way. The dull uniformity and ways work? Easier, surely, to count on money and the experiences and fantasies of childhood which They have neither the energy nor the time and space sameness of life in city suburbs and country towns machines which don't let you down. had made Australia a paradise for me. The night- to turn against the sludge of materialism engulfing can be as overpowering for the outsider as the bush In recent years the more conscientious inhabitants mare, begun long ago with my being sent to board-ing school, seems to be invading every corner of and suicidal to a degree unequalled anywhere in the ing school, seems to be invading every corner of and suicidal to a degree unequalled anywhere in the ing school, seems to be invading every corner of and suicidal to a degree unequalled anywhere in the ing school, seems to be invading every corner of and suicidal to a degree unequalled anywhere in the ing school, seems to be invading every corner of and suicidal to a degree unequalled anywhere in the ing school, seems to be invading every corner of and suicidal to a degree unequalled anywhere in the ing school, seems to be invading to manage a sav-protecting and advancing the cause of nature's flora West. The bulk of the homeless and those drifting age natural world, the threats of space, bush fires, and fauna. Millions of Eucalyptus have been My romantic view of Oz, those unreasonable ex- mindlessly round the cities are youngsters. Or was storms, floods, burning sun, turbulent seas and planted in cities and towns. Artists and writers have pectations, led to the big question - have the privi- it only in the streets in which we found ourselves things that bite. turned again to the bush and what remains of Aboeged inhabitants of this vast magical land finally that five out of six of the destitute were under 21? However, there was a time when Australians were riginal civilisation for inspiration. The ecological

blown whatever chance they may have harboured Corruption flourishes in every aspect of corpor- not the willing victims of the corporate world, as spirit appears to flourish. Yet Australia stands as a to show the old world (Europe) how to live? For the ate life - police, business, property, government - the officers of two World Wars can testify, and pure and extreme expression of the European infirst time I felt like an outsider without affinity with wherever one looks. It's widely acknowledged, when their private and less visible lives promised dustrial culture, a society in which the "mine and the world around me. I despaired of the Anglo though only in its petty expressions. At the apex of all manner of possibilities. When I was a kid the move" mentality dominates every aspect of life, not Saxon mentality, industrial man's part in Australia, this bankrupt society in the making are the new ty- myth of Australian resourcefulness and neighbour- excluding the conduct of most would be ecologists. and even felt he had no place there. Having de- coons - the Murdochs, Packers, Abelis and Bonds. liness flourished. Nearly two-thirds of Australian A society that can't sustain intimacy in relations stroyed the Aborigines and wasted our own oppor- Between them this ugly lot have a stranglehold on homes in 1940 had been built by the original occu- needs a heavy emphasis on law and order, rules, tunities, maybe it's the turn of the Asians, prefer- the mass media and transport. Much of their suc- pants and their neighbours. In the suburbs I knew standards, qualifications and compulsory corporate ably the Chinese and their cousins. Government cess they owe to some nifty deals with Labour Gov- in Perth, fences were seldom raised between activities, just to maintain confidence in its way of policies point in this direction. More important, I ernments who lifted restrictions on overseas bor- houses, property didn't count as much as good life. This hollow tradition offers a modicum of sesense a feeling deep in the Australian psyche that rowing and helped these thugs to lucrative local neighbours you could turn to. Now with much to curity to a male workforce of predominantly overcontracts and deals. The cost of carrying their debt- hide and guilt about their rights to what they own, schooled, programmed technicians and bureau-Outwardly the good life is even more available. funded businesses (overseas loans often acquired at more and more people are constructing high fences crats, but that's about all. The happy-go-lucky hedonist is still king in those low fixed interest) has been passed on to home and walls around their dwellings and acquiring The isolation and loneliness of Australian lives is moments when the corporate yoke is cast aside. The buyers, small businessmen and farmers who must guard dogs and alarm systems to complete the con- there to observe in its most obvious victims - the food, provided it is not processed, the climate at the borrow locally at 23% interest or more. Hawke and version of home to fortress. As though to balance sullen-faced, indulgent, overweight urban kids and best times, the recreational facilities, the exotic his treasurer Keating could transfer the onus for re- things out and justify this protection of property, the thin-lipped, wrinkle- skinned, bitter women-Bush, the light, the sea from rolling surf to tranquil payment to where it belongs by devaluing the dol other forms of theft are rampant too. And how does folk. It can also be seen in the dearth of private deinland lagoon are all still there, unbeatable. The tri- lar, but this wouldn't please their new mates and this tally with the successful TV soap "Neigh- bate and discussions about things that matter, even bours"? Well, it's just a bit of superficial contrived in university circles. Passionate outbursts by bland, sanitised city suburbs and country towns. The subservience of people to institutions is hard- nostalgia for what Australians are losing or have anyone but the Prime Minister (who has a monop-

restless people striving for these impossibilities. deemed to be vital and proper and his private con-Australia's men of power do their level best to duct fair game for the journalist as shark. Nobody

Rambling Notes

you made. I believe some people bought originally intended that the water comfound to transfer wealth from the poor to was made to cancel an existing legal right the rich.

effect this will have on us as consumers takings are required 'to have regard to the of water in terms of its future quality and desirability of preserving for the public cost, consider the water authorities any freedom of access'. No doubt they will (should we now call them companies?) as think about it, all the way to the bank. major landowners. In the Peak District The water companies are not free to sell involved, much of it open upland moor- politicians. But who reads Hansard? And belonged to all of us, most of it freely The three quarters of a million hill available for recreational walking but walkers are not going to give up their right with undercover artificial tropical rain- of the famous mass trespass of Kinder forest? Or perhaps we will just have to Scout in 1932. They pledged to exercise pay to walk where previously we could their traditional right of access to the hills roam freely, with turnstiles to negotiate by continuing to walk on the half a million and ticket collectors to restrict us? Will acres of water authority land after privatthe fire services, who now draw water isation and not to be deterred by the threat Sampson writes "it is in the Cabinet office that the his life and work by Colin Ward which apfreely from reservoirs to deal with summer of legal action for trespass. One of the different intelligence networks come together under fires, find the water is metered, with the offshoots of privatisation could therefore bill to follow later? Did you know that be the biggest confrontation seen in the one water authority has already instructed countryside since 1932. its staff to pursue commercial initiatives?

10 11 12 13 14 **15** 18 17 18 19 **20** 21 22 23 24 **25** 28 29 **30** 31 32 33 34 **35** 36 37 38 39 **40** 41 42 43 44 **45** 46 47 48 49 **50** 51 52 53 54 **55** 56

If you bought shares in one of the water Commercial companies have a duty to companies last December and then sold their shareholders to be economic and sharing with your stockbroker the profit profits, and it is clear that the government a few shares so that they could take a panies should be free to use or dispose of protesting voice to future annual general the land as they chose. Pressure from meetings. More likely you had nothing to interested groups has modified this do with the whole sordid business, seeing slightly. In 20% of water authority land, it as just another way the government has mostly in the Lake District, an attempt to roam but was abandoned. For the rest

oly over legitimate emotionality in the mass media) vers "Go for it" complete every deal. It is im- dependence. These days the wild colonial boy or Why has the Aussie propensity for mutual aid, the are still eschewed like the plague. Phoney studied possible to understand why so many foreign-born larikin emerges only round the ritual "barbe" or deeper aspects of conviviality, the unspoken under- casualness, pretending to have no worries, using people in Oz don't speak English, so little vocabu- Christmas party and thereafter, like a tired geni, is standings of mateship, the intimacy of relations, public social occasions to display or proclaim one's obsession with making money particularly among Aussie believes in the cult of the corporation as a the magic of the everyday that getting by is no viour does not belong to those who are well in their those who have it, the constant shifting, give the lie comfortable womb. The mass media are enthusias- longer enough? Human relations are the chief ca- skins and who know each other. It is the gateway to the lucky country. Australians are beginning to tic upholders of institutional legitimacy too. An sualty of affluence. This prosperity is compounded- to nothing which must be guarded thus because the live as though they know there'll be no tomorrow. easy, collusive understanding exists between pol- by European man's unquestioning faith in the ca- condition of emptiness is too serious to divulge. I recall Malcolm Muggeridge's prediction of 20 iticians, newspaper proprietors and corporate pacity of his inventions to deliver permanent supre- And, you may ask, what's so different about Aus-

Denis Pym

Much has been written about the "power of the your cake. Prime Minister" or "Cabinetrule" so that the general No wonder Maggie's old friend Ceaucescu had to them, you are now no doubt comfortably efficient, euphemisms for maximising public may be excused for believing in fairies in the die without a public trial - he really did know what Commons, if not at the bottom of their gardens. went on and could have taken hundreds with him. However, there is no excuse whatsoever for those And as for Noriega - well, you have a guess, I'm eminent people who, singing their names to Char- prejudiced. ter 88, delude themselves and others into believing that a written charter would result in any significant benefits.

One eminent signatory to Charter 88, Lord I, deserved to lose all credibility when, in an article in The Observer last year, he described Britain as a "true democracy", and suicidally carried on to claim Leaving aside for the time being the of these acres the privatised water under- that our Judiciary is "admittedly independent" - this in spite of the fact that the Director of Public Prosecutions, who was appointed as a QC by the Lord Chancellor who is a Cabinet Minister, is supervised by the Attorney General QC who, as an MP, is responsible to the Lord Chancellor.

Lord Scarman and his liberal friends must be pernational park, three water authorities own land unless the Secretary of State appro- fectly aware, anyway, that the renowned American 80 square miles, which is over 15% of the ves and conditions may be imposed. These Constitution failed to prevent the Vietnam, Nicatotal 542 square miles of the park. are the kinds of detail determined by ragua, Grenada and Panama invasions because the Altogether some 750 square miles are parliamentary bills and debated by our House of Representatives and the Senate are just as important as our Houses of Parliament, and the theland. This is land which nominally at least who would trust the Secretary of State? | oretically possible impeachment of US Presidents ----might just as well have been written into the Constitution in invisible ink. Nor, thanks to the Fifth The quotations on this page and on pages 4 Amendment cop-out, can anyone grass on anyone and 7 are from which is now privately owned. Can this to walk this land, and to do so without else. And yet another cop-out called "Presidential land be developed? Might we find our payment. On 7 May last year over 3,000 Privilege" seals everything up nicely, thank you. If THE FUTURE OF TECHNICS AND path blocked by a chemical factory, a people attended a meeting at Rivington anyone should think that the foregoing is highly im- CIVILISATION luxury time-share hotel development, a in Lancashire at which one of the speakers | aginative speculation, let them ponder the fact that massive tourist leisure complex complete was 77 year old Benny Rothman, a leader it is the job of the CIA in the USA, and of MI5 and 6 in Britain, to keep everyone, including Prime Min- by Lewis Mumford isters and Presidents is need be, in ignorance of what with an introduction by Colin Ward they are up to. It follows logically that these Secret published by Freedom Press at £3.50 (post Services are controlled by people outside of the free inland, add 15% postage overseas) democratic process.

the Joint Intelligence Committee, which is made up peared in our issue dated 10th February, still not of Ministers but of civil servants and intel- available from Freedom Press, as are the other ligence officers who are responsible to the Prime back issues of the new-style fortnightly Free-HS | Minister through the Cabinet Secretary". In other dom. For subscription rates see back page.

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words, the Prime Minister acts as a rubber stamp, and the rest of the Cabinet play golf.

People like Lord Scarman and Tam Dalyell, who conjure up visions of an accounable Secret Service, Margaret Thatcher, who is crammed beforehand believe in fairies because, like the United Nations, devil - the younger generation - is co-opted or of alternatives. It has no legitimate history - an in- with instructions, had no option but to refuse to in- it is a paradox. It stands to reason that you cannot restigate the "dirty tricks" claims made by Colin have both. The amendment to the Official Secrets Wallace because she, like Wilson, Heath, Callaghan Act, soon to become law, in making it an offence and other Prime Ministers, is nothing more than an punishable by two years in jail for any member or animated, albeit sympathetic, public address system former member of the Security Services to reveal under the controloftheEstablishment (Crown / any information which came to them in their offi-Armed Forces / Whitehall / Business) and, as such, cial capacity, has recognised that you cannot have could be a potential victim of dirty tricks herself. your cake and eat it, so you may as well go without

EFC

No working ideal for machine production can be based solely on the gospel of work: still less can it be based upon an uncritical belief in constantly raising the quantitative standard of consumption.

STAINLESS HARDENED 22

24

Lewis Mumford's death in January this year In The Changing Anatomy of Britain, Anthony at the age of 94 prompted the assessment of IRRADIATION Gummer's Panacea

government ministers at face value.

foodstuff with gamma rays or electron beams restaurants. kills contaminating agents such as listeria and application:

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 Although radioactive food is not normally a product of the process there is always the danger of contamination by accident. In 1988, traces of Caesium-137 were found in boxes of food and worker's clothing in a US irradiation plant.

irradiation means that the process would be carried out on food which is already wrapped. The possibility of toxic and carcinogenic substances passing from the packaging to the foodstuff has not been thoroughly researched.

 Many advocates of irradiation (including) supermarket supremo Lord Sainsbury) assert that it will bring 'expanded consumer choice' in the sense that the public will have the option of selecting a 'safer' type of food. This claim is negated by the fact that it is currently Blasphemy ancient and modern impossible to identify irradiated food.

 The irradiation process destroys or damages vitamins A, B complex, C, D, E and essential amino acids.

strains of salmonella through mutation. There without assistance. the immune system can be damaged by a diet ation. Religious people secretly suspect that of irradiated food. The process is being their beliefs are a lot of nonsense, but repress advocated before these issues have been their suspicion because they suppose that if properly researched.

To the chagrin of John Gummer, Minister • The most worrying aspect of this use of will favour the mass application of this Party. for Agriculture Fisheries and Food, there nuclear technology is its potential as a unpopular process? is widespread and emphatic opposition to the 'masking' treatment for contaminated food. I suspect the answer is that Gummer and The Western capitalist establishment is practice of irradiating food. While Gummer's Drew Smith, Director of the Consumers' company have little choice, since the discovering the potential of the moneyless outrage at this development has led him to Association, points out that irradiation will alternative is to call into question the whole economy in its attempts to sell highly-prized denounce the anti-irradiation lobby as 'fascists prevent potatoes from turning green when ethos of 'agri-business'. Last year's scandals and alarmists', anarchists will find cause for Solanine (a poison which can cause involving listeria and salmonella made food an celebration in the public's reluctance to accept pregnancies to abort) develops in them (see important political issue. The government is the pronouncements of scientists and The Listener, 25th January 1989). The natural desperate to find some way of bolstering public warning mechanisms of bad food, like the foul confidence in their approach to the food barter is making a comeback. It was reported Irradiation is a 'cleaning' technique which smell of bad fish, can be hidden — but the industry, without undermining the notion that recently that Rank Xerox has been offered involves subjecting food to ionising radiation food is still unsuitable for consumption: in market forces provide the best means of racing camels, goats' horns and untrained produced by one of two radioactive materials; 1979, 61 tonnes of toxic, rotting prawns were protecting the consumer's interests. either Caesium-137 or Cobalt-60. Bombarding irradiated and delivered to Australian Irradiation is seen as a panacea for a variety salmonella bacteria, fungi and insects. The The pro-irradiation lobby includes the profit. This process constitutes a technological stuff they are bartering is pretty useless in proponents of the process take pains to assure scientists responsible for developing the 'fix' for a problem created by the intensive Western Europe too. So Western companies us that irradiation does not produce process, Lord Sainsbury, and many Tory MPs. approach to food production. Ken Bell, owner are in turn selling off the bartered goods radioactive food, but there are several reasons The anti-irradiation lobby contains of one of the largest shellfish processing elsewhere; black-and-white TV sets are to be alarmed at the prospect of its widespread supermarket groups such as Marks and companies in Europe has rejected irradiation Spencer, Waitrose, Co-op and Tescos; as a 'substitute for good hygiene and quality restaurant 'celebrities' Egon Ronay and Pru control'. Ken Bell International Ltd have Leith; Friends of the Earth; the Institute of financed research to 'detect this dangerous Environmental Health Officers; the Women's practice for concealing contamination'. While Institute and the Meat Traders' Federation. profit remains the major motive for food The British Poultry Federation has not production Bell's concern for food safety will expressed support for irradiation, and there continue to place him in a minority of food operation purely for the goods offered for our

of problems ranging from ensuring food safety to extending shelf life — and thus maximising has been a great deal of vocal opposition within producers. Increased potential for contamination after the National Farmer's Union. When the



Nicolas Walter Rationalist Press Association £3.95*

Why do adherents of the various Judaeo- Irradiation may cause pesticide residues to
 Christian-Mohammedan persuasions perse-cute those who insult their religions? God is become harmful and may produce virulent surely powerful enough to smite His enemies is evidence from experments involving rats that I offer the following hypothesis for consider

More Attacks on Abortion Provision

street abortions when it was passed in 1967. 14 day line. The problem with this is that in What it does not do is give women the right doing so the foetus will be given rights after they never will, put down these publicato free abortion on demand.

two doctors under the 'social' clause of this in some cases — if they follow the American Act and the termination must take place within example — we may see court injunctions the 28th (24th in practice) week of pregnancy. against women who smoke or are addicted to With NHS cuts and a sometimes obstructive other drugs during pregnancy. response from the medical service as well as a The second Bill is the Houghton Bill. Lord to have an abortion.

safe abortion on demand is that women are abortion, the 'social' clause will be removed. publishing it. The Satanic Verses would be Markov was shot with a poisoned pellet from forced back into the family and made responsible Opponents have also correctly pointed out that for an unplanned child rather than be allowed the way to defeat these attacks is not through the relative independence that men are permitted. the intricacies of Parliament but through a

ment that threaten abortion provision. The first is the Human Fertilisation and to fight on our behalf. Embryology Bill which initially seeks to legis- Despite the inadequacies of the campaigns of religious persecution gets a chapter of two, late on the issue of embryo research. Anti- - resembling the Fight Alton's Bill campaign but the main emphasis is on the freethinkers As part of the endless was against first late now abortionists will be allowed by the Govern- of the late 1980's - it is important that it grows ment to insert an amendment into the Bill and develops in opposition to the anti-abortion which could reduce the abortion time limit to bigots. anything from 24 weeks maximum, to 18!

The National Abortion Campaign have position, it will be possible to win the argument launched a new campaign against this attack, for a woman's right to choose at a local level however their strategy is fraught with in order to challenge the national line. The problems. The Campaign has decided at a argument is not over. to the Bill. At first sight it might appear more is an anathema to anarchists. The demand of anarchists can only applaud. sensible to do this, as the amendment is of all those opposed to this form of state control immediate concern. However this is mistaken, should be nothing less than free abortion on for the Bill contains a clause that MPs will have demand as early as possible and as late as to vote on. They can vote either to ban all necessary. embryo experiments completely, or else allow experiments for up to 14 days existence.

prisoned for blasphemy in 1822, said "I am The Abortion Act prevented many fatal back- Many on the left are supporting the latter 14 days and this will allow anti-abortionists a tions... As the blood of the Christian martyrs Instead a woman must get the consent of chance to argue against abortion in court and became the seed of the Christian Church, so

A consequence of denying women free and although there would be no time limit for the blasphemy law to prosecute Gay News for Despite this there are two Bills before parlia- united and decisive mass campaign. Anarchists blasphemy on its author. have always known that we cannot rely on MPs

Despite the problems of the present national

*available from Freedom Press Bookshop, David Luton £3.95 post free inland, or add 15% for postage

TOPICS --- BOOK REVIEW

of Lords, they expressed the view that the safety aspect of irradiation requires more careful examination. Since they face such 'heavyweight' opposition - much of it from groups not traditionally associated with challenging the government — why are the

they do not believe, they will suffer eternal torment. Anyone who threatens their precarious belief puts their immortal souls in danger, and is therefore an object of fear and loathing.

Nicolas Walter's book is an erudite, but con-

long tradition of religious dissent and perse-

cution. A good read suitable for bus journeys,

it is also a useful work of reference which

One recurring result of religious persecution

tracted, to the belief which is under attack. As

Stephen, was executed for blasphemy under

Jewish law. Saul, the young man who minded

the coats for the men who stoned Stephen to

death, afterwards took the name Paul and be-

came the most important Christian mission-

The freethinker Susannah Wright, im-

bold to tell these persecutors, they never can,

shall our sufferings become the seed of free

will triumph over you" - and she was right.

much less widely heard of, and somewhat less

and secularists of the nineteenth century. It is

is that attention is called, and adherents at-

Walter reminds us, the first Christian martyr,

would be even more useful if it had an index.

Medical Research Council (funded by the government) made a submission to the House HERE & THERE In Brief

A joke going around Washington DC in early February ran: What is the difference between the USA, East Germany and Hungary? Tories so keen to rush into legislation which Answer: The USA still has a Communist

> Europe. Western companies don't want to trade for the worthless currencies of the Comecon bloc, and there is a shortage of hard currency — but the markets are enormous. So hunting falcons from the USSR in exchange for photocopiers and high-technology products. The Eastern Europeans don't want to swap commodities they can sell themselves, such as oil or precious metals, and a lot of the accepted from Poland and then re-sold in Bangladesh, for example. Rank Xerox take ball-bearings from Rumania, typewriters and hanging plant-pots from Bulgaria, Czech lightbulbs, Hungarian paper, and cheap hi-fi systems from Russia. The General Manager of the firm's eastern exports operations said: 'We run a very complex marketing and selling products. But we see the need for the barter Andrew Hedgecock | business as the economies of some countries are in such a bad state."

> > A farmer in Ashley, Staffordshire, has been sent a Poll Tax registration form for the occupants of a building on his farm, but the occupants are a herd of cattle! Council officials in Ashton under Lyme listed his cow-shed as a semi-detached cottage.²

The European Space Agency is doing its bit to ease wash-day blues. A pilot scheme has been set up to look into ways of transferring highly-developed space technology into the 'civil sector'. A spokesman for one interested company, Defence Technology Enterprises, remarked: 'A clever bit of circuitry used in a satellite could be wonderful in washing cise, history of blasphemy, seen as part of the | machines"

> Seven squatters and fifty-one of their supporters, protesting against property speculation, were arrested in Amsterdam on 20th February, when police moved to enforce eviction orders on a squatters' group in the city. Dutch Riot Police used horses, water cannon and tear-gas in their attack.4

Our disregard for the quality of work itself, for work as a vital and educational process, is so habitual that it scarcely ever enters into our social demands.

discussion, and in those very sufferings we A spokesman for the Bulgarian Interior Ministry has denied that the Communist James Kirkup's poem "The love that dares government or its state security services were climate of ignorance and fear, many women Houghton is a pro-abortionist and has tabled to speak its name" would be very obscure, had involved in the murder in London twelve years have to suffer a complicated ordeal in order his Bill in order to derail the amendment. The not Mary Whitehouse ("the Director of Pri- ago of Bulgarian exile Georgei Markov, who Campaign correctly opposes this Bill, for vate Prosecutions" Walter calls her) revived worked for the BBC's World Service foreign language section. The new government has, however, promised to hold an official enquiry. an adapted umbrella as he waited for a bus on widely read, but for the death sentence for | London's Waterloo Bridge. No-one was ever charged with the murder, but it's always been The Gay News case and the Satanic Verses | suspected that the Bulgarian Secret Service case get a chapter each, and the early history was involved.

compiled an enormous directory of Gaelic a challenge to many trite statements about reli- names, translating every conceivable first gion, that the anti-religious are as steadfast as name and surname from Gaelic to its English the religious in the fight for what they believe. equivalent/s. Seems those cunning Paddies Explicitly the book does not take sides, but have been filling in their Irish identification there is an implicit attitude that blasphemers cards in Gaelic and causing untold problems are heroes and their persecutors villains. I for anti-terrorist police at ports of entry to this national level to oppose only this amendment Any control by the State of women's bodies daresay Mary Whitehouse would object, but scepter'd isle. (Glad my surname isn't Belmore.)5

> 1. Daily Telegraph, 19th February 1990 2. Daily Telegraph. 19th February 1990 3. Daily Telegraph. 19th February 1990 4. The Times, 21st February 1990 5. Daily Telegraph, 19th February 1990

DR

In Search of a Libertarian Shade of Green

ment but what of the method.

By voting we give away our power. We awesome propaganda machine of the are centralising our power ... in order to Green pressure groups - usually run on a _ decentralise it? Some mistake surely. So shoestring. But that is the power of truth I turned to the Green Party (GB) mnifes-to which we are advised to read. The would argue that the limited effect the Cardiff 1983 manifesto has all the apppearance Green movement has had, despite wideof being written by a genuine grassroots spread support, is because it has directed movement. It even mentions the 17th too much attention towards government. century Diggers favourably.

together. The colour is grey and it is problem. presented in a much more businesslike, The Guardian even asks these groups party political and bureaucratic way. to target the world's banks, the Interna-Gone for me is the feel of an extra- par- tional Monetary Fund and the multina- The Poll Tax resistance in Cardiff has a double success. It was well attended pages at £2.50 post free inland, £3 over-

However, it appears that direct action is bodies. understandable if not very radical posi- _____ Federation could easily split. tion. After all if you are aiming for the commanding heights of the State where you will have to rule by law - and there is plenty of banning and regulating in the is plenty of banning and regulating in the menifesto - then you cannot give a bad Dear Editors,

coming to terms with 'reality'. I heard scribed in the book. Germany who helped start the Green tract from this in pointing out that it was original estimates.

has been obliged to act against squatters bership. the community and the planet cannot be misery, ill-health and the horrors of inef- plans in 1979. democracy.

What amazes me is why any Green Yours sincerely, should want to take the party political H. Sculthorpe

A RECENT major article in the magazine section of one of the quality papers said of Telford that it was the meeting place between the Fabian ideas of planning and Kropotkinist concepts of decentralised self-activity.

While loath to contradict anything that might motivate a stream of anarchist activists Wrekm.

some national publicity (though curiously this which is not very active. for centuries groups of miners squatted on land planning ideal, fortunately only in the earliest and built hamlets) it is not so well-known in parts in the stark horrors of its full Fabian the area that it is influencing the whole new expression. Basically the town was designed town.

members generously host fund-raising social them off to large characterless housing estates, some of the publicity might suggest. It is not destroyed in the slapping. find it costs more than buying a house commer- towns of Wellington, Oakengates, Dawley, children. cially, so some of the original group were Madeley and Ironbridge) for which they forced to drop out.

6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

ion". The same reader pays tribute to the harmony with our planet. They have seen government as part of the

In the columns of Freedom (27th road considering the excellent track rec- Become consciously libertarian. In the The response from comrades and last issue the Support the Ambulance January) Brian Leslie suggests a realistic ord of grassroots campaigning. The dan- end I have to agree with Murray readers to the new look Freedom has Workers graphic came from our reader choice for an anarchist is to vote Green. gers of power are evident. Not least is Bookchin that the solution to environ- been most encouraging in all respects. Doug Spencer in response to our appeal We are told that it is a party working for eco-fascism, a kind of Pol Pot regime in mental problems lies in the social dimen- Obviously some prefer the small format for photographers and cartoonists and ilchange in the existing system by devol- the West - what a Guardian reader calls sion. When we learn to live in harmony Freedom but the majority who have ex- lustrators. The appeal for more contribuving power. I fully agree with the senti- "a potential nightmare vista if repress- with each other we will learn to live in pressed a view on this subject approve tors to make Freedom something every-



liamentary non-party movement. I felt tionals. It does not mention petitioning suffered a series of setbacks in recent and everybody remarked on the good at- seas by surface mail. the Greens were becoming like any other governments. Is the Guardian going an- weeks. The dominance of the mosphere and the discussions that took archist?! The activists are, of course, al- 'Militant Tendency' in the steering place. And it was also a success in that This uneasiness was strengthened ready doing this and getting some re- committee of the Cardiff Federation we sold over £250 worth of literature bewhen I read about the attitude of the Party sponse. Governments are virtually of Anti Poll Tax Unions has tween 11 am and 4pm. It can be done in to the poll tax. The Greens are against it. powerless to tackle these international coincided with the splintering of two all parts of the country. Hadleigh is only local APTU's, ostensibly because of a small rural town. We can think of at out. Instead I read the position is that they So my advice to Green activists is to the actions of 'Militant Tendency' least a dozen towns where a successful did not advocate breaking the law as they keep on grassroots campaigning. Do not supporters. There are rumblings of bookfair could be organised by local Freedom fortnightly fighting fund wished to be seen as a responsible party allow yourselves to get sucked into, and discontent in other Cardiff APTU's comrades and readers and we would sup- Witham: C.P.S. £6; Stirling: D.J.K. fit for Government. This is, of course, an wasted by, the political machine. also and unless matters improve, the ply the books and an experienced com- £3; Cardiff: V.M. £3; Polstead: D.P.

Despite this, one of the said groups A successful literature stall was or- Wolverhampton J.L. £2; Swansea: recently held a social evening ganised in Edinburgh recently by Ram- W.A.B. £2; Rugby: A.G. £5; attended by around 170 people, sey Kanaan on the occasion of Noam clearing about £180 for the Poll Tax Chomsky giving a number of lectures there. The same comrade is organising a K.L. £3; London SE11: C.J.C. £5; struggle in Canton. example yourself and ignore government My copy of The Peckham Experiment, On the very same evening, the bookfair in Bradford in April, where Bristol: A.F.C. £8; Bristol: P.T. £3; much appreciated in the 1950s, has long Cardiff Federation held a public Freedom Press have a bookstall (details Cheadle: C.G.J. £5; Uxbridge: R.S. Is this peculiar to the British scene? I since disappeared, but unless memory meeting, attended by some 80 in announcements column next issue). £6; Aylesbury: D.S. £3; Hay-ondo not think so. The Green Party in Ger- fails me I was disappointed at the time by people, to coincide with the official we are also joining our friends of the Wye: B.R. £10; Okehampton: S.B. many is much further down the road of two aspects of the Peckham project as de- release of the Cardiff Poll Tax figure CIRA (International Centre for An- £1; Pullheli: M.J. £3; Sittingbourne: - £253. Peter Walker, the Welsh archist Research) in Switzerland next P.K. £2; Wirral: T.H. £5. Rudolph Bahro speak Bristol of the prob- The concept and realisation of a ge- Secretary of State, has threatened the month sharing a stall with other anarchist lems facing activists involved with man- nuine health centre not just concerned Council with 'charge capping' publishers (though Freedom Press will 1990 TOTAL TO DATE = £432.30 ipulating power in the political struggle. with the treatment of disease was a great because, as elsewhere, the figure is be the only English anarchist publishers Bahro is a Marxist dissident from east achievement and I have no wish to de- higher than the Government's there) at the four-day International Book Fair in Geneva.

party in West Germany. At first enthusi- designed as a controlled experiment, un- On the 24th February the Welsh With it becoming more difficult for Witham: C.P.S. £6; London SW1: astic he gradually became disillusioned like the self-help friendly societies of the Federation of APTU's held a small booksellers to survive as the book M.C. £3; Polstead: D.P. £10; and resigned over compromise on vivi- 19th century. The rule that only families national demo in Cardiff. trade becomes concentrated in a few Wolverhampton: J.L. £2; Oakland could be admitted was not helpful to iso- Unfortunately the turn-out was a supermarket type enterprises, more rea- Cal: R.D.E. £6; Hamburg: P.B. Another example is in Berlin where lated members of the local community disappointing 6-800. The demo, son why we should be organising our £5.50; Rugby: A.G: £5; London E1: there has been a Red/Green coalition. It who could have benefitted from mem- headed by a band and a group of own outlets. Market stalls on a regular A.G. £3; Coventry: D.J.N. £8.70; clowns, marched through the town basis, mini-bookfairs combined with Hove: B.P. £4.50; Bath: B.V. £2.35; although they claim to be on the side of More serious was the refusal to offer and later listened to several speakers meetings and lectures. And of course the socially disadvantaged. The fact of contraceptive advice and facilities at a - (all of a decidedly 'Militant' hue!). comrades willing to act as local distributhe matter is that a big split is emerging time when it was difficult for unmarried According to a poll conducted by tors, who call on booksellers and newsain the Green movement. There are the couples and single women to obtain the Western Mail in February, 56% gents and take orders and in the case of fundis and realos. The fundis are realists these. The authors justified this by some of people in Wales favour some form journals arrange to collect the unsold Camberley: S. £3.20; Aylesbury: in libertarian terms. They see that any rather obscure arguments, despite the of devolution - compared with the copies and the money; this saves the D.C.S. £3; Cheltenham: T.K.W. aims which are for the general good of fact that lack of knowledge often led to 4-1 vote against Labour's devolution newsagent headaches for small amounts. £20; Oxford: M.H. £5; Penzance:

realised via power politics. The realos are ficient abortionists. This was in sharp Also of interest is that according Translators: Our appeal has met with York: P.A. £1.20; ?;M.P.L. £3.10; idealists who have a touching faith in the contract to the contraceptive service pro- to the poll, supporters of minority some response - four translators to be Little Rock Ark: G.S. £9; Tokyo: party political process and parliamentary vided by, among others, John Hewetson parties (Greens, Plaid Cymru, SLD, exact, from Polish, German, Italian and G.K. £5. in London and Dr Dove in Liverpool. etc) out number Tory supporters by from Denmark a polyglot with another 24-22%! Labour takes the other on the way! And we have also had a call from a potential photographer, and in the 1990 TOTAL TO DATE = ± 220.65

to settle here, I feel it is necessary to deny that to suppose that after a few more such sales develop commercially and that it was associ- speed tram network. we have built utopia here at the foot of the most house owners will have no interest in the ated with important aspects of history, which Amenities in the various old towns are of community at all. Still, that said, it is true that they could also develop. Having allowed the course attracted to the higher profits of the somewhere around 0.1% of the Telford popu- bridge almost to collapse, they hurriedly town centre. Even when the Wrekin was an The reference to Kropotkin is to the Light- lation live in a semi-community of self-build jacked it up, woke the curators of the Coal- overwhelmingly rural area (and it was premoor community — something like twenty houses situated near Coalbrookdale, with families (more to come later) are building equally easy access to open country and to a words money and expansion, creating a series the decay of the iron industry, associated houses on a few acres of land on the west of new town centre, and that this group inter- of overspill museums, notably Blist's Hill. works and the desolation that surrounds a Telford. Unfortunately, though, this has had relates with much of the wider 'left' in the area

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READERS' PAGE



and see future possibilities of the larger body will be proud of is a permanent one. Gerald Hatton format and fortnightly appearance. Sub- Meanwhile our warm thanks to all who is to get new readers and to a large extent healthy donations list below. we have to depend on you, our readers, Did you notice last issue the Freedom The 1987 manifesto is much greyer al-together. The colour is grey and it is problem. solution rather than what it is - part of the together. The colour is grey and it is problem. Resistance of Freedom. clipping and we will post a sample copy save more important work for Freedom. Raven 10 is on the way. Subscribers'

rade to help run the bookstall.



scription renewals have been up to ex- have contributed to this issue of our jourpectation; what we now must try and do nal, and that includes of course the

introducing Freedom to your friends. envelope was stamped with our new One should not miss the opportunity of franking machine. You didn't? Then sending a copy to people who write in- look out for it this issue! It's very smart, eresting letters to the Press. Send us the and it cost a lot of money, but is going to

Bookfairs: The second annual mini copies should be dispatched before the bookfair held last month in Hadleigh was next issue of Freedom comes out. 96

DONATIONS

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£10; Heidelberg: R.S. £4. Coventry: D.J.N. £6; Tewksbury: TOTAL = £95.00

Freedom Press Overheads Fund

Colchester: P.N. £6; Hadleigh: Book Fair donations £11.70; Abingdon: M.B. £5; Cheadle C,G,J, £5; J.M. £2; Sittingbourne: P.K. £2; N. TOTAL = £137.25



shopping centre, built a police station, law Oakengates (and other smaller parts of what failed to mention that it is in an area where Telford itself certainly embodies the courts, 'multi-screen' cinema and skating rinks is now north-east Telford) looking like the around it. But the out-of-town shopping centre proverbial decayed inner city slum. Of course remains our town centre. The centre is private nowadays they are 'tidied up' for the benefit property and is only open to casual walkers of passing motorists, streets of houses pulled to get the unemployed and broken families of when the shops are open - none of the citizens dopwn for ring roads, and since Oakengates Actually even the community — though its Birmingham off the rates there by shipping of the town have a right to wander at will centre is now effectively a large roundabout it around the centre of the town admiring the has been pedestrianised, but it is unlikely that events for CND and other such groups in the initially called Greater Dawley. They were sights on a moonlit evening, not that there are in this area the residents feel that they have area — has less resemblance to a Kropotkinist slapped down regardless onto an area with a any sights. The only old building — an Anglo the combined benefits of enlightened planning (or Paul Goodman) anarchist experiment that fascinating history, much of which was Saxon church - was pulled down to make way and libertarian self-confidence. for this riot of modernity, being re-erected As yet, of course, the planners haven't found a commune. Those who join the community Halfway through this process it was suddenly (after all the patina of age was cleaned off) in a way of destroying our two great advantages who have not the skills or time to build their decided to make the new town a far larger the neighbouring town park where most - they are not, as yet, capable of moving/ own and so intend to pay the group to build conurbation (taking in the historic market people seeing it assume it is a toy house for destroying either the Wrekin or the line of the

Newer estates are a considerable improvethe community split up their house was sold in the area to make way for it. Then as an where elderly residents feared to go out to Kropotkin. on the open market and the community mem- afterthought they suddenly noticed that Iron- because they could not recognise their own

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homes when returning, are not ideal. But the town was planned for the car and in order to ensure that that is what it will be, it is ensured that public transport is by far the worst in the country. There used to be a significant network of industrial railways here, and it would have bers had no say in this, so there is no reason bridge was a beauty spot that they could been easy to have erected on these a high-

brookdale Museum with the whisper of the dominantly rural up until about six years ago) To be fair they have now extended the major military installation like Donnington left

Severn through Iron Bridge Gorge. So despite them Telford is still a town where the spirit decided to build an out-of-town shopping ment on the original two, which is fortunate. leaps at the wonder of nature and the interest Ownership of houses remains totally centre and call this a town centre. Emphasising Someone has even managed to convince the of history. But that there is anything worthprivate, so when one of the earliest families in the novelty by destroying the oldest building architects that vast estates of identical houses while owes nothing to planners and not a lot

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