

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 6d

NOVEMBER 22 1969 Vol 30 No 36

POLICE WADE IN AT BSR

THE THREE-MONTH-OLD STRIKE

For union recognition at BSR, East Kilbride has suffered throughout from company intransigence, blackleg treachery, union timidity and Government indifference. The boys in blue have been a further cross for the 850 men and women to bear. On Wednesday, November 12, the guardians of law, order and capitalism, excelled even their own dubious record. As the heavily-guarded buses carrying the blacklegs (who are, we are assured by the *Sunday Times*, 'human') came down a road, several of the striking women sat down in an attempt to stop them. In waded the police. One girl was manhandled across the road and thrown, head first, into a police van. Others were pushed and kicked. The police had, they claimed, been attacked. With such vicious and dangerous missiles as flour bags. Like proud tom cats, they don't like getting their fancy uniforms dirty.

Mass arrests were made, 44 people, 33 of them women, were charged with obstruction and breach of the peace. Two hundred of the now famous 'dancing dollies' of East Kilbride, singing the home-made battle songs which have been such a feature of this struggle, promptly marched on the East Kilbride cop shop and the arrested people were released pretty damn quick.

Three of the uniformed thugs have been charged with assault. We can only assume that the police are wild because, basically, the workers have won. It now looks almost certain that BSR will be taken over by Plessey (a firm which will recognise the union). BSR is going to be organised. All the dirty little kicks and blows which the police have aimed in the direction of the pickets over the weeks have been in vain. Were the lousy scenes of last Wednesday the parting shot from the police?

The fortunate fact* that BSR is to be taken over by a more reasonable (?) firm cannot, however, be allowed to

miss the real issues of this struggle. The idea that shiny new firms coming to Scotland mean, by themselves, an era of prosperity for the workers, has been scotched. The fact is that firms like BSR come looking for cheap, unorganised and usually female labour. In this they receive the cordial support and financial help of the Labour Government.

The Government has played it both ways over BSR. Wilson has expressed his support for the strikers, put a few bob in the strike fund and scuttled off back to London. Judith Hart, the local MP, once asked the women, 'What can we do to help you? Please tell us.' They told her, and she too fled. The response of Barbara Castle has been to send in the Industrial Relations Commission, in the person of *Blakeman*, former labour relations man at Fords and a vicious enemy of the working class. Anyone who hopes for justice from the holy triumvirate of George Woodcock, Will Paynter (former Stalinist and betrayer of the Mineworkers) and car bosses' man *Blakeman*, must be daft. The BSR workers must not allow themselves to be talked back to work by an embarrassed Government whose 'development' programmes have been exposed, without receiving cast-iron guarantees that there will be no victimisation, when Plessey takes over, of the militants who fought BSR.

Similar struggles to BSR are on the cards, particularly in the new towns of Glenrothes and Livingstone. There too, in the shiny new factories built on Government money, employers are hoping to construct a new industrial feudalism, based on non-union female labour. The lessons of BSR must be learnt.

One bright aspect of the fight has been the support received from students who collected money and helped in the pickets. This type of activity must be extended.

Pressure is being put on student

Continued on page 3

COURT PROCEEDINGS

YESTERDAY, MARCH 7, 1971, at Bow Street Magistrates Court, a couple was indicted for a breach of the peace, use of abusive language, and threatening behaviour.

The woman—describing herself as a 'Queen', and a man described as her 'consort' yelled 'scab' while her 'consort' threw polo balls at another woman known as 'Mrs. Armstrong Jones', who was attempting to enter her place of work at the West End of Constitution Hill.

Police Inspector Bully testified that he had warned the woman that her actions interfered with the police in the course of their duty of protecting legitimate workers going about their duty—with the consent of their employers—and that she was trespassing on private property—namely the property of the state.

The woman had nevertheless persisted in her actions and after most unseemly actions she and her 'consort' had had to be arrested. Mr. 'Con' F. Irmed-Liar, QC, prosecuting, called other witnesses, police, soldiers, and passers-by, who all testified to the truth of Inspector Bully's testimony.

The Chairman of the Magistrates, Mr. N. O. Bigood, said that it was time that workers learnt due respect for their employers, and that while no one wished to interfere with the democratic rights of workers to withdraw their labour and

starve, firm measures must be taken against those who tried to intimidate those workers who also wished to exercise their democratic rights and wished to continue working. He felt that an example must be taken in the present instance—especially in view of the fact that in certain other industries such disgraceful intimidation had only recently been suppressed, and one must show the determination of the authorities to prevent all such instances of wanton lawlessness.

The prisoners were therefore committed for trial at the Old Bailey—request for bail was opposed by the police—and the Magistrate has adjourned the case for one week to allow the police to show good cause why bail should be refused, the couple being temporarily confined in prison.

During the trial a spectator in the gallery suddenly called out that the building known as Buckingham Palace should be converted into a mental hospital and the job concerned in the trial abolished; police removed the offender and later the Magistrates sentenced a man for contempt of court, until such time as he purges his contempt.

Our industrial correspondent writes: The Prices' and Incomes' Board vetoed a 25% rise requested for the defendant originally made a year ago, and when

THE GREATEST ANTI-WAR demonstrations in American history have served notice on President Nixon and the Pentagon that millions of young Americans are sincerely and strongly opposed to the continuation of the Vietnam war by one single day.

The Moratorium and the days of demonstration last weekend showed a strength of feeling and a degree of organisation which could leave no doubt in Nixon's mind that what he is faced with is no longer the expected opposition of 'extremists', but growing disgust at his delaying tactics on the part of people of all political opinions and of none, of moderates and even of patriotic squares.

Everyone who has ever had anything to do with demonstrations knows perfectly well that the people who actually take part in them are only a small minority of the numbers sympathetic to the cause. Not that we need to be too concerned about numbers, which prove nothing about the rightness or wrongness of the cause, but they are important inasmuch as they impress the opposition and the uncommitted.

DIGNITY AND SELF-DISCIPLINE

The tactics of the American demonstrators were impressive in themselves. The March of Death, with each marcher carrying the name of a dead GI, quietly and with dignity placed in a coffin and carried through the streets of Washington, must have brought home to many of the 'silent majority' that Nixon leans on, just what the cruel and pointless struggle in Vietnam is costing the US in terms of young men's lives.

Demonstrations have several functions, but the most important should always be to convert the unconverted. Provocation and the mindless shouting of slogans seldom if ever do this, although they may have other uses, like attracting attention when your numbers are small. But the American demonstrators did not need this. They had numbers, and there is nothing more impressive and moving than a huge crowd behaving with dignity and quietness and self-discipline—especially when death and the mourning of the dead is what it is all about. Fortunately this mood prevailed. There was little chanting of the 'Victory to the Vietcong!' variety which has marred similar demonstrations in this country and which, while it tells us a lot about the chanters, does nothing to convert the unconverted. On the contrary, open sympathy with the enemy, with the very ones who are killing the vast numbers of dead who are being mourned, immediately brings hostility to a demonstration.

If public opinion is being wooed, then we have to remember that public opinion is nothing more than ignorant conformity. The silent majority are the unthinking mass of solid citizens, the apathetic, security-minded, square, conforming don't-knows who, grumbling, pay their

the 'Queen' persisted in her request, the Government announced that 'Princess Margaret' had offered to do the job at a sum believed to be considerably less than that requested by the 'Queen' and her 'consort'; and at the same time declined to recognize as a bona fide trade union the Royal Association of Crowned Heads, Consorts and Relatives which the 'Princess' declared to be a breakaway union in contravention of the Bridlington Agreements. The 'Queen' and her supporters then declared there was to be a lockout. It is believed that she has been unsuccessful in attempts to win international solidarity action.

taxes to send their sons to the slaughter and accept with pride the posthumously - awarded campaign medal.

These are the ones whose complacency has to be dented. To bend their ears with cries of 'Victory to the Vietcong!' is to strike terror into their fatty hearts. But to make them think that their sons died in vain—that their sacrifice is for nothing, this is the way to get them wavering in their support for the establishment.

'PEACE WITH HONOUR'

Richard Nixon himself, after all, is helping in this task. By some sleight of hand he got himself elected with the understanding that he was going to bring the Vietnam war to an end. He has gone so far as to bring back some soldiers. He is seeking some formula for 'Peace with Honour' in a situation so dishonourable that it would be a fit subject for cynical laughter were it not for the fact that every time he squirms another hundred young men die.

But what Nixon has done is to betray at top level America's loss of morale. Shaken and bewildered by their inability to win a war against relatively poorly-equipped Asian peasants who, by all military standards, should have been wiped out years ago; conscious of growing world disgust and contempt, even your silent majority of middle Americans wants out. They would like to crawl away and lick their wounds in some dark corner. But when you are a mighty world power you live in the spotlight—and everybody is going to laugh when you take a pratfall.

'Peace with Honour' is a purely political concept, being not concerned with peace and impossible to reconcile with honour. It is a euphemism for squalid horse-dealing—the sordid deal which will eventually, one supposes, come out of the interminable Paris 'peace' talks. When these latter began, incidentally, we demonstrated our cynicism by prophesying their failure, until such time, that is, as both sides decided the war had served its purpose. We pointed out that for both the Asian Communists (together with Russia) and the Americans, the Vietnam war fulfilled very useful purposes and both sides had their reasons for keeping it going. It has been interesting to note recently that whenever the Americans, for whom the war has now genuinely outlived

MEMO TO NIXON:
SAVE LIVES, NOT FACE

COME HOME GI!

its usefulness, try to cool it, the Vietcong step up their offensives, making it more, not less, difficult for the 'doves' of Washington to influence the Pentagon.

THE PERSON INVOLVED

So the decision must be taken out of the hands either of the doves of Washington or the hawks of the Pentagon—or the politicians of Saigon or Hanoi. Last week's demonstrations show conclusively that very large numbers of American citizens have already decided where their country's honour lies. They do not want peace to be bought with thousands more dead American conscripts. They want their sons and lovers back where they once belonged. Back home.

If the vast majority of the demonstrators were young then there is this much to be said for them: they are of the same generation as the young GIs doing the fighting and dying in Vietnam. And the young GIs should be asking themselves what the hell they are doing there, when the whole world knows that, short of starting a nuclear war in Asia, American victory in Vietnam is impossible. They are being used, and their deaths are being used, purely in a holding operation while the politicians haggle for bargains like vultures at a rotting carcass.

There is still one voice we want to hear raised against the Vietnam war: that of the American soldier. Simply to wear black armbands, while their contemporaries demonstrate in the cities back home is not enough. The American forces can surely no longer believe in the war in Vietnam; they must now—if honour means anything!—take action against it.

The GI is the person involved. He it is who does the shooting and gets shot. He it is who uses napalm, drops the bombs, perpetrates the atrocities, destroys villages—and gets killed or mutilated for his pains. We now know—and he now knows—it is for nothing in terms of honour.

The only honourable thing for American soldiers to do is to come home. Leave the war, leave the fox-holes and the fighting, the raping and the killing. Walk away from it. Run away from it. Fight your way out if need be. Seize helicopters and planes, cars, trucks and trains. Ring down the curtain in the theatre of war and come home!

JUSTIN.

'Irish' Election Aftermath

THE FUSS and feathers has subsided over the election of Mr. Halloran for North Islington and he is not going to resign his seat even though his nomination was 'fiddled'.

There has now come to light an even more murky story of the Candidate for North Islington Who Never Was. The delay in getting details of this is part of the story. The prospective candidate was a Mr. McCabe, who was backed by the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign, an organization which claims to have the backing of People's Democracy based in Belfast.

When Mr. McCabe's candidature was snatched from the ring, it was stated in so many words that since the Labour Party's policy on Ireland had now improved it was a pity to split the Labour vote. Facts were otherwise.

A letter was sent from Joseph Quigley, liaison secretary of People's Democracy in Belfast, on October 15 to the Steering Committee of the ICRSC. This was kept back by some factions for almost a month and was (literally) seized from a comrade who was present and she proposed that the contents be discussed at an emergency meeting. This has never

been held. The letter in brief says that PD does not, contrary to ICRSC's statement, support Mr. McCabe and asks for its name to be dropped from any propaganda. Furthermore PD totally disassociates itself with the ICRSC in London because of faction fights and enterism. Further accusations by PD are made in the letter as to the whereabouts of certain funds. The letter continues with an allegation that ICRSC urges an 'all-class catholic alliance... which should be totally unacceptable to socialists'. The letter concludes, 'We stress that this letter should not be construed as an attack on rank and file members of ICRSC, many of whom have worked strenuously in support of civil rights. It is our opinion that many of them will be as disturbed as we are at the machinations of certain individuals and the manipulation of their idealism for politically sectarian motives. We are fighting in the front lines here and people are getting killed.* We feel that we deserve better support from England's left-wing.'

JACK ROBINSON.

*October 15, 1969.

Have we a mind of our own?

IF ONE accepts the fact that for all intents and purposes the mind of a new-born baby is blank, then it is reasonable to suppose that as the baby grows older so its mind develops.

The question is who, how, or what is responsible for its attitudes and beliefs as it grows older. The authoritarian outlook, the colour prejudice, always on the look-out for a charismatic leader.

It can be argued that in a child's infancy its mind is in the possession of its parents. Father and mother have all the answers, they know best. For good behaviour, rewards are given, and for bad, punishment. Therefore these two basic thoughts are instilled at an early age. The point that good or bad are relative terms is not considered.

Religion is introduced or rather reinforced through Sunday school. Whilst mum and dad may not profess to be religious, their moral judgements and values are based on Christian ethics.

School is the first major step in the 'take over' of the mind. The competitive spirit is introduced from the very beginning. The best coloured drawings are

hung on the wall and/or plus the system of coloured stars for good work. Children are then able to make comparisons.

In the production of school plays or pantos, whilst every child in the class may be taking part, the children who have the speaking parts are the stars. When the parent is told by the child that he or she is in the school play the first question that is asked is, 'How much do you have to say?'

At this early age, if a child attempts to use its own mind in the sense that it has no interest in a certain activity, it is classified as troublesome. There was an old cliché often used, 'They tame lions at school.' In 1969 they do not tame 'with stick and book'; more sophisticated methods are used, such as being 'dropped' from a school outing or football team.

From the junior school upwards the pressure starts to build up. As far as the child is concerned it may not be conscious of the fact at this stage, but the education system know what it wants—CSE and GCE passes. The bright students forge ahead, the others trail behind, they are the 'duffers' the tragedy

being that the children believe this themselves.

Entrance for higher education is very selective, the argument being that there are not enough places for everyone who wishes to go. By selection it is hoped that those selected will serve the system. There are some students selected who do not see education in quite that way, they are mainly from the Social Studies courses, whose ultimate aim may not be involved in the rat race of commerce, industry and higher civil service.

What in fact does the education system turn out? Conformity! Brain-washed fodder for the system. Scientists with little or no social consciousness. Those who do query their position and their values are forced by circumstances to prostitute their skill.

This is the society we have drifted into, our minds are not our own. The majority of us are conditioned to the striving for material wealth. Confidence in ourselves as a person is slowly being eroded. What society or the system spews forth we accept. Punishment for crime, acceptance of State-nominated enemies. Imposed priorities, Polaris as

opposed to hospitals. Attitudes to abortion, hanging, homosexuality, women and war are all laid down from a Christian or pseudo-Christian ideology. The appeal to conscience in attitudes to employers, parliament and country is carefully considered and used.

Most of our lives are spent at work where the majority of us are reduced to 'automatons'. We grumble but we accept, a penny or twopence an hour keeps us quiet for a while till we need a few more pence. The idea of workers' control is regarded as lunatic by the majority of people, we are taught to believe this is impossible, master and man working together for the good of the master is the only success story.

Mass circulation newspapers and magazines stimulate our material desires, consistently pushing and probing. Adver-

tising is accepted by the majority, as harmless but perhaps wasteful in that with less advertising goods may be cheaper. Advertising is not seen in terms of mind-bending and brainwashing.

What of language itself? Rebels on the one hand or patriots on the other. War and murder, same words used by different people to describe the same things.

The point I have been trying to make is that our minds are not our own and as life becomes more sophisticated the less chance we have of regaining possession. Science fiction may look into the future but so did H. G. Wells and Jules Verne. Our future is in the hands of the younger generation, if their education is the same as ours then some science fiction will indeed be fact.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

MONEY MATTERS

SUBS TO RUN FROM JAN. 1

AT THE RISK of boring the pants off our readers, which would be unkind now that the weather has turned so wintry, we are going to return week after week to this boring question of money. Which we do after all only because we want to go on producing FREEDOM week after week—on, on into the Twenty-first Century. The only thing that can save us or some other masochists from this fate would be for you to make THE revolution so that we can put our feet up.

In the meantime, and to be brutally frank and honest, we are going to have to find the courage to make ourselves unpopular and take unpopular measures in order to get our economy out of the mess in which thirteen years of Tory misrule have... oh, sorry, we were typing from the wrong script. Perhaps you didn't know that we wrote Harold's speeches for him? Well, it helps create a bad image...

Anyway, we hope that last week you got the message about the price of FREEDOM being not eternal vigilance, but *ninepence* as from January 1. And *Anarchy* will go up to three shillings, but including postage for subscribers.

There is one other little adjustment we want to announce this week. For convenience of administration in our under-staffed office, we are going to introduce a system of making all subscriptions run either from January 1 for annual subs or from July 1, to accommodate six-monthly subs.

Next week we shall publish details of exactly how we hope this brilliant scheme will work. Its purpose is not merely to streamline our sub accounts, but also to enable us to budget ahead through each year. If we get a lovely great lump of money

in on January 1, we shall be able to plan for our six-page, improved FREEDOM through that year, with a booster on July 1, and, we hope, new subs topping up the till as we go along.

But please remember: our Press Fund list is open 365 days every year, with an extra opportunity for contributions on Leap Year!

OUR TARGET FOR CHRISTMAS:

£1000

AMOUNT RECEIVED SO FAR:

£145

SEND US YOUR POOR, YOUR OLD, YOUR POOR OLD TEN-SHILLING NOTES. WE ARE TRYING TO COLLECT TWO THOUSAND OF THEM FOR CHRISTMAS.

Dockers, please help!

PRESS FUND

November 10-17

Glasgow: A.J. 2/-; Herlev: J.R. 3/6; Wolverhampton: K. & C.F. 1/2/-; J.K.W. 2/-; J.L. 3/-; Taunton Group: 10/-; Cambridge, Mass.: D.P. 4/-; Todmorden: G.B. 2/-; Sheffield: J.G. 1/-; London, N.W.3: D.R. 5/-; Llanwrtyd Wells: E.S.H. 2/6; Dowlly: H.M.B. 3/-; Reading: D.H. 3/4; Oxford: D.R. 1/15/6; D.S. 10/-; Blackburn: J.G. 1/-; Camberwell: J.R.P. 2/0.

Total: £37 6 4
Previously Acknowledged: £108 1 6

Total to date: £145 7 10

LETTERS

The Face of the Fuzz

Dear Editors,

Yesterday 2,000 people went to St. Helens rugby ground, Swansea, to demonstrate against apartheid in sport. Instead they were given a demonstration of state-instructed police violence.

The demonstrators marched along from the Guildhall to the rugby ground; as the first ranks began to pass the main entrance, they spread, arms linked, to fill the width of the road; the police, likewise, linked arms to contain the crowd, the sway went back and forth.

I was prepared for this to go on either until the police ranks broke, or our spirit did. What happened was unexpected; the police, obviously nervous and inexperienced in such matters, started grabbing people arbitrarily from the crowd (usually those with the longest, most obtainable hair) and viciously dragged them off, presumably to arrest. Violence then amassed as demonstrators tried to rescue their victimised comrades. One girl, grabbed by two policemen, was pulled back by the crowd until a smiling fuzz put an arm around her throat.

After that state violence reigned. Police tactics were wild and stupid in trying to contain various marching factions and more clashes occurred.

One even heard demonstrators shouting to the police to 'relax and keep their cool'. Demonstrators who were arrested were dragged away to a hut inside the ground to await police vans (one of the demonstrators was thrown out again five minutes later, a bleeding crumpled mass). Police obviously didn't want him in

court. This incident nauseated several girls, one of whom was taken away in a state of hysteria, to the jeers of police lining the road.

For many of the crowd this was their first demo, and they, along with various local spectators, looked with disbelief at the actions of Britain's 'wonderful policemen'.

They at least, in the future will have no doubt as to the 'true face of the fuzz'.

Best wishes,

CAROL WHITE.

DEMONSTRATION

Dear Comrades,

I am writing to you about our campaign for the release of Eduardo Cruzeiro, a Portuguese deserter from the colonial army, who is at present imprisoned in

AFRAID?

THE 'PEOPLE SHOW' is on the road again—an incoherent experience, difficult to describe but nevertheless effective and thought-provoking. A zany revival of an Edwardian seaside pier show describes the initial impact, complete with large multi-coloured plastic beach balls and a scene depicting what the butler might have seen if he had been a fervent voyeur. When it started off, upstairs at the Royal Court, they—that is, the cast

Spain and is to be extradited to Portugal on December 24 this year.

We are organising a demonstration to demand his release and that of Inacio Palma, a Portuguese militant who has been involved in armed struggle against the fascist regime in Portugal since 1947, he too has been arrested and imprisoned by Franco's police and is awaiting their decision on a request for his extradition made by the Portuguese Government. In more general terms the demonstration will demand an end to the Portuguese military aggression in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau and the granting of immediate independence to these countries. We will also be protesting at the British complicity in these brutal wars of oppression.

We hope that you will be able to give us your full support for this demonstration by publishing an announcement in FREEDOM and by mobilising as many people as possible to attend. The demonstration will be held on Sunday, November 30, assembling at 2.30 at Hyde Park Corner and marching to the Spanish and Portuguese Embassies in Belgrave Square.

Yours fraternally,

JOSE LORENZO.

of four—began the show by bursting out at the audience, hurling themselves through the exit doors, where we stood, to drag us to our places, chattering wildly and bombarding us with beach balls. The cast wore lace-up boots, tights, jockstraps and flying shirt tails. They soon had us happily excited like kids waiting for an outing and joining in with a barrage of sleazy old music-hall warm-up songs.

Continued on page 4

Anarchist Federation of Britain

Contact: Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press. **BLACK KNIGHT GROUP.** 5 Nelson Road, N.8. Meeting Wednesdays.
LAVENDER HILL. Contact C. Broad, 116 Tyneham Road, S.W.11 (228 4086).
LEWISHAM. Jon Raimes, 12 Oakcroft Road, S.E.13 (852 0951).
PORTOBELLO ROAD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.
FINCH'S ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings. Contact P.P., 271 Portobello Road, W.11.
BEXLEY ANARCHIST MOVEMENT. Steve Leman, 28 New Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2. Tel: ET 35377. Meetings every Friday, 8 p.m., Lord Bexley, Bexleyheath Broadway.
S.W. LONDON ANARCHISTS. Meeting alternate Wednesdays. Correspondence c/o Freedom Press.
NOTTING HILL S.P.S.H., 18 Powis Square, W.11.

EAST LONDON LIBERTARIAN FEDERATION

Secretary: Anthony Matthews, 35 Mayville Road, London, E.11. Meetings fortnightly on Sundays at Ron Bailey's, 128 Hainault Road, E.11. Ten minutes from Leytonstone Underground.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Every Wednesday at Jack Robinson's and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.
Thursdays, 8 p.m., at Flat 10, Chessington Lodge, Regents Park Road, N.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary, Peter Le Mare, 22 Hallowell Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16. Meetings every Sunday, 8 p.m., in the smoke room of St. Martin pub, corner of St. Martin's Lane and Jamaica Row.
BOURNEMOUTH AREA. Bob Fry, 30 Douglas Close, Upton, Bournemouth.
CORNWALL ANARCHISTS. Contact Arthur

Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Meetings on the second Friday of each month at 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne. 7.30 p.m. Visiting comrades very welcome.
PEACE ACTION. Rory Weightman, P.C.T. Peace Action Group, St. Pauls Road, Portsmouth, Hants.
CROYDON LIBERTARIANS. Laurens and Celia Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath, CR4 8QH (653 7546) or contact Keith McCain, 1 Langmead Street, West Norwood, S.E.27. Phone 670 7297.
EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx.
FARNBOROUGH. 81 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey. Tel.: Farnborough 43811.
HERTS. Contact Val and John Funnell, 10 Fry Road, Chells, Stevenage.
LANCASTER. John King, 4 The Grove, Lancaster.

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

LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester.

MUTUAL AID GROUP. c/o Borrowdale, Carriage Drive, Frodsham, Cheshire.

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

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenway, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

READING. 26 Bulmershe Road. Tel.: Reading 65645. Meetings every Thursday.

SOUTHALL. Dave Smith, 102 Abbots Road, Southall.

TAUNTON. c/o Dave Poulson, 473 Bramley Road, Taunton, Somerset.

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

MERTON. Elliot Burns, 13 Amity Grove, London, S.W.19. Tel. 01-946 1444.

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

NORTH ESSEX. Write: Peter Newell, 'Aegean',

Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester.
BASILDON & WICKFORD. Mick Powell, 24 Cameron Close, Brentwood, Essex.
BISHOPS STORTFORD. Vic Mount, 'Eastview', Castle Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
CHELMSFORD. (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House, Parkside, Chelmsford, Essex.
EPPING. John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping, Essex.
HARLOW. Annette Gunning, 37 Longbanks, Harlow.
LOUGHTON. Group c/o Students' Union, Loughton College of Further Education, Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Secretary: Phil, 8 Stonecroft Road, Leyland, PR5 3AE.
BLACKPOOL. Contact Christine and Graham, Top flat, 4 Ruskin Avenue, South Shore, Blackpool.

BOLTON. Contact John Hayes, 51 Rydal Road, Bolton.

CHORLEY. Contact Kevin Lynch, 6 Garfield Terrace, Chorley.

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE. Contact Les Smith, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Meetings Monday at 8 p.m., Phil Woodhead's, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Regular literature sales.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. 'The Secretary', Felix Phillips, 6 Draycott Street, Manchester, 10.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHISTS. Contact P. Duke, 70 Huskisson Road, Liverpool, 8.

PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Rob Wilkinson, 73 Trafford Street, Preston. Meetings: 'The Wellington Hotel', Glovers Court, Preston. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

STOCKPORT. Dave Crowther, 1 Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport.

SURREY FEDERATION

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

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

GUILDFORD. Peter Cartwright, 33 Denzil Road, Guildford.

MERTON. Elliot Burns, 13 Amity Grove, London, S.W.19. Tel. 01-946 1444.

SUSSEX FEDERATION

Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o

Eddie Poole, 5 Tisbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.

BRIGHTON & HOVE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton.

CRAWLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Richard Ashwell, 87 Buckswood Drive, Gossops Green, Crawley, Sussex.

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

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION

Secretary: Contact Leeds Group.

HARROGATE. Contact David Howes, 16 Park Parade, Harrogate.

HULL. Jim Young, 3 Fredericks Crescent, Hawththorpe, Hull.

KEIGHLEY. Steve Wood, 26B Cavendish Street, Keighley.

LEEDS: Direct Action Society, Contact Colin Arch, 11 Melrose Terrace, Horsforth, Nr. Leeds.

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

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

WELSH FEDERATION

ABERYSTWYTH ANARCHISTS. Contact Steve Mills, 4 St. Michael's Place, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, Wales. Aug-Sept. correspondence only.

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

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

YLANELLIS. Contact Dal Walker, 6 Llwynnendy Road, Llanelli, Carm. Tel: Llanelli 2548.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION

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

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

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Lynn, 12 Ross Street, S.E.

EDINBURGH. Tony Hughes, Top Flat, 40 Angle Park Terrace, Edinburgh 11.

HARROGATE AND DISTRICT ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Linton, 7a Station Road, New Stevenston, Motherwell.

FIFE. Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, By Cupar.

MONTROSE. Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden, Montrose, Angus.

ROSS-SHIRE. Contact David Rodgers, Broomfield, Evanton, Ross-shire, Scotland.

NORTHERN IRELAND BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP. No address available. Letters c/o Freedom Press.

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

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box A 389, Sydney South, NSW 2000. Phone No. 69-8095. Open discussion and literature sale in the Domain—Sunday, 2 p.m. Call at 59 Eveleigh Street, Redfern, NSW 2015 for personal discourse, tea and overnight accommodation.

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

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

PROPOSED GROUPS

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

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

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

NOTTINGHAM and area. Contact Dave Smalley, top flat, 43 Burns Street, Nottingham, or through folk club at the Central Tavern, Monday nights.

NORTH EAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Mick Renwick, 122 Mowbray Street, Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 6.

MID-SUSSEX area. Contact Adrian Howe, 10 Silverdale, Keymer, Hassocks, Tel. Hassocks 3458.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA. P. Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office, Newport, Nova Scotia, Canada.

HOW MANY TIMES have you heard politicians and political commentators refer to 'our' exports, or 'our' industry, or 'our' country? How often have workers been told that it is unpatriotic to strike and thereby harm 'our' balance of payments? And how long have the Tories been promising us a 'property-owning democracy', and the Labour Party equality and 'social justice'?

Indeed, the mass media has repeated these shibboleths and glib phrases so often and for so long that very few people ever stop and ask themselves: 'Whose country?' or 'Whose industry?' or 'Whose exports?' or 'Whose balance of payments?' But if they did, they would have to admit that the vast majority of the people of this and all other countries have no material or financial stake in the country at all. They would be forced to the conclusion that they had nothing, or almost nothing, to be patriotic about, that they own little more than their skins and the ability to work for someone else. Most of us are not only propertyless in the means of production and distribution, but we own precious little of anything else as well. We have no exports, no industries and no country. And despite the bleatings of the political parties (including such minority parties as the Communist Party and the Nazi Front), the last thing we should be is patriotic. These may sound harsh words to some, but they are true.

Statistical evidence abounds. And although it has been said that statistics can prove almost anything, the findings of a number of quite independent surveys are pretty conclusive over what 'we' own and what 'we' don't own. And 'we' don't own Britain.

According to *The Economist* (15.1.66), seven per cent of the population of Britain owned 84 per cent of all private wealth, while the top two per cent owned 55 per cent of the total. And J. R. Revell of Cambridge University, after considerable research, came up with much the same statistics. We estimated that the top five per cent of the population of this country owned more than seventy-five per cent of all personal property, while only one per cent owned 42 per cent of all such property. In the same year (1966), it was estimated that over 90 per cent of the population—who actually owned less than £3,000—

WHOSE COUNTRY?

had an average holding (in property or cash) of only £107. And this in an era of so-called affluence and the ever-increasing production of consumer goods.

But, you may ask: 'What has the party of social reform, the party of the common man, of the workers, got to say about all this?'

LABOUR PARTY ADMITS

In August this year, the Labour Party's own publication, *Economic Brief*, admitted that, after five years of Labour Government: 'Although the past five years of Labour Government has witnessed tremendous expansion of the social services, major reforms in the tax system and increased growth and efficiency of the public sector, Britain remains a society in which there are very sharp divisions of wealth and income. According to the latest official estimates nearly a third of the total personal wealth—£27,600 million out of £83,700 million—is owned by the richest one per cent of all adults and the richest ten per cent own 74 per cent. At the other end of the scale nearly 60 per cent of all adults appear to have little or no recorded wealth at all.'

Economic Brief continues: 'Income statistics reveal much the same pattern. In 1966 there were 40,000 incomes over £10,000, yet a million families—a quarter of whom had three or more children—had to manage on under £700 a year. Focussing attention solely upon personal income and wealth is misleading. The key process that fosters economic inequality is the process of capital accumulation and the growth of corporate wealth. Huge sums are involved. The total capital funds available to industrial and commercial companies amounted to nearly £4,800 million in 1968.'

'The expansion of company assets, by whatever means,' says *Economic Brief*, 'substantially boosts the potential earning power of corporations. This process has a considerable effect on income and wealth distribution. Only 1.8 million adults (under five per cent of all adults)

directly own industrial ordinary shares. Between them this small group directly own about half the total stock of equity. Their stake in June, 1969, amounted to £15,000 million. Each one per cent increase in overall share prices thus adds a further £160 million to their wealth and since the end of 1966, despite the recent setback in share prices, they have gained no less than £5,000 million.'

Yes, indeed, those people who do own Britain have—despite their usual complaining—done very well out of 'our' Labour Government. But then, Labour's got 'soul' to help them!

Surprisingly to some, no doubt, the proportion of owners to non-owners of wealth in this country has not changed appreciably over the last 70 years. In 1900, about 80 per cent of the real wealth was owned by about five per cent. Moreover, the inherited element in most large fortunes is as significant now as it was over 40 years ago. Today, as in the past, if you choose the wrong parents, then you've had it!

J. R. Revell also reveals that property incomes are even more highly concentrated than property ownership, so much so that the richest ten per cent of the population actually receive 99 per cent of all property income. And *The Economist* estimates that only five per cent of fortunes under £10,000 consist of company shares, compared with 56 per cent of all fortunes over £250,000. Percentagewise, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer—despite (or because of?) Labour's tax policies.

NATIONALISATION OF INDUSTRIES

Many people, particularly during the first post-war Labour Government, believed that the Bank of England, the railways, the coal mines, etc., belonged to them, to 'us'. Labour politicians claimed that, because these industries and concerns had been nationalised, they belonged to 'the people', to 'the nation'. But, of course, they don't. Nationalisa-

tion, with or without compensation, is not social or common ownership, not 'socialism', as many imagined and perhaps still imagine. Nationalisation is State ownership, something entirely different. And, moreover, despite popular belief to the contrary, profitability is all-important. Coal is not produced to use (although, of course, it is used) but for sale with a view to profit. If you or I cannot afford to buy fuel extracted from 'our' coal mines, then we will just have to freeze.

Nationalised and public property, so-called, amounts to around 42 per cent of the total wealth of the country. But, as Robin Blackburn has observed in his essay, 'The Unequal Society', the National Debt actually exceeds the value of all public property by 14 per cent—£28 million as against £21 million in 1966. So you see, all public property, including the nationalised industries, is mortgaged to the private, avowedly capitalist, sector—just like most of the 'Little Boxes' and bungalows which so many of us seem to imagine belong to us, but which really belong to the Building Societies and the finance companies.

Of course, a country or nation is not only bricks and mortar, real estate, car factories or coal mines. It is also people; the people who produce and distribute and administer the wealth. It is tradition and custom and beautiful (and ugly) scenery as well, although it isn't much compensation to the homeless, the unemployed or even an employed worker with a 25-year mortgage, to extol the beauties of the Yorkshire moors, the Mountains of Mourne or the Lochs of Inverness if he cannot afford to visit them. Nor does it matter whether we are 'true-born' Anglo-Saxons (as the Fascists are always telling us that we Britons are) or immigrant 'wogs' if we are unable to pay the rent of 'our' house or apartment.

So, when politicians and political commentators start telling you about 'your' balance of payments, 'your' exports or 'your' country, don't fall for it. 'Cos unless you belong to that very small minority of the population who do own the land, the buildings and the means of production and distribution, you haven't got one.

PETER NEWELL.

books?

we can supply any book in print

SECONDHAND

We have a large stock of secondhand books. Try us for what you want. This weeks selection.

- The Origins of Art Gene Weltfish 15/-
- The Crazy Mirror: Hollywood Comedy and the American Image Raymond Durnat 20/-
- Promised Land: Notes for a History of Hollywood Cedric Belfrage 4/-
- The Ballet-Lover's Companion Kay Ambrose 3/6
- Tonight the Ballet Adrian Stokes 3/-
- First Steps in Ballet Ruth French & Felix Demery 3/-
- Acton: the Formative Years David Mathew 3/-
- Aneurin Bevin: Cautious Rebel Mark M. Krug 10/-
- A Little Nut-Brown Man [Lord Beaverbrook] C. M. Vines 5/-
- Richard Carlile, Agitator Guy A. Aldred 3/-
- Boswell's London Journal (ed.) F. A. Polittle 10/-
- Essay on Clive Lord Macaulay 3/-
- The Memoirs of Benvenuto Cellini Richard Cobden Richard Gowing 3/-
- Four Years in Parliament with Hard Labour (1890) C. W. Radcliffe Cooke 3/-
- Cripps: a Portrait and a Prospect Froom Tyler 3/6
- The Life Story of Will Crooks, MP George Haw 3/-
- Life of Richard Cobden John Morley 7/6

POSTAGE EXTRA

Freedom Bookshop

HERE WE ARE!

Note new telephone number: BISHopsgate 9249

New address: 84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, (entrance Angel Alley), WHITECHAPEL, E.1. (Underground: Aldgate East. Exit: Whitechapel Art Gallery. Turn right on emerging from station.)

FREEDOM PRESS and Bookshop

Opening times: Closed Monday, Sunday. Tuesday-Friday, 3-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

FREEDOM PRESS

are the publishers of the monthly magazine ANARCHY and the weekly journal FREEDOM specimen copies will be sent on request.

Subscription Rates (Per year)

Inland		
'FREEDOM' ONLY	£1 13s. 4d.	
'ANARCHY' ONLY	£1 7s. 0d.	
COMBINED SUBSCRIPTION	£2 14s. 4d.	
Abroad		
'FREEDOM' ONLY surface mail	£1 10s. 0d.	
airmail (US\$8.00)	£2 16s. 0d.	
'ANARCHY' ONLY surface mail	£1 6s. 0d.	
airmail (US\$7.00)	£2 7s. 0d.	
COMBINED SUBSCRIPTION surface mail	£2 10s. 0d.	
Both by airmail (US\$12.50)	£4 15s. 0d.	
'Freedom' by airmail, 'Anarchy' by surface mail (US\$10.50)	£3 17s. 0d.	

Police at BSR

Continued from page 1

bodies to give a clear lead to students as to what they should do in industrial disputes. As Scotland undergoes what the economists call 'the second Industrial Revolution', it is essential that workers organise to make sure they're not taken for a ride. The brave women of BSR have begun that fight.

PETER THE PAINTER.

*Strikers at BSR have now won full recognition for their union and a phased return-to-work has been negotiated.—EDS.

Questions & Answers

A Riddle?

WHAT is the connection between Heal's and the *Guardian* combining together to prostitute and add to a charming drawing and description of Pooh and the Piglet (in an advertisement) and that of the *People* printing a nude photograph of a dead woman? The usual prize is offered to the solver of this problem by one of the editors of FREEDOM. Contributions to reach this office by the New Year (theirs or ours).

OUR REQUIREMENTS—THEIR REQUISITIONS

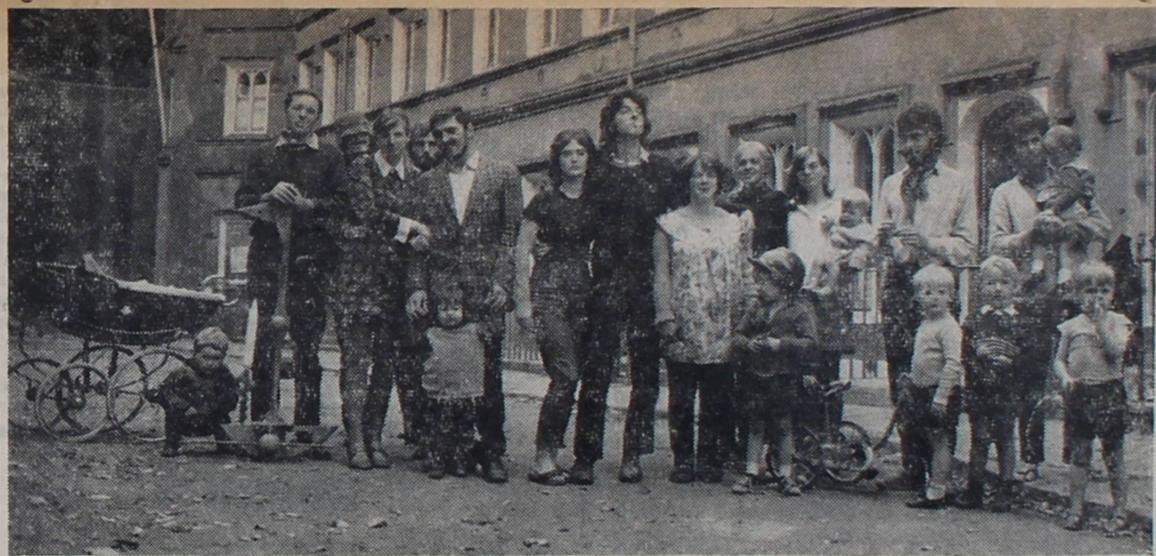
BRIGHTON Squatters (pictured here) have been served with Possession Orders answerable in eight days.

Here (in the picture) they stand confidently outside their home—now they are served with the orders individually so that that may be separated, homeless and once more un...?

How do you feel about all this?

DOES THIS SHOCK YOU?

COUNCILLORS who were elected as Tories will now represent the National Front in Wandsworth Council. The electors should demand their resignation but will they? Is this an exceptional circumstance; who does your councillor represent and who is wearing



whose mask?

A GLIMMER OF HOPE

'WE' are good people as good people go' (letter in FREEDOM, November 9, 1969). But we must sort out utopia from present reality so that our desire to impart correct information may bring about the free (anarchist) world we desire to live in.

T.W.J.

Recorrection

I HATE the interminable wrangles that go on in FREEDOM as much as anyone—the fact that I am about to contribute to one could easily have been avoided by the Editors and R.B. checking their facts before putting things in the paper.

Everything I wrote in FREEDOM's AFB report on Ireland was stated by the Irish comrade who spoke very well on the scene over there. Perhaps R.B. knows more about it than he does—but it is interesting that the Irish comrades have not disowned my reporting of the situation.

Point by point—it WAS stated by him, not me, that IS groups were working inside PD. I did not mean to imply—even by the use of the word 'faction'—that anarchists were anything but an integral part of PD. It was also stated that anarchists were involved with the Derry Squad.

Therefore, R.B., there were no 'misconceptions' for you to clear up—were there? As you rightly said, all this was stated quite clearly at conference—which conference were YOU at?

In fact it was far easier taking minutes at that session of conference—and the

report was only a write-up of these minutes, written at the time things were being said—because it was about the only time during the entire two days when everyone shut up and listened to a good speaker with far more first-hand experience of the Irish situation than R.B. (who has been to Ireland) or me (who has not). I just wrote down what he said as he said it.

I understand R.B. was a little narked, to say the least, at my using his name in the report without his permission—which is why I have given him only initials here. For that—and that alone, I apologise—the rest that I wrote in the reports stands, at least as far as I am concerned. It is not easy minuting an AFB conference—as anyone who has ever been to one well knows. Minor inaccuracies do creep in—but on this occasion I stand by what I wrote until disowned by our comrades across the water.

Over to you, Irish comrades—but not more wrangling in FREEDOM. Just write to Reg or myself (c/o Freedom Press) and put either or both of us right.

PADDY FIELDS.

Some Morality!

COMRADES WILL HAVE heard of the savage fines dished out to the demonstrators at the Springboks Leicester match. 'Obstruction' at £20 and 'Threatening Behaviour' at £50 shows the attitude of our 'impartial' law. Comrades in court were told by the august preservers of law and order that no matter what they said in their defence it would not be taken into consideration. They were not concerned with the morality of the case. However, when one comrade was charged for getting into the ground without a ticket, it seemed that attitudes changed somewhat. 'We cannot consider this as an isolated act as the fact there was a demonstration in progress is material to the case.' This comrade, it should be noted, was arrested by Rugby Union vigilantes who obviously enjoyed their

new-found responsibilities, judging by their enthusiastic use of techniques learnt in the rugby scrum.

Possibly the heavy fines have been imposed in an attempt to recoup some of the £60,000 that the taxpayers are expected to have to pay towards the State's defence of Apartheid tours in this country.

Once again we see the leaders of a demonstration, quite understandably afraid for their own necks, wishing to divert the march from its real objective. These 'leaders', thankfully rejected by the majority of the demonstrators, are easy prey from the coercive forces of the State—surely a good argument against any concept of such leadership.

LOUGHBOROUGH LIBERTARIAN GROUP.

Dock Strife Hot's Up

THE propaganda war against the dockers over their ban on certain modernised methods mainly in Tilbury is hotting up. Two Conservative MPs in successive weeks have slammed the dockers and got wide publicity in the press. Predictably, only part of the story has been told.

The ban applies to all future agreements for individual berths which involve drastic reduction in manning—until ALL dockers in the Port of London get similar security to those on 'productivity' (reduced manning) deals.

The effect of this has successfully pressured the employers into improving their offer to all dockers to £36 for a 31½-hour week for fully fit men, and £27 10s. for light duty

men. This is a lot better than their original offer of about £25 for a longer working week plus a bonus dependent on productivity.

Without the ban on reduced manning deals the employers could have continued to pay higher rates of pay only to those men on container berths and package timber berths where 15 men do in a day the work of 125 men over two weeks under conventional methods. The rest of the dockers would continue to get just piecework earnings with a minimum of £17 guaranteed.

The press and Members of Parliament have devoted a great deal of publicity to the container berths which have been hit by the ban. They have not seen fit to mention those which were agreed before the ban and are now working normally. At Tilbury alone there are at least seven container services and three package timber berths all working on vastly reduced manning (see picture of a container ship being loaded for America at Tilbury).

The men at these berths are only a very small proportion of the total number of dockers but they have been working excessive overtime. This, coupled with the labour-saving machinery, means they have been doing fantastic tonnages. The fear of the majority of the men is that there will be less and less work left over for them and, as they rely on piecework, their earnings could fall until they get only the £17 guarantee.

It was because of this that the ban was imposed on further reduced manning deals until the rest of the men did not rely on piecework. As can be seen, this has had the effect of greatly improving the employers' offer of a set wage instead of piecework earnings and the dockers are now voting by post on whether to accept it.

Yet Conservative MP, Mr. Ian Lloyd (Langstone), calls this 'a new and much more sinister version of the Mafia, in which industrial blackmail is being substituted for the gun, in which neither management nor trade unions can exercise their legitimate authority, and in which it is quite clear that the State, and the State alone, can take action'.

Of course charges of 'blackmail' and 'holding the country to ransom' are always being levelled at workers who don't do exactly what the employers want. Such a charge from the small minority who own the factories and industry and only allow people to work on their conditions (the owners') is surely the ultimate cheek. If that is not holding people to ransom, what is?

Through firm bargaining and the courage to back it up with action the dockers have achieved a privileged position in the working class.

Maybe other workers should learn

their lesson about militancy and solidarity. It must also be remembered that the dockers' wages do not compare quite so favourably with the managers who tell them what work to do rather than do it.

Mr. Lloyd's remarks about the union being unable to exercise its legitimate authority are completely ill-informed. For it was the union itself (TGWU) that imposed the ban.

As for unions not exercising authority over their members, this is a common statement nowadays. Is it too much to expect in our 'democracy' that it should be the other way round—members controlling their unions? Many seem to think democracy means electing a dictator to decide things for you and tell you what to do rather than electing a representative to act in accordance with your wishes.

Mr. David Mitchell (Conservative MP for Basingstoke) has accused the Government of being dilatory in dealing with the ban.

But the prize for the most stupid remarks must go to Mr. Klaas De Waal, a shipping manager in Amsterdam. He said: 'In our world everything is changing except our attitudes, our way of thinking. It is this mental short-circuit that has led to the birth of the hippie, but which also lies behind the refusal of Tilbury dockers to load container ships. The reactions of the beatnik and the docker are precisely the same—a rejection of modern technology.'

All the reasons for the ban outlined above are ignored. It's simply a rejection of modern technology! As if dockers prefer straining their backs and lift heavy cargoes to hooking a crane on to a container (a standardised box containing cargo) and letting the machine do all the work.

As for the employers—they have only introduced modern technology where the profits from it are enormous. They have not gone out of their way to introduce it on such jobs as bags of cement or rock ore where men still lift tons a day with their bare hands. Yet the employers are not accused of rejecting modern technology in these cases.

Even more revealing are Mr. De Waal's remarks on plans to nationalise the docks. 'This is not a communistic country,' he says. 'Mr. Marsh should understand that we are not in shipping or stevedoring because we want to do our job properly for the nation. We are in shipping to make profits.'

Barely two minutes later he said: 'There should be an explicit willingness to co-operate and a real wish on the part of the trade unions to compromise with the national interest in mind.'

In his praise for private enterprise and competition he did not mention that all the shipping lines that run container services between Europe and Australia have joined together to form the single Australian Container Service. In other words competition ceases and a monopoly is established.

Also the unions have 'co-operated'—seven container services and three package timber berths are working at Tilbury. But no, it's the old story—the employers do not have to 'do their job for the nation' but the workers must 'compromise with the national interest in mind'.

'PORTWORKER'.

Let's Join the Human Race!

JOHN TAYLOR, the London Welsh, Wales, and British Lions wing forward, has decided that he cannot play against the South African Rugby Union team for reasons of conscience and politics.

A corporal who went absent without leave in Northern Ireland because he did not wish to open fire on unarmed people, was sentenced yesterday to be reduced to the ranks. The finding and sentence are subject to confirmation.

Corporal Roger Keith Phillips (24), of the Second Battalion, the Queen's Regi-

ment, pleaded guilty to being AWOL. Making a plea in mitigation, Captain Reginald Palmer read a statement by Corporal Phillips in which he said: 'My absence is entirely my own fault and I have pleaded guilty to the charge. I expect to be punished.'

'I could not in all honesty as a soldier open fire on or be responsible for opening fire on unarmed people which I consider to be my own people who, when demonstrating, attacked me personally or my section, not unless they were armed and fired first. It was only because of this that I went absent.'

Guardian.

Freedom For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 22 1969 Vol 30 No 36

Review :

OCCUPATION AT FLINT

AN IMPORTANT side of history is the lessons which can be learned and the application of this knowledge to present-day events and circumstances. History never quite repeats itself.

For this reason, the *Solidarity Pamphlet*, 'The Great Flint Sit-Down Against General Motors, 1936-37' is an important account, not only in the historical sense, but also as a contribution to the discussion concerning effective methods of industrial action. The preface to the pamphlet says: 'We hope that reinforced by knowledge the current discussion on tactics will soon culminate in some really effective action.'

Workers in this country, miners excepted, have not used the occupation of the work place as a means of struggle. On the continent, where anarcho-syndicalist propaganda and influence was much more widespread, the use of occupation was correspondingly more frequent. Most recent examples were, of course, in France in May 1968 and this year in Italy.

Tactics are important for the choice could either mean victory or defeat for a particular struggle. Certainly they all have their drawbacks and each should be examined critically, assessing their value to circumstances. From a revolutionary standpoint, occupation is a step towards workers' control, for instead of the workers being locked out, it is the employers. The workers gain physical control of the place of work. It is a direct challenge to the so-called right of the bosses to manage and gives those in occupation far greater command of the situation than if they were manning the picket line. It also makes it easier to prevent scabs from moving in

and the presence of expensive machinery will make any employer think twice before taking action to dislodge the occupiers.

Another important aspect which comes over in the pamphlet is that an occupation helps to keep the control of the dispute in the hands of the rank and file and prevents the union officials from getting the upper hand. As such, it is only successful if the rank and file participate fully and remain active in the organising and running of the occupation.

The pamphlet, an abridged version of one published by the Radical Education Project and which appeared in a 1967 issue of the American magazine *Progressive Labour*, gives a good factual account of the General Motors occupation. The main point of the dispute was the recognition and negotiating rights of the United Auto Workers. It was a struggle for industrial unionism, even against the craft unions of the American Federation of Labour. At that time, the bureaucratic tendencies of the Auto Union were not so prevalent, but now it and other industrial unions have become the controllers of labour. Even today the fact that industrial unionism is not just the answer has not been grasped by many trade unionists who still consider this as a path to salvation.

As *Solidarity* points out, the pamphlet should not be taken as a 'blueprint for today's struggles'. What it does is to show how effective the weapon of occupation was on that occasion at Flint.

P.T.

*From Freedom Press, Price 1/-, Postage Extra.

DURRUTTI

JULY 14, 1896—

NOVEMBER 20, 1936

VERY LITTLE seems to be available in English about Durruti. Both the time he spent as a fugitive from European and South American governments and as captain of the anarchic army on the Aragon front in the civil war/revolution in Spain are dealt with as footnotes in varied books, presenting few and conflicting anecdotes. So until such time as a linguistic comrade can produce a biography, it must be sufficient to reproduce part of an interview with a journalist from the *Toronto Star*, published in September 1936:

'I do not expect any help for a libertarian revolution from any government in the world. Maybe the conflicting interests of the various imperialisms might have some influence in our struggle. That is quite possible. Franco is doing his best to drag Europe into the conflict. He will not hesitate to pitch Germany against us. But we expect no help, not even from our government in the last analysis. . . . We have always lived in slums and holes in the wall. We will know how to accommodate ourselves for a time. For you must not forget, we can also build. It is we who built these palaces and cities here in Spain and in America and everywhere. We, the workers, can build others to take their place. And better ones. We are not in the least afraid of ruins.'

AFRAID

Continued from page 2

But then the mood switched—a helpless 'thingy', a deformed creature of no good account, appeared and soon got into a sack—with superb visual effect. Spotlight and writhing, it made its way to the lap of the nearest lady and clung like a mollusc to a rock.

The tension of unpredictability increased as the demarcation between 'us' and 'them' became narrow and in some instances crossed altogether. There was a strip scene done with peaceful deliberation down to the last pubic hair. After which, the naked couple picked up their clothes and stole softly away. It was then one began to notice a certain uneasiness in a man at the back of the room, a note of hostility had been evoked. When Laura—now scantily clad—re-emerged in semi-darkness to growl and spit and prowl her way round the edge of the darkened room, this poor guy leapt at her, and for a minute male and female confronted each other in total hostility. He had lost his cool very badly and was no longer certain of his role.

This 'sense of defensiveness spread. Were any of us certain of our roles? By breaking them down—and surely, in this show, it is part of the conscious ideology to do this—it becomes an existential drama where anything is possible. Perhaps we have lost our ability to respond outside formal everyday patterns of behaviour, and in doing so lost the ability to sense and react spontaneously to people and situations—where our inner selves lie, we are afraid, and afraid of our fear. The People Shows, on one level, at least, give us a chance to face this uncertainty.

S.H.

Contact Column

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

Comrade wanted urgently—to translate 'Der Freiheitliche Syndikalismus im Wohlfahrtsstaat'. Box No. 01.

Wanted: Budgie and cage for long term prisoner. Phone Ros 01-229 8512.

Anyone interested in forming an Anarchist group in Exeter please contact Dave, 13A Northernhay Street, Exeter.

History Workshop. Saturday, November 29-Sunday, November 30, Ruskin College, Oxford. Oxfordshire Poachers, London anarchists, Paris Commune, Victorian Pubs, Australian Bandits, Shoemaker Chartist, Jude the Obscure. Papers by E. J. Hobbsbawm, Gwyn Williams, Ruskin Students, etc. Folk Song. Workers, students, teachers welcome. Sleeping floor accommodation. Details from History Workshop, Ruskin College.

'Synic': Fortnightly libertarian broadsheet information service for the left from Freedom Press and left workshops. Subscription 17/6 per annum. Any articles, dates or orders to: 'Synic', Room 209, Abbey House, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

American anarchist student in England in January, seeks employment, preferably working with communications media. Write Michael Board, 837 College Street, Beloit, Wisc. 53511, USA, before December 1, 1969.

Prisoners for Peace Day. List available from Freedom Press. Send greeting cards of support and solidarity.

Poster Workshop Calendar. Out Now. One Fighting Poster for each month, in black, red and blue. 7/6 each, at least. Send to Alison Waghorne, 9 Lyme Terrace, N.W.1.

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

Workers' Mutual Aid pamphlet 1/- each from Freedom Press.

Will anyone who thinks police have exceeded their duty (like vindictively objecting to bail, etc.), please contact Jake at 3 Osborn Street, London, E.1.

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

Contact wanted with anarchists in Mid-Wales; Eric S. Hetherington, Corbie Lynn, Llanwrtyd Wells, Breconshire. Bit inf. service 01-229 8219. Urgently requires more crash pads in and around London.

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

Badges? Contact Pendarves Workshop, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne; tel. Camborne 3061. Red and Black or plain Black, 2/6 each or 10 for 10/-.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Printed by Express Printers, London, E.1.

Published by Freedom Press, London, E.1.