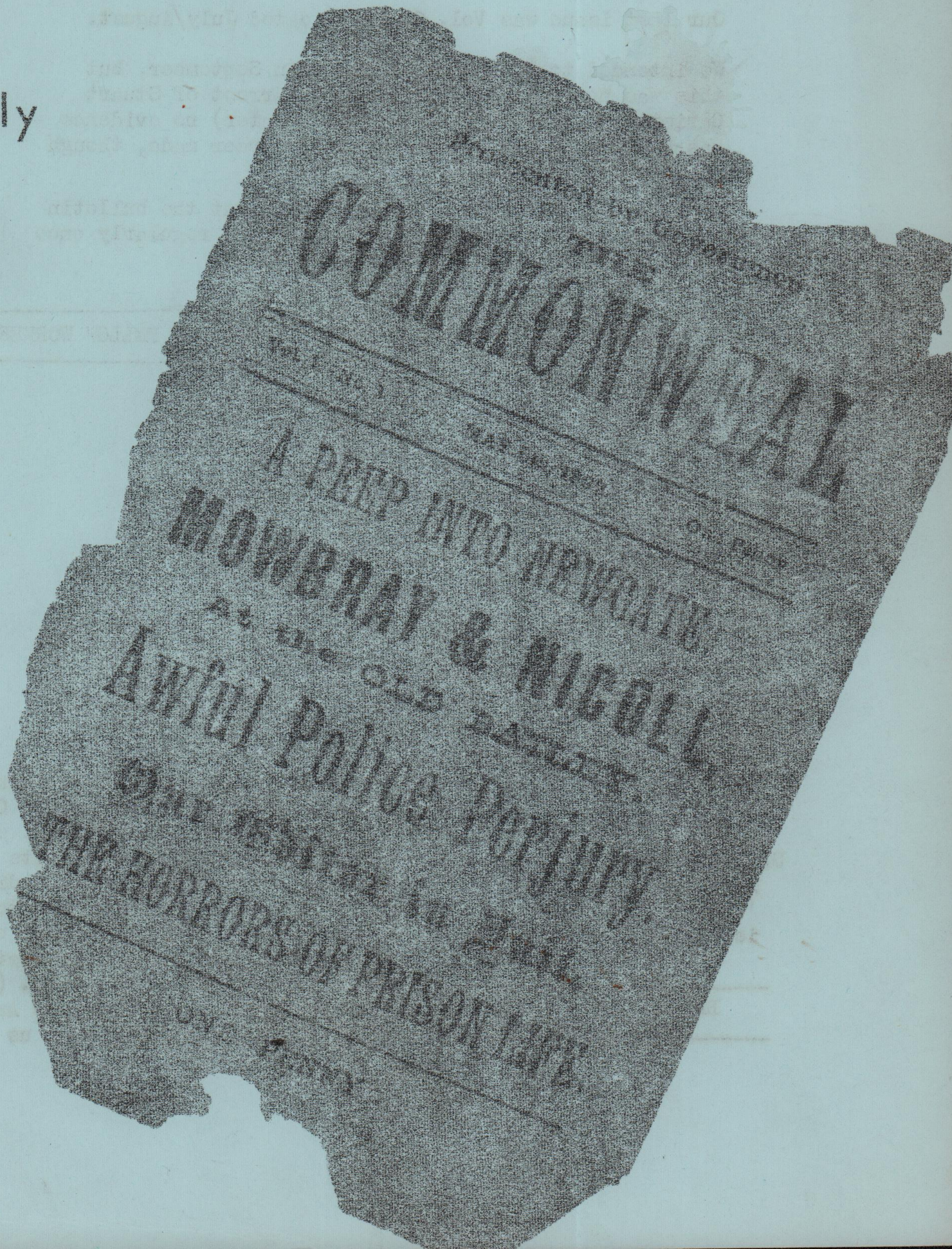


Black Flag

Monthly

6p



NOTE TO READERS

Our last issue was Vol. 2. No. 7 dated July/August.

We intended to bring out an issue in September, but this was not possible owing to the arrest of Stuart Christie, against whom (five weeks later) no evidence has been produced, and no committal order made, though he is still in custody.

It is hoped that the bulletin will now appear regularly once more.

FOR WORKERS' COUNCILS...FORM 'FIVES' OF FELLOW WORKERS

Some copies of last issue went out with only half the pages (there were 28 pages). Anyone who got a "short" issue please return and exchange. Some may not have received any copies of the issue, as 100 have been taken with other property. But we have prepared more. Let us know if you missed a copy.

SUBSCRIPTION:-

75p. (15/-) for 12
issues. 8th issue.

BLACK FLAG GROUP

Balance sheet appeared last issue. We are still well in the red. Our main expenditure is postage... sales in provinces eat up any profits by the cost of sending. As the editorial group is personally committed to so many matters including support of comrades in jail, help appreciated - especially sale of literature. (Hence overpricing of Modn Science & Anarchism at 30p. which alone can make us viable).

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PRISONERS IN SPAIN by Miguel Garcia Garcia

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The Maudling Prize Tyranny of Words Quiz etc.

Vol. 2. No. 8. November 1st.71. 6p. (12 issues 75p.) 1971
(The last issue No. 7 was July/August). (Sept/Oct did not appear)
MONTHLY PUBLICATION AGAIN WITH THIS ISSUE.

STIRRINGS ON THE CLYDE

The Communist secretary of the shop stewards at UCS yards at Clyde tried to dissociate himself and the whole of the UCS workers from the attack on John Davies. He said everyone there would offer the Minister their sympathy. There was a roar of BOLLOCKS! not reported in the Press. Labour MPs saw the red light and began speaking in the House of people being driven to violence by Mr. Davies' policies.

The shop steward leaders are repeating, however, that there must be no 'violence'. We do not have to suggest there should be. But the CP - which supports tanks in Hungary - need not prattle about the superiority of non-violence. The struggle in UCS is bound to be non-violent, on the whole, but it is a sign of weakness, not strength. The State has let them "work in" because it hopes that an attempt at "socialism in one parish" will fail. The Tories - and Labourites - will then say workers

.....continued over

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Christie. This issue edited by: Albert Meltzer.

control is doomed to failure and point triumphantly to the fact that after capitalism and the State reduced the proud Glasgow shipbuilding industry to ruin, the workers could not control it "for want of capital".

If the work-in were over a wide enough area it WOULD succeed. But it would need to cut itself away from the financial system, the laws of economics, the money racket. To say that the State would not then use violence -- as it is doing in Northern Ireland, on a far larger scale -- is futile. That is why the workers shouted 'Bollocks' to the earnest students of Marxism. Their way of life, their whole roots, are to be destroyed. They are fighting against that. They know the sit-in is a rearguard action, that some of its professed leaders only want the chance to say 'it could never succeed' or blame 'apathy' and 'lack of support'. They know too that if it spread, this would change the world and the State would fight the People.

BANKRUPTCY

Mr Maudling, Home Secretary, proposes that criminals be made bankrupt so that their loot may be shared among the victims. He may not have realised that many bankrupts defraud their creditors by false claims on the estate (this was, incidentally, recommended by Jesus in the parable of the Unjust Steward), and criminals would be the most likely people to do so.

Would it not be a logical extension of the principle to make politicians also responsible to the people for their crimes? Roy Bradford, Development Minister for Ulster, says that if the "terrorists" are not controlled "Ulster could face bankruptcy in a matter of weeks". It was all right when you took it. If you've ruined it, shouldn't you Stormont boys take the financial load? You have the loot.

CLOSING THE BORDER

The Army wants to dig craters in the roads from Northern to Southern Ireland; to guard the border so it is impossible to cross. New plans for blowing up communications are announced.

But at the same time it is proposed that we (and Eire too) should enter the Common Market. Not putting craters in the communicating roads is (one would suppose) what the Common Market is all about. If Britain and France become closer, so will Britain and Eire. On the one hand politicians tell us how the Channel Tunnel has been held up for so long by national prejudice. Where, however, geography has provided no need for a Tunnel, between two parts of the same island, they intend to authorise the blowing up of roads.

BLACK FLAG BOOKSHOP

1 Wilne Street, Leicester.

All anarchist publications.

THE PRISONERS IN SPAIN

The conference of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain asked, by a small majority, for forgiveness for the part it played in the war against the people and in the post war repression. It is late in the day to ask for forgiveness for the former. As to the latter, the crime of the Catholic Church was not that of Pope Pius who stood by while the Nazis committed murder. It actively participated in the slaughter and encouraged the pogrom against the people. It could have tempered the wind, but it fanned it.

Is it now sincere in its change of heart? If so, the remedy is within its power. It may drop the hypocritical pretence of asking for leniency when it knows that this will not ever be granted. It is safe, on Christian grounds, to ask for mercy. It flatters military men to be asked. But a Government that holds Julian Millan four years awaiting trial, that shoots strikers in the streets, will not grant an "amnesty". Appeals to the Caudillo flatter him. He likes to pose as a man of power. They do not influence him. He has produced his "amnesty". It grants as a favour LESS than is guaranteed by law!

If the Church wants forgiveness it must act in a positive way, and it can do so by demanding strict enforcement of existing laws. That is more its metier. It cannot get leniency, it is absurd for it to think of getting freedom. But it is uniquely placed in Spain to obtain obedience to law. So conservative a body, with

so many nominees in high places - can enforce "justice" by the conqueror's own standards where it cannot enforce "mercy".

If the laws are strictly enforced in relation to (i) the right to liberty in the last quarter of the sentence and (ii) the reduction of sentences by work, many political prisoners would be automatically freed. These laws go back to last century. They are constitutionally guaranteed. Even the Franco junta observed them for 25 years until, in 1966, they became politically inexpedient. Since then, conditional liberty has been refused to political prisoners.

The latter do not share the pious hopes of Christian liberals. They fear the clergy may use appeals for mercy as a smoke screen. The law, harsh as it is, is enough - if applied - to free one half of Spain's political prisoners. This, the Church can do. Let it do what it can rather than appeal for what it knows will never be given and can only be taken.

Miguel Garcia Garcia.

Short Story

A BAD DREAM

(No reference to anyone living or dead is intended)

The pie at the police canteen (which Inspector Z attended whenever he wanted to build up his expense account - he charged it to "entertaining informants at Oddenino's") was particularly bad. The cook was on the fiddle and serving Special Branch with the same grub they used for the poor sods in the cells....Inspector Z tossed and turned in his bed that night. He had a bad dream....

"The present Government is quite different from any other," his superintendent told him. "They are revolutionary socialists. Fortunately, they are authoritarians so we will keep our jobs. But we must play ball with them."

"Quite my line," said Insp. Z, an old Army man. "As I used to say to my men, you play ball with me,...."

"Immigrants' homes have been attacked by fascists," said the superintendent, who was in no mood for reminiscences. "The Home Secretary, Mr. Tariq Ali, means business on this issue. You have got to get the perpetrators."

The inspector was dismayed. "How, super?" he asked. "It could be any militant racist."

"I said you have to get them," answered the super. "The War Minister, Mr. Gerry Healey, might cut off your Army pension if you don't. I need hardly

say I'll give you every backing. I dare say Enoch Powell's behind it. He supports that sort of thing, doesn't he?"

"Sure," said Inspector Z. "But the fact that he believes in deporting immigrants and the fact that he talks of rivers of blood and the fact that he is the symbol to people who attack those of another colour doesn't mean he is the actual person who went out and burned these houses."

"But if you found him with lighted matches and a can of petrol, that'd be different? The man must have matches and petrol, surely?"

"Do you think if we planted the evidence the Lord Chancellor would sit by?" asked Inspector Z.

"Lord Chief Justice Palmer would back the evidence to the hilt," said the super. "And in any case, even if the evidence doesn't stick, we'll have Enoch Powell sitting in Brixton for a year waiting for the case to come to trial, and by that time either the political situation will have altered, or you'll be able to find fresh evidence preferably from someone unprejudiced like the Black Panthers, that will send him down for a score of years....."

Later... The super was raving. What had possessed Inspector Z? No arrest... and the Yard had told the Press it had intended to arrest a well known scholar of Greek classics any day...

"Can I help it if he doesn't smoke or drive a car?" asked the inspector plaintively. "No matches, no petrol." He brightened. "I've charged Robert Graves," he said. "We had to get a Greek scholar."

"Oh my Gawd!" cried the super. "What will the Minister of Labour Mr Coates say? He's promised his constituents to act on the issue."

That was how - when they finally put some matches in Mr Powell's pocket... he was sent for trial in a cause celebre with Robert Graves.....

Then the inspector woke up. When he has some more pie we will be able to continue the story.

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH YOUR SPANISH HOLIDAY ?

British tourist agents rave into the phone.. Journalists rush to get stories.. Angry fathers shake their fists at unfortunate harassed reservations clerks. Tourists find boarding houses, pensions, hotels half-finished. The luxury site looks more like Cubitt's building yard than it does like a sunny Blackpool... The Spanish Ministry of Tourism apologises, turfs out some inoffensive hippies, sends some

contractors who have not paid any bribes to jail... What is it all about? What has gone wrong with the tourist boom? Is it too many people?

It is part of a new malaise in Spain, where buildings collapse and work cannot be finished to time and jobs are rushed through and bodhed. This in a country where the craftsman has for years been the most painstaking, reliable and honest in the world. Where he would not worry about money... he got sufficient and could take pride in his work.

BUT THIS TRADITION WAS SOLIDLY IN THE HANDS OF THE UNIONS. It was they who exposed shoddy workmanship, would expel a member who was robbing the public, would not let the dishonest builder make quick profits. "Let him be a thief but we are honest workers."

How did so revolutionary a union as the CNT exist for years under illegality and dictatorship without its members being fired from every job (like those of the IWW in the USA). Because a boss knew that the public would not trust him without the guarantee of a union label. All that, however, was swept away by the victory of General Franco. So long as the country stagnated, the loss of the unions to the public was not noticed. Now that wealth is pouring in and work going ahead, we can see great apartments and hotels put up, only to fall down -- something inconceivable once. DON'T BLAME THE TRAVEL AGENT. If the line were working, he would

sell you a ticket to Hell. But he could not guarantee air conditioning down there.....

A CLASS STRUGGLE ?

THE recent dispute of the National Graphical Association with the newspaper proprietors revealed some interesting attitudes. The proprietors sacked all members of the union for "industrial misconduct". Then they gave warning notices of dismissal to members of all other printing and journalistic unions, not involved in the dispute, and shut down the press. Finally, it was settled. (For all the cries of 'losing money' the situation would not be long tolerated where the one London newspaper was the 'Morning Star').

But might there not have been a printworker in the graphical section who said, "But I don't want to be sacked, let me leave the union"? And surely in some of the other grades - among the clerical workers, especially (alas) the dolly birds, and the journalists - there were several who could not care less about the union, and belonged only because the employer insisted? There were. But you have to be a member of the union for us to be able to employ you, said the employers. And as

you're a member, you're fired.

Fortunately every one knew it was all bluff on this occasion. But surely it illustrates one thing: the unions may not know there is a class struggle and certainly the journalists and some of the dolly clerks don't know. But the employers know. No use hoisting the white flag. And the assumption of neutrality ("I'm middle class, of course") never saved anyone.

SPIES

A playboy defector
'gives names' and 105
Russians from the

trade and diplomatic delegations are expelled. Was it a danger to security? Or a political manoeuvre?

Could be both a political gimmick to divert attention from the economic crisis, and true that the Russians were spies. But what did it matter if they were? What have we to hide? The public is frightened of spies thinking we have great military secrets. But in all this Britain is now completely outstripped. In higher physics no secrets exist any longer. Communications are such that it is no longer necessary to report on troop movements. It is all on TV within an hour or two.

What is all the rubbish about 'dead letter trees'? One has only to pop into the Russian Embassy. Why 'secret transmitters in suburban homes' a la Kroger, when there are a host of consulates to go to? Can it all be a game?

It is. The spying services are

-- so far as relationships between States go -- useless, anachronistic, time-wasting, costly and redundant. They are kept going to keep the Military Intelligence people in good jobs -- when politicians query their necessity, there is a smokescreen of 'security' put up.

It is by no means impossible that in its anti-lame-duck attitude and money-paring attitude, the present Gogernment wanted to cut down on military espionage, and the necessity for expelling the Russians was a hoax put over by OUR 'KGB' as an excuse to justify its continued existence.

The purpose of Special Branch, the internal 'KGB', is by spying on its own citizens, to harass and discourage the political opponents of the government. Military Intelligence, its opposite number for external relations, cannot do that. It cannot discourage external opposition to the government. But it can draw its salaries. In that all Government departments have full expertise

REMEMBER Hitler's espionage service cost many lives. At great risk and expense he was brought the message by his spies that Britain would, in fact, win. But nobody had the courage to go through the door and tell him.

COMMON MARKET

The absurd stand of the Labour Party Conference will deceive nobody. If a Labour Government turns out the Tories on the Common Market issue, it will then have to begin negotiations on its own behalf. Everybody understands that this is the role of the Parliamentary Opposition.

The stand of the Left humbugs that follow in the wake of Russia as a 'loyal opposition' to Stalinism is also perforce anti-Common Market. Hence they must line up with arch-reactionary Tories, Nat. Front etc. For most people the issue is clear: they don't want to have more to do with foreigners than they can help, hence a readymade bandwaggon to clamber on, less grimy than the anti-immigration one.

Referendum on the Common Market? Why not one on Capitalism itself? That, however, is not called into question either by the pro's or the anti's of the Common Market Bore. Nor would the referendum help!

APOLOGY In the last issue we said the 'Angry Brigade' badges were produced by Agitprop. They were of course produced by Individual Action.

PERSONAL NOTE

The present issue was produced under great difficulties: it was already late owing to the arrest of Stuart and loss of material. I also suffered a deep personal loss in Audrey's death. Thanks to those who have expressed sympathy. A.M.

HOW MUCH AM I WORTH ?

The State takes from us all we produce. It gives back to us its paper tokens in the form of money. We not only need this in order to exchange for the world's goods (that we ourselves have produced); we are expected to (and do) worship it. Where will the money come from? How could you run schools and hospitals without money - rates - taxes?

Not only our position in life, our very character and that of our descendants is formed time and again by the want or superfluity of money. How to make more money is the world's preoccupation. When we juggle for salary rises; spend or save according to temperament; scheme for profit or undergo financial loss, we are not increasing or decreasing the world's wealth as such; we are trying to get a larger share of it for ourselves.

The capitalist tries to make greater profits. The new style ruling class - both in the State controlled economy of the 'socialist' countries and the State industries and most of the major industrial concerns in the 'capitalist' ones - are no longer interested in profit. They want increased individual salaries for themselves. They do not want to be at the mercy of 'the market'. They are filled

with anger at the greedy worker who wants a bigger salary, or the peripheral part of the economy existing on profit. They however always want bigger salaries by force.

In the 'socialist' countries one needs to get political power, and - having control of a system of terror - nobody is likely to query one's worth. No-one will tell a Stalin that a police commissioner should not get a rise. It is not quite the same here. But company executives can fix their own salaries, even without political power. They exist on public money, coming through shares (the way to invest to avoid paying it all in tax) if not through direct taxation. But they can fix their own service contracts and determine how much they are worth. The directors do not care. The public will pay. They vehemently oppose wage increases for the workers as being "inflationary". But no one may question service contracts for the directors, except the directors.

In one company, Williams Hudson, publishing its balance sheet because of a bid from Adepton, the eight directors had voted themselves, takeover or not, £89,192 a year apiece though they expected the company to earn no more than £700,000 for the year. As the company was in none too good a position, they would accept £450,000 to terminate the personal agreement. You take the losses (you can pass them on, we can't) and for our blunders, we'll be content with a fortune.

QUIZ

1. What English M.P. (Liberal, later Labour) always claimed to be a "philosophic anarchist" (and sponsored some of Emma Goldman's meetings in the '20's)?
2. Who threw a bomb in the French Chamber of Deputies?
3. What Prime Minister was known as "the father of anarchism"?
4. Which Essex town was the centre of anarchist activity until the police took advantage of Regn.18b (designed against fascists) to turn the militants out of town?
5. What anarchist editor of a daily newspaper was executed for insulting God?

answers on page 16

.....

End of the I.L.P.

It ended with a whimper and a bang. It will be a joke round the Left. A tragedy to many veterans who remember the "old days". A footnote to historians to round off a chapter.

The Independent Labour Party is the richest in the country. It could buy and sell the Labour and Tory Parties together. Yet is reduced to a tiny sect unable except by wrangling to touch its huge fortune.

The ILP was founded by Keir Hardie to be independent of the Liberals; when the Labour Party was founded, it was not "independent" of that, it was a

constituent part. To it came the middle class socialists (they were ineligible as trade unionists etc.) Then came the trusts, the halls, the investments, printing press, co-operative enterprises.

Then, as the ILP went "left" the Labour Party went "right" and opened up the door to individual members. Then the money came to the Labour Party. But as the ILP got smaller, and smaller, and smaller, so there was less need to spend the accumulated funds which got larger, and larger. Nobody - not trots, not CP, not pacifists - could work the dodge of capturing it and the funds.

THE END A right wing group has, so it thinks, seen the way of getting the money. It has manoeuvred control of the Party and wants to take it back into the Labour Party. The funds will then be spent in the "normal" political way. The persons bringing home the bacon will be duly rewarded with positions and the knowledge that once aboard the gravy-train, most of the gravy being supplied by them, they are headed from being political nobodies, to being up in the big time.

Sole obstacle was the obstinate editor of the Socialist Leader, John Downing. He would not kowtow to a Labour Party line. He was a socialist and insisted on an ILP line. They demoted him. They tried to sack him so he appealed to the NUJ. The Party

said he must obey or go. The union said he is an editor and independent. Keep him or you will have no journalists with a union ticket. Who wants 'em, retorted the party of Keir Hardie, we shall have a management committee editing the paper by simultaneous inspiration.....

Exit John Downing. And many other militants. But where are they going? What is going to happen to the last of the Mohicans, the socialists still in the ILP?

L E T T E R S

Rather like the issue of Black Flag that I've seen. I am constantly (over a period of ten years) amazed, however, by the amount of hostility anarchists manage to generate for each other. I strongly suspect that it is inconsistent with most anarchists' thinking and that it seldom comes to fruition. But basically, from the one issue, I rather like what you seem to be doing (judging from this distance).

Bob Dickens
Buffalo NY USA

(In fact, rarely do anarchists in the true sense of the word "generate hostility" to each other. But in a relatively democratic situation, anyone can call oneself an anarchist and acquire 'radical chic', no further qualification than the self styling being required. If

the description anarchist is wide enough, one must criticise "anarchists". Easy to say socialists criticise each other, but the wide variety calling themselves socialists makes this imperative. Same goes for other abused words like 'democrat' 'Christian' etc. ED.)

Ever notice the curious fact that the cops move on some poor devil lying on the pavement - but pass by rows and rows of cars lying empty. The car is OK, not the human. But presumably someone sleeping in his car, or sitting in it, would be allowed to stay, not the down-and-out.

A. J.

London, S.W.

Is Black Flag still happening? It seems very hard to get hold of.

T.T.

(As will be learned in this issue, "circumstances beyond out control" happened).

Did you have any worthwhile response to your 'Form Fives' call?

P.B.

(Honestly, no. But we will go on pushing it. One simple way to put the idea forward, within such space as the left, 'underground' and similar presses afford, is to give - in articles and letters - one's occupation as well as one's name...an old custom that may appeal to devotees of William Blake, incidentally. That is the way to know where we are strong, where our combined action can be felt. ED)

MORE LETTERS PLEASE

PRISONER OF THE TUPAMAROS

The British Ambassador to Uruguay was held for eight months. The Press has thrilled to his arduous captivity. It seems the Tupamaros, unlike our own dear legal system, failed during the course of Mr. Jackson's imprisonment, to bring him before his accusers once a week to be told he could not yet be tried. Such has been the fate of Purdie and Prescott. But what use would a trial be if held under "their" rules? Precisely.

Pressure was too great on the Uruguayan Government. They had to stand by while more than 100 political prisoners "escaped" without anyone in the prison noticing. They left their prison clothing "in a heap three feet high" outside. There seems a moral in this somewhere. Nobody disputes that the political prisoners in Uruguay would not have received an unprejudiced sentence, nor that those already "convicted" had been given a fair trial. How then can they enter a defence but by kidnapping?

On the whole one opposes "hostages" and kidnapping precisely for the same reasons that one, as a libertarian, is against imprisonment. But how can prisoners be defended when subjected to a political trial? The Tupamaros, a great many of whom are libertarians, decided. With success.

THE LIBERAL PARTY CONFERENCE

The Liberals were faced with their problem of the 'Young Turks' in the Party, many of whom profess revolutionary socialist or even - some use the term - 'anarcho-syndicalist' principles. The truth is that the Young Liberals are trying to have the best of both worlds, 'radical chic' and the Party Establishment. The reactionaries like Thorpe are right - if they do not believe in a Party, what are they doing in the Liberal Party? (The answer: same as you, mate, trying to get control on a radical ticket and using any name that comes to hand).

The Young Liberal principles are vacillatory, from extreme nationalism to anti-apartheid) but in the main embrace the 'package deal' liberalism of the trendy Left. They fall into the mistake, sometimes, manifest in the unlamented 'Committee' of thinking that extreme militancy in liberal causes equates with anarchism, a mistake not exclusive to them. ("You must not think the anarchists here are idle," writes a correspondent. "We have taken action in help for drug addicts, housing hippies, etc"). It goes back to when fighting was thickest behind the anarchist flags on the Peace marches.

Liberalism, politically, is dead. Its diluted principles are generally accepted in capitalist countries. 'Radical chic' is the revival of Liberalism as a philosophy: it is anarchism without reference to the class struggle, if you like - so that all, rich and poor alike, may dine in the Ritz Hotel if they can pay the bill.

Dear Black Flag People,

I feel I must correct your misleading article entitled "Anarchist Commentary". To begin with, Hare Krishna is not a Buddhist movement. Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, which is basically a Hindu interpretation of God. Buddha is the Godhead of Buddhism.

Also it seems to me a strange idea to call Christianity an Oriental religion - surely it is Western.

You say that the visions of Christ are "within reach of anyone on a trip" - this is bullshit. In fact the hallucinogenic drugs may enable us to look within ourselves more closely or emphasise the dormant qualities within our make-up, but your implication of instant visions or revelations is untrue. After contemplation of a hallucinogenic nature one can see that the quality of it is not a lasting one and can also be misleading.

Therefore the conclusion drawn is that the human form is meant for self-realisation and the way to do this is through religion. This in turn necessitates discarding of drugs for one cannot spiritually progress being dependent on outside influences. The force (Krishna) comes from within.

The revival of religious feeling begins when one can see the difference between hallucinat-

ions and Reality. The world we live in is a complex of hallucinations (Maya) the only Reality is God and our pure spirit souls which are part and parcel of the Godhead.

Chanting Hare Krishna down Oxford Street is NOT an 'easy way of picking up bread'. The devotees have given up not only their possessions but their whole lives and everything they do for Krishna. If they can make other people happy why shouldn't people give them bread? Their successful communal living and giving makes a joke of the rest of society.. They will laugh at politics, they do not need to play such games. Do not scorn religious revivals: it is the beginning of a New Age (Aquarius) when things will change quite drastically. Jesus was around at the beginning of the Age of Pisces. Hallucinogenics may be here to help us prepare for the New Age. The Third World is our spiritual trap which we shall all have to travel through. Religion is the path that will eventually take us all back to Godhead.

Hare Krishna.

Robert Webb.
Surbiton, Surrey.

.....
ANYONE WITH an ounce of knowledge of religion knows that Christianity too is an Oriental religion and furthermore that Christ, Krishna and other saviour gods born of virgins were worshipped personally. Krishna was a local Hindu deity, as Jehova was a Jewish one. Buddha was a man later worshipped as a god, a different proposition, but while in this sense a different religion, politically modern Buddhism, Krishna cults and

Creeping Jesus revivals are (today) serving an identical purpose.

Religions dare not move too far from current credulity. Catholics once believed in saints walking after losing their heads etc. But today the Lourdes myth will tell of children walking after being paralysed for years ... not of being given another arm in place of a missing one. Everyone would laugh at such stories. Hence, the personal God myth being unable to be believed, the use of such deliberately mystifying terms as "Godhead" or that Christ or Krishna is "within you". No. He was a personal, saviour god. In the case of Jesus, a fictitious biography of his human stay was (much later) woven around him.

True the alleged birth of Jesus was at the procession of the equinox, hence the 'Piscean Age' and the fact that he was first worshipped as a fish (the cross came later). But it was the astronomers who invented the god.

Be honest, Bro. Webb! Compare Black Flag and Krishna Krishna. In London, we are neighbours. The former is real Maya. Call at Gilbert Place and our offices are illusion. Noone is there. We once had an office there and still collect our mail, but the Black Flag world is illusion. Round the corner is the Krishna Temple. A tall office block (formerly the Trinitarian Bible Society) with ample rooms, duplicators, printing press, cash... How did they get it all? Maya? Not on your diamond-studded navel. The things of this world, Bro. Webb,

and all done by signing leases, stamp duty, legal fees, negotiating with solicitors and estate agents and bank managers and no bloody contemplation about it either... You call that giving up - illusion? Swop with our bit of Maya round the corner, mate... any time... a.m.

.....

THE TYRANNY OF WORDS

by "Sectarian "

Strange how words can influence simply by repetition: this of course is the history of religion. But is still has potency even in the problems of building a revolutionary movement. Example: "reformist". De Leon (who by the way invented most left wing swear words of the present day) coined it to describe someone who thought the capitalist system OK but needed its abuses reformed. The word has become so damning that some think one should not support any reform (as distinct from devoting your life to it) for fear of being a "reformist".

Hence in one journal or another of the libertarian Left we find the squatters' movement dubbed 'reformist' - undoubtedly it aims at reform just as trade union activity does and "therefore" (but this is a false premise) it is "reformist" and this is enough to damn it. Even some of the militants who built it accept this implicit criticism by retorting to their critics not that it is direct actionist and therefore basically revolutionary,

but by attacking their critics with reproaches such as "Ultra-revolutionary" (in itself another slang absurdity as a word) or "sectarian".

What is wrong with sectarianism? It is the opposite of 'catholic' - a movement based on 'catholic' principles is authoritarian, because it wishes to include all tendencies but subject them to one discipline and one thought. The Communist Party and the Vatican are typical. But a sectarian lets each tendency 'gang its ain gait' and contribute to a general aim. The English Revolution was based on sectarianism. It won its successes under sectarian banners and lost them under catholic ones.

It is purely the C.P. of the twenties that confounded 'sectarians' (those socialists who would not merge into the C.P.-led fold) with bigotry. But which were the bigots?

Within a sectarian variety of groups it is useful to keep an identity. What paralyses the embryonic revolutionary movement of today is being separated by words. So-and-so is an 'anarchist' merely because he calls himself one, perhaps qualified by a hyphen to show he is not really one ('individualist-anarchist'). But so-and-so, with whom we have so much more in common, will not be called one because he uses another description. He becomes a 'socialist'.

Many revolutionaries are using what one can describe as pseudonyms to disguise themselves. Most Western 'Maoists' are not Maoists at all. The real 'Maoists' follow Mao, and are Stalinists of the old type, looking on the C.P. as revisionist. Those using individual action and scorning parties are scarcely Maoists. When they come to realise this, they are called 'Che Guevarist'. Why, it is almost impossible to say. But how else can they identify themselves?

COULD WE BY-PASS THE SYSTEM ?

In Glasgow, the UCS workers 'worked in' while, at the same time in Fleet Street, there was every possibility that the papers could have been kept running during the lock-out. The 'Sun' did in fact bring out a dummy edition. Only the pusillanimous nature of the journalists - used to writing to order for their masters - prevented it. The printworkers would have printed. If this had been happening everywhere, the papers would be talking of revolution.....

What prevented it? That the revolutionaries were insufficiently ubiquitous? It is not entirely true. There were plenty who would have been livewire centres for such action. But they did not know each other by occupation. If one knew there were thirty advocates of workers control in one press, one dockyard, one plant, one would have the nucleus of action. What does a survey of the small papers tell us? That there are 30 'philosophies', all going along with the idea.

THE MAUDLING PRIZE

FOR IDIOT OF THE MONTH

GREAT COMPETITION with the Festival of Light going on. Mary Whitehouse is too shrewd a campaigner to be classified in our stakes, but good marks to Prince Charles, who thought it was a non-political, unsectarian campaign to which Royalty might safely send bland messages of support.

He was, however, outshone by a North London magistrate faced with some hippies who stole bread off a baker's doorstep. He pointed out solemnly that for years wholesale bakers had left their deliveries to shops in this way and they were striking at the whole system. We would have awarded him a loaf of bread pissed on by the dogs of the neighbourhood but for an outstandingly superior entry.

For really good entries in this important competition the academics win hands down all the time. Prof. Peter Sneath, director of the Medical Research Council's microbial systematics unit at Leicester University, foresaw a race of man-hybrids and man-machines walking on the earth. He told the Bath Institute of Medical Engineering -- in all seriousness and with full scientific supporting data -- that 'desirable qualities in animals could be transferred into men'. (For the purposes of the State, too, so could undesirable qualities -- he forgot that). We could be given genetic treatment to live

under water 'should it become necessary to live in underwater cities'. (Up went the price of yacht moorings at Burnham-on-the-Crouch). 'There is no reason why future generations should not beautify their bodies from such sources,' said Prof. Sneath. There is: we are racialists (human racialists) and we don't want a dog's pubic hair or a mule's penis, and mermaids went out with Matthew Arnold.

What is the purpose of man-hybrids -- a man-animal less intelligent than man? Slavery. Just as in the South, in slave days in the USA, bigboned white men were in great demand to cohabit with slave women, to produce the highly-desirable goodlooking slave mulatto (today the 'nigger-hating' white of the South, by natural evolution), so in a technological age new sub-humans could be evolved. When all the divisions of the human race catch up to each other and there are no substrata to 'do the dirty work', we will get no lower class by conquest any more. But science will know the answer, says idiot Prof Sneath in the profundity of technical wisdom that can be more fundamentally damaging to the world than any folly.

"Would it not be possible or even advantageous to develop bio-machines?" he asks. "Symbiosis between man and machine may hold a greater future than either creature alone". He gets the pissed-on loaf instead, with compliments from us mere creatures.

General Franco's Amnesty that
never was,,,

At the Day of the Race, 35th anniversary of Franco's assumption of power within the "National Movement", Franco announced an amnesty. Easy for dictators to grant clemency. It was less than would have been granted by adherence to the law. In the written Constitution of Spain, recognised by the present regime for 25 years, conditional liberty for long serving prisoners is a right, not an act of clemency. But it is refused arbitrarily to political prisoners.

* * *

300 ex-miners, invalided with silicosis, sat in at Churches to protest for pensions in accordance with the cost of living. While disagreeing that churches should be used in this way, the Archbishop of Oviedo did not call in the police, and under the Concordat with the Vatican and the State, the police could not enter to throw out the miners. But they broke in and dragged them out forcibly, beating them up before taking them to jail.

* * *

JULIAN MILLAN HERNANDEZ will go to trial this month. He has been in custody four years already. Only since the Anarchist Black Cross brought his case to international notice has the matter been "hurried up". It was hoped to kill him quietly - hence the "chance" given him to escape, and

die by the "ley de fuga" (shot while trying to escape). Our comrade is now 37. He went to work in France from 1961 to 1967 when he returned. The special squad for "social and political" crimes recognised him as a worker capable of organising the struggle in Barcelona. He has been in jail since. Now they are asking for forty years imprisonment for him. He is to be tried by a military court-martial. Perhaps they expect on Franco's 110th birthday he will need people to "amnesty".

* * *

Last century America was the escape route from European tyranny. Now it is the bastion of tyranny from which Americans flee - to Europe. "Many of us are being jailed on political charges such as 'contempt of court'" (writes a correspondent.) "That means refusal to recount verbatim transcripts of conversations with friends, or balking at providing the court with lists of names of Anarchists) and so on. Sentence is usually 'indefinite' which means you're in till you talk, and if that's a lifetime, so be it."

America has given up its freedom secure in the belief it is enshrined in the Constitution.

LIBERTARIA BOOKSHOP
95 West Green Road, London, N.15
FREEDOM BOOKSHOP
84b Whitechapel High St London, E.1.
COMPENDIUM BOOKSHOP
240 Camden High St London, N.W.1.

THE BASQUES

by our Iberian Correspondent.

Throughout the Middle Ages and until 1840, the Basques in Spain had complete autonomy. As a result of the Carlist Wars, they lost the whole of their exceptional status, and retained only the fiscal arrangement by which they could tax themselves and pay an agreed sum to the national treasury.

In 1890, Sabino Arana founded the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), a liberal bourgeois movement, with a middle class membership, and dominated by the big industrialists. The ideology of the PNV was in no way comparable with Catalan regionalism still less with its "canton-alism". It could be described as racialist.

It was fervently Catholic, and in fact many Carlists rushed to join it after their final defeat in the civil wars. (Most Basques supported Carlism because it was a way of asserting their independence, and on the whole Catholic legitimists were behind Don Carlos and liberals supported the ruling sovereign).

The PNV tried to shield the Basque districts from Spanish anti-clericalism which spread when the International began to grow in Spain. But during the Second Republic, a measure of Basque autonomy reached the

Statute Book. Largo Caballero, socialist Prime Minister, gave full powers to a new autonomous regime, including the right of euskera as the official language. The new republic of Euzkadi lasted a year. With Franco's victory, it was suppressed.

But with the industrialisation proceeding in South Euzkadi, the unrest among workers began to grow, and exceeded that of anywhere in Spain. In 1947, there were numerous strikes in Euzkadi. PNV began to split. The working-class were making demands far in advance of the bourgeoisie. The student movement began in 1953, and in 1959 a new group set itself to fight on four fronts - military, political, cultural and industrial. This group was called Euzkadi ta Askatasuna (Euzkadi & Liberty), or E.T.A.

ETA surprised everyone with its dynamic activity and the way in which it obtained arms for a campaign of violence. Strikes began anew in 1967. Bombs were exploded in the barracks of the Civic Guard, in banks and newspaper offices. A state of emergency, martial law, was proclaimed. But it did not paralyse the terrorist movement in the Basque country, nor the people's struggle.

June 7th 1968: an armed battle took place between the Civic Guard and two members of ETA on the main Irun-Madrid road.

It left one dead on either side. The other ETA member was caught and sentenced to death, but the influence of public sympathy compelled this to be commuted to life imprisonment.

Two months later, on the 2nd of August 1968, the Chief of Police was assassinated in Irun (Guipuzcoa). This was the notorious Meliton Manzanas, a former member of the German SS during the world war, who had introduced tortures on the German style into his administration. This gave occasion for a fresh declaration of a state of emergency, as a result of which people were detained by the police all over Spain. Sixteen Basques went to trial, but owing to a much publicised kidnapping of a German diplomat, no death sentences were carried out.

The effect of all this has been to create a feeling of Basque solidarity. The Basque workers are not racialists like the old National Movement. The libertarian groups in the so-called terrorist movement are not Nationalist. But the whole region is turning against the State.

NEWSWEEK August 30 1971 issued throughout the United Kingdom (freely and without hindrance) has as its front cover a DOLLAR BILL with normal accepted markings, superimposed with a picture of the

President of the USA, in order graphically to illustrate an article on the dollar.

This is but one of many instances of this gimmick — for which Stuart Christie and Terry Chandler were both convicted at the Old Bailey on separate occasions. In the case of the former, Mr. Justice Humphries made it clear that this was an offence, and he said he could not help it if other cases were not brought before him.

Will the mighty Newsweek be brought before him? Will the great WHS chain that distributed it go before him? We take leave to doubt it. But we do not doubt that the "offence" of Stuart's, like his conviction before an illegal Spanish court, will be cited against him.

WE REPRODUCE IN THIS ISSUE

a cover from THE COMMONWEAL of 1892. "Our Editor in Jail"...

"Police Perjury". But since those days we have made progress.

Or have we? Eighty years of reformism and liberalising and only the type faces seem out of date. How about in AD 2050?

Will eighty years of legal reform leave us in the same position?

Only by revolution does each generation have a chance to break the social contract.

2. THE WELSH ANARCHISTS. The Mainwarings; Jim Colton.

Impossible to say when the idea of Anarchism first came into Wales. It was certainly in the 19th century because in the 1890's the London group was explaining that though it had such a cosmopolitan membership it could deal with correspondence in every European language and many Asiatic ones "Welsh unfortunately is not one of them and we have had to ask our comrades to write in English," (according to the late George Cores' letters).

Around the turn of the century there were numerous Anarchist groups. The most prominent speaker was a miner named Sam Mainwaring, who was one of the most active advocates of what became the "Triple Alliance" unionism and introduced Syndicalism. Mainwaring, who came from Neath, Glam. - near Swansea - was known throughout Wales as the pioneer of revolutionary syndicalism, even more than Tom Mann. He wrote many pamphlets, all in Welsh, none of which appear to be extant.

He it was (according to Matt Kavanagh) who first used the term "anarcho-syndicalism" to explain his difference with Tom Mann, Guy Bowman and others. This did not prevent them working together, as all were undoubtedly revolutionary syndicalists.

His nephew, also Sam, carried on the Anarchist

movement amongst the Welsh miners, almost alone towards the finish, until his death in about 1942. Time and again during the Spanish War he raised at the miners' conference the fact that the CP leadership of the NUM was discriminating against the CNT miners in Spain.

Another active Anarchist miner in the '20s was James Colton, whose militancy and record has been overshadowed by the fact that he married Emma Goldman. (On a tour of the mining areas, extremely unpopular because of her stand on Russia, she was facing both a constant threat of deportation and the impossibility of leaving England: at that time it was easy for a woman, by marriage, to acquire British nationality). She was the first to admit that his record in the movement outstripped hers. In the days of the syndicalist movement he had been a popular orator, speaking to thousands of miners with fervent oratory and applause. Because he opposed the Russian dictatorship, he was all but thrown out of the union and his job; faced abuse and ostracism and doggedly kept on speaking.

These are only three of the "old brigade". The young Welsh comrades should take pride in following their tradition.

BOOBS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

A Tory MP claims to have been formerly an abolitionist in the matter of hanging. But now, with policemen being killed (that is the horrible thing - not just civilians, but cops!) he has changed his mind, but it should be done decently, he says, "by using the gas chamber, which is much more humane". He preached this in his constituency.... But he was unprepared at one meeting for a sudden hush that came after his advocacy of the humane gas chamber, followed by a storm of outrage.

Damn these prepared speeches, it had not occurred to him that the Jewish ex-Servicemen's Association could have preferred him to word it slightly differently.

The same, but not quite so disastrous, consequence to a speech by William Whitelaw, Government Chief Whip, who went down to the Macclesfield by-election to say he spoke for the silent majority. Attendance: 18.

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MODERN SCIENCE AND ANARCHISM

Peter Kropotkin

30 p.

THE ORIGINS OF THE ANARCHIST

MOVEMENT IN CHINA

10 p.

UNAMUNO'S LAST LECTURE

10 p.

Problems of an Anarchist Movement.

Complaint by the "Ora" group that some of us are prejudiced against some of their personalities is not upheld by the "Black Flag", described in its bulletin as imagining itself to be the "only" revolutionary force. (Familiar objection to being told one is not something is to ask if the objector is the "only" something).

L.Otter returns in this bulletin to an attack on the late George Plume. Previously, in a Harlow bulletin, he said that Plume was sentenced for 'high treason' during the war. An explanation that Plume had never been charged with anything but the routine offence arising from conscientious objection was not published. Now he says "George Plume expressed near anarchist beliefs in private, until he died, but George Plume was nevertheless a Tory Councillor in St Pancras".

Plume, YCL1936-38, ILP 1938-61, could never be a councillor of any sort as he worked for the cleansing department of the Council. What was his real offence to L. Otter? He was a militant NSS member who destested the Catholic "Left" and the pseudo Catholic-Anarchists in particular ("Why not Tory Anarchists or Fascist Anarchists?" he would ask). His belief that the Anglo-Saxon "Catholic Anarchist" movement was a deliberate plot, to be a "soft underbelly" into Spanish anti-clericalism may have been Macchiavellian. But he has been dead ten years. Ora pro nobis. Worthy Christians.

State Propaganda

Under the heading of Obscene Propaganda, which most of its editorials are, the Daily Mail (July 29) comments on the conviction of Oz the day before.

"It is NOT the starting-point for a legal vendetta against the way-outs, the drop-outs and the freak-outs," it says, in the face of all the obvious signs that it is. It declares they can still preach "pop, pot and promiscuity" as if the Establishment press were innocent of pop and sex. "What they are not free to do is to lace their propaganda with obscenity."

The Mail, crashing heavily itself, lost the Sketch (it was "incorporated" in the Mail - but not lost, said the Sketch at the time - "you might as well try to bury the Tower of London". You could in the pages of the Mail, actually) The banned Oz (you didn't miss anything if you didn't see it, says the Mail) sold almost as many copies of the Sketch (you missed nothing there either).

"IF THE PROPHETS OF ANARCHY WANT TO FIGHT PUBLICLY AND IN PRINT FOR THE SOUL OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION, THEN THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT CLEAN. THAT'S THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF YESTERDAY'S VERDICT." If the prophets of conservatism want to fight publicly and in print for the profits of Lord Rothermere,

FLOODGATES OF ANARCHY...21/-

they they need to get some reasonably intelligent journalist as leader-writer. That is the real significance of the redundancies at Associated Newspapers. The public's verdict.

These names make news.....

The Press so dearly loves a good news story about the Royal Family we wonder why no mention we can see to date of the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, eminent director of Lonrho, and husband of Princess Alexandra, whose colleagues in the company have been arrested on fraud charges in Johannesburg.

The company operates in London and South Africa, but the British Fraud Squad seem uninterested in the case.* Its South African managing director and its financial manager are on "£90 bail", its financial director on £3000 bail, by the way. Nice when you deal in other people's millions. A London magistrate would want a lot more than £90 bail just on a demo charge, to say nothing of a South African. But that is directed against the system.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ on page

1. Col. Josiah Wedgwood, M.P.
2. The Anarchist Henri Vaillant.
3. Pi y Margall, federalist philosopher, who became Prime Minister for a few weeks in the First Spanish Republic 100 years ago.
4. Southend-on-Sea.
5. Kotoku. (The Emperor of Japan was worshipped as God until 1945).

*As we go to press we learn that Mr Ogilvy and his royal lady wife are to grace an anniversary dinner of the Fraud Squad.

"THIS KIND OF CONDUCT IS CRIMINAL"

Addressing a woman detective and the principal of the agency which employed her, Mr Justice Bristow (Guardian Oct 12) said:

"Maybe people who engage in industrial espionage do not appreciate that what they are doing is against the law... This kind of conduct is criminal."

She was spying upon a rival firm to uncover its secrets. Such conduct is disastrous to large firms, and they will, one may be sure, see that the law is obeyed. BUT THE MAJOR PART OF INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE IS NOT AGAINST THE FIRMS. IT IS AGAINST THE WORKERS.

The Economic League publish the results. Many agencies specialise in such espionage. Mr Robert Carr, Min of Lab - the hero who sent the nanny into the house to see if it was safe - was a director of one of them. Wake up your trade union. They can arrange to stop industrial espionage .. but the employer cannot have it both ways. If he wants it to stop, he must stop it altogether by not using it himself. That is a deal TUs and employers alike will understand. And anything that cuts out human degradation like spying, information, police work, deserves encouragement.

ANARCHIST GROUPS. We promised to publish a list of active groups in this issue. But we find we are unable to. The movement has broken the bounds of group organisation. A re-assessment is needed.

CRIME OF THE HALF-CENTURY

Back in 1924, two lads from Chicago banking families decided to commit the crime of the century. For kicks, they killed a 14 year old boy. The two brilliant students who planned it were enthralled by the mixture of homosexuality and fascism evident in many such cases. They shocked the world. They received "life plus 99 years".

Today such a crime would not be worth more than a week's headlines in England, a column in the USA. The brilliant rich youth is in revolt against its mapped destiny; violence is common in the streets of the USA; the 'superman' myth reached its zenith in Germany and lingers on in porn shops.

The Leopold-Loeb case was a milestone in decaying capitalism. It was meant to be the crime of the century. But in less than 50 years it has faded into nothing. Leopold survived his sentence to be paroled in 1958 (he died last month) - a mature, responsible man deeply socially concerned, with a guilt complex that persuaded him to serve in a leper colony on release. He had paid with heavy interest his 'debt to society' - contracted by his parents' money which made a brilliant boy think he was above all considerations which restrained others. But money is not all.

If in addition to money they had possessed political power, his crime could have been legalised. He could have entered the Army, the Police, or administered a death camp.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON SIX DEFENCE FUND

Comrades now on remand in Brixton and Holloway - four men and two women, including our editor Stuart Christie - need financial aid for food, fruit, books (which have to be new), papers, cigarettes etc.

PLEASE SEND WHAT YOU CAN TO: THE STOKE NEWINGTON SIX FUND,
c/o Compendium Books, 24⁰ Camden High Street, London, N.W.1.

The Ian Purdie & Jake Prescott Defence Group - which has been the subject of police harassment - also needs help. It is at 6 Mayola Road, Clapton, London, E.6. (01-986-3075)

Postcards etc welcomed by
J.S.Christie, 100483, A Wing,
H.M.Prison, Jebb Avenue,
Brixton, London, S.W.2.

COMRADES OVERSEAS who know of the work done by Stuart Christie for libertarian prisoners particularly in Spain are asked to show their solidarity next month, when committal proceedings begin.
- Anarchist Black Cross.

MR HEATH CONSIDERS IT IS WRONG (Observer 3rd Oct) that "executive and judicial powers should be in the hands of a party Government and a party Prime Minister, and a party Prime Minister should have the right to lock up his enemies." In Ulster. Internment has been grossly abused by the Unionists to strengthen their party. BUT IN ENGLAND IT IS EQUALLY WRONG.
(continued in next col.)

REPORT: After being in jail, on remand, since February, Jake and Ian have still not been tried. The case at the Old Bailey is again postponed, until next year!!

Every application by the prosecution to delay the case has been granted.

The Six all appear in good spirits when in the dock each Wednesday at Clerkenwell Court, Kings X Road... Display of pig strength each time they appear. Stuart is having regular visits and is as cheerful as ever. The routine by the prosecution of producing no evidence but asking for a delay and objecting to bail has been followed. So much for Lord Hailsham's dictum that refusal of bail should not be used as a punishment. But perhaps this does not apply to political prisoners?

(From previous column)

Special Branch is abusing its wide powers to harass political opponents of the Establishment, to arrest and keep without trial for months on end, and by raids and imprisonment, to try to frighten off political opposition to the party Government.

It sometimes surprises people who have forgotten that the Witchcraft Act was only abolished in Great Britain 25 years ago. Only since then has witchcraft ceased to be illegal and banned; and prosecutions until that date were frequent.

It was abolished by accident. Hannen Swaffer had rendered great service in Fleet Street to the Labour Party. He was offered a peerage but asked instead that something be done to relieve the disabilities of the Spiritualists.

Talking to spirits was banned by law. One could not, in 1946, present an 'amended' Witchcraft Act. People would think you mad. So it had to be abolished. There were many results: one important one was the end of Customs officers seizing Tarot packs. The Tarot Pack was banned as it was 'the devil's dictionary' to the 16th century framers of the Act. Nobody could claim it was 'only a game' until 1946. Thereafter, Customs officers became enlightened. They charged Purchase Tax and Customs duty because 'it was only a game'. Had it remained a religious accessory, as the devil's prayerbook now legal, it would have escaped tax.

Many other occult arts also became recognised: especially graphology. The reading of character by handwriting is bound up with telling fortunes. The fortune-teller and the 'scientific' graphologist are

identical (after all, if you can tell character you can have a pretty good stab at fortune). Telling fortunes, whether by palmistry, the crystal bowl, tea leaves, bumps or handwriting was persecuted until 1946. Every Monday-morning the clairvoyants of Oxford Street were up at Marlborough Street court as regularly as the prostitutes (it dawned on only a few to do the same as the porn bookshops and pay the police - even a clairvoyant can go wrong).

Many occultists dabbled in all the worlds: graphology, spiritualism, tea leaves, and so on. But after 1946 many graphologists have become respectable: they are now in great demand by the police as 'scientific' witnesses and forensic experts. This is a classic example of the relationship between the State and the magician.

Watch for it in court: the 'scientific' graphologist will tell the court that this is the handwriting of a person of x years with y characteristics.... the same man in private practice will tell you that you are going on a journey and will meet an attractive blonde widow... He is a 'handwriting expert' in the one world and a 'graphologist' in the other.

.....

Communications to: Black Flag,
10 Gilbert Place, London, W.C.1
(post only)

WHY THE CASE IS IMPORTANT

Without dealing with this case in particular, it is of major importance as it is part of a chain of events closely linked with the entry into the Common Market.

ALREADY THE POLICE OF EUROPE ARE IN A "COMMON ALLIANCE" - Interpol. It has always been pointed out that the British police are subject to the rule of law, but the Continental police are not. Some of them are nothing but a conspiracy against the people. The rotten apples are contaminating the others, and not more so than in the case of the POLITICAL POLICE, a sinister development by which it is possible for extremists of one side to charge (with law on their side) those they consider the extremists of the other side.

PINELLI was murdered by the Milan Police. He was secretary of the Anarchist Black Cross, investigating Franco's prisons. ALBEROLA (sen.) was murdered by the Mexican police. His son was nearly reported to Spain. FLOREAL RODRIGUES went back to Spain to make propaganda, Interpol action sent him to jail in Spain. THE POLITICAL BRANCH OF INTERPOL, which includes Scotland Yard, is the RIGHT WING IN ARMS.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

In Anatole France's satirical account of the Dreyfus Trial in 'Penguin Island' the Minister of War finds in a room formerly bare "sets of pigeon holes from floor to ceiling, triple and quadruple rows of paper bundles of every form and colour..... a pile of archives such as it takes centuries to accumulate.

"What is this?" asks the Minister.

"Proofs against Pyrot (Dreyfus)....we had not got them when we convicted him, but we have now." A long file of porters unloaded heavy bales. The lift slowly rose heavily laden with paper packets... "They are fresh proofs against Pyrot.. I have asked for them in every county, in every Staff Office, in every town... I am expecting bales of them from Bremen and a shipload from Melbourne."

It finally transpires there are 732 square yards of them, which at 500 lb each make 366,000 lb weight "of all colours and shades..." Finally the ceiling bursts in with the weight of the proofs, and when the judge comes to examine them they consist of "prospects of new fancy shops, newspapers, fashion plates, paper bags, old business letters, exercise books, brown paper, six thousand copies of the Key to Dreams but not a single document mentioning Pyrot.

GOOD START In Clerkenwell Court the prosecution have produced depositions weighing 40 lb, running to 1200 pages, There are six books of 200 pages, 25 books of photographs and a dossier of plans. BUT THE PROSECUTION IS NOT YET READY TO PROCEED.

A PEEP INTO BRIXTON

CHARGED

If you took horses or dogs, fed them reasonably well and groomed them, but allowed them as exercise no more than half-an-hour's walk a day, you would be prosecuted.

Mar is NOT one of the protected animals. This inhuman treatment of "exercise - 30 minutes a day walk round" is given to prisoners. For what offence? For none. It is given to prisoners on remand, who have been convicted of no offence.

Purdie and Prescott have been in jail since February; they may await trial 18 months. The same might happen to others in the related trials. Meanwhile, bail being refused, and adjournments being granted regularly, they do not work; they are financially ruined; they cannot study; their lives are wasted; they cannot exercise, and may deteriorate mentally and physically. This is recognised by all prison reformers as regards "convicted" prisoners; the unconvicted are treated worse.

Now that Parliament has accepted that people may be put away by their political opponents and left to face trial when sufficient evidence can be collected to charge them, it can at least look into the conditions of detention.

Jake Prescott & Ian Purdie.
Stuart Christie.
Chris Bott.

Jim Greenfield, John Buchanan,
Anna Mendelson, Hilary Creek.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT - this is 1971, and Anna and Hilary face a charge involving 20 years for the fact of being freethinkers.

They were living with their menfolk, and not being Christians did not care to undergo a marriage ceremony. The status of 'common law wife' is recognised in many countries where Church bigotry does not prevail.

The two girls are charged with conspiracy, a charge impossible in law if it is accepted that they are married. But they have not undergone the ceremony. A wife cannot conspire with her husband. That is elementary law. If they are recognised as 'wives' by law they cannot have conspired with their husbands.

PUT THE CLOCKS BACK We now literally put the clocks back. The Callaghan Experiment of Standard European Time to replace Greenwich Mean Time has failed. The State has found it cannot command the sun by legislation (greatest discovery since Canute). Scotland has defied Parliamentary decision that it should become light an hour earlier than it does.

THIS ISSUE APPEARS NOVEMBER 1st.
