

Cumallye '66

THIS WEEKEND The Scots Committee for Resistance Against Militarism (SCRAM) will be waiting patiently for the hundreds of those who oppose war to make their resistance known. At Helensburgh they will start out at noon on Saturday to march past Faslane base to Coulport. In both these arsenals of the western world, certain targets in the war, there will be the usual lines of people awaiting the great walk-through at Coulport on the Sunday. However, expressing the military may be SCRAM. Show that its cause is life, will hold a singing concert around the base. And, of course, if any one fancies his chances have a look inside all the better. SCRAM's idea is to blockade the base

for a weekend and render it useless and at the same time have a good time and enjoy yourselves.

Of course Coulport is only one of a series of bases situated among some of the most pleasant areas of Scotland, but nothing is sacred to the military machine that sees no beauty in anything but a broken body.

So, comrades, if you can, go to Coulport, enjoy yourselves and use happiness to bugger up a machine which feeds on misery and death. Even if it is only for a day.

Comrades wishing to go from London should contact Housmans, from where the vans will be leaving on Friday night.

Condemn Leicester Council!

EVERY TOWN and city has its Rawson Streets. In Leicester the appalling thing is that Rawson Street is in the way of municipal development. It's a street about a hundred and fifty yards long. No front gardens and no shops, two-storey terrace houses with a few square feet of 'yard' behind. There are many, many streets in Leicester—particularly in the Highfields and Humberstone Road districts—where housing conditions are ten times as bad. But these areas are not, as yet, wanted for municipal development.

One side of Rawson Street, the Art Gallery side, has received compulsory purchase orders. The other side, the Prison side, seems to be receiving them singly so far, and not en masse. The first any of the occupants knew of what the council planned was about two years ago. It was then the houses were originally condemned as unfit for habitation. The reason why—that the council would have to pay only a nominal price for them as unfit instead of market value—was not yet clear at that time.

Mrs. Stanley, an owner-occupier who is the only person in the street who has fought the council step by step, blow by blow, told me how the Health Inspector passed judgement on her house. 'He rung the bell, stepped in here—the front door opens directly into the front parlour—and said he was from the Health Department. Then he went like this, just like this—she passed her hand over

the wallpaper by the wall adjacent to the side entry—and said he was going to condemn the house as unfit because of rising damp.'

After Mrs. Stanley ejected the Inspector she went to her solicitors. There she was told there was nothing that could be done and she would probably receive no more than £100 from the council. The house had cost the Stanleys £450 plus mortgage interest. The same was happening to the others in the street. Yet nobody but Mrs. Stanley went further than going to their solicitor.

Mrs. Stanley went to council meetings and shouted. She went to the estate agent and he advised her to lodge an appeal. This she did. Yet she knew that reversing the decision for demolition was useless. If she did and failed, her chances for getting a market price for her house would be nil, as she would be conceding the optional 'compassionate' appeal in favour of an appeal only against the condemnation order. The appeal, she told me, 'was like I was on trial' yet she managed to get an Inspector from the Ministry of Health to inspect her house. He reversed the decision. She will now receive about £600 compensation for the maintenance and good repair of the house, condemned as uninhabitable; it would have been worth less than a hundred to her.

Hers is also a lesson to the other people of Rawson Street, the others who did not fight. Through sheer apathy and what Mrs. Stanley described as 'submissiveness' they have not only let the council have the right to pull their houses down at a presently unknown date, but have only managed to get about £60 for their houses. Mrs. Stanley's neighbour will get only £50—the money is payable when eviction finally takes place.

Mrs. Stanley's is not the best decorated house in the street. There are others that are in far better repair. Yet their owners have not fought, and only over the last few weeks have they come to ask Mrs. Stanley how to. Yet for most of them it is too late... they have missed the final date for objections to be lodged.

Rawson Street has perhaps a year left in it. This is not because it is falling down... I have seen far worse damp, cracked ceilings and walls, faulty plumbing and leaking roofs in council houses. Prefabs, due for demolition in 1950, still stand in Leicester while Rawson Street is condemned.

The item on '24 Hours' last month implied a Mr. and Mrs. Brian Jullian and their two children were being forcibly evicted from their house in Rawson Street. No Mr. and Mrs. Jullian live or have lived in Rawson Street. I was told they lived 'over Evington Street somewhere' but I have been unable to trace them. Their case, however, seems known to everyone in the city. Their house was also condemned as unfit. Mr. Jullian bought it for £600 plus mortgage costs and at present has still

Continued on page 4

Redeployment on the Dole

THE MEASURES TAKEN by the Government to deal with the economic crises are now really starting to take effect as shown in the announcement by the British Motor Corporation that 30,600 out of its 112,000 labour force will be put on short time this week and that on November 4 between 5,000 and 8,000 workers will be sacked. Car workers at other companies, excluding Fords, face similar prospects.

Obviously the Government's policies will lead to unemployment, not only in the car industry, but in others as well. Hardly a week goes by now without some management, be it the huge ICI or BMC or some small company, announcing that a number of workers will have to be made redundant. One would think by the way BMC have handled the situation that they have only just realised that redundancies were necessary. Up until the previous week BMC workers had been working overtime, while Fords at least did cut back to basic hours some two months ago.

BMC can not only point to the Government's economic policies as a reason for its lack of orders, but can also quote the Prime Minister to support its decision on redundancies. For only in the previous week, at the Trades Union Congress, Mr. Wilson said: 'It is of paramount importance, however harsh this may seem, that where demand and real employment fall, the labour is released to meet the urgent demands of the export and other key industries. At this time hoarding of labour, work-sharing, must be scheduled as practices totally inimical to our national recovery.'

As the car industry is a major exporting one, it might seem, at first, to be contrary to Wilson's policy that so many workers are being sacked from the car manufacturers, but it is the home market where the economic squeeze has been applied. So it is hoped that these sacked workers will go into other jobs where their skills will be used to boost exports. But I think this line of reasoning is false, because although there is a shortage of labour, those who will be made redundant will be mainly semi-skilled assembly workers. I think companies will still hold onto their skilled labour as much as possible. So rather than getting what is termed redeployment, it will be unemployment. Under a Labour Government we were promised a planned economy, but instead we are getting chaos and sackings.

There has not been any planning on this matter and the policies of the Government are those dictated to it by necessity in the present crisis facing British capitalism. The planning necessary to ride out this crisis has not been prepared and in many areas it will be difficult to find alternative employment. Some

We have been sent the translation of a letter from China which reports that:

EARLY IN AUGUST, Professor Hsiu of Peking was condemned by the 'Young Guards' of Peking as a 'reactionary' and ordered, in penance, to draw two loads of dung through the streets to the University. Professor Hsiu did not comply, and committed suicide. In his last note, now circulating among Chinese students, he stated: 'At the age of 80 I do not fear death and cannot be coerced. I cannot fight back, as I know, and my only way is by immolation. If I do so, it is not because I despise the honourable and worthy task of the dung-carrier. It is because those now in power wish to degrade the dung-

skills are scarce in certain regions and so there would have to be assistance for moving and homes for re-housing. Lack of these and sufficient retraining establishments show up the Government's lack of planning even to aspire to a model social democratic reformist Government.

CRISIS FACING CAPITALISM

The economic crisis facing this country is not only national, but is affecting the whole capitalist system. Most countries are expecting a definite slow-down in growth. This, of course, will slow down even further the growth in world trade. Does this then mean we are heading for another slump like that of the 1930's? Not necessarily, for now there are far more facilities for borrowing money. In fact, because of the sharp rise in international interest rates, it has been

union leaders have warned members against unofficial action, there is a strong possibility that strikes will occur. The statements of MPs and trade-union leaders contrast very strongly with those from people who will be affected by the redundancies. Mr. Tallon, a senior executive member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, has said: 'We want to safeguard our members' right to work—not necessarily at the same place where he is now working. We want redeployment to take place as speedily and comfortably as possible.' Mr. Tallon has also said that if (and this is the crux of it) he was put on short-time working, he would rather move to another town to seek work.

Mr. Roy Jenkins, MP, has advised against workers taking militant action, while Mr. Arthur Harper, shop stewards' convenor, has said: 'We shop stewards do not accept redundancy. If redundancy notices are handed out, they should be handed back immediately. If BMC workers stick together we can lick Harriman (the BMC Chairman) and his henchmen.' But BMC workers will also have to lick the Government and as such they recognise it as a political issue.

Work-sharing is obviously the only policy open to BMC workers. To get this strike action will almost certainly



necessary to increase the 'swap' facilities with the central banks as well as arrangements with American bankers. Sterling is under pressure at the moment but this might change and some other currency might be affected. So, as it is in the interest of all to help prop up one another's economies, it is no coincidence that in the same week as mass sackings are announced, agreements have been reached that allow what the *Financial Times* calls a 'network of swaps'. This will increase world liquidity and so assist in putting economies to rights.

But all this means to the worker is short-time working and then the sack, for BMC want to revert back to full-time working from November 4. To continue short-time after this date, say BMC, 'would not produce the economies consistent with efficient management'. With so much capital invested in machinery, it is far more profitable for BMC to reduce their staff and then go back on to the normal working week, plus overtime if necessary.

DEMAND FOR WORK-SHARING

This is not how the car workers see it. At meetings called by the shop stewards, they have been demanding a policy of work-sharing. They are firmly against redundancies and although trade-

be necessary. Although the effect of this is always weakened when fighting sackings, widespread action could still hit exports very hard. As it is exports that the Government want to increase while cutting back home demand, they could be vulnerable here.

AFTER THE WAGE FREEZE?

The working class is obviously going through a tough period, not only with the Government's economic squeeze, but also because of the strong certainty that the period of wage restraint will be extended beyond that of the wage freeze and the six months of limited pay settlements. Statements by Ministers infer that there will be no return to free collective bargaining when the wage freeze has ended, and that the Government will fix a 'norm' by statute according to what it estimates the economy can stand.

With unemployment and legislation against strikes or the threat of strikes for wage increases, shop stewards' organisations face a difficult time. These measures are not just a means to solve the present crisis in British capitalism, but are also weapons against the working class and their shop stewards' organisations. As an attack is inevitable, direct action and solidarity can defeat the worst effects and so ensure that the trade-union movement does not become docile and weak, accepting what is handed out to it. The next few months are crucial if the crisis in capitalism is not going to be solved at our expense.

P.T.

ANARCHY 68

DISCUSSES

THE WORKERS

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LETTER FROM CHINA

Professor Hsiu was one of the first to translate Kropotkin into Chinese. He belonged to the group of professors who, although associated with the older anarchist movement, continued their careers in Communist China. This attitude has been condemned by the Chinese anarchist movement generally. (The Chinese Government recognises a distinction between 'philosophic' and 'criminal', i.e. revolutionary, anarchists.) In his death, however, and refusal to compromise further, Professor Hsiu would seem to have recognised his old comrades.

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IT IS ALWAYS pleasing to see articles in the papers on anarchism, however disappointed or garbled these may be, as one feels that any kind of mention is better than none. But it would be a mistake to assume that a mere mention of anarchists, or anarchism, has any lasting propaganda value for us and does not merely confuse the uninitiated and please our detractors. It is safe to say that the small anarchist movement has lately been receiving more attention than its size and scope of activity would warrant. We are beginning to get used to newspaper reporters tailing us to discover our dark secrets. One such told us recently that he wished to do a serious piece for his paper because he was sure 'there was a good story in anarchism'. Another, a television reporter, is at present working on a programme on anarchism of which, I must admit, I know very little.

We cannot tell for sure how many people became anarchists after reading recent articles in the Sun and the Evening Standard by John Dodd and Charles Lyte respectively. All we can

DANGERS OF PUBLICITY

say is that we have no trace at this office of a single inquiry resulting from these well-meaning journalists, who also had no previous knowledge of their subject. Neither did we receive any communication after that flattering portrait of a female comrade, whose picture appeared not only in the Daily Mirror but was syndicated to South Africa! Perhaps readers of such papers have seen beautiful girls before, with or without black fishnet stockings, and it is our contention that two paragraphs by Emma Goldman who was no beauty would have brought in shoals of correspondence.

This, in fact, is the case when a well-thought-out article by an anarchist or erudite sympathiser appears in the press. Two essays by Colin MacInnes, one in the Queen and the other in the New Statesman have brought many people into the anarchist movement as was the

case with an article by Adam Roberts in New Society.

The interview in the Sunday Telegraph (quoted in 'Out of this world') will add merely to the confusion. It may be all right for liberals to advocate 'primitive anarchism' but 'three acres and a cow' was Collings's slogan not ours. But perhaps the people who back the Liberals with money, like Lloyds Bank and Cadbury's, will be more easily persuaded.

We are happier when we encounter a *cri de coeur* from somebody who is really interested in the ideas that anarchism offers because he finds it suddenly imperative for his everyday existence. One such person is James Roose-Evans, artistic director of the Hampstead Theatre Club. A reader of FREEDOM sent us a circular which she received from the theatre. Her accompanying letter said: 'This to me is tremendously interesting

(and very brave of James Roose-Evans) and I felt sure when I read it that FREEDOM would want to cover it—probably anarchists would want to support such a venture'. We are grateful to our registered reader for drawing our attention to this circular because we feel that although its circulation must be limited to hundreds it will prove more beneficial than a 'pull' in a newspaper with millions of circulation.

Here, then, is an extract from the circular: 'On September 19 we open our sixth season with a series of plays that we have entitled *The Living Theatre*... for each of these works sets the problem, who is my neighbour? And what is the responsibility of the individual towards his fellows—and to his own conscience.'

This is why I have chosen the 20-year-old Dutch artist, Bernard de Vries, as the symbol of the series, and who you will see his photograph on all our posters, programmes and publicity. He is the leader of the Provos of Amsterdam, the rebellious and outspoken movement of Dutch youth which demands respect for the individual's conscience, freedom of speech and action, and decentralisation of state authority.

'We live in an age of changing values and attitudes. No one party or church or creed can tell us firmly, *this is the truth*. Each of us must find his own answers, and dare to live by them. We must come to see that anarchy is necessary state. And the job of the theatre... is to lift up rather than cast down, to heal rather than share.'

The first of the plays in the series, *Letters from an Eastern Front* which we hope to review in a forthcoming issue. In Mr. Roose-Evans, anarchism in society has found an active, imaginative and eloquent friend and we wish well. It is an effort within his small resources. We are, like our readers, 'tremendously interested'.

Whilst writing this article a friend from Granada TV telephoned for information as he is doing a programme on us that we were not interested? JOHN RICHARDS

POETRY REVIEW

POETRY FOR THE PEOPLE, by Michael Horovitz. Latimer Press 5/-; expression, Number 2, Ed. Michael Bullock. Freedom Bookshop 2/6d. CUDDON'S COSMOPOLITAN REVIEW, Number 9. Freedom Bookshop 1/6d.

JUST AS the world has come to accept that it must learn to live with the Bomb, so the Town has learned to live with Michael Horovitz. This taut and excitable impresario of his own and others' talents has for many a full year been the bane and the glory of the London literary wavers. Name the scene and Horo is there and the hands and the eyebrows of the Establishment rise in pained protest, yet without Horovitz, Brown, Kavanaugh, Nuttall, Cobbing, Sylvester Houedard, Cunliffe, Mitchell or Metzger there is no scene for each in his own mad fashion is the centre of a minor whirlpool drawing in whatever talents drift by.

Yet the Town, as always, judges their activities by the limitations that they may or may not possess as poets when their true function is to breathe life into whatever aspects of the arts that they decide to favour. They are the militants of the cultural scene forever expounding, forever protesting, forever denouncing, and when the anthologies for our age are compiled by the grey dons, little of their work will be embalmed within the tomb of shining covers, but when the story of the Town is told by some wine-sipping St. John's blue rinse, these are the names around which the mythology of our times will grow and flower.

Horovitz, descendant of rabbis from Germany, Hungary and Bohemia, an unshamed egoist and propagator of his own disputed talents, is forever on the threshold of a new glory that always seems to end in a physical or intellectual brawl and always there is the prospectus full of new promises for greater glories. Man, man, man. These are the Roaring Boys of the sixties shouting out their rhymes above the heads of the shouting crowd and the plotted din of the jazz group. Charles Tomlinson in an extremely perceptive poem, *A DREAM Or, the Worst of Both Worlds*, has written of Yevtushenko and Voznesensky lines that read as follows *laurelled in vatic lather, brother, bard: | they hear me out who have not heard one word, | bringing us back for bows, bringing down the house | once more. This is surely the poetry of the Roaring*

Boys, an emotional esoteric sweatfest yet, for all that, this is surely the kiss of life for the arts, for without these Holy Rollers screaming the message, only the good will circulate in thin and silent paperbacks while you who write such bad poetry will never have the right or the opportunity to shout your broken rhymes and limping rhythms to an audience who will accept your cry and your plea because you stand before them and your abstract lines become for a few brief moments a personal statement and a public confession.

Here then is Michael Horovitz and here is his latest gift to the Town. Alan Ross has written of the work of Allen Ginsberg that *the manner may be waffling, the poems he writes a ragbag of disparate images and corny indiscriminating clichés, but there is a coherence to his arguments, an oddly innocent radiance, even if it only sheds light on himself, and surely this must be the judgement of Horovitz for within these 19 pages of rhyming couplets and Poundian rhythms he has sat in judgement on himself when he has written that *It's also about sex war—it embraces the epic proportions | of the sex war of Babylon, it babbles on | taking in its stride piano forty fathoms a pace. Horovitz loves the image and the purple phrases as his catalogue for his paintings once testified and, as *Cuban Carol Service. If there be a god—it's time he changed the water, Red Wales in the sunset and Once more into the bleach were coined as titles to minor abstract paintings for a catalogue that will outlive the framed work, so the reputation of Michael Horovitz will outlive his poetry, for the Town may have little use for his verse but without him it is a sadder and a duller place.***

For the group working under the whip of Michael Bullock in the second number of *expression*, the quiet respect and the tugging forelock, for here is subjective poetry at its most amiable for to quote a handful of single first lines, out of context, is to give the flavour of the whole with Krolow's *Someone is pouring light, Davis's In summer I have listened to the crying buttercups, Atkinson's Sliding through pinks sheets and Janet Davies's Mind agony, purple pale love mind.*

And in gay conclusion the work of Michael Walsh in number 9 of *Cuddon's*. Almost the whole of this number is given over to the work of this cheerful Australian and it ranges from pieces of pure banality such as, to quote in full, *In Better Books they spend the Day | Explaining all the Crisis away to the magnificent Love Song to*

the Whores of Soroca. Here is committed poetry at its best, an erotic love chant cast in the image of our time. It is the sad remembered music of the Old Testament. It is a song of death and a song of love, the whispered story of other men's fire and the envied dream cloaked in a visual wealth of words.

Teach Freedom!

Peter Ford writes: THE ASSOCIATION is not limited to intending, or practising, teachers but is open to all who feel particularly concerned about what is done at the present time to children and young people in the name of education. The recent publication of the second *Bulletin*—and a paragraph on it in *Peace News*—has produced a spate of letters of enquiry. One young teacher from Scotland comments: 'I am convinced that many, mainly young teachers need only the assurance of a body of opinion largely for humanitarian methods, to look freshly at their own teaching.'

A limited function which the Association has to a certain extent already fulfilled is to make contact possible between isolated 'libertarian' teachers and students; for instance I think the account in the current *Bulletin* of the College of Education at Chorley (where the majority of the lecturers support a 'Summerhillian' approach) has led to a number of pre-students making this College their first choice. The circulation of information about 'state' schools which have broken away in some respects from the authoritarian norm will also be of value to students at the end of their training. In the next *Bulletin* we hope to include more descriptions by students of their Colleges, articles on the schools system in New Zealand and Kenya and a piece, by an 'ex-pupil' on George Lyward's Finchden Manor community for emotionally disturbed boys and young men. It is also hoped to take the lid off the situation facing young teachers in their first 'probationary' year—a truly exploitative harness in which the novice-teacher is coerced, in effect, into conformity with whatever system he finds in operation in the school on his arrival.

We intend to hold a meeting in London in late October to discuss the development of the Association. For additional information and copies of the *Bulletin*, No. 2, contact: P. Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

Sex or Cruelty?

PERMISSION was given (*de facto* not *de jure*) at Romford last week for the social conditioning of young people to habitual acceptance of male torture and death when magistrates ruled that the 'battle-scene bubble-cards' did not contravene the Obscene Publication Act. The prosecuting counsel had alleged that the cards would likely to stimulate some children to a morbid interest in cruelty, violence, death and as a result 'might tend to make those children engage in acts of violence or cruelty'.

Apparently what really led to the prosecution was that one group of cards depicted 'torture with a sexual implication' and it is well known that the corrupting of our children is of major concern to the authorities only when sex becomes involved. Had the magistrates ruled that these so-called battle scenes were obscene, as war in fact is, then presumably the cadet groups in schools, and the recruiting teams that go round other schools demonstrating that the bayoneting of another person constitutes a 'real man's life', would have been liable to prosecution as well. As it is, the worthy magistrates of Romford have underlined Alex Comfort's statement that in our society 'love is corrupting and dangerous—violence is cathartic and wholesome, besides being politically useful'. JOHN PILGRIM.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

(As there is no national secretariat for enquiries, speakers, etc., please contact local groups.)

London Anarchist Group 1&2

'Lamb and Flag', Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2. (Leicester Square tube) 7.45 p.m. All welcome. Sundays.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canips's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.
3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald and Irene Room's, now at 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3. First meeting at this address: September 16.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

- ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP. Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Cheshire.
- ABERDEEN GROUP. Correspondence to M. Day, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.
- ARLESEY GROUP (N Herts., 5 Beds.). Meetings on 1st Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.
- ARLESEY. Contact Peter Stringer, 7 Duffly Street, Belfast, 13.
- BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Widdah, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnhurst.

Kent. BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence: Martin Bragg, 5 The Drive, Hunton Hill, Erdington, Birmingham, 23. Sales and Committee of 100: Gordon Causar, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. Peace Action Centres Project: Paul James, 50 Windermere Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 21. University of ASTON GROUP. Dave Massey, 2 Station Road, Elsworth, Sandbach, Cheshire.

- BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian Vine, 7 Richmond Dale, Bristol, 8.
- CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Grewley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.
- DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, c/o Doctors' Residence, Stracathro Hospital, by Brechin, Angus.
- GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.
- HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.
- HULL ANARCHIST GROUP. J. Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Hull, Tel. 212526. Meetings 8 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays of month at above address.

- LIFORD LIBERTARIANS. Fortnightly meetings and Action. Fred Ross, 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.
- IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.
- LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence, Peter Gibson, 13 Severn Street, Leicester.
- LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. September Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Ferry Liddle's, 83 Gregory Crescent, SE9.
- LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Gerry Bree, 16 Falkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at above address. 'Freedom' selling at Pier Head every Sunday.

- NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, NOTTING HILL PROVOS. Correspondence to Brian Joseph, 1st Floor, 27 Arundel Gardens, London, W.11. Meeting every first Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. Ground floor flat, 5 Colville House, London, W.11.
- NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert Harriott's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.
- ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.
- OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.
- PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.
- READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton, Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton. Chorley, Alastair Battray, 13 Devonshire Road, Chorley. Manchester, Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylsden, Manchester. Brenda Mercer, 6 Breckside Park, Liverpool, 6. Rochdale: Ian Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Barnford, Rochdale. Stoke-on-Trent: Bob Blakeman, 52 Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

WALTHAM FOREST ANARCHISTS. Contact Lionel Donnelly, 322a Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E.17. Meetings every Thursday at above address.
- WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

WEST LONDON FEDERATION

FULHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact top floor, 31 Ougar Road, S.W.6.

- NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.
- SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Roger Sandell, 38 Buros Avenue, Southall, Middlesex.
- WEST LONDON FEDERATION. Meeting September 12 (Monday) at 'Anchor', West Ealing. Speaker from SWF on Anarcho-Syndicalism.

PROPOSED GROUPS

- LOUGHTON, ESSEX. Please get in touch with Althea Culpin, Golding's, Clays Lane, Loughton, Essex.
- TYNESIDE SYNDICALISTS. Address c/o Michael Renwick, 122 Mowbray Street, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 6.
- KEIGHLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Robert Halstead, 27 Woodlands Rise, Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.
- WEST SUFFOLK. Anarchists, Libertarians and Syndicalists in West Suffolk area wishing to meet for discussions please write to Carl Pimel, c/o West Suffolk General Hospital, Hospital Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

ABROAD

- U.S.A. NEW YORK CITY. N.Y. Federation of Anarchists, c/o Torch Bookshop, 64 East 86th Street, N.Y., 10028. Meets every Thursday evening.
- AUSTRALIA. Anarchist Group, PO Box 4, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 12 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.
- DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Minvelev, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.
- VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact: Derek A. Janoff, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel. 982-2693.
- U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion/Action group in Vermont. Contact Ed Strang, RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

FACTORY FOR PEACE

WE HAVE RECENTLY printed two articles and a number of letters on the sacking of Walter Morrison from the 'Factory for Peace'.

The new manager of the Rowen Engineering Company Limited has said that the 'majority of workers controlling their own factory have decided that they do not want to work with Walter Morrison'.

Walter Morrison has written to FREEDOM on this point, saying: 'This has absolutely nothing at all to do with the main issue, which it would seem by all accounts, the management are struggling like mad to get away from; the issue at stake is: That I was discharged contrary to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, i.e. All employees shall be employed or discharged only after approval by a two-thirds majority. The decision to discharge me was taken on Tuesday, June 21, by a nine to five majority, while I was off sick and not there to defend myself.'

Far from there being workers' control, which is not majority decision-taking, those working there do not even seem to have read the factory's constitution. Further points are raised on this in the following from Alan Parker, who worked at the Rowen Engineering Company Limited and, although he obviously has no say in what happens there now, nevertheless feels indignant about the way a fellow-worker was sacked.

Alan Parker writes:— I was curious to know why Colin Johnson gave his support to those in the Factory for Peace who had inflicted hurt and insult on a fellow-worker, so I phoned him. Apparently he had relied for his information on the very people responsible for maligning the character of Walter Morrison while he was sick and misrepresenting the facts at the Factory Committee meeting that sacked him.

Furthermore when I enquired whether he had studied the correspondence between McAlpine and Walter on which my previous article was largely based, he said he had not studied the letters or even seen them.

When I first wrote to FREEDOM I took the trouble to enclose photostats of this correspondence, so that the editors could judge for themselves the sly way in which Walter was 'worked out'. Also other reliable people within the factory wrote

in. While I appreciate that as Colin started at the factory as 'understudy manager' after Walter was sacked, and could not know from first-hand experience what happened he could at least have studied the correspondence, talked to Sammy, Lev or Irene and gone to see Walter.

For the record the facts are as follows: 1. The factory is committed by its constitution to helping workers, ex-workers and their dependants in need. The Memorandum of Association of the Rowen Community states: '(f) To assist distressed and needy members of the Rowen Engineering Company Limited including those who have ceased to be members and their dependants.'

2. Walter is still ill and has been told by his surgeon to 'put out of his mind any thought of going back to work'. He may go into hospital and for the last six weeks he has been supporting his wife and two children with money from the National Assistance Board.

3. Walter was sacked six weeks after being confined to his home and five weeks after a humane decision to make up his wages.

4. The bureaucratic device used to sack him started as a motion from one of the management to 'sack all workers who had been sick for a short period, with the proviso that they could re-apply for the job back when they were fit for work'. This motion was accepted and then backdated six weeks to apply to Walter. At this meeting it was assumed by the gullible floating vote that Walter would automatically get his job back.

5. In response to a letter stating the above, Walter asked whether his job would still be open when he was fit. A reply came with his cards. The reason given being quite different from Colin Johnson's reason. (New tools and equipment were said to have made his job redundant.)

6. In response to a demonstration by workers' and ex-workers' wives outside the factory (two weeks later), a face-saving statement was issued to the press with 13 signatures on it. Three of these signatories were taken on after Walter was ill including the man who took Walter's job. Another admitted to the *Daily Record* that he had been

Continued on page 4

Vietnam Demo Obstructed

Dear Friend,

I am writing to you about official obstruction of our demonstration against the British Government's complicity in the Vietnam War, which our Campaign has called for Wednesday, September 28 at 7 p.m. This is no isolated incident: witness the imposition of savage fines and three months' imprisonment sentences on demonstrators recently.

We originally planned to start this demonstration from Trafalgar Square and wrote to that effect to the Ministry of Public Building and Works in mid-August. We assumed that this was simply a formality to inform them that we were using Trafalgar Square as an assembly point for our demonstration. We received an acknowledgment and, assuming that everything was all right, we went ahead with publicity. A mere two weeks before the demonstration we received a letter dated September 13 from that Ministry, informing us 'that on this occasion permission is not given' for us to assemble in Trafalgar Square. We were told that 'the police do not oppose the projected march and they suggest that a suitable assembly point would be the Victoria Embankment'. Reluctantly we have agreed to this change.

Many people will conclude that this

is a deliberate attempt by the authorities to obstruct our demonstration. The effect of changing the assembly point is likely to hamper the demonstration because it involves heavy postal costs and necessitates the re-printing of demonstration leaflets. Nevertheless, we are determined to make this demonstration a success and we urge all those who condemn the British Government's complicity in the Vietnam War to ensure that they attend and to redouble their efforts to bring as many people as possible. Although our Campaign is calling this demonstration, we welcome the participation of all individuals and organisations who agree with us in deploring the betrayal of the Labour Movement's principles implicit in the present British Government's support of the Johnson regime's criminal aggression against the Vietnamese people.

We are certain that you will publish this matter in the columns of your journal and we ask your readers to protest to the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

Yours fraternally,

London, S.W.7. PAT JORDAN,
Secretary, Vietnam
Solidarity Campaign.

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WE WERE PERMITTED, since it did not happen twenty-five years ago, to regret the sinking of a German submarine in the North Sea. The whips of Dr. Verwoerd have been exchanged for the scorpions of Balthazar Johannes Vorster.

THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE agreed in a communique to give an ultimatum to the Smith regime in Rhodesia to give back power to the British-appointed Governor who will form a 'broadly-based representative administration'. The British Government will then negotiate a constitutional settlement with this administration by appropriate democratic means (not of course, insisting upon a referendum). In the likely event of these terms not being acceptable, Britain will withdraw any offers made heretofore and will not thereafter submit to Parliament any settlement which involves independence before majority rule. Furthermore Britain will join in sponsoring a United Nations resolution for 'effective and selective mandatory sanctions'. Mr. Wilson denied that this was a shift in policy and turned down Mr. Heath's request for a recall of Parliament. Mr. Ian Smith made no comment until Sunday when he pointed out that the Commonwealth Secretary and the Attorney-General who were flying out to see him had no official standing in Rhodesia, their flight was postponed until it was formulated that all approaches to Mr. Smith would be made through the Governor. By a pure coincidence Mr. Maudling, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, is in Rhodesia too.

THE ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, Mr. Simon Kapwepwe, accused Mr. Harold Wilson of being a racist and an im-

Charles* to Get a Taste of Power-Sun

* Prince, naturally

perialist. 'If this is Labour policy then perhaps the Conservatives are better.' If not, then the next Labour Party conference might look into the question of leadership. 'We've seen nothing in the moves of Mr. Wilson except to sell four million Africans to the white minority... A RACIALIST JOURNAL *New Nation* lurks under the mail-box alias—DAZG. The July number finds a new racist angle 'For us germanic-speaking Anglo-Saxons, for instance, to adopt latinisms is to introduce the principle of meaningless into our use of words, linguistically and psychologically it is nonsense.'

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY is using a computer which can process election results. Dr. Webster, lecturer in computing at the University, said, 'People sometimes write slogans and abusive things on ordinary voting forms but we thought it would be impossible to do it with punch holes. However, in the student elections one ingenious voter managed to punch out holes in such a way as to make the shape of a word—a four-letter one.' The South Vietnam elections were held with a poll of, it is claimed, about 75%. Apparently it was decided to go on with the war.

A NEWLY-ELECTED Liberal MP, Mr. John Pardoe, has suggested that Liberal MPs could stir up Parliamentary reform by

OUT OF THIS WORLD

withdrawing as a 'body and that they must shortly consider it 'very seriously'. In *New Outlook* he points out that the exercise of power in Britain is being carried on anywhere but in Parliament. He writes, 'If Parliament is ineffective, and the role of the individual member that of a mere rubber stamp would it not be better to opt out of Parliament altogether, and to stomp the country in a great continuous national crusade?' The National League of Young Liberals, interviewed in the *Sunday Telegraph*, said through a spokesman, George Kiloh, 'We're not socialist and I'm sick of the word radical. We want a more egalitarian society, tinged with a sort of primitive anarchism.' The *Telegraph* announces that the Young Liberals wear 'Make Love Not War' badges adopted by the London Anarchist Federation. 'I hope,' said Mr. Kiloh, 'that they are anarchist enough not to sue us for copyright.' Mr. Kiloh can rest easily, the badges are nothing to do with the LAF (whatever that is) or Freedom Press.

THE PROVOS are reported to be holding an international council in Maastricht, Holland, in October. PRINCE PHILIP has been elected first honorary member of the Concrete Society.

MR. I. P. HARTLEY, of London, S.W.7, has written to the *Daily Telegraph* suggesting that criminals should be branded with a mark on the cheek, 'M' for murder, 'V' for violence, and 'F' for forgery.

THE BOY SCOUT WEEKLY *The Scout* has ceased publication. BBC 1 is to stop screening Westerns.

JON QUIXOTE.

Out with Moyses!

Dear Comrades,

I find more to read in skinny FREEDOM than in the bloated *Observer* and I would certainly be willing to pay more for more.

The only point of criticism I would make relates to the regular art criticism feature. Although comrade Moyses does a very good job, virtually all the artists he writes about are beneath his contempt—why bother? Add to this the fact that I do not see how this piece fits into a space-hungry paper like FREEDOM and you can see why it jars.

My personal taste is for more book reviews. I regret the fact that a book like Dan Leon's *The Kibbutz* found no reaction at all. Generally speaking, in fact, the kibbutz movement is sadly neglected in FREEDOM and *Anarchy*.

MELVIN DURDEN.

Keep Moyses-Out with Christopher!

Dear Editors,

The fact is that I have been meaning to write to you (not for publication) for many months. But now you have actually asked for comments on FREEDOM, so even my pretty transparent veil of diffidence is gone.

In the past FREEDOM used to reach me folded with that so ironic banner 'For Workers' Control' outwards, and if I wasn't careful I would find myself reading the back page first—which would considerably sour the rest of its contents. Then one day it arrived folded the other way round. But pleasure was short-lived, for there was old Comrade Bill Christopher spewing out his ungrammatical hatred on the front page.

Perhaps I should make two points straight away:

1. I have never met Bill Christopher, and for all I know he may be the most gentle and generous of men who simply assumes a totally different persona in print.

2. I do not for a moment expect FREEDOM, as a polemical newspaper, to be at all times sweetly reasonable (or even congenial to my own prejudices), BUT if it is to have any genuine influence outside a limited clique it must not be used as a form of psycho-therapy for ailing friends of the Freedom Press Group.

I would guess that your readership consists of a relatively small core of committed Anarchists with a number of larger centripetal elements composed of partially—or non-committed libertarian sympathisers. I have a number of friends with whom I argue libertarian ideas. A few already subscribe to FREEDOM; most do not, and I wish I could introduce them to it for the sake of so much that is valuable in it. But I daren't (or should I say that I'm ashamed to?) because I fear that—particularly with people who have already been revolted by the psychopathic elements in other left-wing movements—one dose of Bill Christopher (or one or two others of like mind) will be too much. Please don't mistake me, I'm not suggesting either that you trim

★ LETTERS ★

editorial policy to circulation or that my friends' opinions should be considered of greater value than others' by anyone except myself. But I feel that the back page is seriously prejudicial to the inside pages and that this is a bloody shame! Perhaps in an eight-page FREEDOM somewhere about page 6 would be a better location? Freedom for workers' control?—fine, but maybe there are a few cautions indicated by recent events at Rowens.

How about a complete moratorium for a few weeks on those wretched clichés 'the workers', 'the bosses' and 'the bourgeoisie'? If, after profound editorial consideration during this period, you were to decide that the words have lost any valid meaning in contemporary society I, for one, would be prepared to forgive a bit of authoritarian blue pencil. On the other hand I would appreciate your interpretation of what the hell they do mean.

Contrary to the Aberdeen Anarchists, I very much hope you will not drop 'Round the Galleries'. Perceptive committed criticism like Arthur Moyses's is rare and wholly relevant to anarchist ideas. If you could expand this section to include everything that the *New Statesman* used, in its less typographically self-conscious days, to lump under the heading 'Arts and Entertainment' (better, I suppose, than 'Culture!'), and maintain the same quality, it would be quite something.

With best wishes, and thanks for a great deal,

ROGER THOMPSON.

Out with 'Workers' Control'!

Dear Comrades,

A short while ago, a reader suggested that you remove the 'For Workers' Control' slogan from the back page of FREEDOM. Whether you agree to his suggestion is, of course, up to you. It's your paper!

All the same, I can see the logic behind his remarks. Workers' Control, in my view, is both undesirable and unattainable. We still live in a capitalist society where, in the last analysis, a minority of the population own and control the means whereby most of us live. Despite the so-called Managerial Revolution, and the supposed separation of management from shareholding, the employing class still run their fields, factories and workshops. At best, some trade unionists and unions are allowed a limited amount of joint consultation and representation. If they are very good they are permitted to help their employers improve productivity—and thereby increase the workers' exploitation.

But why not Workers' Control? you may ask. Why not demand more than just joint consultation, union representation or productivity committees?

Surely, the answer is that the employing class—with the inevitable assistance of its State—would never permit it; and if they did, little would be gained any-

way. Why have Workers' Control and still retain a profit-motivated socio-economic system? Workers' Control under capitalism is undesirable; in a free society, which surely must be our alternative, it could not exist anyway. A free society of production-for-use and the satisfaction of human needs would necessitate the common possession of the means of production—which implies, if it implies anything, a classless society. All healthy people would, no doubt, work. Work, purposeful activity, is natural to Man. But people would no longer be divided into such economic categories as 'workers' and 'capitalists'. Thus, there could be no Workers' Control! Whether such phrases as 'Democratic Control', as used by some socialists, would be used is anybody's guess. I doubt it.

Slogans such as 'For Workers' Control' may have served an emotional purpose in the past; but, frankly, I see little reason for it on the back page of an anarchist or libertarian socialist paper such as FREEDOM. You can still support working-class militancy and the class struggle without it.

London, S.W.11. PETER E. NEWELL.

Birth Control

Dear Editors,

There is one more interesting point which could be mentioned re Margaret Sanger, in Jack Robinson's article to new readers. 'It can now be told' that it was Tom Keell, then editor of FREEDOM, who printed Margaret Sanger's pamphlet on birth control.

Cheltenham LILIAN WOLFE.

ANARCHIST CONGRESS

WE RECEIVED ten vouchers worth

a dollar each from the Cuban Libertarian Movement in Exile who are proposing to send delegates to the International Anarchist Congress to be held in Italy and are raising funds to pay for their delegation by sending out these 'bonds' to sympathisers. In other words they are asking \$10 altogether from comrades of the AFB. Vouchers are available from Freedom Press.

Press Fund

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*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Cumallye '66

THIS WEEKEND The Scots Committee for Resistance Against Militarism (SCRAM) will be waiting patiently for the hundreds of those who oppose war to make their resistance known. At Helensburgh they will start out at noon on Saturday to march past Faslane base to Coulport. In both these arsenals of the western world, certain targets in any war, there will be the usual lines of people awaiting the great walk-through at Coulport on the Sunday. However, expressing the military may be SCRAM, to show that its cause is life, will hold a singing concert around the base. And, of course, if any one fancies his chances, he should have a look inside all the better. SCRAM's idea is to blockade the base

for a weekend and render it useless and at the same time have a good time and enjoy yourselves.

Of course Coulport is only one of a series of bases situated among some of the most pleasant areas of Scotland, but nothing is sacred to the military machine that sees no beauty in anything but a broken body.

So, comrades, if you can, go to Coulport, enjoy yourselves and use happiness to bugger up a machine which feeds on misery and death. Even if it is only for a day.

Comrades wishing to go from London should contact Housmans, from where the vans will be leaving on Friday night.

Condemn Leicester Council!

EVERY TOWN and city has its Rawson Streets. In Leicester the appalling thing is that Rawson Street is in the way of municipal development. It's a street about a hundred and fifty yards long. No front gardens and no shops, two-storey terrace houses with a few square feet of 'yard' behind. There are many, many streets in Leicester—particularly in the Highfields and Hummerstone Road districts—where housing conditions are ten times as bad. But these areas are not, as yet, wanted for municipal development.

One side of Rawson Street, the Art Gallery side, has received compulsory purchase orders. The other side, the Prison side, seems to be receiving them singly so far, and not en masse. The first any of the occupants knew of what the council planned was about two years ago. It was then the houses were originally condemned as unfit for habitation. The reason why—that the council would have to pay only a nominal price for them as unfit instead of market value—was not yet clear at that time.

Mrs. Stanley, an owner-occupier who is the only person in the street who has fought the council step by step, blow by blow, told me how the Health Inspector passed judgement on her house. 'He rung the bell, stepped in here—the front door opens directly into the front parlour—and said he was from the Health Department. Then he went like this, just like this—she passed her hand over

the wallpaper by the wall adjacent to the side entry—and said he was going to condemn the house as unfit because of rising damp.'

After Mrs. Stanley ejected the Inspector she went to her solicitors. There she was told there was nothing that could be done and she would probably receive no more than £100 from the council. The house had cost the Stanleys £450 plus mortgage interest. The same was happening to the others in the street. Yet nobody but Mrs. Stanley went further than going to their solicitor.

Mrs. Stanley went to council meetings and shouted. She went to the estate agent and he advised her to lodge an appeal. This she did. Yet she knew that reversing the decision for demolition was useless. If she did and failed, her chances for getting a market price for her house would be nil, as she would be conceding the optional 'compassionate' appeal in favour of an appeal only against the condemnation order. The appeal, she told me, 'was like I was on trial' yet she managed to get an Inspector from the Ministry of Health to inspect her house. He reversed the decision. She will now receive about £600 compensation for the maintenance and good repair of the house, condemned as uninhabitable; it would have been worth less than a hundred to her.

Here is also a lesson to the other people of Rawson Street, the others who did not fight. Through sheer apathy and what Mrs. Stanley described as 'submissiveness' they have not only let the council have the right to pull their houses down at a presently unknown date, but have only managed to get about £60 for their houses. Mrs. Stanley's neighbour will get only £50—the money is payable when eviction finally takes place.

Mrs. Stanley's is not the best decorated house in the street. There are others that are in far better repair. Yet their owners have not fought, and only over the last few weeks have they come to ask Mrs. Stanley how to. Yet for most of them it is too late... they have missed the final date for objections to be lodged.

Rawson Street has perhaps a year left in it. This is not because it is falling down... I have seen far worse damp, cracked ceilings and walls, faulty plumbing and leaking roofs in council houses. Prefabs, due for demolition in 1950, still stand in Leicester while Rawson Street is condemned.

The item on '24 Hours' last month implied a Mr. and Mrs. Brian Jullian and their two children were being forcibly evicted from their house in Rawson Street. No Mr. and Mrs. Jullian live or have lived in Rawson Street. I was told they lived 'over Evington Street somewhere' but I have been unable to trace them. Their case, however, seems known to everyone in the city. Their house was also condemned as unfit. Mr. Jullian bought it for £600 plus mortgage costs and at present has still

Continued on page 4

Redeployment on the Dole

THE MEASURES TAKEN by the Government to deal with the economic crises are now really starting to take effect as shown in the announcement by the British Motor Corporation that 30,600 out of its 112,000 labour force will be put on short time this week and that on November 4 between 5,000 and 8,000 workers will be sacked. Car workers at other companies, excluding Fords, face similar prospects.

Obviously the Government's policies will lead to unemployment, not only in the car industry, but in others as well. Hardly a week goes by now without some management, be it the huge ICI or BMC or some small company, announcing that a number of workers will have to be made redundant. One would think by the way BMC have handled the situation that they have only just realised that redundancies were necessary. Up until the previous week BMC workers had been working overtime, while Fords at least did cut back to basic hours some two months ago.

BMC can not only point to the Government's economic policies as a reason for its lack of orders, but can also quote the Prime Minister to support its decision on redundancies. For only in the previous week, at the Trades Union Congress, Mr. Wilson said: 'It is of paramount importance, however harsh this may seem, that where demand and real employment fall, the labour is released to meet the urgent demands of the export and other key industries. At this time hoarding of labour, work-sharing, must be scheduled as practices totally inimical to our national recovery.'

As the car industry is a major exporting one, it might seem, at first, to be contrary to Wilson's policy that so many workers are being sacked from the car manufacturers, but it is the home market where the economic squeeze has been applied. So it is hoped that these sacked workers will go into other jobs where their skills will be used to boost exports. But I think this line of reasoning is false, because although there is a shortage of labour, those who will be made redundant will be mainly semi-skilled assembly workers. I think companies will still hold onto their skilled labour as much as possible. So rather than getting what is termed redeployment, it will be unemployment. Under a Labour Government we were promised a planned economy, but instead we are getting chaos and sackings.

There has not been any planning on this matter and the policies of the Government are those dictated to it by necessity in the present crisis facing British capitalism. The planning necessary to ride out this crisis has not been prepared and in many areas it will be difficult to find alternative employment. Some

We have been sent the translation of a letter from China which reports that:

EARLY IN AUGUST, Professor Hsiu of Peking was condemned by the 'Young Guards' of Peking as a 'reactionary' and ordered, in penance, to draw two loads of dung through the streets to the University. Professor Hsiu did not comply, and committed suicide. In his last note, now circulating among Chinese students, he stated: 'At the age of 80 I do not fear death and cannot be coerced, I cannot fight back, as I know, and my only way is by immolation. If I do so, it is not because I despise the honourable and worthy task of the dung-carrier. It is because those now in power wish to degrade the dung-

skills are scarce in certain regions and so there would have to be assistance for moving and homes for re-housing. Lack of these and sufficient retraining establishments show up the Government's lack of planning even to aspire to a model social democratic reformist Government.

CRISIS FACING CAPITALISM

The economic crisis facing this country is not only national, but is affecting the whole capitalist system. Most countries are expecting a definite slow-down in growth. This, of course, will slow down even further the growth in world trade. Does this then mean we are heading for another slump like that of the 1930's? Not necessarily, for now there are far more facilities for borrowing money. In fact, because of the sharp rise in international interest rates, it has been



necessary to increase the 'swap' facilities with the central banks as well as arrangements with American bankers. Sterling is under pressure at the moment but this might change and some other currency might be affected. So, as it is in the interest of all to help prop up one another's economies, it is no coincidence that in the same week as mass sackings are announced, agreements have been reached that allow what the *Financial Times* calls a 'network of swaps'. This will increase world liquidity and so assist in putting economies to rights.

But all this means to the worker is short-time working and then the sack, for BMC want to revert back to full-time working from November 4. To continue short-time after this date, say BMC, 'would not produce the economies consistent with efficient management'. With so much capital invested in machinery, it is far more profitable for BMC to reduce their staff and then go back on to the normal working week, plus overtime if necessary.

DEMAND FOR WORK-SHARING

This is not how the car workers see it. At meetings called by the shop stewards, they have been demanding a policy of work-sharing. They are firmly against redundancies and although trade-

union leaders have warned members against unofficial action, there is a strong possibility that strikes will occur. The statements of MPs and trade-union leaders contrast very strongly with those from people who will be affected by the redundancies. Mr. Tallon, a senior executive member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, has said: 'We want to safeguard our members' right to work—not necessarily at the same place where he is now working. We want redeployment to take place as speedily and comfortably as possible.' Mr. Tallon has also said that if (and this is the crux of it) he was put on short-time working, he would rather move to another town to seek work.

Mr. Roy Jenkins, MP, has advised against workers taking militant action, while Mr. Arthur Harper, shop stewards' convenor, has said: 'We shop stewards do not accept redundancy. If redundancy notices are handed out, they should be handed back immediately. If BMC workers stick together we can lick Harriman (the BMC Chairman) and his henchmen.' But BMC workers will also have to lick the Government and as such they recognise it as a political issue.

Work-sharing is obviously the only policy open to BMC workers. To get this strike action will almost certainly

be necessary. Although the effect of this is always weakened when fighting sackings, widespread action could still hit exports very hard. As it is exports that the Government want to increase while cutting back home demand, they could be vulnerable here.

AFTER THE WAGE FREEZE?

The working class is obviously going through a tough period, not only with the Government's economic squeeze, but also because of the strong certainty that the period of wage restraint will be extended beyond that of the wage freeze and the six months of limited pay settlements. Statements by Ministers infer that there will be no return to free collective bargaining when the wage freeze has ended, and that the Government will fix a 'norm' by statute according to what it estimates the economy can stand.

With unemployment and legislation against strikes or the threat of strikes for wage increases, shop stewards' organisations face a difficult time. These measures are not just a means to solve the present crisis in British capitalism, but are also weapons against the working class and their shop stewards' organisations. As an attack is inevitable, direct action and solidarity can defeat the worst effects and so ensure that the trade-union movement does not become docile and weak, accepting what is handed out to it. The next few months are crucial if the crisis in capitalism is not going to be solved at our expense.

P.T.

LETTER FROM CHINA

Professor Hsiu was one of the first to translate Kropotkin into Chinese. He belonged to the group of professors who, although associated with the older anarchist movement, continued their careers in Communist China. This attitude has been condemned by the Chinese anarchist movement generally. (The Chinese Government recognises a distinction between 'philosophic' and 'criminal', i.e. revolutionary, anarchists.) In his death, however, and refusal to compromise further, Professor Hsiu would seem to have recognised his old comrades.

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DISCUSSES

THE WORKERS

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