

ON THE BEACH

THE GREY MILITARY vessel was moored to the pier at Helensburgh. We arrived at 8 a.m. in the cold morning in two minivans on an overnight journey from London and the owner of the vehicles was in a bad temper. Our luggage was dumped on the pavement in front of the war memorial and we shivered in the wind and waited for the ships to open. Two cafes refused to serve us and we wandered round the town sensing hostility or at best indifference. A restaurant above a baker's shop in a side street finally served us with breakfast. The boys gave a 'Make love, not war' badge to the waitress as she pinned it on her thin black bra.

Then the girls wandered off to buy provisions for the Sabbath and we went and bought fireworks. Three dozen sparklers, 80 sparklers, and two giant night-

The day was warming up and back on the sea-front the comrades were gathered. Soldiers were playing on a miniature golf course and working girls rushed out in shops staring at us and giggling. On the corner we sold FREEDOM (only 4d.), News (only 2d.), Socialist Leader (only 6d.). Badges! The youth from the men's was covered with them from the tide. Buy your peace badges here! squirmed and looked the other way.

The police arrived before the organisers. Remember that the Scottish police are different. They pin your arms back until you shout with pain. A submarine was slowly sailing out of the harbour.

Six large coachloads of police went past us in rapid succession. A friend gave us a duplicated list of car numbers. Watch out for them. They are suspected security cars with plain-clothes police. One such, MX 7616, we were to encounter later.

We read in the papers that all police leave was cancelled in Dumbartonshire. That a large contingent of Admiralty police would aid the local police. Police dogs and patrol boats would be used and those trying to swim out to the ships would be picked up. We had not thought of that. And there were scarcely 200 of us.

Then out with the flags. The yellow banner of SCRAM in front, Dumfries, Aberdeen, London '100', Lag/2. Oh yes, an Irish flag and also a Scottish. The Scottish Campaign for Resistance against Militarism was converging on Faslane, on the Gare Loch, and Coullport and Glendouglas, on Loch Long.

Faslane was especially guarded. Every 10 yards two policemen stood outside the fence. Down the Loch we could see two rocket towers and submarines by a floating dock. Earlier students rowed out and painted a submarine yellow, we were told. Near the beach there was a great accumulation of scrap metal as if the bomb had

already dropped. On the barbed wire fencing there was a ripped garment. High up in the air a man repaired wiring on a pylon. Police and more police. A group of borstal boys in blue, heads down, walked past us. A photographer was told not to photograph Faslane.

In the afternoon we climbed over boggy hills and from the top we could see far over the Loch and grey mountains. By the beach there was the Coullport storage base, the bunkers for nuclear missiles clearly visible. Then we descended, approaching the base from the rear.

We camped out on the beach in front of the base, pitched what tents we had and sat around camp fires. Local boys came on their bicycles to see the fun—a boy of 12 stayed with us all night and led us through difficult terrain the next day. In the pitch dark the fireworks were gorgeous, and highly symbolic, muttered a cop. Navy personnel in civvies sat by our fire and plied us with whisky. Hundreds of sparklers shone like white stars, and colourful rockets shot high up in the air over the base. A police inspector ran around like a neurotic terrier. Then some of us had English tea in Cadogan's van and we talked of returning to this lovely place next July for the whole month and dreamed of 5,000 tents, with jazz and films and songs round the campfire.

After a long journey home Camden Town was the same. Drunks were lurching in doorways and a police van waited for trouble outside the Irish dance hall.

JOHN RETY.

Contempt of Court

PAUL PAWLOWSKI, who was arrested at the Coullport demonstration, appeared before the magistrates in Scotland and according to reports is now in custody for one month 'for contempt of court'. Presumably this means that he will be sentenced when he appears again.

Crime and Astonishment

'I HAVE BEEN sentencing people for 27 years and it has been a long time since I have come upon a case that was so revolting as your case. I think you are so steeped in filth that as I read the report I cringed, and my flesh crept as I read the depth of iniquity to which you have allowed yourself to sink.'

When that quotation caught my eye in the *New York Times* recently, I figured it could mean only one thing: LBJ had already been brought before the International War Crimes Tribunal, and somehow I must have missed the whole thing.

Instead it turned out to be Judge Irving Ben Cooper speaking in Manhattan Federal Court to a minor malefactor named John Fellebaum, a body-builder, whose voluptuous physique was being used as a decoy by a ring of extortioners and blackmailers concentrating on homosexuals. Nevertheless it could be argued that somewhere along the line, at least, there were some pleasurable sensations permitted the John Fellebaum targets. Not so the Johnson napalm victims.

R.S.C.

Normal Politics are Rare

WE FIND OURSELVES in the midst of a welter (or is it a spate?) of party conferences. No sooner have the Liberals finished their conference at Brighton than the Labour Party take the stage. They are soon to be followed by the Conservatives. One may ask why is it always Brighton or some other seaside resort? One might hazard (with apologies to all Heckmondwicks), that if it were at Heckmondwike more work might get done in less time—there might be less delegates too.

One seems to remember that in the far-off days party conferences used to take place at weekends (with the smaller parties they still do), and delegates were home and back to work on the Monday. Now all big conferences start in the midweek and the weekends are free for whatever goes on (for example at Brighton) at weekends. Conference delegates' expenses are usually paid for by the constituency parties, so this seems like another expense-account fiddle.

In the midst of all this desert of political platitudes and statesmenlike attitudes, one wonders what effect this party conference idea has upon the party, or indeed what effect politics has upon human life.

Everybody seems to get their chance to show off and the party leaders go on very much the same as usual after the conference. Bodies are kicked under the table, daggers are implanted in various backs, whips are cracked over various sections of the party and, finally, the leader rallies them all with an uplifting sermon as if nothing whatever had happened.

One of our contemporaries makes a plea for a return to normal politics. George Bernard Shaw is reported to have said that he visited an occultist, who said he had perfectly normal sight—"which was very rare". It is a sad experience in politics that normal politics are very rare.

The writer draws a distinction between official politics and his concept of normal politics which 'has to do with people studying their own problems in community, and then coming up with practical inventions which will solve the problems with minimal external interference or administration'. This, to the anarchist, has no relation whatsoever to the concept of 'politics' as they are known to us through the bitter experience of elections, party conferences and the newspapers. This idea of 'normal' politics is a textbook concept belonging in the university or the lecture room. When

the apparatus of government was institutionalized 'politics' ceased to be normal; when the party system was instituted, what had been a neurosis became a psychosis, and politics became the dirty eight-letter word which it is to all anarchists and libertarians.

To the philosopher anarchism is considered as a political idea, to the politician it is thought of as being too philosophical. To one we are too concerned with practical things, to the other we are too idealistic and utopian. They can't both be right and, in fact, both are wrong.

The time comes when words have to be cast aside, they have been used so badly by politicians, journalists, broadcasters and others that they have become shop-soiled and dog-eared and one is no longer quite sure of their meaning. To some of us 'democracy', 'socialism', 'communism', 'peace-loving', are quite incapable of an agreed definition and should be withdrawn from usage—or, as Stuart Chase suggests, replaced by 'blah, blah, blah'.

The word 'politics' seems to be due to join this group. Anyhow, let's not talk of normal politics.

JACK ROBINSON.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO HAROLD

Vietnam. What are you doing about genocide in Vietnam? Volunteers wanted for a Vietnam Peace Action Group—members of any organisation or none—but must be active, dependable and prepared to participate in unusual projects. Phone: BEC 7517.

YOU MAY HAVE noticed the above advertisement in the contact column of this newspaper. It stipulated that members should be active and prepared to participate in unusual projects and we are told it produced a number of replies by telephone and several letters. A Vietnam Action Group was formed. Nine of its members are now in jail. But before their arrests they have managed, within the space of one week, to stage two demonstrations that not only gained publicity but also hit hardest at the perpetrators and the uncaring.

Their first successful demonstration was in the West End of London where startled theatre-goers witnessed an unscheduled performance when members of the Vietnam Action Group took over the stage in eight theatres.

In each theatre immediately after the curtain had fallen for the interval, a demonstrator leapt on to the stage and addressed the audience on the subject of Vietnam. The theme of each speaker was the same—British complicity in the Vietnam war. The audiences were urged to support a campaign to get the Americans out of Vietnam.

A leaflet that was distributed outside the theatres contained the following passage: 'We are guilty because British troops are guarding US bomber bases in Thailand and because we are training Vietnamese troops in Malaysia. We are guilty because we are supplying the Americans with poisonous chemicals for use against the Vietnamese. We are guilty because we have allowed a moral pervert to become Prime Minister and to speak in our name expressing support for the American war in Vietnam.'

This 'moral pervert' was the target of the ensuing demonstration.

Here is an account from H.McG. who was present:

Nine people were remanded in custody for a week at Brighton last Monday after Harold Wilson had been shouted down in church. They included the secretary of the London Committee of 100, at least two anarchists, an organiser of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign,

an American member of CNVA, and a well-known Solidarity supporter. With about two dozen others this group had spaced themselves around the Methodist church where a special service was being held for Labour Party delegates.

George Brown read the first lesson. 'They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks...' at this Nicholas Walter shouted 'Hypocrite' from the gallery. Still shouting about Vietnam, he was led out of the church; Mr. Wilson looked thunderstruck and apprehensive and G. Brown, shaken, continued talking about peace and brotherhood.

As soon as Mr. Wilson stood up to read from Matthew's Gospel, all hell let loose. Jim Radford began to harangue him about Vietnam and was immediately shouted down by the congregation, who caused a much bigger riot than the interrupters.

As soon as Jim was stopped, other hecklers started from all over the hall. Mr. Wilson paused red-faced and furious; pandemonium was soon so great that even the public address system could no longer cope.

After a while everyone sang a hymn, whilst some of the demonstrators were taken out; but as soon as Mr. Wilson started to read again the shouts of 'Hypocrite' assailed him from all sides. Sue Abrahams walked across in front of the altar and made a speech.

I waited for a lull and then started up in the gallery; immediately I was set upon by a number of eminently respectable women in flowery hats, who used most obscene language and would, I am sure, have torn me apart if the stewards had not physically restrained them and helped me to my feet. You really need to watch these Christians. Eventually large reinforcements of police were called and cleared the hall of the thirty or more 'non-conformists'. The arrests appeared to be at random.

Those arrested were taken to the police station at 11.30 a.m., they were held until 7.30 p.m. before being charged. Several of us with husbands or friends in custody spent the whole day trying to see them and were at last allowed to do so at 7.30 p.m. The four young children also kept waiting were not in a good humour by this time, but you could not expect the police to care about a little thing like that.

On Monday they appeared before the magistrates where there were complaints of 'beating up'. They were remanded in custody for a week and at the time of going to press have been refused bail. Then men were taken to Lewes jail and the women to Holloway. Nicholas Walter has announced his intention of refusing prison food.

Now that many, although far from all, members of the Vietnam Action Group are in jail, remanded without bail, it is instructive what Jim Radford's thoughts were for such a contingency.

He wrote in a duplicated bulletin:

'Unless we are fortunate enough to be in a position to take direct action against the US or British military machine—our main task must be to make people conscious and concerned about what is happening in Vietnam. We have to force the facts under their noses and in a sense force them to take sides.

'How do we do it—by taking over stages, pulpits, podiums at cinemas and theatres, churches, meetings, by seizing temporary control of broadcasting systems—at football matches, railway stations, holiday camps or even radio stations.

'If we are to remain non-violent—publicity is our most valuable weapon. If you can arrange a dramatic happening—this is News.

'Perhaps I should make it clear that the Vietnam Action Group is not a sabotage group. This does not mean that our sole purpose is to create publicity. We are out to embarrass and impede the Government.

'If you are able to form a separate group let me know.'

Now Jim is in jail and so is Nicholas and Heather and Bernard and Sue and Meg and Faith and Derek and Andy. Who will take up their work where they left off?

Not Lord Brockway (chairman of the British Council for Peace in Vietnam) who said: 'Whilst understanding the depth of feeling aroused by the Government's support of America in the Vietnam war, I deplore what happened at Brighton this morning as an affront to the equally deep susceptibilities of others and as the worst possible service to the cause of peace.'

But will you?

M.H.

ANARCHY 68

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Tom McAlpine writes:

"FREEDOM" has published several articles by Alan Parker attacking me personally and other workers in the factory. At no time were we asked for our comments and the articles are in fact so full of blatant lies and half-truths that it would take too long to answer each point in detail. I had not intended to answer these at all because to do so inevitably involves making fairly harsh personal criticisms in return, and I feel tired of the continual in-fighting of progressive movements. However, many friends in the anarchist and peace movements have suggested that I should reply to these attacks.

Let's look at one or two of the lies in Alan's article. He states that all Walter's appeals to the Factory and Advisory Council have been ignored. In fact every letter Walter has written has been put before our meeting and the Advisory Council was called to meet some time before the article appeared in FREEDOM.

He says that Eddie McCormack and George Hewitt say, 'It's nothing to do with us', etc. Both Eddie and George not only deny this but are quite adamant in their support for the factory's decision.

Let's look at his comment: 'McAlpine dreamed up the idea of an Advisory Body not to advise but to involve other organisations.' In fact I'm quite sure that most of the Advisory Council, many of whom were in the original working group, can confirm that it was the Iona Community who mainly pressed the point about having an Advisory Council. In fact, they wanted to give it far more powers to be able to counter the irresponsible folk like Alan Parker.

I would suggest that the article is a fabrication of lies and half-truths skillfully blended to appear plausible. We worked for almost a year with practically no formal rules and discipline. We found that this did not work and that the people who were supposedly ideologically committed were frequently no better and often worse than the rest. For instance one 'idealist' who worked in the factory for a short time on a temporary basis, consistently came in one or often two hours late in the morning and refused to make the time up in the evening. When we threatened to deduct an equivalent amount from his wages, he came in promptly every morning. We have gradually—always after full discussion and majority votes—introduced more rules and disciplines. I think that this has been one of the successes of the factory that the workers have chosen their own disciplines and that they most certainly haven't chosen what would be the easy way out for themselves.

There seems to be a complete lack of knowledge of how the factory decisions are taken. We have a meeting every two weeks, the agenda for which has to be displayed two days beforehand, from 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. (with tea break meetings for urgent matters). Everyone in the factory is free to add any item to the agenda and at the meeting each item is taken in turn. If the agenda is not completed the item is carried on to the next meeting. Everyone in the factory takes his turn of being chairman at the meetings and each person has exactly one vote. At our AGM the directors, manager and foreman are elected. The manager and foreman have been allocated disciplinary powers and are answerable to the full meeting at any time.

Far from wanting to stay on and maintain my position in the factory, I

FACTORY for PEACE TWO STATEMENTS

was only too keen to have an opportunity to hand over as soon as I responsibly could. Anyone who has tried for three years to be raiser of capital, technical designer and developer, production engineer, salesman, and on occasion shop-floor assembler, etc., of a small factory, having to learn most of these jobs as he goes along, will be aware of just how exhausting mentally and physically this is, and how welcome the prospect of getting out of it becomes.

In fact, it was as far back as two years ago that I first indicated that in my opinion we should some day have a new manager. Finally, in October/November of last year, I actually proposed this to the factory meeting and we agreed to interview several people, including Colin Johnson. We interviewed Colin in February and unanimously agreed to have him as manager. We had to delay his appointment because of the credit squeeze, and we finally asked him to start on August 1. In October we will have great pleasure, I'm sure, in electing Colin manager.

It was also agreed back in February at our meeting that I should start to form the Rowen Community (Great Britain), to help with sales, new products, raising finance, etc., for the South Wales and Glasgow factories and, in turn, to try to help get other factories started. In other words, quite soon, far from having individual power I will be working mainly in an advisory capacity. Alan sets himself up as an economic expert; he knows little about economics. Most of you will know that in recent years he has seldom been able to hold down a job for more than a few months, sometimes less. He always believes that he is an expert in everything and always knows more than the boss. There are few peace groups in Scotland whom he hasn't antagonised. Many of you who know him will be aware that a commitment to democracy has never been a noticeable feature of either his beliefs or his behaviour. Alan has many talents but they always seem to end up being used to destroy rather than create.

As far as the factory is concerned he was never involved in its initial stages and showed little interest. He became involved with it only last year when he wrote asking us for a job. There was not a vacancy but since he was out of work we accepted his offer to come on a voluntary basis to do a particular job for a month. During this time his arrogant and bullying approach so antagonised the rest of the workers that when he came to apply again for a permanent job there was a very clear cut vote not to employ him. After this decision he, on his own admission, came into the factory one evening, took the technical journals on which he had done some work, and destroyed them. Immediately after this he acquired a copy of the factory's confidential budget and proceeded to mail our guarantors and others with an attack on our financial policies. He committed a serious breach of company law but we took no action. During that year we made a profit of £3,000. Alan has developed an intense hatred for both me and the factory, and one gets the impression that he spends most of his spare time thinking up ways

of embarrassing us. His latest has been an attempt to discredit our new manager, Colin Johnson, by making very personal allegations about him to the People newspaper. We were informed of this by a completely uninvolved person working in Alan's office who was shocked when he overheard what Alan was doing.

Now let us turn to Walter. He has been trying to present himself as the defender of freedom, democracy, integrity, etc., in the factory against the onslaughts of myself, the foreman, Bob Carruthers, the accountant, Jimmy Kelly, the chargehand, Ian Ferguson, and the dozen or so other 'living products of an autocratic school' who 'do as they are told without thought or question', to quote Alan. The lads really loved this.

In the months before the factory was officially opened, several of us gave every spare moment we had to the hard slogging work of preparing the premises, etc. Walter carefully avoided anything resembling hard work with the exception of two jobs which took three days. He was the twelfth worker we took into the factory and was at the time unemployed. According to his tax returns the wage he was earning in the factory was higher than what he had earned in his previous job; my salary was almost half of what it had previously been. Shortly after he came into the factory he went through a phase of doing practically no work for hours on end, day after day, repeatedly writing his name. The situation got so bad that I returned after a business trip to find that the other workers wanted to hold a meeting to sack him. One or two of us who knew him asked them to reconsider their decision on the grounds that he was facing very difficult personal problems. They did in fact agree to give him another chance. These same workers who were at this time carrying Walter economically, were constantly subjected at tea-breaks, lunch-hour and during working hours to long tirades from him about the bomb. I was frequently embarrassed to hear his arrogant and taunting remarks about the other boys made in their presence. For example on one occasion he had a screaming match with the other workers, called them murderers, and went dashing out in the middle of the working day to demonstrate outside STUC offices. Meanwhile it was the hard work, skill and patience of someone like Bob Carruthers which was enabling him to draw a wage packet. During a period when the factory desperately needed production Walter refused to do overtime.

After a period he appeared to settle down to some extent and we thought the factory was helping him to regain some kind of stability. However what I was unaware of then but learned since was that under the surface Walter was constantly trying to sow discontent. As one of the workers said recently, 'I have nothing against him personally, but every time I went down to the basement where he worked, he would always call me over and try and involve me in discussions about how the factory was going downhill. I got to the stage where I just tried to avoid him.' There was a deliberate effort, unsuccessful in the

majority of cases, to stir up feelings about the 'poor workers' on the shop-floor versus the management. In fact, Jimmy Kelly and I were doing out of the factory with less money than some of the adult workers because we took no payment for overtime.

Walter was an expert at finding and playing on the chips on people's shoulders. He has a need to be either the hero or the martyr in any group and while this was comparatively easy in the Committee of 100, it was far more difficult in an industrial unit where most of the time the work has to be steady, undramatic and routine. During this year we have had several incidents of violent screaming attacks on other workers, during one of which Walter reduced one of the men to tears by the viciousness of his comments. He was suspended for two days as a result of another of these incidents and his appeal against this was rejected by the Advisory Council.

Because of the credit squeeze, we like the majority of other factories, had to find ways of economising. We examined our figures for productivity losses from illness and absenteeism, and discovered that we had had the equivalent of 2½ people permanently absent for the past six months. What we were going to do about sickness benefits had been discussed at five meetings at least, and finally at a meeting the following decisions were taken.

- (a) We should reduce sickness pay to two weeks full pay, two weeks half pay.
- (b) No one to qualify for sick pay unless off two full days.
- (c) After six weeks' absence members ceases to be company employees. Must re-apply for employment.

The latter was passed with 12 votes to 5 with one abstention. Moved by Bob Carruthers, seconded by George Hewitt.

When I went up to tell Walter of the decision, I was told by a neighbour that he was away on two weeks' holiday, without even notifying the factory, who was still making up his full wage. Walter re-applied for membership when in fact there was no sign that was fit to return to work (he is still a sick line). It was agreed unanimously by the meeting that there was a vacancy. Walter made no appeal to the factory during the next few days, the first we heard of the trouble was when the press phoned to say there was to be a demonstration outside the factory. We decided to close all our doors and try to be as non-violent as possible. After this, we have had a most bitter campaign against the majority decision of the workers (workers' control is apparently not acceptable if you don't like the decisions). We have had demonstrations outside the factory with the capitalist press called in, a libellous series of articles and letters, attempts to block both the factory and my home telephone by frequent calls which are hung up when answered (I was awakened at two o'clock one morning by this), writings on the factory walls and equipment, even on heaters ready for dispatch, and at least one break-in when factory files were interfered with.

The only thing this has succeeded in doing, is to strengthen the resolve of the majority of us in the factory never to have any more dealings with Walter, Alan, etc. In fact, 14 of the men in the factory have signed a statement saying that under no consideration are they prepared to work with Walter in future. If you take the arrogant and contemptuous attitude that the previous article in FREEDOM have shown, i.e. that they are only ignorant working men who have been manipulated by me, then you

Continued on page 3

Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

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

OCT. 9 James Scott Restrictive Practices in Trade Unions Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park, 3 p.m.

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, Tunstrey, Cheshire.
- ABERDEEN GROUP. Correspondence to M. Day, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.
- ARLESEY GROUP (N. Heris, 3 Beds.). Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stifford Road, Arlesey, Beds.
- BELFAST. Contact Peter Stringer, 7 Duffy Street, Belfast, 13.
- BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnhurst, Kent.

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

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Iaa Vine, 7 Richmond Dale, Bristol, 8.

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Crowley, 16 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.

DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Urs 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.

IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence, Peter Gibbon, 13 Severn Street, Leicester. THURSDAYS. LONDON, S.E.13. 2nd and 4th Thursdays. October meetings at Mike Mallet's. LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP. S.E.13. Gerry Bree, 16 Falkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at above address. 'Freedom' selling at Pier Head every Sunday.

NEW HAMB LIBERTARIANS. Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate. NOTTING HILL PROVS. 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 Houses, London, W.11.

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert Bartrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenway, 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. Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton: Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton. Chorley: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley. Manchester: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylesden, Manchester. Brenda Mercer, 6 Breckside Park, Liverpool, 6. Rochdale: Ian Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Bamford, Rochdale. Stoke-on-Trent: Bob Blakeman, 32 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 Ongar Road, S.W.6.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the

month at Jeanie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.

EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Julian Derbyshire, 2 Oakley House, Oakley Avenue, London, W.5.

WEST LONDON FEDERATION. Meeting September 12 (Monday) at 'Anchor', West Ealing. Speaker from SWF on Anarcho-Syndicalism.

PROPOSED GROUPS

CAMBRIDGE. Contact Wallyjon Illingworth, 20 Richmond House, Devon Road, Cambridge.

MID-MIDDLESEX. (Harrow, Weanley, Edgware, Hendon.) Anyone interested in forming a libertarian group for discussion and possible action write to Nicolas and Ruth Walter, 4 Vane Close, Kanton, Harrow, Middlesex.

SOUTH COAST, BRIGHTON, ETC. Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes area contact Alan Albon, The Stable, Glynchiff Farm, Pevensey, Sussex. Phone: Hailsham 358.

WATFORD. Anyone interested please contact Alan Pritchard, 8 Bedford Street, Watford, Herts.

ABROAD

U.S.A. NEW YORK CITY. N.Y. Federation of Anarchists, c/o Torch Bookshop, 641 East 10th Street, N.Y., 10009. Meets every Thursday evening.

AUSTRALIA. Anarchist Group, PO Box 438, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 17 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Mindervej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark. VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 144 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel. 987-2683.

Continued from page 2
are welcome to come to the factory and discuss it with them.

Now let's be perfectly frank about the 21 workers in this factory. We are a democracy and there are five folk who, in general terms, support Walter's point of view, and two others who from time to time give similar support. Four of these are the apprentices of 19 or under and only one took any part in CND or Committee of 100 activities prior to joining this factory. Supporting the factory's decisions there are 14 workers, not one of whom is under 21, and the great mass of whom are married and have spent a good deal of their working lives in industry. Of this 14, at least five have been active in CND or Committee of 100 before joining the factory, and many have made considerable financial sacrifices to work here.

I'm afraid I don't have Alan Parker's manic energy to keep pouring out streams of material—or possibly I don't feel it important enough. I have written this article unwillingly and don't intend to write any more on the issue. I am much more concerned to go ahead and start new factories—all of which will be autonomous and will no doubt develop a variety of organisational patterns. What I would like to ask is what are all these other supporters of workers' control doing. No one is stopping them putting their energies into starting their own factories. I might begin to have some respect for them if they did.

TOM McALPINE.

Walter Morrison writes:

AS A SUBSCRIBER to the 'Factory for Peace' Memorandum of Association I PROTEST MOST STRONGLY at the wholesale VIOLATION of the Factory's main principles and in particular the General Council's decision to sack me, contrary to Article 10 on page 8 of the Memorandum of Association, i.e. 'ALL EMPLOYEES SHALL BE EMPLOYED OR DISCHARGED ONLY AFTER APPROVAL BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE ROWEN COMMUNITY'.

CONCERN FOR OTHERS?
The decision to discharge me was taken on Tuesday, June 21, 1966, in my absence, while I was under doctor's care. No attempt whatsoever was made to inform me of the meeting or the matter to be discussed. The decision taken, was backdated to include my six weeks on the sick.

For sacking the sick: 9; against: 5.

APPEAL

In a recent report (Thursday, September 22, 1966) on my appeal against dismissal the Advisory Council stated: 'That the Factory General Council has full and final authority, and that it was their opinion that the Articles of Association had not been contravened'.

THE LAW

The law states that the Memorandum of Association is a PUBLIC DOCUMENT as well as the fundamental Law of the Company, and can only be altered by the consent of the Court, and that those responsible for the Prospectus are responsible for its accuracy and fullness, for it is this document that determines the activities of the Factory, and outsiders rely on it when entering into contract with the Company.

I PROTEST

Therefore, as it now seems apparent that the tendency of the so-called 'Factory for Peace' Memorandum of Association is to MISLEAD, I DEMAND THAT MY NAME BE REMOVED FROM THESE DOCUMENTS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. For I want it made clear that my name is no longer in any way connected with a set-up that with one voice professes non-violence, concern for others, peace, reconciliation, helping the needy, etc.,

etc., and with another spreads (both verbally and in print), slanderous statements and lies in an attempt to justify their own high-handed 'sack-the-sick' policy, by discrediting a person's character and implying that I am responsible for setting fire to the kiddies-adventure playground, breaking into the factory, messing it up and stealing documents, etc., painting insulting slogans on the factory wall, making malicious phone calls, sabotage, and writing crude leaflets advocating smashing up American sailors. These tactics used by the factory are reminiscent of the fascist and Stalinist methods of silencing opposition.

THE NEXT STEP

I intend writing to my local MP, Trade Union, and finally to the sponsors of the factory.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

It is obvious from Messrs. Jarvie, Magee, Rev. Sim, Rev. Shaw, Reid, and Rev. Wilkie's report that they have not been made aware of the campaign of public abuse and intimidation carried on by the factory management against my wife and myself.

How they can possibly talk about 'reconciliation' and promoting the purpose for which the factory was established and at the same time uphold not only their decision to sack a sick man and supply heaters to the Navy, but to turn a blind eye to the obvious deterioration of human values at the factory caused by insecurity and lack of trust between management and workers, is beyond comprehension.

The reason I am registering my protest in this manner is that I want my objections publicised as widely as possible, and as my letters to the factory are usually held over from any time up to a fortnight, before being read out to the factory personnel.

ON SEPTEMBER 11 two supporters of the West Midlands Committee of 100, Bill Hetherington and Martin Bragg, were arrested at St. Georges Barracks, Sutton Coldfield while leafletting outside an Army Week display. The manner of their arrest, the consequent behaviour of the police, and the evidence offered in court by the prosecution all raise serious matters for those concerned with civil liberties.

Earlier in the evening six Committee supporters, including Bill Hetherington, had been asked to leave the barracks by both military personnel and a CID officer. All had left, after protesting. As soon as we were outside the gate a uniformed PC tried to take Bill's name and address, but all he could get was his name, in return for giving his own. (The Christian name given by the constable later turned out to be false.) At first he gave no reason for this, but, although he eventually said it was for a report to the Chief Constable, he was no further forward when a sergeant and several other officers arrived. After a brief word with the leafletters the police moved inside the barracks gate.

So few people were leaving the barracks at this time that the only people who bothered to leaflet were Bill and Martin (who only arrived at the barracks at 7.56). At 7.59 Martin leafletted a vehicle leaving the barracks and, somehow, a leaflet fell to the floor. This was picked up at once by another leafletter, but the sergeant rushed forward and demanded Martin's name and address, with a view to summoning him for depositing litter. When Martin protested at this he was arrested and manhandled by the sergeant and another officer to a police car. The sergeant returned and ordered us to disperse. When Bill challenged this on the grounds that he was causing no obstruction and that he wanted to know what had happened to Martin, he too was arrested. The rest of the group were then ordered to disperse and, although one person stood his ground and several others moved away slowly, no further action was taken. It may, of course, have been a coincidence that the police only had two spare seats in their car.

Bill and Martin were taken to Sutton Coldfield police station and, after a

'Anti-Nato Exercise'—Morning Star

THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION of America has modified its 'production code' in order to 'encourage artistic expression by expanding creative freedom'. A show of 'pop art' by Jim Dine at the Robert Fraser Gallery was raided by the police and several paintings were seized. John Gordon in the *Sunday Express* says, 'Wouldn't it clean the book world up a bit if everyone found guilty of writing, printing or publishing a dirty book went to prison for a period of penance?'

A LEGISLATOR in the South Korean National Assembly threw a can of what the *Morning Star* quaintly calls 'human waste' at the Cabinet, this was during an enquiry about a scandal involving the smuggling of saccharine by an executive of the Korea Fertiliser Plant. The Public Information Minister announced the resignation of the Cabinet.

THE SPERRY GYROSCOPE CO. explained the error of Sperry Rand Canada Ltd. (a firm with big defence contracts) advertising in the *Morning Star* for project engineers and scientists to work in Canada, the advertisement should have gone to the *Glasgow Daily Record*, this was mistyped as *Glasgow Daily Worker*; in another transcription it appeared as *Daily Worker*; so the advertisement went to the legitimate heir, the *Morning Star*. On Thursday the *Star* carried a full-page advert by the National Coal Board advertising central heating by coal. Two-thirds of the opposite page were taken up by editorial matter (which somebody could mistake for adverts) extolling the virtues of coal for heating. One article is called 'It's fuel folly to cut back on coal' by none other than the vice-president of the Scottish area of the National Union of Mineworkers.

THE TIMES legitimized the bastard *Sun-*

day Times by going into partnership with the Thomson organization which has 85% of the shareholding. On October 6, 1964, *The Times* wrote: 'Lord Thomson of Fleet is a man to be admired. We believe he is a beneficent force in the newspaper world. But even if he were the Archangel Gabriel, we would also believe that he has quite enough papers in the United Kingdom already.'

MR. BOWDEN, the Commonwealth Affairs Secretary, returned from fruitless talks with Mr. Ian Smith in Rhodesia. On January 14, 1966, Mr. Harold Wilson stopped Mr. Arthur Bottomley's proposed visit to Rhodesia since it 'would have entailed *de facto* recognition'.

THE UNITED STATES is looking for something tougher than glass to replace broken windows which frequently have to be replaced in Embassies. Failing this the State Department might erect screens.

MARTHA GELLHORN, in an excellent series of articles on Vietnam in the *Guardian*, reports a conversation with a Vietnamese in which he said, 'In my village, 100 years of French rule have left no trace. Three to five years after the Americans go, it will be the same thing. They are a ripple on the life of the country. The people have great patience and the structure of the family stays intact. The people and the life here are the result of 2,000 years of adaptation to our milieu. Americans call us lazy. We can do nothing, but we resist by doing nothing... The peasants do not want the Vietcong or the Vietnam Government or the Americans; they want to be left in peace to cultivate their land and elect their village chiefs and assess their collective tax. No one asks the peasants what they want because they're afraid to. We should have our own kind of

OUT OF THIS WORLD

socialism. We haven't the resources for the American capitalist system. I'm sure the Americans will invade North Vietnam and this poor country will become a second Spain, a living ground for everyone's weapons... The Government are meant to give some sort of a puppet government. Of course honest elections would be possible, if anyone with the lips but not with the pocket. Why should this war end? It is too good!'

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on psychosomatic medicine in Paris has been discussing fatigue. A Professor Devereux pointed out that slaves were the first to submit to incessant daily toil and they died of it. The Spaniards got rid of the Anúles Indians by overworking them, while, said the Professor, the Negroes of the Southern United States survived because of ingrained and aristocratic sense of laziness. Primitive societies could 'only conceive of intense activity over a short period, having or bringing in the crops. Peter Lennon reporting this in the *Guardian* said, 'A hard look at the conclusions of these eminent specialists leaves us with these convictions: the prestige attached to daily strenuous toil is a myth and a shabby modern one, and it is seriously probable that, in spite of generations of domesticity, intense, sustained, daily work is incompatible with the realities of human physiology. This makes the Yoghi Indians who devote themselves to a cult of immobility and of unpeppable laziness the most civilised community now extant.'

BRIGHTON'S LABOUR CLUB (chief pastimes drinking and bingo) have decided to get rid of a table and chair presented to them by Peter Kröpotkin in 1917 on his departure for Russia. 'Albany' (in the *Sunday Telegraph*) reports that Pavilion (Brighton) Constituency Labour Party will not be able to attend the conference held in its constituency since it cannot afford the affiliation fee of £50. Mr. Harold Wilson had a noisy reception at a Methodist service in Brighton when he attempted to read the lesson.

JON QUIXOTE.

NO CASE

considerable delay, were charged with obstructing the highway and told the police would try to have them bound over. The litter charge against Martin was dropped. One can only conjecture the reason for the delay in charging, but one defence witness said in evidence that the arresting sergeant had told her that they had had to search through the whole book to find something with which to charge Bill and Martin.

There was also considerable delay in granting bail on this trivial little charge (maximum fine 40/-). Although there was, from 8.25 onwards, a householder in the police station who was willing to stand bail for both, Martin was not released till 11.40 and Bill till 1.15. (The police, in the interim period, knocked up Bill's parents, although he had not asked them to, and asked them to stand as sureties, although there was already some-

one willing to do so.) Throughout the whole of this time the officer in charge, Inspector Morris, was apparently very unpleasant and unhelpful to all those concerned. When asked the reason for the delay in granting bail he merely asserted that the police 'have their methods'.

The case was heard at Sutton Coldfield Magistrates Court on Friday, September 16. During the prosecution case a corporal from the barracks and the uniformed constable asserted that Martin had obstructed a vehicle. But while one said it was entering the barracks at the time the other claimed it was leaving! The constable admitted to having given Bill a false Christian name and denied any knowledge of the litter charge against Martin. The sergeant admitted that the charge had been mentioned, but asserted that it had been dropped almost at once and that Martin had been warned to move on before his arrest. He also claimed that Bill had attempted to resist arrest. The prosecution furthermore introduced into the case a private vehicle and a three ton truck which none of us even saw. (The private cars entrance was on the other side of the barracks.)

Before the defence could start (Martin and Bill were defending themselves) the magistrates decided there was no case to answer on the obstruction charge, and proceeded to hear the police complaint asking for a binding over order on the two. The solicitor who appeared for the police tried, more and more desperately as time went on, to prove that an obstruction had been caused and that our leaflets would be offensive to people. All the defence witnesses told a story which was, in the essentials, the same, and the magistrates decided that there was no case for binding Martin and Bill over.

The case may not be over yet. The police are considering an appeal against the magistrates' decision that there was no case to answer on the obstruction charge. If this appeal is upheld (on a point of law), then the case will have to be re-heard and a decision taken when both sides have stated their case. However the police are not the only ones who could take the case further. Several of those involved are considering making a formal complaint to the Chief Constable about the delay in granting of bail and the behaviour of at least one officer, and possibly pressing for an enquiry.

But, whatever the final outcome of all this, the Committee, through the determination of Martin and Bill, has won a moral victory. The police have found that not everyone will take it lying down when they are charged with the very vague offence of obstructing the highway and at least one policeman has been heard to say that he will never arrest anyone on a peace demonstration again.

GORDON CAUSER.

Titbits from a Police State

AS THE POLICE are not workers but a privileged class (toughs of the state), the British Treasury has approved pay increases for the Inspector General of the RUC and two of his top ranking officials, the increases being £435 per annum for the Inspector General and £280 for each of his officials.

Policemen who took part in a baton charge against rioters in Belfast, 6.6.66, are claiming £2,000 because the rioters decided to fight back and left them with some cuts and bruises.

Mrs. Paisley, wife of Rev. Ian Paisley who is serving his three months' sentence at Her Majesty's boarding house, has decided to fight as a candidate in the forthcoming Belfast by-election, her slogan being 'For God and Ulster'.

A Belfast Corporation bus conductor, having worked for the bus department for 30 years, was sacked and had his pension benefits withdrawn because he issued 1/4d. worth used tickets in order to make up 1/4d. he had lost from his takings.

A Belfast building company was fined £2 after an inquiry board had discovered that it was responsible for the death of a bricklayer by not ensuring that a roof was properly supported.

TONY ROSATO.

Clarification

ONE OF our correspondents (P.N. of Birmingham) has written asking why since we are supposed to be non-aligned on the Vietnam war we printed the letter of protest from Pat Jordan publicising a Vietnam Solidarity Campaign march. We would point out to P.N., and anyone similarly confused, that we merely wished to call attention to the infringement of civil liberties in this case. We deplore the refusal of Trafalgar Square to this group as much as we deplore the meek acceptance by the group of this decision. If this group's activities are to be sabotaged, we would rather it was done by us than by Governments. We would further point out that acceptance of announcements in letters (or in Contact column) does not imply wholesale acceptance of aims of organizations or individuals publicized.

Ebs.

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The Shake-Out Continues

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic policies are now really beginning to bite and hardly a day passes without some company either putting its workers on short-time or giving them their redundancy notices. There is an atmosphere of uncertainty, a feeling of insecurity which will increase as the squeeze further affects the economy in the coming months.

This uncertainty is not only felt by workers, but also by the managements who seem to have suddenly realised that they are overstuffed. For instance, only a couple of weeks ago, the British Motor Corporation announced that between 5,000 and 8,000 of their workers would have to be sacked, but this week they say that 12,000 will have to go by November 4. Didn't they really know before that such a number would be sacked, or was the first statement just made to soften the blow?

Obviously, any cut-back in pro-

duction by car manufacturers will affect ancillary firms, but it does not end there. Among thousands of families, spending power will be drastically cut, which in its turn will lead to further repercussions affecting a wide range of industries.

The measures taken by the Government are ones to make British companies more competitive. In order to do this the living standards of workers are under attack, whether it is just by the wage freeze, work sharing or by being sacked. Accompanying this and because of it, employers will try to break the rank and file union organisation which exists in their factories, etc.

We are only just beginning to see the first effects of the squeeze. Already they are frightening. For instance, many firms will not take the BMC workers on anyway. One of their shop stewards has said: 'We are militant, we want higher wages than the small engineering companies are used to paying—and we will get back into the motor industry as soon as we can.'

Figures have been quoted that more vacancies exist than there are redundancies, but these vacancies are fast disappearing as the squeeze continues. So while things look bleak now, they will get worse before they get better. Many estimates have been made of just how bad things will get, but it is certain that the figure most quoted by the Government, of 470,000 unemployed, is an extremely optimistic one. However *The Economist* has pointed out that there does seem to be some misunderstanding as to what was actually said by Mr. Wilson on July 20, which was as follows: 'If the figure of unemployment were, after all the reabsorption, after all the redeployment and after all the measures for regional distribution, to rise to a figure between 1½% and 2% (470,000) I do not believe that the House as a whole would consider that unacceptable'. Commenting on this, *The Economist* says, 'This sentence was, be it noted, very craftily worded. If unemployment were to go much higher in the winter of this year, or next year or even of 1968-69, the Prime Minister might still say that all the reabsorption, all the redeployment, etc., had not been completed yet.'

How true this is, but we expect it from so astute a politician as the Prime Minister, but the statement is also an arrogant one in which he considers that it is only the opinions of Members of Parliament on unemployment that are important. There is no mention of the electorate. So what has been termed by Mr. Wilson as a 'shake-out' could end up as a national unemployment figure of 2%. The government speaks of redeployment to where labour is urgently needed. Certainly there is a shortage of skilled labour, but with only 31 Government Training Centres, capable of training 12,000 workers a year, this hardly matches up to the proportion of the 'shake-out'.

PRODUCTIVITY CONFERENCE

If the squeeze is going to solve the present problems of the economy, there will have to be redeployment and also increased productivity. At this week's National Productivity Conference Mr. Wilson spoke of the industrial capacity coming through redeployment and that the Government would give top priority for more investment to use this capacity. In fact the solving of the capitalist crisis is put before any increase in social services and this will suffer while the Government assists companies with investments.

All those present at this conference

(Ministers, civil servants, industrialists and trade union leaders) were in agreement about one thing, the need for increased productivity. The workers, who are really concerned and who will be most affected, were not present and neither were their opinions required, but it will be the workers who will be called upon and disciplined to increase productivity. This simply means that they want more work from you in the same amount of time.

The only real resistance to this whole economic policy can come from an organised rank and file. With few exceptions, the trade union leadership is only too willing to help the Government solve the present problems facing capitalism. More and more, the Trade Union leadership, the Government and the employers seem to be as one, forming a corporate unit. With this line-up workers face a hard struggle, which will affect the whole of the working class. Living standards, working conditions, job union organisation are all under attack, added to which is what is called a 'planned rate of unemployment', a nice 'respectable' or 'tolerable' figure of 2 per cent.

A STRONG POSITION

Some people might say this cannot happen, that the Government will be defeated before it carries out these policies, but I think that, on the contrary, the Government is in a very strong position. National opinion polls rate them the same percentage lead now as at the General Election. No revolt of Labour MPs is ever likely to reach the strength required to bring down the present Government and as for official union action ever shaking Mr. Wilson, this is sheer utopianism. If the 'shake-out' does not take place, the whole point of the Government's policy will be lost.

The natural and right demand in the face of sackings is work-sharing. On the whole this has been the response of workers affected by redundancies, but it is considered uneconomic by many managements and, because of this, a conflict arises. Isolated strikes at factories affected by redundancies do not really change very much, but at a factory not affected by short time or sackings, such as the BMC's MG sports car plant at Abingdon, action of this sort would be so much more effective.

The trouble is that rank and file organisation is fragmented and the danger is that any direct action by workers will be isolated and ineffectual. Where these problems can be overcome, workers will be able to put up a struggle and gain their demands. However during the next few months this will be mainly a holding operation, hanging on and defending the conditions that have been won. The struggle is a political one against the State and the employers who are out to tame the movement which exists at rank and file level at the place of work. This is where the struggle will take place, not in the Conference Halls at Blackpool and Brighton. Rank and file committees that exist in industry should co-ordinate their activities for industrial action, should not be isolated, and active support should be given by other rank and file committees. All workers are facing a very real crisis and only co-ordination of efforts and solidarity of action can defeat the joint attempt of the State, the majority of the trade union leadership and the employers to discipline the trade union movement.

P.T.

Freedom For Workers' Control

OCTOBER 8 1966 Vol 27 No 31

MESS OF POTTAGE

CLIVE JENKINS said he would, and he has, broken the 'Wage Freeze'. To all intents and purposes the Allen v. Thorn case seemed to be a straightforward issue, i.e. whether Thorn Electrical Industries were legally correct in accepting the Government's appeal for a wage freeze. Judge Granville Smith evidently didn't think so and stated that he had heard no evidence at all that the performance of the contract would be detrimental to public policy. The judge granted a stay of execution for 21 days pending consideration of an appeal.

The Pottery Workers Society is to bring a case at Ilkeston in November against the Denby Pottery. Manchester Corporation may be sued by one of its employees for a 7% increase agreed in the National Joint Council in July.

On Friday, September 30, printworkers pressurised the Newspaper Proprietors' Association (NPA) into paying the cost of living bonus which has been frozen since September 1. The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) informed the NPA that unless the payments were made it might regard its whole national agreements as null and void.

Obviously the NPA want government protection and by breaking the freeze they are helping to force the Government's hand.

As far as printworkers are concerned the issue of the sliding scale cost of living arrangement is of extreme importance. All print employers want cost of living arrangements struck out of any future agreements, therefore the acceptance of the freezing of the September award would establish a precedent which the employers would be quick to grab.

Building trade workers are in a similar position. Their cost of living increase, due in March 1967, is to be put back until September 1967. Building workers face a three-pronged attack not only on their wages and conditions but on their actual employment. First they face the cutback under the 'Selective Employment Tax', second a cutback on future building and thirdly seasonal unemployment during winter months. Building employers can do very well out of the wage freeze. When they tender for a job they take into consideration possible wage increases, and on a package deal they know pretty well what their wage bill is going to be. Therefore, if the wages are frozen, their estimate for the job is lower than the original, and they are that much in

SHOP STEWARDS CALL FOR MORE ACTION

ALL THE MAIN speakers at the Mahatma Gandhi Hall meeting of the London Industrial Shop Stewards' Organisation called for more action like that undertaken by the car workers in Birmingham. 'It is only by actions like this that the present so-called Socialist Government can be made to back down from the present policy which is aimed at hitting the pockets of the workers.'

The meeting was attended by 400 people who came to hear the speakers, all of whom are involved in the shop stewards and kindred movements in the London area. Even though most of the people there pointed out the futility of relying on any of the present parties there were still a few saying overthrow the leadership and all the wornout phrases which undermine the workers involved with trying to achieve some unity of action on the left. The car delivery drivers in Birmingham showed the way. The question soon to be shown is: 'Has the shop steward movement in London got any real backing amongst the workers?' This is the time when bluff is not enough. A government showing its mailed fist is not going to be easily fooled. The issues have got to be put on every factory floor in the country. Fight now or pay later.

'SPARKS'

pocket. So much for the long term package deals.

It would appear that the Government will have to take some action soon, the freeze has been 'breached' with the likelihood of a flood to come. The only action that can be taken by the Government is to activate Part IV of the Prices and Incomes Act, either fully or in part. Wilson is no doubt under pressure from Gunter and others to go the whole way, the moderates twitter in the background, whilst the so-called 'left wing' make militant speeches.

October is the traditional month for political speeches, and point scoring. It is in October that the three major political parties will have exposed their wares for sale. By tradition the Liberals arrive first at the market, they are in a position to undersell both the other political parties, because the possibility of anyone buying in bulk is very small. The Young Liberals appeared to rock the boat, but Jo being the shrewd nut that he is appeared to welcome this, in public. Anyone who out-radicals the Labour Party in October is doing a good job, particularly if it is not election year. Miss Manuella Sykes appears to have tumbled the Liberal double act of Liberal outside, less liberal inside.

The Conservative Party are in a position to play it any way they like, the '13 years of Tory misrule' has worn a bit thin, they can, and in some cases have cried out for justice for the workers. Why should they worry—the Labour Party is curbing the unions, to the extent they wouldn't have dared. The Persian Market is wide open, they can undercut prices to their hearts' content.

The Labour Party Conference will be the week of the 'long knives'. Clive Jenkins will be at both ends of the popularity poll at one and the same time. The trade union leadership will hate him for being instrumental in forcing the Government's hand on Part IV, and the rank and file will love him for doing what he is paid to do, 'increase their wages'.

The election of the constituency section of the National Executive should prove interesting, to see how many former 'left wing' heads roll. Remember the darlings of CND in the early days, Tony Greenwood and Tony Wedgwood-Benn, the latter was in the forerunner of the CND, The National Hydrogen Bomb Campaign Committee when anti-bomb was far from respectable. Remember the Bevanite rebels (Barbara Castle, Dick Crossman), the noise they made about German Rearmament, but never had the guts to oppose the Labour Government in the division lobbies. There are more so-called left wing rebels waiting to take their place, Frank Allaun, an old stager, Eric Heffer (who was in an anti-party political group called the Socialist Workers' Federation publishing *Socialist Revolt*), Stanley Orme, Jack Mendelson, all breathing left wing fire and brimstone until the 'crunch', then away like 'ships passing in the night'.

Wilson is hoping to smooth troubled waters with Steel Nationalisation, but even that is likely to turn sour now that he has announced the names of the members of the committee who are to prepare for public ownership of the industry. The deputy chairman is Mr. Niall Macdiarmid, an opponent of nationalisation, who has stated that his views on the subject are unchanged, but agrees to co-operate. I suppose someone has to keep an eye on the spoils.

In the next few weeks we shall see the whole charade of parliamentary politics, the tragedy being that we see it year after year, and always hope for the best, pinning our hopes to bright stars, when in fact we should have brought down the curtain years ago. How many times do we have to see a repeat performance before we cry, 'Enough!'

BILL CHRISTOPHER

Contact Column

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

Unmarried Mothers. Would anyone who has information relating to conditions in unmarried mothers' hostels please contact: Del Foley, 128 Hainault Road, Leytonstone, E.11.

March. Harlow and Bishop's Stortford YCND, October 29. Details from Jean Rogers, Kingsdon Hall, Kingsdon Lane, Potter Street, Harlow.

Accommodation. Martin and Sue Gilbert seek unfurnished accommodation in Greater London area—consider sharing—phone PARK 4701.

Accommodation. Twenty-year-old girl with five-month-old baby wants accommodation (with or without work) where she could take care of baby. Box 41.

Caravan Site Wanted. International Gypsy Movement workers with caravan seek accommodation. North London return rent/part-time work, babysitting, garden. Knockholt (Kent) 2316.

Rupert Copping. Wishes to thank anonymous donor of £4 10s.

Ex-Drug Addict (Registered), who was also Registered Student Pharmacist now seeks clerical/admin. job and/or any post of interest which is worthwhile doing. Any and/or everything considered. Will be working from hospital in S.E. London. References and referees available. Please contact Box 42.

Accommodation Wanted. Painter/Anarchist wants cheap room/attic in Fulham or near. F. A. Gresty, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbys.

Situations Vacant. Teacher of Science and Maths required in Tunbridge Wells. Write to John Gravelle, 2 Linden Gardens, Tunbridge Wells. Phone: Tunbridge Wells 24900.

Ex-Summerhill. Young man requires unfurnished flat in West London. Not more than £6 per week. Phone FUL 3086 after 6 p.m.

Vietnam. What are you doing about genocide in Vietnam? Volunteers wanted for a Vietnam Peace Action Group—members of any organisation or none—but must be active dependable and prepared to participate in unusual projects. Phone: BEC 7517.

Libertarian Teachers' Association. Copies of second bulletin now available. Sixpence each (2/- for five). P. Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

Accommodation Wanted in country near London for active man with invalid wife. Small income. Also any job considered. Open to genuine suggestions. Must move to help wife's health. Box No. 35.

Accommodation Wanted. Urgently. Post seeks post-cheap room in West London. Otherwise responsible person. Box 33.

If you wish to make contact let us know.