

Provos on the Streets

Our Lord has had his Day

ONE of the most peculiar things about modern life is the way that some people who claim to see and hear things without being under the influence of drugs or alcohol have forced the population to suffer the miserable English Sunday.

In a country where the majority of people would never dream of praying or going to church on a Sunday or any other day, a small minority has managed to force its lunatic will on the rest of the saner section of the population for

doesn't really matter if the Billy Graham do come and go with their lists of converts, Christianity is at the moment the way out in Britain, and one might as well be a good thing too. Of course there are sections of the community where people do choose to waste their Sundays going to a non-existent God, but by a large margin most people prefer to watch

Lord Willis (who by the way is one of the less fanatical Christians) is to introduce a bill that will attempt to bring the miserable English Sunday to an end, though not altogether, very shortly, and if it is passed The Lord's Day Observance Society will be virtually finished.

We have all seen a change in the law on Lord's Day Observance. Slowly the cinemas have opened, the playing of games has been ignored, people have been allowed to play on Sundays, even if they had to work all the rest of the week. Now of course this was bound to happen, the only mystery is why it took so long. The answer is that no one did anything about it except those who wanted the ban enforced.

The Lord's Day Observance Society has been quite a power in the land. Working in mysterious ways (rather like another we have heard of), they have fought for years to see that Sunday was a day of rest and church-going, and if they couldn't make people go to church, at least they could stop them enjoying themselves in other ways.

If one attacks Christians by saying that they are insane (as G. did some years ago), one is accused of intolerance and going too far, well what about this:

"The frivolity, hilarity, betting, gambling, excitement and revelries... made the Commissioners more than ever resolved to oppose the establishment of the Continental Sunday in our beloved land... The Continental Sunday with its immoderate pleasure seeking encourages a Pagan idea of life... The Continental Sunday with its Gambling, Drinking, and other revelries is a cause of moral feebleness and laxity".

This comes from an article by one Herbert Henry Martin known as 'Misery' Martin, one-time leader of the LDOS who has now, fortunately for him, passed on to the other side where pre-

sumably he can complain of angels playing harps on the Sabbath day.

The LDOS has worked in many ways, one was by getting promises from MPs that they would vote against the loosening of the laws governing Sundays, and of course members would see to it that the law was not allowed to go unheeded by those who did not believe, or see any reason for belief, and merely wished to do as they pleased on their day off. **NOT WITHOUT INFLUENCE**

Of course they have been getting less and less support of recent years, but we must not think that they are without influence in the land even in this enlightened day and age. Since the war there has been at least one attempt to legislate against the Sunday laws which ended in failure. The sponsor of the bill received letters from devout followers of the Christian faith who told him that 'they wished him to be drowned with a millstone round his neck'. Others told him 'they would like his eyes put out, AND TO BE THERE AND SEE IT HAPPENING'. Nice people, eh? Some of the kind we should not be intolerant about, but progress marches on, and those in power now believe that more support can be gained by changing the law than by keeping it, so it will be changed, but not without a few concessions to the maniac followers of the 'true' God.

It says little for the rest of us, however, that the change has had to come about through Parliament. But then it is a strange thing about the 'left' in politics that it only tries to change what it has not the strength to change and leaves other things alone altogether. Certainly there should be demonstrations about Spain, Vietnam, Cuba and the bomb, but what about things at home? After you've changed them, you might be in a better position to do something about the others. **JACK STEVENSON.**

WHEN the inter-union dispute between sectors of the building industry blew up into large-scale rioting in Amsterdam last week it was, naturally blamed on the 'Provos'. The Provos, who take their name from 'provocateur' (provoker) are groups of young protesters who have considerable affinities with anarchism but are rather unlike any other form of protest seen in Europe before. There seems to be little doubt that what caused the dispute in the first place was that one of the 'recognised' unions which is responsible for the distribution of holiday pay decided to take out about £2 for expenses for the management. The other unions objected strongly and both they and the 'nons' decided to demonstrate on Monday, June 13. The division of unions in Holland is political, not craft, and this added to an already explosive situation.

The Provos, who have brought demonstrating to a fine art, naturally attended and much of the violence was attributed to them. It seems unlikely however that they were responsible for the burning of the *Der Telegraaf* vans. This appears to have been a spontaneous gesture on the part of the building workers

in return for the lies that *Der Telegraaf* had printed about the strike.

One demonstrator, a 51-year-old plasterer, died of heart failure during the time that the police were firing over the demonstrators' heads. This of course gave rise to reports that he had been shot and the mood of the building workers was not very pleasant.

What is difficult to ascertain is quite what the role of the Provos was in the following four days. The Provo central group are pacifists and naturally regard the four days of violent demonstration with horror. During this time cars were burnt and parking meters were torn up and there were several vicious battles with the Amsterdam police. All this bears the hallmark of the Provos who are anti-car and anti-police. There also appears to have been considerable activity by communist party rank-and-filers much to the disgust of the CP leaders who want to be nice and safely middle class.

The Group, which has been regarded as representative of the Provo by the British press, has received very favourable treatment. Possibly because of their moderation it seems that they cannot any

longer claim to be the leader of the bulk of the Provos who, when faced with the hard reality of the violence of the state, prefer to hit back.

All in all, there is very little which can be accepted as gospel about the Provos, one of the troubles about them is the diffidence with which they treat the rest of the anarchist world. They certainly do some very odd things, but even so, for us there is one very important lesson. They were able to get through to the mods and rockers—the young lumpen-proletariat that the left despises and they are the only major group to have done so. So listen and learn, they have something to teach us. **M.J.W.**

BERNHARD DeVRIES (PROVO)

will speak at

MAHATMA GANDHI HALL
FRIDAY JUNE 24 at 8 pm

and at

CONWAY HALL Red Lion Sq.
SUNDAY JUNE 26 at 3 pm

THE 'HOODLUM CLERIC'

Our Belfast Correspondent

MONDAY, JUNE 6, marked another riot in the streets of Belfast. A certain 'reverend', Ian Paisley, led a procession to the Presbyterian General Assembly. His purpose was to protest against 'romanizing tendencies in the Assembly'. He led his procession, despite warnings from the police, through a predominantly Catholic area where a crowd began to hurl abuse, then bricks and iron bolts, at him and his followers. The police then made a baton charge at the people and many of them received hospital treatment for their trouble. The open brutality of the police was nothing new to the people of Belfast for they have suffered a police state for many long years.

This riot was not an isolated incident. It was one more step by Mr. Paisley to increase religious sectarianism which is his means to further his barely concealed bid for power.

Mr. Paisley, a self-styled minister of God, who under the guise of Christianity preaches hate and intolerance, first came to public notice during the local elections of 1965. The police had failed to implement the Special Powers Act with relation to a Republican flag being flown in the window of the Republican Party Headquarters. So Mr. Paisley gathered his supporters about him and issued a statement saying that they were going to remove the flag themselves. Needless to say, they didn't, for their statement had forced the police to act. A gaggle

of coppers raided the HQ, smashing the doors and windows with a pickaxe. They removed the flag but were met with violence from the nationalist-minded people of Belfast. (It should be noted here that Nationalists and Republicans are mainly Catholic whereas the Protestants are, with few exceptions, Conservative Unionists.) For the next three days there were sporadic outbreaks of violence centred mainly around the Republican Party HQ. During the day little happened but at night Molotov cocktails were thrown, burning anything that moved, such as buses, police jeeps and armoured cars. The missiles directed at the police were bricks, paving stones and anything that was not nailed down. During this period journalistic hacks told us that 'anarchy reigned'.

This was the real beginning of Mr. Paisley's rise to fame. Since then he has forced the Government to compromise on several issues. He told the Government that if they did not provide him with protection he could provide his own—hence the Ulster Volunteer Force. The UVF resembles the Irish Republican Army in that it is an armed movement prepared to use force. Its aims are the defence of the Constitution, or to be more explicit, the preservation of a Protestant-dominated society. They have already threatened the lives of Members of Parliament and naturally anyone else who opposes him is under the same sentence.

One hesitates to use the word 'Fascist' but one leading Presbyterian minister has pointed out the obvious similarity between Hitler's Nuremberg rallies and the Paisleyite meetings. Paisley has the support of certain elements in the Government and the financial aid of some capitalists but not only this, he also gains by the stupidity of the Catholic Nationalists who play into his hands at every move. The anarchist, of course, has little time for the drivelling fatuities of Republicanism and Nationalism but anyone can see in the progress of Mr. Paisley an immediate threat to all individual liberty.

Capt. Terence O'Neil, the Northern Ireland Prime Minister, has condemned Mr. Paisley since the riots. He has said that Paisley must be stopped. You might well reflect whether Capt. O'Neil is either a hypocrite or a fool, for Mr. Paisley is doing nothing but helping preserve the situation which the Unionist Party has created. Perhaps the Prime Minister does not like to see his policies being flaunted in the open air. **B.R.**

†Guardian, June 8, 1966.

Homeless and Husbandless at King Hill

I WENT to see Mrs. Mills the day after Mr. Justice Blain had committed Roy Mills to prison for contempt of court.

The judge had ordered him to become a law-abiding citizen, and punished him for breaking a court order forbidding him entry to the hostel except during weekend visiting hours.

I asked her what she thought of the judge and she said, 'They say he had just come off the criminal court circuit. I should think he bleeding had, and brought a touch of it with him!'

She recalled that as Roy left the court he turned to the judge and said, 'I hope you're not going to go home now and commit the same crime as I have—loving your wife and children.'

The tipstaff had hurried him out to save him getting into more trouble, then gave Roy the opportunity to ring his friend and waited a while for him to come and help Roy settle his affairs before being taken away to Brixton Prison.

'That tipstaff has got more thought for his prisoner than the judge or Robinson or anybody,' she said. 'He ought to be doing Robinson's job.'

I asked her what she thought of Kenneth Robinson, MP, the Minister responsible for administering the National Assistance Act under which the hostel is run by Kent County Council.

'He wants to get his pissing finger out now and help us. Not only us—there's other families here' that need help.

Robinson is the only man who can order the KCC to change their rules.'

And what, I asked, did she think of the KCC? 'Dr. Elliott* got up at a council meeting I went to, and said that no man would go to prison for being with his wife at the hostel, but they've bleeding done it. I went to see Miss Burrows on the way back from the court and she said there would be big changes at the hostel in the next month. But I say about the KCC, actions speak louder than words. If they were to start helping the families here instead of helping the men into prison they'd be doing a much better job.'

*County Medical Officer, and the senior official responsible for the hostel to the Welfare Committee, whose vice-chairman is Miss Burrows.

I asked her what she thought of the hostel, and the threat of eviction from it.

'I don't believe in running the hostel down—we were glad enough to come and get a roof over our heads. You could find a lot of faults with it,' she said looking round at the shabby hut, 'but we are glad enough to be here or we wouldn't have overstayed our time.'

She asked me a question—'Here, sending Stan Daniels to prison, who's already left the hostel and got a house, does this mean that men at the hostel now who get housed can get brought up in three months' time, and sent to prison for what they're doing now?'

'Seems so,' I said.

ANARCHY 65

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I AM BECOMING inevitably aware
over the years, like a man realising
the wasting of his own flesh with age,
that I stand witness to the most gargan-
tuan decay whose scope can only be
realised through senses paranoically ex-
tended. For America was the phoenix
and embodiment of many transcendental
ideas, its empty wasting across the house
of so many concepts that goaded the
whole of Western society through the
Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries—
the place where former cultures need not
be annihilated by a Picasso or a Schoen-
berg but where the emptiness, both cul-
tural and geographical, seemed the actual
opportunity wherein the sacred bulls of
freedom, equality, individuality, could
be let loose and given their stomping-
cum-testing ground. It was the land of
the projectile impulse. Whitman's verse
joining the wild roars of Mike Fink (the
loneliness of those animal chants echoed
magically down the dark Ohio and into
the woods answered only by mocking
indifference of birdcall) and goading for-
ward a wagon train guided by a pistol-
lunging professional murderer to where
the white whale sunk on the horizon of
the desolately actual western sea whose
supposedly golden waters did nothing
more than slap greyly and ironically
around the rocks of Alcatraz. The land of
the arrow shot out of sight, land of no
echo, land whose agraphobious fenceless-
ness could only be met by an elephantitis
of the human character that was doomed
to deflation by its very nature (a deflation
as manic as its preceding inflation—
psychotic self-hatred of Nathaniel West,
Lennie Bruce, William Burroughs . . .).

And where, just where, did the Pony
Express rider lose his nerve, the tommy-
gun bootlegger weep his tears of remorse,
the rodeo champion start to grab leather
with an infantile whimper (that whine at

A FRIEND of Stuart Christie managed
to see him for half-an-hour last
Saturday (18.6.66) in the Carabanchel
Jail in Madrid. A report will appear
in FREEDOM on his return.

PICKET IN PICCADILLY

The Campaign Against Nuclear Tests
held a vigil and picket last Saturday out-
side the French Government's Informa-
tion and Tourist Office in Piccadilly to
protest against the forthcoming French
nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Demon-
strators carried placards with such slogans
as 'Oppose the French Tests', 'Pacific
Islanders are in Danger' and 'Drop De
Gaulle not the Bomb'. Two thousand leaf-
lets were distributed and several copies of
FREEDOM and the new pamphlet 'Liberty,
Equality, Radio-activity' were sold. People
were most sympathetic, the manager of
the Tourist Office, however, staged a
counter-demonstration. His slogan was:
'The British are testing nuclear
weapons at Woomera'. There will be
another picket this coming Saturday
morning.

LONDON TO PARIS WALK

The protest walk against the French
nuclear tests will start from St. Paul's
Cathedral on Wednesday, June 29, at
10 a.m. Sue Abrahams is hoping that at
least six people will take part. For de-
tails telephone her at ARC 1239.

TRIAL POSTPONED

We are informed that Michael Periste-
rakis' court-martial (FREEDOM, 18.6.66)
was postponed indefinitely as the prose-
cution witnesses 'failed to turn up' at
his trial.

VIETNAM WEEK IN ABERDEEN

Our Scots correspondent writes: The
events of the week began on Sunday
morning (5.6.66) when we picketed
churches in the city. This does no good
at all, but it annoys the complacent, fur-
coated hypocrites who go to such places.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

c/o Freedom Press, 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

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.
Sunday
JUNE 26 A Discussion
The Seaman's Strike

Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park, 3 p.m.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson
and Mary Camp's, 21 Runbold 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, 141a Fellows Road, Swiss
Cottage, N.W.3.
WANDSWORTH LIBERTARIANS. Correspondence
to Christine Hutton, 15 Broughton Street,
London, S.W.8.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN GROUP. Meets at the Adelphi
2.30 p.m. every Sunday. Correspondence to
M. Day, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.
ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., 5 Beds.). Meet-
ings on first Friday of month. Correspondence
to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotfold Road,
Arlesey, Beds.
BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence
to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumberham Avenue, Bexhurst,
Kent.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Corres-
pondence: Martin Bragg, 5 The Drive, Hunton

Hill, Erdington, Birmingham, 23. Sales and
Committee of 100: Gordon Custer, 27 Upper
Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. Peace Action Centres
Project: Paul James, 50 Windermere Road,
Handsworth, Birmingham 21. University of
Aston Group: Dave Massey, 5 Gladstone Road,
Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian
Vise, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.
CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike
Gawley, 16 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.
COVENTRY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact
Richard Vaughan, 19 Sandhurst Grove, Radford,
Coventry, Coventry 2846.

Buffalo Bill Defunct

the end of Charlie Parker's every hope-
lessly flung phrase that shrugs off his
own unsurpassed brilliance as insuffi-
cient? On what precise private beach
did Henry James' blunt provincials turn
into Scott Fitzgerald's impotent play-
boys? Where did the elephantine poseur
find himself out so that defunct Buffalo
Bill's only memorial is in the burlesque
silhouettes of Goldwater and LBJ (Wild
Bill Hickock become an old junky play-
ing with his pistol in his New Orleans
backyard)?

Knowing with gradual certainty just
what is happening with the hostile
negroes, the disorientated intellectuals,
the escalating statistics of murder, drug-
addiction, alcoholism, delinquency, the
Instant Freud, the Do-It-Yourself Reich,
the dilettante sado-masochism, the
pseudo-churches, mock-mysticism, face-
less hedonism, the foreign policy of an
epileptic millionaire. And I might have
known sooner for these things were re-
gistered first where they are always
registered first, among those with the

greatest courage—artists whose growing
obsession with fragmentation, whose in-
creasingly repeated admission that their
only access to action and energy was
submission to the fortuitous (let the
wilderness o'ergrow you) constituted an
unopposed abdication of the human
identity. Not that Pollock, De Koon-
ing, Rauschenberg, Johns, Parker, Mailer,
Ginsberg, Burroughs, Kerouac, Snyder,
Whalen, Olson, Duncan, Creeley, Dine,
Oldenberg, Lichtenstein, etc., are mere
symptoms (that facile 'symptom' rather
than protest' jibe of square critics), rather
precipitators generating with broken-
hearted frenzy the spreading ambience
of disintegration as they hurl themselves
to the point of suicide (James Dean,
Jackson Pollock road crashes, the one-
way dropper) into that vacuous prairie
where their identities should have been;
the aesthetic of edgelessness which, having
no confines, has therefore no definable or
recognisable being; suicidal men conduct-
ing their own psychotic ritual at the point
of discovering their own ontological bank-
ruptcy. And they, ten years ago now
or even twenty, giving evidence that, since
this was the best America (or anyone
else in the Western world or in the whole
various games of blind-man's-buff around
Cuba, the Kennedy, Oswald, Malcolm X
shootings (how long before the next?),
the all-American psychopath floundering
about in Korea, Vietnam, Alabama, writ-
ing home to Mom with all the slop of
Ginsberg (behind his towering talent and
open, loving heart an underbelly softer
than Patience Strong's cunt) and the
peace marchers seeming to march with
all-too-great-an-air of necrophiliac nar-
cissism, were an inevitability.

Inevitable too that such an avant-
garde, echoing as it did the death-wish-
ing moon-mist of the Fin-De-Siecle

rather than the muscular innovations of
20th Century Paris, Vienna and Zurich,
would evolve into an avant-garde that
is not so much a rejection of art itself
(that has been done often before) but
an abdication from what it is to be
human. Shrugging off the heroic frenzy
of Pollock (a final frenzy if ever there
was one), converting the outrage and
anger of Burroughs (who anticipates his
critics by having previously recognised,
as Bruce does, the symptom in himself,
this recognition having precipitated the
very venom he inflicts—His own wound
he cauterises) into sado-masochistic
kitsch, they abdicate, more precisely,
from the very opportunity of freedom,
of which they are the outcome, by re-
verting to being automata. Paint-brush
to spray-gun, syntax to computer, human
being to a parroting peroxide robot,
flinging the impossibility of his own
feelings back at those banale enough to
actually breathe, in elaborately packaged
sterility (the painlessness of the flagella-
tion film, the sexlessness of promiscuity).
Not that I embrace psychiatry as readily
(and I hope not as catastrophically) as
Buffalo Bill did, but any psychiatrist will
tell you that a man who thinks himself
a machine is a man who thinks himself
dead, and a man who wants to be a
machine is a man who wants to be dead
and if that man creates, to some degree,
the culture of his society and if it may
then be taken that he foreshadows to
some degree, the future of that society,
as was the case with American artists
of the forties, then he is the open grave
waiting, under a thin PVC covering, for
a nation already staggering on its
legs. What also seems a fair conclusion
is that anyone would be doing
Warhol a favour (like mechanising his
baby) if they cut his lovely throat from
ear to ear.

JEFF NUTTALL

News from Elsewhere

Some literature was sold. The next
evening 5,000 leaflets printed on Fred II
(our duplicator), exposing America's role
in the war and calling for the with-
drawal of foreign troops, were given
out round the city's housing schemes.

The next night we followed up with
selling of Solidarity's 'Vietnam' pamphlet
and from then till Friday sold almost
350 of them. A teach-in fell through
because LBJ, Harold and Ho couldn't
come, but a vigil on Friday from 6-12
p.m. and Saturday from 9-12 a.m. was
worth while. Fierce arguments occurred
with religious fanatics raving about 'balls
of fire' and 'I've known many virgins
who've had children'. (Rings as true
as some of LBJ's claims.) Various people
who didn't care about dying but refused
when asked to walk in front of a bus,
and a group of drunks, fiery patriots
whose oaths, kicks and punches livened
up the proceedings to the great amuse-
ment of two policemen.

That afternoon, in fine weather, a
march up the main street took place.
About 35 people took part from YCND,
YS and YCL as well as the Anarchists.

Our activities coincided with Vietnam's
presence in the news again, and they
may have stirred some thought or com-
municated a little of our ideas to what,
let's face it, is a largely indifferent public.

FOR GOOD PAY—BLINDLY OBEY!

Dave Massey writes: On June 4 sup-
porters of the Birmingham Anarchist
Group and the West Midlands Committee
of 100 visited the 'Open Day' of the
Warwickshire Regiment of the Royal
Artillery, to distribute copies of the
Hampstead Group leaflet. As well as

the Regular soldiers, there were Terri-
torial Units and Cadet Corps, the latter
almost as quick as many of the others
in tossing the leaflet to the ground.

The ones whom we engaged in con-
versation about the leaflet and its issues,
left us rather disheartened, because of
the absolute lack of thought about the
task they were doing. None had joined
the Army for the traditional reasons—
to fight for Queen and Country and to
contain the Communist menace, all gave
negative reasons—security and good pay,
and for this they would blindly obey any
order given, they would fight in Vietnam
and East of Suez if need be, no questions
asked.

Neither were they worried by the fact
that the 'Open Day' was being visited
by impressionable children who, watched
by their parents, clambered over the
armaments on display, thus bringing
them into contact with the 'glamorous'
aspect of Army life. Perhaps the soldiers
are beyond help—it may be the children
who need to be told that the Forces
is not the answer. Why not a pamphlet
similar to the Schools Pamphlet, specifi-
cally directed at those schools who sup-
port a Cadet Corps?

GAS AND CHEMICAL WARFARE

From Denise Pyle of the Peace Action
Centre, Frodsham: While Mark was liv-
ing with us last year one of his jobs was
labouring in Runcorn, where he dis-
covered a chemical plant, brand-new but
not producing anything, maintained and
regularly inspected, built by ICI in the
50's at the cost of £3,000,000 for the
Ministry of Supply. He made enquiries
and was told by the men he worked

with that it was a 'hush-hush' factory
designed to be fully operational within
a week of the outbreak of war, to pro-
duce toxic gases and psycho-chemicals.

I went to see our MP with a copy
'Conspiracy of Silence', the pamphlet
prepared by the Committee of 100, which
has three passages which suggest that
Runcorn would be the ideal place for
such a plant. He promised to look into
the matter and his silence since sug-
gests to me that being an honest man, he
cannot deny its existence.

I believe the manufacture and
threatened use of these weapons of
discriminate destruction, which are
aggressive purposes only, to be morally
indefensible, and I believe the public
should be told what their money is
paid for and what is being prepared
in their name, so that at least they can
never say, as the Germans did about the
concentrations camps, 'We did not know.'
I would like to publish leaflets asking
local residents if they know and care, so
I need your help drafting this leaflet,
suggesting constructive action and help-
ing to distribute copies.

I do not know how seriously the
authorities will treat this disclosure,
whether they will rely on public apathy
or whether their reactions will be re-
strictive. I have thought about this
seriously for six months and would be
grateful if someone would take this
responsibility from me. Otherwise I am
prepared to take the consequences of
action on myself and the family (we
have three boys, aged 13, 11 and 7).

It is ironic that this factory should
exist five miles from the first Peace
Action Centre in the country and it
would be a denial of everything I believe
in to let it go unchallenged. Can you
write your suggestions for action to me
please, and enclose them in an addressed
envelope.

Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near
Saffron Walden.

NOTTING HILL LIBERTARIANS. Meetings at
7 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month,
at the London Free School, 26 Powis Terrace,
London, W.11 (off Talbot Road).

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt,
Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Green-
ways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian
and Maureen Richardson. Next meeting: Sunday,
July 1 at 1 p.m.

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 Berris-
ford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton, Chorley: Alistair
Ratray, 33a Devonshire Road, Chorley, Man-
chester: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road,
Droylesden, Manchester. Meetings every Tues-
day 8 p.m. Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford.
Merseyside: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road,
Devonshire Park, Birkenhead. Rochdale: Ian
Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Bamford, Roch-
dale. 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. Monday,
June 20, 8 p.m. at the Anchor, Ealing Broadway.
Discussion 'Vote Labour' with Frank Rowe
(Socialist Current).

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim
Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middle-
sex. 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, 58 Burns Avenue,
Southall, Middlesex.

PROPOSED GROUPS

HULL GROUP. Get in touch with John
Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Beverley Road,
Hull.

MARLOW AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. Get in
touch with Stella A. Fauser, 33a Spittal Street,
Marlow, Bucks.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE. Get in touch with
Eric Harrison, 2 Cottage Aylesmore Farm,
Shipton-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

TYNESIDE SYNDICALISTS. Meet every Thurs-
day at 8 p.m. in The Adelaide, Newgate Street,
Newcastle, 1.

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Sydney Anarchist Group. Public
meetings every Sunday in the Domain at 2 p.m.
Group meetings every Monday at 8 p.m. in the
Cellar, 72 Oxford St., Sydney.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. 52
Midveje, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone inter-
ested in forming anarchist and/or direct action
peace group contact Derek A. James, 1544
Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C.,
Canada. Tel: 987-2693.

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Dis-
cussion/Action Group, anyone? Contact F. R.
Jackson, Corinth, Vermont.

LETTERS & Controversy

Speakers' Corner

Dear Editors,
In the June 11 edition of FREEDOM there was a letter about a speaker getting chucked out of Speakers' Corner for protesting in favour of freedom of speech from Spike Holmes. This speaker was protesting after another speaker, myself, had been asked to 'terminate my speech' by a policeman. I had been speaking on Lesbianism and homosexuality as a way of life, as I had done before there. The reason I was given when I asked why, was that there were children present.

The other speaker, John Rety, then got up and spoke on freedom of speech. He was threatened with arrest unless he left the park immediately. He quite justifiably protested, whereupon he was ejected from the park.

On looking at the park regulations, I found that any person asked to leave the Hyde Park—and Speakers' Corner is part of the park—must do so immediately, otherwise liable to fines, etc. Whatever the reason.

What I find so disconcerting is that the policemen were acting within their powers, but that only this policeman took offence (for what reasons I can't tell), and that earlier in the afternoon and the week before when I had been speaking on the same subject, no one had taken offence, and made me get down and leave.

So much for Speakers' Corner, the centre of free speech. If we must have laws and regulations, must we also be at the mercy of each policeman's personal puritanical objections?

Yours anarchistically,
London, W.2 EMILY YOUNG.

Bakunin Rides Again

Comrades,
Weeks ago, I wrote (as 'Bakunin') about an appeal for funds for a Catholic mission, which appeared in FREEDOM. The event of a Catholic appeal in an anarchist paper struck me as bizarre. Later, someone wrote protesting at my letter. He had raised £173 for destitutes in Hong Kong by a publicity fast in Scotland. I would make certain points.

In this country we normally eat good meals all the time, when we could nourish ourselves adequately at much less cost, and send the money to help those who live all the time on the borderland of starvation in Asia. Neither I, nor anyone I know, habitually deny ourselves in this manner. We even drink tea, beer and wine when water would do. We have come to terms with the problem of evil.

There are two main contrasted approaches to the problem of evil, the religious and the humane. The religious approach, as exemplified by the Catholic Church, is that human misery is inevitable, but it is part of their God's great purpose. Man suffers the extremes of misery because God has arranged things that way. Catholic missionaries of one sort and another wallow in this misery; they distribute charity but only as a bait, since their real interest is not in Man's suffering mortal life, but in his immortal soul.

Some may say that it does not matter

what theological nonsense Catholics believe in providing they do in fact help the suffering. This is to overlook the point that such an approach actually generates suffering in a vicious circle. The letter-writer to FREEDOM provides an example—the Catholic 'orphanage'. Would I turn away its begging nuns? Yes, with a flea in their ears. The 'orphans' are generally the unwanted babies of wretched Catholic girls trapped into their position by the teachings of their Church, which keeps them in ignorance of how to look after themselves. This sordid little misery mirrors the huge world-wide misery which the Catholic Church has done so much to promote by its long history of sabotaging efforts to help non-Christian countries control their populations by rational means.

World-wide disaster has followed the uneven intervention of technological progress. If we cut down the infant mortality rate without cutting down the birth-rate what follows—a huge population explosion and famine conditions. Relieving those conditions by charity handouts is like offering a starving elephant a peanut. The positive contribution which anarchists can make is in the world of ideas. Our approach to the problem of evil is humane not religious. That an anarchist paper should rattle the Catholic begging-bowl is a sign of a most monstrous confusion of ideas.

London TONY GIBSON.
18.6.66

Opium or Reality

Dear Comrades,

I want to take issue with Jeff Robinson re his article on June 18 on 'The Opiate of the People'. I feel that it is a crude analysis that lumps together the National Liberation Front and the pseudo-communism of the pro-Moscow CP of Britain and of the Russian neo-imperialists. If we ourselves were, in Vietnam, and this is the yardstick for our actions in Britain and elsewhere, we would most surely be aiding the NLF. Anarchism in a concrete real situation of intolerable oppression involves making common cause with those taking concrete action against that oppression. The Spanish anarchists did just that. (It came to naught but the individuals involved could have done nothing else with clear consciences.) For the Vietnamese peasantry there can be no polemics about liberty—they are going to be beaten into the Stone Age unless America can be stopped from proving her ideological points in terms of Asiatic human flesh. For the anarchist ethic the thing boils down to just this: the Coca-Cola dictatorship provides only a perpetuation of the ages-long, subsistence-level existence of the peasantry, with vicious inter-person competition stifling concepts of liberty and co-operation; Chinese-style communism offers a stable dedicated period of, say, 100 years, over which time one can expect there to indigenously come into men's minds in Vietnam, China, and China-orientated parts of Africa and Latin America the concepts of self-discipline and freedom that impassioned Caucasian anarchists now. The struggle of those individuals will be just as hard as our own now, but it will be their struggle. In the here and now, as an anarchist, were I in Vietnam, I would work for the National Liberation Front.

The current Vietnam Solidarity Campaign initiated by, among others, Bertrand Russell, though at present steered by leftist politicians, has I feel the seeds of direct action towards human dignity for the Third World. At Easter I would have been happier to have seen the anarchist banners with Ralph Schoenmann and the VSC, than rolled up forgotten, while so many anarchists wasted their energies baying at the mawkish leadership of the CND.

Fraternally,
London, W.11 B. McGRATH.
18.6.66

'Change Illegal Laws' -Democratic German Report (GDR)

AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL burnt herself to death in protest against the military government and US support for it, in Saigon. She is the tenth person to die in this manner in the past three weeks. President Johnson's beagle 'Him' (which he picked up by the ears) is to be cremated following its death after being hit by a car when chasing a squirrel in the White House grounds. Its remains are to be flown to the Presidential ranch in Texas. Mr. Harold Wilson is to visit Washington at the end of July.

MR. DENIS HEALEY, Minister of Defence, defended the training of South Vietnamese in Malaysia by saying, 'We have made it clear that we have no intention of participating ourselves in the fighting in Vietnam or supplying weapons to Vietnam. This remains our policy, but the training of Vietnamese servicemen started as far back as 1961 under the previous Government and we see no reason why we should not assist in the training of a free country to defend its freedom.' President Johnson announced the resignation of the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, a nominee of President Johnson, who was appointed in 1963. Tri Quang, a Buddhist leader, fasting in Hue, informed the *Daily Mail* reporter, 'I will continue fasting until Johnson withdraws his support of the military machine. I refuse to call him President. He doesn't deserve the honour. . . . Indiscriminate American bombing has become repression. The Vietnamese are forced on to the Communist side. This war will exterminate our people. . . . They think of nothing but power, force and bombs. They do not understand us or try to.'

THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT of the *Morning Star* (formerly the *Daily Worker*) wrote a study of De Gaulle's policy 'War Pact under the shadow of a General' (June 14) without mentioning French atom tests. On June 16 they printed a rather unfavourable account of French test preparations concluding however, 'The French point out that there are only 1,000 inhabitants within 600 miles of Mururoa, while within the same radius of the US test station in Nevada Flats, over seven million people live. The French authorities,' says the

Morning Star, 'consider that a sufficient answer to the protests.' The Airport Workers Union at Nandi International Airport in Fiji has decided to 'black' all French aircraft, civil or military, landing in Fiji for the next 28 days. The move (says *The Times*) is in protest against French nuclear tests.

MR. HAROLD WILSON speaking to the Parliamentary Labour Party said, 'Although we want to proceed in utmost harmony and consultation with the parliamentary, this means two-way, not one-way co-operation, and it must be based on the recognition that the party meeting, however important, cannot become itself a government, or substitute for government. Such a concept is neither in the Labour Party Constitution, nor the British Constitution, and any attempt to operate on that basis would rapidly make the Government, and I believe the Party, a laughing stock in the country, with all the inevitable consequences. The Government must govern, and there can be no substitute for it' (not even Desmond Donnelly and Woodrow Wyatt).

THE EARL OF ARKAN'S Bill to legalize homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private obtained its third reading in the House of Lords by 78 votes to 60, the Earl said the Bill had no future. No one in the Commons' ballot for Private Members' Bills had seen fit to take it on, and the Government would not promise time for debate. The House of Lords had spent eleven days on it, there had been 135 speeches, and 19,200 words spoken.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE told Mr. Michael Foot that he would do his best to provide for a second reading of the Steel [Nationalization] Bill before the end of July. The Government is not sure that it will be able to find time for the second reading of this Bill, or of the Early Warning Bill, before the summer recess.

THE HOME SECRETARY said, 'I very much hope that when I introduce the Criminal Justice Bill later this year, it will contain proposals designed to keep more people out of prison.' Three prisoners, includ-

ing one man convicted in the Great Train Robbery staged a four-hour rooftop protest at top-security conditions at Leicester Jail. They complained about lack of privileges and association. They climbed down at 8 p.m. as promised. The Under-Secretary at the Home Office said they were obviously fit and well, and promised them television in their cells. Mr. C. H. Rolph (alias C. R. Hewitt) writing of British prison reform in the *Week-End Telegraph* says, 'We shall never, in fact, quite eliminate them. But we could at least claim that we had reduced to a minimum our organized attempt to produce white by two blacks.' Mr. John Capstick, ex-Scotland Yard Superintendent, writing in the same paper said, 'All prisoners must be subject to more discipline. A Foreign Legion of prisoners should be formed and sent overseas as an Army unit. Aged 17 to 40. Prisoners should be used in the building of the Channel Tunnel. Government should make cement from quarries, the labour being supplied by fit short-term prisoners.'

THE MORNING STAR (alias the *Daily Worker*) carries a headline 'Murder case China youth executed', a story of the execution of a 19-year-old youth for wounding an East German embassy official's wife and a journalist from Mali. Both recovered. The Court President announced, 'Counter-revolutionary murderer Yang Kuo Ching, will be sent to the execution ground to be shot forthwith.' The Court President said Yang had confessed. 'It was my intention to create an international murder case and provoke an international dispute so as to spoil China's international good name.'

IN THE COMMONS, Mr. Brooks, MP, asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the accumulating space debris circling the earth, Her Majesty's Government will propose in the United Nations Organization that international action be taken to reduce the growing danger of such debris causing devastation upon re-entry to built-up areas.

JON QUIXOTE.

IT COULDN'T HAPPEN HERE!

ON THE MORNING of May 17, 1966, the students of Jesuit High School in New Orleans were treated to an event which will become common in high schools all over the nation in the next

French Nuclear Tests

GENERAL DE GAULLE is testing the Bomb in the Pacific for the same political-prestige reason that led British Labour and Conservative Governments to make the Bomb after the end of the war. Nothing is gained. The atmosphere is further polluted and the proliferation of nuclear weapons that much more encouraged.

Even by De Gaulle's own standards the exercise is unnecessary as France in recent years has made such a phenomenal recovery in every respect as to make military gesturing utterly redundant.

For some years now the French peace movement has had the wind taken out of its sails by the General himself in the totality of his withdrawal from military commitments abroad, his virtual withdrawal from NATO and his independent position on Vietnam.

But over the Mururoa tests the considerations of prestige have eclipsed those of humanity and there are unmistakable (if not yet well defined) signs of the recovery of the peace movement in France to meet this challenge.

Nuclear disarmament in France is primarily the responsibility of the French people and of the French peace movement. We are in constant touch with them and we are much interested in doing anything we can to help. We are interested in going to France to take part in their demonstrations and we invite them to come to England to join in our actions here against the Bomb and militarism in general. We invite them to our Alconbury demonstration on July 3 and some of us hope to take part in the French demonstration in Paris which, we understand, will take place on July 14.

PETER CADOGAN,
Secretary Committee of 100,
National Committee.

14.6.66.

few months. The noted event was the activation ceremonies to start the first of 12,000 Marine ROTC units for boys, ages 14-18.

This latest and most insidious effort to turn the United States into another Third Reich did not go unchallenged however; several pickets were on hand and many students of Jesuit High objected. The pickets carried signs reading: 'Peace Corps Not Marine Corps', 'How Many More Must Die For Johnson's Mistakes?', 'Why Train Our Children To Be Killers?' and 'What Happened To The Prince Of Peace?'

One student likened a compulsory ROTC programme to a 'Nazi Youth Group' and stated that 'it will be compulsory even though they and the newspapers say that it won't be compulsory'. James Viator, a senior, claimed that Jesuits wanted the programme 'for uniformity' and also for government subsidy of uniforms and equipment.

A demonstrator, Lon Hill, of New Orleans, was struck by an irate father of one of the boys, the same man then spat on two female pickets and tore up a sign. The students sang their victory song during the altercations, but they apologized to the pickets after their parents had left.

The students and parents were addressed by General Wallace M. Greene, US Marine commandant; The Rev. J. Donald Pearce, school president, and Rep. F. Edward Hebert, an alumnus of Jesuit High and the proud father of the ROTC Revitalization Bill.

General Greene congratulated the students on being the first unit in the United States to receive the 'honour', and said, 'we in the Regular Marine Corps are proud of this new addition to

the Marine Corps family.' The Rev. J. Donald Pearce stated that the United States is presently fighting in Vietnam 'to preserve the ideals established here 200 years ago', he went on to say: 'If our youth is rightly instructed, our power will be greater than any weapon man can devise.'

Rep. Hebert told the formation of 900 students that 'this is undoubtedly one of the proudest moments that can come to any individual'. The new programme 'will prevent delinquency instead of subsidizing it', he claimed.

'This programme will have a greater effect on this nation than any other programme during our lifetime, including the draft,' Hebert said.

JACK J. FRAZIER.

WE'RE WINNING!

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Expenses: 24 weeks at £80: £1920
Income: Sales and Subs.: £1501
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Seamen Cut to Ribbons?

FROM THE COMPLETE outside looking in, it appears that the seamen's strike is staggering from one crisis to another. Confusion takes over as the leadership of the NUS desperately looks for an 'out'. One crumb more from the Pearson table I believe would gain good chances of a settlement from Bill Hogarth. The only people who can do this are the Government, the shipping employers are 'sitting pretty' in this respect, sitting behind the skirts of the PIB keeps the wind off them nicely. This bull from

Contact Column

Tanya Howell. Please contact Peter Neville without delay as MAY have job in country for you. If in contact with Tanya anyone pass message on please urgently.

Vietnam. Public Meeting. Holborn Assembly Hall, Johns Mews, W.C. Friday, June 24, 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Thich Nhat Hanh. Director of Institute of Social Studies, Saigon.

Polish Protest. UL & S Defence Committee. Demonstration, Orbis, Regent Street, London, W.1. Saturday, July 9 commencing 10.30 a.m.

'Solidarity.' Weekend conference in Birmingham at Digbeth Civic Hall on the ideas and activities of the Solidarity group. Saturday, July 9, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Further details from Gordon Causar, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth. Staffs.

Intelligent mother-substitute. (With or without own child) urgently wanted to care for 5-year-old girl who cannot understand why her mother left her. West country, Box No. 31A.

Poetry and Jazz. Ilford Libertarians.

Poetry and Jazz. 7.30 p.m., July 2, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1. Mike Osborne Quartet, Christopher Logue, Joe Shearns and Dick Wilcox. Mike Horowitz with Workers' Cast Experimental Drama Group. Tickets 4/- and 6/- from Freedom Press.

Centenary Lectures NSS. Friday, June 24. Freethought and Law Reform. Anthony Grey and Diane Munday. Friday, July 8. Freethought and Liberty. Martin Ennals, etc. 7.30 p.m. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Fallex. Fallex and other Official Secrets sent under plain cover. Sample obtainable, 9d. (including postage) from Ipswich Anarchists, 68 Christchurch Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Manchester Poetry. Northern rendezvous for Poetry, Folk and 'happenings', Thursdays 8 p.m. Packhorse Hotel, Bridge Street, off Deansgate, Manchester, 2/-.

Stickers. POLICE BRUTALITY IS FACT, JUSTICE IS FICTION. ANARCHY IS FREEDOM. 25/- per 1,000. Contact Box 31.

Accommodation available for girl. West London Community. Rent £2 10s. Box 32.

Room and Work. Woman reader (mid-forties) will need room and work when leaves psychiatric hospital. Offers of either or both to Box 30.

Hospitality wanted. Sixteen-year-old comrade (male) from Paris would like to stay with family during summer vacation. Write Box 29.

Accommodation Offered. To responsible person in return for taking child to school some days and a (very) little housework. Write 15 Pennine Mansions, Pennine Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11 or phone MEA 1872.

Accommodation. Flat or rooms required in London area (preferably unfurnished) by teacher and wife. For one-year period from September. P. and M. Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

Accommodation Vacant. One bunk empty—happy, tolerant girl wanted in s/c flat, in lowest Lambeth, details REL 5224.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Frank Cousins about keeping the dispute strictly between the employers and the seamen, who does he think he is kidding? He quotes the 1958 transport strike stating that he 'refused to have anything to do with the government', he maintained that the differences of opinion were between the union and the employers. The employers were the puppets of the government, who the hell does he think pulls the strings of London Transport, Santa Claus?

As stated in FREEDOM (11.6.66) the strike is being run 'strictly to the rules'. In the fifth week of struggle the policy of the NUS is exactly the same, and quite obviously it must be, trade union leaders are *responsible people*, trade union protocol must be adhered to at all times irrespective of the situation. Leaders must appeal to leaders through the correct channels, and when they ALL want to 'wrap up' the strike NOW (if, they were ever in favour from the beginning) the chances of winning the full demands by spreading the strike are negligible.

It therefore comes down to where the decisions should be made, at rank-and-file level. It is no good rank-and-file militants calling on their leaders to spread the strike either here or abroad, they have to convince *all workers* it is in their own interests to down tools, not just the dockers. If we as printworkers had any guts we would have refused to print last Sunday's edition of the *Sunday Telegraph*, the editorial was an open invitation to smash the seamen by ALL means possible. By allowing this vitriol to be printed we

HOW THE SYSTEM TICKS

INCOMES POLICY, LEGISLATION AND SHOP STEWARDS. T. Cliff and C. Barker. P/bk. 137 pages. 2/6d. Publishers: London Industrial Shop Stewards Defence Committee.

WHATEVER this book's faults, and there are not many that I see, it is indisputable that it is an indispensable part of any militant's reading. The comprehensive study of the present structure of capitalism and the manner it manipulates modern society is long overdue. In a way it is bringing home what Paul Cardan has been saying in a rather more theoretical manner for many years.

Very neatly, this well-written pamphlet demolishes the arguments presented in favour of the Incomes Policy by the trade union movement leaders and their counterparts in the Labour Party. It quite justifiably points out there is only one group of people who will suffer, and that is the wage earner and the working class generally. But the interesting part for all trade unionists is the demonstration how the highly organised workers are responsible for raising standards of living of the workers generally. In less organised countries where trade unions are either an organ of the state or split by doctrinal weaknesses, the differential between skilled and unskilled labour is far greater than in those countries where the vast body of manual workers in large industries are left at the mercy of their employers—either capitalist or state.

It quite justifiably points out that the so-called trading deficits are largely a product of hot money flowing backwards and forwards across frontiers looking for the quick killing. Together with the military expenditure abroad this hot money causes a load on the workers' backs which looks all very well on paper but in fact is just a paper flow of money. In other words a stock exchange con trick supported by the Labour Government.

The final plea in this book is very well argued—it is for workers' control. This is preceded by an account of the present shop stewards' movements and the need for them to link up. The fragmentation of shop stewards' movements is explained and also the need for closer co-operation. However much is to be

have done as much damage as if we crewed a ship that had been declared 'black'.

Before any one screams about freedom of the press, may I politely remind them that the 'freedom(?)' is always one way 'against the workers'.

The tactic now employed by press and politicians is one of attempting to split the seamen. The attempt by British Railways to crew a ship for Channel crossings at Dover fizzled out. Townsend Car Ferries claimed to have enquiries from dissident seamen to be allowed to go back to work, nothing more has been heard about that either.

Whilst it is true that at Newhaven NUS members decided to instruct their Executive to reopen negotiations and 'get what they can so we can return to work' or, failing the council being able to negotiate, ballot the membership 'for or against'; NE-coast members at South Shields held a ballot this morning (20.6.66) and overwhelmingly endorsed the policy of their Executive Committee, as did Southampton, Manchester, Liverpool and Hull.

All the evidence, so far, points to the maintenance of solidarity among the seamen, which is good considering they have been virtually on their own.

Wilson is expected to make a statement today, if it's anything like the last one he might as well belt up, the offer of a general inquiry into the shipping industry contributed nothing to the settlement of the present dispute.

The question of 'Emergency Powers' still has him worried, because he could accomplish the very thing that he wants to avoid, the *spreading of the strike*.

In terms of orthodox trade unionism the next few days could be critical for the seamen. The Executive of the INF meet on Wednesday, and the NUS Executive Council is due to meet on Thursday. Tangible support from the former is highly suspect, therefore it is up to the rank and file of all workers, it is up to us whether the seamen get 'cut to ribbons' or win their just demands. BILL CHRISTOPHER.

desired in this direction, and inside the LSSDC there seems to be no concrete ideas as to organisation—and it's about time there was. The need for action against the Incomes Policy is going to occur soon and the issues have to be placed squarely where they belong, on the shop floor, and this is the thing which most militants dread. To try and move workers on what appears at first sight to be a solely party political issue. But it has to be done and this book is an excellent handbook for all militants who have to explain the case. The argument is no longer up in the clouds. It is in the process of taking place and the savage penalties devised by Gunter and Brown will take place unless a unified rank and file movement oppose them successfully. So please buy, it's worth every penny, in fact that is my chief criticism—it's too cheap.

SPARKS.

(Obtainable from Freedom Bookshop or C. Davison, 83 Greyhound Road, N.17.)

Now a March

THE LOBBY of Parliament, due to take place on June 22, against the Government's intention of passing legislation to enforce its Incomes Policy, now includes a march from Speakers' Corner in its programme. This is a welcome development from the scheduled Lobby reported last week in FREEDOM.

The reason for this change is that both Liverpool and Manchester building workers want a march, being fully prepared to organise one of their own, and workers on the Brunel University site have also been very enthusiastic about a march.

This is indeed an improvement on the sterile Lobby first planned and shows that rank and file union members want to express their opposition to the intended legislation in the form of a public demonstration.

By the time this appears in print, the march and Lobby will have taken place and it is hoped that the march will be a demonstration of the growing opposition to the Labour Government's plans for fettering the trade union movement. P. TURNER.

FREEDOM

For Workers' Control

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STRIKES AGAINST WAGE CUTS

FOR OVER EIGHT weeks now, 60 machinists working on cylinder heads and engines at the Standard-Triumph International factory in Coventry, have been staging a series of token strikes over the introduction by the company of new piece-work rates.

These on-off guerrilla strikes have caused a considerable loss of output for the STL. Production of certain car models has been suspended for as long as a week, which has meant that many other workers have been sent home and temporarily laid off.

The machinists are members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and claim that the company's new bonus payments for new work have brought about a reduction in wages of between 30s. and 44s. per week. Shop floor convenors, representatives of the union members in other sections of the factory, have issued a statement supporting the strikers. This says: 'Our members are not seeking more money for the same work. All they ask is that their wages and conditions will not be affected as a result of the introduction of new work methods.'

The convenors allege that the new bonus system was imposed on the machinists by the management. However, the Works Director, Mr. Swindle (some coincidence) says, in a letter circulated to 15,000 employees, that the new system was mutually agreed upon, but the shop stewards replied that: 'We wish to make it clear that the shop stewards and the men involved have never at any stage agreed to the bonus terms.'

SHOP FLOOR LEVEL

All along the company has wanted the dispute to go through the normal negotiating channels, which would have taken it from the shop floor and given it to the national officials to handle. This request has been refused and local union officials and shop stewards have so far handled all the negotiations. The national executive of the AEU has said that 'piece-work rates' disputes on new work are not included in the procedure and should be settled at factory level. The company also wanted the men to stick to the procedure for avoidance of disputes. Another meeting of the shop stewards, local officials and the management has taken place and the latter's

offer of a special sliding-scale payment over the next four weeks has been rejected.

When Sir Donald Stokes, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of the Leyland Motor Corporation, which includes STI, recently addressed the Institute of the Motor Industry, he spoke of the irresponsible action of a 'very few men' which could cripple the industry. No doubt he had the machinists in mind. They were called 'anti-social types' who, by their action, were stopping the benefits which could be obtained by the introduction of modern, expensive automation and transfer machinery. Obviously Sir Donald does not like it when men take action in defence of the wages and conditions. In fact, the STI recently told shop stewards that 'put in its most simple terms, failure on our part to stop the rot (of rising costs without correspondingly increased productivity) will ultimately end up in a situation where both management and work people will lose their jobs'.

We know that STI faces strong competition both in home markets and abroad and they no doubt thought that in the case of their new model, the 1300, they would try to cut costs, and the new piece-work rates were the result. Do they really expect the machinists to accept a cut in wages just like that? If there is any question of irresponsibility, then the company is guilty. However, it must be remembered that managements are really averse to doing their negotiations at shop floor level. They do not mind going to the national union leaders, who are totally divorced from the realities of the shop floor, but when it comes to facing the very men that these deliberations will affect, then it becomes a completely different kettle of fish. The management knows that the shop floor negotiators drive a much harder bargain and if the men feel that they are getting a raw deal, there is always the possibility that they might decide to take direct action.

In the drive by STI for an ever-increasing share of the car market, they are trying to impose a wage cut on their workers. It is the same old story that it is the working people who have to make the sacrifices so that the capitalist profit motive system can survive. P.T.

LETTERS

Keep 'Worker's Control' Please

Dear Comrades,

So Laurence Cunniffe thinks a page devoted to Workers' Control shouldn't be in an Anarchist paper. We are nowhere near enough to the state of affairs where automation has liberated a sufficient number of people from work-toil, which I for one do regard as toil when it fattens the boss's wallet and, through him, boosts the company's production. The concerns which are prepared to put their backs into it will use machines profitably, but what if this nationalizing mad government get their hands on an essential service which is not paying its way? Redundancy and higher prices will follow, and in an age when machines should liberate workers and prepare them for a more meaningful life, there will still be the same old wastage because the men intent upon capitalistic monopoly will still be in control, thus nobody will be any 'freer' than in the darker past when the masters of mismanagement still have their hands on the controls. By all means pay people what they deserve for operating the machines, but nowadays so much overtime has to be worked to make up a basic wage, which as Comrade Cunniffe well knows is because we're taxed to death and none of us can escape higher

prices, which is one reason for strikes—namely the levelling out of hours on a parity with wages.

I am thoroughly in agreement with Laurence Cunniffe that work should become creative and that all people should become creative as against merely materialistic, so that work no longer becomes something we've simply got to do if we're to live, but can be absorbed into a society which wishes to be creative and produces, not rubbish off a conveyor belt, but things that relate to human needs and values.

If machines are misused man will quite likely lose his dignity, which would be nothing new under capitalism; in any sort of society, production and distribution will have prior consideration. The scientists, etc., are working towards the replacement of human labour, but with a Government which devises a Prices and Incomes Policy, a payroll tax, in fact anything to keep capitalism and profits going strongly, I don't see in the final resort that it really matters when the (to us) wrong men are in charge; which is why P.T. and the rest are not wasting their time thumping out a few thousand words for this paper every week.

Fraternally,

London, W.5 RON PEART.