

### Vietnam & Spain

**H**ISTORY does not repeat itself: men have merely a tendency to attempt to repeat history'. If H. G. Wells did not say that, he ought to have done, for the false historical parallel is always with us. Once, it was the Rosenbergs, and Sacco and Vanzetti. This year being the 30th anniversary of the Spanish Revolution, there has been the usual double-speak comparing Vietnam with Spain. This parallel has a built-in stock response producing shouts of wild acclaim from the squealers when the right word is spoken. 'National Liberation Front' squeaks of 'good'. 'LBJ', grunts of 'Fascist!' (in itself an emotive word having very little modern political meaning). The people's struggle in Vietnam is equated with the struggle in Spain or the struggle of people for liberation everywhere. Whatever happened to Ben Bella's National Liberation Front? Remember how Latvia, Lithuania and Lithuania were 'liberated'—to mention Hungary?

There was, up to a certain point probably the Barcelona May Days), a real choice in Spain: it was in fact a war of liberation. There was also a real choice in Spain (probably up to the arrival of Russian arms shipments) for a victory of the democratic government but there was very little chance for the continuation of the social revolution. What chances there were, the anarchists and the people of Spain momentarily took, only to have them snatched away by the Communists, the Popular Front and Franco). Even had the strategy of guerrilla warfare been chosen by the defeated Spanish army some kind of victory might have been won against Franco.

But the real choice in Vietnam was in the anti-colonial struggles against the French, in the hopes after the defeat of Japan, and in the post-war struggles against the French. To put down these anti-colonial risings the Allies even used the defeated Japanese as police, and the Communist ministers in the French Government had no hesitation in putting down this struggle of the Vietnamese people for national liberation.

The chance of the Vietnamese ever making their own social revolution disappeared with the defeat of Chiang-Kai-Shek and the rise of Communist China. China, like Russia, is only interested in having sympathetic states on her borders. The Korean war was fought to a stalemate on such an issue.

The war in Vietnam has never been a revolution. The Vietnamese peasant, like the peasant everywhere, has nothing to hope for from Communism. His contribution to war, to Communism, to capitalism is his harvest; often his family's and his own life is taken too. A recent photograph of a Vietnamese bullock-cart holding up the progress of an American armoured car was symbolic. Without the

bullock-cart no food for the troops. The Americans claim to bring in their own supplies but their auxiliaries, the Vietnamese who work for them, still depend upon the rice-crop. The guerrillas live entirely 'off the country' and levy a tax upon the peasants they are 'liberating'. The land does not belong to the peasants who work it. State collectivization of land is of very little benefit to the country or the peasants and the hit-and-run guerrillas of Vietnam have not even a chance to put over that minor measure. The guerrillas are merely another rice-bowl to fill or tax-gatherer to pay.

The military, whether Vietnamese or American, are solely consumers and their effect on the country is wholly inflationary. Additionally they destroy or make useless for many years tracts of good growing land with their mines, poisons, flame-throwers and foxholes.

The Chinese and Russians are not, any more than the Americans, interested in seeing an independent united Vietnam. The 'aid' the Vietnamese are receiving is as clearly marked with a price-tag as was the aid given to Spain by Russia, Germany and Italy.

It is ironic that the expression 'guerrilla' warfare should have come down to us from the Spanish campaign against Napoleon which was fostered by the British. Once upon a time guerrilla warfare had in itself some admirable, even anarchistic qualities; now it has become too sophisticated, that is to say adulterated, with technical equipment and lines of communication with some great power in whose interest the guerrilla is being manipulated. In the same way that in the 1939-45 War the underground movements became the pawns of this or that power so guerrilla warfare has been a continuation of warfare by other means.

It is easy to mistake the shadow for the substance and a guerrilla army trusting to its own resources and working with (not against) the peasantry is a far remove from the troops in Vietnam called Vietcong or National Liberation Front depending on which way their guns are facing.

JACK ROBINSON.

### MY DEAR PAPA

**H**ENRY CLAY FRICK, whom anarchists may remember as the bungling, incompetent target of Alexander Berkman's otherwise eminently successful attempt, has recently been reaching back from the grave to plague mankind even further. On January 19, 1965, his daughter, Helen Clay Frick, instituted a suit in the Court of Common Pleas of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, to prevent the distribution of a book entitled, *Pennsylvania—Birthplace of a Nation*, by Sylvester K. Stevens.

According to the *New York Times*, July 27, 1966, Stevens was handed a rather adverse ruling by Judge Clinton R. Weidner when that worthy decided two weeks ago that Dr. Stevens would not be allowed to offer in defence of his book any secondary material, e.g. citations from other histories, encyclopedias, or other reference works. Consequently Stevens appealed on July 26 to the United States District Court in New York to take the unusual step of intervening in the state case to stop Miss Frick's legal action. Stevens contends that the right of an author to publish a book is a constitutional right guaranteed by the First Amendment. Supporting him is a committee of fourteen reputable historians—a paradoxical phrase which, if nothing else, excludes Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. The committee calls itself the Joint Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Historians Under the First Amendment, making its title exactly as long as its membership list.

**W**HEN PARLIAMENT returns to overt business in October it will discuss the Government's new Criminal Justice Bill. The forces of authoritarianism, aided by the reawakened popular hysteria for repressive measures, have already started a voluble campaign to control the civil liberties of the subject. Their first attempt was to compulsorily fingerprint the whole population, this fortunately proved a science-fiction non-starter as the administrative difficulties cannot yet be solved by cybernetics.

The attack on the jury system seems, however, to be succeeding. Lords Parker, Goddard and Shawcross have started a pressure group that juries in future should bring in verdicts on a majority vote of 9 to 3. This is essential in their opinion because too many 'guilty men' get acquitted by the eccentricity or corruption of one man on the jury. They claim that jurors are intimidated by organised gangs and Shawcross (we are the masters now) said that 'I think the figure of four out of ten acquittals is disturbing.' Then he added: 'We know beyond any question of doubt at all that over 80 per cent. of those who are prosecuted are in fact guilty.' Leaving aside the obvious query as to why the other 20 per cent. are prosecuted at all one must ask the question why does the State bother, for other than theatrical reasons, to go through the whole rigmarole of prosecution if these people are known from the outset to be guilty. The reason is that the State has to provide a semblance of justice, what they want to do now is to streamline the system.

This attack on the jury system is not new. Judge Jeffreys when dissatisfied with a jury's verdict used to send them back and keep them without food until they brought in the required decision.

Now a very eloquent persuader, Louis Blom-Cooper, in the *Observer* has even asked for the total abolishment of the jury system on the grounds that it is inefficient and costly. He maintains that 'for 95 per cent. of crimes the stipendiary and lay magistrates have administered criminal justice to the comparative satisfaction of the public'. And that in the remaining cases 'the criminal law is humanely administered by the judges, and if not by them by the Home Office.'

He would propose to have a tribunal of three judges, who would give reasons for their decisions which could be scrutinised by an appeal court with full review powers.

Another group of reformers, nearer to us in spirit, are also finding faults with the jury system.

Dr. Stevens can hardly be deemed an iconoclast. He received a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1945, served as State Historian of Pennsylvania from 1937 to 1956, and has been executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission since 1956.

Miss Frick's suit complains that the Stevens book contains the following false[sic] statements about her father: 'That Henry Clay Frick acquired his wealth contrary to Christian principles and practices.'

'That Henry Clay Frick reduced wages to an unreasonably low figure, that he forced men to work unreasonably long hours, that he was not interested in the welfare nor safety of his employees, that he exploited labour and that he charged coal miners unreasonably high rents for their houses.'

'That Henry Clay Frick was responsible for the bloodshed in the Homestead strike of 1892, and that he caused blood to be shed in an effort to oppose a labour union.'

With all that Frick was guilty of, this is the best that Stevens could come up with—but, as we said, he is hardly an iconoclast. Yet even these mild recriminations are too disturbing for the insouciant Miss Frick. She prefers to scamper barefoot through her vaults wholly untroubled by qualms of conscience. Perhaps what is needed is a latter-day Berkman to take a pot shot at her.

R.S.C.

# Jury on Trial

They think that as the jurors are selected from a 'middle-class, middle-minded and middle-aged' group therefore 'liability for service (should) be extended to everyone on the electoral register . . . and the upper age limit increased to 65' (Tony Smythe in *Tribune*). Another lawyer well known for his work for libertarians in trouble with the law, told us that he found juries sometimes biased against coloured citizens.

Nevertheless, in at least one case known to us, a jurymen who stood up against the rest with exceptional humanity, courage and common sense managed to persuade his colleagues to bring in a verdict of 'Not Guilty' for a comrade to the visible chagrin of the judge.

Where do we stand? On the one hand we will oppose any encroachment on our civil liberties with whatever means we have at our disposal. If we think the jury system is some safeguard against a mad, sadistic or biased judge then we must uphold the jury system (even though the judge has power to overrule its recommendations for

leniency as in the trial of the Wethersfield Six). But will we continue to have a jury system in an anarchist society without judges where men and women of the community discuss such acts which they deem anti-social?

The jury, whatever its demerits, still has about it some of the attributes of a communal decision-making body and such is thought by some to have tribal origins. To establish the majority system is to take the spirit of consultation out of it and reduce it to a mere game like the rest of law.

Our ultimate aim must however be to empty the prisons and sack the police and the judges. This would surely generate a feeling of liberation and a sense of relief that will transform society which will value such freedom and whose members, freed from artificial guilt and the trappings of the law would live accordingly, knowing that anti-social activities may mean a return to a society where prisons are full in the name of justice and for our 'own good'.

R.

## An Invitation to the Dorchester

**G**OVERNMENT INVITATIONS rarely (if ever) arrive at FREEDOM'S office so when last Wednesday an OHMS envelope arrived at Maxwell Road it was viewed with some measure of suspicion. It was an invitation to meet Lt. Gen. Nguyen Huu Co at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, and 'give him the reception he deserves'. It was learned afterwards that Mr. Edward Heath, Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Norman St. John-Stevas, MP, had received similar invitations and had unsuspectingly gone down Park Lane.

At 7.15 FREEDOM'S Society Editor was sitting in a deckchair in Hyde Park scanning the portico of the Dorchester for signs of a welcome mat. There was no sign of the Provos, the Rev. Robert Delford Brown of the First National Church of the Exquisite Panic or of Mr. Harold Wilson. There were however signs of familiar figures from Rentacrowd so eventually he made his way over to the Dorchester, on his way up Park Lane he passed a parked limousine which contained the vice-premier of South Vietnam, who quite obviously was hesitant of entering the Dorchester, even by the side door, for, by now a small crowd of demonstrators was gathering, including two with a large scarlet flag with a yellow star in the middle. Presumably this was the flag of China adapted for Trotskyite use.

Enquiries among the demonstrators elicited the fact that the invitations were not valid for entry into the Dorchester, Mr. Edward Heath and Mr. St. John-Stevas had been turned away since they were in possession of spurious documents. Apart from this and reported abortive and successful attempts to enter the Dorchester, the whole thing seemed to be a 'non-happening'. Sundry picketeers, some with Vietcong flags (pardon—NLF) and various assorted signs, turned up so the Society Editor returned once more to his deckchair.

Whilst meditating on the possibilities had he a gun with telescopic sights and were he not a pacifist it could be seen that the police had arrived in full force and were guarding all entrances and exits to the Dorchester and were shepherding the demonstrators to an ill-defined section of the roadway in front of the Dorchester.

Returning to the Dorchester it was obvious that any attempts to enter the hotel were doomed to failure, whether it was the Committee of 100 girl in evening dress or the wild saboteur intent on cutting loudspeaker cables. The situation had settled down to the usual confrontation between bad-tempered police and surly picketeers. After a

Provo attempt on the part of the police to incite a breach of the peace by stepping on a demonstrator's sandalled foot, whilst moving him on; our Society Editor moved off, thwarted once more in his attempt to break into society. . . .

Later it was learned that one of our comrades had been arrested, charged, apparently with obstructing a stationary motor-car and/or frightening the female occupant of the chauffeur-driven car (which was occupied by a man who was leaning out to read the poster). The comrade was kept in the police cells from 10.30 p.m. till 1.30 a.m. to verify his address and when he appeared in court next morning he was, by the intervention of a chance witness, given a conditional discharge.

It was also learned that a comrade (call him X) entered the Dorchester by an unorthodox route. Such was his impeccably casual dress that even though he had a bundle of Vietnam peace leaflets under his arm he was not stopped for a while. He was asked if he were a guest by a waiter. He said he was, then he was asked his name. He said 'Mr. X' which happened, by chance, to be the name of a guest.

He was thereupon ushered to the lift and his (or rather, the other Mr. X's) room floor and he then proceeded to distribute his leaflets under the doors of the hotel rooms. After a rather difficult interlude, when he wandered into a famous pop-star's private suite, he made his way out of the Dorchester unscathed. . . .

On the whole it was a very successful 'happening' at the Dorchester and received wide publicity on the radio and in the newspapers publicising this hush-hush visit of the Vice-Premier.

By the way, who *did* he dine with at the Dorchester? What *did* he get out of them?

J. RUMBOLD.

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'SHITTER!'—That's the word you will not hear if you visit the Royal Court this week.

The tender sensibilities of the Lord Chamberlain have once again been assiduously protected; even Emil Littler's cherubic innocence would emerge from the theatre unscathed. For good taste another triumph.

Victim of the victory? As is usual in these situations, the author: Alfred Jarry (1873-1907), playwright, pataphysician, arch-Romantic, junky, madman, genius, reputed brains behind the whole Dada-Surrealist revolution. At Sloane Square he has been betrayed.

Put differently, the current production of his play *Ubu Roi* is a travesty (if such is possible) of the author's original intentions. Instead of excrement, Ian Cuthbertson's production of his own translation serves up sugar.

'MERDRE!'—That was the word which 70 years ago scandalised Parisian society. The play's opening line, it provoked riots among the audience as the curtain went up at the Théâtre de l'Oeuvre on that historic evening of

# REGICIDE

December 10, 1896.

The spectacle of King Ubu—lavatory-brush in hand instead of sceptre—lading out from a giant tureen plates full of 'merdre' to his banqueting guests, proved too much for polite society.

Said W. B. Yeats, among the audience at the time: '... what more is possible? After us the Savage God.'

If there was ever any doubt, this proved it: 'Epater les bourgeois' was Jarry's reason for living. He lived a scandal and he died a scandal.

Now, after such an interval, we, the latter-day bourgeoisie, are still apparently considered not yet mature enough to hear the opening line as it should be

heard. Absurdly, throughout the performance the forbidden word remains in its original French. What should be the play's unifying motif degenerates into a hastily muttered aside.

One can only assume the English Stage Company's recent tiffs with the judiciary have resulted in cold feet.

Again, Max Wall, playful music-hall knockabout, is hardly the man for the part of Ubu, ogre and personification of bestiality and power-lust.

Under a welter of ad-libbing and Old-Time patter, the play's significance is lost. This should be 'humour noir', with the emphasis very much on the 'noir'. Seeing this performance, one

would hardly think that for Jarry the figure of Pere Ubu symbolised 'the cause of all his sorrows and all his revolts'.

In the original play the broad political allusions are blatant. The protagonist of this coarse Punch and Judy show is a grotesque archetypal image. Killing, conquering and torturing, Ubu is the little man elevated by lies and chicanery, grown big on dupes and sycophants. He is as much H. Wilson as Hitler.

As one critic has put it: 'He is mean, vulgar, and incredibly brutal, a monster that appeared ludicrously exaggerated in 1896, but was far surpassed by reality in 1945.'

Significant perhaps, is that the most striking feature of this production are David Hockney's hippy sets. Their prominence in the show is characteristic of that emphasis on the visual at the expense of the verbal which is increasingly to be found in certain sections of the *avant-garde*.

Their flashing contrasts of colour, combined with the mod-camp overtones of the costumes, display all the slickness and fluency we expect from the RCA Pop wonder boy. That they overshadow the play and are grossly inappropriate is a small point.

As for the action, that takes place in Poland, that is to say, nowhere—so Jarry finished his speech introducing the first performance. This production has taken the po out of Poland. The whole thing is too pretty and harmless.

I have seen in some quarters this production heralded as 'The State Visit of King Ubu to London'. It has turned out to be a State funeral.

Go and see the Lying-in-State. It's one of the sights of swinging London. Take the kiddies along.

A.W.U.

JOHN MACKAY

# THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND

**PREREQUISITES OF PEACE**, by John Papworth, introduction by J. Allen Skinner. Housmans 2/6d.

THIS IS NOT, as one might suppose from the title, just another worthy pamphlet on pacifism, non-violence and all that. John Papworth pays attention to a matter which anarchists do not take into sufficient consideration, except for rather vague talk about the values of decentralisation. He believes that what is destroying freedom and civilised values in the modern world is the sheer size of everything by which the individual is dwarfed. Our enormous nation states, our huge and sprawling cities, our ramifying bureaucracies, most sinister of all, our ballooning population, all add up to a situation where sheer size alone becomes an evil.

John Papworth is not an anarchist, and this is not an anarchist pamphlet, although there is little in it that the average anarchist would disagree with. What he has to say applies to authoritarian and anarchist alike, for when it is a question of size you can't even run an authoritarian society decently when it gets too big, to run an anarchist one would be impossible.

Democracy is a sham. No one man can represent the interests of thousands of constituents. Mass production destroys handicraft and variety. Everybody dresses the same, lives in the same sort of house, is poisoned by the same adulterated 'food', drives in near-identical cars along broad, featureless motorways, sees the same films and TV shows, reads the same paperbacks, etc. To supply the great cities dust-bowls are created, the earth's resources are plundered (there is considerable likelihood that in the next 50 years we shall run out of fuel, run short of metals, and a great many of us starve).

Frankly, the author is a great deal more optimistic about mankind's ability to deal with this crisis than I am. One thing emerges with certainty, anarchists cannot hope to take over modern cities, modern industry and all the rest of it, and go on running it, only on anarchist lines. Anyone who hopes that an anarchist society means two cars in every garage and a spaceship in the back yard, instead of the present disgraceful situation where quite a number of people, due to capitalist greed and mismanage-

ment, still cannot afford such necessities, is sadly astray.

Capitalism is indeed to blame for creating a world based on power and profit to the exclusion of all else, but the situation now is that things have got too big for anyone to control or make sense of.

Earlier societies were brutal to a degree, but they were limited by their technology. Population remained small. The soil might be eroded through mismanagement in one area, but there was plenty more land. The year before I was born someone calculated that the entire world's population could find standing room on the Isle of Wight (or maybe Man). It is now quite possible to foresee the day when there will not be standing room on the entire land surface of the globe sufficient to accommodate the family of man.

The author believes that the answer lies in breaking up the big cities, and giving up the ideology that produced them. He is not against machines as such, but he wants them to serve human needs, which he does not believe they in fact do nowadays, despite the claims of advertising men.

Some anarchists would welcome this idea. Decentralisation has been an anarchist slogan time out of mind. But not all would I think. We have been brought up to believe that science, rationalism, technological progress, expansion, all go together. The alternative is sentimental 'Ludditism', simple-lifers in hand-knitted ties and knickerbockers, and mediaeval superstition. A dozen years ago, when I first wrote for FREEDOM I thought the same. My attitude began to change when I saw the consequence of the action of that scientific genius who spread myxomatosis. I feel however no urge to go out and spread the doctrines of Thoreau, at least not by distributing little leaflets and engaging in polemics. The fact is that it will soon become evident that we must live 'the simple life' or perish from the face of the earth, for the simple reason that there will be neither fuel, nor raw materials, nor food sufficient to keep up the present headlong charge into the future. People are already becoming concerned about food shortage, the destruction of wild life, the disappearance of agricultural land thanks to housing, motorways, etc., the disruption of urban

and rural life by the motor car, the increase in mental illness, the isolation of life in cities, the problems of personal identity and of communication. Every avenue seems to lead ultimately to some kind of crisis, whether economic or psychological.

In fact they are different aspects of the same crisis. I recommend this pamphlet to all anarchists.

**DISSENT OF DOMINICK SHAPIRO**  
by Bernard Kops. 25/-.

ACCORDING to its publishers (Macgibbon & Kee) Bernard Kops' new book is about an anarchist.

They tell us that he is wondering: 'How to bring back the essential oils of anarchy into a society that is too stable, corroded.'

This is Mr. Kops' first novel for some time, and anyone who has heard his Third Programme plays (especially 'The Lemmings') will be disappointed.

'The Dissent of Dominick Shapiro' is a simple and universal story that makes one important point.

Dominick is the youngest son of a middle-class Jewish family. He dreams of escape—who wouldn't—I did!—of leaving his stupid family and 'nice home near Hampstead Heath' behind. He dreams of many things—but he does not dream of anarchy. He wants Freedom—of a minor sort, but would not, or could not—fight for it. Instead he yells: 'I Dissent! I Dissent!' and then weeps on his mother's breast. He's one of those characters who makes you hope he'll get knocked down by a steam-driven jock strap—anything as long as he disappears early in the book!

But he does not fade away—he grows in philosophical stature(?)—he gets erections on the bus—he has visions of women floating around his bed—naked of course! And then—and then... AND THEN HE FINALLY LEAVES

HOME!! But so what?—he's still Grade 'A' drag, and a shit to boot.

He goes to Soho and meets 'dozens of boys and girls hanging around outside a pub'—so what?—they are all Grade 'B' drags—except for Daffodil, the girl Dominick makes it with after all that terrible business of naked visions.

Anyway, he ends up by living with her and some others in a derelict house until they all leave for the sea.

It is here that the only important point is made. Dominick tries to lead, and make decisions for all of them. Needless to say (one of the boys is an anarchist—publisher getting mixed up once again!), they refuse to be dictated to by a snot of 16 and leave him sitting on the beach in the wind and rain.

And this is the point: when someone rises to lead—he destroys. Dominick lost his woman, his friends and his new found freedom because he chose to try and lead people.

Kops is supposed to be an anarchist, so I assume he made this point consciously. It is a shame he does not emphasise it more clearly for non-anarchists who will read the book.

Three stars out of ten... one for Daffodil, one for Lew, the father of Dominick (the most interesting people in the book) and the third star for the 'poem' they chant on their way to the sea: 'William Shakespeare! William Blake! We are Marching for your Sake!' TONY JACKSON.

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

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Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park, 3 p.m.  
AUG. 21 E. McCann  
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AUG. 28 Roger Sandell  
Which Way for Anarchism?

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**ABERDEEN GROUP.** Correspondence to M. Dey, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.  
**ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., S. Beds.).** Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.  
**BELFAST.** Contact Peter Stringer, 7 Duffy

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**HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP.** Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barryck, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.  
**ILFORD LIBERTARIANS.** Fortnightly meetings and Action. Fred Ross, 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.  
**IPSWICH ANARCHISTS.** Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
**LEICESTER ANARCHISTS.** Correspondence, Peter Gibbon, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End, Leicester.  
**LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13.** 61b Granville Park. Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursdays.  
**LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Gerry Bree, 16 Falkner Square, Liverpool, 8.

**NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS.** Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.  
**NOTTING HILL PROVOS.** Correspondence to Brian Joseph, 1st Floor, 27 Arundel Gardens, London, W.11. Meeting every first Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. Ground floor flat, 5 Colville 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 Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.  
**OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.  
**PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.  
**READING ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.  
**NORTH-WEST FEDERATION**  
**NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton: Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton, Chorley: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley. Manchester: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylesden, Manchester. Merseyside: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Devonshire Park, Birkenhead. Rochdale: Ian Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Bamford, Rochdale. Stoke-on-Trent: Bob Blakeman, 52 Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.  
**EAST LONDON FEDERATION**  
**WALTHAM FOREST ANARCHISTS.** Contact Lionel Donnelly, 322a Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E.17. Meetings every Thursday at above address.  
**WEST HAM ANARCHISTS.** Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.  
**WEST LONDON FEDERATION**  
**WANDSWORTH LIBERTARIANS.** Correspond-

ence to Christine Hutton, 15 Broughton Street, London, S.W.8.  
**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 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

**LINCOLN AND NEWARK.** Anyone interested please contact John Walker, Swiss Corner, Whisby, Lincoln.  
**LOUGHTON, ESSEX.** Please get in touch with Althea Culpin, Golding's, Clays Lane, Loughton, Essex.  
**TYNSIDE SYNDICALISTS.** Address c/o Michael Renwick, 122 Mowbray Street, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 6.  
**KEIGHLEY ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Robert Halstead, 27 Woodlands Rise, Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.

### ABROAD

**U.S.A. NEW YORK CITY.** N.Y. Federation of Anarchists, c/o Torch Bookshop, 641 East 9th Street, N.Y., 10009. Meets every Thursday evening.  
**AUSTRALIA.** Anarchist Group, PO Box A 388, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.  
**DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** 52 Mindevej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.  
**VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA.** Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 184 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C. Canada. Tel: 987-2693.  
**U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE.** Discussion/Action Group, anyone? Contact T. R. Jackson, Corinth, Vermont.



# 'Theory that Christ was 5ft 3ins'—The Guardian

MR. GEORGE BROWN, promised a quieter job, was given the Foreign Office. Mr. Michael Stewart (the member for Freedom Press), was given the remains of the Ministry of Economic Affairs; Mr. Stewart claims he is now No. 3 in the parade of the pops, instead of No. 6. Mr. Callaghan is reported to have his doubts. Mr. Brown will obviously be useful to Mr. Wilson at the forthcoming Labour Party conference.

Week will doubtless recall Mr. Ken Coates was at one time a member of the Nottingham Labour Party but has not been deported to Cwmbran, the Morning Star should (of course!), have said Mr. Ken Holmes.

LT-GENERAL NGUYEN HUU CO not only failed to meet Mr. Edward Heath and Mr. Norman St. John-Stevens but also failed to meet Mrs. Eirene White at the Foreign Office.

IN VIETNAM US bombers killed three Vietcong guerillas among 26 civilians and wounded 182 civilians by accident. They also succeeded in strafing one of their own coastguard cutters, killing two US sailors and wounding five. Sir Robert Thompson, expert on guerilla warfare, wrote an article in The Spectator entitled 'America Fights the Wrong War'.

SIR ROBERT BELIEVES that the Americans should concentrate on regaining the villages and protecting the peasant. A forecast was made by the Evening Standard Washington correspondent that the Vietnam war could last another eight years—unless America steps up her forces to 750,000 in which case it might take five years. Police in Saigon said they have smashed a protection racket run by Saigon gangsters posing as Vietcong terrorists.

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION reported that there were 1,326 cases of plague in the world last year with the highest number in South Vietnam. The plague caused 120 deaths in 1965, with the disease occurring in 11 countries. The number of reported cases last year was 278 less than 1964.

NAGASAKI COMMEMORATED the 21st anniversary of its devastation by an atom bomb. Thirty-six wreaths were deposited for 36 victims who died this year of atomic radiation disease. A 42-year-old woman committed suicide in Kobe, Western Japan, because she had been in Hiroshima when the bomb exploded and now she believed that she was suffering from the effects of radiation.

THE AMERICANS EXPLODED underground a nuclear weapon. At Geneva the Americans asked that a nuclear non-proliferation treaty should prohibit states without nuclear weapons from using nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes, such as digging canals or building dams. The nuclear powers should make such explosives available to them. The American delegate said, 'The inescapable fact is that a nuclear explosive device intended for peaceful purposes can be used as a weapon or can easily be adapted for such use.'

FORMER MILITARY LEADER General Eisenhower explained his support for a hard line in Vietnam by saying, 'If a man came into my office and tried to hit me over the head with a golf club I would get mad enough to retaliate.' Ramparts, an American magazine, disclosed that American scientists at Pennsylvania University have been working on research into germ and chemical warfare for use by American forces in Vietnam. The author claims that plans were circulating in the Pentagon and State Department for developing a method of spreading tularaemia, a skin disease.

THE WEEK END TELEGRAPH for Friday, August 12, carried an article by Daniel Green on 'Shooting for Pleasure' in which he says 'there are the rare occasions when the pleasure of shooting seems so sharp and so inevitable as to amount, if one has to put it into words, to an aesthetic experience. One particular bird perhaps—no higher, no faster, no different from the others—tied in a tight and beautiful arc to the swinging barrels, dead and crumpling before shooting it has become a conscious act, may be part of one of those moments of perfection that one can recognize but never explain. It can produce in me that same feeling of inevitability, of excitement, of time standing still, that I occasionally feel when a line of verse or a phrase of music strikes home. I taste electricity and the hair stands on my neck. JON QUIXOTE.

# Nihilistic Anarchy!

REALLY, it isn't so terrifying as it sounds. In a way it is almost religious. Nihilistic anarchy is in fact the negation of all the factional arguments that split up present day anarchists, from the individualists to Kropotkinites. I think that if people could understand the futility of sectionalism it would do one whole lot of good in the propaganda field. You all know what I'm talking about, you see it every week in FREEDOM! Individualists knocking the workers, beats smiling sarcastically at the intellectuals, syndicalists sneering at the catholics, and so on. To an interested sympathizer this whole incoherent squabbling mass is one hell of a bewildering sight. It is really no wonder that people are apathetic. When faced with such a myriad and argumentative political set-up, who can honestly blame people for drowning their confusion in the boozier, in front of the telly, or in the bookies? (Not only between the anarchists—the whole of politics is one right mess.) Now, obviously, I am not suggesting that everybody try to agree on one set point—this just would not be anarchy. But what I am attempting to explain, with your help, is the understanding of why there are all these separate little groups in the first place. Are we what we are because we all want to be what we are? I doubt it with sincerity. If this was the case then I would be the first to jack it all in and try to become a rich bastard. Surely not! We are all here today with the permission of that ravaging beast, the past. It nags away at our minds like merry hell. It makes Charles an individualist-Stirnerite and Rodney an anarcho-syndicalist, so therefore co-operation between the two is impossible.

You, because you believe in the freedom of the individual, are an individualist—and you, because you believe in social communal existence, are a communist! Belief! Aye, there's the rub—belief! Throughout the whole of mankind's history belief has been the ruination of co-operative living. Up and down, sideways and diagonally belief has split mankind up into little blood-sodden segments. And today we look around us at the world situation and we can see what belief has done, and is making! And you all must agree that it is not a very appetizing sight. To the people who say that you have got to believe in something, otherwise what the hell are we going to talk about—I will reply precisely this: nothing! Practical discussion, naturally otherwise nobody would get any bread to eat—but discussions based on belief are surely such dangerous rubbish. To me, ideals and beliefs are all a load of terrible nonsense. Plain and harsh words? Perhaps, but maybe you can get a glimmering of what I am getting at. If we can cut out our ideals from our minds and get down to reality, what do we find; a miracle! We find that underneath we are actually real people who can actually co-operate truly together. I do not think that this could be possibly frowned on by anybody as—'it's just not anarchy'. This is it! This is our ideals working today, spreading out and encompassing the public at large. Instead of meaningless little arguing beliefs we have a big negation which upholds all the beautiful essences of anarchy. This is nihilistic anarchy, which as it explains itself is sweet, sweet non-belief in anything—not even (naturally) nihilistic anarchy! DOUGLAS TRUMAN.

# MAKE WAR, NOT LOVE!

ON MONDAY my girl and I were walking through the park. It was rather hot so we sat down in the shade under some trees in a dip. After a few moments I laid down and my girl did the same. Then I felt like a kiss. So I proceeded to lay on top of her as I always do to kiss her. As I was adjusting myself to get comfortable—I don't like bones sticking in my stomach—I heard a whistle. It was a parkie's whistle. I looked up to see what was wrong. And I saw this bloke pointing at us. And I thought hello, what have we done? So I sat down and waited for him to come over. When he reached us he roared 'Get off and sit up.' I said, 'Pardon.' I thought he was shouting at someone on the other side of the park. And I said, 'What's the matter?' 'Indecent behaviour,' he said. 'Why sit here, why not sit over in the bushes? You're making an exhibition of yourself. There were three blokes watching you.' I said I did not like his attitude, he said he was not shouting. He said, 'You were committing an offence. If you want to see my police warrant I'll show it to you.' He also said I was making the action of someone having sexual intercourse. When I got up I let him see my girl's dress was not interfered with in any way and I was as normal as if I were lying by myself. He said, 'You were looking like you were.' 'Don't be so daft. I was just

adjusting myself.' 'That doesn't matter, don't do it again.' Then he walked off. We started to go off the park when we saw the bloke call a policeman over to him and he pointed to us, so we stopped and waited to see what would happen. After he had been discussing it with the constable they both walked towards us. The constable in a nice voice said, 'Oh, oh, what have you been up to then?' 'I don't know.' He said, 'I hear you have been committing an indecent act or something.' 'All I was doing was kissing my girl,' I said. 'And I always lay on top of my girl to kiss her.' He said, 'Look at all of them bushes and trees over there and you had to pick here where little children passing can see.' I said 'It's a pity you don't think of that when there's been shooting in Vietnam.' He did not say anything. Then the special, who was the bloke who blew the whistle, started shouting again and I said something like 'and for another thing I did not like his attitude.' Then he started to soften up and say he was not shouting but that it was his normal voice because he used to be in the army. Then the constable started on about it being against the law to behave in such a way in a public park. And I said I was doing no harm or had no intentions of committing sexual intercourse. Then he proceeded to take our names and addresses and said, 'Don't do it again.' Then the special chimed in and said, 'If you want to make a case I have three witnesses.'

J. A. STEARN.  
NOTE: Information about arrests asked for in last week's FREEDOM should be sent to Monty Williams, 71 Lower Swaines, Epping, Essex.

## Sad and Happy

Dear Comrade,  
I was both sad and happy to read Alan Parker's article on the 'Factory for Peace'. Happy, yet sad. It was the happiness of the 'I told you so variety', sad, because the factory has failed, although I knew it would. The lesson of history, from Robert Owen to the Factory for Peace, Tony Smythe to the simple Co-op, is that all utopian experiments are bound to fail. I have argued with many comrades that this was bound to happen. Who can now say that the answer isn't a workers' revolution? Let the pacifist fruit-juice drinkers shirk their class positions, I shall stand by mine. Good intentions will not bring our free society; middle-class islands of freedom(?) have never worked, thank god! However, workers' organisations and action might. The fact they haven't, simply means we must ever re-double and improve our papers and other educational activities. Best wishes, VINCE JOHNSTON. Liverpool, 13

## Young at Heart

Dear Friends,  
I would like to comment upon Dave Coull's somewhat unintelligible letter (FREEDOM 30.7.66) concerning the report of the European Meeting of Young Anarchists and make the following brief points:—  
1. Why 'young anarchists'? I do not know; older anarchists were present at the meeting; it was, perhaps, for the 'young in heart' (ugh!); however in Europe

# LETTERS & Controversy

some of the older anarchists were reported to be somewhat intolerant of youth and too settled in their ways. (Well! That's what they said!) Whether this is true or not I do not know, perhaps it was near bias or prejudice on the part of the French comrades who called the meeting. This remark about the 'Anarchist Party' with adult and youth sections is not really worthy of any real consideration or comment on my part.  
2. The remarks made in the report about 'Provos' and 'Revos' were the result of not too favourable first impressions, based upon a fleeting contact with them on the Dutch ABC March at Easter and at the conference; I know a little more about them now and realise that they are worthy of a far more serious consideration than that given in the report; I was not as impressed with their ideas then as I am now and anyway limitations of space, etc., etc.; even now however, my overall impressions of them are: (a) Their middle-headed philosophy and (b) Their very imaginative activity. But perhaps actions do speak louder than words.  
3. Obviously every anarchist is an individualist also, but if Dave Coull does not either know or acknowledge the difference between an 'Individualist' (note the quotes) and an 'anarcho-syndicalist' or 'anarcho-communist', then I am sorry for him; however I do agree that such descriptions should be made, not to compartmentalise or limit anyone's anarchist philosophy, but purely for the sake of convenience and, one hopes, clarity; and this is how they were used in our report. It must be emphasised that most comments like these are not my opinions; but are things said by others at the meeting; and my general impressions.  
4. As to why the Swedish anarchists find it difficult to co-operate with the strong syndicalist trade unions; I do not know, and I suggest that he asks the Swedish comrades about this. However, anarchists on the Continent seem to be far more 'purist' in outlook and more rigidly divided into different kinds of anarchist philosophy than we are here; with different groups adhering to different anarchist philosophies or philosophers; I would,

personally, never advocate this as a good thing, a point which I made at the meeting. I cannot understand the last paragraph in his letter after a number of attempts to do so; I am sure that the failure here is not entirely mine, perhaps Dave could explain further, though could he (if he feels that I either merit or require an explanation) write to me, as it seems a pity to waste the precious column-inches of FREEDOM on such meaningless literature as both his letter and this one. I just wanted to put the record straight. The values of the meeting, in my opinion, were rather intangible, existing more in terms of contacts made and ideas exchanged, than in terms of actual activity planned; perhaps this latter vital element could come from closer and more frequent contacts between comrades from different countries in the future. I have taken an optimistic view of the conference, its aims and its achievements; and this is not the first time that I have been criticised for so doing; but my view remains unchanged. Incidentally the conference, and the ensuing report were at Easter, why the time lapse; surely an interim assessment of the results of the meeting could have yielded richer fruit than this. Yours Against the State, JIM HUGGON, Northolt Anarchists.

## The Lesser Tyrants

Dear Sirs,  
I shall begin to believe that the country's sanity has taken a turn for the better—when I hear you quoted regularly and with respect on 'What the Papers Say'. Please knock the lesser tyrants—as well as the greater. The bureaucrat, the jack in office, and the counter despot—alleged with THEM against US. An example: a workmate—upon the sudden death of his father-in-law who lived alone in a Corporation House, handed over the house in a spotless condition—to the Housing Department. A week later he received a bill 'To three Cup Hooks—installed in said house at commencement of tenancy and now reported missing—please remit 2s. 6d. in respect of missing items!' The said tenancy of this house began 16 years ago—did they want cup hooks—or the equivalent weight of rust? Mr. Wilson has apparently just discovered 'bloody mindedness'. Any working man has been choked with it all his life, and how often—'I'm not here to answer questions...?' And the old, old brush off—'the likes of you...'. Very best wishes to all concerned. Yours fraternally, Leeds 8 DOUGLAS SMITH.

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## DEMO

A working group, appointed by the East Anglia CND, Committee of 100 and Youth CND, for the purpose, resolved in Halstead on August 3, invite people to assemble in Brandon, Suffolk, on Sunday, October 9, march to the married quarters, the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing, USAF, at RAF Lakenheath and distribute a leaflet, to the families and the servicemen there. The working group do not invite people to do anything illegal, just to communicate their ideas about the war in Vietnam to American servicemen in Britain. Colchester, Essex, MARTIN EVERITT, Sec., EA CND. FRANCIS HETHERINGTON, Sec., EAC of 100. RUPERT SCOTT, Sec., Cambridge YCND.



# Legislation for Capitalism

THE PRICES and Incomes Bill, which has now been rushed through Parliament, was given the Royal Assent at noon on Friday, August 12. The placing of this Bill on the Statute Book illustrates the determination of the Government to solve the present economic difficulties of capitalism. Due to the general tightening of world markets, legislation is needed to restrict the power of the trade unions. The Government is now in a position to issue a Statutory Order of Council on any workers who take direct action in pursuance of an increase in wages. The Order expires after 28 days unless 'before the end of that period the Order has been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament'.

This Bill is a further encroachment on the freedoms not only of the trade unions in a collective sense, but also of each individual member. It shows how thin the veneer of our democracy really is, how the capitalist system is propped up and aided by the State. Legislation is necessary in the present crisis through which British capitalism is going in order to give the employers a weapon of control over their employees. Workers have gained considerable organisational strength because the economy has been run with full employment, but now we have not only legislation which takes away the right to strike for higher wages, but an economic policy which will bring about unemployment.

Those Trade Union leaders who support the legislation not only see society in capitalist terms, but obviously also as an authoritarian one. The Carrons and Coopers see

themselves as part of a powerful State based on coercion, while the George Woodcocks, being the liberals, think the State can rely on voluntary restraint.

## ALL WAGES AFFECTED

Ever since the Incomes Bill was first put forward by the Government, many trade union leaders, shop stewards and rank-and-file members have had a 'won't affect me' attitude, but the wage freeze has shattered all this. It should also be remembered that this law-enforced wage freeze affects not only national negotiations, whether settled or not, but also those that take place at shop-floor level. This means that bonus, piece-work rates, etc., will be affected and that employers can give the shop stewards whatever rate they like. The whole basis of bargaining is going to be undermined and this will give the employers considerable control over the shop stewards and the workers they represent.

Already disputes over settlements have developed into industrial action. The recent British Oxygen Company's productivity agreement is one that is likely to go this way, for workers have already carried out their part of the bargain only to find that their wage increase is now to be stopped. Even if the union involved, the Transport and General Workers' Union, does not take action, there is a strong possibility that their members will.

This has already happened at a factory in Slough where a negotiated raise for engineers has been frozen. A spokesman for the Amalgamated Engineering Union has said: 'This sort of dispute is cropping up in many places.' Many of these disputes will be small isolated struggles, but important nevertheless to the workers involved in them. This freeze is not what it infers, i.e. a standstill, but will mean a wage cut, not only because of rising prices, rents, etc., but because of cuts employers will try to make in those rates over and above the national agreements.

Obviously there will be breaches in the freeze, not only by workers successfully threatening, or taking, action, but also by employers offering extra money to attract skilled

men who are in short supply. These will be minor breaches and as such will be tolerated. However, the Government will act in the case of any major threat.

In many ways the crisis facing capitalism in this country is a reflection of a world-wide one. The system as a whole does seem to be heading if not to a slump at least to a recession. Markets are shrinking and although the war-gear economies have helped to stave it off, the threat is still in this direction.

## TOTALITARIAN MEANS

A number of so-called democracies are using totalitarian means they deplore in other States in an attempt to solve the economic problems. As in this country, so in others and it is the working people who will have to make the sacrifices. The State is increasingly assisting the capitalist system to carry on. Employers now welcome the intervention of the Government and accept State planning, subsidies, etc. Changes do take place in the system, but they are made, basically, to preserve it. Far from the State being the agent for the abolition of the profit system, it props it up with public money and legislation.

No amount of reform can alter the system. It cannot be abolished by a change in Government, but only by the desire and conscious effort of the people. Workers, because they produce the real wealth, can play a very important part in this. The present policies of the Labour Government show once again what anarchists have always pointed out, that the State is not a force for freedom. It is in the opposite direction that workers should aim. They should take power into their own hands and by organisation at their place of work should gain and extend their job control. Factories, building sites, mines, etc., should not be isolated, but should be linked up with one another. In this way the worst effects of the Government's policies will be defeated. If the struggles are isolated and fragmented, then workers and their job organisations will suffer a big setback.

P.T.

## POOR BECAUSE YOU'RE POOR

IT MAY COME under the heading of primeval economics to point out that the poor must, by their very position in our society, bear the brunt of any punitive tax measure, while the rich, even though from pure altruistic or patriotic motives they might wish to, cannot make any sacrifices. If one is rich then, by the very nature of that fact, one has unrestricted access to the material wealth of one's particular society and if, as a result of a lowering of one's income, you find that one cannot share to the full the pleasures and the necessities of one's particular society then, brother, you are no longer rich. For the broad mass of the working class, however, any rise in the prices of consumer goods, any extra tax or any lowering of wages by reason of unemployment, strike action, sickness or the end of idiotic overtime, within a matter of weeks means an observable cut in the daily and weekly living standard. This is not to be maudlin about the obvious but merely to point out the simple lesson of our economic life: that you're rich because you're rich and poor

because you're poor. Yet even within our national comedy of errors when sacrifices are demanded from everyone below a certain wage level injustice is still the order of the day. We expect, and accept, that the professional class will be allowed, with pained government disapproval, to rat on any national economic policy; but within the major industries that old 3 1/2 per cent. was held before our eyes as the key to a new way of life as sacrosanct as the tablets of Moses were to the boys in the valley. But disillusion is always there and a study by the Hay-MSI group has fulfilled our happiest forebodings. The Hay-MSI organisation exists to recruit men for the top jobs in our national economy and the report from this plush Labour Exchange for July 1965 to July 1966 has shown that the weekly pay packet moved faster and higher for the executives than for the horny-handed worker. Not for the struggling executive the mystical 3 1/2 per cent. but a rise of 7 1/2 per cent. in that period and this was accepted as the normal increase for men of their position within the eco-

# Freedom For Workers' Control

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## BUILDING WORKERS FACE A HARD TIME



THE BUILDING INDUSTRY will be one of the worst affected by the present economic policies of the Government. Although certain fields of the building industry programme, such as health and education, are not scheduled for a cut-back in spending, the general tightening will affect many other schemes.

The Selective Employment Tax will also mean that building firms will look very closely at the number of people on their pay-roll and a considerable amount of pruning will take place. This tax on pay-rolls will encourage a wider use of labour-only sub-contracting, and can further weaken the position of the trade unions in the industry.

In recent years the building worker has had a considerably long run of full employment, with the exception of periods of bad weather. But already there are signs that this state of affairs will not last for very much longer. A high level of unemployment in the industry would also weaken the union organisation which many building sites now enjoy. The Government's legislated wage freeze will hit building workers especially hard because when new jobs start, or when new bonus targets are needed, employers will dictate their rates without workers being able to carry out normal negotiations.

In fact the Government's policies are a heaven-sent opportunity to assist many employers in smashing union organisation on their sites. This is what Wimpeys are in fact trying to do on their huge Brunel University job at Uxbridge. Although the job is scheduled to finish in 1984, Wimpeys say that because of re-phasing and the Government's policies, they will have to sack a gang of scaffolders and their shop steward. Wimpeys say that the money for the next phase of the job is being held up by the economic squeeze, yet the stewards' works committee has made extensive enquiries of the educational authorities, the Government, etc., and have been assured that the University is not affected.

nomy. In a survey of some two thousand top jobs, plus information culled from the pay packets of over seventy thousand men in the engineering, chemical, transport, motor and food industries it was found that those men in the £1,000 to £1,500 class from July 1965 garnered a pay rise of 9 1/2 per cent. while the boys earning over £7,000 a year had to settle for a sacrificial average of 8.3 per cent. Whatever lesson there is to be learned from these figures you can reason out yourself but one point is blindingly obvious and that is that within this corrupt society of ours it is those men and women forced to work at those £8-, £9- and £10-a-week jobs displayed outside Labour Exchanges who, by direct and indirect taxation, daily bear the brunt of our economic burden and their sacrifice is not what they give but what our society withholds from them.

Workers on the site see this so-called redundancy as an attack on their job organisation, which incidentally has achieved very high wage rates and good site conditions. The action of Wimpeys is a threat to long months of determined struggle and so the men have taken strike action to defeat this attack.

On other jobs in London employers are generally on the offensive. On another Wimpey site they have sacked the Federation Steward, while on the Myton, Barbican, job, the firm unsuccessfully tried to move in labour-only sub-contractors. Workers on the Higgs & Hill site on the South Bank face the same problems.

Obviously, the employers, with legislation and the threat of unemployment, hold a very strong hand. They will now try to use this to break up the considerable union organisation that exists on a number of sites. It is at site level that the main struggle will take place and unofficial organisations, like the London Joint Sites Committee, can play an important and vital part in this.

This organisation of stewards and trade union militants will be all the more necessary in the coming months to gain support and to co-ordinate any struggle that takes place. Isolation must be avoided and every assistance must be given to those workers in dispute.

It is good that this form of organisation (JSC) is also growing in Manchester and Liverpool and that an unofficial monthly paper, *Rank & File*, is now being published. This paper can play an important part, not only as a means of expression of views, but also to give news of jobs in dispute, passing on information to other workers and imparting to others some of the experience and knowledge gained through a particular struggle. Make no mistake, things will be hard this winter, but job organisation and co-ordinated support by rank-and-file committees will ensure that building workers do not suffer the very worst from the effects of the policies of the Government.

P.T.

## Press Fund

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:  
WEEK 32, AUGUST 13, 1966:  
Expenses: 32 weeks at £80: £2560  
Income: Sales and Subs.: £1840  
DEFICIT: £720

Whitehall: H.W. 4/-; London, W.C.1:  
S.W. 4/-; Sussex: O.M. & D.M. 3/-;  
London, S.W.14: J.W. £1/1/-; Manchester:  
R.C. £1/1/-; London, N.W.2: M.S. £1/16/9;  
Oxford: Anon\* 5/-; Wolverhampton:  
J.K.W.\* 2/-; J.L.\* 3/-; Cambourne: D.T.  
4/6; Sydney: Sydney Anarchist Group  
£2/5/-; London, N.W.3: K.L. 4/6.

TOTAL: £7 12 5  
Previously Acknowledged: £697 14 11

1966 Total to Date: £705 7 8

\*Denotes Regular Contributor.

## Contact Column

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

**Mental Illness.** Will anybody who is interested in mental illness please get in touch with me. Box No. 38.

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

**Sickers.** Vietnam, Save the People, Stop the War, etc. 3/- per 100. 27/- per 1,000. Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

**Tourist Accommodation Wanted.** American woman, travelling in Europe, needs CHEAP accommodation in London for approximately three weeks in September. Prefer relatively central location. Would like companion for European travels. Garcia Davidson, 63 Winfield, San Francisco, USA.

**Megaton.** Aberdeen CND magazine, No. 2 just out with article on CND break. Order from R. Comrie, 288 Hardgate, Aberdeen (10d, including postage) or from Freedom Bookshop.

**Abolishment.** Campaign for the Abolishment of International Royalty being formed in all areas. Would those interested please write Robert Stuart, c/o 11 Goldstone Villas, Hove, Sussex, enclosing stamped addressed envelope.

**War Office?** Would anybody who owns or has access to a military-looking vehicle please contact Box 37.

**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. Poet seeks poet-cheap room in West London. Otherwise responsible person. Box 33.

**Event.** Would all those interested in participating in a lunatic event please contact Box 007.

If you wish to make contact let us know.