

### VICTORY FOR KING HILL!



COMMITTEE MEETING of the Friends of King Hill was held at Clock House Road, Beckenham on Thursday, September 29.

Following a joint report from the Secretary and Chairman on the current situation and their recent discussions with members of the Kent County Council, it was agreed to inform all members and supporters of the campaign that it had now reached a successful conclusion.

Our 12 months' struggle with, and on behalf of, homeless families in Kent has brought about a complete change of attitude on the part of the County Council. They have now agreed to the basic demands contained in the King Hill charter. Husbands are now allowed to stay with their families and we have accepted the KCC's assurances that in future no families will be evicted from the Hostel while accommodation is available, simply for having exceeded a certain length of stay.

We are satisfied that real attempts are being made (by the Children's Department) to persuade local authorities to fulfil their obligation to rehouse King Hill families, and in fact during the past few months the majority of families involved in the campaign have been rehoused. (Although new families have moved in.)

During the full discussion that took place some members showed that they still held reservations about the KCC's conversion. A motion was carried that the committee should remain in existence: (a) To keep a watchful eye on developments at the Hostel, and (b) To organise support for Roy Mills' libel action against the *People* newspaper, and that the campaign should be regarded as indefinitely postponed — rather than terminated. Throughout the campaign we have worked in close co-operation with the families in the Hostel. We have, we think, successfully combined conventional and unorthodox methods, including various forms of direct action, and we have succeeded in publicising the Kent County Council's attitude to homeless families, not only throughout Britain, but in many other countries.

The campaign has involved trials in the High Courts and husbands have been imprisoned for staying with their families, while we have had injunctions taken out against us to prevent us from visiting the Hostel. Nevertheless, it continued relentlessly until July of this year, and we are now happy to report that, 12 months after it began, the campaign has succeeded. From these discussions it became clear that our campaign had

brought about a definite change in the Council's attitude. There was to be a new approach in dealing with King Hill Hostel in particular and homeless families in general. It was suggested to us that, because of the proposed changes, the Friends of King Hill should call off their campaign. Clearly this had become the most embarrassing problem that the Council had to deal with. We were still anxious about certain aspects of the proposed changes (e.g. the proposal to run down the Hostel accommodation to 20 or 30 units—at a time when we felt the need for such accommodation was likely to increase) and we detailed our doubts in correspondence with the Council. Nevertheless, it was agreed to call off the campaign for a six-week period.

Following further correspondence, an official meeting was arranged with the Chairman of the Children's Committee, Miss M. M. Burrows, and a representative of the County Clerk's office, Mr. R. Jepson. This meeting took place on September 16. Three members of the Friends of King Hill attended, including your Chairman and Secretary.

The discussion centred on the two rules excluding husbands and limiting a stay to three months. It became clear that, apart from their natural desire not to lose face, the Council do concede our right to be concerned and are trying to meet our demands. We were satisfied that husbands (who, in any case, have been staying at the Hostel in force for the last 12 months!) are now to be officially admitted.

Although the rule limiting stay is not to be rescinded, after lengthy discussion, we accepted absolute assurances from the Kent County Council side that, in practice, this rule would no longer be enforced. We kept in mind that over the previous 12 months, as a result of our campaign, no family had actually been evicted from the Hostel, although many having nowhere else to go had overstayed the three months' limit. We made sure that it was clearly understood that any attempt to enforce this rule again would be met with the full vigour of a renewed campaign.

We would like to emphasise that the success of this campaign has been due, at least as much, to the purpose and will to struggle of the families themselves as to what the Friends and others may have done to help.

JIM RADFORD (Chairman)  
ANDY ANDERSON (Secretary)

# The State is your Enemy

AFTER the defeat of Napoleon the victors (and the smaller powers) at the Congress of Vienna signed a pact which 'guaranteed peace'. This, as every schoolboy knows, was the work of The Holy Alliance (although the Holy See refused to sign). Nevertheless the settlement arrived at preserved Europe from any general conflagration for all but a century' (Harold Nicolson).

From a *status quo* standpoint this is a realistic statement, because such revolutions and their accompanying agitations that took place in 1848 or 1871 were irksome to governments but after they were put down left the Powers with no less authority over their subjects.

The Powers did not wage war against each other and were free to tackle discontent within their own boundaries. Mass movements were either ruthlessly crushed or channelled into reformism.

When the Holy Alliance broke down in 1914 it not only resulted in the mass murder of the First World War (which is of no interest to governments) but the contracting out of one of its main props (Holy Russia). The main difficulty for the continuation of the *status quo* has ever since been how to accommodate a power that does not profess to believe in the *status quo*.

The Second World War, which brought the Soviet Union into the fold, once more left this problem (for the governments) still unsettled, although some understanding may have been reached (despite propaganda manifestations of the cold war) as the 1956 uprising in Hungary proved. The Soviet Union

was allowed to crush the rebellion within her acknowledged sphere of influence.

In other words rebellions that can be contained may offer governments momentary headaches but do not change the political map. Looking at it from this angle it is easier to understand why the Korean, and now the Vietnam, 'conflagration' occupy our consciences more than they affect those of governments. For us it is a question of mutilated bodies, death, starvation; for the governments it is merely restoring order within their sphere of influence.

Government knows that its greatest danger is not from within, because if governments topple whether violently or bloodlessly, another set of rulers will make sure that the State continues. Their greatest enemy is either another power that does not 'play the game' or a set of revolutionaries who do not wish to replace government by government. Anarchists come within the second category and offer theoretically the only challenge to the State.

But if one wants to understand the Vietnam 'problem' the first category has to be discussed. In whose sphere of influence is Vietnam? If it were within the boundaries of only one great Power the Vietnamese would have been crushed by now just as Hungary was.

The rogue elephant is, of course, China. China does not 'play the game'. It has taken on the Soviet Union's role in this respect.

For the great Powers the Vietnam skirmish is no more than an out-

landish disorder in a far-flung province. But its continuation could result in the Third World War which is quite a different matter. World wars, as we said before, frighten governments not because of the terrible suffering but because of the diminishing of governmental authority and the possibility of some fish escaping the net (as did the Soviet Union after the First World War and China after the Second World War).

All the efforts of world statesmen are concentrated towards this end: to bring the Soviet Union and China back into the Holy Alliance. The ossification of the Russian Revolution has now finally reached the stage where the Soviet Union can safely be trusted as a partner in this new Holy Alliance. This is the reason behind President Johnson's present offer of economic concessions to the Soviet bloc and also the sudden spate of conferences; the one in Manila to reassert American authority and the one in Moscow to reassert the Soviets. They must strengthen their own hand before they meet in the near future to carve up the world to their satisfaction at a new Congress of Vienna. And you can be sure that the problem of Vietnam will hardly be on the agenda.

If such a *détente* takes place between the US and the Soviet Union the encirclement of China will be complete and the long process of bringing China to toe the line will begin. Cut off from the rest of the world the Chinese may be ruled even more harshly or the masses may opt for anarchism in answer to the blockade.

What can anarchists do in the present situation? They should continue to expose and attack all sides who wish to oppress the Vietnamese people. There are those who say 'Peace in Vietnam', those who say 'Yanks out of Vietnam' and finally those who chant 'Victory to the Vietcong!' The first slogan unfortunately is no more than the continuation of the *status quo*, the second means Yanks out—Russians in! and the third Yanks, Russians out—Chinese in!

Exposing these governmental machinations is the important task—and if we did not present such a critique we would not be anarchists. Taking sides now can only mean compromise. But sooner or later the opportunity will occur when we can show our solidarity. Moscow Radio has already denounced the Chinese Red Guard as a hotbed of anarchy, the denigratory word that governments use for belittling opponents. But if, after the broadcast, the Red Guards looked up the real meaning in a dictionary? Or if those 'letters from China' that appear in FREEDOM really denote an active anarchist movement?

R.

## ANARCHY 68

DISCUSSES

### THE WORKERS

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## ... AND AFTER?

THIS LETTER has been sent to all Hostel Residents, past and present.

At the meeting of residents and friends the other day when the overall success of the campaign for a better hostel was described, the question was raised; what still remains to be done?

It was suggested that the main thing not yet tackled is the central problem of homeless families—what to do about getting a home.

There is a housing shortage in South-east England. There are long lists of people waiting for council houses and few homes to rent from private landlords. To buy your own house with cash or a mortgage is only possible if you have plenty of money.

The only alternative for many families has been to 'squash in' with relations or friends or come to King Hill and wait more or less hopefully for 'them' to do something.

But there is another possibility, based on the fact that groups of people can do more than individuals, and that is to form a housing association.

An officially registered housing association of eight or more people can borrow money for building or buying houses on more favourable terms than an individual mortgage, in that repayments can be spaced out over a longer period so that the weekly amount of 'rent' paid to a housing association can be less than the weekly mortgage repayment of an owner-occupier. If the association can obtain grants from the local authorities, central government or anyone else, the repayments become lower still, and you might find that this is a way of getting a house you can afford.

Since the non-profit-making housing society movement started in 1909 more than 100,000 families in Britain have housed themselves through associations. A group of families intending to form one can write to:

The National Federation of  
Housing Societies,  
12 Suffolk Street, London, S.W.1  
Phone: WHITEHALL 1693

and the Federation undertakes to send a speaker to the group to explain procedure, and how to operate and organise an association.

Of course, it is not as easy as all that. There will be difficulties finding houses and raising the money. What will people do while they are waiting for their chance?

As things are, the only thing that can be hoped for is that the KCC will let you stay long enough at King Hill to tide you over; but if there is a run on the space at King Hill, KCC might find itself in difficulties, and even attempt to reintroduce the three months rule.

It might be possible to get over this by the Housing Association buying a large house as temporary accommodation for a number of families. Co-operatively owned, it could serve as an alternative to King Hill for those who preferred to run their own hostel their own way.

I have written some longer notes about this idea for anybody who is interested.

There are people among the Friends of King Hill, and people known to them who would be prepared to help if an association were formed, either for a co-operative hostel or for permanent housing or both. They include a solicitor and an architect.

Meanwhile, having written this circular at the request of hostel residents, I would be glad to attend any meetings you may decide to arrange on the subject, if you wish me to.

BRIAN RICHARDSON.

Greenways, Knockholt,  
Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent.  
Knockholt 2316.





# You can Melt the Freeze

THE PAY FREEZE is starting to melt just a wee bit around the edges. Firstly, British Oxygen, where they are still talking and the workers are still being paid. Secondly ASSET's temporary victory with Thorn Electrical Industries, thirdly the shipbuilding package deal and finally the latest nibble at the freeze, Acrow Engineering Group, although the Government were a bit wary on this one because of the increased productivity. Stewart contented himself by saying that this was 'a special and isolated case'. But he emphasised that the Government would not necessarily take this view again, if similar payments became more common.

Mr. Stewart is attempting to make sure that printworkers accept the freeze, by issuing two orders, one requiring the Newspaper Proprietors Association (NPA) not to pay certain workers more than the July 20 level and the other on Thorn Electrical Industries.

The NPA has started to pay a 2s.-a-week cost-of-living bonus backdated to September 1, due to pressure from the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT). Under Section 29 of the Prices and Incomes Act Mr. Stewart must give at least 14 days' notice. In the

meantime he is open to representations from either side. Suffice to say Mr. Stewart is not expected to alter his decisions.

The NPA commented: 'Under the circumstances, if the freeze were to be effective, it seems that the Government had no alternative but to take the steps they have today'.

In other words the NPA have forced a showdown. They certainly were not going to have it with the unions on their own, so they paid, taking the calculated risk that the Government would slap an order on them, thus attempting to shift the fight to the Government and the unions. They can now sit back with the protection of a Labour Government.

This situation will go down in history. The good employers are the ones who won't pay and the bad employers are the ones who will. Some of the old 'printers' devils' must be turning in their graves.

To date it appears that the Government is in for trouble from the printworkers. SOGAT Executive Council at a recent meeting have stated that they are deeply concerned, and believe that agreements and contracts must be honoured. They go on to say that they will seek to continue to protect the interests of their members and state publicly that to do otherwise puts them *ultra vires* their own rules. The EC also states quite clearly that SOGAT has accepted, and continues so to do, the need for change in the circumstances facing Britain at this time but all moves must be, and be seen to be, equitable to working people, employees and professional people.

SOGAT is to seek contact with like-minded unions in order to seek ways and means of raising the standards of the lower-paid workers within the orbit in particular of SOGAT and other unions such as the T&GWU, and the NUGMW. It is also pointed out that approximately 70,000 of SOGAT members are on rates of less than £12 per week.

The picture at the time of writing is that all concerned are sparring for an opening, but sooner or later someone, somewhere, must break. Last Thursday about fifty printworkers met at St. Bride's Institute to discuss the Wage Freeze and the

printing industry. Most of the workers were in the lower-paid income bracket whose wage agreements terminated this month. One of the suggestions was, that SOGAT should ballot its members on the question of continued affiliation to the Labour Party. The opinion being that unions should be free from ALL political parties and government control. It was pointed out that the AEU still had in its rule book as an objective 'workers' control of industry' and in finality this was the only solution. There is to be another meeting of rank-and-file printworkers to discuss next steps. Since the meeting the 'Joint Sites Committee' (building workers) have expressed their solidarity and their willingness for joint action. This is excellent but it must be magnified throughout industry.

The time, if ever there was time, for resolutions and parliamentary lobbies are over, we have seen it in action. Recalling the St. Pancras evictions, the tenants were asked to elect a Labour council and their troubles would be over. They did just that, no joy! The excuse was a Labour council cannot do much whilst a Tory Government is in office. So, the tenants did as they were bid by the Communists, Trotskyists, and Labourites, they returned a Labour Government. Where are they now? Back to minus one. This is not being wise after the event it is the facts of life. Political parties have something to sell, they will give their souls for a vote. Blimey! How many times do we hear that hackneyed phrase: 'They're all the same once they get in'. Give them credit they do prove it by their actions once they are in.

It is reported that Mr. Heath moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson for laying the foundations for Conservative industrial policy which in comparison would mean rabid socialism to the present Labour Government.

Quite frankly there is only one course of action left open, fight by direct action, turn this shower out and see that no other shower gets in, irrespective of their political persuasion. This sounds utopian, melodramatic, crazy, irresponsible, but what other way is there? We know by bitter experience, leaders only know paths up blind alleys, there is no Messiah who knows a different path, history has proved this fact to be the cold hard truth. So what are we left with? US, you and me and the bloke next door, we may feel inadequate, but brother, that's all we have got, and common sense tells us it is more than sufficient.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

The Victorians not only demanded that the public servants that they were forced to come into daily contact with should be well scrubbed and of the Christian faith, but that they should be licensed and publicly numbered. Each porter, hackney carriage employee, policeman, railwayman, and what have you, carried his brass plate with his or her number plainly marked so that any infringement of the middle-class world's code of conduct could be reported by anonymous letter and the offender dealt with. It is an evil habit that has spread and now is accepted as a common practice by men and women working in factories and hospitals; for what began as an amusing American-type gimmick, of wearing one's printed name on one's chest, has now become the accepted and demanded norm in many large labour employing establishments. The viciousness of this licensing practice has recently been highlighted by the following notice issued to all Branch Secretaries and Representatives of the Central Bus Section and I quote it in full:

**PLEASE PLACE THIS NOTICE IN THE UNION NOTICE CASE**

Dear Sir and Brother,  
**PSV LICENCES**

I am instructed by the Central Bus Committee to bring to your attention the increase in the number of Drivers and Conductors who have received Police

## YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR JOBS!

Court Convictions arising from assaults on AND OFF duty, and who subsequently have had their PSV licences withdrawn by the Commissioner of Police.

Upon the withdrawal of a PSV licence by the Commissioner of Police, members CANNOT CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED AS CONDUCTORS OR DRIVERS, which must result in the termination of their employment with London Transport, if other suitable work is not offered by London Transport.

I must emphasise that a period of time (often months) will elapse before the Commissioner of Police will give consideration to a notice of appeal by a Conductor or Driver who has had his or her licence revoked.

Yours fraternally,  
C. A. YOUNG,  
London District Secretary,  
Central Buses—CAY/MER.

The viciousness of this legal weapon lies in the phrase that I have drawn attention to namely OFF DUTY. For this means that not only could a man lose his livelihood for brawling with his

# Freedom For Workers' Control

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## Mismanagement and Disunity

SOME critics of workers' control have based their objections on a false premise that workers would not be capable of running the factories they now work in. In answer to these criticisms one can give historical examples and, as well as doing this, one might also examine how, in fact, some companies are managed under the present system.

Outside a principled objection to the system of managerial control of the firm over the many, the lack of foresight in planning and the inefficient market forecasting on the part of the British Motor Corporation is such as to question their ability to manage. One can say that BMC played a hunch, did not make cuts in production and the gamble did not pay off. But surely, as the largest manufacturer of cars in this country, judgements should not be based on a gamble.

It has taken a number of weeks for the true facts of the BMC situation to be made known. The very suddenness of the first announcements of redundancies made many suspicious. These were followed by a further announcement of redundancies and now we are told even with 12,000 men sacked, there will still have to be short-time working and that BMC do not expect to re-engage any men 'at least for next year'.

This is surely an admission of bad management if ever there was one. Now Sir George Harriman, Chairman of BMC, says that there will be short-time working when only four weeks ago he said that this form of working would be inefficient. Whatever BMC was gambling on, it certainly was a long shot. They can blame the July squeeze, but long before this the indication was that car sales would not go far above the already depressed 1965-66 figures. BMC based their production on a 10% rise on this, while other companies estimated for little or no improvement.

BMC are known for being optimistic with their estimates, but on July 7 they were still in this mood and announced plans to raise production of the 1100

model. These plans were very soon cancelled. It was not until just before the TUC conference that BMC realised the seriousness of the position and that it was unable to build up stocks of new models as had been done by some of its rivals. There is no doubt about the seriousness of the position that the management have placed the company in. In fact, even though they are the largest British-controlled motor company, they could very easily be taken over by one of the bigger American corporations.

### THE UNIONS

If the effects of the squeeze were not bad enough, workers at BMC are also victims of bad management. Twelve thousand are to be sacked next month, unless some action can be taken to defeat the plans of the Government and BMC. Mr. Jack Jones, executive officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union has warned BMC that they can expect 'industrial trouble' if they go ahead with the sackings.

At York, last Friday, the unions with membership involved, came to the end of the constitutional road of the engineering disputes procedure with a 'failure to agree' and now the next move is up to the unions. Even when faced with a number of sackings of this magnitude, the union executives are unable to agree amongst themselves. Instead of facing a common threat on behalf of their membership, rivalries, bitterness and censure motions are the order of the day.

This is only to be expected from the union set-up in the industry. They all have their vested interests and are out to defend or extend them where possible. The National Union of Vehicle Builders, being a very small union, would stand to lose from 40% to 50% of its members if the sackings are carried out. With so much at stake their District Secretary, Mr. Evans, has said: 'A strike is on the cards. . . . We have to continue to fight to keep as many of our members in jobs as possible.' He is obviously afraid he will soon be back on the tools.

A reduction of membership on this scale in the NUVB would strengthen the hand of the Amalgamated Engineering Union in their bid to take over this union. On the other hand, the Electrical Trades Union is complaining because the other three unions have met the Minister of Labour, without their being included.

An approach has been made to Mr. Wilson to meet all the unions involved in the car industry, but so far their letter of request has only met with an acknowledgment. The meeting between the car workers and Mr. Wilson in Brighton was an astute move to allay their fears, but achieved nothing other than demonstrating that the workers are concerned about their jobs.

If there is to be any effective opposition to the sackings, there will have to be far more unity than has been shown by the union executives for while their interests are mixed, the rank and file are threatened by the sack. There is also the added threat to the union organisation in the factories. It will need all the strength of the present organisation to defeat the sackings, but while BMC are sacking men who are working on the majority of their models, their sports car production is being extended. Industrial action can defeat the BMC plans, if it is extensive.

P.T.

## Contact Column

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

**Couplort.** Lost from Aberdeen bus a two-tone sleeping-bag with waterproof base. Could finder please return. Carriage will be paid. Please send to R. Comrie, 288 Hardgate, Aberdeen.

**'Heatwave.'** No. 2 now out available from Freedom Press. 1/9 post free.

**Employment Wanted.** Girl (19) seeks employment, anything considered. Please write to Pam Hillier, 216 Wentworth Road, Southall, Middlesex.

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

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

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

**Accommodation.** Young couple (with two small sons) urgently need 3-room s.c. flat at reasonable rent. Willing to decorate, baby mind, help in house, garden, etc. Box 42.

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

**Situation and Accommodation Wanted.** Young man, returning from Brazil, needs cheap accommodation and job. Anything considered. Istvan Levy, c/o Freedom Press.

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

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

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

If you wish to make contact let us know.