

# Freedom

Anarchist Weekly **6d**

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## THAT OTHER WAR DRAGS ON

THE TROUBLE is, the war in Vietnam is not only dragging on—but hotting up. Despite the fact that the US military priorities are becoming more unwilling to allow journalists access to information and in some cases are refusing to let reporters near the battlefields, the war is still emerging from this bloody muck.

Here are some figures concerning US deaths in Vietnam up to March 1, 1967 (remember the war has escalated since then). Total dead 7,826—this year! The racist element in Vietnam can be seen from an analysis of the figures—Alabama 196 dead (overwhelmingly negro population), California many times greater population—(wholly white), Georgia and North Carolina have 200 and 228 to New York's 530 and Pennsylvania's 484. 'We are due to that winna ding,' said an anonymous Scot. Roughly translated that means 'the truth will out'.

Who are these dead? How old are they? Well, 1,340 were 20 years old or under, 178 were only 19. These age groups will probably be seen again when the British casualty lists are released in Britain gets involved. Note I do not say 'if' but 'when'. Peter Cadogan of the Committee of 100 estimates June 1967 as the date on which the announcement of British participation will come. He is well be correct. The time to begin the subscription campaign is now, not

when the call-up papers have gone out. And what of the people of Vietnam? As a result of the American invasion of the so-called 'De-militarized Zone' (DMZ), 20,000 peasants have joined Vietnam's refugee hordes, now growing by 500,000 per year. These 20,000 unfortunates will be sent to a government 'reception' camp in the Cua Valley, consisting of 200 tents. One need not be a mathematician to calculate that this means 100 peasants per tent.

But, for American capitalism, the war in Vietnam means business as usual, indeed better than usual. The General Dynamics Corporation, makers of the F-111 (soon to be bought by Britain) turned in total profits last year of \$8,000,000 dollars. 80% of their sales went to the armed forces of America and they confidently expect profits from the F-111 to reach \$1,821,938,651 from the early models alone.

The time has come when we must stand up and be counted. The futile and useless protests (with the exception of brilliant stunts like the Brighton church demo.) must be stopped and purposeful revolutionary action must replace them. Let the message of anarchism and peace be broadcast to all. Time is short and getting shorter.

Remember those refugees living 100 to a tent—There, but for fortune, go you and I.

PETER THE PAINTER.

## THE ENEMY OF THE STATE

ROME POLICE HEADQUARTERS. The Rome Terminal Station authorities have claimed 460 lire from the 'pauper' Gallieri Gianoberto, the cost of a one-way ticket for the 460 kilometres from Rome to Ferrara. The 'pauper' is also an anarchist and 'menace to public safety'. He is being returned to his native city, with a compulsory rail warrant, where he will be closely watched by the political squad and thrown into jail whenever a politician of any importance visits the city.

No, it was not taken from the novel *I Compagni* (The Comrades) by Monicelli. It didn't happen at the turn of the century when police surveillance and imprisonment were normal for anarchists. It didn't even happen in the twenty years of Fascism. It is, incredible as it may seem, a happening of our own days. It's the story of Gianoberto Gallieri, called 'Pinkie'. He was the young anarchist who, in the Vietnam demonstration, on April 12, put the police hydrants out of action, confronting them without fear, and taking the other demonstrators with him. The police did not pardon this action and a few minutes later paid him back with 'traumatic contusion of the skull and chest, curable within five days', then they arrested him semi-conscious

and charged him in court with violence, outrage and resistance.

But even this wasn't sufficient for the diligent thugs of the Via Veneto, and after fines had been paid, and everyone arrested released on provisional liberty, Gallieri was called to San Vitale where a functionary gave him the compulsory rail warrant. 'Why?' 'Because you are considered to be a danger to public order.' 'I don't understand.' 'Come, come, in every demonstration it's always you.' Alone, especially noticeable because he's not a member of, and not protected by, one of the mass parties, 'Pinkie' is now in Ferrara, asking himself why it should be considered 'criminal' and a 'public menace' to express his own ideas in a pacific and non-violent manner, and to take part in all the demonstrations held by Roman democracy against war.

(from *Astrolabio*, 30.4.67, *L'Umanita Nuova*)

tr. jws.

## ALDINO FELICANI

ALDINO FELICANI, founder and treasurer of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee, died in Boston, Massachusetts, on April 20. An article by John Nicholas Bessel about Felicani's connection with the world-shaking case, which culminated after seven years in the electrocution of the two defendants, who were philosophical Anarchists, was received too late for this eight-page issue of FREEDOM. It will be published in our next double issue (June 24).

Bessel reported the trial in Dedham for the *New York Call* (Socialist daily) and other labour papers throughout the United States, was publicist for the defence in 1920-1921, and handled the news about the case on the copy-desk of the *New York World* in the weeks leading up to the executions in 1927.

EDITORS.

# Nothing Holy about this War

WAR in the Middle East began officially at 7 a.m. this Monday morning and by this afternoon both sides have claimed that it was the other side that started the war. Gen.

Moshe Dayan, Israeli Minister of Defence, said that Egypt launched a 'surprise attack'. Cairo radio said that it was Israeli troops that attacked Egyptian territory. Israel claimed that they have already destroyed 117 Egyptian aeroplanes whereas Egypt claimed that they shot down 42 aircraft for the loss of two of their own.

The London papers are also fighting the war with great gusto. 'WAR: ISRAELIS ADVANCING' and 'IT'S WAR!' headlines compete for readership.

The propaganda machines are also working hard: 'In the name of our honour, in the name of our dignity and history, our present and our future, we are now fighting the battle of freedom' (Cairo). On Tel Aviv radio the announcer suddenly shouted: 'Long live our defence forces—long live our defence!'

This is the traditional way that wars start, with lies, with hysteria, and with every symptom of insanity. This war in particular is an old-fashioned war of ancient hatreds.

At this moment the BBC newsreel is adding to the excitement. By the time these words will appear, the public will have been worked up to enjoy the war as if it was a football match.

But the truth is that the Middle East has been carefully prepared for this struggle. An enormous amount of arms have been sold to Israel and the Arab countries by all the Big Powers who have en-

couraged their own proteges. Both sides have conducted a war of words for a long time. And now they are all unleashed, eager to fight.

This is the worst time for reason and sanity. Anarchists and pacifists will find themselves isolated. There will be a lot of hot, talk and persuasion for us to take sides. There will be a lot of pressures on our own comrades, whether Jewish or Arab, to join in the hysteria.

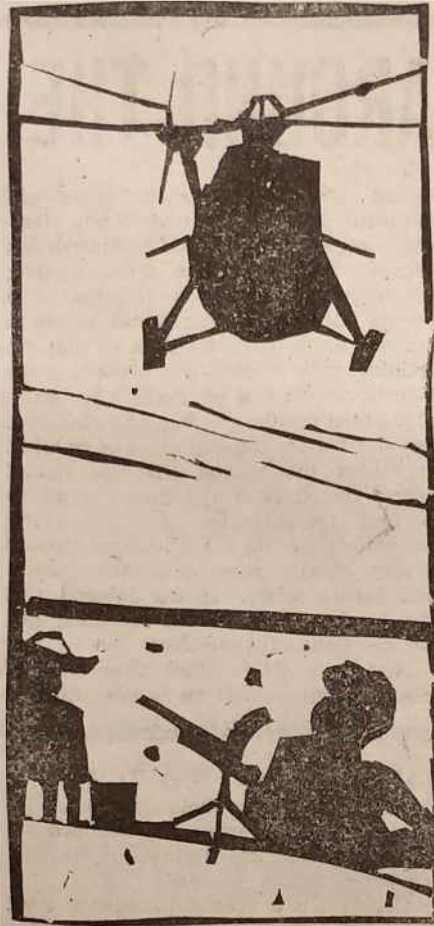
The threat of the Third World War looms larger every day. We seemed not to believe such a thing to be possible because we have been conditioned to think in terms of nuclear wars—which we feared but also dismissed at the same time. But war is still conventional and on that scale possible.

Those who are now locked in mortal combat are bent on their own destruction. Their enthusiasm for murder knows no bounds. Let us hope that there remain people in both Israel and in the Arab countries who will not be swayed by the war propaganda.

The harvest this year will not be gathered in the Middle East. Instead men will kill each other with the latest murderous weapons. A rich harvest will be gathered however by all those governments, British, Russian, American and French, who will benefit from this conflict.

Oh, the madness of men who will fight for despots and leave their dear ones behind!

R.



## Another Plane Disaster

I HAVE OFTEN thought that when an intelligent person makes an important decision he should at least be able to give reasons, if only to himself. I have neither the time nor the inclination to ponder upon the intellects of the Civil Service and the Cabinet, but I would like to know what persuaded them to site the Third London Airport at Stansted.

A Conservative administration investigated the Stansted area as a possible site for the Third London Airport. There was no proper investigation of any other situation, neither was there any consideration of the question whether London really needed a Third International Airport; one academic has proposed that maybe an international airport nearer the Midlands would be of greater use as not all the passengers and air freight are destined for London. Though do not think for one minute that I want to wish such a thing onto the Midlands.

After the popular election of our present Labour government, the congestion at Heathrow and Gatwick airports called for immediate action. Another international airport was needed, and as Stansted had already been considered the government once again cast its eagle eye upon this part of Essex. A public inquiry was called where the pros and cons were to be brought forward and considered.

The primary objection was noise. The countryside around Stansted is accepted as one of London's 'lung' areas; the noise of large passenger jets landing and taking off would destroy the desirability of this pleasant spot. This was not all; a considerable sum would need to be spent on soundproofing several schools and a countless number of dwellings.

Another objection to the scheme was the destruction of at least 5,000 acres of good farming land. This area, however, is only what the airport itself will take up; nobody has any real idea how much acreage extra housing for airport personnel, accompanying industries and services will take up.

From a geographical viewpoint the airport would be ill-placed. Transport facilities are negligible; the M11 passes some distance away, and the railway will need considerable development before it can be used for heavy passenger or goods traffic.

These and other less important prob-

lems obliged even the government inspector, who attended the inquiry, to report that the site had little to recommend itself above any other: that before any decision is taken it would be wise to consider possible alternatives; such as the reclamation of sand banks in the Thames estuary to be used as an airport.

He was overruled by the Cabinet. The government is said to be the people's servant. It's a funny servant who dispossesses his masters. The administration is blinded by the presence at the existing Stansted airport of a concrete runway, so long that it crosses a road.

This runway is inadequate for large jets, it will need to be lengthened. So what are the real reasons for building the Third London Airport at Stansted? It is just as good as any other site, except more money has been spent by private enterprise and the government on the facilities at the present airfield, than anywhere else. So really it's the question of a few quid, not the comfort of those people who will either be thrown out of house and home or will suffer from extreme noise.

To an anarchist, airports pose a dilemma. They assist communications with far-flung corners of the earth, yet they create a considerable inconvenience

## GENOCIDE SQUARE

THE LONDON Committee of 100 has decided to rename Grosvenor Square (where the US Embassy is located) to Genocide Square because of American actions in Vietnam.

The renaming ceremony will take place on Sunday, July 2, 1967, at 6 p.m. You are asked to come directly to the Square.

Posters will be distributed resembling local street name-plates with the wording *City of Westminster, GENOCIDE SQ., W.1* and after the appropriate speeches are made the new name-plates will be superimposed upon the old ones.

For further information please write or phone The London Committee of 100, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4 (ARC 1239).

to their neighbours. It is not impossible, with the engineering facilities available, to build airports miles from nowhere; such as on the Goodwin Sands, where they will disturb nobody except the odd seagull; even then I expect someone will complain. Science is to serve man, not to rule him, so why build an international airport in the heart of a thickly populated rural area when, for virtually the same cost, one can be built out to sea, away from population centres, with access to the major cities by way of a fast rail link.

NIGEL WILSON.

## THE GREEK FORTY-ONE

ON MONDAY the 42 people charged in connection with the Greek Embassy demonstration were committed for trial at the Old Bailey charged with riotous assembly (the charge of forcible entry and conspiracy have been referred back to the public prosecutor). The defendant, Morgan O'Brien, was discharged because photographs showed him in the doorway of the Embassy and he had denied that he ever entered. Bail was fixed at £200 per head except for Terence Chandler on whom was placed the exorbitant value of £1,000 of his own and £1,000 of somebody else's!

J.R.

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# On the Reduction of Art by Propaganda

FOR YEARS I have been wondering why increasingly I have come to view bad art as an atrocity no less than evil politics. Is it because art celebrates the most that certain men are capable of achieving and others of appreciating, and politics culls forth the least? Art because it explores and illuminates the human condition, and politics because it degrades man, exposing his wish for power, his arrogance, the psychotic indifference to the condition of one's fellows or to the very existence of mankind?

Consider the promulgation of op art and bad poetry and fiction (all of which reduces our love and longing for fine painting and good literature); regard

the contemporary irresponsibility—is it ignorance only?—of cleaning Rembrandts and Titians out of existence. Are such acts as inimical to us as the bombing of Hiroshima or Britain or Dresden? Is the intensity of our concern over the destruction of man's art as justifiable as at the image of a child with begging bowl in the man-made famines of India?

Further, does bad art flourish because our concept of man, of his worthiness, of his right to live on the highest possible level or to live at all, has been reduced to inconsequence by the madness of contemporary politics? And how does one reverse the scene? Is propaganda efficacious?

**THE OFFICERS** and men of the Royal Academy of Arts are to be congratulated on their choice of works for the 1967 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition now being held within Burlington House in Piccadilly. After last year's ill-received attempt to join London's swinging scene by crowding the walls of their artistic abattoir with the costly debris coaxed from the cellars of the Bond Street jackals, these old gentlemen re-learned their Court curtsy, shamefacedly re-adjusted their trousers, and once more made the Royal Academy an exhibition that any decent young Glaswegian could take his aged father to without the fear that the old man might throw up in aesthetic horror.

There is so much negative talk of class culture, so much documented and footnoted second-hand theories from the conservative left, that a class culture does not and cannot exist, that one feels that those who declaim that art transcends national and economic social groupings have never bothered to read the poetry or view the paintings of our times. A class culture is a culture produced by a particular class for a particular class and, as such, drawing for its social and philosophical contents on the day-to-day trivia of those who commission, both present and future, the mass output of the artist/craftsman.

It was for this reason that the working class found its cultural outlet in its folk-songs, its backstreet comics, its bawdy humour, its music halls, and the early primitive cinema, and when these art forms became a profitable medium for mass circulation the middle class middlemen not only took over its mass distribution but, through their second and third generation children, slanted this underground culture so that it reflected their own social and philosophical attitude to life. The artist can only work outside his class structure when a society is united in a common destiny that embraces all men in an acceptance of its agony, its glory and its transcendental inevitability. It was for this that the artist laboured as a classless craftsman in his medieval homage to God and King, and it was thus that the First World War, for a brief moment, produced a corporate body of painting and literature within these islands for, though a few individuals may have mouthed an uncertain anger, men in the mass accepted God, the King and War as part of a classless universal truth wherein in any man, no matter how humble or exalted, could publicly make his declaration.

We live in an age when, for good or

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

ill, all values are being challenged and the artist is no longer tied to any classless truth so that the good craftsman has become the second-rate artist whining for a patron, public or private. The buyers for the non-functional paintings are our monied middle class so that the training, with its economic rewards in the field of commercial art, make it an inevitable outlet for the children of a class that can pay for the leisured years of training. It is for this reason that we should accept the Summer Exhibition in all its po-faced sincerity for it is a yearly accounting by the Establishment (second grade) of how they view their present and future safety. If we demand that the Academy falsify these accounts, then we cry traitor to ourselves.

And here it is. Wall after wall of placid paintings that know not violence,

poverty or the cold grey mornings of the early shift, unwind from room to room. The successful political businessmen sit in their posed role with just that touch of ennui to suggest mini-majesty, sunlight dapples small lawns and quiet streets wait for the cleaner-than-clean milkman. The still-lives speak of the well-stocked Sainsbury's stores, and the children sit with trained diffidence within the well-made frames.

At its nadir the Academy can offer work as awful as Thomson's R.A. 150th Anniversary of Royal Yacht Squadron in which the artist has unwittingly succeeded in producing a painting so banal and incompetent that one was instantly reminded of those lonely childish daubs that one painfully evolved from the tatty magazine on the kitchen table, and at its height it can offer the magnificent paint-

difference? These reflections are in lieu of reviewing the series of plays by Euripides currently at the Mermaid Theatre. The intentions of the principles involved in these disastrous productions—Jack Lindsay, the new translator, Bernard Miles, the director, the scene designers, the players—are noble, I suppose; a contemporary way of impressing upon us that war is senseless and horrible. But *Iphigenia in Aulis* and more so, *Heracles* are fascinating works of art (whereas the 'message' is scarcely obscure in any case). As conceived by Jack Lindsay and Bernard Miles (and articulated badly by a cast of poor actors) they are something of the sort. Where did this strange notion—under which Shakespeare, too, for centuries and more than most, has suffered—come from: of peeing on art to make it better?

DACHINE RAINIER

ings of Jan Eversen. Yet here surely the tragedy of our times in that Eversen should waste brilliant talent in seeking to recapture a period that is no part of our present. His handling of light and shadow and his feel and realization of textures are unsurpassable, yet here he are, the ancient volumes and the pots, nostalgically crying for a dead past. In any other age Jan Eversen would have worked within a society that needed his brush to dramatise the spoken and cardinal and peasant, knight and grey clerk, would have deemed his work as part of the necessity of their time, but, when men hold that universal truth can no longer stand the test of reality then the artist must find another way or pander to the class that holds his pocket. Working class culture may not necessarily be subterranean for to do it is to kill it so, therefore, let us have the true faith, the bright vision and money, enjoy the Academy with the of superiority that earns us so many enemies.

ARTHUR MOSE

**ON SATURDAY, MAY 27, 50** of us from the Committee of 100 (Anarchists, Christian groups), descended on Corsham, Wiltshire, as guests of the local Christian Action Group.

Corsham is a beautiful medieval town surrounded by the military bases of the army, navy and air force. They are mainly supply depots and handle things as big as the Polaris missiles. It is upon the military that the town at present survives. On Saturday there was a small march through the town and a public meeting with a literature sales. In this way we introduced ourselves to the people, and if we were not enthusiastically welcomed it may be due to the fact that 75% of the working population work for the military and there is no other work available even if they wanted it.

On Sunday leafletting went on in the morning with a public meeting in the afternoon. All the time we were meeting people and had very good success with the students at the art college plus the young people of Corsham, and the surrounding villages of Trowbridge and Melksham being most notable.

To re-invigorate ourselves we found a pub with good scrumpy. The landlord, whilst willingly taking our money, made sure we were not talking to the local people by segregating us and breaking up every conversation we got into, telling us to stay in our own corner or leave (four locals joined us). No doubt

## DEMO AT CORSHAM

he feared that even if we could not persuade them to take over the military camps and use them for the production of beneficial commodities that they might well make a start by confiscating his pub to provide the necessary spirits for bigger things.

On Saturday and Sunday nights small raiding parties set out to talk to and generally keep the police and camp guards on their toes. It is surprising the amount of trouble a few small groups can pose for the authorities on a dark night. This went on from 12 o'clock till 3 a.m., and could no doubt be developed as a major form of demonstrating.

On Monday, the last day of our stay, most of the morning was spent on camp, getting to know one another better. It must be noticed that the friction between groups and individuals that we encountered on the Aldermaston March has now almost completely vanished and respect and appreciation of each other's views has taken its place.

In the afternoon we had a last public meeting. Then 75 of us marched out to Copenacre for a picket. This was colourful and went off very well with plenty of banners (the majority red and black). A few people watched, some joined us and there were plenty of cameras to

record the event. Special brains are needed!

This Demo, was one in a line that started this year with the Aldermaston March of Shame, May Day, Plymouth and Corsham. We have Southampton to come. Why not organise your own? Give us two months' notice, put it in the peace papers; we'll help and do if necessary. See you in Southampton on June 25.

Slough Sid RAWLINS

- Points for thought on this kind of demo:
1. Although national publicity may be a result, we make tremendous impact locally.
  2. At this time it is difficult to organise mass demos but there seems to be 200-300 who will take it in turns to travel up and down the country for this type of action.
  3. People of all persuasions seem to work and live together. What friction there was seems to have disappeared.
  4. As Anarchists we make up about a third on most demos. In this way groups as far apart as Bristol, Liverpool, Harlow and Slough keep in touch and exchange ideas. This is very much needed in the Anarchist movement at the moment. S.R.

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

1967 AFB Conference. Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1. For details of London venue and proposals for agenda apply to LFA.

**ABERDEEN GROUP.** Correspondence to Michael Day, 86 Rosemount Place, Aberdeen.

**BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP.** Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.

**BELFAST:** Contact Tony Adams, 11 Winetavern Street, Smithfield Square, Belfast.

**BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP.** Secretary: Geoff Charlton, 8 Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood, Smethwick, 41. Regular meetings at Geoff and Caroline's above address, top flat. First Wednesday of month.

**RESISTANCE GROUP.** C/o Birmingham Peace Action Centre (formerly CND office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.

**UNIVERSITY OF ASTON GROUP.** Contact: Dave Kipling, 87 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24.

**BRIGHTON.** All those interested in activities and action should contact Richard Miller, 1/2 Percival Terrace, Brighton, 7.

**BRISTOL:** Contact: Dave Thorne, 49 Cotham Row, Bristol, 6.

**DUNDEE GROUP.** Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar, Fife.

**GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE.** Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

**HEATHS GROUP.** Contact Stuart Mitchell at 46 Hughendon Road, Marshalswick, St. Albans, Herts.

**HULL ANARCHIST GROUP.** J. Tompest, 89 Fountain Road, Hull, Tel. 212526. Meetings 8 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays of month at above address.

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

**LEE LONDON S.E.12.** Anarchist-Radical Group. Contact Rodney Hodges, 2 Cambridge Drive, Lee, S.E.12.

**NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS.** Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP, Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Green-

ways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 23. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

**PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

**READING ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

**ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Eryl Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester. Fortnightly meetings.

**SHEFFIELD.** Contact Robin Lovell, c/o Students' Union, University, Sheffield, Tel. 24076.

**SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP.** Meetings every Saturday, Feltham High Street. Contact P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.

**NORTH-WEST FEDERATION**  
 Regional Secretary: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.  
**NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION.**  
**BUXTON ANARCHIST GROUP.** Secretary: F. A. Gresty, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton.  
**CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP.** Secretary: Anne Marie Fearon, 16 Devonshire Road, Chorley.  
**LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP.** Gerry Bres, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings.  
**MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP.** Secretary: Dave Poulson, Flat 9, 619 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, 21.

**EAST LONDON FEDERATION**  
**WEST HAM ANARCHISTS.** Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.  
**LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.** Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 82 North Road, Highgate, N.6. (Tel.: MOU 5702.)

**SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION**  
**CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Mike Gowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tredegar, Gwent.

SWANSEA. Please get in touch with Julian Ross, 11 Wellfield Close, Bishopston, Swansea.

## PROPOSED GROUPS

**ROCHDALE.** Please contact Richard Crawford, 4 Hargreaves Street, Sudden, Rochdale.

**NORTH EAST ESSEX.** Would readers interested in proposed group write to P. Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex.

**ELTHAM.** 'Sons of Durrutti' Group. Get in touch with T. Liddle, 83 Gregory Crescent, London, S.E.9.

**KILBURN, LONDON, N.W.6.** Anarchist Group being formed—contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London, N.W.6.

**TROWBRIDGE ACTION PEACE GROUP.** Contact P. Weston, 'Chivels', Butts Lane, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.

## ABROAD

**AUSTRALIA.** Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box A 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domafu, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

**DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** 52 Mindevej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.

**SWEDEN.** Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.

**CANADA:** Winnipeg. Anybody interested in direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Madison Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.

**BELGIUM:** LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Chastel, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclémiss-Liege, Belgium.

**EAST AFRICA.** George Matthews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from UK. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.

**USA:** NORTH-EASTERN MINNESOTA. Contact James W. Cain, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet,



# Max Patrick is Dead

WHEN I FIRST became associated with the London Anarchist Group in 1958 it was very small. One of the group of comrades who attended the meetings at this time was an Austrian, his name, Max Patrick.

On first impact he was irritating, he had a fairly strong accent and was inclined to repeat himself in case people had not understood him. He was always ready to give advice which also annoyed some comrades but I knew Max for some years and came to think of him as the most intelligent analytic thinker, and certainly the best speaker (rather than orator) in the movement. His ideas, more than anyone else's, I remembered after the lecture was over.

He often blustered, and got annoyed very easily, but I have seen him get up at a moment's notice, with no notes or preparation at all and give a wonderful lecture on the subject of money (a subject he jokingly said was very dear to his heart), or give a lecture when he was ill so as not to let me (or the audience) down.

He once gave a talk on Marx, Stirner and Bakunin, which was hilariously funny as he took incidents from the lives of these great men and showed that they were quite ordinary people after all. Max could have us in stitches and all the while he talked commonsense and kept a perfectly straight face. I always wanted to get him to debate with someone on Stirnerism but he declined by saying that he had read Stirner in German as a young man and, though he remembered some, he would have to read it again in order to debate with someone and this he refused to do, saying that the book was badly written and boring in the extreme.

Max was never appreciated by the movement as he should have been and towards the end of his life he only spoke (as he said) to please me, as he was sure that no one wanted to hear what he had to say. For you see, the trouble with Max was, apart from his Viennese accent, he didn't talk in clichés. He did not mouth the stock-in-trade phrases of the left-wing speaker. Because of this he was misunderstood to an enormous degree. People at his meetings often got upset because he had no time for protest for the sake of it, no time for irresponsibility. He called himself an orthodox anarchist and said that though his titles might change he always gave more or less the same lecture. He called for responsibility which upset the beatniks. He called for self-discipline at work and a fair deal for consumers from workers, which upset some syndicalists. He called for responsibility from parents in the upbringing of young children which upset the free child set. In short Max said all the right things, but he did not use the accepted words to say them.

Max had a strong dislike for Marxism and no one that I have ever known could pull its theories to pieces as well as he. As Jeff Robinson wrote a few weeks ago, Max was saying that China and Russia would fall out years before they did, he also made the prediction that Russia and America would grow less and less antagonistic towards each other. Max was not a prophet, it was just that he was very intelligent, very well read, and he had the power to analyse a situation. This power was never used by the movement, a very great shame.

He always bewailed the fact that no one took an interest in their work and maintained that shoddy goods were a sign of irresponsibility. He believed that much more mutual aid should be carried on in the movement as it is on the Continent, that this was something real, and much more useful than idle talk. He said that he had been very disappointed when he came to England because of the lack of this activity.

Max was not a champion of the working classes, and I think that he looked upon those of us youngsters who

were, with a certain friendly amusement. I can remember on numerous occasions walking home late at night with Max and Peter Turner arguing about Syndicalism, Max demolishing our arguments with ease.

One of Max's main interests outside the movement was Freud and he became fascinated by the man and his work. By chance, when he was an apprentice Max heard Freud lecture in Vienna. He told us how Freud would tell the most pornographic joke with a perfectly straight face to prove some point he was making.

He always insisted, however, that Freud, though he was revolutionary in his own field was, politically speaking, a reactionary.

When Peter Turner and I were taken on the Editorial Board of FREEDOM we got in touch with Max and he invited us out for a meal with him. We asked him to write a weekly column for the paper but he declined, though he said he might write occasionally. He drifted away and I will never see him again because Max is dead. It is tragic that his great talents were wasted, because he was the only real intellectual that we had.

JACK STEVENSON.

## FOOTNOTE

Max, in the last year or so of his life, was a very sick man for, before he died of lung cancer, he had suffered a severe heart attack.

In Vienna, he was very active in the Socialist Movement and when Austria was taken over by the Nazis, he managed to escape to Switzerland, using false papers. Being a Jew, as well as a Socialist, he would surely have been persecuted by the Nazis had he stayed.

From Switzerland he made his way to this country, where he was interned for a short time by the British authorities.

As Jack has written, Max just didn't believe in idle talk. He helped to run the Malatesta Clubs, but his ideas on this did not go down too well with some of the comrades. He was very disappointed when the club finally folded up, but was always very interested and ready to help anyone who was thinking of starting one up again.

I was very sorry that Max did not write for the new FREEDOM, because, as Jack says, he was misunderstood. No doubt, had he spoken at the 'Lamb and Flag' recently, he would still have been misunderstood, but he would have soon dealt with the interrupters.

PETER TURNER.

# Anarchists Converge on Chorley

THE Chorley Anarchist Group, with the co-operation of local Communists and CND, tried, what was to us, a new experiment in Peace Action. Nine fasters, seven of us anarchists, plus a number of supporters, sat on the steps of the Chorley College of Education from 6 p.m. Friday for a 24-hour fast, with a display of posters relating to the war in Vietnam. This was to be the focal point for further activities in the town, to take place on Saturday.

Friday evening provided some entertainment after closing time. The college is opposite the bus station where Chorley Youth, having nowhere else to go, hang about until the early hours of the morning. As we expected, we became the centre of attention; a crowd of young people came across to chat and argue amongst themselves, entertaining us in between times with football songs and general sky-larking. The police had not been informed of this demonstration but left us completely alone until the crowd grew large and noisy, when four policemen and one Panda car drew up and tried to disperse the crowd, many of whom nevertheless remained with us till 2 a.m.

Three of us spent the whole night on the steps, the others returning early in the morning.

On Saturday morning we showed a picture display made up from the Ramparts magazine's *Children of Vietnam* issue, showing children burnt and mutilated.

By midday we were joined by comrades from Manchester and Liverpool and more supporters from Chorley.

## Introduce a Friend to Freedom

IT WAS A QUESTION whether World War III or Sir Francis Chichester would arrive first. With the assistance of the Wool Secretariat, Sir Francis made it. With the assistance of British and Soviet arms, Israel and Egypt with its allies commenced battle. Algeria, Spain and the *Morning Star* supported Socialist Egypt. America was reported as having mislaid the secret agreement they made with the Israelis to keep the Strait of Tiran open, in any case up to the time of going to press there seems no likelihood of it being honoured.

NATO PARTNER, TURKEY, allowed Russian warships to go through the Bosphorus presumably to assist Egypt. Egypt meanwhile allowed an American aircraft carrier to go through the Suez Canal, presumably to assist Israel.

THE VIETNAM WAR paused for two days to honour Gautama Buddha's birthday. One of his teachings was, 'Hatred does not cease by hatred at any time; hatred ceases by love.' James Cameron, reporting from Tel Aviv, said, 'For all their posturing and demonstrating each side of the border nobody really wants to fight, and to carry their attitudinising to the point of getting painfully killed, as they will be killed, as we may all be killed, seems monstrous folly.'

A CANCER SPECIALIST said that if Alexander Fleming had patented penicillin commercially instead of allowing it to be available to all countries, Britain would be £1,000,000,000 better off.

THE ADVERTISING DIRECTOR of the *Daily Express* said that advertising in Britain was 'clean, honest and controversial'. He said that the British system of control of advertising (by the profession) did not cost the country a penny. The vice-president of the Master Printers' Federa-

tion told the federation's conference that advertising enabled big-scale industry to exist. It brought down the price of goods and enabled a sophisticated community to make its choice.

THE SUNDAY CITIZEN secured advertising from *The People* ('Your natural choice'—full page); the *Morning Star* ('There is a daily paper for Britain's left'—half page); and the *Observer* ('Enrich your family's Sunday'—one-third page). The *Citizen* has two weeks to go and it notes that G. W. M. Reynolds founded the paper to support the People's Charter. The *Citizen* further notes 'every once-revolutionary demand of the Chartists has been won'.

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, USA, ruled against a plea by Miss Helen Clay Frick that it was not defamatory (of her father Henry Clay Frick) to say 'that a man built a monopoly in his business, that he was successful in beating down efforts at unionisation; that he made extensive use of immigrant labour; that he cut wages; that he extracted the longest hours of work physically possible; that he broke the power of the union; that he was stern, brusque, autocratic, or that he caused a strike.' The judge did not add that (as Alistair Cooke says) 'he bought out competitors, bought into the Carnegie enterprises, cut wages in his mines, forced his workers to patronise his own company's stores, and by his ruthless suppression of unions, provoked the notorious Homestead strike in the Pennsylvania town of that name, in which twelve men were shot, some by Mr. Frick's own armed guards.' Mr. Cooke himself fails to note that this is the man who Alexander Berkman attempted to assassinate, and for which attempt Berkman served 22 years' imprisonment.

Although Pennsylvania state law carried a penalty of seven years only for wounding, six additional charges were added to increase the sentence. Miss Frick is considering an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

THE VATICAN PUBLISHED archives reports showing that Pope Pius XII kept silent on Nazi atrocities in Poland in 1939-42 because he feared persecutions against the Church. Major Reno who fought with General Custer at the Battle of Big Horn was posthumously given an honourable discharge from the American Army. The Board of Correction of Military Records decided to change the record on the Major, who was dismissed in 1880 on charges including 'brawling, making amorous advances to a brother officer's wife, and peering through a window at a colonel's pretty daughter.'

MR. MICHAEL GOLDSWORTHY, a deserter from the Navy, was granted a discharge on the grounds of illness in the family. Captain Howard B. Levy was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for refusing to train Special Forces (Green Beret) troops as medical aid men in Vietnam. He had quoted the Nuremberg Judgment and, giving evidence for him, Donald Duncan (late of the Green Berets) said that US Special Forces were aware that South Vietnamese troops beat prisoners. He added, 'Oh, there's no doubt about it. It was a topic of conversation, usually when the beating began you would turn away and light a cigarette.'

THE EVENING STANDARD carried an advert, 'Crime and Banditry. Distress of Nations and Perplexity will increase until the Bishops open Joanna Southcott's box of sealed writings... The Panacea Society, Bedford, England.' JON QUIXOTE.

# The London Campaign

I SUGGEST: that a concerted effort should be made by each London group in turn to organise open air or indoor meetings in their particular area of London. The LFA could then give the support of numbers to these meetings to encourage the formation of a crowd in the street, or the nucleus of an audience at indoor meetings and extra

curiosity, they may even consider the American idea of people singing revolutionary songs before and during the meeting, accompanied by music or just rhythmic clapping. Very important, in my estimation, would be the organisation of some form of relaxation after the meeting, perhaps a party, dance or gathering in a pub, the point being to invite all those interested by our activities in their district to meet us socially and as many of us as possible, the coldness of mere propaganda being an inhibiting factor to many people.

These meetings could be convened in a similar manner to our conferences, the host group to arrange accommodation if necessary, provide a platform or book a hall, see to refreshments, etc. It would be great if our big two-pole banners could be brought out, they should not be seen only at specific protests. Comrades could carry placards at the open air meetings with anarchist slogans and pithy comments on the news of the day; our speakers could be asked to cover the points of the placards again and again so that the passing crowd have a visual and oral witness to our point of view. Previous to the meetings, stickers, leaflets and posters could cover the area. The LFA could easily print these to apply to any district, the location of the meeting being filled in by the group concerned. An adequate advertisement in the local paper need only cost 15/- and would be read by a large number of people.

The groups themselves would, no doubt, think of many ways to stimulate

curiosity, they may even consider the American idea of people singing revolutionary songs before and during the meeting, accompanied by music or just rhythmic clapping. Very important, in my estimation, would be the organisation of some form of relaxation after the meeting, perhaps a party, dance or gathering in a pub, the point being to invite all those interested by our activities in their district to meet us socially and as many of us as possible, the coldness of mere propaganda being an inhibiting factor to many people.

May I suggest finally that this endeavour be called the LONDON CAMPAIGN and that we ask FREEDOM to publish a letter from the Federation explaining these activities. Under the LFA notices in FREEDOM we could have a box headed LONDON CAMPAIGN stating where the next co-operative meeting is to be held so that London comrades who do not belong to groups or militant out-of-town people can know well in advance that they are needed and welcome.

If all this publicity should prove provocative to the state (or other movements) so much the better! Let us bring anarchism to the notice of the vast majority of Londoners who never go near Hyde Park and rarely buy a newspaper from a solitary seller in the High Street.

BRONIA McDONALD.

## Yiddish Library

DESPITE THE CRIPPLING blows suffered by the Yiddish language—the extermination of millions who spoke it, the continuing discrimination against the language in the Soviet Union, and erosion by cultural assimilation in the West—there is still a surprising amount of anarchist publishing in Yiddish.

In New York the *Freie Arbeiter Stimme* (Free Voice of Labour) is in its seventies; in Buenos Aires *Dos Freie Vort* (The Free Word) and in Tel Aviv *Problemen* (Problems) are among those which doggedly continue monthly or fortnightly publication.

In Buenos Aires the Jewish Rationalist Society has an impressive list of well-produced Yiddish titles: Rudolf Rocker's *Nationalism and Culture*, *Youth of a Rebel*, *Revolution and Regression*, *In Storm*, *Essays*; as well as works by Malatesta and by Yiddish anarchists such as Gordin, Almi and others.

In New York stocks of Bakunin, Kropotkin, Landauer, and histories and reminiscences of the American labour movement by such early Jewish militants as Yanowski and Joseph Cohen, are offered at desperately cheap prices.

It is a tribute to the efforts, past and present, of Yiddish-speaking anarchists that it is still easier and cheaper to build up a comprehensive anarchist library in Yiddish than it is in English.

M.D.

## Subscription Rates

FREEDOM only (per year)  
£1 10s. (\$4.50) surface mail  
£2 16s. (\$8.00) airmail

ANARCHY only (per year)  
£1 6s. (\$3.50) surface mail  
£2 7s. (\$7.00) airmail

COMBINED SUBSCRIPTION  
FREEDOM & ANARCHY (per year)  
£2 10s. (\$7.50) surface mail both  
£4 15s. (\$12.50) airmail both

## SLIPPING AGAIN!

WEEKS 21 & 22, JUNE 3, 1967:  
Expenses: 22 weeks at £90: £1980  
Income: Sales and Subs.: £1449

DEFICIT: £531

Northolt: L.B. 4/6; Glasgow: A.J. 1/9;  
Vancouver: N.E. 3/2; London, Hyde  
Park: Sympathiser 3/6; Sydney, N.S.W.:  
B.D. £1; Essone: G.M. 3/8; Leeds, 6/  
D.S. 1/3; London, N.W.3: J.W. 5/-;  
Northolt: Anarchist Group\* 4/-; Edmon-  
ton, Alberta: J.H. £1/3/-; Sevenoaks:  
B.R. 10/-; London, E.C.1: T.M. 5/-;  
Cheltenham: L.G.W.\* 10/-; Bolinas: P.H.  
£3/10/-; Woodstock, Vermont: E.S.  
£3/10/-; New York: V.W. £2/5/6; Leeds:  
D.S. 1/3; Enfield: J.S. 1/4; York: L.F.  
10/-; Canterbury: D.W. 1/6; Manchester:  
R.C. 6/1; Boston: R.D. 13/-; South West  
Middx.: Anarchist Group 10/-; Chelten-  
ham: L.G.W.\* 10/-; London, S.E.5: R.T.  
£2; Oxford: Anon\* 5/-; London, N.20:  
P.K. £1; London, W.2: A.A. 5/-.

TOTAL: £20 3 6  
Previously Acknowledged: £485 11 0  
1967 Total to Date: £505 14 6

\*Denotes Regular Contributor.

ALISTAIR RATTRAY and  
A. M. FEARON.



# What Future for Miners?

COAL MINERS in this country have faced many a long bitter struggle in their efforts to secure decent wages and conditions. When the demand for coal has outstripped the supply, they have been urged to increase production and work longer hours, but when the industrial boom has died down, they have been faced with pit closure.

When coal was urgently needed, the miners gave up the five-day week that they had gained when the industry was nationalised. However, in 1952, when some of the old coal-using industries were forced to close, the urgently-needed coal became a

surplus. Later on came another period of heavy demand and the National Coal Board advertised for men for a 'secure job' with 'big money'. Only a short time after, the NCB was closing pits again. Time and time again miners have been exhorted to work harder and longer when coal is needed, only to be cast aside when it is not.

The coal industry is now fast declining, here as well as abroad. In West Germany, the Government has appointed a 'Dr. Beeching' for their mines. The well-known Borinage, in Belgium, is another area that is hit, with a third of its coal production being cut in the last ten years. The communist countries of Czechoslovakia and Hungary are losing economically on coal and complete reorganisation of their industries is expected. Only two countries, America and Poland, seem to be able to produce coal really economically.

coal, but because the miners are not extracting enough. The NCB says that over 20,000 tons a week has to be mined or they will close the pit within six months. With 100 years' reserve of coal and a pit which comes up to the NCB's requirement for mechanisation, closure is lunacy, unless you only think, as the NCB does, in purely economic terms. Obviously, if the output target is to be continuously cut, then even some of the economic collieries will be closed.

## THE NUM AND NATIONALISATION

In 1959, Will Paynter, then President of the South Wales miners, said: 'We warn the Government and employers that the employed in this country have the power to defeat their policy, and unless this policy is changed, it may be necessary for the employed to exercise their power in their own self-defence.' But Will Paynter and the National Union of Mineworkers have taken no effective action to defeat the closure plans of the NCB. In fact only in April, the same Will Paynter, now the General Secretary of the NUM, was ticking off the South Wales coal miners about their excessive absenteeism and the couldn't-care-less attitude. (See FREEDOM, April 15, 1967.)

Will Paynter and many of the NUM union officials supported the nationalisation of the coal industry. Nationalisation has meant that the old shareholders are still getting compensation on their investments and that an industry is being deliberately run down to suit other interests. The industry's modernisation is financed by the Government and so acts as a subsidy to private industry.

For those workers who want nationalisation for their own industry, coal illustrates that nothing changes for them. It has not given the miners any more say in the running of their industry. The union officials, as defenders of nationalisation, have not put up any fight against closures. They have made gestures, such as seeing their union MPs, but they have not put forward any policy of action to defeat the closures.

With this failure in the past, there is little hope that the leadership of the NUM will do anything in the future. They certainly will not take over the threatened collieries and run them for themselves, but surely coal miners should be thinking along these lines, especially in areas of high unemployment. In 1912, coal miners in South Wales produced a pamphlet, entitled 'The Miners' Next Step', in which they advocated workers' control of the mines. This idea should be revived, for it could bring the decision-making to men in the industry, giving them the secure job they deserve and help to create the climate to ensure an efficient and well-run industry.

P.T.

\*'Print, Press and Public'. Selected articles from FREEDOM, 1959, Volume 9, Page 22.

## STUART IS 21

July 10 is Stuart Christie's 21st birthday. Cards may be sent direct to Carabanchel Prison, Madrid.

Foodstuffs may be sent to British Consul, Calle Fernando el Santo 16, Madrid, Spain.

WE GO TO PRESS ON MONDAY. LATEST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF MSS., LETTERS, MEETING NOTICES IS THE MONDAY IN EACH WEEK OF PUBLICATION.

## Contact Column

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

**Social—Salford.** Manchester Anarchists at 'Lord Nelson', Blackfriars Street, Salford, June 24, 8 p.m. Admission 2/6. In aid of Greek 42.

**Manchester Poets, Musicians.** Meeting June 17, 2-10 p.m. 2/6. At International Centre, 64 George Street (behind Piccadilly Plaza). All welcome. For tips contact Dave Stringer, c/o Int. Centre.

**Hitch to Turkey,** or similar destination. Scruff-outs only. Ring Daphne Paulett, Orpington 26444. Any evening, except Thursdays-Saturdays inclusive.

**Accommodation—London.** Any kind of accommodation wanted from Aug./Sept./Oct. for anarchist-inclined student (male). No petty restrictions. Apply Paul Kidney, 1 West Hill Way, Totteridge, London, N.20.

**Accommodation—London.** Argentinian comrade (60, male) requires room with a family (some board if possible) and opportunity to learn English. Will pay £4 p.w. (approx.). Box 61.

**Printing.** Despite rumours to the contrary the Pirate Press is still in business. Orders welcomed. 116 Whitfield Street, London, W.1.

**Haroldic Designs?** Visitors welcome. H. Wilson opening Arts Festival, Hampstead, Parliament Hill Fields, 3 p.m. Saturday, June 10.

**Unfurnished Accommodation Wanted.** Responsible gentleman, thirties, exemplary tenant, requires spacious self-contained flat/house, minimum three bedrooms, central London, quiet surroundings. Maximum seven guineas inclusive. No premium. Could decorate. Reciprocal references. Box 52.

**Former Junkie.** Wants job and accommodation in London. Box 54.

**Accommodation.** Anarchist seeks accommodation in Camden Town or Islington. Box 50.

**Work Wanted.** Fairly intelligent and responsible anarchist (18) needs congenial job. Anywhere, anything considered. Box 55.

**Accommodation Wanted—London.** Two secretaries. Peace-loving, thoughtful, require bright flatlet; good cooking facilities essential. No petty restrictions. Wanted end of May. With easy access to town. Approx. £5 to £5 5s. p.w. Box 56.

**Accommodation Wanted.** Camden Town or Kentish Town area. Young couple, expecting first baby, urgently need 2-roomed flat. C/o J. Thurston, 103a Camden Road, London, N.W.1.

**Accommodation Wanted—London.** Accommodation wanted in London area for Finnish student for three weeks, end May—mid-June. Can afford £3 a week. C/o Lewisham Group address.

**Accommodation Wanted.** Anarcho-Syndicalist seeks flat in Hackney/Islington area. Box 58.

**Stuart Christie.** Willing to work in renewed campaign? Write Box 60.

**Whisper and Shout.** Invite singers/poets to join us. May 29-June 3 in Leicester and Dudley; June 6-12 in Cambridge; June 13-20 in Bristol; June 26-29 in Reading Area. Contact Dennis Gould, c/o 47 St. Albans Road, Leicester.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

# Freedom For Workers' Control

JUNE 10 1967 Vol 28 No 17

## PAY OR BE PAID!

TWO MONTHS AGO the Government froze the wages of 450 Midlands car delivery drivers. They had negotiated an increase of 15s.-25s. and a shorter week in exchange for carrying cars on their return trip to Birmingham. The Government slapped an Order in Council on the agreement and the cash increase stopped. Obviously the transporter drivers were choked with the situation and since that date have been returning to Birmingham empty. No pay, no productivity. The employers, the Longbridge Group of Car Delivery Agents (LGDA), want satisfaction. If the drivers are defying the wage freeze by their action, then they want them prosecuted under law. If not, then they want permission from the Government to pay the increase.

Early in May, Stewart, Minister for Economic Affairs, informed LGDA that, according to his Law Officers, the drivers were not breaking the law BUT, if LGDA paid the increase, they would be.

On Tuesday, May 30, the employers had talks at the Department of Economic Affairs on the subject. Again no joy, but the Ministry of Labour are to consider the matter and report back as soon as possible. In the meantime LGDA have written to Wilson asking for his assistance.

What a fantastic situation! The employers are now threatening to pay the increase and take their chance in a Court of Law. They estimate they are losing £500 per week, a few pounds short of the amount they would be paying the drivers. 'Rule Britannia' or not, working for nothing is a mug's game, which the car delivery drivers are not prepared to play.

### 'LABOUR ONLY' IS 'SCAB ONLY'

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION of Building Trades Employers defended labour-only sub-contracting at a recent meeting of the federation's southern region. The junior vice-president, Mr. Whittington, accused the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers (AUBTW) of adopting bullying tactics, in relation to the AUBTW's intention of calling a series of strikes on selected building sites to enforce a closed shop policy. Mr. Whittington referred to the AUBTW's loss of 10,000 members and of an income of £80,000 in three years and went on to comment that if these figures meant anything it was the falling away of the AUBTW's popularity with the rank and file. He suggested that,

because the union has virtually outlawed the practice of 'labour only' which many bricklayers find advantageous, this was the reason for the decline in membership. He claimed that high output for high earnings was discouraged by local union organisers. 'Long live the rat race.'

The building industry has one of the highest accident rates in the country through the use of inferior equipment, poor lighting, and hastily erected scaffolding. The reason for using inferior equipment is speed up, piece work, and bonus payments, which many 'labour only' contractors encourage, otherwise they would not be in the position to afford the enhanced rates that they pay.

'Labour only' is not the solution for indifferent pay and bad site conditions in the building industry; the only solution is strong rank and file site organisation.

Admittedly, to obtain this building workers will have to fight on two fronts, the employers' and the unions, but isn't this exactly what they are having to do at Myton's site now, despite a joint management-union agreement that the site should re-open? With changing techniques in the building industry, building workers will have to organise at rank and file level if they don't want to 'walk down the road' on a Friday.

### EQUAL PAY STILL A MYTH

FOR NINE MONTHS a working party from both sides of industry have been studying the question of equal pay and have failed to reach agreement. A report now goes to the Minister of Labour, who is expected to call a meeting of the leaders of the TUC and CBI, which means more talk, and possibly the election of a further joint sub-committee to reconsider the matter. Like the 'Ooslem Bird' they go round and round in ever decreasing circles. One interesting point arises, both sides have found a point of disagreement which should delay matters for years.

The CBI favours Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome which talks of equal pay for the same work, whilst the TUC favours Convention 100 of the ILO which talks of equal pay for work of 'equal value', the gap between them is enormous. Progress is being made, one step forward and two steps back, with all concerned hiding behind the prices and incomes policy.

The solution is in the hands of the women themselves. They don't necessarily need the dead hand of the male sex, which, let's face it, has prevented the implementation of equal pay to date.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

## Banned List at Book Centre?

A MR. MICHAEL HICKS, a militant member of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades Union, was sent along to the Book Centre at Neasden to fill a vacancy.

Three days later he was informed that he would be dismissed with a week's money in lieu of notice. The reason given was that the man had a bad reference but the management refused to show this to the Union, as they claimed it was 'confidential'. The Union thereupon called an official walk-out.

The Publishers' Association refused an offer to negotiate with the Union (the secretary of the PA is a director of the Book Centre) and insisted that Mr. Hicks be dismissed first and that they would not negotiate under duress.

The following morning Mr. Hicks turned up for work and was ordered off the premises. He refused and the management was asked by the Union chapel to honour an agreement to negotiate. This they refused to do, and sent for the police who escorted Mr. Hicks from the premises, whereupon Union members stopped work, held a meeting and decided overwhelmingly to come out on

strike. They have since then had talks with the Publishers' Association.

The Book Centre is merely a distribution centre for publishers, they do not print, publish or even write books. They merely provide facilities for about fifty publishers. At one time they had a Trade Counter in Central London which was convenient for booksellers requiring books in a hurry. When asked why they were closing the Trade Counter and moving to Neasden (where orders cannot be collected), a bookseller was informed 'Too many people are using the trade counter—so much for service!'

This followed on the authorizing by the Monopolies Commission of the net book agreement which fixes prices of books; since then book prices have risen, so have profits. Pergamon Press, run by that great Socialist, Robert Maxwell, MP for Buckingham, raised its profits (according to a prospectus in that great Socialist paper, *Tribune*) from £65,000 in 1962 to £506,000 in 1965. Mr. Maxwell's company does not belong to the Book Centre distributors and does not have the advantage of centralized distribution facilities.

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