

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly

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DEPORTATION THREAT IN FRANCE

ONCE AGAIN we have to sound the alarm following repressive measures taken by the French authorities against militants of the Spanish libertarian movement. This time, although no arrest has been made, an expulsion order has been made against the young Antonio Ros, on the sole pretext that merely by his presence he puts the security of the country in jeopardy.

This follows on the questioning of several other members of the movement living in Paris, and is regarded as a reprisal for the recent activity in London, for which the Group First of May claims the credit, and which had as its aim the denunciation of US aggression and a demonstration of solidarity with the four anarchists imprisoned in Madrid for the attempted kidnapping of an American military official.

These repressive acts demonstrate once more the connivance that exists between the French authorities and the Franco dictatorship. Since the activities of this group have never taken place in France, only pressure from the Spanish police and the reports furnished by them could enable the French police to take these measures against Spanish militants legally resident in France and who were welcomed there as political refugees.

In the particular case of Antonio Ros, it should be recalled that he was one of the 21 imprisoned in the course of a

vast operation against the FIJL carried out by the police throughout the whole of France four years ago. On his release he went to Belgium from where he returned a few months ago and regained the legal right of residence in France, where he again took up his profession. The expulsion order was served on him on September 16, without warning or explanation, and gave him a week in which to leave the country. His identity card, work and residence permits, and the card designating him a political refugee, were all confiscated. Apart from mobilising all possible legal resources to prevent this arbitrary measure we consider it our duty to arouse public opinion to this injustice and to the danger which such measures represent. We ask you to publicise this new outrage against the rights of the Spanish exiles, and to protest against this abuse of police power.

We add a renewed appeal for material and moral support for those who are suffering persecution under the Franco dictatorship and who are struggling for the liberty of the Spanish people.

DENOUNCE THE REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST SPANISH LIBERTARIANS IN FRANCE AND DEMAND THE REVOCATION OF THE EXPULSION ORDER AGAINST ANTONIO ROS.

COMITE ESPAGNE REVOLUTIONNAIRE.

COLONEL PATAKOS enlarged the toll of his Fascist dictatorship last week. To his 6,000-or-so prisoners in Greece, were added one in Wandsworth, one in Pentonville and one in Wormwood Scrubs.

The Labour Party Conference at Scarborough passed a strongly worded motion demanding support for a working-class revolution in Greece. At the same hour, Wilson's judge at the Old Bailey was sentencing Mike Randle, Terry Chandler and Del Foley. The irony is complete.

Terry (15 months), Mike (12 months) and Del (6 months) were the scapegoats selected by Lord 'Justice' Widgery from the 41 arrested at the Greek Embassy last April. Ten others were fined and the remainder conditionally discharged. After a shady deal, of which more later, all had pleaded guilty to 'unlawful assembly' and pleas of not guilty to the other charges were accepted. Terry and Mike were sentenced on the basis of their previous records, and in Mike's case a speech he made to the Judge. Del Foley's sentence is a clear miscarriage of even liberal justice and should be easily reversed on appeal.

SHADY MACHINATIONS

There was no 'trial'. Instead, the police offered terms which were accepted by the demonstrators. The complicity of State, police, judiciary and lawyers ('defence' and prosecution) in a sorry tale of machinations and double-dealing will be fully documented elsewhere. What is clear is that the prosecution were so unsure of their case that they were only too anxious to 'settle out of court'.

I believe the decision was a mistake. Terry Chandler's only hope was an acquittal, of which there was always a possibility until the decision to plead 'guilty'. In the event, this outside chance for Terry was sacrificed for illusory gains; the only people to benefit were the police, amply shown by their undisguised exhilaration after the deal was announced, in and around the Court on Wednesday morning.

CHARGES IRRELEVANT

That the gains were illusory is shown by the prosecution's anxiety to obtain a conviction on any one of

SET THEM FREE!

a dozen possible charges. They knew that sentence would be given on the basis of the action which was carried out at the Embassy; the form of words; the actual charge used, was not relevant. This is shown by the fact that the Judge, in passing sentence, did not mention the specific charge. He spoke of the demonstration itself. At the end of a hard-fought trial, if the verdict was still 'guilty', the sentences would have been substantially the same, for the same pleas in mitigation could have been entered and the Judge's mind would have been no less made up.

The police were unable to present evidence (all credit to the demonstrators, this) of any 'leadership' by one more than another; so Widgery, in his search for scapegoats, had to decide for himself who was most important. First he eliminated the students. Everyone knows that students get up to mischief—after all, he was a student himself once (did you ever hear of a student getting sent down for a 'rag' jape which would cost one of us two years?). The students, young and easily led as they were, had obviously been rushed into it in the emotional heat of the moment. Conditional discharges for them. Similarly with the others who had no previous convictions, or one or two of a minor nature. That left 16 people with a lot of 'form'. He remanded them in custody overnight.

It was quite clear, said the Judge the next day, that the remaining defendants were different from the excitable students he had dealt with the day before. They were not students at all; it was significant that many had several convictions for other political activities, 'which put them in militant mood and at odds

with authority... many had become persistent law-breakers, and were unable or unwilling to recognise that the public had an interest in the preservation of law and order'. In other words, the hard core. After that little speech the sentences were almost a pleasant surprise.

IMAGINARY 'LEADERS'

Terry went down because, said the Judge, he stood out as the man of outstanding ability and leadership. Widgery had dealt with one of Terry's previous appeals and had 'heard him argue a legal point in a manner which would have done credit to a barrister in the High Court'. He was satisfied that Terry must have been a leader on this occasion. Mike Randle was sentenced on even flimsier evidence. The Judge's only guidance here was Mike's other long term in jail, five years ago, for Wethersfield. His main ground for selecting Mike again as a 'leader' was his courageous speech to the court, in which, alone among the demonstrators, he justified and explained his action at the Embassy. Del Foley got six months because, said the Judge, he had a previous conviction for a crime which was not 'political'—i.e. office-breaking. (Despite the alleged fact that there are no political prisoners in English law, the Judge had no difficulty accepting the distinction!) This 'showed his state of mind'. But as readers of FREEDOM will know, Del's office-breaking was as political as his other offences, for the office was a Civil Defence HQ. Judge Widgery should do his homework better.

QUICK PROTESTS

The sentences brought quick protests from predictable quarters, and some not so predictable. The National Council for Civil Liberties condemned them as 'vicious', people shouted in the public gallery of the court, the Save Greece Now Committee pointed out the injustice of sentencing people on the basis of past record alone, and several of the other defendants stated their equal responsibility with the arbitrarily selected 'leaders'. More surprising and more exciting was the *Guardian's* editorial of October 6, which it published heedless of the fact that it was undeniably contempt of court. For anarchists, the spectacle of the liberal *Guardian* contorting its befuddled mind to condemn the sentences and yet not appear too radical

Continued on page 2

ANARCHISTS OVERTHROW GOV'T

AFTER FOUR MONTHS' struggle the Lord Mayor of Berlin, Heinrich Albertz, has given up. He and his administration were responsible for the violence perpetrated by the police against the students who demonstrated during the visit of the Shah of Persia, when Benno Ohnesorg was shot. The Social Democrats split in half because of these demos, the left wing in support, the right wing against the students and blaming the Government for not being strict enough. The right wing's predictions were correct in that student activity increased as a reaction v. Polizei and led by the Berlin Commies, an especially closely-knit group of former SDS members.

One of these, Fritz Teufel (Teufel—Devil), was imprisoned on June 11 as a result of his activities.

To celebrate his release an open air

festival was held in the Berlin City Centre, with love, wine, food, dancing and lots and lots of people.

Obviously Albertz could neither pacify the students nor solve the economic troubles of the city, so that the right wing, among them the First Secretary of the General Union of Berlin Students, was afraid of an alliance of students and workers.

Because of the pressures of the students and workers, Albertz resigned. While the party is still struggling over which right wing man the next Mayor should be, the community has solved the problem in its own way.

In another 'be-in' they are going to call out the new Mayor, Fritz — but they have to get him out of prison first, where he is at the moment.

OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.

GREEK EMBASSY TRIAL

A statement by defendants, relatives and friends present at the court.

THE IMPRISONMENT of Terry Chandler for 15 months, Michael Randle for 12 months, Del Foley for six months, and heavy fines ranging from £20 to £100 on eleven other defendants, was an extraordinary demonstration of injustice.

The judge, Mr. Justice Widgery, clearly stated that all were being sentenced on past records. They were in effect being tried again in respect of fines paid and sentences served. (Michael Randle, for instance, was sentenced to 18 months for the Wethersfield demonstration of 1961.) This is grossly unjust.

The judge admitted that all acted in good conscience in an emergency situation in response to the military coup d'etat in Greece. It was self-evident that Michael Randle was picked out not only because of his past record but because from the dock he made a sensitive and spirited defence of the action of all the

defendants.

It was apparent that in default of finding any 'ring-leaders' the judge, in a wholly arbitrary way, picked on Terry Chandler and Michael Randle in particular.

The trial, for us, is no more over than is the struggle against military dictatorship in Greece. We ask people to join with us in protesting against a travesty of justice to the end that the prison sentences be quashed and justice be done.

VAL DICKSON, BERYL ANDERSON,
JAY NIGHTINGALE, PETER CADOGAN,
RON BAILEY, JIM RADFORD,
ANDY ANDERSON, HEATHER RUSSELL,
M. F. SEAMAN, JUDY BROOK,
BRETTE CARTHEY, PHIL REDMAN,
AMY PRICE, JIM MERRY,
JENNY JAMES, DEREK RUSSELL,
S. BAILEY, MANNY BLANKETT.

'Save Greece Now',
c/o The Committee of 100,
13 Goodwin Street,
London, N4
(Tel: 272 5524)

VIETNAM: LEFT DEFENDS RIGHT

IN THE STRUGGLE to bring peace to Vietnam, and get all foreign troops out, no one has done more to protect Harold Wilson from direct attack (for his complicity in the war) than the Left of the Labour Party. The effect of the thinking and activity of Fenner Brockway and the late Konni Zilliacus has been to direct the movement solely against US intervention and away from actual British responsibility.

The Labour Left is aided and abetted in this by the Communist Party and the various leftist sects. The motives in many individual cases are, I am sure, perfectly genuine but the leaders are playing internal power politics with Vietnam as the excuse and the means. This is shallow, vicious and disastrous to the success of the campaign. It plays directly into Wilson's hands.

May I take two recent examples? On September 21, Iris Murdoch wrote what seemed to be a powerfully worded article on Vietnam on the front page of the *Listener*. In fact it let Wilson off the hook absolutely. She wrote (my emphases):

'Our government has been a false friend of America here. We ought to use our position of comparative detachment to make a more searching criticism of American policy and to make moral judgments upon it where these seem appropriate. Our government ought to dissociate itself firmly and on clearly argued grounds from the further prosecution of this callous war.'

The fact is that the British Government is not at all 'detached' from the US and the war in Vietnam. It was British troops that divided Vietnam into two in 1945. It was British troops that reinstalled French power in Vietnam in the same year. It was Sir Anthony Eden who thought up and promoted the seven point secret agreement of 1954 under which the US was to stay in what was called 'retained Vietnam' despite whatever was said in the Geneva Agreements just about to be signed. The text of this

agreement was later published and is to be found on pages 132/3 of Eden's *Full Circle* (1960).

It was then Douglas-Home and later Wilson who subsequently confirmed Anglo-American mutual aid in SE Asia. The basic policy is simple: US support for Britain in Malaysia in return for British support for the US in Vietnam.

In earnest of this agreement President Kennedy, in 1961, asked for Brigadier Robert Thompson from the British Army in Malaya (an expert of the strategic village idea). He went to Saigon with a Military Mission and remained there for about two years.

There is a British Ambassador in Saigon. South Vietnamese troops are trained by the British Army in Johore. In Thailand 700 British troops have finished building one military base for the Americans (nominally, of course, for the Thai Government!) and, according to my information, have recently started work on a second base. Hongkong is at the disposal of the Americans as a very useful communications link. British military and other supplies, including hovercraft and tear gas, are used in Vietnam.

This brings me to the second point about Iris Murdoch's case. Because she either does not know, or does not want to know, about the long and close involvement of the British Government in the war in Vietnam, she thinks of dissociation in an abstract and moral way only. This kind of dissociation is meaningless. Dissociation is a deed, or a series of deeds, or it is nothing.

To dissociate from the US in Vietnam is to go through the list (certainly much longer than any of us can know) of actual physical commitments to the war on the part of this country and terminate them physically. To take the most obvious example—so long as those troops remain in Thailand dissociation is nonsense. Then of course it is politically naive to suppose that Britain can dissociate with the US in Vietnam and re-

main in NATO, SEATO and CENTO. But then again the Left fails to make this simple connection. Dissociation is so many empty words so long as US military aircraft remain at Alconbury, Lakenheath, Mildenhall, some nine other bases, and so long as Polaris submarines of the US Navy continue to use Holy Loch.

To turn to my second example of how the Left protects the Right... People think that the Left won a considerable victory over Wilson in the Vietnam debate at Scarborough. In fact if you look at the Cambridge resolution moved by Gerry Steele its import is exactly the same as the Iris Murdoch article. It speaks very correctly about the complete withdrawal of all American troops and covers U Thant's point, the Geneva Agreements, British dissociation, etc., but again perpetuates the absurd myth that Britain is not physically involved in the war and therefore instances no physical steps that might be taken. So Wilson and Brown have only to make a few ambiguous speeches and get away with it. This they have done since the dissociation resolution last year. They will go on doing it and Labour Party members will be allowed to cherish the illusion that they have done something. The only one to profit from this exercise is President Johnson.

We can only get a breakthrough on the streets (for peace in Vietnam) if first we have a breakthrough in the mind. We, in this country, share direct military and physical responsibility for war in Vietnam.

The immediate conclusion is a practical one. It concerns the Autumn Mobilisation demonstrations fixed for October 21. The overall theme is the ending of British support for the US in Vietnam. If we can get this message across, first among ourselves, and then more generally to public opinion, we shall have done something of very considerable value.

PETER CADOGAN.

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IT WAS ONE OF those choices. Harold Wilson on *Panorama*, or *World in Action* with Radio Caroline. Now I rarely tune in to Caroline. Continuous background 'pop' is not my style, besides which, I long ago wrote off the Free Radio boys with the Enfield Parents' Association and the Freedom Group (the other one). But Harold Wilson would not only be politically dreadful, he would also be boring, so I settled for Granada and a dose of 'Free Radio'.

It was a surprise. For a starter, here was this bloke Ronan O'Rahilly, standing up there cool as they come and full of Irish charm, 'I suppose I'm an anarchist', I needed convincing, but I grabbed a pad, and made some random notes.

O'Rahilly: 'I believe in giving people what they feel they want, not what government officials feel is good for them or what they should listen to.'
Hugh Jenkins, MP: 'I listen to the pirates myself. . . I'm concerned about the sanctity and dignity of the law. . . we can't have the law brought into disrepute.'

O'Rahilly: 'The disc-jockeys have complete independence to say what they like. It's up to them, they're responsible people, I believe in giving people responsibility for themselves.'

Interviewer: 'I suppose you hate the Postmaster-General.'
DJ: 'No we don't, we love him, we don't hate anyone.'

Jenkins: 'All broadcasting, radio and television, must ultimately . . . be controlled by and responsible to the government. These people are a law unto themselves. . . (This appeared to be Jenkins' main point against the pirates,

'I'M AN ANARCHIST?'

frankly and repeatedly expressed.)

The commentator grilled O'Rahilly about the money he was making. Surely he was just in it for what he could get and all the idealistic stuff was only window-dressing? No, he replied. 'Most of the money goes back into things such as making films, promoting artists and so on.' He didn't believe in living luxuriously. 'Having a chauffeur to drive you around, that kind of thing. . . it cuts you off from real life. . . people can live like that if they want, that's up to them, but not for me.' One also caught a hint of a question: why the hell shouldn't an anarchist make money, particularly if he is giving other people pleasure?

They pressed him on the violence which had taken place. He pointed out that there had been no violence on the ships; in any case, the notorious fight where a man was killed had been a dispute about property and may well have taken place even if the radios had never existed. But this was not the real point.

The greatest promoters of violence were governments. 'Governments promote the idea that in order to get your way you use guns. . . they train you to use guns and condition you this way and nothing can untrain you as well as they train you. . . and you cannot divorce the two. You cannot say, well this is for your country which is all right and this is for yourself which is wrong. Most people will do more for themselves

than they will for their country in any case.'

'Governments ask for violence when they train people in the idea that the only way to get anything is to use guns. . . you see them on television every night. You can't fight violence by promoting violence; but governments and people who support governments can't turn around and say don't use violence.'

'A lot of people,' said the interviewer, 'would regard these views as very naive.'
'Of course they do,' said O'Rahilly. 'They're conditioned to regard them as naive, by the governments and authorities who control their lives from birth. But even if the ideas are naive, they are still right, and we still need a different type of society.'

One could spend all night debating whether this charming young Irishman is sincere, or whether he is only in it for the money. Does it matter? I think not. Even if he is the cynical bastard his detractors make him out to be, he's one of the best public relations men anarchism has recruited for a long time, so let's be thankful for small mercies. And if he is only on a bandwagon, let's be delighted that the bandwagon is anarchism.

The mercies may not turn out to be so small. Caroline has a wide following, and this programme, for all its lukewarm attacks on the station inserted to clear it of any charges of 'aiding and abetting the enemy', will have increased that following. It is a pity that most of the

intellectual willpower will have been watching Harold Wilson on BBC (maybe that wasn't an accidental piece of programme planning, come to think of it). But Caroline's importance is that it is preaching anarchism, not to the intellectual politicians but to the men and girls who never would think of reading FREEDOM or anything more political than the sports pages of the *Mirror* or the inanities of *Honey*.

The commentator remarked that 'a lot of what O'Rahilly says represents the feeling of large groups of young people who are dissatisfied with the society we have.' This could be true but unimportant; what makes it, if true, also very relevant to ourselves as revolutionaries is the fact that Caroline has set an example and defied the law. O'Rahilly, asked if he considered himself an enemy of the State, said that some of the officials he spoke to made it clear that he was very much worse, even, than that. So every day Caroline continues to broadcast it is a living call to young people everywhere to defy the law in the name of freedom.

Hugh Jenkins commented that Caroline, the only remaining pirate, is the last outlaw. 'And in the film, even the last outlaw ultimately was captured by the sheriff, wasn't he?' The prospect delighted him.

O'Rahilly deserves our support, however cynical we may be about commercial pop and advertising. His final word: 'I believe anarchy to be challenging authority. It's a state of mind, and a very healthy state of mind. We have to challenge, because we have to set up a new system.'

HAZEL MCGEE

SPAIN

NOT A SINGLE Spanish political prisoner has been granted clemency by the Spanish Government since the Civil War.

Stuart Christie said this on Saturday at the Conference of the Anarchist Federation of Britain.

'Only four political prisoners have been released on clemency grounds in Spain in the last 31 years—three Frenchmen and myself. No Spanish political prisoner has ever been given clemency. This is because there is no pressure group outside Spain making enough fuss.'

Stuart Christie estimated that there were now about 150 political prisoners in Spain of different persuasions from Basque nationalists to Maoists. The majority however were communists and anarchists. There were about 50 anarchists but it was difficult to be precise.

'Some were charged with terrorism like myself, others with "association with malcontents"—that is to say illegal propaganda like distributing leaflets.'

Asked about the suggestion made in a recent newspaper article that life in a Spanish prison was rather like a Costa Brava holiday, Stuart commented:

'It is—for foreigners. For Spaniards it is much worse. But conditions are in some ways not as bad as conditions in British jails. You are allowed to walk about in the prison yard all day—you are allowed to drink wine. But hygiene and food are terrible.'

SET THEM FREE

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was somewhat comic.

'People who break into Embassies,' they began, 'should not expect diplomatic immunity; and although a vote at the Labour Party conference this week shows that the political sympathies of the party in power are broadly aligned with the anti-Patakos demonstrators. . . almost any British citizen would prefer to be decided on judicial grounds rather than political criteria. But on this occasion there is serious doubt whether judicial criteria have been properly applied.'

'It was reasonable of the judge to conclude that . . . the demonstration . . . was not wholly spontaneous. But in

Stuart Christie said that ill-treatment of political prisoners was reduced by their solidarity and organisation. Prisoners are organised in communes for mutual aid and support—though the different political groups do not always co-operate.

'The authorities are trying to reduce the infamous name of Burgos by sending prisoners elsewhere — although Carballo (arrested and tried with Stuart Christie, now serving 30 year sentence) was in Burgos when I last heard. The main political prison is now at Soria.'

After Stuart Christie's report the conference accepted a proposal to set up a committee (c/o Freedom Press, 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6) to send food and money to anarchist political prisoners in Spain. Stuart Christie would act as secretary. W.H.

LONDON DEMONSTRATIONS

spontaneity is generally a recipe for far greater public disorder than occurred on this occasion. The judge selected Terry Chandler and Mike Randle . . . for exemplary treatment . . . on the conventional police court grounds that they had been "in trouble before".'

The paper continues to discuss the nature of their previous 'trouble', the Wethersfield action. 'This case, a classic clash between individual conscience and national expediency, went to the House of Lords. British society would be the poorer if the clash had not been provoked on that issue, and what was done was not so much justice as necessary injustice. If Mr. Justice Widgery does not recognise this it is time he did.'

If the sentences are appropriate to appeal to one more appropriate to the actual offence on this particular occasion, there ought to be more demonstrations. . . In a country where even a brief verbal interruption of a church service is apparently an offence, it takes some ingenuity to devise a demonstration that is peaceful, legal and effective. Indeed, pace Mr. Justice Widgery, perhaps only a professional demonstrator can hope to succeed. But when people cease to try, we shall be half way to Patakos's Athens ourselves.'

STRAWS IN THE WIND?

Certainly this leader is a fascinating exercise in liberal double-think, and an illuminating example of how liberals, bending over backwards to be fair to all, can in fact be sold a load of twaddle. At least Widgery doesn't kid himself, or us. To talk about devising a demon-

stration which is peaceful, legal and effective, shows how little the leaders-writers of the *Guardian* understand the nature of the State. We know, to our cost, that anything which is likely to be effective is *ipso facto* illegal.

Nevertheless, for a liberal paper, these are strong words. So were the terms of a letter calling for a rethink, in the light of the Labour Party decision, which they printed the same day. So was that decision itself. So was the (unprecedented) resolution passed by a considerable majority at a meeting of a hundred Hampstead liberal-labour types, on the Monday before the trial, which expressed 'solidarity' with the demonstrators and 'applauded' their action.

Straws in the wind, perhaps. We have noted before the strange unexplained feeling people in this country have for Greek affairs. Greek Week itself capitalised successfully on this emotion. The utmost pressure should now be brought to have these sentences quashed. We all know that Terry and Mike were not the 'leaders' . . . that there were no 'leaders'. The police must surely be aware that many of the organisers of the demonstration, by great good fortune, did not even appear in court. In other words, they got a random pound of flesh; they did not achieve the heart, because there is no heart to take. We are, I hope, more resilient than that.

Patakos must go. His regime must go. Regimes that support him must go. And all his political prisoners, here and overseas, must be released—either voluntarily, or by 'orthodox' pressure, or failing even this, by other means. 114'

Anarchist Federation of Britain

Temporary address, c/o Wooden Shoe, 42 New Compton Street, London, W.C.2

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.

Temporary address c/o Wooden Shoe, 42 New Compton Street, London, W.C.2. Sunday evening meetings 8 p.m. Lamb & Pig, Rose Street, off Gutterik Street, London, W.C.2 (Londoner's Society only). Oct. 15 1/2 Society.

Flower Power and Freedom Oct. 22 5 E. Parker
Ayn Rand, or the Virtues of Soliloquy Oct. 29 1. Harvey

What is Wrong with Individualist Anarchism L.W. HADHAM, c/o London, 28-31 Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13
KALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Ken King, 34 Norwood Road, Norwood.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

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1st Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald Lewis's, c/o each month at 13 Saversack Road, London, N.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

- AREBREEN ANARCHISTS meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month at 34, Dray's 143 Walker Road, and on Thursdays at 122 Booth's, 3 Buntin Road. Correspondence to either address.
- ALBIONIAN ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP. Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North Oak Road, Tottenham, London, N.17.
- BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Webb, 21 Cranborne Avenue, Barnhurst, Kent.
- BELFAST. Contact Tony Adams, 11 Winterton Street, Springfield House, Belfast.
- BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN GROUP. All enquiries, correspondence, subscriptions, etc., please contact Geoff and Caroline Claxton, c/o Bah. E. Lightwoods Hill, Southwark, Watley, Warrist 25 men. From Birmingham Press.
- RESISTANCE GROUP. c/o Birmingham Press.
- RESISTANCE GROUP (formerly CND office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 15.

BOLTON.

Get in touch with Les Smith, 74 Arnold Street, Bolton, Lancs.

BRIGHTON. Get in touch with 79 Coleman Street, Brighton, 7. Poetry readings every Tuesday in Archway 187 on the Seafront. Admissions is free and all posts welcome. 8.30 p.m. onwards.

BRISTOL. Contact Dave Thorne, 42 Colton Row, Bristol, 8.

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

EXETER ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Anthony Webb, 39 Cornick Lane, St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. One correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 138 Pennington, Harlow or John Barwick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

HEATH. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Pottery Heath Lane, Pottery Heath, Welwyn, Herts or Jeff Clowes, 48 Highdown Road, Marshfield, St. Albans, Herts. Friday evenings. John's Famous sex 'Anarchy and Science Fiction', 8 p.m., 48 Lombard Road, Liverpool.

HULL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact J. Contact 14 Durham Street, Holderness Road.

HULL INDIVIDUALIST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact J. Contact 14 Durham Street, Holderness Road, Hull, Yorks.

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

LEINGTON, LONDON. Next meeting at the General Post office, Colindale Avenue Road (near Epping Road), 8 p.m. Friday, October 15.

KILBURN, LONDON. Contact Andrew Dewar, 18 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London, N.W.5. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND. Group meets, the first Monday in each month 7.15 p.m. at 91 Brook Street, Tottenham, Knights, Tottenham, Fins. For further information write to: 'Anarchy', Maypole Road, Tipton, Staffs.

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Estery, Ashby Street, Bath, or contact J. Contact 11 St. James Street, Wells.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Br. Newington, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenway, Knockholt, Faversham, Kent. Contact J. Contact 11 St. James Street, Wells.

PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Con-

tact J. Hill, 79 Underdale, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

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

ROCHEFOLD. Please contact Richard Crawford, 44 Langford Street, Southend, Rochdale, Lancs.

ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Eryl Davis, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester, Kent.

SLOUGH ANARCHIST GROUP AND 'HIPPI' GROUP. Contact B. P. Norcott, 116 Lower Coppensham Lane, Slough, Bucks. Meetings every 2nd Friday.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX ANARCHIST GROUP. We would love to hear from fellow-anarchists in Essex. Enquiries to M. Powell, 3 Lingroff, Basildon, Essex.

SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP meets alternate Thursdays and Saturdays, on East Pie Island. Contact P. J. Clancy, 36 Norman Avenue, Harworth, Middlesex.

ST. ALBANS PLACE ACTION GROUP. Contact P. Weston, Chisle, Both Lane, Kent, Tonbridge, Wiltshire. Meetings every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. Friends' Meeting House (opp. Bus Station), Tonbridge.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Regional Secretary, Alastair Batters, 35a Devonshire Road, Salford, Lancs.

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. BUXTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary, P. A. Greer, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Alastair T. Batters, 35a Devonshire Road, Salford, Lancs.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP AND 'HIPPI' MOVEMENT. Gerry Rose, 16 Paulkings Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly 'Freedom' Salon—Free Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Tony Preston, 9 Island Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to: J. Contact 111 King Edwards Road, Brynmill, Swansea.

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, E. North Road, Highgate, N.6 (Tel.:

PROPOSED GROUPS

MUCH HADHAM, HERTS. Get in touch with Colin Morton, High Street, Much Hadham, Herts.

SHREFFIELD RADICAL GROUP. Contact S.K.G., 31 Harcourt Hill, Sheffield, 10.

LONDON: NOTTING HILL. Please get in touch with John Bennett and Marilyn Paddy, Flat 4, 38 Clarendon Road, London, W.11. Tel: 01-9745.

TORONTO, CANADA. Any Torontoites interested in anarchism please contact: James Patakos, 108 Silverhill Drive, Ingleton, Ontario, Canada.

S.W. LONDON. Syndicalists, Anarchists, Fascists and Libertarian-Socialists wanted to form S.W. London Libertarians. Correspondence to: Martin Page, 15 Thurston Avenue, London, S.W.18.

S.W. EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS. Please contact: Tom Deane, 100 West End Moor, Wimborne, Dorset, EN 289 3388.

CORNWALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact A. C. Jacob, 16 East Hill, St. Austell, Cornwall, MOU 379/1.

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box 130, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 2 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION, Gothergade 27, Viborg, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact James Tarek, 600 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel. 567-2693.

USA: VERMONT. New Hampshire Anarchist group. Meets weekly — discussion — individual action. Contact: Hal Strauss at RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont, 057-2151, USA.

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

CANADA: Winnipeg. Anyone interested in Direct action/anarchy in the Domain, 2 p.m. Madison Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.

BRUGMUS, LIège. Provo, c/o Jacques Charlier, 118 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclayn-Liège, Belgium.

EAST AFRICA. George Mathews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from USA. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.

USA: NORTH MINNESOTA. Contact James W. Cain, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minn. 55720, USA.

GROUP: MELBOURNE. Australian Anarchist c/o Melbourne University Union or A.R. Giles, Peters, c/o same.

A Living Corpse

IT IS WITH deep regret that we have to announce the death of the Labour Party after a long and painful illness. She will be buried with appropriate ceremony on Sunday, October 1, 1967, on the beach at Scarborough. So ran Jim Radford's ad in *The Times*. A 'Clergyman', pallbearers in top hats, mourners with flowers, a wreath and widow's weeds, musicians to play the dirge travelled up from London and Cambridge in two vans to perform an overdue burial.

Before assembling outside the delegate's seafront hotel, a dozen of us made our way past testy cops and waiting cameramen into the Central Methodist Hall, taking up pews mid-service with a direct view of Wilson, Brown, Stewart, etc. Frequent glances our way reminded us that tough men in power suffer common human anxieties. We stared, laughed, and tape recorded the Minister of God's advice to the Ministers of the Crown for future playback. Interruptions were unnecessary with Brighton evidently so fresh in their memories. As we left we were encircled by plain-clothes (of both sexes), four of whom tailed us round the town until put off by our photographer.

Early afternoon a grave was dug on the beach and a small crowd listened to Stan Banks denouncing Labour's complicity in the Vietnam war, behind him a banner with legend '4 million dead, 2 million buried and wounded children in Vietnam'. After a slow procession through near empty streets behind our Labour Party RIP banner, we returned to the beach where a much larger crowd including a dozen press photographers was waiting for the last rites. Ceremonies continued with Peter Cadogan reviving the long-betrayed policies of the British Labour Party and after each dated a wail the pallbearers rhabarbed. Then, with a skilful adaptation of the Book of Com-

mon Prayer, Jim Radford paid tribute to the corpse of the Labour Party. As the coffin was lowered to rest, draped in Stars and Stripes and a much smaller Union Jack, 'Vietnam' dollar bills fluttered into the grave. The press cameramen, doing their best to stage manage the occasion, took their human interest pictures. Joss sticks were lit over the grave. The ceremony over, an unsuccessful attempt was made to involve the spectators by offering them the mike. Apparently only one person had views on the decease of the party. 'Don't go now Jack', a woman was heard to say, 'I want to see if there is anything in the coffin'. Someone else asked if it was a Punch and Judy show.

Had we made our point as we might have? During the afternoon we realised that, entertained as the spectators were, few of them understood why we were burying the Labour Party. Half the trouble was in the choice of happening: a burial. Ceremony could only convey the 'special relationship' between Britain and the USA through crude symbolism. So our happening had to be supplemented by speeches. But the happening was all the TV programmes featured and all the spectators were really curious about. Press coverage predictably was mean as ever, gave credits to CND and omitted any mention that we were burying Wilson and the betrayal of Socialism.

When Peter Cadogan offered the mike to one and all and only one person responded, exasperation got the better of me. Switching the tape recorder on close to the mike, I played two minutes of vampire laughter as a warning of more sinister attacks to come on the body politic.

Afterthought: We should have gone to Stockport not Scarborough.

G.G.

CHRISTIE AND THE SCOTTISH DAILY EXPRESS

THE SCOTTISH *Daily Express* had planned, from the time of Stuart Christie's imprisonment, by using every sentimental device, to present the eventual homecoming of a repentant youth to his granny and mother. With hypocritical concern, their plans went into operation on Monday, September 17, with the announcement that Stuart was to be released. The victims in this plot were principally his mother and later on his grandmother. *The men from the 'Scottish Daily Express', who were primarily involved, are Ian Brown, Wilson Russell, James Hastie and David Sharp.*

We now summarise the events the *Daily Express* were chiefly involved in during the week of Stuart's homecoming. *Express* reporters invaded Stuart's grandmother's home; slept in chairs, made food and walked in and out at will. As a result of these uninvited 'guests', Mrs. Scott was unable to undress for bed for the several days of their stay. They even went as far as accompanying her to a neighbour's house. All this was to prevent any other press men getting near her.

During the week prior to Stuart's release the public were fed lies about

Stuart singing hymns in prison (the only hymn he sang was the 'Internationale'), and his wanting to get up into the Scottish glens. All this was in preparation for the return of 'a good little boy with mummy' to 'see his poor, auld granny'. Such is the contempt the *Express* has for its readers.

When the *Express* found out that Stuart had no intention of returning to Glasgow immediately, from London, he was threatened with the publication of a story about 'poor granny waiting in vain'. To prepare this, they had 'imprisoned' her in their Glasgow office for three hours in order to exhort distressed quotes from her. To get her in a state of apprehension they began by saying: 'We have bad news for you!' The public now knows the background to the 'sob' story in the *Express* of Friday, September 22.

On the journey from Madrid, the *Express's* hypocritical concern that mother and son should be together, was shown up for its worth, by the fact that they attempted to split Stuart from her by offering him a first-class plane ticket. (The British Embassy paid his fare home.)

The deciding factor in Stuart's decision to remain in London was the discovery that the 'waiting plane' was full of press vultures, with the *Express* well to the fore, stage-managing the final leg of the 'sentimental journey home to grandmother'.

Fortunately Stuart was rescued from the clutches of the *Express* by his Anarchist friends. But the *Express* men—reporters or hired thugs—not to be beaten, tailed the car through the back streets of North London till they lost them. At one point they even tried to bribe the driver of the Anarchists car not to lose them.

Having lost their 'scoop', and by now the laughing stock of Fleet Street, the *Scottish Daily Express* produced a feature article on Friday, 22, entitled 'The Hidden Thoughts Of Christie'. Their line had now changed from wishy-washy humbug to vicious attack.

And now, to try and maintain their prestige, they are attempting to get Mrs. Christie to denounce Stuart, presumably by stating that she was horrified by his confession of guilt and sorry she had fought for his release.

Finally a piece of evidence of the *Express's* fly, snidly cunning. Up until Stuart 'ditched' them, his mother was presented as a widow. Widow and son suited their sentimental line. But after the rebuff to the *Express* his stepfather

'The Estate Agents Gang-up on Sharks'—S. Mirror

THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE at Scarborough disapproved of the Party's help for Johnson in Vietnam, deplored the new Greek Government and the Party's economic policy. Mr. Brown for the Labour Party Government assured President Johnson of a continuation of our Vietnam support. Mr. Justice Widgery sentenced Terry Chandler, Mike Randle and Del Foley for actively deploring the Greek Government and Lord Robens of Aberfan bribed the miners with delayed sackings and they supported the Party's economic policy. Jim Radford organized a symbolic burial for the Labour Party at Scarborough and Lord Attlee (one of the architects of the A-bomb decision and the Potsdam agreement), died in the flesh.

SIR NORMAN ANGELL, author of *The Great Illusion* (written in 1909 to prove the futility of war), died at the age of 93. The Israelis started to set up three villages in Syria and West Bank, Jordan, one on the site of a former kibbutz which they lost in 1948.

THE DAILY MAIL points out that the civil service is now renting over one quarter of a million square feet of extra office space in the Greater London area, all acquired since the setting up, by the Government, of the Location of Offices bureau four years ago whose mission was to urge (from its London headquarters) organizations and firms to move out of London.

THE DAILY EXPRESS, in a leader, praises the organizers of a marathon bible reading in Trafalgar Square. It says 'it is inevitable that people will return, sooner or later, to the Bible'. Its 'Talking Point' for the day, immediately underneath the leader is a quotation from Sir William

Drummond: 'He that does not reason is a slave.'

AFTER ITS FORAY into revolutionary anarchism the *People* reassures its public by extolling the Queen-Mother's talents as a horse-race tipster. It denounces 'phony' fortune-tellers but advertises its own astrologer Lyndoe's calendar of predictions (for 3/6 plus postage) and for 3/6 one may have a month-by-month review of affairs up to your birthday in 1968. Fortunately the Press Council rejected a complaint against the *People* regarding the conduct of one of its reporters, who was said to have continually harassed an osteopath for an interview and exercised undue pressure in the form of a spurious patient. The complaint came from the British Naturopathic and Osteopathic Association.

PERSIAN GIPSIES camped in a 200-yard strip of no-man's-land between West Germany and Czechoslovakia. The Germans do not want them and the Czechoslovaks will not let them back in. In Britain gipsies and tinkers at Brownhills, Staffordshire, successfully, for a while, defied the efforts of police to move them from a site. However private inquiry agents are to be hired.

FOLLOWING Jim Radford and Nicolas Walter's report on Brixton prison (see *Peace News*, 6.10.67) certain unspecified improvements are to be made. According to the *Sketch* (25.9.67) the Home Secretary has told prison governors to be less formal in writing to prisoners' relatives. 'He,' says the *Sketch*, 'wants them to use the personal touch... impersonal modes of address like "Dear Madam" are out. And a prisoner's Christian name must be given before his surname, with his prison number dis-

creetly concealed in brackets.' IT IS REPORTED that Committee of 100 supporters waving at Greek demo prisoners, being removed from the Old Bailey in Black Marias, unwittingly waved at Francoise Dior (wife of Colin Jordan, fascist leader); she, on a charge of incitement to synagogue-burning, replied with a fascist salute. *Spearhead*, John Tyndall's fascist magazine, objected to BBC TV's *Black and White Minstrel Show* because of race-mixing on the screen. Tyndall, whilst retaining his own publication, has agreed to merge his organization (all 29 of them) with the National Front formed recently by a merger of the National Socialists with the Empire Loyalists.

WHITE HOUSEHOLDERS in South Norwood, London, formed a property-buying syndicate and took over a house which an immigrant postman (who had been in England for twelve years) was buying. They paid more for it than he had agreed. One of the residents said, 'I heard of one case where two nice coloured people bought a house. They were just a "front". Before the neighbours knew what was happening a van drew up with forty mattresses and no furniture.' Another said, 'Don't get the idea that we are going to wear white cloaks and burn fiery crosses. We are not fascists. This is a happy little community of average Londoners who go to the football match on Saturday, and love their wives and children. What's wrong with keeping it that way?' The agreed price the postman would have paid was £5,700. The price the residents paid was not given. The *Mirror* reporter asked how much they would sell the house for. They said, 'About £11,500.'

JON QUIXOTE.

AFB CONFERENCE

THE FOURTH ANNUAL conference of the Anarchist Federation of Britain was held in London last weekend and was attended by over 60 comrades from all over the country. The first session was devoted to the reading of fraternal greetings and group reports. Harlow reported (in a printed circular) on an interesting year's activity and Manchester upon the contact it has made with the projected formation of an international anarchist library in Switzerland.

Aberdeen and Lewisham have also been fairly active. Reports were also received from Birmingham and Liverpool.

The second session contained discussions on the organisation and functions of the AFB, as to whether there need be a secretariat, a Regional Fed. or National Fed. and the need for an Internal Bulletin to complement the work done by FP. No definite decisions were taken on these.

Various suggestions were passed by conference:—

1. International correspondence of AFB to be handled by LFA.
2. Co-ordination of activity to be left with LFA.

Freedom Press reported to conference that it was almost certainly moving to Whitechapel. There were not enough group sales and more subs. were required. A permanent 8-page layout was not financially feasible at this time.

Suggestions made for the improvement of FREEDOM included that it should—become less of a movement newsletter;

- contain a 'new readers start here' feature from time to time;
- contain more theory, especially in 8-page issues;
- when it moves, as now seems certain, try to obtain a shop front;
- contain more photos and cartoons.

Stuart's report on Spain is reported elsewhere.

As regards forthcoming activity, there was little discussion regarding Easter or May Day, but the Autumn Mobilisation was discussed and details given. It was suggested that provincial centres (especially Manchester) stage their own activities to coincide with this.

Relations with the Peace Movement were discussed, Peter Neville advocating a closer co-operation than was the consensus of opinion of the conference. It was suggested that the Peace Movement was of necessity 'reactionary' in the true sense, that it reacted to events.

Carrara was discussed, and its authoritarian organisation criticised. Consensus was in favour of such a conference, but against the present method of organisation.

It was suggested that comrades should attempt to attend 60th Carrara and the

forthcoming Amsterdam Conference if they could pay own expenses. It was also agreed that the AFB Conference next year should be held prior to Carrara in order to 'brief' any comrades attending.

The Sunday morning session started with reports on Holland, the split on the FAF over Carrara and *Le monde libertaire*, the seeming split in the Italian Anarchist Federation was reported as being mainly one of the generation gap.

It is surely true that a standing procedure was adopted regarding the admission of the non-anarchist press; and that closed and open sessions be specified in the agenda.

The possibility of organising the International Camp in England in 1969 was discussed and a working party on this is to be set up to investigate sites, organise publicity and make other arrangements.

Publicity was given to the efforts of the C100 Legal and Welfare Group, the NCCL and a little known organisation called 'Release', investigation of which might prove useful.

The next session was on aims and principles, but was indecisive owing to inadequate preparation.

It was felt that the AFB should not organise activity itself—merely co-ordinate.

It was inevitable also that there was no real consensus regarding the type of activity in which anarchists should indulge.

The last session of conference consisted of discussion regarding relations with other groups.

It was suggested and rightly that quiet subversion of the soldiery and the war machine in general was far more profitable than all the banner-waving.

Relations with the NCCL were also discussed.

The AFB is to apply for qualified affiliation to the NCCL.

There was also discussion on the Black papers idea.

In conclusion, discussion at the conference was fairly disciplined.

Perhaps judging any conference in terms of concrete achievement is unfair, it was good to re-establish contact with friends and comrades, and ideas from up and down the country.

PADDY FIELDS.

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

HELP!

WEEKS 39 & 40, OCTOBER 7, 1967:
Expenses: 40 weeks at £90: £3600
Income: Sales and Subs.: £2676

DEFICIT: £924

London, S.E.19: E.P. 7/6; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Londonderry: I.B. 5/-; Bristol: B.B. 12/6; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; London, N.4: H.M. £2/5/6; Nottingham: W.M. 5/-; Manchester: M.S. 5/2; Falmouth: R.W. 2/-; Wolverhampton: M.B. 9/-; Glasgow: J.B. 15/-; Dorset: T.D. 6/-; London, S.W.1: P.K. 6/9; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Aberdeen: J.M. 17/10; Manchester: J.A. £1; Prestatyn: C.S. 13/-; Grays: M.P. £1/5/-; Nottingham: H.T. 9/6; Ceredigion: H.D. 10/-; Richmond: D.D. 10/-; Blantyre: S.C. £1; Kamloups, B.C.: A.C. £1.

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*Denotes Regular Contributor.
Gift of Posters—London, S.W.10: S.W.T.

THE WIDELY REPORTED revolt against the Government's policies did not come off after all. The rebellion against the Government's 'drift from Socialist principles' by the Left Wing of the Labour Party never materialised. Perhaps the 'Left' is so demoralised that it is not capable of mounting the revolt that was expected of them.

Even if they had succeeded, they must have realised that the 'Government must govern' and that Wilson would have continued his anti-working-class policies. But what was so sickening was the Miners' Unions being appeased by Wilson's decision to keep open, until the spring, some of the pits that were due to close very shortly. At the TUC in Brighton, the Miners' leaders voted against the Government's economic policy, but at Scarborough, they voted for it. They also backed Mr. Callaghan for the treasurership of the Party, and it is his Department that is all for closing the so-called uneconomic pits.

Mr. Wilson's speech hardly touched on the issues that were likely to rouse his adversaries. Instead of a report of the last 12

months, he attacked the Tories. Even his single attack on the trade unions was only a knock and was directed at shop stewards who prevented Government trainees from getting jobs. This, of course, gave the union officials a chance to applaud. Anyway, it seems that even that greatest opponent of Wilson, Mr. Cousins, was moved to join in the standing ovation at the end of the Prime Minister's speech.

The Labour Party conference holds very little for the rank and file trade unionists. The conference has nothing to do with policy-making, but does, no doubt, give inspiration to many Party workers to carry on for another year.

Even industrialists, I think, are realising that what is said about Socialism by Ministers at conferences is merely the consumption of the Party's activists and has nothing to do with real policy.

The Government might be losing by-elections now, but there is still a long way to go before the next General Election. By that time, the economic situation will be brighter and the social services slightly improved, but the overall picture will

be of a strengthened capitalist system, made so at the expense of the working people of this country. They might have voted with their feet at Walthamstow, but there has to be an alternative. Anarchism is a practical alternative to the power structure of our present society. A Labour or any other Government only serve the interests of a minority who own and control the means and the raw materials of production.

The trade union leaderships are part of this power structure and are an integral part, necessary to control and discipline the rank and file. Mr. Cousins and other 'Left Wingers' might be opposed to the policies of the Government, but if they lead this opposition by calling on their members to take action, then the whole situation might get out of hand.

The Government will continue to govern and the only real opposition will come from those people who are affected by the policies and who see that the only way of fighting them is by direct action, whether at work, on the council estate or in the High Street.

P.T.

Freedom For Workers' Control

OCTOBER 14 1967 Vol 28 No 31

Building Workers Reject Report

IF THE GOVERNMENT, the management of Sunleys and Mytons and the executives of the building trade unions believe that all their troubles are over with the publication of the Cameron Report, then they had better think again. This report has been rejected by a great number of building workers. Branches have been sending in resolutions to their executives, calling for a complete rejection of the report and, more important, meetings on the sites have done the same.

On the two crucial sites, Laings and Turfiffs on the Barbican, adjacent to the Myton site, the men have affirmed their support for the Myton strikers. This decision was taken despite the presence of a district official of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who said the men ought to accept the Cameron Report. Stewards on these two sites say that the men have never been so determined in their support.

An attempt to open Mytons is expected shortly, but it is felt that those who are asked to return will not do so unless the six stewards return with them. Lord Cameron recommended that the site be re-opened without them, in line with the union-management agreement made last February. The two unions, who all along have recognised the Sunley dispute, are saying that they want their members back as stewards and not as recommended by the report. After all, this is the least they could do in the circumstances as they have given official support all this time. The other unions are following the Cameron recommendations.

What these two disputes have brought about is a struggle by a large section of the rank and file against their union executives, who time and time again have made agreements contrary to the wishes of their members. In 1961, they agreed to give away the tea-break and only unofficial strikes restored the position. In 1963, they agreed to a three-year package deal giving only 9d. for craftsmen and less for labourers. And this was after a week's strike on selected sites, during which the executives of the union asked the London Building Joint Sites Committee to organise a march and a mass meeting at Speakers' Corner. Since then there has been another package deal, part of which was frozen for six months.

The union executives are now using the Cameron Report to attack any militants. My own union, the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, has sent round to the branches a long summary of the report, in which they draw attention to the attack on the Joint Sites Committee. They then carry out one of the recommendations of the Report and advise their members neither to support or give financial assistance to the Joint Sites.

The employers, at a Central Council meeting of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, not surprisingly have accepted the Cameron Report. All builders were urged to study it 'over and over again', for its importance to their business 'in whatever part of the country they may be'.

STEWARDS' CREDENTIALS REMOVED

This report will obviously be used by employers to break effective union organisation on their sites, but they are also getting plenty of assistance from the union and Federation executives. This week, the Federation steward and Works Committee on the Wimpey site at Brunel University at Uxbridge have had their stewards' credentials taken away. Their crime was the organisation of a public meeting to discuss the

Cameron Report. According to the union executives, building workers are not allowed to discuss a document which concerns their interests.

Despite this, the meeting went on as planned. The speakers were stewards from building sites who had supported the pickets at Mytons and Sunleys and Kevin Halpin, late convenor of stewards at Fords. He had also been a victim of a Cameron Inquiry, this time at Briggs, a company that was later taken over by Fords. Bro. Halpin said that while Bro. McGarvey, leader of the Boilermakers Union and mover of the resolutions at the TUC against the Government's incomes policy, had signed the present Cameron Report, Bro. Boyd, a right winger now running for Carron's job in the Amalgamated Engineering Union, had refused to sign the report on Briggs. Bro. Halpin quoted practically identical passages attacking stewards from both of the reports.

The two other speakers said that they felt that if the Cameron recommendations were carried out, democracy at site level would be put in a straitjacket. Perhaps Mytons were given similar advice on sacking the Works Committee, as Mr. Mills gave Sunleys. A resolution was accepted by the meeting, condemning the Cameron Report and pledging support for full re-employment of all discharged workers on the two sites.

VESTED INTEREST AT WORK?

Union executives obviously do not want too much discussion on the Cameron Report, but there is more to it than this. Brunel University Works Committee had negotiated and fought for site agreements, from Wimpeys, that were far better than any achieved by the union executives and this was an embarrassment to the latter. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that Mr. Frank Taylor, head of Taylor Woodrow, the parent company of Mytons, got in touch with the heads of Wimpeys and told them that a Works Committee on one of their sites was organising this meeting. Mr. Taylor also has a vested interest in that he does not want the Cameron Report discussed too much, in case it affects the chances of opening up his Myton site. In fact, is it not just possible that union leaders attended one of those informal meetings with management, during which no minutes are recorded, and which Lord Cameron favours in his report, in these words: 'Such meetings and discussions are of regular occurrence in industry and have a proved and recognised value in the promotion of good industrial relations.'

The average rank and filer is only too aware of these 'good industrial relations', but these occur solely between the union leaders and the management. It is because of these relations that on a lot of building sites the conditions are bad and bonus earnings are at a minimum. This is why the Joint Sites Committee is so essential to co-ordinate the activities of stewards, to bring jobs closer so that one can assist another.

The Joint Sites Committee and any Works Committee who support the Myton and Sunley disputes are liable to be attacked by their union executives and Federation. These are just as determined to smash militancy as is any employer and are, in fact, in a better position to do this. However, if these attacks can be defeated and victories are won, with a full return, as stewards, at Mytons and Sunleys, then it will not be long before the members start turning out these reactionary executives, if they have not already started.

P.T.

Contact Column

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

Freedom Sellers Wanted. Meet at junction of Portobello Road and Lonsdale Road at 11 a.m. on October 14.

A.M. Where are you? Attorney.

Correspondent. Young anarchist wishes to correspond on anarchistic philosophy and principles. J. Weissmiller, 802 W. 12th, Topeka, Kansas 66612, USA.

North London Situationist Group. If you are interested in creating the situation and direct action in all spheres, please contact Jean-Paul Bouchenoire, 285a Alexandra Park Road, London, N.22.

Pirate Press. In spite of savage sentence passed on Terry Chandler, the Pirate Press is still going, under the management of Mike Seaman and Neill Collins, 116 Whitfield Street, W.1. 01-387 8864.

Community. Men and women with radical socialist orientation, introverted, with reasonable IQ, pagan sentiments and interest in the group family. SAE to Selene Community, Rhydowmerau, Llandeilo, Carmarthen, Wales.

Going East? Lift offered to young man overland to India-Nepal. Leave UK November 6, 1967. In return share petrol. Apply G. Parker, 2 Talton Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, 15.

Free University: Manchester. Any interest in forming one? If so, write to me with any questions or ideas. Box 66.

Just off the Press. Anthology of protest-poetry by Flemish, Dutch and English poets, with many drawings and photo-collages. 125 pages, only 10/-. To be had from Freedom Bookshop or direct from Gerda Ides, Post Box 772, Haarlem, Holland (send Int. M.O. in latter case). A Dutch anarchist publication.

Books Hand-bound and Engraved to Order. De-luxe Leather Bindings—Mosaics—Full-leather Parchment—Half-leather Bindings. All books hand-sewn and repaired. Designs for Parchments, Mosaics, are original. For further information contact Mr. J. B. Wagner, c/o American Consulate, Calle Serrano 75, Madrid 6, Spain.

Accommodation. Wanted two comrades to share flat (three rooms and kitchen). Allan Harrison, 285 Alexandra Park Road, N.22, or phone ARC 1239 leaving address.

Freak-out with Camden Council! October 15, 7.30-12 p.m. Round House, Chalk Farm Road, N.W.1. Annie Ross, Wally Fawkes and his band, Keith Christie, Ken Gibson's Big Band. Compere: George Melly. Tickets in advance 8/6 (from Dobells or 8 Camden Road, N.W.1) or at the door 10/-. In aid of local councillors and the Mayor, persecuted by central government and the courts.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

DISTORTION

The following is a leaflet published by the London Building Workers' Joint Sites Committee in answer to the Cameron Report.

WE THE LONDON Building Workers Joint Sites Committee feel it is necessary to answer the distortion contained in the Cameron Report.

The Myton Dispute arose because three Steelfixers were sacked, while the whole site was on a Work-to-Rule due to a bonus dispute. Normal working was resumed on the instructions of the NFBTO Executive, on November 3, 1966, to allow the Dispute to be resolved. Even while Trade Union officials and Myton representatives were in negotiations Myton Management were preparing for the dismissal of all workers the next day. This is what caused the Myton dispute that has lasted 11 months.

Mytons have sacked every worker on the site, they insisted that work could only be resumed if the Shop Stewards and steelfixers were kept outside the gate. The scandal is that the NFBTO leaders agreed with these arrogant demands. But the workers refused to betray their stewards and continued to be Locked Out.

On Sunley's Site, the management on October 24, 1966, without consultation tore up a Bonus Agreement which had been in operation on the site for 12 months. Before the Dispute at a meeting of Sir Cecil Mant and Mr. Chadwick of the Ministry of Works, three Sunley bosses and J. Mills—President of National Federation of Building Trade Operatives. Mills, ASW Executive Council member, was alleged to have advised sacking the Works Committee. If this was true it would surely explain the employers' action. The Court refuses to state whether it was true or not. We wonder why?

Accept the Stewards' Facts and not Cameron's Fiction

The above were the real 'causes and circumstances of the disputes'. The alleged 'disruption, and illegitimate and mischievous activity' was the work, not of the Stewards or the Joint Sites Committee, but of the employers, Ministry of Works and right wing Trade Union Officials.

Since when has the right of workers to Work-to-Rule become a crime? It has happened scores of times among McGarvey's Union members. They know how they've been abused and 'given the treatment' about shipyard demarcation disputes.

Cameron accuses Myton Federation Stewards, Lou Lewis and the London Building Workers Joint Sites Committee of actions 'to further by illegitimate means' the Committee's policy of fighting the Government's Incomes standstill. Since when has opposition to wage freeze, unemployment and anti-trade union legislation become illegal? If it is then the TUC should be in the dock and especially McGarvey who moved the successful resolution at Brighton for the repeal of the Prices & Incomes Act.

Any worker will understand that 450 men on Myton's and Sunley's labourers and tradesmen, young and old, English, Scots, Welsh, Irish and West Indian, etc., would never have struggled for 11 months, picketed, sacrificed, faced Labour Exchange and National Assistance interrogators, legal harassment and press distortion unless they had the deepest sense of grievance, belief in the justice of their struggle and in the honesty of their Stewards.

CAMERON'S RECOMMENDATIONS—AN EMPLOYERS' ANTI TU CHARTER

Cameron's recommendations are an unprecedented threat not only to building workers but to all workers. He wants:—

1. Myton's Site re-opened without the Shop Stewards.
2. Sunley's re-opened with all the Stewards banned from holding office on the Site.
3. Appointment—not election of Shop Stewards on both Sites.
4. The Unions to take 'measures of appropriate severity' and withdraw credentials from any Steward who leads a struggle against the employers.
5. The destruction of the Joint Sites Committee with a stop on all workers giving it financial support.
6. Major changes in the Working Rule Agreement to hamstring the workers and help the employers.

We call on all workers to condemn this vicious report. Send your views to Gunter, Minister of Labour, and Union Executives.

We call on all Building workers and trade unionists to stand by any action by Myton and Sunley workers to defend their Shop Stewards, and the Joint Sites Committee pledges its full support for any action taken.

DEMAND

No victimisation of the Stewards. No interference with the rights of workers to elect their spokesmen. All workers, who wish, to be reinstated on the Sunley and Myton Sites.

We say, full support to the lads and their families who have stuck it out in this 11 months' struggle. Thanks to those Trade Union officials and the thousands who have supported them morally and financially.

We have come a long way since the woodworker pioneers withstood fines, the pillory and even severance of an ear to establish TU organisation. Cameron or no one else will turn the clock back. Unity is strength. An injury to one is an injury to all. Long live our hard won Trade Union rights!

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