

Solidarity With the Miners!

'I would not vote Tory if you twisted my arm right up my back. But I would not go out of the house to vote Labour at this time.'

FOR OVER HALF a century the miners have seen nationalisation as the answer to all their problems. In 1947 it was done—and miners became the most loyal of Labour's supporters. Now, 20 years later, all illusions are shattered.

Instead of the millennium, there is to be the brutal slaughter of whole mining communities. The miners now know that in 12 years time the labour force will be reduced from 387,000 to 65,000. Certainly no one who knows anything about the sweat and toil and danger involved in mining wants to see this go on for ever as a means of earning a living. But until alternative employment is provided for the mining communities, it is right and proper that miners will fight for their jobs.

If the country doesn't need the coal that lies in such abundance under most of Britain then the first thing to do is to **shorten the working week of the miners. With no loss of pay.**

Two or three days a week is, in any case, more than enough time to be crawling around in the bowels of the earth.

Now the miners are in revolt against the Labour Government. They feel betrayed. They are betrayed. No alternative employment is available and indeed pit closures on the scale envisaged is going to create mass unemployment in the ancillary industries and turn Scotland, South Wales and the North of England into derelict areas. The miners know this and they are now taking the first steps to get at those who have betrayed them.

NO LABOUR LEVY
The Silksworth Colliery in Durham

(600 members) has stopped paying the political levy. The 1,000 strong Bankhall Colliery in Lancashire has done likewise—and it is certain that this action will spread.

So great is the disgust in mining areas that Joe Gormley, Lancashire Area leader and a member of the National Executive of the Labour Party, is talking about the possibility of the miners forming a new Trade Union Party which will oppose both Tory and Labour. Not unnaturally, the Pottery Workers Union (28,000)—who broke from the Labour Party when the Government used its State powers to stop a wage increase—have supported the idea of a new Trade Union Party.

There is possibly some bluffing going on as far as some of the leaders are concerned in the hope of 'pressurising' the Government into toning down its plans for murdering the mining communities. But, from our own experience in other industries, we can say for sure that the disgust with the Labour Party is very real among the rank and file.

DEBATE

There is going to be a deep debate about all this in working class circles, and militants must take up a position on it. When masses of workers talk in terms of creating a new party it cannot be ignored.

The Communist Party — who would normally profit from a mass disillusionment with Labour—are in no position (thank God) to capitalise on the discontent. As a reformist, authoritarian party which has staked all on infiltrating the Labour Party with its ideas in order to 'change the policies and the leadership' they won't tolerate any deviations. Will Paynter, communist secretary of the Mineworkers Federation, has already condemned the stopping of the political levy and opposed the setting up of a new Trade Union Party.

Here surely is an opportunity for libertarian socialists. If the new party

ever gets off the ground it will have to face up to fundamental problems right from the start. Will they run candidates for Parliament? Will they repeat the mistakes of the past and play the parliamentary game? How will that help the miners? Didn't Keir Hardie do all this 60 years ago—and look where all that sacrifice has ended up.

SUGGESTIONS

We can't hope to write a treatise on what is to take the place of the present set-up. We can only hope to make a few suggestions which, however, are based on a whole history of working-class struggle and organisation. The most important are the following:—

1. First thing for everyone to learn from this shameful business is that State ownership (nationalisation) is merely a more efficient way of exploiting workers in the interests of the system as a whole. Railwaymen can confirm this from their own experience.

2. 'Ballot box politics' is disastrous. Playing the parliamentary game has led to the present situation.

3. Whether a new party takes shape is something we can't speculate about, but certainly trade unionists will have to form some sort of organisation—perhaps an alliance — which will stand four square for the ownership and control of industry to be vested in workshop organisations, factory committees, pit committees, site committees, etc.

4. Conferences should be organised to discuss and work out concrete plans for the non-state organisation on a local and national scale.

5. There must be freedom in this new trade union alliance for all tendencies to express their points of view.

Authoritarian 'socialism' is not only a failure, it is now seen to be a failure. Discussions about the next steps are now taken away from the socialist sects and groups. Masses of people are going to be involved. It is a situation that libertarian socialists will ignore at their peril.

JOHN LAWRENCE.

US Concentration Camps

WITH THE CONTINUED escalation of the unpopular Vietnam war, and the revolt of the Negro ghettos, the US Government are poised to declare an 'internal security emergency'. Under the McCarran Act of 1950 the President can arrest and detain in camps 'potential

spies and saboteurs'.

The existence of these special camps was disclosed in 1952 by Charles R. Allen, Jr. In a new issue of his pamphlet ('Concentration Camps USA', Marzani and Munsell, NY) he claims that there exists a 'Master Pick-up List', which is constantly under review by the computer of the FBI's National Crime Information Center, and that one million 'Detention Warrants' have already been printed.

Most of the camps were built as barracks or as camps for Japanese detainees in the last war, but Allen claims that construction work is going on at some of these sites. Three of the camps at present hold 1,594 non-political prisoners, but have a capacity for up to 13,000. There is a similar capacity at two other camps, at present used by itinerant farm workers, which the Federal Government can re-enter on 24-hours' notice. There are at least a further seven sites which could be used.

When the McCarran Act was first passed, amidst McCarthyist hysteria, President Truman vetoed it, observing that it 'put the government into the thought-control business'. But his veto was not sustained by Congress. In his present dilemma Johnson must find 'thought-control' irresistible, and on 24 separate occasions Congressmen have already demanded that the camps be activated.

13-19.10.67 R.B.
(Information from Los Angeles Free Press.)

MOVING FUND

Target for moving and renovation of new place—£500.

Received to date—£171 4s. 6d.

The balance of the money is needed urgently and also offers of help for moving and general repair work.

PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year. So far £173 has been pledged by comrades and well wishers.

We must have all the pledges in by the end of the year.

COMRADES: in case you didn't get the point, what Lord Parker was telling us last week was this: 'If you engage in revolutionary actions and get caught then you will be severely punished by the State'.

This is the message, stripped of its sop-to-the-liberal-reformer frills. Parker indeed was devastatingly frank, much more so than the watered-down newspaper reports would have you believe. I couldn't get a transcript of his judgement in time to quote large sections of it here, mainly the parts which were not quoted in the Press (presumably because the latter either didn't understand them or understood only too well and wasn't prepared to give us that kind of favourable publicity). But sitting there in the back of the court a shiver went up my spine as total communication—and total antagonism—was reached between us.

HYPOCRISY

Several points were clear which the liberal Press has seen fit to ignore. The bit about 'courts straining every nerve to avoid prison sentences' where matters of conscience are involved was such blatant, obvious hypocrisy that I thought Parker himself would give the game away by laughing into his robes. Only the liberals would think it worth mentioning this nonsense at all. If Parker had been sentencing, or if he still had power to increase sentences on appeal, our

NO MORE ILLUSIONS!

comrades would have been even harder hit, and others too would not have been let off so lightly.

The argument, a major part of lawyer Wigoder's case, that the defendants had pleaded guilty and thereby saved the time of the court carried no weight at all. Indeed, I suspect Parker thought them the fools they were—at one stage in his dialogue with Terry, in particular, all three judges seemed dubious as to whether the demonstrators had in fact committed an offence against the letter of English law. They certainly nodded wisely when Terry said that he had believed he was not breaking the law but committing civil trespass which would have had to have been prosecuted by the Greek government. Parker's attitude appeared to echo that of the Director of Public Prosecutions: what you did was appalling, wrong, against the State, and all the rest of it, but be damned if I can work out which law you broke!

CRIMINALS AND OTHERS

Lord Chief Justice Parker (quite rightly from his extremist point of view) regards a political offence as worse than a criminal offence. Even I was taken in by this one. After the trial, I wrote in FREEDOM: 'Del Foley's sentence was a clear miscarriage of justice and should be easily reversed on appeal.'

What I meant was this. Del's previous record, and that of Ron Bailey, included convictions for office-breaking and possessing housebreaking implements by night. Widgery remarked when passing sentence that these 'showed his (Del's) state of mind', and made clear that Ron Bailey too only escaped prison by the skin of his teeth. Obviously he presumed that these were simple crimes-for-gain, and showed that Del and Ron were not the genuine political protesters they appeared to be. I remain convinced that if Widgery—a liberal—had known the true position he would not have sent Del to prison, at least, not for that reason. For these were as much

political offences as the others. The 'office' was a civil defence HQ and Ron and Del broke in to steal documents to use in their political campaigns.

Naturally Del's lawyer brought this matter up. Indeed, he kept it to the last in his plea in Del's defence; the ace, the trump card. Parker's reaction was astonishing for those of us who are used to seeing the naked power of the State veiled somewhat in our enlightened democracy. He made it quite clear that if he had been sentencing, and he had known that these were political offences also, not only would Del have gone to prison for a longer period but that Ron Bailey would have gone to prison too! So much for the liberal lawyers, who retired in utter confusion, and the papers were so astonished they didn't even mention the point the next day. (I doubt they understood it.) Parker, of course, knows damn well that a political offender questions the whole structure of the rotten society in which we live, while a mere criminal only attacks the symptom, private property, in an irrational and largely unconscious way.

TAKING OURSELVES SERIOUSLY

Lord Chief Justice Parker, and the State he represents, clearly take our movement a lot more seriously than we do ourselves. He has the greatest possible respect for his three prisoners. He couldn't resist a word of praise for the standard of organisation shown on the demonstration; several times he acknowledged the ability and excellence of the men before him; he agreed that they were not leaders or organisers of this particular action; time without number, to the point of tedium, he accepted that they had operated from the highest motives of conscience, and that no violence was used. Here he was not being hypocritical. These were his very reasons for keeping them in jail! Never have I known a legal man so terrifyingly frank. But it must surely be a consolation to the three prisoners that they have to be kept in jail because Parker and the

State are afraid to let them free. It is unbelievable, but it is undoubtedly true. **THEY'RE AFRAID OF US!**

A rare moment of light relief showed this up well. Michael Randle, in a brave and able speech which, as Parker said, did not help in the slightest towards a reduction of the sentence (he made his revolutionary position too abundantly clear!) sought to show that movements in the past which were persecuted for their beliefs are now accepted as having been right. He instanced the Suffragettes. 'There is even a statue of Mrs. Pankhurst outside Parliament now,' he said. Parker interrupted swiftly. 'Yes, and I suppose one day there'll be one of you there too, eh?'

Poor Mike! He is a person of such genuine humility that the thought had obviously never entered his head and horrified him now; it quite threw him off stroke. But Parker knew the essence of his joke was truth. He knew that in the long run it is men like Terry Chandler and Mike Randle and Del Foley that are remembered, and the Judges and the rest of the paraphernalia of the State are either forgotten completely, or recalled as mere museum pieces or odious tyrants.

PARKER'S GREAT MISTAKE

The Lord Chief Justice is a clever, able man who knows the score. But fortunately he has a weakness, and this will probably be his undoing; it is the weakness of all his kind. He overreacts. Talking frankly, as he did; letting the sentences stand and praising them; above all, criticising the *Guardian* newspaper for its unexpectedly strong opposition to them; these were consistent, and in a way courageous, things to do. But they were not very politic. If (as MPs are now pressing) the Home Secretary were to release the three men under the system of Royal Prerogative of Mercy, it would be Jenkins—not Parker—who would be the scheming crafty one. Because Parker, particularly in picking a fight with the *Guardian*, has sought to antagonise his own best

friends, the liberals.

His entire judgement was a crashing vindication of all that the anarchists and other revolutionaries have been saying, and a crushing indictment of democratic socialists and liberals, including the *Guardian*, which has got itself in this mess just because it didn't think its position through. The effect on the liberals will vary. Some will be scared into submission. Some will continue to try to rationalise, quote the more 'liberal' bits of Parker's judgement (i.e. the hypocritical bits) as the papers did, and continue to say that the sentences were wrong. This is the most illogical—and the most popular—course; because, in Parker's terms, those of the State, the sentences were absolutely correct. If you engage in revolutionary action and get caught, you must expect to be badly hurt, like I said in the very first article I wrote about this whole affair.

But a few of the liberals will stop being liberals and become revolutionaries. And every time a Parker—i.e. a clever, able man who knows the score, not a recognisably stupid nit like Justice Sachs and most of the Tory hang 'em-and-birch 'em MPs—lets the gloves slip and talks as frankly as he did last week, a few more liberals and semi-socialists realise the impossibility of their position and come on over.

This must be the consolation for the comrades who are in prison now, and indeed for us whose much-loved friends are suffering. Nothing can compensate for their lost year of life. But if anything could, it is this: the movement of which they are part has been greater helped by their continued imprisonment than it would have been by a 'liberal' decision. Nothing succeeds like repression in fostering revolution.

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STOP PRESS

WHAT PEACE?

On Sunday, 12.11.67, Comrades Mitchell and Watson were arrested in Aberdeen, on a Remembrance Day demo, for showing 'Peace in Vietnam'. They are charged with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.

ANARCHY 81

DISCUSSES

Anarchists in the Russian Revolution

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TODAY THE SCOTTISH National Party claims over 60,000 members and is preparing to contest all 71 Scottish seats in the next election. Jubilant over their victory at Hamilton, they will almost certainly add a couple more seats to their bag. But what have they to offer the Scottish people—are they any different from other political parties? The answer is no. Just how independent and free a Scotland they want can be seen from the fact that they envisage 'an independent country within the Commonwealth, loyal to the Crown'.

I once went to an SNP concert where they played 'God Save The Queen' and everybody stood up! I have heard SNP members talk of deporting 'niggers and Jews' and leaving the place to 'real Scots'. They also wish the new independent Scotland to have its own armed forces. Why? Who, in the name of God, is likely to attack Scotland? Unless the island of Bute declares UDI (which they have threatened) or Shetland decides to unite with Denmark (where they belong anyway) what possible use would a Scottish army be? The only answer is for the suppression of the Scottish people.

THE ARTS LABORATORY at 182 Drury Lane, W.C.2, has all the elements of a future romantic myth. A gaunt and echoing warehouse of a building in the dingy appendix of Drury Lane, it shares its shabby frontage with a row of sad and easily forgotten one-man-shops and dark and sour public houses.

There on its right is the small and overcrowded newsagent's shop whose shelves hold the bitter hatred of every fascist movement, the racing sheets, the anarchist literature and the pulp magazine hawking romance for the handful of coins. No one lives in this drear and lonely street for the pavements can mark only the daytime scurry of clerks on their way to the Pru and the Turnstile. Night, and the street is empty and drunkless, for only the Arts Laboratory hold the torch.

Here, within this tatty cavern, come the beats and the hipsters and the beaded flower children forever engaged in that urgent journey that drag alcoholics and neurotic companions of our night on that aimless quest for an appointment for an answer to questions that they are unable to formulate. And it is fitting that it should be so, for in this world of empty mangy space they must appear to create or die. Here are the walls of flaking white, and the child-like young adults draw with pencil and coloured chalk their visual affirmation or rejection of their age and the notice-board holds the collage of their cries for the protest meeting of the morrow, the personal messages, the poetry readings and the request that the person that lifted Miles' book should return it to INDICA.

And to hell with Miles, for these young people are the rejects of INDICA Bookshop that has grown sleek and rich hawking its space to the middle-class poster-browsers buying for Christmas, and the notice on the door of INDICA Bookshop banning children under sixteen from entering its monied presence must

The Nationalist Myth

Who would run this independent Scotland? The bureaucrats in St. Andrew's House? Would the SNP undertake to break the power of the Church of Scotland? Will they stop this august body teaching right-wing Protestant theology to every Scottish school-child? Will they undertake to dispossess Scotland's slum landlords? Exactly what action will they take to end the worst housing conditions in Europe?

More important, since they intend to remain loyal to the Crown, what will they do with the nuclear bases like Faslane? And what about the Polaris base at Holy Loch? The SNP has never yet given any definite word about this, but they are on record as desiring full membership of NATO. Who knows, perhaps we might even get a 'tartan deterrent'—independent, of course. Since their principal idol at the moment is Charlie de Gaulle, it's not unlikely!

They base a lot of their (spurious) economic ideas on the profits from whisky, perhaps they would explain to the voters exactly how the wealth from whisky would benefit the people, since most whisky firms are English-owned. The revenue from whisky could only be used for the general good if a Scottish government took over the distilleries and the SNP claim to be opposed to nationalisation. Even if they did nationalise the whisky industry one could almost bet that they'd pay out compensation to the owners—by taxing the slum dwellers. Then, of course, there wouldn't be much profit left after paying for the new armed forces—and for the Scottish UN delegates who would sit between Saudi Arabia and Senegal (which will work wonders for the Gorbals!). The SNP complains that we have to pay tolls on the new Forth and Tay road bridges. Fair enough, but they haven't ever said

that when in power, they won't charge tolls.

On issues such as the wage freeze they are dead silent. Not unnaturally, some of their biggest backers are Scottish businessmen! A freeze is a freeze—even when warmly clad in the kilt. Their nationalism is a fake, as phoney as the White Heather Club, as freedom-loving as the Church of Scotland and as revolutionary as St. Andrew's House. Very shortly, in the local elections in May, Scottish anarchists will be putting the real alternative to the Scottish people. The SNP are only another barrier to real progress and those who truly believe in the new Scotland will sweep them into the dustbin of history along with all the rest.

ROB ROY MACKUNIN!

ROUND THE GALLERIES

FLOWER OR WEED?

obviously apply to all the dispossessed, for suffer little children, as the man said, Miles.

And it is to the Arts Laboratory that we must return for here is the exhibition of the paintings of Ron Rothfield. Bring your eyes, he tells us, so we are there. Not the Town this time, for Drury Lane is too far from Bond Street and the soft palms of the grey-suited dealers, so within this broken shell of a building the artist of the month must crucify his talent upon these walls, for all who patter through are bent on that aimless, urgent business that blossoms in the flower world of tinkling bells.

Leonardo could have painted with his life's blood upon these walls and would have gone to paradise unobserved, for the travelling inhabitants of these rooms demand that they shall be a captive audience and only the fixed seat, the flickering screen or the plaintive voice of Jalabala Vaidya reading Gopal Sharmar will capture their attention. And Ron Rothfield, late of the Bond Street Portal Gallery, pleads for attention. Like Dali, Rothfield loves his image and he offers us the old familiar hawk stare of the master, but he lacks Dali's mastery of the medium for Dali, the ageing ham, can play the fool because he is supreme in his particular craft and this Ron Rothfield is not.

Rothfield's paintings contain all the faults and all the virtues of the naive painter in that they appear unable to separate background from foreground. There is that jackdaw fascination for bright flat colours that catch and hold the eye for one brief moment until one accepts that these pretty things are but an end in themselves while Rothfield's anatomy of the human figure within his paintings are at variance with the de-

sign of the Creator. His accumulation of pinheads of colours have the false fascination of costume jewellery and this appears at its worse in *Spectral Self Portrait* in which only the outlined face of the subject saves the whole from dissolving into a kaleidoscope of pretty line-enclosed blobs.

Yet Rothfield can achieve a childlike honesty and odd and occasional patches of brilliant work. In *Paul Gyss In Full Lotus* he has caught the controlled intensity of his subject and the face of Paul Gyss is a fine example of miniature painting that demonstrates that Rothfield has the talent and the undeveloped craftsmanship to create better work than this on display. He has many faults that bright, slick colours and literary titles will not hide, yet he has laboured and been worthy of your attention.

Place his work within any Bond Street gallery and only idle curiosity might make it worthy of the Town's eye and pocket, but behind the grimy doors of the Arts Laboratory it is we who are in his debt for there is neither priced catalogue, dealer, nor free sherry to justify our patronage. I would hold that these are the moments when the Arts Laboratory has reached its zenith, for this is their hour, when the young and feckless seek its shelter offering only their youth, their unformulated dreaming idealism and their modicum of talent to help this brick cavern to flower. If it dies it will have made its mark, by its very gallant poverty, upon the memories of the future and if it succeeds it will become but another commercial aesthetic weed breathing the same sour and tainted air as INDICA, ICA and . . . you name them.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

General enquiries should be sent to the London Federation.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.

c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1.

Sunday evening meetings 8 p.m. Lamb & Flag, Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2 (Leicester Square tube).

NOV. 19 Professor A. J. Baker

Sydney Libertarianism

NOV. 26 Freedom editors

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LEWISHAM. Contact Mike Malet, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13

EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Ken King, 54 Norwood Road, Southall.

KING'S CROSS GROUP, c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.

3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald and Irene Rouoms', now at 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3.

2nd and 4th Friday of each month, 8 p.m., at Brenda Mercer's and dj Austin's, 80 Crouch Hill, N.8 (Finsbury Park Underground, 212 bus to door).

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month at M. Dey's, 142 Walker Road, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Liz Smith's, 3 Sinclair Road. Correspondence to either address.

ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP. Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Cheshire.

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

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

BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN GROUP. All anarchists, syndicalists, individualists, etc., please contact Geoff and Caroline Charlton, top flat, 8 Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, Warley, Wores, 25 mins. from Birmingham City centre, No. 9 bus.

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

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 Seaford. Admission is free and all poets welcome. 8.30 p.m. onwards.

BRISTOL. Contact: Dave and Pat Thorne, 22 Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol, 6.

FIFE LIBERTARIANS. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar, Fife.

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

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

HERTS. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Potters Heath Lane, Potters Heath, Welwyn, Herts OR Jeff Cloves, 46 Houghendon Road Marshalswick, St. Albans, Herts.

HULL ANARCHIST GROUP, c/o J. Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Beverley Road, Hull.

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

KILBURN, LONDON. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.

LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Group meets the first Monday in each month 7.15 p.m. at 91 Brook Street, Tolehurst, Knights, Tiptree, Essex. For further information write P. Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex.

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Simon Martin, Oriol College, Oxford.

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

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

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

SHEFFIELD RADICAL GROUP. Contact Robin Lovell c/o Students' Union, Sheffield S.R.G., 31 Harcourt Road, Sheffield, 10.

SLOUGH ANARCHIST GROUP AND 'HIPPIE' GROUP. Contact B. P. Norcott, 116 Lower

Cippenham Lane, Slough, Bucks. Meetings every other Friday.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX ANARCHIST GROUP. We would love to hear from fellow-sympathisers in area. All enquiries to M. Powell, 7 Lingeroff, Basildon, Essex.

S.W. LONDON LIBERTARIANS. Meet every Thursday, 7.30 p.m. at 14 Clapham Court, King's Avenue (Acre Lane end), S.W.4.

SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP meets alternate Thursdays and Saturdays, on Eel Pie Island. Contact P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.

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To be serviced by a newsletter and three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals are invited to associate: c/o Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow.

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Loughton: c/o Students' Union, Loughton College of Further Education, Loughton, Essex.

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LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP AND 'HIPPIE' MOVEMENT. Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.

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Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter

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LONDON: NOTTING HILL. Please get in touch with John Bennett and Marilyn Faddy, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, London, W.11 Tel.: 727 9745.

TORONTO, CANADA. Any Torontonians interested in Anarchism please contact Leonard Tarka, 108 Silverhill Drive, Islington, Ontario, Canada.

EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS. Please contact Tim Deane, 'Juliet', West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset, Ferndown 3588.

CORNWALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact A. C. Jacob, 76 East Hill, St. Austell, Cornwall.

WOLVERHAMPTON. Contact Martin Bashforth at 11 Lyndhurst Road, Wolverhampton.

LSE ANARCHIST GROUP. London School of Economics, Houghton Street, W.C.2.

FULHAM & CHELSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Mary Canipa, 21 Rumbold Road, Fulham, S.W.6 and/or Richard Bolton, 48 Yeomans Row, Chelsea, S.W.3. Phone: KNI 2288.

ABROAD

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

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Gothersgade, 27, Vibore, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel.: 987-2693.

USA: VERMONT. New Hampshire Anarchist Group. Meets weekly—discussion, individual action. Contact Ed. Strauss at RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

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

CANADA: WINNIPEG. Anybody interested in Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.

BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclessin-Liege, Belgium.

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

USA. James W. Cain, secretary, Insurgency Anarchist Association, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.

GROUP (DREASON). Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or A.R. Giles Peters, c/o same.

THE INTRODUCTION to the typically valuable new *Solidarity* pamphlet—the first English translation of Ida Mett's *Commune de Cronstadt*—contains the typically patronising remark that 'it is a symptom of anarchist muddle-headedness . . . that they can both reproach the Bolsheviks with dissolving the Constituent Assembly and the Kronstadt rebels for proclaiming that they stood for Soviet power' (p. ix).

This implies that anarchists support the Constituent Assembly (the parliament elected after the Russian Revolution), and at the same time oppose the Soviets (the councils of working-class delegates spontaneously formed during the Russian Revolution). It is worth spending some time examining this accusation, because it is so typical of the treatment anarchists tend to get in *Solidarity*.

If this accusation were true, anarchists could still argue that it might be consistent to support an elected assembly as against a self-appointed party dictatorship, and at the same time to oppose councils of working-class delegates as against the direct action of the workers themselves.

But, as it happens, it is not true, for

two reasons. One is that the *Solidarity* pamphlet refers not to what anarchists in general say, but to what two particular anarchists have said at different times, in different places, and from different points of view; and the other is that neither of the two anarchists actually said what the pamphlet attributes to them.

The reference to the Bolshevik dissolution of the Constituent Assembly is taken from my article on the Bolshevik Revolution in *FREEDOM* (28.10.67). What I actually said was: 'The Constituent Assembly, which had been intended to settle the political future of the country, was the result of the first (and last) more or less free election in Russian history, but when it met in January 1918 it was forcibly dispersed by the Government. The reason was simple. The Bolsheviks had received only a quarter of the votes, and a clear majority had been won by the Social-Revolutionaries.'

Thus the Bolsheviks took part in the elections a few weeks after they had seized power, and then dissolved the assembly the day after it met and showed a hostile majority; when they failed to control it as they did the Soviets, they

destroyed it.

My implication was that this was not a revolutionary deed to replace the Constituent Assembly by Soviet power, as they claimed, but a reactionary deed to replace it by their own dictatorship. I reproached the Bolsheviks not for dissolving the Constituent Assembly as such, but for their reason for doing so.

The reference to the Kronstadt rebels' support for Soviet power is taken from Voline's book *The Unknown Revolution* (Freedom Press, 1955). A longer reference in the same paragraph of the pamphlet says: 'Voline even reproaches the Kronstadt rebels with "speaking of power (the power of the Soviets) instead of getting rid of the word and of the idea altogether". The practical struggle however was not against "words" or even "ideas". It was a physical struggle against their concrete incarnation in history (in the form of bourgeois institutions)' (pp. viii-ix). What Voline actually said was: 'It matters little that in the circumstances in which they found themselves the rebels still spoke of power (the power of the Soviets) instead of getting rid of the word and of the idea altogether, and speaking instead of co-

ordination, organisation, administration. It was a last tribute paid to the past' (pp. 71-2, my italics). Voline did not reproach the Kronstadt rebels for supporting Soviet power, but in fact denounced them against exactly the purist criticism the pamphlet attributes to him!

So a misunderstanding and a misquotation linked by a false analogy add up to a falsification of the anarchist position—not for the first time in *Solidarity*. This is both unnecessary and unfortunate. It is unnecessary because the *Solidarity* Group was in touch with me during the preparation of the pamphlet (I looked up several references for them and lent them several books, including Voline), so they could easily have checked whether the accusation was true. It is unfortunate because the *Solidarity* Group has an unrivalled record for the documentation as well as the practice of direct action, but for some reason they feel they must prove they are not anarchists in ways which spoil their excellent work and cause sectarianism and mystification.

But this silly mistake does not detract from the value of the pamphlet—*The Kronstadt Commune* (*Solidarity* pamphlet 27, 2/6d.)—which should be read by all anarchists, and should really have been published by us long ago.

N.W.

LETTERS

who would like to work with me.
*Borrowdale, Barnaby Martin,
Carriage Drive,
Frodsham, Cheshire.*

CD Up in Smoke

I TOOK PART in the burning of the Civil Defence Nuclear Shelter and Communications Centre at Portlethen and after Carl Pinel's letter I feel that I must defend my actions.

Firstly, we must consider the touchy subject of non-violence. As an anarchist, I believe that mankind should live in a free society, in which everyone should have a maximum of freedom and control over their own lives. Workers should be in control of their places of work and true democracy should be the order of the day. But how are we going to establish this free society? Surely the only way is by a social revolution. It has been proved time and time again that when a change in the social environment of man takes place, the old fights bitterly against the change, and against the new which is replacing it. Thus when a social revolution takes place, violence is inevitable. The perfect and ideal social revolution would shed no blood at all but, in reality, we are going to have to defend our revolution with guns. It is regrettable, but it will have to be done. Anyone who believes in non-violence cannot also believe in any form of social revolution, and so I take it that Carl Pinel is not a revolutionary. I am.

Secondly, there is the mistake often made in defining sabotage as violence. I have committed sabotage for several years now, and I will commit sabotage in the future but *I will never do anything which I think would kill or injure anyone*. Violence is action which kills or injures people, but sabotage can and must be carried out without violence. By sabotage I mean any act of wilful destruction carried out against the state machine for political reasons. This ranges from putting sand in the petrol tanks of military vehicles to the destruction of fall-out shelters by fire or explosives.

'One thing is clear. . . . The pussy-footing has to stop.' We must not only be a movement of theory and education, we must be a movement of action, and civil disobedience and direct action get the best results. It was said of nuclear shelters once that 'when the people are strong enough, they will come with bulldozers and bury places like these'. In the meanwhile, we must do what we can. We must nibble away at the state in our different ways, and if enough people do enough nibbling, one day it will come crashing down round our ears, leaving the path clear for the creation of a free society. Comrade Carl—you nibble your way, I'll nibble mine. Together we may achieve the same end.

Only, if you non-violently sit down between my gun and the capitalists during a revolution and tell me to stop being violent towards them, I'm liable to shoot you, too.

SCOTS CORRESPONDENT.

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M.H.

The Truth about 'Shelter'

Dear Sirs,

With reference to the letter from 'Shelter' attacking John Rety, I personally assume, from reading it, that it is the letter-writer, and not John Rety, who has the diseased mind. It is about time the 'holy cow' of 'Shelter' was exposed.

When I first read of 'Shelter' I thought 'great', but subsequent events and experience has forced me to have a drastic change of mind. The head person in 'Shelter' for Liverpool is Mr. Harry Thacker, who is also the man in charge of the Welfare Department in Liverpool.

The Department is responsible for the local homeless hostel, 'Langtry House'. Although this is a new hostel, the actual physical conditions are not all that much to write home about (at one time twelve families shared two stoves) and the attitude of many of the staff seems little different to that of prison warders. Families have been threatened with 'trouble' if they went to the press, people have been turned out into the pouring rain with no place else to go, plus a whole host of other petty and major interferences.

Yet to my knowledge 'Shelter' has done very little to help these families, despite the links vis Mr. Thacker, the Welfare Department and 'Shelter'. The Welfare Department even claims that it 'cannot be a house-hunting organisation'. The local Friends of the Homeless have produced a leaflet on this.

Yet it is not enough for the anarchist movement to merely attack 'Shelter', for all that this needs doing; we must have an alternative, both for the immediate and the future.

In Sweden the syndicalists through the

SAC once had a co-operative housing system, this may well be worth study. We should not be against such schemes only when organisations, such as 'Shelter', appear to mislead, either intentionally or otherwise.

In the long run, however, we need to study just what housing, cities, should be for. We must know their meaning both in a class society and a free society.

The anarchist movement would be well worth engaging in such studies, as going on abortive and illusion-sowing demonstrations. All could be involved, from the building labourer to the planner (employed not the boss), all could work out the reasons for the industry's existence both now and the future. The revolutionary implications of workers' control could also be included, because the battle (which it is) to study is also the battle for control, and I happen to think that we have the best solution to the problem of control of all.

VINCE JOHNSON.

Mobile Voluntary Work Team

Dear Friends,

I would like to hear from readers of *FREEDOM* who want to pioneer a form of anarchist society—as described under the title 'How to Form a Voluntary Work Team' in *FREEDOM*, 30.9.67.

Team members will mostly be over 18 years. Its average size will be 16 men and women, few of whom will be skilled before they join.

The Team will undertake a series of month-long voluntary work projects wherever need is greatest. In addition, propaganda of radical ideas on war, hunger and local needs will be undertaken through films and personal contact. Non-violence and voluntary work are fundamental to this scheme.

The Team will start off in February 1968. I hope to hear soon from anyone

DEMONSTRATORS VICTIMISED

—ENGLAND

I WRITE to publicise the case of 20-year-old Anton Pinschof, now on bail pending appeal against three months in a detention centre. Pinschof was charged after the Grosvenor Square demonstration (October 22) with assaulting a police officer, and on November 6 was sentenced by Magistrate Robey at Marlborough Street.

Robey's blatant unconcern over evidence offered by defendant and prosecution alike was far in excess of the routine police bias demonstrators can expect from the judiciary. The last case of the day, with the public gallery almost empty, Justice Robey sat slumped on his elbow, yawning between pained facial gestures. Pinschof conducted his own defence, pleading guilty to the charge BUT—and this is the crux of the case—denying the truth of the actual evidence brought against him, on the 'strength' of which evidence he was being tried; an important qualification that Robey simply ignored.

Pinschof conceded that at the height of the demonstration along with umpteen others he was doubtless pushing bodily against the cordon of constables. P.C. Nicholson (C.313) asserted that Pinschof had called him 'fascist bastard' (whatever Pinschof's feelings, such words, as he explained in court, are 'just not my way of speaking'); further that Pinschof had punched him in the chest, knocking him to the ground, and had put a boot into him, consequently breaking two bones in his foot (evidence from West End Central's doctor); and all this P.C. Nicholson implied took place immediately before or after the arrest. P.C. Nicholson could not or would not say just when.

Pinschof showed the court a photograph (by Associated Press that had appeared in *The Times*) of the moment of his arrest. This pictured him clearly behind the police cordon and on his own. He appears to be leaving the Square in the confusion following the break-up of the demonstration. When grabbed he screamed to attract attention. A witness Pinschof called heard a policeman say, 'We've got you, you vicious little animal'. The witness had attempted without success to restrain four policemen from dragging Pinschof across the

Square, since the latter was calling out that he had lost his glasses. The prosecution slandered the witness, calling him a liar without giving reason.

The point is there is no respectable case against Pinschof without evidence that it was in fact he who injured P.C. Nicholson. And no such evidence was offered on November 6, beyond P.C. Nicholson's assertion. A P.C. just said so and a Q.C. handed out three months in a detention centre to a young man with no previous convictions.

It looks like police revenge for their collective embarrassment on October 22. Demonstrators will question the value of non-violence, a martyr's choice, when the executive can so easily fabricate charges of violence, no matter how one behaves.

London

G. GLADSTONE.

—DENMARK

A FEW WEEKS AGO Copenhagen anarchists (the 'Zenit' group and the provos) held a demonstration to protest against the military dictatorship in Greece. King Constantine's wife is Danish.

The Danish press conducted a vicious campaign of slander against our comrades and the police smashed their demonstration.

One comrade, Preben Meedom, was beaten up by five policemen and suffered concussion. He was arrested.

An appeal for solidarity demonstration arrived too late in London for it to have taken place before the trial.

The case ended on Friday, after a hearing of several days. Two young men were charged following the demonstration. One, Jens Jensen, was fined £10; against Preben Meedom there was a special charge of having hit one of the policemen, and he was sentenced to 20 days imprisonment. There are two types of imprisonment in Denmark, (a) 'straight' imprisonment, and (b) a milder form in which the prisoner wears his own clothes. (Nearest English equivalent is the type that is served in Brixton by civil debtors.) Preben's sentence is the latter.

The length of the hearing was increased by the showing in court of the television films of the demonstration and very many photographs.

CPT—Lessons

Continued from page 4

American capital.

However, to everyone's surprise the workers unanimously rejected the call to return to work and called another mass meeting for Friday, the 10th. The union officials hastily issued a press statement saying that the delay in returning to work was due to 'minor difficulties' which would all be sorted out by Friday. And at this meeting they finally agreed to return, although 10% still wanted to continue the struggle.

This dispute has, I think, two major lessons. The first is that there exists a large minority of American firms in this country whose directors and managers are amazingly stupid. Instead of wooing the unions onto their side to help with the task of disciplining the workers (a task they are only too willing to perform), they try to rule dictatorially by all sorts of outmoded drum-thumping and hurling of threats which, due to the nature of modern production, they are unable to enforce.

Secondly, the workers can only achieve complete victory if they receive widespread solidarity from other workers against these firms, which have enormous reserves to range against strikers.

This was the lesson of Roberts Arundel and this is the lesson of CPT. If they are learned the disputes will have been worthwhile, even apart from any immediate 'victories' by the workers, victories which are, and in this context can only be, disguised stalemates.

I.R.M.

Disintegration?

TO MOST PEOPLE 'anarchy' is a state of chaos; an 'anarchist' a man bent on creating chaos by violence. In attempting to popularise an unfamiliar social theory why describe it in terms bound to antagonise your audience?

The purist answer is simple: the primary meaning of anarchy is society without government. Anyone who advocates such a society may therefore call it anarchy—and himself an anarchist—confident that he is using these words correctly.

This is an unsatisfactory answer. What people generally mean by a word is a more important guide to its use than the derivation of the word. Unless anarchists are more interested in communicating with scholars than ordinary people it is silly for them to prefer academic definition to everyday language.

But I am an anarchist. I want anarchy. And I use the words deliberately.

The fundamental disagreement between libertarians and liberals is over the role of authority. For the liberal authority is necessary to preserve society from disintegration. Without law there can be no order. Inevitably anarchy must be chaos. The libertarian holds that authority is itself an evil, that a society without it can be peaceful, that order without law is a practical possibility, that anarchy need not be chaos.

Hence the importance of 'anarchy'. The different uses of the word highlight the disagreement between those who work for the overthrow of the State and those who give it their support.

To abandon the word 'anarchy' achieves nothing. True the word shocks. But the idea of a society without authority is even more disturbing to many people. You cannot con people into anarchism by changing the label.

Integration?

Gipsy Dave Frost is the emperor of the age, the most meteoric youth of all. He holds the centre of the TV screen—and centre is the key word.

Some weeks ago Frost dealt roughly with white racists in South London. The other day he swung round in his swivel chair to savage the Black Muslims, whose leader had just been jailed.

Frost had the audience well drilled—from the cheerful West Indian in the front row who proudly proclaimed his membership of the Church of England to the Englishman who shouted from the back: if you oppose integration you must support segregation.

The programme's punch line was a transatlantic phone conversation with one of America's newly elected negro mayors. Wonderful to relate, he thought negroes could best advance themselves by working through established political institutions.

The Black Muslims were not impressive.

They were sometimes absurd—insisting that the West Indian in the front row was not a 'true' black man—and rarely coherent.

The objection to white liberal attitudes seems to be this: integration in Britain 1967 can only mean the absorption of black people into white society and the acceptance by black people of white values and patterns of behaviour.

The white racist says to the black man: go home. The white liberal says: you may stay if you accept my society, if you live according to my laws, if you become like me.

White society stands for many things—for the ruthless exploitation of colonial peoples, for barbarous wars, for sophisticated atrocity. It is not surprising that the aware black man resists the suggestion that he should learn the rules of the white man's club. WYNFORD HICKS.

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Electricians Fight Agreement

NUMEROUS MEETINGS and demonstrations have been organised by contracting electricians against a new agreement signed by the Electrical Trades Union and the National Federated Electrical Associates. This new agreement comes into force on January 1 and provides for the setting up of a Joint Industrial Board on which 13 ETU representatives will sit with an equal number of employers with an outside chairman. This new Board will replace the Joint Industrial Council negotiating machinery and will determine the pay and conditions in the industry.

Booklets have been published to explain the aims of the agreements to electricians. The aims are that of a corporate state and 'the abolition of the age-old distrust between management and men'. They have the blessing of the Ministry of Labour and are described as a 'transformation in management-labour relations'. However, the published aims are, of course, an impossible contradiction and the real

aim is to discipline and control the electricians by the joint union-management board.

Electricians are to be split up into four grades of technician electrician, approved electrician, electrician, and labourer, while the jobs of charge-hands and, more important, mates are to be abolished. Entry into the grades require certain qualifications. Technicians will be men with at least five years' experience as foremen, while approved electricians will have been apprenticed and hold a City and Guilds' certificate.

ELIMINATING UNOFFICIAL STRIKES

However, many working in the industry at present are highly skilled, but have no formal qualifications. Their grade will be decided quite arbitrarily. The majority of them will be graded as electricians, while most of the mates will be classified as labourers. Labourers will be asked to sign a contract, giving them an extra 1d. per hour over three years. This is supposed to be on a voluntary basis, but failure to sign will mean the sack. Other aims of the agreement are increased productivity, increased profitability and increased pay tied to increased productivity, eliminating all unofficial stoppages. If any infringement of the agreement takes place, such as an unofficial strike, a number of penalties can be imposed by the JIB. Welfare benefits can be forfeited, suspension from the JIB, which means no job until the suspension is removed, or expulsion from the JIB. The latter penalty would mean leaving the industry.

It has been estimated that this grading of electricians will save the employers 9% in total wage costs and it is obvious that it will also divide the electricians one against the other. I do not think that any other agreement has ever gone so far as this one in union-management co-operation. It does away with traditional bargaining, ignores any democracy whereby wage rates, conditions and policy are made by the membership. The agreement is meant to control militants and to smash rank and file organisation in the industry.

Cannon and Chapple are the cynical ex-communists who turned out their old comrades by a court decision. They have battened on and are exploiting working people just like any employer. This agreement illustrates the wide gulf, which is impossible to bridge, that separates the union bureaucrats from the rank and file. It has the imprint of the corporate state, with the Government, employers and union leaders controlling and disciplining the working people.

While the agreement upholds the 'employers' right of management', it gives little protection to workers, who can be sacked and put in a pool of unemployed. This is an open invitation to employers to sack men in an industry where, up until now, labour has been retained by the employers during slack periods. Now one can visualise how the employers will use this pool to get rid of any militants.

The contracting electrical industry has no agreement that formally recognises shop stewards. The nature of the industry, with only very large contracts having a sizeable gang of electricians, means that the vast majority do not elect shop stewards. Many do not belong to the ETU, but under the new agreement they are eligible for membership of the JIB. The executive of the ETU, no doubt, has its eye on these 'mons' and it won't be long

Freedom

before there is a 100% membership clause, with union dues being deducted from wage packets.

This agreement really affects all trade unionists for this is the pattern that is being followed by a large number of union-management set-ups. They may not all be on the same scale as the JIB, but they are creeping in.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FORMED

Electricians have not been taking all this without any reaction, for there is a great deal of hostility to it throughout the industry. A number of unofficial committees have sprung up in different areas of the country, with liaison between them, and a National Action Committee has been formed. The demonstration in London on Friday, despite union-management threats of sacking, was well attended by men from many parts of the country and a one-day stoppage is being planned for December 12.

The contracting electricians, like all trade unionists, are fighting for the control of their own union in order to prevent agreements from being made over their heads and without consultation and their consent. This pattern is on the increase and many trade unionists find themselves in this position. Their main, and often fiercest battle, is against the union executives who have joined forces with the employers against the working class.

P.T.

Freedom

NOVEMBER 18 1967 Vol 28 No 35

CPT: PYRRHIC VICTORY & LESSONS

AT THE TALKS, which began on November 6 in Aberdeen, between the management of the Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Co. and union officials representing the 670 men who had been locked out at the company's Fraserburgh factory for almost eight weeks, a mixture of bribery and threat was used to cow the workers into submission.

Previously the management had refused even to meet the strikers to discuss the dispute over bonus rates, but now they offered an increase of 24/- a week for skilled and £1 a week for semi-skilled workers and labourers. Simultaneously they gave wide publicity to a threat by a senior company official that if no immediate settlement was reached, they would close down the factory and move elsewhere.

This was enough for the union delegation led by James Thom, the Stalinist

district secretary of the AEU. They accepted the offer and next day recommended a mass meeting of the men to return to work on November 9.

This offer must have been very tempting to the men. Firstly, because they had been out seven weeks and had lost considerable amounts in wages. Secondly, because this increase was a victory and if they pressed for their original demands, it was obvious that they would get no union support. Thirdly, the threat to close the factory would not in Fraserburgh be taken as so much bluff (remember the Roberts-Arundel strike which in this, as in many other respects, resembles the Broch dispute).

People in the Broch, with its high depopulation level and no other chance of employment for engineers can't afford the luxury of scoffing at the threats of

Continued on page 3

Contact Column

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

Greek Embassy Prisoners Picket, Sunday, November 19. Meet W. H. Smith's, Notting Hill Gate, 12 noon. March to Roy Jenkins' house.

SWF Social, Saturday, November 18 at 8 p.m. Lucas Arms, 245 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1 (five minutes King's Cross). All welcome. Bar, music. Admission 2/6d.

Anarchist Black Cross. To send money and food to anarchists in prison. Secretary: Stuart Christie (c/o Freedom Press).

Black Anarchist Ball, December 11. Details next week.

Insadaml—Ugo 2 Provos. To American soldiers in Europe. Leaflet 60/- a thousand. To be reprinted soon. Enquiries P.P.U., 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

Wanted. Folksingers for libertarian folk club. Please contact Iain Macdonald, 15 Cotton Street, Aberdeen, for details.

Help wanted to pay debts, loans will be honoured. Douglas Kepper. Box 67.

Information wanted. CID surveillance on politically activist students. University journal, Box 68.

Glasgow Anarchist Banner. Where is it? Tell Andy McGowan, 753 London Road, Glasgow, S.E.

Girl wants flat in Anarchist/Left household in Islington / North / N.W. London. Solvent. Box 69.

Libertarian Prisoners' Fund. To send money and food to anarchists in prison. Secretary: Stuart Christie (c/o Freedom Press).

International Anarchist Camp 1969. Proposed to hold it in S.E. England—offers of assistance, suggestions for suitable sites to Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex.

'Save Greece Now' Defence Fund. Donations for Terry, Mike and Del) to Bretta Carthey, 8 Vincent Square Mansions, Walcott Street, London, S.W.1.

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.

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Gunter's Bed of Nails

A CUNNING COMMUNIST plot to undermine the moral fibre and overthrow the social structure of the country was revealed this week by Mr. Ray Gunter. The evil-minded reds have entered into an unholy alliance with the Fascists, Trotskyists, Anarchists, people with long hair and beards, and any other dissident group you can think of, he told the Press at a special emergency conference.

The FREEDOM reporter then suggested he add the Conservative and Liberal Parties to the list. 'Good idea,' beamed Mr. Gunter. 'In fact you might as well include the left-wingers of the Labour Party — and any other bastard who happens to disagree with me or question my infallibility.'

Mr. Gunter then adopted some grave and serious poses while the photographers took their pictures. After suggesting the headline 'Gunter reveals red plot' on the front page he continued: 'The deceitful commies are claiming that the mass unofficial strikes are genuine expressions of the workers' discontent with the Government's policies of half a million unemployed, wages frozen, and food and electricity prices up.'

'In reality of course nothing could be further from the truth. The people are being intimidated in their thousands to take this action by a handful of closely-knit politically-motivated men.'

'It is not for me to offer the slightest shred of evidence of these charges as this would be beneath the dignity of a Minister of the Crown. God save the Queen!'

'It may at first glance seem rather impractical that so few could intimidate so many. Further, it may be argued, that all strike decisions are taken by the democratic vote of the majority. But if you want any more Government leaks for your newspapers I advise you to ignore that line of argument.'

The trouble is that the ignorant masses are so terribly gullible and are led into strikes like sheep by such people as Jack Dash. Mr. Gunter paused, then added with a wry grin, 'They must be pretty gullible—otherwise they wouldn't vote in a Labour Government thinking it would be any different to a Conservative one would they? That's off the record of course.'

'Back to business. Of course the Government has to make unpopular decisions if they are the right ones. It's just an unfortunate fact of life that the popular decisions (made by the majority

who vote us in) are normally the wrong ones. This is because the uneducated populace have not had the benefit of the education and experience that we—their representatives—have had.'

'We feel it would be wrong therefore that just because we are supposed to be the people's representatives that we should do what they want us to. This after all is the lifeblood of this great democracy of ours whereby the ignorant majority don't have to suffer for their stupid ideas. We, the minority, know what's best for them.'

The real trouble with this country is that there is far too much of this I'm All Right Jack attitude—as Prince Philip so aptly put it on his way from the Palace to his private yacht for a luxury cruise around the world.

'People want to get something for nothing. But under a truly socialist system—like the one the Government is now building—people will be rewarded in accordance with their effort and the importance of their contribution to society.'

This can be seen by a comparison with Mr. Paul Getty and a farm labourer. Being a billionaire Mr. Getty can sit back and do nothing but collect interest at the rate of five per cent a year. This way he collects in three to four seconds what a farm labourer on £10 10s. a week earns in 50 years. What could be fairer than that?

'Yet amazingly enough there are extremists in the country who claim this is all out of proportion and that if anything the farm labourer's contribution to society is more important than Mr. Getty's. This crazy logic seems to suggest it is more important to eat than have a man sitting in an office manipulating sums of money by telephone!'

'Pursuing this unusual brand of logic further they complain that a top barrister's income of £2,000 a week is a bit too much. Quite obviously the job of getting the few people who are rich enough to afford their fees off criminal or civil charges is a very important contribution to society. Even if their clients are probably guilty.'

The same applies to the judges on £250 a week. Without the deterrent effect of their sentences we would all go around killing people—except me of course. Another vitally important task performed by them is locking up such menaces to society as Brian Jones who actually dared to possess a few grains of

hemp in the privacy of his own home. One shudders to think what would happen if we all did this.'

'The dockers also do a good job of course as is proved by the fact that when they strike the economy of the country is so drastically hit as I have often said. But why, oh why, do they have to blot their copy books by being greedy and demanding a larger slice of the national cake?'

'I generously allowed the dockers in London to have a minimum wage of £16. They then showed their gratitude by striking for £17 on the flimsy grounds that the employers said they were willing to pay it. This sort of betrayal of a Labour Government disheartens me at times and that is why I call it my bed of nails. All for a measly £170 a week—that's all I get. Yet you don't see me going on strike—or the barristers and judges for that matter.'

'We at least have some patriotism and put the national interest above our own. If only the dockers, railwaymen, busmen and builders would follow our great example of altruism.'

'As it is, all they do is moan and bother me with little niggles, like a judge's pension is £125 a week while a dockers' (who has had less chance to save) is 11s. 6d. a week. Then they complain that a judge's widow (on the brink of poverty) gets £62 10s. a week while a dockers' widow gets nothing a week. I find facts and figures so boring, don't you?'

'Other ungrateful members of the working class actually begrudge paying taxes to give £9,500 a week to the Queen on the quite irrelevant grounds that she is already one of the richest people in the world and is in more of a position to give them the money. Such audacity!'

'Finally I would like to make a sincere appeal to the normal, decent, honest working folk of our green and pleasant land. Hold back your claims for increased wages, and pay up those increased prices with a cheery smile. Then, when the national cake gets bigger as a result, we will continue to distribute it as fairly as we have in the past.'

'And don't believe the evil plotters and foreign agents who will tell you there is any sort of equality of payment in Russia or any other Communist country. But most of all don't start thinking of any sort of equality of payment as a desirable thing in this country.'