

FREEDOM

AN ANARCHIST WEEKLY-4d.

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THE Boothby-Mirror group affair which the muck rakers inside and outside Fleet Street must have viewed as a possibly bigger and better Profumo scandal has been quickly settled, following the publication of Lord Boothby's letter by the *Times* and all the National Press, vigorously denying all the charges. The letter and the *Mirror's* allegations have proved a most profitable enterprise for Lord Boothby, since the settlement, as well as consisting of a retraction by the *Mirror* group's chairman in person, included a payment of £40,000 by way of compensation.

Lord Boothby is no innocent in the ways of this wicked world, nor of the ins and outs of the world of

Distorting Mirror

mass communications. He has for years been an entertainer both in the Press, Radio and Television, as well as in the house of Commons, where, if one were to consult the records, one would probably find that he has used his privileged status to say pretty damaging things about people who had not his same opportunities to reply. But these are the rules of the one-sided game and obviously one would be foolish not to take advantage of them when they operate in one's favour!

Similarly one would be foolish not to be ready to bite the hands that make one into a "household word". For let there be no mistake about this: the Boothbys, the Beatles, the Beatniks and the Bardots are household words because the directors of mass communications have agreed to give them the "full treatment". And by the same token they can just as easily relegate them to limbo.

Neither Lord Boothby's letter to the *Times* nor the Statement signed by Cecil King for the International Publishing Corporation as owners of the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror* have that ring of truth and honesty which they are, presumably intended to convey to the likes of you and this writer. And presumably since both the *Mirror* group in the first place and Lord Boothby in his letter were concerned with establishing the facts, our comments will not be interpreted otherwise.

The *Sunday Mirror* front page report on July 12 alle,ed:

'Society is produced by our wants and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness positively by uniting our affections, the latter negatively by restraining our vices. The one encourages intercourse, the other creates distinctions. The first is a patron, the last a punisher.

THOMAS PAINE.

Pseudo-Crisis in SE Asia

A top level Scotland Yard investigation into the alleged homosexual relationship between a prominent peer and a leading thug in the London underworld has been ordered by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Joseph Simpson.

This was followed by allegations that the peer concerned was "a household name"; that the investigation—details of which were given under four headings—were being "conducted by Chief Superintendent Fred Gerrard, head of No. 3 District CID of the Metropolitan Police".

The following day a statement issued by Scotland Yard on behalf of Sir Joseph Simpson stated that none of the statements made by the *Sunday Mirror* was true though he added:

In saying this I hope that it will be understood by the Press and the public that I am not going to disclose information about the many inquiries being conducted into various aspects of underworld life. Inquiries of this kind are, in fact, going on almost continuously.

Lord Boothby in his letter to the

Times, assuming that the *Sunday Mirror's* "prominent peer" who was a "household name" referred to himself (for he had not recognised himself in the *Sunday Mirror* report—"I returned to London from France and found to my amazement that Parliament, Fleet Street and other informed quarters were seething with rumours that I have a homosexual relationship with a leading thug in the London underworld...")—though it had been obvious to "informed quarters", recognised by Lord Boothby as such, that he was the person involved) vigorously denied that he was a homosexual or that he had been to Mayfair parties for at least 20 years, or that he had homosexual relationships with East End gangsters or Brighton parsons.

We have no reason to question Lord Boothby's denials as matters of fact; morally speaking we "couldn't care less"—as the current

Continued on page 3

COLONIALISTS AT WORK AGAIN

SINCE for the past week the attention of the press has been concentrated on the events in and off the coast of Vietnam, it is worth recalling what has been going on there day after day, year after year for the past two decades, and for the past fifty years. Indo-China had been part of the French colonial empire during the last part of the nineteenth century and half the twentieth, which means that after destroying the no doubt authoritarian way of life in which the inhabitants lived, an alien power had killed many of the people and destroyed their crops, and then subjected them to nearly a century of exploitation and oppression which undoubtedly seemed much worse because it was imposed by foreigners.

Since the twenties, a Russian inspired communist party has been agitating, and after the second world war, felt strong enough to launch a military revolt to get the hated imperialists out of the country. That was resisted by the French who were only defeated after considerably more suffering for the people. Since then, the armed hostility between the "Communist" and pro-American governments of the North and South has involved besides the usual effects of war, the horrors of defoliation of crops which have brought starvation to masses of civilians in areas where both guerillas and American forces were active, the villagers of the south have been rounded up into village compounds by South Vietnam troops, and the government of

South Vietnam has pursued its vicious policy of trying to terrorise the Buddhist population into Catholicism.

Consequently, it is hard not to be sceptical when the press shows a sudden interest just because a clash has occurred involving elements of the American and North Vietnamese navies, actions which while causing military losses and casualties, have a minimal effect on the people of Vietnam themselves who have been suffering just as much every day for twenty years as a result of the clash between the interests of the old rulers and the western powers, and the newly installed dictators of the "Peoples Republic" and the Chinese government.

The question in Vietnam is not "Communism" or "Democracy" but the rival interests of the American and Chinese state machines. It is just as true now, in the era of the atom and hydrogen bombs, the affluent societies of the west and the struggles of the underdeveloped and colonial countries to free themselves from the European grip, that a capitalist state needs colonies, and that a state with a big military machine needs a terrain on which to exercise it, and in which the interests of the inhabitants can be safely ignored, and over which it is possible to work up enough ideological drivel to convince most of its population that the war is being fought in defence of democracy.

It has been suggested forcibly that one reason for the excitement on the part of the Americans has been Johnson's desire to score an electoral advantage over Goldwater by proving that he is capable of military action. While the imminence of the elections may have a slight effect on the readiness of the Americans to pour yet more millions of dollars into the pockets of the suppliers of military weapons, it should not be imagined that it is a mere flash in the pan caused by the gullibility of the Republican voters in choosing Goldwater as their candidate. Cold war is necessary to the economic and power political set-up in America as it is to that in Russia and China, and it is in people's interests to look behind the headlines about gunboat battles and see why it is that the Vietnamese are being killed and starved, and the wealth of the workers in the industrialised countries being squandered on war machines, and to get together and put an end to it.

Railmen and Postmen can learn from Postmen

The recent pay settlement of 6½% for postmen has given Mr. Green, the railwaymen's union leader, hope that they will be able to gain a substantial wage award from the Government. Their claims are still outstanding and up until now no reply has been received from Dr. Beeching.

Postmen and railwaymen are in a similar position with regard to their wage rates which are calculated by their employer, the Government. Both are based on inquiries set up by the Government. For the railway, it was the Guillebaud, which reported its findings way back in 1959 and recommended that railway workers should get wages that were comparable with the industries chosen by the inquiry. This figure has never been achieved and taking into consideration the present day wage rates of these selected industries, the railwaymen are again far behind. Working the Guillebaud recommendations with present day wage rates, the railwayman should get £10 14s. 10d. per week basic, but in actual fact he only gets £9 14s. 0d., which is £1 0s. 4d. or over 10½% less.

The postmen had the Armitage Committee of Inquiry, which reported in April and recommended comparable wages with workers doing similar jobs. The union claimed that this would mean a 10½% rise, but the inquiry did not publish actual figures or state with which jobs the comparison was being made. This job will now be taken over by a Pay-Research Unit and the figure arrived at will be backdated to January.

It is expected that the postmen will get another 2% from this survey and so it appears that their rate will be below their original claim. It seems to me that far from the postmen forcing the Government to grant 6½%, Mr. Maudling and his Treasury cronies were quite willing to grant this before the threatened general stoppage. Enough disruption had been caused already and too many powerful bodies in commerce were calling for a settlement. The last act, the settlement being the curtain call, was the threatened general stoppage, a step which was not expected from the postmen's moderate leader, Mr. Smith. It all sounded too good to be true and of course Mr. Smith and the Government knew it would not happen. The Government knew Mr. Smith would accept

a small increase on the 4% offer and in fact they did not even name the figure before the work-to-rule, overtime ban and threatened strike were all called off. The show was over and it was "back to normal working lads and let's clear the backlog".

Of course the postmen were, in fact, in a strong position to win their full claim, but things might have got out of hand, as they showed signs of doing at the beginning of the strike. Troops might have had to be called in, then other G.P.O. workers brought out. This in turn might have led to workers in other industries coming out in solidarity and this is the sort of thing that gives the members of the Government nightmares as well as Trade Union leaders. The thing had gone far enough and the Government and union leadership wanted a "return to normal". Mr. Smith had played the trade union leader's role of smoothing the path to compromise, his essential role and place in the present day mixed economy capi-

talism. What chance do the railwaymen stand of winning the just demands of comparable wages, i.e. 10½% increase? Not a hope if they rely on their leader, Mr. Green, and his executive. Railwaymen have the recent postal dispute as an example of what will happen if they do. Their wage is now £2 16s. 6d. below that of the postmen, yet often they are working side by side doing the same job. If they are to gain a substantial increase, they themselves must take the action to win it. Postmen did take the initiative in the first instance, but this was not carried through. The railwaymen should learn by this.

By the time that Dr. Beeching makes his offer, in reply to union claims, we will be very close to the General Election. Union leaders will not take action so near to this event, so further delays can be expected. These claims are already overdue and now is the time for action to force Dr. Beeching and the Government to concede them.

Misdirected Action

I should not think the assembly lines move so fast at Rover's factory at Solihull, as it does at Fords at Dagenham. Assembly workers at Rovers have been working to rule and banning overtime, because the company wanted more labour on these lines. The men said this would cut their earnings and that they themselves could increase production and earn higher wages. Anyway, Rovers decided to threaten closure of the factory if the men did not return to normal working. The unions and stewards had already called for this, but were turned down by the rank and file.

The Solihull plant produces the new Rover 2000 saloon, for which there is a big demand, and with overtime already being worked, it seems the obvious thing is to increase the labour force. Other firms might have speeded up the assembly line, but Rovers did not want to do this and so decided to take on more men. The unofficial action of the assembly men, in these circumstances, is not only shortsighted, but selfish. Surely the thing to do is to share the work around and it seems crazy that they should offer to work harder by speed-up.

These new workers should be welcomed and tactics the men used to keep them out should be directed to winning better conditions and higher wages for all. Their efforts should be directed at the boss, not against fellow workers.

Another instance of misdirected unofficial action was the three-hour strike over the employment of coloured busmen at the Old Kilpatrick depot near Glasgow. As it is, coloured workers can only get jobs the white workers do not want and now they are even being forced out of these.

One often comes up against colour prejudice at work and often no amount of rational argument will dispel it. Certainly the strikers' demand of a colour bar will not. But this prejudice has to be broken down and this is often achieved by working together. It is said by some that the coloured workers will bring down wages, yet in my experience, they are not any less militant when wage claims are being made. Solidarity between all workers is the weapon against employers, not strikes over the colour of a man's skin.

P.T.

ANARCHY 42

ON SALE NOW
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The Anarchist Communist Approach

(An anarchist summer school lecture, continued from the previous issue).

AS far as localised control of the actual processes of production is concerned, its usefulness as a purely economic measure is recognised even in capitalist industry, as the gang system has shown. (See for instance the article by Reg Wright in ANARCHY 8). Support for this view was expressed from an unexpected source recently in a speech by Mr. P. Chambers, head of I.C.I. which was published in *Nature*, in which he elaborated at length the idea that it was important not only to leave control of detailed operations in the hands of the men on the spot, but to accept that they will from time to time make mistakes, and to refrain from withdrawing their power or holding inquests when they did. Of course he was only thinking in terms of local managers, and not of workers' councils, and he wanted the top rank executives to stop interfering in detailed operational questions so that they could concentrate on matters of national policy, but that emphasises even further the fact that the decisions which are really important to production of goods can be controlled by workers without central direction, while the managerial ranks are only necessary because of competitive marketing, advertising and other activities which would become redundant in a free society. Naturally, the problems of control at the local level and overall control of industry are closely linked. The gang system was attacked because it was thought to detract from "the right of management to manage", and Chambers finished off his lecture by regretting the decline of religion in England which had previously given the upper class an ideology with which to govern confidently, and spoke favourably about the ideological atmosphere of the Soviet Union, which he found preferable to present day British attitudes.

In an anarchist communist society, factories will be controlled by workers in them, building programmes undertaken by builders and architects groups, and schools and universities organised by teachers, students and parents. It is therefore of interest from an anarchist communist view to study, and support

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the efforts which are made to establish communities carrying out these functions today. There are for instance the Co-operative Productive Associations, which are owned by the workers, but where managers take day to day decisions and the handful of factories where the owners have turned control over to workers' committees out of sociological or religious convictions.

A number of schools have been set up by parents and teachers getting together to provide an education for a few children outside the confines of the state indoctrination machine. Descriptions of experiences along these, and similar lines will be found in the files of ANARCHY, together with anarchist evaluation of them. However, what would make them far more interesting would be if they could be set up consciously as a part of the libertarian communist

movement's activities. It is inevitable that an enterprise of this type in present day society will have to compromise on a wide range of issues in everything it does; it is a great mistake to confuse a tiny libertarian community in an authoritarian society with what that community would be like in a free society. However, if the communities regarded themselves not as refugees from which their members could hide from the outside world in, but as something which could exert an influence on the ideas and development of social thought, they would be able to exist and make the inevitable compromises in a more useful way. Of course, it should be enjoyable for the individuals connected with such communities to live and work in them but this should in no way conflict with the idea that they might be pioneering a demonstration of commun-

ism in practice.

For instance, it should be possible to largely finance an anarchist school by voluntary subscription, and then be in a position to choose teachers and to a certain extent children, just as Christian movements did at the end of the last century. It should be possible to run an evening institute for education and research, at which sociological, psychological and economic studies of anarchist interest could be carried on and published. Numerous workshops and agricultural experiments could be carried out, if the movement could realise itself as a movement, and agree that it is important to try out these experiments as a complement and not an alternative to propaganda for a complete revolution in society.

It may well be objected that parallels to the experiments suggested above have

in fact been attempted many times before, by people with numerous ideologies, as in the utopian communities, Co-operative Productive Association factories, the Working Men's College and so on, and most important in the communities set up by the Zionist movement in Israel. However, these have not been anarchist communities or workshops, and if anarchism is a distinctive social idea it should make a decisive difference to the effects the communities being proposed here have on the society around them.

At the same time as advocating support for experiments along these lines, it cannot be emphasised too strongly that anarchist communism means the whole of the country and really the whole world getting rid of governments and living together freely, and useful and valuable as islands of community are in the present society, they do not themselves constitute communism, and as the examples quoted in the last paragraph show, may not even affect the course of capitalism very much.

P.H.
(The concluding part, next week, will discuss individualist anarchism, Stirnerism and syndicalism).

ELECTION ANTHOLOGY - VII

THE political hucksters are tremendously busy these days. True, they have nothing to offer to the people save a few rotten planks, as breakable as the proverbial ante-election promises. But what's the odds? The art of the huckster is to make one buy the things he doesn't want, and the business of the politician is to persuade the people that they won't be happy till he gets his office.

And so it goes merrily on. One gang of grafters supersedes another in an endless round of elections, and no one's the wiser except the politicians. The good citizen piously casts his little paper in the box and goes his way, and what ever party wins he plods on as before, and all remains as it was. Only taxes grow higher, the cost of necessities goes up, and ends are harder to meet. And the worker, the actual producer who pays the bill, he keeps on wondering how the change of masters is going to fill his market-basket and—continues to toil for his masters.

Nor does the Socialist politician help extricate the workers from the dilemma. On the contrary, he still further complicates and confounds the real issues by promising the people a land flowing with honey and milk, if they would only worship that mysterious thing called Socialism as their sole divinity. Its high priests will already see to it that the capitalist is legislated out of existence, and now, Socialist laws will decree well-being and joy for all. For the Socialist politicians have no quarrel with the law, provided it is made by honest Socialists, and administered and executed by good party members, in order that "the will of the people may triumph".

But 'the will of the people' is beginning to show unmistakable signs of law diarrhoea. They have had too much of that diet. The workers especially are manifesting a tendency to rebel against the masters even of their own choosing. They are awakening to the possibilities of being their own masters. They are gaining confidence in their own initiative and developing their intelligence and power, as producers, to make their will

operative directly, by virtue of labour being the sole creator of all wealth.

That is the significance of direct action methods that are now applied with ever greater frequency and determination in every struggle of labour—and labour will teach the rest of the world that the affairs of the people are the people's affairs, to be regulated individually and collectively by themselves, without the interference of even Socialist law and Socialist politicians.

While this consciousness is growing throughout the world in the industrial life, it seems to take also a political turn in Mexico. In the recent presidential elections [1913] there the people seem to have deliberately abstained from

LETTER

Moon Madness

DEAR EDITORS,

I found the 'Moral Moon Madness' very interesting and almost unique in that by referring to poetry it admits that there are other things of interest and worthy of editorials than capitalist skulduggery and political chicanery which, though real and vile, begin to be bores after a bit.

Your editorial says you 'believe in a world in which both scientist and poet can live their lives in harmony with each other'. By 'believe in' I guess you mean 'want to see' and not 'believe we definitely will see'. For exponents of the latter viewpoint, people who believe in the free, golden, inevitable future society with music and poetry echoing down the streets and wonderful machinery catering for every extravagant whim must be getting near despair by now.

Take a look at poetry. It seems to me that the well-spring and inspiration of what your editorial meant by poetry (if the bit about the Danish yachtsman is anything to go on and which express the emotional, spiritual, mystical, etc.) have been nature, human feelings and

exercising their privilege of choosing a new set of rulers. Consternation in the camp of politicians. The governments of Europe and America even are growing anxious. If the ballot sheep refuse to be corralled in the shearing booths, how in the name of Moloch are you going to get their wool? Why, government could not exist a day if the people were to refuse recognition and support! And the industrial barons—how are they to skin the cattle if the brutes refuse to abide by the rules laid down for skinning them?

You can't sit on a fellow's back if he persists in standing up straight, and if the workers will no longer bend in supplication to earthly divinities and straighten their backs in the very holy of holies—the temple of authority—the whole labourious framework of exploration and robbery will fall to the ground.

Sad days are in store for the high priests of law and life.

ALEXANDER BERKMAN.

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ANARCHISM ON BBC TV

"Let Me Speak", with Malcolm Muggeridge, BBC2. August 22nd, 10.20 p.m. (BBC willing).

ushers in the long night. Look ahead to tomorrow's poetry. It will probably be written by machines, indeed I have seen some poetry written by an electronic brain which compares not unfavourably with contemporary, man-written, avant-garde poetry.

Poetry is being killed by 'progress' possibly man will be too. Until recently I thought that more and more 'progress' would bring about man's emancipation. I now realise that it will cause not his emancipation but his enslavement, the destruction of the uniqueness which makes him differ from machines and possibly his actual physical destruction.

These gloomy prophecies will not inevitably come true. The tide of history can be reversed or steered into saner channels. I should be glad if readers will tell me of any trend, development, precedent, situation, etc., in the modern world which suggests that it will.

Fraternally,

London, Aug. 8. JEFF ROBINSON.

P.S.—Wasn't there a Russian rocket that photographed not only the front but the hitherto unknown back of the moon about three years ago. So why the silly fuss now?

Round the Galleries

North-west of the centres of Tigris and Euphrates oriental civilizations lies the lands of Northern Syria and upper Mesopotamia and it was in this area that the Hittite power flourished and died. Here was a culture spawned more than two thousand years before Christ that might have died unknown were it not that they had adopted the cuneiform writing from the Babylonians and it was these clay records of their laws and their social, political and religious findings that has made them part of the stream of history. Bernard Shaw who said so much on so many occasions once wrote that without the poet and the pen all civilizations are lost. He did not say it as briefly and as poetically as that but that was roughly what he was trying to put over and the tablet written in Old Assyrian cuneiform writing is a voice droning across three thousand years to a sparse audience in a warm room above the halt of London's traffic.

It is unfortunate that we do not possess any monumental sculpture in the round from the hands of the Hittites,

(though much of their reliefs have come down to us, but the work is stylised and repetitious. It has that air of bazaar art and allowing for the mystique of the past much of this work is trivial when one has once accepted that these people had overcome the first fundamentals of a primitive mass production. They had learned the use of the potter's wheel two thousand years or more B.C. and their early bronze age can be dated back over three thousand years before Christ yet the work on exhibition never offers more than the usual commercial factory work of a prosperous people engaged in a vast trading network.

The buttons of the seventh century B.C. used the granulated method, still in use today, of coating a button base with resin and then covering the tacky surface with a layer of rough sand. Each grain of rough sand is covered with a film of gold and when the gold-coated sand sticks to its base a pattern is formed by scraping away the unwanted sand and this is repeated with each button. It is charming yet one feels that its only value lies in the fact that

each grain of sand is cloaked in a thin film of gold for as with work such as the fibula its interest to the spectators lies not in its aesthetic but in its financial value. But as in all mass or commercial cultures there exists the individual work that was never meant for the mass market and a beautiful eighteenth century B.C. pitcher covered in a burnished dark red slip, the sixteenth century B.C. head of a bull (part of a broken vessel), or a marble figurine carved over five thousand years ago are the work of individual men and women whose saving grace is that they worked to please themselves and not the men in the bazaars of Anatolia or Bond Street for having been impressed by the major works in this minor exhibition one's interest is constantly drawn to the Late Neolithic work created in clay and marble six thousand years before Christ.

The rude clay pots and the roughly fashioned female figures transcend Shaw's cult of language in that they speak for the individual men and women who found a leisure to create and a joy in the act of personal creation not for a god cult or a dealer's market but to satisfy their own erotic pleasure and their own personal and family daily usage.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

FREEDOM

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DISTORTING MIRROR

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saying goes—whether he was homosexual, bi-sexual, heterosexual or . . . indifferent. And we are convinced that millions of our fellow beings think likewise. But since Lord Boothby thinks himself a "household name" and that the *Sunday Mirror's* "household name" referred to him, and that the inference was that, in Radio parlance, he was "a homosexual with underworld connections"—an inference which earned him a clear 35,000 "nicker" allowing for the £5,000 he magnanimously offered to the traditional "hospital of his choice", as is wont in these highly principled libel cases—he will surely not object if an anarchist paper seeks to interpret his arguments, as well as those of the *Mirror* group, purely in the interests of truth.

Lord Boothby's letter to the *Times* is factual—"I am not by nature thin-skinned", "I am not a homosexual", "I have not been to a May-fair Party of any kind for more than 20 years", "I have never been to a party in Brighton with gangsters—still less with clergymen" "The police say that they have not watched any meetings, or conducted any investigations, or made any report to the Home Secretary connected with me".

The International Publishing Corporation as owners and publishers both of the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror* accompanied their £40,000 golden handshake and public apology to Lord Boothby with the "personal regret of myself [Cecil H. King, Chairman International Publishing Corporation Ltd.] and the directors of I.P.C. that the story appeared." The statement includes the following, "I am satisfied that any imputation of an improper nature against Lord Boothby is completely unjustified. In these circumstances I feel it my duty to sign this unqualified apology to Lord Boothby and to add the personal regret, etc. . . ."

Now this is all very well so far as Lord Boothby and Cecil King are concerned. They have obviously decided to resolve their differences at an agreed price. But what about the gullible public for whom both the Lord and the Press Lord are household names?

In his *Times* letter Lord Boothby admits that on many occasions I have been photographed, at their request, with people who have claimed to be "fans" of mine; and on one occasion I was photographed with my full consent, in my flat (which is also my office) with a gentleman who came to see me, accompanied by two friends, in order to ask me to take an active part in a business venture which seemed to me to be of interest and importance. After careful consideration I turned down the request, on the ground that my existing commitments prevented me from taking on any thing more; and my letter of refusal is in his possession.

Lord Boothby was photographed with his "full consent" with a "gentleman" he significantly does not name who was accompanied by "two friends" also unnamed. Since we cannot imagine that a man who is a household name would receive, or agree to be photographed with, let alone discuss a business venture of "interest and importance", with strangers—in the sense that they had appeared out of the blue without being introduced by friends of Lord Boothby—is it unreasonable or libellous to suggest that his assertion that he has "since been told that some years ago the person con-

cerned was convicted of a criminal offence" or that "I knew then, and know now, nothing of this" is a lot of eye-wash?

After all, whatever Lord Boothby knew then, he should know now whether what he had been told was fact or fiction. Apart from the fact that, according to his letter

I have met the man who is alleged to be a 'king of the underworld' only three times, on business matters; and then by appointment in my flat, at his request, and in the company of other people

it is surprising that after three meetings the noble Lord does not give his name nor gives details of the "business matters" he was discussing.* For after all, this writer for one was unaware of the Boothby-Mirror affair until it was ventilated by Lord Boothby's syndicated letter to *The Times*; like Lord Boothby we were amazed to learn (from Lord Boothby) that "informed quarters in London" were "seething with rumours" that he was having a homosexual relationship with a leading thug in the London underworld. Lord Boothby's letter has whetted our interest not in his sexual interests but in the business interests of the top people. If it is not a £40,000 question would Lord Boothby care to tell FREEDOM's readers what were the "business matters" he discussed with the "alleged" "king of the underworld" at three meetings?

THE attitude of the *Mirror* group's chairman, Cecil King by contrast, is mealy mouthed as well as reprehensible. By paying £40,000 and all costs to Lord Boothby and issuing the statement signed by their Chairman which can be interpreted in as many ways as one chooses, they have neither proved that "when a newspaper is wrong it should state so promptly and without equivocation" nor that "I am satisfied that any imputation of an improper nature against Lord Boothby is completely unjustified" for the reason that the statement does not explain to the reading public *how the mistake was made*. If Mr. Cecil King is only saying that the rumours were wrong but that the story stands—that's one thing, but surely even the *Mirror* Empire will not throw away £40,000 plus, if it can prove that the "household word" was not Boothby but Lord "X"? One must therefore interpret the *Mirror* group's collapse when faced with Lord Boothby's vigorous counter-attack as a recognition that the front page article in their issue of July 12 was pure invention, sensationalism of the lowest order, innuendo. And to our minds this in itself should be enough to drive any newspaper into bankruptcy. Alas, the conditioning and gullibility of the public today far exceed the hypocrisy, the dishonesty, the unreliability, the subjectivity of the National Press. In a sense the public gets the Press it wants; to get the Press it needs will be achieved when communications can be divorced from circulation.

*Since the publication of his letter but before the settlement with the *Mirror* group Lord Boothby in a statement agreed that the man with whom he was photographed on his lemon-yellow sofa in his London flat which he also uses as an office was Ronald Kray, who with his twin brother Reginald, runs clubs in London. Lord Boothby said he had met him on two occasions; in his flat on business—on both occasions in the company of other people including his manservant. The photograph, he said, was taken by Kray's own photographer at Kray's request.

IN THE FIFTIETH anniversary week of the First World War, billed as "the war to end war" the world teetered twice on the brink of a Third World War—billed by some as "the war to end world". . . .

MR. ALFRED COOTE, chairman of the Hastings magistrates, in sentencing youths who took part in Bank Holiday disturbances referred to their activities as "a deliberately cultivated form of modern wickedness". . . .

THE BODIES of three civil rights workers were discovered in shallow graves by the F.B.I. near Philadelphia, Mississippi. Dick Gregory, who had offered a reward for information, said that three weeks ago he had turned over letters and a tape recording to the F.B.I. giving the location and naming the killers (including a minister, three policemen and a salesman). Dick Gregory said "The rights workers were shot up, castrated and beaten up." William Birnie, who had been found unconscious with a suspected fractured skull in a police cell, died in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He had been arrested and charged with a breach of the peace. Over 100 radiation victims still in hospital at Hiroshima paused in silence and prayer for the 61,000 killed in the first atomic bomb explosion which destroyed the city 19 years ago. Twenty-eight patients died of radiation in the first half of this year.

MR. COOTE FURTHER said, "As far as I can see it is plain bloody-mindedness. It all comes from the steadily growing indiscipline of the young. It is a pity their backsides cannot be tanned." An American publication *General Psychiatry* finds that most wife-beaters in middle-class society are as a rule, shy, sexually ineffectual, and reasonably hard-working "mother's boys" with a tendency to drink excessively. Their wives were typically aggressive, efficient, masculine, and sexually frigid. A New York police officer facing charges of having improper connections with gamblers was said in court to be psychotic and unable to understand the hearing. The officer was said to be in a menial daze "with a memory that flashes on and off like a light". A psychiatrist said the symptoms might disappear within a little as three weeks. A sergeant and three constables will appear before ~~two~~ magistrates charged with perjury and with conspiring to pervert the course of justice. One of the constables is charged with false pretences, counselling the breaking and entering of a shop, receiving six bars of chocolate and two bags of sweets, and stealing two metal clothes posts. A Fulham P.C. accused of the attempted murder of his eight-months' old son said after the attack "He is possessed of a devil. I was trying to get it out of him . . . I was sucking him and biting

OUT OF THIS WORLD

him trying to get it out. I have marks all over my chest. They are devil's marks. I had trouble with him yesterday. I have been fighting him off." Inspector Fry said that after being charged the constable asked "Can I go down on my knees and pray?" When the station officer said he could if he wished, the constable started whistling "Onward Christian Soldiers". . . .

A WRITER to the *Daily Telegraph* on the Hastings disturbances says "In your leader occurs the first expression I have seen anywhere suggesting (surely correctly) that there is some body or bodies behind these groups. You say . . . 'organised expressly for' . . . Is anything being done to trace whether this is the case? If such exist (and it is unthinkable that two groups of potential thugs do these things spontaneously) these are the people who need to be punished as well as the stupid youngsters." *Izvestia* claimed that four members of the Benny Goodman band that toured Russia in 1962 were spies. After the concert, reports *Izvestia*, a Soviet musician criticised one of the numbers to a member of the band. He replied "How can one achieve harmony when I don't know four of the musicians. They were planted in the orchestra before leaving." Bristol library (which has refused to stock FREEDOM) has discovered upon its shelves *The Black Book* by Lawrence Durrell which is only available in the United States. The City Librarian said, "There is no reason to suppose it is a banned book". Gerald Durrell, the author's brother said "My brother did not want it published here. He felt he did not want to become involved in another Lady Chatterley case . . . It is very frant about homosexuality—in fact about sex in general". . . .

"DUTY FIRST" THE social club magazine of the Australian Customs Department carries an article which says that an official does not need to peruse a whole work to determine if it is obscene furthermore he is not corrupted. "Firstly, he doesn't read them all; often enough

it is entirely obvious when a book is blasphemous, lewd and pornographic; it is unnecessary to laboriously leaf through the whole; a few paragraphs, sentences or words even are enough to convince that the book is unfit for normal, healthy-minded human beings . . . Too often he finds that he is a lone voice in the wilderness, struggling to maintain decency and sanity against indecency and insanity under various and often insidious disguises". . . .

THE GOLD MEDAL of the Institute of Journalists has been awarded to Mr. Laurence Gandar of *The Rand Daily Mail* for outstanding services to journalism and the fundamental freedom of the press for his "unflinching courage" in fighting attempts to curb the freedom of the anti-apartheid press. Mr. Claude Cockburn pointed out; in exposing the story of the *Sunday Mirror* and the Kray brothers; how "Private Eye showed the importance of journalism of having people about who are too poor to worry about money, and insufficiently senile to know that there is nothing you can do about anything". . . .

A COMMITTEE HAS been set up to press for a reduction in the 30-year sentences and right of appeal to the House of Lords for three of the convicted men in the train robbery case. The *Sunday Citizen* draws attention to the case of Lionel King who is homeless, penniless and jobless after false arrest and imprisonment for fourteen months on trumped-up evidence supplied by ex-Detective Sergeant Challinor. King was granted a free pardon and ten shillings on discharge. The *People* alleges that "Spies for Peace" have been active again, raiding Civil Defence headquarters for defence plans in the case of nuclear attack. . . .

ACCORDING TO THE *Herald*, a Mod said, "Now you lot go on about the trouble Mods and Rockers are causing down at the seaside and you carry on alarming about the way we are ruining the holiday of the folk what have gone to the trouble of driving down to the coast for their August Bank Holiday. But nobody has pointed out that we didn't scratch one of them, while they killed 81 of each other on the way down here and back again." The Chief Constable of Airdrie, Lanarkshire has got rid of zebra crossings and said, "When we had the crossings pedestrians ignored them and we found they held up the flow of traffic. Now we have dispensed with them the traffic flows more freely". . . .

TENDERS HAVE been asked for for removing African bodies from a cemetery in an area scheduled for white development under the Group Areas Act at Bethlehem, near Bloemfontein, South Africa.

JON QUIXOTE.

WE have given prominence to the Boothby-Mirror affair because of the issues which transcend the obvious ones. It is significant that both the popular and quality Press we regularly see have not, at the time of writing, considered the issues deserving of editorial comment, though they have published the offending statement as well as Lord Boothby's letter to the *Times*. This is, in our opinion despicable as well as typical.

If Lord Boothby's denials are the truth then that section of the Press which seeks to report the truth to the best of its ability should have condemned its guilty *confère* without mercy. If it had doubts, or even thought that the settlement arrived at was a *marriage of convenience*, it should have the courage to say so in the knowledge that in the event of litigation a section of the public will give its unstinted support. Today, everybody is afraid to proclaim the truth because they imagine that in the existing set-up the truth will get no support, and in newspaper terms, because it will result in a loss of circulation. In our opinion, today, more than ever before, there is in this country a growing public wanting to know the facts and quite capable of forming its own opinions. It is to this public that we direct our reflections on the Boothby-Mirror affair and to whom we leave the business of drawing conclusions on matters which go beyond the press statements and reports.

As an exercise compare the 11-year struggle of Alfie Hinds from prison to get a hearing with, for instance, Lord Boothby's statement that he had spoken to the Home Secretary before the publication of his letter (*Guardian* 3/8/64).

Alfie Hinds seized what the High Court judge described in the libel case he initiated against his persecutor, the former Detective Chief Superintendent Sparks as "an opportunity handed him on a plate . . . by the publication of the two articles [by Mr. Sparks]. The learned judge might have added that Mr. Hinds had sent dozens of petitions to the Home Secretary which were not even considered. Lord Boothby had direct access to the Home Secretary by reason of his eminence. Alfie Hinds established the fact that he wrongfully spent 11 years in prison and was awarded £1,300 damages against the man who arrested him and in retirement supplemented his pension blackening his name in the Press. Lord Boothby cleared a cool £40,000 without, as far as we can see, much inconvenience, by publicising the fact that the *Sunday Mirror's* reference to "a prominent peer" whose name was "a household word" was having a homosexual relationship with a leading thug in the London underworld was a reference to himself.

Alfie Hinds fought his battles the hard way and in the open. (We are not surprised that a judge who can justify sentencing the mail train robbers to savage terms of imprison-

ment should have been as unsympathetic as he was in the summing up in the Hinds case). Lord Boothby who has been for some people linked to unnatural practices without proof without even having to show that he has suffered by the libel collects £40,000 by way of compensation.

To say that there is a law for the rich and another for the poor is not just an idle slogan. If Alfie Hinds' protests of innocence had been publicised by the *Times* instead of, as far as we can recollect by journals such as *Tribune* perhaps the then Home Secretary might have heeded his petitions.

Meanwhile let us not lose the point. If the *Mirror* group is prepared to offer Lord Boothby £40,000 by way of compensation for character "imputations of an improper nature" three weeks old what should the State offer Alfie Hinds for having locked him up—deprived him of his liberty for 11 years on trumped-up evidence by one of its most eminent watchdogs? And last but not least have we as a community no means of expressing our apologies as well as our heartfelt appreciation to his wife and companion who was his right hand in that long fight?

MUTUAL AID FOR
TERRY CHANDLER
See 'Fings' - p.4

Pseudo Crisis in S.E. Asia

WHETHER the U.S. warships *Mad-dox* and *C. Turner Joy* were actually attacked by communist torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin will probably never be known. The incident must join all those other incidents, possibly real probably unreal, with which governments have worked up popular hatreds, found excuses to start warfare or diverted attention from real and pressing problems elsewhere. Certainly if the communists did launch a torpedo attack they made a very poor job of it. Here is that great, ruthless, red military machine at the thought of which we are supposed to shudder in horror lest it attack our "free institutions", and when it does launch an attack and with the advantage of surprise it causes no damage to its opponents but loses two of its attacking torpedo vessels.

It is almost certain that the present 'crisis' in South East Asia is a stunt engineered by the U.S. Democratic administration to give it a chance to get tough with the communists and thereby show the U.S. electorate that Barry Goldwater is not the only Presidential candidate who can flag-wave and H-bomb rattle. It may of course be that the communists did attack the American vessels hoping to provoke the U.S. into retaliation in order that Johnson gains popularity and Goldwater loses the election. The truth is known only by a handful of powerful unscrupulous liars in Saigon, Hanoi, Peking and Washington.

Violence
One noticeable fact about the 'crisis' is that although the great majority of the British public believe it is genuine they show no concern about it. Nor are they the least bit interested in the war in Vietnam with its huge toll of innocent civilian victims. Public attitudes to

death and suffering have become more callous and indifferent. Eighty years ago atrocities committed in Bulgaria and Armenia were enough to rock British governments. The Great War, the half-century of which is sending Press and public into orgies of sentimentality, produced 5% civilian casualties among its 8 million dead and was followed by a great wave of protest, revulsion and pacifism. The Second World War produced 52,000,000 dead, 48% of whom were civilians, many of them cruelly and cold-bloodedly exterminated and was accompanied by only minor protests compared with the aftermath of the Great War. The Korean conflict produced 9 million dead with the staggering civilian proportion of 84% and nobody gave a damn. The present war in Vietnam where the callous and cynical military techniques used by both Americans and Communists cause napalm, phosphorus, insecticides, etc. to decimate

a gentle and harmless peasant people likewise causes no outcry, except for cynical communist propaganda campaigns.

Hypocrisy

The hypocrisy of communist peace campaigns is part of a general malaise among many radicals whose protests against war and injustice carry little weight with the public because they are so often heavily biased in favour of or against some particular power block, race, party, etc. For instance there is such a crude anti-American bias in many of Lord Russell's protests that one feels that he is being had for a sucker by the communists. Nobody, however, can be more hypocritical in these matters than the communists themselves whose organisations like the British Peace Council are not interested in peace at all but simply in weakening the so-called free world. I shall not easily forget my disgust at the time of Cuba at seeing the King St. crocodile come shuffling into Grosvenor Square to shriek outside the American Embassy, but taking very good care to avoid arrest when civil disobedience began later on and trying to impede an anarchist and Committee of

100 demonstration which was moving off to the Soviet Embassy.

The struggle for coloured emancipation produces much hypocrisy although not the cynical tongue-in-cheek slyness the communists exhibit. Masochism, woolly headedness and misplaced good intentions are the more usual causes. We hear much of the beastly workings of apartheid and of the European chicanery in Southern Rhodesia and of the Ku Klux Klan but hardly anything about the genocide in Ruanda, the racial clashes in Singapore, the savage outbreaks in American cities, Alice Lenshina's Christian fanatics burning and killing in Northern Rhodesia, racial violence in British Guiana and the black fascist states such as Ghana which cover so much of Africa. These things are played down because they do not fit in with the fashionable mood of wishy-washy anti-whiteism. Until such two-faced approaches (to which by the way FREEDOM's Rhodesian correspondent is a pleasant exception) are discontinued there is little hope of constructive progress for the various causes on whose behalf the hypocrisy is produced. Truth and justice are indivisible. R.J.

THIS WAY TO THE FIGHTING

We poured like rats through the dirty, British Railways, debris haunted, Brighton Station into the decaying street leading to the Town. For we were the denizens of London festooned with dogs, prams, ancient relations, squalling children and all the accoutrements of the metropolitan proletariat on holiday. Out into the hot sun and past the regency fish and chip shops, the Chinese restaurants, the filthy beer houses and the crooked estate agencies on to the broad promenade and the snot green sea. We would eat of the fish and chips, we would drink the beer, we would splash in the Brighton Corporation Sea and we would watch the fighting, for this much the press had promised us. Everything that we promised ourselves was fulfilled for it was that rare occasion when the sun burned hot upon the pale white bodies and the sea rolled in in gentle billows.

We drank our beer and ate our jellied eels and felt that now was the time for a gentle stroll along the long promenade to the far pier to watch the fighting while our digestion went comfortably into action. There was no secret regarding the whereabouts of the fighting for a mass of people hung like flies upon the railings and the police cars were parked bumper to bumper while half a dozen press photographers stood vulturewise to point the way.

At the most there were but fifty of "these awful people" and the police had by force segregated them to the base of the pier.

These were the dreaded Mods, or were they Rockers? for to the outward eye they differed in no way from the millions of other working class youths. But their crime was that they came as a group to this residential watering resort, they were of the proletariat, they would not frequent the town's beer houses and in the mass they would give way to the extroversions of youth.

The Respectables hung shoulder to shoulder on and over the railings overlooking the beach while above and below the police in gangs of fours circled back and forth waiting for an excuse to

defend the population of Brighton. But the youths shouting and sprawling on the pebbled beach chose to ignore them.

They clowned like puppies among themselves and as they dragged a screaming, giggling girl down to the water's edge to duck her in the warm, slow waves, the Respectables upon the railings drew in their breath with a slow, sustained ah, and looked to the police to begin the battle. I walked, like Jesus, among the Mods/Rockers to paddle sedately with my terrier in the Corporation Sea and no one struck me. It was now high noon and the hour for fish and chips and I made my way up the concrete ramp to the promenade. At the top stood a policeman mounted on a horse and around him stood four other policemen. I walked by them and as I did so four youths began to make their way in this same direction. But age was the deciding factor for as I passed, two policemen without warning or hesitation began punching and pushing the youth back to the small section of the beach. I turned and watched as the youth retreated and from the beach came a slow hand-clap and the sullen beating of pebble upon pebble and the press-men leaned over with their lying cameras. But still the youths refused to be drawn and the Respectables, the police, the mounted police and the press stood and waited in the hot regency sun for an enemy that refused to fight.

This was Brighton on an August Bank holiday, 1964 when despite the urging of the gutter-press the day-tripping proletariat refused to fight each other for their amusement. Here in the town that sold the comic hats, the erotic post-cards with the scummy beer houses, the artificial noises and the phoney friendliness of all commercial resorts the press-promised main attraction refused to perform. For nothing happened and we sat in the beer houses among the ghastly bands, the screaming amateur singers and the bellowing half-drunks and listened to the demands that the youths on the narrow beach should be flogged and ordered into the army. And their crime was their youth, their class, their lack of money and that their minor outbursts of violence were unconstitutional and uneconomic.

That there are always fools who seek an outlet by violence is not worth

MONEY!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT AUGUST 8th 1964

Week 32		
EXPENSES: 32 weeks at £70		£2,240
INCOME:		
Sales & Sub. Renewals:	£	£
Weeks 1-31	1,564	
Week 32	37	
		1,601
New Subscriptions:		
Weeks 1-31 (149)	167	
Week 32 (5)	5	
		172
		1,773
		DEFICIT £467

DEFICIT FUND

Beckenham: J.B. 18/-; Leeds: G.L. 4/-; N.W.6: S.F. 10/-; Belfast: K.M. 2/6; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 1/-; Woldingham: F.B.* 5/-; Berkeley: A.K. 7/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 8/-; J.L.* 12/-; Anon. 9/6; Welwyn: G.M. 1/10/-; Oxford: Anon.* 5/-; Nuneaton: D.H. 6/6; Kingston: L.J. 1/10/-.
Total 8 7 6
Previously acknowledged 496 16 6

1964 TOTAL TO DATE £505 4 0

*Denotes Regular Contributors.

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Secretary: Arthur Uloth, c/o 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

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"Lamb and Flag", Rost Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. (near Garrick and King Streets: Leicester Square tube), 7.45 p.m.

AUG. 16 Ian Vine of Bristol, on: Morality 'J.P. Sartre

AUG. 23 Philip Sansom on: Just Speaking

AUG. 30 Jeremy Westall (our Rhodesian Correspondent) on: Report on Southern Africa

Notting Hill Anarchist Group

Secretary N.H.A.G., 5 Colville Houses, London, W.11.

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Birmingham Group

Peter Neville,
12 South Grove, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

Bristol Federation

Irregular meetings—enquiries to c/o Martin Howells, 7 Richmond Dale, Clifton, Bristol 8.
Meets Sundays (weather and circumstances permitting), 3.30 p.m. on the Downs (Blackboy Hill).

Dundee Group

Contact Rod Cameron,
6 Westfield Place, Dundee.

Edinburgh Group

Enquiries to: Douglas Trueman, 13 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh 3.
Meetings every Monday at Rob Hainsworth, 10 Jacacia Street, Edinburgh.

Glasgow Federation

Enquiries to Ronnie Alexander, c/o Kennedy, 112 Glenkirk Drive, Glasgow, W.5.

Manchester Group

Meetings alternate Tuesdays. Details from Graham Leigh, 5, Mere Close, Sale, Cheshire.

Hayes and District

Contact Mike Wakeman,
12 Hoppner Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

Tunbridge Wells Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday in month at J. D. Gilbert-Roife, 4 Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, Sussex, 8 p.m.

Plymouth

Fred Spiers, 35 Ridge Park Avenue, Mutley, Plymouth.

Tyneside Federation

Enquiries: Dave Wallace, 64 Belford Avenue, Horsley Hill, South Shields, Co. Durham.

Last Thursday in month:

At George Hayes', 174 McLeod Road, S.E.2.

2nd Friday at Brian Leslie's, 242 Amesbury Avenue, S.W.2 (Streatham Hill, Nr. Station).
Sundays. No meeting in August.

3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald & Irene Room's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

Wimbledon S.W.19, Last Saturday of each month. 8 p.m. Phone WIM 2849.

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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.

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FINGS

Terry Chandler

came out of jail Monday Aug. 10, and is in need of support. Funds please to C of 100 Welfare Group, 88 Park Avenue, Enfield, Middx., S.A.P.

Mentor Wanted

for seventeen-year-old-girl. 'A' level standard. Assailed by mass values, mass media now 'drifting'. Would benefit from inspiring mentor in interesting household. Offers to A.J.W.S., c/o "Freedom".

"Freedom" Sellers Wanted

for Street-corners, Hyde Park and public meetings. Get in touch with Peter Turner, c/o Freedom Press.

Anti-Election

Anti-election campaign advancing for the last leave. If you find it all sick-making, meet for leafletting 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6, Monday, August 17th, 8 p.m.

If you think

that your 'fings' are worth inclusion in this column let us know. . . .