

Clog in the Machine

ROUND ABOUT 1940 Scotland Yard raided a certain peace bookshop and with the consent of the owners took away several copies of *The Conquest of Violence* by an anarchist, Bart de Ligt (long since out of print). This book was regarded as subversive, particularly since it carried as an appendix 'Plan of Campaign Against all War and all Preparations for War' and was accordingly withheld from circulation for the duration of the war. This 'Plan' although a little idealistic was excellent in form and may have easily formed a blueprint for the more successful resistance movements in Europe (perhaps that is what Scotland Yard wanted them for?).

It is more likely it was seized because of its emphasis on sabotage. This word has always been a red rag to the bull of the State.

Now, following on the prosecution of members of the Aberdeen section of Scots against War for a raid upon Civil Defence premises which could be classified as 'sabotage', the Committee of 100 was confronted (to use a standard phrase) the issue of to sabotage or not to sabotage.

The internal politics of the Committee of 100 need not concern us here. Suffice it to note that at one stage a leading member wrote the deathless prose passage—'It is time to nail colours to the mast and name names'. In reply to this, the other Homeric protagonist asked, 'What is suddenly wrong with the old methods of making up our own minds and abiding by the majority decision?' A vote was accordingly taken and the sabotage project was defeated. But nobody is, of course, satisfied. That is what is wrong with the old methods of

abiding by the majority decision.

Since then, information has been received that 'somewhere in Britain', Civil Defence headquarters were damaged by sabotage and *The Times* of April 1 reports that the police are investigating a 'splinter-group' magazine which advocated setting fire to ballot boxes. Also there has been circulating a duplicated leaflet which advocates (a) Sabotage should be done openly, not in secret; (b) It should be well timed to coincide with events (e.g. the bombing of Hanoi); (c) The decision to sabotage should be taken by 'the people' and not by a small group of conspirators. This project goes so far as to name the target and gives highly complicated instructions how 'the will of the people' can be determined.

Furthermore there have been two acts of sabotage; the wrecking of dam installations in Wales and the destruction of the Nelson statue in Dublin. Both acts were presumably carried out by nationalists, both were carried out in secrecy, and both were carried out without loss of life. Both may be accounted as successes in giving publicity to their respective causes. The Nelson statue episode can be looked at as symbolic insofar as it had no utility value, but had sentimental value for this year is the 50th anniversary of the Easter rising.

Precautions (a telephone message in the Welsh case) were taken in both instances to see that there was no loss of life. This being secured, it is not possible to understand any pacifist objection to such activity. Although, since it is not positively certain that by some mischance an innocent bystander may get killed or hurt, it is possible to understand a reluctance based upon a respect for all human life (which is part, for many, of the anarchist case) which precludes participation in such activities.

What is more difficult to comprehend is the insistence upon 'openness' as opposed to 'secrecy'. The reason for secrecy is fairly simple: if the authorities know that one is about to do a certain act, they will prevent it. 'Openness' is based upon some interpretation of the Gandhian mystique of *satyagraha* which, whatever its merits has little value in the hypothetical situation.

An even more complex and extreme pacifist position is that of refusing to destroy objects. In this case destruction itself is thought to be, as it were, a negative act. This position is linked with the *satygrahist* position.

A reservation one may make about sabotage is that it is a technique for an extreme situation. Despite the urgency of the appeals from some quarters it is not entirely possible to believe that we have reached the point where sabotage is appropriate. It may be that it is not possible to determine when that extreme situation is reached. It may be that as Milton Mayer says 'We must resist the beginnings'. When should the Germans have resisted Belsen, or the Americans—Hiroshima?

One also finds little satisfaction in the urging of one of the advocates of sabotage, that we should sabotage the American military bases because they are now the aggressors in Vietnam. It is quite obvious that American bases are relatively easier to get at than Chinese or Russian arms factories or bases, which each help to keep the war in Vietnam going . . . and while we're about it, what about the British bases? When a project styles itself 'WORLD WIDE CAMPAIGN OF NON-CO-OPERATION AND SABOTAGE AGAINST THE AMERICAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT' one begins to doubt its political neutrality.

The anarchist (and other movements) have suffered from time to time from what Ethel Mannin described as 'Gawdsakitis' set off by the heart-cry 'For God's sake, let's do something'. Affairs reach such a state of desperation and (especially)

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Why We are Marching

THE MAN has not lived who possessed the courage, initiative, good-heartedness and time needed to protest against all the injustices in the world. Yet it has been the lot of the anarchist lately to devote his entire time and energy, going from demonstration to demonstration, shaking his fist, marching, sitting, showing disapproval, a veritable perpetual mobile, the permanent protester. While other men pay their taxes cheerfully for war, the anarchist barely has time to kiss his wife, say hello to his child or sit down to a comfortable meal and chat with his friends. Barely out of dungeons of the House of Commons thrown there for interrupting a debate, he rushes to Trafalgar Square and then on to the American Embassy. There he feels ineffective and knows he ought also to be at the Belgian Embassy to protest against the murder of the miners, or at the South African Embassy against apartheid. He is a hubris shaking his fist against the Gods. The man in the Charles Addams cartoon, standing in the giant's footprint.

Now we have come to this year's Easter march, the Sassenach one, not our own effort in Scotland (see this page). Of all the marches that we attend there is none that we go to with a heavier heart and more dragging feet than the one that is organised by CND. So near they are to us both ideologically in their intent, and their initially spontaneous (shall we say anarchistic) organisation, yet so far in performance. This year, like Chi-Chi and An-An glaring at each other through the bars, we have done our best. At the liaison meeting all our proposals except for one were accepted. There will not be MPs leading the march. Marshals are out or re-christened. The aims of the various organisations are published jointly in *Sanity*. There will be a demonstration in conjunction with the Indian Workers Association as the march passes through Southall. All these are our proposals.

We even offered an experienced and able speaker for the final rally.

On this there is silence. Chi-Chi has said nothing. In lieu of an anarchist speaker it would perhaps be instructive to speculate what he might have said.

He most likely would have congratulated CND on the organisation of the march which meant the free and unhindered movement of thousands through occupied territory. He would have pointed out the recent attempt to educate people how to stop worrying and live with the bomb. I refer of course to the incident at Palomares, which, according to a Washington official, 'was ready made for agitation'. The use of the word 'agitation' is in itself curious. Was he hoping for one? Not only did they manage to lose an atomic bomb, having ignored a fisherman's advice where it was, but they are also 'trying' to find it in the most alarming way so as to create as much despondency as possible. You may ask what advantage is it to Governments to create fear and despondency in the minds of the people. If you ask that question you are near to understanding anarchism. CND merely repeats what Governments say 'the bomb is a horrible weapon of destruction. It is unthinkable, it ought to be banned'. But who can ban the bomb? Only the governments that produce them. It is like appealing to robbers to become policemen. This is an old argument with CND. It will not be resolved at this march. Neither will the bomb be found at Palomares. As long as the bomb is there slipping in the mud on the sea-bed, it will illustrate the argument that we live in a permanent state of war, which is the health of the state, even if it may lead to the ill-health of the people by radioactive contamination.

Our speaker would also have pointed out our opposition to having an MP on the platform at the final rally. Our comrade would also have mentioned how the Easter march came into being, how ten years ago one man walked on his own to Aldermaston to protest against the use of nuclear energy for war. Who he was is now for-

gotten. On a different year another man sat with his placard in front of a row of stolid policemen in Whitehall. Perhaps you will remember the photograph. These are the two men unknown and unsung that we should remember this Easter march. The enormity of Government's tyranny is contrasted not when ten thousand make a brief appearance on the streets but when one man thinks it is imperative for him to act whatever the odds against him. This is not a plea for individuals to challenge the state on their own but an argument that without the pressing need that made that one man walk to Aldermaston and the other to sit in Whitehall, all protests become shallow.

For ten years now there have been marches and sit-downs against the Bomb. This is no more than a ritual now, a chance to meet old and new friends—it does not carry the conviction of old.

The march is now CND's copyright, a valuable patent for continued business. Other groups, the Communists and the Trots and the rest go along to show the flag, to sell literature and to make converts amongst the young for their particular ideology.

Perhaps it is left to us, the anarchists, to explain why we are on the march at all. Are our reasons more or less praiseworthy?

We are marching—if we are marching at all—because we identify ourselves with those two lonely men against the state who said simply this is me—look at me—I don't want war—I don't want the state's war machinery.

When protest is left exclusively to a specialist pressure group such as CND, then of course the question must be asked how 'successful' are they. A recent letter in *FREEDOM* from Peggy Duff and Alec Leaver said: 'the most essential freedom for which we keep on marching is freedom from nuclear annihilation'. It is a weary business. Nobody wants to be annihilated nuclearly or otherwise. But this risk will remain until we abolish the state and its war machinery. If the peace movement cannot challenge the state then it won't succeed and it should leave the job to others who are more serious about it.

Like those two men referred to above.

J.R.

MEETING
EASTER SUNDAY
8 pm CONWAY HALL
Red Lion Square WC1

Speakers:
ROBERT BARLTROP
DONALD ROOM
PHILIP SANSON

ANARCHISTS have been on the Easter marches since they started in 1958. Their attitude to disarmament has not altered. Every state is ruled by people who have spent their lives attaining power, and people do not willingly give up what they have spent their lives acquiring. Therefore it is unrealistic to expect the state—any state—willingly to give up its weapons.

Disarmament must be achieved by individuals acting against the state. The first march was a movement against the state and, despite subsequent attempts to use them for political purposes, the marches are still anti-state in essence.

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Olah for the People

been their unfailing critic and proud non-payer of dividends ever since. A similar case has arisen in Vienna. The *Konen-Zeitung* got its money, also, from the trade union movement. Unlike Harry Laud however, Herr Franz Olah preferred outright theft. The Australians

with their financial finesse would not have approved of such a blunt operation as was attempted by the ex-strong-arm man of the (then) ruling Social Democratic Party of Austria.

Franz Olah was not only the boss of transport union but he was also the Minister of the Interior in the last government. Unfortunately owing to a little ham-handedness on his part, the confederation of Austrian Trade Unions discovered that he was using their money in a somewhat unseemly fashion. He was expelled from the party, the union and anything else he held a card from. He nevertheless used the money as collateral to purchase an existing high-circulation paper, the *Konen-Zeitung* of Vienna. The confederation, somewhat belatedly asked for their money back and a secret negotiation was undertaken with Herr Olah's bankers. The result of this appears to have been that the bankers rather magnanimously allowed the confederation to have their auditors examine the trade union fund books which were being used as the collateral for Franz Olah's scheme. Surprisingly, the confederation agreed. Or was it surprising? Franz Olah was beginning to gain friends in the unlikely places. He had by now founded the Democratic Progressive Party which was overtly socialist and stank under the arm of anti-semitism.

However misguided or dishonest Franz Olah might be, there was one thing he

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SCOTS ON THE MARCH

THIS YEAR HUNDREDS of Scottish young people will be marching at Easter, in protest against the war in Vietnam which may soon become World War III, and against the Labour Government's insistence on continuing with the British Polaris Programme, which, since the bases will be in Scotland, puts us in the future front line.

Will you join us at the Pitreavie cross-roads, Fife, on Saturday, April 9, at 11 a.m.? There will be people on hand at rail and bus stations in Dunfermline, to guide marchers to the assembly point. Lunch will be taken outside Rosyth Naval Dockyard, soon to become the home of Britain's Polaris submarines. A five-day fast will be carried out by a small group outside the yard, in an attempt to get the workers to give up producing weapons of mass destruction. Rosyth could become part of a peaceful future, building and repairing ships. Which is it to be?

The Labour Government promised to get rid of Britain's Bomb. It has not done so and will not. Only the people can disarm the State. Only when the people take action will the curse of war be removed. You are the people, and we are asking you to do something. We ask you to act while thousands of innocent peasants in Vietnam are being bombed with napalm and phosphorus. And what is Wilson doing? Supporting the Americans in each fresh outrage. Assuring Johnson of 'our' support for his fascist acts. Let us show him and Wilson that the people of Scotland will not support aggression against a small nation, and that we oppose attempts to make our country an 'aircraft carrier' for the Cold War and the first target in a Hot one.

In World War III Scotland will suffer five 'megadeaths'. That means five million dead. It will only happen because you, the people of Scotland, allowed it.

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EASTER MONDAY. DUBLIN in high-flung holiday humour, O'Connell Street bustling. A column of men, a sudden rush, the sound of breaking glass, gunfire. A young man on the steps of the GPO.

'The Provisional Government of the Irish Republic to the People of Ireland. Irishmen and Irishwomen! In the name of God and of the dead generations from whom she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.'

They claimed the allegiance of all Irish people, promised to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and to cherish all the children of the nation equally. They lasted five days. By that time there were 'Tommyes stretched in heaps' around the Nelson Column, the centre of Dublin was in ruins, and many young men, who with all the arrogance of their age and their race had welcomed war as they would the angel of God, had had their war and died in it.

It was ill-prepared, ill-organized and unsuccessful. It had been intended that the whole country should rise, but treachery, confusion and countermanded orders left Dublin on her own. There Connolly's Citizen Army declared that if necessary they would strike alone. A section of the Dublin Volunteers led by Patrick Pearse and Tom Clarke joined them.

It is unlikely that any of the volunteer bodies understood Connolly's perspective. Like the majority of the Fenians, the Young Irelanders and the other revolutionary organizations which preceded them, the Volunteers were committed to the ideal of an Ireland 'not only free but Gaelic, not only Gaelic but free'. Few of them were interested in the social content of such an Ireland, Connolly was a Marxist. Addressing the Citizen Army on Easter Monday morning he said: 'In the event of victory hold on to your rifles. There are those with whom we are fighting who will stop short of our goal. We are out for economic as well as political liberty.'

But though Connolly was a Marxist, he had never formed a Marxist party. The Citizen Army had grown out of the 1913 lockout and was based on the Transport Workers' Union. Its structure demonstrated the continued influence on Connolly of the syndicalist philosophy he had assimilated during his years in the IWW and as an associate of De

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cially) the young activists are so consumed with impatience and political impotence, that action must be taken. Sometimes, unfortunately, as Nietzsche says, 'Action has no sense it merely serves to bind us to existence.' Groups must justify their existence, or confirm it, and consequently commit deeds which in the cooler light of commonsense or aged prudence, or senile cowardice, whichever you prefer to call it, may seem inappropriate, ill-timed or reckless. There is also a residue of revolutionary romanticism which is to be guarded against.

This is not to denigrate all forms of sabotage, or direct action, but to point out that the means adopted must be consistent with the aim to be attained. Others may dismiss such projects as 'the last fling of residual leftism'.

Surely what is needed to be done is to broaden the definition of sabotage to include, as it surely does, the withholding of all labour from the war-like purposes of the state. To consider the withholding of income-tax, the withdrawal from the National Health Service. All this, of course, means new ways of living which would completely sabotage the pre-packaged, mechanized, cellophane-wrapped Welfare State scientific, nationalistic socialism which we face for the next five years.

JACK ROBINSON.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

London Anarchist Group 1&2

'Lamb and Flag', Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2. (Leicester Square tube) 7.45 p.m. All welcome.

Sundays. APR. 10 Meeting, Conway Hall See Other Columns.

Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park, 3 p.m. Correspondence to David Boughton, 10 Gilbert Place, W.C.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.

Last Thursday in month at George Hayes', 174 McLLeod Road, S.E.2.

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

4th Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at David Bell's, 19 Aberdeen Road, Highbury, N.5.

THE EASTER RISING

Leon. This is not the place to resurrect the controversy as to whether Connolly was a Bolshevik. In his last writings he certainly evinced Bolshevism. His aim, an Irish Workers' Republic, and his strategy, an armed struggle based on the interests of the working class, were Marxist-Leninist; but his organization was syndicalist. The upshot of this was that he left no coherent movement behind him, and the usual clique of social-democratic renegades were able to pounce the more easily on his memory. The failure of Connolly's ideas to make any lasting impact on the Irish masses can be traced to his own political confusion.

Thus it was that a motley band of Gaelic romantics, Marxist revolutionaries and Trade Union militants tried and failed to defeat the British Empire fifty years ago. For five days they fought and toiled almost without sleep. In the intervals they sang songs of freedom. They died without complaint. They redeemed Dublin from many shames and made her name splendid among the names of cities.

'Fools, assassins, blasphemers, murderers.'—The Archbishop of Dublin. 'An extraordinary combination of

rogues and fools.'—Irish Catholic. 'Let there be no leniency.'—Irish Independent.

And there was none. The Empire moved swiftly to exact its revenge. On May 3, Pearse, Clarke and Thomas McDonagh were executed by firing-squad. Then Eamonn Ceannt, Willie Pearse, the O'Rahilly, Joseph Plunkett... Connolly, his leg shattered and gangrenous, was unable to stand. So they strapped him to a chair and shot him to death.

They shouldn't have done that. The rising had not set Ireland aflame. The Church, the Press and the politicians had all condemned it as an act of treachery, as a stab in the back for those Irishmen who were fighting on the battlefields of Europe (for the freedom of small nations). When Connolly was carried on a stretcher from the GPO the populace gathered to spit on him. But now, as batch after batch of young men were sent before the firing squad, in the hearts of the common people the seeds of hatred sown by seven hundred years of oppression burst into flower. A scream of elemental rage was unleashed across the country and a force

AFB CONFERENCE

LAST WEEKEND the third AFB Conference took place in Birmingham. About 100 people attended altogether from all of Britain. Fraternal greetings were received from *Direkta Aktion* in West Germany and from the Anarchist Federation of Japan.

The meeting opened with a discussion as to whether the *Guardian* reporter should be allowed to attend the conference or not. It was finally decided to have 'open' and 'closed' sessions.

Since the AFB Secretary was no longer in the country, the Press Secretary gave the report on the movement in the past year. He said that the secretary had received no organizational backing and that the member groups did not write him and new groups had ignored him. In fact the secretary had merely worked as a public relations officer for the movement, answering correspondence from outside, providing speakers for meetings and putting people in touch with groups.

The report from the International Secretary has already appeared in *FREEDOM*. There was a general feeling that an International was worth while and it was pointed out that the International Youth Conference in Paris has this as an item on the agenda. Several comrades will be attending this conference.

The Reading Group offered to bring out a bulletin on the lines of *The Anarchist* and agreed to publish anything sent them.

Most groups throughout the country were represented and gave reports. From these it appeared that many groups were already co-operating and co-ordinating locally and regionally. It was therefore decided that the AFB should continue in name and that groups should work individually, federate regionally and co-ordinate nationally. No national officers were needed.

There was a report from Freedom Press and comrades were urged to take out subscriptions, as this is one of the most effective means of keeping solvent. The circulation is rising slowly, but more funds are needed to improve and enlarge *FREEDOM*. Comrades were urged to write reports on local activities. It was felt by sellers of *FREEDOM* that sixpence was a better price to charge and Freedom Press committee was asked to consider this.

Reports were also given on *Oxan* which has just brought out its second issue and *Cuddon's Cosmopolitan Review*, which sells more outside anarchist circles than within.

The Scottish March and the Easter March were discussed simultaneously. Some comrades felt that the Scottish March should be given full Anarchist support, since it was specifically an Anarchist March.

Arlesey Group suggested that banners with direct anarchist impact, such as 'Politics Equals War', etc., should be used as well as, or instead of, Group banners. This was left to individuals and groups to decide amongst themselves. It was decided that those taking part in the Easter March should definitely dissociate themselves from any idea that they were making an appeal to government. A leaflet to this effect is being printed.

During the discussion on education it was felt that we should support the suggestion of the Arlesey Group for the formation of a Teachers' Libertarian Alliance.

On the subject of Industry there was a need to distribute *FREEDOM* to those involved in a dispute. It was said that help should be given in offering printing and duplicating facilities to strikers but we should not make political capital out of industrial disputes, but merely present the facts to the public. We should supply information on wages and conditions in various industries so that other workers can use this for their own claims.

Conference said that we must resist any possibility of government action to transfer troops to Vietnam.

The discussion on sabotage was short and to the point.

Comrades will be attending the forthcoming conference of Young Anarchists in Europe and will discuss the possibility of an international magazine in English, French and Esperanto.

The next conference will be held in Manchester, two weeks before Easter, 1967.

Thanks are due to the organisers of this constructive conference who had a difficult task owing to outside interference, on which a flippant and journalistic article appeared in the *Guardian*. M.H.

was let loose which a few years later brought Ireland within an inch of winning the freedom for which the Volunteers and the Citizen Army had died.

The rest is inglorious. In every decade since 1916 some young men in Ireland have died trying to complete the revolution, and led by middle-class malcontents they have been slaughtered in blind alleys. But in the end they will win. Because always in Ireland a new generation has arisen. 'The cause which begets this indomitable persistence, the faculty of persevering through centuries of misery the memory of a lost liberty, this surely is the noblest cause man has ever fought for, ever lived for, ever died for...' And if this be the cause which Irish revolutionary movements today stand indicted for and convicted of sustaining, then they stand in goodly company and in right noble succession. The measure of freedom we have, in the hands of political pimps has given us nothing but green pillar boxes and compulsory Gaelic in the schools. But there will be another day. The old heart of Ireland shall be warmed again with 'the red wine of the battlefields', and Connolly, unrestful, raging man, shall not have died in vain. SEAN REED.

Olah for the People

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was not, and that was small-time. Less however can be said for his enemies. They were making converts for Franz Olah's cause faster than he could have done himself.

The Minister of Justice, Dr. Broda, and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Pitterman, went to every length possible to make sure that any editions of the *Konen-Zeitung* which bore any attacks on themselves were seized. Of course they had absolutely no constitutional or extraordinary powers to entitle them to do this.

The situation for the Social Democrats was getting very uncomfortable, all the more so as polling day grew closer. The confederation reluctantly decided to ask the Public Administrator to foreclose on the *Konen-Zeitung* 'in order to protect its funds'. They might have said to have had some justification for this action as the *Zeitung* had been seized three times in the preceding week by Dr. Broda. The Social Democrats, nothing loth, sent round the Public Administrator.

At this point it may be a justifiable thought that the plot could not get any thicker. But no! Standing behind the Public Administrator when he arrived to take over the offices of the *Konen-Zeitung* was his legal backing waving all the right sort of forms for the occasion. He turned out to be none other than Judge Reidl-Tascher. This honourable and learned man had been a judge in the heyday of the Nazi summary executions and was personally responsible for the executions of hundreds in Vienna during the Nazi era.

The ensuing row in the Vienna press made Austerlitz look like a Victorian vicars' bunfight.

Well, at the polls the Social Democrats lost their majority which they held since the Allied Occupation. Although Franz Olah's party only got 3% in Austria they seem to have polled over 15% in Vienna which was a telling blow as this was the bastion of the Social Democrats. The People's Party (Conservatives) swept in, and it seems that the rest of the revolting mess will not be swept under the Austrian State Carpet—much to the discomfiture of the Social Democrats and the confederation. This last named is now wondering what to do with a paper which it has on its hands.

Sources: *Time*; *Economist*; *Times*. M.J.W.

FOOTNOTE

Dr. Bruno Pitterman, Vice-President of Austria and President of the Socialist International, is at present visiting Mr. Wilson (for talks).

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

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO. Meets 11 Balliol Street every two weeks. Contact Joe Embleton.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. First meeting Wednesday, February 23 at 14 Centre Avenue, Epping. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence, Peter Gibbon, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End, Leicester.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droyloden. Meetings every Tuesday, 8 p.m. at the Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Manchester.

ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.

MERSEYSIDE FEDERATION. Enquiries: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Westmore Park, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.

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

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G. Meller, Merton College, Oxford.

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

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Philip Lord, 160 Castle Hill, Reading.

SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Roger Sandell, 58 Burns Avenue, Southall, Middlesex.

STOKE LIBERTARIANS. Correspondence Secretary: Bob Blakeman, 52 Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Mr. Karl Taylor, 98 Clova Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7. Meetings every Wednesday.

PROPOSED GROUPS

GOLDERS GREEN AND HENDON. Anyone interested get in touch with David McLelland, 54 Litchfield Way, London, N.W.11.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. Anyone interested get in touch with Bob Yorke, 69 Grumbold Avenue, Raunds, Wellingborough, Northants.

SCARBOROUGH. Any anarchist-minded persons please contact John B. Feetenby, 29 Cambridge Street, Scarborough, Yorks.

ABROAD

NEW ZEALAND. Auckland Anarchist Group. Public Meetings every Sunday in Myers Park at 2 p.m.

USA, ALBANY, NEW YORK. Contact E. Strauss, 230 Washington Avenue, Albany. Discussion group meets about twice a month.

Apples & Pairs

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE to resist buying *The People*, wasn't it? After seeing those dramatic posters about Britain's moral decadence, the *Sunday Times* had had it, so far as this writer was concerned, for the next week or two.

Impossible, too, not to reflect on the curiosity of a word's meaning. An investigation of contemporary moral failings ought, surely, to take in the lack of probity in every sphere. Deceit in advertising; lies in public life; chiselling, dissembling and paranoia in government—a wide field indeed. But in fact Moral denotes Sexual: Moral in *The People* means SEX.

The revelations are of sexual mélanges which, the writers say, are spreading—the 'sickening cult of depravity'—all over the country. First and foremost comes the practice of 'wife-swapping'. This, it is said, is the springboard to greater debasements. *People* investigators attended an erotic party in a house in Finchley. Pornographic films were shown, and the report includes such details of debauchery as 'the builder left the room and returned unclothed except for a pair of socks' and 'many people did not leave until 1.30 a.m.'

Names are given, of course. We Name Two Evil Men: names and photographs of a business man and a television technician who are alleged to provide facilities for parties 'that push young couples down the road to shame'. And authority is invoked, for those unsure of the amount and nature of condemnation required. A Church of England rector, 'a leading consultant psychiatrist' and 'a leading sociologist' all express their views of 'the dangers of loose morals'. Next Week: 'How the Youth of Britain is Corrupted'.

However, *The People* is missing a lot. Searching for instances of lubricious sexual enjoyment, its reporters obviously have not yet lighted on the place where most of it goes on: the home. Statistics show that more sex takes place in the home than anywhere else. What is *The People* going to do about it?

Nightly, behind drawn curtains, women are undressing in front of men. Screened by the innocent facades of £3-a-week Council flats, fitters' mates, their desires inflamed by the sinister aphrodisiac effects of mild-and-bitter, are addressing

girls with shameless invitations—and taking off their socks as well. A warning was given by a leading music critic, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, when he wrote that this state of affairs was combining 'the maximum of temptation with the maximum of opportunity'. How much longer is it to go on?

While you are writing to your MP, it may be worth enquiring what *The People's* purpose is. The second instalment of its serial claimed that the first one had 'come as a shock to all decent-minded people'. The happenings described are not, as far as is known, indictable crimes. The headline speaks of 'a shocking social problem': the suggestion is that the articles are presenting a matter of serious concern.

However, it happens that *The People* is not first in the field with such revelations. An American company called Mark Books has for several months been advertising *Swap Clubs*, a book giving a 'Blazing Exposé of Sex Cults in America Today'. Its advertisement says: 'Read the completely true and utterly shocking exposé that dares to name names. . . . Get the facts about bizarre party games used to choose partners for an evening of erotic sensuality! . . . tells of orgies between the races, describes strange perversions of couples who resort to swap club sex! . . . Boldly written! Nothing held back!'

Whatever *The People's* intentions, Mark Books do not pretend to them. The *Swap Clubs* advertisement appears with others for *Venus in Furs*, *Confessions of a Paris Prostitute*, *Sexual Deviations and Bizarre Practices*, etc. The company also offers *Executions*: 'Get the full story . . . in CASE HISTORY form about mass extermination during both world wars! Step by grisly step, follow the procedure of a hanging at Newgate Prison.' And *Summer in Sodom*: 'Meet Ted Randall, ardent body builder, a human statue to perfection by the summer sun. Meet Ian, the hot-blooded stud who wants Ted for himself . . . who will do anything to tear Ted from the arms of voluptuous Eileen.'

Obviously, Mark Books know what is the appeal of their publications and pitch it in hot and strong, without a word about 'decent-minded people'. What, then, is the difference when the same material, similarly phrased, appears in *The People*? None at all—except that instead of the American firm's semi-literate invitation to a dirty read, it is dressed in unctuous phrases about moral danger and social evil.

The sad thing is that this dual valuation is, in most cases, the irreconcilable real one. On one hand it is a stimulant to the imagination, on the other an indictment of wicked goings-on; just as in the Stephen Ward case the murmur was 'Dirty bitches—wish I had half an hour with one of them'. And that is why, of course, 'decent-minded people' so often appear in court for sudden bursts of surprising indecency.

There is a social problem here, and a big one. Unfortunately, *The People* doesn't seem even aware of what it is. R.B.

'Vote for SOMEBODY'—Evening News

AT THE PRINCE OF WALES CINEMA, HARROW Road, London, Election Week started with 'Demons of the Swamps' and 'Castle of Terror'; Tuesday was 'Phantom of 10,000 Leagues' and 'A Bucket of Blood'; Election Eve was 'The Night of the Blood Beast' and 'The Spectre'; Election Day revealed 'The Beast with a Million Eyes' and 'The Brain Eaters'; Friday with the Results and the Anarchist Ball was 'The Invasion of the Hell Creatures' and 'Teenage Frankenstein'; Saturday gave us 'Terror of Dr. Hitchcock' and 'The Day the World Ended'; finally Sunday showed 'Circus of Horrors' and 'The Split'. All, need one add, 'X' productions. . . .

APPROXIMATELY ONE in four of the British electorate failed, or decided not to vote. . . .

CHI-CHI OF LONDON ZOO and An-An of Moscow Zoo failed to copulate but the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope of Rome kissed. . . .

MR. HUMPHREY BERKELEY, a Conservative opponent of capital punishment and homosexual persecution, was defeated. A candidate standing solely on the issue of retention of the death penalty took 5,000 votes in Nelson and Colne against Sydney Silverman who pushed the private member's bill through for the abolition of the death penalty. . . .

JAMES CAMERON in his 'Election Diary' in the *Evening Standard* (the best journalism written on this election) said, 'The electorate of 1966 is being required to establish a new Government on a basis of catch-penny slogans and personal backbiting that for mindless huckstering offers serious competition with a tribal rally in the African bush.' . . .

DELSEY TOILET ROLL manufacturers conducted a poll where (according to the *Daily Worker*) 'shoppers are asked to indicate their party choice in their choice of toilet roll colours. Last week's analysis showed 25% white (Liberal), 32% [pink] (Labour) and 43% blue (Tory).' The word 'pink' is omitted in the *Worker*. . . .

THE WORKER headline (March 30) on the King Hill court case is 'Tory-Broken Homes' and the article emphasizes that Kent County Council is Tory-controlled.

MANY PEOPLE will have read, in last week's papers, of the renewed attacks launched by the Kent County Council against the homeless people living at King Hill Hostel, West Malling.

This is the place where husbands are prevented from staying with their wives and children (despite the fact that the Hostel is nowhere near full and despite the fact that the nature of the accommodation provided—separate family units—would make it quite possible for husbands to be admitted).

The Kent County Council has been granted injunctions forbidding husbands from even visiting their wives, except

The secretary of Leyton Branch of the Communist Party denied in the *Socialist Leader* that their members had been urged to work and vote for Patrick Gordon Walker. A statement enclosed with his letter says the CP will be fighting 60 seats (they lost all their deposits) and 'elsewhere we will be calling for support for the Labour candidate' (critical, of course!). The statement calls for 'the defeat of the Tory Candidate in Leyton', he was. . . .

JOHN DAYTON, defeated Labour candidate for Westmorland, was revealed by the *Sunday Telegraph* to have stood in March 1960 as an Independent; in November 1960 as a New Conservative; in 1961 he stood as a Patriotic Front candidate. In 1962 he joined the Labour Party. . . .

SIR BASIL LIDDELL HART in an article in *Encounter* says that he thinks Churchill's leadership was not all-important in 1940. 'The British,' says Liddell Hart, 'have always been less dependent than other people upon inspiring leadership. . . . It was Dunkirk that braced them in June 1940, rather than any individual influence.' Rachele Mussolini, widow of the late Benito, wants returned a section of Il Duce's brain which was removed to the American Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Rachele Mussolini is reported by *Newsweek* as saying that when Harry Truman dies 'I shall want a fragment of Truman's frontal lobe so that Italian doctors can establish whether or not the President was sane when he ordered the atomic bomb unleashed on Hiroshima'. A book was published about James Forrestal who went insane whilst US Secretary of Defence and eventually committed suicide. . . .

OVER 400 CASES of bubonic plague, claims the *Daily Worker*, are reported from South Vietnam. Forty-six have been fatal and immunization campaigns have been launched. American troops are immunized every four months but only half the South Vietnamese population have been immunized in the last ten years. Riots and demonstrations broke out in South Vietnam calling for democratic government, and supported by Catholics and Buddhists. General Ky has dispatched troops to the source of the outbreak which he claims is fomented

by Communists. . . . A BAPTIST MINISTER returning from Vietnam said, according to the *Mirror*, 'sex starlets from Hollywood are undermining the morale of US troops in Vietnam. 'One sextop,' he said, 'can undo the work of 100 chaplains.' Carroll Baker, who claims to have kissed 5,000 American soldiers on a visit to Vietnam, said, 'I lost nearly all the feathers from my Balmain gown. It's just that the Army won't take boys who don't like girls.' Another 'sexpot', Diana Lynn Bates, said, 'We made the men think about their mothers, sisters, wives and girl friends. . . . It strengthened their love for their country.' . . .

EIGHTY-FIVE MEN were wounded and eight killed in a NLF attack on a United States officers' billet in Saigon. . . .

PAUL JONES, a pop-singer, said in *Tribune*, 'I decided to telephone Mr. Whitaker [Hampstead Labour candidate]. "Do you like the Foreign Secretary's attitude to the Vietnam war?" "No" [said Mr. Whitaker]. "If you get elected and you ever have to choose between your belief and the 'Labour Party Line' how will you vote?" "Against the Government." "I'm voting Labour again. I need reassuring." On the same page Bernard Miles (of the Mermaid Theatre) in giving his reasons for voting Labour wrote, 'hardly any of my many Tory friends here in the City can make a serious criticism of the Labour Government's first year's work.' . . .

ON FRIDAY, April 1, the *Financial Times* wrote, 'Faced with a Labour Government which has been returned with a substantial majority, the market is unlikely to panic. Over the last eighteen months the City has learned to live with Labour if not to love it, and despite the unanimous forecast of this sort of result from the leading polls the undertone has remained firm.' . . .

MR. WILSON'S final election speech was almost the same as his first. 'You may not agree with all that this Government has done in its past seventeen months of office but you cannot deny one thing, you must grant us that Britain has a Government, and a Government prepared to take unpopular decisions, regardless of votes.'

JON QUIXOTE.

Abarca Freed

AFTER A WEEK'S adjournment of the hearing, Abarca has been freed. He can therefore return to Belgium, where he has the right of asylum. Now efforts must be made so that he can stay in France, where he wishes to live.

The campaign for his liberation had some results, since three newspapers reported the proceedings, and a good number of organizations sent telegrams to the Minister of Justice; information on the affair was put before three thousand people who attended a meeting called in solidarity with Spanish students; more than 200 posters were displayed, and important newspapers carried long articles in support of Abarca.

Easter March

Dear Comrades, In reply to CND's offer of peace on the Easter March, you observe that you neither have, nor wish to have, any control over the behaviour of other groups. Neither have we. But this does not prevent us from hoping the offer will be accepted.

In the past there has been suspicion of CND because of the way they intrigued

to mobilise the entire ND movement to waste its strength on behalf of the Labour Party. But now that Labour has achieved power, and predictably shown no sign of banning the bomb, CND seems to have stopped supporting it. Canon Collins's *Open Letter to Denis Healey*, in the *Spectator*, was full of bewildered resentment. And a leaflet written by Peggy Duff, for distribution on the march this year, speaks bitterly of 'suckers who thought politicians were bound by their election promises'.

LETTERS

It seems now that, for all their political experience and skill, they were incredibly naive, and really did think the Labour Party was the best hope of disarmament. They are now happy to look into other hopes of disarmament, including anarchist ideas.

This year's Easter March presents an unprecedented opportunity for anarchist propaganda. We hope this opportunity will not be marred by irrelevant acts of obstruction, or aimless bickering with CND officials.

Hampstead, N.W.3 DENNIS GOULD, DONALD ROOM, IRENE ROOM.

Witnesses wanted

Dear Friends, As you have already reported, David Boughton and I were fined £5 and charged £5 5s. costs at Hendon Court House on March 14, allegedly for 'trespassing on London Transport property' at Edgware. We are appealing against this decision and would appreciate it if anybody who witnessed the events leading up to our arrest and during the actual arrest, would come forward as witnesses. We do not yet know when the appeal will be heard, only that it will be heard at the Middlesex Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1.

We should appreciate it very much indeed if witnesses would come forward. Yours fraternally, DOUGLAS KEPNER, 375 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E.2

Going well — but not well enough!

WEEKS 12 and 13, APRIL 2, 1966:
Expenses: 13 weeks at £80: £1040
Income: Sales and Subs.: £667

DEFICIT £373

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Never too Old to learn

THE LONDON INDUSTRIAL Shop Stewards Defence Committee have just published a pamphlet on the 'Woolf Dispute'. This dispute was, and is, so important that just to mention 'Woolf of Southall' and no further explanation is necessary.

The joint authors of the pamphlet give a very concise account of the dispute, exposing the almost criminal role played by the T & GWU.

The Woolf's strike started on December 1, 1965, as the result of a vicious anti-union policy practice by the management for the past 20 years. The pamphlet covers the background of the dispute, exposing the vile conditions the workers had to contend with. 90% of the shop floor workers were Indians and the remainder were Pakistanis, West Indians and Irishmen.

Corruption was the daily routine. Foremen who often had the power of suspension or dismissal took bribes for the allocation of work. Any white workers who joined the firm were quickly promoted. As one can imagine this situation was not exactly fertile ground for union organisation. Two attempts had been made for union recognition, both had failed. Finally, in January, 1964, the management conceded recognition, and then proceeded to attack shop stewards and refused to allow union officials into the factory to inspect working conditions.

In October, 1964, a worker was dismissed for allegedly insulting a

charge hand. A strike was called which was virtually 100%. The T & G officials continually pressed their members to return to work. After three weeks in dispute the management reinstated the man.

On November 28, another worker was suspended, a meeting was called and the strike decision was taken. The events that followed showed excellent solidarity by the workers, whilst being stabbed in the back by the T & GWU.

This pamphlet is an excellent tanner's worth, and as it rightly points out in the closing paragraph, 'when a strike is allowed to continue in isolation its chances of success are small. There is an urgent need for an effective link-up between factories, so that immediate financial support can be channelled to those in need of defence and the facts of their dispute widely advertised'.

JOB CONTROL

AT ESSO'S Birmingham depot 150 road tanker drivers have been in dispute for five days. Twice they have rejected a return to work formula. The dispute is on the question of who should recruit drivers, the company or the union. The company claim that of 18 men starting since December, 1964, only seven have been engaged through the union. This suggests that the T & G have been a bit lax on this question. The company have proposed that the men affected be moved to another depot and recruit through the union but reserving the

FOR THE PAST 12 months lads on the above site have been continually attacked in defence of basic trade union principles.

Site agreements have been repeatedly broken, mass sackings, transfers, and other devious methods employed in an attempt to break the spirit of the men, despite these attacks trade unionism has been defended at every turn and 100% trade unionism exists on this site.

THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THIS DISPUTE ARE:

- 11.2.66 Carpenters go on 41 hour week over a bonus issue.
- 14.2.66 Site put on 41 hours, afternoon tea break removed.
- 18.2.66 Union officials and management meet, management wish certain sections to work overtime, permission refused by men, night shift also on 41 hours have attendance bonus and extra payments removed, union officials ask for a panel over tea-breaks.
- 20.2.66 Removal of minimums breaks existing agreements and all schemes are handed back, management remove all-plus-rates.
- 22.2.66 Shop steward dismissed, union ask for a panel.
- 25.2.66 Fed. steward and another steward dismissed, Fed. steward reinstated, shop steward one day's suspension, 6 operatives dismissed, officials again ask for panel over the 6 operatives.
- 4.3.66 16 operatives transferred. Commissions did not sit, Federation and T & GWU met with Management and their decision was: The tea breaks restored, steward suspended on pay, 6 operatives to be re-employed pending agreement on the bonus issue. This was not attained and the 6 operatives not re-employed.
- 11.3.66 60 operatives served dismissal notices.
- 14.3.66 PROTEST BY 4 OPERATIVES—UP IN CRANE. Management issue statement—'Come down and talk it over' no talking over just the sack. Fed. steward and works committee chairman instrumental in bringing the lads down; sacked the following day.
- 18.3.66 Entire site on strike.

right to reject anyone sent. Obviously this is unacceptable because it leaves the final right of hire in the hands of the employer. The more power that is taken from the employers and into the hands of the workers the better. Whilst one does not suggest that this has anything to do with 'workers control' it prevents, in some cases, employer discriminating against militants, although some unions are just as guilty as the employers of discriminating against militants.

HANDS OFF WAGES

SOME of the Hoteliers are on the fiddle. Apart from taking the customers 'on' they take their staff 'on'.

Generally speaking it is understood that the 'service charge' takes the place of tipping, it is more sophisticated. Many Hotels use the service charge to help pay the wages of the staff.

Catering wages stink, even the great Hilton only pays £12 per week to its waiters, and keeps part of the service charge to pay wages during the slack period.

As far as the catering workers are concerned they are legally robbed every pay day. They need not be, a few late meals when trade union officials are in residence could stir things up a bit.

Canteen workers in large factories work for peanuts, and the workers who take meals in the canteen are content to let things stay that way. If ever solidarity is needed in a situation it's this one, what about it lads? How do you like cheaper meals at the expense of your mates behind the counter?

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

'What Happened at Woolf's' can be obtained from Freedom Bookshop.

FREEDOM For Workers' Control

APRIL 9 1966 Vol 27 No 11

JENKINS PROUD TO GO TO JAIL

IF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of my union wished me to take action to oppose the (Prices and Incomes) Bill, I would be proud to take such action even if it meant going to jail,' said Clive Jenkins. The general secretary of ASSET was speaking at a poorly attended meeting of the faithful at the Porchester Hall, Paddington, last Wednesday, the 28th. The meeting was in support of the prospective Labour candidate Conrad Russell. The meeting was a small and dismal one until Clive Jenkins appeared late, to liven up the proceedings. It was in response to questions that he attacked the proposed bill, which includes a section to fine and imprison strikers. He gave no doubt as to his unequivocal opposition to any such clause and went on to say, 'I will not hide behind the skirts of our rank and file officials, any such measure should be resisted and any such laws disobeyed.' He added that he hoped that a Labour Government would not include any such measure in the bill but he wanted to make it clear that he was going to oppose these measures. The meeting, which appeared to be entirely composed of Labour supporters,

gave a very cold reception to his answers, particularly to the remark that he did not consider any fines should be paid. He still supports the Labour Party, and seems to believe that the Labour Government would take us on the road to socialism.

It is a pity that such a man as Clive Jenkins, whose courage in defending the workers' rights cannot be doubted, should support such a Party as the Labour Party. A man who hopes that the Party 'will demolish the brass-bound class-structure of British society' and preaches 'extending democracy to the factory floor' seems to have his ideas in the right place; it is a pity that his loyalty is so misguided. He must know that the only reason that there are high wages and better conditions is because of 'overemployment' and because the workers have fought the employers tooth and nail for it.

The Labour Party has never even dared to establish a decent minimum wage scale or fight for equal pay for women. Even for Social Democrats their record is pretty disgusting. Does he really think that the levelling of wealth and creating equal opportunity together with 'factory floor democracy' will be created by the Labour Party?

What Mr. Jenkins wants is workers' control—what he will get will be a few months nick if George Brown and Brother Gunter get their way. Don't get martyred in the wrong cause, Mr. Jenkins! Forget Parliament—it has only helped workers at economic gun-point. Forget the power and the glory and come down and help where it is needed most; building a strong and responsible group of workers of every sort, organised in their union, remembering their solidarity, controlling their officials. Stop hanging on the coat-tails of politicians and hanging round the corridors of parliaments. Only the rank and file, the ordinary man in the street, the humble wage-earner, can give mankind what will guarantee a better world—Social Revolution. SPARKS.

Crane Strike Site

We appeal to all loyal trade unionists for aid

Treasurer of the Works Committee,
"Doorstep",
4 Elsenham Street,
Southfields,
London, S.W.18.

All donations will be acknowledged. (Eds.—Union strike pay is very small, the most being paid is £3 a week.)

The above leaflet has been put out by those on strike. Since the entire job came out, there have been a number of developments. The main one is that the four unions involved, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers, the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers and the Construction Union, have made the strike official. Prior to this, a National Conciliation Panel had deplored the unofficial strike and recommended a return to work. The men agreed to this on the condition that all those men who had been sacked, were taken back, but the Taylor Woodrow management refused to accept this.

The management then sent an ultimatum to the strikers telling them that if they did not return to work on the following Monday, they would all be sacked. This was rejected and soon after, a district official of the T & GWU told the men that the dispute had been made official. The other unions concerned quickly followed suit, with the ASW threatening to pull out carpenters on other Taylor Woodrow jobs if the management did not come to terms. Jack Orwell, an official of the T & GWU, told a mass meeting of the strikers that if the company tried to take on other labour 'we shall have to look at the whole position of Taylor Woodrow contracts throughout the whole of London.'

This official recognition came as something of a surprise to the strikers. The Financial Times was quick to point out: 'Paradoxically, this action by the unions will probably lead to a resumption of work in the near future.' In fact terms for a return to work have now been negotiated and all the 170 men on strike

can have their jobs back. Then the question of bonus payments and recognition of shop stewards can be thrashed out.

JOINT SITES COMMITTEE

Taylor Woodrow were fully prepared to have a showdown with the strikers when they issued their ultimatum. With this in mind, one must consider the recent attacks on the London building workers' unofficial Joint Sites Committee. In a recent issue of the Sunday Times (see the previous issue of FREEDOM) the suggestion was put forward of 'closing the site completely when managements have unofficial strikes on their hands.' Another attack, this time in the City Press, opened with 'Unofficial strikes may paralyse every major City construction site within the next few weeks,' and goes on 'Now is the time when the big strike may happen.'

The Joint Sites Committee does have the support of a number of large jobs in London and, because of the strong union organisation, these sites enjoy high wages and good conditions. At the same time, this unofficial grouping of sites is a threat to the union leadership and so, in fact, the unions stepped in to make the strike official in order to forestall any sympathy action from other sites. They now have far more control and I am sure that the management would far rather talk to top officials than to organisers and shop stewards. Nevertheless, with all the sacked men returning to work, this is a climb down by the management and a victory for the lads.

It must be remembered that many rank and filers see unofficial action as a forerunner to it becoming official. They see the Joint Sites Committee as a pressure group to this end and say that they are doing the job that the unions should be doing, but surely this line of thought limits the scope of such a grouping. It limits it to the unions in that they want a change of policy, leadership, etc., and they still think within the framework of the structure of the unions instead of working for something which is based

on the rank and file as a movement.

The union leadership, or rather what is called the 'right wing', have sent warning letters to federation stewards telling them not to act unconstitutionally. At some point, if such a grouping is really going to go ahead as a movement, then some sort of showdown is inevitable, but the strength and organisation can guarantee that the union bureaucracies are unable to withdraw the stewards' credentials. The rank and file, through its shop stewards has evolved a movement which has made the union leadership redundant.

Later news is that, contrary to what I have written above, I found that on visiting the site today, Monday, the management have not taken back all of the sacked men. With the unions agreement to a return to work, seven men, the four crane protesters, and three shop stewards are still outside the gate.

Although the men agreed to go back, other issues of the bonus schemes have not been settled. In fact there is a feeling that the unions made the strike official so as to do a deal with the management, with these seven men being sacrificed for a compromised return to work.

I hope this does not happen. If the union officials do not get these men reinstated quickly, then further action should be taken, not only by those on the job, but by other sites in London. The Joint Sites Committee might still have a job of work to do in this dispute. P.T.

NEXT WEEK WE ARE PRINTING AN ARTICLE ON THE GEDDES REPORT ON SHIPBUILDING

Contact Column

Poetry-Painting Event. Sutton Co-operative Hall, Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey. Saturday, April 16. Painting and Sculpture 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Poetry Reading 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Admission 2/6.

West End Central. Would anyone who has been charged at WEC Police-station or heard at Marlborough Street, write Box 26 giving details of (a) Prosecuting officer, (b) nature and circumstances of offence, (c) dates, (d) name of Magistrate, (e) plea, (f) findings. Thank you.

Freeman Syndicate. Friday, April 15. 'Now!' White Hart, Southall. Folk Session with Don Partridge and others.

'Police Frame-Up'. Leaflet by East London Federation of Anarchists, available from 98 Clova Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7. Send what you can.

Oxan. Second issue now ready produced by Oxford Anarchist Group and Oxon Federation. 60 pp. 1/6 plus 7d. postage from Tony J. Pitcher, Merton College, Oxford. Donations welcome to meet loss on first issue.

Accommodation. Flat or rooms required in London area (preferably unfurnished) by teacher and wife. For one-year period from September. P. and M. Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

Accommodation Vacant. One bunk empty—happy, tolerant girl wanted in s/c flat, in lowest Lambeth, details REL 5224.

Teachers. Would anyone interested in the idea of a Libertarian or Anarchist Teachers' Association write: A. W. Taylor, Basement Flat 1A, 10 St. Georges Terrace, N.W.1.

Accommodation wanted. Accommodation needed by couple (small income) of 24 and baby. London. Reliable and