

THE BIGGER THEY COME —THE HARDER THEY FALL

IT IS RECORDED of Mayor la Guardia, late of New York (who, astute politician though he was, had the grace-rare in politicians—of humanity) once said, 'I don't very often make mistakes but when I do make one, it's a lulu!' We have been afforded the spectacle in the last three weeks of two 'lulus' which will undoubtedly be placed at the door of Her Majesty's Government.

The first has been the wreck of the *Torrey Canyon*, the death in an explosion of one man, and the subsequent spreading of her oil cargo upon the seas and beaches of a substantial part of our coast. The errors of the Government are apparently in the delay in taking measures to prevent this oil pollution and the unwisdom of the methods chosen to deal with it. The second error was the disclosure that the Government overpaid Bristol-Siddeley for aircraft contracts to the amount of £4 million.

The *Torrey Canyon* affair overshadowed the other, probably to the Government's ultimate advantage. The *Torrey Canyon* was a 'natural' for newspapers, every Englishman has (so they say) the sea in his blood and the whole thing was a cliff-hanger from start to finish with every factory-bench scientific expert and every bar-parlour strategic expert free to give an opinion on what should be done. And with the newspapers showing impairment of circulation the story was needed.

Doubtless the return of Parliament from its vacation will see the usual political Punch and Judy show with Heath displaying his seamanship and Maudling his aeronautical know-how, with Mr. Grimond airing his profundity in petrochemicals, and Mr. Gwynfor Evans speaking for seaside boarding-house keepers.

One is tempted to wonder why it is regarded as such a great disaster. Only one man died—and since when have disasters been counted, by newspapers or governments in ones? The ship was lost, but it was insured (A1 at Lloyds) for six million pounds. The cargo was also insured. This, in fact, was the obvious reason for the delay. As long as her crew remained aboard she was the property of her owners and, the crew having gone, what could be salvaged was the property of the salvage tug company. Property robbed one man of his life, and the hanging on to property robbed anybody of a chance to clear away the oil if it could have been done quickly and cleanly.

Readers may remember a similar suspense story about a ship called the *Flying Enterprise* where the captain seemed to be upholding the myth that he must go down with his ship (in fact this idea is purely an insurance affair). The ship subsequently turned out to have a consignment of bullion on board.

The pollution of the seas and beaches was, it may be assumed, the great tragedy. But had it happened on the North-East industrial coast—where such things do happen—it would have been

regarded as just another industrial hazard. The daily fouling of the seas of the world by oil-burning (and discharging) ships passes unnoticed.

This is all part of the price we pay for oil. In the same week an explosion and fire at an oil depot killed one man, trouble surged up at Aden where oil is a factor in the troubles of the Middle East. In the same week too, the total of death and destruction on the roads paid testimony to the use we put the oil when it survives the perils of the sea and the dangers of the refinery.

It seems that we live in an age of disasters. Aberfan, Palomares, the New York power failure all pay eloquent testimony to the vulnerability of the vaunted technological civilization. In fact, although it may be the predisposition of the mass-media to deal in superlatives, it seems that 'the bigger they come, the harder they fall'.

It may come as something of a surprise to affirm that accidents will happen—even in the free society. But our present highly centralized, highly complex, but basically fragmentary capitalistic competitive State provides accidents on the grandest scale with the maximum of repercussions and accompanied by a maximum indifference for life, human, animal, vegetable or mineral (unless it happens to be gold).

Man, it must seem to the animal, mineral and vegetable world is a natural disaster. Readers who wish to go further into this question should read *Anarchy* 69 on Ecology but it seems that man is the world's prize litter-lout.

He pollutes the air with his smoke, the silence with his noise, the Van Allen Belt with his space hardware, Brighton beach with his sewage, and if we are to take Rachel Carson's (to name only one) warning, he pollutes the vegetable world with his insecticides. Devon and Cornwall beaches may be covered with oil but accidents are the least harmful things that man can do to beaches.

It would be a brave man who would raise the subject of fluoridation (so I won't), but detergents (in fact paint-stripper) have yet to prove their harmlessness in the quantities which they have been used round the *Torrey Canyon*. In a consumer society like ours the question is not asked 'is it harmful?' but 'can we sell it?' Detergents are a major sell.

Man has polluted the air with fall-out from his bomb-tests, and now he is testing underground. What underground streams and water-tables are safe?

The industrial settlements of man have grouped themselves round the fossilised remains of coal and oil like beetles round a decaying carcass.

He prides himself upon his technological superiority, his self-sufficiency, his conquest of nature until disasters like the *Torrey Canyon*, the Aberfan landslide, the Palomares bomb, the New York blackout remind him how thin the crust of earth is upon which he lives and how his complexity has become vulnerability.

Peter Kropotkin, when he was stationed with the Russian army on the Amur river, had once to report to his superiors (in Moscow) the loss of some barges in the river. He found it impossible to make the authorities believe that such a disaster could occur. They had no idea in Moscow what the situation was like on the Amur river so successfully had they constructed their bureaucratic armour of ignorance. Does anybody know what oil does to sea-life, what landslides can do, what a bomb can do?

This is not a failure of organization but a failure of imagination which is the disease of a centralized State.

JACK ROBINSON.

Challenging the Government

MR. MICHAEL STEWART, the Economics Minister, has decided to 'freeze' pay increases for 800 car delivery drivers in the Midlands. These increases, which were negotiated by the Transport and General Workers' Union last May, prior to the Government's July 'wage freeze' measures, are between £2 and £7 a week and, together with shorter hours, were put into practice in January.

Although delivery firms have been paying these increases, they are regarded as being contrary to the terms of reference in the White Paper on Incomes and Productivity. Mr. Carrington, Chairman of the Longbridge Group of Delivery Agents, said that they had expected the increases to be stopped, but had been paying them under 'duress'. 'We naturally hope now that the men will accept this decision as being the law of the land and not an imposition of the employers,' he said. However, at a mass meeting, 450 workers employed by the Longbridge Group of Delivery Agents turned down 'this decision' and are taking industrial action. It will not be an outright strike, but the men will refuse to carry return loads on their transporters.

The TGWU regard the agreement as a productivity deal and feel that their members will now be doing more work, without any extra pay. The Government, on the other hand, does not accept the agreement as a productivity deal and the employers, who agree to this, are now sheltering behind the decision. While the agreement was freely negotiated, the 'freezing' in fact would increase the

profits at the workers' expense. But the proposed action will involve the delivery firms in considerable additional costs.

These drivers were also involved in the anti-redundancy strike last year and are again hit by the Government's policies. These were said, at first, to help the lower-paid workers. They were voluntary, in the national interest, and temporary, but the general effect is an attack on the working class. Wages are frozen, while rents, rates and prices go up. Even after July, the 'norm' will be 'nil', while dividends, which have merely been held back for the last year, can be distributed in 'moderation'. It is not just a question of a worker's standard of living that is attacked, but the whole trade union movement of which he is a part.

OPEN TO PROSECUTION

Taking this action against the freezing of their wages, although it is not a withdrawal of labour, still remains within the very broad references on industrial action as laid down in the Prices and Incomes Act and as such will mean that the men will be open to prosecution and liable to fines of up to £500. At last the Government's legislation will be challenged and if it ignores it, other workers will be encouraged to have a go. On the other hand, prosecutions could lead to sympathy action in solidarity with those fined.

The important thing is that a stand had to be taken. If the political rights and liberties of workers had been defended earlier, this struggle would not be taking place.

The collaboration between the trade union leadership and the Government has blurred the issue for many and it was thought, and the majority still think so, that they were 'our people' and must be given a chance.

This was the mistake, for it has meant that the State has encroached further on our liberties. The State, by its very nature, will always restrict or abolish hard won rights and freedoms. Probably only a Government of 'our people' could enact the present wage freeze legislation. However, workers are learning the lessons and realising that it makes little difference who administers the State machine and that only direct action by themselves will defeat the Government's legislation.

P.T.

POSTSCRIPT

Although his members have decided to challenge the Government, a speech made by Mr. Cousins, the general secretary, over the weekend, shows that he is clearly trying to avoid a head-on clash. He said: 'We have said to the employers that we accept the Government's right to do what they have done under an existing law (sic) and now we are back at the negotiating stage. All right, don't pay, we accept it (sic). But we are not doing the work for which you were going to pay us.'

Cousins is playing straight into the Government's hands. They do not want to prosecute and he, for all his talk, is not willing to face prosecution. Whatever the outcome, a stand has, nevertheless, been made by the rank and file and as usual the union leaders are backing away.

Constitutional Exercise

THE OPENING of the March from Aldermaston this year was attended by about 1,000 people and four crows who perched in a highly symbolic fashion on the fence of the establishment. From Falcon Field the March, chiefly composed of anarchists and pacifists, set off to the Polar factory at Burghfield down a meandering series of country lanes. The seclusion of the first day's March did not however deter the shouting of 'Anarchy-in', possibly from those who hoped thereby to stimulate the Berkshire peasantry to seize the land.

At Burghfield a meeting was held during which unsuccessful attempts to climb the fence were made and a thunderflash was thrown at the police cordon.

The next day the March, by now down to the 500 region, assembled at Reading and marched to Slough, past RSG6 where wire fences and heavy police cordons prevented anything more than a purely symbolic confrontation.

An opportunity for a more than symbolic confrontation did, however, come the next day when the March halted near Hounslow. Volunteers were requested for direct action at an Army supply depot. Upon arrival, those who had volunteered found no police or soldiers at the depot and so proceeded to break windows and other fittings, finally leaving it with a red and black flag flying over it. The fact that the machinery of the warfare state had been damaged infuriated the non-violent organisers of the March no end (even though, since the depot had not been guarded, no violence had been offered to a single person). Some of them even talked about apologising to the Army and paying for the damage.

On the morning of the final day, when we joined the CND March, police behaviour followed its accustomed pattern. The anarchist banners were surrounded by heavy concentrations of policemen, followed by a bus and separated from the following marchers by several hundred yards. When we reached Hyde Park a meeting was held. George

Clark told us that CND had decided that the Aldermaston contingent would bring up the rear thus making it easier for the police to box us in.

However, we were told CND had been persuaded to alter these arrangements and allow the Aldermaston marchers to follow the lead contingent. Satisfied with this arrangement, we formed up behind the Aldermaston banner. Soon it became obvious that CND was not keeping its promise and that the rest of the March was beginning to move off ahead of us.

Not wishing to be boxed in, we moved off to join the March but were soon surrounded by heavy police reinforcements and several coaches. This year, it seemed the police had us well and truly outmanoeuvred. However, as the March passed Constitution Hill, the police attempted to split the anarchists into two separate sections. This proved to be their downfall. As one section of our contingent marched on, the other was surrounded by police.

But, seeing what was happening, this group broke ranks, rushed across the island at Constitution Hill to join their comrades and, as the March entered Buckingham Palace Road spread out 20 or more abreast across both sides of the

road. What followed was probably the largest and most successful confrontation with the police in London since the road-filling demonstration of Easter 1963 (in spite of the total silence of the press). Both sides of the road were occupied down Victoria Street and along Whitehall, right the way to Trafalgar Square, while the police remained totally baffled. Every so often a motor bike would attempt to force its way through or a coach disgorge its load of police to the accompaniment of satiric cries of 'evenin' all' from marchers. But whenever a cordon was formed we simply broke ranks and burst through on both sides.

After this, Trafalgar Square was somewhat confused. Some smoke bombs were thrown and there was some pushing against police cordons. However after about an hour of uncommon boredom, even by the standards of speakers at CND rallies, it was over and comrades dispersed to Downing Street for the Committee of 100's Act of Disassociation, to the pubs, back to the provinces, to Cannon Row Police Station under escort, and to whatever strange land is inhabited by those who shout 'anarchy' loudest every Easter and then vanish for the next 12 months.

PRESENTED AT COURT

AT BOW STREET on Easter Tuesday the casualties of the Easter March took over from the usual drunks. An SPGB member was fined for obstructing Whitehall by leafletting. A girl, who had been arrested after she had left the march was fined £3 for obstruction. Comrade Gittings of Lewisham Anarchists and Peter Le Mare had their 'assault' cases adjourned. Chris Bartram of the Ealing anarchists was fined £4 for obstruction. The majesty of the law was disturbed by a well-known anonymous comrade from Croydon who addressed the (mainly anarchist) public gallery, informing them that all magistrates are insane. The audience for the most part applauded

and as our comrade was dragged from the dock the magistrate ordered the Court cleared.

After this a comrade Knight from Aberdeen succeeded in getting a conditional discharge (to go back to Aberdeen) on the charge of knocking off a policeman's helmet; the defence was that he saw it on the road and, naturally, kicked it. The magistrate thought it was unnatural.

A French comrade also obtained conditional discharge after an adjournment when a lawyer was obtained. On his second charge he secured an acquittal.

R.S. & M.H.

ANARCHY 74

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Anarchists and Easter Anarchists

I WAS SOMEWHAT startled during the March to hear close to me the words 'Black Bastard' yelled. Looking round for a fascist heckler, I saw an evidently colour-blind comrade addressing endearments to the Fuzz. This he repeated several times in the half hour we were near neighbours. As far as I know there was no one then in earshot who might not merely have misunderstood him but taken it personally; but the law of probabilities suggests that somewhere on the line of March it was so misunderstood. However hard on bastards (to say nothing of blue babies), who get a rough enough deal in our society by any standards, may I appeal to marchers under anarchist banners to get the colour right in future.

The Easter Marches every year cause anarchists to agonize in FREEDOM about our Easter comrades, and I apologize for so doing again. But it is time we realized that it is very much our problem (just as the crowd attracted to the 'Lamb and Flag' and so ably described recently by Arthur Uloth is our problem, and anarchists have to decide, and decide soon, just how much it is a problem and what if anything we should do about the matter). One of the most startling events on the March to me, was when at one of the meetings on the line of March, two of the most active sellers of FREEDOM and Anarchy spoke in bitter terms about the 'anarchists'. (That meeting had many contradictions, of course, not least was George Clark—who had suggested and taken part in a demonstration, which through lack of thought degenerated into futile violence followed by undignified and unprincipled flight—attacking the anarchists, most of whom had not approved or taken part in it, for the mistake of having the demonstration.)

Nevertheless for all the irony, the fact remains that, on the March, the actions of those behind anarchist banners alienated many militants who have at times sold our papers, who have considered Kropotkin and other anarchist philosophers, and who, one would have thought, were to all intents and purposes anarchist, and who would be, if they had joined our movement, more likely to get out on the streets with anarchist literature than many of those who join us only at Easter. It may be (I don't know, and I doubt if anyone does) that the Easter anarchists are a better source of recruitment of serious comrades than the present militants of the Committee of 100 and other peace groups; but the point has definitely come when we must choose between the two.

Let me declare my bias before going further and accept that, being parti pris, I am not the person to judge. To me the lesson of Hungary was that, in the post-Hiroshima world, insurrection can never again be an effective social-revolutionary force, whether or not it was ever possible for anarchists to wage efficient military struggle and whether or not De Leon (and in his later years Engels) were right in their attacks on

the anarchists of their day in claiming that violence could never bring socialism.

It is the more serious advocates of violent anarchist revolution who must decide, and decide soon, whether they think the actions of the Easter anarchists, in alienating us from other sections of the Libertarian and Unilateralist Left, advance or retard the hope of revolutionary struggle. One admirer of Kropotkin was so alienated that he marched level with us at frequent points chanting counter-slogans; he was challenged with the obvious truth that you don't get revolutions by sitting on your arse—I wonder if the challenger thinks slogans suffice?

It may of course be, anyway, that there is nothing consistent with anarchism that we can do. If so, it bids bleakly for the future when far more serious problems are bound to arise. Experience last year, when John Pilgrim and Digger Walsh arranged periodic anarchist forums to try and persuade the Easter anarchists either to abandon their tactics or at least explain to us why they persisted in using them, were inadequate purely because only our own people bothered to turn up.

Donald Room rightly told us at the Conway Hall that aggression was an healthy instinct and quite divorced from the motivating factors of modern society and war. Fair enough, but the response he talked of between marcher and bureaucratic marshal is quite unlike the attitude which leads our Easter associates to slang every innocent bystander whose hair doesn't measure up to the right length (an attitude surely as authoritarian as the conventional attacks on long-haired youth); and it is such attacks on the onlookers (often sympathetic onlookers) that typified our contingent and caused the hostility to us from those who should have been our allies.

I have deliberately painted the black side, the silver one is that some Easter anarchists become anarchists and worthwhile ones—Keith Nathan says that he and the Harlow anarchists, who must be some of the most active in the country, started this way. It may be that there is no problem after all but, one way or another, we must consider the facts.

L.O.

OPEN LETTER TO CHRISTIAN ANARCHISTS

After seeing Carl Pintel's advert in FREEDOM's Contact Column, I find it difficult to understand how one can be both an anarchist and a Christian.

Surely anarchism denies at least the authority, if not the existence, of a superhuman power. Surely it is the rejection of this power that distinguishes anarchists and humanists from the followers of authoritarian religions. Whereas anarchists believe that man can, and will, in the right environment and given freedom and responsibility, follow the principle of Mutual Aid, the established religions use threats and promises, at best to force men to co-operate, and at their worst to bolster up the establishment and keep the have-nots in their place.

A benevolent view of religions could be that they use an instinctive(?) need for superstitious ritual to formalize the mores and norms essential to the smooth running of society. For the same reason that we reject coercive laws, we reject organized religion; we prefer to use our own judgment to decide which norms are valid and which are not. I think I

Through the Anarchist Press

JAPAN

CHINA is seen by Japan, understandably, as very big and very close; the sharp decrease in support for the left at the recent elections probably results from the fact that the chronic anxiety about China was heightened by the nationalistic aspects of the Cultural Revolution. More ominously, the drop in votes for the left was matched by a corresponding increase in support for the neo-Nazi Soko Gakkai Party.

FRANCE

As time goes by novelist François Mauriac waxes increasingly enthusiastic on the subject of Mongénéral, his country's great leader:

'The most striking thing about him is his complete adaptability. Since the very beginning he has been... "the enemy of the law", or rather, above the law, beyond the reach of those petty restrictions laid down by the ideologists; in fact, more anarchistic than the anarchists of his own time...'

SPAIN

In Pamplona Joaquin Garate and José Muguerza were arraigned on a charge of placing an explosive device on a Fascist monument in the Plaza de Rodezno. Sentences of 20 years and 10 years respectively were called for by the prosecution, but the two accused were acquitted owing to lack of proof. However, they will not be freed until the acquittal has been officially ratified.

SWEDEN

Towards the end of 1966 a conference of Danish and Swedish anarchists was held in Malmö, Sweden. It was decided that the old-established Swedish anarchist journal, Brand, should in the future be published as a mutual Danish/Swedish venture. The current issue, which is the first since the conference, contains contributions from comrades in both countries on various aspects of anarchism. It also contains a statement from

the newly-formed Danish Anarchist Federation, pointing out that one of the main tasks of Brand and the Federation is to spread objective information about anarchist ideas, movements and personalities. This information is very much needed as there is in Denmark an almost total ignorance of anarchism. The great majority of the people still believe that anarchism can be equated with chaos and that anarchists generally are criminals and murderers. The statement from the Danish comrades explodes these myths and goes on to point out the relevance of anarchism in modern society. The statement calls for co-operation with all libertarian organisations and individuals.

SPAIN

Three young conscientious objectors stand condemned to four years' imprisonment and two others to three years' imprisonment by the Federal Court of Austin, Texas. The five are declared Jehovah's Witnesses and have refused to go into hospital service as an alternative to military service, to which they are opposed because of their religious convictions.

Oviedo, N. Spain

Eleven miners from Mieres were recently sacked. Dissatisfied with their employers, the men had recourse to the law, but failing this, decided to return to the mine (300m. deep). Dressed in street clothes since the company's were denied them, they descended the mine and stayed down, day and night, for six days, saying that they would not come out until their complaints were met. Trying to force them to come out, the authority, most inhumanely, prohibited the men's companions from taking them food and necessities for comfort and hygiene, practically cutting them off completely from the outside world.

In view of this, miners from all over the valley declared themselves on strike, in solidarity, reaching, up to now, the sum of 6,500 strikers.

We have since heard that the eleven miners have come out, having created a movement of sympathy all over the country.

Barcelona

Some falangists, strangely unidentified, threw a bottle containing an inflammable liquid into a Catalan establishment, breaking a window. On catching fire, the liquid caused some damage to the interior. The police carried out investigations with a kindness utterly unknown to anti-Francoists.

Madrid

The list of orders from Spanish and foreign sources for ships is hoped to be greater for 1967 than 1966. On the possibility of building ships for Communist China, a spokesman for the technical services has revealed that Spain is prepared to receive orders from that country, with which they have no diplomatic or commercial relations, and that the authorisation would be available from the Spanish Government in the event of such a commission from Communist China.

Compiled by: H. C. Jansen, Bob Baker and John Thurston.

(Sources: La Monde Libertaire, Espoir, Brand, L'Adunata dei Refrattari, Le Combat Syndicaliste.)

Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

*Except in London—see below.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.
Temporary address c/o Wooden Shoe, 42 New Compton Street, London, W.C.2.
Sunday evening meetings 8 p.m. Lamb & Flag, Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2 (Leicester Square tube).
April 9 M. J. Walsh
Shifts in Class-Structure
April 16 Discussion on Easter Demo
April 23 Peter le Mare
Is Libertarian Teaching Possible?

ANARCHIST MEETINGS AT HYDE PARK EVERY SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

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

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Meetings at Mike Malet's, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13.

NORTH LONDON ANARCHIST REVOLUTIONARY GROUP. Contact Michael Buchanan, c/o 17a Maxwell Road, S.W.6.

SOUTHWARK ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Dave Burden, 45b Barry Road, East Dulwich, S.E.22. Proposed meetings to be held on first and third Thursday of each month.

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.

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

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

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

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

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

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

ABERDEEN GROUP. Correspondence to M. Day, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.

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

BELFAST. Contact: Roy McLoughlin, 46 Mooreland Park, Belfast 11, Ireland.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: vacant—offers? Off Centre Discussions, Geoff Bearwood, Snettishwick, Birmingham, 41, First Wednesday of month. 'Resistance' Group, Birmingham Peace Action Centre (formerly CND Office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.

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

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

BRISTOL. Contact: Dave Thorne, 49 Cotham Brow, Bristol, 6.

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Gowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.

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

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

HERTS GROUP. Anarchist Ideas in 'Shelley's Revolt of Islam', Stuart Mitchell at 46 Hughendon Road, Marshalswick, St. Albans, Herts, 8 p.m., April 14.

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

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

NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate,

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

ORPINGTON 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. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

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

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

ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Emyl Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester. Fortnightly meetings from Monday, February 13.

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

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

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Regional Secretary: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. BUXTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: F. A. Gresty, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton.

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Anne Marie Fearon, 16 Devonshire Road, Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP. Brenda Mercer, 6 Breckside Park, Liverpool, 6.

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

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, Flat 9, 619 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, 21.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 82 North Road, Highgate, N.6. (Tel.: MOU 5702.)

PROPOSED GROUPS

WISBECH. Anyone interested write Albert

Community, Chapter House, Leverington, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

WEST SUFFOLK. Please write to Carl Pintel, c/o West Suffolk General Hospital, Hospital Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

S.W. MIDLANDS. Kate, Bill and baby Jane Beveridge wish to contact libertarians in S.W. Midlands. Phone Mickleton 275 or write to Myrtle House, Mickleton, Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire.

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

NORTH WALES: Bangor. Contact Geoff Brown, 39 Caellera, Bangor, Caerns.

SOMERSET. John and Jill Driver wish to contact local libertarians, 4 Obridge Road, Taunton, Somerset.

ABROAD

U.S.A. NEW YORK CITY. N.Y. Federation of Anarchists, c/o Torch Bookshop, 641 East 9th Street, N.Y., 10009. Meets every Thursday evening.

AUSTRALIA. Anarchist Group, PO Box A 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney.

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

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

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion group meets weekly. Contact Ed Strauss at RED 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

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

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

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

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

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

Police Violence—1

ON THE MORNING of March 28, two comrades, Dave Biggs and Terry Liddle, were on their way from Eltham to Lewisham, planning to go on from there with Mike Malet and others staying with him, to Bow Street Court to see what had happened to our friends arrested on Easter Monday. As they walked along Lewisham High Street, Dave, in high spirits, shouted 'Anarchy'; two policemen, 'A' and 'B', after a short discussion started to follow them. At nearby Cressingham Road they caught up with Terry, one of them stamping on his foot and swearing at him, both questioning him and showing interest in his badges.

A few moments later Dave, who had gone ahead to Mike's, came back with him, his wife, Tony Hughes and Bill Beveridge. Dave was immediately grabbed, and although he went limp he was attacked by 'B'. Mike and Tony tried to stop this attack and enable Dave to free himself from this unwaranted assault; Bill held Dave's shoes that had come off, and Terry called on the PCs to act non-violently. After the failure of the rescue attempt, Tony was held by 'A', and Dave by 'B', the rest waiting with them till more police arrived, summoned by an 'honest citizen'. We suggested to him that it was ourselves who needed the help.

At the local police station Dave and Terry were accused of using insulting words, and Dave, Tony, Bill and Mike, of assaulting the police. Treatment in the cells was such as anarchists have come to expect of the police of a 'democratic' country. Enmeshed in their own hierarchical system, the lower ranks of the police take out their resentment of their superiors, their bad working conditions, and a hostile or indifferent public on suspects totally within their power. This is not to say that all policemen are bastards—'A', when he had worked out his resentments, and another policeman met at the station, were prepared to talk, unlike some of their fellows and most of their superiors.

This talking continued on the way to the court at Woolwich and while in a cell there waiting for the case to come up. 'B' turned out to have been a protege of Challenor from the Special Air Service, and versed in some of Challenor's methods, for which he is known among local youth. But the conversations continued till the case came up.

In court Mike and Bill pleaded guilty, both making it quite clear in so doing that this was solely because of family circumstances and, in short speeches, rejecting the charges of assault. Fines of £5 and £2 were imposed, and 21/- costs. Dave pleaded not guilty, Terry and Tony refused to recognize the court's authority (taken as not guilty). £10 bail for each against opposition by the police.

To anarchists this will be a familiar story, but it does serve to show what we are up against, and why. Charged though we were with assaulting the police, 'A' stated in open court that what we had done was to try to rescue someone from the police—this is 'assault'. A PC's first concern is his authority. When do you ever hear a policeman say 'please', except to those who themselves have influence or authority? This attitude is the negation of the democracy they are supposed to defend. Causes of crime, the justness of orders do not concern them, only the orders themselves and the symptoms of a sick society they are ordered to attack.

Anarchists do not go out of their way to provoke the police, but their love of freedom bristles at any exercise of authority, especially when it is blatant and dictatorial, as any police force must be. They are the shock troops of the state, for whom they are the first line of defence—and attack. As long as there is a state, there will be its oppressive agents, there will be opponents of a system degrading to human rights and

aspirations.

We would welcome both messages of support and help to pay incurred and expected fines.

LEWISHAM ANARCHIST GROUP.

Police Violence—2

Dear Comrades,

I was delighted to meet so many new comrades at the Easter Rally. Unfortunately, however, I was an eye-witness to a display of police brutality. A youth of well below average height attempted to walk down the steps into Trafalgar Square. A police sergeant pushed him out of the way telling him that he could not go into the Square. Upon protesting that this was a public right of way he was physically assaulted by five or six policemen who pulled his hair and twisted his arms. The surrounding crowd shouted 'Fascists' and 'Leave him alone!' as the police bundled the youth into a van.

A few minutes earlier the same police sergeant had approached me and in an aggressive manner had told me to keep the anarchists under control as a smoke bomb had been exploded. I was not in a position to see who had thrown the bomb even though I was closer to the incident than the sergeant. Some of the police behaviour was, in fact, deliberately provocative and I was glad to see that the peace demonstrators refused to be provoked by these misfits, who hide behind their state-given authority and use it as an excuse to work off their psychological inadequacies.

Yours against the state,

CARL PINEL.

Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk
29.3.67

Who Lies about Vietnam?

Sir,

It is some years now since I regularly took your paper, but from time to time when I have seen it in recent years I have usually been quite impressed with much of the content. It was therefore with a feeling of disappointment that I read recently an article by Mr. Featherstone about Vietnam (FREEDOM, 25.3.67), an article distinguished for the very weaknesses the author has the audacity to impute to those he is criticizing. I really would not know where to begin refuting the countless mistakes of fact and interpretation in this article. It would appear that Mr. Featherstone has no direct experience of Vietnam; there isn't much he can do about that, it is true, but he could at least acquaint himself (before pontificating) with sources superior and more reliable than those he chooses to cite approvingly (Adam Roberts!).

Sincerely,

DR. J. A. M. CALDWELL, M.A.,
Lecturer in
South East Asian History.

School of Oriental
and African Studies,
University of London, W.C.1
28.3.67

The LSE Struggle

Dear Comrades,

On the surface the situation at the London School of Economics is quite plain, the students are struggling for freedom and justice. Yet looking beneath I discover the whole situation is so completely confused with half-truths, lies and misunderstanding that I find it exceedingly difficult to write any article at all.

When a democratic state declares war upon a dictatorial regime the anarchist will say that this proves that one government is very much like another, only the facade is different; but when the LSE Students' Union, the democratic state, declares 'war' upon the dictatorial regime of the School hierarchy, many anarchists declare their support for the democracy.

The situation at the London School of Economics has, as in all other colleges, been one of continuous negotiation on matters of internal law and policy between the teaching staff and the representatives of the Students' Union. The teaching staff are prepared to bend over backwards to student demands just so the atmosphere in the School is the most conducive to intelligent study; they will come to a decision with the Union authorities one year, but the next year a new set of Union politicians comes

'BBC to Show Mixed-Race Couple in Bed'—Combat

THE GUARDIAN ANNOUNCED on March 20 that a training school for the pilots and captains of giant oil tankers will open in July on a lake near Grenoble in the French Alps. An American petrol station operator was convicted of desecrating the American flag by flying the Soviet hammer and sickle above it. The man said he hoisted the Soviet flag to call attention to the injustice by the local school board in not paying its petrol and oil bill.

HEADLINE IN *Standard* announces 'Forte, Wolfson buy Tsarist China'. However it only meant china formerly belonging to Tsar Nicholas I sold at Christie's by auction. In the *Morning Star* the president of Novoexport, the Soviet agency which arranged the sale, said he thought selling by auction was better than by private treaty, because many people, including the representatives of museums, had a chance to buy, instead of just one person. The dishes fetched £65,751 and Messrs. Forte and Wolfson are millionaires.

IN A PAPAL ENCYCLICAL the Pope criticised certain aspects of the capitalist system. *Morning Star* headline ran 'Pope attacks capitalist economics'. The *Sunday Telegraph*, on Easter Sunday, reports figures of Vatican assets. It quotes £20 million as the figure paid by Mussolini in 1929 for the Vatican's loss of temporal power. Most of this is banked abroad with the Credit Suisse, Hambros in London and Morgan in America. In Italy the Vatican has close ties with three banks, including the 'Bank of the Sainted Spirit' which it partly owns. Cardinal Spellman of New York, acts occasionally as financial adviser using his Wall Street contacts. The Pope also has his private fund known as 'Peter's Pence' being the proceeds of special collections on June 29. At a rough guess this is valued at about half a million pounds a year.

'The Pope,' it is said, 'uses this money for his personal charities or to finance institutions which he particularly wants to support.' . . .

ACCORDING TO THE *Morning Star* a CIA front, the Kaplan Foundation, gave grants to the right-wing Socialist weekly [sic bi-weekly] *New Leader* and the Institute for International Labour Research in a bid to offer a quasi-Socialist alternative to Communism. Also says the *Star's* American correspondent 'the CIA not only fed a million dollars to the leaders of the newspaper workers' union, the American Newspaper Guild, but it exchanged information on developments with the editorial boards of various papers. The *Christian Science Monitor*, says the *Star* darkly, 'has been named in this connection.' . . .

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has set up a committee to study means of openly subsidising organizations previously secretly financed by the CIA. . . .

JONATHAN AITKEN, reporting from Vietnam, in the *Evening Standard* says, 'Although there is a rice shortage in the South, Saigon merchants, with the well-paid connivance of certain officials, sell American aid-purchased relief rice at profitable rates across the Cambodian border, often directly to the Vietcong.' Writing of India, in the *Sunday Times* magazine, Nicholas Wollaston says, 'Yet famine does not exist officially, there is only drought. This is election year and to declare a famine would be to admit failure. Famine is the responsibility of the Government, drought the fault of God. Anyway, in a democracy there is so much for a politician to do without bothering about his electors' food. Now the elections are over, there may be more time.' A page on famine in India (with a picture of a group waiting for a day's one meal), is flanked by adverts for Kraft

(processed) full fat soft 'Philadelphia' cheese, which shows a colour picture of Charlotte Russe (Stuffed Eggs and Chicken and Ham Roll with 4 oz. chicken, 2 oz. ham, one 3 oz. packet of 'Philly', 3 oz. pineapple chunks—chopped, 6-8 oz. ready-made puff pastry, one beaten egg for glazing). You could in fact leave out the 'Philly'—or send it to Oxfam—if it were of any nutritional value. The *Times* article concludes, 'Famine is an insult, an affront to human dignity. Famine is our conscience—all of us who had breakfast this morning and can still weep when we see another man who hasn't had a meal for days. The trouble is, the more we see the less we weep. Famine is our problem, our responsibility . . . remotely, just possibly, it could be our future.' Perhaps we don't really need an egg for glazing. . . .

ACCORDING TO *Poliitken*, a 43-year-old man was imprisoned for a week for breaking into a Copenhagen baker's shop at night because he was hungry. He had been out of work for two weeks and had nowhere to live. . . .

THE PEOPLE, always on the ball, has started an idea on slimming by special diets. To launch it they had a giant feast. The *People* says, oracularly, 'Britain's biggest single health hazard today is overweight.' The *News of the World* headlines, "'Strip Them" Order on Drug Raids' and shows a curvaceous 21-year-old saying, 'I was told to strip off.' According to one report the police (at Southend) found no drugs on teenagers but pep pills were found on the floor of the bar, together 'with other substances'. According to the *N of W* their reporter was there. The proprietor of the raided coffee bar said, 'We try to keep out the shady characters, but it is almost impossible unless the police have warned us beforehand,' and added mysteriously, 'They all look alike anyway.' . . .

THE EVENING STANDARD'S John Stevens reports an interview with a 'drug-pusher', who said, 'Coppers are the pusher's best friend. Every time one of us is nicked we can say things are getting too dangerous—and up go the prices. More money for us.' . . .

MANFRED MANN WROTE to *The Times* suggesting that marijuana, hashish and Indian hemp should be declared non-dangerous and removed from the Dangerous Drugs List, and adds, 'because a clear distinction is not made between the two types of drugs, they don't realise how dangerous heroin and such-like can be.' . . .

IT HAS BEEN REPORTED that dried banana skin is being smoked by beatniks and it is claimed it produces a mood of euphoria akin to marijuana smoking. This has been denied and it is claimed that the feelings are illusory.

JON QUIXOTE.

LETTERS

along and advocates a new policy reversing the original decision. The result of this lack of communication in the student body results in nothing being done and so the staff-student relationships break down and a war is declared.

Von Clausewitz said that war is the natural extension of politics. The LSE protests are an active extension of internal politics and only occur when diplomacy fails; those who know LSE will be aware that this is not the first attempt at boycotting lectures. The struggle in LSE is not a struggle for liberty but a struggle for power, using the word 'freedom' as an emotional gimmick to rally the uninterested masses. What choice then is there for the anarchist; student law or the present law. The students must realise that their own authority is equally tyrannical to the staff as the governing authority is to themselves. We as anarchists must show students and staff alike that the only answer to their present problems is to abolish the hierarchical structures in the school and establish a proper student-

teacher relationship; in fact to tell the student politicians and the governors to get the hell out of it.

The real enemy of all at LSE is the authoritarian principle of rule over others and the delegation of power. This cannot be ended until the State is abolished, it is the basis of our present society. The LSE students who feel victimised would be improving their own chances in having a say on the decision-making if they sat down in every government building in the country demanding that the bureaucrats 'have sate long enough'.

London, N.W.11 NIGEL WILSON.

Not Hooked on ANYTHING?

Dear Friends,

I read with great interest and much agreement the article by Jack Robinson in FREEDOM (18.3.67) on drugs, until the final paragraph which seems to suggest that anarchists should 'live without the necessity for drugs of any kind'. Are we all to be vegetarian natural health addicts before we can be admitted to the ranks of the chosen? No drugs? No aspirin for toothache? No tea, or coffee (these contain caffeine)? Non-smokers all! No alcohol? No anarchist meetings to be held in pubs? This doesn't sound like 'an anarchist life' to me. It's more like a form of living death (which is or should be non-anarchist by definition).

The Chosen will be few indeed.

With best wishes,

Manchester, 14 JOHN TIMSON.

J.R. replies

I am sorry I have unwittingly given the impression that I desire to ban all drug-taking. I think I must have run out of purple hearts, my prose got rather sloppy. What I wrote was 'Should it not be a testimony to the quality of living an anarchist life . . . we can live without the necessity for drugs of any kind?' This clearly means if we live an anarchist life we don't need drugs. Unfortunately a subordinate clause intervening between 'life' and 'that', was a phrase 'that, as human beings, capable of living in society' (as it is now with all its imperfections) which obscured the sense of the sentence.

An Appeal

DAVID WORMALD was arrested on the Demonstration at Hounslow Heath Supply Depot on Sunday, March 26. Inspector Dixon of New Scotland Yard charged him with Larceny of a shovel valued 5/-. The case, which came up at Brentford Magistrates Court on Tuesday, March 28, was remanded until April 14. Inspector Dixon, who is treating the case as a 'criminal and not political matter', wishes to bring further charges against David, when the extent of damage and theft has been established. He also wishes to bring charges against anyone else who was involved. David is in a very difficult position and is appealing for witnesses to appear on his behalf. Please contact David Wormald, 189 Willesden Lane, N.W.16 (phone 459 2067).

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Slipping!

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New York: N.M. £1; Oxford: Anon* 5/-;
Northolt: Anarchist Group* 4/-;
Glasgow: L.H. 12/6; London, N.16: E.F. 5/-;
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TOTAL: £33 0 1
Previously Acknowledged: £286 17 6
1967 Total to Date: £319 17 7

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Railwaymen Work-to-Rule

'AS YOU SOW so shall you reap'. Gunter and Wilson please note. Since the 'buy off' of the national wage dispute last year, British railwaymen have been treated like dirt, to say the least.

Promises, promises and more promises, all as empty as the proverbial Mother Hubbard's cupboard. It took Jack Scamp to interpret the 1965 agreement. He was responsible for averting a stoppage last January when he came down on the side of ASLEF who, contrary to the British Railway Board, believed that the 1965 agreement covered redundancy for all drivers among firemen who lost their jobs as a result of single manning. ASLEF also contends that the 1965 agreement commits British Rail to a national bonus incentive scheme.

At the moment, the bonus scheme covers only long distance drivers. British Rail refuse to make an offer to men who do between 84 and 125 miles per shift, they also say that only 40% of those doing up to 84 miles on a day would qualify.

Since January, ASLEF has had nine meetings with Jack Scamp, and

two adjournments this month to allow British Rail to reconsider the situation. The management is insisting that the drivers make a further contribution to productivity, even though they have agreed and are carrying out single manning.

According to Albert Griffiths, general secretary of ASLEF, the management's proposals would provide productivity bonuses for only three-quarters of the short haul crews. The union is considering some form of action in the event of a breakdown in the talks with Gunter scheduled for Monday, April 3.

On April 3, railway guards are to work to rule on the same issue.

'productivity bonus'. The NUR EC has instructed them not to do the work of the 'second man' on any train which has been single-manned since October 1965. It is feared that the guards will have difficulty in differentiating which train was single-manned before or after October 1965.

It is about time the NUR and ASLEF 'shared the same bed', tackling the same issue single-handed could get them nowhere fast. A showdown has got to come soon between the railwaymen and the Government; the railwaymen are in the position to pick the time, and the place, the rank and file can and must make the decision.

MYTON PICKETS KEEP SCABS OUT

BUILDING WORKERS AGAIN voted not to return to work on the Myton's Barbican site without their six stewards. The following morning the entrance to the site was picketed by about 100 workers, but no attempt was made to move in any 'scab' labour. The mass picket was in response to an appeal from the Laing's and Turriff's Barbican sites for solidarity with the Myton men. They have, themselves, pledged strike action if 'scabs' are moved in on the Myton site.

However, with last Tuesday (28.3.67) being the expiry date for the Myton lads to go back, the next day the management started to try to recruit the 'scabs'. This was done at Kings Cross Labour Exchange, but pickets from the Myton's site were there to state their case for not accepting the job. Many did not know the situation, but after finding out, they soon told the interviewers what they could do with the job. Other labour is expected to be transferred from other Myton sites and from the parent company, Taylor Woodrow.

Mytons did in fact succeed in recruiting 14 men who were brought from Kings Cross Labour Exchange in a hired coach on Monday. The Myton lads were well prepared for them, aided by workers from other sites and, when the news came through that the coach would arrive shortly after 10 a.m., men on the nearby Turriff's site voted, during their tea-break, to come out and join the picket.

By the time the coach of 'scabs' had arrived, about 600 men were waiting. It had to come down a narrow turning to get to the site and this was completely blocked by the pickets. They shouted 'Go home scabs', waving their union cards and banging their fists on the coach. Two pickets sat down in front of the coach and were removed by the police, who told the driver to reverse back out onto the main road. By this time the driver had turned very pale and was obviously terrified. He said he had not expected this. Some of the 'scabs' got off the coach and walked away, while the others, together with the two Labour Exchange officials, went back in the coach.

'A GREAT CRACK'

The first attempt by Myton's to 'scab' the job has ended in failure and the pickets' success clearly showed in their faces. One Irishman said "That was a great crack", while another worker passed the comment that this had made up for some of the past defeats. Everyone was rightly pleased with themselves.

This show of solidarity has not been seen in this town for many years. The benefits of good site organisation are now being reaped and today's stand really showed what trade unionism is about. Stewards, speaking at a mass meeting, said that despite the efforts of the employers and the collaboration of the trade union leadership, they were making a stand against victimisation. The members were the union and as such they should run things. They were not going to stand by and see six men go down the road because the union leadership would not put up a fight.

This stand today has shown not only

Myton's management, but all building employers, that they cannot break site organisation by a lock-out. It is a warning to others not to try, for the management not only have to face a stand from the men on their own site, but also opposition from other organised sites. The isolation of job organisation is being successfully overcome. Whatever site they work on, all building workers are facing the same problems. Solidarity has been seen to work and I am certain that these lessons will not be lost.

What will Myton's do next, for their agreement to open the site is not worth a thing? They might try again, or they might save face by having the parent company take over. It must be remembered that it was sheer force of numbers that won the day. If the police had got reinforcements and cleared the street, there was still the strike action pledge by Laing's and Turriff's. Numerical strength and solidarity will be the only way of getting the six stewards back.

Financial help is still needed. To: A. D. Leadbetter, 9 Wells House, Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1.

P.T.

Draughtsmen fight on all fronts

THE NATIONAL PRESS, over the past week or so, have chosen to ignore that fact that 1,800 draughtsmen are still locked out by the shipbuilding employers. Only when there is any sign of a 'punch up' in a dispute are the press vaguely interested, and then they come out on the side of the employers or their Government.

It appears that shipbuilding workers in Liverpool may live things up. Workers at Cammell Laird's Birkenhead have given their employers notice to reinstate the locked-out draughtsmen within a week. This idea must spread if any assistance is to be given to the draughtsmen.

Draughtsmen are also in trouble in Luton at Vauxhall's. From April 7 they will black all design work for the company by outside firms. Ten draughtsmen members of the Draughtsmen and Allied Technicians Association (DATA) have been declared redundant along with 500 or 600 other white collar workers employed by Vauxhall's.

Eric Winterbottom, DATA regional organiser stated, 'if they sacked one of our members in that way we may regard that as all our members'. The union believe that Vauxhall's are operating a policy of rationalization in anticipating Britain's entry into the Common Market.

Vauxhall's are a part of General Motors of which Opel is the German subsidiary. It is reported that General

Freedom For Workers' Control

APRIL 8 1967 Vol 28 No 10

OK GUV, How's Business?

ASSUMING that the growing student pressure for changes in the LSE's regulations and structure begins to be taken seriously within the School, the Court of Governors is still the final body which must pass on recommendations for meaningful change. Who is on this Court, and do they appear interested in making such changes? Armed with a *Who's Who*, one of the ruled went in search of his rulers. This is what he found:

SELF-PERPETUATING

The supreme governing body of the School is the Board of Governors, a body of 72 members. It is a self-perpetuating body which fills vacancies in its own membership and appoints additional members. It would appear that selection is based on wealth, prestige, and business status, in the main. Its principal functions are to discuss major questions affecting the development and work of the School, receive reports from the Director and Standing Committee, and to appoint committees, all of whose powers, with one exception, are delegated to the Director.

Within the current Board, 28 members went to public schools and roughly the same (28 in number) went to Oxford and Cambridge.

The total number of directorships held by 36 members of the Board is 249. There is one Governor holding 35 directorships, 5 Governors hold between 13 and 19 directorships, 12 hold 5-12 directorships and 45 hold 5 or less. The member holding 35 is industrialist Lord Tangle, who also sits on the Standing Committee. His directorships include

Rediffusion Ltd., William Deacons Bank, Yorkshire Insurance Co. Ltd., Ultra-Mar Co. Ltd., and the Industrial and General Trust Co. Ltd.

Other Board members include the Earl of Drogheda, who holds 19 directorships and is managing director of the *Financial Times*, director of the Economist Newspapers (and Bookshop). His other directorships include publishing and insurance companies.

Sir Jock Campbell holds 15 directorships, which include the *Statesman* and National Publishing Co. Ltd., United Rum Merchants Ltd., and Booker Engineering and Industrial Holdings Ltd.

Sir Geoffrey Crowther holds 12 directorships which include the Economist Newspapers, the Daily News Ltd., London Merchant Securities Ltd., and the Eastern International Investment Co. Ltd.

BANK OF ENGLAND

Sir George Bolton holds 14 directorships, including the Bank of England, Sun Life Insurance Co., the Bank of London, South Africa Ltd., Canadian Pacific Railways, and the Securities Management Trust Ltd.

Sir Paul Chambers holds 18 directorships, mainly concerned with insurance. He is the chairman of ICI and is president of the Institute of Directors.

This is, it must be stressed, a small sample of the membership of the Court of Governors, but it would seem typical of the weighting of interests. These latter would seem predominantly to be in the world of banking, (Government) insurance and industry. Some of the Court's members have been prominently identified with liberal causes.

COMMITTEE

A subsidiary and important part of this power structure is the Standing Committee. This is the principal committee of the Court. It consists of the Chairman of the Governors, the Director and not more than 11 other members of the Court, including senior professional Governors. The decision of the Standing Committee is binding on the Director, except that he has the right to refer the matter to the Court and to ask when necessary a special meeting to consider it. If he does this he in fact refers the Governors to themselves.

The Chairman is Lord Bridges, 74, who weighs in with only 4 directorships, which include Babcock and Wilcox Ltd., and Equity and Law Life Assurance Society Ltd. He was educated at Eton and Oxford. The Vice-Chairman is F. E. Harmer, holding 13 directorships, which include Westminster Bank and BP Ltd.

Other members of the Committee include Alan Hitchman, a deputy chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Farrer Brown, who is director of the Nuffield Foundation, and W. M. Allen, executive director of the Bank of England.

DOMINATION

The overall impression one gets from looking at the composition of the Court and its satellite, the Standing Committee, is one of business domination. At most, there are three or four who are working teachers. There is nothing to suggest that this power-elite—from its composition or from its policy within the School—has any awareness or understanding of the debate regarding the function of education today.

At the same time, the Board may prove responsible to mounting pressure, if only for reasons of status and image. Business connections do not imply conspiratorial intentions. A seeming insensitivity may only reflect their detachment. One hopes that they may be persuaded to see that change is in the School's interest.

(Reprinted from *Beaver*, LSE Students' newspaper, 9.3.67.)

Contact Column

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

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

Patchen. Wednesday, April 19, at Better Books, 9 p.m., readings from (as yet unpublished) 'Love and War'. Poems of Kenneth Patchen. Reading organized to raise money for printing costs.

Open University. At London School of Economics, Houghton St., Aldwych, W.C.2 until April 26. Twenty-four hours a day. Everyone interested is welcome.

Badges. 'Free Stuart Christie—Franco's Prisoner', 3/6 for six (including postage), minimum order. Proceeds to new campaign expenses. Orders to John Rety, c/o Freedom Press.

House or Apartment wanted for July. American comrades (4) need house or flat to rent for month of July. Box 50.

Speakers. Harlow Anarchists intend to run a series of public meetings and indoor forums. Comrades willing to speak on anarchistic topics will be paid expenses if necessary. Please contact the Harlow Group (see groups column) with offers or suggestions.

Christian Anarchists wishing to meet other Anarchist or Libertarian Christians please write to Carl Pinel, c/o West Suffolk General Hospital, Hospital Road, Bury St. Edmunds.

School. Could parents/teachers please give me information about any enlightened primary (especially Junior) schools in London area or S.E. England. Box 51.

Accommodation Wanted. Cheap sleeping accommodation/dry floor. Anywhere in London for seven days June-September. No cooking. Write Alan Murgatroyd, 28 Sun Street, Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.

Elizabeth Windsor. Hull Anarchist Group require any anti-royalist information or literature. Particularly about the Queen. H.A.G., 89 Fountain Road, Hull.

Unaligned in Vietnam? Easter Pamphlet. 'Neither Washington nor Hanoi but Libertarian Socialism.' Duplicated pamphlet for sale, price 3d. Write Laurens Otter, Tolstoi, New Yatt Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon.

If you wish to make contact let us know.