

'LOG' REPORT FROM CAMBODIA

ON MONDAY, January 15, 1968, the group left the capital, Phnom Penh, for the province of Svay Rieng. (See report on arrival in Cambodia, FREEDOM, 20.1.68.)

On Tuesday, the 16th, we breakfasted with the Governor of Svay Rieng and were afterwards briefed on the places we were to visit. We were then distributed in jeeps and went off to Bavet, a frontier post. US helicopters were landing on the South Vietnam side and there were guns pointing across the border to Cambodia manned by South Vietnamese. Two Russians, making a film of Cambodia as an island of peace in a sea of war, were with our party. We were told that there was often cross-fire at Bavet, and a man had been wounded in the thigh as recently as December.

From Bavet we went to Mesar Thangkak, a small town 3 kms. from the frontier. There we saw some Cambodians who had been wounded in border violations and others who had been kidnapped by US helicopters and taken to South Vietnam for three days: 'the men for information, the girls for jokes'.

During lunch an attack along the border began. Four helicopters and one plane (L20) were strafing a copse. We would testify with the aid of maps to an invasion of Cambodian air-space. The Cambodians also said subsequently that explosives were dropped in their fields for 500 metres ruining (?) a rice crop, but while we saw no reason to disbelieve them, we cannot confirm this report since we were not close enough. We instantly sought permission to get nearer to the attack, but they feared that the movement of a large number of people might attract the attention of the planes and bring them in over the town. The attack lasted about 20 minutes.

Before we left we were shown the body of a youth aged 20, who had been killed the day before. He returned to the fields after an attack similar to the one we witnessed and picked up an unexploded rocket which went off in his hand. The lower part of his left arm was totally destroyed and the front part of his body was covered in wounds from head to foot.

We then went on to Chantrea, a village 6 kms. within the Cambodian frontier which suffered a severe land and air attack from US and South Vietnamese forces on 19.3.64. We saw a bomb crater and several of the wounded including a

girl who had been severely burnt on her back by napalm at the age of 14. She is now 18 but has not grown or developed since.

Our final visit of the day was to Kompong Rav, where we had dinner within 100 yards of the frontier. US planes fly daily over the village and 'buzz' it; there have been some casualties. We danced while we waited for their warning visit, but the moon was full and the planes did not come.

On January 17 a number of the group set out for the province of Kompong Cham and in particular for the alleged 'Vietcong Camp' at Memot. Kompong Cham is due north of Svay Rieng and north east of the capital. On the way we passed within 200 metres of the border along the route national for the province (it was about ten miles below this point, at Peam Monte that, on January 18, three people were killed, one seriously wounded and one lightly wounded, after (so the Cambodians allege) US and South Vietnamese troops went over the border and attacked villagers). This is the most serious incident in Cambodian frontier land for a month—indeed the only major deliberate one during this period. Sufficient to say that, at this point in time, it seems the Chester Bowles—Sihanouk talks were rather transparent, even if as the Australian Embassy here alleges, this incident was 'planned' before the statement between Bowles and Cambodia was ratified. This seems sophistry of the highest order—but we still await the ICC report on the incident.

At Memot we met the Governor's adjutant (the Governor being off in Phnom Penh for the Tito visit) and his staff, and stood up to a sumptuous buffet. During conversations with the Governor's adjutant we learned that Chak Kranh, a village attacked twice in the last twelve calendar months, had been attacked yet again only two days before we arrived. In the Province of Kompong Cham itself, the following had been recorded during 1967—

Seven major incidents (i.e. excluding numerous air violations) involving a total of 5 killed, 14 wounded. In one incident on July 15, 1967, 4 people disguised as Vietcong (in black pyjamas) entered the town of Memot and started firing—resulting in two National Guardsmen being killed. One of these disguised people was

Continued on page 2

Who Wins in Vietnam?

NOW THAT the South Vietnamese Air Force, with US military 'approval' has bombed its own capital city, Saigon, it was shown once again that those in power are prepared to destroy their own people rather than to relinquish power.

At the time of the Detroit rebellion our report that the Americans were on the verge of bombing Detroit was disbelieved by many people.

Nevertheless Governments go to any length to remain in power. The recent Southern England military exercises were designed to control a rebellious population—after a nuclear war.

The Hungarian revolution was put down ruthlessly by Soviet tanks. This was claimed by a letter-writer to FREEDOM recently as being more humane in that they did not use aeroplanes. But, when it suited them, the Communists also used air power against civilian populations, third to the Germans and the Japanese. They bombed Helsinki in the Soviet-Finnish war.

Now it is the turn of US military and the South Vietnam Government to destroy the civilian population, who, by their very presence, are hindering the war effort.

According to a latest report from Da Nang the landscape looked like the bombed European cities of the Second World War! At Hue, an insane etiquette prevailed upon the US military to insist that if civilian and religious buildings were to be destroyed they should be done by the South Vietnamese themselves!

An American officer told the reporter, Francois Mazure: 'What can we do? To clean out this damned city you would have to raze every house, and we cannot go that far.' Not yet.

The Americans are already lamenting that years of 'pacification' has been destroyed by events of the past week. As the Vietcong took their revenge on collaborators and their families, the American occupying forces have once more been isolated. But this has been the American experience for some time and echoes their military tactic all through the Second World War when, after a beach-head assault on an island, they used to fence themselves in, leaving it to lesser breeds to mop up the Japanese.

Whereas they never controlled the countryside, at least they had some safety in the towns. Now the Vietcong have shown that the Americans are not even safe there. Even if they manage to regain the cities their only safety will be within the confines of their garrisons.

This is not enough to bolster up

the South Vietnamese Government and it is barely enough for their own protection. But if the Johnson administration decides to do so, they can maintain their military force in Vietnam, a large-scale suicide squad, different only in numbers and determination from the 19 Vietcong soldiers who occupied the American Embassy in Saigon.

In this context, the Americans will need all the allied troops they can get. If in fact the South Koreans will insist on withdrawing their 43,000 contingent, the Pueblo affair will be shown in its true light. When their spy ship was impounded by the North Koreans the world has never been so near to a nuclear war.

That American and North Korean officials are talking in Panmunjom; that Mr. MacNamara, the United States Secretary of Defence, claimed that any rescue attempt would have encountered opposition from the North Korean air defence manned by about 500 aircraft; and finally the playing down of the fact that some of the Pueblo's crew were killed and wounded; all these show that the Americans are trying to impress the South Koreans that the danger has passed and they need not withdraw their troops from Vietnam.

If in fact there was collusion between the Vietcong and the North

Koreans, then the seizing of the Pueblo could be justified. But if it was for purely North Korean patriotic consumption than it was a fantastic risk to take. The news of the ship's arrest was evidently kept from President Johnson himself and it was the military that decided not to retaliate.

By all accounts the suffering of the civilian population in Vietnam is tremendous. That there is a section that opposes both the warring factions is also becoming obvious. A shelter where there were 3,000 civilians did not allow soldiers from either side in—'we have sent them away every time, telling them that this is a sanctuary for civilians'.

The fighting is not yet over, but dishearteningly from an anarchist point of view, all the participants will have come out strengthened. The benefits to Peking, Moscow and Hanoi, in propaganda terms, are obvious. Even the American Government managed to squeeze a reserve call-up out of the Pueblo affair and there is much closing of the ranks behind the Administration.

The prospect in Vietnam is continued war—without the slightest hope of compromise. The peasants and the children may want peace but nobody asks them.

JOHN RETY.



Holy cow, LeRoy, HE's sent me my Reserve call-up for KOREA!

The Class Struggle

Libertarian Teachers' Association—Progress Report and Account of Meeting on January 25, 1968.

THE LIBERTARIAN Teachers' Association has now maintained a 'presence' of some sort on the anarchist-pacifist scene for nearly two years. As an organisation it has been until now virtually structureless, having no named officials, no regular activities, no members or fixed subscription rate and no generally agreed aims or principles. In practical terms the LTA is an occasional journal, an information service and a gradually expanding address list of contacts. This list now amounts to just under two hundred names of whom forty live in London, twenty-two abroad and the remainder scattered over the British Isles (this number includes students at 17 different Colleges of Education).

The most recent Bulletin (No. 3) was produced last summer in an edition of 800 which proved to be a vast over-estimate of resulting sales. That the Association did not collapse under the weight of its debts is due to some very generous donations and the efforts of a few who managed to sell bulk orders.

The meeting on January 25 revealed a marked difference in approach which may be characteristic of the attitudes of contacts as a whole. (A questionnaire is to be included in the next publication which may clarify this and other uncertainties.) The division is between those who feel that more can be done by continuing to work inside the state educational system whilst struggling to change, alleviate or subvert its essential authoritarianism, and those who feel that libertarians should use their energies to create independent small-scale educa-

tional communities. However, there is no necessary conflict between these two courses—each to his 'own thing'—there is plenty of room for a variety of approaches.

No general wish was evident amongst those present to inaugurate fee-paying membership or to form a 'central group' in any sense other than the existing central address for correspondence. (On this issue the views of the far-flung will be sounded via the questionnaire.) Local groups and individuals communicating amongst themselves is the hoped-for pattern and it is possible that the first two of these groups are in process of development at Brighton College of Education and in Leicester.

The information service, relating mainly to books, schools and colleges, was thought to be valuable and may in future be provided by the joint resources of a panel rather than one individual. The accuracy and effectiveness of information will of course depend on reports received from contacts on-the-spot in the various educational institutions. It was suggested that a basic bibliography should be included in the

next bulletin and this will be done. (However, it will be easier to do if the person who took the draft copy of this bibliography away with him after the meeting, returns it!)

The LTA London Group intend to hold monthly meetings on the last Sunday of each month; these will be bi-monthly open meetings alternating with meetings on a prearranged theme addressed by a speaker. Only the latter will be advertised outside the anarchist press.

The appropriateness of the name of the Association was discussed. Whilst some people felt that the inclusion of the word 'teacher' might deter educationally-concerned but non-teaching libertarians, this does not seem to have been the case in practice and no suggested alternative name seemed very much better than the existing one.

A small working group will meet soon to begin on the production of Bulletin No. 4 which, in addition to the questionnaire and bibliography already mentioned, will include articles on Summerhill, Risinghill and Epping House schools. The aim will be to produce smaller but more frequent issues in future, perhaps

on a quarterly basis.

It is to be hoped that this meeting will lead to an increase in activities and local group projects. It will be satisfying if this expansion can be achieved without a consequent increase in organisational bureaucracy or centralism.

PETER FORD.

ANARCHY 84

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Continued from page 1

captured and is still in prison. After questioning it was discovered that they were members of the South Vietnamese Army sent in as agents provocateurs. When asked what the authorities would have done if they had really been Vietcong, the adjutant replied, 'We would have done the same thing; we didn't know that they weren't VC until they were captured.' The group could well believe this since a large number of militiamen in this province wore black pyjamas and guns around their necks and were quite obviously Cambodians.

Details of the other incidents: February 22, Ton Loung, machine-gunning and rockets, two killed. March 9, Bang Chrong, 3 wounded. March 19, Soty, machine-gunning, 3 wounded. March 20, Cheam Preabon, 5 wounded. April 9, Soty, 4 wounded. September 1, Chak Kranh, 2 killed.

This last (Chak Kranh) was considered the major incident of 1967 and has been the subject of two ICC investigations in 12 calendar months. During the first quarter of 1967, a hundred houses were destroyed in the first major incident and yet a third had now been reported, on January 15, 1968. According to the adjutant, machine-gunning had been carried out during the rebuilding of houses destroyed after the second incident and despite the fact that the Cambodian flag had been painted on the new roofs.

We asked to change our itinerary in order to go to Chak Kranh, emphasizing how important it was for unarranged, on-the-spot, investigations to take place, so that unbiased evidence could be sent back to England. The authorities accepted this but were very concerned at possible risks to our lives and limbs. After some discussion, they agreed to take us to the village provided we all signed a declaration absolving them from responsibility. This we did and then we were taken by

jeep along the bumpiest roads in the kingdom (or so it seemed) to arrive half an hour later, covered in dust, at the new Chak Kranh. From here we were taken to within sight of the frontier—past charred remains of the former village and to within sight of where the first Chak Kranh had been built and then destroyed. In the distance, about 2 kms. away, stood the pagoda which, according to the Cambodians, marked their frontier with South Vietnam. This had been the centre of the original village from which the inhabitants had been forced to flee by invading Americans and South Vietnamese. Only a few yards from where we stood was a fence which, according to them, marked the frontier as they understood it.

Accompanied by about 30 soldiers we walked back to the new village still under construction and saw evidence of machine-gunning through a roof which bore the Cambodian flag. During this visit, we also photographed a pit containing (allegedly) artillery shells which had landed in Cambodia during the battle of Junction City last year, in Vietnam. They were, of course, unexploded. According to the adjutant, the machine-gunning of Chak Kranh had been a common occurrence, and was a device used not merely to intimidate the villagers but to hold up construction work. When asked why the authorities did not evacuate Cambodians at risk in this area he gave two compelling reasons—firstly, they did not wish to show their fear; secondly, if they retreated (as they had been forced to in the past) their territory would be absorbed by South Vietnamese. 'This is a war of genocide and expansion by the Vietnamese,' stressed the adjutant.

After Chak Kranh, we moved on about 15 kms. to the alleged Vietcong Camp, then being used by a detachment of Cambodian soldiers for rest and training periods. It consisted of half a dozen small thatched dwellings, indeed roofs and supports only, with hammocks and basic cooking utensils. In the central small area a blackboard with writing stood in front of a tree and was apparently used for instruction.

There were two different accounts from the Cambodian officers as to what the visiting journalists had actually found. One account indicated that these shelters had been used by smugglers and that documents and other material found had been carried illicitly across the border; others that this had always been a training camp for Cambodians and that the so-called 'documents written in Vietnamese' found by the American journalists were bits of paper included in tubes of methol pills, freely available and written in Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese. Cigarettes found were apparently the common 'Ara' brand available throughout Phnom Penh, and nothing sinister about them.

Most of this confusion, if such it be, could be explained by the fact that the training camp is held during the dry season, while the journalists made their investigation during the wet, and it is clear from our other investigations that Cambodians do not set a very high store on detailed account of this allegation—which they regard as at the best highly

amusing, and at the worst crackpot. There was no indication of bitterness towards the journalists, rather the attitude 'we have nothing to hide, it's not our fault if they can't use their eyes properly'. One of our guides, Captain Sisowath Ritha Vong who had taken Horst Fass and George MacArthur, two of the Americans, to the camp (which incidentally is within a stone's throw of the main road), took great delight in acting out for us the childish glee of the journalists on discovering this 'evidence' and their adamant refusal to accept any explanation than the one which they were determined to make public. It is virtually impossible, speaking for myself, to say that our visit to Memot proved anything positive. Certainly there was no evidence of anything being arranged for us; and the 100 or so men at the 'base' seemed certainly to have been there for the purpose outlined. But if one were to be strictly realistic we don't even know now for certain whether or not this even was the alleged camp. All we can say to that is that the Cambodians have never during our time with them (and least of all the Army authorities) seemed sinister or anything but open and honest.

After Memot, back to the villa for drinks then on to Kompong itself, 1½ hours away, for dinner. It was at the dinner that some of us decided to ask the adjutant if he could consider any prospect of the group locating itself at Chak Kranh along our original proposed lines and possibly to assist in building the new village. He was more positive than expected, obviously understanding of, and in sympathy with our aims, and promised to include the suggestion in a report he would be making of our visit for the Governor.

Addition: The captain, who was with the journalists, said that one of them had had a map in his hip pocket on which the camp was marked with a cross. He had pointed to the place and asked to be driven in there and the captain had willingly agreed. The journalists had subsequently paid no attention to the captain's explanation that it was indeed a camp—for Cambodians. He suspected that the journalists had been tipped off about the presence of such a camp in Saigon.

On the 18th, three members of the group went to see Meyor (?) the French adviser. He discounted much of what the Prime Minister had told the group on Monday but suggested that we should renounce the whole idea of staying in a border area in writing to the Prince. He felt that the weather risk alone rendered the project impossible. He said that the Prince was anxious to know how long we wished to stay and thought we should ask him for permission to visit a refugee camp.

January 20. Visit to Sihanoukville arranged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at their expense. We were presented to the Assistant Governor and given a programme for our stay. This was quickly changed to allow us a period in the Indian Ocean—but first we were taken to the docks. Two boats were in, both cargo vessels, one from France, the other from China (Canton) sporting a portrait of Mao Tse Tung high on the mizzen. Permission to enter this vessel, the

'Youhi', and look around was not granted. We learned, however, that it had brought general supplies to Sihanoukville and will be carrying wood back with it. Again we found ourselves in the position of trying to prove a negative. Certainly we saw no evidence of arms or supplies for possible NLF forces in Cambodia, but there is hardly any evidence against. A significant fact, however, not generally realised outside Cambodia, is that Sihanoukville is extremely small—its whole loading area taking up less space than one or two berths in the King George V Dock in London. If there are 20,000 Chinese militants secreted in Sihanoukville, as American sources have accused, one could hardly envisage them coming by sea and jumping ship, other than over a period of a number of years! The reasons we were not allowed on board, given by the captain, was that the crew were having their siesta and visitors would disturb them, quite understandable. After the visit we moved on to Sokkar Krung Preah Sihanouk—the motel-land of Cambodia, near the white beaches, the pure blue sea. After lunch and a sleep, a tour of the town and visits to two factories, one a motor factory building Massey-Ferguson tractors and lorries with roughly 80 personnel and very little machinery (a large notice 'We want Sihanoukism' on the outside), the second a brewery not yet completed.

P.S. Part of the materials unloaded by the Chinese ship at Sihanoukville was arms—for Cambodians—the station-master was quite open about this.

NON-VIOLENT ACTION GROUP.

CRIMINAL ANARCHY

'CRIMINAL ANARCHY' (or its activation) is still illegal in the United States. The Supreme Court has recently disallowed William Epton's appeal. Epton was charged with 'conspiring to riot and of advocating and conspiring to advocate criminal anarchy'. He was given three one-year sentences to run concurrently for his part in the 1964 Harlem riots.

According to *Time* (2.2.68) William Epton said in a street-corner speech on the first night of the Harlem riots: 'We will not be fully free until we smash the state completely, and totally.'

In Peace News this week

John Arden reviews Donald Duncan's THE NEW LEGIONS; LeRoi Jones defence statement; Viv Broughton; NTS, GERALD BROOKE AND THE RUSSIAN WRITERS; Allen Skinner on TRADE UNIONS; and NON-VIOLENT ACTION IN CAMBODIA. Price 1/- from Newsagents or Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

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

LETTER

Honoured

Dear Friends,

I feel honoured that the bus of FREEDOM's poetic passage has once more been conducted my way by the sooth-sayer Moyses, and that he considers I've succeeded in my intention with *Bank Holiday*. But 'Apart from the unfortunate travel brochure cover?'—In his understandable haste to proceed from my Jeremiad to a *Song of the Great Peace*, Arthur has omitted to spy out the truly unfortunate secret of that apparently delectful picture, which was very deliberately placed on the cover, and acknowledged on the last page of my book:

'Where the Proteus Berths'—

'This view of Holy Loch on the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, shows the idyllic Argyll countryside around the Loch with the USS *Proteus* berthed in the background. She is America's submarine depot ship sent to Holy Loch to establish the first base in Europe for Polaris bearing submarines.'

—Keep Britain safe for travel!

Anarchy and Peace,

15.1.68. MICHAEL HOROVITZ.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

General enquiries should be sent to the London Federation.

SOUTHERN ANARCHIST FEDERATION Inaugural Conference. All groups please contact Steve Watts of Trinity College, Oxford, February 24 at Oxford; Friday, 25, social in aid of Spanish Refugees Aid, Inc. and the Anarchist Black Cross.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1. Business meetings first Sunday of the month. For details apply to LFA.

New Meeting Place, Marquis of Granby, Cambridge Circus, Charing Cross Road. Sundays 8 p.m.

JAN 28: Jack Robinson Chicago Anarchists LEWISHAM. Contact Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13. Phone: 01-852 8879.

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

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

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

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 Roumou's, now at 13 Saverne Road, London, N.W.3

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

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

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

ABERDEEN ANARCHIST FEDERATION (SWF) local group. Folk Song Workshop and Committee of 100. Contact Iain MacDonald, 15 Cotton Street, Aberdeen.

BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUP. All anarchists, syndicalists, individualists, etc., please contact Geoff and

Caroline Charlton, 32 Swindon Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 17 (near Portland Road). Note new address.

BOLTON. Get in touch with Les Smith, 22 Grosvenor Street, Bolton, Lancs.

BOURNEMOUTH AND EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS. Please contact John McCain, 14 Milton Road, Bournemouth (B'm'th 22279) or Tim Deane, Juliet, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset (Ferndown 3588).

BRIGHTON. Get in touch with 79 Coleman Street, Brighton, 7. Poetry readings every Tuesday in Archway 187 on the Seaford.

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

FIFE LIBERTARIANS. 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. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Potters Heath, Potters Heath, Welwyn Herts OR Jeff Clives, 46 Hughenden Road, Harpenden, Herts.

Sunday, February 28, 8 p.m. Poetry evening 'Bring and Read' at Jaim Funnell, 10 Fry Road, Chells, Stevenage.

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

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

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

LSE ANARCHIST GROUP. c/o Student Union, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, W.C.2.

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

NOTTING HILL. Please get in touch with John Bennett and Marilyn Paddy, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, London, W.11. Tel: 727 9745. Meetings every Monday at 7 p.m.

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

Martin, Oriel College, Oxford. READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks. SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY GROUP. Contact Robin Lovell c/o Students' Union, Sheffield

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

Federation meeting. This Saturday, February 10, 2.30-5.30 p.m., Conference Room, Harlow Swimming Pool, First Avenue, Harlow.

Next meeting: Feb. 18, 7.30 p.m. Peter Turner and John Rety: 'History of Freedom Press'.

Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Keith Nathan, 138 Penny-mead, Harlow, Essex.

Group Addresses:—BASILDON. M. Powell, 7 Lingercroft, Basildon, Essex.

BISHOPS STORTFORD. Vic Mount, 'Eastview', Castle Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts.

CHELMSFORD. (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House, Furlough, Chelmsford, Essex.

ESSEX. John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping, Essex.

HARLOW. John Deards, 184 Carter's Mead, Harlow, and/or Geoff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow, Essex. Monthly meetings in 'The Essex Skipper', The Stow, Harlow.

LOUGHTON. Group c/o Students' Union, Loughton College of Further Education, Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex.

MUCH BADDHAM. Leslie Riodan, High Street, Much Baddham, Herts.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex. Group meets first Monday in each month, 7.15 p.m. at 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex.

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: Alistair T. Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP AND 'HIPPI' MOVEMENT. Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Liverpool Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings. Next meeting: January 20, 16 Faulkner Square.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secre-

tary: Dave Poulson, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Pete Sacker, 22 Sandon Street, Liverpool. Meetings: First Thursday of month, 8 p.m.

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to: Julian Ross, 111 King Edwards Road, Brynmill, Swansea. Weekly meetings. Freedom sales and action projects.

PROPOSED GROUPS

EDINBURGH anarchists contact Konrad Borowski, 13 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh 3. Tel.: WAV 7459.

TAUNTON LIBERTARIANS. Contact Jill and John Driver, 59 Beadon Road, Taunton, Somerset. Meetings alternate Friday evenings.

ABROAD

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

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

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

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

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

SWEDEN: Libertad, Allmänna Vägen 6, Gothenburg V.

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

GROUP-TREASON. Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or Paddy Evans, c/o the same.

Children's Milk Lost

THE FOLLOWING paragraph appeared in the *Guardian* a few days ago:

Professor John Yudkin, the nutritional expert, has protested against the Government decision to withdraw free milk for children in secondary schools.

In a letter to Mr. Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Wythenshawe, he says that the only possible justification would be incontrovertible evidence that the nutrition and health of the children is entirely satisfactory.

He refers to a pilot study carried out in a London school. The pupils came from homes that were by no means poor, yet one quarter of the boys and one-third of the girls had nothing to eat between their evening meal which was often as early as 5.30, and their school lunch.

He admits that this was only a small pilot study and its interpretation must be subject to many qualifications. But no information available could be interpreted as showing that secondary school children would not suffer if deprived of their school milk.

I taught in a secondary modern school in East London for a year. When free milk was distributed at the beginning of school in the morning many of the kids drank it immediately.

Thank you, Harold, for taking away their free breakfast to improve Britain's economic position. From each according to his ability: to each according to his profitability.

Americans' War Lost

THE American war on Vietnam may have been shortened by the recent successes of the National Liberation Front. It must now be obvious to the most bone-headed cogs in the US war machine that LBJ is never going to win.

I do not support the rebels/guerrillas/terrorists. But I cannot help myself cheering every American defeat.

Perhaps it is possible to hate the idea of war so much that one feels emotionally opposed to both sides with the same force.

I hate war. I also hate the imposition of power. The two are often connected.

When I watch American planes/helicopters/tanks pouring flame and metal onto streets, villages and fields where rebel soldiers may be hiding I become more angry than when I read of civilians being blown up in NLF bomb explosions.

The NLF and the North Vietnamese are fighting the war and themselves trying to impose their own power. But they lack the technological and economic power to commit the crimes of the Americans. 'Innocent'—that is non-participating—people have always died in wars: for centuries Jews have been murdered. But only in this century has atrocity become an efficient mass operation.

I repeat, I do not support the NLF but I want the Americans to lose.

Milton's Paradise Lost

MILTON SHULMAN who writes on TV and the theatre for the *Evening Standard* is one of the most stimulating, balanced and intelligent critics around.

But somebody's obviously been getting at him. Milton recently devoted the whole of his TV column to an attack on the BBC for showing too much sport:

How many working hours the BBC will cost the nation this summer by its televising of Wimbledon, the Test Matches and the Olympic Games is impossible to assess. But it will certainly be considerable.

Is there not a case—this year, at least—for cutting down the BBC's obsession with sport rather than intensifying it?

Aren't we setting up a false standard of values when we can whip ourselves up into a national frenzy at the prospect of reaching the quarter-finals at Wimbledon or even winning the World Cup?

Pleasant and gratifying though it may be to find that one of us can beat anyone his own weight in the world, or that our ice-skaters can dominate the Russians on European ice-rinks, is it really any compensation for our loss of prestige East of Suez or the pitiable state of our pound?

The simple monosyllabic answer to this is: balls.

It is extremely healthy that we should care more about beating the West Indies at cricket than losing Aden to the people who live there.

If only LBJ had been born with a passion for football—even American football—a lot of people would have lived a little longer.

WYNFORD HICKS.

REPRESSION IN FLORENCE

IN 1966 THE DISASTROUS flood in Florence produced a tremendous feeling of solidarity amongst the young people of Italy. World-wide newsreels showed the great efforts which were made to save the art treasures of Florence and to help those who had lost all they had. Some of the young people involved in this work who were concerned in peace action groups went on to organise a demonstration in Florence on November 4, 1967, the same day as the Armed Forces Festival.

The police took advance action to prevent the demonstration taking place. On November 1, the anarchist group 'Camillo Berneri' was placed under surveillance. On the 2nd, the first arrests took place, when all the young suspects detained were taken to the central police station where they were served with a compulsory order exiling them from Florence

for a period of three years. Once again the left centre 'democratic' government covered itself with glory by imposing laws inherited from Mussolini. By the evening of November 2, 182 people had been arrested. Those who managed to slip the police net formed a group to inform the people arriving for the demonstration of the new events, and were directed to the new meeting place of the 'Camillo Berneri' group, which seemed to be safe.

Throughout November 3, the police set up cordons on the motorway and demonstrators from Rome, Milan, Turin, Trieste and Naples were arrested before reaching Florence. The same tactic was used for

demonstrators arriving on trains from Bologna, and Leghorn. During the night police cars and three black marias took up position around the group's meeting place where the demonstrators were preparing for the following day. In the early hours of November 4, the police started their onslaught. Uniformed and plain clothes police broke into the building, revolvers in hand, ordering everyone against the wall with their hands on their heads, and then taking them to the police headquarters. Before going they broke up the room and seized a vast quantity of documents.

Mass arrests were made in the youth

hostel, the students' hostel and the town hostel. Within three days altogether 700 people were arrested. Police action did not ease up on the following days when many militants' homes were searched without warrants.

Once again the so-called democratic Italian government showed its true face. Unable to silence opposition, it resorts to repression. All the political parties of the left and right agreed with the government's action, as did the Italian press which twisted or killed the story completely. Only the Italian comrades themselves will point out these events to the Italian workers as one more instance of the essentially reactionary nature of the State.

FLORENCE ANARCHIST GROUP
(trans. from *Le Monde Libertaire*.)

Our Elders and Betters

I'VE JUST READ a book, *Scottish Opinion Survey*, which gives the results of a poll conducted by A. J. C. Kerr, M.A., Dip.Ed., on Home Rule for Scotland. Its findings may be of interest to readers of *FREEDOM* North of the Border, and possibly elsewhere. I certainly don't recommend actually buying the thing. If the publishers lose money, that's all right with me.

The author/survey organiser is a Tartan Tory. He belongs to that small select band who have been expelled from the SNP for one reason or another. He admires the feudal aristocracy which is still with us. The book's title is misleading. It is a survey of the 'opinion forming elite', 200 provosts, 100 Presbyterian ministers, 100 priests, 100 names listed in *Who's Who*, 100 lawyers, 100 bank managers, 100 MENSA members, etc.

The elite contains many people with built-in prejudices against Home Rule. The upper classes have 'English' type education at fee-paying schools. They are the descendants of those who passed the Act of Union, a fact which has not been forgotten. They know any Scottish Government must at least make a pretence of land reform. Both they and the middle classes are afraid that separation from England may mean a move to the left. In spite of this, their votes and their comments in this poll show that loyalty to 'Britain' is a rapidly dwindling sentiment. Most favour at least self-government for internal affairs. Some (including the author) favour a federal system leading to 'Independence'. A minority follow the SNP line of complete separation.

Mr. Kerr found the nationalistic views expressed by Roman priests surprising.

DAVE COULL.

LETTER

Bonnie and Clyde

Dear Editors,

I don't share MP's enthusiastic, let's-lynch-a-policeman view of *B. and C.* The film presents us with the childish—arrested—figures of young Bonnie and young Clyde; it allows them to set off to live up to fantasies as rudimentary and unattractive as you might expect in our degraded society ('Have you got the nerve to pull bank jobs?') and it cooly grows them up, adults them, by allowing the glamour of shooting and robbing to ricochet until they really feel what it's like to take part in this.

That the film glamorizes B and C I have no doubt at all: the domestic scenes stir memories of those permanent and cosy US domestic-situation-comedy serials on the tellybox, and sentimentality is thrown on the scales at every shoot-up and flight. (The most blatant was the visit to Bonnie's Mum.) The cars used are a cool invitation to nostalgic affection, as is the well-played bump-knocking of the hero and heroine. And the treatment of sex in the film can kid us on that what we're really doing is understanding these people.

If this was all, we could call the film a 1967 version of *Rebel Without a Cause*; commiserate with Warren Beatty for not having the presence of James Dean; note how romanticism has changed its image from the harmless, yearning-to-be-safe-from-it-all dreams of *Rebel* and *Catcher in the Rye*, to gangster assertiveness; and endure the comments that this is advancing the cause of anarchism because some of the people who shoot policemen are shown to be human. But the film doesn't stop at this: it becomes decidedly anti-glamorous, and destroys its heroic duo in a way that even Tennessee Williams could not improve on. The way it begins to show killing towards the end is what killing is, and to me it succeeded in being as sick-making as the sight of violence always is, to those not brutalized.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

The majority are Irish, or Scots-born of Irish descent. Kerr says that though they do not love England, they could have preferred English rule to trusting their fellow Scots. I must admit I hadn't thought of it that way. On the other hand, little support was found for the old Orange slogan 'Home Rule means Rome Rule', though one MENSA member said the constitution should protect Protestants from Catholics.

Little attention was paid to the feelings of the proles. For comparison purposes, a working class group was surveyed, which included 'an Anarchist opposed to all forms of government'. Result—'They are overwhelmingly in favour of self-government, with a majority for a clean break, rather than some sort of compromise'. This confirms my own experience. As Kerr admits 'the working class was never anglicized to the same extent'.

Nationalism seems to be home and dry. Unless the SNP manages to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, 'Britain' will cease to exist in a few years' time. In a recent conversation with another Scots anarchist, I was surprised to find how little he understood events in his own country. *A revolutionary movement without continuing analysis of its situation is like a ship without charts; you may get there, but it's a dodgy business.* In one respect the omens are favourable; foreign military bases will become increasingly unpopular. But what about the industrial front? What about the threats to individual liberty which stem from established religion? Resurgent Nationalism will affect many aspects of our lives; 'know thy enemy'.

Round the Galleries

DAVID HOCKNEY irritates as always, and in our desire to be excited and angered we follow the Town to the Kasmin Gallery, at 118 New Bond Street, W.1, to explain to ourself and the listening world why we should show interest in paintings that we consider worthless rubbish.

The same poor draughtsmanship is married to the flat banality of the advertising blobs of the coloured supplements. The same young men droop or flop in the posed relaxation of the camp stance of the *mode*. The same youth is lying barebottom up on the greenery gallery bed and all as part of the Hockney wrist-waving world of painting cliches.

Yet when one has, over the short years, publicly and privately condemned Hockney's work, one must try to analyse their mild fascination. In an age when the State demands a grammar school 'A' level from those who wish to learn the craft of painting, Hockney, as the wonder boy of his particular term, chose to enter the commercial field by probing a little way into the world of sexual non-conformity and he illustrates this not with an angry palette but with flat, mind-dulling areas of infantile pastel colours.

Upon his permanent backgrounds of almost geometrical abstractions he divorces reality by deadening the fluctuating and committed colours of the external world into flat, unreflecting areas of institutionalised greens, reds, blues and yellows, so that, like the inmates of the public ward and the public wash-house, we are conscious of these colours only insofar as they mark the boundaries that shield us from the world beyond.

Hockney's style is that of the cheap advertisements that fill the pages of the mass circulation magazines. Simple three-coloured exercises that demand nothing of the spectator beyond a passive acceptance. If Hockney has a *doppelganger* it must be René Magritte for they would appear to paint from the same palette. Each of these painters could be held to be a technical cripple but, despite their inability, they have each won a specialised audience for themselves, not for their abilities as painters, but for their literary illustrations.

Within the Kasmin Gallery there is one canvas that they have not chosen to illustrate in the catalogue and *Two stains on a room on a canvas* could surely pass as a work of Magritte finished thirty or forty years ago. This is not to fault or praise this minor work, merely to give the style and subject matter a pedantic pigeonhole, for Hockney and Magritte, each in his own fashion, amused the Town and his sadsack wife.

As Roy Lichtenstein has climbed to glory on his elephantine breakdown of the American comic strip, so Hockney has chosen to illustrate the sad world of the Soho stag magazines, and affluence has enabled him to translate these rather

dear young men from the crude and violent world of *Last Exit to Brooklyn* to the warmer American clime that Vladimir Nabokov acted out his *Lolita* comedy for his unfortunate Hubert. It is a world of permanent bright Disney sunlight, always lonely, wealthy and deserted. It is that world of high rentals, swimmerless swimming pools, and silent rooms whose only occupant is the young man lying barebottom up on the yellow bed with the green blanket and the blue pillow while in another canvas in another room, *Manchester Street* Patrick Proctor poses with his left forearm gently raised while the motionless air wreathes the cigarette smoke about his ear.

There is none of the savage sexual exhibitionism of Dali or the cruelty of Ernst in Hockney's paintings for the surrealists, despite their academic approach to their craft, were always on the attack and there has not been one single painting school during the last thirty years that has not made a passive surrender to the Establishment. The painters that supply the art market have, almost to a man, sold their brushes and their independence to the soft-palmed hucksters of Bond Street.

One can name Bacon and his screaming Cardinals, or the small and ill-fated minority that made up the *kitchen sink* school of English painting and then vomit at the badly-painted figures of Hockney's young men in their American version of Oscar's green carnation, all suburban, nursery tints, short white vests and short socks passively awaiting for the rentman. If Hockney has committed any artistic crime, it is that, like the late Oscar, he has turned drama into farce and farce into boredom for, when Hockney's animated nonentities abandon the canvas we are left with nothing but a fairly good third-rate painting and the echo of a nervous giggle.

Yet, fifteen minutes walk away from the Kasmin Gallery, can be seen the retrospective exhibition of the paintings of Gwen John, at 4 St. James Square, S.W.1. Here is one of the supreme painters of her generation and each work is a magnificent example of her craft for it was on these squares of canvas that the tragic sister of Augustus John worked out the misery and sorrow of her lonely life.

No single man invades this public domain of her private grief for wall upon wall holds the self-same type of woman. The model changes but it is always a woman, thin and downcast with lips marking the inner agony. Like the rejected inmates of some awful backstreet middle-class boarding house, these unfortunate women sit out the crawling hours to the grave in an age when to bear the stigma of spinsterhood was a private shame and a public joke.

No canvas smiles in this Gwen John exhibition, no rutish male intrudes into this sterile harem of the companions of necessity, for here is only the misery of the heart made manifest and crying out for our useless compassion. Yet, though I would reject any painting of Gwen John's for my own selfish peace of mind, I will proclaim their mighty talent. Within her pearl-grey shadowed world, she clothes her subjects in veils of light and dark that give a substance and a meaning to the flesh and the fabric that her pencil so skillfully mapped out.

While the Bond Street castrati of the brush amuse the Town and his high-stepping friend, Gwen John has left us these works that will rightly hold their just place within the stream of English painting. She has recorded with tenderness and devotion the sadness she found mirrored in the faces of her companions and in doing so she has marked her deserved place within that glorious company who are able to isolate in penned line or painted canvas the agony and the majesty of the human spirit.

MOVING FUND

Target is £500.
Received to date—£341 5s. 10d.

PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year.
Pledges received to date—£391 18s. 0d.
Pledges honoured to date—£245 11s. 9d.

GET COMMITTED FOR FREEDOM

Cousins Climbs Down

WHEN Mr. Brown first announced the Labour Government's 'statement of intent' on Prices and Incomes, he said it would help the lower-paid worker to catch up with his better-off brothers. Since then there has been a lot of discussion as to what is a lower-paid worker and where the dividing line occurs. Added confusion has been caused by the inclusion of overtime earnings when deciding the merits of a claim. A poorly-paid worker can sweat his guts out working 60 or 70 hours per week to bring his money up to a living wage and then have his claim dismissed because of this. In other words, he is penalised for working overtime.

This practice has been prevalent throughout the municipal, private and London Transport bus services. The basic wage has been so unattractive that many men have left and these, together with those retiring, have not been adequately replaced. Municipal busmen managed last December, after taking industrial action, to get an increase of £1 per week from the Councils. While this struggle was taking place, Aubrey Jones's Incomes Board were making a study of busmen's pay and productivity and came to the conclusion that the £1 increase was too much by half unless considerable savings were made by increased productivity and more efficient use of the existing labour. This would mean more one-man buses, tighter schedules and shift arrangements. In other words, the busmen's job would have been a lot harder for an extra 10/-.

The basic wage of municipal bus drivers is £12 17s. per week, con-

ductors get less, and this is about £3 lower than their counterparts in London. A pound on top of this low figure represents a 7½% increase and this was too much for the Minister of Labour, Mr. Gunter, to bear. He told the Municipal Councils not to pay the negotiated increase.

LEGAL ACTION

Following this intervention by the State, busmen in a number of areas, especially in Scotland, called for a national stoppage. However, at a second national delegate meeting, Mr. Cousins, the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, recommended that they take legal action designed to force the local authorities to pay the increase. Nottingham Corporation had already said that they were willing to pay, commencing on February 4.

Mr. Gunter had let things take their course, waiting for the T&GWU to make their decision and taking note of the way the local authorities were reacting. With the union decision made, Mr. Gunter froze the increase and referred it, once again, to the Prices and Incomes Board. This means that the increase will be frozen for up to six months after which the claim can be backdated to when it was first agreed upon.

Mr. Cousins obviously knew he was heading for a collision with the Government and the decision to take legal action was a way of avoiding it. No doubt the courts would have upheld the union's case, but now that the Part II reference powers have been enacted, Mr. Cousins does not stand a chance. He will, no doubt, win an academic point, in that, but for Government intervention, they would be legally entitled to the increase. However, Part II has sealed up any legal loophole and any victory in the courts will be purely symbolic and that will not buy much.

Mr. Cousins can still defy the Government and call out his members or threaten such action to force the local authorities to pay up. If he does this, which is extremely unlikely, or any busmen take action, they face a fine of up to £500, which, if unpaid, could mean a prison sentence. Mr. Cousins knew that the Government would enact these powers. This was the reason why the calls for strike action at the delegate conference were talked out with amendments for local action (known to be unpopular among militants) and so delegates were persuaded to go to the courts.

As the writer in the *Financial Times* said, the union's decision 'gained an important psychological victory over trade union opponents of its incomes policy' and was a considerable climb-down from all vocal attacks on the Government's incomes policies. But actions have always spoken louder than words and really no one expected Mr. Cousins to be the first to defy the State. Being the biggest union in the country, one would have thought that they could take on the State, but instead we got this climb-down which will certainly deter other unions and workers from challenging the Government's powers.

'HUFF AND PUFF'

I know the only difference between the so-called left- and right-wing union leaders is the extent of the militancy of their 'huff and puff'. Those on the right no doubt heaved a sigh of relief that Cousins had avoided a collision. They are frightened stiff that the Government will take further action if unions pursue wage increases, by either increasing taxation or by strengthening its incomes policy powers.

There is growing support among Ministers for increased powers and only Mr. Wilson's wavering seems, at the moment, to be preventing the introduction of those powers. The Government will be watching the TUC's meeting of union executives at the end of the month, but there is no doubt that the unions will follow the TUC recommendation of 3½% limit for pay increases. However, pressures are on from many quarters, because it is thought that this figure is too high and another wage freeze is needed if employers are to reap the benefits of devaluation and strengthen the country's economy.

TACTICS?

Now, with the T&GWU climbing down, there is still the possibility of local industrial action. The best method is still the refusal to collect fares. A national stoppage could be defeated, even without legal powers, unless other transport workers joined in. *The Economist* puts it this way; and I think there is a lot of truth in what they say as tactics and methods play a vital part in struggle.

'In many ways the municipal buses give the Government ideal ground for a fight. First, the employers are public corporations; action against them would by no means offend private firms, and the Confederation of British Industry could hardly continue on their behalf its silly advocacy of a "voluntary" meaning ineffectual—incomes policy. Second, no sort of strike is easier to beat than a bus strike. The Government could guarantee free insurance to motorists who gave lifts (whether or not their passengers contribute to the cost of fuel, or even pay a fare). In many cities private cars, used to capacity instead of only by their drivers, would shift the crowds about as well as buses.'

'Above all, the Trade Union Congress itself could not wholeheartedly support a strike for a pay claim even bigger than its own optimistic guess at what the country could afford as an average.'

Of course the busmen can sit back and wait for their claim to be backdated, but I think the Government will introduce further powers by then. There are no signs of liaison between transport workers, but some busmen are, I think, ready to have a go. Running the buses but not collecting the fares, although no doubt illegal, would be a good tactic which would not antagonise the passengers. Certainly some rethinking has to be done on strike tactics and any reliance on Mr. Cousins' leadership. Before the war busmen called the T&GWU the Tired and Generally Worthless Union, and not much has changed, has it?

P.T.

Freedom

For Workers' Control

FEBRUARY 10 1968 Vol 29 No 4

OLD MEN AT FORTY!

THE SINKING of the trawler *Ross Cleveland* with the loss of 19 lives and that the trawler, *St. Romanus*, has been 'declared lost' and that the *Kingston Peridot* is still missing, once again focusses public attention on the dangerous conditions under which trawlermen work. These conditions make their job the most dangerous, far worse than coal mining or building, and these are bad enough. It is an industry in which 757 lost their lives over a 17-year period and where safety regulations virtually do not exist.

Trawlermen have long complained about the low deck rails, over which they fall in heavy seas, about winches and other machinery which are not sufficiently enclosed and of the long hours worked, when men literally fall asleep at their work. Under these conditions, you are an old man at 40 years.

One would have thought that the union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, would have succeeded in enforcing at least the elementary

safety measures and precautions, but these appear to be lacking. The *Humber-side Voice* published a pamphlet last year showing the appalling conditions which trawlermen have to face to earn a living. (See *FREEDOM*, 25.2.67—'Death at Sea'.)

Now the wives and mothers of the trawlermen are taking up the cause of their men and have started a campaign for improved safety on the boats. Following a meeting, they marched to the offices of the owners of *St. Romanus* and *Kingston Peridot* to give them their views on safety. However, no owners could be found.

A petition signed by 3,000, calling for 'greater safety measures' has also been given to the Hull Trawler Owners' Association. A deputation also hopes to see the Prime Minister and the Board of Trade. As in all industries, employers put profits before safety. Only if they are forced to do so, will they provide conditions which give men the maximum safety. P.T.

ROBERTS-ARUNDEL

POLICE ARREST PICKETS

OF ALL LAWS, obstruction is the easiest to get nailed for! And of all places, the Roberts-Arundel picket line is the easiest to get nicked for it!

This week, two more Arundel pickets were pounced on by the Stockport police for doing next to nothing. One, a young worker from Avro's, was said to have stopped a scab to try to talk to him. That was all the police wanted, he was arrested and taken to a waiting police van.

Some pickets then went over to the van, with them a local anarchist selling *FREEDOM*. Next news, he was arrested for obstruction and put in the van. Both arrests brought loud protests from other pickets and police reinforcements moved in.

Both lads were then taken to the local police cells, where one was said to have tried to get away. Later each were charged with obstruction and put on £10 bail (paid by the union), while the case was held up until February 27.

POLICE HATE UNION

Of course there have been worse cases! This week saw more legal measures being taken against the Stockport police on grounds of brutality in their handling of prisoners and pickets. Trouble is, the investigation into the reported police savagery, which is believed to have taken place in the cells, will be carried out by the police themselves.

How many more broken necks will there have to be, before people get to know what the Stockport police are up to? Only this week some of them were boasting what they could get away with.

One of their prisoners recently noticed a violent police hatred of John Tocher (the local AEU secretary), and everything to do with the AEU. This can only mean he's a 'good 'un', and is doing his job; seeing the police don't get away with murder.

SEE 'EM OFF

Blacked and strikebound, the Roberts-Arundel owners say they won't sell the firm until the strike is called off. They must be losing money right, left and centre, yet they won't sell. Why? They've had the offers from firms willing to accept our trade unions, which Arundels won't.

Meanwhile, having cracked on to close on January 12, the firm is still turning out spinning frames on the sly. In the union, some of the London leadership want to call off the strike, so they say. This is against the wishes of the local lads, who want to see it through. After all, if the union can't win these little battles, it won't win any big ones.

Some of the pickets think Gunter's been bribed by the firm, and that's why he won't hold an inquiry into the strike. But does he need a bribe?

On the face of it there's nothing to stop the Government forcing this American company to sell up and get out. But the 'Labour' Government is a money slave same as the rest of us, and to 'see 'em off' would offend world finance. So this Government, same as any other, can't help the working man even if they want to.

All we can do now, if the union calls it a day, and Roberts-Arundel carry on working, is to organise a sit-in campaign, which will make production at the firm impossible. NORTH WEST WORKERS.

DOING WELL !!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Estimated Expenses:	
5 weeks at £90:	£450
Income: Sales and Subs.:	£476
	SURPLUS: £26

PRESS FUND

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TOTAL:	£23 17 11
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Balance B/F Surplus:	£26 0 0
TOTAL SURPLUS:	£100 2 9

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Contact Column

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

CHURCH. Saturday, February 17, from noon to 6 p.m. Silent Vigil, Soviet Embassy (entrance Bayswater Road), to protest imprisonment of Russian writers, poets, Baptists and pacifists.

Piano Wanted. Ancient but workable—nil, o.n.o. Apply Mike Malet, Lewisham Group. Own transport!

Minus One—an individualist anarchist review. No. 21 is now published. 1/- from S. E. Parker, 2 Orsett Terrace, London, W.2 or from *Freedom Bookshop*.

New Individualists. Inaugural meeting Wednesday, February 14, 8 p.m., 6 Endsleigh Street, Euston, W.C.1.

Revolutionary Poetry wanted for new mag. to be printed in Cardiff. Manuscripts to be sent to C. White, 90 Albany Street, Cardiff.

Anarchist household. Au pair needed for student pension from end March. Write: Roslyn Johnson, Beaumont 24, Lausanne 1012-CH, Switzerland.

US Draft Dodgers and Deserters. Sanctuary in remote parts of Scotland. Contact Aberdeen SWF, c/o Iain Macdonald, 15 Cotton Street, Aberdeen. Call in person—do not write.

Group 73. Who are they? Old Etonians or the police? Information to Box No. 1.

Accommodation Wanted. Anarchist seeks accommodation in Cornwall or Pembrokeshire. Can pay rent. Box No. 2.

Easter. Christian Anarchists discuss action at 6 Endsleigh Street on February 14 at 7.30. Contact: Dave Poolman, 232 Bishopsfield, Harlow, Essex.

Anarchists in Canterbury please contact Robert and Ricky Bell, Garlinge Cottage, Garlinge Green, nr. Canterbury—to start group with perhaps weekly meetings.

Room available for short or long lets. Use of kitchen and bathroom. Family house. Contact P. Ford, FIN. 6954.

Free Bookshop. If you want to help or have any advice telephone Driffield, PAD 2409 (after 6 p.m.).

Cardiff. Will any Cardiff anarchists contact Swansea anarchist group (address page 3). URGENT.

T.N.T. Manchester's first anarchist mag. now out. Single copies 1s. post free; multiple copies 9d. each, plus postage from 9 Boland Street, Manchester, 14.

Badges. 'I'm Backing Freedom', 'Freedom Needs a Home', 'Anarchy is on the Move'. 1/- each. Proceeds donated to P & M Fund by Harlow Anarchists.

Love and War Poems by Kenneth Patchen. To be published this month. Advance orders to Dennis Gould, 56 Jackson Avenue, Mickleover, Derby. (2/6d. or 1 dollar).

Freedom Weekly? Eight pages every week? If all readers could get one extra subscription—it could be done. You may prefer to sell by the week. We can let you have copies on sale or return.

Student Anarchism. New fiery magazine starting beginning of this year. Enquiries from students, as well as articles, welcome. R. Bebb, 103a Camden Road, N.W.1.

Pamphlets. 'The Origins of the Spanish Revolutionary Movement' (M. Dasha)—2/6; 'Surrealism and Revolution' (anthol.)—2/6; 'Sixteen-Forty-nine, story of Diggers and Levellers'—5/-; Coptic Press, 7 Coptic Street, London, W.C.1.

'Save Greece Now' Defence Fund. Donations for Terry, Mike and Del) to Brett Carthey, 8 Vincent Square Mansions, Walcott Street, London, S.W.1. Use Registered Post. Money and letters fail to arrive.

Ian Celnick please get in touch with J.R. at *Freedom Press*.

East Anglia. If you're near Ipswich, call on us. We stock all *Freedom Press* publications, and have *FREEDOM* and *Anarchy* regularly. Orwell Books, 44 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Van Wanted. With or without driver to cover Aldermaston march—literature, speakers' stand, etc. Easter week-end April 11-15. Reply to LFA, Libra House.

If you wish to make contact let us know.