

# Revolt in Latin America

THE DEATH OF GUEVARA and imprisonment of Debray in Bolivia and the failure of the Castroite guerrilla movements in Columbia, Venezuela, Guatemala and Bolivia itself on the one hand, and the declarations of states of emergency in Brazil and Uruguay after student disorders, the military coup in Peru, and the present bloody turmoil in Mexico on the other, are all events which have taken place within the last few momentous months in Latin America. These events are altering all perspectives of revolutionary theory and practice in that continent, and they will also have a demystifying effect upon much of the 'left' in this country whose collection of myths on Latin America in particular, and revolution in general will have to be shelved.

### SHATTERED MYTHS

Up till quite recently it was almost universally accepted by socialists in the west, motivated more by romance than understanding, that the path to liberation from American Imperialism and oligarchy in Latin America lay in rural guerrilla warfare as it was practised in Cuba from 1956-60, and later theoretically elaborated in the writings of Castro, Guevara and Debray. People who had never read these writings became convinced of their correctness not for intellectual reasons, but because they fell for the romantic idea of the 'guerrillo'—bearded, cigar-smoking and armed to the teeth—whom they imagined infested the jungles of the continent. The hardships and struggles of the guerrillas became ersatz revolutionary activity for armchair activists who taught that our salvation lay in the promised land of the Third World; who taught that the overthrow of Imperialism would lead to the downfall of capitalism. Instead of evolving a theory of revolution for themselves these people have practised intellectual imperialism on the struggles and thoughts of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America as surely as the Americans has practised economic imperialism on them.

Guevara's death forced a reappraisal; rural Latin America is sparsely populated and physically unsuited to guerrilla warfare. To compensate for these things, of which he was to some extent aware, Debray advocated in *Revolution in the Revolution* guerrilla tactics based more on a Leninist-elitist concept than on the conventional mass democratic uprisings on the Chinese and Algerian models. Even if successful militarily—which is doubtful—this form of struggle could only lead to a new tyranny.

### THE STRUGGLE IN THE TOWNS

The recent troubles in the cities of the continent come as a timely reminder that over 50 per cent. of the population live in the cities—a much higher proportion than in Asia and Africa. Also, alongside areas of incredible backwardness, Latin American capitalism has a growing sector producing advanced products under sophisticated conditions.

In Peru, the shanty town dwellers in Lima organised themselves into tenants' committees and fought a long victorious battle with the authorities over squatters' rights. The military coup of October 3 has been followed by urban rioting.

However, it is in Mexico, home of the world's first nationwide socialist revolution in 1911-17, that the urban struggle has reached its highest level. Previously a political students were provoked by the police repression into resistance and the Army was called in to occupy the national autonomous University in Mexico City on September 18, with several students killed. Issues such as University reform and Mexico spending millions on the Olympic Games while the population lives in squalor have been taken up by the students as the struggle progressed.

At a mass meeting of over 16,000 people in the centre of the capital on September 30, the national student strike council pledged itself to struggle for social as well as University reforms and the rally was attended by workers in spite of pledges of support from trades union leaders for the Government's actions. Although not yet at the level of understanding attained by the French students, they are shaking off 30 years of ideological strait-jacketing enforced by one-party state which rose on the ruins of the Mexican revolution.

The bloody machine-gun massacre by the Army of up to 100 people on the night of October 2, at a rally called to demand evacuation by the military of educational institutions, has raised the struggle to a new stage. In the battle that followed the massacre, armed workers fought alongside the students and the real issue—reform or revolution?—must now be clearly posed.

Student protest in Latin America is as likely to spark off a massive working-class response as was the case in France. The workers are atrociously paid and housed, belonging to state-controlled unions (as in Mexico and Argentina) or communist-dominated ones (as in Peru and Bolivia), both of which are equally bureaucratic and unable or unwilling to wage struggle. When roused the workers in the continent are capable of exceptionally high militancy, as the struggles of the Bolivian miners and Venezuelan transport workers last year clearly showed. *The city in Latin America will not prove the graveyard as Debray said, but the cradle of the Latin American revolution.*

Economic recession will also prove an impetus to revolt. The effects of the Vietnam war on the American economy are already being felt in Latin America, since these countries' economies fluctuate directly with that of the US. Cut backs in military and social aid to the dictators will strengthen the revolt.

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# Police Brutality Everywhere!

## NOW IT'S LONDONDERRY

★ EYEWITNESS IN LONDONDERRY—p.2

RESPECTABLE OPINION has been suddenly shocked out of its complacent belief that 'It couldn't happen here'. In the city of Londonderry, well within the boundaries of the 'United Kingdom' and in territory owing allegiance to our Queen and governed, most English believe, by our representatives in Westminster, a sudden baton charge backed up by water cannon has made police brutality on the pattern of Mayor Daly's Chicago and De Gaulle's Paris a living reality right here.

Suddenly we discover that housing and employment conditions are so appalling, political and religious gerrymandering so corrupt, that it is necessary to organise a 'CIVIL RIGHTS' march in protest. Suddenly we are told that votes are allocated according to housing occupation, ownership and 'company law'—and the allocation of municipal housing is so rigged that thousands of 'undesirables' (i.e. of the wrong religion or politics) are kept without both houses and votes. While some favoured, well-housed individuals can clock up as many as 40 votes!

The voting aspect is of little concern to us as anarchists. What is more important is the ruthless manipulation of municipal assets to keep in power a bunch of greedy bigots who operate the whole scene for their own advantage while making Northern Ireland the most depressed area in the UK.

And then, when a peaceful march is organised to draw attention to this stinking situation, the police charge with

batons flailing, hitting out indiscriminately at marchers and bystanders, men and women, boys and girls, in an orgy of unrestrained violence. One special tactic they are alleged to have used was to put their batons between boys' legs and bring them smartly upwards. The march consisted of few more than 1000 people, and the Stormont Government thought it necessary to send 200 police against them, clearly with orders to terrorise such demonstrations out of existence. Fifty were injured, including Republican Labour MP Gerry Fitt who was clubbed twice for good measure and needed stitches in his head, although Ulster's Minister for Home Affairs William Craig (after saying 'I am very grateful to the police') maintains they were under strict orders to hit the legs of the marchers.

Net result of this police violence: the people of Derry are now really coming out on the streets and fighting back, with bonfire barricades and petrol bombs. It was not necessary for them to indulge in any provocation techniques to make the State in Northern Ireland show its true colours. What is necessary now is for them to forget their religious differences and combine to destroy O'Neill's corrupt and stinking little cesspit and take over the means of production themselves. The economy may be in a bad way, but at least they could ensure that what was produced was fairly distributed and they could go some way to meeting their own needs instead of being bemused by ignorance and governed by terror.

## AND MURDER IN MEXICO

MEANWHILE, across the wide Atlantic, in Mexico City, the Government is demonstrating that 'Revolutionary Government' is revolutionary in name only. The Mexican revolutionaries of the days of Zapata and Magon did not go far enough, anarchists though they were.

Any revolution that leaves the State standing is doomed to failure. Indeed any post-revolution State is always more ruthless than any other, for it knows the possibilities of revolution.

In Mexico City, weeks of student agitation culminated in a massacre when troops surrounded and opened fire on the demonstration in the great Square of the Three Cultures.

The students had gathered there in a celebratory mood, for the hated troops had been withdrawn from University City, one of the group of buildings which they had been occupying since student demonstrations began. Although it was a huge crowd, and some answering shots after the troops had fired betrayed the presence of guns among the students, there had in fact been no indication that there was any intention to start violence.

On the contrary, the meeting started with the announcement that it would begin and end there in the Plaza de Las Tres Culturas, and would not develop into a march in order not to provoke the troops. But evidently the military were determined to make the students pay, and aimed to crush resistance and put an end to the demonstrations that were an embarrassment to the Government when they were about to entertain the world for the Olympics.

This typical military tactic was a blunder. Instead of withdrawing the troops from the remaining university building which they were still occupying—the Polytechnic—which would have placated the students a little at least and opened the way for negotiations, what the ruthless shooting has done is to harden the students' attitude and drive many more 'moderates' into the revolutionary ranks.

As we write these lines, news reports place Mexico on the brink of civil war, and it is still touch-and-go as to whether the Olympic Games will go on or not.

Where the Mexican students' struggle differs from the riots and demonstrations in other countries is precisely in the matter of arms. Nowhere else, not even in Chicago, have firearms appeared among student demonstrators. In our opinion, this is most wise, for it is not until a successful revolution is actually possible—until in fact it is being made and the State is attempting to crush it, that armed defence is relevant. To resort to an armed conflict when the State has the initiative is suicidal unless that very initiative provokes such massive retaliation from the people at all levels that the State is swept away. And even then, a prerequisite for success is the defection of the fighting forces.

This was not the case in France—although but for the dead hand of the Communists the situation could have been pushed much further than it was. Whether it is on in Mexico we have yet to see.

But what we have already seen is the usual bloody and cruel brutality we expect from a State under challenge.

JUSTIN.

SEVEN ACTIVISTS of the Libertarian Youth (FIJL) of Spain have been arrested in Valencia. They are: Floreal Rodriguez de la Paz, Jose Luis Angel Munoz Lopez, found in possession of a large amount of subversive documents and literature (anarchist), Miguel Lacueva Miguel, Salvador Soriano Martinez, Pedro Gallego Sanz, Manuel Caceres Gracia and Jose Luis Alonso Perez.

Search through Munoz Lopez's house revealed a large number of explosives, three machine-guns and a pistol, according to the police.

# 7 MILITANTS ARRESTED IN VALENCIA

The Spanish police have used the opportunity to try and frame Octavio Alberola, in Brussels, as well as the accused. They announce a long confession alleged to have been made, which includes participation in crimes, one of which they could not possibly have had anything to do with. They are stated by the police to have admitted participation

in the machine-gunning of the American Embassy in London, kidnapping of Mgr. Ussia, etc., under the direction of Alberola, although none of them could possibly have had anything to do with such matters.

The reason is that they wish to have Alberola re-arrested and possibly face capital charges in a number of European

countries, and to convince French authorities that they should act against the authorities of the FIJL and break up the anti-fascist activities carried on from French soil. Also, the announcement of these 'confessions' prepares the way for the summary death sentence which will be carried out 24 hours from the moment it is pronounced.

FRANCO'S REGIME ONLY YIELDS TO FORCE. IT IS URGENT THAT PUBLIC OPINION MAKES ITSELF KNOWN AND THAT FRANCO BE FORCED TO YIELD. THE SEVEN ANTI-FASCISTS MUST BE SAVED. FRANCO'S PLOT MUST BE EXPOSED.

Militants will only escape with their lives if there is an effective movement of protest organised by us to come to their aid.

COMMISSION OF THE FIJL TO THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS.



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LONDON DERRY is a festering growth on the body politic of N. Ireland. Twenty thousand Catholics and ten thousand Protestants of voting age, yet the Unionist Protestant hierarchy control the city council 12-8 as a result of the most flagrant gerrymander. A huge slum ghetto of Roman Catholics, deprived of jobs (almost 20% unemployment), decent or even habitable housing (only 18 new houses built by the council in the last three years), and those allocated at the whim of the Unionist Lord Mayor—"I know best, we have no need for a points system"—8,800 disenfranchised adults (over 7,000 of them Roman Catholic) and the notorious business vote giving as many as 20 votes to local Unionist capitalists.

The rising tide of civil rights agitation reached Derry last Saturday. The Minister for Home Affairs, William Craig, 'Ulster's Lardner-Burke', had at the last minute banned the march. The organizers, reluctantly giving in to pressure from the people, ignored the ban. Contingents from all over the country flocked to Derry to express their solidarity with the Derry people's struggle for the basic human rights. (Great Britain is unable to sign the European Charter of Human Rights because of Northern Ireland's Special Powers Act.) From Belfast came the newly-formed anarchist group, the Young Socialists, Young Communist League?, Northern Ireland Committee of 100, Northern Ireland Labour Party, Liberals, as well as the traditional Nationalists and Republicans.

Along with the anarchists I travelled the 70 miles from Belfast in a hired bus. We arrived just as the march set out. It had assembled at the railway, a bad choice since it's on the opposite side of the river to the town centre, the Diamond, and there's only one bridge. The crowd of about 1,500 had marched only 200 yards along what turned out to be a deathtrap, when the armoured cars, equipped with water cannons, blocked the street. In the ensuing scuffle the front line was smashed to the ground by the batons and arrested. These included Gerry Fitt, Republican Labour MP and Austin 'the squatting MP' Currie. Having gained their political kudos they retired from the fray, well-pleased with their publicity. As the stalemate continued, the civil rights leaders attempted to speak to the crowd, telling them they had won a great victory and could now go home. Betty Sinclair (CP) was heckled as a senile Stalinist, and Eddie McAteer, the tired old Nationalist hack was booed for 5 minutes by his own Derry people. Only McCann of the Derry Housing Action Committee gauged the mood of the people and urged no retreat.

As the speakers finished to cries of 'Betrayed by the leaders again' and (encouragingly) 'Anarchy' from a large section of the crowd, the police suddenly, without warning, charged forward smashing at people indiscriminately with their batons. Women and kids weren't spared either. As the crowd tried to retreat they

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

General enquiries should be sent to the London Federation, c/o Freedom Press, 84a Whitechapel High Street, London, E.1.  
**LEWISHAM.** Contact Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13. Phone: 01-852 8879.  
**S.W. LONDON LIBERTARIANS.** Contact: 14 Clapham Court, King's Avenue (Acre Lane end), S.W.4.  
**WEST HAM ANARCHISTS.** Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7. GRA 9848. Regular activities.

## OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Every Wednesday at Jack Robinson's and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.  
3rd Friday of each month at Dennis Fen's, 314 St. Paul's Road, Highbury Corner, N.1 (above Roundabout Self-Service).  
3rd Friday of each month at Donald and Irene Room at 13 Savernake Road, N.W.3, at 8 p.m.

## REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

**BEXLEY PEACE ACTION GROUP.** Enquiries to 150 Rydal Drive, Bexleyheath, Kent.  
**BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Geoff and Caroline Charlton at Flat One, 69 Sandon Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 17. (Entrance side of house.) Regular discussions being held on Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m., Crown, Corporation Street (upper room).  
**BOLTON.** Get in touch with John Hayes, 51 Rydal Road, Bolton.  
**BOURNEMOUTH AND EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS.** Please contact John McCain, 65 Norton Road, Winton, Bournemouth (B'm'th 59509) or Tim Deane, Juliet, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset (Ferndown 3588).  
**CORNWALL ANARCHISTS.** Contact Arthur Jacobs, 76 East Hill, St. Austell. Discussion meetings on the second Friday of each month at Brian and Hazel McGee's, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne. 7.30 p.m. Visiting comrades very welcome.  
**CROYDON LIBERTARIANS.** Meetings every 2nd Friday of each month. Laurens and Celia Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath (LIV 7546).  
**EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP.** Contact: Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middle.  
**HERTS.** Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Potters Heath Lane, Potters Heath, Welwyn, Herts OR Jeff Clives, 46 Hughendon Road Marshalswick, St. Albans, Herts.  
**IPSWICH ANARCHISTS.** Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
**KILBURN, LONDON.** Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London,

# Eyewitness in Londonderry

found their way barred by a flanking force of police, many of them specially brought up to the maiden city from Belfast. A Radio Television Eireann cameraman who was filming police beating kids in the balls with leaded truncheons had his camera smashed and was kicked to the ground.

Panic ensued as we tried to escape the truncheons. Around me several comrades fell with bleeding heads, and suddenly the water cannons erupted drenching all within range. Jets were even directed at trapped bystanders, mothers with babies in prams, and the houses on each side of the street were flooded out if they were suspected of affording sanctuary to any of the fleeing. In 15 minutes it was all over. The crowd had been dispersed and the ambulances started carting the wounded off to hospital (over 50 were admitted).

As small bands of marchers tried to regroup there was further unprovoked

violence but by now this tactic was beginning to recoil on the police. On several occasions when a few of them tried to grab anyone who looked like an erstwhile demonstrator the bystanders surged forward and rescued them, shouting 'Animals' and 'Gestapo'.

An hour later the few who had eventually managed to cross the bridge, evade the cordons and reach the Diamond, were again the victims of senseless thuggery. A young anarchist unfurled the only surviving banner (a Committee of 100 one) only to be savagely lifted from the ground by his hair, hurled against the railings and almost throttled by the banner poles. Along with another comrade whom they seized, he was dragged into the van and systematically beaten up. All this amidst the Saturday afternoon women shoppers, many of whom, incensed, threw pennies and half-pennies at the police screaming 'Here's your wages, you bastards'.

# Revolt in Latin America

Continued from page 1  
**LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE**

For anarchists various things must assume importance. Historically there has been a strong anarchist influence in Latin America, especially marked in the years 1900-20, when most of the labour movements were anarcho-syndicalist. Today most of the movements are small, but that some of their spirit still persists was shown by the report in *The Times* (October 1) that the Mexican students had raised the red and black flag over their occupied University. The peculiarities of uneven development in the continent give hope that some form of libertarian doctrine will blossom forth in the struggles ahead.

A time has also come when *Castroite Cuba*—so long seen as the only alternative to oligarchy—can be exposed as the *State capitalism masquerading as revolution that it is*. The Castroites will no longer play the dominant role in the

revolutionary struggle, and our opposition to Castro—who supports the invasion of Czechoslovakia and has just introduced corrective labour camps for rebellious youth—must be as total as our opposition to Barrientos in Bolivia. *Those, who like the 'Black Dwarf' call for 'the extension of the Cuban revolution to the rest of Latin America' are now as ultra-irrelevant politically as their Third World teachings are ultra-dubious economically.*

'History advances in disguise' is how Debray began his book, and this truth has now been established with savage irony. For while the French Marxist philosopher languished in a Bolivian jail, there was a revolution in France, which moved the epicentre of the world revolution from the jungles and mountains of the Third World to the streets of Europe as surely as recent events have moved the epicentre in Latin America from the country-side to the cities. The disguise of history deceived even Debray. At most guerrilla activity will be used to syphon off troops from the urban conflicts.

**THE WORLD IS BURNING!**

We are living in a period more revolutionary than any in living memory and

possibly even more than the crisis of 1917-21. False official ideologies and false concepts of socialism are being exploded by events in this 'year of revolutions'—France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Mexico. And while it is our duty as revolutionaries to understand the situation in Latin America, it is even more our duty to make the revolution here.

This morning Mr. Craig has praised the police for 'their great restraint' and blamed it all on the elusive IRA, who yet again 'evaded our net'—hardly too difficult since they weren't there.

But the senseless, savage brutality has backfired. It has the people and the left united as never before. Derry is only the start.

Next time we'll fight them on our own grounds and our terms. And many openly proclaimed that next time they mightn't be unarmed. This isn't my way but the thin veneer of civilization is wearing very thin indeed here. English MPs present described Grosvenor Square as nothing compared to Derry '68. The repressive state has really shown its hand this time, and it was noticeable that one of the most widely heard words used among the young was 'anarchism'. We're learning fast!

J.C.

possibly even more than the crisis of 1917-21. False official ideologies and false concepts of socialism are being exploded by events in this 'year of revolutions'—France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Mexico. And while it is our duty as revolutionaries to understand the situation in Latin America, it is even more our duty to make the revolution here.

IAN MITCHELL.

# A TALE OF TWO SCHOOLS Risinghill & Kilquhanity

in  
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## SUSSEX FEDERATION

Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Finden Road, Whitebank, Brighton.  
**BRIGHTON & HOVE ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton, BN1 3HN. Regular fortnightly meetings. Contact Secretary.

## WELSH ANARCHIST FEDERATION

**CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP.** All correspondence to—Pete Raymond, 18 Marion Street, Splott, Cardiff.  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL ANARCHIST GROUP.** Correspondence to Huw Rowlands, 16 Cromwell Street, Methy Tydfil.  
**SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Ian Bone, 3 Bay View Crescent, Brynmill, Swansea. Weekly meetings, 'Freedom' sales and action projects.  
**LLANELLI:** Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llwynnendy Road, Llanelli, Carm. Tel: Llanelli 2548.

## EAST LONDON LIBERTARIAN FEDERATION

Support wanted for numerous activities in area. Secretary Anthony Matthews, 35 Mayville Road, London, E.11. Meetings fortnightly on Sundays at Ron Bailey's, 128 Hainault Road, E.11 (LEY 8059). Ten minutes from Leytonstone Underground.  
**LEYTONSTONE GROUP.** Get in touch with Anthony Matthews or Ron Bailey (address as above).  
**STEPNEY.** Trevor Jackales, 10 St. Vincent de Paul House, Dempsey Street, Clichy Estate, E.1. NEWHAM. F. Rowe, 100 Henderson Road, E.7. ILFORD. Del Leverton, 12 Hamilton Avenue, Ilford.  
**DAGENHAM.** Alan Elliot, 98 Hatfield Road, Dagenham.  
**WOODFORD.** Douglas Hawkes, 123 Hermon Hill, E.18.  
**LIMEHOUSE.** M. Solof, 202 East Ferry Road, E.14.

## STUDENT GROUPS

**SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Francis Jarman, Red Brick Lodge, 49 Upper Rock Gardens, Brighton.  
**YORK UNIVERSITY.** Contact Nigel Wilson, Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York.  
**EAST ANGLIA UNIVERSITY.** Contact Dave Lomax, E.A.S. II, U.E.A., Norwich, NOR 88C. Contact Bob Comrie, 288 Hardgate or Ian Mitchell, 3 Sinclair Road.  
**LIBERTARIAN STUDENTS FEDERATION.** Contact address: Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow.

## SCOTTISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION

Secretary: Dave Coull (see Montrose).  
Groups and Proposed Groups:—  
**ABERDEEN ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** Contact Bob Comrie, 288 Hardgate or Liz Smith, 3 Sinclair Road.  
**FIFE.** Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar.  
**GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Joe & Kay Embleton, 26 Kirkland Road, Glasgow, N.W.  
**HAMILTON DISTRICT FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.** Contact Robert Linton, 7a Station Road, New Stevenston, Motherwell.  
**MONTROSE.** Contact Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

**BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Robert Dunwoody, 10 Newry Street, Belfast, BT6 9BN.

## LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 36 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

## 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.  
**USA.** James W. Cain, secretary, the Anarchist Committee of Correspondence, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.  
**GROUP/TREASON.** Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or Paddy Evans, c/o the same.  
**MELBOURNE.** Get in touch with Bob Hopkins and Margie Rojo, P.O. Box 192, Carlton South 3053. Public meetings at Yarra Bank, Melbourne.  
**DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** Gathersgade, 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. Discussion meetings. Actions. Contact Ed. Strauss, RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.  
**SWEDEN.** Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.  
**SWEDEN:** Libertad, Allmänna Vägen 6, Gothenburg V.  
**TORONTO LIBERTARIAN ANARCHIST GROUP.** 217 Tor York Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

## PROPOSED GROUPS

**MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY.** Contact Mike Don or Bill Jamieson, 14 Victoria Road, Manchester 14.  
**LANCASTER & MORECAMBE.** Contact Les Smith, 192 Euston Road, Morecambe, Lancs.



# AFB Conference

From an AFB Correspondent:

THE 1968 CONFERENCE of the AFB was held in Liverpool on Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22. It was probably the most representative conference, geographically speaking, ever held in this country, and after about 11.45 on the Sunday morning, there were seldom less than 60 delegates and observers crammed into the W. Derby Co-operative Hall. Groups represented were as follows: Belfast, Birmingham, Bishops Cleeve, Bolton, Brighton, Camborne, Cardiff, Chorley, Fife, Glasgow, Hamilton, Harlow, Hornsey, Kings Cross, Leicester, Lewisham, Manchester, Merseyside, N.E. Essex, North Somerset (Bath and Wells), London Federation of Anarchists, Rochdale, Selby, Taunton and West Ham, and the Anarchist Black Cross. Also Donald and Irene Room's discussion group, Freedom Press, LSE, Liverpool University, Manchester University and Sheffield University.

After a late start, business was got under way with the reading of group reports. Nothing particularly new or worthy of much comment here, but congratulations to all comrades for slogging away in the various fields mentioned at the Conference, including perennials such as the Peace Movement, Tenants' Associations, and industrial disputes; and some new ones such as schools and helping unmarried mothers. Digger Walsh, with characteristic pessimism, announced the total failure and pending collapse of the secretariat of the London Federation of Anarchists, but comrades expressed warm appreciation of the work done last year by the aforesaid body in handling international correspondence and, in particular, in coping with all the work connected with the Carrara International Congress. No doubt if the LFA does go up in flames, due to spontaneous combustion, it will rise again, Phoenix-like, from its own ashes.

Towards the end of the morning session, Stuart Christie, reporting for the Anarchist Black Cross, delivered the alarming news that although Alberola has been released from prison, he has so far been refused political asylum and is kept under police surveillance in W. Flanders, where his life may be in

danger. Comrades are requested to put pressure on the Belgian Embassy—further information from the Black Cross. Also it was decided that London comrades should assemble and march on the Spanish Embassy as soon as sentence is passed (why not before?) on the seven comrades arrested in Valencia recently. Again, details from Stuart Christie.

## CRITICISMS OF 'FREEDOM'

The afternoon session started calmly enough with more group reports.

Then followed the first of the major rows which marred this Conference, and which revealed alarming antagonisms within the AFB. On this occasion it was Freedom Press which came under very severe attack. In particular, an absent comrade was subject to some unpleasant back-biting and described as 'bureaucratic deadwood' on the one hand and 'totally uninterested in the Anarchist movement' on the other. However, confidential information was divulged to Conference which revealed that the comrade in question had achieved something little short of miraculous which will greatly benefit the AFB in general and Freedom Press in particular. This neatly turned the flank of this attack, but it seemed that most people were dissatisfied with the content of FREEDOM and the editors were told bluntly what sort of article was to go in instead. Just who was to write these new dynamic features was not made clear. It would be as well to bear in mind that a Freedom Press editor exploded a minor bombshell himself when he revealed that the 62 groups which comprise the AFB only sell 500 copies of FREEDOM between them—Fingers out, comrades!!!

When the air had cleared somewhat, Conference turned reluctantly to the inevitable problems of the function of an anarchist group, and the question of national organization. Great emphasis was laid on the necessity of groups in-

## LETTER

### Marriage or Free Union?

Dear Comrades,

I had meant to write you something about marriage in a projected article on the social bases of anarchism, but Pete Raymond's letter has stung me into replying, as I was recently married. I am one of the worst offenders for I had both religious and state ceremonies. But neither ceremony do we regard as binding or giving us permission to sleep or have children together. The state ceremony was pure expediency, my wife is Dutch and this was the only way to stop the Home Office harassing her. As for the other, I can only say that the particular religious group I meet with is exceptionally libertarian and put no pressure on us to get married although we were living together.

Pete Raymond's most serious argument, concerning discrimination against illegitimate children, breaks down when applied to other forms of discrimination, e.g. that against junkies, ex-prisoners, etc. I don't see why I should push illegitimacy on my kids any more than I should push heroin.

Anarchists say there are sexual relationships of varying intensity and duration and this is all there is to it, but contraception, by increasing our freedom, makes possible a distinction between an anarchist marriage and other forms of sexual relationships. Marriage is when you desire to have kids. For the kids' welfare you would have to be pretty sure that this was a stable and really good relationship. But anarchists are inclined to say that this decision concerns no one else; that's true, but having made it a lot of people are going to be glad that you have made it. If you have any real friends they are going to be interested in your decision, for it's not an easy decision to make. It requires considerable experience of woman relationships to know one that will take that strain. But it's good news and it calls for a celebration or a party amongst your community, your free association, your friends.

And also you are going to need the active assistance when you have children, to baby sit for you, help in their education, look after them when you go to jail, or even if the relationship breaks up.

We believe that free associations of friends can replace all other institutions and a marriage party or celebration can be of real value in defining such a group. Bringing kids into the world can be a gesture of faith in the mutual aid of your comrades.

PETER LUMSDEN  
ANNA MIEKE

London, N.W.1

staging their own activity, maintaining their own existence, and extending their own influence without the help of any central body whatsoever, but your correspondent pointed out that although a national secretariat without any rank and file would be an absurdity, now that there are over 60 groups in the country (perhaps) some sort of clearing house information service-propaganda stockpile would be of considerable value to provincial groups who often feel very isolated and who may be totally lacking in equipment to produce their own propaganda. It was generally agreed that a circulated list of sympathetic printers prepared to handle anarchist posters and leaflets would be a very useful thing and the Cardiff delegate offered to attempt to provide one.

It was obvious from the discussion that four delegates had discussed the possibility of a national secretariat with the rest of the groups and were totally unprepared to offer any financial support for such a project. This apparent unconcern for all items on the agenda was further demonstrated on Sunday when it was revealed that although the Lewisham group had circulated their leaflet, 'A Contribution to Libertarian Discussion' to all 62 groups, a whole fortnight before the Conference, nobody had even read it, let alone been mandated to object to or approve of specific points! Some group secretaries are not doing their jobs properly and it is up to rank and file members to bring them up to scratch!

## RELATIONS WITH NON-ANARCHIST ORGANISATIONS

The Sunday morning opened with a discussion of our relationships with other groups and the storm-clouds began to gather. Conference was cordial to SWF, hostile to CND and the Young Liberals, and sceptical of the London Libertarian Federation, Ad Hoc Committee. Finally the subject of Vietnam, the VSC, and the proposed October demonstration was broached and a second major row began. As someone who took a prominent part in the discussion I feel unqualified to discuss it objectively. However, it is quite clear that some anarchists are in complete disagreement with others on this issue and it must be faced squarely and argued out. The two sides can't both be right. However, this is not the place for discussion, and after a great deal of heated argument it must be recorded that on a straw vote Conference carried the

following resolution by 21 votes to 12 with several abstentions:

... That Conference urge the non-participation of the Anarchist Federation of Britain in demonstrations organized by the VSC, and that in future they organize their own demonstrations on the subject of Vietnam.' (D. Poulson.)

A second resolution put by Digger Walsh that 'Conference request all anarchist groups not to carry banners when in attendance on VSC demonstrations' was carried by 22 votes to 15, again with many abstentions; and a third resolution by Peter Neville to the effect that anarchists organize their own demo the day before the big October one got only 10 votes for, 5 against and massive abstention.

Conference then adjourned for an excellent lunch of bowls of scouse and bread and cheese, provided by our hosts from Liverpool, who did a fine job of organizing the Conference, and providing sleeping accommodation and social entertainment. We then heard the first business of the afternoon, a report from Digger Walsh on the international situation. It was encouraging to hear of a growing liaison with French comrades beyond the pale of the FAF and who approved of the British attitude to Carrara. This last was next on the agenda, but did not arouse much discussion, mainly because of the very full coverage already given in FREEDOM.

Unfortunately the next item—concerning trade unions—did, and again emphasised a serious division in anarchist ranks. After much fruitless discussion between those who urged anarchists to join trade unions and those who bitterly disagreed, the subject was finally dropped and Conference got itself in an even worse mess when it was persuaded despite sound advice to the contrary from two comrades to discuss two leaflets, one from the Lewisham Anarchists, and one from the Black Flag group. This second leaflet attacks 14 individuals by name, several others by implication, three periodicals and two organizations. As might be expected certain individuals at the Conference objected strongly and a great deal of heated debate took place. As a result, the Conference ended on a sour note, and with the feeling that there are more quarrels in the offing. Let's hope all present follow the advice of those who say we should concentrate on putting down the State and not fellow comrades.

## FIFTH COLUMN

### Every State a Warfare State

THE LAST WAR—particularly if you were born during it—is the best starting point for a discussion of anarchist theory. Before 1939 there had been a number of political systems which were military in character and which depended on constant military success: after 1945 the industrially advanced section of the world was revealed as one massive warfare state.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries war was, as always, an important activity of the state. But while armies fought battles, men died, generals won victories and dukedoms, territory and colonies changed hands—the mass of ordinary people remained unaffected. If you were unlucky enough to find yourself in the army or in a village captured by the enemy you met the harsh reality of war. If not you followed the fortunes of your side as people now support football teams—perhaps with less enthusiasm if soldiers had been billeted in your town.

The 1914-1918 war saw cavalry replaced by tanks, the use of poison gas, the development of the airplane as a weapon. Millions died and so did the idea of war as an 'unhappy far-off thing'. As bombs fell on cities and passenger ships were sunk, as factories were switched to arms production and women hired to work through the night—and as men were conscripted all over Europe to die in the trenches—war came into the lives of the mass of the people for the first time.

For nearly 20 years after the first world war there was, formally, peace in Europe. During this time regimes came to power which were clearly military in two senses: they aimed at territorial conquest abroad; they imposed a system of government based on military principles at home.

The response of the 'liberal democracies' to the totalitarian regimes of Germany, Italy and Russia was confused. The Left was clear and undivided in its opposition to Nazism and Fascism; the Right saw Communism as the work of the devil. But many on the left welcomed Joe Stalin as an ally and their right-wing counterparts saw Hitler and Mussolini as bulwarks against Communism. Others saw the similarities between the three totalitarian regimes and considered them essentially different from the 'liberal democracies'.

After its Spanish dress rehearsal the last war began. Conservatives, Liberals and nearly all Socialists saw it as a defence of democracy against Nazism and Fascism. The Communists—when the Soviet Union was attacked—saw it also as a defence of Socialism.

Millions of dead bodies later the Soviet Union and the Western powers carved up Europe between them: democracy and socialism had triumphed. But the war had two simple and related features: the winning of it involved the use of totalitarian methods; the end of it brought 'democracy' and 'socialism' face to face in a military confrontation which has lasted until now.

As German airplanes had systematically attacked cities like London and Coventry in an attempt to destroy simultaneously the industrial power of the country and the morale of its people, the RAF rained bombs on Dresden and Hamburg. The Americans, with the approval of their allies, dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki: demonstrating to the world that the liberal democracies could kill more people with one bomb than anyone else. In the last war the differences between the countries of the industrially advanced section of the world went up in smoke.

In the cold war, which began as soon as the last war ended, democracy and socialism have confronted one another with the same threats and the same weapons. Support for Fascist regimes in the West, suppression of rebel regimes in the East; nuclear tests and the threat of nuclear war from both sides. In the West decisions—such as that by the British Government to manufacture the atom bomb—have bypassed even the formal machinery of democracy.

In the post-war world any political theory must begin from this fact: that the modern industrial state is at war and as such is necessarily totalitarian. (I do not suggest that war is the single cause of all that is objectionable in the state; but war is clearly both its most objectionable activity—and the one which has had the strongest influence upon it.) If we object to war and totalitarianism we must reject the modern state itself.

WYNFORD HICKS.

## Growing Pains

UNDER THE HEADING of 'THE VOICE OF DOOM FROM ANGEL ALLEY' the *Daily Mirror* Inside Page (7.10.68) publishes an alleged interview with Stuart Christie. Taking his comments on revolution, and fitting them into 'all this hot-chat about violent demonstrations', it makes it appear that when he says 'our first objectives are the destruction of parliament, the police and the army... the police must go', he is referring to the journalistic fixation date of October 27. No wonder 'it sounded more hilarious than sinister'. Stuart, described as 'Britain's Anarchist leader' (but how can you expect the *Mirror* to understand anarchism when it thinks that in this country 'the last uprising was the Peasants' Revolt six hundred years ago'... zero for history and political economy, reporter at 22, Mr. Cutner) may merely be suffering 'the pains of growing up'.

Growing pains! That whisked me away to the days when the Old Codgers were suffering 'the pains of growing up'... when that aged pair was 22. Actually, with all reverence for the millions of *Mirror* fans whose faith in the Old Codgers can only be compared with that in Father Christmas, the Old Codgers are not all that old. There is only one of them, anyway—Mr. Peter Noble, who is fifty. He did not (surprise, surprise to millions of *Mirror* readers) fight at Mons and Passchendaele, though if you write in and ask, you will get memoirs of Flanders and WWI... he was a conscientious objector in the Second World War, described in a book of Lord Alfred Douglas as one of his 'youthful protégés' at the time. He also frequented Ivor Novello's company pretty frequently, and spent the war fire-watching and haunting the film and theatre world waiting for a break-in. Growing pains! He even tried to become our film critic. The editorial board turned him down because one of them knew him to be, notwithstanding his opposition to joining the army, a supporter of the war in that he was a member of the Communist Party.

*Mirror* writers, you are not invulnerable in the gentle art of character assassination. The present writer has quite a number of shots in his locker he is prepared to let off on suitable occasions such as this.

OLD LAG

## A Message to Demonstrators on Oct. 27

# March With Us!

NO, WE WON'T BE MARCHING in support of Ho-Chi-Minh on Sunday, October 27. We will be marching for sure that day in the London demonstration on Vietnam, but in support of the Vietnamese people—not in adulation of the Stalinist hack who heads the North Vietnam government and dictatorship.

We will be marching to denounce the American government and its war machine. We will be marching to denounce the war itself and the manner in which the American military are carrying it out. We will be marching to denounce the corrupt gang of the self-constituted Saigon regime who make millions out of the suffering of the Vietnamese people. We will be marching to denounce the British government for its complicity in this war, for aiding and abetting its American counterpart, if only (for practical reasons) on a minor scale. We will be marching for all these reasons and our placards will say so.

But we won't be shouting 'Ho, Ho, Ho-Chi-Minh', or anything like it, for the simple reason that we refuse to give an ounce of fraternal feeling to a man and a political set-up which murdered our fellow Leftists in Vietnam (in 1946), which consistently supported the purges, frame-ups, trials and executions of Communist Party members (during the Stalinist era) and which came out in open support of the invasion of Czechoslovakia a few weeks ago.

We will denounce the American 'presence' in Vietnam. We will denounce the Russian 'presence' in Czechoslovakia.

We know that, in the present circumstances, we are duty bound to give our support to those who are fighting the military struggle against the American war machine in Vietnam. Some even think it legitimate to call for 'Victory for the Vietcong'. But none of us are going to shut our eyes and, by saying nothing else, support Ho-Chi-Minh and the Stalinist politics he represents.

We are for a Vietnam run by freely constituted workers and peasants councils and a Vietnam in which there is freedom of speech, of assembly, of organisation and of dissent. This is why we will be marching on October 27. It is for that we will be marching.

We are also for equally free institutions in Britain, in the world over, and in Czechoslovakia too. That is what we mean by 'socialism', 'anarchism', or whatever we like to call the free, classless society we want to see built. And that is why we refuse to take the easy way out, to keep our mouths shut on this demonstration in the 'interests of unity', a 'unity' which would make us appendages of Stalinism and tools, stooges, accomplices, apologists for dictatorship and murder from Vietnam to Czechoslovakia and beyond.

If you agree with us, join the groups, organisations and individuals marching behind our head banner; the banner of the 'United Libertarian Groups'.

Join us in marching beneath the red flags of socialism and the black flags of anarchism and with placards that mean what they say.

If you agree with us, your place is with us! March with us in our contingent on October 27.

## Assemble on Victoria Embankment (near Cleopatra's Needle) 1.30 p.m. October 27

Published by the 'United Libertarian Groups', c/o Express Printers, 84a Whitechapel High Street, London, E.1.

The above is available as a leaflet from the above address at 25/- a 1,000.

\*The 'United Libertarian Groups' are a number of Anarchist, Syndicalist and Libertarian Socialist organisations and bodies working together on home and international affairs. There is a liaison committee on which the various groups are represented.



# Unofficial Strikes

**LEADER WRITERS IN THE** National Press are having a field day in their condemnations of unofficial strikes. Of course this is nothing new and, as in the past, the impression is created that by taking such action the 'whole country is being held to ransom'. Most writers do not even bother to find out what are the real issues involved and usually describe unofficial strikers as 'selfish' and not caring for the public interest. Yet surely these same 'selfish' strikers form a part of that public, the mass of which have to sell their labour to obtain a living. As such, it seems reasonable that at certain times the members of this public have to take action to further their interests.

However, the leaders in the National Press are not meant to serve the interests of the general public, but those of the hands that feed them, namely the employers, the Government and the State. The Press also gives the impression that unofficial strikes take place in this country only, but this is obviously far from true, for a glance at the figures for strikes in different countries usually puts American workers at the top of the league.

Another myth created by the Press is that British workers are work-shy and lazy and workers in other countries, usually Germany, are held up as examples to emulate. This is ridiculous, because I have been told by German workers that they are told that the British work

harder than they do and that they should copy us.

## IN PRINCIPLE

While the Press attacks strikes, and unofficial ones in particular, they are always careful to defend the right to strike in principle, though it should be the last resort. But who is to decide when that point is reached? For the Press it would never come, for they would always find some new avenue of negotiation to recommend rather than halt production. They are all for strikes in principle as long as you do not stop work.

Of course, if they really wrote the truth then their position would be the same as that of Communist or Fascist dictatorships. In the past they reserved most of their venom for unofficial strikes by workers employed in public services, but nowadays it is the car workers who are the main target. This is not because the Press think that busmen and railwaymen are more justified in taking industrial action, but because usually they have little or no effect on the economy. On the other hand, a strike at Ford's does, for the whole economy of the country is now geared to the ups and downs of the car industry and it is no accident that the recent unofficial strikes have again brought forward a number of schemes, all designed to curb the right to strike.

At one time, the reason given for curbing strikes was that the country needed essential services, many countries have just such legislation, but now the argument is that industry (especially the car industry) has become so integrated and automated that a handful of men on strike can cause disruption and affect the economy in a very short time. It is always the overseas customers who might get fed up with late deliveries and switch to the products of another country, but the charge of lack of patriotism is only levelled at the people who actually produce the goods and not at the car manufacturer who opens up a new factory on the Continent or orders Japanese-built ships.

## PROFIT

However, the state of the economy, the balance of payments and lost exports have nothing to do with the social needs of this country. Goods are produced with only one object in mind, that of profit. If they serve a need, then this is purely incidental as far as the industrialists are concerned. While there is a market for their goods more men are recruited, as Ford's are doing at the moment, but when the cars are piling up in the showrooms, production is cut and workers are sacked.

Industrialists are always on the alert for openings to curb the strength of the trade unionists and with the present boom in the car industry, car manufacturers are putting pressure on the Government to legislate against unofficial

strikes. They are proposing fines to be deducted at source for strikers who break agreements or union-employer procedures for settling disputes.

Mr. Davies, the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, has recently spoken on the policy on strikes of this organisation which was put forward to the Donovan Commission. Their proposals were that the Registrar of Trade Unions or Industrial Relations Commission should press for the inclusion of rules for trade unions which would discourage unofficial strikes. Those unions who did nothing to prevent these strikes would be removed from the register. With an eye on the car industry, they say the IRC should decide on the sectors of industry in which compulsory negotiating procedures should be introduced. If no agreement is reached voluntarily, then one should be imposed.

Whether or not the Government's forthcoming White Paper on industrial relations will contain legal sanctions remains to be seen, but recommendations on voluntary procedure will be included. Although pressure for some form of legal sanction against unofficial strikes is building up, many employers and members of the Government are aware that such a step would do more harm than good. But we have seen, as with immigration, how easily the Wilson Government is stampeded.

## LET OFF THE HOOK

As far as workers are concerned, the right to strike should be defended at all times. When it is invoked, it is, as Rudolf Klein describes it in the *Observer*, the only time that workers participate in the decision-making process and 'may be their most effective way of making sure their views are heard by the management'. Certainly a great number of workers would agree with this, for it is their ultimate weapon for redressing any grievances and, as such, should be safeguarded.

Workers will not find their national leaders defending unofficial strikes, for even with the official one in the offing, these leaders are trying to be let off the hook, as Hugh Scanton and Jack Jones of the AEF and T & GWU, have done this week. Many of those affected by the engineering strike are showing a reluctance to take part. This is not surprising when one considers how many times the rank and file have been led up the garden path, only to return with a pittance, when an unofficial strike can achieve far better results.

Many trade union officials, Labour MPs and the TUC are against the unofficial strike for they serve capitalism in the role of disciplinarians and their main job is to keep the union members quiet rather than serving their interests. From the Anarchist standpoint, the unofficial strike indicates that workers see through these leaders and are acting for themselves. Once workers are aware of this strength, the trade union bureaucrats will be out of a job along with the employers. To avoid this, these bureaucrats would support legislation against unofficial strikes. In common with all freedoms, the only safeguard of the right to strike is to exercise it and the only answer to anti-strike laws is strikes. Gas workers and dockers knew what to do in 1950 and 1951 and the answer remains the same in 1968.

P.T.

# SCAB SABOTAGE

**OLD AGE**, the wife, the kids, fear of the sack, are all excuses put by scabs during a dispute. Anything, rather than risk upsetting the boss.

But there is no excuse for scabbery! All too many just causes have been sabotaged and workers' livelihoods ruined by the selfish actions of the scab.

That is why the North West haulage drivers were right to sabotage scab vehicles, which were breaking their strike last week. The drivers, who are striking against 'spy in cab' meters designed to record details of their journeys, are said to have slashed and let down the tyres of some 20-odd heavy lorries in Manchester; smashed the windscreen of a new tanker at Sale; ruined the brakes and removed the trailer pin of another truck in Yorkshire; and at Hull one firm even saw fit to protect its scabs with Alsatian guard dogs.

This weekend, the strike seems to be spreading, and industrialists and garages

in the North report shortages of fuel oil and petrol. On Friday, pickets at Partington, near Manchester, 'locked in' 80 petrol tankers at the Shell Mex and BP depot. Strike chairman Bill Axon said in view of their success strikers will take similar action at other depots. Already the strike involves some 3,000 men and last Friday a call went out from a mass meeting of drivers to extend the stoppage to London, the Midlands, and Scotland.

The strike is organised by the North West Transport Drivers' Action Group. The blokes' union, the T & G is not supporting the strike, even though it is against the 'spy meters' itself.

Support for the strike seems to be growing fast, and the *Manchester Evening News* is suggesting that things could get bad for the bosses if the strikers continue gaining support at their present rate.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

# Freedom For Workers' Control

OCTOBER 12 1968 Vol 29 No 31

## Two Down, One to Go

**WE HAVE JUST** witnessed the second of this year's jamborees, the third is due to start next Wednesday. The one that has just finished is the most farcical of the lot.

Up until Hugh Gaitskell's 'Fight and Fight Again' Conference, it was the Labour Party's proud boast that their Annual Conference meant something. Whilst no one really believed this, the fact had never been exposed until Gaitskell.

This year's Conference should have shattered all illusions. The party in power is the Parliamentary Labour Party and the 'Conference' is a social gathering where one lets off steam during the day time and stokes up again at night for the following day. On reflection it would be more true to say that the Cabinet is the power, with the Parliamentary Party as well-trained voting cattle. There have been some rogues among the cattle but these will get less as the General Election draws nearer.

One highlight of the Conference was the economic debate where the platform received a trouncing. This is always a good morale booster for the rank and file delegates, particularly at such an early stage of the Conference. It gives them a sense of power for the rest of the week. What in fact did the defeat of the platform mean? Precisely **NOTHING**. Wilson knew which way the vote would go, in one respect the adverse vote could be to his advantage. Here was the Prime Minister putting his country first, proving that he was not willing to pander to the emotionalism

of the rank and file of his Party. This should show the floating voters he meant business, that he was boss and not willing to pander to the trade unions. After all he has at least another eighteen months to buy their support back.

The fact of the matter is neither Jenkins nor Barbara Castle received a hostile reception. After all it is not the Frank Cousins and Hugh Scanlons who poke the leaflets through the doors at election times, it is the Joe Soaps. Frank and Hugh can always make militant speeches any time.

The rest of Conference was bloody! To say the least, even the word Socialism which is an abortion was barely mentioned.

The so-called left wing MPs did not get a smell of the Executive seats, in fact their votes decreased. Where is the left wing support? One hopes that it has at last realised the fallacy of the Labour left wing facade and is genuinely seeking an alternative to parliamentary politics.

The Labour Party now has only the conscience of the Conservative Party. Differences, if one can discover them, are just a matter of degree and personalities. Wilson is a clever politician; he makes Heath look like a first-year student of politics, and that's about the depth of the party political game.

The separate Party jamborees will be enacted every year, meaning less and less as the years roll by, but the State will remain and through its apparatus control the life of Joe Soap; therein lies the real enemy.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

## ANARCHISM AND UNEMPLOYMENT

**THE CASE** for mass demonstrations against unemployment and the 'freeze' is one that the Anarchist movement can no longer ignore.

The number of unemployed now stands at well over 600,000. This figure is bound to rise as winter approaches. Meanwhile those who are able to work have their wages 'frozen' by a 'Socialist' Government. Needless to say, this disgraceful situation is actively assisted by the money barons whose profits continue to rise.

A concerted attempt to unite the 'frozen' workers and the unemployed must be made to present the Labour Government with a common front. Above all else, what must be blocked is the attempt by the Fascists and Tories to make political capital out of the workers' bitterness.

A practical step which can be taken by groups is: going to the local labour exchange on dole day and agitating among the unemployed about Government policies and aims; the social security benefits to which they are entitled; and local demos and campaigns.

Urgent steps should be taken now so as to be ready for the expected rise in unemployment which will be announced on the 21st or 22nd of this month. Demonstrations and campaigns every month should be organised so as to have a cumulative effect.

Revolution will be brought a step nearer if the unemployed and the workers are united in opposition to the prevailing Government and the inhuman system of which it is part.

COLIN BEADLE.

## Keep it Up!

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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\*Denotes Regular Contributor.

## Contact Column

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

'Poems of Love and Protest'. Readings by Dennis Gould at the Angel Hotel, Grantham, Lincs., October 19, 7.30 p.m.

Harlow Anarchist Fed. need speakers for indoor public meetings. Any offers to: Geoff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow. Please state which evening you would prefer.

Stevenage Meeting at Val & John Funnell, 10 Fry Road, October 19, 8 p.m. —Dermot Crist: 'Techniques of Guerilla Warfare'.

Up fight with the draft! Call Support, 278 4994, Monday-Friday, 6.30 to 10.30 p.m. 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

October 27. Accommodation inquiries to Chris Broad, 116 Tyneham Road, S.W.11 (BAT 4086). Also offers of accommodation.

E.L.W. (Burslem) please contact Bob Blakeman, 116 Hassall Street, Newcastle, Staffs.

Anarchist publishers need working manager(ess) to take full charge of office, circulation and distribution. Modest salary and some voluntary help offered. Box

Wanted: Girl to look after 2 small children. West Hampstead. Box No. 21.

Small room (2 beds) available for short lets. Use of kitchen, bathroom, garden, etc. 5 mins. Mill Hill East station. £3 per week. Ring FIN 6954.

Elliot Automation. Non-violent protest against Vietnam complicity. Information, Wendy Butlin 340 2661.

Turkish Translator urgently wanted. Contact Freedom Press.

Is your group ready for October 27? Flags, banners, etc., made to order. Details from: Hazel McGee, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne, Cornwall.

United Libertarian Groups. Business meeting and working group (posters, placards for October demonstration). Sunday, October 13, 4 p.m., 84a Whitechapel High Street, E.1.

Birmingham Discussion Meetings. Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. Venue usually at The Crown, Corporation Street. Further information from Peter Neville, c/o Peace Action Centre, Factory Road, Birmingham, 19. (S.A.E.)

The Crypt, 242 Lancaster Road, W.11. October 16. London Film Makers' Co-op, 8 p.m. prompt, 2/6.

If you wish to make contact let us know.