

DIRECT ACTION IN THE STORMONT

STUDENTS TODAY (October 24) escalated the militancy of the 'People's Democracy' campaign for civil and human rights in Northern Ireland.

Perhaps for the first time in Northern Ireland's history it was proven that democracy can actually work. It was in an ironic setting of bustling MPs, lofty pillars, and embarrassed policemen, that the seventy-two students who had been permitted to visit the Strangers' Gallery and observe the parliamentary farce staged their three-hour sit-down.

The House was debating a new Juvenile Offenders Act, and at 3.30 p.m. Gerry Fitt asked if it would be possible for the Northern Ireland Government to ensure that 'steps will be taken to see that we in this part of the United Kingdom get the same privileges and freedom as elsewhere'. After a lengthy speech by Fitt, Mr. Brian Faulkner, Minister of Commerce, informed the House that the views of 'this Government are quite well known'. He then sat down and that was the end of the Unionist part in the discussion. Several other Opposition MPs discussed the refusal of the Northern Ireland Government to recognise Human Rights Day, and the House adjourned at 4 p.m.

R.G. describes what happened then: 'We all filed out of the Gallery and went into the entrance hall on the ground floor. There, we decided to wait for the MPs, and then all sat down, singing and chanting. As was to be expected, only one Unionist signed the Declaration for Human Rights in Northern Ireland, and he is considered by most to be a lunatic. It was made clear that there would not be any further representation from the Government so we called on Mr. Craig, Minister of Home Affairs (and the person responsible for the police force or violence as it is known here) to come to us, either to sign our Declaration, or else explain why he refused to do so. He of course, never appeared.

However, there were about 250 people outside the building who had not been permitted to enter, and they were attempting to block all the exits. When Mr. Craig's car sped down the drive, a group of demonstrators sat down in his path.

The driver accelerated and drove through the crowd, throwing one person over the roof of the car. The police rushed over to see if the person had been seriously injured, and Mr. Craig's car sped on, out of the gateway, without even stopping. When the police found that the victim had not been seriously injured they too sped away, refusing to take statements as to Bully Craig's dangerous driving.

At another stage a van was driven through a group of people standing in the roadway and then reversed back into them, thus injuring a few people. It also was speedily driven away.

Inside Stormont, Tom Boyd, veteran Labour MP, appealed for restraint and advised us all to go home quietly and come back some other day—to waste our time again? However this idea was dismissed and heated discussion continued about the policies of People's Democracy, with respect to the sit-down and the possible risk of violence now that Paisley and his supporters might come up to see us. We decided that we should stay on in the building, and that the people outside should look after their own safety. Attempts to frighten us with 'hordes of Paisleyites arriving outside' partially succeeded and after three hours the majority left.

Outside the people were furious that we had come out, however eight people had decided that they would not leave the building, and remained squatting in Parliament until midnight. On emerging they were met by over 100 students who had braved the elements to express solidarity.

We succeeded in showing the parasites in office at Stormont that there can be a decent democratic procedure and the people there felt that this building was the epitome of all that is sick in Ulster.

The encouraging signs have been an increasing demand for militancy and a sloughing off of the years of sloth in the university. The first ever occupation of our 'democratic parliament' and the first realization for some of the mentality of the senile delinquents who rule us are steps forward. But the struggle must not abate. We must fight to cleanse our own sewer.

R.G. & J.C.

SO COLD WAS November 3 outside the clinical wealth of Elliott Automation—makers of electronic equipment for use by the US war effort in Vietnam—that only 68 people slept on slab pavements in sleeping bags and 36 degrees of bitter cold. Rationally they were blocking these office entrances in order to reveal business contracts of a British firm in an American war. Irrationally they were underpinning loneliness and failure, anger and grief. (And we all suffer these sometimes.)

DIRECT ACTION AND RESISTANCE

So eight or nine people were arrested for obstruction. About 130 were involved altogether. Old religious pacifists met young irreligious anarchists. Ten years of non-violent action in groups like the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War (DAC) and the Committee of 100 had bred a confident attitude towards arrest, charge, courtroom scenes, conviction and sentence, fine or prison. Sober commonsense dress was always worn by men and women who had never known real poverty or lack of elementary privileges. The young wore long-long hair and bright individual clothes. They sat still or stood and walked about, in a free manner undreamt of by those who had experienced the puritanical nature of ten years ago.

But what do I really remember of twenty freezing hours? The two girls

from the discotheque arriving about 1 a.m. in silver blouses, black trousers and bare midriffs. The incessant tea and coffee of a children's teacher, brewing it up in his Volkswagen. The two 'cafés' which arrived in the early morning with free food and soup. (Yes, go and support them! The Refectory,

Buckingham Gate, Victoria, and The Macrobiotic Restaurant, Bishops Bridge Road, Paddington.) The man selling the 'only Stalinist paper in Britain' didn't sell any... thank Mao.

SPRING 1958

There was the remark by Terry Chandler, on hearing someone say, 'We should have visited Elliott Automation in the Spring.' 'Spring 1958', he replied.

There was the Irishman reading aloud from *Alice in Wonderland*. There were the numerous homes of the demonstrators, York, Bristol, Brighton, Esher, Nottingham, Oxford, Manchester, Leicester, Coventry, Pontefract and so on. Spring 1958 for the style of demonstration. An immobile crowd waiting for orders as to where to go and what to do. Terrible! One of the marshals was telling one of the group not to print

The Duke of York's Army

HOW TO SELL A BOOK

THE LONDON *Evening News* who organised the massive publicity for the October 27 'Revolution' which coincided with the serialisation of a novel about a military coup in London, must be very well-satisfied with the stupidity of other daily newspapers who unwittingly helped to sell their book. *The Times* especially provided the classic example of the 'feed-back'. They took alarm at what the

police injuries. . . .

SPLIT IN THE POLICE MOVEMENT

In the air-conditioned nightmare of the Victoria Street Kafka headquarters of the police, doves and hawks argued bitterly on what methods to employ at the demonstration. Whilst Special Branch were busy whipping up the frenzy with leaks and 'unconfirmed' reports, the uniformed branch was busy to damp



Evening News had said and then the *Evening News* pointed out that their story must be true—because *The Times* had committed it.

The organisers were only too willing to accept this situation of panic and hysteria. They gave interviews on television and to the press stating ambiguous views on violence at the coming demonstration. The press seized on this and whipped it up to heights of frenzy.

The anarchists attempted to de-escalate by issuing several leaflets, all of which were satirical. Nevertheless, no surprise, the press even took these leaflets seriously and Piccadilly lavatories and Lord's cricket ground were heavily guarded by the police on October 27.

AUTHORITIES' PANIC

The Home Office, the organisers of the march, the press and the police had so convinced each other that the revolution was nigh, that they brought in 7,000 police, an unspecified number of reserves, operated road blocks, boarded up the Stock Exchange, shut up the Inns of Court and similar places; troops were on stand-by duty; detained an entire hockey team on the M1, thinking they were demonstrators dressed up as sportsmen; ordered riot control exercises in Hendon with several

the whole thing down. To add another 'unconfirmed' report, this resulted in a punch-up amongst the men in blue and the men in grey.

ORGANISERS COWED

Having played along with the revolution, the organisers took fright and started issuing conciliatory noises to placate the authorities. The march was to be peaceful, 'disciplined' and was to avoid the 'death-trap' of Grosvenor Square. There was to be no confrontation with the authorities. This pleased the Home Office who co-operated with the organisers after this climb-down.

The Guardian, in its front page report of the demonstration of October 27, said this:

'The major section of the marchers, estimated unofficially by the police at about 30,000, continued along their proclaimed route to Hyde Park. On the way they handed in a petition to No. 10 Downing Street and, after listening to speeches by their leaders, dispersed quietly.'

This paragraph of the report could easily have been written about scores of CND marches, with Canon Collins and his friends going about their futile business of trying to persuade the Labour Party, now the Government, to change its policies on nuclear disarmament. But on October 27, it was Tariq Ali and the Ad Hoc Committee handing in the petition.

How this ties in with the 'October Revolution' and the recent front page,

full-size slogan in *Black Dwarf*, of 'Don't Demand, Occupy Your Schools and Factories' is beyond us. We grant that by taking so much limelight, certain members on the Ad Hoc Committee could easily have been 'chopped' by the authorities, but handing in a petition is, to us, a betrayal of the thousands of militants who marched on Sunday and who reject the whole liberal concept that is embodied in this type of action. We do not blame the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for playing it cool, but we cannot condone their going to Downing Street with a petition.

By leading the majority of the marchers to Hyde Park and avoiding Grosvenor Square, the Committee received tributes from both Mr. Callaghan, the Home Secretary, and the press. The negotiations with the police and the long build up in the press, in effect, emasculated and accommodated the march as only the British ruling class can. On this premise we argue that, unlike Bob Overy's view in *Peace News* on how it could be argued 'that Scotland Yard planners have taken a leaf from the Gandhian manual on how to attract public sympathy by turning the other cheek', in fact the police, faced with something new, as with the first civil disobedience sit-down organised by the Committee of 100 at the Defence Ministry, were just playing it cool. The pattern of subsequent Committee of 100 sit-downs was far different, with the police making many arrests, and no doubt any future demonstrations of Sunday's magnitude will also be treated differently.

MILITANCY BY THE 'BOOK'

The attitude of the organisers led to wild screams of 'treason' by the Maoists. Chanting their little red book in unison they pointed out the virtues of militancy and the historical necessity of going to Grosvenor Square.

LSE OCCUPATION

During the weekend October 25/26/27, LSE was occupied by numbers of people ranging from 200 on the Thursday night to 5,000 on the Saturday evening. The aims of the occupation were threefold: to provide accommodation for provincial comrades and medical aid for the wounded together with a fixed large venue for continuous discussion on Vietnam and revolutionary action. On Saturday night, some 3,000 people slept in the corridors (most of the rooms had been locked up by porters on the Friday morning). On the Sunday, 35 demonstrators were picked up from Grosvenor Square, Paris style, in LSE ambulances (private cars festooned in red and black crosses) and were then treated by 4 doctors and 20 medical students and nurses in the College.

At one time the NLF flag was hoisted up the main mast but was removed after discussion and all flags, including the red and black, were allowed equal prominence on the roof. The refectory was taken over by groups of French students who worked full time in producing excellent unique revolutionary posters by silk screen. Over the weekend £30 worth of literature was sold from the anarchist

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We Should Have Overcome

VICIOUS SENTENCES

OF THE TEN PEOPLE who were arrested and charged with obstruction on Monday November 4, at Elliott Automation's offices in London during the demonstration of protest against the supply of equipment to US forces for use in Vietnam, two refused to pay the fine of £2 which was imposed along with a binding over order in the sum of £50 by the Marlborough Street Magistrate. These two who also refused to sign the binding over order were Pat Arrowsmith and Andy Papworth. Both were sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

This sentence is clearly vicious. Had a straight fine of £2 on the simple charge of obstruction been imposed, a subsequent prosecution for non-payment could not have resulted in a sentence of anything like this length.

DENNIS GOULD.

a poem on the back of an official poster, but never mind. Poetry is subversive and anarchic, and that would never do.

One of the most interesting groups was the film unit of young and completely independent people who have set up *Filmstrip* to make films about political events in Britain, and to make available those US films like *The Pentagon Battle*, *October 1968*, *Riot Control Weapons*, *Black Power Movements in the States*, *the Columbia University Riots 1968*, and so on. (For further details and cost contact them at 13a Greek Street, London, N.W.1.)

For once there was an anarchist book-stall and seller on the site all the evening, and it was very much surrounded by people, a sight which would be repeated weekly up and down the

no left line

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- The Future of Man** Frank E. Warner 3/-

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The Duke of York's Army

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bookstall where genuine contact was made with curious members of the public.

THE MARCH ITSELF

The attendance was magnificent. Other figures have been quoted but we agree with *Socialist Workers'* estimate of 100,000. Despite the hysteria, the enormous police presence and the initial delay and confusion at the Embankment, the mood was militant and determined. But what was there to do? As the marchers duly shook their fists at the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Express*, Rhodesia and Australia Houses, it began to dawn on the average marcher that despite all the appearances this was yet another Sunday afternoon stroll. The linking of arms and the shouting of militant slogans did not produce any confrontation. This was already signed away by the organisers. The anarchists reacted spontaneously to this situation. They left the march several times for a bit of fresh air and the freedom of the streets. The self-discipline of the anarchists was admirable. *Peace News* gives this instance: '... the shouting died away to a whisper as the anarchist contingent passed Charing Cross Hospital and everyone started Shhh-ing each other'.

In order to avoid the congestion in Trafalgar Square, the anarchists cut round the Square and swept down, past the Maoists, into Whitehall. There was a short demonstration outside Downing Street. By that time the anarchist section was the largest in the march. Because of our good humour and militancy all the foreign comrades chose to march with us (a fact carefully pointed out by the *Morning Star*). Marching with great vigour which left our octogenarian comrades puffing gallantly in the rear, we found ourselves at the head of the whole march.

MEANWHILE—BACK AT THE SQUARE

The militant element of the Maoists, dedicated to speeding the course of history, have reached Grosvenor Square. There they stood in awe of the police, heavily outnumbered and split by a police manoeuvre. They were fucked. After a militant declaration for dispersal they stood around disconsolately tearing up American flags with some difficulty.

THE ERROR OF OUR WAYS

The anarchists being unaware of the situation developing in Grosvenor Square, swept up the wrong side of Park Lane testing the defences of the Hilton, by this time thoroughly disenchanted by the whole affair. They spotted an unguarded entrance to South Audley Street. The opportunity was too good to miss, as

they appeared behind a small force of police who were dispersing the remnants of the Maoist march with their 'apple-slice' techniques. The Police Superintendent in charge made a rash decision to try to block the road and to stop the anarchists. The single line of police was not sufficient to cover the whole of the road. This form of persuasion always works on anarchists, this plus the fact that the police refused to let through a Black Cross student ambulance. The anarchists were now united, they were going up South Audley Street.

To start with, a few individuals just walked round the cordon. The majority decided that the shortest way was the straight line. The police cordon broke at the first attempt, re-formed at the next intersection with reinforcements. This new cordon spread full across the road, plainclothes and uniformed branch side by side, two deep in places. The only trouble now being that there were anarchists now in front of and behind the cordon. The dispersed Maoists were being ushered further down South Audley Street.

The second police cordon held on a little longer than the first, but being besieged back and front was a little too much for the fuzz, plus the fact that when they apprehended anybody they

could not hold them, as they had nowhere to put those they subdued. The line was broken as before, and an interesting item arose when one individual 'Blue Meanie' grabbed the shirt front of a middle aged demonstrator and was promptly felled for his pains. He was out cold, the demonstrators formed a protective ring around him to prevent trampling. He was handed over to the other police who were now drawing their truncheons. Fortunately one of the plainclothes men made them realise what the situation was. The police now withdrew through the anarchists unmolested.

A COUNTER-DEMO

Going away as it all died down, a disquieting incident was to be seen. There was the stars-and-stripes gang of hoodlum kids, referred to with a hint of approval by the *Daily Mail*. Six or seven of them were attacking one pale-faced youth against a wall. A group of police across the road were looking on. The gang moved off, shouting, 'We hate students! You have been warned!' The police walked past them, heading only for their victim. Before the war a Liberal leader in Parliament alleged that the police were ignoring almost anything the British Union of Fascists did in demonstrations, and selecting anti-fascists to charge with misbehaviour. Perhaps we have been warned, indeed.

THE BLACK LESSON

The basic criticism that can be levelled

against ourselves is that we failed to make clear our distinctive position from the Maoists. Going to Grosvenor Square was in itself no mistake, although it went against AFB conference decision, and also 'knifed in the back' the patient preparations of the United Libertarian Group for a meeting in Hyde Park. But at least it was shown clearly that the Maoists are no more than paper tigers; one of their hypocritical 'leaders', E. Davoren, even blamed the anarchists for the 'violence'. This has already resulted in widespread disaffection in their ranks. The cowardice of the Maoist leaders will not be forgotten by all those who took part in the march, any more than the courage of their rank and file.

What is clear is that the Anarchists are in the forefront of the revolutionary movement in this country, but have not yet made sufficiently clear that they are a DISTINCTIVE revolutionary body and not just a part of the 'New Left'. We are not militant socialists, we are revolutionary anarchists. We must not fall into the usual trap of fighting other people's battles.

We have shown our strength, we have shown our militancy. It is time we started to make our own demonstrations, choosing our own issues in our own time. The anarchist attitude is finding more response than any attitude based on political considerations. The anarchist attitude is clear, honest and fits the situation. Let us make sure we state it.

M.H.

SURVEY OF THE DEMONSTRATION

SOME INTERESTING information about the Vietnam demonstration on October 27 is given in a survey made by some sociology lecturers and students from the London School of Economics for *New Society*. A detailed analysis is promised for the *British Journal of Sociology*, but a short report was given in *New Society* on October 31.

The interviewers questioned 300 of the demonstrators—about 1 per cent—and got answers from 270. Some of the results were predictable enough. Thus 75 per cent were middle-class, 75 per cent were under 25 years old, 54 per cent were students, 96 per cent were protesting against American policy and 85 per cent against British policy in Vietnam, and so on.

But some of the results are rather surprising and, in a few cases, worth serious thought. 15 per cent of the demonstrators were not British which *New Society* thought wasn't much, but which means that four or five thousand foreigners were taking part. 42 per cent did not want a Communist victory in Vietnam, although this was after all the organisers' main line. Of those who gave their main subject at school or university, 28 per cent were science

or technology students, despite all the current fuss about sociology and art students.

The political views of the demonstrators show how constant the demonstrating public is, although 30 per cent were on their first demonstration. 28 per cent were or had been supporters of the Labour Party. As many as 24 per cent were or had been Communists, though the really interesting figure would be how many still are Communists. 44 per cent were or had been supporters of CND, and 24 per cent were or had been supporters of the Committee of 100.

What is particularly interesting to us is that 11 per cent of the demonstrators were or had been anarchists, which seems a large figure for a demonstration mainly organised by Trotskyist groups, strongly backed by Communist contingents, and following a line opposed by the prevailing views of most active anarchists. What is more, there seems to have been an equally large libertarian element which did not accept the anarchist title, for 23 per cent said they were protesting against 'all forms of authority'. *New Society* plays this point down, but it is surely one of the most

exciting things about the movement against the Vietnam war, which has after all become the biggest thing on the left.

If we go further into this part of the survey, we must be discouraged by the fact that support for anarchism was relatively low among demonstrators who were not students, especially those who were working-class. But we may at the same time be encouraged by the fact that support for anarchism and opposition to all forms of authority were relatively stronger among the young than among the old, and also by the fact that opposition to all forms of authority was especially strong among working-class non-students. Another comforting fact is that the demonstrators had few heroes—the one who was mentioned most often, Guevara, was still mentioned by only 6 per cent.

So it is an interesting survey, though the *New Society* article was rather silly. It seems a pity that so few demonstrations are studied in this way and that so little of this kind of work is done on anarchists. Perhaps it is time for another survey of the readers of **FREEDOM**.

N.W.

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.

NORTH LONDON ANARCHISTS. Contact Andy Scott, 54a Mountfield Road, Finchley, N.3.

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 Donald and Irene Room's at 13 Savernake Road, N.W.3, at 8 p.m.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

BEXLEY ANARCHIST MOVEMENT. C/o John Bonnet, 40 Lullingstone Crescent, St. Paul's Cray, Kent. Meetings every Friday, 8 p.m., Lord Bexley, Bexleyheath Broadway.

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 AREA. Local anarchists can be contacted through Nigel Holt, Rossmore, Harvey Road, Canford, Wimborne, Dorset. (Wimborne 2991.)

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 Fendaves Street, Beaton, 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, Middx.

HERTS. Contact Val and John 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.

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

NOTTING HILL. Meetings at John Bennett's, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, W.11. Every Monday evening, 8 p.m.

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

REDDITCH ANARCHISTS AND LIBERTARIANS. Contact Dave Lloyd, 37 Feckenham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Wores.

SELBY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact D. Mackay, Residential Site, Drax Power Station, Drax, Selby.

TAUNTON LIBERTARIANS. Jill and John Driver, 59 Beadon Road, Taunton, Somerset.

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Peter Newell (see N.E. Essex Group).
Group Addresses:—

BASILDON. M. Powell, 7 Lingercroft, Basildon, Essex.

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

CHELMSFORD. (Ms.) Eva Archer, Mill House, Purleigh, Chelmsford, Essex.

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

HARLOW. Ian Dallas, 18 Brookline Field, Harlow and Annette Gunning, 37 Longbanks, Harlow.

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

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex. Regular meetings.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

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

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Sue Warnock, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14. Every Saturday: 'Freedom' and 'DA' selling outside Central Library, 2.30-4.30 p.m. Regular weekly meetings. Contact Secretary for venue.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Chris Kneath, Basement Flat, 52 Belvedere Road, Liverpool, 8. Meetings every Thursday, 8.15 p.m., at Jack Bennett's, 118 High Park Street, Liverpool, 8.

SUSSEX FEDERATION

Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tibbury, 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, Mertyr 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 Elliott, 98 Hatfield Road, Dagenham.

WOODFORD. Douglas Hawkes, 123 Hermon Hill, E.18.

LIMEHOUSE. M. Solof, 202 East Ferry Road, E.14.

STUDENT GROUPS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Matthew Robinson, Trinity College, or John Fullerton, Jesus College.

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Francis Jarman, Red Brick Lodge, 49 Upper Rock Gardens, Brighton. Meetings every second week jointly with Brighton Group; book-stall every second week outside J.C.R., 12-2 p.m.

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.

LIBERTARIAN STUDENTS FEDERATION. Contact address: Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact us at the bookstall in the Students Union Foyer every Friday lunchtime.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Francis Casline, Pembroke College, or Steve Watts, Trinity College.

SCOTTISH

ANARCHIST FEDERATION

Secretary: Dave Coull.

ABERDEEN ANARCHIST GROUP. Bob Comrie, 288 Hardgate or Ian Mitchell, 3 Sinclair Road.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Lynn, 12 Ross Street, S.E. or Joe Embleton, 26 Kirkland Road, N.W.

HAMILTON AND DISTRICT ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Linton, 7a Station Road, New Stevenston, Motherwell.

FIFE. Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, By Cupar.

PERTSHIRE / CENTRAL SCOTLAND. Iain MacDonald, Craighair, Bridge of Gour, near (?) Rannoch Station, Perthshire.

MONTROSE. Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden.

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Robert Dunwoody, 10 Newry Street, Belfast, BT6 9BN. Meetings every Saturday, 2 p.m., 44a Upper Arthur Street (top floor). 'Freedom' sales.

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.

MELBOURNE. Get in touch with Bob Hopkins and Margie Rojo, P.O. Box 192, Carlton South 3053. Public meetings at Yarra Bank, Melbourne.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY ANARCHISTS. (Formerly U.R.E.A.S.O.N.) Union House, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Gøthersgade, 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 Toronyk Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

PROPOSED GROUPS

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE. Contact Les Smith, 192 Euston Road, Morecambe, Lancs.

KINGSTON, WIMBLEDON, MERTON. New Malden, and Surrey. New group forming. Please contact K. W. Bennett, 67 Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey, or G. Wright, 43 College Road, Epsom, Surrey.

PRESTON. Contact I. B. Cowburn, 140 Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston.

Letters

Obnoxious Pragmatism

Dear Editors,
Wynford's series of quotes from Paul Foot's book on Wilson were of course useful, if any of your readers have not read the book they certainly should. But though Wynford's last sentence hints at the unsolved problem of the book it could do with spelling out.

Throughout the book, Paul Foot mentions the universal adulation for Wilson, and then says only satirists and sectarians mentioned that nothing would change. The unknowledgeable reader would undoubtedly be left with the impression that Foot, and the group to which he belongs, had been such satirists and sectarians, courageous in the wilderness and forthrightly pointing to the feet of clay.

In fact, as a writer in Paul Foot's own group paper mentions in the current issue (*International Socialism* 34) apropos of an article by Foot but equally truly of the book:

'Among *Tribune's* sins is listed the fact that it "severely rebuked" Richard Gott for his independent "anti-Vietnam" candidature in 1966. In fact, *Labour Worker*, the then fortnightly organ of International Socialism, criticized Gott in rather more unkind terms than *Tribune*.'

Ian Birchall, who wrote that, at least has the honesty to justify his then position, and does not pretend it never existed.

In the General Elections of '64 and '66, Paul Foot and his group campaigned for Labour. Knowing certainly that Labour was not socialist. Knowing certainly that no Capitalist party could abolish the evils against which they as Labour canvassers campaigned. Knowing certainly that if Capitalism is to be run, it is best done by people the bankers trust.

Between those elections there was in the ACCT building in Soho Square a debate between the IS group and *Solidarity*, in which Paul Foot was one of those who spoke for the former group; and in which one of the IS group saw fit to claim that anyone who refused to belong to the Labour Party, ought logically to refuse to belong to a trade union, and that moreover anyone who did not then belong to the trade union ought to refuse to go on strike, and that therefore all non-members of the Labour Party are objectively industrial blacklegs. As not one of the IS group saw fit to demur, let alone repudiate this use of a gem of 1930's political slander, culled from

Strachey and the Fellow Travellers within the Labour Party; one is forced to suppose that Foot, as all the others, agreed with this view. As they have never published the reason for their sudden *volte face* this year which brought them hurriedly out of the Labour Party (in such a way that one month they were insisting that socialists must stay in the mass party of the working class, and within two months they were laughing superciliously about people who still mouthed the dreary slogan about staying in the mass . . .), one might wonder if they still think non-members of the Labour Party ought to blackleg in strikes.

The pragmatism of the International Socialism group to which Foot belongs is not one whit less obnoxious than the pragmatism of Harold Wilson.

Fraternally,
Croydon LAURENS OTTER.

Black Mask

Brothers, Sisters, Comrades & Friends,
You have noticed by now that *Black Mask* is no longer arriving—the last issue being No. 10 (April-May 1968). The reason is the direct result of our theory—the Movement must be real or it will not be. Now the call is INTO THE STREETS.

The result has been more than a cessation of the publication of *Black Mask*, but also the resulting court hassles produced by our actions. The group which has transcended *Black Mask*, namely *Up Against the Wall/Motherfuckers*, is facing 48 criminal charges with penalties ranging from 10 days to 10 years. Money is an absolute necessity to fight the courts as well as to continue the struggle on all levels.

I myself am facing, in Boston, a 10-year sentence arising out of the issue of *Self-Defense*, and I go to trial October 7, 1968. Money for this case is needed NOW.

Fraternally,
P.O. Box 512, BEN MOREA,
Cooper Station, Editor, *Black Mask*,
New York, N.Y.



'I don't think young people of 18 are responsible enough to participate in this!'

'MAD MAC'

'MAD MAC', the manager who all but caused a strike last August (see *FREEDOM*, 17.8.68), has left Dunlop Rubber Co., Rochdale. It is not known whether he packed up or got the push.

The departure of 'Mac' may mean the end to the reign of terror, which has till now been the order of the day here. But it's not just a case of keeping fingers crossed, the lads are organising themselves and have got a good shop steward.

The first job is to get rid of the nastiness which has gone on under the 'Mac' management, then make sure the new lot know and take notice of the men's views. Also, management interference through personnel in shop steward elections, must be stopped.

Meanwhile, in the old tyre department (Regent), the tyre inspectors are after a 10/- a week rise, now due to them. The money is part of an agreed amount promised to the inspectors on completing six weeks on the job. But going by past form the firm will hold up payment as long as they dare.

While the inspectors do a tedious job tied to a bench all day, the labourers of the old tyre department get the dirt. At this time of year they get drenched handling wet tyres sent in from the fields, where they're stacked. This is a messy job, which could be made easier by drying the tyres before they're sent to the storing factories.

MUNICIPAL & GENERAL WORKER.

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

Powell is Getting Blatant

ENOCH POWELL'S VISIT to Exeter University on October 23 revealed a situation where only 30 or so students out of 2,000 were prepared to oppose the rantings of Britain's new fascists.

The meeting had clearly been set up as a provocation to the left only four days before October 27 and Powell had no intention of making a speech. He was indeed almost drying up after talking about nothing for 15 minutes or so and the heckling had noticeably diminished. He gratefully took the chance to stop when one of his own heavy mob began attacking people holding posters. Powell's tactics are of course just the same as Mosley's, i.e. to organise a provocative meeting and then plead that he needs a private army to stop the left disturbing it. He showed no objection at all to his bodyguard of short-haired thugs but at the first shout from the audience he began equating noise with violence. There is no doubt that he gained the approval of most of the students. They reserved their enthusiasm for the fascist who jumped on the demonstrator, and for Powell himself.

The incident showed quite clearly that Powell is setting out to lead a Hitler-style fascist movement and that he is now going to be more blatant about it. It shows that, as 40 years ago, the children of the petit bourgeoisie who choose or are relegated to a mediocre haven like Exeter are eager to protect their precarious positions of privilege by supporting such a movement.

The response of the left on this occasion must also be criticised although

obviously from a position of basic support. They started well by 'adjusting' the PA system but from then on their tactics were pedestrian. If you decide to chant slogans they might at least be relevant; 'Victory for NLF' and such-like seemed not to relate to the situation.

On this occasion the type of demonstration carried out in the Brighton Church, with one heckler shouting at a time, would have made for better communication. The number of cameras and tape recorders in use offered an opportunity to reach a much wider section than those in the hall and this chance was not taken. The demonstration appeared a defensive stopgap measure, far better than nothing, but it could have been much more.

One must also remark on the physical deployment of the comrades in the hall. To spread themselves along one row as they did was to invite dangerous approach from behind and this is just what happened. There was also a marked unwillingness to go to the aid of the comrade with the poster who was attacked by the fascists.

Perhaps it was the authoritarian and essentially old-fashioned nature of the left groups that led to the unimaginative demonstration or it could be that they lacked the self-confidence to allow any humour to enter it. The Exeter comrades are to be congratulated on the action so far and perhaps others will take it further; if Powell stays in business I fear we shall need to.

FREEDOM REPORTER.

Vote for Guy Fawkes

WOODSIDE is Aberdeen's 'black spot'. Most of the houses there were built up to 40 years ago and show it. The situation in Woodside is largely the result of official ignorance and incompetence in the past. The area has the highest crime rate in the city and a large number of what are locally known as 'minkers'—ex-tinker families who settled in the city a few generations ago and took up such activities as car dealing, scrap selling and poaching.

Into this area (practically the oldest industrial site in the city) were flung in the 30's and 40's, the slum clearance families from the worst areas of the city—into council houses like prisons, as grey as the granite they are made of. An area without a single amenity, an area of crumbling slums and gaunt new council tenements—small wonder it soon became the worst place in the city.

Recently, one of the local councillors resigned his Labour seat and on November 5 the people of Woodside went to the polls. Aberdeen Anarchists have distributed a leaflet in the ward.

We have made contact with a libertarian member of the local tenants' committee and the people we spoke to during the leafletting promised to vote for Guy Fawkes. Who knows? Whatever politico wins the election he'll have a lot of angry people on his hands some day. Woodside is a hole—the only new housing our bureaucratic authorities can put up there are 18-storey tower blocks where the kids can't get out to play and kick the place to bits.

Some of us hadn't realised just how bad some bits of our own city really were till we leafleted Woodside. We'll be going back! Aberdeen Town Council—watch out.
JIM SPRIGGS.

The Work Team's Progress

TEN MEMBERS of a voluntary work team, in fact the Mobile Voluntary Work Team which had so much preparation done for it by Barnaby Martin, are at the moment living on the slope of the Mendip Hills just outside Wells, Somerset. We are working for a psychiatric hospital remodelling a courtyard for the male patients and we are experiencing a taste of comparative luxury to our norm. We have four meals a day prepared by the hospital, so the task of begging from the local shopkeepers and cooking for ourselves is cut out for us. As yet we haven't had too much contact with the local people as we have tended to remain within the shelter of the attic in which we are sleeping. However, we have done some pub collections and have spoken to people through that media, and the few meetings that we have lined up for us may prove to be worthwhile.

We are finding that while the ideology of the team and the principle of working for need rather than profit still remain, personal complexes, feelings of inadequacies, etc., are some of the reasons why a few team members are leaving. It certainly is an experiment in living together, because even if one has the desire to bang another person's head against the wall at times, one has to restrain the passive side of one's nature.

We have all gone through the sacrificial stage of 'dropping out' of what we had before but it is much easier to go back into society again and the temptation is great when upsets with one's fellow neighbours occur. We had split up into three teams, Barnaby now in a somewhat permanent centre in Middlesbrough, but the other Mobile Team has now folded up; perhaps one of the reasons being this very thing.

What we need now, and urgently, are more volunteers; please, any future members who may be reading this now, don't

be put off by what I have just written, it's good that you know a few of the difficulties before you start—there are lots of good things to compensate for them. We are off to Pontefract in November where we shall be finishing off a hall for a boys' club by building the other two walls—those without skill don't worry, the walls are of breeze blocks and apparently they are quite easy to knock up. After that we shall be in Birmingham for December and January where we shall be working for the Sparkbrook Community Association.

Anybody who is interested in joining us or finding out more about us, should write to our forwarding address which is:
C/o Borrowdale,
Carriage Drive,
Frodsham,
Cheshire.

I send you our love and wish you every success in your peacemaking.
ROY HAMILTON-SMITH.

Out next week ANARCHY 93

discusses RADIO FREEDOM

ANARCHY is Published by
FREEDOM PRESS at 2s,
on first Saturday of every month

Why it was Nonviolent

THERE ARE A NUMBER of reasons why so little violence occurred on October 27.

The first is that the police plan was obvious: guard the important buildings—like the Hilton Hotel—and Grosvenor Square but otherwise let the demonstration take its own course. The police, though always present in large numbers, avoided provoking the marchers; we were not prevented from occupying the width of the road; we were not hemmed in and stopped from taking alternative routes. From what I saw this restrained attitude on the part of the police extended to their defence of Grosvenor Square: certainly by comparison with the two previous demonstrations in the Square the police were very cool.

I went with the march until Park Lane and then—like thousands of others—left it to watch the battle. But there were few demonstrators actually prepared to fight. At one point in South Audley Street a single cordon separated a small group from the crowd. The cordon stood unbroken for a quarter of an hour. Later a man rushed by in a frenzy shouting: 'Forward—you're not just bloody spectators.' But we were.

Neither the police nor the demonstrators wanted a punch-up: the Maoist and anarchist 'militants'—as they would like to be called—failed to provoke them. They succeeded only in giving the press photographers the pictures their editors had told them to get: the charge with the iron bar; the policeman kicked in the face. And in providing the papers as a whole with an excuse for the hysterical nonsense they had been giving us for months before October 27.

Those revolutionary leaders and heroes who had helped Scotland Yard and the bourgeois press in their campaign to link the demonstration with violence before it happened obviously felt they had to play the parts they had written for themselves. But they were unable to stop their melodramas becoming farce.

The press used the antics of the urban guerrillas both to justify what they had predicted and to celebrate the 'courage, fortitude and tolerance' of the great British police force.

There are a few simple lessons of October 27:

London is not Paris or Mexico City or the Bolivian jungle. The political climate here cannot be radically altered by a few scare stories which say that it will be.

The British police force is not controlled by idiots. It cannot be outwitted by idiots.

The bourgeois press in this country is as likely to be wrong about demonstrations as about anything else—before and after the event.

The number of demonstrators prepared to fight the police is not growing.

It is likely that the various reactions to October 27 will inspire yet another debate in the columns of *FREEDOM* about violence. If this happens I make one suggestion:

Let us not go over the old ground by talking about pacifism, the principles of nonviolence, the defence of a future revolution and other theoretical points. Let us confine ourselves to this question: how do we advance anarchist ideas by fighting the police during a demonstration against war; how do we undermine the authoritarian argument for the police—that they are necessary to protect society from violence and crime—by throwing sticks at policemen?

As far as I can see the violence of the urban guerrillas on October 27 was exactly what the police wanted: it did not overwhelm them; it did not even present them with a serious challenge; but it did give them the opportunity to brighten up their image by remaining calm in the general confusion.

Of all the people and organisations connected in any way with October 27 only the police can claim success. To this success the urban guerrillas made a crucial contribution.

The saddest thing about their intervention is that it not only helped the police and the press in a positive way; it also blunted the propaganda of the vast majority of demonstrators. After all the scare stories and prophecies of violence thousands and thousands of people marched peacefully and calmly to show their opposition to the American war on Vietnam. They marched against a background of closed and shuttered buildings, escorted by a massive force of police, watched by hundreds of journalists and cameramen. Had the urban guerrillas kept their fireworks for November 5 the demonstration would have made the police and press look very silly; and perhaps it might even have made a few people think about the Vietnam war.

WYNFORD HICKS.

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Hold It!

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The Motor Industry Jungle

AFTER A MONTH of continual pressure, the 160 toolmakers at Girling's drum brake factory at Cwmbran in South Wales have decided to return to work. They are victims of that jungle called the Motor Industry.

The employers have won the first round, the toolmakers have had to return to work on the basis that negotiations could begin only after they called off the strike (unlike the petticoat strike at Ford's, Dagenham).

Only one who has experienced mildly similar pressure can appreciate the situation in which the toolmakers found themselves. Hundreds of workers laid off throughout the industry including Girling's, all exerting pressure for a return-to-work, plus the possibility of future 'shake outs' due to proposed mergers and the Government's hire purchase restrictions. The toolmakers' union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers (AEF), have exerted their own pressure called persuasion. It is not the thing in modern trade unionism for the rank and file to dictate terms. Plus the fact that production of brakes has been maintained in reduced

quantities by calling in outside tool repairers. Which union did they belong to? Not the AEF, or did they?

The possibility of new cats entering the motor supply industry in the future cannot be ruled out. Sir Donald Stokes, chairman-elect of British Leyland, is to have tea and cakes with the Japanese firm Yuzaki (motor component suppliers) and we can rest assured Sir Donald will not discuss components for Christmas crackers.

It can be seen that the general climate in which the Girling toolmakers were struggling was not exactly the climate of solidarity. One factor that outlines all the recent industrial struggles is the Prices and Incomes legislation, which demands that companies report all wage increases to the Ministry of Labour.

Employers can use this both ways. If they want a showdown, or to delay a local earnings increase, they

can inform the Ministry of Labour. On the other hand, if they do not want trouble at a particular time, they can diplomatically arrange things. It is reported that Lucas (parent company of Girling's) has been very conscientious and has informed the Ministry of its increases, which accounts for low increases in the past. This all adds to cut and thrust, not only between employers within the motor industry, but also between the workers themselves.

Piece rates, bonus rates, fringe benefits, in one form or another, have fragmented the car workers' perspectives. The numerous unions involved also add to the divider, each aiming for increased membership. The only people who can disentangle the mess are the rank and file car workers themselves, and until some effort is made along these lines they will continue to cut each other to pieces.

B.C.

FIGHT OR SWALLOW?

THE MEMBERS of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) have illustrated in no uncertain terms just what they think of the Newspaper Publishers' Association (NPA) wage offer. By ballot (secret, confidential, and top security) they have rejected the 'pay and productivity' offer. This is the first time for many many years SOGAT newspaper printworkers have rejected by ballot an NPA wage offer. Normally backdating and the resultant back pay has been the necessary incentive to accept. Why the change of pattern?

Despite its recommendation by the SOGAT executive, the NPA offer literally 'stank'. It wanted everything and gave nothing, plus the all-important fact that the sliding scale cost-of-living arrangement was deleted from this, and any future agreement. The NPA offered, over a period of two years, the princely sum of 5%. The cost of living has risen in the twelve months since August 1967 5.8%. Whilst it is true to say that twenty-two bob outstanding COL would have been incorporated in the basic wage over two years, that money is already being paid therefore nothing is being gained except extra coppers on OT rates and, if one does not do OT, then absolutely nothing is gained. If the employers or the Government felt that the cost of living would go down, they would insist on the COL arrangements being in every agreement. Any wage agreement that does not include sliding scale COL arrangements is laid open to a wage reduction every time the index rises.

One can now reasonably ask, 'Why on earth did the SOGAT leadership recommend acceptance of such an agreement to their members?' The short charitable answer is, they had reached the maximum the employers were prepared to give through the medium of 'TALKING'. The membership, by their vote, say 'This is unacceptable'. The only next logical step is 'ACTION'.

This means not only a struggle against the employers but against the Government as well, plus the fact that two printing unions have accepted the agreement, the National Graphical Association (NGA) and Litho Artists (SLADE). SOGAT therefore is on its own. It is obvious that at some stage or other the Government's and employers' challenge has to be met.

Over the past years newspaper workers have carried out intense programmes of rationalization of labour, known politely as productivity deals, all as far as one knows have been accepted by the PIB. Evidently this is insufficient for the employers, having tasted blood their

appetites have been sharpened.

There can be no turning back, it is a case of stating, 'We demand the inclusion of COL arrangements in any agreement or else'. Failure to state this position means, 'Sorry you have been troubled, our bluff has been called'.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

CAB SPIES

CAR FACTORIES, among others, were badly hit last week during the two-day protest strike of lorry drivers, against the Government proposal to introduce cab spy meters to record details of a driver's journey.

Though thousands of North West and Teesside drivers, who had already struck on the spies (see FREEDOM, 12.10.68) didn't think it necessary to come out again, London and Birmingham were disrupted by the dispute. And 30,000 supported the strike call of the 'unofficial' shop stewards action committee.

For a tricky industry to organise this result shows some strength of feeling by the men. Keen as mustard, in fact, for last Sunday 170 shop stewards met to decide future action, and at Birmingham over 3,500 drivers are definitely committed to further strikes. All this, and the spy meters aren't due out for another year!

But, who wants a bureaucrat for a travelling companion?

The drivers, most on £12 a week wage without overtime, think their freedom important. That unity has been got on this subject of personal freedom and state spying, should do much to chuff the anarchists.

Also, the drivers seem determined to organise against big brother's spies outside the unions, if necessary. Certainly, by last month's strikes, they got the initiative and publicity needed to stimulate public and even some press sympathy.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

ONLY MARGINAL

THE EFFECT on the economy of the seamen's strike in 1966 and the dockers' strike in 1967 was marginal. This statement—in sharp contrast to what the popular press blurted out at the time of the strikes—is contained in a paper of the employers and investors of the City.

It is a paper called the *City Press* which has a small circulation mainly in the centre of London aimed not at feeding the masses with misleading propaganda but giving the true facts to those who live by investing their capital. The issue started from criticisms of

Freedom For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 9 1968 Vol 29 No 34

Morgan Crucible Out Seven Weeks

WORKERS FROM the two South London factories of Morgan Crucible, at Battersea and Wandsworth, have now been on strike for seven weeks. Only a few electricians have been working during this period, while the production and maintenance staff of 1,700 have been outside the gates. Morgan Crucible are manufacturers of bearings and carbon brushes for dynamos and many of these are used by Lucas, who are the motor industry's biggest supplier of electrical equipment.

Except for a one-day token strike about a year ago, this is the first strike that has occurred at these factories and concerns the vital issue of productivity. The main negotiating union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers, had put in a claim for an increase of 6d. per hour last December. The company finally agreed to the increase this year, but with productivity strings, one being that the men should give up their afternoon tea-break. This was rejected and the company refused to negotiate further. With the situation deadlocked, the workers took industrial action, which was shortly made official by the AEF.

NO MILITANT BACKGROUND

The strikers are demanding that the increase be given in full, without any strings. At weekly meetings at the Town Hall, they have voted unanimously to remain out and have rejected calls to return to work so that negotiations can start. They have replied that talks should start before a return to work.

These factories have no background of militant struggle and yet they have remained out, solid, for all these weeks. Admittedly the workers' main union, the AEF, is backing them, but there is something more than this which has made these men and women determined to win. In the past, relations with the management had, on the whole, been peaceful. The management had gained concessions, for since 1962, the workers had agreed to a number of productivity agreements. Time and motion studies and job evaluations have been introduced. While these concessions to the company had brought pay increases, they had also meant redundancies and increasing exploitation.

The December claim of 6d. to the shop stewards, was a modest one, considering the increased productivity that had been achieved. One shop steward claimed that in the bearing department, the output had increased from 1½ million bearings a week in 1962 to 2 million a day in 1968 and that the company has made a profit of £1,498,000 in a six-month period. The Morgan Crucible Group, as a whole, had a turnover of over £12m.

in the past six months.

NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS

Bearing these figures in mind, it is small wonder that the labour force was incensed when the management rejected their claim, unless they conceded further concessions. Even following the submitting of the claim, the workers were patient and when they eventually banned overtime, the company retaliated by laying off men.

The rejection of their modest claim has forced these workers to make a stand. They now realise that any further concessions to the management are out of the question. Their 6d. per hour demand is the first since October 1966 when they got 8d. per hour. But this increase, like previous ones, was 'in return for the kind of productivity concessions which employers throughout the country are crying out for'. This is how a union official described that agreement, and said 'they keep coming back for more'.

However, a stand is now being made and it is vital and important that it should be won. Productivity deals mean increased exploitation in return for a wage increase. Quite often, as in the past at Morgan Crucible, they bring sackings. Nowadays the emphasis is on increased productivity. The Government, the press and the employers talk and write of nothing else. The leadership of the trade unions are, in the majority of cases, willing to sign away many years of hard shop floor struggle, to break up union organisation and put members out of work in order to gain a few shillings a week.

Both the employers and the trade union bureaucrats hide behind Government policies and managements call in the State, as Morgan Crucible have done, to try to resolve the disputes. The Government is only too willing to step into a dispute which is likely to affect exports and therefore the balance of payments. However, Ministry appeals that the management would make 'a realistic settlement' if the strikers go back have been rejected.

However, productivity deals can be defeated, as the car workers at the Rootes factory at Linwood in Scotland have shown. It needs a determined struggle, perhaps even a protracted one, but it can be done. Despite their lack of militancy in the past, workers at Morgan Crucibles are now showing the way.

Although many are receiving official strike pay, the strike committee have circulated union branches in the district for moral and financial assistance. Factories and building sites have also given generously. Readers can help by sending a donation to Peter Mitchell, 36 Wandford Street, London, S.W.11. P.T.

Contact Column

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

What Next? Social and discussion. Freeman Syndicate. Saturday/Sunday, November 16/17 at Clarion Youth Hostel, Hadlow, nr. Tonbridge, Kent. Telephone Dave Wetzel 574 7461.

Schools Campaign. Posters available, 6d. each, 5/- per doz. Duplicated leaflets (two different), 1/- per 100. Postage extra. Let us have your schools leaflets and posters in exchange.

Freedom—complete collection since June 22, 1963, free to anyone who can collect. Write to D. C. Rose, 87 Avenue Road, N.W.8.

Anyone lost plain Black Flag? Retrieved in Grosvenor Square. Phone Harry 735 9644.

Interested Person Wanted (Preferably Girl) for second-hand book-shop, Saturdays. Phone 537 3988.

The Origins of the Anarchist Movement in China: The Origins of the Revolutionary Movement in Spain; The Origins of the Movement for Workers' Councils in Germany; The Truth About the Bonnot Gang. All ready, 2/6d. each from Coptic Press, 7 Coptic Street, London, W.C.1 (by post; shop closed).

Anarchist Black Cross, 7 Coptic Street, London, W.C.1. Bulletin No. 1 sold out; Bulletin No. 2 now ready.

The Crypt, 242 Lancaster Road, W.11. November 14, 8 p.m. Special evening event to be decided by your presence.

Free the Schools! We are proposing to start an anti-authoritarian schools campaign in S.E. London area. Provisionally to start November 1. Please contact A. R. Sadiev, 90 Ermine Road, S.E.13 (or Mike Rasley, Duncan 1572, after 5 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.

Anarchist publishers need working manager(ess) to take full charge of office, circulation and distribution. Modest salary and some voluntary help offered. Box 22.

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.)

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Special Meeting
UNITED LIBERTARIANS 5 pm
Saturday November 16
at Freedom Press