

# Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 6d

JANUARY 18 1969 Vol 30 No 2

## MAY DAY IS MAY 1

THE LONDON May Day Committee is calling a May Day demonstration for Thursday, May 1, as it has done on May 1 in 1967 and 1968.

We understand that the Communist Party and the various left political groups are issuing a call for a march on Sunday, May 4. The London May Day Committee will not support this Sunday afternoon walkabout. **May Day is May 1 or it is nothing.**

We have been told that it is wrong to hold a demonstration on May 1 because 'the workers would not support it'. What a feeble argument. It may be true (though hardly likely) that not a single worker will stop work for May Day, but, as far as we know, nobody but the London May Day Committee has ever asked them. Incidentally, hundreds of workers stopped work last May Day (including a whole engineering factory in South London involving more than 400 workers).

But the logic of this kind of argument is that IF the workers spontaneously stop work for May Day then the political groups will stop in and phase themselves at the head of things. The Communist Party, of course, is notorious for this sort of tail-ending. But it is rather odd to find that groups which lay such vociferous claims to 'leadership of the masses' are in this instance so patently unwilling to lead.

I would say that if workers have got to the stage of stopping work for May Day then they have no need of 'leaders' and the political groups have no role to play. If, on the other hand, the class struggle is in such a lamentable state that we cannot get even a limited stoppage for one day—what on earth is the use of shouting (as these groups do) about revolution from one year's end to the next?

The only role for leadership is to set an example—and those who take a day off to demonstrate their disgust with the system on May 1 are real leaders, every bloody one of them. But those who marshal their troops for the Sunday walk through the West End are what old William Cobbett used to call 'shoy-hoys' scarecrows. Just as the birds get used to the scarecrows in the fields, so the exploiters are likewise not deceived by those who scream their 'revolutionary' slogans . . . on Sundays when it doesn't interfere with production! We are con-

fidant that whatever their leaders may say, the rank and file of these organisations will be with us on Thursday, May 1.

### AN ENJOYABLE REBELLION

Whether our call will be followed remains to be seen. But the fact that people believe in a course of action and are seen to be ready to follow it, can of itself generate support and raise the level of the struggle.

This May Day is going to be different. Not a dreary slog through the City and the West End, but a short march and then off to an open space (probably Hampstead Heath or Victoria Park in the East End) to enjoy ourselves with bands, groups (pop not political), dancing, sports, and anything else that the marchers themselves want to do. There will be speeches if anybody wants to make them, but it will be a free day in every sense of the word—free from work and free to do what you like.

We shall be issuing details later on—but meanwhile we appeal to all who think they can help in any way, musicians, actors, artists, to get in touch with us with their suggestions. So far our call has the full support of **Workers Mutual Aid, Essex University Socialists, and the London Federation of Anarchists**, but more will surely join in.

*Millions are fed up with this Government, millions are fed up with this system as a whole. What better way to express those feelings than to turn your back on the whole rotten business for at least one day. As one worker at our May Day Committee said: 'My gov'nor will be choked if I take the day off, and he'll be double choked if he knows that I'm enjoying myself as well.'*

It is, of course, a serious business to ask workers to stop work—even to celebrate May Day—Workers' Day. It is a challenge to the State and the employers, whose whole system is designed to keep our noses to the grindstone, only allowing us the occasional day off when THEY say so. There will be a loss of wages for many and there is always the danger of victimisation. We shall take steps to prevent it but the best safeguard against reprisals is to get a mass turnout. There is real safety in numbers. The more that take May Day off, the less likelihood is there is victimisation.

But if we are serious about the business of ending capitalism, actions like this are inevitable. Anyone wanting to help should contact **The London May Day Committee, 29 Love Walk, London, S.E.5.**

JOHN LAWRENCE,  
Chairman,  
May Day Committee.

# Derry's Five Days of Freedom

AT 2.30 A.M. on the morning of Sunday, January 6, the police, having led the People's Democracy into a vicious ambush of Bunting and his thugs at Burnpollet the day before, and having used their batons and water cannons on the peaceful crowd of Civil Rights supporters as they were dispersing for their meeting at Guildhall on the eve of the 4th, went down into the Bogside area, the predominantly Roman Catholic ghetto, and smashed up the houses in the Lecky Road and St. Columb's Wells. Many of them were drunk, having been given whiskey by some lovable publicans, and threatened the inhabitants with assault, rape and wanton violence. To many in England this may seem incredible, ridiculous lies by people with an insane hatred for the police. Regrettably, however, it's true.

Over 120 itemised and documented complaints have been made against the squad of riot police who did this. By that afternoon the people, of an area containing about 20,000 inhabitants, had had enough! They marched to police headquarters and gave formal notice that the police were to stay out of the Bogside if they valued their skins. Barricades were erected and armed vigilantes, for self-defence, were formed. They patrolled the streets all night, questioning anyone who came in, and preventing the police from committing further atrocities. Alarmed, the Minister for Home Affairs, Adolph Long, friend of the Bunting, announced that an enquiry into 'allegations' of police misbehaviour would be taken by a senior and impartial police officer. Another piece of comforting news to the people of Derry was that some of the 'B' Specials, the exclusively Protestant armed police auxiliaries, were to be called up. As one Derry man said, 'Not content with the Paisleyites having clubs, iron bars and petrol bombs as they did at Burnpollet they are now giving them uniforms and more guns.'

Throughout the week Free Derry continued. The vigilantes, for the most part hard-working and family men, took it in turns to patrol the streets and guard against the police. **The crime rate dropped and morale was fantastic!** They even began broadcasting to the world from Radio Free Derry, a pirate station

## DOCKERS STOP NIGERIAN ARMS

THE BLATANT HYPOCRISY of the British Government over the Nigerian Civil War was slammed with a vengeance by dockers at Tees Dock, Middlesbrough, Yorks. The Nigerian ship, the *Oba Oyomramwen* was being loaded with 600 tons of shells and bullets for the Federal Army when the dockers decided to walk off the ship and refused to handle the arms.

The dockers have acted, according to shop steward Harry Keighley, because they had seen the film of the war on BBC TV the previous night.

Said Harry Keighley, 'It is a matter of moral conscience in view of what the men saw on TV last night; it was a burning point. They are sending food parcels in one box and bullets to shoot them down in another.'

'The dockers have had a lot of doubts about this ever since the ship started loading.'

The ship's master Captain J. Hogg commented, 'I cannot say anything about it, it is normal stuff for Nigeria.'

COLIN BEADLE.

P.S.—Later the Army moved in and supervised the loading of the arms shipment.

set up inside the Bogside and run entirely by locals.

Meanwhile the politicians were moving in, the Citizens' Action Committee being led by Hume and Cooper and a select band of local bourgeois businessmen. Having come out against the People's Democracy's long march of the previous week, they had rallied round the bandwagon when the battered marchers had arrived at Guildhall. They now proceeded to 'run' Free Derry. By Friday, 10th, they had agreed on a sell-out!

Government pressure was building up and obviously the unionists could not allow Free Derry to continue, especially in view of the interest that foreign newsmen were paying to it. While many of the vigilantes were still manning the barricades the Committee held two short meetings, one on a street corner, the other in a small hall, announcing their decision to take down the barricades. They claimed that a lot of damage had been done to property (in direct contradiction to their previous statement that the crime rate had fallen), that several Protestants had been attacked in the city over the past few nights—though not, they hasten to add, by anyone from Bogside—so what was the relevance of this?

They went on to say that they had no confidence in the word of the police but that 'they wouldn't dare do it again'. If they did? 'Why, we'll have the barricades up again.' Several young people tried to speak out against the sell-out decision, pointing out that if Free Derry was as splendid an achievement for five days, what was wrong with the sixth?

One youngster tried to argue that the people should be allowed to weigh up the pros and cons of the situation for themselves without having to just rubber stamp the Committee's decision, but there didn't seem to be many Civil Rights about as far as the Committee

was concerned. He was denounced as a 'Communist' and quietly hauled off the platform.

Only the crap who hero-worshipped Hume and Cooper were allowed to speak, and amid emotional appeals to 'Trust John, trust Ivan' from camp-followers, Hume announced that it was quite evident that they had the support of the people. In the hall the same procedure was adopted.

Outside, many were arriving from the barricades to be confronted by the news of the sell-out. These were the men who had given up their beds or slept in their clothes all night in order to be ready to protect their homes, and many openly expressed their displeasure.

**Still the idea that people have a right to decide their own lives and that leaders are not necessarily to be trusted is gaining ground in Derry.**—Every sell-out has its advantages. Hume may have alienated more than he can afford by his authoritarian action and when the police reprisals occur, as inevitably they must, against the more militant vigilantes, Cooper and Hume of course being excluded, many more may regret the sell-out.

Meanwhile the 12 families still squat in Derry Guildhall!

The housing despots and bureaucrats have done it again. Magically they have suddenly found that accommodation is available for five of the families where hitherto none was evident. However, it has been rejected by them. 'We stay until we all have houses,' their spokesman announced. Three of the men are on hunger strike, as well, and the situation is becoming more embarrassing for the corporation every day. The success of the squatters of last month has obviously ensured that this type of activity will continue and the reports of the London Squatters were very well received by the fellow homeless of this city.

OUR DERRY CORRESPONDENT.

## BLACK AND WHITE UNITE AND FIGHT!

THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE'S Action Committee and The Black People's Alliance called a demonstration for January 12, in solidarity with the freedom fighters of Zimbabwe at present fighting the combined forces of Rhodesia and South Africa, to march from Speakers Corner and to occupy Rhodesia House in the Strand. On route the Black People's Alliance handed in a letter of protest to No. 10 Downing Street concerning the racist activities of the British police. The march then swung round in Whitehall, taking up the entire width of the road, and set off in the direction of Rhodesia House.

They were heckled by spectators and members of the racist National Front, some of whom were then dragged from the pavement and set upon by the marchers. A group of about fifty National Front members could be seen opposite Rhodesia House chanting and waving banners. One was carrying a South African flag. They were protected from the march by two lines of police and a police bus.

The march carried on, led by the Zimbabwe flag, almost past Rhodesia House, then swung round, with its full impetus, straight into the police lines. The first charge came within five yards of the front door of Rhodesia House before it was forced back. The attack then found itself, along with bystanders, cut off by the west wing of the police echelon and was then crushed by the advancing police front against the windows of the shops lining the opposite side of the street to Rhodesia House. Small groups of police then broke away from their lines and started laying into people, more or less at random. Other police told the crowd to disperse, despite the fact that it was cut off on all sides by the police echelon. A man cried out that he had his child with him and would the police stop pushing. Eventually the window of South Australia House gave way under

the strain and the police pulled back.

There were several other attempts made to gain entry to Rhodesia House, but all were pushed back by the police lines, reinforced by police horses. Realising that they were getting nowhere the crowd suddenly turned and made for South Africa House at Trafalgar Square.

This manoeuvre caught the police completely unawares, and before they arrived on the scene a large number of windows on the ground floor of South Africa House had been smashed.

Ed Davoren, who was talking to his wife at the time, was suddenly set upon by a number of policemen, who had taken great pains to sneak up behind him. They then dragged him to a police coach that was parked nearby. By the time they got him inside the coach his face was covered with blood. This incident so enraged those who saw it that their fury was turned on the police. Firstly they tried to turn over the police bus and then to stop it being driven away but were fought off by police reinforcements some of whom were using their truncheons by this stage. Scuffles continued for some time and those singled out by the police stood little chance of escape.

A contingent of demonstrators then marched up through the West End to the South African Airways office at Oxford Circus, where they managed to break a plate glass window before being dispersed by the police driving motor bikes at them along the pavement.

31 people were arrested in all, during the course of the afternoon. Among those arrested was Paul Davies. A number of these arrests need never have taken place, had these people been given the full protection that was possible from a demonstration of this size.

This march showed how successful swift tactical moves from one object

Continued on page



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# Write or Come!

Editorial office open Friday, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, 2-8 p.m.

Telephone: BISHOPSGATE 3015.

New temporary address: 84a WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, c/o Express Printers, (entrance Angel Alley), WHITECHAPEL, E.1.

Temporary opening times: Tuesday-Friday, 2-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

## FREEDOM PRESS

are the publishers of the monthly magazine ANARCHY and the weekly journal FREEDOM specimen copies will be gladly sent on request.

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issues, Roman Catholics and Protestant Catholics live in harmony side by side. There are no Catholic 'areas' and no Protestant 'areas'. It also has a nationalist-controlled council who discriminate against Protestants. Corporal Bunting and his Paisleyite followers, of Burnpollet fame, swore that the march would not go through what he called a 'Protestant' area, although all parties in the town stated that the march was welcome to pass through any part of their town.

After collusion between Bunting and the Unionist Government, Bunting called off his counter-demonstration and the Government re-routed the march to avoid the so-called Protestant stronghold of Sugar Island. This was a blatant attempt to try and turn the march into a Catholic-Protestant issue. All the time the demonstrators are trying to be forced by the police, the Government, the Paisleyites and the Buntings to make it look like a sectarian squabble, which it is not. The local bureaucratic committee of the People's Democracy who 'organised' the march issued instructions that on meeting the expected barricades the marchers were to sit down with their backs to the police, following the CRA line of non-violence.

The march started off halting every 50 yards for the TV cameras and photographers. All the self-styled leaders are very photogenic and press-conscious. The leaders of the march

# Burnt Outcoming

went the first 400 yards to the first barricade. The people at the back hardly moved a step. The local PD had organised stewards for the march, these people did the fuzzi's job very officiously. No public address system had been organised. One small loud-hailer, borrowed from Queens University PD, was used to address the march. The stewards halted the march well before the barricades in fact, round the corner. They lined up four deep, arms linked, the self-elected local leaders, then called on the march to disperse while the students of Queens were to sit in front of the barricades until relieved! The only trouble being nobody had asked the students if they wanted to sit down! Apart from that, the people of Newry wanted to go through the barricades.

The more militant members of the march swept forward through the stewards and up to the barricade, which was made up of crash barriers and three police buses put up across the road. The police were behind these, wearing crash helmets, and with batons at the ready. The back end of the march, not knowing what was happening, or why nothing was, started

to disperse. The demonstrators at the front were attempting to smash the buses. The speakers then moved up on to the top of the buses and attempted to speak to the militants. The rest of the march were still being held up by some of the stewards, other stewards were trying to restrain (in the name of non-violence) those in the front who were bus-beating. The moderates appealed for calm and non-violent confrontation but as all their supporters had been dispersed by their stewards no one took much notice.

The loudhailer now announced that the 'real' PD was leaving the barricades to take the Unemployment Exchange—a non-happening. The militants, now left alone, attacked the police bus, moved it away, set it alight, and dumped it into the canal.

The police made no attempt to protect it. Emboldened by their success, the people ended up setting fire to six police buses. The majority of the 5,000 marchers had dispersed, cold and, we hope, a little wiser. One man who had exhorted the people to attempt to move through the police lines peacefully did it on his own. The stewards restrained the rest of the crowd from following. He appeared in court on Wednesday accused of assaulting a police baton with his face.

## Ken Weller

SINCE THE REPORT in our last issue, Ken Weller has improved so much that he has been discharged from hospital. He is still almost immobile, and will be having regular treatment in the hospital for several weeks, but he is learning to move around and is steadily getting better. He wishes to thank all those comrades who have sent him messages.

## Conference Week

CONFERENCE WEEK at Reading University runs this year from January 20 to 26. Most of the events are free. Only the concert and the film show will be charged for, and then very moderately. On Monday, the 20th, there is to be a discussion at 8 p.m. in the Faculty of Letters lecture theatre, on the question of the value of newspapers. The title is 'Justify the existence of your newspaper', and there will be present representatives from the Express, Telegraph, Sketch, Peace News, FREEDOM and International Times (see 'Contact Column' for debates). There will also be, on other days, discussions on education, in which people from the LSE, the Free Schools Campaign and

to try to occupy three buildings, only one was taken—the post office. This was then sat in till the police came and removed them. No violence was used. Those inside were charged with insulting behaviour and will appear in court on Thursday. The streets were then cleared of loiterers by baton-charges, many receiving bruises from the cops under cover of darkness and the fuzz had a little revenge for having to stand and watch all day, doing nothing. The police buses were literally offered to the marchers in order to discredit them. It was all very pointless but when were police buses last set on fire at London demos?

THE BIKE.

## Northern Ireland Picket in London

ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, a picket was staged by the LFA outside the Northern Ireland Office in Berkeley Street, W.1. At about 11.30 a.m. with the arrival of the fifth picketer it was decided to start the demonstration.

400 leaflets had been prepared by the LFA supporting People's Democracy in Northern Ireland and calling for the abolition of the 'Special Powers' Act. Various informative and humorously stimulating posters had been brought along by a comrade—e.g. 'Protestants in Police Houses shouldn't throw Stones'. Despite the occasional shower (the police guarding the office had secured the shelter of the window recess by telling us we should be moving round at intervals of five yards, etc., etc.) our numbers had grown to almost twenty by the end of the picket, just after 1 p.m.

Although no English newspapers were represented, a reporter from the Belfast Telegraph spent a half-hour talking with one of our comrades. We also made contact with a number of passers-by, whom we engaged in lengthy discussion. H.D.T.

# News from the Barricades

### NANTERRE

A LIAISON CENTRE for workers and students of diverse revolutionary tendencies has been set up at Nanterre. Four basic political principles form the basis for liaison. They are: anti-capitalism, anti-revisionism, anti-imperialism, anti-bureaucracy. The aim is to create research and agitation groups in collaboration with the action committees from the districts, faculties and factories. The centre will make contact with young workers to effect propaganda in their places of work.

### TOURS

While the US ambassador in France was visiting Tours several people went around the town throwing plastic bags full of red paint at walls. Two students were arrested and later released.

### PARIS

The police arrested two people for fly-posting, then several militants who protested to them about the arrest and finally four others who were discussing the affair with passers-by.

### SARDINIA

Hundreds of schoolchildren gathered in front of Cagliari town hall to protest against the lack of school places. Four demonstrators were arrested. Then the crowd went to the police station and sat down in front of it as a protest against

the arrests. The four demonstrators were immediately released.

### TURIN

Ten thousand schoolchildren entered the faculty of architecture to hold a general assembly. In a clash with the police, a demonstrator and a policeman were wounded and 11 people arrested.

### MEXICO

The 58th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution passed off in an atmosphere of agitation, marked by fighting and several deaths. The Mexicans have not given up the struggle. The students at Mexico University have been on strike since July.

### ANDALUSIA

The peasants of Rinconada occupied Sevilla station for several hours as a protest against police searches during an assembly of the Workers Commission (legal associations of workers in Spain which are being infiltrated by militants, but to which the CNT is opposed owing to strong communist influence) and the arrest of a militant who was going to Madrid to spread the news of struggle.

### MADRID

Students have been interrupting university procedure, invading offices and burning portraits of General Franco.

Translated from Interlutte. B.B.

# Anarchist Federation of Britain

Note to readers: Wherever address is not given letters should be sent to London Federation, c/o Freedom Press. The full list is printed once a month (next full list January 25, 1969). All groups that wish to be included in this shortened version (because of meetings, activity) should let us know at once. New groups (as Yorkshire Federation) stay in for eight weeks.

**LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.** Sunday evening meetings at the Metropolitan (corner of Clerkenwell Road and Farringdon Road), 7.30 p.m. Next meeting Sunday, January 19, Jim Hugges: Songs of the Anarchist Movement.

**HARINGEY.** 'Siege of Sidney Street Appreciation Society'. Meet Wednesdays, 8 p.m., at A. Barlow's, 2a Fairfield Gardens, Crouch End, N.8.

**PORTOBELLO ROAD ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.

**WEST HAM ANARCHISTS.** Regular meetings and activities contact Mr. T. Plant(1), 10 Thackeray Road, East Ham, E.6. Tel.: 552 4162.

There are also active groups in: EALING and LEWISHAM.

### OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Every Wednesday at Jack Robinson's and Mary Canips'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.

Every Monday at A. Barlow's, 2a Fairfield Gardens, Hornsey, N.8. (Siege of Sidney Street Appreciation Society).

### REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

**BEXLEY ANARCHIST MOVEMENT.** C/o John Bonner, 40 Lullingstone Crescent, St. Paul's Cray, Kent. Tel.: 01-300 8890. Meetings every Friday, 8 p.m., Lord Besley, Bexleyheath Broadway.

**BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP.** Secretary, c/o Birmingham Peace Action Centre, Factory Road, Birmingham 19. Libertarian discussion groups held 8 p.m. on each Tuesday at 'The Crown', Corporation Street (Opp. Law Courts), Birmingham City. S.a.e. to Secretary for details.

**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 (TIV 7546).

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

**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 Green-

ways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

There are also active groups in: BOLTON, BOURNEMOUTH, EDGWARE, HERTS., IPSWICH, NORTH SOMERSET, WEDDITCH and SELBY.

### ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

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

Group Addresses:—**NORTH EAST ESSEX.** Peter Newell, 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex. Regular meetings.

There are also active groups in: BASILDON, BISHOPS STORTFORD, CHELMSFORD, EPPING, HARLOW and LOUGHTON. All correspondence to regional secretary: Peter Newell, c/o N.E. Essex Group.

### NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

**LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP AND 'HIPPI' 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. Regular weekly meetings. Contact Secretary for venue.

**MERSEYSIDE ANARCHISTS.** Meetings every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at 118 High Park Street, Liverpool 8. Contact: Chris Kneath, Basement, 52 Belvidere Road, Liverpool, 18 3TG.

**PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact J. B. Cowburn, 140 Walling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston. Meetings: 'The Wellington Hotel', Glovers Court, Preston, Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

### SURREY FEDERATION

G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom, Surrey. Groups and individuals invited to associate.

### 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 Chilton Road, Brighton, BN1 3HN. Regular fortnightly meetings. Contact Secretary.

Other groups in: CRAWLEY and SUSSEX UNIVERSITY.

### YORKSHIRE FEDERATION

Meetings every 8 weeks. Next meeting February 2. Secretary: Colin Beadle, c/o Oakwood Farm, Lund, Selby, Yorks. Look out for 'Liberty!'

—monthly 6d.—out in January.

**HALIFAX:** David Stringer, c/o Paul Simon, 91 Essex Street, Parkinson Lane, Halifax.

**HULL:** Jim Young, 3 Fredericks Crescent, Hawthorn Avenue, Hull.

**KEIGHLEY:** Steve Wood, 26B Cavendish Street, Keighley.

**LEEDS:** Direct Action Society. Contact John Boutwood, 142 Brudenell Road, Leeds, 6.

**SELBY:** D. Mackay, 247 Residential Site, Drax Power Station, Drax, Selby.

**SHEFFIELD:** Dave Jeffries, c/o Students Union, Western Bank, Sheffield, 10.

**YORK:** Nigel Wilson, Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York.

### WELSH FEDERATION

**CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP.** All correspondence to: Pete Raymond, 18 Marion Street, Splott, Cardiff.

**SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Ian Bone, 3 Bay View Crescent, Brynmill, Swansea. Weekly meetings, 'Freedom' sales and action projects.

**LLANELLI:** Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llwynnedy 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.

Active groups in: LEYTONSTONE, STEPNEY, NEWHAM, HLFORD, DAGENHAM, WOODFORD and LIMEHOUSE.

### STUDENT GROUPS

**ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY GROUP.** C/o Ian and Peggy Sutherland, 8 Easlemont Avenue, Aberdeen, AB2 4SL.

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Matthew Robertson, 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 Thursday jointly with Brighton Group; bookstall every Monday outside J.C.R., 12-2.30 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.

**MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY.** Contact Mike Don or Bill Jamieson, c/o University Union,

Hornsey College of Art will take part, on advertising, on satire, in which the editor of Private Eye will participate, on religion and on drugs.

There will be poetry readings, exhibitions, a film show and two concerts, one of which will last eight hours, with four famous groups.

For information contact the organisers: Maureen Evans (Bridges), John Seargent (Sibley), Barbara Whittaker (Bridges), Kevin G. Jackson (St. Davids).

Tickets for the films and concerts are on sale at various places in the University, while those for the two concerts are also available from: Barnes & Avis, Friar Street, Reading; The Music Box, London Street, Reading.

Oxford Road, Manchester, 13.

**SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY.** Contact Robin Lovell at the Students' Union.

**LSE ANARCHIST GROUP.** C/o Students' Union, LSE, Houghton Street, W.C.2. Read and sell 'Beaver'.

**KINGSTON COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY.** Penhryn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. Contact G. Wright.

### SCOTTISH FEDERATION

All correspondence to Dave Coull, secretary, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden, Montrose, Angus. There are active groups in: ABERDEEN, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, HAMILTON, FIFE and MONTROSE.

### 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, NSW 2000. Phone No. 69-8095. Open discussion and literature sale in the Domain—Sunday, 2 p.m. Call at 52 Eveleigh Street, Redfern, NSW 2015 for personal discourse, tea and overnight accommodation.

**BELGIUM.** Groupe du journal Le Libertaire, 220 rue Vivignis, Liège.

**USA.** James W. Cain, secretary, the Anarchist Committee of Correspondence, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.

**VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA.** Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, c/o 24-160 East 20th, N. Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel.: 985 7509 or 987 2693.

**USA: VERMONT.** New Hampshire Anarchist Group. Discussion meetings. Actions. Contact Ed. Strauss, RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

**TORONTO LIBERTARIAN-ANARCHIST GROUP.** 217 Toryork Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

### PROPOSED GROUPS

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

**WATFORD.** Anyone interested please contact Ronnie Anderson, 31 Marlborough Road, Watford, Herts.

**ROCHDALE, BURY & OLDHAM** areas. Those interested in libertarian activity contact David Purdy, c/o 35 Balmoral Drive, Darn Hill Estate, Heywood, Lancs.

**MALATESTA GROUP:** West Kensington Area. Contact Reg Sharpe, c/o Freedom Press. Initial meeting Tuesday, January 21.

# About Freedom and Anarchy

WE HAVE BEEN asked by several readers new to anarchism to say a few words about ourselves. Now that many comrades are engaged in battles with the authorities, whether outside Rhodesia House or in Northern Ireland, perhaps a brief summary (while we still have the time) is necessary as to our aims and origins.

FREEDOM was started in 1886 by Peter Kropotkin and Mrs. C. M. Wilson. It was a very carefully printed monthly on good quality paper which has scarcely faded and was probably handset. The first issue of the paper prophesied revolution in the United States of America by the turn of the century, an attack on individualism and a hopeful piece about the unrest of the Celtic population.

Later on Tom Keell was editing, setting and printing the paper and fought against the war hysteria as well as against Kropotkin's pro-Slav sentiments. He was imprisoned in 1916 together with his companion Lillian

Wolfe (who incidentally still works at Freedom Press at the age of 92) for issuing and distributing leaflets calling on the troops to desert.

In the thirties there were two FREEDOMS, one under Tom Keell's editorship and another by some remarkably illiterate anarchists.

Some people claim that FREEDOM truly folded up by 1936 (others say that occasional issues kept the title alive) and all that can be claimed is that Freedom Press itself weathered the storm.

Looking through old files of FREEDOM one can conclude that the ten years 1936-1946 were the most exciting in the publishing history of Freedom Press. This saw the publication of *Spain and the World* and the excellent but short-lived *Revolt* which gave way as the Second World War broke out to *War Commentary*, first a duplicated, then a small but by 1944 a vigorous large sheet paper that, some say, sold 40,000

copies an issue. The contributors included Vernon Richards, Herbert Read, Ken Hawks, Tom Brown, Alex Comfort, George Woodcock, and the paper's influence was tremendous amongst civilians and soldiers weary of war. Again editors of FREEDOM were sent to prison by the frightened authorities when they called on the returning soldiers to hold on to their weapons and form soldiers' soviets. One such soldier who received such a leaflet and was persuaded by it is now the editor of our sister magazine *Anarchy*.

After the war was 'over' *War Commentary* correctly forecast the continuing tension in an article 'The Phoney Peace' but not listening to their own advice as by the following issue they have changed the title to 'FREEDOM'—through anarchism.

The paper, first under the editorship of Vernon Richards and then by an editorial committee of varying numbers, continues.

In 1961 *Anarchy* was launched under the editorship of Colin Ward, each issue dealing at length with topics of interest to anarchists.

Freedom Press, in its long existence, has also published many hundreds of books and pamphlets, not many of them unfortunately still in print.

We are shortly to move into our new premises with ample space for a library, bookshop and editorial office and a meeting room.

One word about our finances and circulation. We are entirely dependent on sales and subscriptions and whatever deficit we make in the year readers have generously made up through our Press Fund and our Premises Fund. Through this we can maintain complete independence and are not reliant on the whims of advertisers. In our Contact Column we nevertheless publish urgent information whether paid for or not.

The circulation of our paper has not kept pace with the enormous public now interested in anarchism but we feel this is only a matter of unequal distribution and that as propaganda by the deed increases in this country our consistent propaganda by the written word is going to bear fruit. EDITORS.

## FIFTH COLUMN

### Remember Stalingrad

THERE IS A great moment in *Till Death Do Us Part* (the film) when Alf Garnett and his son-in-law are watching the final of the World Cup. England and West Germany are level. Suddenly an England player shoots and the ball hits the crossbar of the German goal, bounces down and then runs clear of the goal. The ref goes over to consult the Russian linesman to check whether the ball did in fact cross the line. The whole of Wembley is screaming. Alf shouts: 'Remember Stalingrad'. The Russian linesman nods to the ref and the goal is given.

The first part of the film describes the war experiences of Alf Garnett. Driven into an Underground shelter by German bombs Alf shouts abuse at the other people there for singing *Lily Marlene*. When his milk ration runs out he borrows his baby daughter's bottle and squeezes some milk into his tea. When his call-up papers arrive he goes white, then protests that he would dearly like to go but that he can't because of the importance of his work to the war effort (he is a time-keeper).

Later in the film Alf shouts at his son-in-law: 'I fought in the war for you'. So far as Alf is concerned he did. Like millions of others he suffered the misery of war as a civilian—and at the same time followed its military progress cheering his own side and hurling insults at the opposition.

Alf is an outrageous caricature but there is enough truth in him to give us an insight into the attitudes of many middle-aged people not only in the working class. In general they resent young people for having more money and leisure than they had. And having fought and suffered to save Britain from the Nazi hordes they particularly resent young people who either don't care what happened—or positively object to the way the war was won.

*The Soldiers*, which I have seen since I wrote about it last week, must shock most middle-aged audiences. There is the familiar yet revered figure of Churchill brilliantly brought to life. But instead of undiluted admiration for the heroic Winston, a clear argument is put forward to show that in winning the war Churchill used exactly those methods which led him to describe Hitler as a murderer and a gangster. Traumatic conclusion for the middle-aged: Churchill was a murderer and a gangster.

*The Soldiers* is not a crude work of propaganda: it is a play of subtlety and depth which throughout treats Churchill the man with compassion and warmth. It is precisely this quality which must make the play so disturbing to middle-aged audiences: familiar Winston who playfully refuses to get out of bed for an audience with the King becomes unfamiliar Churchill who discusses with Cherwell the precise effects of dropping thousands of bombs on a German city.

But the middle-aged—like everyone else except for us regular theatregoers—are less likely to see *The Soldiers* than *Till Death Do Us Part*. And while the play brutally punctures myths about the last war the film does nothing more than mock them gently.

### Less Productivity, Less Obedience

NO SURPRISES in the Wootton report on pot: we can't find a reason for saying that it's harmful but even so it would be dangerous to make it legal. Meanwhile we think that those people who insist on smoking should be treated less savagely than they are now.

The three main arguments for keeping pot illegal are:

(a) though pot smokers are a large and increasing minority of young people, with a few older ones thrown in, some of them would come up against the law in any case. It's very convenient to be able to arrest somebody on one charge while continuing to investigate something else;

(b) it is asserted that pot reduces ambition and the will to work: the more pot the less productivity;

(c) pot gives pleasure. More, it does so generally without causing the smoker pain afterwards. It therefore offends against the principle that you suffer for your sins.

The illegality of pot may be inconvenient: prices are higher and there is a risk that the law may drop round. But it also ensures that a number of otherwise docile and law-abiding people have to step outside the rules of bourgeois society. Particularly absurd laws have the habit of provoking disobedience.

The more each individual law is disobeyed the less respect there is for the law in general.

WYNFORD HIGGS.

## FREE SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

ABOUT 150 PEOPLE attended the initial meeting by the SSC on Saturday, January 4. Secondary school students and teachers from London, Bristol, Manchester, Swansea, Cardiff, Hertfordshire, Middlesex and Abingdon CAL, representing SSC, SSSU, LTA and STOPP, were present. A number of people from the RSSF and similar organisations also turned up. After introductions by the various groups it soon became clear in the discussion on aims and principles and on national organisation that there were two main views on these subjects—education with a bit of politics, or politics with a bit of education. The clash was between those who wanted to change their own environments in the schools, and those who were interested in using secondary school students and teachers for their own ends and under their own leadership.

Various amendments to the proposals of the SSSU and SSC members submitted by the latter were consistently defeated

by about 3 to 2. This was very encouraging in view of the fact that many of the students there had not experienced this sort of 'political' set-up before. There was in fact a considerable amount of resentment against the politicals (as far as is known, mainly they were Maoists) that sprang from a dislike of being lectured at a conference. They had come to the conference to find ways of getting rid of such goings on at their own schools! Plans are in hand to continue the dialogue between the groups.

The results of the conference? Many people expected all the questions to be answered in one day, and some were disappointed; but there is a growing

feeling that, given the autonomy of the local groups, such conferences would be best seen as exchanges of ideas and experiences, co-ordinating action on a national level where the groups themselves felt this to be desirable. The local groups themselves are still thin on the ground, and strengthening and expanding these will probably be our main work in the coming months.

If you know anyone who has started or can start something up, or if you can start something yourself, the Secretary of FSC, Roger Sadiev, 90 Ermine Road, S.E.13 (DUN 1572) would be very pleased to hear from you!

M.M.

## FRANCO PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

FROM SORIA, we political and social prisoners of the Central Prison, fraternally united in our struggle, appeal to public opinion to lend us its support.

In the state of Spain there are a considerable number of political and social prisoners, which means men who have been arrested (and sometimes ill-treated), judged, and condemned to long sentences, simply because they have expressed their political and social ideas; for which they would not be imprisoned in most so-called 'civilised' countries.

Since the end of the Civil War there have been political prisoners in Spain, and these have continually struggled for their liberty and for an amnesty (based on the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), and for recognition as political prisoners.

During this time, we political prisoners have attempted passively to put an end to the harassing which violates not only our own human dignity, but often that of our families also. We have tried and we are still trying to put an end to the systematic torture applied to political detainees, of which we have all been the moral or physical victims.

We are working for the end of the State of Emergency whose effects reach beyond the Basque country, and whose cruel imprint is imposed in spheres of popular demands.

Also we call for the suppression of the emergency tribunals, which are instruments of repression for the movements of the workers, peasants and students, and the oppressed populations of the Basque country, Catalonia and Galicia. We also call for the abolition of the special laws, particularly that one called the law against 'banditism and terrorism'.

These alone would amply justify our protest. But as well as this, the authorities systematically refuse us conditional liberty, in flagrant violation of the law; these refusals are not decided by tribunals, but by the caprice of the administration, against its own laws.

Here there is a comrade who has spent 20 years in prison (and is seriously ill) who would have been freed a long time ago, had he received conditional liberty as was his right.

As we have received no reply to our petitions we can think of no other option than to go on hunger strike. This has been freely and unanimously decided.

In the light of what we have said above, we think that the political and trade union movements and organisations that exist should be officially recognised.

The inalienable right of association should be guaranteed. The right of self-determination should be guaranteed to the oppressed minorities. The Spanish Government should renounce military agreements made with the USA, which are not in the interest of any of the peoples of Spain.

We are now at the end of 1968, the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, and entering the 30th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, yet no amnesty has been decreed, and an amnesty is the first basic step towards application of the principles contained in the Declaration. And so we call for

- (a) Recognition of our status as political prisoners, and a prison régime which respects this status.
- (b) Normal conditional liberty.
- (c) An immediate amnesty for all political prisoners as the first step to establishing freedom of association and expression.

We, being all the political prisoners in Soria, call on public opinion, and say that only by united action on the part of all the popular forces, will this state of things be brought to an end.

Signed by 43 prisoners (Anarchists, Basque Nationalists, Communists, Maoists and supporters of the Workers' Commissions).

Trans B.B.

P.S. Yet another recently arrested student group from Madrid University are reported to have joined the hunger strike.

## Important Announcement LONDON SQUATTERS

Public Meeting to instal Homeless Families in Empty Properties SUNDAY FEB. 9 2 pm MANOR PARK (British Railway Stat.)

## Trouble in German Army

RECORDED CASES of sabotage are becoming more and more frequent in the West German Army, according to the West German Ministry of Defence. A spokesman, who did not give any figures, said that they could only be interpreted as malevolent acts.

The Ministry of Defence and the Bundestag defence commission said that there was an alarming coincidence between the acts of sabotage and the continuing increase in the number of soldiers who were refusing to continue their military service. The defence department noted that in the first ten months of 1968, nearly three thousand soldiers suddenly declared themselves conscientious objectors. The concluded that a propaganda campaign was taking place in the army, and was not necessarily directed from the outside.

Trans. from *Espoir*, 29.12.68.

## Scottish Conference Proposal

To all Scottish groups and individuals: Dear Comrades,

A recent letter in FREEDOM by Comrade Lynn of Glasgow suggested the calling of a meeting somewhat on the lines of the Scottish Anarchist Conference last year.

Aberdeen Anarchists have, for some time, been pressing the idea of just such a meeting, but have met with little response—including silence from Glasgow.

It is our proposal that a meeting of Scottish groups and individuals be held in Aberdeen in late February. The proposal by Comrade Lynn that the meeting be held in the first week of January was quite impracticable—as anyone who has lived through a Scottish New Year would surely understand.

Would groups and individuals who wish to hold such a Conference in Aberdeen (we would not wish it in Glasgow, since we consider anarchist principle best served by rotation of meeting places) please get in touch with me with regarding to arranging accommodation, etc.

For Aberdeen Anarchists, IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

8 Eslemont Avenue, Aberdeen

## POSTERS

Holding back the Rent Rise?

FIGHT ON!

Remember!

116 GLC Councillors

cannot beat

half a million

united Tenants

issued by:

London Federation of Anarchists

84b Whitechapel High Street,

London, E.1.

The above text is printed as a poster (15" x 20") available NOW. 6d. each or 4d. each on dozen minimum. Postage extra.

LFA Mini Poster No. 1:

No Rent Rise — Unite and Fight.

For we are many and they are few.

With excellent drawing of the Patch family dealing with the rent collector (by Arthur Moyses). Price 3d. each plus postage.

## Have you Signed the Pledge?

THE BILLS are coming in for the repairs and installations in our new premises at 84b. Last year the amount in the Premises Fund reached just over half of our target of £1,000 per year. May we ask those comrades who made their pledges last year to honour them as early as possible this year. And can we have some more pledges? Fewer than 500 readers pledging £1 per year would cover our outlay.

### PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year. 1969 Pledges honoured and donations to date: £43 7s. 6d.

### MOVING FUND

Target is £500. Donations in 1968 reached £430 6s. 3d. 1969: To date—Nil.

## GIVE!

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Estimated Expenses: 2 weeks at £90: £180  
Income: Sales and Subs.: £157  
DEFICIT: £43

### PRESS FUND

Wolverhampton: J.K.W.\* 2/-; J.L.\* 3/-; Bristol: Anon\* 5/-; Sweden: H.P. 5/-; Ridgwood, N.Y.: L.G. 10/-; Brooklyn, N.Y.: O.A. £3; Grantham: G.I. 5/8; Wantage: D.G. 5/8; Brodieck: P. & D.G. 5/-; Edmonton, Alta.: S.P. £5; Iford: P.G. 10/10.

TOTAL: £10 12 2  
Previously Acknowledged: £30 18 3

1969 Total to Date: £41 10 5  
Deficit B/F: £43 0 0

TOTAL DEFICIT: £1 9 7

# One Step from Tyranny

LAST YEAR'S EBBING seconds were filled with the final preparations for the total subjugation of every man, woman and child in these islands to the aims and will of the modern industrial state.

The declared intention of the State to make strike action a criminal offence is the most monstrous political manoeuvre seen in this country since the beginning of the century. Complacent people have yet to realise the implications of this interference with the one great weapon of the individual, the only safeguard which the ordinary man and woman can erect in defence of whatever technocratic tyranny is employed to spirit away their hard-fought-for gains and improvements for themselves and their families.

That this State action, the like of which is unprecedented even in occupied Czechoslovakia, should stem from a so-called socialist government, is living proof that *The State* is the primeval enemy of mankind.

Our own particular brand of suppression is supplied by that little team of 'economic master baiters'—Harold Wilson, Barbara Castle,

Roy Jenkins, their sycophants, assorted hacks, and brilliant, scholarly intellectuals whose vision can only be equalled in its naive belief in utility and blind hope of success with the surreal parallel of a cat's arse in Piccadilly on a Saturday night.

Their baited hooks have finally accounted for the last vocal chord of the Trades Unions, as prophesied by J. K. Galbraith in his book *The Modern Industrial State* where he said:

*The trade union, militantly expressing the power of the worker, was to be the cutting edge of the revolution. But the industrial system mellows and even absorbs the union.*

and  
*Since the Second World War the acceptance of the union by the industrial firm, and the emergence thereafter of an era of comparatively peaceful industrial relations, has been hailed as the final triumph of trade unionism. On closer examination it is seen to reveal many of the features of Jonah's triumph over the whale.*

John Torode writing in the *Guardian* on 2.1.69 concluded in much the same manner:

*It is easier for the State to bully big, tough union bosses than it is for them to take on an anonymous mass of disgruntled and unpredictable strikers.*

Perhaps for the first time since the Trades Union movement began all those years ago the entire population, people of many different trades, skills, colour, religion and ethnic groups can have no doubt where lies the focal point of repression and frustration; of the one power that knocks them down whenever they make a move to overcome some petty tyranny; one monolithic, impersonal structure that must be smashed if they are to live as men and women free from incessant industrial bondage.

**All the words from all the humanitarians down the ages are never as effective as tacitly tyranny in pointing out the path to walk, in making hungry fighters of once-blind men, in advertising which forces have to be strangled in order that man may survive.**

Exact details of the State proposals are taken as read. I concede that it is possible for someone with a belief in the inherent concern of the State for the individual to conclude that the mention of deals from 'delaying periods', 'arbitration' and 'talks' is sufficient to allow concurrence. Just to dispel this attitude I would like to list the demands made by the CBI to the State. *The Confederation of British Industry*—the employers' mouthpiece, that personification of paranoid economics, manned by and for four-eyed cash registers—have laid out the extent of State interference in industrial relations they require for the future: that a trade union registrar have powers of discipline in respect of trade unions, including the right to deprive them of immunities from legal action in respect of sympathetic strikes, inter-union disputes or strikes occurring in breach of agreed procedures; that fines should be imposed on individuals striking in breach of procedural agreements; plus rejecting the proposals suggested by the State as a sweetener to the Unions concerning worker-directors and a reversion to *status quo* pending arbitration over employer-union disputes.

This at present is the voice of the city. A swing Right in the next electoral farce will make it the voice of the State. And that will be the very end.

Some right-wing voices have said that the proposals as they stand (apart from being 'too weak') are unworkable because the State would never jail and/or mete out heavy fines to large bodies of workers. This, as far as it goes, is unquestionably true. No body of men solely concerned with figures on a balance sheet is going to cut off its own

right arm, to use a bad pun. What will happen, is what other refractory forces like CND and Anarchists are already familiar with from past experience—that the leaders will be given heavy fines and long terms of imprisonment. This policy has worked in the past, and there is no new reason to suppose that it will not be tried again.

The great mistake that can be made from guessing the likely effects of this incursion into the only defence to exploitation left to machine-age man is to think that there will still be room for effective strike action.

Should this initial State sortie not be wholly repulsed, there will be absolutely nothing in the way of conditions and agreements that can be taken for granted, absolutely nothing that is beyond the bounds of possibility: wage cuts, unannounced redundancies, ruthless automation, deliberate incursions into private lives, compulsory savings . . . there is no end to it.

The most explosive proposal, the crucial manoeuvre in any political intrigue is always introduced unobtrusively, hidden behind matter-of-fact delivery and raucous diversionary tactics. Like this one.

There are two possible results from the State proposal. First, that the Trades Unions perform an extraordinary *volte-face* and become uncompromising. Second, that after chest-beating and ritualistic shrieks of anger, the Unions will accept some form of State interference in industrial relations. This is what I earnestly hope will happen. For then, for the first time since 1939, all the people of this country will have a common enemy. Such a force is necessary to unify all the multifarious factions who have been set against each other for too long.

With perverse fortune, this latest proposal of the State, completely disinterested in the plight of the people, is the very action that ANARCHY requires for the realisation of all its creative aims.

I.D.

## Comment:

While agreeing with I.D.'s comments on the Government's proposal to legislate against strike action, we do not, unlike our correspondent, welcome this move. Such legislation will not necessarily produce the effect I.D. wants. The restriction of people's freedom does not necessarily make for a revolutionary situation.

**Empty Bellies Do Not Make Socialists.**  
EDITORS.

## BLACK & WHITE UNITE

Continued from page 1  
to another can be. One can only achieve an objective on such a demonstration as this when one is not in direct confrontation with the police.

Perhaps the irony was in the fact that, although the march was aimed at Rhodesia House, many people see the assault on South Africa House as symbolic, in so far as South Africa is the guardian of racialism and the real power behind the repression of the African people in the Southern part of that continent.

M.H.

## DOUBLE SEAMEN'S WAGES

IF THE WAGES of merchant seamen were doubled the extra cost would hardly be noticed by the shipowners. This is the implication from a recent statement made by Mr. Cameron Parker, managing director of marine engineers John G. Kincaid & Co. Ltd.

He said a completely unmanned ship could be commercially viable and technically feasible in the next 15 years. It was unlikely to be developed, however, he said, because the savings in cost 'would be marginal if measurable'.

Logically therefore if all the money spent in wages at present is hardly measurable it would mean that doubling wages would be equally marginal to the shipowner.

And for those who don't believe we live in a Warfare State, Mr. Jurgen Dipner of Germany said at the International Convention on Containerisation

# Freedom

## For Workers' Control

JANUARY 18 1969 Vol 30 No 2

## PLAYING TRUANT

ON JANUARY 2, 1969, all radio and television news bulletins had the same main item. It took precedence over the wars (always going on in some part of the globe), over famine and disasters of all kind—so the powers-that-be must have thought it mightily important.

What was this earth-shaking news? Simply that on New Year's Day some thousands of dockers in Liverpool and some Welsh miners had TAKEN THE DAY OFF!

They had thumbed their noses at 'productivity'—had a lie-in or enjoyed themselves in other ways—and generally asserted their dignity as human beings—men, not machines.

And didn't the Government set up a howl! The clever boys had calculated to a penny how much this disgraceful behaviour had cost the country. In real terms it was the men themselves who lost most—because a few pounds out of a worker's weekly wage means a lot. But this did not concern the commentators—what they wept over was the loss of PROFIT!

Incidentally the fuss about the Welsh miners is peculiarly ironic. Pits by the hundred have been closed. So much for productivity. But let a miner, of his own

free will, take a few hours off from digging for coal, and he is branded as worse than a criminal.

Meanwhile the posh Sunday newspapers are full of adverts, for winter cruises—'spend the winter in the sun'—'get away from it all'. These are presumably aimed at tired executives, shareholders and all the leisured layabouts in general.

This doesn't make the news bulletins—nobody in fact gives it a second thought. But if a worker takes an 'unauthorised' day off from some back-breaking job, you'd think the world was coming to an end. This is the morality of the system we live in.

We can understand why they scream. For once the idea gets abroad that WORKERS, not bosses, are the useful people in society; that we can live very well without them, but they cannot live without us—then the exploiters will have cause to tremble.

Even such a limited exercise of freedom as taking one day off is more than they can tolerate.

This little episode may add point to the call issued by the London May Day Committee for a stoppage on May 1.

J.A.

## Contact Column

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

**Liberty!**—Vol. 1 No. 1 published by the Yorkshire Federation, 6d. from Beadle, c/o Oakwood Farm, Lund, Selby.

**Confrontation.** National Press v. Underground Press. (FREEDOM included.) Local comrades asked to attend. Monday, January 20, 8 p.m., Faculty of Letters lecture theatre, Whiteknights Park, Reading.

**YCND** requires an Organiser. Applications to YCND, 14 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.

**Help wanted** (girl, couple, anything considered) in isolated rural household, Colchester/Ipswich area. Working anarchist parents offer board, lodging, and pocket money for sharing care of children and chores. Time/responsibilities flexible. Children 4 and 14. Driver preferred. Box No.

**Brighton and Hove area.** Anyone interested in group activities contact Nick Heath (address in groups list).

**Typing jobs** done at home. Reasonable rates. Douglas Kepper, 21 Vernon Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11.

**Poster Workshop,** 61 Camden Road, N.W.1. Free silk screen facilities at the service of the class struggle.

**Free Schools Campaign.** Support needed for anti-authoritarian Schools Campaign. Posters available 6d. each, 5/- per dozen. Duplicated leaflets 1/- per 100, postage extra. Any other leaflets or posters on schools needed. Contact Roger Sadiev, 90 Ermine Road, S.E.13, or phone Mike Rauley at DUN 1572.

**Makhno Poster/Calendar.** In aid of (Anarchist) Black Cross. Splendidly designed and printed. Poster 2/6d. Calendar 7/6d. from Freedom Press. Postage extra.

**The Crypt,** 242 Lancaster Road, W.11. Music, Poetry, Theatre every Wed. 2/6. Audience participation.

**Birmingham Discussion Meetings.** Tuesdays at 8 p.m. At The Crown, Corporation Street. Jan. 21: Graeme McIvor on 'Freud and Anarchism'. Jan. 28: Godfrey Webster on 'The Origins of the Hungarian Uprising'. Feb. 4: Geoff Charlton on 'Anarchism and the American Novel'. (Worth moving to Birmingham.—C.C. Compiler.)

**Badges and Banners.** Rectangular metal black/red badges 2/6 each post free or bulk rate (10 or more) 1/- each—resell at 2/- or 2/6. Also flags and banners to order, from 7/6. McGee, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Carnborne, Cornwall.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

## Women out on their own

THE TUC AT their last conference accepted the principle of strike action to support equal pay demands. It is true to say that the platform was far from happy about the situation because they realised it could mean trouble. Getting resolutions passed at conferences is great fun, lobbying, scheming and con-ning, and when they finally forced through the movers and supporters come away with big smiles. On the question of implementation, that's a different matter. If it means 'talking', that's fine—'We are on record as supporting' is the often-quoted boast. But if it means action!—'Christ! we only support the principle'.

Obviously the girls at the Renold chain factory in Manchester had heard enough pious resolutions to last them a lifetime. They decided to take action. All they are demanding is equal production bonus. The men receive about 25/- a week and

the women 10/-. In other words the women are helping pay for the men's bonus.

The recent national agreement between the engineering unions and employers was only finally signed on the basis of further TALKS about equal pay.

Unfortunately the women return to work on Monday on the basis of an improved offer, a thousand pities they could not copy the formula of the women at Fords—offer and acceptance before returning to work!

The plain facts are, the women themselves have got to spark off the equal pay issue, the male species or the majority of them have a Victorian outlook on this question. In many cases the issue is so simple, 'Would you do a job exactly the same as the bloke next to you for LESS money?' The short answer is 'Not bloody likely!' So?

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

## LEFT IN THE LURCH

MANCHESTER'S 'International Socialists' seemed more than ready, last month, to drop one of their supporters in the shit after he'd been sacked.

Just before Christmas John Gaffeny, well known and liked in anarchist circles up here, was given the boot at the local chemical factory at which he has long been actively fighting for better conditions. To his surprise his workmates offered to strike in sympathy. So it came as a sickener when his party, the international socialists, didn't back him.

Was it bone idleness? End of term? Or just politically inconvenient?

It's hard to say, but at least Manchester's anarchists, to their credit, offered to back him with a leaflet. Anyhow as luck would have it the firm gave

at Genoa, that if the war in Vietnam stopped a problem of over-tonnage would be caused by American container ships, at present used for military purposes, being used for commercial purposes. The congestion would mean more economic problems.

PORTWORKER.

**BUILDING WORKERS!**  
**JOIN MASS LOBBY AND RALLY IN AID OF WAGE CLAIMS**  
**CLAPHAM COMMON (near Tube Station)**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28**  
**Assemble at 1.30 p.m.**