

Law and Order in Ireland - Okinawa
Murder in Fleet St. - Aberdeen Trawler Strike
All Power to the People—Cornwall Anarchists

The Revolt of the Poor

THE PIOUS PLATITUDE makers have been having a field day here in Ulster. The week's rioting in Derry, Dungiven, Lurgan and Belfast in the wake of the 12th celebrations have been condemned by all responsible and respectable 'leaders' as 'unpardonable hooliganism', and surprise is evinced that they occurred. To be surprised is to show either complete dishonesty or incredible naïvete.

The Unionist Government with their 50 years of sectarian rule, their sordid nepotism and their callous disregard for the large minority, have sown the seeds of the Derry troubles. By deliberately ignoring the area west of the Bann they have forced working men to take the boat to England every year. By encouraging foreign capitalists to come and exploit 'our large pool of labour' they have ensured that in a place like Derry, where 20% are out of

work, those who do work get an average of £4 a week less than their English counterparts. Youths leaving school at 15 with no jobs, no prospects but a meagre dole, can hardly be blamed for venting their pent-up anger and frustration on the brutal police and the complacent shop-owner. No one has done anything to help them.

The flagrant gerrymandering ensured that not even the palliative of a Green Council could be theirs. The Orange Order has for years behaved provocatively, with all the braggartliness of the small town bully who runs the roost. The

actions on the night of the 12th of some drunken Orangemen returning home after celebrating the glorious victory of the homosexual Dutch dwarf 289 years ago were enough to spark off the 'riots', but soon it became clear that as usual the police were the main enemies.

CHURCH'S TEACHING

Their church too had deluded them for too long. For years the priests had ordered them about, preached the virtues of servile obedience to authority, put them in a mental straitjacket—with the result that most young RCs in Derry

who escaped to England or even Belfast soon 'lapsed'. But last week, when the crowds of youths roamed the Bogside, hurling petrol bombs or burning paint at the riot squad, their priests tried to remonstrate with their flock and were told, in no uncertain way, to 'piss off'.

The police too are harvesting the results of their callous and biased behaviour. Last week saw the first two deaths caused by the police since the inception of the Civil Rights Campaign. Francis McCloskey (66) was batoned to death by the police in Dungiven at the height of the riots. If you hit old men on the head often enough you'll eventually kill one.

Two days later came the news that Samuel Devenny, of William Street, Derry, had died as a result of the injuries incurred when a gang of police broke into his house and assaulted him, and his family. They had been suing the police for £35,000, but now money alone won't be able to buy off the people of Derry.

During the last week the police in some areas have taken a beating, but calling up more armed 'B' Specials, sending troops to Derry and giving them training in the use of tear gas, is no answer. Anyone who saw the police violence when they smashed up the Shankill estate in Lurgan, using totally unnecessary force, and assaulting young and old, or who witnessed the police traps set in Hooker Street in Belfast, can

have little sympathy for them.

POLITICIAN ACCUSED

The CRAs, too, have got their comeuppance. Hume, trying to 'mediate' in the Bogside was told to 'fuck off'. 'You've betrayed us, you've done nothing,' the youths shouted. And they were right. Now he self-righteously denounces as 'hooligans' those who marched behind the Citizens' Action Committee.

Civil Rights agitation was an outlet for the frustrated. But now their policy of inaction—as typically typified by the Derry CAC or the Green Tory CRAs of Armagh and Fermanagh—has rebounded upon them.

If you raise people's expectations, and then do nothing about implementing the promises, the people will sweep you away—and quite rightly so. For the bourgeois CR leadership to deplore violence is pure hypocrisy—in the slums of Derry you are forced to live a violent life, totally alienated from the effete, clean ease of the politicians and the bourgeoisie. The state and their tools are violent, and consequently so are the people in the slums.

Because they are unable to control and channel this violence, the 'leaders' are worried—as well they might be—for gradually they are learning that looting a supermarket can be a political act—and there's a long hot summer ahead for Ulster.

REV. AUGUSTUS BERKES.

SQUATTING ACTIVITIES

Mytchett Farm Caravan Site

THE SITE is in Mytchett, Hampshire, and the number of evictions (about one per month) is suspicious. The last was a family of seven and the father decided to fight. He contacted local activists, who contacted Reading Squatters Group. Fourteen of us were at the site to meet the gaffer on Tuesday but he was 'out of the country', 'have no idea where he is' and 'at his home' (in that order, from the site warden!).

The system seems to work this way. The families are relieved of £150-£200 deposit with impossible repayments. The cost of services seems to get doubled now and again and the ground rent has just been increased because of 'new amenities' including a 'laundry' (two kitchen sinks!) and a 'children's playground' (a climbing pole!). Soon the families fall behind with their repayments. The caravans are 'evicted' (ground rent) and the caravans repossessed. They are then quickly resold and the original buyers are minus deposit and caravan. The whole cycle then starts again.

A public meeting was held on Thursday at which 40 of the 200 site tenants came to discuss action. A company spy was spotted in the audience and was followed by two comrades when he left. They lost him when he went over a fence and into a garden. Half an hour later he was back with a cop with tales of us preventing him getting into his car. Under this cover the company bod did a Speedy Gonzales down the road!

Another meeting soon. Details and offers of help: Farnborough (Hants) 43811.

READING SQUATTERS.

Manchester Squatters

AFTER THE ACTION of Manchester Squatters on the Moston Colliery Estate, the Corporation stated that families would be moved into the 110 empty houses on the estate within a week. However, three weeks after this announcement, the Tenants' Association contacted the Squatters and told us that not one house had been filled.

To draw attention to these houses still being empty, the Tenants' Association and the Squatters staged a token squat for a few days in an empty maisonette. This event did not receive very much publicity and neither police nor bailiffs even bothered to visit us.

After this squat, the Tenants' Association called a meeting, inviting officials from the Coal Board and the Manchester Council. They did not consider this meeting important enough to attend, however.

Another issue which the tenants wanted to discuss with the Council was the reason why these houses were supposed to have been refused by families who were offered them. Perhaps it had something to do with the rent which the Corporation were asking, which was well over £5. This is more than families on Council estates in Manchester pay and is also more than most families can afford. At the moment, the tenants on the estate all pay a different rent. The method by which a person's rent is determined is believed to be related to whether a person works or has worked for the Coal Board, but the actual working of this system is rather devious, to say the least.

However, even the highest rent is nothing like £5, so the tenants are worried in case all the rents are to be increased to this amount when Manchester Corporation takes over.

The tenants are very bitter, both at the lack of publicity and the absence of any explanation regarding the question of rent. They intend to take further action on this matter in the near future. A protest march is being planned and there is some talk of various forms of direct action.

MANCHESTER SQUATTERS.

No Eviction!

THERE IS STRENGTH in unity! United stand Farnborough Council, Housing Manager John Eaton, Aldershot magistrates and the local bailiffs. And what do they fearlessly face in their unity? Caroline Coburn, a 21-year-old mother and her three-year-old kid who's got the measles!

Caroline has been separated from her husband for nearly three years and lives in a Farnborough Council flat. She has had letters complaining of irregular and non-payment of rent. Finally they got an eviction order from Aldershot magistrates on the grounds of one week's rent overdue. In fact the only rent she then 'owed' was for the week in which the order was obtained.

Later she was told that she would not be evicted if she promised to pay regularly in future. This was then reconsidered by the Housing Committee who said she would be evicted whether she paid or not.

She received a letter signed by Kilby, the Assistant Housing Manager, who said that she would definitely be evicted between July 24 and August 2. There is

a Council meeting on July 29 and they have the power to cancel the order. Eaton may not risk this happening and order the eviction before the council meet.

Caroline has decided to resist. She has many friends and if the bailiffs come they will more than meet their match.

Those wishing to join the defence rota or help in other ways ring: Reading 65645 or Farnborough (Hants) 43811.

LARRY.

East London

THERE HAS BEEN another lull in the fight for the homeless in Ilford. The squatters have taken one more building in Lockwood Road, which is 'adopted' by Ford shop stewards and workers, who have spent yesterday repairing it. The squatters have also taken over a large shop, in Ilford High Road, with ample living accommodation above. They are using the shop as an information centre. Tonight there is a television confrontation between the squatters and the council.

The squatters have also decided to repair 6 Woodlands Road from the inside and to take down the barricades at the last moment when a homeless family arrives to claim the house. They also intend to continue with repair work in a house at Albert Road which they occupied recently.

The struggle in Ilford continues and help is wanted from comrades who can spare the time.

J.R.

Brighton Squatters Occupy Houses

MEMBERS OF THE Brighton Rent Project and of Ilford Squatters, who had specially journeyed to Brighton for the occasion, successfully occupied seven terraced houses for the homeless in an early morning raid. The houses in Wykeham Terrace, off Dyke Road, belonged to the Army and have been used as married quarters. The lot was to be auctioned off on July 23 'for speculative building'. The squatting families have been in empty Council houses and court orders for evicting them had been granted to Brighton Council. The occupation of these buildings, three stories high and in perfect condition with all mod cons, was an excellent move on the part of the squatters and the organisers deserve all praise for their brilliant work.

There were no hitches (although some confusion was caused when two police-

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EARTH IS OUR SPACESHIP

ALTHOUGH THE ARRIVAL of men upon the surface of the Moon is a great scientific achievement, the insistence of the press and other organs of publicity upon its greatness only makes one want to belittle it. Certainly the history of exploration since 1500, mostly carried on by Europeans, has been a grisly record of cruelty, greed and intolerance. So one is not inspired with joy to learn that the Americans have been able to put men on the Earth's satellite.

The enthusiasm of the mass media is intended to distract your attention from the problems around you on your own planet. It is rather like the investiture of Prince Charles—a 'squares' demonstration.

In fact this is a pity, because, whatever the motives behind it, it is a remarkable achievement. Exploration itself is not an authoritarian activity. The baby begins by exploring his immediate environment, and as he grows older he extends his range. It is usually authority which tries to restrict exploration and research.

Authority only encourages it when it feels there is an immediate and substantial gain to be made. In the case of space exploration there can be no doubt that the search for minerals and the

desire for military bases are the main motives. Added to these is the desire for prestige. And of course the contractors and the manufacturers of equipment are making fortunes.

An anarchist society would explore space for reasons of scientific curiosity. No doubt there would also be the need for minerals, but not as part of competitive capitalism. It would be exploration for need, not greed, and it would probably be carried on without the frantic hysteria which is so evident in the papers today. The Moon is to be 'stripped of its secrets', we are told. What a revealing phrase! It suggests rape, and this is just exactly what it will be, if what has been done on our own planet is anything to go by. Although it looks as if there will be no aborigines to be exploited or massacred, man's attitude to the natural environment is as barbaric as it is to his fellow men and women.

It would be very regrettable if, as result of space exploration, a new breed of ruthless, enterprising (in a limited way) and totally unscrupulous men should come to the fore, devoted to their calling of looting the planets, and ready to sacrifice anybody or anything to their

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NOTICE!

Information has been received concerning a 17-year-old comrade who has been placed in a mental institution in order 'to cure him of his anarchism'. We are investigating this curious and disturbing matter.

'Freedom' Editors.

BOOKS ON ANARCHISM and kindred subjects

We can get books to order (school and technical books included). Please supply name of publishers.

- The Conduct of Life**
Lewis Mumford (remaindered) 15/-
- The Condition of Man**
Lewis Mumford (remaindered) 25/-
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POSTAGE EXTRA

Freedom Bookshop

HERE WE ARE!

Editorial office open Friday, August 1, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, August 4, 2-8 p.m.

Note new telephone number: BISHOPSGATE 9249

New address:

84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, (entrance Angel Alley), WHITECHAPEL, E.1. (Underground: Aldgate East. Exit: Whitechapel Art Gallery. Turn right on emerging from station.)

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 - Berner's NEITHER EAST OR WEST 6/- (+9d.)
 - Woodcock's THE WRITER & POLITICS 7/6
- Full list on application.

United Clydeside Shipbuilders Ltd. have just been saved by Government intervention. Here is the first instalment of a long analysis (slightly condensed) of what is happening to the Shipbuilding Industry on the upper reaches of the Clyde. We have no idea who the author of the article is, but we assume that 'Joiner' works in the Shipbuilding Industry.

ALTHOUGH there had been already a flow of closures on the Clyde the first big sign of trouble came with the admission that Fairfield's Shipyard was also in the red financially. Fairfield's was temporarily saved through a shotgun wedding between Trade Unions, Government and private enterprise with George Brown acting as the matchmaker. New conditions meant the scrapping of the Union Rule Book, the introduction of the Clyde Measured Day Work, time and motion study and all that goes with it. But then, due to the implementation of the Geddes Report, a new company was formed from all the yards on the upper reaches of the Clyde: UCS Ltd.

The financial arrangement, for workers

'Red' Clydeside '69

that is, was extremely vague. A new charter was drawn up. All one big family, class collaboration on a scale never seen before, promotions ditto, spending ditto. However the new problems which confronted the workers were of an industrial nature, rather than on traditional craft issues; the workers were not allowed to organise themselves industrially and as all the craft organisations were desperate to preserve their separate identities, one exception being the black trades who went under the orbit of the Boilermakers' Society and Dan McGarvey, all this led to much confusion amongst the workers. The original Charter was chopped and changed to suit one faction after another.

Stage One of the plan was duly introduced, down the tide of the Clyde came shiploads of industrial engineers with

stopwatches and an alien jargon. Up to date nothing has been achieved by all this except expense, and to make these experts palatable the workers received an interim grade rate. This made those in the finishing trades happy as it closed to an extent the differential rates which exist between them and the black trades. Naturally, the Boilermakers did not share the same enthusiasm. Shop stewards were encouraged to form sundry committees, although they had little real control, meetings followed meetings and muddle and confusion reigned.

Then the inevitable cropped up: the new company of UCS was in financial trouble. Thence came Wedgwood Benn on a flying visit, who told the workers that UCS was not a viable proposition and that the Government had no inten-

tion of putting money indefinitely in it, also that it was up to the workers to stick in and stop absenteeism. However, a loan was granted, the Government's shareholding then standing at 18%. Things went on as usual for a few months more, then the UCS board gave out that things were desperate again and only coppers were left in the kitty. Liquidation was mentioned.

Up to Glasgow again came wee Wedgwood Benn, delaying the day of decision so as talks could begin, the three main participants being the Shipbuilding Industries Board, UCS Board of Directors and the Joint Council (composed of UCS management, Trade Union officials and yard convenors). The Joint Council drew up three corporate plans in an effort to save the yards and gave concessions of accepting redundancies, the wage freeze for one year and a possibility of double day shift working where considered essential to production. The Government was to put up a further £9 million providing the company could also raise a further £3 million—these amounts were considered essential to make UCS solvent again. The company could not raise the £3 million, so at a late stage in the talks it looked very black for the future of UCS. Nevertheless, after a final meeting between the SIB and the Directors of UCS a statement was given to the Joint Council that things were sorted out and that there will be no liquidation and there will be review at a later date to see what progress was shown.

The Government now holds 48% shares in the company! How this came about at nobody's expense is too much for me to explain. But it is clear that if liquidation came then, it could not have happened at a worse time as ships are worked on just now, which carry a heavy penalty on them and there are also ships which are almost completed. The re-floating of UCS gives an opportunity to the employers to see what results their work study and time and motion experts will provide. But what will this mean for the worker?

(To be continued)

SQUATTING ACTIVITIES

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men were found in one of the empty houses—they were just there for a smoke and left hurriedly. As soon as the first house was opened, squatters swarmed through and opened up all the seven. Within minutes the first van with a family's furniture arrived and the squatters, working at top speed and care, installed him and his wife, kids, kitten and rabbits. By the time press and radio, policemen and irate estate agent arrived, the occupation was completed. This last-named gentlemen nearly had an apopleptic fit when he was refused entry. The families and the community spirit generated by the occasion was tremendous—by the afternoon the children and their mothers were sunning on the front lawn.

The Brighton Evening Argus featured the squat as its main story using two photographs and an excellent, sympathetic and factual report. At 12.30 p.m. it was the second item on the BBC news, but by 1 p.m. it was 'unexplainedly' dropped.

The Brighton Anarchist Group was there in force and there was a stream of sympathisers offering help. Also many local people called, complaining about their housing conditions and asking help from the Brighton Rents Project, who are following up all the complaints.

The Ilford contingents had to return on Sunday, but we are told (Monday morning) that there has been no attack and the barricades are going up.

LITTLE SWELL.

Carry on Squatting

BY THE TIME the next issue of FREEDOM reaches you, Mrs. Joan

Foster and her three children may be out of 22 Rumbold Road, Fulham; the High Court order to evict comes into force on July 29. Many things may happen, it would be idle (as well as unwise) to speculate about the future.

However, some positive achievements are there. We have made housing a topic of conversation and comment in the local press; we have made Hammersmith Council offer to take Mrs. Foster back into Battersea Bridge Hostel (a magnificent concession!); we have made Hammersmith Council talk to a Housing Society about rehousing Mrs. Foster; we have called attention to (and stopped) the Council's ('formal only') issue of notices to quit to Council tenants of houses which the Council requires to sell, and we have made Hammersmith Council deny, even to respectable enquirers, that they have any houses for sale. We have also speeded up the occupation of properties in the Moore Park Road area.

None of this seems 'revolutionary' but there are in this as every squat—intangible. We have put forward differing values—it is the duty of the Council to house the homeless, not merely to balance its accounts or see that a new road goes through unimpeded. We have instilled in some of the homeless a new self-respect (which whilst not amounting to class-consciousness has restored their esteem as individuals). We have emphasised that the emancipation of the working class can only be achieved by the working class itself. That no intermediaries, be they Government departments, town councils, MPs, trades councils, Labour Party branches, trade unions, council tenants' associations or housing societies, can, or will, achieve anything without the determination of

the individual to fight for himself, and whilst he can do this in association with others he must beware that the hardening of bureaucratic arteries has not taken place.

The squatting movement has got its roots in the working class. Karl Marx would have called the homeless, demoralised and institutionalised by life in hostels, 'the lumpen proletariat' but in this era of comparative and precarious prosperity for the workers only the dispossessed can be thought of as a proletariat. Many of the workers are conspicuously 'bourgeoisified', to use language that Marxists only will understand.

That the squatting movement has not been so widespread as in 1945-6 is not merely due to the lack of militancy and class-consciousness; it is due to the lack of houses! It was so obvious in those years of evacuation and requisitioning that many houses were standing empty, they take a little more finding today.

If Mrs. Joan Foster, those at Redbridge, at Brighton and those unnumbered, unknown squatters wherever they may be, succeed with YOUR help, the movement will grow. Nothing, alas, succeeds like success and who knows, the success of direct action may lead to other forms of workers' and tenants' control. One can only learn by doing and theory, no matter how virginally pure, is barren without practice.

JACK ROBINSON.

Help Mrs. Foster

Guards may be wanted.
29-30 July. Ring Jack REN 2014

Anarchist Federation of Britain

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press, 116 Tynham Road, S.W.11 (228 4086).
LEWISHAM. Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, S.E.13 (852 8879).
FORTBELLO ROAD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.
FINCH'S ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings. Contact P.P., 271 Portobello Road, W.11.
BEXLEY ANARCHIST MOVEMENT. Steve Leman, 28 New Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2. Tel: ET 35377. Meetings every Friday, 8 p.m., Lord Bexley, Bexley Heath Broadway.
S.W. LONDON ANARCHISTS. Meeting alternate Wednesdays. Phone Brian 672 8494.

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. Ten minutes from Leytonstone Underground. Active groups in: LEYTONSTONE, STEPNEY, NEWHAM, ILFORD, DAGENHAM, WOODFORD and LIMEHOUSE.

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.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary, Peter Le Mare, 22 Hallowell Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16. Libertarian discussion groups Birmingham, 16.
BLACKBURN. 'Global Tapestry', c/o BB Books, 11 Clematis Street, Blackburn, BB2 6JP.
BOURNEMOUTH AREA. Local anarchists can be contacted through Nigel Holt, Rossmore, Harvey Road, Canford, Wimborne, Dorset. (Wimborne 2591.)
CORNWALL ANARCHISTS. Contact Arthur Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Meetings on the second Friday of each month at 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne. 7.30 p.m. Visiting comrades very welcome.
CROYDON LIBERTARIANS. Meetings every 2nd Friday of each month. Laurens and Colia Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath, CR4 8QH (653 7546) or contact Keith McCain, 1 Langmead Street, West Norwood, S.E.27. Phone 670 2397.
EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware,

Middx.
HERTS. Contact Val and John Funnell, 10 Fry Road, Chels, Stevenage.
LIVERPOOL ANARCHISTS & SITUATIONISTS. Contact Gerry Broe, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool.
LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester.
MUTUAL AID GROUP. c/o Borrowdale, Carriage Drive, Frodsham, Cheshire.
NORTH EAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Peter Ridley, 4 Rockcliffe Gardens, Whitley Bay, Northumberland. Phone 25759.
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.
ORFINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.
READING (town and university) and WOKINGHAM. Contact address: Larry Law, 57 Kiln Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire.
REDDITCH ANARCHISTS AND LIBERTARIANS. Contact Dave Lloyd, 37 Feckenham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs.
WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings and activities contact Mr. T. Plant, 10 Thackeray Road, East Ham, E.6. Tel: 552 4162.
WOKINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. c/o Larry Law, 57 Kiln Ride, Wokingham.

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 & WICKFORD. Steve Grant, 'Piccola Casa', London Road, Wickford, Essex.
NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex. Regular meetings.
BISHOPS STOETFORD. Vic Mount, 'Eastview', Castle Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
CHELMSFORD. (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House, Purleigh, Chelmsford, Essex.
EPFING. 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-WEST FEDERATION

Secretary: Phil, 8 Stonecroft Road, Leyland, PR5 3AE.

BLACKPOOL. Contact Christine and Graham, Top flat, 4 Ruskin Avenue, South Shore, Blackpool.
BOLTON. Contact John Hayes, 51 Rydal Road, Bolton.
CHORLEY. Contact Kevin Lynch, 6 Garfield Terrace, Chorley.
LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE. Contact Les Smith, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Meetings Monday at 8 p.m., Phil Woodhead's, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Regular literature sales.
MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. 'The Secretary', Felix Phillips, 6 Draycott Street, Manchester, 10. Regular weekly meetings. Contact Secretary for venue.
MERSEYSIDE ANARCHISTS. Contact Pete Duke, Flat 6, 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool, 8.
PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Rob Wilkinson, 73 Trafford Street, Preston. Meetings: 'The Wellington Hotel', Glovers Court, Preston. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
STOCKPORT. Dave Crowther, 1 Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport.

SURREY FEDERATION

EPSOM. G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom. Tel. Epsom 23806.
KINGSTON. Michael Squirrel, 4 Woodgate Ave., Hook, Chessington.
GUILDFORD. Peter Cartwright, 33 Denzil Road, Guildford.
MERTON. Elliot Burns, 13 Amity Grove, London, S.W.19. Tel. 01-946 1444.

SUSSEX FEDERATION

Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Fimdon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.
BRIGHTON & HOVE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton.
CRAWLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Richard Ashwell, 87 Buckswood Drive, Gosspops Green, Crawley, Sussex.
SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP (see details under Student Groups).

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION

Secretary: Contact Leeds Group.
HARRGATE. Contact David Howes, 16 Park Parade, Harrgate.
HULL: Jim Young, 3 Fredericks Crescent, Hawthorn Avenue, Hull.
KEIGHLEY: Steve Wood, 26B Cavendish Street, Keighley.
LEEDS: Direct Action Society. Contact Martin Watkins, 6 Ebberton Terrace, Leeds, 6.
SHEFFIELD: Dave Jeffries, c/o Students Union, Western Bank, Sheffield, 10.
YORK. Keith Nathan, Vanbrugh College, Hestling, York.

WELSH FEDERATION

ABERYSTWYTH ANARCHISTS. Contact Steve Mills, 4 St. Michael's Place, Aberystwyth, Cardi-

ganshire, Wales.
CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to—Pete Raymond, 18 Marion Street, Splott, Cardiff.
SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 18 Windsor Street, Uplands, Swansea. Weekly meetings at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Cardiff Arms (in the Strand).
LLANELLI. Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llysnyenydd Road, Llanelli, Carm. Tel: Llanelli 2548.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION

All correspondence to Bobby Lynn, Secretary, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow, S.E.
ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS & SYNDICALISTS. Contact Ian & Peggy Sutherland, 8 Eslemont Avenue, Aberdeen. Regular 'Freedom' Sale, leafletting, etc. Visiting comrades welcome.
GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Lynn, 12 Ross Street, S.E.
EDINBURGH. Tony Hughes, Top Flat, 40 Angle Park Terrace, Edinburgh 11.
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.
MONROSE. Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden, Monroese, Angus.
ROSS-SHIRE. Contact David Rodgers, Broomfield, Evanton, Ross-shire, Scotland.

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Meetings every Saturday, 2 p.m., 44a Upper Arthur Street (top floor). 'Freedom' sales.

SOUTHERN IRELAND

ALLIANCE OF LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUPS IN IRELAND. c/o Freedom Press.

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 59 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.
TORONTO LIBERTARIAN-ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 TorYork Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

PROPOSED GROUPS

MONTREAL, QUEBEC. Anyone interested in forming a Montreal area Anarchist group please contact Ron Sigler, Tel. 489-6432.
VANCOUVER. I.W.W. and Libertarian group. Box 512, Postal St. A., Vancouver 1, B.C., Canada. Read 'The Rebel'—please send donation for postage.
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. All those interested in forming a group contact Terry Phillips, 40 Grosvenor Way, Kettering, Northants.

THE STATE OF N. IRELAND was created in an atmosphere of religious fanaticism and para-military extremism. The right-wing Tory politicians of Ulster, demonstrating their loyalty to the crown by preparing armed rebellion against it, succeeded in gaining political autonomy in this area. The working-class Protestants, deluded by their aristocratic leaders and saved from the fate of 'Rome Rule', were launched on a path of bigotry and discrimination against the Catholic population of Ulster. The Catholics, denied their Utopia of an Irish Free State, retreated into their ghettos to lick their wounds and mutter about the injustices perpetrated against them by the Protestants. This situation was exploited, of course, by those who had gained advantage from it, by those who had vested interests in maintaining the status quo—the politicians on both sides of the political and religious fence. And so the situation remained until October 5, 1968, in Derry.

Derry is an interesting case because it is in fact a microcosm of the malaise which besets Northern Irish society. Famous for having undergone the longest siege in British history in 1689 when the walled city held out for 15 weeks against the forces of the Papist James II, the city became the jewel in Ulster's crown, the symbol of the Protestant revolution, the 'Maiden City' pure and unravished.

This explains the importance of Derry in the Unionist canon and why they regarded it as vital that it should remain unsullied, that is, controlled in perpetuum by a Unionist-dominated council.

There was only one snag—two-thirds of the population were anti-Unionist. This led to the development of an ambivalent attitude on the part of the Unionist Government. Because of the historical importance of Derry it was necessary to retain control of it at all costs, and because of the antipathy of the people of Derry to Unionism it was

(and incidentally had made millionaires of the McDonald family, the majority shareholders!), was not enough. But not so!

The following week, the company was interviewing its sacked workers—this time under the name of 'Monarch Electric', a new company—and within a month was back in operation. There were differences, however. The new name meant that the company was able to con another few hundred thousand

DERRY: Springboard of the Struggle

quiring new homes comes to more than 70% of the population! Realising the futility of appealing to the corrupt local politicians, where even a bribe was of no use unless you were of the right political persuasion, the people took matters into their own hands. Eleven homeless families squatted in the Guildhall for five weeks last November. Of course the politicians screamed about blackmail,

was his denunciation of the October 5 march. When no one paid any attention to him, he took part in the march hoping to salvage something, but it was too late.

Notable by his absence on October 5 was another politician—John Hume, director of a salmon canning firm. Several days after the marchers had been bated into the ground at Duke Street, Hume had a meeting in the City Hotel

Derry in January on the orders of Neil Farren, Bishop of Derry).

The elections came in February and the people of Derry rejected the blatant sectarianism of McAteer. Hume, having used the CR movement as a springboard, achieved his political ambition and was elected to Parliament where all his 'activities' (i.e. talking) now take place. Anyone who attempts to institute action outside Parliament is denounced by Hume as a trouble-maker 'who is using the CR movement for political purposes'. Mr. Hume being an ex-clerical student should scarcely need reminding of the parable of the mote and the beam.

Since his election he has begun to show himself in his true colours. When the people in Hooker Street were being intimidated by baton-happy RUC men Hume said: 'They are only hooligans, let the police handle it.' When the Unionist Government announced its 'reforms', Hume said they were 'reasonable'. Hume believes that because the Unionist MPs listen to him at Stormont, instead of making their usual exodus to the members' bar, he has achieved something.

ACTION BY THE PEOPLE

The people of Derry know what he has achieved—nothing! The people of Derry know that any changes that have come about have been as a result of action taken by the people themselves. It is too much to expect that in the short period of time since October 5 the people of Derry should have developed their political consciousness to the extent of being able to see Parliament as it really is—a sham and a farce. But having disposed of one hack politician they find that they have merely replaced Tweedledum by Tweedledee. Hume's policy of inaction has not endeared him to the people of Derry and the most commonly-heard complaint there is 'politicians are all the same'.

The people of Derry can react to this in one of two ways. Either they can sink back into the apathy which allows the politicians to live off the backs of the people, or they can reject the duplicity of the politicians and decide to control their own lives.

Having seen the workers become aware of being exploited, having seen the homeless successfully challenging the authorities, having seen the people realise that they do have power, I believe they will choose the latter course. In doing so, in rejecting political chicanery, in rejecting centralised bureaucracy, Derry can act as a catalyst for revolution, demonstrating that power does lie in the hands of the people, and it is to themselves that they must look for their freedom.

COLUMBANUS.

*Dr. Farren, Bishop of Derry and ex-blueshirt, has subsequently endeared himself to his loyal flock by touring the ghettos by Rolls Royce, accompanied by Protestant clerics.



necessary to maintain the city in a depressed condition of high unemployment and bad housing, since to do otherwise would be to give aid and succour to the 'disloyal' elements in the community.

Yet, in spite of the obvious economic and social difficulties which such policies imposed on the people, the result has been worthwhile in that the people of Derry have had their eyes opened to the sham that is Parliament and, by taking to the streets, have come to realise that power lies in the hands of the people, not the wheeling and dealing politicians.

The overall effect has been revolutionary in the true sense of the word, and the following examples, showing the developing consciousness of the people, demonstrate clearly the importance of Derry in the development of the Revolution, that it is from Derry, in fact, that initial revolutionary activity will occur, spreading to other centres later.

LOW WAGES

In 1954 a Government-advance factory was taken over in Derry by Birmingham Sound Reproducers on the usual terms—rent-free and rate-free for 10 years, 45% grant towards new machinery, as well as wages £3-£5 p.w. lower than in Britain. Workers, needless to say, were not well treated. Union activity was discouraged by none-too-subtle intimidation and activists were sacked, usually for bad time-keeping or time-wasting in the toilet!

In October 1964, ten years after it opened (surprise, surprise!) the workers were given thirty minutes' notice that the factory was to close and were paid a week's wages in lieu of notice. It would appear that the quality and output of the Derry worker which had made the name BSR well-known in the electronic world

from the Government, by closing down for a week or so they were able to get rid of 'trouble-makers' who were not rehired, and on re-opening they began to employ women at a wage 35%-50% lower than the men's—this in a city where 18%-22% of the men (and only 4% of the women) are habitually unemployed.

Naturally the workers' conditions became much worse, and when the company began to replace men on the assembly-line with 15-year-old boys (who were paid 1/10¹ an hour!), the workers revolted. They went on strike several times, were sold out by their unions, and began to sabotage the factory by taking away pockets full of screws, small parts, etc., which they threw away once outside. The management decided to teach the workers a lesson and in January 1966 did a repeat of their 1964 trick of closing the factory. But they made the mistake of giving the workers half an hour's notice. The workers wrecked the factory.

It is a sign of the developing consciousness of the Derry worker that now he knows he is being exploited and is not prepared to accept it. The industrial workers and trainees marching from Maydown to the city centre in November to defy Adolf Craig's ban were calling for one man one job and for the workers to be given the right to control their own lives. Having realised their power in the streets, the people are beginning to become aware of the power of workers' control in the factories.

HOUSING

Housing in Derry is a scandal. There are over 2,200 families on the waiting list and when taken together with those families living in substandard or downright inhuman conditions the number re-

disruption of corporation business and so on. But the families were given houses.

Since then squatting has continued on a greater scale as more and more families saw it as the answer to years in a hovel. At present thirty families have moved into houses owned by the Ministry of Defence and empty since January because of the inability of the Ministry and the Corporation to agree on a price. The squatters have organised themselves into a defence committee, set a fair rent (50/- a week) and have had the minions from the local council scurrying around to inform them that they were responsible for the rates (although empty property is unrateable).

The main instigators of the squatting activity are the Derry Labour Party, a group of militants whose attitudes and policies bear no relation whatsoever to the tired and ineffectual ramblings of the NILP; they are more concerned with the plight of the homeless and dispossessed, showing how they are exploited by the system and pointing out ways of hitting back. So far they have been eminently successful.

THE POLITICIANS

Politically, Derry used to be a typical example of the Orange-Green polarisation. McAteer, the local MP, would appear every five years on a platform draped with a tricolour, mouth a few platitudes about Irish freedom and the corruption of Unionism, and having secured the Catholic vote, would disappear until the next election. His business interests in accountancy and a travel agency meant he had no time to spare for the people who had been duped by him, but the final nail in his coffin

with a few other businessmen and jumped on the bandwagon by announcing that they (the businessmen) had formed a Citizens' Action Committee to act on behalf of the oppressed people of Derry and that he, Hume, was the spokesman.

From then on the tragi-comedy developed at full tilt, with politicians like Hume talking about 'the rights of the people' and so on, yet as soon as the people began to take matters into their own hands, he would immediately back down and sell out (as he sold out Free

EVERYMAN'S GUIDE TO TYRANNY

TYRANNY, a study in the abuse of power, by Maurice Lately. Macmillan, 50/-.

THIS IS A survey of tyranny through the ages, from the ancient Greeks to the twentieth century, with a study of the lives and deeds of many tyrants, how they came to power, how they held it and sometimes lost it. The point of view of the author is liberal-conservative-Christian. It is a study in the abuse of power. The need for power is not seriously questioned. To Mr. Lately a tyrant is a ruler whose authoritarianism exceeds the limit permitted by law and custom in his particular society.

To an anarchist this is a very milk-and-water sort of approach, nevertheless if you want an easy-to-read survey of tyranny in all its aspects, without sociological jargon, this is the book for you.

It does not analyse the matter deeply, as Wilhelm Reich did in his *Mass*

Psychology of Fascism, now regrettably out of print. The author does occasionally enter the realm of psychology. The fathers of some tyrants, Napoleon, Franco, were unsatisfactory. Rousseau, predictably, is blamed for modern totalitarianism. (Oddly enough Napoleon himself began the fashion of blaming Rousseau, which was a pretty piece of cheek.)

I find Mr. Lately's conservative point of view hard to take, but he is right I feel when he warns against conspiracy theories. Conspiracies happen, but it is safer to disbelieve rumours of them, even on the off-chance of occasionally missing one that really exists, than to live in constant dread of them. This state of anxiety favours the development of tyranny.

As an introduction to the subject this book may serve well enough, but the problem deserves a much more analytic treatment. A.W.U.

Law and Order in Ireland

THE STRENGTH of the Royal Ulster Constabulary is 2,993 men and 61 women. To 'help' them they have 10,000 B-Specials, part-time auxiliaries. Although the police have stated that they would like 'to have a third of the force RC', at present 90.2% are Protestant and 100% of the B-Specials. Both bodies are armed. The specials are not even required to have licences for their own private arsenals. The specials have no identification and at present most of the police don't bother to wear numbers—the Minister of Home Affairs having stated that he sees no real need for them to—they cost the Ulster taxpayer £7 million a year, what does he get for his money? Qualifications to become a member of this illustrious force are not noticeably very high. 'Well it helps if they can read and write and we do give them a sort of written test'. 809 of the police are ex B-Specials whose training for regular police work consisted of one month's training at Enniskillen.

Well, he firstly has the pride of living under some of the most repressive pieces of legislation in the world, the envy of South Africa. Most must be aware by now of the incredible Special Powers Acts, which allow the police to arrest on 'suspicion' that a crime might be committed, detain incommunicado, without recourse to a lawyer, a trial or even being charged. It is for the 'suspect' to prove his innocence, no easy matter if you don't even know what you've been charged with. You can be flogged, and if by any chance you die, an inquest can be refused if the police so desire. Under the powers vested in him the Minister can prohibit newspapers, gramophone records and even strikes. Meetings, marches, demonstrations are of course liable to be banned, while your premises can be searched without a warrant and anything confiscated. The new Public Order Amendment Act will make those who occupy public buildings or hold sit-downs liable for between six months and two years in prison. Not surprisingly the International Commission of Jurists have condemned it as 'shocking'.

What is not so well realized is that in the south this repressive legislation is very closely paralleled. The Offences Against the State Act of 1939 allows internment indefinitely without trial, while the ESB bill is an incredible piece of anti-trade union legislation. Moreover,

the proposed Criminal Justice Bill soon to go through the Dail, despite desperate opposition, will mirror Ulster's Public Order Bill. But the forces of 'law and order' do not stop at merely aping each other's legislation, for in a true spirit of camaraderie they stretch their hands across the border for some truly remarkable co-operation. There are many instances of people being bundled over the border by one force to 'oblige' the other, although this has been declared 'unconstitutional' in 1965, and at present both the gardai and the RUC are attending courses on riot control and having jolly film shows of how fellow 'riot controllers', such as Mayor Daly's gallant band, work. New 'equipment' has been

bought by both forces, including the well-loved water cannons, trendy new visored helmets and cuddly doggies. It won't be long before we will see the gas and mace used to 'control over-exuberant crowds'!

Both bodies too have a reluctance to push themselves into the limelight. After the police riot in Derry on January 5 when a large band of police, many drunk, beat up the Leckie Road Inspector Baillie of (surprise, surprise) the RUC conducted an investigation which now makes up 96 volumes and reluctantly indicts the police. The Minister of Home Affairs has declined to make it public and says at the same time that the recent 'amnesty' applies to the police also. Like-

wise, there has been no trace of the police 'investigation' into the police brutality outside the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin when Sein Feiners were arrested and smashed up. In the south however the forces of law and order do excel at some things. By and large their guardai are more brutal than the RUC (hard though it may be for some to believe it) and their special branch are certainly far more efficient than their northern counterparts, who mainly rely on amateurish mail opening, telephone tapping and petty bribery to obtain their 'information'. Their political sophistication is none too great either—a senior officer on being informed that one of those arrested was a 'trotskyite' (sic) said

knowingly, 'Ah, that's one of them anarchists, isn't it?' Their attempts to 'penetrate' the councils of PD are often pathetically funny, although they have their more sinister overtones. Since all PD meetings are open to everyone and we are well used to seeing gentlemen in smart new macs sitting quietly at the back; one would have thought that there was no need to put the frighteners on young attenders and to bribe them to 'report' on the meetings, this they generally do by threatening to 'do' a member of the would-be informant's family or a close friend unless information is forthcoming, old charges are raked up and a derisory sum of money usually offered. Up to date their 'results' have been to say the least negligible, since there are no secrets to be 'discovered'.

The B-Specials are a much more serious problem. An armed, totally sectarian force, they have been heavily implicated in the infamous Burntollet ambush (see book of same name by Egan & McCormick) where over seventy of them took part; in the Paisley 'capture' of Armagh, where five were accidentally arrested for carrying guns and are in grave danger of being involved in the recent acts of sabotage on the reservoirs and pylons. Yet the government is unwilling and perhaps unable to do anything about disbanding them. This might prove dangerous, for as in any other banana republic the junta is always in danger of a coup by the armed forces. Mainly Paisleyite by inclination, they represent a very real threat to the more patrician unionist clique. Certainly while they are in existence and the police continue to show such partiality in 'riot control' the government can expect no confidence from the RC minority. In the past the unionists knew this and didn't give a damn, for has not Ulster 'a Protestant Parliament for a Protestant people'. The higher RC birthrate has always been countered by ensuring a continually high annual emigration rate. Now the 'welfare state' means that fewer go, and so the 'minority' gets bigger and bigger. To many a diehard Orangeman this is a terrible Trojan horse. The smarter ones are attempting some entente and the activities of the police are a real hindrance to this. Only time can tell whether 'law and order' will be tamed here, but for many time is running out.

EDWARD JONES.



THE IRISH GENERAL ELECTION

DESPITE THE DISAPPOINTING results of the Irish General Election, a number of promising new trends emerge quite clearly. The results are nevertheless a great disappointment to all those who have fought against the attempts of Fianna Fail to throttle freedom of dissent through the Criminal Justice Bill and to put a halter around the freedom of trade union organisation with the Trade Union Bill and Industrial Relations Bill. The final results were Fianna Fail 75, Fine Gael 50, Labour 18, Independents 1, compared to the position at dissolution—Fianna Fail 74, Fine Gael 46, Labour 18, Independents 3 and vacant 3. The results of the 1965 General Election—Fianna Fail 72, Fine Gael 47, Labour 22 and Independents 3. Thus the election would appear to be a setback for the Labour Party and a victory for the two conservative parties.

The breakdown of the Labour results shows the development of a new trend in Dublin. Labour Party results in the Dublin area since 1961 show:

1961 General Election—3 MPs

1965 General Election—6 MPs

1969 General Election—10 MPs

Thus in less than 10 years the Labour Party has trebled its number of MPs in the Dublin area. Taken together while the Labour Party obtained 27.27% of its parliamentary support from Dublin after the 1965 Election, following the recent election it obtained 55% of its parliamentary support from Dublin. This is nothing short of a phenomenal change when considered against proportional representation which militates against dramatic upswings and downswings. Nationally the Labour vote increased from 17% to 19%.

The reasons for this dramatic change in support from rural to Dublin lies in (a) the gerrymandering of constituencies which took place recently, and (b) a filthy 'red smear' campaign launched against the policies of the Labour Party by

Fianna Fail and acquiesced in if not supported by Fine Gael. This was because of the left swing in Labour policies following the conference in January which set itself firmly against another coalition with Fine Gael. The reaction from both of the conservative parties succeeded in frightening some of the rural Labour voters. The last-minute intervention on behalf of the Labour Party by a number of leading figures in Irish agriculture obviously was too late to have any counter effect.

While the 'red smear' was successful in rural areas, it rebounded in Dublin where Dr. Noel Browne was returned after a spell of absence, coming second in a 3-seat constituency and Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien was elected on the first count. The trend in Dublin is consistent and indicates a polarisation of class forces. Immigration of young workers from the rural areas who are not prey to Fianna Fail's smear campaign is also evident, while depopulation of rural areas leaves a population behind who are prey to Fianna Fail's propaganda. This swing behind Labour in Dublin is for these reasons likely to harden in the future. The polarisation of class forces is summed up in the People's Democracy slogan: 'Tories out—north and south'.

The final death of civil war politics is a third visible trend. Up to 1948 the civil war issues of 1921 dominated Irish politics. Since then they have been slowly dying, this election they were not visible at all. Economic issues dominated the election from the first leaflet to the last exhortation.

Finally it is important to note the change of calibre in the Labour MPs elected. In the past the Labour MPs representing rural areas had a large personal vote. This vote deserted them on this occasion because for the first time the Labour Party was putting forward the comparatively advanced policies of its programme 'New Republic'. Instead

of men like Dr. Noel Browne being in a small minority in the parliamentary Labour Party, he has been joined by Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, David Thornley, Justin Keating and Barry Desmond. While the Labour Party has lost worthwhile men like Tom Kynne, these new faces that have come into the Dail can be said to represent the Irish New Left of recent years.

This is a brief analysis of the results and some readers will be wondering what is it for Anarchists? Does it matter whether Fianna Fail, Fine Gael or Labour is elected? They are all political parties, all believe in the master-slave wages system. None of them will tackle the class hierarchical structure of society. Very true indeed, but it would be short-sighted in the extreme to ignore the General Election results. As I have said, there is a polarisation of class forces taking place in Ireland, north and south. Like a thermometer in warming water the Election results reflect the depth of social struggle taking place. And Fianna Fail prepares its repressive legislation, they had a setback in the massive defeat of their proposal to abolish Proportional Representation last October. Now, however, they have been given a regrettable new lease of life and I use the regrettable quite intentionally. The best organised reactionary forces in Ireland are in Fianna Fail, this should not be overlooked. This is the importance of the election of Bernadette Devlin and Conor Cruise O'Brien. I would not pretend that they do any more than that. The class struggle will continue, the struggle for civil rights will continue. In the west of Ireland civil rights associations have grown up around the slogan 'One man, one job'. To which the Anarchist adds 'One man, one man in society, one membership card in the decision-making process of society'.

The trend towards amalgamation of the conservative forces is indicated by

the post-election editorial in the Fine Gael paper *Irish Independent*. This joined in the Fianna Fail hurrah in lambasting the 'new' socialist policies of the Labour Party. The calibre of the new Labour MPs will speed the process.

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, the Home Rulers, driven first to separatism then to

Republicanism by a shortsighted British class. These people, the Home Rulers and the Unionist Party, have much more in common with each other than either of them have with the rising civil rights movement for housing, for jobs, for votes, for a stake in the society to which they are born in the West, in Dublin, Derry, Cork and Belfast.

The various Civil Rights associations should hold a National Civil Rights Congress to emphasize their unity of purpose against the Tories—Orange and Green.

DAVID PICKETT.

Palermo Fascists Throw Bombs

RECENTLY the political squad from Police HQ and the local Carabinieri have been very 'concerned' about young comrades, imprisoning some and then releasing them after the customary day of interrogation and the usual house search.

Don't be too ready to connect these occurrences with the recent explosions of bombs and thunder-flashes which have disturbed this Sicilian city. From the way the investigations were carried out and the nature of the imprisonments we believe that this is a definite campaign of intimidation, against which we should act.

As everybody knows (since the press and TV have been full of it), a few squalid little fascists have been caught red-handed, and, reluctantly, the police were forced to prosecute them.

Long before their arrest, however, the CID knew very well that these delinquents kept in their den that arsenal which has now, in fact, been 'discovered'. For, to judge from the 'courteous attention' which has been focussed on our group, nothing could escape the eye of

the political squad, and besides, the young members of MSI and similar organizations have made frequent public appearances armed with chains, iron clubs, various weapons, and Molotov cocktails. So one doesn't need to give the police credit for particular acumen to believe that they have known for a long time who were the originators of the violence carried out against things and people by these worthy emulators of the fascist old guard, and their arrest was inevitable.

We have a theory, backed up by the nature of the interrogations which our comrades have undergone that, initially, the police—on the one hand alarmed at the size to which our group has grown, and on the other completely ignorant of the nature of anarchism and anarchists—hoped that some young comrade would allow himself to be influenced by the 'explosions' and would try the same thing himself. Then they could have blamed the whole group for this one act, and also made us out to be responsible for all the previous explosions too.

Continued on page 5

'Which Side are you on Wee Lad?'

THERE IS A JOKE told about Northern Ireland and it goes like this: 'An Indian commercial traveller, equipped with a standard battered suitcase, arrives at the front door of a house in a Belfast working class area. The beturbaned Indian salesman knocks upon the door and it is opened by an old woman who looks at him with suspicion.

"What do you want?" she asks. "I wish to display my wares for your perusal in the hope that you may purchase something," replies the salesman politely.

"I only buy from Protestants," says the old woman.

"Lady, I am a Sikh," explains the salesman.

The old woman then looks very closely at the Indian gentleman and retorts:

"Aye, but are you a Catholic or a Protestant one?"

It is felt by most working-class Ulster folk that mankind can be divided into two groups—Protestant and Roman Catholic. The job of an Anarchist in such a society is to state truth and attack falsity. He must challenge the myths of religion, propagated by religious leaders so as to play into the hands of those who own and rule, by explaining to working people that the real division is between those who exploit and those who are exploited.

The roots of sectarian division in N. Ireland go as far back into the past as the 17th century, when the country was planted in areas with English and Scottish settlers of various Protestant viewpoints, the two main groups being Episcopalian and Presbyterian. The native inhabitants thought of them as being foreign usurpers who had no right to be on Irish soil. As time went past the idea of their being foreign gradually submerged but they were still distinguished by their religion as the group which supported English rule and the suppression of Irish Nationalism.

The way in which land was granted originally to the settlers was usually in the form of large estates which were either bought by rich gentlemen, or were granted to them for services rendered to the state. These landowners brought retinues of servants from their home territory, who were also Protestants. Their new estates were then divided up into farms which were worked and rented by their servants. As time passed many of these farm workers were able to purchase these farms from their landlords, and so the Protestant community grew. Also the poorer land which had not been claimed by the settlers, although it still remained in the hands of the original Roman Catholic Irish, in many cases was not enough to support expanding families. Thus it came about that RCs returned to land taken over by Protestants where they were employed as farm labourers.

Now the majority of Protestants did not hold or own land but were also employed by their co-religionists as farm labourers. Their plight was almost as bad as their Roman Catholic neighbours, but they felt that they must support the position of their landlords because if they did not show Protestant solidarity in the face of their slightly more down-trodden RC neighbours, rebellion would be encouraged, and this could lead to a Protestant massacre. Thus the property-owning class found it to their advantage to give fodder to religious distrust as it blinded the eyes of the workers of all the religious groups to the fact that they should be engaged in a class struggle against exploitation. The clergy also benefited indirectly from religious antagonism as both sides thought it an act of loyalty to their respective race traditions to support the faith of their fathers.

This poem illustrates the feelings of Roman Catholics for those who deserted their religion in order to become Protestants for the advantage of being able to climb the ladder of material advantage:

They sold their souls,
For sugar rolls,
And bread,
And hairy bacon.

The Protestant upper and middle classes encouraged a chauvinistic frame of mind in their 'Protestant Peasantry', to recompense them for lack of power and wealth, by preaching the master race myth to them and unfortunately they swallowed it willingly enough; if you can spit on someone lower than yourself your plight is not too bad! One Protestant self-glorification-type poem goes:

Three hundred years ago,
Our founding fathers,
With farthing fists,
And thistles in their eyes,
Laid foot upon this shore,
Bibles for bibs,
And bloody pikes for rattles,
And tombs for keeps,
There was no time for wedding,
The banns were bloody red,
Calvin and Culverin sang the
cradle song,
And Cromwell made the bed.
In 1690 came the famous 'Battle of

the Boyne' when James II lost the English throne to William of Orange. James, thinking to exploit the hatred of all things Protestant and English which lay on the hearts of the dispossessed RC Irish, promised to better their plight if they raised an army to help him fight William and regain his throne. He arrived in the port of Kinsale with promises of French support and in a short time raised a rebel army. This army marched to meet King William at the Boyne where it was defeated, to the great delight of Northern Protestants. Retaliatory measures were then instituted against the RC population in the form of very harsh penal laws, designed to prevent them from ever again becoming powerful enough to challenge English interests.

However as the population of N. Ireland grew, commercial and industrial centres came into being and the city of Belfast, as a marketing and industrial area with a fine shipping port, became very important by mid-18th century. The citizens, newly-attracted from the rural areas controlled by avaricious Protestant landlords, were of all religious denominations, Catholics, Protestants and Dissenters. By the second half of the 18th century Belfast had earned the title of 'The Athens of the North', as a tribute to the citizens for their aspirations in regard to liberty and love of culture. Their liberalism was demonstrated by the way in which they celebrated the success of the break-away American pioneers from the domination of English rule, and their rejoicings for the victories gained by the workers during the French Revolution. The fall of the Bastille was celebrated in July 1790 by a march through the town to a banquet in the White Linen Hall and two years later this event was commemorated in Belfast by the majority of the city's population. When Thomas Paine (1737-1809) published *The Rights of Man*, its theories were as nectar to Belfast people and it was known jestingly as 'The Koran of Belfast'. In those days Belfast Protestants did not hate their RC neighbours as the majority do now and, as a proof of this, the town's first Catholic chapel, St. Mary's, was built with the financial help of the Presbyterians. Also the people of Belfast were probably the most vociferous in their denunciation of the restrictions placed by the penal laws on Catholics.

Eventually there came into existence in Belfast a society known as the United Irishmen which was pledged to the liberation of Ireland from the land-owning classes, and the destruction of the English connection. However this society was eventually suppressed by the English army and its supporters—the landowners. The inhabitants of Belfast were terrorised into a state of submission by a series of barbaric executions and free speech came to an end. England was at war with the French at this time and there was a great demand by her armies for meat. In the rural districts of Ulster the landowners took the opportunity to evict many tenants from their land in order to convert this land into grazing territory for cattle. To facilitate this they helped in the formation of the 'Orange Order' so that Protestants, under the cover of this secret society, could terrorise their Catholic neighbours into relinquishment of their land. The choice was given to the Protestants to either join the order or be branded secret supporters of the United Irishmen and suffer the Orange vengeance.

Belfast was invaded by thousands of dispossessed Catholics. Watched by police spies, the English army, and secret agents planted by the Orange Order, the liberal-minded Protestants could do little to help their newly-arrived Catholic brothers without being branded as secret supporters of the United Irishmen. The newly-arrived influx of Catholics desperately looked for a new livelihood. They were willing to work for lower wages than Protestant workers. Trouble broke out among Protestant workers when the Catholics, asking for less money, began to compete

for Protestant jobs. The years passed and gradually the Protestant population became more and more hostile to the Catholic one. Protestants then began to join the Orange Order and, as this society grew, so freedom of thought in Belfast gradually gave place to religious bigotry, and the 'Athens of the North Died! ! !'.

The nationalist struggle persisted in sporadic outbursts over the years, fought by Protestant reaction and English soldiers, and few of the patriots thought of a struggle at a more important level: the class struggle of ordinary people for the right to control their own fields, factories and workshops without interference by either Church or State. One of the leaders of the 'Easter Rising' in Dublin during 1916 was James Connolly. He organised the Citizens' Army and played a prominent part in the takeover and the defence of Dublin GPO. This man was a socialist who had seen through the falsity and corruption of English politicians, and the avarice of Irish and English capitalists. What a pity it was that he did not see through the pretensions of Government and the State to the voluntary reorganisation of man co-operating in local areas under mutual aid principles, unfettered by any law except that imposed by an honest conscience. However no one can deny that there was an integrity and inward nobility in his life which persisted at his death. After the Dublin GPO was captured he was tried and sentenced to death. His wounds as yet unhealed, he was taken on a stretcher to the execution yard in

Dublin's Kilmainham jail at dawn on May 12, 1916, where he was shot by a firing squad. One of the soldiers who executed him had this to say:

They say he was kindly,
Different too,
Apart from all the rest,
A lover of the poor,
And all shot through,
His wounds ill drest,
He came before us,
Faced us like a man,
Who knew a deeper pain,
Than blows or bullets ere the
world began,
Died he in vain?

Time passed and the Civil War in 1921 occurred, Southern Ireland forming the Irish Republic and becoming to a degree politically independent from England, Northern Ireland deciding to vote in a Unionist Government to maintain direct connection with Britain, both maintaining structures of organised insensitivity to working-class demands and needs. Roman Catholic clergy in the South, and Protestant Clergy in the North, both helping to maintain Tory Governments by blinding the eyes of working people to the need for revolution. One clergyman, the most 'Rev.' Ian Paisley and his brother-in-arms, Major Bunting, has recently helped to create the emotional background in the minds of bigoted religious peasants, which could lead to the ambush which took place at Burntollet Bridge. One of the ambushed, an Anarchist, wrote this about the events which took place at Burntollet:

Beside a wide flung oak tree,

A romp I did espy,
Some old men played,
A funny game,
To the tune of a young girl's cry,
Upon the grass relaxing,
Like birds about to bite,
Old women with mouths watering
watched,
This most ugly sight.
A rhapsody of brick and club,
A rhythm made of shriek,
The melody was very strange,
But in Ireland not unique.

Northern Ireland's past is an example of how people with wealth and power, backed by the apparatus of the State, Police, Law and Army can manipulate ordinary people like puppets into positions where they can be exploited for the benefit of those who 'breed money on money'. At the present stage in the evolution of Northern Ireland it is essential that we make contact with ordinary working people and make clear to them the way they have been used in the past, and the way their children will be used in the future, unless society is revolutionised by Anarchism. We must not live a comfortable life within the Civil Rights Movement and we must not be 'the shaggy dog camp followers of Communists or Reformists'. We must put our case for the Anarchist Revolution forward at every possible opportunity with such vigour and skill that we will never be asked—

'Are you a Catholic or a Protestant Anarchist?'

D. H. FIRKIN.

Okinawa: Keystone of World Liberation

THERE IS VERY LITTLE awareness in this country of the problems of Okinawa or of the threats of SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organisation). SEATO is symbolic of Western imperialism and colonialism in South East Asia while Okinawa can be seen as a part of the 'Third World' struggle for freedom. This is how Japanese militants see their fight to liberate Okinawa.

The Okinawa islands are off the south coast of Japan where a million Japanese are living under the military government of the United States. The US has occupied Okinawa since the end of World War II, 24 years ago. Situated at the centre of an arc beginning at Japan and Korea in the north, to South East Asia through Taiwan, Okinawa is a convenient advanced base for US aggression in Vietnam. Okinawa would be of immense value in any aggression against the people of China and South Korea, particularly since nuclear weapons could be stockpiled and used without the permission of either the local government or the Japanese government. As the training site for guerilla warfare and as the centre for intelligence activities in South East Asia, Okinawa is of incomparable value to US imperialism.

Okinawa was under the rule of the Japanese government before the war, being administered as one of the 43 prefectures of Japan. Since the US military occupation of Okinawa islands, a million Okinawans have been deprived of their Japanese nationality and have become stateless.

Okinawans have been forced to use US currency and a person from either Okinawa or the Japanese mainland, wishing to travel between the islands and the mainland, must submit an application in English to the US authorities. Permission is never automatically granted. The militants of groups opposing US policy are never granted permission.

Americans generally refer to Okinawa as 'The Keystone of the Pacific Ocean'. This portrays ironically their attitude concerning Okinawa. The US has 117 military bases on Okinawa; the Army 65, Navy 13, Marine Corps 15 and Air Force 24 (as well as 171 American military bases in the Japanese mainland).

These military bases have the following functions:

- (i) bases for crushing national liberation struggle;
- (ii) bases for nuclear strategy;
- (iii) advance and supply bases;
- (iv) intelligence bases for the CSG (US Army Composite Service Group).

It is certain that the US cannot continue the war in Vietnam and prepare for a new Korean war as they are doing right now, without Okinawa.

Japanese anarchists believe that the incomparable importance of Okinawa for imperialism means, at the same time, the most important centre for world liberation and world revolutionary movements. The Keystone for imperialist aggression should be changed to the Keystone for liberation. A free Okinawa would be able to show the truth of revolution to the world.

Apart from a few small capitalists in Okinawa who are profiteering from the US occupation, the mass of Okinawans wish to return to Japanese rule.

Their feelings are illustrated in their old proverb 'It is just a matter of course that a child goes back to his mother's breast'. But is the solution to the problem really so simple? The people have been told by communist propaganda that reversion to Japanese rule would answer all their problems.

It would seem that the Japanese communists still believe the Japanese Constitution is a unique one, declaring not to have any weapons and never to participate in another war, so Okinawans should be under the protection of the Japanese Constitution rather than the proclamations and ordinances of the military government of the United States which exists in Okinawa today. The communist slogans: 'Yankie go home!', 'Return our Hinomaru!' (Japanese national flag), are just nationalism. They have no real meaning to the people of Okinawa. In fact reversion would simply mean delivering Okinawa from US imperialism to Japanese imperialism. As long as the US/Japan Military Treaty prevails, even if Okinawa were under Japanese rule, the US would still be allowed to maintain its base on Okinawa. So, apart from regaining their Japanese nationality, in effect, reversion would not alter the situation.

According to communist theory reversion would limit armaments on Okinawa to the same level as in the Japanese mainland. This is just an argument used to further communist sectarianism, for simple reversion will never reduce the armaments level, but would probably serve to increase the armaments level in the mainland to match the present armaments level in Okinawa.

It is the intention of both US and Japanese imperialists to use both the mainland and the islands as a mammoth advanced nuclear base. The revision of

the US/Japan Military Treaty, due in 1970, will certify this 'unholy alliance' as fact.

Japanese anarchists abide no more by the Japanese Constitution than any other state law, nor even the UN Charter, as many communists and deceived libertarians do. They see the situation in Okinawa as essentially a class struggle. It is a typical example of class repression by imperialism; just as we see the same situation in Vietnam and Biafra. The communists refuse to analyse the real problems of Okinawa because they fear a split in the movement for Okinawan reversion. They are afraid the movement will lose its initiative.

The anarchist goal is the establishment of the 'Free Commune of Okinawa'. They would like to see Okinawa independent from both Japanese and US occupation. The real answer to the problem of Okinawa is NOT REVERSION BUT LIBERATION.

Only self-will on the part of the Okinawans can free them from the shackles of imperialism. When 50,000 Okinawans who are working in the US military base stop work, the US cannot continue its war in Vietnam for one more day. The liberation of Okinawa is equal to the liberation of a part of Japan, a part of Asia, or any part of this world. For Japanese anarchists, the fight for world revolution begins at Okinawa.

HIROSHI OZEKI.
(Anarchist Group of Osaka.)

Continued from page 4

Palermo Fascists

However, since the expected event failed to materialize, the police took the opportunity—using the excuse that they had to make investigations—to pick on the youngest of our comrades so that their frightened parents would persuade them to return to 'the straight and narrow'.

The stupidity of this idea was shown by the composed and determined attitudes of the arrested boys and their families. So the whole incident has been one more occasion when the 'organs of repression' have been shown up and decisively beaten back in their latest attempt to meet ideas with force—the method of every State—with intimidation and with violence.

PALERMO ANARCHIST GROUP.
Umanità Nova, 7.6.69.
Trans. D.P.

But we think you ought to know

THE MINISTRY of Employment and Productivity has appointed a 'Special Investigator' at its Bristol office to investigate cases of 'suspected fraud' in the Region, which comprises Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. This is revealed by an internal memorandum, No. R.O. 95 (Rev.) which has come into the hands of One and All.* The circular is signed by W. D. Scott, Regional Controller, and dated April 1969.

The Investigator's existence and function was to be kept secret from the public. Paragraph 11 of the document states: 'It is desirable that the Special Investigator and his function should not become generally known, and in any subsequent proceedings he should not appear in court unless his first-hand evidence is essential to the successful conduct of the case.' However, *One and All* believes that the increasing tendency towards the use of their own detectives by the various agencies of the State should be exposed and challenged. This man's appointment has not been discussed in Parliament, the alleged watchdog of the citizen's liberty. Or, as the circular puts it: 'The Special Investigator will hold no special statutory or other powers such as would entitle him, for example, to enter premises or to demand the production of records.' (Para. 8.)

His way of working will not be so

direct as this. Instead (para. 5): 'Normally the duties of the Special Investigator will concern specific cases of suspected fraud. . . . However, the officer will also be available to follow up and probe cases, where although there are no precise circumstances pointing directly to fraud, there may nevertheless be indications that opportunities for fraud exist and raise suspicion that fraud may be taking place. For example although no definite allegation has been received, a Manager may have reason to think that fraud may be prevalent in his area by persons working in street markets, window cleaning, scrap collecting or other forms of casual employment; or the appearance or dress of an individual or his frequent lateness in attending to sign the unemployment register may create a suspicion that he is working. Such cases may involve prolonged and discreet enquiries by someone not generally known in the district.'

This paragraph provides a revealing insight into the bureaucratic mind. How much more satisfying the world would be if there were no casual workers; if persons did not work in street markets, or at such individualistic forms of employment as window cleaning or scrap metal collecting! If everyone dressed cleanly, neatly but in the properly thread-

bare clothes of the 'deserving poor'. If the poor lined up for their dole at the appointed moment with the decorum and promptitude of those who know that they are lucky to receive anything from the hands of the benevolent State!

In fact, of course, not only is unemployment benefit ours by right, but we have paid for it many times over through our insurance stamps and taxes. (Everyone pays taxes, through indirect taxation, even if they are too poor to be taxed directly.) So-called 'fraud' relating to unemployment benefit consists most frequently of the results of muddle and ignorance; people, particularly those who through lack of education or plain stupidity (?) cannot understand the bureaucrats' rules and regulations, often make mistakes in filling in forms. It is a common human failing. Yet a simple error on a form could lead to 'prolonged and discreet enquiries' by a Ministry Special Investigator. This, in more direct terminology, means spying. He is going to pry into your private life; turn the milkman, the publican, the grocer into informers, your neighbours into gossips.

Nevertheless, you may say, this apparatus is necessary to catch the real criminals who do exist and who steal society's money. The objection to this is manifest. The whole elaborate system

of checks, counterchecks and now secret policemen to prevent 'fraud' in the welfare services can only catch the tiniest little fish. The big ones, as ever, get away. It would be very hard to devise a system that could defraud the Employment Exchanges of more than a few pounds a week. Anyone with the brain to do so would not bother—they would try a different, more profitable game.

The people who do cheat society of vast amounts of money are not caught by any laws. Remember the Ferranti affair? In 1963 the Ferranti company overcharged the Ministry of Aviation to such an extent that they eventually agreed, after a wrangle, to return £4,250,000, still leaving themselves with 21% profit. This criminal exercise makes your small-time man who dares to draw unemployment benefit while working at a job look rather pathetic. Or consider Harry Hyams, the property speculator who built a vast office block ('Centre Point') in Central London. It is still empty—not because he couldn't let it, but because he is waiting for rents to go even higher before he claims his bonanza. So far his estimated profit is £14 million. This wealth must have come from somewhere: it comes from society—you, me and Cousin Jack who do the productive work and maintain these parasites on our backs.

And yet the State sees fit to introduce yet another 'Special Investigator' to keep the ordinary people in line. Paragraph 9 reveals the existence of similar spies in the Department of Health and

Social Security (the NAB): 'The Grade 5 Investigation Officer will maintain a close working relationship with the Special Investigation Officers of DHSS so that information of mutual interest can be passed on and views exchanged as to the technique, methods and sources of information which from experience have been found to be best suited to investigation of different types of suspected fraud.'

There is nothing surprising about all this. Undoubtedly this particular 'Special Investigator', which One and All is by good fortune able to expose to public gaze, is one of very many unknown, faceless men maintained by the State bureaucracy to keep an eye on us. The vast computer complex at Newcastle contains details of everyone—our idiosyncrasies, whether we are prone to undertake 'casual employment' or indulge in window-cleaning, street selling or scrap metal collecting. It is in the nature of ANY State, whether 'capitalist' or 'communist', to breed such bureaucracies, systems of control, spy-networks with which to watch and regulate its citizens. Meanwhile the real criminals, the Ferrantis and the Hyams, not only slip through the net but indeed have Government honours heaped upon them.

Such is the nature of modern society; such is the system we must oppose and destroy. The Ministry of Employment Special Investigator is just one of its nastier manifestations.

**One and All* (No. 3), 6d., from Six Chimneys, Bolenowe, Troon, Camborne, Cornwall. Tel. Camborne 3061.

ANALYSIS OF PREJUDICE

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ENGLAND by W. W. Daniel. Pelican Books, 6/-.

FUTURE ages, if there are to be any, which is by no means certain, will regard the twentieth century as the age when people were persecuted for reasons of race, instead of for reasons of religion, as in former times.

In the autumn of 1966 the Race Relations Board and the National Committee for Commonwealth Immigrants sponsored a study to assess the degree of discrimination in fields not covered by the Race Relations Act. This covers a wide area indeed, and includes employment, housing, insurance, credit facilities and financial services. The survey was carried out by Political and Economic Planning (or PEP) and Research Services Ltd. The results of the survey are now published in book form, and might depress the result is.

(I apologise for using words like 'depressing', 'discouraging' and so on, in every review I write, but it just is that sort of world.)

The book is mainly concerned with

prejudice against dark-skinned people. Hungarians, Cypriots and other white foreigners are not victimised to the same extent, and their children may pass for English. Negroes suffer worst of all. Indians have it a little better. There is a widespread belief that the Indians have had an ancient civilisation, whereas the Negroes have always been savages (which incidentally as far as the Negroes are concerned is not true), at least I have often encountered this attitude.

Of course not all those non-Europeans who come to work in England feel discriminated against. Those who come prepared to do some lowly kind of job, send money home to their family and finally return to their land of origin, may wonder what all the fuss is about.

Said one immigrant when questioned, 'Why disappointed? I have a job. I earn money which is sufficient for needs. Disappointed I will be if I had no job and my family life does not remain calm and quiet. I came here to earn money and I earn money.'

But another said, 'I knew there was work in Britain. I came here for a labourer's job. If you are a labourer and

content to be one you are happy in this country. If you look for anything better you will be unhappy and discontented. The living standards are better and I am satisfied.'

Even though one may be contented to live like an urban Thoreau, it must be difficult to cope with rebuffs of this sort.

'Even in the buses they won't sit against you. They stand up or move away. They don't want to live near us and when we move in they move away. They don't speak to us.'

Or again, 'I was ~~in a~~ smash. The police came but refused to take me to hospital in his car, saying "I won't take this coloured in my car". People look at you on the roadside saying "blackie bastard".'

Defenders of racial segregation, in my experience, will tell you that between black and white there is an instinctive hostility. However there must be an instinctive hostility between white and white too if this be true, for although immigrants from the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe may achieve acceptance, the impeccably Aryan and Indo-European gypsies are victimised as viciously as Negroes, while the Jews are still not really accepted, as the anti-semitic outbursts at the time of the recent Arab-Israeli war have shown.

Open this book at any page and out come trotting the weary old clichés. One can even hear the pseudo-genteel voice of the petit-bourgeois social climber, who is not all that sure of his own status in the social order, but here I am becoming racist myself!

'Indians fit better in offices. They look like us, they are just a bit darker. Quite often they just look like a dark European. But some of these blacks are quite different.'

Or again, 'We only employ Indians at staff level. This isn't deliberate, I assure you. But the staff realise that Indians are really okay—nice, cultured, intelligent.'

And so home to the nice little semi-detached, with the gnome-haunted garden and the set of plaster ducks on the dining room wall.

Some would like to have us believe either (a) that racial prejudice is a characteristic of the snobbish bourgeoisie, or (b) that it is a characteristic of the uneducated proletariat. Unfortunately it seems to be about equally spread over all social classes. One may hear men who have been to university expressing opinions which are on the level of the belief that toads carry jewels in their heads, when discussing Negroes, Jews and gypsies. While sturdy working men, the type you would imagine to be models for those statues so popular in the Soviet Union and elsewhere a few years ago, come out with the same abysmal rubbish. While no one at all is worse than the disillusioned left-wing intellectual, who has patronised some black person and not received the gratitude he expected.

This little book is a picture of England. Read it and love your country.

BOOK REVIEW

All Power to the People!

(This is a general leaflet soon to be issued by the Cornwall Anarchists and intended mainly for politically concerned people.)

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL PEOPLE TOLERATE GOVERNMENTS?

GOVERNMENTS are the greatest criminals of all. Throughout the world this truth is more apparent every day: killings, invasions, deportations, massive infringements of liberty, brutal police forces. All in the name of 'Law and Order', all to uphold the power of government.

And throughout the world the people are in revolt. Vietnam, Czechoslovakia, United States, France, Germany, South America, Japan. There are few countries which have not felt the stirrings of resistance by ordinary men and women as they see their lives interfered with by government. Whatever the justification for the interference, whether it be to put down 'counter-revolutionaries' or to stifle 'enemies of democracy', the real motive is sickeningly clear. The men who have power, the governments, want to keep that power, and will use as much force as is necessary to retain it.

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL WE TOLERATE GOVERNMENTS?

Here, as elsewhere, the problem is acute. Cornwall could be a rich and prosperous district for all its inhabitants. Yet it is not. The economic system we have imposed upon us, backed up by the coercive power of government, is so antiquated, unjust and inefficient that in the midst of plenty Cornwall is desperately poor.

To be sure, the shareholders of Holman Brothers or English China Clays are not poor. Nor will be the German, Canadian and South African financiers who will reap the profits of the new tin mines. But unless radical action is taken the community will see little of the prosperity which could belong to all.

WHY SHOULD OTHER PEOPLE CONTROL YOUR LIFE?

At the moment our way of life is dictated by politicians and bureaucrats 300 miles away in Whitehall. They enforce a capitalist economic system and make laws in its defence. They, or their puppet local authorities, control education, health, foreign relations, transport, employment, and every other important aspect of our lives.

Thanks to them we have near us the Nancekuke gas warfare factory, protected against enquiry from Cornish citizens by the most elaborate security precautions.

Thanks to them most of our primary schools were built in the last century. Thanks to them Cornwall is starved of cultural life, gives a bare living to most of its people and shows the typical features of a colonised country.

Thanks to them—or thanks to us? Isn't it time we did something about it? 'Internal self-government' on the pattern of Northern Ireland is no solution. Devolution of political power without revolutionary social and economic change merely gives greater license to the current exploiters: government by landed gentry in Truro is hardly an improvement on government by distant bureaucrats in Whitehall.

It is only when people take power for themselves, control the factories, workshops and farms where they work and the communities where they live, and refuse to allow coercion from outside: only then will we approach a sane and just society. Better education and communications are showing ordinary people that they are capable of managing their own affairs, and capable of doing it in a far more sensible, equitable and pleasant way than things are managed now.

Anarchists demand the abolition of all governments, near or far, strong or weak, 'democratic', 'communist' or 'fascist'.

Anarchists demand the abolition of private or State ownership of the country's resources which should be used for the benefit of all and run by the people themselves.

Anarchists demand that in place of the present system of economic and physical coercion, people should be free: free to associate to provide the necessities and luxuries of life; free to live their lives to the full; free to develop towards the peaceful, just and joyfully creative society that everyone dreams of but few will fight to gain.

We know that no social progress has ever been made without a struggle.

Existing political structures, the farce of voting, parties, and Parliament itself, have been shown to be effective means of preventing fundamental change. That the glorious vision of the early Socialists should have ended in the present 'Labour' government is sad evidence for this.

We know that no one who has power will voluntarily relinquish it and that throughout the world the old rulers are reacting with desperate violence to preserve their position.

Anarchists do not bother with outdated political systems. We believe change will come when people make it come, by direct action and if necessary revolution.

CORNWALL ANARCHISTS.

People's Democracy Spreads

MANY ENGLISH COMRADES will remember Lurgan on the first stop on the Belfast-Dublin Easter road. Lurgan was one of the successes of the march, owing its success firstly to a fuzz balls up and secondly to an enthusiastic Lurgan people, prepared for militant action if their rights were denied.

Since then, Lurgan has not come out with any coherent local demands or local plan of action (e.g. when Derry street fighting brought people all over the north onto the street, the people of Lurgan took the town centre and held it for some time) to influence their own course of action.

This lack of self-generating activity has been due to:

1. A basically Green Tory CRA committee consisting of prominent society folk and blue shirts. This committee has all too readily accepted the CRA executives' proposals to lay off for six weeks and alongside many other committees (e.g. North Tyrone, Armagh) has reassumed its Rip Van Winkle posture, refusing to have open public meetings, preferring to run concerts to raise money to support their insurrection.

2. This issue in Lurgan has long been disguised by a low unemployment level (by NI standards) and by no real shortage of housing.

However, local discontent with their

inactive CRA has now resulted in the formation of a Lurgan PD which looks certain to eclipse the more sedentary CR body. On Monday, June 2, over 150 enthusiastic people inaugurated their own organisation, free from statutory committees and bureaucratic deadwood. Guests from Belfast PD were very well received and suggestions of direct action against the discriminatory council accepted unanimously.

First action will be on housing, probably in conjunction with tenants' associations. Just outside Derrytrassna there stand eight council houses, structurally sound, but without running water or toilets for sixteen years. They are owned by the Craigarian Commission. Sixteen years with dry toilets encourages a charitable attitude and the suggestion that a present should be sent to some of the Commission members of the readily available home-made fertilizer was well received. As one lady put it, 'If they shit on us for sixteen years, we'll return the compliment.'

Grass roots activity on housing should therefore soon get off the ground. As for previous satisfaction with the employment situation, workers are beginning to realise that all is not well in the set up where the Government not only imports the industrialists but also imports particular unions to be imposed upon the unwilling people.

A.W.U.

Extra! Extra! Murder in Fleet Street

IT WAS IN 1960 that the *News Chronicle* and *Star* were murdered. At the time of the closure the *News Chronicle* had a circulation of around 1,800,000 but Cadbury had no longer any use for his toy, therefore 300 editorial staff and 3,100 printing staff lost their jobs, a large percentage were absorbed in the industry but nevertheless jobs were lost by the whim of advertisers and the Cadbury family who owned nearly all the shares.

The *Sunday Dispatch*, owned by Associated Newspapers, went to the wall, as did at a later date the *Sunday Citizen*. All these papers, with the exception of the latter, had fair circulations, but they were not making a profit. Why? Because newspapers depend entirely for their very existence on advertising. These leeches in fact determine the number of pages in a newspaper despite the importance of any news. The whole system becomes a vicious circle, lack of adverts. means smaller papers which in turn

means a drop in circulation, and advertisers will not place their ads. with small circulation newspapers.

I believe one factor has to be faced. The British public do not want 'news'-papers—the high circulation of the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *People* and *News of the World* prove this point—banner headlines and clichés appear to suffice. Having said that, the point also has to be made that the newspaper reading public are reluctant to pay an economic price for their newspaper, and so decrease the newspapers' dependence on advertising. We are constantly hearing the bull shit about freedom of the press, but we help to shackle it. If papers depended on the value their readers placed on their presentation of news, in terms of 'buying' and 'not buying', maybe the press would improve, within the terms of present day society.

All this leads us to the very distinct possibility of another newspaper closure, the *Sun* (née *Daily Herald*). The Inter-

national Publishing Corporation (IPC) announces the death of the *Sun* for January 1970. In 1966 the Mirror Group bought the Odhams publishing company and at the same time promised the *Herald* which in 1964 changed its name to the *Sun* a seven year extended the life to the 70's.

Since its birth the *Sun* has been the bastard child of IPC. Its foster sister, the *Mirror*, is the apple of IPC's eye and its blood sister the *People* is a favourite because she is a prostitute with a high circulation, but alas the struggle to keep alive the philanthropic society it proved that when 'chopped' magazines that were included in the Odhams deal. But the *Sun* has served a very useful role, not only for IPC, but for the Newspaper Publishing Association (NPA) as well, with the threat of closure newspapers has assisted in keeping the

subdued.

Over the past few years drastic changes have taken place in the newspaper industry. Rationalisation of labour has been taking place at an increasing rate, not only in terms of general policy but in an effort to keep the *Sun*, *Guardian* and *Sunday Citizen* alive. Staffing cuts saved the *Sun* £300,000 per year; obviously this was insufficient for IPC financial interests. Now IPC state they are seeking to assist Maxwell if he takes over the *Sun*, yet they publicly admit that no viable propositions emerged for them.

Maxwell is to let the unions know in a couple of months about the possibilities of the *Sun* continuing. His demands from the unions will be high, forcing the responsibility of the continuance of the *Sun* on their shoulders. Maxwell claims he represents a consortium prepared to run the *Sun* on a non-profit making basis which means less dependence on advertisers. But on the other

hand according to the *Observer* (20.7.69) in reply to Thomson who predicted that he will lose more than £1½ millions, Maxwell replied, 'I am not prepared to lose anything. There is a glaring opening in the market for a radical and crusading newspaper which none of the other dailies fill.' Maxwell is certain that the new *Sun* will collect a large and influential readership and eventually earn high profits.

Robert Maxwell is millionaire Labour MP for Buckingham and with every conceivable stretch of imagination he could not be described as a *Radical*. The suggested editor of the new *Sun* is Mike Randall, one time editor of the *Daily Mail*. Whether editors change their politics to suit their jobs I query, but I venture to suggest that *Daily Mail* editorials have never been *Radical*, even under Mike Randall. The outlook for the *Sun* looks confused to say the least.

What about the whole of the trade union movement backing the print-workers to run the *Sun* themselves, since obviously the technical ability is there, or will they still prefer to read the other daily comics produced in Fleet Street?

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

See You in Cornwall!

COMRADES ARE ALREADY arriving in Cornwall for the International Anarchist Summer Camp, which is being held in England for the first time this year.

As readers may know, thanks to the unwelcome attention of the gutter press (noticeably the august *Times*) the owners of the site that had been arranged got cold feet two weeks ago, and cancelled the whole thing. Fortunately we have been able to find another site which although lacking the mod. cons. of Cambrose has the great advantage that the owner is politically sympathetic.

The new site is at Bissoe, a mining village between Truro and Falmouth. The fields have a most pleasant open aspect, overlooking a wide valley, gently sloping to prevent flooding and with high hedges providing windbreaks. From a practical point of view it is a near-perfect site. Latrine pits have been dug and chemical toilets, arranged, washing and cooking places fixed, water is laid on, and a wet-weather place, etc.; there will be a camp shop complete with deep freeze

and cheap icecream. Several large tents will provide accommodation for comrades (mostly from abroad) who do not have their own. However, please bring a tent if you have one, since communal accommodation will be in short supply.

According to Jose, who arrived from France, 'tout le monde' is coming to this camp. So it should be great. If you are coming in a vehicle bring useful things: toys; musical instruments and songbooks; records; 16mm. films (a projector will be available); games equipment; indoor games for wet days in the barn; foreign-language dictionaries. . . . There is a whole big field, away from the tents and cars, for games, camp-fires, etc., etc. We've got a duplicator and even a silk-screen press, but you'll have to provide paper and ink.

The camp runs from now until August 23. Go to Truro, take the Falmouth road (A39), take the right fork at Carnon Downs Filling Station and follow the signs (A) from there. Hope to see you down here soon.

Civil Rights March

LET US BE clear. Let me say to friend and foe alike that if it comes to civil war, all Irish people will be involved. Park Lane and Mayfair, Kilburn High Road and Camden Town will echo to the same sound, will suffer the same fate, will know the same rack and ruin as Belfast and Derry.

This warning, by Gerry Lawless, to the British ruling class and their stooges, echoed from Piccadilly last Sunday afternoon to the cheers of the 500 or so who had marched to the Ulster office from Hyde Park.

The march, organised by the embryo Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign, was the first in a series of actions to culminate in a mass demonstration on October 5, anniversary of the first Northern Ireland clashes.

'REVOLUTIONARIES BY PROXY'

It is well worth noting however, once again, the vanguard of the campaign is

that well-known group of revolutionaries by proxy: the International Socialists. One member of IS selling *Socialist Worker* couldn't explain the seemingly inherent contradiction in IS's line. Why didn't IS support the squatters, I asked, if it supported Civil Rights in Ulster? No intelligible answer. The seller then slipped away bearing away his tracts, which contained articles on Glasgow 1919 and a gem by that well-known voice in the wilderness, St. Paul Phut.

SQUATTER ACTIVISTS

Squatter activists who took part in the Civil Rights march were duly noted by some of the police, apparently specially imported from Ilford for the day.

For details of your nearest Civil Rights Campaign Branch please contact Pat Denny, 01-485 0476.

A heartening note: most of the Irish speakers were 'Protestant': a nail in the coffin of Orange reaction. WOBBLY.

Reasoned Defence Wanted

Dear Friends, I have devoted my life to the furtherance of freedom in education. If anyone had burst into any of the libertarian establishments in which I have striven to express that ideal, and had daubed on the walls 'Discipline: Punishment', I should have considered them mindless hooligans, and the effect upon me would have been to confirm my prejudice against discipline and punishment.

Can anyone tell me what in the name of freedom is gained by bursting into Dulwich College and daubing on its walls 'Anarchy'? My own opinion is that it does incalculable harm to our cause, and I should be glad to see a reasoned defence of such action. I suggest that those who talk about freedom should consult those of us who have tried to practice it before they indulge in this kind of hooliganism.

Yours sincerely,
Hook Norton,
Banbury, Oxon W. DAVID WILLS.

POSTERS

Freedom
in Fascist Ulster
2s.6d. each

BROADSHEETS

The Anarchist
Revolution

4s.6d. a 100
30s. a 1000, postage 6s.
Cash with order—please!

FREEDOM PRESS

The Aberdeen Trawler Strike

AS THIS ARTICLE is being written, Aberdeen's trawl fishermen are still on strike, despite the efforts of Reid, the local TGWU official, to get the men back to work. The work in this case being 24 hours a day on rotten trawlers which haven't been maintained since Noah built the original ark. Aberdeen's fish barons don't even know how to spell the word safety. Their offer of 4/- a day to the men is just about enough to buy a packet of fags. However the owners now have an excellent and willing ally in the TGWU and the men are in for a rough time.

Local feeling is overwhelmingly on the side of the men, and the local and national press was, at the outset of the dispute, very careful not to criticise the strikers too much. However, once the men had told Comrade Reid and the employers where to stick their measly 4/-, the press showed its true colours. . . . a deep shade of Royal Torv Blue. We the Bond Bar to man the trawlers and thus give their mates, the owners, a hand out. The *Press* and *Journal* waded in with a classic smear tactic. The idea is to find a Commie, if you can't find one. . . . manufacture one. If the attempts to create what isn't there don't come off. . . . then get someone to deny he's a Communist—thus the press is able to print that very emotive word.

Two reporters from a national paper,

who must think we're daft or something, tried in a very strange interview, to get Aberdeen Anarchists to admit that they were responsible for the unrest among the men. They were particularly interested in the leaflet we gave out to the men. As a matter of fact, this was a general leaflet on industrial relations and had not one word about the strike in it. We would have had a strike leaflet but for the fact that we're skint. The reporters seemed to have some vague idea that we were the brains behind some form of well financed conspiracy. If we are, then this month's cheque from Boris in the Kremlin is overdue. The *Daily Express* has been running tales about how all the men are now taking jobs ashore.

The object of this appears to be an attempt to demoralise the men and make them feel that it isn't worth fighting on. This of course is only to be expected. The first instalment of £1 a day increase. This modest sum would bring their daily wage up to the huge total of £3. We hereby invite the editors of the *Express* and the *P and J* to go to sea for 10 days, often 24 hours at a stretch, for £3. Of course, if ordinary people declined to buy their filthy rags, it would be lovely.

Another ally of the owners has been the local Sheriff. Sentencing one trawl worker on a drink charge, he said, 'I really don't know where they get the

money from.' The answer is that, unlike shipowners, gutter journalists, and judges, the trawl workers actually work. We sincerely hope that, after the revolution, the Aberdeen fishermen get a chance to put him in the dock. And we don't mean the one in the courtroom!

It is too early yet for revolutionaries to begin to draw lessons from the strike. It has helped to show that, when the chips are down, workers can expect no mercy from the press, and the role of the union official has been publicly displayed. We trust the antics of Reid in this dispute will serve as a warning to all the other members of the TGWU in

ABERDEEN REPORTER.

Aberdeen.

Schmoedipus

BY A STROKE OF FORTUNE I discovered the reason for the universal appeal of the investiture. The luck was that after having carefully avoided seeing it on TV, etc., I was penned into a cinema seat on a social occasion and forced to witness half of it. What I saw was this: the young man knelt before his mother, she placed a ring upon his finger, kissed him publicly and dressed him as a king. My mind said: Aha! it's an Oedipus Wedding. Clinched by the fact that he then walked off between (that is, having succeeded in parting them publicly) his mother and father. Clearly this public ritual must have tickled to purring many a conscious and unconscious Oedipus complex—greatly assisted no doubt by the ease of identifying with such very cardboard figures.

I am prepared to believe that this was a wedding in name only; even though monarchy, in its efforts to keep the blood royal pure, has in the past resorted to these conveniences. (What a lot of tedious speculation about the lad's marriage plans it would spare us—one could wish that it were real.)

Some PRO man will probably arrange, once these facts have been grasped, for Philip to kiss his daughter Ann in public, so as to gratify the tastes of that part of their audience as incline to the Electra version of the Oedipus complex.

Oedipus, Schmoedipus—what does it matter, so long as he loves his mother!—as they say.

OONAGH LAHR.

The Reason Why

AS AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY and resources blasted men to the moon, to the acclamation of the capitalist press, a relatively unpublicised incident occurred in far-off occupied Okinawa which helps throw more light on the sheer immensity of the US military industrial complex.

An 'accidental' leak from a cylinder of VX nerve gas, and the consequent hospitalisation of 25 victims of the deadly concoction, proves conclusively that the US military top brass is employing some of the deadliest weaponry known to mankind throughout SE Asia and elsewhere. It may well be 'stored' in Britain.

The question is now, 'Why?' Why does the US need to employ such sub-

stances? The answer to this is the same to the question, 'Why go to the moon?'

The US military industrial complex is the motor of the whole US economy. One worker in nine in the US is employed in the production and installation of weaponry and rocketry. Without this motor the US economy would be in a perpetual state of over-production. The plant and material built up under the benevolent gaze of the Kennedy/Johnson/Nixon administrations requires an outlet. Hence the arms race, the space race and the consequent dehumanisation of the human race.

IWW MEMBER.

Friendly Criticism

Dear Comrades of the Public Schools Anarchist Group,

The local press visited us twice before your action to ask us what was on. We didn't know, neither did FREEDOM. OK, we accept the element of surprise is an advantage in an action such as this. . . . but what secret?

The Law were waiting for you at the railway station and the college, because everyone in Wokingham knew you were coming! You made the mistake of approaching boys of Wellington College beforehand. These boys were unsympathetic and reported the incident to their Principal.

If the local press are to be believed you are very young (one only 13). This is great but remember: FEDERATE! If you had come to us as the local group, in the first place, you would have had much more success. We live here, we know the fuzzi, we know the wrinkles! We have dealt with a group

of individuals inside the college. You would have had internal action to coincide with yours.

This applies to all broad based groups. . . . remember the local anarchists! You will get accommodation, sympathetic individual pressmen, and invaluable information about the local set-up. This is what it is all about!

LARRY.

POLICE COMPLAINTS

THE NCCL are conducting a campaign, the avowed aim of which is to secure a system of independent review tribunals in cases of complaints against the police.

Anyone interested in this very worthwhile campaign should get in touch with NCCL, 4 Camden High Street, London, N.W.1. Tel. 01-387 2544.

PRESS FUND

Week ending July 19, 1969
Barking: S.A.B. £2/10/8; Toronto, Can.: G.L.P. £2; Goteborg, Sweden: D.T. 6/-; London, S.E.17: D.S. 1/8; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; K.F. & C.F.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; London, S.W.14: J.W. 8/8; Smethwick: E.W. £2/5/8; Glasgow: J.W. 2/8; London, S.W.8: P.E.D. £1/16/-; Rugby: C.F. 5/8; Crawley: T.H. 15/8; Fife: B.T. £1; Crippenham: E.F.C. 2/10; Cardiff: P.R. 5/-; London, W.2: R.L. 11/4; London, N.W.3: Tomb 3/6; London, W.9: R.W.C. 16/4.

TOTAL: £13 19 0

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Leeds Engineers' Dispute Fight on! at Monkbridge

THE VARIOUS antics of Russian and American 'space probes' have received massive publicity in recent weeks. But 'rockets' have been 'going up' in Leeds too—at the engineering works of Monkbridge Iron and Steel!

Around Christmas last year a group of militants decided to form a branch of ASTMS at the factory, to encompass all members of staff (technical, scientific and managerial). Recruitment to the union was encouraging, but hampered to some extent by the attitudes of some of the men. These attitudes—connected with ideas of 'professional dignity'—are often typical of white collar workers. It looked as though building a strong membership was going to be a long hard slog for the militants.

At this stage, however, the bosses decided to try to smash the union before it became too strong. A

variety of tactics—often only thinly disguised—were therefore employed to try and split the men. Each attempt backfired and resulted in ever-increasing numbers of men rushing to join the union.

By May of this year the ASTMS branch was firmly established with a strong membership. The militants immediately slapped in a demand for increases in shift working allowances, which the bosses turned down. The normal procedural channels having been exhausted, token strike actions were executed, and an overtime ban instigated. They were waiting for the go-ahead for an unlimited strike, when the whole of the shop floor walked out on unofficial strike in support of a wage demand. This walk-out was so solid that even the bog cleaners came out!

The bosses then made an offer to the ASTMS men which could only be described as puerile! However, the men decided that under the circumstances they would continue work while they studied the proposals. As the shop floor is out solid the ASTMS men have no work to do, and are collecting full wages!!

When St. John Binns (district official AEF) made a plea for a return to work to the 900 engineers he was greeted with 'an angry chorus of jeers and boos'. Apparently, the men have not forgotten what has happened on past occasions when they have returned to work 'pending negotiations between union and management'. The men's attitude to this official is encouraging, as it perhaps indicates that the men have realised where their true power lies—NOT in union officials, but in THEMSELVES.

Monetary support is coming from the men in the Sheffield branch of the firm, and industrial action has been offered if it is necessary.

The workers at Monkbridge must be alert to the possibility that the bosses will try to attach productivity strings to any deal which is made. Productivity ONLY works for the bosses. It is their method of taking back any gains the workers may make.

THE LEEDS GROUP.

ONCE AGAIN London Transport has gone over to the attack and the rank and file have been forced to take defensive action.

After their major betrayal by the TGWU, the London busworkers had good reason to enter this latest battle with the LTB with the air of defeat. When the TGWU signed away the jobs of 30,000 workers in the bus industry without even bothering to refer the subject back to the branches, the workers knew that in any fresh struggle they would be fighting in isolation. The London bus industry is being stripped clean of workers, machines and social services in preparation for the sell-out to the GLC and when the boys at County Hall take over they will be able to operate a London transport system where the morale and social service is at its lowest point in its history.

BUSES—

Freedom For Workers' Control

JULY 26 1969 Vol 30 No 23

they could not stomach the LTB's latest demands. But the LTB was now making the running and they were indifferent and for weeks the new schedules hung on the garage walls waiting for July 19 as the day they came into operation.

For 12/- on the basic wage and an

Sunday will cost them £1,000,000 a year and that they will only pay a 12/6 extra in four months time. Literally pay now pay later for the worker.

For the conductor there is the smell of treason in the air for in number 18 of the LTB propaganda sheets, that the

A Social Service at Stake

When the TGWU, without reference to the workers involved, signed away the jobs of 30,000 bus conductors it was apparent that they had taken the fighting heart out of their compulsory membership; for within weeks of that judas agreement, garage after garage tore down the duty rosters for the bus conductors as the garages went over to One Man Operated buses. And all for a few miserable shillings.

The LTB understandably believed that they had the rank and file at their mercy and the plans for the axing of another 10,000 jobs was not even expected to be challenged. Yet part of the sour joke of this vicious business is that when the plans filtered out it became known that the jobs of 4,000 drivers were due to go down the industrial drain, as well.

Many a man holding a PSV licence who chose to keep quiet when his conductor was offered the choice of compulsory transfer or the door, must now be wishing that he had had the guts to stand up and be counted. But defeatism took over and the local union representatives openly talked of the end of bus conductors jobs within a year or so.

The 15 years of guaranteed work that the LTB had promised was whittled down to 12 years and now there is not one rank and file worker that can believe that one year from now he will be working in the same garage.

On July 9 the delegate conference was recalled to face up to the LTB's latest demands regarding the six months' old pay claim and the delegates had no option but to throw out the LTB demands. The 72 delegates now included the country services, and men from the green belt, who because of geographical isolation had in the past been prepared to eat shit, found a new courage for even

extra week's holiday in the winter the LTB demanded that the rank and file should hand over a blank signed agreement that the LTB would fill in at its leisure. What was promised was that 400 buses would be taken off the roads on Sundays; there should be major cuts in the weekly bus services; routes that run along the line of Underground services should be eliminated; and that 90 seater double-decker one-man operated buses should be worked. There are two rest days in God and the LTB week of seven days and about once a month one of these Rest Days would fall on a Sunday. It was this Sunday working day, paid for at time and a half, that made up the average wage that the LTB loved to hawk around in the large print on the posters that they littered the buses with, and the bus worker is now faced with the lunatic situation that because of a massive cut in Sunday services the worker will lose a £1 a week—and all for a 12/- rise.

We have now arrived at the fantastic position wherein the overpaid operators of the public transport system of one of the greatest capitals of the western world are demanding that the workers shall operate the Sunday bus service on a voluntary overtime basis. The LTB will point to their offer of 17/- on the basic wage but this con trick merely means that the rank and file accept the LTB productivity demands willingly or unwillingly according to the cash. But what is not in dispute is that the LTB are determined to put their manpower cuts into immediate operation. The rank and file are demanding a £1 a week on the basic wage, 12/- London weighting allowance for the higher cost of living in London and a 5-hour work shift for Sunday workings. The LTB has rejected these claims out of hand. They claim that the 5-hour duties on a

LTB has rushed out for the waiting press, there is not one single reference to the future or the welfare of the conductors and 20,000 men and women see themselves again being sold down the river as they were on the last occasion when the LTB and the TGWU touched toes under the same table. It is a vicious business and the London rank and file have taken the only action that they can at this moment: a ban on overtime for a third of London's buses. It was once fashionable for the LTB to whine that the overtime ban 'hits the public harder' but the time for this canting crap is long past. It is the LTB who are smashing it as a social service while the overtime kings and the self-pitying middle-class are not worth a moment's consideration by the men.

It is the overtime kings who constantly snivel for a work to rule for they want to battle but not to bleed. We have a duty to the old, the young and the sick and to our fellow workers but not to the editorial columns of the right-wing press. We the rank and file bus workers are fighting for our economic and social existence and we have no friends only committed fellow workers.

As a society we are going through the second industrial revolution. In that first industrial revolution an entire generation of the working class was sacrificed that this country could become an industrial power. Once again this nation is going through an industrial revolution as old crafts, trades and communities are sacrificed to the demands of labour saving productivity. Until we take over the control of our own destinies, not for our own personal well-being but for the good of each and every one of us, we shall be always on the losing side.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

(Slightly shortened.—EDS.)

Contact Column

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

Students coming to Manchester and district next term—anarchists, libertarians or squatters—write to Manchester Anarchist Group or University Libertarian Group (addresses in AFB list) for details of meetings and activity.

HEAR THE SQUATTERS' CASE. Families and supporters will answer questions. Sunday, July 27, 7.30 p.m. Freedom Meeting Hall, 84B White-chapel High Street, E.1.

Oppose Germ Warfare. The Chemical Biological Warfare Action Group are campaigning against the manufacture and use of chemical warfare agents. Contact: 77 High Street, Pease, S.E.20. Tel. SYD 0940.

Schools Anarchists. Meetings on Fridays, July 25, August 1, 8 and 15, will be at 133 Haden Court, Seven Sisters Road (opp. Astoria Cinema, Finsbury Park tube), London, N.4, at 7.30 p.m. Then will resume at advertised address.

Mike's Stall at the Magic Village, Cromford Court, Manchester: Libertarian and 'underground' papers. Most evenings.

Exhibition of Sculpture by Pete Raymond. The form of the exhibition and the sculpture is meant to be of social use. Journey to 'Journey', 66 Bridge Street, Cardiff, August 4-16. Children's Festival—Saturday, July 26, from 10.30 a.m. all day. Puppets, sculptures, mazes, inflatables.

Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo. Oppose blatant militarist propaganda. Help leaflet. Contact: Gwyneth Williams, 17 Insole Gardens, Llandaff, Cardiff.

Anyone with van for hire cheaply or free loan to ferry children down to Cornwall please contact: Dennis Gould at Six Chimneys, Bolenowe, Troon, Camborne, Cornwall.

British IWW? Chicago has okayed. Contact Wobblies, c/o Freedom Press.

Anarchist Group meets Mondays, 7 p.m., at 'Two Chairmen', Warwick House Street, off Trafalgar Square. And then they go elsewhere.

Lift needed, for couple and quiet dog to International Camp. Share expenses. Bob Blakeman, 116 Hassal Street, Newcastle, Staffs.

Birmingham discussions. Every Tuesday 8 p.m. at the Arts Lab, Summer Lane (Not the Crown).

Peace News. Six weeks trial offer for 5/-, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

International Summer Camp. July 27-August 23 in Cornwall. £1 booking fees to Ann Lindsay, 39 Upper Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2. Information leaflet and map now available.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Port Talbot Steel Strike

THIRTEEN HUNDRED blastfurnacemen at the British Steel Corporation's Abbey & Margam Works at Port Talbot have been on unofficial strike for three weeks. Much to the consternation of their union, the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, the strikers have defied their officials at seven mass meetings and voted to remain on strike. On occasions their meetings have been stormy and Jim Barry, the General Secretary of the Union, and other officials have been booed and jeered at by the men.

STRIKERS' CASE

The strikers' grievance is over a pay award they feel they should have received, but which has been withheld by the managements. The following is the Strike Committee's statement on its stand: 'We men of No. 1 Lodge, with the support of Nos. 2 and 3 Lodges of the NUB have withdrawn our labour because of the Steel Company of Wales's decision to refuse to pay us the recent national award.

The Steel Company, with the backing of the British Steel Corporation, is refusing to implement the award for the lower-paid workers at Port Talbot.

This decision has precipitated the strike. The refusal to give the national award means refusing to increase the minimum wage for the lower-paid worker at Port Talbot from £12 1s. 5d. to £13 1s. 6d. for a 40-hour week.'

This same award has been given in every other BSC plant and has only been withheld by the Port Talbot management. Before nationalisation this plant had negotiated separately from the other employers ever since 1957. They have continued to do this since nationalisation and therefore claim that they do not have to pay the recent national agreement award made with the BSC.

This situation of different pay rates is one that is often condemned by the employers who favour rationalisation in payments and yet under the terms of the newly nationalised steel industry, this has been allowed to happen. Of course it shows that little has changed since the State took over and that the conditions and well-being of the workers in the industry come second to economic requirements. Nationalised industries are just as concerned about keeping wage rates down as any private employer and, furthermore, they are not so concerned about the loss of production. We are often seeing 'exports lost' because the employers will not pay the demands of the workers at the time, but meeting them at a later date. Yet it is the worker taking industrial action who is blamed.

What is at stake is not just a pay demand, which can be easily met, but an assertion that the people concerned in an industry want some say, some control, over the decisions that affect them. The men are bitter and resentful towards both

their union and employer, for they did not get the increase they feel is rightly theirs. This feeling stems not just from this dispute but also from instances in the past when greasers waited five years for an increase, of 12 mates who are excluded from the 24d. per hour 'dirt money' award and of the need to take management to arbitration to establish productivity payments for riggers.*

*From the Financial Times.

BLACKLEG LABOUR

If the strike goes on for much longer, it will affect production in the car industry. A stock of four weeks' supply of sheet metal is usually kept and the holiday period should help to alleviate the position. Steel production has been halved and the laying off of other workers is expected soon. However, some blastfurnaces have been kept in production by the blackleg labour of staff workers. While solidarity between 'white' and 'blue' collar men is bad, that between the furnacemen themselves is excellent. Under the national agreement only the lower-paid blastfurnacemen were due to get the £1 per week increase, but 1,300 are on strike when only 140 of them will gain anything if they are successful.

Workers in the steel industry have the common problem of redundancies which affects all plants. Although the BSC plans to increase production, they intend to do this with a smaller labour force for the Government and the users of steel want a competitive and efficient industry not only to supply the needs of this country, but also for export. Steel is in short supply at present and manufacturers are crying out for more. New

methods of production are being introduced to meet this need, while expansion plans have been announced at Scunthorpe. However, despite this and further expansion plans, less men will be needed than are at present employed.

This is the real reason for nationalisation for the State can carry out this huge plan of rationalisation and reorganisation much better than a lot of individual companies. But State ownership does not serve the people of this country and the workers in that industry, but the manufacturing firms who need steel so badly. This is 'socialist planning'—making the capitalist system of profit more profitable.

TUC INTERVENTION

Blastfurnacemen at Port Talbot feel that they have a sound case. The way they treated their union shows they have no confidence in their officials to gain their claim. The strikers have now asked for outside help from the TUC. Whether they will win the claim remains to be seen, but certainly the strikers have a good case. The Finance and General Purpose Committee of the TUC meets on Monday to decide on what action to take. Probably they will set up an inquiry by its Disputes Committee under its new powers from the Government.

While it is too early to forecast any outcome, what is certain is that the blastfurnacemen will receive more than if they had remained at work. They really feel justified in their claim and an inquiry may well prove them right, for the basis of the stand of the Port Talbot management seems undefendable.

P.T.