

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 6d

October 11 1969 Vol 30 No 31

From a Student to a Student

AS IN EVERY previous year of history, revolutionaries today can point to numerous factors and movements around them which make it quite obvious that the fall of authority is imminent. As in most previous years, they are undoubtedly wrong yet again, but in the universities and colleges at least they may be right.

The number of colleges which have been engaged in serious conflicts in this country is not large, and the prospects for this coming year are uncertain. In America, France, Italy, and Japan, the revolutionary students have dealt their governments serious blows, but can we ever hope to do the same here?

Whether we can achieve such importance or not, the revolt will go on in the colleges, but why should we as students participate? Has it any uses for those of us who would radically change society, or is it merely a tool of the next generation of politicians? Although the latter may be true, it is not the whole truth, and I believe it worth examining the different reasons revolutionaries give for waging war on college administrations.

The various Marxist factions (let us dismiss them first of all, to clear the air) seem to muscle in on the revolt for the same reason as the Army sends recruitment officers to schools. The success of a given campaign is measured by them by the number of new recruits to their particular organization. On a slightly more sophisticated level, such groups join or initiate revolts merely to 'prove' the correctness of their own analysis (e.g. the need for leadership). Since every struggle 'proves' every available analysis, depending on how you care to interpret the facts, all this leads to infantile and endless post mortems, and the reinforcement of those ideas already held. The more orientated a particular college faction is to a particular national organisation, the more likely it is to be playing games with you in order to 'prove' (to itself) how correct it has been all along.

Notice too how many factions which have always despised the student have suddenly arrived in the colleges, noting the cannon-fodder potentiality shown by students abroad.

REVOLUTION...

Now the rationales of the non-sectarian revolutionaries. Foremost in their minds I think is the example of France, and the possibility of stimulating the sleeping proletariat. But the rebellion only spreads if there is already sufficient contact between groups, and in the case of the workers there are strong material interests for them to consider before they express solidarity, or even before they make their own demands—students' grants don't stop when they are 'on strike'. The pre-conditions of another France must be created by the workers here themselves—an increased wish to take direct action against the wage freeze, etc., and an increased respect for the actions of youth, in colleges or out.

The spirit of the Provos lives on, and student revolutionaries frequently seem to be courting the direct and violent repression of the State. It is said to 'radicalise' students, and to force people to take sides. But again, contact is the crucial factor. State repression helped the students at Columbia a year ago, but did it help the Piccadilly squatters?

Student revolutionaries are primarily just plain revolutionaries, and they happen to engage in college struggles because that is where they are. They are attempting to fight the particular authority which most directly affects them, and the one which they are most likely to be able to affect. But there is another dimension to this. Universities, like military installations, are key bastions of the State. For their physical size, and the numbers employed in them, they are disproportionately vital to the continuance of authoritarian structures. Violence is crude, its use apparent. The State has evolved other methods of con-

Continued on page 2

THE REPRESSION GROWS

The Pattern of Repression:

SQUATTERS/ILFORD—a number are charged with 'stealing Council property' (they took wood from a building already smashed up by the Council to repair the one they were squatting in), 'assault' (we all know what that means), and 'obstruction'.

Punfield and Barstow Strike—ten men on a picket line during a 13-week-old strike are arrested en masse for obstructing 'the public footway'. They were in fact sitting down on private property.

Irish Demo/August 17—among the 12 arrested at least two comrades are severely 'worked over' in West End Central Police Station before being charged.

London Street Commune—over 50 squatters are being held in prison until their trial because the police either objected to bail sureties or the magistrate deliberately fixed the sureties at an impossible price. They are being punished before trial. A number were 'badly handled' at the police station.

Black Militants: Tony Sinaris Soares—hurriedly convicted and jailed in January for two years for 'incitement to riot'. The charges related to a leaflet distributed before the October 27 demo.

Pete Martin—called to the police station for questioning, then charged with 'insulting words' and granted bail. Later the police, with Special Branch co-operation, further charged him under the Race Relations Act. He is refused bail and awaits trial in Brixton.

Lester Springer—is taking photos of police trying to wrench a placard away from a peaceful demonstrator outside the Magistrates' Court where Pete Martin is appearing. Plainclothes cops arrest him for 'obstruction' and his camera is 'dropped' on the floor of the police station.

Folkestone Commune: May, High Stree Revolt—17 arrested, one youth (first offender) is jailed for three months. Harry Brunt, 42-year-old bystander, is arrested, waits three hours to be charged with insulting language and 'obstruction', and then a week later with 'incitement to riot'—he is fined £100 plus costs.

Sept. 27—arbitrary police action provokes spontaneous march to the police station. Geoffrey Daniels who, while celebrating his wedding, had been punched in the face by a Folkestone pottery trader, is arrested at the demand of his assailant. Of the 15 subsequently arrested only two are granted bail. One girl is hospitalised for cuts and facial bruises. She unwisely returns to file a complaint on two officers who had smashed her through a door. She is arrested for 'assault'.

Squatters/Fulham—on September 22 over 100 police barricade both ends of Rumbold Street to evict squatters who had occupied a house for two months. Only two squatters are inside, and having poured a bucket of water over the 40-odd police assailants, they come out with their hands up. Both are charged with 'obstruction' and 'assault' and are released on bail. But two days later, with four others, they are charged with 'conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm'. They await their trial in prison.

Street Theatre—five comrades who are trying to put on a play for kids outside a school in Holborn. 'Obstruction' and 'insulting words' are the charges for all except one. His hair was a little longer than the others, so he receives special treatment and is charged with 'violence in a police station'.

With the gathering momentum of the revolutionary movement in Britain, we must expect a corresponding hardening of the position from the Establishment, and from its right wing in particular. The further we escalate the struggle in terms of direct action, so we must expect an escalation of the repressive forces of the State. The strategy of the enemy for the present—and for a while to come—is, and will be, to use all its powers of propaganda to isolate each particular struggle, and having done so, to move in and smash it with its forces of Law and Order. This is true of Northern Ireland where the issue is made out to be one of outdated religious conflict. It is true of the wildcat strikers who are made out every time to be a 'tiny wrecking minority'. It is true of the students and school kids who

are accused of 'threatening the interests of the majority'. It is true of the black workers in the struggle against a racist society. And it is true of the London Street Commune who are smeared by the Press as 'those irresponsible layabouts who have nothing to do with the legitimate (!) squatting movement'.

The potential energy of these movements is enormous, but so long as they remain isolated from one another, they cannot present a serious challenge to the existing order. Ways must be found to constantly fight this attempt at fragmentation. Efforts should be constantly directed to finding the links between one struggle and another. In the same way as Powell has provided a clear link between Black 'aliens', Irish 'aliens', and the 'alienated' youth, so the machine of 'legal' repression (courts, police and prisons) is making increasingly clear the fundamental unity of purpose of those who threaten the existing order. Whether they are 'demonstrators', 'blacks', 'hippies', 'agitators', all are equally experiencing police frame-ups and thuggery, magistrates 'justice' and political detention in Her Majesty's prisons.

Let us clear away the remaining illusions any of us may have about that renowned institution, the 'British Law'. British legality is a superb machine for the preservation of the British Ruling Class. It is a superb machine for the suppression and oppression of working people in general and for those who positively reject class society in particular.

The struggle is beginning to leave the lecture halls, sectarian polemics and empty rhetoric of armchair revolutionaries far behind. We must face the FACT not the THEORY of repression. It is this fact which has brought together a number of comrades—some of whom are currently facing charges—who feel that there is an urgent need for an organised reply to the highly organised machinery of Law and Order. Securing the release of comrades on remand, ensuring that they have the legal aid necessary to defend themselves, circulating relevant information of concern to all activists, have become daily tasks. However, this would all be pointless unless this work is inseparably linked to a constant exposure of the real function of the legal system—the preservation of the ruling order—inside and outside the courts.

Action For Peoples' Justice, 45 Fairmount Road, London, S.W.2.

'CONSPIRACY' TO HOUSE THE HOMELESS

ON SEPTEMBER 22 when Fulham and Hammersmith Squatters (aided by South-West London Squatters) were present at a token squat in Hammersmith, a large green removal van drew up in the middle of Rumbold Road, Fulham, outside No. 22, where the South-West London Squatters had been squatting a family, Mr. and Mrs. D. Keens and their eight-year-old daughter Susan. The Keens had moved out that morning to the notorious Battersea hostel.

There were only three people in the house, Dave Griffiths, Diarmuid Breatnach, and a girl. Suddenly the doors of the van swung open and about 30-40 policemen carrying pick-axes, crowbars and a large door poured out. Within minutes they battered down the door encountering very little resistance, except one bucket of water. Dave and Diarmuid were arrested and subsequently each charged with two counts of assault and two counts of obstructing a police officer. They were detained overnight and bailed with sureties of £100 and £100 on their own recognisance and were required to report at Fulham police-station daily.

The papers that evening and the following day carried stories from Alderman Smith of Hammersmith and Deputy Sheriff Black of the High Court of Justice describing 'An armory of diabolical weapons'; 'Gas bombs in squatters' battle

HQ'; 'Gas-bombs and swords in squatters' arsenal'; 'The house was like a First World War dug-out', etc.

The 'Operation' of the eviction of the South-West London Squatters was led by Commander Henry Fowler of Scotland Yard.

On September 30, following extensive enquiries headed by Detective Chief Superintendent Howell of Fulham and Hammersmith CID, the police arrested six squatters, Michael Ali, Diarmuid Breatnach, David Griffiths, Raymond Tuckwell, Roger Davies and Kenneth Hams. All were charged with 'conspiracy with persons unknown to commit actual bodily harm on officers effecting lawful entry to 22 Rumbold Road', and three were charged with larceny under the 1968 Theft Act. All were detained overnight.

When they appeared next morning at West London Court, all, with the exception of Roger Davies, were refused bail on the intervention of the Police Superintendent who 'feared a repetition of the offence'. None of the defendants were legally represented at this time, they were not asked if they wished to be so, nor were they told they could get legal aid.

Protests were made from the dock that three of the defendants were in regular work and all of them had an address

which was acceptable for bail on previous charges and it was illogical not to accept the address for further charges. The Superintendent said that Breatnach had been involved in a squat at Ilford at which private detectives were assaulted (who could that have been?) and (horror of horrors) he had been present at a meeting in Trafalgar Square at which bodily harm had been occasioned, not that, the Super said magnanimously, the defendant had been concerned with it.

Bail was accordingly refused. It is no new thing for the police to influence the magistrates in a decision which should primarily be that of the magistrate. When a man is trying to defend himself against police charges he needs liberty and by English law he is (in theory) innocent until proved guilty. The fact that people of substance are needed to give bail is ironical in itself. One wealthy friend is presumably those who could afford to have one skip bail. One should get a hard-up surety, he would be certain to see that one turned up court!

As a protest against the refusal of bail Diarmuid Breatnach, Michael Ali and David Griffiths (also listed as Dylan Gainsborough) are on hunger-strike in Ashford Remand Cent, and intending to continue until court appearance on Wednesday, October 8. They know they may be forcibly fed before going to



'Thank God for the Dustmen's Strike, the rats have left our buildings'—Council Tenants

court. The position about penalties for hunger-striking are obscure. It is known that they are in the hospital and were separated. It is difficult to get library books or newspapers. Tobacco seems to be being withheld 'on health grounds'. No national paper has up to now reported the fast, possibly because of the

Official Secrets Act which covers all Her Majesty's institutions. Meanwhile, back at 22 Rumbold Road, Hammersmith Council has installed a homeless family. Good. This is what our campaign was all about. And it is for advocating this aim that these young people have lost their liberty! CALEB WILLIAMS.

An 'Agenda for' Capitalism

IN ALL PROBABILITY last week's Labour Party Conference at Brighton will be the last before the next general election. As such, it was extremely important to achieve a semblance of unity in order to give them a chance at the election.

To give Mr. Wilson his due, this attempt at shop window dressing of unity was successful and his final message, very warmly received, was to go back to their constituencies and trade unions and work for the re-election of a Labour Government. However, it was a unity made possible by clever stage managing. Mrs. Castle's speech on retaining the delaying powers for wage increases threatened to shatter the hard work by the bureaucrats of Transport House for unity. But Mr. Wilson placated the unions by drawing the distinction between a Minister as a member of the Cabinet and as a member of the executive of the Labour Party and stressed that Mrs. Castle was speaking, at this time, as a Cabinet Minister.

SELLING THE PRODUCT

Conferences of political parties or the unions and the TUC for that matter, are not the places where policies are determined and neither are they determined by the Cabinet of Ministers. These conferences are really so much window dressing, giving a false sense of involvement and a reward for a year's slog on the part of the hard-worked Party members, many of whom are idealistic and have found it particularly difficult to defend their Government. But nowadays, with vast television coverage, these conferences are staged to impress the electorate and are a huge advertisement for their product.

Even the 'rebels' of the left wing are willing to subscribe to this unity.

Contact Column

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

Centre International de Recherches sur l'Anarchisme, Beaumont 24, Lausanne, Switzerland. Will editors of new anarchist magazines please send copies regularly to the above. This is an anarchist library, run entirely by voluntary labour, and it is completely dependent on the generosity and co-operation of comrades who publish small magazines.

Flat in London for three people wanted urgently. Can anyone help, please? Telephone Anne, KNI 5020, ex. 270.

Musicians wanted to work with Agit Prop. Contact Pete Taunton 01-789 5604.

Bit inf. service 01-229 8219.

Schools Anarchist Group in Gloucestershire? Contact Kate & Joe, 3 Witherly Lea, Leonard Stanley, nr. Stonehouse, GL10 3NS, Glos.

Demonstration on November 16 organised South African Solidarity Committee, 211 Ladbroke Grove, W.10.

Barlow-Carver Defence Fund. A full list of initials and money donated to the fund has been received by Freedom Press, but due to lack of space we are unable to print, anybody who wishes may write, and will receive a copy plus statement.

Paul/Nick. Phone BAT 4086 as soon as possible regarding article on Fulham Eviction. Urgent. Rogers.

Anarchist Theatre Group. Meeting at 7.30 p.m., Friday, October 10, at Freedom Press Meeting Hall, REHEARSAL of Shelley's 'Mask of Anarchy'. All musicians especially welcome.—Bring your own instruments.

Badges? Contact Pendarves Workshop, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne; tel. Camborne 3061.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Their resolution on the Common Market, from the Transport and General Workers' Union and moved by the General Secretary, Mr. Jones, was even supported by that arch pro-marketeer, Mr. Brown, because it stated that before entering, safeguards adequate to ensure Britain's 'freedom and independence in economic planning and foreign policy which cannot be bargained away in negotiation' would be necessary.

The 'left wing' attacks were mainly centred on the inclusion of a few lines, later watered down, on the need for an incomes policy in a pre-election manifesto called 'Agenda for a Generation'. While these attacks are valued, there was no real criticism of the rest of this document and yet it sets out, in no uncertain terms, a programme to make capitalism work even better in the future.

The statement of the national executive of this party boasts that 'In 1968 a record amount of money was devoted to take-overs and mergers.' Incidentally, this money was taken, in the form of taxes, from the very people thrown out of work by such take-overs and mergers. It says this is the basic pattern of our economy, founded upon large corporations.

ENCOURAGED MERGERS

Labour, it goes on, is not against large corporations and had 'vast concentrations of economic power in the public industries—coal, steel and electricity in particular'. It adds: 'In the private sector, we have set up the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation and used Government funds to encourage mergers.' These 'heavy concentrations of industrial power are inevitable', but it admits that 'the modern industrial corporation is becoming less subject to the influence and pressure of the community at large, whether it be in the form of shareholders, employers, consumers or the government.'

While accepting this concentration in industry, they say that 'they must insist that the decisions which will guide our economic future are taken in an atmosphere where everyone—the workers and the wider public—is given opportunities to check the logic of industrial planning and balance the weight of corporation power'. This all sounds very nice, but these are only words, for already the Government has agreed with the corporations on what mergers are going to take place. Instituting a new democratic framework to protect the individual 'against the growing dominance of the industrial corporations' is like participating in your own slaughter.

MISTAKEN IDEALISTS

The concentration of industry into less hands and the creation of huge monopolies must lead to rationalisation within those industries, while the ensuing re-organisation inevitably leads to redundancies. What democratic framework was there for the GEC-EE redundancies on Merseyside? None!

The Labour Government's role as the midwife to a reorganisation of British capitalism was not attacked by the big guns of the 'left'. It was done by young idealists who completely oppose the capitalist organisation of society and spoke of workers' control of industry and of co-operation instead of competition between peoples. These idealists, mistakenly from an anarchist view, are trying to achieve something through an organisation which is assisting the survival of the very evil which they want to abolish.

Capitalism increasingly needs the assistance of Government intervention for its overall planning, its finance, tax inducement, curbs of trade union organisation and the general climate in which it can continue to expand its powers. The Hugh Scanlons and the Jack Joneses are no answer to this situation, for they know that their friends are the Labour Party. They are willing to play the game, within the limits of constitutional activity.

As anarchists, our opposition is total, not only to the Labour Government, but to all governments, not just to right-wing trade union leaders, but to the left-wing ones as well. They all think and act in terms of leadership, of the

leaders and the led, of the governors and the governed, of the decision-makers and the decision-takers.

We also have a job in the next year, before the general election, to point out the futility of voting, to show that society need not be based on capitalist values of greed and power and to point out that man can live by co-operation. We must show that man has the resources to create enough for everyone's needs, that the power blocks and nations that divide men are artificial and that we can live in harmony and peace together instead of the divisions that separate us in the world today. PT

LONDON STREET COMMUNE

INCREDIBLE press reports of the events in 144 Piccadilly and Endell Street led to the general hysteria on the part of the authorities: the result of this was the mass arrests during the repossession of St. Giles School, Endell Street, on September 24.

This repression was continued in the courts—with parental co-operation making it impossible to leave jail unless to live at home—in effect exchanging one prison for another.

The magistrate had naturally prejudged the issue, several sureties were found but the police, intent on keeping us in custody made flimsy excuses, for example lack of time in checking out sureties, when in fact people had been at court for at least six hours.

Friday 26: Of the twelve sureties found, only two were accepted by the police—the other ten were refused on the grounds that they lived in a flat. Those two sureties were later rejected by the court after a considerable delay.

The obvious conclusion to draw from this is that the police are exploiting the existing conditions of bail as much as possible, and so we can see that they intend to fragment any group they consider as potentially 'dangerous'.

These events have taught us that to resist the police and their conspiracy with the courts and parents, we must find an umbrella organisation to protect the interests of those who oppose the present system.

Comrades in Ashford remand centre are now on hunger strike; demonstrating in a very positive way their opinion of the British legal system in general and the role of the police in particular.

The address of the London Street Commune is now c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, E.1. Tel: 01-247 3614 (24 hour service). DENISE HALLORAN.

All Along the Watchtower

SPEAKERS at the AFB Conference mentioned the possibility of the next election being fought on the 'law and order' issue. Certainly Enoch Powell's speech on 'organised mob law' and Quentin Hogg's reference in the *Sunday Express* to 'an organised conspiracy to substitute anarchy for law' suggest this.

So far the accusations have been vague but they could easily herald a witch hunt against revolutionary groups. One sign in this direction is the way that, following the Cameron Report, the Tory press has been increasingly blaming the violence in Ulster on 'anarchists and Trotskyists'.

The most specific accusations in this field have come from the National Front. The people of Bogside and visitors to the anarchist Summer Camp will both be surprised to learn that according to *Spearhead*, the Front's paper, the fighting in Derry was actually planned at the Summer Camp! To quote from *Spearhead*:

'Recognised in Ulster were French students from Nanterre who had been in evidence at an anarchist camp in Cornwall. . . . Why did the government allow the gathering in Cornwall of large numbers of anarchists bent on crossing to Ulster to wage revolutionary warfare?'

While on the subject of law and order, the current issue of *Spearhead* also includes this letter which is reproduced without comment:

'This letter is anonymous because I am

Freedom

For Workers' Control

October 11 1969 Vol 30 No 31

Pushing for Power in Ulster

'BARRICADE OFFENDERS' should be taken by the scruff of their necks' quote Herr Willie Craig, Public Blunderer No. 1, Belfast's Hitler was at his best in the Ulster Hall on Saturday night. 'Force if necessary; firearms should have been used by RUC during riots in Derry on August 12 after the mob had taken the high flats in the Bogside', quote Benito Craig again, addressing Newtownbreda Young Fascists.

By the sombre tone of Callaghan's address to the Labour Party Conference while dealing with the N. Ireland question, he would appear to be either under a gross misapprehension or cynically doubts the potency of Right Wing forces within the Unionist Parliamentary Party, backed up by hate-intoxicated B-Specials and para-military UVF groups.

Craig has ceaselessly campaigned for removal of British troops and the reinstatement of RUC and B-Special forces in the areas now regarded as Free Derry and Free Belfast. Is this not typical of the arrogant Orange Fascism, of the same Craigs who provoked the fear-stricken people of Bogside and Falls Road to defend their lives, homes and families when these fascist jackboots openly and with provocation marched through Derry on August 12, flaunting their arrogant superiority. On September 27, in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, Craig addressing a motley collection of 'Loyalists' reiterated the philosophy of his predecessor Lord Craigavon—WE ARE THE MASTERS IN OUR OWN HOUSE—and Callaghan talks about amicable gestures.

Right from the inception of the

6-counties statelet the Unionists were obviously intent on asserting their dominant control in all matters. In accordance with the Treaty settlement of 1921, a Boundary Commission met in 1924 to fix the border 'considering the wishes of the inhabitants so far as may be compatible with economic and geographic conditions'. It soon became clear that there was contradiction between the 'wishes of the inhabitants and the economic and geographic conditions obtaining'. The statelet having been set up, Craigavon could at last declare a Protestant parliament for a Protestant people, thus using the age-old trick of identifying the glorious tradition of King Billy which was part and parcel of Protestant working class life and the economic interests of the Northern bourgeoisie while subtly disguising the class issues. It was quite obvious to hoodwinkers and political strategists like Craigavon that once the majority plebiscite viewpoint was on their side the exploiters could then begin exploiting.

Throughout the years the weak Catholic minority succumbed under the heel of oppression—mainly due to the machinations and backroom political double-dealing of their so-called representatives. Then October 5 happened!

1. On the morning of October 5.—The Liverpool branch of the Apprentice Boys of Derry (an offshoot of the Orange Order) marched through Derry. On the afternoon of October 5 a peaceful, non-violent Civil Rights march campaigning for jobs and houses was batoned into the ground.

2. In Armagh on November 30 Paisley's thugs took over the town in an attempt to stop a march organised by NICRA. They declared with certain relative justification, 'We are the people'. James Connolly the Irish Labour leader once wrote with reference to the Ulster

Continued on page 2

police, immediately after the capture of Endell Street stated that the building was clean. It was not until 24 hours later that a statement mentioning the 'filth' was issued.

However the existence or otherwise of this 'filth' is not really the point. Marx said that the bourgeoisie considered all weapons fair in their own hands and criminal when in the hands of their enemies. Similarly it seems that the bourgeoisie dismisses all its opponents as 'filthy' while continuing to pour refuse into rivers, befool the air with petrol fumes and generally leave a trail of filth not in a few houses but across the entire planet.

It is hard to take the wave of moral indignation that we are hearing from both sides in the Keeler/*News of the World* affair very seriously. The Press Council, which has been so quick to defend the interests of the wealthy and influential persons who would be embarrassed by the raking up of this scandal, has for years failed to act when ordinary people were the victims of press smears.

On the other hand the attempts of the *News of the World* to pose as the defender of individual freedom are equally unconvincing. Many of the 'crusades' of the Sunday press are directed at limiting individual freedom rather than extending it. Thus a few weeks ago the *People* was calling on newsagents not to sell *Oz* magazine. Anybody who wishes to see how much the popular press cares for the individual and how much the Press Council protects their victims should read the *Solidarity* pamphlet 'Damned' and find out how the *People* smeared the King Hill hostel families and how it was whitewashed by the Press Council.