

THE COMING ELECTION

THE FACT THAT Labour is rapidly catching up in the Gallup Poll stakes probably means that we are in for a longer period of Wilson Government and it is worth noting that the '64-'66 Government tried to introduce a Prices and Incomes Bill with the possibility of coercion, but this had to go, at least until Wilson was re-elected, and then it was enacted in '66; and similarly the '66-'70 Government has tried to outlaw unofficial strikes by legislative act, and this has had to go, at least until Wilson is re-elected. My bet is that something not unlike 'In Place of Strife' will be law this time next year.

A number of analysts have built theories on the probability of a Tory Government with what amounts to Popular Front appeals being thrown out here and there. We must drop criticism of Wilson in order to prevent Powell coming to power. More intelligently one of the Trot factions has said that anyone who is outside the Labour Party—when as is inevitable the Tories are re-elected—will be isolated from the working class. Even in our own ranks a trace of hysteria concerning Powell has been evident.

Powell is undoubtedly a racist, but a racist becomes a fascist and a danger when he can make a consistent appeal to a large section of the working class over a longish space of time, and a politician dedicated to laissez-faire and cuts in national assistance is unlikely to achieve this. The danger of Powell is that behind him a fascist movement may form—which will later dispense with him.

His recent excursions into attacks on Civil Rights in Ulster will have alienated some of his early support, which he may well hope to recoup from co-thinkers of Paisley in this country, but such bigots have their own organizations and do not need to accept the leadership of a 'Johnny come lately' to their cause. Nor even will his stand on the Common Market help him, and when obvious pressure is put on an Indian businessman to join his disavowed supporters in the Midlands this can only discredit Powell yet further, without endearing him to the hearts of his fellow racists.

The Cameron Report in fact must be worth a million votes to Labour, however half-baked, indeed because it was half-baked, in its condemnation of the Ulster establishment. For the Tories unwisely intend to fight for Law and Order as the American Right did last year, but not only were far more British shocked by events in Chicago than were middle-of-the-road Americans, but also many otherwise apolitical British have been shocked by reports from Ulster, and in that the Ulster Government has made frequent use of the term Law and Order it would not be difficult for Labour to fix on the Tories the stigma of wanting to introduce that same law and order here.

Wilson—cunning swine that he is—obviously feels that he can force a sizable section of the independent Left and of student protesters, if not to campaign for him, nevertheless to campaign against a Law and Order Tory Party, while the fact that they are independent, and that Wilson is able to show that they have been demonstrating against his Government, means that he will not have the opprobrium that the Left has with moderate-conservative-minded floating voters. (Not to count any RCs among them.)

The News of The World business must also be worth quite a lot of votes, particularly since there has been so much

protest about the ethics of digging up the past, which means that a lot of people have had their memories jolted about the Keeler affair, who do not themselves read the NoW and would not have heard about it from there. Anyone who noted Mandy Rees Davies (Rice-Davis's recent visit to England ought to have noted the straws in the wind, and that it was probable that something of the sort would be raked up. Indeed we may get more, and it is very convenient for the Government. Indeed if anyone should recall a picture in the Express that the Radcliffe Report said was not Mr. Sandys, in the same breath as mentioning that some Tories wish to restore corporal punishment, the Tory right will collapse altogether. One can imagine an enterprising LPYS branch publishing a satirical leaflet:

(Picture from the Court Leys School evidence)

'The Tory Party stands for Rigid morality' article on evils of corporal punishment, ending 'Mr. Sandys's interest in this matter is well known'.

(Picture from Keeler evidence)

'The Tory Party stands for Morality' and so on... through the Tory Party stands for Law and Order with picture of Chichester-Clark at Burntollet and another of B-Specials in action.

It is with this in mind that we must plan our leaflets for the election, perhaps taking the Life and Soul text and developing it; writing as perhaps over-enthusiastic Labour supporters:—

The Labour Party has soul: It introduced the race relations act to outlaw racism: under this, OCRI—Oxford opponents of racism have been prosecuted, as also various coloured speakers, but though a man was killed in Wolverhampton by youths shouting Enoch, there has been no prosecution of Mr. Powell.

The Labour Party has soul: When in opposition it objected strongly to the Immigration Bill saying (quote from Gaitskell) it has since...

The Labour Party has soul: When in opposition it branded as illiberal the use of British troops to bolster capitalist rule in... in pursuance of this, though we have sent troops to Aden and Antigua, we have not sent them to Rhodesia; we have, of course, sent them to Ulster to remove the barricades the Catholics built to protect their wives and children, as these were an hindrance to trade...

The Labour Party has life; it got it by grabbing yours for instance with the Prices and Incomes Board and it will soon legislate on TUs to enforce this. L.O.

PROTECTION

BELOW IS FROM C. McAllister, Medical Committee for Human Rights, USA. It may be of use to Irish comrades.

Irrigate Eyes. Preferably with a diluted solution of boric acid (3 parts water to 1 part boric acid) or—if not available—tap water.

Clean Eyes. With standard over-the-counter eye drops (putting in the drops from the INSIDE, i.e. the nose side, towards the outside).

Get The Gas Off Your Skin. The best way is to apply mineral oil (with a sterile gauze pad or sterile cotton ball) to the face and other affected areas. Mineral oil breaks down the gas. If you don't have mineral oil immerse all exposed area in water and then wipe the entire area EXCEPT the eyes with

Revolt of the Lower Paid

THE DUSTMEN'S STRIKE for a £20 wage packet has received widespread sympathy from the public. It has been recognised that they, in conjunction with other local authority workers, perform a valuable but nevertheless unpleasant task. Before the present dispute, they had been earning a basic wage of £15 9s. and are by no means the lowest paid workers employed by the local authorities. It was for this reason that other workers, cesspool machine operators, night soilmen, sewage farm workers, road sweepers, and lavatory attendants have either joined in sympathy or have struck for their own claims.

This massive revolt of the lower-paid affected all but one of the London boroughs. It had been rapidly spreading throughout England and was beginning to affect Scotland. The unusual spectacle of piles of rubbish has become a familiar sight in London's streets and has brought home to people just how important is the service that dustmen perform in our society. Yet it is these workers, who perform the most useful tasks in society, that receive the least in return. What could be more important than the farm workers, the trawlermen, the building workers and the host of men and women whose essential work on the local authorities is taken for granted, that is until they go on strike.

LOOK UP FROM YOUR BOOKS

Student Column

AT THE NEXT General Castration the voting age will be a tender 18. I trust that the politicians will be unpleasantly surprised by the abstention rate of a generation less susceptible to their con tricks than their parents.

The NUS, revolutionary in their proposals to the last, are pressing for the right of students to register in their university towns instead of their 'home' towns, and various members of their executive are visiting colleges telling students how vital it is to use their vote. They are of the Victorian opinion that students at last are to be a force to be reckoned with by virtue of their voting power.

If students do get to register in their university towns, they could well swing the vote in some marginal constituencies, thus becoming the most important category of voters there. The parties would get more organised in the colleges, and be forced to listen to students. The NUS executive see this as the beginning of an era of increased power for themselves.

CS GAS

isopropyl or rubbing alcohol. Alcohol sets up an evaporation process, cooling the stinging and reducing the pain. If you don't follow the immersion in water with alcohol, the stinging will last 30 min. to 2 hrs., but if you use it the stinging will subside in 5-10 mins.

Protection. A rubber mask is best; in place of that use wet towels or surgical masks (from any chemist).

WARNING

The police have grenades that blow up in your hand if you try to pick them up. Do NOT use vaseline for any gas because gas adheres to vaseline and causes more severe burning. Do not rub your eyes after being gassed, but do carry eye drops. Do not try to get gas

TIGHT-FISTED BUREAUCRATS

The dustmen and other local authority workers on strike are part of the boroughs' direct labour scheme. This brings certain benefits, such as sick pay, which operatives who work for private firms would not automatically receive, but they are often little compensation for working on and having to struggle against the bureaucrats of the Town Hall. These grey faceless mediocre dummies are not concerned with profits, being the administrators of the public money. They have no orders to meet or deadlines to reach and it follows that it needs that much extra effort to force any concessions from these tight-fisted bureaucrats.

But the dustmen's strike has done this and after years of mean hand-outs, they have shown that militancy pays off. Even the present offers of £2 10s. and £1 10s. for London and provincial dustmen respectively exceed the Government's incomes policy, but it will take either a brave or a stupid Minister to point this out. This revolt of local authority workers has once and for all shown that justifying the incomes policy as a help to the lower-paid worker was so much rubbish.

Signs of this present militancy have been evident for some time and a turnover rate of 100% is not uncommon among dustmen. This illustrates the dissatisfaction with the conditions and rates of pay. Liverpool dustmen and roadsweepers won an increase from 25% to 33% on their bonus after a three-week strike. A 17-day strike in Birmingham gained 19/- and the recent Lambeth strike, over totting, gave

The politicians will court them all right, but students will soon wake up to the fact that this is not the same thing as representing their wishes once they are elected.

Whether or not students do register in their university towns, but especially if they do because the effect will be more noticeable, we are faced with a tremendous opportunity for really thorough anti-election campaigns.

It is vital that the present student revolt does not get absorbed into the travesty of the parliamentary game. The chances of this happening are slight: the NUS hasn't been able to absorb us. But with the Young Liberals endorsing the principles of workers' control and student power, and the Labour Party student affiliates disowning their party leadership, we can't be complacent. Revolutionary students must be dissuaded from voting for one of these parties—or Independents—just because they think 'they're better than the Tories'. They're not better, and the student vote will give us the opportunity to put this over.

THE CAMPUS VOTE MATTERS—SO DON'T VOTE!

off your face with soap, it may run into your eyes and irritate them further. THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF CS GAS ARE NOT KNOWN.

THE PLOT THICKENS

AS WE SAID BEFORE, CS is 'loaded' into cartridge grenades (which we now know are made by ICI) by Schermuly Ltd. of Guildford. Schermuly is owned, along with 217 other companies, by the Charterhouse Group. Charterhouse (Ireland) Ltd. have offices in Eire, which can't be the healthiest spot on earth at this moment. Other firms owned by Charterhouse are Nuclear Controllers

dustmen there another victory.

STEWARDS REJECT SETTLEMENT

Having staged this strike, dustmen, especially of the Transport and General Workers' Union, are now showing reluctance in accepting the present offer. The other two unions, the General & Municipal and Public Employees have accepted it and according to procedure, this should now have settled the dispute. However, the T&G are saying that they should end the strike and let the union tackle individual councils for further increases. T&G stewards at a meeting at Transport House rejected this resolution when it was put to them by Mr. John Cousins, the National Secretary of the Union.

There are also signs that the men of the other unions are equally dissatisfied with the offer and want to press home their full claim. This obviously seems to be the best tactic and should include all those others who get an even worse deal than the dustmen. While they may not be numerous, the strength and the effectiveness of the strike could also be used to raise the earnings of these other workers above the 15/- that the local authorities have offered.

The strike action has already achieved a far better offer than the original claim of 18/- by the unions, which shows that it is not the powers of negotiation of the union officials, but the actions of the rank and file that get results. This could now be pressed home to achieve not only the unofficial demand of the dustmen for £20, but an equally substantial increase for the other council workers.

P.T.

RSSF Entrism

I FIND the arguments over whether or not we should enter the RSSF pointless. We are few enough in the universities without dissipating our energies in a set-up whose aims we do not, to put it mildly, fully endorse.

Lack of a membership card does not prevent us from participating in actions, whoever organises them.

As with the anti-war movement, anarchists do well to remain aloof from the bureaucratic wrangles, while joining demos and attempting to radicalise the actions themselves and the other participants.

The RSSF is an especially lifeless organisation, the only action being shown by the attempts of the various sects to take over various regional committees, and the case against anarchists becoming such a sect, surely does not have to be argued every time a new organisation appears.

R.B.

Ltd. and Security Arrangements Ltd. Through Schermuly they also own in the USA C.G. Investments and Smith and Wesson Pyrotechnics Inc.

CS grenades picked up in Berkeley after the Peoples Park battle bore the maker's name, 'Lake Erie. A Division of (that's it, you guessed it!) Smith and Wesson Inc.'

We are still trying to trace, if we can, the factory of origin from the markings on the grenade picked up by our Irish comrades. It is not to be ignored that ICI are also chemists and gas manufacturers and that they may by-pass Schermuly and make the whole packet themselves. Time will tell.

LARRY.

SKINHEADS

THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH

AMERICA: THE MIXED CURSE, by Andrew Kopkind. Penguin Books, 7/6.

Vietnam and Guatemala. And white ones too.

To a Briton, Kopkind's writing has a deep Orwellian streak, and I frequently found myself so appalled by Kopkind's reporting that I was reading it as though it were, and I wished it to be, pure fiction.

Kopkind writes on such subjects as the battle of the black ghettos; the awful dilemma raised by Luther King's pacifism; a scything essay on James Reston's view of journalistic responsibility; and the trials of Captain Levy.

Captain Howard Levy, an Army doctor, was sentenced to 3 years' hard labour for refusing to train Special Service aidmen (Green Berets) and for inspiring 'disaffection' among enlisted men. Kopkind's concern over Captain Levy is his strength as a writer, providing examples of the microcosm through which the workings of the macrocosm become all too painfully clear. The indignities, the de-personalisation suffered by Levy, is that which is suffered by all 'the wretched of this American earth'. Since this book was published, Levy has been released from prison, and the infamous Green Berets' murder case in Vietnam has proved Levy to have been right all along. Most of the media, and all the military, dismissed as ridiculous

his allegations that Green Berets were involved in murder and torture of prisoners. Because of these allegations, Levy was diagnosed as . . . 'pathologically hostile, passive-aggressive, and paranoid'. Kopkind was one of the few media writers to support Levy when there were no available facts to justify his claims.

Kopkind is also good at conjuring up those deceptively simple sentences which find their way into books of quotations. They are created from both mirror and crystal ball.

'All at once, politics seems desperate, but for all its protests and confrontations, the decade of the sixties never faced the issue of political despair. Now it cannot be escaped.' And 'No American is so securely fettered as the British working-class man who is not allowed even to recognise the hand at his throat. The cult of non-violence can be as paralyzing as its opposite.'

This is where Kopkind's book is of inestimable value to us. America of the present could become Britain of the future, and there are few enough analyses like this to disseminate if we are to prevent a similar catastrophic mutation being born here.

I.D.

ANDREW KOPKIND is a social seismologist. Here he has recorded the rumblings and tremors of oppression and insecurity, predicting the ultimate quake so lucidly that those in American society who do not listen can be safely charged with acting out the death-wish on themselves and their society.

The book consists of 27 essays on the American situation, all inspired by recent events. America is 'a brutal, blind and violent society hung up on the myth of its humanity, dedicated to equality and founded on racism, proclaiming democracy and practising exploitation. It corrupted King and country, and in a tragic sense has driven them both to an ambiguous suicide'. And who killed Luther King? 'The culprit is not one psychotic individual but a complex of men and institutions, all very sane in their own terms. That which killed King killed Bobby Hutton (a leader of the Black Panther movement, killed in Oakland by police when he emerged from a house with his hands high in the air) and Malcolm X; it runs the slum housing supermarkets and the "easy credit" shops in the ghettos; it sends black soldiers to

AN ARTICLE by John Hoyland appeared in *Black Dwarf* (30.8.69) entitled 'The Skinheads—A Youth Group for the National Front?'. You may have seen replicas since in the national press, e.g. *Daily Mail* (5.8.69), 'Here Come the Skinheads—in braces, jeans, and army boots'. This popularising of Mr. Hoyland's caricature is very disturbing. . . . Mr. Hoyland well knows how the press like a good scapegoat. . . . remember Edward Short's 'academic thugs'? Perhaps Mr. Hoyland really wishes to see these youths find themselves in the ranks of the National Front so that a violent confrontation will produce the revolutionary situation, but what if the revolution doesn't eventuate and these young men are simply made scapegoats? If the police are provoked in order to revolutionise a situation, at least they have the resources to rehabilitate themselves as people but these young men aren't so fortunate. Even if the revolution was to succeed they stand to lose their lives which is just about all there is, no matter how many convenient rationalisations one introduces.

Mr. Hoyland, for the uninitiated, is a Revolutionary Socialist and co-editor of *Black Dwarf* who made himself somewhat conspicuous during the period immediately leading up to the October 27 demonstration last year by attempting to recruit John Lennon into the ranks of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. Fortunately, in the context of this letter at any rate, John Lennon was independent and articulate enough to reject the invitation in pretty forthright terms. Indeed, one would have thought John Lennon's reply pointed enough to have eliminated the possibility of Mr. Hoyland writing an article of the type which I am particularly concerned with here. Unfortunately, the youths who Mr. Hoyland has chosen to caricature as 'skinheads' and 'hateful' . . . 'nasty, thick little louts', may not be in such a position.

A significant difference between Mr. Hoyland's letter to John Lennon and his article on the youths is that, in the former, the importance of 'human relationships' is to some degree recognised although it is the proverbial 'they' who run the 'system' and who 'hate' John Lennon and his ilk. However in the article on the 'unorganised' youths (though for Mr. Hoyland's convenience they wear a 'uniform' of boots, braces, jeans, and cardigans and more personally very short hair) 'human relationships' don't get a single mention. It's too easy to impose uniformity upon people (perhaps the best example I've seen of late was the photograph entitled 'People in Uniform' which appeared in *The Times* on May 17. It simply showed a young couple with their two children wearing similarly knitted jumpers viewing a Guardsman presumably on duty outside one of the Royal residences).

To refer again to Mr. Hoyland's letter to John Lennon, he wrote 'In order to change the world (!) we've got to understand what's wrong with the world. And then destroy it. Ruthlessly.' Perhaps the 'understanding' part is synonymous with revolutionary change. Human understanding is certainly lacking in the 'youths' article. Mr. Hoyland points out that the young men wear their jeans well above the tops of their boots, and considers that the latter are simply 'all the better to kick you with' . . . he doesn't speculate on why they go to the bother of showing them off, after all they know they are wearing them so why not just kick! References are made to the youths' shaven heads but again no attempt is made to point out that invariably a parting is shaven in in the appropriate position. Let's take the 'braces': Mr. Hoyland writes ' . . . they wear large pairs of jeans with, believe it or not, braces—a masterpiece of unhipness. . . . I suspect that if these young men were offered jeans or trousers which would not stay up unsupported they wouldn't look at them and I wonder whether via braces they manage to anchor feelings of insecurity as they undoubtedly do by warning us about their boots. (I recall that the National Secretary of the now defunct C100 wore boots and a beret too.)

Most people will have noticed the young women's handbags which are almost draped in obsolete buckles and fastenings, not to mention coats and other garments currently fashionable. Perhaps here too feelings of insecurity are being worked out. Handbags might seem a little trivial but during the recent Edward Kennedy controversy re one of the 'boiler room' girls reported to have left her handbag in Kennedy's car, there were two quite interesting reports written on this aspect of the affair, both by women journalists.

One of them, which appeared in the

Daily Express on July 25, is worth recalling. The reporter quotes a psychologist as saying, 'Handbags are far more than just a method of transportation. To a woman her handbag is more like . . . well, a little person . . . a baby extension of herself, frail, vulnerable, a microcosm of her personality so that in protecting it she is protecting the child in herself. . . . One sees people in the streets almost lost in great coats, heavy leather suiting, high boots, etc., and wonders who or what they might be sheltering from.'

Supposing, Mr. Hoyland, we agree about my suggestions re the more human context in which these youths wear boots, braces, etc., how would you suggest that we make them aware of it? Would you in fact consider that such an awareness (understanding?) on their part would change, perhaps one could say revolutionise their attitudes in this minor respect? I wonder if it is blasphemous to use the word revolution (such 'an' exciting word) you write to 'thousands of working class boys and girls in this country) in such parochial terms to a rhetorician *dwarf*—no, one mustn't caricature—*person* as yourself. I wonder if you imagine that your polemic has helped the youths to understand themselves.

You point out that they were present at the free pop concerts and that they caused trouble but you made no attempt to explain why they found this necessary. They at one level may have thought it was 'great' but there were probably more Freudian reasons. You say that they are 'untouched' by 'swinging London' but I suspect that once again you have caricatured the situation. Go to any Mecca Dance Hall on 'disc' night or one of the other nights when the younger people are catered for and you'll see them 'doing their thing' in a manner not far removed from those who do theirs at the open air pop concerts. Perhaps John Peel won't be there or the cast of 'How Late It Is', etc., but then, in terms of 'swinging London' they're only a drop in the ocean. If 'swinging London' was solely reliant upon the patronage of minority groups like the 'hippies', etc., it wouldn't. I'm of the opinion that London has never 'swung' anyway.

(Even if one recalls Vauxhall or Ranelagh Gardens and the antics of the Macaronies one also recalls the poetry of William Blake, Alsatia, and the poor and the oppressed who rioted under Lord George Gordon's umbrella. Even this is too selective by far to be anything like fair comment.)

It should become a major priority of all Left wing organisations to reach these young people and organise them. In fact it is a fantastic error that this work has not been going on for months already—an error that confirms a lot of what the skinheads say about the Left and its priorities. Those who are to be organised are those referred to previously as being 'excited' about the word 'revolution'. But those who noticed this enormous blind spot on the Left's retina were none other than the 'thick' skinheads!

Unfortunately, just when one would like Mr. Hoyland to be more informative, he isn't. There are implications in the above quote of oceanic proportions but it turns out to be a painted ship on a painted ocean. How did the skinheads know of this blind spot of the Left's? Was it an intuitive realisation? Did they work their way through all the Left's propaganda and reach such a conclusion? Mr. Hoyland ascribes the increasing success of the skinheads to a sense of 'mystique' which he alleges surrounds them but he doesn't provide any information on it which, in view of the foregoing, isn't surprising.

The skinheads, it should be noted, aren't 'straightforward fascists'; in fact they turn out to be 'reactionary anarchists' who 'hate the blacks most of all' . . . 'most of them having participated in beating them up'. What 'reactionary anarchists' are isn't made very clear except that they aren't presumably 'straightforward fascists'. Why the 'fascist' ticket was raised except for the purpose of smearing people I cannot imagine. To create fascists isn't the most creative of socialist priorities aspirations. Of course that 'these charming little thugs' have almost to a man beaten up 'blacks' isn't substantiated in any way.

Mr. Hoyland wrote in his letter to John Lennon, 'You know what a sick, evil, and brutalising business it is to be a "success" in this kind of rat race'. I think he should have written ' . . . in this revolutionary rat race' for that's what he seems to be enthusing. He also asked John Lennon if he would willingly hand over Apple to the workers and

The World of Tomorrow

IT IS RATHER STRANGE that, in these days of high political activity on the left, the most coherent social criticisms and visions of Utopia are found not in the left wing press or the writings of Marcuse, but in 'science' fiction. If *Brave New World* or *1984* were written today, they would doubtless be classified as 'science fiction' and ignored by reviewers. Do not be misled by labels!

Swift and others satirised contemporary society by describing civilisations in unexplored regions of Earth; modern writers use the future or other planets. There can be few more biting (or amusing) satires of capitalism-gone-wild than Pohl and Kornbluth's 'Space Merchants'. Science fiction authors also deal with alternative societies. Isaac Asimov, in his several novels about Galactic civilisation (the *Foundation* series and others) can think of nothing better than a depressing Galactic Empire. Robert Heinlein, in *Revolt in 2100*, describes the overthrow of a theocratic dictatorship in the USA and its replacement by the Covenant, by which all citizens can do anything they wish providing no harm is done to others. A social contract indeed!

In other books, Heinlein is less optimistic. In *Starship Troopers*, only those who have risked their lives for society in military service are entitled to vote;

Italian Comrade's Hunger Strike

ELIANE VINCILEONE, after five months in a Milan prison without trial (as are also her husband and two other comrades) started her second hunger strike on August 31 to support her application for release on the grounds of lack of evidence. Her first hunger strike was ended after twelve days by the prison doctor who was justly worried about her health. Our comrades have been accused of bomb attacks against the Central Station and the Trade Fair at Milan on April 25, 1969, but their innocence has been attested by people far from the Anarchist movement.

It is as if the authorities wanted a repeat, albeit on a smaller scale, of the Sacco and Vanzetti case, for the only motive for arrest was that our comrades were pacifist anarchists. What sort of state is it that allows innocent people to rot five months in prison because the judges are on holiday? Once again, injustice appears in the guise of justice.

—(Umanità Nova, 13.9.69.)

Translated and slightly shortened by TONY LEVENE.

one really wonders if he'd do the same with the post-revolutionary world: but then of course there'd be no workers. Or would there?

IAN CAMERON.

but his *Stranger in a Strange Land* contains a beautiful religion or philosophy.

Anarchist ideas do not appear very often, though many works deal with rebellion against dictatorship. *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* (Heinlein again) has some kind words to say for anarchists, and Cordwainer Smith's somewhat odd stories describe the Instrumentality of Man, which provides the basic necessities of life free. (Unfortunately, all the work is done by androids and robots, who have no rights.)

The only anarchist society I have found is in the last third of *The Great Explosion* by Eric Frank Russell, in which a group of followers of Gandhi

Pollution

TWO HUNDREDWEIGHTS of Endosulfan were enough to kill 40,000,000 fish in the Rhine. As after the Torrey Canyon disaster, the effects of pollution are a menace to all. Some ten million Dutch and German people depend upon the Rhine for their drinking water. Endosulfan is made by the largest German chemical firm, 'Hoeschst' (incidentally the successor firm to I.G. Farben who made the gas for the Nazi extermination camps). This firm has tried to prove its innocence by all means possible. Not surprising when the damage has already reached one million pounds and this of course does not include the damage to health. The States involved will make the pretence of legal action against those responsible but it would be very surprising if there is any trial after the fuss has been calmed by the mass media. For it is obvious that the State cannot condemn its 'raison d'être'—capitalist enterprises. The working-class is exploited but bosses do not exploit one another.

Despite the obvious bad effects that pollution has upon all living things, the 'logic' of capitalism dictates that the earth be turned into a giant refuse tip. To purify waste would imply expense, and expenditure that does not create profit has no part to play in a capitalist society. The press will always find a firm that is preventing pollution (though doubtless causing misery in another field) but with literally hundreds of thousands of firms in Western Europe, the solution cannot lie with public opinion persuading them to do something. In the fight for profits, it is always such things as welfare of both workers and the general public that are sacrificed first. The public will be told by the mass media to willingly sacrifice its health and often its life, for is not the boss making a great sacrifice too—many are not now able to drink chateau bottled wine with each meal.

The problem of the slow but sure strangulation of lakes and rivers by pollution is as serious as that of growing enough food to feed the world. Just as food production is often artificially restricted, capitalism dictates that what is left is polluted. Capitalism needs to obtain immediate returns from its investments in machines and labour. To this

have colonised a planet. There is no government or coercion, and 'Freedom—I Won't' and 'myob' (Mind your own business) are favourite slogans. Killjoy critics have complained that economics are ignored, but there are those of us who believe that the social structure can (and should) determine the economic structure, and not vice versa. (Heresy, but economics is not an exact science.)

Russell's *Wasp*, with its one-man sabotage campaign against the Sirian Empire, contains many ideas for direct-actionists. All in all, science fiction is a very profitable field for study.

M. EAGLE.

end, chemicals are used—detergents, pesticides, hydrocarbon oils—and it is these that above all lead to pollution. To a certain degree, these wastes are broken down by natural action, but (as in certain parts of the USA) the amount of pollution is such that biological action is no longer sufficient. Research could be carried out to find a way of transforming waste into something useful, but while it is still profitable to pump untreated waste into rivers, the State will never allow the expenditure upon this research. It matters little that people all over the 'civilised' world are dying from the effects of poison in the water and in the air while profitability is the sole motive. The problem will only be resolved by a complete change in society, a complete change in the way people think. It is only when man is sufficiently advanced and he will have achieved the Anarchist revolution that a balance can be achieved between man and his environment.

(Translated, adapted and shortened from an article in *Le Combat Syndicaliste* by Tony Levene.)
N. Somerset mag.

Struggle Continues in Spain

SINCE SEPTEMBER 12, 1969, one of the largest railway repair shops in Spain, at Villaverde, has been brought to a halt by a strike—the first important strike since the summer holidays. Nine workers were dismissed. 688 others struck in sympathy and occupied the workshops. They were sacked and driven out by a strong force of police on the following day. The Spanish people continue their struggle to cleanse their country of the clerico-fascist filth that rules it, despite, unhappily, receiving very little aid and solidarity from other countries. —(*Le Combat Syndicaliste*, 25.9.69.)

**Anarchism :
An Individualist View**

I AM AN ANARCHIST because there is nothing else left for me to be. My present position is the culmination of several years development and bitter experience of political organisations.

Of course, I was born a rebel and I have fought against authority since childhood but this is not why I now describe myself as an anarchist. My individuality is a fact—I don't need to create an 'ism' to assert it. Others may not recognise my individuality and coerce me to act in a particular manner but that is not the important point. My ability to resist coercion simply depends on my strength. The awareness of one's individuality is the major step on the road to freedom—co-operation with others and constructive action necessarily follow.

I don't find greatest happiness by sterile withdrawal within myself but by freely associating with others for our mutual happiness. (After all, is there anything better than fucking?) At an early age as a vague liberal I fought against injustice and identified with the poor and oppressed. Why? There was nothing in it for me—for my personal rebellion. This was the start of my growing awareness that I am inextricably part of the human race.

Recognising the injustice in the world and wishing to do something about it one looks for the root cause. This I found in Marxist theory. Obviously, the capitalist system which operates on the exploitation of man by man must be evil. It was inevitable—I had become a communist. Then, as now, I was for a communist society based on voluntary co-operation where production would be solely for use not profit, money and the wages system would be part of history, and the wealth of society would be freely available to all. No longer would the items produced by industry be dictated by profitability but by the needs of mankind.

At this time I believed that it was necessary to secure control of the State democratically in order to bring about the necessary changes in economic organisation. The State would then wither away as an instrument of coercion and merely exist for the organisation of affairs. This naive view overlooked the corrupting nature of political power and the inevitable growth of bureaucracy within any political party with revolutionary aspirations, however democratic it may be.

The problem now is how can a free communist society be achieved and how will it be organised? I believe that the trade unions (organised on an anarchist basis) will have an important part to play in the revolution—taking control of the factories and getting them running again quickly, etc.—but this does not make me a syndicalist. I have no desire to live in a world of trade union capitalist empires replacing the existing private and state capitalist empires.

Of course, after the revolution the organisation of production in a particular industry will be completely in the hands of the workers in that industry. However, in our modern industrialised world an industry cannot be self-contained; there is need for co-ordination between industries on a local, national and international basis, as well as co-ordination with the needs of the population.

Many anarchists talk of a mystical commune, which belongs to a bygone age. This conjures up visions of self-contained communities living ascetic lives growing potatoes and baking home-made bread. The syndicalist sees everything in terms of work and production and the advocates of the commune see everything in terms of geography. Both are narrow views of life. I envisage an infinite number of ad hoc organisations based on voluntary co-operation catering for all aspects of a full life.

Many anarchists have pointed out that to be consistent with freedom a communist society must be prepared to live side by side with any other form of society including, presumably, a capitalist society. In theory this is fine, but is it feasible?

Experience suggests that a capitalist world (private and state capitalist) will not be prepared to co-exist with a genuine free communist society. The rulers of the capitalist states have a vested interest in sabotaging a free communist society. By so doing they can hope to convince their own workers that there is no alternative superior to their slavery.

Recognising the nature of capitalism leads inevitably to the realization of the need for a world-wide workers' revolution.

TERRY PHILLIPS.

(Will other comrades please write in giving their own views on anarchism—Eds.)

AFB Conference (continued) books?

THERE WAS a lot of discussion about FREEDOM at the AFB Conference—the now perennial wrangle. FREEDOM editors explained to Conference the ways in which FREEDOM has tried to expand—Scottish Editions, Irish Editions, Squatters' Supplements, etc., together with improved layout—photos, lino-cuts, etc. The new premises are of course a great asset but a costly one—and survival for Freedom Press is a constant struggle.

As a result of recent suggestions concerning FREEDOM—the possibility of an issue every week and an increase in size as well as price, had been considered—but it was reported to Conference that office debts now amounted to £118, FREEDOM and Anarchy debts to £809. So it seems inevitable that there will be an increase in price to 1/- (8d. to groups) with no expansion.

Other ideas under consideration are an increase in the price of Anarchy to 2/6d., the splitting up of the back page to integrate it with the rest of the paper, and the printing of the Groups list only once a month—using that space for additional articles. Freedom Press group is confident—as am I—that this rise in price will not lead to a drop in circulation.

If we want an anarchist newspaper we must be prepared to write for it, work for it, sell it and pay for it.

The Barlow-Carver defence fund reported that £131 15s. 6d. had been collected so far—£20 7s. 1d. of which had gone in various expenses on Alan and Philip's behalf prior to their trial. £43 1s. 8d. had since gone to either Alan or Philip. The balance in hand was £67 16s. 9d. kept for continuing expenses for Alan—still in the Scrubs—and Philip, and to be held in the fund until at least after Alan's release to help him when he is 'free' again.

Further group reports were heard from Swansea, Liverpool University, Workers' Mutual Aid, and on Sunday from the Anarchist Theatre Group, and the Birmingham Arts Lab.

Organisation was the topic on Sunday morning—the need for a group to co-ordinate the AFB from outside London if possible was discussed and Birmingham was suggested. Birmingham offered to guarantee some kind of co-ordination—but this did not preclude other groups from doing likewise.

The possibilities of non-geographical organisation, i.e. groups organised according to job or specific anarchist ideology or outlook—or a pluralist structure—of course—incorporating all three kinds of organisation and others—or none at all, was discussed.

Birmingham also offered to organise a monthly or bi-monthly AFB Bulletin—which would be an internal communication having a dual function of aiding better co-ordination and also possibly clearing some of FREEDOM's valuable column inches from some of the interest-

Persecution of a Small Minority

Dear Comrades,

I liked your survey 'The Repression Grows', but I doubt very much that there is 'a gathering momentum of the revolutionary movement in Britain'.

What we are witnessing is a traditional British sport, the persecution of a small and defenceless minority of nonconformists by the conventional majority. In the 1950's it was the homosexuals, in the early years of this century the suffragettes.

Although a fair amount of rough stuff is used no one is actually burned at the stake. The decencies are preserved! Now it is 'the long-haired youth' who are receiving the treatment. Orthodox society needs scapegoats.

However, being a victim does not automatically make one a revolutionary. Otherwise the homosexuals, suffragettes and conscientious objectors, who have been persecuted in the past, would have brought about revolutionary upheavals. Instead, their demands being met, they merged back into the general population.

My belief is that the 'hippies' will become an accepted part of ordinary life eventually. We should protest against persecution as a matter of principle, without foisting a revolutionary role on its victims.

Yours fraternally,
ARTHUR W. ULOTH.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

Information held over this week owing to lack of space

ing though seemingly interminable theoretical wrangles.

The suggestion was also made for six-monthly conferences instead of twelve-monthly as at present—because for all of the problems associated with Conference—it was invaluable if only in order to reunite with scattered comrades up and down the country—a function largely usurped by this year's camp, but the need for this kind of contact has been far more pressing in previous years and will be again in the future.

The possibility was also discussed of an Anarchist Defence Group being formed in order to help the libertarian movement withstand the anticipated onslaught from the 'law and order' (sic!) lobbies of all parties during the forthcoming electoral farce.

A suggestion that the AFB should take its contact address list out of FREEDOM and circulate it itself to save FREEDOM space was rejected as the list is constantly changing and FREEDOM will be, at least for the foreseeable future, the best medium of contact. But as readers will have noted, it has been drastically pruned.

The possibility of rotating AFB co-ordination was also discussed; doubtless Birmingham will try to pass on their function to another group at some time in the future when they feel the need for change has arisen.

Up Against the Wall Plato?

ATTACK THE VERY myth of government and democracy itself and you will see public school MPs thumping through their collected 'Platos' to find a suitable quote to slam back at you. Republic is favourite, all that grass roots democracy which can be liberally quoted as if it was the only Republic ever written. It was not, it merely managed to survive.

Plato's Republic, if it was a Utopia, was a state utopia—and a slave state at that! More appealing to anarchists is the 'Republic' of Zeno. Unfortunately no intact copy has come down to us and Zeno's 'Republic' is only known to us via small segments and quotations in the works of other philosophers. However enough of Zeno filtered through for Kropotkin to describe him as the best exponent of Anarchist philosophy in ancient Greece.

Unlike Plato's state with its praise of obedience, vigorous enforcement of marriage and similar institutions, was Zeno's vision of a free community without government.

Any socialism that Plato possessed was national socialism. I suppose that, for the time, it was pretty radical to say that no Greek should be at war with, or enslaved by, another Greek. 'Barbarians', however, were another matter! Zeno believed that all differences of nationality would be merged into a common brotherhood of man. He said, 'There is no difference between Greek and barbarian, male or female, bond or free' and added 'all wise men are free, all the unwise are slaves'.

LARRY.

Manchester NUT Rally

FULL TIME teacher wanted. Starting salary £13 a week. Since when have full page adverts in the Guardian and The Times produced an interim salary award?

On the one hand union subscriptions have been increased; so the sustentation fund can be built up. On the other hand, the NUT prepare to spend £20,000 on a publicity campaign to gain public sympathy.

A swift summary of Sunday's meeting at Belle Vue will explain why few other unions are likely to support the NUT. It consisted of three speeches. Although the agenda, prepared by Manchester teachers, allowed for 20 minutes discussion on the resolution, this was waived, without a vote. There was no discussion from the floor; nor were questions allowed.

There was discussion over the virtues of membership as distinct from supportership of the AFB and it was pointed out that there were mandated delegates present as well as individuals—but it was generally agreed that the AFB should be as pluralist and flexible as possible, incorporating individual membership, individual supportership, membership of local groups, supportership ditto, the possibility of delegates—mandated or otherwise, a federation of individuals and groups and, of course, allowing for the possibility that many groups of anarchists and individuals would not wish to be associated with such a concept as the AFB anyway.

Some speakers suggested, to my mind unfairly, two alternatives—a membership organisation 'at national level' or unco-ordinated local activity. There is a third way—that of co-ordinated local activity—and pleas were made for greater co-ordination between all libertarian groups—at base level.

The aims and principles of the North West Federation that appear in their publication Black and Red were used as the basis for a discussion of aims and principles in the absence of any other draft proposals; and a much modified version of it was referred back by Conference to the N.W. Federation for redrafting with a view to accepting this as the Aims and Principles of the AFB.

In his most important quote of all Zeno said, 'If men follow their natural instincts they will unite across frontiers and constitute the Cosmos. They will have no need for law-courts, police, temples or public worship. Money will be worthless, free gifts taking the place of exchange'.

Plato's education system that permitted the pupil to lean on authority and substituted learning for independent research, would not have appealed to Zeno. He saw no use for routine education or schools as physical centres of learning. Plato thought that the production and rearing of children of the ruling class should be brought under state control and regulated upon scientific principles. Those destined to public life would live a style of 'military monasticism' in which they would not hear 'a word said in deprecation of any job or title of the existing laws'. Sounds like Wellington College!

In Laws Plato gets his hands on music. Perhaps Dylan and the Rock Machine aren't having us on! 'The fashions of music can nowhere be changed without consequences of the greatest importance to the state. The spirit of lawlessness grows from tiny beginnings. When it begins to appear in music it may do no harm at first, but it gradually filters into the minds of men and in time becomes a great subversive force. The utmost care must be taken, therefore, to see that the amusements of our gurdians shall be instinct with the spirit of the law.'

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to amend it. Immediately after the vote, the chairman declared the meeting closed. One man called out a question about pensions and the chairman informed him, above the scraping chairs, that the Executive were looking into the matter.

We suggest that this top-heavy union will remain dominated by the minority clique of headmasters on the Executive, until the ordinary rank and file militants organise.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

Working Class Myths

THERE ARE A NUMBER of well-loved working class myths that are constantly spelt out by the ultras of the right and the left according to the time, the place and the mood. Though these myths are used to add point to differing dialogues, they bear a strange resemblance.

There is the 'little worker' joy of the saloon bar and the yearly anarchist conferences. A creature of infinite charm but limited intelligence who wishes for nothing more than the love of a kindly employer, Chelsea at home on Saturday, fish and chips and Coronation Street and a Sunday afternoon stuffing the ol' woman after a slow read through the pages of the *News of the World*.

The middle-class left does not dispute this pop version of the proletariat, but at every anarchist conference the impassioned voices rise in various lyrical crescendoes demanding that FREEDOM shall be stripped of all intellectual and cultural content and geared to the mentality of, and I quote, 'the little worker'. But even when you have descended into that intellectual sewer, little comrade, you will not find the readership you seek, for even the fascist organisations that have always offered a mindless diet of two-syllable propagandist spew, cannot find that fabled readership.

ONLY THE CONVERTED

There are workers' papers, little comrade, and they are on sale in every local newsagents. It is the local paper that by sheer economic necessity carries all the local industrial, social, economic and cultural news and the proletariat buy it, little comrade, as an addition

to their purchases of the national press because it does not sink to an alleged intellectual level, but holds a slightly slanted mirror up to its community for in local affairs a working-class community buys a working-class orientated paper that covers all aspects of their lives. Produce a Simon pure propaganda sheet and only the converted will bother to read it and then only to dispute the heresies of the current editorial views but as a working-class handout it will only join the united front of the litter bin in the company of the Economic League handouts, the Trotskyists news sheets, the *Warcry*, the *Watch Tower*, the militant nationalistic press and all the other closely-reasoned verbiage of the neurotic salvation peddlars and it will be bought by the proletariat of their charity, little comrade, of their charity.

What is more disturbing, however, is the view so cheaply held and so freely offered by a major minority of middle-class anarchists and saloon-bar Tories that the proletariat within our society is truly living high on the hog with high wages, short hours and a union/employer negotiating machinery that exploits the suffering middle-class consumer as he struggles through college, university and super-annuated retirement towards the revolution.

Let this view be denied in print a hundred times, but a thousand casual discussions will bear witness that too many middle-class anarchists take this unthinking picture of the proletariat culled from the pages of a national right-wing press and, while most liberal and righteous in their understanding of the social evils only a jet flight from home, fail to savour the stench beyond the

local suburbs.

To hand out a militant leaflet outside a factory can never give an understanding of the misery that is the lot of hundreds of thousands of the proletariat for Fords and the other headline stealers are the prima donnas of the industrial scene. The squatters movement rightly highlights the wickedness of empty houses but by its very nature cannot expose the obscene conditions that thousands of the proletariat are forced to endure for the verminous squalid tenements are, at the moment, no longer a popular weekend cause.

91-HOUR WEEK

If we discuss hours and wages among the proletariat then let the matter of Benedita Lema be your starting point and not the boys in the print or the lads at Fords for this 22-year-old woman was found to have worked a 91-hour week for which she received a wage of £25. That Lockwood Foods of Long Sutton managed to hit the jackpot by pleading guilty to 97 offences under the Factory Act and paying a fine of £1,145 should not hide the fact that fifty of these offences concerned their use of foreign female labour and that Benedita was called upon to work a stint from 7.30 a.m. until 11.15 p.m. the following day.

It was said at the conference by one speaker that most of these type of cases were pieces taken from the national press and that statement surely brings into focus the gulf that separates the proletariat and those that choose to speak for them. To regard a newspaper report as an isolated example in a society that is not really bad is surely a middle-class alibi for fearing to examine the stench outside their own front door

Freedom For Workers' Control

October 18 1969 Vol 30 No 32

for, at a time when there are no fashionable causes for a warm Sunday, and the atom bomb is passé, bugs and a 91-hour-week can safely be left to Dickens or the back pages of the *Telegraph*.

But this is not so, little comrade, for one does not need the national press to find these things for you, for men like George Clark can walk you into houses that would disgust your sensitive souls and if you cannot contact George then walk through any congested proletariat district with any Labour Party canvasser for that is where their votes once flowered and now die.

And if you think that Benedita's case is unique, little comrade, then this day I interviewed two elderly working men. One works a sixty-hour week of night work for a take-home pay of £13 a week and dare not complain, for he is old and crippled, and the other, after 42 years 2 months in the service of London Transport, was pensioned off with the £553 gratuity and a weekly pension of NINE SHILLINGS AND TWOPENCE A WEEK.

FIGHT WITH THEM AS COMRADES

Don't talk of the 'little worker', comrade, as some intellectual slob to be patronised by we few super-minds for we are walking by you,

LUMPENPROLETARIAT.

shoulder to shoulder, for we are the men and women at your side.

If you have never seen the elderly women coming off Joe Lyons' late shift with their faces still wet with sweat, if you have not seen the charwomen helping their seventy-year-old crippled companion on and off the night bus at five in the morning so that she can drag her ruined body to her cleaning job, if you have not met an old man working sixty hours a week and fearful of the sack, if you have read London Transport's recruiting posters with their joke of a pension scheme and not met a man whom they have retired (sacked) this year with a pension of 9/2d a week after forty years' service, then you are wasting your time and theirs in discussing the workers, big or little. If you must save the world, little comrade, then seek out those who do not need our help and fight with them as comrades and not as political priests.

As for the 'little worker', comrade, you can let him go for he is permanent bait for any third-rate organisation looking for a mindless passive audience from the tory trade union movement to theatre for the people, for if you really need his spineless support then just lay him on his back and tickle his bollocks and he is yours until the next master comes along.

COMING TO A HEAD

BOREDOM HAS ALWAYS been a problem in the power generation industry. The plant runs non-stop day and night and virtually needs no attention except when the demand changes. For safety reasons men must be on the job continually in case anything goes wrong. However management, as usual, will do nothing about this, they won't even recognise that the problem exists.

Because of this many of the younger and brighter men are becoming frustrated and leaving the industry. Those that stay complain bitterly of the effect of shift work on their health, especially in the hot, steamy atmosphere, and their poor rate of pay—about 10/- a week extra to take home for working rotating shifts instead of days.

Two weeks ago at Uskmouth the men were on strike over the suspension of five men, after they refused to be transferred to another power station, next door.

There is a national pay claim of 18% going in at present which could bust the Incomes Policy, as strike notice has

been given. A national electricity strike means troops in the power stations—never a popular move at the best of times. Meetings to try to gain sympathy from other stations for the Uskmouth strike have been refused by the management, they are difficult enough with only a fifth of the men in at any one time, so the workers are becoming more militant. They are beginning to complain now about not having enough say on the job.

Also there are worries about redundancies, partly over the shutting of old power stations as we switch over from lots of small stations to a few large ones, and partly over the introduction of a pay and productivity deal. We can't make more electricity, so higher productivity means less men!

With all this and the ever-increasing frustration at wastage of plant, inefficient running (with the increase in air pollution and generating costs it brings), things are coming to a head—so expect to see something soon—or nothing at all if the lights go out.—From *Scrup*—

Contact Column

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

Contact wanted with anarchists in Mid-Wales; Eric S. Hetherington, Corbie Lynn, Llanwrtyd Wells, Breconshire.

Malatesta poster. Screen printed. 7/6 inc. post, from Freedom Bookshop.

Tasty Comix. First issue available for 4/- from c/o Washington Free Press, 1522 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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. Urgently requires more crash pads in and around London.

Schools Anarchist Group in Gloucestershire? Contact Kate & Joe, 3 Withy Lea, Leonard Stanly, 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.

Badges? Contact Pendarves Workshop, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne; tel. Camborne 3061. Red and Black or plain Black, 2/6 each or 10 for 10/-.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

'Chivers' Prepare for Struggle

THE PIECE ABOUT 'Chivers' (FREEDOM, 13.9.69) caused quite a stir here. People are pleased—indeed, some are positively delighted—that one paper has printed the truth.

Shortly after that article appeared, by coincidence, basic pay at 'Chivers' (alias Hartleys, Schweppes, or Cadburys) went up a little; but this paltry concession may not satisfy the workers, some of whom are becoming less thankful for small mercies. Should they decide to do something about their situation, they won't have to stand alone.

A modest demand to put forward at this time, in view of the huge profits being made by 'Chivers', would be an extra 9d. per hour for all male workers, and 1/- per hour for women. This last bit is likely to be controversial, but it has to be faced. The TUC recommended equal pay as long ago as 1880. Many promises have been made since then, the latest being 'equality for women by 1975'. If the men are sensible, they will recognise that it's against their interest to have somebody doing similar work for considerably less money, and agree to reduce the gap.

The 'Chivers' management continues to show its contempt for the wage slaves. At time of writing, there has still been nothing done about that fantastic incident of the foreman who spat in a student's face. He must be suspended until he learns to treat the workers—all of them—with respect; alternatively, he should be 'reduced to the ranks'. This

matter is not going to be quietly forgotten.

'Chivers' workers—you can win a decent basic wage; you can make the management heed your wishes; but to do so, you must be determined and united. Workers everywhere would do well to learn this simple principle—nobody should look down on their mates because of status, sex, religion, race, or anything else. Only the bosses can benefit if we are divided.

The working class in and around Montrose is largely unorganised. One exception is the building trade, in which some workers can make comparatively good money—but no thanks to the union. So far as I can see, all the local AUBTW branch does is help to empty its members' pockets. You go to pay your dues, and there, sitting at a desk looking important, is Bruce Young, elder of the Ferryden Kirk, a foreman with 'Burness', related through marriage to the bosses. If you've any sense at all, you ask yourself, 'Is this bloke supposed to be on my side?'

It's better for workers to be in some union than none at all, because this helps create a sense of solidarity. But the main thing is a willingness to stand up to the bosses, you and your fellow workers, with or without trade union support. A slave lets things happen to him; free men make things happen.

DAVID YOUNG COULL.

Attention all groups and individuals ACTION FOR FREEDOM!

A LIBERTARIAN BROADSHEET ON 'IRELAND NOW'

Bundle orders please 10/- for 30, £1 for 60

All proceeds to our Northern Irish comrades

Orders c/o Freedom Press

Head on the Defensive

AT A RECENT meeting of an NUT local branch, a teacher openly selling the paper *Rank and File Teacher* was approached by the headmaster in whose school the meeting was held. He told her to stop selling. She asked him why. He said that in his capacity as a Local Council employee he could say what went on in 'his' building. When she queried his authority over union meetings, he lost his temper and swore at her.

How can the NUT be an effective bargaining body when some of the actual members, the Heads, have the power of hire or fire over the other members? NORTH WEST WORKERS.