

DIRECT ACTION PAYS OFF

IN THE ISLE OF DOGS

SUDDENLY we've all heard about the Isle of Dogs. Suddenly millions of telly-jelly viewers and newspaper readers who hear about dockers only when they are on strike are made to realise that dockers have to live somewhere, too. Suddenly it seems almost relevant that, if dockers are not to live miles away from where they work, thus contributing to London's traffic problems, to say the least, then they have to live in or near dockland—and who wants to know about that?

Where are the educated, articulate town planners and sociologists? Where are the probing newsmen and the commentators and the educators? Where, for Christ's sake, are the speculators, even?

Nowhere. Nobody wants to know. The docks are a mystery to most Londoners—a land of towering cranes and massive ships from far-away places, seen usually from the safety of a bridge. A land of strange men practising solidarity fiercely and frequently in defence of pay and principles and each other; the men who actually operate Britain's 'Export or Die' policy at the very point of incoming and outgoing, and whose importance to the nation's economy is such that if they stop work for a week, the god-almighty balance of payments is crippled for a year.

A DOG'S LIFE

But are they entitled to a decent environment? Is their work of such importance that their leisure should be spent in attractive bars or pubs or clubs, like their bosses expect to have? Should their children be educated to their fullest capacity? Should their wives have shopping facilities near at hand, or nursery schools or cinemas or hairdressers?

Not if they live on the Isle of Dogs. This peninsular of 617 acres jutting out into the Thames just west of Blackwall Tunnel is home for 11,000 people, practically all working class and practically all working in the docks or in the few services supplying the forgotten community.

Correction! Not now. No one can say the Isle of Dogs is forgotten now. A mere ten per cent of its population—about 1,000 people—

got together and decided they had had enough. Enough of their children having to travel over the bridge on to the 'mainland' in crowded, infrequent buses every day. Enough of the crumbling warehouses and derelict streets and boarded-up houses. Enough of the gradual run-down of the docks industry with no visible replacement.

INDEPENDENCE

Enough of no amenities for civilised life. Enough of council flats standing empty because nobody wants to live there. Enough of the beautiful views across the river to fashionable Greenwich and Blackheath—spoiled by the grimy immediate environment. Enough of looking up river to glittering South Bank and hearing of more glitter to come—while their own little park shuts up tight at sundown, to add to the gloom.

So they declared themselves independent! Notified the Tower Hamlets Council, which had ignored them for so long. Notified Whitehall. Told the world that they would tolerate irresponsibility no longer. Since nothing was being done to improve their lot—they would do it for themselves. They pulled out. Declared UDI.

Hereafter it got a bit Ruritanian, which was a pity. Instead of sticking to a revolutionary concept of their status, the leaders announced a President and two (TWO!) Prime Ministers, all presumably self-elected, to lead their new Council.

TOWER HAMLETS' PLAN

Anyway, it worked. Suddenly, Tower Hamlets disclosed that it had this plan. Had had it for a long time. Were just about to publish it when the 'revolution' came. Sud-

denly Tower Hamlets' borough architect and planning officer, Mr. John Hume, betrayed considerable concern for the Isle of Dogs.

Apparently he and his planning chums had decided all along that they wanted to clean up the island, encourage an increased population



with amenities and new flats, build a community centre and a library, get a better bus service, which would actually get shoppers to Christ Street market, over the bridge, instead of dropping them on the wrong side of the busy East India Dock Road. Oh yes, brothers, it was all going to happen—here it is on paper!

Isn't it odd that this had not been published before the inhabitants took direct action? Or, isn't it obvious that nothing would have been done at all if they hadn't taken direct action?

Gallant Tories Defend a Lady

LADY CRAWFORD is the wife of Sir Frederick Crawford, a former Governor of Uganda. This distinguished couple are both staunch supporters of Ian Smith's regime in Rhodesia—the one that rejoices in the name 'illegal'. Sir Fred is also director resident of the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa and, it goes without saying, has many friends in the City of London.

Lady Crawford has not been feeling too well for quite a little while now, and last month one of the London friends fixed up an appointment for her with a Harley Street specialist.

Being such respectable people and, you may be sure, firm believers in Law and Order, Sir and Lady Crawford guessed that with a Rhodesian passport, she might not be *persona grata* in Britain—so she very cleverly fixed herself up with a Greek passport, hoping to slip in without attracting any attention.

Alas, some eagle-eyed dick at London Airport spotted her, and she was turned right round and sent home again—at which a first class row broke out from her friends in the City of London, and their influential friends in the House of Commons, ready, not only to defend

OUR ADVICE

As a matter of fact, let's face it, nothing has happened yet. Only promises.

We don't think the people of the Isle of Dogs need our advice. But for what it's worth, here it is:

You will have noticed that the planners have said what they 'intend'. They haven't said when they intend to implement any of it. So you must—

Keep up your fight.

Keep your community council in being, and enlarge the support from your own people with regular public meetings and printed or duplicated circulars.

Press always hardest and loudest for the demands most easily and immediately accessible—but follow them up all the time with the ones you want next. Nothing succeeds like success, and you will encourage more support internally with a few victories to notch up right away. (A revolution must maintain its impetus!)

Try and keep your council as

democratic as possible and involve as many of your neighbours as possible—rotate service on the council in short spells of service if necessary. And forget the 'President' and 'Prime Minister' lark. It's good for a giggle, but you should not give anybody the chance to call you big-headed.

Finally, keep the 'outside world' informed. The TV and pressmen will not bother about you when it gets down to the dull business of actually doing something constructive. But among your fellow workers in the East End of London, there will be thousands who will look upon your efforts with more than interest—with goodwill and solidarity. And you may need all that.

Above all: keep up the do-it-yourself bit. The pressure of the bureaucrats to take your initiative away will be steady and continuous. Their constant dripping can wear away a stone.

Don't let them wear you away!

JUSTIN.

Union-Laing Victory

THE CARPENTERS who have picketed the John Laings job at St. Thomas' Hospital in Lambeth have decided to give up their struggle for re-employment on the site, a decision which was not easily taken, but one that is understandable considering the odds against them.

As my past reports have shown,* these carpenters have had to battle against not only the employers but also the executive council of their union, the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers and Painters. The EC's withdrawal of support and their agreement with Laings left these men isolated.

While support was forthcoming from the two occupations of the union's headquarters from carpenters on other jobs, little was given on the picket line. Similarly, there was considerable sympathy expressed, but no other sites came out in support. Even though this is regrettable, one should not underestimate the tremendous change that has taken place during the past few weeks, which has by no means ceased since the ending of the picketing. This dispute, with the recent flexibility and productivity agreement, has shown the closeness of the union leadership and the employers and the real intentions of union-management collaboration. Although most militants have been aware of these implications for some time, the membership, as a whole, is only now realising what it means to have a powerful EC which cannot be controlled by the rank and file.

THE STINKING MESS

This week's copy of *Construction News*, an employers' publication, lifts the lid off the whole stinking mess of union-management collaboration in an article entitled 'Has Laing Trumped Big Site Militants', which gives full details of how the carpenters were defeated.

Basically it is the old story of an executive council and a management uniting to defeat rank and file trade unionism. It shows how fearful Laings were and to what lengths they went to avoid a situation reminiscent of the Barbican or Horseferry Road jobs, together with their peculiar feeling that a conspiracy of militants would try to

shut the site down. To forestall this, Laings supplemented their 'yellow book' agreement with another which covered 'every aspect of procedure and amenities. Clauses were created which ranged from the number of times the toilets would be cleaned per day to the precise quality of the lino on the canteen floor. In no sense was this done out of altruism; it was for Laing a political decision. Management was determined to close off some of the avenues for agitation.'

Last August carpenters tried to improve their bonus targets and, in Laings view, this was 'the beginning of major disruptive tactics by men who, though trade union members, had outside allegiances'. They do not say what these allegiances were, if any, but knowing how bad the targets were at that time, it is understandable that the carpenters started to behave as trade unionists.

Laings watched the situation carefully for 'The management was particularly concerned lest the carpenters be in a position to push their own steward and so draw the whole site into the bonus battle'. This substantiates the opinion of the sacked carpenters who said all along that Laings wanted to nip site organisation before it could grow. This is why they sacked 21 carpenters.

WHELAN AND GRANT

Laings had already selected Whelan and Grant, who would supply their own carpenters, as sub-contractors for the formwork and admit that they knew it was a labour-only concern. However, the two partners in Whelan and Grant saw 'where success lay and had abandoned this method of operation. Their ambition apparently was to become the biggest formwork sub-contractors in London.'

The District Management Committee of the union put a recommendation to the EC for official support for the sacked carpenters. The union officials at district level have given our members every support they could. On two occasions they have been summoned to headquarters and disciplined for so-called 'misinformation and alleged defiance of their executive'.

Laings say there was no infringement of any working rules in the sacking of

Continued on page 2

Easter

COMRADES wishing to sell 'Freedom' or 'Anarchy' on the CND Easter March can pick up copies (on sale or return) at Freedom Press on Thursday, March 26, 5-8 p.m.

March assemblies at Crawley (Queen's Square) on Good Friday at 10 a.m.

Saturday: 10.30 a.m. Clapham Junction. 1.30 p.m. Trafalgar Square.

Sunday Afternoon: Victoria Park, Bethnal Green.

FREEDOM BOOKSHIP WILL BE CLOSED ON EASTER WEEKEND—FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY.

IN THE CRAB-APPLE Methodist haunt of St. Ives there is to be a Carnival over the weekend of **March 19/20/21**. You will have read of the goings-on there last summer, which have been going on now for over ten years but getting steadily worse due to the fear and hatred of these young, penniless wanderers and visitors eager to enjoy the sun and the sights of a pretty fishing-village-turned-miniature-Blackpool seafont. Such an institution as plastic signs now welcome us with the words 'No Beatniks Or Undesirables Served Here' which is a bit thoughtless if only because there are now many sorts of people wearing long hair and beards—some of whom have much money to spend in the shops and cafes of cash-register minds. However, if you wish to enjoy the rare occasion of a street and sand festival including theatre, dance, Punch and Judy shows, children's maze (with Alice-In-Wonderland people inside) and children's clowns and shows, jazz, folk, rock, poets, exhibitions, and anarchist pub poetry—come along—but first make sure you send for 10s. ticket to cover all three days' (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) entertainment. But you'll have to arrange own sleepout. Send ten bob postal order to: J. Devereux, 3 Vicarage Gate, St. Erth, nr. Hayle, Cornwall.

For jolting people out of apathy, films are most useful and enjoyable. **Concord Films** specialize in social and anti-war films which they send out by post to any group or individual that cares to order them.

To name just one or two which I've seen and liked as propaganda (with hiring price and running-time):

Attention—Czech cartoon of military balls-up. £1. 12 mins. Colour.

Culloden—the battle and the gory hand-to-hand fighting. Brilliant film by Peter Watkins who also made *The War Game*. *Culloden* is better film and reveals personal acts of war. £3 10s. 70 mins.

The Hole—an American cartoon of nuclear war fright. Funny, and it makes you think. £1 10s. 15 mins. Colour.

The Hangman—mysterious killer arrives in community. He and his gallows feed on blood of murdered. Town is slaughtered gradually... because nobody dares to do anything to stop *Official Man*... unofficial man dies! £2. 11 mins. Colour.

Concord Films also have pamphlet which for 2s. 6d. gives vast panorama

Riff-Raff

of films on social issues such as housing; gypsy-moving; apartheid; girl in family way—pregnant; abortion; family planning; mental health; *IVS* (not VSO but communal camps) voluntary work camps. Write to Concord at: **Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk**, tel. 0473 76012.

These films can act as public-gatherers especially for young people. When they get to see films they can see our anarchist literature and hear/discuss anarchist ideas. Such films as *Cathy Come Home* and *Warrendale* and *Nurembourg Trials* are also distributed by other film-hirers—but details from Concord. If you phone ask for Lydia or Eric Walker.

And should you want to bring back 'the pictures' to your town, write to British Film Institute who can help you form a film society—also about film-making. BFI, 70 Old Compton Street, London, W.1.

For readers who live in the country or have a city garden, the butterfly needs help to survive in our killjoy pesticide age. As *Red Paper* said: 'The rich and the powerful are killing all the butterflies. If your children are to see butterflies you must be a revolutionary and yourself take control of your life and its surroundings.'

Help by planting michaelmas daisies and sweet william and by leaving nettles for Peacocks, Red Admirals and Tortoise Shells. Also by writing to: **Butterfly Conservation Society, Over Compton, Sherborne, Dorset**.

Incidentally you can get *Red Paper* (1s. 6d.) from Tony Reeder, Orwell Books, Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

For the more industrially involved, and why shouldn't they be the same people(?), the magazine *Solidarity* continues to publish some good stuff particularly in their pamphlets which range from RSG—Regional Seats of Government exposed *Resistance Shall Grow* (1s.) to *Mount Isa Strike* (6d.) in Australian mining area. Still as relevant as when it first came out is the pamphlet on *Kent County Council Versus The Home-*

less (2s.), the story of the King Hill Hostel and how the authorities react to direct action. All these can be had from Heather Russell, 53a Westmoreland Road, Bromley, Kent.

It would be surprising in any society employing a professional police force if there were no files on political, social and personal activities; but at least we can point out the obvious use of such information for future employers and private agencies of the business and industrial world. Whether these files are in university or school; factory or mental hospital; prison or social security office, the evidence is always weighted against the filed individual.

But one little campaign which we ought to support is the simple one of demanding that all files should be open to the person 'filed'. For although it would not produce the secret files it would prevent the open use of character-destroying terms like 'workshy individual' or 'mentally abnormal' or 'politically subversive' and also make the keepers of files more careful in their personality-assassination. We don't want any such personal-files for as anarchists we believe that any such shorthand automatically reduces that person so labelled (and remains with him or her for life!); but whilst they exist and we don't personally burn or otherwise destroy the files—which is the best use for any such files—then we ought to urge the opening of all personal-files to the person filed—don't you think?

FILES TO THE FLAMES! FILES INTO ASHES! FILES TO THE FIRE!

In the days when families were settled in one community for generations and travel was for a very privileged few, informal community and the making of communes was natural mutual aid; but in our day this is so for very few. The **Commune Movement** sounds too isolationist in its journal but has the sense to describe existing experiments with a frankness so detailed as to be barmy. Though I know from experience how tiring such communal life can be,

it is worth sending for *Communes* since it describes some present-day efforts to live in ways wider than our tiny isolated families.

Personally I prefer informal community, with an open house for travellers and wayfarers, which is geared to propaganda in the local town or village community. Propaganda that is for anarchist and pacifist ideas allied to actions and education. In this state of society we must live as the Communards with the full life which also includes widening our newspapers and magazines to the office floor and factory bench; never cutting ourselves off from the poor soldier or the ignorant teacher.

But for those searching for communities of dedicated people with feet on the ground write for *Communes* (3s.), BIT Information Service, 141 Westbourne Park Road, London, W.11. Or should you live in the West Country, get in touch with John Driver, 56 Mincinglake Road, Stoke Hill, Exeter, Devon.

With the recent trial of the Chicago Conspiracy People over, look out for transcripts of the circus. Bobby Seale, the Black Panther, and man charged along with Dave Dellinger, editor of *Liberation*, Abbie Hoffman, and Jerry Rubin, and others; was bound and gagged in the courtroom after which the liberal and worthy *New York Review Of Books* reprinted that farce and majesty, as Bobby Seale still shouted and joked from behind the gag.

Will we see the day when the courts are so reduced to Alice-In-Wonderland here? The Chicago Trial made Doctor Spock's seem like a fair cop! To get some idea of American revolutions order a copy of *WIN* magazine from Freedom Press (3s. 6d.). It is one of the militant anti-military rags worth reading carefully. And to get some idea of the education insurrection in the States send for January's issue of *Anarchy* (No. 107), our sister magazine which prints another Paul Goodman nail in the coffin of nineteenth century systems of school! For that matter if you only sell and subscribe to *FREEDOM* you should try to do same for *Anarchy*; it is heavier reading and often brain-damaging but it is a companion which will reach a different audience from *FREEDOM*.

DENNIS GOULD.



PRESS FUND

March 2 to 13 inc.

Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 4/-; K.F. & C.F.* 4/-; J.L.* 6/-; **University City, Missouri:** N.M. £4; **Italian Group of Los Angeles** via A.R. £40; **Donations in Bookshop:** A.P. £1; T.T. 5/-; P.P.McG. 10/-; **Camden:** G.L. 15/6; **Croydon:** R.B. £1; **London, E.C.1:** J.M.D. 19/6; **Birkenhead:** C.K. 8/6; **Harrow:** E.P. 3/2; **Grantham:** G.I. 2/-; **Swansea:** Anon £1; **Oxford:** Anon 7/-; **London, N.W.3:** E.A.W. £1/13/4; **London, S.E.14:** 16/-; **D.B. 2/8;** **Aberdeen:** I.S.* 3/-; **St. Cloud:** M.G.A. £3/8/-; **London, N.W.6:** R.R. £32/1/4; **Sevenoaks:** B.R. 7/6; **Kettering:** T.P. 5/-; **London, S.E.18:** F.Y. £1; **Dun Laoghaire:** B.D. 13/-; **Minn:** D.L. 4/-; **New York:** C.C. £2; **Stroud:** S.L.R. £1; **Durham:** S.C. 5/6; **Birmingham:** L.C. 8/-.

TOTAL: £96 3s. 0d.

*Denotes Regular Contributors.

LETTER

Libertarians against Apartheid

Dear Friend,

The protests against the Springboks have put the whole question of Apartheid, and the exploitation of the peoples of Southern Africa, in the forefront of the news. Where does your group stand on this issue? Have you done anything about it? Have you enough knowledge on Southern Africa?

We in Britain cannot avoid being involved. Our industrialists have vast investments in Southern Africa and are adding to them all the time. Britain is also involved in the wars of liberation in the Portuguese colonies. We help the fascists of Portugal oppress the African liberation movements by supplying arms through the NATO alliance, and by bolstering the Portuguese economy through EFTA.

The situation in Southern Africa is constantly changing. The Apartheid laws are tightened almost daily and the liberation movements are becoming increasingly active. Developments like the

P.T.



Any book not in stock, but in print can be promptly supplied. Book Tokens accepted. Please add postage & cash with order helps.

Secondhand

We have a large stock of second-hand books. Please let us know what you want. This week's selection.

- Freedom is the Man** (novel about Gerrard Winstanley) Philip Rush 4/-
- Living Thoughts of Thoreau** (ed.) Theodore Dreiser 5/-
- Chiaroscuro** Augustus John 6/-
- A Chance for Everybody** Hyacinthe Dubreuil 4/6
- Red Liner** Fenner Brockway (paperback) 5/-
- Looking Further Forward** Richard Michaelis 4/-
- Democracy and Industry** Constance Reaveley and John Winnington 4/6
- Socialism and Syndicalism** Philip Snowden 5/-
- Co-Partnership and Profit-Sharing** Aneurin Williams 3/-
- The Federation of British Industries** (1923) Labour Research Dept. 3/-
- Fringe Benefits** Alex Rubner 5/-
- Above the Law?** Tim O'Donovan 5/-
- British Trade Union** N. Barou 4/-
- American Labour Split and Allied Unity** (1943) Bryn Roberts 3/-
- Bejay Calling** 3/-
- The Government of British Trade Unions** Joseph Goldstein 15/-
- Socialism** (1908) Robert Flint 7/6
- The Rise and Fall of the Ex-Socialist Government** (1947) Christopher Hollis 5/-
- Your Alternative Government** (1945) "Talus" 3/-
- The Britain I Want** Emmanuel Shinwell 3/-
- A Plan for Democratic Britain** (1939) G. D. H. Cole 3/-

Freedom Press

publish **FREEDOM** weekly at 9d. and **ANARCHY** monthly at 3s. from **84b Whitechapel High Street London E1 01-247 9249**

Entrance Angel Alley, Whitechapel Art Gallery exit, Aldgate East Underground Stn.

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Anarchy: £1.16.0, \$5.00
Joint Sub.: £3.19.4, \$10.00

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Joint Sub.: Both by Air: £5.17.0, \$15.00
Freedom by Air, Anarchy by Sea: £4.19.0, \$12.50

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Opening Times:
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 Saturday 10am-4pm
 Closed Sunday, Monday

UNION-LAING

Continued from page 1

union members and bringing in a sub-contractor. The article gives three reasons for EC support at the outset. They say it could not be avoided because of the non-union labour, 'that it was given to stop the dispute spreading, or that thirdly the ASW executive decided to give the militants full rein in the fond hope that they would later be caught in it'.

MEETINGS WITH LAINGS

Two members of the EC met Laings and accepted the management's statement that the 'subby' was bona fide and explained that they had been 'mis-informed' by their London District officials. Shortly after, George Smith, the General Secretary, and these two

members met Laings again and agreed to a settlement, giving the union the chance to recruit the 'nons'. Laings would guarantee that Whelan and Grant would abide by the national working rules and would devise a bonus incentive scheme. The pickets would be given jobs on another site and, as far as our EC was concerned, the dispute was settled.

Obviously Laings are jubilant about this deal, for it sets a precedent in that the ASW leadership has 'publicly co-operated in bringing a sub-contractor on to a job of this kind'. This spells grave consequences for any trade unionists trying to organise a site, for no doubt other companies will use the same 'militant bogey' to get the union's assistance in smashing organisation and bringing in a 'subby'.

In fact, Laings say, 'this was a device to defeat the militant leadership. This

was achieved as a result of the combination of the contractor and the top union leadership. For the first time something active had been done against these elements instead of stonewalling.' The article continues:

Two years ago top Laing management was deeply worried, believing that the union leadership was on the run in London. The real significance of the St. Thomas' settlement is the attempt to regain control by the union leadership. Laing believes that from now on the militants are not going to be tolerated. In this broader war St. Thomas' is the first battle. It is not victory outright and final in the firm's view; but management and top union leadership have together achieved certain limited objectives. One of these was to thwart the London joint sites committee on this five-year-long job.

FEAR OF THE RANK AND FILE

Anarchists have often expressed the view that this is the role of trade union leadership. The Laings-ASW & P co-operation in smashing site organisation is a blatant example and is further proof that union leaderships have a lot in common with managements. Both fear an independent rank and file.

According to *Construction News*, further developments are expected in that a check-off of union dues at source is likely to be agreed. News of this has already been reported, but the article says, that following implementation, 'the decks will be cleared to translate the intentions behind the recent National Joint Council into reality. The site could become the springboard for introducing flexibility of labour.' This, together with the absence of site organisation, will give Laings an excellent opportunity to enact the agreement to the full.

Managements and the union leaders know that, with well-organised sites, they will have a battle on their hands if they introduce all the strings of the agreement. Both are anxious to introduce it, but want a disciplined labour force. Together they can operate a market in jobs, one for increased profits the other for the satisfaction of power. The answer for the rank and file is not to give that power to any trade unionists, not even those of the left-wing.

All correspondence to
**Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannafore Road,
 Rotton Park, Birmingham 16**

ANARCHIST FEDERATION of BRITAIN

The AFB information office will produce an internal bulletin. Comrades interested in its production are to meet in Birmingham on the first Sunday of each month. All groups will be informed in detail. Address all letters to:

Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannafore Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Tel. 021-454 6871. Material that cannot wait for the bulletin to be sent to **R. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York.** The Contact Column in *Freedom* is also available for urgent information.

Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should

write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

AFB REGIONAL GROUPS

There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:

North West Federation: John Walker, 92 Clyde Road, Manchester, 20.

Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell. (M. Ma. B.)

Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (OM, FL.)

Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.

Sussex: E. Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.

Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, 3 Marlborough Grove, Leeds, 2.

Scotlands: B. Lynn, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow.

Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).

N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.

S. Ireland: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).

University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare. (Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine; B—badges; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets)

The April issue of the AFBIB will be produced not at the Le Mares', who will be on holiday, but at the Arts Lab, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham 19. No. 5 bus from town going down Snow Hill to Summer Lane. Get off at Tower Street stop. 1 p.m. onwards, April 5 (Sunday). Arts Lab at side entrance to the Birmingham Settlement, up the fire escape stairs (Tower Street).

THERE ARE NO political prisoners in Spain, according to the Minister of Justice, Jose Maria Oriols, but nevertheless the department of Directorate General of Prisons, directly under his control, recognises that there are such since it has put aside the prisons of Soria, Jaen and Palencia for this purpose. It now adds Segovia and Zamora; in the latter place, there are fifty priests serving sentences.

The prisons of Soria and Segovia are penitential centres of the 'closed' type, that is to say they are much more secure than other prisons. The penitential population is divided into groups A, B and C, which are not allowed to intercommunicate. In group A are the prisoners regarded as the most intractable, from the point of view of the warders. In groups B and C are those least able to rebel.

In October 1969 there were 55 prisoners in Soria divided into three groups—20 prisoners in group A, nine in group B, 26 in group C. Few of those in any of these groups have sentences of less than between three years to 12 years and a day.

Group A is considered the worst of the prisons; it has a very small acreage, 154 square metres. Twenty people must live and work hour after hour, month after month, and year after year in these dimensions. This includes both bedroom and lavatory, and the confined space causes nervous irritation and tension.

FROM THOSE IN JAIL

Message from the Spanish Political Prisoners to the Anarchist Black Cross

While group B have no more space, their condition is better since there are only nine of them.

Group C are the most numerous. Access to the bedroom portion is forbidden during the day so this reduces the actual amount of space available.

Not only are there political prisoners in Spain but they are treated worse than those in ordinary prisons. Faithful to the spirit of the declarations of the Inspector General of Prisons, Fernando Arnao Garcia, that 'one should not try to convince political prisoners, one should only try to reduce them to submission', the officers of the establishments have made it their task to forbid political prisoners access to the kitchens, to speak with common law prisoners, to have any position, such as barber, teacher, librarian, etc. Thus their conditions are normally worse than those of common law prisoners. The political are those always prevented from enjoying what few privileges attach to these positions.

The visits to prisoners present difficulties, because of the distance of the town in which the political prisons are situated from most urban centres. Families cannot visit Soria without making a major trip of three days to the town and having to spend time in the town. Nor can they be sure of obtaining a visit even when they have done so.

The situation at Segovia is the same as that of Soria, where are detained the prisoners regarded as the least difficult from the point of view of prison discipline.

Some forty prisoners are detained in the groups which cannot communicate with each other.

Jaen, though a prison of the 'open' type, functions like one of the 'closed' type. The prison population varies between 30 and 60, seven of them recently being transferred to Soria. One may also mention the prison of Palencia, a so-called 'open' prison, where the prisoners should be allowed to work out-

side, though in reality most of them stay behind the walls.

At Zamora where, we have said, there are some 50 priests, there do not appear to be special restrictions. It seems that this prison is specially for the use of ecclesiastics.

Since the creation of the Tribunal of Public Order, sentences passed by them have been lighter than those previously passed by the special tribunals. Under new rules, Spain is trying to adopt the judicial system of the Western countries. But nobody should be deceived. This reform is only a facade, which results in the same sort of injustice as before. When the law on Banditry and Terrorism was applied, the prisoner benefited from conditional liberty for a quarter of his sentence; if of good conduct he was let out on parole for the last quarter. Since the creation of these infamous tribunals, prisoners sentenced under the law have not benefited from the parole system. Why? Yes, the sentences are lighter on paper, but this is merely reflected by the fact that they no longer give the parole for the last quarter of the sentence. Yet conditional liberty is something which dates back to the end of the last century.

On November 4 last, the prisoners of Burgos declared a hunger strike, all other methods being exhausted. IT IS THE ONLY WAY.

At this time in Burgos prison there are nine prisoners under the penalty of death imposed by Military Court Martial. As soon as the sentence is confirmed the prisoners have announced their intention to declare another hunger strike. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?

Approximately six weeks ago fifteen prisoners escaped from the prison of Basauri in Bilbao. Ten of these were political prisoners and among these four were priests. On their arrival in France one of the priests said, 'Political prisoners in Spain are treated worse than criminals.'

There are also Jehovah's Witnesses imprisoned in the dungeons of the Fortress of Cadiz who are suffering under the totalitarian Franco regime. The Fortress of Cadiz where 50 of these are held is as bad as the worst of Spanish prisons.

SOME PRISONERS.

ABERDEEN HOUSING STRUGGLE CONTINUES

IN A RECENT ARTICLE (FREEDOM, 14.2.70) details were given of the appalling conditions under which 72-year-old Jimmy White lives at 34 Kintore Place, Aberdeen. The article also told of moves made by Aberdeen Anarchists in their attempt to get Jimmy out of his garret and into a decent house. The article ended on a note of mild optimism: Jimmy's councillor, Henry Hatch, had been approached by two members of Aberdeen Anarchists and, in an 'amicable interview', had promised to look into the matter. We were, rather naively, hopeful: here was someone who was actually going to do something, after all the official stonewalling with which we had previously been faced. Poor fools! Some time later Hatch telephoned Peter Dickie, one of the deputation, and told him he could do nothing. Compulsory purchase by the Council was impossible as the tenement was under private ownership. This is utter nonsense, as Hatch doubtless knows. The Council has the power to place a compulsory purchase order on substandard housing and has in fact done so on previous occasions in Aberdeen.

Peter later rang up Hatch for more

details. Why couldn't Jimmy be rehoused or at least issued a certificate of disrepair? The reply was that as Jimmy's flat was wind- and water-tight this couldn't be done. When Peter riposted, with faultless logic, that in fact it was neither wind- nor water-tight, the good councillor quickly changed the subject and went on to give other, equally invalid excuses.

And this is only one example of the cynicism of bureaucrats and petty politicians which we have come across in this case. Henry Hatch is typical of the 'representatives of the people' in that he substitutes fulsome words for actions and only cares about his constituents when an election is approaching.

A meeting was called at the university Chaplaincy Centre on February 27 to discuss Jimmy's predicament. Though Aberdeen Anarchists are getting bloody fed up of making fruitless approaches to those in authority, it was finally decided to make one last attempt to achieve our purpose through official channels. To this end a letter asking for help in rehousing Jimmy together with a document giving details of his living conditions will be sent to each member of the

Town Council. Also a deputation will approach Matthews, the city Housing Manager, to see if he is willing to give any support and to find out about Jimmy's position on the housing list.

We are extremely doubtful that these steps will have any effect and are inclined to the belief that in this case, as in many others, the only way to achieve justice is direct action. However, this last approach to the Council will at least make it impossible for them to claim that no proper representations have been made to them, if militant action becomes necessary.

This whole disgraceful affair has borne out fully what anarchists have always said: Authority doesn't give a damn about the people it rules and democratic representation is a fraud. But in this case we have no intention of letting the authorities get away with it. We will take whatever direct action is necessary, and perhaps, when the inhumanity of the councillors is exposed and their election chances endangered, they may at last rehouse Jimmy White. Of one thing we are sure: we will go on with this fight till we win, for to abandon it would mean betraying Jimmy. F. T. POPE.

LETTER

'Freedom' and the Class Struggle

Dear Comrades,

Since I have been under attack in the letters column of FREEDOM for the past few weeks, I must claim the right of reply.

Michael Skaife D'Ingerthorpe appears to believe that I uphold violence and insist upon a violent revolution. This is reading into my original letter that which is not there. I abhor violence and uphold the concept of non-violent revolution. Like most syndicalists, I would prefer a non-violent change. Alas, the ruling class have no such moral scruples. I said in my original letter that it might be necessary to defend the revolution against revanchist capitalism assuming a fascist form.

If one is attacked, one defends oneself. To do otherwise is to be a sheep. D'Ingerthorpe says that 'a non-violent revolution needs the co-operation of most of the population'. Does he suggest that I have ever advocated minority revolution? Any revolution—to be real—requires the support of the majority. Who does he think I am—Lenin?

We are fighting in the present society, Michael, and the majority of people are working class—a class I would define as being all those engaged in wage relationship with an employer. That definition obviously runs far beyond the image of the archetypal manual worker. It includes the 'middle class', the teacher, the clerk, the salesman. Who is this 'public at large' who might object to workers' control?

Does he seek, in his final paragraph, to suggest that anarchists who proclaim the class struggle do not have a 'whole vision of life'? Surely, control of the work environment is the very crux of libertarianism? The work environment is where the people are most enslaved.

Without workers' control there can be no anarchism.

I still maintain that Cunliffe is unreadable and a mystic—funny, I always believed revolutionaries to be in the business of demystification.

By mentioning the possibility of a 'rigid form of organisation', he implies that I wish such. I do not desire rigidity. Cunliffe and D'Ingerthorpe will be completely free to write in the hippy papers under anarchist. Just keep your noses out of the Revolution—ordinary folk just don't dig you, brothers.

Now, to another point. The British working class faces the biggest attack on its living standards for a generation. Recently, we have had the Ford dispute and the Leeds clothing workers' strike,

to mention only a few examples of important things going on. In FREEDOM, we get a full page devoted to a lesson on how to produce a poetry magazine. I am becoming sickened by it all—it becomes ever more difficult to compete for the minds of men by selling such rubbish. I've just bought the current *Socialist Worker*—what a relevant paper that is. They don't print silly poetry articles—which is one very good reason why they sell 10,000 a week and we're stony broke.

Fraternally,
IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

Socialist Worker.—They're subsidized by a movement membership who organize mass-selling. They also have a profit-making printing business.—EDS.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR MENTAL PATIENTS

WE HAVE RECEIVED a letter from the Committee for Ideals in Mental Practices (5 Sutton Road, Heston, Middlesex) which states that they 'are trying to clean up the source of trouble in mental hospitals. Our aim is to get human rights and freedom for mental patients, so that they are treated with dignity, to have the right of a thorough physical clinical examination by a registered general practitioner and not a psychiatrist, this of course is to ensure that the patient's mental condition is definitely not caused by any physical illness, injury or defect'. They claim to have evidence of people being admitted to mental hospitals without the legal formalities being observed and even cases of people being certified without being examined by the certifying psychiatrists, and physical illnesses and defects were quite overlooked. 'They told me that the worst features of a stay in a mental hospital is the terror

of waiting for days and weeks and not knowing what is to happen.'

'Patients in fear from what they see will agree to anything to get out of a mental hospital. They often say they would die rather than return to what they call the "concentration camp". I have found through my investigation into mental hospitals, that many staff leave mental work because they will not be party to such cruel and degrading treatment. They are too afraid to have their names published.'

The Committee are organizing a petition to which they have already obtained 40,000 signatures in the London area.

They claim that 'The Mental Health Act of 1959 was designed not to protect the patient, but to save the psychiatrist the embarrassment of having to use that horrible word "certified".'

J.R.

Race Act Failure

PAKISTANI, other Asian and black residents of Shoreditch have formed a group (The Progress Party, 46 Hanbury Street, London, E.1) to put pressure on Mr. Peter Shore, MP, their member, to do something about the failure of the Race Relations Act to give them protection, of the Race Relations Board to give them satisfaction, and the failure of Mr. Shore to give them anything. This is not surprising since Mr. Shore is (or was?) one of Mr. Wilson's bright young men and does not wish for unpopularity by meddling in minority matters. Particularly since this minority do not seem to be permanent residents and hence not voters.

The Progress Party are disillusioned with the Race Relations Act for, they claim, every issue that they bring up is either not covered by the Act or, if it finally comes to Court, is subject to a laughably small fine. They also allege that the Race Relations Board consists in the main, of white men who do not find it possible to put themselves in the

black man's place.

The Progress Party is not intended to be a political party in the abnormal sense of the word, they do not intend to fight elections. For the moment they are trying to arrange a demonstration from Brick Lane to the Houses of Parliament, on a weekday, and would welcome contacts from anyone who wishes to help.

J.R.

'NO MAN IS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ANOTHER MAN'S MASTER'

POSTERS NOW ON SALE
5 for 2s.6d. including postage
from Freedom Press

(ssh!—for flyposting?)

Anarchy and Social Action in Ireland

ORPHANS' SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

ISLAND,
(previously Brooklands),
Cnr Merrion Road and
Nutley Lane, Dublin.

March 14, 1970

We, the undersigned members of the above committee, have this day squatted on the property given as our address above. We consider that the Proclamation of 1916 'cherishing all the children of the nation equally' has never been given any effect in Ireland and that if the ideal therein contained is ever to be achieved it must be through the direct efforts and action of the people themselves. The title 'ORPHANS', then, is applicable not only to ourselves but to the great majority of the country. And it is to this disinherited and betrayed multitude we make our appeal.

ISLAND, previously known as Brooklands, has been idle and deserted for some years now. As Brooklands it has been symbolic of the decadence and selfishness of the way of life being pursued in Ireland today. No doubt it was being reserved for some great financial coup typical of the class now in power. We propose demonstrating 'the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland'.

ISLAND is a co-operative venture. It is open to all. As of now it is our intention to develop it as:

- (a) an Adventure Playground for children;
- (b) an Experimental Garden for all;
- (c) a Home for those temporarily in need of such.

All those participating in the project will have equal share in the decision-making. In this way we hope to sow the seeds of a truly co-operative society. We call on all interested persons to show their solidarity with us by assisting—if only for a few hours a week—in the work of development.

This statement, signed by thirteen anarchists, was issued to the press following the squatting on Brooklands on Saturday, March 14, 1970. It is too early at this stage to judge the success of the venture. As a gesture the movement here considers it a valuable aid and example to the revolution. Developments will be published as they occur. BILL DWYER.

OVER THE LAST eighteen months the cause of popular revolution has developed in the Republic—even if the events in the North have overshadowed the movement down South. To appreciate this development it is necessary to understand that there is still a moderately revolutionary environment here. In 1916 the Republic was proclaimed and the hope of an Ireland not merely free of foreign rule but established on a foundation of social justice was offered to the people.

It is now dawning on thinking people that exchanging one set of rulers for a home-grown variety achieves nothing more than a change of facade. The physical manifestation of this thought is seen today in the direct action of housing action committees which sponsor the squatting of homeless families in vacant houses and flats; in 'fish-ins' where hundreds of people turn out to demonstrate their belief that fishing should be for all, not merely hereditary barons; in marches on beaches to prevent landlords reserving these for their own private use.

Normally, one would assume that this is the type of activity tailor-made for anarchists. In fact, up to date, it is the small Republican dissident party Sinn Fein which has been largely behind this popular movement. The explanation for this is that Sinn Fein has had many of the features of an anarchist movement by its virtual abstention from politics. For example when it obtained four seats in the Dail—Irish Parliament—some years ago, it left the seats in the House vacant. However, Sinn Fein is not an anarchist movement and recently decided, in effect, to make use of parliamentary seats when these were won.

A small anarchist movement does exist—largely based in Dublin. This movement is now determined to play its part in the civil rights movement and to this end 'established' the Orphans' Social Action Committee. An explanation of this title and the first direct action undertaken by the committee is contained in the following Press Release:

Close Nancekuke Now!

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL MYTH, Nancekuke in Cornwall is an 'out-station' of the Chemical Defence Experimental Establishment at Porton. But this is very far from being the whole truth. A growing movement in Cornwall, brought together in a new group called CLOSE NANCEKUKU NOW, is demanding not only that we know the whole truth but that Nancekuke be immediately closed down.

Briefly, we know what Nancekuke is not. It is not a 'germ warfare centre'. We have no reason to believe that bacteriological research is or ever has been undertaken at Nancekuke. We know some things that it is. It is a factory for CS gas; it is a factory for GB-Sarin nerve gas and VX nerve gas and the antidotes to them. It is a chemical weapons research station in its own right. There is strong reason to believe that it is more important than Porton in this field.

When Porton began to attract unwelcome public attention, Nancekuke was still quite unknown. A station employee described it as 'the best kept secret of the past 100 years' and he was not far from the truth—for the secret was kept not only from the public but also from Parliament. Later when the gaffe was blown even MPs had trouble getting in there, until the authorities realised that they could show a few MPs a couple of corridors and then their testimony that the place was safe and harmless would be that much more convincing.

Now we have found out that Professor Henry Rydon of Exeter University has been working in close liaison with Nancekuke and Porton developing and purifying RICIN, a new toxic agent even more powerful than V-series nerve gases. Establishment media will not mention Ricin. Little is known about it, outside the research establishments and of course the Pentagon. But Ricin could be the answer to the awkward question 'What is Nancekuke making now?' If so, it makes the closing of the establishment even more vital and the dangers to local people yet more grave; the work of CLOSE NANCEKUKU NOW could be literally a matter of life or death for the whole area.

I propose to examine the known work of Nancekuke in a little more detail, to outline the moral and strategic objections to it and the possible dangers to local people, and finally to discuss the campaign of CLOSE NANCEKUKU NOW against the factory and ways in which readers of this paper can help.

CS AND NERVE GASES

Firstly, Nancekuke is a factory for CS gas, supplying British police from Brighton to Belfast and carrying on a flourishing and ever-increasing export trade to the powers of repression throughout the world. This is not in dispute and would be bad enough.

But when we move to the question of nerve agents, the horrifying toxic substances developed in Germany before the last war and brought to perfection here and in America, then we enter the field of Government lies, half-truths and evasions. Known nerve agents are the G series, GA (Soman), GB (Sarin), GD (Tabun) and the more potent V series. After denying it for two years, Government spokesmen now admit that GB-Sarin has been made at Nancekuke. It is, they say, made there in 'small quantities' for 'experimental defensive purposes' and transported to Porton by road each month. The latest Government line is that GB-Sarin has not been made at Nancekuke since February 1968; however in August 1969 the Government admitted that nerve agents 'are transported' by road from Nancekuke, using the present tense. This was before the date February 1968 was ever mentioned. Since the Government also denies they hold stockpiles at Nancekuke they have already contradicted themselves thoroughly.

WORKERS' TESTIMONY

More crucial than these Government evasions to an understanding of the role of Nancekuke is the testimony of the employees at the station. There are between 200 to 250 of them, from the Director to the janitor. Nancekuke workers are renowned as the most tight-lipped of a very tight-lipped race; the Cornish can keep a secret when they want to. But it is possible to glean small items of information which can be put together coherently later.

The most striking impression is the size of the production facilities. We have been assured that if Porton wanted

to make small quantities for research purposes it could do so in a rig on a laboratory bench. And size is relative: V-agents in particular are so powerful that a few gallons properly distributed could wipe out the population of Europe. Even if it is not in full-scale production now, Nancekuke obviously soon could be. Seymour Hersh, in his invaluable book *Chemical and Biological Warfare* (MacGibbon & Kee, 1968) says: 'Visitors are handed a five-page fact sheet on the facility that manages to avoid mentioning either nerve gas or CBW. The mission of the arsenal, the fact sheet notes, is to operate "pilot production, pre-production and limited production facilities for chemical and classified agents. . . ." No. The phrases sound familiar enough, but Hersh is not writing about Nancekuke. He refers to Rocky Mountain Arsenal, near Denver, Colorado, USA, which has been in full-scale production of nerve gas for three years of 'furious activity' and stopped 'because it had enough'. Stockpiles in America include 1,500 eight-foot-long storage tanks at RMA, and huge quantities elsewhere already packed into munitions. This is 'limited production' in Government doubletalk. So what price Nancekuke's 'small quantities' of nerve gas?

Ricin has already been mentioned. If production of Sarin and V-agents did stop at Nancekuke in 1968, then something else is going on there now, for the station has not laid off its employees. Perhaps it is now making Ricin in 'small quantities for defensive research'?

DEFENCE AND OFFENCE

No one is deceived by the Government's talk of 'defence'. Certainly Nancekuke is known to produce and stockpile the antidotes to its own nerve gases. You cannot use a weapon if it kills your own troops too. But there is no defence against the possibly unknown weapons which might be used by a potential enemy. And certainly the thirty years of Porton and eighteen years of Nancekuke have not resulted in one serious attempt to provide the civilian population with defence against germ or gas weapons—for the excellent reason that such defence is impossible. Soldiers may be protected to a certain extent. In the next war the safest place to be will be the army.

But Government 'Newspeak' on 'Defence' comes to a sophisticated level with American involvement in these researches. It is well known that America has not signed the Geneva Protocol which bans the use of gas in war, and that British-developed CS gas is being used by the Americans now in Vietnam. All the research at Porton and Nancekuke goes immediately to the USA. Pentagon scientists know more about what is going on at Nancekuke than does our own Government. Any new weapon (such as Ricin?) developed by British research may be outlawed in high-sounding phrases by Government disarmament experts, but at the same time the results of our research are put into immediate offensive stockpile in the United States. Hypocrisy and plain stupidity can go no further than this.

THE DANGERS OF NANCEKUKU

The objections to Nancekuke on moral, strategic and plain survival grounds are clear to anyone. This in itself would be enough for us to oppose the factory. However, the issue which CLOSE NANCEKUKU NOW has chosen to emphasise is that of possible danger to the area round the base: danger to the people of Cornwall, danger to crops and animals, and above all danger to holidaymakers.

Accidents not only can happen, they have happened, in the field of nerve gas weaponry in particular. In Okinawa, Japan, 25 American servicemen had to be admitted to hospital following a leak of nerve gas from a store, and 100 children were taken ill while bathing in the sea. This, incidentally, was the first that the Japanese Government and people knew of American nerve gas being stored on their island. (What does our Government and people know of nerve gas stored in Britain?) The 6,000 sheep that died in Utah after an accident with nerve gas are common knowledge; that the deadly cloud would have drifted over Salt Lake City if rainstorms had not brought it quickly to earth is less often quoted. Last month an American transport plane came in to a forced landing at Mildenhall in Essex, and the base commander thought it might be carrying nerve gas, which means that he knows that American planes with cargoes

of nerve gas overfly this country. All that the authorities could suggest to the three schools downwind from the base was that the children should be kept indoors and blankets placed along the bottom of the doors.

ACCIDENTS AT NANCEKUKU

Government apologists maintain that Nancekuke is quite safe both to its employees and to the surrounding district. But two men at least have already died there after accidents; ten or twelve others suffer from various degrees of illness. The most serious case is Trevor Martin, of Redruth, who was employed as a toxic fitter at the station and contracted a serious disease of the central nervous system after being exposed to GB-Sarin. It is impossible to believe anyone who says Nancekuke is 'safe'.

If there were a major leak of gas, particularly in the holiday season when the beaches within two hundred yards of the fence are packed with children, the consequences would be appalling. The commander of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal said: 'The gas from a single bomb the size of a quart fruit jar could kill every living thing within a cubic mile, depending on the wind and weather conditions. . . . Aberfan, the Torrey Canyon, Roman Point. . . the list of "perfectly safe" things that went horribly wrong is growing in this technological nightmare that we call society. If Nancekuke is added to this list the death toll will not be one, or a dozen, or seventy children. It will be the entire population, resident and visiting, of a wide area of Cornwall. And although one could argue that we need coal, and oil, and houses, it is impossible to argue that the risk of Nancekuke is one that society must take. We do not need nerve gas; the products of Nancekuke are not worth any risk at all.'

POLLUTION

Even without a serious accident, is the factory poisoning us regularly, all the time? This is causing increasing concern in Cornwall. The dead seals, the seabirds, and a number of smaller perhaps significant items have been given some publicity. Certainly Nancekuke takes millions of gallons of water from the Camborne mine complex, uses it in process and then slings it out, presumably into the sea. Ivor Richards, the smarmy Government apologist on the issue, went round the Establishment and assured himself the effluent was safe. He had, he said, seen shrimps swimming about in it. But Dr. A. S. Edwards, of the Gatty Marine Laboratory of St. Andrews University, pointed out in a letter to *The Times* that shrimps are notorious for their robust constitution, that their metabolism is completely different from that of fish, birds or mammals and that they can even live in a solution of five per cent arsenic! One is forced to ask if the Nancekuke people are deliberately trying to deceive us, or if they themselves don't really know what they are doing. The horrifying fact is that the truth is almost certainly the latter.

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal had serious trouble with the effluent from its nerve gas production. First the contaminated waste was pumped into an open reservoir, from which it seeped into a town's water supply as well as killing the birds which settled on the lake. Then they tried pressure-pumping it into a 2½-mile-deep well, causing earthquakes in a previously safe zone. It appears there may be something in the effluent which reacts on granite. Local people here say that Nancekuke may be pumping its waste back into the old mine-workings, and that this could have caused the relatively serious local earthquake, centred on Portreath, a few years ago. Finally the American factory has been forced to construct a vast underground reservoir lined with concrete to store its effluent.

This trouble contrasts strangely with Ivor Richards' casual dismissal of the effluent problem at Nancekuke: 'they neutralise it with alkali'. One feels that if it were that simple the Americans would not have needed to go to all that trouble?

THE CHIMNEY

Nancekuke may also be polluting the air that we breathe. At certain states of the wind the cliff path which skirts the wire is closed, and the big chimney puffs vigorously. One of the things they do is burn the protective clothing that men have worn while working with toxic materials. But if it is quite safe, as the station maintains, why is it necessary to close the cliff path? What happens when the wind changes and blows the products back inland?

Nothing is known of the effects on people, crops and animals of long-term exposure to minute quantities of these toxic chemicals. It is possible they could build up in the body like DDT. Certainly Camborne-Redruth, the industrial twin towns under the shadow of the Nancekuke factory, have an abnormally high incidence of death and illness from nervous diseases. It is probably impossible to establish a causal relationship to the satisfaction of scientists and statisticians, but as a factor in an overall picture the figures are ominous.

GROWING ACTION

For eighteen years the people of this district have been able to forget 'that place on the hill'. Like the decent Germans, who knew about the concentration camps, they have pushed it to the back of their minds. Some have even tried to justify it in terms of the good jobs it brings to a depressed area (were Auschwitz and Dachau depressed areas too?). Now, however, CLOSE NANCEKUKU NOW intends to make sure they cannot forget.

Our first move has been to start a campaign to inform tourists of the possible dangers from Nancekuke. At our request, friends have distributed leaflets at 'Come to Cornwall' exhibitions in Nottingham and London; more will follow. The local bourgeoisie, who line their pockets quite profitably from holidaymakers each year, don't like this one bit, but it has had the effect we desired—it has opened up the Nancekuke issue to public discussion in a big way. One of the group has been on both local television stations explaining the campaign; there has been a lot of publicity in the more sympathetic papers. We have even been asked to send a speaker to a Young Conservative group. We are hoping to have Bernadette Devlin to speak at a public meeting which will really stir the county up. The thing which has surprised us most is the amount of support we are getting from a previously presumed-hostile population; Nancekuke appears to be a raw nerve.

YOUR HELP NEEDED

We need everyone's help with this campaign. We are printing stickers, posters, badges, a carefully written and definitive pamphlet, and anything else that you or we can think of.

Anywhere in Britain where Cornwall is mentioned is an action front for this campaign. We want travel agents' windows stickered and flyposted, exhibitions leafleted, stations 'done over', propaganda everywhere that people are thinking about holidays. Is the Cornwall tourist committee laying on a film show in your town? (Find out from travel agents.) Picket it with gas masks and posters; tell us first, and send us a picture for our local papers. The main purpose of this country-wide activity is in the effect it will have here in Cornwall. This we cannot emphasise too much. It is essential you tell us what you intend to do, and if possible photograph yourselves doing it!

We shall also need a lot of people in the summer to keep up the campaign 'on the ground' locally. We shall leaflet the traffic jams, demonstrate on the beaches (gas masks again), flood the place with posters, give away our pamphlet if people are sufficiently interested, stage 'happenings'—again, anything you or we can think of. If you have some spare time in the summer, come down and help us.

So please: write to us anyway, so that if we suddenly need someone active in your area we know whom to contact; become a 'non-resident member' of CLOSE NANCEKUKU NOW, subscription 15/- brings you newsletters, facts, ideas, and gets your ideas to us (subscription within Cornwall, 5/-); send a donation, without which none of this activity can happen at all; and above all keep your eyes open in your home town. Is anybody saying 'Come to Cornwall'? Tell them the message for the season:

CORNWALL IS NERVE GAS
COUNTRY
CORNWALL IS DANGEROUS
CLOSE NANCEKUKU NOW!

HAZEL MCGEE.

Address for letters, money, ideas, membership: CLOSE NANCEKUKU NOW, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne, Cornwall.



Makhno & Durruti Pamphlet, 9d. Order copies, sale or return, from Freedom Press.

Easter Weekend. Floor space available. Laurens Otter, Tel. 653 7546.

Open Forum on the Middle East, Paris, March 20-23. Contact Israel Palestine Committee, City of London Polytechnic, London, E.C.2.

Kettering. Demonstrate against Enoch Powell's racist sickness and local capitalist collaboration at Wicksteed Park on April 10 at 6.30 p.m. (He is speaking at Institute of Directors Dinner.)

Jean Vijo 'L'Attalante', National Film Theatre, South Bank, Saturday, March 21. Public showings at 4 p.m., 6.15 p.m., 8.30 p.m. Queuing 5/-; Reserved 7/- and 10/-.

South Africa Commission. Sponsored Walk on Sunday, April 12. Funds raised will go to the Medical Aid Fund for medical supplies for Liberation Movements in Southern Africa. Route starts northern end Tower Bridge, finishing southern side Kew Bridge. Further information: 'Walk', 372 West Barnes Lane, New Malden, Surrey. Tel. 01-398 1354.

Polyandry Study Group Report. 'Two Men Sharing One Wife', 60 pages, price 6/6 including postage, from P. Pawlowski, 26 Elmbourne Road, London, S.W.17.

David Whitman, please ring 021-474 4716.

Couple would like to rent house in country during August. Offers to B. Blakeman, 116 Hassell Street, Newcastle, Staffs.

Now is the time for war tax resistance. The most powerful acts against war have been those of the young men of the Resistance who have said NO to the draft. Now it is time for those of us who have been paying for the war in Vietnam to say NO to taxes for war. Join us! War Tax Resistance, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012. Write and ask for information. Phone (212) 477-2970.

AFBIB. See AFB list, page 2, for production of Bulletin.

Sharpville. Saturday, March 21. Event Trafalgar Square 3 p.m.

Sharpville. Sunday, March 22. Freedom Theatre, Lyceum, Strand, 7.30 p.m. Sharpville massacre 10th anniversary.

Wanted. Working secondhand TV with BBC2. State price. Contact T. Carmack, c/o Freedom Press.

Anarchist answer to the CP's 'Ultra Leftism in Britain' and other pseudo-leftists (pamphlet). Laurens Otter, 35 Natal Road, CR4 8QH.

Literary-type occupation, e.g. translation, research, sought by home-based anarchist. Liz Willis, 44 Atlantic Avenue, Belfast 15.

Now available: Solidarity Chicago's Anarchist Wall Calendar. Page a month. 17/6 inc. post from Freedom Bookshop.

Manchester Anti-Election Campaign. Bill West, 16 Northern Grove, West Didsbury, Manchester 20. Meetings every Wednesday.

Miguel Garcia Garcia will speak at meetings and to groups. Expenses required. Contact S. Christie, 10 Gilbert Place, London, W.C.1.

Tory Five Point Fascism Electioneering. We must start our work now—preparation for printed leaflets and posters for a nationwide factory gate campaign—money and ideas needed—Interested? Contact L.S.F., c/o Keith Nathan, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York.

York Group Need Speakers. Expenses and accommodation arranged. Write R. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York.

Every Tuesday Evening at Freedom Hall. Informal discussion /entertainment / chess evenings. Small musical instruments and pocket chess sets welcomed. Refreshments. From 7 p.m. admission 2/-. Proceeds to Press Fund. All Welcome.

Urgent. Help fold and dispatch FREEDOM every Thursday from 4 p.m. onwards. Tea served.

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