

Calder, Publisher vs Black, Politician

AT No. 2 Court, Marlborough Street, proceedings began against the American novel, *Last Exit to Brooklyn* by Hubert Selby, Jr., a description of homosexual mores, plus poverty and misery induced by a capitalist society. Messrs. Calder & Boyars, publishers of the book in Britain, were prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, section 3, brought by way of a private summons by Sir Cyril Black, MP. Mr. Haver, the prosecutor, read *pianissimo* the offending passages of *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. The magistrate, being so far from him, was able to appreciate the mumbled mumble. Finished, the prosecutor called his first witness: H. Montgomery-Hyde, historian.

A beaked nose, long thin lips grimacing downwards, eyes blinking nervously, and afraid of a menacing fist. A stolid body on weak legs, Hyde declared his qualifications. Then he said the book had disgusted and nauseated him. He admitted to the prosecutor that he had defended Fanny Hill because of its literary merits, as one must join the bandwagon for future generations to see how a classic is defended when it is a classic. To counsel for the defence, he denied the book had 'little' merit as literature or sociology. He felt it would corrupt tender minds. He was nervous, essaying a posture of university don on the pedestal before his students, which, as this was no university, seemed to give him the sensation of being out of his depth. The defence omitted to ask him: 'As author of *A History of Pornography*, were you not capitalizing on the desire of many people for smut when you chose such a theme and title?'

The second prosecution witness was Robert Pitman. The prosecutor made him admit he has been literary critic of the *Sunday Express* for the past eleven years; but he corrected the information for the defence by saying he was really literary editor. Mouth grimacing downwards, automatic windshield-wiper smile, he barked out his thoughts on the book's depravity. He quoted passages from it, declaring that, had not somebody else done it before him, he himself would have brought the book to court. He would draw his body back like a little

mongrel on the leash to its lady, to lunge forward with held-by-the-leash courage for every fresh whelp. The defence omitted to ask him: 'Why do you get so much pleasure in mentioning in court with such good diction and emphasis, the words "cock-suck" and "shit" from passages in the book?'

The third prosecution witness was Sir Basil Blackwell, of the bookshop in Oxford and other pursuits. Past his prime by several decades, he lacked the venerable look old men (like Bertrand Russell) acquire when their bodies have not been affected by the monkey glands of Voronoff. He said the book was vile. He admitted to the defence that his son had sent the book to an MP in Parliament to start the prosecution. He also admitted ignorance over the matter that his bookshop had ordered more than 40 copies of the book, all sold at 30/-.

The defence omitted to ask him: 'Have you ever sold *Mein Kampf* and the *Life of the Princesses* by Crawfie?'

The fourth and last witness for the prosecution was Dr. Ernest Caxton, an expert on homosexuality. On the panel of the Wolfenden Report, he asserted he has had intimate contact with homosexuals, through his work. He breathed in deep to declaim in a thin voice his sententious findings: the book would corrupt. He said homosexuals could be divided into two categories: essential and induced. The latter are the ones induced to their sickness by books such as *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. The former seem to be born.

The case was adjourned until November 12, 10.30 a.m., when the defence witnesses will rise to give evidence. Will the outcome be the 'destruction of the little freedom gained for books in these last few years?'

IAN KALISZEWSKI.

One Door Opens Another Closes

A FORTNIGHT AGO we were cheering the victory at King Hill. The campaign moved on at the weekend to a new battleground, the Homeless Hostel, at Abridge in Essex.

There, on Sunday, November 6, a group of people, who have loosely formed themselves into an *ad hoc* organisation which they call the Friends of Abridge, entered the hostel bringing with them doors, partitions, curtains and tools, and attempted to partition the dormitories, which house ten mothers with their children, into separate units which would allow of family occupation and also attempted to move two families to a spare block.

Some of this partitioning had been carried out when the police arrived and ejected demonstrators. But the latter returning as fast as they were thrown out, the situation settled down into a state of siege which lasted about two hours.

The demonstrators, who included five of the six husbands who had been separated from their families on reception of their wives and children into the hostel, agreed to withdraw as a result of a long talk with Mr. W. Boyce, Essex County Welfare Officer, who agreed to submit their plans for conversion of the hostel to the Welfare Committee at its meeting on Wednesday, November 9.

RON BAILEY.

Run, Blake, Run!

EVERY NOW and again a ray of cheer breaks into this damp dungeon known as life. Some puffed-up official takes a pratfall, a queen has a smoke-bomb flung in front of her, a president has paint splattered over his car, a cabinet minister drops a gooly, some prominent television personality loses his temper or recovers his sanity, policemen are caught housebreaking, prison warders are nabbed for bribery, computers make ghastly errors, or newspapers run obscene misprints. But these joys are rare.

The escape of George Blake from Wormwood Scrubs is an event upon which no honestly sane man can look upon with regret. It was completely non-violent, it had in it no menace to human life (not even prison warders or policemen). It passed off with the minimum of fuss. Perhaps the pot of flowers was a delicate tribute to those 'without whom this escape would not have been possible', so slick and well-handled it seems to have been. A tribute to British production and exports.

Even if one has a remote belief in 'justice', Blake had served a long-enough stretch. In any case if the Government had done a deal, as we did in the case of Lonsdale who was exchanged for Wynne or as the Americans did in exchanging Abel for Powers there would be no talk of 'justice not being done'. As it is we have not got even Gerald Brooke back but unfortunately his crime seems to have been (even from the viewpoint of the British Government) that he was not a spy and was working on his own bat.

If one believes in the deterrent theory of punishment, espionage is the field in which the career has a built-in destruction kit (like Powers' plane). Once captured, a spy is no further use to his employers, he may be of use (at liberty) to his captors but that is another story.

Blake's 'reformation' had been completed.

It is only that fierce desire for vengeance, for punishment for treason, which is frustrated by the Blake escape. Minds which are after vengeance are generally impervious to a calm reason which would suggest that since Blake was not a British birthright citizen his nationality (like that of William Joyce) was a matter of his own choice and subject to change without notice. It is this which makes 'treason' so particularly heinous in the eyes of the state.

On the Governmental side it is chiefly pride that has been hurt; the Opposition have flung into the Government's face the taunt that they can't keep dangerous spies safely in prison hence they are incompetent. The whole thing has been dragged down to the usual 'sucks-boo' level of Parliamentary debate and the only result so far is that those poor dupes who are already eking out their miserable lives serving sentences for espionage have been uprooted into maximum security jails and Mountbatten, that expert on glasshouses and—we are told—electronics, is to head a commission. What the commission will do we do not know.

There has grown up a belief, reared on spy-fiction, that Blake is really a double-double agent. That is, he is really still working for us that is, the British, and we only put him in jail as a bluff and so we have allowed him to escape. This reminds one of Ustinov's lines in *Romanoff and Juliet*: 'You mean they know we know he knows!' This kind of speculation though doubtless useful for passing away the long winter evenings seems fruitless. It only needs our double-double agent to get the plans of the anti-missile missile and doublecross us and we'll all be in trouble.

However the serious business of

this Government seems to now be how can we make our prisons safe. The forward-looking *Daily Mirror* has come up with a suggestion that we build our own Alcatraz (regardless of the fact that Alcatraz was declared obsolete some time ago). Other armchair penological pundits have come up with suggestions for Alsatian dogs, electrified fencing, watch-towers, shaven heads, deprivation of trousers and other methods all tried and found wanting. Perhaps the whole matter could be transferred to the Ministry of Social Security?

The facts must be faced firstly that the increase in escapes should be an accepted consequence of the risk of open prisons—a risk which must be taken if we are to even try for reform in prisons. Secondly, any intelligent man will naturally try to escape from a severe sentence and the greater the restriction the greater the challenge. Given adequate planning, capital and contacts even Stuart Christie could be 'sprung'. It is said that the greatest number of prison escapes take place from the Georgia chain gang and the usual effect of tighter security is to create 'closely-knit' groups of convicts who by hook or crook will riot. At least that is American experience.

The whole moral (if morals enter into it) of the Blake affair is that governments (and oppositions) will haggle over anything except the important things. There was a melodrama once where the hero said, 'You have foreclosed my mortgage, seduced my wife, killed my old mother but beware lest you go too far.'

Mr. Harold Wilson has increased unemployment, taxed employment, sabotaged the trade unions but he knows that it he lets Blake escape or is too soft on prisoners he's gone too far!

JACK ROBINSON.

ANARCHISTS IN THE NEWS

JAPAN: AGAINST VIETNAM WAR

JAPANESE police, according to Reuter, believe they have uncovered an 'anarchist plot' to destroy Japanese factories which manufacture weapons for the war in Vietnam. The police said that 10 youths raided one factory on Wednesday, ransacked the president's office, then scattered pamphlets urging workers to stop manufacturing weapons for Vietnam.

There were also student demonstrations by the Zengakuren on the eve of a nation-wide strike (involving five million trade unionists) who were expected to walk off their jobs in protests against the Vietnam war.

ANARCHIST ARRESTS IN SPAIN

SPANISH POLICE ARRESTED five anarchists on October 28 at a flat in Madrid. Amongst them is Luis Andres Edo, of the Spanish Libertarian Youth (FJL), and the police identified the others as Alicia Mur Sin, Jesus Andres Rodriguez Piney, Antonio Canete Rodriguez and Alberto Herrero Dativo. Reports do not mention in which prison they are kept and when they will be tried. Charges against them are also typically hazy. One report says, 'that they were foiled in a plot to dramatize their cause by kidnapping US Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke and other prominent Americans living in Spain.'

'Informed sources' said that the five entered Spain from France and that secret service agents from Spain, United States and France are investigating the case. Police also claimed that they seized a sten gun, another automatic weapon,

The students ransacked a police box, smashed the windows of police cars and tore up paving stones. Twenty-five Tokyo policemen were injured and 17 youths were arrested.

LIVERPOOL: POLICE SEARCHES

ON FRIDAY, October 21, two CID men called at Comrade Paul Rowlandson's house in Liverpool. They had a search warrant. They said that the local Civil Defence HQ had been broken into and some walkie-talkies and restricted literature had been taken.

They searched his room and came across the Liverpool YCND minutes and general book, with a long list of names and addresses in it.

ammunition and false passports at the Madrid apartment.

The American Ambassador later talking to UPI denied any knowledge of being the target of the plot.

Our comrade, Luis Andres Edo, only last May gave a clandestine press conference in Madrid drawing the attention of the world to the many thousands of political prisoners in Spanish jails. (FREEDOM 16.7.66 and FJL's letter, 13.8.66.)

Our newly detained comrades need our help like those who have been sentenced previously, among which are several condemned to 30 years and one (Juan Salcedo) to 72 years.

The FJL needs cash at once to organise some sort of defence. The address is Monsieur Clément Fournier, c/o Freedom Press.

JOHN RETY.

Central London Demonstration for Homeless

On November 16 BBC Television will show a documentary film of hostels for the homeless. To coincide with this, the Friends of Abridge (Hostel for the Homeless, Abridge, Essex) plan to hold in Central London a demonstration to draw attention to the whole subject of homelessness as well as to the conditions in these hostels. People from such hostels in various parts of Britain intend to take part, and the maker of the BBC film, Jeremy Sandford, supports the demonstration. Place not yet fixed. All interested can obtain details from Ron Bailey, 128 Hainault Road, London, E.11 (who offers to accept reverse charge calls, even from a distance, if necessary). Telephone: LEYtonstone 8059.

ANARCHY 69

OUT THIS WEEK DISCUSSES
ECOLOGY

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THE INTERNATIONAL Destruction in Art Symposium has quietly flowed down its own self-created drain with but hardly a gurgle and all the Town can do is to wait for the book of the myth.

One would have assumed, in all cynical innocence, that the magazine *Art and Artists*, having given almost all of their August issue to this kultur-chicken-killing-fest, would have followed this international story through to its sour anticlimax but it seems that Mario Amaya, the editor, has chosen to let the story die the death with a two-page society type press photograph layout of *among those present*. If one wished to assess off-beat opinion from these 20 stamp-size photographs one would have dreamed up a mental picture of a group of tea-sipping gentles playing with balloons, digging holes in the basements of better bookshops and sitting at learned attention at the knees of a group of international theoreticians engaged in a Swiftian discussion on at which end one cracks an egg.

After the roars of anger in the pages of *Cuddon's*, *FREEDOM* and *Peace News* Mario Amaya, and *Art and Artists*, should accept their self-imposed responsibility to justify the dreary butchery of inoffensive creatures to illustrate an accepted thesis.

Meanwhile the DIAS version of the Vietcong continues to operate within the jungles off the Edgware Road. From the cultural base at Better Books Cobbling has led his group h in a take-over of the Drian Gallery at 5 Porchester Place, W.2. Whatever one may think of the 87 works on display in this large gallery one is conscious of the tactical failure of Gustav Metzger, of DIAS, to utilise this local talent for, if these people had been incorporated into the monied set-up of DIAS and the stupid chicken-killing, frog-squashing gimmicks dropped, DIAS could have put on an act that would have had the Town kicking up its heels for at least a week. group h was formed in 1951 and its aim, to quote its original constitution, was to encourage creative painting in which abstract and structural qualities are a primary consideration. But, as with all minority groups, floundering around with a map but no particular destination, it was left to newly arrived Jeff Nuttall to give the group a fresh and powerful impetus—if not in its thinking, then in its sense of purpose.

As with all minority groups, group h has pioneered much that is accepted as the common coin of the plush Bond Street galleries, seen talent drift in and out of its duplicated catalogues and basked in the sour glory of being ostracised by the kultur big-time. Bruce Lacey assembled his modern gothic horror machines with group h as early as 1954 and he now bleeds within the international Marlborough Gallery stable of all the talents. John Latham, of the DIAS book-burning squad, is rightly beginning to gently tread water on the national commercial art level while David Warren who is showing with group h will, by the very nature of his talent, find a wider outlet than this group can offer.

There is much that succeeds and much that fails in this exhibition within the Drian Gallery. The reason for most of the failures lies in their denial of one of the first principles of art—that a work of art must exist as such irrespective of period or social background. It is for

this reason that Nuttall fails, for, having divorced his bursting bag of many intestines from the scrubby gloom of the Better Books basement into the sad, well-scrubbed light of the Drian Gallery it adds nothing to the objects and leaves the spectator merely with an ancient egg-box and some ill-daubed wadding peeping tiredly through sausage sacks of butcher's muslin. Jennifer Pike with her gently turning relief mobiles makes the transition for, like Calder's mobiles, they demand nothing from the spectator beyond a quiet acceptance.

The fault of this exhibition, if it can be held to be at fault, is epitomised in John Rowan's *Haptic nos. 1 and 2*. Rowan offers a small black box, with a small circular hole in one side, and one is invited to please put hand in holes up to wrist and explore by touch. Within the hidden darkness of this small box are placed knives and spikes and in theory one should, monkey-like, push one's hand into the darkness of this box in search of an aesthetic experience only to find a surrealist mess of knives and spikes lacerating the hands. A fun fun idea if it had worked, for one could visualise the Town's culture coterie wreathed in hand bandages and flaunting their Purple Hearts. But the hole in the side of the box was too small, and three of us tried to force our hands into the box, and when one eased an enquiring index finger through the hole one felt only blunt unworkable spikes.

DIAS deserved to fail for its portentous sterility and the nastiness of its imported gimmicks, while group h succeeds within its own parochial frame of reference but history and the Town have passed it by.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

Against All Bombs

The following letter has been sent to the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires from the London and National Committee of 100:

Dear Sir,

We write on the subject of the testing of a nuclear missile by your Government.

We appreciate the utter wrongness of American nuclear/military commitments in the Pacific and their hostile aim in the direction of China.

Over the years we, of the Committee of 100, have organised a long series of demonstrations at the US Embassy in London and at US military bases in different parts of Britain. As a country actually occupied by American troops we have no illusions on the score of US policy.

But from the Committee of 100 we do not take sides in the Cold War. We are convinced that all Bombs, missiles and military alliances make for war and we oppose them all equally.

We ask you, therefore, to convey to your Government our strongest objection to your testing of a new weapon and to tell them also that we condemn the other side equally, have taken action accordingly and will continue to do so.

Yours faithfully,

PETER W. CADOGAN,
National Secretary
SUSAN ABRAHAMS,
London Secretary

Anarchist Federation of Britain

(As there is no national secretariat for enquiries, speakers, etc., please contact local groups.)

ANARCHIST MEETINGS AT HYDE PARK EVERY SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Camp's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.
3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald and Irene Rooum's, now at 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP. Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Cheshire.

ABERDEEN GROUP. Correspondence to M. Dey, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.

ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., S. Beds.). Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stofold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Dave Massey, 138 Church Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24.

UNIVERSITY OF ASTON GROUP. Contact: D. J. Austin, 5 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Gowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.

DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, c/o Doctors' Residence, Stracathro Hospital, by Brechin, Angus.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

HULL ANARCHIST GROUP. J. Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Hull. Tel. 212526. Meetings 8 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays of month at above address.

IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Meetings at Mike Malet's, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13.

NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, NOTTING HILL PROVOS. Correspondence to Brian Joseph, 11 Floor, 27 Arundel Gardens, London, W.11. Meeting every first Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. Ground floor flat, 5 Colville House, London, W.11.

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

SHEFFIELD. Regular meetings for discussion at the Foresters' Division Street, Mondays. Contact Robin Lovell, c/o Students' Union, University, Sheffield. Tel. 24076.

THE play *Us* is a pretty hair-raising experience, even for an anarchist who has read *The Naked Lunch*.

It is a good play; it is also somehow more than a play. The political content is projected so strongly that one feels at times more as though one is on a demonstration than in a theatre.

This is not developed quite enough to allow the audience to participate as demonstrators. The proscenium is still a barrier, or was on the night I attended—I would be interested to know if there has been some spontaneous action at other performances.

I left the theatre thoroughly sick with myself for not having intervened at one point. This was the climax of the evening, and it is curious that I have not read any critical discussion of it—is it to preserve dramatic surprise for future audiences?

After an evening obsessed with burnings—by Buddhist monks, by napalm, by Norman Morrison; an actor, forsaking the convention of make-believe inherent in the rest of the production, ceremoniously sets light to a white butterfly while the audience looks on mute.

I think the authors of the play intended that we should accept this demon-

stration of wanton cruelty to rub home the point that we are happy to accept the suffering in Vietnam because we are glad it is not happening to us; the suffering of the Vietnamese somehow relieves us.

Our secret wish to see harm avoiding us and lighting on someone else is revealed to us by our quiescence when the actor flicks away at his cigarette lighter, and we all know perfectly well, but cannot admit to ourselves, that he is about to do something brutal and that we can stop him if we have the will to.

Though the dramatic effect is intense, I think the action is revolting. So it is only a butterfly that will die in a few hours anyway. But the play has been founded on suffering, and has striven to show us that the limit has been reached, that more needless pain is insufferable.

Of course it is possible that only the butterflies released into the auditorium are real ones, and that he burns a scrap of white paper simulating a butterfly and the suffering is not real.

Then it would be all right to sit back and let him do it.

Or would it?

BRIAN RICHARDSON

A VIEWPOINT ON NARCOTICS

THROUGHOUT radical, libertarian and unattached circles there is a conspicuous increase in the discussion and usage of drugs. Many interesting and valuable advances are being made in the expansion of experience and charting of the subconscious; but, particularly in radical and libertarian circles, a dangerous situation is being allowed to develop. The urge to challenge existing restrictive concepts is permitting enthusiasm to obscure reality, in some areas.

Whilst staunchly defending the right of the individual to exclusive authority over the usage of his own person, I maintain that the individual must be kept aware of his responsibility to the wellbeing of his fellows, not permitting his own indulgences to impose on their liberty.

The presence of junkies, drunks and sundry other irresponsibles is a drag and a menace to the freedom of association in any group which is concerned about the improvement of society; we have enough problems, without you bringing more on us.

Certainly we must help our sick, but to get straight, not to deify their ailments. The person who extols the delights of opiates and hallucinogens, and publicly uses narcotics, must be seen as a dangerous, irresponsible child, no more acceptable in a libertarian group than an advocate of racial discrimination, fascism or any other anti-social activity.

The aim of anarchism is the liberation of the individual, not the support of actions which ensure the bondage to demands more excessive and destructive than any postulated by the prophets of the proletarian revolution.

More than 15 years of living amongst, being lived off by, and being died on, by junkies, has firmly dispelled any romantic view of the addict as an emancipated rebel. They are sick, and their illness is contagious. Check with the statements and experiences of any longtime user; Bird, Billie Holliday,

Burrroughs and so many others whose talents have been distorted and destroyed by their misfortunes, and they all the same—it only makes today's ten times bigger tomorrow. The winners are the smart operators who have made it the status symbol of the sixties, convincing the gullible that at time they put that script over the counter at Boots they are receiving a packet of instant super-personality.

If you feel it an essential part of a rich pattern, by all means let your boost Messrs. Dupont, Ciba & Wellcome profits; thrill to the hip sensation of paralysis from a dose of belladonna; let your faulty liver is just longing to be screwed up by LSD; but from your Olympian heights spare a little grain of charity to your less enlightened comrades—let your pleasures to yourselves. The Mall may need you, the movement doesn't.

J. JACK

An Anarchist Leaflet

Dear Comrades,

At a meeting of the Lewisham Anarchist Group on Thursday, October 27, it was decided that we should take some concrete steps towards drafting a basic anarchist leaflet, the lack of which we have felt for some time. As this is an important matter, it was agreed that we should invite members of all interested groups in the London area to attend our meeting to be held on Thursday, November 24, at 7.45 p.m. at 618 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13, to further this project.

I hope that one or more persons from your group will be able to come, and bring some ideas with them.

Yours fraternally,

MICHAEL MALET,
for Lewisham
Anarchist Group.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton: Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton. Chorley: Alistair Raitray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley. Manchester: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylsden, Manchester. Brenda Mercer, 6 Breckside Park, Liverpool, 6. Rochdale: Ian Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Bamford, Rochdale. Stoke-on-Trent: Bob Blakeman, 52 Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

WALTHAM FOREST ANARCHISTS. Contact Lionel Donnelly, 322a Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E.17. Meetings every Thursday at above address.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

WEST LONDON FEDERATION

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.

EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Adrian Derbyshire, 2 Oakley House, Oakley Avenue, London, W.5.

PROPOSED GROUPS

SOUTH-WEST MIDDLESEX. P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.

KINGSTON ON THAMES AND AREA. Activists especially. Please write only to: Brian P. Boreham, 2 Fullbrooks Cottages, Church Road, Worcester Park, Surrey.

MANCHESTER PROVOS. All interested contact David Stringer and Dave Tugbhe, 35 Granton Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, 8.

CAMBRIDGE. Contact Wallyjon Illingworth, c/o Richmond House, Devon Road, Cambridge.

MID-MIDDLESEX. (Harrow, Wembley, Edgware, Hendon.) Anyone interested in forming a libertarian group for discussion and possible action write to Nicolas and Ruth Walter, 4 Vane Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.

SOUTH COAST, BRIGHTON, ETC. Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes area contact Alan Albon, The Stable, Glynligh Farm, Pevensey, Sussex. Phone Hailsham 358.

WATFORD. Anyone interested please contact Alan Pritchard, 8 Bedford Street, Watford, Herts.

MEDWAY TOWNS AREA. Proposed Group. Errol Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester, Kent.

ABROAD

U.S.A. NEW YORK CITY. N.Y. Federation of Anarchists, c/o Torch Bookshop, 641 East 9th Street, N.Y., 10009. Meets every Thursday evening.

AUSTRALIA. Anarchist Group, PO Box A 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. 52 Mindevej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel: 967-2693.

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion/Action group anyone? Contact Ed Strauss, RFD 2 Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.

CANADA: WINNIPEG. Anybody interested in Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.

BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Selesim-Liege, Belgium.

'Lamb & Flag' Meetings

Dear Comrades,
It is with regret that we announce that the series of meetings held at the 'Lamb & Flag' have come to an end. In view of the fact that the tiny-minded activists who have broken these meetings up and caused them to finish are delightedly stating, 'we have achieved our object, we have broken up your meetings', the London Anarchist Group conveners wish to make certain facts plain.

The meetings were begun with a view to enabling militants to bring those interested in anarchism together, listen to an informal talk on anarchism, and discuss matters over a pint. Quite clearly as they were begun at a time when working-class activity predominated, those who organised and attended the meetings were active during the week, and Sunday meetings were their relaxation from work, in one way, and a method of consolidating their activity, in another.

Of recent years, it has been generally felt that those who came not from direct working-class activity, but from peace demonstrations and so on, should be invited along to these meetings to learn about anarchism. It was never suggested that the meetings were an alternative to action.

Of late, however, we have been getting along certain bourgeois elements who have objected to the whole set-up. It is unfortunately necessary to point out that these people are all from the bourgeoisie, because their whole attitude (shouting down those who spoke about the working-class problems, etc.) stems from their class consciousness.

Obviously, being rising young publishers, executives, professional people and so on, they were not engaged in activity and Sunday was the one day to go off steam; to them, therefore, the meetings were a substitute for action. Their idea of action was to attend our meetings and disrupt them. Apparently they thought that breaking up anarchist meetings (always from the back row) was one sure way of squaring with society.

They took no activity against the police, for instance, but their idea of 'provo' activity was to shout down anarchist meetings. If we threw them out, we were not libertarian; if we let them go on, the meeting would have to end. 'Send for the police, send for the police!' they screamed.

On Sunday we had a particularly good speaker, a professional man, Michael Duane, who has stuck out his neck for libertarian activity at work. He was howled down, and the main howler deliberately made such a rumpus that the landlady of the pub requested the meetings to end.

It is necessary to mention names.

J. P. Schweitzer has, for some time, been trying to break up meetings by constant interruptions (telling a comrade last week that 'you will have to give up soon, and we will take over the meetings'). He helped disrupt this meeting, as usual, but he is not the main culprit. Those responsible for Sunday's debacle are Charles Radcliffe, Mike Lessor

Before the meeting began Radcliffe opened by complaining that somebody had said that they would send for the police if the meetings were broken up. He was told he was a liar, and asked to name names. He did not do so. Later, he constantly shouted, 'Send for the police' but when the landlady came up and spoke with an air of authority 'Be quiet' they were so quiet it was not real... they even told her that it was not they who were shouting but John Rety (who had told them to be quiet) and asked her to ban him! Later said he would sit down until the police came. A comrade tapped him on the shoulder and told him to go and he scuttled off like a frightened rabbit.

Unfortunately, this action came too late. The landlady was forced to ask us to terminate meetings, nor could we in any case run meetings at which speakers were insulted, as was Michael Duane who tried to speak at this meeting. No blame should be attached to the management of the 'Lamb & Flag' who have been tolerant and helpful always; who have run their place fairly and squarely but could not have these lunatic middle-class 'militants' screaming their heads off and disturbing their Sunday trade.

We trust however the movement will take note of the conduct of these people and see that meetings are not broken up in this fashion again.

There are no arrangements yet regarding future meetings but one thing is certain: London Anarchist Group meetings are not going to put up with this again.

MELTZER, KAVANAGH, HUGGEN, WALSH, Conveners, London Anarchist Group II.

'A Tragedy to Water Down Serious Newspapers' (Cecil King)

-Guardian

PRESIDENT JOHNSON is to have two further operations. The operation on the body of Vietnam is to continue, without anaesthetics. Surgical attempts to excise Communism resulted in the death of thirty-one children and nine adults in the North Vietnam village of Thuidan. Attempts to eliminate American imperialism resulted in the death of two soldiers in the detonation of an ammunition dump and the killing by high explosive shelling of eight people in Saigon and the wounding of thirty. Three of the dead were Americans and the operation was performed on Vietnam Independence Day.

THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS will apparently proceed without President Johnson but it is reported in the *New York Herald Tribune* that his Commissioner of Indian Affairs will visit Juneau, Alaska, for the first time since his appointment last spring. He is reputedly trying to get the Indian vote. He has already spoken with the Sioux tribe in Montana. The Congressional Record is full of 'declarations of Government interest in Indian problems the Government has yet to solve,' says the *Tribune*. Mr. Bennett, the Commissioner, says politics had nothing to do with the timing of his trip but in Montana the Democratic candidate said that 'even the Yugoslav vote could swing the contest'. Montana has an undetermined number of Yugoslavs and about 20,000 Indians. In Alaska, however, a Goldwater-conservative-Republican claims to be gaining the Eskimo vote.

WILFRED G. BURCHETT, reporting from North Vietnam, writes in the *National Guardian*, quoting NLF fighters: 'We have even collected unemptied gas containers which they [the Americans] put into our tunnel systems and started our own chemical warfare section, turning their own toxic gas against them.' A Soviet film camera-man, writing in the *Morning Star* of a visit to NLF troops in the Mekong Delta, tells of a visit to a unit where 'The Group Commander returns, tired, and tells us the battle was

fought specially in honour of our arrival. He said, 'We've had a successful engagement to greet you. Our troops took the offensive and killed 27 soldiers and officers, and captured 19 enemy weapons, including two machine-guns, two automatic rifles, six light machine-guns, seven rifles and two revolvers'.

DAVID STAYT, of CND, explained in the *Morning Star* (and elsewhere) that he did not say that Communists, Anarchists and others should not come on the Easter march. What he said was 'that there must be unity of purpose and of message' and that 'people who wish to use the march to propagate other opinions should not take part'. Mr. Stayt concludes, 'I said also, that the message of the march should reiterate CND's basic aims (unilateral nuclear disarmament which is as relevant today as ever) with the emphasis on Vietnam, where the US is brutally and rapidly escalating their war of aggression'. A writer to *Tribune* reports that four Young Socialists (Trotskyists no doubt) were fined £40 with 18 guineas costs at Croydon for joining a Communist Party Vietnam demonstration carrying posters calling for the victory of the Vietnamese revolution against US imperialism. The Communist Party organisers objected to their banners and called the police and arrests followed.

THE CHINESE EXPLODED a nuclear weapon fixed to a guided missile which landed accurately on pre-arranged target. This is China's fourth nuclear explosion and there was an increase in fall-out over Japan. There was no recorded CND protest but Ho Chi Minh congratulated the Chinese and said (vide the *Morning Star*) that the weapon 'was a great stimulus to the cause of preserving world peace'. A headline in the *Star* reads 'Thousands thank Mao for missile' and quotes *People's Daily*: 'Successful explosion of first guided missile nuclear weapon is a great victory for thought of Mao Tse-tung and a splendid success for the great proletarian cultural revolution.' Anna Louise Strong, *National*

Guardian correspondent in China, was photographed swimming 165 feet non-stop at the age of eighty.

AMERICAN HOUSEWIVES have been boycotting and picketing supermarkets which overcharge and have succeeded in getting some price reductions.

A PEDIGREE POODLE in Shirley, Surrey, has been provided by its owner with a lamp-post in the garden. The owner said, 'It's my contribution to keeping the roads clean.' Town councillors at Lyons banned British Week stunt of loosing homing pigeons in Lyons since they have just spent £20,000 to rid the town of pigeons who have left their mark on the city.

IN THE UNITED STATES—parts of which still retain the death penalty—37% more law officers were attacked in 1965 compared with 1964. In Utah three men were killed in accidental hunting shootings but there were no reports of deer being bagged.

POLICE IN MANILA, during President Johnson's visit, fired over the heads of demonstrators against Vietnam war. In Kuala Lumpur, police opened fire on demonstrators and killed one and injured two, 127 were arrested. In Seoul, Korea, reports the *Daily Telegraph*, 'Not a single anti-American demonstrator was in sight, partly because the South Korean Government does not encourage dissent, but also because there is genuine popular affection for the United States.'

AN OFFICE MESSENGER in Rome was sentenced to eight months imprisonment for insulting the Pope when caught in a traffic jam caused by the passage of the Pope's line of cars.

THE EASTERN ELECTRICITY BOARD attributed a sub-station explosion at Golders Green, London, which plunged parts into darkness, 'to overloading by consumers using more current because the temperature had fallen'.
JON QUIXOTE.

Psychological Warfare against Vietnam Guilty

Dear Comrades,

Some readers of *FREEDOM* will have received from me a circular discussing the possibilities of launching a sort of 'psychological warfare' against those engaged in supporting the war against the people of Vietnam.

The scheme was to have been directed initially against those Americans who support their government's war, but (and here is the kernel of it) they were to be condemned as being no better than the Communists. The fact is that all propaganda against the war in Vietnam is being lightly shrugged off by Americans and others as being just the work of a bunch of Commies doing their stuff for the Vietcong. Thus the activities of the Communist Party are actually hardening support for this war, and as far as they are concerned, they just love it. This war is meat and drink to them. Only when there is a large-scale condemnation of the Communists equally with the other side, can there be any effective action against this war. As long as

★ LETTERS ★

soft-heads continue to play along with the Communists, they are ensuring that ordinary American and British citizens will feel no real tormenting guilt for this war.

My scheme was directed towards the arousal of a tormenting guilt feeling. As such it was condemned by at least one responsible anarchist (whom I respect) as being 'immoral' in essence. I do not accept his point of view. Other comrades were more concerned with whether it could possibly be put into practice. Maybe I was wrong; the general consensus of opinion was that it could never really get off the ground. However, I would like in this letter to register my point of view that no propaganda against this war has got the slightest chance of being effective unless it specifically condemns the Communists' degree of responsibility for the war, and their cynical exploitation of it.

TONY GIBSON.

Right bus at wrong stop

Dear Comrades,

I have read Roger Thompson's letter (24.10.66) on the industrial content of *FREEDOM* and search though I may I can only conclude that he has got the right

bus at the wrong stop. His criticism of Bill Christopher is meaningless to me, for one, though I am aware that his prejudices are shared by others. Personally I have never known Bill Christopher or like-minded people to be boringly rhetorical in using clichés as R.T. suggests. If you like, they are rhetorical in one sense, for instance Bill Christopher is rhetorical about an anarcho-syndicalist interpretation of the class struggle on the shop floor. Week in and week out as R.T. said in his letter; back page always and front page occasionally. Anarchism, anarchism and more anarchism. If it is boring to you Roger as you imply, then you have as I think, boarded the right bus at the wrong stop.

He seems to suggest that anarchism should be confined to the artist's studio and gallery. If art is not an expression of life—it is nothing. R.T. wants art in a vacuum, an end in itself because the likes of him hate to face the reality of the class struggle. Perhaps he is not in the class struggle, perhaps he is, I don't know. One way or another it is a reality and it is Bill Christopher's job to report the class conflict with an anarchist viewpoint for an anarchist paper.

I suggest Roger T. that if your friends could not read this aspect of anarchism then don't waste time thinking that you will make anarchists out of them. Like yourself they would be coming in by the arse as it were—back to front—toes without the head. Perhaps this is where you came in and will go out as

... happening ...

ON NOVEMBER 15 at 7 p.m. there is going to be, at Speakers' Corner, a happening, which I hope will consist of poetry reading, folk-singing, general discussion and anything else that would contribute to the enjoyment of the people.

I have had this idea for quite a long time. The object is to bring the atmosphere of Sunday's Speakers' Corner into a weekday. This happening will be entirely up to the people who attend, they will be the 'stars', each playing his own little bit on the night. I hope a lot of people will attend and really make it a success.

The name attached to this happening is 'Vomit—a throw-up of happiness'. This is because I want people to come along and 'throw-up' all those hidden talents which are submerged by present-day society.

If you want to read poetry, sing or

do anything to help in any way please phone AMB 9057 after 5 p.m. or be at Speakers' Corner on November 15 at 6.30 p.m.

It will probably be cold, so if you are coming, bring a blanket or thick coat. Also if you would like bring a flask of some hot drink and some food so that it can be shared out communally.

I hope that so many people will attend on November 15 that the police will not bother us, because there is a petty law against playing a musical instrument in Hyde Park. So please tell everybody you know to attend.

This is absolutely non-profit-making. Money is going to be the only obscene word. I cannot repeat too many times that I would like many people to attend, because, not only will we be enjoying ourselves, but kicking the Hyde Park regulations in the face.

STANLEY SIEGEL.

so many have done and I suppose will continue to do. Frankly as an anarchist I will not endeavour to halt their intellectual curiosity, neither will I bend to its whim.

So I propose continuation of the 'back page' with more of it if possible and this is certainly not to denigrate art reports.

London

DAVE PICKETT.

NEARLY!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
WEEKS 43 & 44, NOVEMBER 5, 1966:
Expenses: 44 weeks at £80: £3520
Income: Sales and Subs.: £2534
DEFICIT: £986

Bristol: A.G. 8/-; Leeds: D.S. 3/6; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Northolt: Anarchist Group* 3/6; Edinburgh: J.M. 1/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; London, S.E.17: D.S. 4/-; Ipswich: D.J. 6/-; Brooklyn: P.S. £2/5/6; Herts: E.H. 8/-; Birmingham: A.F. £1; Harlow: J.K. 2/-; Freiburg: M.B. £1; Leeds: G.L. 3/7; Hartfield: O.M. £5/5/-; London, E.C.1: A.M. 7/6; Darlington: V.B. 5/-; Vancouver: D.W. £1; Dublin: G.B. £13/17/7; Sydney: M.C. 7/6; London, N.19: F.J. 4/6; Bromley: D.W. £1/1/-; Glasgow: A.J. 1/9; Auckland: J.R. 8/-; Bury St. Edmunds: P.C.* 5/-; London, W.2: 5/-; London, E.17: D.M. 1/6; Uxbridge: Anon. 2/6; Northolt: Anarchist Group* 3/6; Oxford: Anon.* 5/-; Long Beach: C.L. £1/4/6; Chelsea, Mass.: J.M. 7/-; London, N.W.5: C.F. 3/-; Todmorden: G.B. £3; Hindhead: F.F. 9/-; Caerphilly: R.W. 6/6; Brighton: P.L. 1/7; Cambridge: C.M. £2/18/-; Bristol: N.D. 3/-; Oxford: Anon.* 5/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Birmingham: N.F. 3/6; St. Austell: A.J. 7/6; Chelsea: N.S. 5/6; Berkeley: G.S. 7/6; London, N.W.1: R.D. 1/6; London, S.E.5: £2/2/-; New York: P.W. 10/6; Barking: S.B. 2/6; London, N.8: J. & L.S. 5/-; Bolton: M.G. 10/-; Lincoln: J.W. 1/6; Seattle: D.C. 10/6; Hamburg: W.F. 10/-; Palo Alto: N.M. £1/8/-; Harston: J.H. 14/-.

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PRICES & INCOMES BOARD AND ALL OUR READERS—Please Note

STARTING JANUARY 1967 the price of *FREEDOM* will be raised to 6d. It will continue to be published on each Saturday except the first in each month, when *Anarchy* comes out, but the last issue of *FREEDOM* in each month will be of eight pages. We hope in these extra four pages to deal in greater scope with current important matters, and to include some theoretical material, as well as giving more attention to cultural matters beside our regular art column.

The increase in price entails an increase in subscription. Existing subscriptions will be honoured at the old rate. Readers whose subscriptions fall due up to the end of October will by now have received renewal notices. These will be accepted for a whole year at the old rate if paid before the end of November for subscriptions in the U.K. and Europe, and before the end of the year for other places abroad.

In order to relieve ourselves of burden-

some book-keeping, all subscriptions falling due during November and December will be filled to the end of the year on the existing subscription, and will be renewable at the new rates from January 1, 1967. You can help us a great deal by renewing without waiting for a renewal notice, and by paying subscriptions separately from other accounts.

The new rates are:—
FREEDOM only (per year)
£1 10s. (\$4.50) surface mail
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£3 17s. (\$10.50) per year

Divide and Conquer

AS WAS to be expected the leadership of the unions in the car industry are floundering around like wingless sparrows. Every day the national press report top level talks between either the employers and union leaders or the Government and union leaders, and the end result is the same—sackings all round.

Every stroke is being pulled to divide the workers. Attempts are made to antagonise the workers retained, the implication being that if only the job of sackings could be got out of the way, then the remaining workers could get down to earning some money.

Fortunately this policy is not meeting with very much success, although the *Daily Telegraph* (4.11.66) can always be relied upon to sort out someone who will give them the kind of copy they are looking for, so that they can headline their industrial column, 'Senior BMC Men Resent Redundancy Strike', 'Dismissed 24 "Newcomers".'

The newcomers they refer to are the 24 men due to be discharged from the Morris Radiator Factory. Car workers at Morris have really forced the union leadership to declare 'their interest'. On September 27 the declared redundancy at Morris was 80-100 employees out

of a total of 1,200 on a sectional basis. Through pressure by Senior Stewards and local union officials the redundancy figure was brought down to 28 by October 20. At this figure the Morris management dug their heels in and refused to consider the alternative of work sharing, in consequence the workers withdrew their labour.

The following statement by the Morris Radiators Shop Stewards Committee exposes the cowardly approach of the Morris management to the problem. 'Over the years in anticipation of situations of this kind we have carefully examined every proposed intake of labour by the Company. Because of this our present claim for work sharing cannot be denied. In the past, when it suited the Company, work sharing has been the Policy over long periods. We are determined that in this recession the same Policy will be implemented.

'Work sharing as opposed to redundancy is supported by Labour Party Conference and is Union Policy. Our stand is in line with this Policy.'

Two hundred men have been on strike for a fortnight abiding by official union policy 'WORK SHARING BEFORE THE SACK', but the Executive Officers of the T&GWU are not meeting until Monday, November 7, to decide whether or not to support their members.

Speaking frankly, Morris car workers have their management by the 'short hairs' and they (the management) fully realise the fact, but are dead scared to set the precedent for the remainder of motor employers.

Where does the great 'Cousins' stand now? Here he has members of his union ACTIVELY carrying out union policy, and he has been dragging his feet for a fortnight.

Frank may have 'Strolled the Corridors of Power', but his members at Morris Radiators are in the process of 'Strolling the Corridors of the Oxford Labour Exchange' and their remuneration will not run into four figures at the end of it.

Shop stewards, it is reported at Vauxhall, are in the process of discussing with the management, the policy of a four-day week and paid five'. The mere fact that the Vauxhall management are prepared to discuss this policy smells like the 'selling of bodies'. In other words, 'four-day week paid five' with a specified limited labour force. If you are in, you work harder with less men for a little more cash, if you are out it's the NAB. Officially slavery has been abolished, it must not be brought back under another name.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

FREEDOM

For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 12 1966 Vol 27 No 35

MYTON'S CLOSE DOWN SITE

TWO WEEKS ago men on the Mytons £5 million job on the Barbican scheme took strike action over the sacking of three steelfixers. The company alleged that these men were not doing 'a fair day's work', but as any building worker knows, this is an old dodge often used by the management if they want to get rid of anyone.

A week after the men had downed tools, Mytons issued dismissal notices to all the 200 men on strike whereupon the Transport and General Workers' Union made the strike official. District

union officials of the other two unions who are mainly involved, the Amalgamated Building Trades Workers and the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers also recommended that the strike be made official. The reason given by Mytons for the sacking of the strikers and the closing down of the site is because of 'disruptive elements who seem determined to undermine management relations on the site and to flout working rule agreements to which both the employers and the trade unions are parties'.

Last week the men agreed to accept the ruling of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives and return to work, with the case of the three steelfixers going through the conciliation machinery. The Company says it was to reach agreement with the unions on clear and concise bonus targets and set up procedural agreements for dealing with grievances and issues as they arise. From this it seems that the union organisation on the site has made most of the running and that Mytons want to deal with the unions at executive level.

So far no agreement has been reached, but although the men agreed to return to work, they in fact only worked for the two remaining days of the dismissal notices. Mytons are still keeping to their decision to close down the site for 'an indefinite period'. The men are now locked out while the management and union executives try to sort out a plan for a return to work. What sort of agreement is likely to be reached? The company would like to deal more direct with the union officials, thus by-passing the stewards. This would not only satisfy them, but would also assist the union executives in controlling their stewards. In exchange, Mytons might offer 100% trade unionism on the sites throughout the contract.

What must be understood is that it is only by hard work on the part of a minority of trade unionists that building sites are organised. Let us face the fact that building contractors do not want this and do their best to prevent it. On the Myton site, a strong union organisation has been built up and has achieved good wages and conditions. Now the company looks to the union executives to help solve its problems. It is to be hoped that this does not happen, but militant unionism is as much of a problem to the employers as to the union executives. The only protection against a union-employers deal is a determined stand by those in dispute and, if necessary, solidarity action from other organised sites.

P.T.

WHERE 'FREEDOM' MAY BE OBTAINED In London

Albert's, St. Martin's Court, W.C.2.
Better Books, 94 Charing Cross Rd., W.C.2.
Bloom, R., 56 Red Lion Street, W.C.1.
Collet's Bookshop, 66 Charing Cross Rd., W.C.2.
Coptic Street Newsagent, Coptic St., W.C.1.
Housman's Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd., N.1.
Indica Bookshop, 102 Southampton Row, W.C.1.
Librairie Parisien, 48 Old Compton St., W.1.
Shelly's, 184 Drury Lane, W.C.2.
Solosy Ltd., 53 Charing Cross Rd., W.C.2.
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Contact Column

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Underground. Libertarian magazine 2/6. No. 1 Herbert Read, Lee Harwood, Dave and Tina Cunliffe, Adrian Mitchell, etc. From Freedom Books or Tony Allan, c/o Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

Accommodation. Twenty-year-old girl with five-month-old baby wants accommodation (with or without work) where she could take care of baby. Box 41.

Vietnam. Open-air Protest Meetings held every Saturday in North Hanover Street, Glasgow at 3 p.m. Glasgow Anarchist Group and USM platform. All libertarian groups invited to attend and participate.

Accommodation. Young couple (with two small sons) urgently need 3-room s.e. flat at reasonable rent. Willing to decorate, baby mind, help in house, garden, etc. Box 42.

Direct Action Decorators. A free association of independent building workers invites enquiries from building tradesmen and potential customers. Write to Peter Allen, 6 St. Stephens Crescent, London, W.2.

Accommodation. Martin and Sue Gilbert seek unfurnished accommodation in Greater London area — consider sharing — phone PARK 4701.

Situation and Accommodation Wanted. Young man, returning from Brazil, needs cheap accommodation and job. Anything considered. Istvan Levy, c/o Freedom Press.

Firebird folk poetry happenings—every Wednesday, Castle Hotel, Oldham Street (off Piccadilly), Manchester, 8 p.m. 2/- entrance—all interested straying north who wish to join in or just enjoy it and who want a kip fixed up write to me beforehand, c/o International Centre, 64 George Street, Manchester, 1. Magazine of poems read there available at 1s. 6d. plus 6d. postage about once a month—also poem sheets at 3d. SAE for sample copies.

Canada. Woman companion wanted by libertarian Canadian educationalist, 44. Has two girls 11 and 13 and good income. Presently studying at University but has small farm. Box 43.

Camden Committee of 100. Anyone interested contact 56 Chalk Farm Road, London, N.W.1.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

A STACKED DECK

THE DOCKS in every country seem to be hot-beds of dissension (witness the recent Peronist demonstrations in Argentina) and in most cases they have justification. Though dockers are the necessary tools of the big employers, they must not be over-exploited, for once aroused they could cause enormous political and economic trouble. Kropotkin looked seriously to the dockers of this country as the *avant-garde* of the revolutionaries—'If Burns with 8,000 men behind him does not make a revolution,' he wrote of the 1889 dockers' strike for sixpence an hour, 'it is because he is afraid of having his head cut off. When they have come out on strike, there have been troops out, riots, police bestiality and even the bourgeoisie working in the docks, as the willing tools of the employer-government.'

I happened to start work in the Surrey Docks not long before the strike was proclaimed but it was not, as has been stated (or insinuated) in the Press, an almost spontaneous stoppage over who should unload passengers' luggage; it was just that the ship being unloaded was the first to challenge the *status quo*. The strike had been foreseen eighteen months ago, and was a deliberate showdown, fixed by the TGWU and the employers.

CLOSED SHOPS

The trouble centres around the fact that there are two unions in the docks, who both do almost the same job—the Blues (National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers) and the Whites (Transport and General Workers' Union). Originally the Blues were skilled men who were needed to speedily unload the complicated sailing ships of the 19th century and the Whites worked on the quays, carting away the cargo. Admittedly the Blues operated a very closed shop, father-to-son, etc., and the Whites, when steamships came in, were not given equal opportunity to try for the higher paid work unloading the ships. Only recently have the Blues made a special concession that sons-in-law may join them. So gradually through better opportunities and automation the number of the Blues has depleted to about 10,000 men. The number of the Whites has grown, about 18,000 men, and whenever an opportunity has come along, have had their own men installed first. Hence one finds Blue docks like Surrey and Millwall, Blue-White docks like Royal, and White docks like Tilbury. One would think the logical conclusion for these men would be to combine into one strong Dockworkers' Union, but as yet this is unforeseeable.

WHAT WE HAVE WE HOLD

Cousins would not like to see his union lose 18,000 members and it is mainly through his union's efforts that there is so much friction in the docks. Bevin, in the fifties, publicly stated that he was out to destroy the Blues. Cousins (the man who gave up wealth and importance for the sake of the working-class) keeps up the good work. The first steps of weakening the Blues were quite effective—they were expelled from the TUC, for POACHING another union's members in Hull and Liverpool. Strangely enough the union that complained was the TGWU, and most of the hierarchy of the TUC are TGWU members. The Blues are allowed back into the TUC if they swear not to POACH members. So far the Blues have done without the TUC. Being banished from the TUC in turn led them to being expelled from the NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL, concerning the docks. This is a kind of Junta, made up of representatives of the Employers, the Port of London Authority and the Whites.

The reason for the Blues going on strike is 'as a direct result of more high-handedness. For almost a century only stevedores have handled cargoes in the Millwall docks until the Fred Olsen shipping company decided to move from their old berth at Canary Wharf in the West India Dock to a newly modernised wharf at 'P' Shed in the Millwall Dock, so naturally the Blues claimed the right to work on the Fred Olsen ships which berthed in this Blue dock. However the docks in which the Olsen ships had previously berthed were worked by White dockers, and they claimed the right 'to follow the ship through' to 'P' shed as 250 White dockers in Canary Wharf would be redundant. At first glance it would seem that the Whites had a point. However, two years ago a similar situation arose. Another shipping company decided to move from Millwall to Tilbury. This company (Union Castle Line) had employed a far larger amount of Blues at Millwall and these men claimed the right to follow the ship through. But the Whites maintained that the contract to unload the ships had been given to a stevedoring company who chose to employ docker labour. The stevedores lost their case. But the Whites fail to point out their hypocrisy when they make their press statements.

One sees that someone must have decided whether the Blues or Whites should work on the Olsen ships and here begins the balls-up. The contract to handle the Olsen ships had been given to a firm, Smith Coggins, who

always employ Blue labour and in this case would have chosen the Blues. However they were ordered to employ White labour. The TGWU had pressed their argument until it was brought up before the Port of London Executive Council. At the ensuing meeting it was suggested that a prominent Trade Union leader should be called in to give his unbiased opinion. The TGWU objected, and by a majority vote had it referred to the National Joint Council (from which the Blues had been expelled). The stevedores felt that this was a local not a national matter, as in fact it was, and that both unions were members of the local negotiation machinery. But the Blues accepted although they felt the TGWU were just backing out.

HEADS WE WIN, TAILS YOU LOSE

'However at the Conciliation Committee (of the NJC) the chairman asked both sides if they were prepared to accept whatever decision was arrived at, to which the TGWU immediately agreed, and we agreed after the chairman in reply gave us the assurance that the difference between the Council and the Blues WOULD NOT AFFECT THEIR ASSESSMENT of the problem.'

The NJC made a decision that there should be a compromise—the Blues on the ships and the Whites on the quay. The stevedores agreed because it was 'fair and would be in line with work-sharing . . . and an excellent pilot scheme for a common register', by one union. The TGWU objected on the grounds that the stevedores would have 'got what they wanted'. The fair-minded NJC then changed its mind and ruled in favour of the Whites. 'We say emphatically,' says the *Stevedores' Bulletin*, 'that it was not we that went back on our word, as the committee suggested a compromise, one party agreed and the other objected, and by all rules of debate and conciliation, the only discussion the committee could fairly have arrived at, was a compromise.'

'We were, and still are, prepared to accept the *status quo ante* in this dock, where the PLA dockers perform the quay work, and we have no intention of displacing them at any time in the same way as their own union have done, as it is now obvious that PLA dockers will no longer be employed in "P" shed as before.'

Though an inter-union argument, the attitude of the Blues is almost anarchistic, we therefore surely owe our allegiance to them as the socialist policy of 'strength through numbers' has become just as corrupted by power and jealousy as any fascist state. Cousins' union will not stop till the Blues hold no power at all.

W.C.