

Disenchanted Voters Start Here

ANARCHISTS OPPOSE ALL governments, whether they are 'successful' or 'unsuccessful', paternalistic or permissive, right or left. We do not say that government is best when it governs least. We say it is getting better, from the people's point of view, when it can govern least.

No government can rule without the approval of the people, when its decisions are openly disobeyed, the collapse of government is imminent.

The people who cause the downfall of governments are very rarely conscious anarchists, they can be intriguing politicians, the military, business- or press-men, who usually wait for the right opportunity to act.

When the people are turned against their government, the anger may be specific, but it can be used generally.

Even when people are beginning positively to detest the government, anarchists should not be misled into thinking that the people have matured to be now against all government in principle.

There are many who are now disenchanted with the present British Labour Government. There are few who are disenchanted with government as such.

As we are the only people who are against all governments, it does not matter to us who rules from Downing Street. What matters is that somebody does and that somebody, whether Wilson, Jenkins, Heath, Gollan, or Terry Lacey, is automatically our enemy.

Conversely, we can look at the present situation more dispassionately than the partisans of the present parties.

The voters at the recent by-elections voted according to expectations. They have shown that they now equally detest the two main parties. At Leicester they hardly voted at all. At Hamilton the Conservative lost his deposit and Labour was soundly beaten by the Scottish Nationalists. At Gorton, although Labour managed to hold the seat with a greatly reduced majority, the voters made a reluctant stand to slap down the symbol of Toryism, Mr. Winston S. Churchill. They would rather not be led by him in the Third World War.

But to draw the conclusion from all this that this is the beginning of the anarchist millennium would be somewhat hasty.

The cheering that greeted the Labour victory at Gorton was of course not as great as the one in Hamilton. But it showed that the electorate still clings on to the idea

that there is a difference between the two parties.

We have accurately said at the time of the General Election that there is no such difference. Some people may even remember our headline (written before the result was declared) '630 Conservative MPs elected'.

We also pointed out that for Labour to stay in power it will have to act against the interest of the people who elected it.

Nevertheless there were many who were starry-eyed and only now are becoming disenchanted. But as they have little political, and scarcely any anarchist, education little reliance should be placed on their behaviour. The Labour Government, acting on civil service advice, has caused a deflation which has lost them electoral support for the time being. The civil service is not worried. They would prefer the Tories, in name as well as in action, to rule anyway.

But many people who are politi-

cally conscious will in fact turn to revolutionary socialism and anarchism. We need not quote figures or mention names. Nevertheless, you cannot win elections without the support of politically-conscious people, who have stayed away from the Labour Party Conference and have now stopped canvassing for them.

The list of blunders by the Labour Party is endless. They have managed to present all their 'reforms' (on drunken drivers, homosexuality, abortion, etc.) as if they were tightening the screws.

Their foreign policy has been disastrous for everybody concerned.

There is ever-increasing unemployment and homelessness.

Dissatisfaction with the Labour Government grows. But anarchists can hardly be satisfied with statistical victories of 43% abstentions.

Offered the carrot of a new leadership who is to say the electorate will not nibble at it?

R.

HOMELESS ON THE MARCH

WANDSWORTH'S HOMELESS are in revolt! The reason is a letter from the Council received by 89 families telling them that their stay in Part III accommodation is temporary—and that they will, therefore be allowed to remain in such accommodation for nine months only, from October 1 last. This is the old, old story: after nine months—eviction into the streets—children taken into care—families broken up. The letter also said that the families would not be rehoused by the Council—they had to find their own accommodation. Homelessness is no longer a reason for rehousing! This new policy by the Labour controlled Wandsworth Borough Council is a step backwards after the recent 'enlightened' thinking on homelessness following King Hill, Abridge, and Cathy Come Home.

Most of the families live in Durham Buildings, York Road, Battersea. I visited them two weeks ago and found them worried and indignant at the letter. Informal meetings were arranged and a Durham Buildings Tenants Association was formed as a result.

The first action was to send a letter to the Council, signed by 58 people, setting out our basic minimum demands:

- (a) a retraction of the letter and withdrawal of the 'nine months' threat;
- (b) an assurance that no families will be evicted into the street;
- (c) an assurance that no children will be taken into care, and all families given a decent place to live.

Unexpectedly we received a speedy reply from the Council: they would meet a deputation of three tenants, Charlie Dwyer, Jim Flower and Fred Gardiner met the whole Welfare Committee of the Wandsworth Borough Council on Wednesday, November 1. The meeting lasted for an hour, but the result was completely unsatisfactory. The Council asserted their determination to stick to their new homeless policy and refused to give assurances of any kind.

Alderman Jack Parker, Chairman of the Welfare Committee, has described his Council's policy as 'realistic and fair' (*Sunday Times*, 29.10.67) and 'a genuine social exercise' (*Guardian*, 30.10.67) and, following the receipt of the tenants' letter, asserts that he is 'not going to be browbeaten into making an irrational decision' (*Sunday Times*, 5.11.67).

This was just what was expected by

the tenants, and they are now preparing for a campaign to browbeat Alderman Parker into irrationally ending his realistic and fair genuine social experiment!!

On the night of Friday, November 3, Charlie Dwyer, Chairman of the Tenants' Association, painted on the wall of Durham Buildings, in 3 feet high letters 'Stop Council persecuting children: 100+ children need their parents, not Council homes. Rachman on Wandsworth Council. Putting families into the street will not stop housing problems.' It is the most amazing piece of slogan painting I've ever seen: it stretches about 30 yards along the wall of Durham Buildings. Unfortunately he was caught (after completing the job!) and charged with defacing property, and was conditionally discharged and bound over in the sum of £5 next day, November 4.

While Charlie was in Court the tenants met to plan the next stages in the campaign. Letters are to be written to the Ministers of Health and Housing. The Council Welfare Committee are to be invited to attend the next meeting of the tenants, to justify their policy. Mr. Kenneth Robinson, the Health Minister, will find homeless people from Durham Buildings, their friends, and representatives of the St. Pancras United Tenants Association at his private house, demanding that he helps the homeless, and tells Wandsworth Council to alter its policy.

Finally a march has been organized to the home of Alderman Jack Parker—as 'a genuine social exercise' of course!

This is where we need YOUR SUPPORT. The march starts from Durham Buildings at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 12. Some support has already been received from Nightingale Square Reception Centre, the other accommodation for the homeless in Wandsworth.

The homeless of Wandsworth are willing to struggle. They deserve your help. They must not be left to fight alone! Please come to Durham Buildings at 3 p.m. this Sunday, York Road, S.W.11, is the continuation of Battersea Park Road. Durham Buildings is about three-quarters of a mile down on the right-hand side, next to Gartons Glucose factory.

Your Support Urgently Needed

RON BAILEY
(Friends of Durham Buildings.)

MARCH WITH THE HOMELESS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 3 p.m.
DURHAM BUILDINGS
YORK ROAD, S.W.11
PLEASE COME

ANARCHY 81

DISCUSSES

Anarchists in the Russian Revolution

ANARCHY is Published by FREEDOM PRESS at 2s. on first Saturday of every month

Who Protests Against Genocide ?

A BLOODY CONFLICT is going on in the Middle East: every day women and children are being massacred by bombs from the sky. Just like Hanoi. It has lasted for several years. Just like Hanoi. But let us hear what a Frenchman has to say who has just returned from over there—the great reporter Rene Mauries (*Le Canard Enchaîné*, 5.7.1967):—

'A strange conspiracy of silence has not ceased to cover this authentic case of genocide. The various appeals to the UNO and to the universal conscience made by an oppressed people, destined to extermination, has found no answering echo. And the various letters to the heads of states, including the Pope, have remained dead letters. Will the Third World, so hypersensitive to the rights of people to dispose of their destinies, so disposed to defend its prefabricated nationalisms, and to cry "outrage" against the Whites, invoke Afro-Asiatic solidarity in order to permit the mas-

sacre, in part, of an authentic nation, descending from the mists of time, and as numerous as the people of Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait?'

'This martyr-nation, in whose fate nobody is interested, since the "great consciences" only function when some ideology is involved, is Kurdistan and the butcher is Iraq, one of the Arab states in the grand coalition against Israel.'

Rene Mauries, editor of the *Depeche du Midi*, has published a book (Editions Laffont) under the title of *Le Jourdain ou la Mort*, in which he relates what he saw in the mountain regions east of the Tigris where an entire people, arms in hand, is defending its right to exist.

He has seen Iraqi machines (Migs and Ilyushins) scatter American napalm bombs on the civilian population. 'It's a crematorium furnace poured on people's homes... only worse.' The fighters on Mount Zozek mention the weird death of many of their people, suddenly liquidated by jets of sulphuric

acid. The crime of the Kurds is that they inhabit the land of petroleum, and it is with the royalties paid by the Iraq Petroleum Company that Baghdad is financing this war, with the assistance of England, the great supplier of arms to Iraq.

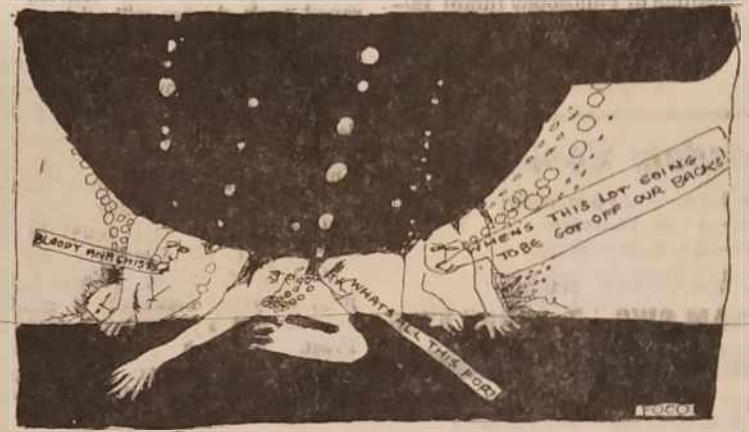
As regards General de Gaulle, he prudently 'ignores' this genocide. In fact, according to the latest news, he is preparing a commercial treaty intended to save the economy of the butcher-country.

Mauries' book is well and vividly written, and full of information, especially concerning the scandalous conduct of the UNO which pretends ignorance... for fear of being forced to condemn an Arab country!

A charming world!

From *L'Adunata Dei Refrattari* (New York, 30.9.67)

tr: j.w.s.



'Britain's latest Polaris submarine, the £55 million Repulse, went aground in shallow water today an hour after she was launched.'—Evening News, 4.11.67.

MICHAEL BLACK ON TRIAL

TWO WEEKS AGO last Wednesday Michael Abdul Malik (Michael X to the Press) was in the dock at Reading Quarter Sessions. He was charged under the 1965 Race Relations Act, Section 6 1D, i.e. for using insulting words likely to stir up race hatred. This is a test case, a show trial, the first manoeuvrings in a coming conflict between the White Law and Establishment and militant Black Power organisations. RAAS (Racial Action Adjustment Society) in which Michael is prominent and UCPA (Universal Coloured Peoples Association) which currently have four of its mili-

tants, including Roy Sawh, facing the same charge.

RAAS

A bit on what Michael is talking of. RAAS is working in a hundred unobtrusive ways to restore to the black man the spirit or self respect and economic independence that several hundred years of white supremacy have destroyed. 'You didn't exist before we discovered you.'

Black Power means provision of a nursery for 150 immigrant children in Reading, it means the building up of immigrant-owned businesses (eventually their own banks, insurance and credit facilities); it means meetings and cells up and down the country which will extend the black man's consciousness of his brother's revolutionary struggle in the Third World.

THE SPEECH

It was at such a meeting in the Rainbow Hall, Reading, that Michael tangled with the Law. Reporters he allegedly referred to as 'White Monkeys' collaborated with the police to bring a prosecution.

What did Michael say? The exact words are contested but this is the drift: That white people are vicious, soulless, nasty and untrustworthy; that 150 white savages hounded a Jamaican family in Wolverhampton and the local authorities stood by; that black men have had their heads shoved down police station lavatories and the chain pulled; and, most provocative, 'in 1958 I saw white savages kicking black women in the streets and black brothers running away. If you ever see a white man lay hands on a black woman, then kill him, kill him'. South Africans?

SICK POLICE

In court a policeman tried to hustle him into the dock. Michael turned

Continued on page 2

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STUDENTS STUDY IN SQUALOR

THE NATIONAL UNION of Students has been running a Student Housing Campaign to publicise the fact that halls of residence are not being built for the increasing number of students in places of further education and there are not enough lodgings to go round.

The lodgings which students are able to afford are often squalid, below Ministry of Housing minimum requirements, with inadequate lighting, heating, work-space, and are a considerable travelling distance from the college. How can one benefit from the educational experience of being part of a college community when one's lodgings are an hour away? It makes a college or university into a place to go to for a lecture or tutorial, not by any means a stimulating academic way of life.

The National Union of Students are negotiating on behalf of students and must be supported in their efforts, but it is disgusting that such a situation as this should have been allowed to evolve. The NUS executive has met the Department of Education and Science, and the University Grants Committee, to discuss the problem but if we have these departments, is it not reasonable to expect them to plan the programme of expansion for higher education with regard to the

fact that students have to kip somewhere! But no, we have to realise that 'government' does not mean 'guidance' and that the little-respected section of society, students themselves, will have to take the solution into their own hands.

On Friday, October 13, the London Region Organisation of the National Union of Students held a meeting at St. Pancras Town Hall to focus attention on the problem and to publicise the solutions which are being developed by the NUS. A platform of seven addressed a rather bored audience of about 200. Of course they were bored and disheartened. Students know they have a bad name and will be accused of wanting something for nothing; they know they must take action and organise 'landlady recruitment' in the area of their college, ask their parents to take in their place, during term-time, students studying at a local college. They know that they must support their Student Unions which can investigate the possibility of converting property for student houses through a housing association, but the problem is nation-wide and part of the whole housing problem. The NUS is informally negotiating with the London Borough of Camden to try to obtain a grant to build

a student-run and owned residence on the lines of those in Canada, the United States and Sweden, which are cheaper to build than the present 'prestige' halls of residence being built in Britain, which do not give maximum places for the money available. They would also be cheaper to run as they would be in the form of student-run flats requiring far less domestic staff.

Properties could be bought, built and converted with loans from building societies and other organisations which advise, and help, with student housing such as the Co-ownership Development Society and the Centre for Educational Policies, and later become self-supporting. With competent management these houses could be occupied all the year round by people such as students from abroad using them in the vacations.

Once I believed that a Labour Government would bring 'Socialism' which would centralise and co-ordinate the development of vital things like education, but yet again I have to accept that a Government, whether Socialist or Harold, having created such a problem, is not going to provide the solution, and the initiative and the effort will have to come from the students.

J.W.

MICHAEL BLACK ON TRIAL

Continued from page 1
 round and said, 'Stop pushing me around. Are you sick or something?' Such incidents most liberals overlook as they tell the black man how they will help him in his wretched plight.

The DPP works differently. Martyr Michael X? No. But convict. Then round two's charges will stick.

LAW ON TRIAL

Michael and his brothers feel it is not he that is on trial but the legal establishment. To date he has conducted his own defence. He knows no one who can speak for him as well as himself. He will expose the rough justice commonly dealt under English Law. 'Would you believe me if I told you?' he asked, when told to plead guilty or not.

And later, raising objection to the jury, as every defendant is entitled to, he quoted a TV revelation from David Frost. After a coloured man had appeared on his panel David Frost had received 150 phone calls, in all but two of which the callers said black people should go home. The Recorder then admitted, at Michael's prompting, that in order to find a jury with a reasonable prospect of impartiality, he would need not less than 900 jurymen to choose from and that this was out of the question.

THE JUDGE HELPS

Next Michael seized on a built-in injustice in the legal system. The Recorder had to admit that, unlike the American legal code, the accused could not question the jury personally. But how then,

Michael asked, would anyone be sure that the jury did not contain a member of Reading's quite considerable fascist party. The Recorder then betrayed the judiciary. 'You have to take pot luck,' he said.

Further on in the trial Michael discredited the evidence of a policeman prosecution witness. He led the Recorder to observe that Detective Constable Smees's shorthand was quite extraordinarily fast. Smees eventually admitted that the evidence he was presenting was not entirely his own shorthand notes but in fact was a composite effort written up afterwards with the aid of other police officers present at the Rainbow Hall.

HARD OF HEARING

When on Wednesday the court re-assembled the Prosecutor read out a report in *The Times* on proceedings of yesterday. Michael, everybody now heard, had called out as the first jurymen was about to swear on the bible: 'Don't pick it up, no, no, no.' The Clerk of the court (Tuesday's had earned the sack people noticed) had failed to tune in to Michael's objection in the bustle with which the Prosecution had opened the case. The Prosecution now pressed Michael to ask for a dismissal of the jury and a re-trial, hinting that there shouldn't be any risk of it being said afterward that there was a miscarriage of justice. Instead of kissing their dirty hand, Michael played it cool in his reply: 'If you take pot luck with any jury they may as well stay. I am quite happy with them.'

Anarchist Federation of Britain

General enquiries should be sent to the London Federation.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.

c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1.

Sunday evening meetings 8 p.m. Lamb & Flag, Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2 (Leicester Square tube).

NOV. 19 Professor A. J. Baker Sydney, Libertarianism

NOV. 26 Dorothy Day Catholic Worker

DEC. 3 Courtney Tulloch Black Power

LEWISHAM. Contact Mike Malet, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13

EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Ken King, 54 Norwood Road, Southall.

KING'S CROSS GROUP. c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa'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 Rogous's, now at 13 Saverne Road, London, N.W.3

2nd and 4th Friday of each month, 8 p.m., at Brenda Mercer's and dj Austin's, 80 Crouch Hill, N.8 (Finsbury Park Underground, 212 bus to door).

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month at M. Day's, 142 Walker Road, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Liz Smith's, 3 Sinclair Road. Correspondence to either address.

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

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

BELFAST: Contact Tony Adams, 11 Winetavern Street, Smithfield Square, Belfast.

BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN GROUP. All anarchists, syndicalists, individualists, etc., please contact Geoff and Caroline Charlton, top flat, 8 Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, Warley, Wores. 25 mins from Birmingham City centre. No. 9 bus.

RESISTANCE GROUP. c/o Birmingham Peace Action Centre (formerly CND office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.

BOLTON. Get in touch with Les Smith, 74 Arnold Street, Bolton, Lancs.

BRIGHTON. Get in touch with 79 Coleman Street, Brighton, 7. Poetry readings every Tuesday in Archway 187 on the Seafrost. Admission is free and all poets welcome. 8.30 p.m. onwards.

BRISTOL. Contact: Dave and Pat Thorne, 22 Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol, 6.

DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar, Fife.

EXETER ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Anthony Webb, 39 Cowick Lane, St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon.

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

HERTS. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Potters Heath Lane, Potters Heath, Welwyn, Herts OR Jeff Cloves, 46 Hughendon Road, Marshalswick, St. Albans, Herts, Saturday, October 28. Harlow anarchists on 'Anarchy in New Towns' at 10 Fry Road, Chelms, Stevenage, 8 p.m.

HULL ANARCHIST GROUP, c/o J. Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Beverley Road, Hull.

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

ISLINGTON, LONDON. Next meeting at the General Picton pub, Caledonian Road (near Kings Cross) at 8 p.m., Friday, November 3.

KILBURN, LONDON. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.

LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Group meets the first Monday in each month 7.15 p.m. at 91 Brook Street, Tiptree, Essex. For further information write P. Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex.

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.

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

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

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

ROCHDALE. Please contact Richard Crawford, 4 Harrgrave Street, Sudden, Rochdale.

SHEFFIELD RADICAL GROUP. Contact

S.R.G., 31 Harcourt Road, Sheffield, 10. SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY GROUP. Contact Robin Lovell c/o Students' Union, Sheffield University.

SLOUGH ANARCHIST GROUP AND 'HIPPIE' GROUP. Contact B. P. Norcott, 116 Lower Cippenhams Lane, Slough, Bucks. Meetings every other Friday.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX ANARCHIST GROUP. We would love to hear from fellow-sympathisers in area. All enquiries to M. Powell, 7 Lingeroff, Basildon, Essex.

S.W. LONDON LIBERTARIANS. Meet every Thursday, 7.30 p.m. at 14 Clapham Court, King's Avenue (Acre Lane end), S.W.4.

SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP meets alternate Thursdays and Saturdays, on Eel Pie Island. Contact P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.

TROWBRIDGE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact P. Weston, Chivele, Butts Lane, Keevil, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Meetings every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. Friends' Meeting House (opp. Bus Station).

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

WEST ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

To be serviced by a newsletter and three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals are invited to associate: c/o Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow.

Epping contact John Barwick, 14 Centre Avenue. Harlow contact John Deards, 184 Carter's Mead and/or Geoff Hardy, 6 Redrick's Lane.

Loughton: c/o Students' Union, Loughton College of Further Education, Loughton, Essex.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Regional Secretary: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. BUXTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: F. A. Gresty, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton.

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Alistair T. Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP AND 'HIPPIE' MOVEMENT. Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to—

Deaf Listener

Dear Editor,

Some, but not all of us, are increasingly less enthusiastic about the behaviour of the American Government, at home and abroad. This is the second time I have tried to interject this opinion, admittedly from an anarchist viewpoint, into the Listener, and failed. Consequently, I ask your indulgence a second time—not because FREEDOM requires anyone to express these rather commonplace views—but because it might be just as well that readers of the Listener observe the sort of brief letter it is no longer their policy to print.

Yours sincerely,

London, S.W.1 DACHINE RAINER.

Sir,

As one of that 'considerable minority of Americans' I wish to applaud Graham Hough's view (*Listener*, 19.10.67) that British tolerance of the infiltration of American political, military and economic programme and attitudes constitutes a serious—in my opinion, a mortal—threat to its own remaining liberties and because it is almost too obvious to say, I hope Mr. Hough means it to be understood that Britain's cultural traditions are equally in jeopardy from these sources.

We, who know at first hand and in tediously stupefying detail, the infinite varieties of American repression and brutality—and are frightened both by the virulent contagiousness of the American 'influence' and the peculiar vulnerability of the British to the disease—support Mr. Hough's intention to oppose it at every opportunity. Further, he is altogether correct in saying that while communism is a threat, it is irrelevant to the danger under discussion.

Is it going to become as impossible in England as in the US to say 'a plague on both your houses'? Surely, many of us have developed a resistance to playing this game of 'lesser' evils into which the prevailing propaganda of our respective countries would corral us. We, who saw little to choose between Stalin and Hitler and, I might add, a score of other leaders and would not be herded into the game then (preferring the wisdom of political prisoners in my country and elsewhere to the demagogues of either 'our' leaders or their natural enemies—the heads of other governments), see as little to choose between Johnson, Kosygin or Mao. . . . In fact, our survival may well depend on our recognition of the similarities rather than the differences between the states these men respectively top.

We oppose them all, remembering, however, that it is moral and most efficacious to engage, as Graham Hough suggests, the enemy already infiltrating us—the American—rather than the ones we are warned in future to expect—the Russian and Chinese.

London, S.W.1 DACHINE RAINER.

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Julian Ross, 111 King Edwards Road, Brynmill, Swansea.

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 36 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

PROPOSED GROUPS

MUCH HADHAM, HERTS. Get in touch with Leslie Riordan, High Street, Much Hadham, Herts.

LONDON; NOTTING HILL. Please get in touch with John Bennett and Marilyn Faddy, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, London, W.11 Tel.: 727 9745.

TORONTO, CANADA. Any Torontonians interested in Anarchism please contact Leonard Park, 108 Silverhill Drive, Islington, Ontario, Canada.

EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS. Please contact Tim Deane, 'Juliet', West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset. Ferndown 3588.

CORNWALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact A. C. Jacob, 76 East Hill, St. Austell, Cornwall.

WOLVERHAMPTON. Contact Martin Bashforth at 11 Lyndhurst Road, Wolverhampton.

ABROAD

AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. 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. Gøthersgade, 27 Viborg, Denmark.

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 184 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel.: 987-2693.

USA: VERMONT. New Hampshire Anarchist Group. Meets weekly—discussion, individual action. Contact Ed. Strauss at 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, 608 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.

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

EAST AFRICA. George Matthews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from UK. P.O. Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.

USA. James W. Cain, secretary, Insurgency Anarchist Association, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.

GROUP/TREASON. Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or A.R. Giles Peters, c/o same.

In Defence of Catholic Anarchists

THE POPE and Deadly Anarchy' by Dave Coull (FREEDOM, 28.10.67) is not really fair to Catholic anarchists, although had I read it a few years ago I would have been the first to say, 'That goes double for me'. Admittedly Dave's arguments are unassailable in their logic, but in this insane society none of us is consistent short of being in prison on a hunger strike.

By way of background I was born an atheist, as was every other human being including all those crazy popes Dave cites, and have spent three-quarters of my life as one. Admittedly there were ten embarrassing years in my past, specifically age five to fifteen, wherein I succumbed to family pressures, etc., and went through all that imbecilic voodoo. In fact I even stooped so low as to receive the sacrament of confirmation from Francis (sic) Cardinal Spellman. In those days he was merely an Archbishop and I like to think that Mr. G. didn't veto the promotion only because he couldn't face up to how ineffectual poor Porky Pig could be in certain instances. At present two members of my immediate family are priests, one of whom is simultaneously a grandfather (FREEDOM'S editors can verify this oddity). But the final affront was the recent morning I awoke to discover I was a Catholic once again. Rome had just announced that anyone married by a non-Catholic clergyman was no longer excommunicated—you could take your business else-

where. Some days it hardly pays to get up. In fact I was complaining of this situation to a Catholic friend and she responded, 'But you still can't receive Communion!' 'Of course not,' quipped yours truly, 'I'm a vegetarian.'

All in all I can assure Dave that I detest the Catholic Church as an institution to an extent very few people can even match, let alone exceed. However in the case of Catholic anarchists, notably those of the Catholic Worker, I've been forced over the past several years to make a number of mental adjustments. What's more, I happily donate both money and clothes to the CW, and have sent out hundreds of copies of their remarkable monthly paper at the cost of my own time and expense. Expense? It costs 1c per copy or 25c for an annual subscription. This sort of multiplication ($12 \times 1 = 25$) suggests that Catholicism's arithmetic vies with its theology.

When I first moved to New York City I discovered that every demonstration—without exception—included a contingent from the Catholic (ugh, that word) Worker. Barely had my weltanschauung absorbed this when I realized that once the police barricades were up, the CWs were invariably the first ones slipping under to offer civil disobedience. Meanwhile in the purity of my materialistic anarchism I would continue picketing legally while asking myself, 'What is wrong with this picture?' Unfortunately

I can ill afford to enlist for jail but this doesn't decrease either my admiration or envy when I see these crazy, benighted, ubiquitous Catholic anarchists charging forth joyously to confront the state at the slightest opportunity. The more I thought about how many arrests Dorothy Day has under her belt, the less I worried about what kind of belt it might be.

Reflect on the fact that Ammon Hennacy has never paid one cent in income taxes! Moreover, never one to be modest, he annually pickets the nearest office of the District Director of Internal Revenue—often single-handedly—giving out leaflets explaining the principles and reasons for tax-refusal. Dorothy Day has a similar record, and I quote from a letter I received about a year and a half ago from Tom Cornell:

'Dorothy, by the way, has never paid a cent to IRS. Even in the 1920s. The tax man came in several years ago and asked her about it. He pointed out that she had never filed a tax return or a statement of her income. She allowed as that was so. He pointed out that she had written six books, had been a writer in Hollywood, Mexico, Capri and the US, and that she was paid for lectures. She said that she threw the money she made into the same pot as everybody around the CW and that she took what she needed. He asked her to estimate what she had earned in the

last ten years. She said she couldn't do that. We don't keep that kind of records. He asked her to try. She told him to try, to make an estimate of what she had earned, and what she owed, and then she wouldn't pay it. The tax man threw up his arms in despair and hasn't been back since.'

Remember also that when Congress passed its hysterical law against destroying draft cards—which was superfluous because it had always been illegal—the first person to burn his card publicly was David Miller, a Catholic Worker anarchist. With consummate individualism he disrupted the country to an extent that would have enraptured Stirner. Another Catholic Worker, Karl Meyer, applied for another draft card to replace the ashes of his old one, tore it up, and mailed the pieces to the Attorney General. Meyer, incidentally, was one of the six pacifists who waltzed off to Saigon last year to lay non-violence one the line.

In November 1965 five men burned their draft cards at a huge rally in NYC. Among them were Roy Lisker, James E. Wilson, and Tom Cornell, all connected with the Catholic Worker. Three out of five is certainly a healthy ratio.

But rather than go on and on indefinitely in defence of Catholic anarchists, let's consider the ultimate in courage and self-sacrifice: the first self-immolation in the United States was Alice Herz, a Quaker; the second was Norman Morrison, also a Quaker; and the third was Roger LaPorte, a Catholic Worker. What else is there to say?

R.S.C.

LETTERS

Why Anarchists left the March

I SHOULD LIKE to give my account of the Sunday, October 22, Vietnam demonstration, organised by the 'Vietnamese Slaughter Campaign'. Not because it is necessary to contradict 'G.G.' but to emphasise some important points which, I feel, he has neglected.

(a) The anarchists were nearly mobbed by thugs and political illiterates—the 'socialists' who praised 'patriotism' and 'nationalism'—when they persisted in opposing the infantile shrieks for blood.

(b) We didn't just 'stand aside', we left, and attempted to withdraw from the funeral procession anyone with an ounce of sanity—in doing so enlarged the march behind the Notting Hill and Harlow flags from a few dozen to 300 and more.

(c) The brunt of the first confrontation in Grosvenor Square was borne by our comrades—the loud-mouthed 'free-

dom fighters' hung back as usual.

The results: A number of our comrades were arrested. The VSC received all the publicity.

In mobilising the anti- and non-VSC elements behind our banners we provided a useful 'leadership' (all our activities were in fact spontaneous) and worried the 'revolutionaries' with the megaphones into asking the police to deal with us.

The lessons: We can attract people from all groups by making an honest stand. The masses behind the NLF flags cannot defend their position; however fluent the leadership, they have to resort to threats, i.e. they are susceptible to propaganda (the Notting Hill comrades gave out a particularly good short leaflet). Although we can make an impact on the march (what's new?), WE don't get through to the mass media (the original idea of such demonstrations—remember?).

It has been oft repeated that we need to organise our own demonstrations. We must get down to work on this—providing cannon- (sorry) truncheon-fodder for

other people is not very satisfactory.

G.G. asks an irrelevant question about the existence of anarchism in Vietnam, we claimed not to support any Vietnamese comrades, but rather the desire of the majority of the people to go on living—there is substantial evidence of this desire! G.G. ended his article with a rousing piece about a wrecked embassy as an 'act of solidarity'—he forgot, or doesn't know of, the permanent guard of armed marines inside. Fighting the blue cossacks we may do, but G.G. must be careful or his 'act of solidarity' will be one more row of corpses. He quite correctly categorised the VSC speakers 'unintelligible rantings'—we don't need such fiery, but ill-considered, exhortations flung at us from the pages of FREEDOM.

Harlow

NIHIL.

Incest—A Correction

Dear Editors,

In his article 'Legal?—but not necessarily compulsory', A. Meltzer claims that the 'medical profession have proved' that incest has 'no dire medical consequences'. This is just not so. Two recent studies by Adams, M. S. and Neel, J. V. (*Journal of Pediatrics*, 69, 975, 1966) and Carter, C. O. (*Lancet*, i, 436, 1967) between them record the consequences, i.e. the children produced from 31 incestuous unions (19 brother-sister, 12 father-daughter). Of these 31 children only 12 (38.7%) were normal.

Incest is illegal or discouraged in most societies because it is the accumulated experience of these societies that the offspring of incestuous unions are fre-

quently abnormal. Presumably it would not be encouraged in a libertarian society. Freedom to enjoy one's sexual deviations with a consenting partner may be part of the anarchist philosophy; does it also include the freedom to inflict suffering on the next generation?

Salford

J. TIMSON.

Small Press Movement

Dear Friends,

Cavan McCarthy's gentle apologetics (FREEDOM, 21.10.67) for his 'expanding current of the small press movement' is a typical public-relations job in that it cleverly ignores the very arguments it is supposedly answering.

Cavan is a relative newcomer to the small press movement and is perhaps unaware, apart from some theoretical history, of the movement's original anarchistic aspirations and intentions, and is thus unable to 'evaluate its regression from such ideals. Not that he is much concerned with literary anarchism, protest or dissent. His own poetry sheet *Tlaloc* will only print 'happy' poems and he once praised concrete poetry on the grounds that 'it is impossible to write a sad concrete poem' (*Icon*, January 1966). Somewhat sadly reminiscent of the hippy San Francisco *Oracle's* refusal to print anything with 'bad vibrations'. This deliberate literary escapism from the more unpleasant aspects of reality is unfortunately symptomatic of the small press movement today in this country.

Blackburn

DAVE CUNLIFFE.

Through the Anarchist Press

IN MADRID the Public Order Tribunal sentenced two men for illegal propaganda after they had posted leaflets on various posts in Asturias last December. The leaflets criticised the political regime and the Organic Law of State. Their sentences consisted of six months and one day imprisonment and fines of 10,000 pesetas (£60).

Pedro Lezcano Montalvo (national poetry prize), author of the poem 'Council of Peace' in which he 'injured and defamed' the armed forces, is to be brought before a military tribunal for a second time. Together with Salvador Sagaseta and Juan Hernández, he was dismissed by the previous tribunal, but the Captain-General of the Canary Islands refused to accept the decision.

Twenty-one people in Vitoria, N. Spain, have been detained for 'clandestine activities' in the latest swoop by the Guardia Civil. One of the detainees is a young lady.

It is known that one of the detainees has been vigorously interrogated continuously for eighteen hours. After this ordeal he was submitted to another session of eleven hours for not having given satisfactory answers. This session involved some brutality on the part of the authorities and afterwards he was again questioned for three hours.

The authorities apparently did not extract the information they required and failed to break the spirit of the young man.

BREAD

The bakery workers of Sanlúcar de Barrameda recently turned up at work in one mind. They were determined to produce only the normal size loaf of 800 grammes, and to discontinue making the smaller ones known as 'luxury loaves'. The owners of the bakery refused to accept this decision and the workers have 'retired from work'.

RUSSIAN OIL

Two Russian tankers have delivered 95,000 tons of crude oil to the port of

Cartagena, Spain. The petroleum was destined for the refinery at Escambreras.

Every year, according to the agreement, the Russians are obliged to provide Franco with 500,000 tons of crude oil.

The editor of the Spanish satirical journal *La Cordorniz*, a Sr. Alvaro de la Iglesia, was fined the sum of 7,500 pesetas (£47) recently for the 'crime' of publishing articles and drawings alluding to contraceptive devices. Another, A. Nestor Luján, editor of the journal *Destino* in Barcelona, has been fined 50,000 pesetas (£312) for publishing a 'letter to the editor' describing some of the student activities in Barcelona.

BOOKS

The Spanish National Institute of Books has reported that 12,000 titles were published in Spain in 1966. According to the same source, out of every ten sold, nine were in either Madrid or Barcelona. It may easily be calculated how few are ever read in the rest of the country.

Tierra y Libertad, published in Mexico, draws attention to a report published in Chile this year.

A study over two months in mid-1966 revealed that 6.4% of the total labour force of Chile was unemployed, and that for every ten people who work, there are twenty-four who do not. In 1952 the proportion was 10:18.

The figures were put down to the still poor educational facilities available in that country, but the report stressed that great advances were being made in that field. In fact, the report shows that there are 360,000 young people between the ages of 12 and 19 who are not receiving nor have any chance of receiving education of any kind.

In addition to the unemployment figures, it is shown that during the time of the survey, 100,000 people were obliged to work abnormally short hours.

Source: *Le Combat Syndicaliste*.

tr: B.B.

Pleasure Bent

DRINK

GEORGE BROWN GETS pissed and shoots his mouth off. He is therefore unfitted to represent Britain in the councils of the world. So the argument runs.

It is reminiscent of the criticism of John Profumo. The Minister of War should be above reproach. An ordinary man may be allowed extramarital sex but the politician in charge of the delicate task of ensuring that all our rockets are pointing in the right direction must not be so indiscreet. Between the wrong sheets or in his cups a politician may be a security risk so he must restrain himself.

There is of course another way of looking at this. If alcohol and sex are acceptable diversions, why should certain people be deprived of them? Granted that there is a conflict between being a politician and indulging yourself, why not keep the pleasure and forget the politics?

I hope George gets the sack—for his sake. Then he can drink as much as he likes and abuse the Sunday papers like the rest of us. Only one regret: without him the PR operation that is called politics will be a far less entertaining spectacle.

DRUGS

THE DISTINCTION between hard and soft drugs can be useful. The fact that the authorities can imprison us for possessing hash or LSD—while alcohol remains generally available—is an obvious absurdity.

So is the argument that soft drugs should remain illegal to reduce the incidence of hard drug addiction. Of course some heroin addicts start with hash. Some whisky drinkers start with beer—and before that milk and orange juice. As has frequently been pointed out the legislation of hash might well have the effect that a smaller number of people would turn to heroin. It can hardly be disputed—we are constantly being told—that hash and heroin are likely to be available in the same kinds of situations: sold by the same people, at the same clubs, at the same parties.

And if you do start on hash after being warned that it is addictive your discovery that it is not may well lead you to be sceptical about warnings that heroin is addictive.

Compare the Catholics—and others—who attack both unmarried mothers and their wiser sisters who use contraceptives and abortion. If your priority is to help people avoid having babies they don't want, then it is silly to discourage them from taking the necessary precautions. Sex is here to stay.

Similarly, if you wish to discourage people from getting hooked on heroin, it's silly to pretend that heroin and hash have the same consequences. Hash is also here to stay.

But the State is absurd. This we know. More important, perhaps, than this ridiculous attitude towards soft drugs, is the State's prohibition of drugs as such. From a libertarian point of view laws against drugs are, in themselves, objectionable. And the distinction between the hard and the soft is not important.

Both hash and heroin are pleasures which the State tries to deny us—which it punishes us for enjoying. Some of these pleasures are generally thought to be dangerous; that is irrelevant.

I do not want to be told: You may not experiment with heroin because we do not think it is good for you. And I do not want to be jailed if I am caught with a syringe in my arm. Just as I do not want to be prevented from reading the books I want to read, from seeing the movies I want to see, from going to the countries I want to visit. And all the rest.

Rights have nothing to do with the matter. 'Rights' were a slogan of the bourgeoisie to justify their takeover from feudalism. 'Rights' are now a comforting fiction for the liberal who wants the State to do the dirty work he thinks it ought to do—and emerge with clean hands.

To have the right to do something implies that there are things one does not have the right to do. And to demand one's rights admits authority's claim to withhold them if it chooses.

We do not petition for our rights—or fight for them. But if we want a society without authority—anarchy—it makes sense to support those people who are threatened by the State, whose actions challenge its authority—and whose victory would enlarge the area of everybody's freedom.

FOOTBALL

I HAVE ALWAYS maintained that the proper place for nationalism is on the football field rather than the battlefield. The Scots seem to find the distinction hard to maintain.

WYNFORD HICKS.

G.G.

The End of the Myton Dispute

THE MYTON strike committee have ended the picketing of the Barbican site. This decision was announced on November 2 to a mass meeting, following a short march through the City in solidarity with those arrested on October 16.

This march was supported by only about 500 people and it must be admitted that this was a disappointing showing. Those who did turn out were building workers from Liverpool and Manchester, delegates from some engineering factories in Willesden, students from a number of universities and individual workers who took a day off to show some solidarity. The adjacent sites of Laings and Turriffs had taken a decision to support the demonstration, but only a handful actually showed up. It was obvious that most of the men were working normally.

The fact is that support has fallen off and, if the strikers had carried on, they would have been in danger of isolating themselves.

The strike committee, in a printed statement, says, 'The Myton Strike Committee on the basis of a majority decision by those still involved in our 53-week-long struggle now feels that we have achieved all that is possible in view of the forces which have recently been ranged against us—i.e. the employers, National Federation of Building Trade Operatives' leaders, Cameron

and the Ministry of Labour and police, and we have now decided to lift the picket.

'Such an unprecedented line-up cannot be defeated by the continuation of the Myton picket, or by the struggle on one or a few sites. It can only be defeated by the conscious and united action of all workers throughout the building industry.'

This was not forthcoming, but at least a start has been made in this direction, otherwise this dispute would not have lasted the 53 weeks it did. As the strike committee says, 'At this solidarity demonstration with the 24 pickets on trial, Myton Strike Committee thanks the tens of thousands of workers in many industries and professions and the hundreds of trade union branches which have backed us. Without their unstinted moral and financial support we could never have maintained our struggle for 53 weeks.'

WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED

This dispute has shown the extent of the forces that are ranged against workers who put up a determined struggle for what they think is a true and just cause. The trade union leaders have done their utmost to break this determined stand. Expelling and re-expelling Lou Lewis and Rolph Langdon, sacking District Secretary, Jack Rusca, disbanding works committees on other sites and, finally, openly linking up with the employers with advertisements in the press, costing £13,000, which invited trade unionists to 'scab'. Who is paying for these advertisements. According to the *Financial Times*, no one seems to know, or at least the union leaders were not saying, but you can bet it will be the members themselves who will have to stand the cost.

Not only have the police been used to violently attack the pickets and protect the 'scabs', but Special Branch men have disguised themselves as workers and attended meetings. (*Sunday Telegraph*, 29.10.67.)

This is the extent of the attack on workers who make a determined stand and it is a lesson for all workers. The stand was worth making and those who made it should be

saluted for it. This dispute has shown up the combination of the forces of the trade union leadership, the employers, the Government and the State that workers face in struggle, and in this it has been worthwhile.

Building workers have learnt, through this struggle, how unbridgeable is the gulf that exists between them and their executives and how little control they have over these elected national officials. It is to be hoped that the lessons are learnt and that old mistakes are not repeated. It is no good getting rid of a 'right wing' leadership for a 'left wing' one, for the past shows us that they in turn move to the 'right' and we are back where we started.

JOINT SITES COMMITTEE
The best and most effective organisation of the struggle has been the Joint Sites Committee. It is this and similar organisations in other industries that union leaders, whether 'right or left wing', want to smash. However, these organisations can form an effective weapon in the struggles of workers, for they can link up militants in many industries, preventing disputes from remaining isolated affairs. They will then become, as Lou Lewis says, 'the property of the Labour Movement'. By the Labour Movement, I mean the rank and file and not any politicians who build up a movement only to control it and, if they find this is not possible, then they destroy it. This should always be guarded against.

Regarding the actual demonstration of solidarity with the 24 pickets who were arrested, the march, planned to go to the Guildhall, was banned by the police. It was thought that it would cause too much traffic congestion, unlike the State Opening of Parliament by the Queen. If there had been more on the demonstration, the ban would probably have made little difference.

Of the 17 who appeared in dock, 14 were fined amounts ranging from £1 to £20, plus costs, while the other three cases were dismissed. Seven more cases are to be tried later and these men were granted renewed bail.

P.T.

American Factory Lock-out

THE CONSOLIDATED PNEUMATIC TOOL CO. has two factories in the north-east of Scotland; one at Aberdeen which employs 200 workers and another in Fraserburgh, which is larger, with 670 men. The company is a subsidiary of the giant Caterpillar group and produces mainly compressors and hand-tools.

Fraserburgh (the Broch) lies about 40 miles north of Aberdeen in a huge agricultural area. It is mainly a fishing village and apart from curing plants, the CPT factory is the only industrial unit in the place. Further, the social life of the whole area is dominated by the Brethren, a bigoted religious sect. These conditions are not at first sight likely to promote industrial militancy. However, trouble has flared up at CPT and the struggle looks like being a long and bitter one. Towards the end of September a work-to-rule was begun in order to exact from the management a basic pay and bonus rates equivalent to those paid in Aberdeen. The management replied with a point-blank refusal to consider the matter and when the work-to-rule showed no sign of collapsing, they locked out the entire labour force.

The workers have now been locked out for six weeks, and according to A. Noble, the local AEU convener, neither the union nor the management have

shown any signs of backing down. Financial support is being received by the Broch workers from those in Aberdeen, who are, unfortunately, still working normally. On November 1, 150 leaflets urging more financial support and a work-to-rule were given out by an Aberdeen comrade at the Aberdeen factory, and these were very well received. The conduct of the national AEU has been disgraceful; at first they ignored repeated cables and letters asking for financial and other help and only when the strike was in its fifth week was the first instalment of strike pay received.

Recently the Ministry of Labour intervened and there have been preliminary talks between union and management in Glasgow and full-scale talks to find a basis for a return to work began on November 6. A strike of this nature and duration is an almost revolutionary advance for the Broch and it would be a great pity if anything other than total victory were achieved. However, this is unlikely unless much wider sympathetic action is taken by the Aberdeen workers and the national AEU answers the call from the Broch to declare 'black' all CPT products.

I.R.M.

(Send donations to: Strike Fund, c/o R. Thomson, 81 Watermill Road, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.)

Freedom For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 11 1967 Vol 28 No 34

WHAT'S A BARON OF BEEF?

'The great majority of our people in our Union are lucky to see a basic wage of £11-£12 a week.'

Tom Smith, Joint General Secretary, SOGAT, speaking at the 1967 Labour Party Conference.

IT SEEMS THAT the International Graphical Federation recently had its Triennial Meeting in London. The current issue of the *SOGAT Journal* is full of it. They don't tell us much about what was said or decided, but what the delegates ate and drank and the general good time that was had by all is described in positively lyrical prose.

Says Tom Smith, on page 11 of the *Journal*: 'SOGAT entertained the foreign guests to a dinner at the Europa Hotel... the ASLP gave them a wonderful dinner at the Stationers Hall in the City of London. The pomp and ceremony of this great historical event was very impressive... a specially designed programme in three languages, an exceptional cabaret, and the Guards Band in full uniform in the Minstrels Gallery.' He goes on: 'The week commenced with a function in the House of Commons and closed with a dinner at the Savoy Hotel.'

WHO WAS THERE?

That is three slap-up dinners so far—but there is more to come. On page 39 of the *Journal* there is another fulsome account of the feasting. We read of an 'inaugural dinner at the Guildhall in the City of London (where) the toast was proposed by Richard Briginshaw, Vice-President of the Printing & Kindred Trades Federation, who coupled the toast with the names of the principal guests, George Woodcock, CBE, and (guess who?)... Cecil King, Chairman of the International Publishing Corporation.'

The *Journal's* reporter was very pleased about this because, he says, 'This enabled the delegates to hear the replies of George Woodcock and Cecil King.' He then goes on to discuss which of the print unions gave the best do—and he awards the prize to the ASLP for their glorious nosh in the Stationers Hall (where) 'a Singing Chef brought in a Baron of Beef to provide a suitable entry for the main dish'.

FROM RAGS TO RICHES

A Singing Chef with a Baron of Beef! How about that! From rags to riches! We've made it brothers! It's true that the majority of our members 'are lucky to see a basic wage of £11-£12 a week' but never mind, we have at last provided our leaders with sufficient funds and status to dine in the Guildhall, eat Barons of Beef, drink toasts to Cecil King, and listen to the Guards Band in full uniform! There's progress for you. The Guards Band in full uniform was a nice touch. What did they play? 'God Save Our Gracious Queen'? Selections from 'Merrie England'?

Incidentally, what is a Baron of Beef? One of my members thought it was Lord Thomson, but I think he must be wrong. No Chef, singing or otherwise, could carry that load into the festivities.

Oh, in case I forget, the NGA also threw a party for the foreign guests—a reception and cocktail party which the *SOGAT Journal* says 'was of a very high standard. The setting and spacious circumstances allowed for free conversation and participation in all the good things provided'.

RAISE HIGH YOUR GLASSES!

The *Journal* ends its account of the week's festivities with these never-to-be-forgotten words: 'The British Unions as a whole should be proud... of the trade unions in the printing industry

(for) providing the facilities for the delegates and their wives to see so many aspects of our history, tradition and high standard of efficiency in a number of aspects of our national life.'

So the next time you are raising your glass to drink a toast to Cecil King and preparing to lay into the Baron of Beef, remember that, thanks to our hard-working national officials, this 'aspect of our national life', this everyday experience of printworkers, has now been shown to the worthy delegates from the International Graphical Federation!

How about a vote of thanks? No? You'd sooner see our £11-£12 a week members get a £5 rise? You think the unions should come under rank and file control? You think our officials should fight Cecil King and not drink his health? You're right, brothers, you're dead bloody right!

A SOGAT FOC

Gunter Speaks!

Fearless... Outspoken
Exclusive in next week's *Freedom*
an interview no red and black
militant should miss
'MY BED OF NAILS'
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Order YOUR Copy
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Support needed

MOVING FUND
Target for moving and renovation of new place: £500.
Received to date £165 14s. 6d.
The balance of the money is needed urgently and also offers of help for moving and general repair work.

PREMISES FUND
Target is £1,000 per year. So far £164 p.a. has been pledged by comrades and well-wishers.

Total number of pledges: 34.
We must have all the pledges in by the end of the year.

HEY!

WEEKS 43 & 44, NOVEMBER 4, 1967:
Expenses: 44 weeks at £90: £3960
Income: Sales and Subs.: £2885

DEFICIT: £1075

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*Denotes regular contributor.
Gift of Books—London, S.W.1: E.B. and D.R.

Contact Column

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

Help wanted to pay debts, loans will be honoured. Douglas Kepper, Box 67.

Middle East Study Group. 7.30 p.m. November 14, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

Student Peace Conference. November 11 and 12 in Oxford. Contact Chris Reeve, Merton College, Oxford.

Information wanted. CID surveillance on politically activist students. University journal. Box 68.

Glasgow Anarchist Banner. Where is it? Tell Andy McGowan, 753 London Road, Glasgow, S.E.

Girl wants flat in Anarchist/Left household in Islington / North / N.W. London. Solvent. Box 69.

Arts Festival anyone? Salford Art Gallery. Provisional date: January 20, 21, 1968. Contact David Stringer, c/o International Centre, 64 George Street, Manchester, 7.

Libertarian Prisoners' Fund. To send money and food to anarchists in prison. Secretary: Stuart Christie (c/o Freedom Press).

Green Revolution? New book, 'Go Ahead and Live!' Tells how. \$4 from The School of Living, Brookville, Ohio 45309.

International Anarchist Camp 1969. Proposed to hold it in S.E. England—offers of assistance, suggestions for suitable sites to Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex.

'Save Greece Now' Defence Fund. Donations for Terry, Mike and Del) to Bretta Carthey, 8 Vincent Square Mansions, Walcott Street, London, S.W.1.

Pirate Press. In spite of savage sentence passed on Terry Chandler, the Pirate Press is still going, under the management of Mike Seaman and Neill Collins, 116 Whitfield Street, W.1. 01-387 8864.

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If you wish to make contact let us know.