

# White Man's Country

## FREEDOM PRESS

## RAIDED

COLOURED IMMIGRANTS first arrived in Britain in large numbers after World War II, at a time when British employers were in need of unskilled labour. Shortly afterwards racist propaganda began to spring up in the way it has always done, as the ally of reaction.

Mosley and the remnants of pre-war Fascism saw a chance to gain popular support.

Tories, especially in the Midlands, saw a new bandwagon to jump on. Unlike the Tories in Parliament they saw no need for euphemism.

Birmingham Tory councillors such as Donald Finney had no hesitation in using publicly words such as 'niggers' and 'black invasion'. They soon found more important allies such as Sir Cyril Osborne, MP, who was also quite open about his wish to keep Britain 'a white man's country'.

By 1961 they had captured the whole Tory Party and the first Commonwealth Immigrants Act, restricting immigration was passed. At the time Labour opposed immigration curbs, but as election time approached votes became more important than principles and Labour backed the curbs.

However this did not prevent the Tories utilising racist propaganda in the 1964 election. Ironically, the chief victim was the Labour MP for Smethwick, Patrick Gordon Walker who, as Attlee's Colonial Secretary, had helped to depose the Bechuanaland chief, Seretse Khama, because he had married a white woman. As the pressure from the racists mounted the Labour government reacted with its habitual response to pressure from the right, whether from racists, international bankers or the USA—it surrendered. In 1965 the aptly-named Immigration White Paper further cut immigration.

The racists temporarily found further agitation difficult in view of the completeness of Labour's surrender. It was hard for the most extreme racists to pretend that the occasional arrival of small groups of illegal immigrants on

the South coast presented any serious threat to the white race.

However in February, 1968, the answer came. The government of Kenya, which the British press had built up as 'moderate' and 'statesmanlike' (meaning it had not interfered with British finance and gave only the minimum of aid to freedom fighters in Rhodesia and South Africa), was in the process of showing Vorster and Ian Smith that they had no monopoly in bigotry.

Asians who were facing discrimination in that country were fleeing to Britain, having been granted British passports when Kenya became independent. Duncan Sandys, the friend of Ian Smith and the hangman, asked the government what they proposed to do about this influx.

At first this campaign seemed a non-starter. A clear pledge had been given by the British government. According to the *Sunday Times*, Sandys figure of 250,000 Asians was inaccurate and the true figure was rather under 100,000. Only the *Express* backed Sandys. His Shadow Cabinet colleague Iain Macleod opposed him in an article in the *Spectator*.

But those who expected the anti-Asian campaign to flop had reckoned without the cowardice of the Government. By-elections were pending and, since the racists had votes and the Kenya Asians none, the Government's action was obvious. In Human Rights Year, which Wilson himself had backed, the Government sent an emissary to Kenya asking it to take steps to prevent Asians from freely leaving the country. But the Kenyan government, having its own racists to appease, was unhelpful.

Accordingly the British government drafted the Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1968, a remarkable piece of legislation which established the principles that the administration was free to break its pledges at any time it became politically convenient and that British subjects could be deprived of their passports at will.

Never was any attempt made to hide the racist provisions of the Act. Just who was referred to by phrases such as 'persons with British passports without any substantial connection with this country' could not have been clearer had they been expressed in the phraseology of Hitler's Nuremberg laws.

When questioned on who were meant by 'non-belongers', Lord Shackleton, Government spokesman in the Lords, replied that he thought that was obvious. And does anyone doubt that when South

Africa's negroes exact their revenge for a century of oppression many of the supporters of this Act will be the first to welcome their former enslavers as refugees?

In a decade, racism in Britain has advanced from being the property of insignificant Fascist groups to a point where every colour bar landlady and every Nazi or Mosleyite slogan-dauber and window-smasher knows that basically the Labour Government is on their side.

And there is no reason to believe that this is the end. In view of Wilson's surrenders so far it is at least possible that those immigrants who expect all coloured people to be deported from England within ten years are correct.

There is no reason for the trend to be altered so long as Wilson knows that racism gains votes and the left wingers, who oppose his racist policy, will continue to support him at election time.

It is for this reason that we applaud the Bishop of Woolwich's resignation from the Labour Party although we wish that he had not decided to join the Liberals.

How can racism be fought? The Labour Government's policy has shown the futility of the lobby-your-MP approach of the old leadership of the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination.

Likewise the treatment of Asians by the Kenya government has shown the emptiness of the talk of 'Afro-Asian solidarity' and 'the third world' we hear from those 'Black Power' advocates whose political activity consists largely of entertaining the crowds at Speakers' Corner.

However, the 3,000-strong march against the Immigration Act shows that the potential for an anti-racist movement exists in this country.

If such a movement is to accomplish anything it must be prepared to organise on a local level against employers who discriminate against coloured workers, against white and black slum landlords and police who find immigrants an easy target.

These campaigns are clearly in the interest of black and white. If employers are allowed to underpay coloured workers this will create a reservoir of cheap labour ready to be used as strike breakers.

If black and white tenants fight each other only the landlords will gain.

If the police are permitted to victimise immigrants they will use the same techniques against others.

ROGER SANDELL

FREEDOM PRESS WAS RAIDED on Tuesday, February 27, and searched for explosive substances. The four plain-clothed men, headed by Sgt. Ferguson of West End Central police station, came from Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa in the office.

The sergeant, as yet unidentified, asked if I was the manager or owner and was told for coming in here using dirty words. He then presented the search

in the office they went through our post boxes and postage stamps. They went into part of the premises, and looked behind some of the books. They asked Jack who did the Embassy bomb, and was asked if I had an answer.

He showed most interest in a small, black room where the duplicator and which is stacked with great quantities of old magazines, rolls of wall-tint and tins of paint left by the pre-occupant, and remnants of garden-hoses lying under the dust of the years since the back garden was

the officer was interested in a dusty packet printed in Italian. As nobody in the office was interested, I opened it and found beans. Another picked up a packet and said, 'Now that's interesting'. Nobody has the right to protest against Greek tyranny.

They were assured they would find nothing more interesting, and were shown pictures and story of Danish police beating up a demonstrator. 'Good thing we don't go on like that here'. Well, we wouldn't care to comment on that. There were some slug pellets. Was there any wood killer? Perhaps it was as well there wasn't—although as so many gardening bits and pieces had been left there might well have been—with woods five feet high around the place.

A large dusty box was brought down. 'Hello, what's this?' It contained something heavy, black and iron. It was a hand-printing machine.

There were a few unoriginal references to bombs and where to keep them, and the equally unoriginal reminder that I wouldn't know what a bomb looks like if I saw one, except the ones that are dropped from aeroplanes, was answered with, 'No, but you'd know if they were mixing powders here'. 'Who, "they"?' went either unheard or unanswered.

There was a momentary flurry of excitement when one of the men found

on the table a small bottle half-filled with bright pink liquid, and two of the others gathered round.

'It's stencil correcting fluid,' they were told.

'I know what it is, dear, but...' All three heads concentrated around the now opened bottle and sniffed. 'Nail varnish—remember?', and its half-emptiness regarded.

Within seconds a second half-empty bottle of the same was picked up. 'Well, why have you got TWO bottles?'

They were told there might be half a dozen, and were given the, rather patient I thought, explanation that when they get half-used the stuff gets too gooey to use on stencils being cut, but could be used for dabbing out any odd spots of ink coming through on stencils on the machine.

Clambering over some of the piled up packages (and mountains of empty cartons) in the stock room one remarked hopefully: 'I didn't know there were so many books about.'

After a quick tour round a shed at the back (also stacked with unbound sheets) and a glance at the burnt rubbish in the garden bins, they left, the sergeant satisfied that there weren't any bombs, another officer 'satisfied they hadn't found them'.

In reply to a parting civility from the sergeant, Jack assured him 'Last time you did raids we were left out and we felt snubbed; we had difficulty in explaining it to our friends'.

Stuart Christie, whom they had brought with them, had been raided and searched also for explosives earlier in the morning. It was later learned that from his home they removed four thousand 'dollar leaflets' and personal correspondence.

That afternoon a press statement was issued saying that Freedom Press had been raided with a warrant to search for explosive substances; that no explanation had been given as to why they should expect to find anything more explosive in Freedom Press offices than the written word and that in fact after half an hour they left empty-handed, without even a pamphlet. A news item was carried on the back page of the early edition of Wednesday's *Guardian*, a comment in the London Diary of the *New Statesman*, and an item in *Socialist Leader*, and one in *Peace News* with the additional information that other anarchists were raided on the same day, and the comment that the police were apparently concerned about a possible bomb attack on the Greek Embassy in London, and also that they were looking for potential hide-outs of the 'First of May Group'.

*Peace News* referred to the rather hurt comment in the Freedom Press statement, our surprise that they should have expected to find anything more explosive than the written word was not occasioned by any delusion on our part that non-violence is intrinsic to anarchism; it is well enough known that the adherents to the pacifist philosophy are in a minority in our group. (Two of us have been members of violent organisations: the British Army and the Royal Air Force.)

We preach revolution and the abolition of the State. There have always been on our shelves for sale several works, both historical ones on revolutions, and theoretical ones by anarchists who have believed that when any working class or

oppressed people decide to free themselves and remake society, this revolution cannot be accomplished without violence, because the possessors of power and wealth will not relinquish these possessions by persuasion, and have always vast murderous forces at their disposal.

And we have in our own columns clearly expressed compassion and respect for people driven to violent action by desperate situations or by despair; nor have we withheld publicity from comrades and other groups whose zeal in protest seemed to reach excessive proportions.

Yet none of this gives reason for the assumption that the Freedom Press group might be engaged in cloak-and-dagger romantics or schoolboy chemical experiments, and surely no one imagines that we are so starry-eyed as to dream of launching a violent revolution of the apathetic public of 1968 from the quiet, crumbling suburb of Fulham. The reasons why the police were able to obtain a search warrant, then, are not very clear, and the question of how easily the police are able to obtain search warrants is a matter of serious concern.

A letter was sent to the Home Secretary on February 28 requesting him to inform us of the grounds on which the magistrate issued the warrant. At the time of going to press (March 4) only an acknowledgement card has been received.

MARY CANIPA

March 2nd

The above article was written before the explosive events of last weekend. They were a surprise to us. Were they a surprise to the police?—Eds.

## Where's that Bomb?

AS ANY KENYA Asian or Rhodesian African will tell you, this is Human Rights Year. Among human rights is apparently the right to be searched by the police on the slightest pretext, slightest suspicion or slightest denunciation. During the late war it was given as one of the merits of the British case that in this country you knew that if there was a knock on the door in the early morning it was the milkman and not the Gestapo.

The change in my milkman's habits are not the only thing which makes this highly improbable. It is notorious that human energy is lowest in the early hours of the morning so the police propensity to visit at that time puts them at an advantage. I recall being roused from my bed at 4 a.m. on a Sunday morning by a policeman who wished to know if a certain errant ex-lodger had ever stayed at my address (three days later it was impossible for the police to recollect if they had him in custody and what were his present whereabouts). In this case there might have been some humane reason for releasing my ex-lodger as soon as his address was corroborated—but subsequent events showed they were in no haste to release him. The choice of early hours is a deliberate psychological trick.

It may be claimed that ample precautions are taken against the frivolous, useless or mischievous issue of warrants by the fact that they are signed by a magistrate. If you have ever been to

that university of anarchism, a magistrates' (alias police) court, you may have noticed a burly man hovering about the witness box during a case; he passes a document to the usher, who takes advantage of a lull in the proceedings when the magistrate is not pontificating or issuing judgement to slip it over to him for signature, with a brief glance the magistrate signs it, the usher returns it to the detective and the squad car is off, licensed to search anywhere. Perhaps the occasional search that takes place without a warrant is nearly as great a legal farce.

In the last weeks there have been two flagrant examples of quite useless and pointless searches by the police (not counting those on Stuart Christie and Freedom Press).

Firstly, police 'acting on information received', raided Lady Diana Cooper's house at midnight. The JP signing the warrant is reported to have said it didn't matter to him whether the house was occupied by Lady Diana Cooper or King Kong. All very fine and democratic but probably it would have been better to have raided King Kong for nobody (except possibly the RSPCA) would have complained as they did when such an eminently respectable lady was raided, in fact she was absent abroad. However hard cases show up bad law, and the law of search warrants seems to be very bad.

Secondly, an unknown citizen was

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IN THE SPRING of 1966, when students and many lecturers together achieved what at the time looked like a major breakthrough unprecedented in university history, I was fortunate enough to be living in the university area, to be associated with a number of students and always on the spot to witness developments. I maintain that this momentous season was a new point of departure for the student movement, critical universities or 'anti-courses' as they are called in Italy, a point of no return in the struggle for student power.

Up until then it had been a regular feature of the University of Rome that during student elections many students who were enrolled at the university but were not following any courses suddenly appeared and provoked the left-wing students during their election campaigns, causing scuffles, etc. During the election campaign of 1966 a young socialist student in his first year at the university, 19-year-old Paolo Rossi, was beaten up because he was carrying some socialist posters across the campus, but what had not happened before, he fell and died. The Rector, who had always brushed aside requests to control the violence during the elections, tried to make out that Paolo Rossi had received treatment for epilepsy at the university clinic (this was printed by the *Rome Daily American*), but as he had just come back from a ski-ing holiday and frequently led scout parties on mountaineering expeditions, this explanation had to be withdrawn, particularly as Rossi's father, a professor of fine arts in Perugia, sued the rector for slander.

Paolo Rossi had not been a particularly militant student. Like Benno Ohnesorg, who was shot by the police in Berlin last June while he was running away from the first demonstration he had been on, Paolo Rossi was only on the verge of becoming absorbed by social and academic problems. Like Benno Ohnesorg, he was also one of the most promising students. The Italian universities closed for several days and thousands of students travelled to Rome to join the funeral procession just as students from east and west travelled to Hanover for the funeral of Benno Ohnesorg.

But speeches and tributes were not enough. Under the slogan 'I care' in opposition to the crude fascist slogan of Mussolini expressing the contrary, students of Rome University occupied the university day and night, refusing to move until the Rector Papi was replaced. There were clashes with neo-fascists, at first admitted by the police who turned away as if they did not see them enter (this changed when the Minister of the Interior transferred the police officer in charge to another area), but the students held out, the rector resigned and a few changes were made almost immediately relating to the enrolment of students who were not following courses.

But this was only a very small part of the general discontent. Students and lecturers formed discussion and pressure groups in which they not only showed

up corruption but questioned the validity of the authoritarian structure which allowed them no say in determining their course of study, in the administration of the university and emphasised rote learning for brief oral examinations, perhaps the only time that many of them ever saw their professors at all.

Recommendations were made but little was done. Until today we have the situation in Italy as well as in Germany that the struggle for student power and the feeling of responsibility to society as a whole, i.e. the identification with oppressed peoples, is intrinsically linked. In Italy the struggle is no longer

localised on Rome but has spread all over Italy including Milan, Florence, Pisa, Turin, Trento, etc. New values are emerging. Instead of quaking in fear before the examination, students are prepared, if necessary, to lose the academic year, maybe their formal professional qualifications, in favour of sit-ins lasting for several weeks in which they are showing the courage of their convictions, convictions which are evolving in a continuous dialogue that uses the university structure as a microcosm of world society.

After some violent clashes with neo-fascists and police the lecture halls of the

University of Rome have been closed for the time being, and in Milan for one week. But thousands of students are attending discussion meetings elsewhere in public squares or in other halls. Some representative university councils have been formed. Parliament is finally getting round to considering a bill proposed by the Minister of Education, Gui, but this would have to be rushed through before the recess, and, as it is only a partial reform it is unlikely that the left-wing opposition will agree to it.

HELEN MAYER.

To be continued.

## Round the Galleries

THERE COME those moments in history when the armed hordes of the State or of the slogan pour, in a flood of death, across the mapped frontiers, when the smoke and flames of burning cities dim the sun and illuminate the dreadful night, and the hooves of the pale horses beat the corn into dust, and the faceless infantry shit in the abandoned temples.

This is the hour of exaltation when, from the field and the factory, the masses pour forth to mock, by sheer numbers, the regimented authority that melts before the passion of the streets. This is the hour when history must use whatever tools it can to record the transient glory of action as an end in itself.

The hack that in another age would have filled the dying days penning the dull deliberations of the council chambers must, by the very force of circumstances, write an epic, and the painter, whose gentle daubs once graced a friendly wall, must hold his penny mirror aloft to catch this sun of human glory, for the brute eruption of the human herd united by a common anger is a thing of terror, but sprinkle it with the confetti of ten thousand flags and banners, let the flames of the dying cities mate with the raging skies and let all dance to the wild, mad music of the pulsing drum and the chanted slogan, and terror wears the mask of beauty.

Who could fail to paint a canvas that, in the still and gentle times of peace, would not quicken the heart for when old men talk it is of the battles of the flag or the banner, the field of honour, or the angry street. The war that men forgot as the Second World War was ill-served by the poets and the writers. For them it was the emotional anti-climax for a generation born to the heroic myths of trench warfare and though they died as conscientiously as their fathers, they failed to record the travail of those years and the muse turned without reward to the revolutionary east for sup.

Yet one man grabbed the military coat-tails of that epoch, and, with un-

disciplined line and a sprawling wash of colours, caught the imagined mood of those years. Feliks Topolski, the son of a Polish actor, should have lived out a leisured life according to his place within English society and his talent. To paint the sets for smart plays of the moment, the murals for chi-chi community walls, the one-man exhibitions within the fashionable gallery, and the illustrations for the novel of the week, should have been his candles to oblivion and the fashionable funeral. But modern war demands an audience and Topolski was commissioned as an official war artist and the moment had found its man.

While other painters diligently plied their craft as in the days of peace and painted the tense sad faces of the young flyers and the turd-shaped barrage balloons frying in the London skies with the same pedantic earnestness as they painted the 1930 mayors and the Town's heraldic shield, Topolski swept his wild brush across his canvas to catch, in a shamble of colours and staggering lines, the movement of the great armies. His untutored pen wove a web of lines to catch the majesty of the hour and his blurred and multi-coloured images turned individuals into heroes who rode with a raging sky as a cloak out of the confines of the small canvases. Within those paintings earth and heaven fought to share the field with mass-men who rode like gods to and from a battle that never would be fought, for the recording of universal movement was Topolski's contribution to the war effort.

But peace must come to all men, at least for a while, and the flight of trams and clerks were never meat for Topolski's appetite and his moment of glory was over. Did he lie for us in those war paintings? It matters not, for it filled the mood of the hour, but now the testing time has come when he must turn and record the individual and not the mood and he has failed.

The wild undisciplined lines and the whirlpools of colours are still there, but now we can check and we can challenge,

and in the plush calm of the Grosvenor Gallery at 30 Davies Street, W.1, we shake our heads and are slightly bored. True, there are 218 paintings and drawings and the list contains almost every name of international note from Bob Dylan down to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, yet not one single figure stays in our mind after leaving the gallery. They are doodlings of the neo-famous and therein lies their fault, that we are impressed that Topolski has caught the image but we are not impressed by what Topolski has done with that captured image. Like a café cartoonist, we declare our approval of the fact that he has not failed but 218 performances of the same frail act is slightly heavy going.

Among the large paintings on view is the *Chinese icon* and, when one considers Patrick Proctor's work on the same theme at the Redfern Gallery some months ago, one realizes how much Topolski is out of touch. In an age that has produced the savagery of Scarfe's contemptuous handling of the famous Topolski's leaden figures appear harmless as an academic run-through for an Academy portrait, and even in the hour of windy violence Topolski's *Michael X is a talking man* turns what was meant to be a compliment into an insult for the apostle of tinted blood and sweat is portrayed as a confused and rather pathetic man overcome by the situation and the banal verse that Topolski has incorporated within the painting *Michael X is a talking man | Put away in jail as soon as he began | Establishment pounced when he forgot | That speech is free | But language is not must act as a self-explanatory counterpoint to the paintings.*

This is the exhibition for what it is worth, for peace betrayed Topolski as it betrayed so many men who, in those brief and bloody years found a place to ply a unique talent, for the silent drum and the unburned cities demand their own sacrifice.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

General enquiries should be sent to the London Federation.

**CAMPAIGN FOR THE RELEASE OF OCTAVIO ALBEROLA!**

**LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS.** c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1. Business meetings first Sunday of the month. For details apply to LFA.

**LEWISHAM.** Contact Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13. Phone: 01-852 8879.

**SEALING 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.

**S.W. LONDON LIBERTARIANS.** Contact: 14 Clapham Court, King's Avenue (Acre Lane end), S.W.4.

### 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 Rouss's, now at 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3.

### REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

**ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS** meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month at M. Dey's, 142 Walker Road, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Liz Smith's, 3 Sinclair Road. Correspondence to either address.  
**ABERDEEN ANARCHIST FEDERATION (SWF)** local group. Folk Song Workshop and Committee of 100, Collater Climbing Club. Contact Iain MacDonald, 15 Cotton Street, Aberdeen.  
**BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUP.** All anarchists, syndicalists, individualists, etc., please contact Geoff and Caroline Charlton, 32 Swindon Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 17 (near Portland Road). Note new address.  
**BOLTON.** Get in touch with Les Smith, 22 Grosvenor Street, Bolton, Lancs.  
**BOURNEMOUTH AND EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS.** Please contact John McCain, 14 Milton Road, Bournemouth (B'm'th 22279) or Tim Deane, Juliet West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset (Ferdowen 3588).  
**BRIGHTON.** Get in touch with Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton. Poetry read-

ings 8 to 10 Pool Coffee Bar, Pool Valley, Brighton.

**BRISTOL ANARCHISTS.** Contact Susie Fisher and Adam Nicholson at 15 The Paragon, Bristol, 8.

**FIVE LIBERTARIANS.** Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Capar, Effe.

**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, Marshallswick, St. Albans, Herts.

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

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

**NOTTING HILL.** Please get in touch with John Bennett and Marilyn Paddy, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, London, W.11. Tel: 727 9745. Meetings every Monday at 7 p.m.

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

Meeting: March 23, 7.30 p.m. The relevance of voluntary action in our society. Discussion.

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

### ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Keith Nathan, 138 Penny-mead, Harlow, Essex.

Group Addresses—  
**BASILDON.** M. Powell, 7 Lingercroft, Basildon, Essex.

**BISHOPS STORTFORD.** Vic Mount, 'Eastview', Castle Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts.

**CHILMSFORD.** (Mrs.) J. Archer, Mill House, Parleigh, Chelmsford, Essex.

**EPFING.** John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping, Essex.

**HARLOW.** John Deards, 184 Carter's Mead, Harlow, and/or Geoff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow, Essex. Monthly meetings in 'The Essex Skipper', The Stow, Harlow.

**LOUGHTON.** Group c/o Students' Union, Loughton College of Further Education, Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex.

**MUCH HADHAM.** Leslie Riordan, High Street, Much Hadham, Herts.

**NORTH EAST ESSEX.** Peter Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex. Group meets first Monday in each month, 7.15 p.m. at 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex.

### NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

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

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

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

**LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP AND 'HIPPI' 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.

**MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Pete Sacker, 22 Sandon Street, Liverpool. Meetings: First Thursday of month, 8 p.m.

### SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION

**CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP.** All correspondence to—Pete Raymond, 90 Albany Road, Roath. Weekly meetings. Freedom sales and action projects.

### STUDENT GROUPS

**EAST ANGLIA UNIVERSITY GROUP** (Anarchists and Peace). Contact Dave King, 17 Havelock Road, Norwich.

**LSE ANARCHIST GROUP.** c/o Student Union, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, W.C.2.

**OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Steve Watts, Trinity College.

**SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY GROUP.** Contact Robin Lovell c/o Students' Union, Sheffield.

**SOUTHWARK COLLEGE** (New Libertarian Front). Contact Dave Biggs, Room T/7.

**SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHISTS.** To launch

the group, an open discussion on Anarchism at the University, Falmer, nr. Brighton, Friday evening, March 1. All welcome. Contact Francis Jarman, 16 Charlotte Street, Brighton BN2 1AG.

### LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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

### PROPOSED GROUPS

**EDINBURGH** anarchists contact Konrad Borowski, 13 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh 3. Tel: WAW 7459.

**TAUNTON LIBERTARIANS.** Contact Jill and John Driver, 59 Beadon Road, Taunton, Somerset. Meetings alternate Friday evenings.

**CROYDON, NORWOOD, BECKENHAM.** Anarchists, Syndicalists, Libertarian or Pacifist Socialists to form Croydon, Norwood, Beckenham Libertarian Group. Contact Jim Radford or Laurens Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath.

**ELTHAM** (Libertarian/Peace Action). Contact Terry Liddle, 83 Gregory Crescent, S.E.9.

### ABROAD

**AUSTRALIA.** Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box A 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. at Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

**DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** Gothersgade, 27, Viborg, 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: 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.

**SWEDEN:** Libertad, Allmänna Vägen 6, Gothenburg V.

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

**BELGIUM: LIEGE.** Provox, 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. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.

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

**BOURNEMOUTH.** Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or Paddy Evans, c/o the same.

# Alberola and the Bomb Attacks

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous  
fortune  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
And by opposing end them.

THIS QUOTATION from 'Hamlet' was appended to the letter the First of May Group sent to the Agence France Presse for transmission to the Pentagon and White House Killers. The letter itself claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks, on various embassies and on an American officers' club, that took place on March 2 and 3 in London, Turin and The Hague.

The letter accused the Pentagon and the White House of being the 'main supporters of the Greek, Spanish and Portuguese dictatorships'. It accused them of playing the same part as the Nazis did during the Spanish civil war, experimenting with modern military techniques upon the civil population in Vietnam. 'But be sure, free men will stay careless no longer in front of your crimes'.

The letter was eventually printed in *The Times* with an accompanying detailed article which sketched in the past activities of the Group. Although the letter does not mention Alberola, the article specifically does, making him the leader of the group.

Although the article is attributed to

and by 'the News Team' it was written and put together by one reporter, Steve Clarke, who had spent four months on the story.

I met him in the company of Stuart Christie and two other friends on the night the story appeared to find out who gave him the information about Octavio Alberola's status in the group. To our knowledge Alberola has never claimed to be a member of the First of May Group, but that of the FIJL. Mr. Clarke admitted that this was 'intelligent guess-work' on his part.

We told him that although the rest of his article was perceptive, and his references to Louis Edo were much appreciated by us, nevertheless, attributing leadership to Alberola, who was in prison, and by associating him with the present bomb attacks, was putting Alberola in grave danger.

Nevertheless Steve Clarke's article understood the operational strategy and tactics of the First of May Group with uncommon clarity.

We now know more as to the circumstances of Alberola's arrest. He entered Belgium illegally and was arrested. His mission to Belgium was to intercede with a Spanish High Official for the release of anarchist prisoners in Spain. He had planned also to have presented the Official from a Trade Delegation with a

document of conditions in Spanish prisons, which Alberola hoped the Official would sign.

*The Times* article assumed that the group was trying to show that Alberola's arrest did not affect their militancy. It is

symptomatic of the First of May Group, Revolutionary Solidarity Movement, that even if it campaigns for a limited objective, it tries not to lose sight of a wider area of battle.

FREEDOM REPORTER.

## Anarchist Black Cross

NO FURTHER CHARGES have been brought against Octavio Alberola who is awaiting trial in the Forêt prison except those of using an assumed name and false documents. According to a Reuter report on Saturday evening it is expected by government officials that our Comrade will be deported. If this is so we must use every means possible to prevent the deportation of Alberola (probably to Mexico) as the agents of the American, Spanish and French governments have tried before, and no doubt will try once again, to rid themselves of one of the most militant and outstanding anarchists of this decade.

Money is urgently needed to bring Alberola's wife and children to Brussels from Mexico, as he is being held incommunicado by the Belgian Government. A lawyer has been appointed and has spoken to him and it is intended to fight the deportation order if sought. Postal Orders and Cheques payable to

The Anarchist Black Cross, c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1.

### EDO TRANSFERRED

Comrades Luis Andres Edo and Miguel Garcia Garcia have been taken to the prison hospital of Yeserias in Madrid for operations and immediate medical treatment. Was this the result of the article in the *Observer*? Postcards and food parcels should be sent to: Hospital Penitenciario de Yeserias, Madrid.

### FOOD PARCELS

Parcels have been sent to Soria, Burgos, Jaen and Alcala de Henares.

We hope to send more parcels shortly to the comrades arrested in Japan three weeks ago, and to the prison of La Cabana, in Cuba, where a number of comrades are rotting away their lives for opposing Cuban State Capitalism and attempting to turn the 'revolution' into a social revolution. SECRETARY.

## ORGANISATION & RESPONSIBILITY

ON MANY occasions the respectable press (to which must be added so-called left-wing papers) aim point-blank at the anarchist movement, having on hand a cliché, according to which anarchism is identified exclusively with the nihilist and individualist type, who is rooted in the position of a total break with all society, and deeply attached to romantic and messianic dreams of social regeneration.

We must recognize that international anarchism still drags along with it a minority who are deeply attached to romantic 19th century individualism (which, for that matter, was reasonable enough when society was still individualist, based on small-scale production, agriculture, etc.), but who are not at all disposed to face the processes of the technical and industrial transformation of present day society, where problems are posed at the communal level, and not on an individual scale.

In the present century, anarchism must honestly recognize these problems, from the time of the Russian revolution onwards, and also as a result of analysis of anarchist achievements during the Spanish revolution.

There is a widespread opinion among the 'bien pensants' that modern society, characterised by the race for profit and greater consumption, has made a *tabula rasa* of all social ideologies. This hope

has, however, already been contradicted by reality, for instance in view of the appearance of the international 'Provo' movement, largely inspired by anarchist tenets. This is very disappointing for the obituary writers of the anarchist movement.

Modern anarchism is fully cognizant of the profound social transformations at present taking place and, unlike other ideologies with a more or less dogmatic basis, faces up to contemporary developments with a praxis that is both nonconformist and undogmatic.

The task of the individual in the community is to elaborate new forms of organisation, of an anarchist nature, in which, as distinct from authoritarian structures in which the individual is treated as an object without personality, he will be able to fully develop his own personality in harmony with the vital needs of communal life.

I agree that present-day psychological and objective conditions, charged with a thousand years of authoritarian conditioning and suggestion make the penetration of revolutionary ideas difficult, but these do advance steadily whenever the anarchist movement shows liveliness and tenacity. Despite the 'bien pensants' who like to think of anarchism as a relic of the past, this movement is, on the contrary, more likely to make progress in an atmosphere of continually rising cultural levels and cultural expansion.

Therefore it seems that a fundamental need for anarchist organisation and structure is individual responsibility within the framework of the community, and anarchist efforts at self-regulation should have the adherence of all those intellectual sections of society who are sensitive to this problem and who are able, in some degree, to help the slow evolution of the people.

But, unfortunately, we see intellectuals of undoubted quality and integrity (such as Giorgio Bocca in a recent enquiry on 'the problem of youth' in *Il Giorno*) speak of the 'anarchist delinquency' of certain juvenile groups, using just the same catch-phrase as some illiterate police-officer.

It is evident that the profit-and-consumption society, which is at present in full swing, will be hostile to all those social forces which struggle to liberate mankind from an environment which, in contradiction with the needs of a technical-industrial society, is still based on individualism and not at all on communal foundations. This leads to grave moral degeneration as a result of the race after money, and to a widespread social irresponsibility on the part of the individual, who still sees all his problems on a purely individualist basis, and has not been educated to a mentality which should be, not only international, but cosmic.

From *Umanita Nova*  
tr. j.w.s.

## Exposing 'Social Security'

Dear Comrades,

An article published recently in the *Guardian* drew attention to the degrading rituals which attend the dispensation of so-called 'Social Security' in this country. This, and the letters which followed it, indicate that it is time the liberal bourgeoisie were told something of what it feels like to be at the receiving end of the 'Welfare' State.

Would anyone co-operate with me in an exposure project? I am not especially well qualified to do much of the work myself, and would like to hear from others who could help, in particular

anyone who works or has worked in one of these offices. (Strict confidence, in all cases, will of course be preserved.) And please, will anyone with any experience of the various State 'Welfare' Services write to me, whether what they know is good or bad. So much seems to depend on the local officers with their almost dictatorial powers over people who believe themselves to be defenceless.

For example, I know of a man in a high unemployment area who was threatened with prosecution by the local Ministry of Social Security for failure to maintain his wife and child, after a grand total of three weeks out of work. Yet many comrades have lived off national assistance for years with no difficulty. It is possible we will find that the attitude of the officials varies with

the awareness and articulateness of the victim.

This is in the nature of a 'feeler'; if there is any kind of response or interest, I'd like eventually to use the information collected as a starter for a wider campaign—against petti-fogging officialdom, cheeseparing bureaucrats, and indeed any part of the State apparatus (particularly the Welfare fraud) you care to suggest.

Fraternally,  
PATRICK,  
c/o Freedom Press.

## 'Front for the VSC'

Comrades,

The Northern Universities Vietnam Action Co-ordinating Committee is a front for the VSC; this is the only national organisation directly represented on it. Anyway, it doesn't really matter as NUVACC only represents itself, total rank and file being about twenty spread over half England (York Vietnam Group is merely holding a watching brief as we hold NUVACC in contempt).  
York.  
NIGEL WILSON.

## Continued Harassment of Gypsies

LAST FRIDAY MORNING at 7.30 a.m. the men of Redbridge Council and Police turned up to evict the Gypsies at Woodford Bridge Road, Redbridge, Outer London.

With no outside witnesses present, the Gypsies were reluctant, due to past experience, to take on these authorities, and agreed to move to a site 1½ miles away (Forest Road, Fairlop, near Fairlop Tube and half a mile out into the country), on a verbal assurance from a Council official that they would be allowed to stay there, the duration of the stay being left rather vague. The Gypsies are determined to make a

## FACTORY FOR PEACE

FACTORY FOR PEACE (the Rowen Engineering Co. in Glasgow), which was founded with the support of anti-military organisations, has now accepted the backing of the Scottish Nationalist Party, regardless of the fact that the SNP 'accepts that Scotland will require defence forces which will have to be equipped'.

An appeal sponsored by the SNP for funds for a second Rowen factory in Scotland is now well under way. An article commending the appeal signed by William Wolfe, Home Secretary in the SNP 'Shadow Cabinet' appears in the February 17 issue of the *Scots Independent*.

Amongst the original sponsors of the 'Factory for Peace' were the Iona Community and the Scottish Committee of 100. These connections are now indignantly denied.

Eighteen months ago Walter Morrison was dismissed from the Factory for Peace, when he protested, that the factory was manufacturing heaters for a possible use for H.M. Forces.

Now with the peace movements'

coffers having dried up the Factory for Peace has accepted public association with the Nationalist militarists. Walter Morrison has once more been dismissed. The motives for this strange move are unknown to us, but a correspondent tells us that workers in this autonomous factory were told that 'they must agree to vote for Morrison's dismissal or else they would have no right to stay in the place'.

At the time of Walter Morrison's first dismissal, *Peace News*, which has always supported the factory, was slow in condemning the action.

It is curious that William Wolfe is now constantly referring to the Factory for Peace as the 'Rowen Community'.

As a footnote to his article 'Rowen sets pace for economic salvation', he announces the following:  
'Tom McAlpine, the Rowen Community leader (my italics—J.R.), is a member of the SNP in Glasgow. He will willingly speak at SNP branch or other meetings about the Rowen idea'.

JOHN REY.

## MOVING FUND

Target is £500.

Received to Date—£369 8s. 4d.

## PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year.

Pledges received to date—£395 18s. 6d.

Pledges honoured to date—£287 9s. 9d.

## Slipping!

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Estimated Expenses:

10 weeks at £90: £900

Income: Sales and Subs.: £720

DEFICIT: £180

### PRESS FUND

Oxford: Anon\* 5/-; London: J.F.M. 11/6; Cambridge, Mass.: J.S. 7/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.\* 2/-; J.L.\* 3/-; London, S.W.7: J.L. £1; Detroit: S.C. 8/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.\* 10/-; Bristol: B.B. 10/-; Whitworth: D.C. £1; Woodstock: E.S. £5.

TOTAL: £9 16 6

Previously Acknowledged: £126 1 2

1968 Total to Date: £135 17 8

Balance B/F Deficit: £180 0 0

TOTAL DEFICIT: £44 2 4

Regular Contributor.

## Integrating Intellectuals

IN *Intellectuals Today* (Chatto & Windus, 30/-), T. R. Fyvel, a man describing himself as a European writer who is now in his late fifties, presents edited versions of conversations with intellectuals. Who are they?

By the narrow definition, which I rather like, an intellectual is a person who is fascinated by general ideas and wants them to be as interesting and influential as possible. Well and good, but broadly we are also beginning to have to use 'intellectuals' in the way the Communists do, as a professional term for the strata of the higher academics, the scientists and teachers, the researchers and top administrators, the writers, broadcasters and other communicators, who even in Britain are forming a definable intellectual class, and especially among the young emerging as a new technical 'intelligentsia'.

In his introduction to the interviews Mr. Fyvel suggests that intellectuals have developed from their social alienation in the twenties through a period of political opposition in the thirties to integration with society and the state in the fifties and sixties. The Second World War to Mr. Fyvel seems like an experiment in what could be called the 'socialization' of British intellectuals—a sort of rehearsal for their integrated role in the affluent society of today.

According to Mr. Fyvel this integration is shown by the increased numbers of academics and technically qualified men in Britain today and by the transformation of intellectual jobs:

Today 90 per cent of writers are essentially literary technicians, turning out a precisely requisitioned product for advertising, for magazine, film or television editors, taking their work and status as part of a technical team for granted.

It would be difficult to challenge Mr. Fyvel's claim that there are now more highly educated and trained people in Britain than ever before—and that they are working with the system. You do not have to be an intellectual to observe that in general the intellectuals do what they're told—whether they are doing research on germ warfare at Porton or making television commercials.

But *Intellectuals Today* is a massive over-simplification. Mr. Fyvel makes no mention of the New Left or *Private Eye*. He ignores the fact that the widespread employment of intellectuals by institutions like the BBC has led to the occasional dissemination of ideas which are clearly subversive.

He mentions the British *avant-garde* in the theatre, films and television, referring to its commercial success, but he seems not to appreciate that the work of writers like John Osborne has affected—and reflected—the thinking of an entire generation.

The questions Mr. Fyvel asks his intellectuals—and his editing of their replies—indicate his political views:

Then how do you explain the emotionalism which has turned the old Left-wing movements into movements of protest in which young people in this safe age—safe in the West—behave as though they were still looking for violence?

Mr. Fyvel dismisses or ignores tendencies which contradict his main thesis. His only reference to the Vietnam war which has alienated so many intellectuals is to be found in a footnote.

Mr. Fyvel has written a book which will probably be bought by many of the people it purports to describe. But they will be disappointed if they expect to be challenged, shocked or stimulated by the author's ideas.

### PISSPOT ?

An example of collaboration by intellectuals with the system was reported in *The Times* last week:

Home Office scientists have been puffing Indian Hemp to help police detect people who have been smoking it illegally.

Experiments at the Home Office Central Research Establishment laboratories here are aimed at finding a foolproof method of tracing cannabis in samples of urine.

WYNFORD HICKS.

stand this time, and they ask for as much outside support as possible. I hope many anarchists will be ready to defend this elementary right of human beings to live.

Phone Gratton Puxon at 01-349 9427 if you can help in this struggle for freedom and social justice.

M.M.

# The Shipyard Closures

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS, coming in the same week that two shipyards are to be closed down by the end of the year, has dealt a particularly hard blow to ship workers. These closures will mean that nearly 5,000 men will be made redundant in areas with already high unemployment.

The yards affected are Alexander Stephen on the upper reaches of the Clyde and Mr. Charles Clore's Furness shipyard on the Tees. Both closures stem directly from the re-organisation of shipbuilding which was recommended by the Geddes Report. This advocated the creation of a small number of large groupings of yards to make the industry competitive on an international scale and to be better placed to win orders for the large ships which

Geddes forecast would be built. The Government gave £50m. and £200m. in loans to help create these larger units.

Many thought that the industry was all set for a recovery and that devaluation would give them further advantages over foreign competitors. While this may be so for those who have amalgamated into the larger groupings, but this is by no means certain, those left out, like Stephens and Furness, are closing before they lose any more money.

When plans were worked out by the consultants for the new Upper Clyde Group, they recommended that as Stephens would not fit into the scheme, it should be closed. Redundant workers from Stephens will not be able to find work at the grouping's yards. The Charles Connell shipyard is also due for closure, according to the consultants' report, but will be kept going until the Upper Clyde Group has enough work (if it ever does) to absorb these workers.

The Furness shipyard was taken over by Sears Holdings, whose Chairman is Charles Clore, in 1951. In the last few years, £5m. have been spent in modernisation to make it one of the best equipped in the country. Last year, Mr. Clore warned that he would close the yard if it did not pay its way in the next year and he has now kept that promise. It seems that yard does not fit into any of the groupings for the Tees, and the Wear grouping has not yet progressed far enough to know its needs.

## A BLEAK OUTLOOK

The Minister of Technology, speaking about Furness, has said that 'despite the re-equipment of the yard in recent years and a rise in steelwork productivity in the last few months, (it) has not been able to obtain profitable orders for the kind of vessel for whose construction the yard is best suited'. Any move for a government take-over is obviously a non-starter.

For the sacked men things look bleak. Both Clyde and Tees already have high unemployment. The Ministry of Labour has said it 'will do all it can to help redundant workers find suitable employment and to offer training facilities where appropriate'. But this sort of statement made in London bears very little relation to the situation on the Tees and Clyde. Many will, no doubt, find other jobs using the same skills, others will be forced to take semi- or unskilled jobs, but the rest will face a long period on the 'dole'.

In any sane society, waste of this sort would not be tolerated, but

where maximum profits are the aim, it becomes more profitable to sack men. No doubt the new equipment at the Furness yard will be sold off and used elsewhere, but isn't this also a waste of energy and time when men could be working there? If profits were not the criteria, then, if the yard had to close, the men could work nearby at other yards and so reduce the hours of labour. Obviously this is the sane and rational answer.

## RATIONALISATION

If shipyards have to be bigger to be able to build the huge tankers and container ships, then it is only a matter of employing more men in these yards, but this is not how the Government of the employers see it. They want less men to turn out more tonnage at fewer but larger yards. Even the increasing size of vessels is part of the same rationalisation which is affecting not only shipbuilding, but seamen and other industries as well.

Will this be the end of closures now that the Geddes groupings are taking shape? This all depends on how competitive they are and how big is the demand for shipping. Geddes was very optimistic on the latter, but many did not agree with him. So even with the new set-up, it is still possible, very likely in fact, that sections of these groupings will be closed if they are not making the necessary profits. Obviously, if this came about, then those jobs should be defended by other workers in the group. Now is the time to carry out the necessary organisation and to forge the link-ups that are essential to make such a struggle effective.

These closures should also be seen in a wider context of the mergers and amalgamations that are taking place throughout British industry. The companies that take over are the ones that are more efficient at making a profit, of squeezing more out of the labour force. It is the trend of bigger and bigger companies, with monopoly control of the market, which, as such, are able to compete and gain a higher proportion of the profits in the international markets.

Many more workers will be facing this issue and it can be fought if others assist those threatened. Resistance to prevent the shipyard closures looks a non-starter, but this is not the end by any means. Isolation of struggle in the face of sackings is fatal. Assistance and sympathy action by other workers could defeat them.

P.T.

# SUPPORT NO GOVERNMENT

SYNDICALISTS think the unions should run the country. Instead of party politicians dictating the government of the country on behalf of big business, we say we should manage our own affairs through democratic trade unions.

Most of the workers at Stockport are fighting for shopfloor syndicalism. That means they are disputing their bosses right to dictate and do as they want in the factories.

To unite at work, regardless of religion, politics, or race; this is shopfloor syndicalism. To back up your mates, to stand by the majority; all this is Stockport syndicalism.

But who can best manage the factories? Millionaires or Workmen?

Our grandfathers in the 1911 'triple alliance' (of Miners, Railwaymen and Transport Workers unions) felt the wor-

kers should control and elect their own managements. As did the syndicalists in the biggest French trade union the CGT, and so did the mighty anarchist/syndicalist trade union of Spain, the CNT, in 1936 when its members actually took over and ran the mills, factories, workshops and communication systems.

Since the war people have pinned their hopes on the 'Labour' politicians and nationalisation. But of late more people are turning to Workers' Control, as the big let-down of 'Labour' government sinks in.

Can we, asks one union leader, 'prevent the Labour Government from destroying the Labour Movement?' Our answer is: A trade union's job is to look after the workers' wellbeing, it should support no government.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

# Freedom For Workers' Control

MARCH 16 1968 Vol 29 No 8

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

IT'S BEEN 15 months of freezing feet and coughing chests for the 70-odd strikers who still stare at the broken windows of the Roberts-Arundel engineering firm.

Now another Stockport firm has done a double by forcing its workers to strike for the same things as Arundels did in 1966. The firm, Heywoods, a crane factory at Reddish, has not long been taken over by the Acrow group. The 156 strikers there are fighting for union rights and recognition, against a management who are banning breaks, restricting holidays, gagging Shop Stewards, and forcing workers to accept Work Study with Watches, and claiming the right to move workers when and where they want to. The firm's 20 draughtsmen have all decided they'll join the strike on Monday.

It's the same old tale again! The Acrow management will talk to the men, but it won't let the men have power to stop any bad acts of management.

This double dispute could turn serious and spread if other factories in the Acrow group come out too. Only last week 20-odd workers at Dan Foxwell & Son, Stockport, struck in protest over the firm taking on a scab draughtsman from Arundels.

It's just come out that to stop the North West strike of one million workers

in support of the Arundel strikers, the management has agreed to meet the unions.

One suggested solution is for the unions to carry out a series of surprise checks or inspections to find out if the firm has really closed. But most pickets and local trade unionists won't be satisfied until, either the firm packs up and sells out, or they take on all the strikers and accept trade unionism.

## NEWSPAPER LIARS

These Stockport workers are fighting for our hard-won workshop freedoms and union rights.

It's the sort of syndicalist spirit, which the Stockport spinners had in January 1829, when they struck against the bosses' attempt to cut their pay. Six months later they were starved back to work, through lack of funds.

We want to see that this doesn't happen again! But papers like the *People*, are doing their best to cause bother by saying the strikers get '£28 a week' strike pay. 'We'd swap shops with anybody,' answer the pickets; nearly half who first came out have now found other jobs.

Meanwhile, out of the strike funds came £34 last week for militants Bamford and Byrne, fined for obstruction while on picket.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

## PIECE-WORK

PIECE-WORK ALWAYS has been a pain in the neck to the working man. On piece rates the weakest goes to the wall, and it causes more trouble than soft Mick.

Because of it the Hawker Siddeley workers at Stockport are working to rule. After offering to give a new management piece-work scheme a try, the blokes found they were losing out and the firm was cutting piece prices on the sly.

Working harder for less money is not on! So the lads, using their right to refuse the new scheme, tried to get the

firm to call it off.

No such luck! The firm has its foot in the door, and has brought off a wage cut almost with the blokes' blessing.

Result, the lads are now on £11 or £12 a week, while they work at beneath the bonus rate, producing no more than enough to fetch them the basic union rate.

A meeting is going to be held this week when the lads hope to get the scheme thrown out. Let's hope so, since these lads have been leading supporters of the Roberts-Arundel strikers.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

## LETTER

## 'Blind Alleys' Exposed

Dear Editors,

I read P.T.'s article in the paper on the farce of the Liaison Committees rank and file meeting held at the Seymour Hall. Besides being bloody pathetic and disappointing it was virtually a repetition of what has been said before, year after year ad nauseum. I refer to conference not article which was good!

Here you have exposed all the 'blind alleys' and myths that invariably these so-called conferences spew up. The facts about how they (CP, SLL, etc.) manipulate and 'stage-manage' these gatherings are now becoming widely known. The rebuff of certain prospective delegates also happened in the CP (Etheridge) BMC conference held in the Midlands late last year. Having now gone through most of the experiences of disillusionment as the brothers mentioned in the article, I now look to more positive and relevant ways of liaising with other workers in my efforts to fight for a libertarian society.

Anyway I was glad to see that you pointed out the most important failures

of the meeting; this being the specific linking up of the scattered pockets of resistance and of course the emphasis on the absolute self-reliance of the people. Pity you did not have space to amplify these points—as this was badly needed, never mind. If it encourages you in any way, there are a number of us in industry who are highly conscious of this situation and are making every effort to help all genuine militants who day by day are opting out of the complete irrelevance of 'left' politics.

Yours fraternally,  
Luton  
GEORGE SHAW.

## PLEASE NOTE

WE GO TO PRESS ON MONDAY. LATEST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF MSS., LETTERS, MEETING NOTICES IS THE MONDAY IN EACH WEEK OF PUBLICATION.

## Contact Column

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

**Social.** Saturday evening, March 16 (Eve of Vietnam Demo). 'Roebuck', Tottenham Court Road. For Anarchist Black Cross. Folk singers, etc., welcome. 4/6d.

**Vietnam Demo Film.** If you want to help make a film with London Filmmakers Co-op go to Arts Laboratory, 2 p.m., Saturday, March 16, or 9 a.m. 17th, steps of St. Martin's.

**Free Modern Jazz.** Ladbroke Hotel, Notting Hill, Wednesday evenings.

**'Resistance':** Magazine of the Committee of 100, Birmingham Peace Action Centre, Factory Road, Birmingham 19, England. (1/3 post paid.)

**Scattered in Yorkshire?** Get in touch with P. Constable, 34 Durham Street, Hull. Weekly meetings now at Blue Belle, Longate!

**Taunton Vigil on Vietnam,** March 23, 2 p.m. Assemble Castle Green Car Park.

**Van and driver if possible.** Required Easter Weekend. For March, Anarchist Lit. sales team and public meetings, etc. Write J. Huggon, c/o Freedom Press.

**Sweden's one and only libertarian library** is grateful to receive both gifts and offers. Wants all books, pamphlets and other publications of interest for libertarian socialists. Contact: Boksamlingen, Frihetliga Arbetsgruppen, Nordenskjöldsg. 23, Gothenburg SV, Sweden.

**Research Assistant** wanted (f), full or part time. Some travel involved. Write for further details to Box 3.

**R. A. Bird of Bath.** Please contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath.

**Accommodation wanted.** Couple desperately want 2 rooms fur./unfur. Rent £4-£6. Pref. North London. Contact Ann Kavanagh, 82 Cromwell Avenue, N.6.

**Anyone here?** Anarchists should contact Geoffrey Smith, 33 Alfred Street South, Nottingham.

**Stickers.** 'Danger: Dictatorship. Stay away from Greece in 1968!' Available from Diana Rowley, 13 Vincent Square, S.W.1, at 1/- for a sheet of 20.

**Greece must be free!** Rally—Trafalgar Square, April 21, 2.30 p.m. Speakers include Melina Mercouri.

**US Draft Dodgers and Deserters.** Sanctuary in remote parts of Scotland. Contact Aberdeen SWF, c/o Iain Macdonald, 15 Cotton Street, Aberdeen. Call in person—do not write.

**Love and War Poems** by Kenneth Patchen. Now available from Freedom Bookshop (2/6 or 1 dollar).

**East Anglia.** If you're near Ipswich, call on us. We stock all Freedom Press publications, and have FREEDOM and *Anarchy* regularly. Orwell Books, 44 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

sh to make contact let us know.