

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 4c

NOVEMBER 13 1965 Vol. 26 No. 35

NO CHANGE IN RHODESIA

THE POLICE have made it an offence in the Salisbury area to publish in any form any information about restricted persons or restricted areas. As far as the public prints and radio are concerned, therefore, Mr. J. Nkomo, the Rev. N. Somo, the former prime minister Mr. G. T. Moyo, and several hundred other people are henceforth unpersons.—*The Observer*.

'The talks must continue' say the British Government and the opposition; yet what is the point when it is obvious that the Rhodesian Government will not give way?

In the opinion of this writer, Mr. Wilson has already sold out the African majority, just by carrying on talking to a person such as Ian Smith who is obviously not interested in giving anything away at all. Rhodesia in the meantime prepares for a Unilateral Declaration of Independence that must surely come, unless of course Wilson does give in.

When one discusses this problem with ordinary people (that is people who get their opinions from the press and television) they all say that the African majority cannot rule themselves, so Wilson cannot be blamed and neither can Smith.

The Congo is pointed to as an example of the Africans ruling themselves and chaos ensuing. Yet, to this writer's knowledge, the chaos in the Congo was caused through outside interference. If the Belgian capitalists had not backed Katanga against Lumumba, Lumumba would probably still be alive and be the prime minister of the Congo. Whether the African is fit or not to govern himself is not at issue here. He is not going to govern himself in Rhodesia any more than he does in Ghana or Malawi. The African is going to BE governed BY OTHERS. He is going to do the work, and others are going to reap the benefit, whether the government is pink or brown, so let us forget that argument.

THE REAL BUSINESS

The real business is not about whether the Africans are ready to rule themselves, but whether the African politicians are ready to carry on in the same way that Smith and his pinkies do today. From my own observations I should say that it most certainly would. For Smith has imprisoned the opposition, and banished whatever little liberty there ever was from Rhodesia. He has got into power using the old trick of warning one section of the population how bad it would be

if another took over. Isn't this what Nkruma is doing in Ghana and Banda in Malawi?

The whole point is, however, that there is no one African politician in Rhodesia whom everyone will obey (apart from the odd hundred or two trouble-makers who would be in prison or under house arrest) and this is why it's admitted that the Africans cannot rule themselves, and Wilson and Smith must carry on their little game. The ordinary folk of Rhodesia must be kept in their place. Her Majesty's Government has a quarrel with Smith about HOW, that's all.

THE COMMONWEALTH

After all, we must not see the great commonwealth broken up must we? That great commonwealth in which some people are regarded as more common than others. That great multi-racial commonwealth in which, strangely enough, you are much more likely to be robbed and starved if you are of the wrong race. The supporters of Mr. Smith use as their argument the fact that the democracy that they have slowly built up will be destroyed; a democracy where you have the vote if you're clever enough (to vote the right way, and in the nick if you're not).

British business is interested in Rhodesia. Interested in keeping the status quo, and this is why they are still talking. Neither side is considering selling the African majority, for they are not considering them at all. They have other fish to fry. There's no need for Lord Salisbury to panic, both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Smith have HIS interests at heart.

THE SAME COIN

In the end the issue is quite clear. There are colonial masters who say what they think and do what they say. There are ex imperialists (now disguised as democrats) who don't say what they think and don't do what they say; and there are the people of Africa being exploited by both, whose lot will never change unless they take their future in their own hands.

The fascist and the liberal are the two sides of the same thing. They want to eat the same meal, ONLY THE WAY THEY DO IT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE, but the difference is only for the self-satisfied liberals who are not doing the suffering; for the subjugated African the truth is that 'to change the master is not to be free'.

JAFSIE.

YCND Annual Conference

THE RIVALRY for predominance at this year's YCND Annual Conference held at Mahatma Gandhi Hall on the weekend October 30-31, was exclusively between the 'Anarchist wing' and the 'Communist wing' of YCND, the 'Labour Party wing' being almost totally stifled by the disillusionment resulting from one year of 'Con-

servative' Government.

Apart from the miscellaneous trivia and private axes 'for the grinding of', that threaten to drag any peace conference into the mire of total irrelevance, the conference did contain one or two signposts of hope.

Watford YCND came to the startling conclusion, endorsed by conference, 'that the Labour defence policy was no different than that of the conservatives'.

Southall, a totally anarchist group (tut-tut), passed a resolution applauding non-alignment, with special reference to Vietnam, and deprecating the 'worker's bomb' and the dormancy of the CND wing of the Labour Party; a more specific motion on the 'worker's bomb' coming from Northolt Anarchists' YCND group (!) was also passed.

Southall, and Eltham YCND, passed a motion taking the campaign's activities into the factories; in the case of Southall, to the extent of, 'at least, token industrial action against nuclear weapons'.

Some discontent was expressed with the 'conservatives' of the peace movement who seem to live only for their Annual Easter Outing and who think

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ANARCHY 57

WHAT IS THE LAW?

ANARCHY is Published by Freedom Press at 2s. on the first Saturday of every month

THE KING HILL Hostel for the homeless, or the 'Halfway House' as it is often called, is situated in West Malling, near Maidstone in Kent. Living there are about 43 mothers and over 100 children. The Hostel itself somewhat resembles a concentration camp. The families live in long flimsy huts sharing washing facilities and baths between 2 families. They cook on an old-fashioned coal stove. There is no gas, and no electric points. They are bound by a ridiculous set of rules, a copy of which a wife has to sign upon entrance. No intoxicants, no animals, and worst of all—no men. This rule states 'No accommodation is provided for men'. If this rule is broken, it means eviction for the whole family. Another rule states that accommodation is provided for 3 months only. After that they are evicted whether they have found somewhere else or not. In the latter case their children are taken away from them. Uniformed staff inspect whenever they like. Sometimes at 7 a.m. without bothering to knock.

On May 5, Stan Daniels, his wife and 4 children, were evicted from their home in Bromley. After threats that their children would be taken from them—'being in need of proper care and attention'—they were forced to move to King Hill. When their 3 months had expired they had been unable to find anywhere else. Mrs. Daniels did not move out, Stan moved in. On August 31 the KCC tried to evict them, but failed after women and children blocked the entrance to the Hostel with dustbins.

After this first success, 13 other husbands moved in. On October 4 the KCC obtained an interim injunction enabling them to use force to separate the men from their wives, if still there after midday on October 8. On October 9 families and supporters held a demonstration in Maidstone to protest about the evictions. Thousands of leaflets published by Kent Solidarity were distributed. On October 23 a public meeting was held at the Hostel where the families presented a charter demanding better conditions. Also a fancy dress party was held for the children who were given presents. This was almost broken up by the police. They tried violently to grab the megaphone from Jim Radford, who was getting the children into line. This was prevented. The Inspector then referred to the families as scum.

THE 'THREE TUNS' ENQUIRY

AN ARTICLE which I wrote for the Bristol University magazine '65' caused a nine-day wonder some months back, when the national press pounced on it and headlined the 'allegations' that hemp had been planted on people arrested during a raid on Bristol's 'Three Tuns' public house in St. George's Road. Only FREEDOM reprinted it in full without the appropriate distortions. The publicity upset George Twist, our Chief Constable, who demanded substantiation or a retraction and apology. As a result of this the National Council for Civil Liberties was contacted, and with their most helpful assistance statements from people arrested were obtained and presented to the Chief Constable with a formal complaint.

This resulted in an enquiry conducted by two officers from the Staffordshire force. After considerable delay this report has completed its passage through the tortuous channels of officialdom and come to rest on Mr. Twist's desk. In a letter handed to me on October 27 he informed me that 'the independent investigation into your allegations against the Bristol Police regarding the "Three Tuns" raid in September 1964 have been thoroughly and independently investigated in accordance with the terms of section 49 of the Police Act 1964' (sic). On the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions he finds the allegations 'entirely unsubstantiated' and proposes to take no further action on the matter. My long standing request to be allowed to see a copy of the report is not mentioned, and none of the specific points are in any way referred to.

Life being WHAT IT IS...

Angry men and women tried to overturn his car, and in his haste to escape he shut a little boy in the car door. The Press were then cleared from the grounds, one photographer got his film confiscated. The police eventually left unharmed.

On October 25, several families and about 50 supporters from the Bromley Socialist Action Group, Kent Solidarity, and Dartford/Bexley Anarchists attended a meeting in Erith addressed by the Rt. Hon. R. H. S. Crossman, Minister of Housing, who, after repeated questions concerning the Hostel, refused to answer. After consistent heckling and a brief scuffle at the door when stewards attempted to eject a man who had been distributing leaflets, a rather stunned Minister left the meeting. On November 1, four men were due to appear at the Strand High Court

Two Quotes

His Lordship:

His Lordship was satisfied that, although this was something to be regretted and something which presented grave human problems, nevertheless, life being what it was and the difficulties being what they were in relation to housing today, the plaintiffs really had no other alternative but to insist upon that rule.

★

A defendant:

'We cannot turn our backs on our wives under these conditions when they really need us. We have respect for the law but we cannot turn our backs on them.'

charged with contempt. They were Stan Daniels, Roy Mills, Denis Sales and Brian Lomas. Stan did not appear as his wife was in court at Maidstone for overstaying her time at the Hostel. This case was deferred. The judge was quite satisfied that they were in contempt although pretty strong evidence was produced. He made them all sign an undertaking saying that they would not go to the Hostel except between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and secondly in a case of emergency such as a sick wife or child they would first go to a Police Station and go to the Hostel accompanied by a policeman.

On November 4, once again several families and various supporters attended a meeting in Erith this time addressed by Crossman's assistant, Bob Mellish. Most of us were refused admission. About half way through, one militant youth went to a side door and managed to open it from the inside. We tried to push our way in but were stopped by police and stewards. After three successive tries I managed to squeeze my way in. The meeting then started to get out of hand and eventually Mellish stood up and said that he had prepared a statement for the families, and would address them outside after the meeting. After cries of 'Why not inside so the voters can hear?' he got up and walked out. He then addressed the families and told them that this was nothing to do with housing but in fact came under welfare in the Minister of Health. However he had personally seen the Minister, and he assured them that something would be done. He agreed that the recent judge's decision was completely 'inhuman'.

On November 5, Stan Daniels appeared in court. The case was over in about ten minutes and Stan was made to accept the undertaking. The Judge was then handed a letter from Brian Lomas and Roy Mills, saying that they could not accept the undertaking. He called them to the front and asked them if they fully understood the implications of this letter, and did they know that he could now send them to prison. They said they did, and assured him that they knew what they were doing. After saying something about going to the Crown Office and arranging a hearing he told them that he didn't want to hear any more about it, and told them to go away. They have now gone back to the Hostel.

At last it looks like there is a ray of hope for these people. If we keep the kettle boiling and keep hammering the authorities these unfortunate people will eventually be able to live in peace and not constantly worrying whether they'll have a roof over their head tomorrow or not.

PHIL REDMAN.

King Hill Fighting Fund

Defendants have been refused legal aid.
Money to be sent to:
Dr. Don Barrister,
27 Meadow Walk, Wilmington,
near Dartford.

See page 2 for 'Letter to His Lordship'

IAN VINE.

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Your Lordship,

We, BRIAN LOMAS and ROY MILLS, will be attending your Court at 10.30 on November 5. We respectfully request you to consider the following statement.

In your Court on Monday, November 1, you pronounced us guilty of contempt of court. You did not believe us when we said that we had not flouted the Court Order of October 4 by living with our wives and children at the King Hill Hostel for homeless families, at West Malling, Kent.

We feel that you came to the conclusion that we were in contempt because we openly admitted that we had been visiting our families regularly. We do not think that the position regarding visiting was adequately explained to you by those representing us. We would like to explain this to you personally and properly now.

The interim injunction granted to the Kent County Council in the High Court on October 4 restrained us from living at King Hill Hostel. It did not restrain us from visiting. On October 8, we appealed against the granting of this injunction before the Court of Appeal. Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, rejected our Appeal but he obviously felt he had a very strong reason for doing so when he said: 'In the ordinary way, husbands would go to work and would only be there at night. These men can go and visit their families at any time, but they must not sleep there.' Please see attached photostat of a press cutting from the *Evening Standard* of October 8.)

Enquiries have been made in the appropriate offices of the High Courts of Justice with the purpose of getting a transcript of the proceedings in the Court of Appeal on October 8, so that we could put Lord Denning's full statement before your Lordship. It has been discovered that it is not practice to make shorthand notes of the whole of such proceedings, and no such notes were made in this case. We submit, therefore, that the press report quoted above is sufficient evidence of Lord Denning's statement concerning visiting times.

A further reason for our continuing to visit our families after October 8 is that there is a notice concerning visiting at the main entrance to King Hill Hostel. This notice measures about four feet by three feet. In letters two inches high, it states:

'ALL ENQUIRIES TO THE WARDEN'S OFFICE UNLESS VISITING A FAMILY QUARTER AT THE OCCUPANT'S REQUEST.'

According to this notice, anybody can visit our wives—except us!

On Monday, November 1, you ruled that we can only visit our wives and families on Saturdays and Sundays except in the case of an emergency—such as illness of a wife or child—and that in such an emergency we must first go to a police station and get a police officer to escort us into King Hill Hostel and that he must remain there until we come out again. This raises all sorts of questions which were not stated or considered. For example, will the police accept our interpretation of an 'emergency'? Will a police officer be immediately available when we inform them of the emergency? Is the police officer to travel with us on the bus from West Malling Police Station to King Hill Hostel (a distance of over two miles) or is the police officer to escort in a police car? How long are we allowed to stay in the hostel in an emergency?

It is also obvious that there is consider-

Letter to His Lordship

able confusion on the Kent County Council about visiting and visiting times. On Wednesday, October 20, the Health and Welfare Committee met, under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Elliott. The Committee amended rule 5 of the King Hill rules of conduct. The old rule 5 used to read 'Normal visiting at week ends only. Special visits can only be made by prior arrangement with the Officer-in-Charge'. It was amended to read as follows: 'Visiting between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays only. Special visits can only be made by prior arrangement with the Officer-in-Charge'.

Notification of this amended rule was given in writing to most of the mothers at King Hill, on October 22. But not one husband, nor any other possible visitor was notified. The notice at the main entrance remains in its original form, to this very day.

WE FEEL THAT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE OF

THE KCC HAVE OPENLY FLOUTED LORD DENNING'S STATEMENT (QUOTED ABOVE) ABOUT VISITING TIMES. WE FEEL THAT IT WAS REASONABLE FOR US TO BELIEVE, AS WE DID, THAT LORD DENNING'S STATEMENT AS QUOTED IN THE PRESS CARRIED MORE AUTHORITY IN THE MATTER OF VISITING TIMES THAN THE CONFUSION ON THE SUBJECT SHOWN BY THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL AND ITS HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE.

We are finding it extremely difficult to abide by your Lordship's ruling on the question of visiting. Our wives and families, because of their homelessness, were in a very distressed condition even before entering King Hill Hostel. In spite of the appalling conditions in the hostel, their distress was somewhat lessened as long as we could visit them daily, or at least several times a week. Now that we are only allowed to visit

THIS LETTER WAS put before Mr. Justice Lawton (in Court) on 5.11.65 when Brian Lomas and Roy Mills addressed him. It is released for publication by B. Lomas and R. Mills.

them at week ends their distress is becoming pitiful and heartbreaking. Some of our children are fretting for us and becoming ill. Our wives are getting near to nervous breakdowns. Our families have committed no crime. The fault for our homelessness does not lie with us.

On carefully reconsidering our actions of the past weeks, we are now convinced that we have committed no crime either. On the contrary. We believe we have done the right, proper, and moral thing, which ought to be the natural duty of every good citizen and husband.

We feel we must continue to do our duty. We must continue to do what we consider the right thing. We must therefore inform your Lordship of our intention to be free from now on to visit our wives and children whenever possible, to comfort, console, reassure and help them.

Your Lordship,
We remain,
Yours sincerely,
BRIAN LOMAS and ROY MILLS.

ROUND THE GALLERIES

I HAVE REVIEWED paintings under many contrived conditions and in many an odd gallery. Whether it was standing on the public pavement, the silence of the private house, the arty pub, the suicidal tiny attic or the dirt crawling cellar, one thing was paramount and that was the dignity of the painter, for it was accepted that without the painter there was nothing and in that small moment in time and space he is given the full honour of one who has to give and we stand happy and eager to receive. It has been left to our grey and flabby faced bureaucracy to achieve the nadir of human understanding and good taste.

Whoever was responsible for the handling of the Arthur Koestler Award Scheme, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1, went through his motions with such clammy insensitivity that a display of public vomiting would be a worthy comparison. Arthur Koestler having been imprisoned by the Spanish, French and British Establishments in that order of priority, died some years ago to help those captive guests of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by providing annual awards to prisoners in order to encourage them to produce some form of creative work. If properly handled it was a happy idea and, as all good schemes should, it threw up its *au grand scandale de tout le monde* when it became known that the novel *Young and Sensitive* by Don Robson that won the first prize in the 1963 Koestler Award was a well sprung con job. Ex-prisoner Robson had laboriously spent his cell time in copying, in longhand, an American unsaleable paperbacked novel *Fires of Youth* by an unknown and untraceable author Charles Williams. Robson submitted this plagiarised work as the first fruit of his own creative, new-born genius, and walked off with the first prize and a contract with the publishing firm of Hutchinson. There is now a dull beating of breasts in the back rooms and the casting of baleful eyes in the direction of Green, Peters, Priestley, Pritchett and Toynbee for handing out the loot, yet

these starry eyed literati were in the right in that they merely gave an opinion on a work of art placed before them for the authorship was not their problem. If they made fools of themselves by handing out dictums that might have recoiled upon them that is their own personal problem. As for Robson and his con trick, let the man keep the prize and simply alter the rules of reference for the Koestler Award was specifically instituted to encourage prisoners to do some form of creative work and if pulling the rug from under the feet of pomposity is not creative then we are all in for a long hard haul to the grave. But a Don Robson was sorely needed at this year's exhibition of the Koestler Award Scheme. There within Charing Cross Underground Station, for one brief week, was exhibited the work of incarcerated men and the, with what adjective can one describe him?, person responsible for this study of mass humiliation had placed a fully uniformed prison warden in public charge of the exhibition and that the point should not be lost on the drifting travellers He had plastered this exhibition with recruiting forms advertising for prison warders (£13 10s. 6d. a week without overtime). To apply for a catalogue, 'We've run out of them sir', one had to stand before a prison warden at his desk and to seek information one had to wait while uniformed pockets were unfastened and thumbed notebooks studied, 'Understand this, sir. Mr. Koestler was not a criminal even if, as you say, he'd been in prison three times because they were for political offences.'

Will they never learn, these stupid people, that the only thing you can rob a man of is his dignity as a man and that

this is what poverty, imprisonment and herded labour does, and that patronage, be it private, public or prison, does not alleviate this evil but is merely a form of black charity that degrades both giver and receiver. There are two answers for Koestler in his attempt to help the men and women behind bars and this does not lie in simply herding their creative work before a swinish and indifferent public as an opportunity for a five minutes of instant giggle.

If he values the dignity of these men and women as individuals then they should never be segregated, and if this dreary type of exhibition must be given, then every one within the prison confines should be encouraged to submit work. This means the warders, the official, the medical staff, the civilian administration staff, yea, even to the prison governor, for only when their nameless work join the other nameless works in these exhibitions can it truly be held to be *prison art*, and who would dare to dogmatise when the daub that one was knocking might be by the chief medical HMP.

The other way out for Koestler is to syphon the prison work unobtrusively into the public domain without the dirty hands of authority publicly pushing and fouling it. Damn the authorities for their help and their hindrance, for they will shrug off the failures and take full credit for the successes. Visualise the prison work of Bertrand Russell or Fuchs publicly displayed as part of a recruiting drive for prison warders and the sheer imbecility of this exhibition becomes apparent.

But, in all honesty, one must record that there is little merit in the work exhibited in this current exhibition and the kindest thing would have been to have had it entered in the various amateur art shows within the London area, as the local Hammersmith art group does, for within this framework it could stand or fall on its own merit and this is, in that old final analysis, all you can offer an artist. But the clowns in High Office have decreed otherwise. The first three prizes went in this order: Blundestone

Continued on page 3

Anarchist Federation of Britain

Co-ordinating Secretary: Frank Hirshfield, 4 Albert St., London, N.W.1.

London Anarchist Group 1&2

'Lamb and Flag', Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2. (Leicester Square tube) 7.45 p.m. All welcome. Sundays.

NOV 14 Philip Sansom

Just Talking

NOV 21 Axel Ney-Hoch

Join the Police Force!

NOV 27 Arthur Uloth

Propagating the Faith

Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park 3 p.m. Correspondence to: D. Bell, 10 Gilbert Place, W.C.1.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Rd., S.W.6 (off King's Rd.), 8 p.m.
Last Thursday in month: At George Hayes', 174 McLeod Road, S.E.2.

2nd Friday at Brian Leslie's, 242 Amesbury Avenue, S.W.2 (Streatham Hill, Nr. Station).

3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald & Irene Room's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

First and third Tuesday of each month at A. W. Uloth's, 24 Curtain Road, E.C.2, 8 p.m. (entrance through cafe).

THE LONDON INDIVIDUALIST ANARCHIST GROUP

meets the second Sunday of each month at 10 Churton Street, Victoria, S.W.1 (off Vauxhall Bridge Road) at 8 p.m.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

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

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Details of meetings from Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Erdington, B'ham, 23.

BORDER FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. Correspondence: John Stark, 39 Scott Street, Galashiels.

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian Vine, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.

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

DUNDEE GROUP. contacts: (1) Bob and Una Turnbull, 44 Peddie Street, Dundee. Meetings at 44 Peddie Street, Dundee, every Saturday at 3 p.m. (2) Sheila Whittaker, 64 Polepark Road, Dundee.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1. Meetings at Horseshoe Bar, Drury Street, Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylsden. Meetings alternate Tuesdays, 8 p.m. at the Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Manchester and socially: week-ends at the Rising Sun, Albert Square, Manchester.

ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.

MERSEYSIDE FEDERATION. Enquiries: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Devonshire Park, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

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

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

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

SURREY ANARCHISTS are invited to meetings on the first Thursday of every month at Chris Torrance's (63 North Street, Carshalton, Surrey—please ring three times). Meetings 7.30 p.m.

SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Roger Sandell, 58 Burns Avenue, Southall, Middlesex.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Mr. Karl Taylor, 98 Clova Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7. Meetings on Wednesdays.

PROPOSED GROUPS

CORNWALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Interested? Please write Derek Toman, 46 Weeth Lane, Camborne, Cornwall.

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY GROUP. Anyone interested please contact Bill Jamieson, c/o Students' Union, Oxford Road, Manchester.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Projected formation of group contact Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex or Miss Jean McLean, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex.

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E. Have baby. Can't travel. Seek sympathisers/comrades in area. Mike and Alison Malet, 61 Granville Park, S.E.13.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO. Anyone interested contact Joe Embleton, 11 Baliol Street, Glasgow.

READING AND DISTRICT. Anybody interested in a revival of group, contact Roy St. Pierre and Max Playfer, 24 Morgan Road, Reading or Mike Bloom, St. Patrick's Hall (H.18), Northcourt Avenue, Reading.

ABROAD

NEW ZEALAND. Auckland Anarchist Group. Public Meetings every Sunday in Myers Park at 2 p.m.

We are sorry to announce that our friend, Karl Walter, died in London last month at the age of 85.

He came from a musical family. His father was an organist at Edinburgh, whose parents were a German composer and an Austrian singer settled in Switzerland; his mother was the daughter of a Yorkshire composer. He had no memory of his parents, who both died of tuberculosis in their twenties. He was brought up with his brother by an aunt, and educated in England, Switzerland and Italy. In his twenties he got over the chest trouble that seemed to threaten him with his parents' fate, and, after working in North and South America, he settled in the Old Town at Bordighera on the Italian Riviera, did some social work with Grinling in Woolwich, and met such people as Keir Hardie and Kropotkin. Keir Hardie came to visit him in Bordighera, and Kropotkin introduced him to the English anarchists.

He wrote occasionally for FREEDOM, and he was one of the two English delegates to the International Anarchist Congress at Amsterdam in 1907; the other was his friend, Tom Keell, then the printer and later the editor of FREEDOM. In 1904 he had married Margaret Hardy, an American girl he met in Italy. In 1908 he went to the United States, and worked for the Kansas City Star until the Great War. He then returned to England, and worked as a journalist to help bring America into the War. He told Keell, who was holding FREEDOM to its anti-war

position despite the opposition of Kropotkin, that he thought 'we had to win the war in order to secure, among other things, the freedom to argue against fighting that or any other war'. After this he drifted away from the anarchists.

He had always been interested in the co-operative movement, and in 1924 he became the first Secretary of the Foundation for Agricultural Co-operation founded by his friend, Horace Plunkett. In 1934 he retired to Bordighera to write. He had always been interested in syndicalist ideas, and he had some sympathy with the syndicalist aspect of Italian Fascism; but his qualified support didn't help when Mussolini declared war in 1940, and he and his wife had to flee the country. After the War they returned to Bordighera, where she died in 1953. He then divided his life between England and Italy, until he settled down for the last time in London in 1963. He remarried in 1957, and again in 1965.

He returned in old age to the anarchism of his youth, and wrote occasionally for FREEDOM again. He called himself an anarchist communist, but he was really an extreme individualist, as he had been all his life. He wrote several books, of which the most interesting is his unpublished autobiography; extracts from it have appeared in the *University Librarian* and *FREEDOM*.

We are glad to publish a memoir of Karl Walter by his only son, Dr. Grey Walter, of the Burden Neurological Institute, Bristol.

KARL WALTER 1880-1965

OF the 300 or so people who died in Greater London on October 18, 1965, one was Karl Walter. For perhaps the tenth time he became a statistic, a dead number in the mechanical memory of Government. He accepted this rôle with as good a grace as he had on the other occasions when he was forced to identify with 'Them'—birth, marriages, and National Registration. As an anarchist from 'way back he could laugh at the rulers' concern with his material existence and even manipulate their machinery to suit his ends. He never made more than enough money to live on in the way he wanted to live, with time for friendship, poetry and leisure. He had several generous friends who gave him enough money to educate me at quite expensive Establishments, and to live in reasonable comfort much longer than he expected to. He was registered as a journalist and even in this vocation, which was only a part of his activity, he was improbably versatile. The jobs he was most proud of were writing for *FREEDOM* and, of all other publications, the *Kansas City Star*. Perhaps it can be taken as a symbol of his paradoxical effectiveness that both papers are still running, at the opposite poles of political bias, still powerful representatives of British Anarchism and mid-Western Republicanism.

His own writing covered an equally wide range; Co-operation and Democracy in Italy (during Fascism), a scientific book on the Brain, and science fiction with me, and much poetry, a volume of which he had printed and privately circulated only a few months before his death. Even in his poetry he found most pleasure in the

most highly disciplined forms—Acrostic sonnets to people he loved and meticulous translations from Russian, Latin and dialect Italian. In his last years, having rented a flat from a Hellenic scholar, he set himself to learn Greek in the hope of extracting more delicate meanings from the classical love poems.

Karl Walter's philosophy of life owed more to his personal friends than to his education, which was conventional although cosmopolitan. He spent many years in Italy, at the turn of the century, in the 30's and after World War II. He loved the country, its people and language not only for their warmth and superficial charm but even more for the deeply rooted individuality which is concealed from more casual Italophiles by material beauty. His anarchist convictions and integrity met their severest test when he was living in the Old Town of Bordighera during the fascist epoch. He lost several friends by his reasoned apologies for Italian Fascism during the Abyssinian and Spanish Wars, and it was indeed hard to find any good or hope in Italy in those days. Karl, however, found many old friends in Mussolini's gang, like the *Duce* himself, Socialists by upbringing, and now syndicalists by circumstance. It was the strain of syndicalism in the Corporative State that gave Karl hope of positive evolution. As a close friend and follower of Edward Carpenter, Peter Kropotkin and Keir Hardie, he could not think in simple dialectical terms. He realised sadly that before the state could wither it would inevitably put out some exotic carnivorous blooms which might contain the seeds of future tyranny—or of freedom.

In many ways Karl was a modest pioneer. When he was first married, he and my mother lived in two rooms in Bordighera Old Town among the peasants and fishermen, rejecting the typical bourgeois society of the prosperous English Colony in which he had grown up and where they still had many friends. At the same time he was working as a bank clerk in the English Bank, and in World War II he resumed this ironical activity in the Italian Department of the Bank of England, where also he made many close friends. At that time my parents were very poor, lived on bread and oil and tomatoes, and bathed only in the sea; he wore a beard and home-made sandals, and 60 years later would have been called a beatnik. Their friends were the Socialists, humanists, revolutionaries and artists of the period; they succeeded in getting a socialist elected mayor, and my mother was appointed Inspector of Schools in this

'Organise the Dissenters'—Peggy Duff in 'Sanity'

THE WILSON-SMITH cliff-hanger over Rhodesia continued with an additional thrill thrown in of the Government's majority being further reduced by the death of an MP in a marginal constituency. Westminster constituency inevitably returned a Tory although a Labour candidate and a Liberal candidate met a convinced Tory in Buckingham Palace who thought Sir Alec Douglas-Home was marvellous and were very sorry he resigned. The Liberal candidate said, 'Conditions in the Palace did not seem to be at all bad'. The Liberal candidate said, 'They (in Buckingham Palace) are such nice people—absolutely lively and well-informed. I had two of the best political discussions I have had in the whole campaign in there. We canvassed the silver pantry and the linen room. It was very beautiful silver, beautifully polished'. The Tory candidate said, 'I do not feel that it is right to use the electors living at Buckingham Palace for purposes of publicity'. He did not send a canvasser. The Liberal lost his deposit. . . .

A LIBERAL MP took the post of deputy Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, forfeiting his voting rights and disenfranchising his electorate and securing the Government's majority of three. The Liberals moved into Smith Square to be with the other political parties. The Post Office delivered the Labour Party's mail to the Liberals on the first working day. . . .

MR. JIM WELBELOVED the Labour candidate for Erith and Crayford said at a noisy election meeting that he sympathised with the plight of people who had been evicted from their homes. He accused 'Anarchist, Trotskyist and Socialist action' movements of exploiting for their own purposes the real suffering of those without homes. . . .

THE NO-HANGING BILL, a private member's bill sponsored by Mr. Sidney Silverman was given a third reading in the House of Lords and the House of Lords passed Lord Arran's bill to legalise homosexual practices between consenting adults in private (this is unlikely to pass in the House of Commons which is necessary before it becomes law). The widow of the late Speaker of the House was awarded by bill a pension of £32 a week, it was pointed out that the pension for MP's widows was only £300 per year. . . .

DURING A WEEK in which the *Daily Mirror* was denouncing Trade Unions, Lewis and Watters, a building firm of Coventry had announced a plan (later withdrawn) to dismiss 300 employees on December 3 and re-engage them three days later in order to avoid provisions of redundancy compensation law. The United Steelworkers Union of

America endorsed President Johnson's Policy in Vietnam, the United Auto Workers Union said that this policy was 'insuring against Communist military victory while holding forth the hand of unconditional negotiations'. The Council of the US 13,000,000-member AFL-CIO declared that 'the turn in the tide in the struggle confirms the soundness of our Government's policy of defeating the forces of Communist subversion and aggression and promoting social and economic reconstruction'. . . .

THE DANISH FINANCE MINISTRY admitted that it had sent bank shares valued at about £150,000 to a pulp-mill believing that they were worthless cinema tickets. A court dispute about an estate of £6,000,000 was settled after three years. Legal costs amounted to £1,000 an hour at one time. The Judge's life was insured by the estate for £300,000 during the hearing of the case. . . .

MEANWHILE, THE US played havoc with its friends, accidentally bombing the village of De Duc and another village killing 49 civilians and wounding 55. It was said that the accident at De Duc was the result of the transposition of two digits in the co-ordinates of a target. A Canberra dropped three bombs on South Korean troops whom it was supposed to be supporting in an action against the Vietcong. One Korean was killed and four injured. A South Vietnam major was arrested by police investigating the death of his wife, a Master Sergeant known as 'Tiger Lady'. A Vietnamese farmer, Nguyen Van Chin was operated upon for the removal of a hand grenade from his back. He had been walking around with the grenade embedded in his back for eight days. He is reported to have said on sitting up in the hospital bed, 'I must get back. The crops have to be planted'. A young Quaker set fire to himself on the steps of the Pentagon as a protest against the Vietnam war, bystanders took away his young child from him before he set fire to himself. . . .

THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE mysteriously informs 'As a matter of fact, Mr. Moyers disclosed, when high policy questions were at issue in private meetings at the White House, the two Cabinet officers (Mr. McNamara and Dean Rusk) would sometimes discuss them from each other's viewpoint'. No doubt exhausted by this, Dean Rusk was announced to be 'taking a few days off for some rest'. . . .

NEWSWEEK carried an advertisement by Warner and Swasey, Precision machinery manufacturers of Cleveland, headed 'THE WORDS MEN LIVE BY. Patriotism. Loyalty. Self-respect. Decency. Honour. Work' and goes on 'These are the labels of the ideals which built this country, saved the world, still feed the hungry

and support the old and sick. These things are the only hope of the future. Courts may seem to condone treason, labour leaders downgrade hard work, theatres show filth, politicians smirk at dishonour, and too many sneer at self-respect. But in spite of all these, there are still hundreds of thousands of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; thousands who work without pay for Red Cross and Family Service; there is still Junior Achievement; there are churches so crowded they hold two services every Sunday; still Americans who volunteer for dangerous action in the Armed Services; still hundreds of thousands too self-respecting to go on relief so long as they can get any work of any kind; there are still countless boys who get up at five in the morning to carry newspapers or shovel snow or run errands; still hundreds of thousands of men and women who do two jobs so they can help buy an education for a son or a home for old parents. Yes, somehow, in spite of the greedy who want something for nothing, most of America is still the land of the free and the home of the brave. *Don't anyone dare try to change it.*' . . .

FURTHER IN NEWSWEEK a correspondent writes, 'I have never condoned US involvement in South-east Asia but recently had nearly resigned myself to accepting the Administration's policy as the only road to negotiations and maintenance of our national integrity. I am wondering now'. . . . At this point the text is interrupted by eight pages of advertising for a KLM Mediterranean cruise; a Berlitz course; the United Nations Plaza (a hotel); a movie camera; Reader's Digest boosting its advertising pull for Contac—a cold remedy (n.b. not a cure); builders of cars for liquid fertiliser; Kimberley Clark printing and business papers; and a half-page Gleneagles raincoats then the letter finishes, 'if the "integrity" of the United States can be placed above the right of this (Vietnamese) woman to a life without suffering'. . . .

JON QUIXOTE.

LONDON MOBILISATION

HERE ARE the latest plans from the Committee of 100 for their November 27 demonstration against the war in Vietnam.

There will be three assembly points. Marchers will leave at 5.45 p.m. from Mornington Crescent in the North, Kennington Park from the South and the Albert Hall in the West. At the moment there has been no arrangements made for a march to start out from the East End. All the separate columns will go to the Embankment by Charing Cross where a torchlight procession will go to Parliament Square, Whitehall, Trafalgar Square, New Oxford Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, Piccadilly, back to Trafalgar Square, Strand, Fleet Street, ending up at St. Paul's for a short meeting. Peace organisations taking part include young and old CND, PPU, BCPV, and support has been promised from the Universities.

PRESS FUND

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TOTAL £31 6 10
Previously Acknowledged: £820 2 1

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Abolish Censorship

—demands George Melly

ADDRESSING A CAPACITY audience at the 'Lamb and Flag' on Sunday (November 7), George Melly commented on the restrictions imposed on his book *Owning-up*. 'Censorship still exists', he said, 'and we must campaign to abolish it. All that has happened since "Lady Chatterley" is that publishers are forced to listen to the printer's lawyer, as it is the printer's livelihood that is irrationally

surprising community. Even as avowed atheists, he and my mother were asked to be godparents to several local children, and so deep and lasting was the respect of the townsfolk that, when my mother died there 50 years later, the church and commune asked that she should be buried in the local Catholic cemetery, even when we refused all funeral rites and ceremonies. Her ancient friends and godchildren and their children still put flowers on her grave.

There can be no flowers on Karl's grave, for we had no funeral and we do not know when or where his body was finally destroyed. Sometimes, when dying seemed to be more than usually likely, during war or illness, he and I discussed our views of mortality and agreed that the twin ogres of Necrophobia and Necrophilia were phantoms of ancient ignorance and superstition. In the science-fiction novel we wrote together we said: 'I hope that by using the participle and not the bogey word *Death* I am able to give you the attitude that I have towards my own dying. . . . To me . . . dying is the tending-to-zero of behaviour, cannot be experienced, and need not be feared'. W.G.W.

at stake. He will look at books more cautiously and will ask for deletions.'

The word 'cunt', he said, had two meanings, that of a fool and that of vagina. In his book whenever he used the word 'cunt' as an expletive it was allowed. When he referred to the vagina he was asked to change the text. He had to omit the following sentence with which he wanted to end his book: 'The real cunt in a man's life is worth a thousand knee-trembles'.

Nevertheless, he thought, we were moving slowly towards an anarchist outlook. The revolution will not come about by everybody rushing into the streets and digging up the paving stones but will be inside each individual's head. ('Might as well give up,' said an interjector. 'Yes', replied Melly, 'give up your crowbar'.)

He thought the present prosecution of the publishers of *Golden Convolution* was an anachronism. 'The old many lion of authority is pouncing on a lame animal outside the herd.' Authority is taking advantage of the fact that Dave Cunliffe is not a rich publisher, the old lion still wants its pound of flesh. They would not prosecute an established firm like Michael Joseph's had they published the *Golden Convolution*. 'Publishers must band together and help Dave Cunliffe', he said, 'it was in their own interest.'

Question time that followed was in no way commensurate with the quality of the lecture: I would like to refer comrades to Voline's book on how anarchists conduct their meetings. Shouting each other down is no advertisement for the free society we advocate. R.

Round the Galleries

Continued from page 2

for a sketchbook full of Yeatsian bravado; Wandsworth for a brash and crowded canvas, daintily titled 'Mealtime', of men queuing to empty their piss-pots; and Moss Side prison for two religious paintings of raw and heavy handed brushwork.

I, for my part, would have chosen a Blundeston pencil drawing of a child for, despite its inaccurate drawing of draperies, it has a beautiful and delicate use of pencil, and Manchester for his winter landscape with its luminous depth and casual Utrillo modelling of houses.

But to Blundestone, Wandsworth, Moss Side and Manchester, whoever you may be, greetings and good wishes from Maxwell Road.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

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Attempted Murder in Fleet Street

AT 5 P.M. on Friday, October 29, 72 workers at Exchange Telegraph (EXTEL) were informed that their services would no longer be required after December 31. Extel had arbitrarily decided to close down its parliamentary and home news services.

This is the *Star-Chronicle* MURDER all over again, the difference is merely one of numbers of workers involved, but to individual workers concerned the result is the same—the SACK.

Before anyone goes into tears about Extel having its back to the wall and running at a loss for years, the facts are, Extel is doing very nicely, it is closely linked with Glyn Mills the bankers. Last year it earned record profits with a dividend raise of approx. 20 to 25%.

The major part of Extel business is supplying racing news to betting shops and the City 'ticker' service. Racing is a money-making big business, for all concerned (other than the punters). The City 'ticker' service speaks for itself so profit-wise Extel have no worries.

What Exchange Telegraph are doing, in fact, is cutting out the FINANCIAL DEADWOOD. A few years ago it closed its overseas offices to concentrate on its home service.

The only consideration of the company is to make more money (do we expect any different?); the question of providing a public service doesn't arise. As the *Guardian* stated on 1.11.65: 'They are the proprietors of a news agency, and have to remember that they are providing a public service. That must at times lead them to modify strictly commercial calculations.'

By 5 p.m. on October 29, strong protests had been made both by broadcast and publishing against the closure. On Monday, November 1, the workers concerned decided to set up a Defence Committee and

embark upon a nation-wide campaign to prevent the proposed closure. An amendment calling for immediate strike action was suspended at this stage for consideration if necessary at a future date. Within 24 hours the first official union delegation marched into the Extel boardroom for the first belated consultation. And 24 hours later leaders of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation (PKTF) demanded from the management an explanation and urged that steps should be taken to stop the shut-down.

Mr. Granville Eastwood, general secretary of the PKTF, issued this statement afterwards:

'There was a valuable exchange of views and it was agreed between the Federation representatives and the Company that everything should be done to prevent a cessation of the General Homes and Parliamentary News Services although it was acknowledged that financial obstacles were considerable. It was agreed that any action would need to be taken quickly and arrangements have been made for representatives of the PKTF to see the Newspaper Proprietors Association and the President of the Board of Trade on Friday of this week.'

On November 2, a letter was sent by the Defence Committee to George Brown pointing out the obvious dangers—the danger of restricted channels for the dissemination of news, the danger of sheer commercial self-interest. The letter calls for a thorough investigation if necessary and closes with the statement, 'Whatever is brought to light by such a study would be of benefit to the national interest and not least to that of 72 members of Exchange Telegraph staff now under notice of dismissal after years of service ranging up to half a century.'

On November 3, a letter was sent to the Minister of Labour deploring retrograde management technique of no consultation whatsoever. The letter ends, 'We would add that we have brought the matter to the attention of our unions through the

constitutional channels, and that the management has belatedly agreed to after-the-event discussions.'

Mr. Douglas Jay, President of the Board of Trade, does not think that the closure of Exchange Telegraph services is an appropriate case for the Monopolies Commission but is making further enquiries to see how far the facilities available to the public will be affected.

To date numerous messages of sympathy and support have been received from various sections of the trade union movement, from Government information circles, from MPs and from other areas. Messages of support are heartening; messages of sympathy frighten me, being sorry doesn't cost a light, in fact it can be an excuse for doing nothing.

On Thursday, November 11, the Extel Defence Committee is calling a mass meeting of all Fleet Street chapels at the Scottish Corporation Hall, Fetter Lane, at 6 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to put the case for keeping the Extel services in being and to call for support for the actions being taken now and that may be taken in the future.

In the last couple of years or so there have been many closures in the printing industry with printworkers being sacked. Printing houses have either amalgamated, left London, or have claimed to have gone broke. Extel puts forward none of these reasons for the closure—they just want to make a bigger profit irrespective.

Printworkers cannot accept this, there can be a possible solution. The National Press pay more for the service Extel provide, plus Extel subsidising from their lucrative revenue from racing, plus the 'City' coughing up more from their Stock Exchange transactions.

We are always being told we must work for the good of the nation, here is a chance for Extel to come forth as a shining beacon of patriotism. 'News' for the benefit of all.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

FREEDOM For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 13 1965 Vol. 26 No. 35

PRESSURE GROUP OR A MOVEMENT?

TRADE UNIONS in this country have always been reformist organisations without any revolutionary programme. They have worked within the framework of capitalism, gaining wage increases and winning better working conditions for their members. In fact, they performed the job they were created for, safeguarding the interests of and winning improvements for working people.

When one looks at them today, it often seems that they are now doing just the opposite of this. Nowadays the union leaders are so tied to the political wing, especially now that it is in power, that it is the 'national' i.e. employers' interests that are put first and those of the union members come a badly placed second. Even with the increase in profits, the unions are failing to get a reasonable share of these and even as reformist unions, they are failing their members.

To combat this sort of thing, workers have got together and set up their own organisation. These unofficial groupings in industries have come under attack, not only from the employers, but also from the union leaderships. They have received widespread coverage in the national press, the portworkers, powerworkers and exhibition workers, being examples of this.

A HEALTHY SIGN

As Anarchists, we are glad to see these groupings functioning, for they are a healthy sign. There are, of course, official channels for members to use to put forward their own ideas and policies, and according to union constitutions, it is the member who makes policy, but an increasing number of union members are seeing that this gets them nowhere and so the unofficial groupings are being formed.

Having gone this far, what are the aims of such a body? Obviously it will put forward some sort of programme which it feels will have the support of the workers in that industry, and by so doing, it will act as a pressure group upon their own union leaders. This is inevitable, but the function of the un-

official grouping should be to go beyond that of being a pressure group. Is it formed to try to change union officials and leaders, to utilise the official union channels to gain certain policies, to support official policies, to try to prevent any compromises during negotiations, or to try to build a rank and file movement within the industry? I feel the latter should be the prime activity.

If rank and file movements can be formed in industries, then they inevitably exert pressure on union leaders, and so a movement should be aimed for that is strong enough to by-pass this leadership. In my own industry, that of building, we have an unofficial grouping made up of labourers, carpenters, plumbers, etc. This, the London Joint Sites Committee, has done tremendous work and during this year has achieved two major victories, one the preventing of the sackings of known militants on the Sunley's site in Horseferry Road and the other, the recent victory over Turrioffs on the Barbican job. This is the sort of thing that can be done if only stewards and other workers get together.

Surely, by now, we have seen the uselessness of voting for this or that union leader or official. You cannot even do this in the Transport and General Workers' Union where all officials are appointed. It is not only useless, but we are also harming ourselves for we are giving power, which should remain in our hands, to someone else.

Our own works organisation can link up with other factories in the industry to form a strong movement which can gain the demands put forward by the rank and file. By having control on this level, active participation in these struggles will raise the consciousness of workers to further demands which go beyond wages and conditions.

If workers can build up, run and control their own organisations and not hand over power to union bureaucrats, then this is a major step forward, in that the structure of these organisations surely reflects how industry should be run. P.T.

LETTER

Admirable Idea, but . . .

Dear Comrades,

Once again on the back page of FREEDOM I notice advocacy of the admirable idea that striking busmen should take their buses out but not collect fares. There is, however, a possibility that such action, effective though it would prove, could lead to disaster. I am thinking of the legal position. If busmen take out a bus and carry passengers for nothing, then it seems to me they would be running an illegal bus service—and that the insurers would take no responsibility in the case of, say, an accident involving a passenger—or another motor vehicle—thus shifting the responsibility firmly onto the

shoulders of the men manning the bus—this is the prime legal liability of such action, and as damages could run into thousands, a busman could be financially crippled for life if a successful action was brought against him by an injured party. Again, trespass and larceny charges could presumably be brought against busmen taking out buses with the intention of flouting the terms of their contract.

This as I see it is the legal situation, though it may be that P.T. and Moyse have already had thoughts on the matter.

Fraternally yours,
Carshalton
CHRIS TORRANCE.
30.10.65

. . . they couldn't all be Sacked!

I have made some enquiries into the legal points raised by Chris Torrance in his letter.

London Transport have been granted, by Parliament, the sole right to provide, for payment of a fare, a bus service and any attempt by other persons to do the same would constitute a breach of this right and would therefore be illegal. It follows that if the busmen took the buses out, but did not collect fares, they would not be providing an illegal service and London Transport would have no legal redress.

The busmen, however, would be in breach of their contract with London Transport, in that they would not be

'performing their duties properly'. In this they could be disciplined, even to the extent of being sacked, but if this was a widespread campaign, they would hardly all be sacked, for London Transport would then be placed in a ridiculous position. In the event of the so-called 'ring-leaders' being sacked, such action, no doubt, would be followed by sympathy support from other busmen in the country and possibly from other workers.

With regard to liability in the case of an accident, because there would be no question of the busmen's action being illegal, London Transport, and through them their insurers, would be liable for any claims. P.T.

Contact Column

Accommodation. Anarchist couple with little daughter are seeking accommodation anywhere in London/South England also in return for housework, gardening, etc. Fauser, 242 Amesbury Avenue, Streatham, S.W.2.

Study Group. Blue Star Movement. Effective speaking, self-expression, creative communication. All welcome. Silver donation, 7.0-9.30 p.m. Mondays, November 1, 15, 22, 29 at 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W.2.

Projects for Peace Conference. Birmingham, November 13. 'La Boheme', Aston Street, 2.30 p.m.-8 p.m. Speakers Tom McAlpine, Phillip Seed and others. Films, discussion and working groups.

Concord Theatre Group. 'George Washington Crossing the Delaware' and 'In the Country of the Blind'. King Georges Hall, Great Russell Street, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, November 11, 12, 13 at 8 p.m.

Co-op. Support an anarchist group indirectly. Anyone, anywhere in Britain, using the Co-operative, can support Birmingham Anarchist Group by quoting our number, B86723.

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New Zealand Federation of Anarchists. First Annual Congress, December 26 to January 6. Enquiries Box 5455, Auckland CI, NZ.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

YCND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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only in terms of exhibitionism and empty protest rather than real communication and education; and Northolt carried a resolution advocating more emphasis on 'constructive Peace action projects', whether or not this will remain a mere 'paper resolution' remains to be seen.

Efforts were made to turn the YCND towards the Committee of 100, but these were resisted, in my view, rightly, as a lot of 'fringe' support would be lost in this way, and a 'fringe' can be encouraged to greater militancy in time.

A valiant effort, with which I sympathised, was made by Harpenden YCND to turn YCND totally pacifist, but again, and for similar reasons, this was defeated, and again probably rightly so; but it is an encouraging sign.

YCND also, thankfully, resisted several attempts to impose membership; it seems that 'Party cards' are not 'in', at least, not at the moment.

A motion welcoming the new Ministry of Disarmament was remitted, thus another irrelevant 'red herring' was recognised for the 'stinking fish' that it is.

The general trend was towards local action rather than centralised action; though successful attempts were made to emphasise the need for unity in the Peace movement, which might annoy some of the more 'purist' elements in the Anarchist movement.

A resolution on peace research from Maidstone was remitted (though passed on a straw vote); it is to be sincerely hoped that this line of thought is not completely forgotten, for the fruits of real work in this field could be of considerable value.

An entire section of the conference was devoted to discussion on Vietnam, with swords often crossed between the 'Communist wing' represented chiefly by Barking YCND who, in one resolution, applauded the 'outstanding restraint and political maturity of the North Vietnamese Government' and the 'Anarchist wing'. The Barking resolution was luckily withdrawn in favour of a Vietnam composite—which read thus:—

'This conference deplores the British Government's support of US policies in Vietnam, which threaten to escalate into a world war. It calls upon the British Government to use its influence to stop the bombing of North Vietnam as a first stage to peace. It asks for the recognition of the Government of the Peoples' Republic of North Vietnam. It calls for the bringing together of the participants of the Geneva Conference of 1954, together with the representatives of the NLF and it asks that the International Control Commission set up by that conference should return to South Vietnam to supervise a cease fire, the withdrawal of foreign armed forces, especially US forces, and the holding of free elections, without prejudice to the eventual reunification of the country, as envisaged in the Geneva Agreement.'

In summary it was, on the whole, a good conference for the more Libertarian elements. Disillusionment with the present 'Tory' Government's masquerade as socialist was duly expressed and endorsed over and over again; and conference also had the good sense to avoid, for the most part, the pitfalls of doctrinaire totalitarianism advocated by the 'Communist bloc' of YCND.

JIM HUGGON.