

A Letter from Spain

'Who will speak of Palomares' is the first line of a poem by Anselm Hollo. The horror of the incident is still not revealed completely. Howard Simons, writing in the 'Washington Post', said: 'The United States was more than fortunate, in a way. Palomares is remote and not heavily populated. What would have happened if Palomares had been a city and were contaminated with radioactive plutonium?'

'Surprisingly,' says Simons, 'the only actual agitation—except for diplomatic thrusts—was a small, anti-American demonstration in Madrid. No-one can guarantee that a fatal accident involving an H-bomb may not happen in the future, be it American, French, Russian or Chinese bomb.'

In the meantime we are printing this frightened account from 'inside Spain':

I AM DEPRESSED in this shit of a city (Madrid), and I am afraid of what has happened. I have a pathological fear which makes me walk on tiptoes. Everything is wrong here. The two American planes that fell near Almería, and that carried the two damned atomic bombs, have contaminated 600 persons. I know an architect who is contaminated, who made declarations in two American newspapers saying that the Spanish government worries a lot about the Gibraltar question but show no inconvenience that the Americans build their bases here, fly with bombs over Spain

Mr. Mirpuri's Passport

IN THE LONG and violent history of the Portuguese secret police (the PIDE) there have been many cases which have exposed its brutality and contempt for world opinion. Their carelessness and indifference have now exposed their hand in the murder of General Humberto Delgado and his secretary in February 1965. All this has come to light in the affair of Mr. Mirpuri's passport.

In July 1965, an international warrant was issued against Mr. Mirpuri by the Spanish police, for complicity in the murder of Delgado. At the time the warrant was issued, Mr. Mirpuri was in Jersey and was interviewed by the island's police chief who, on checking Mr. Mirpuri's story, was satisfied with his account of his movements during the relevant period. The Jersey police then requested Interpol to remove Mr. Mirpuri's name from the list of wanted persons.

Mr. Mirpuri, it seems, went to Lisbon in January 1963, to see his father who has a shop there. As he wished to stay longer than the maximum permitted stay for a visitor (60 days), he went to the Portuguese Immigration Police to obtain an extension visa. The police took his passport, gave him a receipt and told him to call back for it in a week's time.

Continued on page 2

Bigger they are— harder they fall

IT IS USUAL procedure that when Kings, Emperors, Dictators or Saviours, are thrown out of office, they retire and live in comfort in Spain or South America on their ill-gotten gains. Not the great Nkrumah, he becomes Joint President with Sékou Touré of Guinea.

Nkrumah has always been the idol of left wing Labourites, he could do no wrong, every action he took and the policies he adopted all had to be justified. I think even Fenner Brockway used to wonder what was going to happen next.

The rise to infamy of Nkrumah followed the set pattern in British Colonial countries. Educated in the States and England, he studied law, pursued a policy of agitation from outside and returned to the Gold Coast in 1947. As a member of the 'Convention Peoples Party' he continued agitating and organising and in 1951 wound up in prison, which is the last step before becoming Prime Minister. In 1952 he became Prime Minister. In 1956, in a special general election on the issue of independence, the CPP gained an overwhelming majority and in 1957 Nkrumah became the Prime Minister of Ghana.

If one looks around, one will find that nearly all the colonial territories had 'one crop economies' (which was deliberate British Colonial policy). Ghana was no exception; it produced half the total world output of cocoa which constituted 70% of its exports. Therefore, Ghana was and still is at the mercy of the fluctuating price of cocoa. The prices of Ghana's imports did not fall, but

rose considerably; in consequence her foreign reserves decreased rapidly.

This is the problem Nkrumah faced on taking office. Ghana may have had political independence but certainly not economic. The policy Nkrumah and his advisers chose was one of dictatorship, any opposition was jailed. Kwame saw himself as the saviour, not only of Ghana but of the whole of Africa and proceeded to actively propagate this idea. This type of policy costs money and Nkrumah was not backward in spending it.

It is argued that Nkrumah did a lot for Ghana, in terms of education, new industries, etc. I vaguely remember the same thing being said about Mussolini and Hitler in the '30's and more recently about Franco and Salazar. The difference between all of them is one of degree (in terms of violence), all had and have the power complex.

What of the clique who toppled the Messiah? Britain and the United States have recognised the new regime, it has created the impression of being pro-Western, for which Britain and the US are duly thankful. Everything points to the fact that Nkrumah had more than just friendly relations with China and Russia, for which Britain and the US were far from duly thankful.

The plot to overthrow Nkrumah was not hatched overnight. It is fairly certain there were more than Ghanaian fingers in the pie, Ghana could be a plum for foreign investors, and this is the direction in which Major General Ankrah's eyes

are turned. If foreign money put him in office there must be a 'pay off' somehow.

The British Press with few exceptions are overjoyed at the toppling of Nkrumah, it is ideal ammunition to use in support of the Smith regime in Rhodesia. *Daily Express* 23.2.66: 'Colonies were given independence long before they were ready for it.' *Daily Sketch*, 25.2.66: 'The sad truth is that the burdens of democracy have been wished on peoples not ready for them.' The *Guardian*, 25.2.66: 'The aim of British policy in Rhodesia is, or should be, good government. That is lacking now. But it would be irresponsible, when the time comes to decide the country's future, to ignore the abuses and disturbances which have made life intolerable for so many Africans under African Governments. The ultimate status for Rhodesia is an independent country under majority rule; how that status is attained is for Britain to decide on the basis of experience gained all over Africa.'

Do they really expect us to believe that they are concerned about the African people? Their concern is governed by two factors: (a) Is the country safe for investment? (b) Is its policy pro-Western?

African leaders are coming and going and will continue to do so; 'leaders' are the same whatever the pigment of the skin and until this fact is full appreciated Joe Soaps all over the world will be exploited to the full.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

THE POWER GAME

WELL, here we are again, as they say in the circus, and so, sixteen months after the last show, the jugglers, contortionists and tight-rope walkers stage for us once more the greatest show on earth—or in great Britain at least.

As a curtain raiser, in the same way that the BBC killed 'That Was the Week' in preparation for the election of 1964, so ITV have banned a show called *The Power Game* from their programme. BBC suspended a Pinky and Perky (cartoon pigs) show called 'How to be a Prime Minister'. This sensitivity for the politician's delicacy of feeling is not shared by the politicians who in the last few weeks have offered bribes to all sections of the populace which fell short of nothing except actual cash value, presumably to avoid accusation of *Corrupt Practices*. Nevertheless *The Power Game*, live, not TV, has a three-week run.

THE WRATH TO COME

The full horrors of electioneering have not yet burst upon us but as a warm-up one felt that Michael Foot's meeting at Chelsea on Friday, February ?? was a good clinical specimen of the wrath to come.

Obviously the meeting was for Mr. Rod Tyler, the prospective parliamentary (Labour) candidate, to renew his pledges to Chelsea but the air was thick with rumours of an impending election. The three-quarters' full hall was decorated with posters that said ambivalently, 'In a Go-Ahead Britain' and 'You Need Labour'. The audience was mainly ageing, appropriate enough to Chelsea and to a party whose young are eternally suspect. The only lively young persons apparent in the audience were Young Tories who came to heckle and stayed, if not to cheer, to be integrated.

The chairman was a Tammany-Hall type, a Catholic and (and this shows the quality of the meeting) the most likeable person on the platform, or perhaps, in the hall. One respected his crude rough pragmatism.

ROD TYLER BUT NOT WAT TYLER

According to Mr. Tyler, the achievements of this Government included a refusal to devalue the £; the provision of export incentives; an inquiry into the machine-tool and chemical industries—which earned between them £30 millions a year; a five-year plan for industry and a belief in long-term planning, which seems to be a pity since Mr. Tyler believes that if there is an election it will be because they have found their sixteen months with a precarious majority insufficient for their long-range plans. He also stressed the Government's achievement in putting on the Statute Book the Rent Act. He apologised (and this is a sore point in Chelsea) that this Act did not apply to Council tenants. Mr. Tyler made great play about Aneurin Bevan's struggle to establish a free Health Service. He paid tribute to the land commission which he said would deal with 'the problem of land and take action when value—er—price increases'. He managed at last to arouse some passion in a heckler whose conditioned reflexes were stirred by a slighting reference to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd's visit to Rhodesia but that was all.

FOOT IN THE MOUTH

Michael Foot then spoke. We know that his serious road accident has left its legacy, we can understand that the death of 'Vicky' had recently sorrowed him, but one detected more than physical sickness and personal sorrow in the speech which followed.

He spoke of 'the many fewer anxious moments for the Government whips than expected'. He spoke of the fact that when governments borrow money the lender makes terms. He compli-

mented the Government on raising old-age pensions but ignored the fact that this was held over from November to March. Drawn by Tory hecklers he gave as an example of the necessity for socialism, the modern steel works at Margam and how socialism was of necessity coming in many spheres of national life. The old fire was re-kindled when he spoke of the necessity of co-operation rather than competition being the guiding spirit of socialism and concluded with, amongst other remarks, the assertion that Mr. Selwyn Lloyd wished to give complete power to Mr. Smith (has not Mr. Smith got power). Mr. Foot later expressed his belief in the necessity of force in Rhodesia. Throughout the meeting reference was made to foreign affairs in the most platitudinous way; it is obvious that the Labour Party cannot unitedly fight an election on foreign policy issues.

IS IT NOT A FACT?

Question time was a little more revealing for it is then that the politician may be caught off his guard. A comrade from the floor pointed out to Mr. Tyler that Aneurin Bevan's struggle to keep the Health Service free was against the Labour Party, in fact he had resigned from the Government on this issue, and Mr. Michael Foot and a Mr. Harold Wilson had backed him up on this. Mr. Tyler admitted this was so, but, dropping a tear in the slot, he re-affirmed that Mr. Aneurin Bevan, in a Labour Government, had started a free Health Service.

Someone from the floor pointed out that the Health Service was not free, as it was paid for from contributions and taxation.

Mr. Foot, in answer to a question about the rise in the cost of living, said there had been no increase in real wealth and therefore the situation was inflationary. He admitted that armament production was in itself, inflationary. In reply to a questioner Mr. Foot admitted his republicanism but regretted it would not be an election issue. He denied that the British Government had ever said they would bring down Mr. Smith.

A questioner then asked that since Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Wyatt had apparently held up steel nationalization on a threat to defeat the Government, could not Mr. Foot similarly have held up the Government on, say, the White

Paper on Immigration.

Mr. Foot replied that the White Paper was not a good issue. He did not wish to see the Labour Government defeated, since he had a duty to his constituency. He narrated the story of the judgement of Solomon when, it was related, Solomon had to judge which was the rightful mother of a disputed child. When Solomon suggested that the child be cut in half, the false mother did not protest but the real mother identified herself by the volume of her protest. Hence Mr. Foot recognises Mr. Wilson's bastard-socialized nationalism as his own William Morris-Kropotkin brand.

Mr. Foot finally admitted (and this is the real power game) politics involves compromise and we must work within the Labour Party, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

(Footnote. Mr. Michael Foot moved a vote of confidence in the Prime Minister at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party. He made a reference in his speech to steel nationalization to which the Prime Minister made no reply. The *New Statesman* once printed an overheard remark from a politician 'I've a suspicion that all these years I've been crawling up the wrong backside').

JACK ROBINSON.

ANARCHY 61

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VOTERS' GUIDE TO ANARCHISM

WHO IS GOING to read this pamphlet? Does it give addresses of anarchist organized projects under way? Have the libertarian and voluntary bodies which exist been listed for interest and contact by the reader? Questions I asked when trying to understand the person who buys the pamphlet, *Anarchism: Six Essays by Members of London Anarchist Group* as his first contact with anarchist ideas and literature.

Central in the minds of newcomers to this outlook of non-reliance on Law and its makers; Church and its followers; Government and its civil servants; Army and its obedience; will surely be those self-same words that long-convicted anarchists must grapple with and explain in practical terms—namely Power, Organization and Violence.

Beginning with the last essay, first I quote at length from an important passage:

Many anarchists in the English speaking countries in particular are pacifists also, meaning that they are opposed to using violence at the present time and in the future under any circumstances including self-defence. Others who do not take this point of view, do not "support violence" but feel that they cannot, as Anarchists tell the people as a whole either that they must take up arms, or that they must not. To them Ghandi-ism ("in no circumstances must you fight") is as dictatorial as Marxist-Leninism ("form the Red Army in disciplined opposition to the capitalist forces"). While anti-militarists, therefore, would in the event of a workers' rising (as happened in Spain against the fascists in 1936) be prepared to fight in the workers' militias. . . . The workers' militias—the people in arms—is an anti-militarist conception in opposition to the standing army, and when used by the Anarchists such as Makhno, Zapata, Durruti, it was abundantly clear that this was not an attempt to form another army; indeed in each case it was fighting against the national army.—*Peace and War* by Albert Meltzer.

Personally I think that when faced by some raving soldiery or violent one I would attempt self defence by knock-out or stunning blow to enable the person to come to his senses, or to be protected from his own violent wish. But in no case would I serve in uniform or kill for democracy which must be the disintegrating force of such democracy, never mind an ordered anarchy of voluntary service. But Ghandi never said 'in no circumstances must you fight', rather—every circumstance you must fight to your last breath—the important factor being the means of fighting, of the struggle. True he did contradict himself, saying that it's better a man fight in uniform than do nothing; when at the same time he personally advocated struggle by non-violent action.

Yet surely it is the duty of anarchists to suggest the methods of struggle, for where there is no planned or thought-out approach to some of the major problems facing us, we naturally as men use violence as a last desperate method of change, and in our industrialized modern states face overwhelming military and central-governmental violence.

I know that it is a fashion of *Solidarity* supporters to ridicule non-violent action, believing it to be ineffectual and personal; sacrificial and irrelevant to the struggles of factory workers and shop assistants, and that some anarchists of

less dogmatic face hold similar views.

But in recent years in the field of direct political and social challenge, the use of non-violent direct action has precipitated a new group of people who think and act in a relationship with their society which can only be called criminal or revolutionary dependant on your respectability in that society. Now since we are post World War II in an institutionalized community of violence and obedience, it is surely important that our direct actions help release fear and obedience both by example and organized political/social, but non-violent, force?

Why? Well, if we are to remain weak and reliant on occasional demonstrations and conflicts with police and magistrates, this will cause little trouble to ourselves and a lot of hatred from people who might otherwise have been convinced of the practical nature of anarchism. That is to say, that most people do turn away from violence and need continuing support and regular efforts, meetings, literature, etc., to further their ideas and beliefs. When will we realize that most individuals do not see a melee of cops and anarchists as an inspiring event in which to join hands and wave success stories in FREEDOM or elsewhere?

It should be recognized by those who sneer at non-violent action, carefully planned, that the shrinking groups of supporters, or the hard core of active committees, is due to a reluctance on the part of these important power groups to show a way forward to greater initiative and growth of anarchist and pacifist actions against the military and civil service. Surely public demonstrations are mainly to inform and convince other members of the public, not to get entangled with police or courts unless as a completely annoying and secondary element in reaching out to people living and working, watching and passing-by the demonstrators. Surely this is an anarchist propagandist's desire to contact and inform others of ideas and information which hardly any other group would give or wish to give? What the national press or TV and radio says about such public non-violent demonstrations is relatively unimportant compared to the supreme importance of communicating with even a few of the many individuals who will personally see, hear or read the anarchists or radical pacifists demonstrating? After all it is individuals who create revolutions in action and thought . . . not the mass of workers in any job, position or factory—for they usually follow leadership-of-expression which crystallizes their ideas, until that moment unsaid.

The growth of little magazines, of politics and poems, arts and society, songs and literature, can only aid a libertarian society (if inspired and published by those having firm views) for otherwise the content must be agreeable to all democrats, inoffensive and lifeless. Yet this is happening now. A pamphlet such as this with essays on Agriculture, Crime, Industrial Work, Anarchist-Communism, Education and War/Peace issues is a help to political philosophy in most places unsaid or unknown . . . and therefore much needed. Where I disagree is in the form of the essays. Alan Albon's I found the easiest to read, but nowhere has he listed any one example of anarchist organization now effectively working in the fields of agriculture.

Bill Christopher and Peter Turner mention work-gangs as one of the best

SYRIA HAD ANOTHER revolution, Dr. Nkrumah, overthrown in Ghana, sought leadership in Guinea, Britain will have a new Government on All Fool's Day. The *Daily Worker* has decided to throw off the curse of work and become the starchy-eyed *Morning Star*. The *Daily Worker* columnist Bob Wynn stated that the *Daily Mirror's* cartoon character, Andy Capp, is 'definitely not a member of the working-class' but a 'sexless lay-about' . . .

MORE CARS, more refrigerators and more television sets were promised to the Russians in the new five-year plan for 1966-70. The *New York Times* Sunday section carried a 12-page illustrated advertising 'magazine' for Russian tourist attractions. The Russians refused to release Mr. Gerald Brooke. The *Soviet Weekly* reprints part of an open letter from the secretariat of the board of the Union of Soviet Writers which was previously published in the *Literary Gazette* in which they say the Sinyavsky-Daniel case was conducted 'in strict and scrupulous accordance with all the standards of Soviet legislation'. The letter says the actions of the two 'aroused our anger and condemnation'. Soviet writers, it said, approved the verdict as in line with 'the spirit and letter of our law' . . .

IN VIEW OF the forthcoming celebrations of the Easter Rising in Dublin (1916), a camp for training commando-type police has re-opened in Ulster, N. Ireland. Welsh nationalists (although not party members) blew up building equipment on a dam which was to supply Welsh water to England. According to *Soviet Weekly*, a young Soviet teacher is hoping to start a Welsh class in Leningrad. A plaque is to be erected at Monagay, near Newcastle West, to Donal Sheehan, one of the first casualties in the Easter Rising (according to the *Irish Sunday Press*). Sheehan is one of the men who was drowned, when the car in which he was travelling took a wrong turn and plunged into the river on Good Friday, 1916. The passengers were intended to seize radio equipment to contact a German arms ship with Casement aboard

ways for workers to control their job and share the profits of hard but rewarding teamwork. (*New Society* quoted the mainly Irish work-gangs working on the new Victoria Underground Line, at good rates per cubic yard of earth removed.) Brian Leslie mentions in his essay on education, the school run by A. S. Neill—Summerhill—in Leiston, Suffolk, but no specifically anarchist experiment or functioning school(s) is given a write-up. Perhaps there aren't any? Yet no mention of Paul Goodman's ideas or Herbert Read's book 'Education for Peace', long printed but little known . . . and all the countless books and articles since? What of adult colleges and the free university idea? What of schools-in-houses, as the original old village schools but with all the knowledge and understanding and anarchist approaches to be used in such places? One can envisage thousands of such small establishments. Tony Gibson creates an impression of dogmatically 'never' helping social reformers but rather setting up one's own groups of criminal anarchists to help criminal ex-convicts on their return to life from the nick. Good, but are many doing this? No such centre or group is quoted from. Still, one knows that we ourselves might have something to learn from highly organized people like the Great Train Robbers, for if we hate violence we need to love organization of voluntary kind.

Finally, Jack Stevenson's essay on anarchism as a system of society's organization I found brief and to the point.

If I overstress the point of examples it is only to reveal what I think newcomers to such ideas would feel. Like pacifism, and disobedience to laws just or unjust, anarchism is all right in the future but not now? All right for other people but not me? OK ideally but not in the jolts of everyday life?

The pamphlet cover is attractively designed if the price does appear to be absent. A short list of further reading after each essay would have been helpful, as would an address list of anarchist societies and groups which are already active in the topics covered by these essays. Overall an easy-to-read, theoretical pamphlet, and if the arts and sciences are basically missing the humanitarian attitude is definitely not.

A thought just occurs that Colin McInnes published two fine essays on anarchism in *Queen* magazine in 1962. They deserved reprinting as a pamphlet at the time but are basically still very much the stuff for introductory intellectual material complementary to *Anarchism: Six Essays by Members of London Anarchist Group*.

DENNIS GOULD.

which was making for Tralee Bay. It was subsequently discovered that the German ship had no radio equipment. . . . MR. H. SEBAG MONTEFIORE (Conservative) protested at the Greater London Council decision to fix a blue plaque to 28 Dean Street, Westminster, to commemorate the residence there of Karl Marx from 1851 to 1856. The bones of Ogarev, the Russian revolutionary, were removed from Britain to Russia. According to the *Daily Worker*, 20,000 bottles of gin and 50,000 bottles of whisky were shipped to the Soviet Union in one ship last week. . . .

IN SWEDEN, a welfare state, serious crimes have risen from 172,000 in 1950 to 373,000 last year. The Swedish Trade-Union daily newspaper has closed down with a financial loss. West Germany spent last year \$4.5 million on alcoholic beverages and has 400,000 confirmed alcoholics. Arthur C. Clarke, scientist and writer, said on TV that man is probably very low in the hierarchy of cosmic intelligences and will one day meet creatures from far superior civilizations. . . .

THE RUSSIANS SENT two dogs off into space. . . .

AN AMERICAN FIRM has devised a shopping cart for supermarkets which operates a warning signal system when the container is transported beyond predetermined boundaries—it also has a radio receiver for transmitting advertising messages to the customer. . . .

COLONEL CAL DOMBEY, American Selective Service 'chief idea man' (according to the *New York Times* International edition), said they had tried to get the nation's leading song-writers to turn out 'pulse pounding songs that would give young men the emotional urge to be drafted. So far he has received no

songs, but seven composers have wired him the same question "What rhymes with Vietnam?" The Colonel was disappointed at the rejection of some of his proposals to increase the draft quota. Referring to the Michigan reclassification of deferred students who had participated in a 'sit-in' against the draft board he said, 'We thought we were on to something good out in Michigan but the proposal was turned down at the State Department. . . . My idea was to have several thousand Selective Service workers grow beards and go among the students, preaching against the draft and urging kids to stage sit-ins at their draft boards. Then we could have snatched the bodies right on the spot and reclassified them A1'. Another idea he had was for the administration to create some war heroes. 'This is the first war we've ever had that hasn't got any heroes'. In the same issue there is the story of Winston R. Belton, former hunger-striker, against his assignment to Vietnam. He has been promoted to a private first class, for bravery under fire. Pfc. Belton said, 'We have good reasons to be doing what we are doing here, and we belong here. I know that now. I don't know if we'll ever win. But we're here and we have to stay. I still don't like killing. I get faint when I see a dead man. I hate to kill, but I do my job.' . . .

THE DEFENCE WHITE PAPER was published. Reference was made in the Houses of Parliament to an obscene book which was referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The book is assumed to be 'The Naked Soldiers' published by Constable. . . .

VICTOR WEISZ (Vicky the cartoonist) chose to make his own exit and left the world sadder, but for all his efforts, no wiser.

JON QUIXOTE.

THE WAR GAME

HAVING BY SOME devious means seen Peter Watkins remarkable film 'The War Game', I can understand why the mountebanks at the BBC and in Whitehall are so anxious that it should not be shown on television. The question of horror doesn't come into it, although any film about the effects of a nuclear attack on a heavily populated area is sure to be horrific in the physical sense by its very nature and subject. The film is feared because it is an education, a savage example of man's perfidy to man and it shows suffering is deliberately intensified by those who caused it. The Civil Defence appear ineffectual and stupid, the police are shown in their true role—defending privilege, in this instance wearing guns and carrying out arbitrary reprisals against civilians. The Government, making sympathetic noises 'off', pass cruel laws from the shelter of their bomb-proof hide-outs. Apart from the reprisals, all the above is revealed in a frighteningly unemotional commentary; this is no crude propaganda film, but straight reportage on what would happen in the case of a nuclear war in which Britain was involved. The causes of the war, trigger-happy border guards at Check-Point Charlie in Berlin and Chinese intervention in Vietnam, are not important to the film itself. Watkins has merely used these as a vehicle on which to bring about a conflict. The issues at stake are domestic ones—what will the Government do, what is the role of the police, CD, and the army, what will happen to the people. The

answers to these questions are given with clinical precision and the answers are frankly terrifying. To an Anarchist, a Communist or even a revolutionary Socialist, should such a thing exist, the answers are known already, but to Joe Soap and John Doe it is doubtful if he even knows the questions, or if he does he never asks them. This film, then, should and must be shown to as wide an audience as possible, for it is an inspired and important piece of work which will do an awful lot of good. The facts are laid before you in both word and image; that the visuals are reconstructions is irrelevant, since they serve to illustrate the commentary which is made up of documentary evidence circulated by the Civil Defence, and interviews with people who are involved with Britain's defence plans. 'The War Game' is no mere flash-in-the-pan for Watkins; his previous films have all shown a keen mind and an ability to dig around for the truth. In an interview some time ago, he expressed a strong desire to make a film about the Spanish Revolution. If he does, perhaps a true evaluation of what happened will emerge and reveal how the Spanish people were betrayed.

P.K.

PRESS FUND

Weeks 8 and 9, MARCH 5, 1966:
Expenses: 9 weeks at £80: £720
Income: Sales and Subs.: £388

DEFICIT £332

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Previously Acknowledged: £134 0 0

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A Good Turn Out —But!

ABOUT 2,000 WORKERS took part in the demonstration and Lobby of Parliament against Mr. Brown's early warning legislation on March 1. It is estimated that those taking part represented about three-quarters of a million trade unionists.

Building workers, dockers and exhibition workers were naturally prominent as their unofficial organisations had organised the lobby, but engineers, power workers from Tilbury, car workers from Austin's of Birmingham and other industrial and office workers were there with delegations.

The march started from the huge Barbican scheme and while the column was forming, Young Socialists of the Trotskyist Socialist Labour League variety joined on the end. The organisers, who were mainly Communists, did not like this and stewards tried to get the newcomers to fold up their banners with no avail. They then asked the police to intervene.

The plan was that the march should disperse at Aldwych, a mile away from Parliament, in accordance

with the Seditious Meeting Act of 1817, which says that processions of 50 or more persons within a mile of Parliament are unlawful while the House is sitting. When we arrived at Aldwych, it was obvious from the small numbers of 'coppers' present that they expected us to be law-abiding citizens. No doubt they had been assured by the constitutionally-minded organisers that everything would go quietly.

They got a surprise for most of the march continued on, not in the road and with all banners flying I admit, but it did not disperse. We marched along the Embankment with the 'coppers' trying to stop us every now and again. Some of the men in blue lost their helmets in the scuffles that ensued. This was their fault because they just barged in, trying to take down the banners. So much for the Law!

'FRANKLY DISAPPOINTED'

At the Houses of Parliament, the police managed to lessen the impact of the demonstration by their usual means. All lobbyists were formed up on the opposite pavement, each delegation being called on to cross the road and queue up. This queue never seemed to be of the same strength as the march and as the afternoon wore on, many brothers gave up the hope of seeing their MPs and they went home. Even the *Daily Worker* had to admit that: 'Some were frankly disappointed with the results. Several Labour MPs, including some left-wingers, were reluctant to commit themselves. Others said they would vote against it when the Bill came before the new Parliament.' But not one of the lobbyists said who these MPs were. Some of the Labour MPs gave delegates lectures on the virtues of the Bill and that this was 'Socialism'.

Considering the short time the organisers had, eleven days in all, the turn-out was good, but even they were disappointed by the actual results of the lobby. Certain facts must be faced. This lobby was mainly organised by members of the Communist Party, which does not want 'Left Unity' in action against this legislation, but unity with the 'left' in the trade union leadership and the Labour MPs in Parliament.

Trying to get rid of the Young

Socialist Trots was not only stupid and dictatorial, but played right into the SLL's hands, for this is what they wanted. The latter, under a Young Socialist imprint, was quick to get out a leaflet condemning the action of the organisers. In this they said: 'We are convinced that these stewards were acting under instructions of John Gollan, General Secretary of the Communist Party, and Bert Ramelson, National Industrial Organiser of the CP. These men continue the old Stalin line inside the CP. The want left unity not with the working class, but with the fake left MPs in Parliament.'

JUST AS AUTHORITARIAN

To the SLL, everything is a conspiracy, but they behave in exactly the same way. They are just the same as the Stalinists and think that it is their lead that must be taken up by the working class. They are just as authoritarian and dictatorial as those they attack. Unity, to both the Communist Party and the SLL, means blindly following their line, with the rank and file trade unionists being so much political fodder.

While the organisers were given a mandate to organise this demonstration from their unofficial committees, they were not mandated to keep out groupings that they disagreed with politically. This is also true of the building workers' Joint Sites Committee. Our delegates were instructed to organise the lobby, although not all those present agreed with this type of action. However, they acted in a way that was reminiscent of the trade union leadership that they so often attack. It was a 'we know best' attitude.

Surely the lessons of this are plain. From a promising rank and file organisation has emerged a leadership which has acted in an authoritarian manner and so imposed their own political leadership. Working people have for too long now fallen for one kind of political leadership after another. These saviours get us nowhere. Of course, where any unofficial grouping in industry takes shape, members of the political parties will be active, but these groupings must turn away from the constitutional leader-changing pressure groups that these unofficial organisations tend to become.

Organisations must be based on rank and file members who do not look to Party leaders, but instead rely on their own strength, acting in solidarity with other workers. Political Parties and leaders do not act in the interests of the rank and file. They only act to keep and perpetuate their own power P.T.

Mr. Smith and the Savages of East Kilbride

THE SOUTH AFRICAN Director of an American firm in Scotland described a recent incident involving workers at his factory as a 'Mau Mau demonstration'. Mr. Clifford Smith, Director of Sunbeam Electric's works at East Kilbride, comes from a country where the workers are brutally suppressed, and appears to think he can try the same high-handed attitude with the Scots.

The truth about the incident is that a group of workers were holding a factory gate meeting. The group included young girls, and as the car in which Mr. Smith was travelling passed through the gates 'some' girls were 'slightly' injured, to quote the *Daily Record*. The workers objected to this, stopped the car, and removed Mr. Smith from it. He was not injured, however, not even slightly.

Mr. Smith is not the only trouble-maker at the factory. Mr. Oliver Niehouse, the American Managing Director, threatened that not only would expansion of the plant be cancelled, but it might be moved to England or Scandinavia, where he thinks the workers are more

docile. However, a Senior Executive of the Company in Chicago, where the decisions are made, said, 'It will in no way change our mind in regard to expansion in Scotland.' This kind of threat by the bosses is all the rage in Scotland. If we submit to it, then we lose such control over our working life as we have won.

Yet another trouble-maker is Mr. Eugene Bond, Sunbeam's International Vice-President. Referring to East Kilbride's history of strikes at a company meeting in Chicago, he claimed 'The Scots people do this all the time. They walk off the job if they don't like the colour of the foreman's hair'. The bosses, whether they are Yanks, South Africans, English or Scots, give us plenty of reason for discontent without bothering about the foreman's hair.

When we consider Mr. Smith and the 'slightly injured' girls, Mr. Niehouse and his threat to move the works to a country where the workers are more docile, and Mr. Bond's ravings, it is fair to ask 'Who are the savages—the workers of East Kilbride, or their bosses?' D.C.

FREEDOM

For Workers' Control

MARCH 12 1966 Vol 27 No 8

Dash Off & 'Vote Labour'!

AFTER THE DEMONSTRATION and lobby of the unofficial bodies of the London Labour movement there followed what was described as a report-back meeting at Caxton Hall. It was a meeting for those who felt that they had something to say about the MP's attitudes towards the penal measures in the Brown bill for smashing unofficial bodies in the trade unions.

Well, as we all know, lobbies are held for the purpose of trying to influence Parliament to change its one track mind. And this lobby was no different from the rest.

Until the report-back meeting. In fact the meeting turned into one of the most colossal pieces of impertinence that the Labour movement has seen in many a day and of.

Five out of the six platform speakers were telling the meeting to vote Labour in the coming election. Both Jack Dash of the Port Workers Liaison Committee and Lew Lewis of the Joint Sites came out telling us what a rotten lot the Labour MPs were, how we couldn't trust them and would we please vote Labour in the coming election. It wasn't so much the drivel they talked but it was an insult to any militant's intelligence the way they said it.

There was of course an opposing faction on the floor attacking the King Street and Transport House 'Let's all sink together' line. A good many militants attacked this line of reasoning as irrelevant and harmful to trade unionism. Many went much further and attacked the trade union bureaucracy who had

deliberately worked themselves into the trap of the prices and incomes board.

Unfortunately there was another section on the floor attacking the pro-Labourite line, who had nothing else to offer but another variety of brand X which is apparently sold in Clapham under the brand name 'New Leadership'.

It seemed to me that those CP members who tried to persuade the meeting to vote Labour should think a little harder before talking. It seems that with a few honourable exceptions the battle with the Government will be fought by the rank and file and their unofficial organisations. It is a gratuitous insult to ask these people to vote for a government that will imprison them. It is rather like asking a man if he will put you in prison, then when he replies 'Yes', you answer 'Then you're the man for my vote'.

There was the even more revolting spectacle of the Communist Party Parliamentary Candidate getting up and asking people in the hall to vote Labour.

Well, now the sickening madness of the power game is in full flow there will not be any commonsense spoken by the politicians and this goes for a lot of the rank and file too, I am afraid. So it seems that we are to be saddled with another five years of national socialism and have lost all the rights that have been won for the working class over the last 100 years.

I only hope that those people talking commonsense will not be taken in by the claptrap of voting Labour.

SPARKS.

DEFENCE COMMITTEE FORMED

Statement of the London Industrial Shop Stewards Defence Committee.

AS A RESULT of a meeting attended by over 200 workers at the Mahatma Ghandi Hall in London during January, a follow up meeting elected a provisional committee to try and organize various forms of activity around the defence of shop stewards and rank and file workshop organizations.

We are deeply concerned at the development of the Incomes Policy into a disguised wage-freeze with the necessary sacrifices being at the expense of working people. It is clear that the main battle against the Policy will be conducted at the workshop and factory floor level led by rank and file militants and shop stewards. It is in this context that we see the proposed TU legislation as a logical next step to attack that section which represents workers most directly and effectively.

We see the proposed legislation as a threat to militant workers with fines and imprisonment and the subsequent damage it would cause to workshop organization. We are resolved to do our utmost to give maximum support to protect the militants and shop floor committees which have done so much in the past years to improve working-class living standards.

In the present situation where the majority of the Trade Union bureaucracy supports the Government's Incomes Policy and anti-Trade Union legislation, there is a growing need for a rank and file organization of trade unionists that will defend our common interests.

The policy of our committee commits us to assist any steward or trade union militant who finds himself victimized in any way. To give full support to all fellow workers engaged in strike action to defend or improve working class standards, whether the strike is official or unofficial, and to campaign against interference in our trade union affairs and the threats of legislation.

Our committee will welcome help and support from any trade unionist irrespective of the union or industry to which he or she may belong. Our success will depend on creating a broad front that can concentrate on issues which will obtain the widest possible support from

those in the TU movement who are prepared to fight in defence of basic working class principles.

The committee has no preconceptions as to the forms that the struggle should take. We would welcome the advice, assistance and support of all industrial workers, who should write in the first instance to the provisional secretary—Geoff Carlsson, 117 Carmelite Road, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

Signed by the provisional committee—BILL TAYLOR, AEU, GEOFF CARLSSON, AEU, JIM HIGGINS, POFU, S. S. KHERA, T & GWU, PETER TURNER, ASW, KEITH DICKINSON, CAWU, BILL THOMPSON, ASPD, ROGER COX, AEU.

Workers Take on Town Council

EMPLOYEES of local councils are traditionally one of the lowest paid sections of the working class, and it is heartening to see two instances in Aberdeen of an active fight being put up by these workers. Eighty maintenance men employed by Aberdeen Transport Department have threatened strike action if a claim for a bonus scheme is not met within 2 weeks. The workers say that this dispute has been going on for 5 years, but Treasurer Lennox claims to have heard of it 'only a month ago'. Unless the workers show solidarity and determination, they will have to wait another 5 years to be satisfied. Although their action is encouraging, the 80 men belong to 5 unions—AEU, ETU, NUUB, Sheetmetal Workers and Blacksmiths—which might lead to disunity. The unions are offering the ending of demarcation in return for the bonus.

Twenty-five plumbers employed in the works department are continuing their strike for a 5d./hour increase, and are picketing the water depot and works department. The council is unprepared to meet this claim which would cost it £20 a week, but is engaged in building a new Town House at a cost of many hundred thousand pounds. Wake up, workers! Parliament and its little brother the council will give you nothing. Take it!

IAN MITCHELL.

Contact Column

Poetry and Jazz Concert. Saturday, March 12, 7.30 p.m. St. Andrews Church Hall, Uxbridge. Admission 6/-. Uxbridge CND and Freeman Syndicate.

Easter March Accommodation. 8-12 Birmingham Anarchists (house-trained), Thurs.-Mon. nights, want accommodation: London. Write Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Birmingham 23.

House-cleaner. Wanted. Male or female. Three mornings; ten hours weekly. 6/- hour. Sloane Square area. Box 26.

Room Wanted. Young Anarchist Girl (not very rich) wants room in London. Box 27.

Anti-Election Meeting. Wednesday, March 16, 7.30 p.m. 61 (Basement) Granville Park, London, S.E.13.

Talent Wanted. Musicians, singers, poets required (for free) at Anarchist Ball, Fulham Town Hall, April 1. Write Tony Jackson, 17a Maxwell Road, S.W.6.

Anti-Election Meeting. Anti-election campaign in Birmingham, March 12/13, 19/20, 26/27. Meet at 5 Gladstone Road, Erdington, Birmingham 23, 2.30 p.m. on Saturdays, 10.30 a.m. on Sundays. Further information from Gordon Causar, 27 Upper Gun-gate, Tamworth, Staffs. (TAM 4562).

Accommodation Wanted. Room for woman and baby. West London, preferably anarchist household or community. Box 28.

Sevenoaks Film Society. March 17, 8 p.m. Jean Vigo's *L'Atlante*. Maureen Richardson, Knockholt 2316, can arrange membership.

Oxon. Second issue now ready produced by Oxford Anarchist Group and Oxon Federation. 60 pp. 1/6 plus 1/- postage from Tony J. Pitcher, Merton College, Oxford. Donations welcome to meet loss on first issue.

Help Wanted. Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. onwards with folding and despatch of FREEDOM. No remuneration. Apply in person on Thursdays at Express Printers, 84a Whitechapel High Street, E.1 (up Angel Alley). Near Aldgate East Station. (Art Gallery exit.)

Accommodation wanted. Accommodation needed by couple (small income) with boy of 2½ and baby. London. Preferred unfurnished. Reliable and considerate. Box 23.

Help Wanted. To sell FREEDOM. West Ham Anarchists. At Brick Lane (Petticoat Lane). Meet Sunday morning, 11.15 a.m. at Bishopsgate entrance, Liverpool Street Station. Amesbury Avenue, London, S.W.2.

New Poster

War Waste Politics!

3½d. each plus postage. Orders to Bill Sticker, c/o 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

If you wish to make contact let us know.