

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly **6d**

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Why NOT Abortion on Demand?

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR over the question of a woman's rights of control over her own fertility is like many another war: the making of high policy and top-level discussions go on endlessly while the ordinary people suffer.

It is nearly three decades now since Dr. Alex Bourne was acquitted after a prosecution he himself provoked after he had aborted a girl of 14 who had been raped by soldiers. Dr. Bourne had performed the operation because in his view continued pregnancy in that case would have presented a threat to the girl's life. It was not done because she had been raped and wanted to be free from the biological consequences of that criminal assault.

From that date on however and because of his acquittal, the law has allowed abortion to be performed as long as proper medical evidence is available that the life, or mental or physical health of the mother is endangered. In practice this has meant that anybody with enough cash has been able to buy the necessary evidence and the services of a willing gynaecologist. A small minority of progressive-minded doctors have managed to push a few cases (about 2,000 a year) through the National Health Service, but in the main the medical profession has been chary of handling cases because although the law 'permitted' abortion under certain limited conditions, no operation for abortion could really be called 'legal'. The Offences against the Person Act of 1861 is the only statutory law relating to abortion and that makes no exception for any circumstances. It is 'case law' that 'permits' the exceptions and provides the loopholes through which millions of women have been expensively and anxiously making their way since 1938.

CLOAK-AND-DAGGER

But for the vast majority of the estimated 100,000 women who experience abortion every year, even this 'case law' is denied because they cannot afford to buy the evidence to bend the law. For them there remains the anxiety and the cloak-and-dagger conspiracy of finding somebody to perform the operation illegally and undergoing an experience that might be clean or dirty, cheap or expensive, brutal or gentle, with a 'criminal' operator who may be pleasant or repulsive, skilled or unskilled, motivated by principle or avarice — all according to chance.

The present attempts to reform the law aim at removing abortion from the latter circumstances and making it legal 'under certain circumstances'.

In 1939 a government committee under Lord Birkett reported in favour of reform of the law, but since the massacre of millions of adults had to be organised over the following few years, the Birkett Report was forgotten. It was not until 1953 that our representatives again began

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ON SALE NOW DISCUSSES

ASPECTS OF ANARCHISM

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to give some attention to the problem. In the intervening 14 years something over a million women had undoubtedly procured abortions one way or another. In that year an unsuccessful attempt was made to get a private member's bill going in the Commons. In the intervening 14 years since then, three more attempts have been made to get private members' bills through the Commons (one, eight years ago, by the present Minister of Health, Kenneth Robinson), two attempts have been made to get bills through the Lords, and something like another one-and-a-half million women have procured abortions.

At the present time a bill is labouring its way through committee stage. It has not yet reached full term although it was introduced nine months ago by Scottish Liberal MP, David Steel. It got its second reading in July and got through with the whacking majority of 223 to 29. At the moment it is bogged down in committee, where it has been for nine weeks already, while 30 MPs ('for', 'against' and 'don't know') argue over every punctuation mark.

VOCAL OPPOSITION

Meanwhile organisations supporting and opposing the bill are lobbying furiously. The Abortion Law Reform Association—the real sponsors of the bill—are supported by some medical opinion, several women's organisations and by secular and humanist societies, while the opposition is mainly from the Catholics, but they are backed up by other religious bodies and some medical opinion.

The proposers of the bill are now very concerned to get it through in some form or another, to the extent that they are bending over backwards to make clear that they are not in favour of *Abortion on demand*, while this dread phrase is used as a smear by their opponents.

Only a month ago, one of the bill's main supporters in the Commons, Leo Abse, said that it would have to be watered down if it were to have any chance of becoming law, while as late as November 8 last, David Steel, in a letter to the Catholic Doctors' Guild, agreed that one subclause created danger of the 'right to abortion' and promised 'amendments and improvements' worked out in conjunction with the Home Office and the British Medical Association.

Opposition becomes more vocal and more hysterical. An outfit called Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) was formed in January for the specific purpose of fighting the bill, but by no means does all official religious opinion support this. Indeed, a week after the formation of SPUC, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Ramsay, said 'It is wrong to stir emotion by identifying abortion and infanticide' and while not supporting the bill's possible 'social' clause (which suggests doctors might take account of the mother's general environment in assessing the need for abortion), nevertheless rejected the 'absolutist position against abortion'.

CONFUSION REIGNS

The one certainty in all this is that there is uncertainty and confusion everywhere. The Christians are divided. Even the Catholics are divided. The absolutist position against the bill is held by a dwindling minority who nevertheless make a hell of a noise. But the supporters of the bill are weakened by their very desire to see the bill get through somehow—even in so emasculated a form that it will be virtually useless. It is probably not too unkind to say that the MPs concerned with the pushing of the bill now look upon it as a matter of prestige to get something through. It

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Power Struggle in Aden

THE policy of federating territories might make sound economic sense to civil servants and ministers in Whitehall but, like the Central African Federation, the South Arabian Federation is doomed to failure. The reasons for this are plain, plain that is if one is interested in finding a solution for territories emerging from colonial rule, but the plans of civil servants have not faced up to the reality of the situation.

British Governments have not given independence to countries unless they have either been forced to or in cases where that country will still be controlled economically by British interests. Solutions are not looked for, but rather they are imposed. This is what happened with the South Arabian Federation. The constitution was worked out by civil servants in the early 1950's and although they might have thought they were laying a basis for a unified Arab State, its purpose was to secure political support for a British base in Aden. The killing and bloodshed which is now going on in the Federation, and especially in Aden itself, is the result of trying to impose a political solution from outside.

FORCED TO JOIN

The Federation is made up of seventeen emirates, sultanates and sheikhdoms and the colony of Aden. The larger Hadhramaut States refused to join and, at the outset, even the rulers of the seventeen states were reluctant to join and of course the people were never consulted. However the Tory Government was so determined that, according to Colin Legum of the *Observer*, they 'pushed through by example, coercion and economic enticement. Unwilling sheikhs were deposed; large sums of money went to enrich the rulers' personal treasuries; loads of guns were freely distributed.'

While the rulers of these states were either bought off or deposed, it was felt, by the Tory Government, that the country's interests (that is its supplies of oil) would be best safeguarded if the base at Aden was maintained. To secure this, the

Aden colony was forced, by Duncan Sandys, to join the Federation. Thinking that they could control the sheikhs and maintain the defence base, the Tories then announced that they would grant independence for the territory in 1968. The only deviation by the Labour Government from this policy is their intention, much to the annoyance of Duncan Sandys, to give up the base as well.

Much of the nationalist resentment stems from the colony of Aden being forced into the Federation. The nationalists had to look for help from the outside and got it from President Nasser, who was only too willing to assist in removing the remnants of British colonialism as seen in the feudal leadership of the Federation.

The two nationalist organisations who have taken up arms to speed Britain's departure are the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen, FLOSY, and the National Liberation Front, NLF. FLOSY gets its arms and political support from President Nasser and has a military base at Taiz in the Yemen. In theory they see Aden and the Federation as part of the Yemen, no doubt a scheme favoured by the imperialistic ambitions of the United Arab Republic. Active support for FLOSY comes solely from the population and trade unions in the Aden township.

Support for the NLF is less localised, having not only a following from the trade unions in Aden, but also from the population in the Federation as a whole. Richard John, writing in the *Financial Times* about the NLF said: 'Politically, it has Marxist undertones. NLF's shadowy existence since being proscribed by the British in 1965 and its breakaway last January from FLOSY, which was planned by the Egyptians to unite all the revolutionary forces, probably belies its lack of apparent leadership. At the moment its old leader, Qahtan As-Shaabi is in Cairo where he is believed to be under house detention.'

How much support these rival groupings actually have is hard to

say. One does not know if threats of violence played any part in bringing workers out on strike during the visit of the United Nations mission. Federal leaders say that both FLOSY and NLF get their support by intimidation and murder. However, support for the Federal leaders must also be suspect as they have been imposed by the British.

BRITAIN'S 'CLIENT'

Britain is, in fact, building a Federal Army to maintain 'law and order' after their departure. Even some of the young, well-educated officers will not be willing to serve under such a reactionary and feudal set-up. The Federal Government of sheikhs has been described as Britain's 'client', a Government backed by an army supplied with British arms. If the British troops remain in Aden after 1968, as demanded by Duncan Sandys, only more bloodshed will follow. Even after the British troops leave, the fighting will continue between the Federal Army and the nationalists, unless some solution can be found.

On one hand there is the Egyptian arms, going mostly to FLOSY, and with this their influence or control. The Federal Government is backed by Britain, but behind this are the two major powers, Russia and America. Russia is a major supplier of economic aid and arms. Both want to acquire influence and the Aden struggle for power could be part of this competition.

The people of Aden have never been allowed to decide what system they want. Trade unions have been built up in the face of strong opposition, but it seems that they are now controlled by the nationalists. Whether some independent force exists or not, I do not know, but as anarchists we do believe that the people of Aden should have self-determination. The British troops should be withdrawn and the people should not be the victims of a power struggle between the major powers over their spheres of influence. Aden may not be another Vietnam, but it could still be pretty uncomfortable.

P. TURNER.

FROZEN OUT

to a considerable extent.

The long-distance increases will operate on BR's much-vaunted Inter-City idea, while sleeper charges and luggage increases will affect the businessman and holiday-maker respectively. The former of course works on the principle that if you have to pay more money—or perhaps 'lose' it would be a better word—to the Government, then greater must be the chase to make up the unenviable losses. The businessman is probably the holiday-maker as well, and if only some men would take smaller jobs, since an expanding personal business only means a really big burden in taxation (few men unfortunately have given this idea—which would benefit health and cut their costs, since taxation simply soars above a certain figure — much thought) so that anarchy for the white-collar worker, with one foot in the boardroom, is as feasible in its way as it has long been for industrial wage-earners.

Transport Ministry officials explain away the severe restraint on the public, but not on themselves by adding curtly that an enterprise, when faced by increased costs and unable to restrain and absorb those costs, should resort to increased charges for services to the public, which means that British Railways, which to my knowledge have never restrained themselves, particularly when it comes to defective heaters and late trains, have babbled their woes to the Government, and Babs Castle has authorized yet another hold-up job, this time to the tune of £500,000!

Another startling piece of information came to light recently when Harold Wilson attended the postmen's union's executive meeting in London. Softened-up by the presentation of an inscribed cigarette case, he was also given a forceful reminder by delegates about the position of the lower-paid worker. It was revealed that a London postman with four children, and earning a basic wage of £15 per week, with only £1 8s. in allowances to be shared amongst six, has had most of the money he managed to save from the weekly expenses absorbed into price rises, or the Selective Employment Tax as the Government liked to call it, to make the thing more pretentious than it actually was. Out of his pay, £3 2s. 2d. goes on rent, gas and electricity is £2 10s., while £10 6s. 3d. is left for all the family essentials, and pleasures if they are lucky enough to have anything left over. When the freeze began in July it left the postman 10s. for

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from 3.30 p.m. to sunset

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A CASE OF HUMAN BONDAGE by Beverly Nichols. 21/- Secker and Warburg.

THE OTHER VICTORIANS by Steven Marcus. 45/- Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

THEY are the beautiful people, fey and coy and moving like mice in flight forever in transit and never arriving, as brittle and as charmingly useless as Kensington china with nothing to offer but their devotion to the secondary. With practised humility they ease their way into the homes of society's great, planning in advance their tinkling epigrams, storing up all that useless gossip and counting their small change in the silence of strange bedrooms.

If they were wealthy they bought their white nursing gear from their Paris couturière and sweated out a week of discussable hell in the steaming rancid jungle of Africa at the crowded side of Doctor Schweitzer, or spent a morning at the feet of Gandhi twirling their personal handloom. But if their wealth was minus, they sponged their way into the Mediterranean homes of disagreeable ancients to become part of the footnotes of a parochial culture.

Yet if they vanish, then let us take care, for no totalitarian society, be it communist or capitalist, fascist or puritan, materialistic or mystic, will tolerate them, for they are the well-washed beatniks of a middle-class culture and as such are the outriders for that individual freedom that so many of us prate of as a theory but hate as a practice.

The 1930's was the millennium of the beautiful people for, with 3,000,000 unemployed, poverty and its grimy humiliation was not a romantic novelty and the beautiful people with their white tennis trousers, blue blazers, clean shirts and their air of greedy angels paid their bus fare to Victoria station as the open gate to Le Touquet and the sun and the wine that the *Tatler* and the *Daily Express* hymned to a grey and depressed people. And the brachiopods of that society lived out their inoffensive and pretty lives and vanished into the hinterland of Earl's Court, so easily forgettable and so easily forgotten except for those who chose to record their unimportant hours of secondhand glory.

Beverly Nichols has chosen to paddle into print with a defence of the wife of

The Beautiful People

Somerset Maugham and though all the critics chose to condemn this trivial book I honour Nichols for his loyalty. If Nichols felt that the free food was worth the company of some ghastly ancient then that is, of course, his problem and if Maugham hobbles into print to describe his wife as 'a harlot, a thief, a vulgarian, a sponge and a fool' then no one can complain if her friends and his late guests spit into his grave yet, all in all, it is a mangy backstreet brawl elevated by reason of wealth and literary status into the magnitude of a renaissance drama.

That Syrie, Maugham's wife, was a clod must be acceptable despite or because of Nichols' defence, yet even we clods are entitled to demand humane treatment and this was the charity that Maugham lacked. Unfortunately Nichols steps down from his hollow horse and into the gutter when, in one brief passage of irresponsible bad taste, he writes of one of the few people who could claim Maugham as a friend for, having spent 150 pages blackguarding Maugham, Nichols picks up Maugham's dirty dagger to describe and name an elderly woman who unknowingly piddled in public. That on one occasion she waddled into Maugham's bathroom and used the lavatory while H. G. Wells was in the bath bluish is worthy of record but it was so juvenile to give the old woman's name.

But Beverly records his freeload years among the wine and roses when Noel had not yet received his self-appointed accolade of -- above the e and Gerald was the group rotter. And they are all here in one dimension, Ambrose and Glyn, Noel . . . and Sacheverell, Cecil and Oliver, so pretty, so useless and so harmless, these non-functional butterflies of our dedicated societies and may God protect them if He deigns to preserve them.

And for the ugly people I give you William Acton whom Steven Marcus has resurrected in his study of Victorian sexuality and pornography. Acton appears in Marcus's book as an authority

on the urinary and generative organs and, in spite of being an intelligent and liberal-minded man with an understanding if not a cure of the social ills within his own society, he was responsible for a popular work called *Functions and Disorders of the Reproductive Organs*.

This was a fantastically evil book by virtue of Acton's honesty and intelligence for Acton wrote as an authority on the subject of juvenile male masturbation. He describes it without hesitation or thought as an *evil practice* and stated that its results were physical deformities that ranged from an unhealthy skin to curvation of the spine and finally in-

Surrealist Festival In Essex

WE HAVE JUST received information from a comrade, John Lyle, that he and a 'few other private nobodies' have arranged a month of surrealist festival of modern arts in Exeter. They have no official standing, and no money, 'but acted out of exasperation with the inertia and reaction of the cultural establishment'.

The interim programme promises exhibitions, lectures and film shows. It is both surrealist and anarchist. The participants have not accepted the unremitting efforts of art critics to 'bury surrealism any more than they accept that the targets of surrealism are done with'.

'We want to put over a strong libertarian message at the Private View (April 24) at the discussion (April 25), particularly at the debate, or rather attack upon, Censorship (May 6),' writes John Lyle who also informs us that they are publishing a journal in connection with the Festival.

If you want to participate get in touch with J.L. at 1 Deanery Place, Palace Gate, Exeter. He offers no fees, but food and accommodation will be supplied to all participants.

sanity. When one contemplates the millions of small children whose lives have been made miserable by informed adults basing their science fiction dictums on Acton's Poe-ridden prose and the innocent guilts of adolescents whose spots and boils carried with it a condemnation almost as evil as that of medieval leprosy, then one is justified in publicly damning these experts whose thoughtless findings have excused so much social evil.

If, in that weary old last analysis, I have to choose between the ugly experts and the uselessly beautiful people then let me not die in a purgatory of clinical expertise as student fodder for the sterilised grave, for all knowledge is but a matter of opinion while beauty is eternal; so with useless beauty, and unearned pleasure for companions, anoint my head with wine and deck my square of earth with wild roses and I will await your return. ARTHUR MOYSE.

The Festival will be opened on April 24 and continue until May 20. There is a different attraction each day but the main exhibition at the Exe Gallery will run concurrently. Here paintings by Ernst, Magritte, Arp, Picasso, Mesens, Miro, Tanguy, Dali, Maddox, Klee, Chirico, Picabia, Duchamp, Agar, Man Ray will be on show.

On different dates, lectures and discussions will be held by Roland Penrose, George Melly, Jacques Brunius, Alan Burns, Patrick Hughes and John Calder.

Examples of *comédie noire* are promised: first production in England of *Labyrinth* by Fernando Arrabal and *The Grand Vizier* by René Obaldia, at St. Luke's Theatre.

Films will include Davidson's 'Help! My Snowman Is Burning Down' and W. C. Field's 'Never give a sucker an even break'.

Poets participating are Charles Olsen, Anselm Hollo and Ken Smith.

All in all, this promises to be a great feast. And not only that; it also 'insists on individual liberty, in art, ethics, politics, and everything else'.

R.

Why NOT Abortion on Demand?

Continued from page 1
 will be a feather in the cap of young David Steel and the Liberal Party if reform becomes law—even though that reform may only make statutory law what is already case law anyway.

In many ways this would be a more dangerous situation than already exists. The reformists would sit back triumphant but exhausted, unable to think of making any further step forward for many years, but the reactionaries would undoubtedly bitterly demand the rigid enforcement of the law, and the police could well be stirred up by the press—as they have been on the drugs issue—to attempt a clamp-down on the illegal abortionists who now perform the vast majority of abortions in this country and would still have to if demand were to be met after 'reform'.

For the fact of the matter is that reform will be useless to the vast majority of women seeking abortion if anything less than 'abortion on demand'

is provided for.

The sick thing about all this legal quibbling and religious pontification is that it is all carried on by representatives of bodies apart from the women who are actually and biologically and physically and emotionally and socially and economically and sexually involved, day after day, month after month, year after year. In the nine months that Steel's bill has been gestating in the Commons, 75,000 more women have had abortions—nearly all 'on demand'. They have had them semi-legally, expensively and painlessly, or illegally, cheaply and with some pain. A few have died—but even under criminal conditions deaths from abortion are less than from childbirth! (In Czechoslovakia, where the 'social' clause is accepted, mortality rate for abortion is two per 100,000, while in this country mortality rate in maternity is 25 per 100,000!)

Properly done, abortion is safe up to 13 weeks. Most women have decided

by then whether they want the baby or not. Why cannot their wishes be respected? Why cannot abortion on demand be accepted as the only practical and ethical solution to this 'problem'? It seems to me to be a simple right of any woman to decide for herself whether she should have a particular baby at a particular time by a particular father. The supporters of an abortion law—even a reformed one—withdraw this right.

Why should it be thought the prerogative of doctors or gynaecologists or lawyers or MPs or churchmen or anybody else at all to make this fundamental decision for another human being? If a woman wants a child—irrespective of her social environment—let her have it. If there are real medical or psychological reasons for terminating her pregnancy, then the opinions of medical or psychological experts should carry weight. But that the reverse should be true: that her right to termination should be withheld when she doesn't want a child is intolerable.

Why do women tolerate it? Why don't they demand abortion on demand?

P.S.

FROZEN OUT

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 anything he wanted. Increases in food prices have swallowed this money up as follows: 10d. a week more on bread, 8d. on cheese, 4d. on tomato sauce, 4d. on bacon, and 6d. a lb. on meat. The postmen are not due for a rise until next January, so in the meantime an optimistic appeal has been made to Wilson, who kept up his pretence of being a socialist by saying he was very concerned about the position of the worker in the lower-income bracket.

Now, having seen Government trickery at its worst, with the state cynically flouting their agreement, one feels Workers' Control is needed more than ever. Perhaps we as Anarchists are not worth our salt if we can't point out the anomaly of MPS who earn an average of £60 per week and spend half the year in Parliament, and then that is usually wasted, while men, whose services are relied upon to keep the community going, have nothing but an anxious time keeping themselves and their family.

RON PEARL.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

*Except in London—see below.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. Temporary address c/o Wooden Shoe, 42 New Compton Street, London, W.C.2. Sunday evening meetings 8 p.m. Lamb & Flag, Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2 (Leicester Square tube).
 April 16 Discussion on Easter Demo
 April 23 Peter le Marc
 Is Libertarian Teaching Possible?
ANARCHIST MEETINGS AT HYDE PARK EVERY SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.
LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Meetings at Mike Malet's, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13.

SOUTHWARK ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Dave Burden, 45b Barry Road, East Dulwich, S.E.22. Proposed meetings to be held on first and third Thursday of each month.

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

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

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

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

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

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

ABERDEEN GROUP. Correspondence to Michael Day, 86 Rosemount Place, Aberdeen.
BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.

BELFAST. Contact: Roy McLoughlin, 46 Mooreland Park, Belfast 11, Ireland.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: vacant—offers? Off Centre Discussions: Geoff Bearwood, Smethwick, Birmingham, 41. First Wednesday of month, 'Resistance' Group, Birmingham Peace Action Centre (formerly CND Office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.

UNIVERSITY OF ASTON GROUP. Contact: Dave Kipling, 87 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24.

BRIGHTON. All those interested in activities and action should contact Richard Miller, 1/2 Percival Terrace, Brighton, 7.

BRISTOL. Contact: Dave Thorne, 49 Cotham Brow, Bristol, 6.

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

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

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

HERTS GROUP. Anarchist Ideas in 'Shelley's Revolt of Islam', Stuart Mitchell at 46 Hughendon Road, Marshallswood, St. Albans, Herts, 8 p.m., April 14.

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

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

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson. Sunday, April 23, 5 p.m. 'Christianity the Debit Side'. Gerald Samuel (Humanist).

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

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

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

ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Emyl Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester. Fortnightly meetings from Monday, February 13.

SHEFFIELD. Contact Robin Lovell, c/o Students' Union, University, Sheffield, Tel. 24076.

SWANSEA. Please get in touch with Julian Ross, 11 Wellfield Close, Bishopston, Swansea.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

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

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

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Anne Marie Fearon, 16 Devonshire Road, Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP. Brenda Mercer, 6 Breckside Park, Liverpool, 6.

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

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, Flat 9, 619 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, 21.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

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

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 82 North Road, Highgate, N.6. (Tel.: MOU 5702.)

PROPOSED GROUPS

Community, Chapter House, Leverington, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

WEST SUFFOLK. Please write to Carl Pintel, c/o West Suffolk General Hospital, Hospital Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

S.W. MIDLANDS. Kate, Bill and baby Jane Beveridge wish to contact libertarians in S.W. Midlands. Phone Mickleton 275 or write to Myrtle House, Mickleton, Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire.

LEE, LONDON, S.E.12. Anarchist-Radical Group. Contact Rodney Hodges, 2 Cambridge Drive, Lee, S.E.12.

NORTH WALES. Bangor. Contact Geoff Brown, 39 Caellapa, Bangor, Caerns.

SOMERSET. John and Jill Driver wish to contact local libertarians, 4 Obridge Road, Taunton, Somerset.

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

ABROAD

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

AUSTRALIA. Anarchist Group, PO Box 4 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

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

CANADA: B.C.—CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel.: 987-2693.

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion group meets weekly. Contact Ed Strauss at RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

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

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

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

EAST AFRICA. George Matthews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from UK. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.
USA: NORTH-EASTERN MINNESOTA. Contact James W. Cain, 324 Forest Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Police Violence—3

ON Thursday night, March 30, two comrades and myself were distributing leaflets questioning the existence of a police force outside Rochester Corn Exchange where the annual police ball was taking place.

At around 12.30 a.m. two policemen got out of their car, seized our leaflets and arrested Howard Young and myself. We were taken to Rochester Police Station. I was dragged out of the car, taken into the station, whereupon I was thumped on the ear and then in the stomach. I must emphasise that we had shown no resistance whatsoever. The same treatment was given to Young but neither of us saw the other being thumped.

We were taken to the cells where I immediately asked for a doctor. I was told that the police doctor wasn't available but they would fetch my own doctor. An hour later I was told that my doctor didn't consider my request urgent enough to attend.

At approximately 5 a.m., after co-operating with our particulars at their first request, we were charged under Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936. This was four hours after our arrest.

We are due to appear at Rochester

March of Shame

THE London Committee of 100 are going forward with the proposed March of Shame. This begins from the London Hospital, Whitechapel Road (near Whitechapel tube) at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, finishing in Trafalgar Square at 5 p.m.

Led by a band playing funeral music, followed by standard bearers carrying British and American flags stained with blood, double banners will proclaim the theme: 'We are Ashamed', each banner giving different reasons. Floats with tableaux will be employed. Ahead of the march a team of white bicycles will attract public attention using loud hailers, and (it was hoped) forged dollar bills and leaflets. On reaching the square the March will hear public confessions which could be made by public figures of their complicity in the Vietnam war.

If you want to help, volunteers are needed to distribute leaflets and sell badges. Fly-posting teams are required and groups for direct action publicity. White bicycles and riders, people to make banners and floats; script writers and actors. The Committee need offers of money, labour and vehicles, they need people with ideas and organizing ability to take responsibility for specific items. Please phone Archway 1239 if you can help, or write: London Committee, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

JACK ROBINSON.

Through the Anarchist Press

FRANCE
SOMEBODY here appreciates the dangers of politics: on the Mondays following the two sections of the March ballot all schools used as polling stations were closed so that classrooms could be disinfected.

USA

Overall expenses for the Vietnam war in the financial year 1966-67 were 65,900 million dollars, a 20% increase on spending in 1965-66. Naturally the principal beneficiaries are the arms manufacturers; in 1965 profits of the major armaments companies were up by 21%; 1966 saw a further increase of 35%. The *American Journal of Commerce* stated recently that 'any halt to escalation or any kind of cease-fire in Vietnam would have a strongly negative effect on industry'. And the *Washington Post* sees only one choice: war or economic stagnation.

HAITI

The dictatorship of François 'Papa Doc' Duvalier continues its merry way.

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Magistrate's Court on Friday, April 7. I am in the process of taking legal advice on the matter and I shall endeavour to keep you informed of further action.

This is the leaflet

WHY A POLICE FORCE?

A POLICE FORCE exists to protect property, and uphold law and order. The question arises, whose property and whose laws?

Before the Police Force as we know it today was formed, robbery and violence existed as a result of the appalling social conditions. An organised Police Force was introduced to stop the escalation of crime. What has happened? Crime is now enjoying an unprecedented boom. Detection and prevention have sunk almost without trace.

Understandably (for contrary to many ideas they are only human beings), the Police Force have become frustrated. To justify their position, the Police have now become the strong arm of the state, waging a savage war against individuals whose only 'crime' is their belief in freedom of thought and deed. As the power of the state increases so the Police Force becomes more and more a political puppet, crushing any individual or organisation that questions or protests against the state. Books and magazines are seized, their authors and publishers prosecuted, telephones are tapped, letters opened, plays and films are censored, and so forth. We have not yet reached the situation that exists in Spain, Russia or South Africa where thousands of political prisoners rot in jail, but the time is fast approaching when it will become a crime to utter any criticism of government or establishment.

Here lies the answer to the question asked earlier. When the Police refer to 'protection of property' as a reason for their existence, it is blatantly obvious that they mean 'state property' and to hell with the ordinary citizen. For proof of this, note how quickly they went into action after the Mail Train Robbery and the Braybrook Street murders. That speed is not so obvious when your house has been burgled.

Why then must we tolerate a Police Force? Surely we have reached a stage in our evolution where we can govern ourselves without having laws and restrictions forcibly imposed upon us?

Abolish the Police and with it the government and all organisations that stand between us and our goal—freedom of the individual to work when and where he wishes, to read, write and see what he wishes.

Anarchy is Freedom

With Hubert H. Humphrey

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE United States made a statement on his departure from London on April 5 (issued by the US Information Service) in which he said: 'Our visit to this wonderful country has been one which Mrs. Humphrey and I will always remember and I'm sure that I speak for every person in our party.' Slogans were painted near Chequers during his visit reading 'Humphrey Vietnam Murderer', 'Humphrey Murderer', and signs pointing to 'War Criminals Conference' and 'Vietnam War Conference'. His statement continued, 'The friendship and the goodwill and generous hospitality shown to us by Her Majesty the Queen and by members of her Government and by the British people has been more than we could have ever dreamed of, or even hoped for.' During his visit Mr. Humphrey was under heavy guard by Special Branch, a dozen policemen and eighteen US secret service guards.

The US Information Service goes on, 'We particularly appreciate the dinner given by Her Majesty at Windsor Castle—an honour that will always live in our memory—the hospitality extended to us by Prime Minister Wilson at Chequers and the spirit of openness and goodwill which has been a part of all my discussions here. I also have had the honour and the joy to speak with the former Prime Minister, Mr. (sic) Attlee, and the former Prime Minister, Mr. Macmillan, during my visit here.'

When addressing a meeting of peers and MPs, Mr. Humphrey, speaking in defence of American policy in Vietnam, quoted 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'

Anne Kerr, MP, interpolated 'and bomb droppers!'

Mr. Humphrey's statement went on, 'As I leave to return once more to the Continent, I shall carry the message of a Britain which is strong and growing stronger. I shall carry the message of a Britain which earnestly seeks to play her role in building a stronger and united Europe. And I shall also carry with me the message of a Britain deeply committed to the works of peace, the negotiation towards a nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the Kennedy Round trade negotiation, the Atlantic Alliance, and the effort which is now being undertaken to narrow the gap between the rich and powerful nations and the poor, the starving and the weaker ones.'

Eleven people, mostly students, were held in West Berlin, on the eve of Humphrey's visit to the city, on suspicion of plotting his assassination with bombs. It was later found that the bombs were smoke-bombs made from a recipe handed down by Amsterdam Provos and the eleven were released. The *Morning Star* reported that the students wanted to attack Humphrey with cream-cakes.

Humphrey prattled on, 'Now, these are exciting days for the peoples who live round the great Atlantic. These are days in which we face new opportunities and new challenges and I have had the privilege of talking with Prime Minister Wilson and members of his Government about these challenges and these opportunities.'

In Paris paint and stones were thrown at Humphrey's car on the way from the

airport and leaflets were scattered at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe. At least 130 people were arrested, including two British journalists and six photographers and cameramen. Widespread riots forced Mr. Humphrey to cancel a dinner engagement at a restaurant in the Champs Elysees. In the riots 46 policemen and 80 rioters were injured.

Mr. Humphrey: 'And as I depart now from this brave and good and honoured land, may I express my thanks to every citizen in high place or in any place in the life of this society, for giving us a real lift in spirit and in confidence.'

About 200 people demonstrated in Brussels with banners. Later rotten fruit, rotten eggs and plastic bags of paint were thrown at Humphrey's car. Riot police were called out with rifles but, by then, the demonstrators had dispersed.

Mr. Humphrey's statement concluded, 'I want to especially thank the Members of Parliament that met with me and I wish to thank the people that we saw as we were on the streets in visiting the housing developments. And might I add I want to thank your children because they above all made us feel so happy and confident of the future. The children of Great Britain are indeed the hope of the future and some day I'm sure that our children together—of the United States and Great Britain—will help realise the dream that leaders now have in their hearts and minds. Thank you.' SANDIE SHAW, a British singer, won the Eurovision Song Contest with a song entitled 'Puppet on a String'.

JON QUIXOTE.

LETTERS

Vietnam

Dear Editors,

Malcolm Caldwell (FREEDOM, 8.4.67) writes a curious letter criticising Godfrey Featherstone's article 'Lies about Vietnam' (FREEDOM, 25.3.67). The reader will recall that Mr. Featherstone's article, about Lord Russell's statements in his book *War Crimes in Vietnam* and the work of the International War Crimes Tribunal, made some detailed allegations about the misleading nature of some of Russell's statements on Vietnam. Mr. Featherstone was good enough to refer to an article of mine on the same themes which appeared in *New Society* on February 2, and to cite an example I gave of the way Russell's book distorted sources—in particular a report in the *New York Times* in October, 1965.

Dr. Caldwell's 'reply' to Featherstone's article does not mention a single specific point that Featherstone made. Instead, Caldwell says: 'I really would not know where to begin refuting the countless mistakes of fact and interpretation in this article.' Maybe he could begin by 'refuting' some of the major points: e.g. about the beginning of the resistance to Saigon; about US support for the French war before 1954; and about the 'quote' from the *New York Times*. I would not dot every 'i' in Godfrey Featherstone's article. For example, I don't think one can say definitely that the Vietcong resistance began 'in 1957', though it did begin around that period, and certainly before 1960. But if Malcolm Caldwell's sweeping denunciation of Featherstone's article is to be taken seriously, shouldn't he come out from behind his smokescreen and at least take up some of Featherstone's main points?

Yours sincerely,

London, N.1 ADAM ROBERTS.

Teachers?—Out!

'FREEDOM' GENERALLY LIVES up to its name, unlike the unexpurgated drivel sold under cover of being journalism that one usually sees knocking around, which makes it all the more amazing why the article 'Education?' appeared in your Easter issue. Was it sent to the wrong address by mistake? I realise that you must have freedom of speech in your columns, but when an article contains sentences like 'Capitalism... is the system best suited to the mental capabilities of the vast majority of its victims,' well, what kind of Anarchism is that? Actually, this is not the exact point of the article, but the rest is in the same vein. What the writer is trying to say is that a teacher has to dominate his pupils, 'otherwise, he has both "anarchy and chaos" in the classroom'. He says he is not theorising, but speaking from experience.

Let me too, then, speak from experience—experience of 13 years of schools, for I am that thing which Comrade Phelan, the writer, seems to consider the enemy. I am a Pupil. In fairness, I

cannot say my experience has been all that great; I have only attended 'liberal' schools. My teachers have been reasonable men and women who have treated me as an intelligent human being, and I'm bloody sick of it. Anarchists have always maintained that when authority is patronising it is no different from when it is brutal. Why, then, should 'liberal' teachers be considered different from 'disciplinarians'? Well, say the liberals, we consider the pupils. Do you, my friends? Michael Duane was recently quoted in FREEDOM as saying 'Youth today is what we make it'. What about what we, the youth of today, make ourselves? I haven't noticed anyone considering that.

And so, comrades of the LTA, where does this leave us? It leaves me with the conclusion that, however much you reform the educational system, you will not change the fact that teachers are symbols of authority, and, as such, are resisted, consciously or subconsciously, by their pupils, any more than you can change the fact that workers always resist their employers.

My solution? Don't send the teachers to school!

JOHN WALKER.

Look Deeper!

Dear Friends,

John Rety (FREEDOM, 18.3.67) has extended the hand of friendship to the staff of the recently silenced *International Times*. None of us will approve of the arbitrary and probably illegal police action against the paper, and I certainly don't want to kick anyone's who's down; but when anarchists demonstrate on *IT's* behalf, it's worth having a good look at what they're standing up for. The first issue of *IT* contained the most intelligent review of US to appear anywhere, and the last (to date) featured an article by Jean-Paul Sartre; in two issues John Taylor gave details of what would appear to be a case of deliberately wrongful imprisonment. These pieces are unquestionably to *IT's* credit, as are its stands against censorship and authoritarianism generally. But what is *IT* for, what does the paper advocate? The 'youth revolt' that John Rety mentions has been, in one way or another, a feature of every new generation in recorded history; as revolt it has always been undirected, undifferentiated, and this on the whole describes the various facets of the eight or nine issues of *IT* that have appeared.

Pop *IT*, full of depth interviews with Paul McCartney and P. J. Proby; mystical *IT*, plugging its phoney and insensitive travesty of Buddhism; liberated *IT*, with its sterile, narcissistic eroticism and its naive belief that it is the spearhead of the sexual revolution—a revolution which, for people with minds of their own, has been a *fait accompli* at least since the time of the Dada movement (1916); hip *IT*, with its devotion to American slang and to the corniest kinds of 'avant garde' manifestations; turned-on *IT*, with its glorification of drug-taking, less in search of expanded minds than of pleasure pure and simple; swinging *IT*, with plans for a 25-hour city where there is no foreseeable end to the pot-parties, the all-night raves, the under-

ground movies and the fucking.

Strangely, the fundamental mistake the *IT* people have made is the same as that made by the society-at-large they decry so volubly: happiness is equated with enjoyment; it is seen not as the by-product of living in a way that might provide some inner satisfaction, but as an end in itself, something you can get just by trying hard enough and by having enough possibilities for enjoyment at your disposal. Stripped of *IT's* pseudo-intellectual paraphernalia this attitude is essentially unthinking and self-oriented; anarchists who want to support *IT*, now or in easier times, would be well advised to make sure they know exactly what they're defending.

London, N.W.1

JOHN THURSTON.

We are, we are not, we are

'The ILP (1967) Annual Conference declared that it has little confidence in the parliamentary system as a means of achieving socialism, and further reaffirms its belief that the best way to achieve socialism is by direct control of the people (sic) in both industry and political life through the medium of workers' and consumers' councils' 1.4.67.

At last the ILP has declared its interest. We take it that the ILP believe parliament cannot be used for propaganda, storing manure or anything else.

ILP Comrades join the Club!

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

NEARLY!

WEEK 14, APRIL 8, 1967:
Income: Sales and Subs.: £907
Expenses: 14 weeks at £90: £1260
DEFICIT: £353

New York: R.P. 14/-; Hayes: R.W. 14/-; Berkeley: D.S. £3/6/6; York: W.W. 5/-; Liphook: N.S. 10/-; Hartfield: D.M. 4/-; O.M. 7/1; Luton: A.B. £1/14/-; Fife: B. & V.T. £1; Ealing: R.P. 2/1; S.W. Middlesex: Anarchist Group 10/-; London, N.W.1: P.D. 2/6; Doncaster: J.R. 5/-; Surbiton: B.H. 2/-; Rochester: E.D. 13/6; Swanley: J.M. 3/-; Chiswick: H.B. £1/8/-; London, N.W.1: R.D. 10/-; Brighton: P.L. 1/6; Saffron Walden: R.B. 8/-; Belfast: D.M. 10/-; London, W.C.1: A.J. 10/-; Chorley Wood: S.E. 4/-; Beverley: C.R. 10/-; Ipswich: N.T. 5/-; Bury St. Edmunds: C.P. 6/-; Grantham: G.I. 1/6; Newcastle on Tyne: B.C. £3; Hampton: M.R. 10/-; California: E.B. 17/6; Wealdstone: P.T. 10/-; Salop: J.P. 10/-; Smethwick: E.W. £2/10/-; Taunton: C.W. 10/-; Bradford: F.R. 5/-; Auckland: J.R. 5/-; Birmingham: G.O. £5; Aberdeen: W.R. £1/10/-; Prestwich: B.S. 10/-.

TOTAL: £314 2
Previously Acknowledged: £319 17 7

1967 Total to Date: £351 1 9

Dignity of Labour?

THIS is the age of productivity agreements, rationalization, and the 'dignity of labour' and all that jazz.

Will Paynter, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, has warned the South Wales miners about their excessive absenteeism, and couldn't-care-less attitude. What exactly is there to care about? The job and pleasure of doing a full week's work—bull shit! When coal is urgently needed, the miners are the brave lads who risk their lives down the pits, but when they take a day off or want a wage increase they are irresponsible and hold the country to ransom.

The majority of workers don't go to their respective jobs because they like it; they go for the cash to enable them to live, they sell their labour power, and if that power is not available on a Monday or Friday—so what! This jungle that we live in is made up of buying and selling. The manufacture of goods is manipulated to keep the price up and ensure the profit. Many goods are urgently needed, houses, hospitals, etc., but they are not available Monday, Friday or any other day because other things must come first like armaments, rises for dukes and judges.

Come off it, Mr. Paynter, you

should know better than that, if one lives in a jungle the rules of the jungle must apply. Don't plead for one section to act responsibly, whilst another section actively cuts their throats.

I noticed that the daily pillar of honesty, the *Morning Star*, kept quiet. Maybe the editor felt too sick about it to comment but, what is more likely, certain people can say certain things but if other people say exactly the same, then all the wrath of the *Morning Star* will come down on their necks. Communists can do, or say, no wrong unless they are Chinese.

TWO HEADS ARE AS GOOD AS NONE

THE TUC met the Confederation of British Industry for the third of their after-eight chats. They might not have had a bottomless coffee pot, but nevertheless they got on well together. Both sides agreed that higher pay must go with higher production, and wage restraint for the rest, which includes many of the lower-paid workers. This 'master and man' getting-together is really all the rage these days—you can't beat it, Mr. Wilson said so.

Comrade Wilson also said that he had doubts about the TUC wage-vetting machinery. He thought it might not be strong enough to withstand the barrage of accumulated pay claims. He spoke of the 'need for support that Government

action could provide. This is the last thing they want to do, but...
Whilst on the subject of Wilson, urgh! It is interesting to note that he has been canonised at last. Wolverhampton Labour Party will no longer toast the Queen but Harold Wilson and the Labour Government, long live King 'Arold.

SEAMEN'S WAGE CUT

FROM APRIL 21, reduced fares for seamen travelling off duty is to be stopped. This concession has been in operation since 1930. It was only recently that the concession had been re-established at three-quarters normal fare.

DATA FIGHTS ON

THE SUPPORT for the draughtsmen locked out by the shipbuilding employers is growing daily. Financial support is rolling in at a fairly steady pace. One hundred thousand Clydeside shipbuilding and engineering workers are to be asked to stop work on April 19 in support of the draughtsmen. Recently Scottish draughtsmen struck for a half-day in support of their mates. The dispute is now in its fourth week. Shop stewards at the Yarrow shipyard of Clyde have blacked all drawings by non-union members not locked out and will continue to do so. Intensified industrial solidarity action must finally persuade the shipbuilding employers to see sense. This is one time when the copious skirts of the Government are not wide enough to protect their friends, the employers.

The proposed sackings of draughtsmen at Vauxhall's have either been suspended or put back. DATA has received assurance from the management that there will be no transfer of work to Opel in Germany. There was no intention of reducing technical functions; in fact, in the long run, there would be more technical work—not less.

Obviously this was a 'try on' by Vauxhall management to save a few bob at the draughtsmen's expense, until new plans came into operation, but DATA wasn't having any. The problem now is how many other so-called non-productive workers are still on the redundancy list. 'One for all and all for one.'

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

NORTH-WEST LETTER

ROBERTS-ARUNDEL SACKS ITS SCABS

THE MAIN ISSUE up here is still the Roberts-Arundel dispute, and with the news this week that machining work at the factory is to cease and a total of 112 scabs to be made redundant, the wheel seems to have turned full circle. The sackings, say the firm, are due to 'riots, blacking and constant harassment of production', which would seem to be something of a compliment to the campaign which has been carried out against this firm. One of the most spectacular successes of the 'blacking' campaign was just before Easter, when porters at Manchester Airport blacked a KLM airliner that was to take an Arundel's machine to Amsterdam, and threatened to black all KLM planes that landed at Manchester if the plane took off with the machine aboard; needless to say it was quickly unloaded.

Of the men who have been sacked there is nothing to say, they barely make the grade as men. They were quite prepared to take the jobs of men who were out in dispute, to literally take the bread and butter out of the mouths of the strikers' families, and now that they're out on the stones, no one's shedding tears. Contained in the announcement of the sackings was the news that the Managing Director, Mr. John Cox, has been appointed to a new post, and with his removal it would seem that a settlement could now be reached. Cox, more than anyone, has inflamed this dispute time and again, by his arrogant attitude towards the strikers and the firm certainly appears to be more conciliatory now without him.

What will happen at the talks between unions and management next week no one can say, but a settlement of some kind seems on the cards.

THE REDUNDANCY STICK

At my own place of work, a steel-rolling mill, things seem to be developing. As we came in on the night shift after the Easter holidays we found a long list of new rules waiting for us. Most of us just laughed them off and went on as normal, until the next night when we went in and found another notice on the board saying that one of the mills was to go on one shift and that the extra gang would have to be dispersed throughout the works. This means that some men have had to be

moved out of the mills and into other less well-paid jobs. And, as far as we can see, this is just the beginning, in a few months time all five mills will probably be on one shift, meaning at least a hundred or so redundancies if it happens. Again, it's just guessing; no one can really be sure about it, but certainly the management wouldn't have started booting us about and trying to re-assert its authority if it didn't have some kind of stick to beat us with. In this case, the redundancy stick. At the moment the stewards are still negotiating over the dispersal of the extra gang, a defensive action, we'll just have to see whether we can get back on the offensive as quickly as possible after this.

NORTHERN WORKER.

ANARCHISTS ON THE MARCH

THE BLACK and Red banners seem to increase year by year with an increased following at Easter. One sympathiser with the feeling against being shepherded like a grey orderly mass in permitted protest, with the feeling of impotence, and the frustration of being unable to alter the direction of our society. The nihilistic impression one gets of this march is, I am sure, the result of all these feelings. Where do all the anarchist marchers go for the next 12 months? Where do they go when they give up marching altogether?

The plain fact is that, unless we can communicate with a larger section of the community than we have so far, we will continue to be a small ineffectual group. We fail even to communicate with a large number of our fellow marchers. Have the anarchist marchers themselves any clear ideas? Is it possible to make this something more than an annual jamboree? Not that I am against jamborees—we want more of them—but if it is possible to combine it with something more effective it would be great.

At the moment our case is relevant, the case against the existing establishment is unassailable yet we fail to make any significant impression among the majority of our fellow citizens. We either

Freedom For Workers' Control

APRIL 15 1967 Vol 28 No 11

Is Cousins Wriggling?

THERE has been considerable disagreement about whether the pay increase for the car delivery men was an award for extra productivity or just a straight increase. The Transport and General Workers' Union argues that the award is based on increased productivity and as such is within the scope of the Government's Incomes Policy. The employers say that it is a straight increase which they paid 'under duress'. The Government, by freezing the award, seems to agree with this interpretation.

I am inclined to agree with the employers, but would answer, 'So what!' Workers are faced with a continuing struggle and they should use all forms of 'restrictive practices' as a means to enforce a demand. The so-called 'restrictive practices' are created by workers, with individual variations, and are used for bargaining. They are sold for a wage increase and if it is possible to use them more than once, so much the better.

LEGALISTIC WANGLES

Let's face it, the T&GWU's argument does not hold water. If it did, then before this pay award was made, car delivery workers would have done the return journey without a load. This is obviously not the case, but the union is claiming that they will not do this extra work while the increase is frozen. Their action in returning empty means that they are liable for prosecution under the wide provisions (to compel, induce or influence employers) of the Prices and Incomes Act. The T&GWU's argument on productivity and the reversion back to the old agreement, is just a legalistic wangle. It is avoiding a straight confrontation.

Progressive Deliveries, a firm in the Midlands, devised a plan whereby they sacked their 150 employees in the Birmingham area and re-engaged them on the higher rates of the Coventry agreement. This gives the men the same money as they were earning prior to the Government's step in freezing the increase. The T&GWU has agreed to this arrangement and the firm has justified it by

saying, 'We are not prepared to finance a battle between Wilson and Cousins'. Whether this sacking and re-engagement legally by-passes the Government order is not clear. It seems doubtful to me, because the increase is still being paid to the same men, but even if it is legal, the Government can easily bring out another order.

The *Economist* has described the car delivery employers as 'a group of rather feeble small companies'. Some of them are so small that the Government has not sent the orders through to them and so they are still paying the increase. They were quite willing to settle with the union and pass the costs on to the car firms.

A LOT OF TALK

The action of the car delivery men is a challenge to the Government, but although Mr. Cousins has done a lot of talking about opposing the Government, he is doing his utmost, at the moment, to wriggle out of a direct confrontation. He prefers, like all leaders, to contain the struggle to a legalistic plane, the type of thing the Government is far better placed to win, instead of involving the membership in a mass struggle against the freeze order. While not wishing to see anyone prosecuted, just for its own sake, a stand has to be taken and for all his tough talk, Mr. Cousins does seem unwilling to make it. As it is, he is only playing into the Government's hands. They do not want to prosecute, but if a stand was made, then their bluff would be called.

It is a waste of time waiting for the union leadership to carry out this struggle against the Government's legislation. While the workers do this, their struggle will be contained and defeated. The car delivery men have nevertheless given a lead and it is to be hoped that they see through the legalistic manoeuvres of their General Secretary and challenge the Government directly. I am certain that they will get the support from other trade unionists if they do and that it will be our job to assist in this.

P.T.

Contact Column

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

Unfurnished Accommodation Wanted. Responsible gentleman, thirties, exemplary tenant, requires spacious self-contained flat/house, minimum three bedrooms, central London, quiet surroundings. Maximum seven guineas inclusive. No premium. Could decorate. Reciprocal references. Box 52.

Patchen. Wednesday, April 19, at Better Books, 9 p.m., readings from (as yet unpublished) 'Love and War'. Poems of Kenneth Patchen. Reading organized to raise money for printing costs.

Open University. At London School of Economics, Houghton St., Aldwych, W.C.2 until April 26. Twenty-four hours a day. Everyone interested is welcome.

Badges. 'Free Stuart Christie—Franco's Prisoner', 3/6 for six (including postage), minimum order. Proceeds to new campaign expenses. Orders to John Rety, c/o Freedom Press.

House or Apartment wanted for July. American comrades (4) need house or flat to rent for month of July. Box 50.

Communism vs. Anarchy. Chigwell YCL vs. Harlow Anarchists, 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, in Loughton Hall, Loughton, Essex. All invited.

Accommodation Available — London. Medium sized room in unfurnished s/c flat Camden Town, about £3 p.w. Whole flat (2 large/2 medium rooms, k. & b.) on three year lease from mid-May, £500 p.a. Box 53.

Meeting. Sunday, April 16. Lecture (in Spanish) by J. Delso de Miguel on 'The Problems of Anarchism', at The Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, W.C.1 (near Russell Square) at 3.30 p.m. SLM in exile. All welcome.

Accommodation Wanted. Cheap sleeping accommodation/dry floor. Anywhere in London for seven days June-September. No cooking. Write Alan Murgatroyd, 28 Sun Street, Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.

Elizabeth Windsor. Hull Anarchist Group require any anti-royalist information or literature. Particularly about the Queen. H.A.G., 89 Fountain Road, Hull.

Unaligned in Vietnam? Easter Pamphlet. 'Neither Washington nor Hanoi but Libertarian Socialism.' Duplicated pamphlet for sale, price 3d. Write Laurens Otter, Tolstoi New Yatt Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon.

If you wish to make contact let us know.