Anarchist Weekly @

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New War In Vietnam

pellet and cluster bombs have one thing in common; they are all antipersonnel weapons. Journalists and eyewitnesses have dossiered the bombing of hospitals and population centres in North Vietnam by the US air force. Less familiar is the increasing use of chemical and possibly bacteriological weapons in South Vietnam, Dr. Stephen Rose, a lecturer in bio-chemistry, told 200 people who attended a symposium held by ANZAVW* in London a fortnight ago. None of what follows, he stressed, is classified or a security leak.

In 1925 American delegates signed the Geneva Protocol banning the use of

Big Brother Goes **Underground**

HE MAY NOT HAVE forced his evil eyes into our homes yet but the signs are that Big Brother is well on the way. The roadside 'concrete policemen' that have stared at us in many of London's streets (one stands guard just outside the Beatles' boutique Apple in Baker Street) and the television cameras in Holborn Tube station will soon be joined by 49 other government spies.

At a cost to us of £50,000, the new Victoria Line of the Underground will contain '49 strategically placed television cameras' which 'will be able to watch you wherever you are on any of the 24 platforms on the line's 12 stations' (Evening News, 6.2.68). And in case you feel like speaking while on any of these platforms, beware, each camera is equipped with a 2-way loudspeaker system so they will be able to listen in to your conversations; and after stooping to letter-opening and phone-tapping they'll have no morals left to stop them from listening to the most personal conversation. Another dagger of psychological blackmail pointed at us. And don't think you will be any safer on the escalators or in the subterranean passageways, they're watching them too, in fact the safest course would be not to use the line at all as even the carriages are subjected to a public address system.

This line will be opening in a year's time (spring, 1969) so there might be some time left to do something about it. Suggestions so far have ranged from a picket of the stations on the first day to guerilla warfare tactics so let's at least worry the authorities, remember those spying eyes were quite expensive.

PAUL WESTON

SWANSEA VIETNAM WEEK

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2

Monday, Feb. 26th Afternoon Albert Meltzer speaking at Swansea University Poetry Reading by Denis Gould

Saturday, March 2nd 12 noon-

March through Swansea followed by Public Meeting Evening Entertainment All West Country and Welsh Anarchists

Some accommodation can be offered for

C and B agents in warfare but Congress refused to ratify it. Today Americans are stating they don't regard themselves as bound by it. Frustrated by the nuclear stalemate the USA has opened a trapdoor long kept shut by a trust that is

LETHAL DEFOLIANTS

rare in international politics.

The American rationale for defoliating one million acres of South Vietnam's croplands is that you can only beat guerillas by destroying their natural cover and foodstuffs. After every spray from the air loudspeakers enjoin villagers to leave for areas controlled by Saigon. However, the victims are not able-bodied Vietcong but women, children, the sick and the old and, worse, future generations; for, like radioactive fallout, the defoliants 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T (another Dow sideline) are upsetting the entire ecology of the sprayed areas. Supposedly non-lethal, analysis of these defoliants has revealed quantities of capadelic acid, a compound of arsenic, this accounting tor the rivers of dead fish and fields of animal carcasses, all killed for the sake of destroying cover.

NERVE GAS

The same anodyne PR talk of 'nonlethal' weapons surrounds the use of nerve gases to flush people out of tunnels and other places where they cannot be reached by conventional means. The first wave of planes drops the gas grenades, the second wave napalms the people who run into the open. One such nerve gas is CS, researched and developed at Porton near Salisbury. A Canadian in Vietnam recently cabled the American Association for the Advancement of Science that, of several thousand gas cases he has treated. 10% of the adults died, and 90% of the children under ten.

NEW NAZIS

The parallels with Nazi Germany should be obvious by now. The Americans are deliberately experimenting with new toys of destruction as Germany did in the Spanish Civil War. The successor company to I.G. Farben, producer of the nerve gas Tabun used in Hitler's concentration camps, have a supply contract While in Newport, Indiana, the 'Food Machinery Corporation' has a factory working 24 hours a day under contract to produce the even more deadly nerve gas, Sarin. The 1957 C and B research and development budget was 35 million dollars, that for 1967 was million dollars. Fort Detrick in Maryland, with whom the Porton establishment has an exchange arrangement, is staffed by over 600 graduates researching methods of biological warfare. Evidence in this field is inconclusive. But why has South Vietnam, alone of Asian countries, between 1958 and 1964 experienced raging epidemics of plague, and why to date have 22 out of South Vietnam's 29 provinces been affected?

GUERILLAS

The implications of these new types of warfare extend beyond Vietnam. Any small country can manufacture these genocidal weapons, and in sufficient quantity to destroy the entire world populace. Why don't the Vietcong retaliate with C and B warfare, Hanoi has the chemists? The answer is that the Vietnamese NLF and the Americans are fighting two different types of war. The Vietnamese are fighting a war of liberation, a selective war against an obvious intruder, which demands weapons that discriminate. The Americans are fighting a war of extermination, attacking the very people they claim to be protecting, that they reason being the only chance they have of destroying a guerilla army which merges with the civilian population. Also in Vietnam to watch the US effort at 'containing Communism' are observers from Latin American countries that have indigenous guerilla movements to contend with.

*Australians and New Zealanders Against

the Vietnam War.

ADVICE TO THOSE ABOUT TO JOIN THE ARMY

THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC is to continue. but the chains are to be shortened by some links.

There is in this country, and others, an organisation which concerns itself with the lingering forms of slavery in the Middle East and Africa where children are sold by their parents into long-term contracted labour. It has not so far been known to utter a word of disapproval of parents in this country who do precisely that. For any boy at 15 years can, with his parents' consent, join one of Her Majesty's Armed Forces for a period of nine, twelve or even twenty-two years, and the position of the boy serviceman as a 'bought slave' cannot be altered by the boy's initial enthusiasm for the career. His status can in no way be compared with that of an apprentice in any other trade, now that the power to deal with absconding and refractory apprentices by incarceration in disciplinary establishments has been taken away, as it has long since. The only legal action an employer can take is to sue the apprentice's parent for damages in the civil courts. Likewise with an adult who breaks a contract unilaterally; no employer but the State can pick up bodily and throw into gaol a man who decided to use the natural power of his legs to take him somewhere else (with apologies to Voltaire).

So, this youth or child who set himself in pursuit of an ideal of service which he fine to maturer thought to be less be efficial to his fellows than he imagined, or to whom the advertising industry sold the idea that he would carve out for himself a bigger share of pay and prestige than he could in other industries and who later finds the reality less glossy than the 'ad', is faced at eighteen with starting the nine, twelve, eighteen or twenty-two years that he bargained for (the three he's already done from the age of fifteen are just three years gone).

Now at last, harried and harangued by the National Council of Civil Liberties (to whose tenacious secre-

the situation through the eyes of its appointed Latey Committee (on the age of majority) and has decided on some alleviatory measures: (1) to extend the period which a boy entrant has in which to change his mind from three months to six months after entry, and (2) to allow Servicemen to make application for discharge on grounds of conscientious objection:

'Commanding officers will be required to establish the merits of cases which will then be referred to higher authority in the appropriate Service for decision. There will also be provision for applicants whose cases are rejected by the Service authorities to appeal to the Appellate Tribunal, and a successful appeal will be accepted as decisive on the question of conscience. Once conscientious objection has been accepted as genuine, either by the Service or the Tribunal, discharge will be conditional upon payment of the standard purchase price. The Services will, however, have discretion to reduce or waive the purchase price where financial hardship can be proved.'*
Provision (1) is the less likely to

be often invoked, since it is in the first few weeks of homesickness and strangeness that boys write beseeching their parents to buy them out, and where a boy is persuaded to stick it out, by the time three months is up, the same boy may have settled in and be actively enjoying the life. meditation on the role of the army from a moral point of view, giving birth to a conscientious objection, does not as a rule commence at the age of 15 years 5 months in a boy whose whole upbringing and education has led him to an acceptance of the rightness of the status quo.

The second provision will undoubtedly bring relief to some men who up to now, in cases of refusal of permission or inability to meet the requirements of discharge by purchase, have only had recourse to a process whereby if he committed tary, Tony Smythe, much respect is an offence which he claimed was

due), the Government has looked at committed on grounds of conscience and as a result of which he received a court martial sentence of three months' imprisonment or detention he was permitted—as an 'act of grace' and without backing in law to state his case to a civilian Tribunal (a relic of the days of conscientious objection under the National Service Acts) which advised the service concerned as to whether or not they judged his offence to have been committed on grounds of conscience. If yes, the service discharged him (without purchase).

These are the hurdles which remain, the Government having refused to accept the Latey Committee's recommendation that a boy entrant should be entitled to release as of right within three months of his eighteenth birthday. First, there is the matter of the standard purchase price which, human nature being what it is and despite high service pay, some men find themselves at the time unable to put up, it amounting to £180 or so. The proving of hardship may be the one which brings some applicants down. Secondly, if the applicant fails to convince his commanding officer, or the commanding officer fails to convince the higher authority in the service, he then has to convince the Appellate Tribunal, and some older readers will be able to vouch for the difference between having an implacable objection to taking part in the armed forces and convincing a tribunal that it comes within their understanding of a conscientious objection. As, indeed, can some servicemen who have put their case to a tribunal having been sentenced for an offence such as refusing any longer to wear uniform.

All in all, it appears that the conscience which will be most adequately met by the new provisions is the Government's, and the only sound and sure advice to intending boy entrants and their parents remains the same as Mr. Punch's to those about to marry. M.C.

*Minister of Defence for Administration, Mr. G. W. Reynolds, House of Com-

LETTER FROM A BERLIN REVOLUTIONARY

IN AN EXCELLENT article in last week's Observer, Neal Ascherson reported from Berlin:

The young West Germans are in revolt. In a dozen towns and cities this week, schoolchildren and students fought in the streets against police armed with clubs and water-cannon.

The article concludes

This is a wildly ambitious rebellion against authoritarianism, symbolised by the grand coalition in Bonn but encountered in schools, universities and the police. Pupils demand equal rights in running their education, choosing professors and even allotting marks. Though they despise nationalism, the demonstrators are asking their country to take its own independent line towards Vietnam, Eastern Europe and East Germany without craving leave of the United States.

The nucleus is the small Socialist Student League (SDS). With only 1,600 members, this is a revolutionary group of highly intelligent young people who have declared war on State bureaucracy in East and West. Broadly Marxist, they want to replace parliamentary democracy by direct workers-council socialism on Cuban or Algerian lines. Their language is doctrinaire, often obscure, and yet it has suddenly caught on.

All over the country, nicely dressed middle-class schoolboys and young girls with blonde fringes talk about 'unmasking the apparatus' and institutionalised violence under late capitalism'. But so far the working class, young and old, has remained mistrustful.

From Berlin itself, where the whole

revolt started, a comrade who is in the thick of the activities there has written us a hurried note which we are printing in full, so that the Anarchist Movement in this country should wake up to its revolutionary potential.
RESULTS OF THE BERLIN

ANTI-SHAH DEMONSTRATION Six months ago the fight between stu-

dents and government was at its peak. Several hundreds of policemen have beaten up several hundreds of students. One student, Benno Ohnesorg, was shot down by an uniformed policeman.

Now, half a year later, it's time to Lord Mayor of Berlin

Member of the Senate of Berlin for interior matters

Head of the police force had to go. 1 Student (Fritz Teufel)

Policeman (Kurras) found not guilty. 1 big discussion about student prob-

lems. 1 big discussion about students dis-

agreement with society. 1 out of parliament opposition move-

How it started:

There are two sources for the student movement.

1. The pressure on the university for economic reasons, which led to the first big sit-in with 4,000 students in the hall of the Free University of Berlin in the summer of '66. (FU has nothing to do with what is called Free University in America. That's the Critic University in

Berlin. Free in Berlin means more or less anti-communist.)

The big coalition between Christian and Social Democrats, leaving no effective opposition within parliament. First demonstration in December '66 with violent police reaction. The effect was that the left wing students were the only real opposition left in Germany.

Since then more and more often confrontations took place between students and police. The police even tried to clear up a sit-in in the university but had to give up after the first hundred.

Only to mention the Humphrey 'assassination' with cake and cream, when the police detected flavour as gun powder to arrest the famous Commune

To justify the violent police actions of June 2, Fritz Teufel, a member of Commune One was arrested and held in prison. He has been accused of violating a policeman by throwing a stone, of being a ring-leader and of violating public peace. Kurras, who killed Benno Ohnesorg, was still free.

Many actions were started to get Fritz out of prison. Members of the Commune II, the so-called SDS Commune, went into schools to discuss the case of Fritz as a case of democracy and justice within the lesson of politics. Sometimes with good effect. Sometimes it was impressive for the school kids to see police-men hindering discussions.

Kurras was found not guilty. In Fritz's case the court found that it was evident that the charge against

Continued on page 2

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GOD IS FOR REAL, MAN

JOHN ROBINSON* (speaking about God) says 'Have we seriously faced the possibility that to abandon such an idol may in the future be the only way of making Christianity meaningful?'

Peter Lumsden in Peace News, arguing from a Christian viewpoint, said, 'Can Christians be atheists? Not can, but must, if the Church is to play her part in the progress of mankind. . .' One way and another, what with a book of 'hip' sermons called 'God is for real, man' and a discourse called 'The Gospel according to Peanuts' and now the production of Adventures of a Black Girl in Her Search for God at the Mermaid, God is getting quite a bashing God is getting quite a bashing e days.

may be as the toilet-wall said 'God

is Alive: he just doesn't want to get involved'. But God is certainly involved

at the Mermaid. The argument that there is no immortality save in one's contribution to the lives and thinking of others is borne out when one rehears the always witty, sometimes moving, frequently provocative words of Bernard Shaw whose vegetarian flesh ceased to function eighteen years ago and one realizes how much he has already become part of oneself.

Those who go to the Mermaid expecting a play (many critics did) will be disappointed. It is not a play but a dazzling feat of intellectual pyrotechnics (there are occasional damp squibs but nothing is perfect). It is presented by two readers, the gifted octogenarian, Edith Evans, being one and a small company playing the parts of the various facets of God which the Black Girl meets on her intellectual pilgrimage. All

Elect the Virgin Mary?

An American comrade was sent a letter by PAX (Massachusetts Political Action for Peace) informing him that they were 'going all out to help Senator Eugene J. McCarthy win the Democratic nomination for President'.

nomination for President'.

Our comrade replied as follows:

IT'S inconceivable that you can be that stupid! In effect you're getting all up-tight about which particular pied piper is going to lead you into the mushroom cloud. Didn't it ever occur to you that if yoting could possibly do you any good cloud. Didn't it ever occur to you that if voting could possibly do you any good it wouldn't be allowed? Proudhon pointed out that 'universal suffrage is the counter-revolution'. He also observed that a legislature is a despot with 600 heads, which is equally true.

Anyway, assuming just for laughs that elections at some ideal time and place could accomplish something constructive (aside from the fact that within the past few years a stuffed hippopotamus was put up as a candidate for office somewhere in Argentina, and it won), the US

ere in Argentina, and it won), the US 1968 would not qualify on either

Beyond the fact that McCarthy is a prima facis, asshole (to mix a metaphore, it wouldn't matter if you elected Gandhi. The winner of the election would immediately head the most gigantic institution ever devoted to mass murder. It appor-tions between 80% and 95% of its re-sources, income, and energy for the purpose of exterminating the human race. The exact figure cannot be ascertained because such agencies as the CIA don't receive a penny in the published budget, receive a penny in the published budget, and sundry innocuous-appearing educational grants, etc., are actually for military research or kindred viciousness. A friend of mine once went through the budget line by line, which is equivalent to reading every entry in a telephone directory, and he came up with an estimate of over 90% for war. So, with that kind of odds against us, it wouldn't help even if you elected the Virgin Mary. The only humane thing she could do would be either resign or get pregnant. Cerbe either resign or get pregnant. Certainly she couldn't have any appreciable

effect on that vast monopoly of power which is the state—and which you should recognize as both your enemy and the

recognize as both your enemy and the biggest god-damoclean sword which ever hung over the whole planet.

In fine, remember that regardless of whom you elect, you're going to lose and the 'government is going to win. Try to learn something from 1964, and '60, and '56, and '52, etc., all the way back to when that slave-holding pimp ran two times in a row unopposed and won unanimously just like Stalin and Chiang Kaishek.

R.S.C.

with the exception of the Black Girl are dressed in rehearsal clothes and there is no attempt to actualize the fantasy. It is all in the mind.

One may carp, were one a professional critic, at the fact that the black girl is really brown, and that were the text adhered to she would appear in the nude (what would the Lord Chamberlain say) and whether such pseudo-dramatic fragments as this—and Aerial Football which precedes it—are worth resurrecting from the dramatist's dustbin but the ing from the dramatist's dustbin but the justification of the works are that for an hour or two on the stage of the Mermaid they exist. The Black Girl, Micah, Jesus, Pavlov, Mahomet, Moses, Voltaire, all give their interpretation of God, and at the end we are left with man, all we need to know.

"God made man and man has been "God made man and man has been and man has been the stage of the st

'God made man and man has been 'God made man and man has been busy returning the compliment ever since' said the cynic and if the new South Bank religion is keeping its power by dropping the idea of God since it is intellectually unacceptable today, we must reject this mini-version of the old salinious classification. must reject this mini-version of the old religious claptrap and Shaw is a refreshing antidote to such religious double-think as Robinson quoting Feverbach: The true atheist is not the man who denies God, the subject; it is the man for whom the attributes of divinity, such as love, wisdom and justice, are nothing. And denial of the subject is by no means necessarily denial of the attributes. This follows up the Bishop's quotation of Bakunin's assertion that God was a mirage. od was a mirage.

God is still a mirage despite the ease

with which the new preachers remain in mid-air after sawing off the branch on which we thought they were sitting. Shaw's presentation of *The Black Girl* shows that even the religionist's mid-air posture is a mirage.

JACK ROBINSON

* Bishop of Woolwich.

Subjects* Guide to the Constitution

Noisy verbal smokescreen in two colours to conceal the activities of the Executive

Decent and jolly chaps who decide our life and death over drinks.

Pseudo-pi cal switch for changing the colour of the legislature from time to time. Gives brilliant illusion of democratic control.

Mechanism for (1) the protection of the executive; (2) protection of property over about £10,000 in value; (3) producing the illusion of protecting other trifles, small property, individual life and liberty,

Decent and jolly chaps indistinguishable from the executive, paid by the executive, same education and social background as the executive, yet constitutionally independent of the executive. Mutter continuously about protecting society and the rule of law. Pathologically unable to distinguish between society and the state.

Public enquiry

Public talk about a matter which is at

the same time being decided by the executive. This is why they are often called independent enquiries. Anything that is unearthed is quite independent of decisions already taken by the executive.

Treasury

Mechanism for forced robbery and extortion of monies from subjects.*

Monies devoted to projects designed to torture subjects.*

Concorde Stansted, War, examples — Concorde, Stansted, War, Harold Heath, Edward Wilson. *Subjects—subjected persons.

BATTERY PEOPLE

AFTER BATTERY hens and calves A FIER BATIERY nens and calves we now apparently have something like battery people. This is TIE, the totally integrated environment described by Mr. W. A. Robinson of the EDA division of the Electricity Council and reported in the October 27 edition of the magazine Engineering in an article entitled 'Factories without Windows'. Among other things TIE means no windows, the cost of the heat less through Among other things TIE means no windows, the cost of the heat lost through the windows is greater than the cost of providing the same amount of light by electricity. Also the electric lighting provides heat which may, with sufficient insulation, be enough to heat the factory.

Of course this man is primarily in-terested in selling electricity but the total neglect of the human aspect of this idea is frightening. Fortunately in this case the technical press, not usually noted for its concern for people, is not sympathetic to Mr. Robinson and to sympathetic to Mr. Robinson and to quote from the Engineering article: 'But modern factories if they are de-signed on TIE principles will also mean an almost totally enclosed environment. The psychological implications of this on the workers are surely as important (if not more so) as any economic or produc-tion considerations. Incidentally one of these monstrosities has already been built and has been in use for ten years. In passing it is probably worth men-tioning that a factory without windows would present a considerable fire bazard. would present a considerable fire hazard. The lack of windows, which would normally break, particularly roof lights, would lead to a fire of long duration, smoke logging of the building which would make escape and fire fighting difficult and a high concentration of toxic carbon monoxide.

The introduction of these places obviously ought to be resisted and it ought to be possible to enlist the support of even the most reactionary trade union officials for a matter which so obviously comes under 'conditions of employment'. It is unlikely however that firms will announce to their employees that they

announce to their employees that they are putting up these places although some announcement might be made in some announcement might be made in the journals of the building or heating and ventilating trades. It is likely that if the idea catches on it will be because nobody noticed it was happening. The only way to prevent this is to spread the knowledge that TIE and factories without windows are coming and resist hem.

MICHAEL WOOLLISCROFT.

Letter from Berlin

Continued from page I

him was false. Still the prosecutor pleaded for five months in jail just for

pleaded for five months in jail just for attending the demo.

Thousands of students were preparing to accuse themselves for the same reason. Some hundred students, led by Rudi Dutschke, the leader of the student movement, tried to enter the court and were fighting against strong police forces.

Fritz Teufel was found not guilty, left the court and went right to the next demo to ask for freedom for two other

members of Commune One who had just been arrested.

just been arrested.

In an attached note our Berlin correspondent details his week's activity. He has been given the task to work out a new structure for a teacher training college. He is helping to open a 'beat' club. He has just started a telephone service for kids with questions and problems. He is planning a new weekly paper for youngsters (he is 18). He concludes: 'Actually the problem is that we have got more power than we can use, or got more power than we can use, or better, we have some power for the reforms not all SDS members want

Anarchist Federation of Britain

SOUTHERN ANARCHIST FEDERATION Inaugural Conference. All groups please contact Steve Watts of Trinity College, Oxford, February 24 at Oxford; Friday, 23, social in aid of Spanish Refugees Aid, Inc. and the Anarchist Black Cross.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. c/o Libra House, 256 Pentonville Road, London, N.1. Business meetings first Sunday of the month. Clo Libra riouse, 250 N. J. Business meetings first Sunday of the month. For details apply to LFA
New Meeting Place, Marquis of Granby, Cambridge Circus, Charing Cross Road. Sundays

8 p.m. PEB 25: J. P. Schweitzer Price of Freedom LEWISHAM. Contact Mike Malet, 61B Gran-ville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13: Phone:

ville Park, Lewisham, London, S.E.13. Phone: 01-852 8879. EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Ken King, 54 Norwood Road,

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Thursday, 7.30 p.m. at 14 C. King's Avenue (Acre Lane end), S. OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 King's Road), 8 p.m. Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald Irene Rooum's, now at 13 Savernake Road,

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN ANARCHISTS meet ist and 3rd Wednesdays of month at M. Dey's, 142 Walker Road, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Liz Smith's, 3 Sinclair Road. Correspondence to either address. ABERDEEN ANARCHIST FEDERATION (SWF ocal group, Folk Song Workshop and Committee t Inin MacDo BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN AND ANAR

ndividualists, etc., please contact Geoff and Caroline Charlton, 32 Swindon Road, Edghaston, Ermingham 17 (near Portland Road). Note new dress. Get in touch with Les Smith, 22 provided in the Smith of the Sm ANARCHISTS. 14 Milton Road.

4 Milton Rosa, nour West Moors, Wimborne, or Tim Deane, Juliet, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset (Ferndown 1588). BRIGHTON. Get in touch with 79 Coleman Street, Brighton, 7. Poetry readings every Tuesday in Archway 187 on the Seafront Admission is free and all poets welcome. 8.30 p.m.

onwards, BRISTOL ANARCHISTS, Contact Sam Fisher and Adam Nicholson at 15 The Paragon, Bristol, 8, FIFE LIBERTARIANS, Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital,

by Cupar, Fife.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Corcanonidence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP of the componence to Robert Lyun, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, Cl.
HERTS. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View I botters. Heath Lane, Potters Heath View Lane, Heath Lane, Potters Heath Lane, Heath Lane, Potters Heath Lane, L

every Monday at 7 p.m. ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP, Knockholt, Nr. Sevenaks, Keni Fvery six weeks at Green-ways, Knockholt phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

ted to associate: c/o Keith Nathan, 138 Penny-

Group Addresses -- BASILDON, M. Powell, 7 Lingcroft, Basildon, ESSEN.
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CHELMSFORD, (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House,
Purleigh, Chelmsford, Essex.
EPPING, John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue,
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Epping, Essex,
HARLOW. John Deards, 184 Carter's Mead, Harlow, and or Gooff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow, and or Gooff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow, and or Gooff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow, Hardy Hardy, 187 Hardy, 1

Loughton College of Further Education, Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex, MUCH HADHAM. Leslie Riodan, High Street, Much Hadham, Herts. NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex. Group meets first Monday in each month, 7,15 p.m. at 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex.

egional Secretary: Alistair Rattray, 35a evonshire Road, Chorley. ORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. ÖXTÖN ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: A. Gresty, Punchbowi, Manchester Road,

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary.

Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA
GROUP AND 'HIPPY' MOVEMENT. Gerry
Bree, 16 Fauline. Square. Liverpool, 8. Meetings
weekly. Freedom Sales—Pier Head. Saturdays,
Sundays, Evenings.
N. vt meeting January 28, MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secre-MANCHESTER ANARCHIST Fallowfield, tary: Dave Poulson, 9 Boland Stree,

hary: Dave Pounding, Manchester, 14 Manchester, 14 Manchester, 14 MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact of the Manchester, 12 Sandon Street, Liverpool. Med.

SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP, All correspondence to-Julian Ross. 111 King Edwards Road, Byromill, Swansea Weekly meetings. Freedom sales and action projects.

STUDENT GROUPS ANGLIA UNIVERSITY GROUP (Anar-and Peace). Contact Dave King, 17 Havelock oad, Norwich, SE ANARCHIST GROUP, c/o Student Union, condon School of Economics, Houghton Street, OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP, Contact Steve

Watts, Trinity College.
SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY GROUP. Contact
Levell etc. Students' Union, Sheffield PROPOSED GROUPS

anarchists contact Konrad Borow numberland Street, Edinburgh 3 ki, 13 Notiminociana Fel. WAV 7459. TAUNTON LIBERTARIANS, Contact Jill and the Driver 59 Beadon Road, Taunton, Somerset. Meetings alternate Friday evenings.

CROYDON, NORWOOD, BECKENHAM, AnarCROYDON, Libertarian or Pacifist Socialists alists, Libertarian or Pacifist Socia ydon, Norwood, Beckenham L. Contact Jim Radford or Lau al Road, Thornton Heath.

ABROAD

ABROAD

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

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Gotherstade, 27, Viborg, Denmark.

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

USA: VERMONT. New Hampshire Anarchist Group. Meets weekly—discussion. Individual action. Contact Ed. Strauss at RFD 2, Woodstock, Veranont 05091, USA.

SWEDEN: Stockholm Arachist Federation Contact Natif. Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden SWEDEN: Libertad, Allmäna Vägen 6, Gothenburg V.

SWEDEN: Libertad, Allmana Vagen e, Gameburg V.
CANADA: Winnipeg. Anybody interested to Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606
Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba, Bellium, Venued el Laiterie, Sciessini-Liege, Belgium, 11
Venued el Canton, 12

Vietnam has been bombarded with chemicals, defoliants and other agents. During this time both the amount and the toxicity of the substances used have increased.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Some information on these materials has appeared in the Continental Press Scientific Journals. Reports have been received from the Red Cross and foreign doctors working in Vietnam. Such reports have only had a limited readership.

Facts reaching the general public through the British and American Press are even more restricted. In reply to questions about suppression of news coming from Vietnam, Wes Gallagher, Head of US Information Service, said he considered the public had 'a right not to know in a period of undeclared war'

Further to this, the general manager of the Associated Press has said: 'News restrictions imposed by the Pentagon raise serious questions as to whether the American people would be able to get a true picture of the war in Vietnam.

N.Y. American Journal, April, 1965. An attempt has therefore been made to bring together and consider all the information available on weapons already in use, research and expenditure on potential weapons, and the dangers inherent in Chemical and Biological warfare. AGENTS USED

Officially admitted use has been made of the following substances:-Chemicals

2, 4-D (dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) 2, 4, 5-T (trichlorophenoxyacetic acid) Gases

D.M. (diphenylaminochlorarsine)

C.S. (chlorobenzalmalononitrile) C.N. (chloroacetophenone)

Other sources have alleged the use of additional substances:-Chemicals

D.N.P. (dinitrophenol) D.N.O.C.

Arsenic product of Sodium and Calcium

Arsenic anhydride

In Peace News this week

CUBA: Adrian Mitchell, Todd Gitlin on The Cultural Congress GREECE: Amnesty report on prison and

MIDDLE EAST: Bill Hillier on The War Architects Nobody Wanted

Price 1/- from Newsagents or Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT **Estimated Expenses:**

6 weeks at £90: Income: Sales and Subs.: £528

DEFICIT: £12

PRESS FUND

Lexington, Mass.: F.C. £4/2/6; Sevenoaks: 11/-; McKeesport, Pa.: J.R. 5/4; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Renselaer, N.Y.: G.T. £1/2/-; Cheltenham: 10/-; Pembury: R.W. 5/-; London, N.W.3: M.B. 5/-; London, N.19:

TOTAL: Previously Acknowledged:

£7 10 10 £74 2 9 £81 13 7

£12 0 0

1968 Total to Date: Balance B/F Deficit:

TOTAL SURPLUS: £69 13 7

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

MOVING FUND

Target is £500.

Received to date-£351 3s. 10d.

PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year. No new pledges were received this week. Total received to date-£391 18s. 0d. Pledges honoured to date-£263 3s. 9d.

POVERTY

ANARCHY is Published by FREEDOM PRESS at 2s, on first Saturday of every month Arsenic trioxide

Arsenic product of Sodium, Calcium, Lead and Manganese Calcinated Cyanamide

Gases

contribute.

SHELTER

Chloracetophenone Brombenzylcyanide (BZ)

Conventional American abbreviations have been used above. In the document a detailed account of these substances, their action, dissemination, military purpose and effect has been given and sources of information quoted.

EFFECTS We have tried to show the direct effects of different quantities of agents on man, animals and vegetation. We have investigated the side effects. The available evidence for claims that the admitted agents are harmless to man has been

Groups and individuals are invited to

Who went round Bath with a tin of

plaintive voice of the Bath Chronicle

red paint smearing buildings?-asked

(15.12.67). Walls were painted with

'Anarchy', 'The State is your Enemy',

'What's under the police station?'

was the question painted on a wall in

Bridewell Lane. In a footnote the re-

porter hastily explained: A basement

for storing bulk equipment and lost and

Bath police station has-we have good

reason to believe-a two million pound

building, and-this is definite-a large

shooting range and store of automatic

weapons. Arrangements are being made

to publicize this fact to the citizens of

Bath. Other activities include plans for

a greater concentration of protest against

the Admiralty buildings and personnel,

the introduction of over a thousand more Admiralty workers to this district,

An intensive campaign has taken

CHEMICAL CO., who have been hold-

ing 'Film Shows and Discussions' to

advertise their products-ROOFMATE

and STYROFOAM. Picketing and leaf-

letting has been done at their meetings

in Edinburgh and Glasgow pointing out

to architects attending these, that the parent company in the US makes napalm

Next week DOW's visit to Dundee and

an expected one to Aberdeen will be

given the same reception. Individuals

from various political and peace groups

are taking part, in both weeks cam-

Tuesday past was the most lively and

interesting. Ten architects opposed to

the Vietnam War and Dow's role there,

attended the meeting. Two CID men also

attended the meeting and Dow indicated

relating napalm to their building pro-

ducts was asked, but went unanswered.

So several architects went on to the plat-

form, took it over, and for six minutes

put the case against Dow's napalm. Then

uniformed police arrived; four were flung

out, five walked out, and one remained

to make a short statement after the inci-

The primary object of this action was

to gain press publicity to let sympathetic

architects know that DOW MAKE

NAPALM. This was achieved. We have

been surprised at the number of archi

tects, opposed to the Vietnam War, who

are unaware of the tie-up between DOW

(UK) and the US parent company. As

more of them realise this there will be

an increase in the blacklisting of DOW's

products. This has already begun in re-

sponse to our appeal leaflet to architects

DOW don't like what is happening

and we would ask your readers to watch

out for similar DOW publicity cam-

paigns in their areas and to be ready to

JOHN CUMMING

(for Architects Against the Bomb).

to blacklist DOW

130 University Avenue, Glasgow W.2.

At the start of the discussion a question

that they expected 'trouble'.

However the meeting in Glasgow on

this week, against the DOW

Against 'Dow'

for Vietnam.

paigns.

fallout shelter underneath the

LOST AND FOUND NUCLEAR

and 'Property is Theft'.

But we are told that:

found property.

Chemical & Biological Warfare & Vletnam is a misrepresentation of the facts. The line between lethal and non-lethal gases (the category into which those used in Vietnam is said to fall) is an arbitrary

RESEARCH AND EXPENDITURE

Money spent on research into CBW known to be involved in research and development of CB agents. In addition with commercial companies for the mass manufacture of both chemical and biological weapons.

Britain's research centre at Porton Down is involved in work relevant to the

in America has more than doubled since 1961. America's main research centre is at Fort Detrick and 38 Universities are the Defence Department has contracts

war in Vietnam. As one example, the gas

Chemical and Biological Warfare are so concerned, points to the vital need for the public to have more information on

REACTION

1965, the Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, said that 'Britain wholly supports American Policy in Vietnam' There has never been any dissociation

On his return from Washington in

29 scientists including seven Nobel

Laureates, has been handed to the Presi-

dent. So far such protests have had no

effect on Government policy. That these

people who are most capable of assessing

from this statment.

Published by a study group on Chemical and Biological Warfare and Vietnam (November, 1967).

News from the AST YEAR WE RAN an occasional column 'News from Nowhere' which gave news of anarchist activities here Barricades and abroad. We discontinued it for lack of space but because of popular demand from the many comrades we are bringing it back and endeavouring to find space for it at least once a month.

and a little more interest in the police

DISTASTE IN SHEFFIELD

'No responsible person could have viewed the scenes of violence and nearhysteria that surrounded the visit of Prime Minister Harold Wilson to Sheffield with anything but distaste.' So mourns the Sheffield Morning Telegraph.

Many anarchists took part and were arrested in this demonstration. One of them, John Michael Quail, was quoted to have said in court: 'I am an anarchist. I raised my fist in the international salute of proletarian solidarity.'

What the police alleged was that he was seen to incite the crowd by raising his clenched fist and shouting: "Fight, comrades, fight"."

CONGRESS IN JAPAN

Japanese comrades have agreed to send a delegate (and pay for his expenses) to the proposed International Congress in Carrara.

their congress our comrades discussed the interesting point: 'In case Authority was abolished what would What should be expected and what should be done. People lived long

under authority and they expect another authority comes after revolution'.

The cartoon in the latest issue of the Japanese Anarchist paper Jiyn Rengo (No. 136) shows the court of justice where ten comrades were tried. The defendants are very heavily guarded.

Says Jiyn Rengo: 'We have fought 7,000 police were bitterly this year . needed to check 2,000 students . . . we are continuing the fight!'

WHAT ABOUT CARRARA?

Ed Strauss writes: 'It has been many months since I have heard from the LFA concerning the Carrara Congress. I am looking forward to some discussion of the issues around a new international in FREEDOM.

NEW BOOKS

It is good news that Coptic Press is continuing with its publishing activities. Their latest publications includes Jim Duke's 1649-Story of Diggers and Levellers (soon to be reviewed in FREE-

Another long-awaited book is Albert Meltzer's The Anarchist in London (1935/1955) which is sure to cause a controversy

Stuart Christie's book Spain from Inside is scheduled for Winter, 1968. POETS FOR PEACE

A comrade informs us in verse that at Manchester University an Army recruiting display was smashed at a total damage of £120. We applaud his action but his poetry is dreadful.

LETTERS

Documenting C & B Warfare

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you to ask for your support and sponsorship for the printing of a comprehensive, non-political document concerning chemical and biological warfare and Vietnam.

The aim of our group and the contents of the document are outlined in the summary (printed in FREEDOM this

We are writing to over one hundred organisations and individuals who we think may be prepared to help us financially or in the dissemination of our information. In the first instance we intend to print five thousand copies and distribute them to universities, scientists, doctors, politicians, religious bodies and other interested parties.

The cost of printing and postage will be £900. Many copies must be free to ensure wide readership. We shall also make especial efforts to interest the Press and other media in this project immediately after publication.

Please send your contributions as rossed cheques or postal orders made

'Chemical and Biological Warfare Group', c/o David Maslin. Treasurer CBWG,

Union Society, King's Walk, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. If you require further information we will gladly supply it.

JUDITH NOTTINGHAM. Chemical and Biological Warfare Group.

Correction

I should like to correct a minor error in your report of the radio programme, Far from the Barricades (20.1.68). M.C. says that I chose the term 'libertarian socialism' to describe my kind of anarchism, but what I said was rather different: I think if I had to label myself very quickly I would say I was anarchist-socialist — or libertarian socialist even, if the word anarchist gave rise to misunderstanding. NICOLAS WALTER.

Why the London Committee Folded

Dear Friends.

The end of the London Committee of 100 deserved a better write-up in your columns than it was given by Mr. G. Gladstone, in your January 30 issue.

After five years of intensive activity, despite opposition not only from the warmongers but also from inside the Peace Movement itself, and after many of its members and supporters have suffered imprisonment, heavy fines, police persecution and victimisation, the London Committee of 100 has come to an inglorious end.

It is true that lack of funds and a large debt were given as the reasons for closure. But these problems have been surmounted before and could have been surmounted

There were several reasons for the end of the LC100, and one day, when the full story is written, we shall be able to decide for ourselves.

My view is that the Committee suffered the fate of all libertarian organisations. People of every point of view were represented on the Committee and with the Vietnam war becoming more and more serious these viewpoints became irreconcilable. Meetings became a bear garden, the so-called 'libertarians' being as bad as the authoritarians.

The end had to come. It is no disgrace for an organisation to close down once its useful life is ended. A new nonviolent, non-aligned, direct-action organisation will arise, because the need is there. It may not have the same name but it will have the same ideas, and with the same dedication as members of the old London Committee, it could win

One point. It is news to me that the original function of the weekly working group meeting was that of a 'delegate meeting for local groups in the London area to report on and co-ordinate activity'. Is Mr. Gladstone sure of this?

One of the complaints against the National Committee of 100 is that it is not, and never has been, a delegate organisation. Its Secretary is answerable to nobody but himself and has the full confidence of his constituents!

Yours sincerely,

DOUGLAS KEPPER. Pontefract.

The scientific community in America SENSE . . . (BUT) is greatly concerned and a petition signed by 5,000 American scientists, initiated by

TORIES CAN OFTEN talk sense, Consider this passage by Quintin Hogg in *Invicta*, published by the Canterbury Division of the Conservative and Unionist Association:

There is in my heart great anger. Anger which I wish you to share. Anger which I do not wish to cool as the months go by. Anger which I want you to spread among the people of this

This country is at the mercy of the Government. That Government does not represent the will of the country.

It has inflicted more damage on our standing and prosperity in three years of peace than many of our enemies have inflicted in war.

It refuses to leave, though it is not wanted. It proposes to contrive to inflict its partisan legislation, which only a fanatical minority desires,

It proposes to contrive to mismanage our affairs until it is turned out by operation of law.

There must be anger for what it has

There must be fierce anger for what it proposes to do. More, there must be

Unfortunately Mr. Hogg spoils his revolutionary outburst by adding I do not preach the breaking of laws. We can hardly expect a Queen's

Counsel to bite the hand that feeds him

NONSENSE . . (NO BUTS)

THE TORIES are getting hot under the collar about students again. A pamphlet written by two members of the Reform Group, an association of university Conservatives, suggests that students should pay for their education.

According to the Sun the pamphlet proposes that they should repay the money through an income tax surcharge spread over 40 years-most of their working lives

The cost of a university education varies between £2,000 and £6,000. But the most students would have to pay back each year would be about £150, the reformers say.

Graduates who emigrate, they emphasise, should not be allowed to escape repayment. Either they would have to pay their bills before leaving the country, or put up guarantors and continue making payments from abroad.

Women, too, should be given no special concessions, unless married and not working. Then only a proportion of the tax surcharge would be chargedto their husbands.

Even university drop-outs-those who fail to complete their courses-should pay for whatever higher education they have had, insist the authors.

The Sunday Express last week harped the same theme. An article by Graham Lord attacked the students who do not get a job immediately after their first degree but continue their education or training. Says Mr. Lord:

So for at least three years the British taxpayer has been forking out for each graduate an average of £1,000 a year, only to be told that nearly half of them after that time are not yet ready to go out and earn their living.

What lunacy!

While the rest of us are continually exhorted to tighten our belts, our pubfinanced academics are blithely picking for the universities applicants who are more likely to become miniacademics than anything else.

The schoolmasters and dons are choosing schoolchildren who are likely to become more schoolmasters and more

If Mr. Lord has his way and dons and schoolmasters stop being trained-to discourage students from becoming dons tive breed might begin to die out. Meanwhile the circulation of the Express would have to increase to cater for an increasingly illiterate population.

Mr. Lord does not represent a threat to education. Teacher-training is not likely to be discouraged by the state when there is an acute shortage of teachers.

But the general attitude of hostility to the 'unproductive' student, the demand that he should pay for his education and that his courses should make him immediately useful to future employers -this is a threat to students and to everybody else.

It is understandable that people in general resent the freedom that students have. It is true that students are privileged.

But it is stupid for anyone who wants a freer society to demand the ending of this privilege. It is more sensible work for the extension of the freedom students enjoy to everybody else.

WYNFORD HICKS.

Mergers Bring Redundancies

DURING THE LAST few weeks we have witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of mergers and take-overs which are accelerating the monopolisation of British industry and commerce. This process has, of course, been going on for a long time but many take-overs by less well-known companies do not make the news like some of the recent big names.

This process is part of the rationalisation by British industry in order to be on a more competitive footing with the giant American and Common Market cartels, Mr. Wilson is always encouraging this in his speeches to industrialists and the Government has, in fact, played a key role with its Industrial Reorganisation Corporation. This investigated the prospects of the GEC bid for AEI and granted a special loan of £25m. for the merger between British Motor Holdings and Leylands. Even the Monopolies Act of 1965 has not deterred the mergers and take-overs. Out of a total of

Contact Column

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

Social. Saturday evening, March 16 (Eve of Vietnam Demo), 'Roebuck', Tottenham Court Road. For Anarchist Black Cross. Folk singers,

etc., welcome. 4/6d.

Wilhelm Reich. Study Group. Contact
M. A. Brown, Ph.D., 7 Leinster Mansions, Longland Gardens, N.W.3

Piano for Sale. Ancient but workablenil, o.n.o. Apply Mike Malet, Lewisham Group. Own transport!

Anarchist household. Au pair needed for student pension from end March. Write: Roslyn Johnson, Beaumont 24, Lausanne 1012-CH. Switzerland.

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

Group 73. Who are they? Old Etonians or the police? Information to Box No. 1.

Accommodation Wanted. Anarchist seeks accommodation in Cornwall or Pembrokeshire. Can pay rent. Box No. 2. Anarchists in Canterbury please contact Robert and Ricky Bell, Garlinge Cot-

tage, Garlinge Green, nr. Canterbury -to start group with perhaps weekly

Room available for short or long lets. Use of kitchen and bathroom. Family house. Contact P. Ford, FIN. 6954. T.N.T. Manchester's first anarchist mag. now out. Single copies 1s. post free; multiple copies 9d. each, plus postage

from 9 Boland Street, Manchester, 14. Badges. 'I'm Backing Freedom', 'Freedom Needs a Home', 'Anarchy is on the Move'. 1/- each. Proceeds donated to P & M Fund by Harlow Anarchists.

and War Poems by Kenneth Patchen. To be published this month. Advance orders to Dennis Gould, 56 Jackson Avenue, Mickleover, Derby. (2/6d. or 1 dollar).

Pamphlets. 'The Origins of the Spanish Revolutionary Movement' (M. Dashar)-2/6; 'Surrealism and Revolu-tion' (anthol.)-2/6; 'Sixteen-Fortynine, story of Diggers and Levellers'
-5/-. Coptic Press, 7 Coptic Street, London, W.C.1.

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

Van Wanted. With or without driver to cover Aldermaston march-literature, ekers' stand, etc. Easter week-end to LFA, Libra

120 mergers considered by the Board of Trade, seven of these have been referred to the Monopolies Commission and only two of these have been rejected.

While these mergers may enable the parties concerned to match their international competitors, the economies which accompany them are usually made at the expense of the labour force. This has been dramatically brought home recently by the announcement of the closure of four telecommunication plants by the newly-merged General Electric Company and Associated Electrical Industries, who plan to sack 6,100 employees. 5,000 of these work at their factory at Woolwich, while others work at Harlow, Sydenham and Blackheath.

Woolwich poses special difficulties because even before the closure was announced, unemployment in the area was over 3%. A number of companies have closed down in the area and, only recently, Norton Villiers said they were moving their motor-cycle production to the Midlands. The situation will be aggravated later this year because the first state of the Thamesmead New Town will be completed this summer and families will be moving in. The new development is expected to house 60,000 people.

Mr. R. L. Doble, the Town Clerk of Greenwich, has said, concerning the GEC-AEI closure, 'Why open a large number of new factories on virgin land when you have existing factories lying empty and idle?' The Thamesmead project, he said, was 'a most careful computer-planned operation', and 'we spend thousands and thousands of pounds on planning, and a decision of a company like this can at a stroke of a pen result in the whole becoming out of date and a mockery'

THE AEI UNDERTAKING

Mr. Mayhew, Labour MP (Woolwich East) has said that at least 6,000 of the new Thamesmead residents will need jobs. 'The figure was worked out by the planners after a survey of local employment possibilities in which AEI gave an undertaking that not only would they maintain their present level of employment, but increase it.' So much for planning.

However, there is a general exodus of engineering firms from Woolwich and the London area as a whole. The attractive investment grants and the regional employment premiums available in development areas are making it very profitable for com-panies to move. This does help the depressed areas and brings better employment prospects to them.

GEC will transfer some of the work done at Woolwich to other

factories, but overall it will mean a shrinkage in jobs. The closure of the factory was, first of all, to take place in December, but now Mr. Weinstock, managing director of GEC, has said that it will 'be related to the finding of jobs for the men

This does seem rather optimistic, but it should be taken with a pinch of salt. Mr. Weinstock is only trying to allay the fears of the men in an attempt to lower the temperature. However, workers at Woolwich are angry, not only because they are being made redundant, but also because there was no prior consultation with union officials or shop stewards. This is nothing unusual for they have decided to close and that is that.

TU LEADERS REACTIONS

Reactions by the trade unions leaders to the closure are interesting. Mr. Doughty, of the Draughtsmen Allied Technicians, said: 'We are shattered. We shall be the recipients of quite natural pressure and protest from our members.' However, according to the Financial Times, Mr. Les Cannon, President of the Electrical Trades' Union, 'was favourably impressed by GEC-AEI's attempts to create efficient centres of production in development areas'. But how long will they remain efficient in those areas when companies are perpetually chasing efficiency?

Mr. Jack Bishop, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said: 'The unions have got to make the best of a very bad job. However, the attitude of the rank and file members was expressed at a meeting after 5,000 of them had demonstrated against the closure. They called upon their union officials and shop steward to fight the closure. Mr. Coughlin, a shop steward, said: 'We do not accept the fact that this factory is going to be closed.

It is doubtful if they can prevent the closure unless any strike action includes the rest of the company's workers. Union leaders would try to block any action of this sort and no doubt they will go along with the Woolwich workers now, but all the time slowly cooling the temperature. Mr. Mayhew, their MP, although indignant about the closure, has already taken the view that there is not much that can be done

FIGHTING THE CLOSURE

If the rank and file carry out the threat to fight the closure, then the action will have to take place as soon as the first sackings are taking place. Support will have to be sought from all GEC-AEI factories, as well as other factories in the area who are similarly affected. The whole community in the area will be affected, both economically and socially and those losing their jobs will have to travel to find alternative employment.

If the men decide to carry out this struggle, then they deserve all the support they can get from their fellow workers and if the call goes out, it should be answered fully. The token stoppage and lobby of MPs on March 12 will not be



Can't they understand that if capitalism is to function properly unemployment is a must.

For Workers' Control

FEBRUARY 17 1968 Vol 29 No 5

THE STATE OF THE UNIONS

CLIVE JENKINS and Jim Mortimer in the end it would not deter them from are prominent officials in two 'white collar' unions-ASSET (the supervisors and scientists) and DATA (the draughtsmen). In a new book called The Kind of Laws the Unions Ought to Want (Pergamon, 27s. 6d.), they advance a 'leftwing' perspective for British trade unionists.

If the title itself doesn't stop most anarchists from reading the book, the first sentence in the introduction probably will: 'The purpose of this book is to argue the case for more legislation(!) to protect trade union rights and to establish or bring about certain improvements in minimum labour standards'. Yes, Clive Jenkins and Jim Mortimer are firm believers in the benevolence of the State, yet it would be a big mistake to dismiss this book out of hand on that

IT'S WORTH READING

There are three main reasons why this book is worth reading. First, it contains valuable information in a very readable form of how badly Britain compares with other industrial nations in its wage levels, length of holidays, pension schemes and other matters of vital importance to the working population. Second, the book is a well-documented indictment of the official leaders of the trade union movement in this country They are clearly revealed as timid, constitutional, apologetic, class collaborationist, spineless and subservient to both employers and Government. Third, the book is an expression of all these fallacies against which militants must struggle if they are ever to succeed in pushing our class into taking up more revolutionary positions-belief in 'leaders' recognition of the State as a force for progress, and dependence on 'technology and productivity' as a solution to social problems.

The authors are clearly in favour of securing improvements for the workers within the capitalist system. There is nothing particularly reprehensible about such an attitude and I for one do not condemn them for it. Every trade unionist must perforce fight for higher wages, less hours of work, better conditions and greater job security. In that sense we are all 'reformists'-but it is the way we go about it that distinguishes the revolutionary trade unionist from the ideologi-

WHY THE TUC IS BANKRUPT

Clive Jenkins and Jim Mortimer are, quite rightly, disgusted with the TUC for not advancing bigger and better claims on behalf of the trade union movement. They appear to believe that if only the General Council would ask more they would get it. No doubt this belief stems from their own experience as officials of unions which cater for highly skilled technicians whose labour is very much in demand. Both ASSET and DATA have exploited this situation in a very forthright manner and their members have benefited accordingly. But the TUC is a different proposition altogether.

Here are the leaders of great unions like the miners, the railwaymen, the printworkers, the dockers and others whose labour is definitely NOT in great demand. If the TUC were to initiate a campaign for any one of the desirable objects outlined in this book-the legal forty hour week, equal pay for women, a minimum wage of £15 (excluding overtime and shift payments), portable pensions, etc.—such a campaign would be resisted by the employers and by the Government. The stark fact is that the British economy is in decline. Improvements in working conditions will only be won by struggle-by strikes, demonstrations, go-slows and every other weapon in the armoury of the working class. With the Government involved up to the hilt such a situation could well lead on to insurrection and the end of the system as such.

Such a prospect may cause many workers to stop and think very hard but

struggling. Things are altogether different with the leaders of the TUC. Here are men who are wedded to the system, who have an honoured place in it. The prospect of it ever being ended-especially by a revolt of the common people! -fills them with absolute horror. So they bend all their efforts to forcing the trade union movement to adapt itself to the present situation of British capitalism. For God's sake keep quiet! is their only advice to trade unionists. Keep quiet, work harder, export more and one day our employers may be rich enough to throw us a few crumbs!

HOW TO WIN 'REFORMS'

Such advice is not likely to be fol-lowed for ever by the British working man and woman. Sooner or later they will take things into their own hands and dismiss this crowd of spineless wonders from their positions of 'leadership'-by simply ignoring them. If the State ever concedes the sort of rights and reforms which the authors of this book put forward it will not be because Clive Jenkins one day convinces the TUC to ask for them-but because the movement behind such reforms is so persistent, so angry, so widespread and so revolutionary, that not to concede them would jeopardise the system itself.

Police Beatings: **Nothing Doing**

THE Director of Public Prosecutions has refused to act against Stockport policemen, said to have beaten up pickets at the engineering firm of Roberts-Arundel.

As expected, the police don't want to wash their dirty linen in public. For just as there is a loyalty among thieves, so there is among policemen.

The decision not to take criminal proceedings against the police who are accused of assaulting pickets, is bound to do the police a lot of harm in Stockport. Most people will spot that, though they're paid by the public, the police are a law unto themselves.

As for the law, we can see that it only protects those who have property, like the millionaire Pomeranz. Also the pickets know that there's only ever bother at Arundels when the police are there in force.

That the police are bitterly against the unions and workers is not surprising! The police force appeals to industrial deadlegs and those who fail to make the grade as tradesmen.

All the same, some victims of police violence at Stockport will now crash on with civil actions against the police. The police won't have it all their own These actions will no doubt be backed by the union the police detest so much, the AEU.

APPEAL

FREEDOM readers have had their information on this dispute sent straight from the picket line each week. This has been done by the pickets, because FREEDOM is seen to be a friend of the pickets. So if any readers want to help they can turn up on picket or send money. Bear in mind many anarchists have been involved in this strike and only last week one was arrested. Though this is an official strike. union strike pay isn't paid after a year and the lads depend on factory collections. Send money to:— Roberts-Arundel Strike Fund,

c/o John Tocher (Secretary), Stockport Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU) Office, 125 Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire.