# Anarchist Weekly @

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# VATICAN ROULETTE

Communist affairs, as embodied in the Czechoslovakia v Russia match, a rest, or merely the desire for 'hard news' in the silly season which usually relies on unverified sightings of the Loch Ness monster (who like God refuses to reveal himself), our national press has given enormous coverage to the Pope's edict banning all forms of contraception. Anarchists, I think, feel less surprised than most people, simply because they've long since given up hope of the church, particularly the Catholic brand which prefers to parade its internal squabbles rather than work for a more humanising life, more in keeping with the principles of its founder. principles which when made were Marxist-Anarchist partly in thought and theory, and which only a humiliating death prevented from being put to a more rigorous test against the mighty Roman senate and any other rulers of the people who might have crossed Jesus's path had this seer and prophet lived his full span, for Christianity was then a new and puzzling 'cult', which today seems utterly detached from its original intentions, other-worldly, medieval and dogmatic, merely another bastion of the establishment, dishing out superstition in the guise of comfort and as a means to compel obedience from a flock fearful of damnation.

The Roman Catholics, more than any other church movement, are a political force in themselves, holding on to their followers with a combination of fear and guilt and explaining it as 'divine

The RCs, it would seem, stop at nothing to hold on to their monopoly, which takes in the not inconsiderable parts of the world like Franco's Spain and Mafia dominated Sicily. The peasants in these parts are poor and uneducated-and that's the way they'll stay for these people, like the children of Mao's China, are indoctrinated as soon as they can walk. Many Christians assert -or at least the Anglicans do-that God our free-will as long as it wasn't harmful, but this indoctrination of untrained minds makes a mockery of the meaning of free-will. It may seem an oversimplification, but if birth control were practised, the Church of Rome would be weak in numbers, so therefore 'ban it' goes papal logic.

Catholicism, for all the Pope's holy language, which reads more like a political speech read to disgruntled voters, right down to the theatrical tears in a later communique issued from his summer residence, is just not interested in

## **Nerve Gas Victim**

N THE LAST FEW months there has been much public denial that the nerve-gas developed at Porton has lasting ill effect. A news item which appeared in the Sunday Times, August 11, 1968 flatly contradicts this assumption.

Mr. William Cockayne, who worked at Porton Down in 1953, was accidentally exposed to nerve gas. This has seriously affected his mental health for the past 15 years. This is now admitted by the Ministry of Defence. Ever since the accident Mr. Cockayne has suffered a series of nervous break-downs.

WHETHER THE IDEA was to give really relieving suffering to any visible extent, except to suit its own purposes. Hard on the Catholics caught in a dilemma, for loyalty is a positive virtue, but not loyalty to naked despotism from a church riddled with the centuries-old fears of sex and pleasure, ruled by a man no longer in touch with reality and never answerable to his hard unswerving judgements. The world is in a state of chaos already; overpopulation and starvation are real problems in Asia, not to mention Biafra, another burden thanks to the actions of a handful of powerobsessed lunatics. By controlling peoples' minds, the Catholic church, which prates on about how responsible it is, merely shows its irresponsibility and wish for conformity behind the metaphysical pos-

> Out of the snowstorm of words within the past fortnight, it seems that people faced with something extreme, and realising the social implications of having more children than they or the world can manage, will think for themselves, take the pill and use any other device as long as it's safe, rather than play Vatican roulette, the rhythm method, or coitus interruptus, a game of chance if ever there was one, where the participants might indeed press the trigger when there is a bullet in the chamber. That a celibate, fearful of any female contact, unable to shake off his odious seminary teaching, till as Pope his conceit is absolute, has no message for men and women engaged in the day-to-day struggle of living. They can only see the church now as cruel, harsh and unbending. Ludicrous is the only word for it-it's as if a lawyer were telling an architect his business. Alex Comfort spoke up for humane sexual attitudes and birth-control years in advance, as befits an anarchist of fearless thinking, unfettered by orthodox policy. Now most people would take sides with him and approve of his essentially human ideas, rather than some abstract policy designed to cower people into submission. Actually much of the Pope's message is unworkable and people may turn their backs on the church, at last seeing it as really is. Perhaps they will leave in droves. Already Cardinal Heenan is papering over the cracks in this country, and it all goes to prove perhaps that people won't tolerate rulers who take no account of a scientific invention which has proved a boon rather than a curse which is usually the case—a warning here to politicians of all shades perhaps.

Will the Church of Rome fall? The Pope may have pushed his luck too far this time. Perhaps, by the year 2000, our grandchildren will be startled and amazed at the antiquated mores of Rome. presided over by an unwise, unloving man, wearing a funny little cap, and issuing a stream of papal bullshit, playing out a sad charade which would be funny in private, but in 1968 proved tragic in public, because every big war 'we' fought was 'holy' and there were always enough young men on hand to fight for the countries he gave his support to.

**London Federation** of Anarchists Meeting on Sunday, August 25 Contact 7 COPTIC ST. WC1

# Struggle in the USA

REPORTS ARRIVING from the resistance to the system is increasing United States indicate that a near insurrectionary situation is developing there. The many 'underground' papers that reach us are full of stories of confrontations. Not only the Negro people are burning down the slums, but there is evidence of wholesale revolutionary activity by black and white alike. The papers here mention it only when they must (like when it happened during the Republican convention at Miami) and evidently there is also a general boycott of such news in the US on the principle that if it is not mentioned it may go away.

But as the Negroes had the effrontery to burn down 'Liberty City' in Miami, while the Republicans conferred, the flames were too bright for the world's newspapermen not to notice. But much more than this is happening in the US of which you are not informed. A letter reaching London informed a friend that certain sections of Washington are a smouldering ruin. Another source describes in detail 'the steady bombing of the electric power system from mid-March when the lines leading to the Livermore Radiation Lab. were knocked down, to June 4, when on the morning of the California primary 300,000 houses were cut off'. Every 'underground' newspaper from the Los Angeles Free Press to the Berkeley Barb is full of similar stories.

Draft boards are bombed, and there are street fights on an ever-increasing scale all over the US.

These are unmistakable signs that something on a scale much larger every day and the openness of the revolutionary exhortations are to be seen to be believed.

Whilst all this is happening under the surface, the papers and television here are trying to create the impression that nothing else but the Presidential campaign is taking place in the US. The BBC especially has gone out of its way to present 'direct by satellite' the Republican convention in all its boring detail. The BBC news bulletins have also developed the irritating habit of reserving the first four items for 'news' coming out of the US.

confront Hubert Humphrey in the Presidential elections seems a foregone conclusion. Although the vote has now been given to the 18-yearolds in the US, it is most unlikely that the youth will swallow this vote bait. One typical comment came from a member of the Columbia SDS who said: 'What Johnson would love is for all of us to be co-opted by this amendment, bribed by the right to vote. Why vote when all you do is to renew the society you're trying to get rid of? The power will still be in the hands of the elite.'

The American propaganda machine is trying desperately to engender interest in the coming elections. This diversionary ballyhoo has always worked in the past, syphoning off radical action. But this time, the boredom of a Nixon-Humphrey controntation may be their undoing.

Whilst the ruling classes are adthan what happened in France will justing themselves to a Republican take place in the US soon. The ing themselves to a Republican justing themselves to a Republican

victory (Pravda has managed to leave out in Nixon's life history that he was a Communist witch-hunter on the Senate's Un-American Activities Committee), we must, on the other hand, try to be informed as fully as possible as to what our US comrades are doing. Because there is no doubt that anarchists, like Ben Morea of the 'Black Mask', are now in the thick of the struggle. They are using 'mobile tactics' in Boston and organise in 'affinity groups' as in Berkeley. The crowds are instinctively taking to anarchist methods of struggle.

In one instance the 'police ordered That Richard Nixon is going to the crowd to disperse in the name of the people of California'. 'We ARE the people' the people of Telegraph Avenue roared back, and the battle

> So we are also looking forward to the American Presidential Election. It may be the signal for the greatest insurrection the US has ever seen.

## Injection Moulders Lock-Out

NEW Socialist Worker/Solidarity A pamphlet describes the struggle that is taking place at the small engineering firm which mainly employs Pakistani workers is owned by the industrial giant Guest, Keen & Nettlefold who have made £26 million profit last year.

The strike is now entering its eighth week and the AEF have at last recognised it as official.

Wage rates in the factory are the lowest in the area at 5s. 51d. an hour. This meant, as one striker told me, that he had to 'live practically at the factory to make ends meet'. The pamphlet claims that some Injection Moulders workers had to work 70 hours a week.

The management preferred Pakistanis, because they were easy game for exploitation. A bonus scheme was so ingeniously worded that many workers were cheated of £200 in five years. When the bosses were found out they tried to laugh the matter off by saying 'We are only human'.

The strike itself was practically unnoticed until some militants happened to go past the factory and saw the pickets. When the circumstances were explained to them they made every effort to help. Nearby factories were told of this struggle and collections were held and shop stewards at Frigidaire, Hoover, Rotaprint, Phillips, Ford and others ensured that Injection Moulders' products were blacked. Local militants, students and teachers also helped out at the picket line at 6.30 a.m.

The organisation of the workers since then has increased by leaps and bounds. They are now in sight of victory

Send money and any offers of help to Zaman, 6 Wood Lane, Kingsbury,

M.H.

## Tenants Win in Aberdeen

BARRING unexpected developments, the struggle by tenants in Jasmine Terrace, Aberdeen, against summary eviction has been an almost complete success. As reported in Freedom (9.8.68) the first batch of 25 tenants, who were under three-day vacation orders, and who had been offered unsuitable homes by the Town Council, have all now accepted different accommodation.

For example, we spoke to a bus conductor who was in the first batch and who was one of the first to resist: originally he had been offered an old, damaged house in an area he didn't want to go to, but now he has moved into a completely new one which is suitably situated.

Councillor Parkinson (a local building magnate) has dropped his original attitude of 'We in the building industry know what is best in these circumstances'. and appeared on local TV saying, glibly, 'The tenants can have this, and that, etc.' People to whom only one house was originally offered have now been offered a choice of up to four, and it will now be allowed for tenants to exchange houses

they were given with neighbours if it is mutually suitable.

More tenants are moving out each day to their new homes, and the south side of the street is rapidly assuming a forlorn, derelict appearance as boards go up in the windows and demolition men start their work. A few people are still lingering after their vacation time has expired, but they are all expected to move by Monday, the 12th.

It should be emphasised that this was a tenants' victory: the above-mentioned busman said our leaflet and appearance on the scene worried the counc councillors appeared next day in various states of trepidation-and it also encouraged some of the tenants. But the initial decision to resist eviction was taken by the tenants themselves. And to defeat a Tory Council which has been triumphantly returned to power after 20 years, and has just imposed a rents rise is no little achievement. Let's hope some of the Jasmine Terrace ex-tenants decide to carry on struggling against the council house rents rise in their new houses.

## and Fight On in London

THE VERY ACTIVE GLC Tenants' Action Committee have just published a very well-produced news-sheet. The first issue reports on the recent 'Coffin March' in which 8,000 tenants took part. When the marchers arrived at County Hall, it was floodlit. But it was not in their honour, comments the paper. They had chosen the night when Princess Margaret was being entertained for dinner at County Hall. The tenants told Cutler and his friends 'that they were eating our rent inside County Hall, and they would not get away with it

any more'. The news-sheet gives notice of a great Tenants' Rally in Trafalgar Square on September 22 and mentions the struggle at Coventry Cross which has been well reported in FREEDOM.

Another struggle mentioned in the paper is of immediate interest to our readers. It concerns 1-9 Colville Gardens in Notting Hill where tenants received one month's notice to quit as from July 28. Contacts or assistance in this campaign are welcomed by the Secretary. Neil Collins, Flat 3, 5 Colville Houses, W.11 (Tel. 229 8512).

The address of the GLC Tenants' Action Committee is 24 Atholl House, Maida Vale, W.9 (Tel. CUN 4191).

M.H.

Student Anarchy discussed in *ANARCHY 90* now on sale

## books?

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Frederick Soddy 3/-Freedom Was Flesh and Blood [Spanish Refugees]

Jose Antonio de Aguirre 6/-(Postage extra)

### Freedom Bookshop

## We're Here!

Editorial office open to editorial contributors Friday, August 16, 6-8 p.m. Monday, August 19, 2-8 p.m. Telephone: BIShopsgate 3015.

New temporary address: WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET c/o Express Printers,

(entrance Angel Alley), WHITECHAPEL, E.1. (Underground: Aldgate East. Exit: Whitechapel Art Gallery. Turn right on emerging from station.)

Temporary opening times: Tuesday-Friday, 2-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### FREEDOM PRESS

are the publishers of the monthly magazine ANARCHY and the weekly journal FREEDOM specimen copies will be gladly sent on request.

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FREEDOM 1952-1964

each year's volume 7/6 (+1/-) Full list on application.

# Report from Holland

THERE HAS BEEN some activity in the universities, mainly in the past year. A fairly strong semi-syndicalist union of students, the SVB, bigger than the other non-political unions, comprises up to half of those who vote in student union elections. It has a record of concern and outspokenness on the social situation of the universities. There have been protests against Government proposals (the Maris plan) for the 'technocratic' reform of higher education. The protest has gone furthest at Nijmegen, a Catholic (sic) university hardly a decade old, where a large minority of the students have published a considerable

**BOOK REVIEW** 

### BEFORE THE ICE AGE

REVOLUTIONARY SILHOUETTES by A. Lunacharski, Allen Lane. The Penguin

THESE 10 PIECES are slight, but of some interest as having been written before the start of the Stalin ice-age. Lunacharski was Minister of Education from the start of the October Revolution until the end of the 1920s, and he knew well the people he describes. He possessed considerable cultural tolerance, but this was quickly submerged in the literary conformity of the 1930s; when compared with the political scene, Soviet culture of the 1920s was free and even experimental.

Lunacharski's portraits add little to what we know of the people concerned, but they are a refreshing change from the usual productions of Soviet authors and leaders. In a Russia that has retrogressed culturally since the 1920s, and is now barely an improvement on the 1930s, these pieces would, however, be a thunderbolt, for two reasons. First, Trotski and Zinoviev, the two exponents of the new proletarian culture, F. I. Kalinin and Bessalko, and Martov, have been little mentioned officially since Stalin's time; Trotski and Zinoviev were 'Oppositionists', Martov a petty bourgeois Menshevik, and the proletcultists' representative of a freedom of literary expression that has long since been extinguished. style that is totally alien to the dogmatism (in Lenin's case, hagiography) that has marked writing in the Soviet Union for the best part of 40 years. One has only to compare any one of these pieces, with a current issue of Pravda, to see this at once. They are not remarkable to us, but what a different picture they would give the Russians!

M.M.

amount of literature on free university ideas, have attempted to get contacted with local workers, and have helped the students of Leuven in Belgium, and a factory on strike there.

There are a few anarchists active in Nijmegen, one of the few such places in Holland, where the anarchist movement is rather atomized. The Dutch Federation (FVVS) comprises about 350 people, with a fortnightly circular, its main strength is in North Eastern Holland. As a result of a split in the 1950s, another paper, De Vrye, run now mainly by younger people, appeared in June 1961 as a weekly, and from 1964 onwards as a monthly. The readership includes a considerable number of students, and is also sold in the bookstalls and bookshops of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Haarlem, Utrecht, Nijmegen and elsewhere.

There is hardly anything left of the Provo movement, and certainly no sign of it in Amsterdam, its former centre, although they have a councillor on the

Town Council till the next municipal elections. The movement seems to have had little effect on Dutch life, beyond some good anarchistic ideas, and good publicity for these ideas at the time.

Holland has its share of political scandals; the director of a bank, Teixeira, was had up last year in a sensational fraud case, and received a long jail sentence. This had ramifications in Dutch industry, and it is alleged that the Dutch Government in exile in London during the last war had a hand in the origins of the affair.

Workers are more tightly controlled than in Britain. The Government, employers, and three main unions (Catholic, Protestant, and Socialist, with little difference between them), have sat since the end of the war on a joint council, which makes agreements, largely by trade, for periods of one to five years. Details of the agreements are left mainly in local hands, but the Government has the power to enforce its own decision if employers and unions differ. Any strike

that is not officially supported by one of these three unions is illegal, and individuals can be taken to court by employers and fined. Railroad workers are specifically forbidden to strike under 60-yearold legislation resulting from the general strike of 1903. Shop stewards are unknown. Unofficial strikes are not common; they are often led by a Strike Committee, such as that of the militant building workers of Amsterdam, which is under Communist influence, or by one of the smaller unions outside the 'official' scheme, such as the OVB, which has some syndicalist ideas; it is grouped by factory, not trade, and has its main strength among the Rotterdam portworkers and in the fisheries.

Holland has 90,000 officially, plus 10,000 unofficially, out of work. Times are not good for industrial militancy, but as noted above, there are stirrings among the students. The country has a similar 'bourgeois' atmosphere to Britain; they even treat their 'colour' problem of 100,000 Indonesians, some of them still in camps after 20 years, in much the same way. At the European Conference of Young Anarchists, we found ourselves temperamentally much in agreement. Perhaps our revolutions will come at the same time.

M.M.

## THE FREE SCHOOL IN THE UNFREE SOCIETY

OVER THIRTY PEOPLE, teachers, non-teachers and students, gathered at a private house in Mill Hill on Saturday, July 20, for the first Day Conference organised by the Libertarian Teachers' Association.

The proceedings began with a talk and discussion on the theme of 'The Platform and the Floor in Education'. The speaker, a drama teacher in a comprehensive school, drew analogies between the traditional organisation of a theatre with rigid division between performers and audience and 'theatre-in-the-round' experiments, comparing these with the formal division between pupils and teachers which exists in most schools and a more flexible situation with interchangeable 'learner-teacher' roles which he felt was a part of any proposed free school structure. The content cannot be changed unless the structure is changed-but how to change the structure vales by direct action here-and-now by teachers in schools? And can you practice radical action in a conservative profession like teaching and retain your job?

In the afternoon the meeting broke down into much smaller groups with seminars discussing a variety of topics including the idea of education without schools in new rural or urban-based libertarian communities, the problems of student power in technical colleges and Libertarian Teachers' Association 'Statethe difficulties of working with maladjusted children-so often the casualties of broken homes and uncaring schools. Even from a libertarian point of view. is there not a valid place for a functional form of authority in working with such children? What difference does it make to libertarian ideas of freedom and control that children are, by definition, immature human beings? Cannot issues be roughly divided into real problems and false problems? In the case of the former something immediate has to be done. No teacher, libertarian or otherwise, stands by whilst one child threatens to jab another with a chisel; he has to act to prevent injury and harm being done. In the case of the latter, nothing should be done other than to oppose the system. 'Problems of authority' arising from such issues as choice of clothing, swearing, length of hair, or childhood sex-play are not real problems. The real problem here should be unambiguously identified as the authoritarian ideology which sees uniformity, conformity and docility as virtues to be inculcated in childhood in preparation for more of the same in adult life.

After tea the whole group came together again to compare notes from the afternoon discussions and to consider the

ment of Principles, Aims and Objectives' (as printed in FREEDOM, 28.6.68). Most argument centred on the suggestion that the L.T.A. 'questions the virtue of making schooling compulsory . . .'. Some people felt that if school attendance became voluntary in our present unfree society the consequences for children would be more negative than positive (e.g. probable exploitation from employers, less opportunity of escape from clinging or authoritarian parents). It was felt that at the present moment more stress should be placed on increasing the areas of 'voluntarism' within the existing compulsory framework. However, a specifically libertarian educational group cannot give direct support to a compulsion-based system and it is necessary to go as far as questioning the basis of compulsion in education in order that attention may be drawn to the many harmful and anti-educational consequences of compulsion for both teachers and

Most participants felt that this event had justified itself and a similar Day Conference, probably on the theme of 'Alternatives to Punishment' is planned to take place in the Autumn.

PETER FORD.

This year's AFB conference is to be held in Liverpool on September 21 and 22.—All enquiries about accommodation and proposals for the agenda to John B. Cowan, Merseyside Anarchists, 16 Devonshire Road, Liverpool, 8.

### **Anarchist Federation of Britain** General enquiries should be sent to the London Federation, c/o Freedom Press, 84a Whitechapel High Street, London, E.1.

Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7. GRA 9848. Regular activities. Meetings every Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., at Tony Gay's, 109 East Road, Plaistow, London, E.13 (2 mins. Plaistow Station)

#### OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Every Wednesday at Jack Robinson's and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.
Meetings at Donald and Irene Rooum's are suspended until September.
3rd Friday of each month at Dennis Fen's, 314
St. Paul's Road, Highbury Corner, N.1 (above Roundabout Self-Service).

#### REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

BEXLEY PEACE ACTION GROUP. Enquiries to 150 Rydal Drive, Bexleyheath, Kent.
BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Geoff and Caroline
Charlton at Flat One, 69 Sandon Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 17. (Entrance side of house.)
Regular discussions being held on Tuesdays, 7.30
p. grown, Corporation Street (upper room).

Regular discussions being held on Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m., Crown, Corporation Street (upper room). BOLTON. Get in touch with John Hayes, 51 Rydal Road, Bolton. BOURNEMOUTH AND EAST DORSET ANARCHISTS. Please contact John McCain, 65 Norton Road, Winton, Bournemouth (B'm'th 59509) or Tim Deane, Juliet, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset (Ferndown 3588). BRISTOL ANARCHISTS. Contact Susie Fisher and Adam Nicholson at 15 The Paragon, Bristol, 8. CORNWALL, ANARCHISTS. Contact Arthur Jacobs, 76 East Hill, St. Austell. Discussion meetings on the second Friday of each month at Brian and Hazel McGee's, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne. 7.30 p.m. Visiting comrades very welcome.

CROYDON LIBERTARIANS. Meetings every 2nd Friday of each month. Laurens and Celia Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath (LIV

EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact: Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx. WHERTS. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Potters Heath Lane, Potters Heath, Welwyn, Herts OR Jeff Cloves, 46 Hughendon

Street, London, E.1.

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

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

FINCH'S (PORTOBELLO ROAD) ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact: Pamela Pearce, 271 Portobello Road, W.11. Meetings every Wednesday evening at Finch's.

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

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, London, NOTTING HILL. Meetings at John Bennett's, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, W.11. Every Monday evening, 8 p.m. evening, 8 p.m.

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

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

TAUNTON LIBERTARIANS. Jill and John Driver, 59 Beadon Road, Taunton, Somerset.

**ESSEX & EAST HERTS** 

FEDERATION Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow, Essex. 'Insurrection 1968'—July/August issue now available.
Group Addresses:—
BASILDON. M. Powell, 7 Lingcroft, Basildon, Essex.

Essex.
BISHOPS STORTFORD. Vic Mount, 'Eastview',
Castle Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
CHELMSFORD. (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House,
Purleigh, Chelmsford, Essex.
EPPING. John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue,
Epping, Essex
HARLOW. Ian Dallas, 18 Brookline Field,
Harlow and Annette Gunning, 37 Longbanks,
Harlow.

LOUGHTON. Group c/o Students' Union, 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.

#### NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Kevyn Lynch, 6 Garfield Terrace, Chorley, Lancs.
LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA
GROUP AND 'HIPPY' MOVEMENT. Gerry
Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings
weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secre-Manchester, 14
Every Saturday: 'Freedom' and 'DA' selling outside Central Library, 2,30-4,30 p.m.
MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alex Howie, 16 Devonshire Road, Liverpool 8. Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month,

#### SUSSEX FEDERATION

Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Finden Road, White-BRIGHTON & HOVE ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton, BN1 3HN. Poetry readings, Fish Market Hard, every Sunday 2 p.m. Meetings every Thursday, Combination, 76 West Street, 830 p.m. SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP.

Information from Francis Jarman, 39 Harefield, Harlow, Essex.

## ANARCHIST FEDERATION

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to:—Pete Raymond, 18 Marion Street, Splott, Cardiff. Splott, Cardiff.

MERTHYR TYDFIL ANARCHIST GROUP.

Correspondence to Huw Rowlands, 16 Cromwell

Street, Methyr Tydfil.

SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP.

J. Ross, 111 King Edward's Road, Brynmill,

Swansea. Weekly meetings, 'Freedom' sales and action projects.

action projects.

LLANELLI: Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llwuynnendy
Road, Llanelli, Carm. Tel: Llanelli 2548.

#### EAST LONDON LIBERTARIAN FEDERATION

Support wanted for numerous activities in area. Secretary: Anthony Matthews, 35 Mayville Road, London, E.11. Meetings fortnightly on Sundays at Ron Bailey's, 128 Hainault Road, E.11 (LEY 8059). Ten minutes from Leytonstone Under-

LEYTONSTONE GROUP. Get in touch with Anthony Matthews or Ron Bailey (address as

STEPNEY. Trevor Jackales, 10 St. Vincent de Paul House, Dempsey Street, Clichy Estate, E.1. NEWHAM. F. Rowe, 100 Henderson Road, E.7. ILFORD. Del Leverton, 12 Hamilton Avenue, DAGENHAM. Alan Elliot, 98 Hatfield Road, WOODFORD. Douglas Hawkes, 123 Hermon

Hill, E.18.
WALTHAMSTOW. Desmond MacDonald, 80
Martin Road, E.17.
LIMEHOUSE. M. Solof, 202 East Ferry Road,

#### STUDENT GROUPS

There are groups at East Anglia University, Liverpool University, LSE, Oxford University, Sheffield University, Southwark College, Sussex University and College of St. Mark & St. John, Chelsea. For reasons of space we are leaving these out during the vacation.

#### SCOTTISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION

Secretary: Dave Coull (see Montrose).
Groups and Proposed Groups:—
ABERDEEN ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Con-

tact Bob Comrie, 288 Hardgate or Liz Smith, 3 Sinclair Road. FIFE. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Strathrife. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact
Robert Lynn, 16 Ross Street, C.1.

HAMILTON DISTRICT FEDERATION OF
ANARCHISTS. Contact Ronnie Anderson, 100

Union Street, New Stevenston.

MONTROSE. Contact Dave Coull, 3 Eskview

Terrace, Ferryden Terrace, Ferryden

#### LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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

### **VOLUNTARY WORK TEAM**

Forwarding address: 11 Barway Road, Manchester, 21. (See Contact Column for present work pro-

#### 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,

Sydney, 8 p.m.

EAST AFRICA. George Matthews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from UK. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.

USA. James W. Cain, secretary, the Anarchist Committee of Correspondence, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.

GROUP-(T)REASON. Australian Anarchist, c/e Melbourne University Union or Paddy Evans, c/o the same.

MELBOURNE. Get in touch with Bob Hopkins and Margie Rojo, P.O. Box 192, Carlton South 3053. Public meetings at Yarra Bank, Melbourne.

3053. Public meetings at Yarra Bank, Melbourne. DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Gothersgade, 27, Viborg, Denmark. VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844. Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel.: 987-2693.
USA: VERMONT, New Hampshire Anarchist Group, Discussion meetings. Actions. Contact Ed. Strauss, RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden. SWEDEN: Libertad, Allmäna Vägen 6, Gothen-

TORONTO ANARCHIST GROUP.

R. Campbell, 219 Toryork Drive, Weston,
Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings.
BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier,
11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclessini-Liege, Belgium. TORONTO ANARCHIST GROUP.

#### PROPOSED GROUPS

TUNBRIDGE WELLS & PENBURY. Please contact Mr. R. E. Williams, 13 Belfield Road, Contact Mr. R. E. Williams, 13 Belfield Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY. Contact Mike Don or Bill Jamieson, 14 Victoria Road, Man-chester 14.

chester 14.
SELBY, W. YORKSHIRE. Group in process of formation. All those interested contact C. Beadle c/o 45 Gunthorpe, Selby, W. Yorkshire.

THERE IS A series of social phenomena which are generally regarded with a mixture of fear and fascination and are generally described with a mixture of ignorance and sensationalism,

mixture of ignorance and sensationalism, because they have a disturbing relationship with the basic problems of society. One we are particularly familiar with is anarchism. Another is prison.

The general public's morbid interest in prison is fed by distorted accounts in the mass media, and also in most of the books on the subject. At the same time there is a different approach to prison—as there is to the other phenomena of this kind—which seems to be more serious but it is actually just as be more serious but is actually just as distorted and may be even more dan-gerous. This is the treatment given official and academic accounts prison, even those written by quite genuine reformers. In fact this is one of the characteristic ways in which the established order is propped up those who don't know any better those who ought to know better. d up better perfect example mple is a recent book— Michael Wolff (Eyre and

Prison, by Michael Wolff (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 50s.).

Wolff has worked for the Daily Express and the Sunday Telegraph, and he began his work on prison at the suggestion of the then editor of the latter, Donald McLachlan (one of those failed editors who makes a living by writing about the press, like Francis Williams). His original approach to the subject seems to have been journalistic, but during the five years he spent on the work he clearly became more and more involved with the people and more involved with the people who run the system and more and more concerned to produce a full account of it. As a result, his book is now the most complete and up-to-date single source of information about British prisons. It is in fact a semisemi-official description of the ison system of this country, whole prison system of this and as such it is very valuable.

But it is not, as the author believes, a factual unvarnished account of what was seen through the eyes of an independent observer—shorn I have hope, observer-shorn, I all prejudices and most emotion' all prejudices and most emotion. Apart from the Tory papers he has worked for, Wolff has edited Crossbow, the organ of the progressive Tory Bow Group, he works for the Conservative Research Centre, and he is a magistrate. He is a very dependent participant in the system which relies on such things as prisons, and what he says is mostly a faithful expression of the current progressive official attitudes to prison.

There is a series of books giving the official line on prison, as it has slowly veered from repression towards reformveered from repression towards reform— Du Cane in 1885, Ruggles-Brise in 1921, Fox in 1934, and Fox again in 1952. In the old days this official line was given by officials with long personal experience of administering the system, but nowadays it is apparently to be given by extensibly independent of be given by ostensibly independent ob-servers who have actually swallowed it whole and are played safely home by the establishment they serve. Wolff's book not only belongs to this series swallowed both not only belongs to this series, but a closer look shows that it is in effect a shortened and updated version of the previous one—The English Prison and Borstal Systems, by Sir Lionel Fox (published by Routledge in 1952, in

#### MOVING FUND

Target is £500. Received to date—£417 1s. 2d.

#### PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year.
Pledges honoured to date and donations—£432 2s. 2d.

## Watch It!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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32 weeks at £90:
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TOTAL: Previously Acknowledged:

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TOTAL DEFICIT: £13 15 7

## PRISON REVIEWED

and Social Reconstruction, and now unfortunately out of print). Over and over again, Wolff not only follows Fox's line of argument but sometimes uses the same examples, and even occasionally reproduces the same wording. Fox's book is still by far the best

sionally reproduces the same wording. Fox's book is still by far the best ficial account of the prison system, it it is out of date and unobtainable, d Wolff's book, which relies on it heavily, is very useful as long as is used properly—as a source of formation. It is occasionally inaccurate thus the chronologies of Borstal and it is used properly information. It is occasionally inaccurate —thus the chronologies of Borstal 'training' and 'preventive' detention are confused, and there are several minor errors about the details of prison life —but it is generally pretty reliable. What is more important is that it is inevitably biassed in attitude and therefore frequently misinterprets the facts; mainly because he has got them from one side and not the other—he hasn't had the sense to check with the people who really know what happens, the

had the sense to check with the people who really know what happens, the prisoners. Examples appear on nearly every page, and there is only room to give a few of them.

He quotes Dr. W. F. Roper, the former medical officer at Wakefield prison, as saying that 'crime is essentially the solution of personal problems at a childish level', without questioning whether this is true or wanderies the six true or wanders are the six true or wanders. the solution of personal problems at a childish level', without questioning whether this is true or wondering whether punishment may not be the same. He also quotes Dr. Roper as saying that a third of prisoners have 'unsatisfactory school records' and 40 per cent have 'unsatisfactory work records', without asking who decides who is unsatisfactory or what unsatisfactory work have the same the second of the same that the or what unsatisfactory means. He says that 'a large proportion (of prisoners) do not have the capacity that enables them to turn to reading or study, without apparently having seen hundreds of prisoners in cell after cell reading books and magazines (which are borrowed from the library or passed from hand to hand) during the long hours they are locked up.

He says that 'the physical condition

of men coming into prison is without a doubt good, without apparently having watched the miserable procession of weak and unhealthy men waiting for their reception medical in any local prison on any evening of the week. He says that 'a psychiatric worker points out that for many prisoners the need to make a decision as to whether, say, a strand of wire is copper or some other metal, and the little manual dexterity needed to separate them into the correct piles can be beneficial, without apparently having actually tried doing some metal recovery work himself.

Councillors Ronald Foulkes and Freda Barker have intimidated, persecuted and victimised a child psychologist and a social worker. These political guardians of public morality have terrorised the unfortunate two because they had the temerity to pen a protest against sadomasochistic perversions involving school-teachers and schoolchildren. Dr. Erick

masochistic perversions involving schoolteachers and schoolchildren. Dr. Eric
Beuchse, warden of a child care centre,
and his assistant Mr. Frederick Spiers
had 'a satirically serious' letter published
in the local press which read, 'A new
social service has recently been started
to help caning addicts overcome their
pathological disturbance. Our consultants
have had successful experience in this
field, having helped many teachers and
housemasters in approved schools overcome their perversion. This service will
be offered on a 24 hour basis (SOSBlackburn, Tel. 59726) to any addict
needing urgent help in overcoming this
degrading human deviation. Also any
sufferers on the receiving end as a result
of these perverted methods are invited
to help us to detect these unhappy people
who have become so mentally crippled
by this mania that they often believe
they are doing good to society'.

Dr. Buechse, who left a post at Quinta
approved school, Salop, after a disagreement about corporal punishment, did not
intend to initiate such an organisation
or service but rather to publicly protest
as a counterbalance to those pressure
groups who are working for the retention
of violent punishment in schools and
institutions. Worthy lunatics Foulkes and
Barker put away their bondage equip-

**Kinky Freda Meets** 

the Child Psychologist

identify with some accuracy the roots of crime, which will be exciting news to most criminologists and penologists, and indeed to psychologists and sociologists in general. He says that 81 per cent of prison sentences are for a year or less, without commenting that penologists generally agree that within their own terms a sentence of anything

penologists generally agree that within their own terms a sentence of anything under a year is useless or even dangerous. He says of borstals and approved schools that 'a good deal of importance is attached to the fact that children schools that 'a good deal of importance is attached to the fact that children should not lose contact with their parents', without realising that this is precisely the main thing that borstals and approved schools do. He says that in the borstal system 'the ideals fall far short of the practice', without realising that the ideals which he faithfully describes are just as persistent as the sing that the ideals which he faithfully describes are just as pernicious as the practice which he rightly criticises. He says that in detention centres 'discipline is strict but it is not based on shouting or punitive methods', without waiting for the roars of laughter that would get from their inmates.

He says of the ban on taking prison reminiscences out of prison that an advisory council has reported that such writings 'revealed nothing of the slightest

writings 'revealed nothing of the slightest literary or artistic value', without knowing of the great volume of excellent literature which is based on prison reminiscences or realizing that the reminiscences or realising that this argument is anyway completely irrelevant to the argument. He says that 'there is virtually no restriction on the type of newspaper a prisoner may have now-adays', without apparently knowing about the difficulties on getting anarchist and pacifist papers, and the frequent ban on Solidarity and total ban on International Times. He says that 'alcohol is, of course, banned in prison', without explaining why 'of course' and without remembering that tobacco was once, 'of

remembering that tobacco was once, 'of course', banned in prison but is now allowed, to the great comfort of those prisoners who smoke.

He says that 'the problem of sexual abstinence is . . by no means as widespread as is often imagined', without understanding what he is saying. He speaks of 'these days of frequent visits from wives and girl friends' without realising just what it is like to see a woman through a grille or across a table realising just what it is like to see a woman through a grille or across a table once a month. He says that 'it is repugnant to society to see women in prison', and that prisons 'are probably the last thing needed for women', without wondering why these attitudes shouldn't apply equally to men.

He says that 'if more were known about the sort of people who land up in prison, it would be possible to simplify classification and to improve methods of training', without realising that classifi-

cation and training are meaningless terms in the prison system. He says that 'it has become a truism to say that the prisoner's rehabilitation begins on the day he enters rehabilitation begins on the day he effects prison', without apparently knowing that what rehabilitation is done in prison—by chaplains, welfare officers, teachers, visitors, and other prisoners—is done not as part of the prison system but in direct opposition to it.

There are also grosser results of bias. Wolff assumes that prisoners need help, which in most cases is probably true, but he does not consider whether policemen, magistrates, judges, warders, chap-lains, medical officers, welfare officers, teachers, visitors do as well. It is right to ask what kind of person gets into prison as a convict, but also to ask what kind of person gets into prison as a member of the staff. After all, in one sense the screws are worst off as a member of the staff. After all, in one sense the screws are worst off — 'they've got life', as the prison phrase puts it. There is a certain amount of worrying about the quality of recruitment and training of staff in the book, but not about the problem that people cannot be recruited and trained to keep other recoles in vision and at the same other people in prison and at the same time be decent people; in general the calibre of those who go into prison voluntarily is as low as that of those who go involuntarily

Wolff gives quite a lot of attention to the various ways in which prisoners are helped by individuals such as chaplains. officers, teachers, and visitors, and by institutions such as group discussions, hostels, and after-care service, but he does not consider whether all these influences are in fact rescuing prisoners not so much from their bad environments and their inclusives above the programment of the prisoners. not so much from their bad environments and their inadequate characters as from prison itself; for although prison certainly offers retribution and possibly deterrence, it is the last thing to offer rehabilitation, and the greatest burden on a prisoner, the greatest influence for evil, the most difficult thing to deal with its prison itself.

on a prisoner, the greatest influence for evil, the most difficult thing to deal with is prison itself.

Wolff concludes that 'the overriding impression left by the penal system is one of obsolescence', and that the thing to do is to bring it up to date—by building technologically sophisticated high-security prisons for those who are dangerous or likely to escape and psychologically sophisticated open prisons for the rest, and by establishing 'a computerised register of potential delinquents' and a gigantic 'welfare service' which will apply 'preventive medicine' to the right people at the right time. But although this would involve the destruction of the present system of borstals and approved schools, and of the century-old closed prisons, it would not involve the destruction of the prison system itself, and this is the real thing that is wrong. In fact his proposals would probably lead to a much greater tyranny, without any greater efficiency let alone amelioration.

Wolff never seems to understand this oint, but *Prison* is still a valuable ook, since it gives the official view of prison in a convenient form; but book, since it gives the official view of prison in a convenient form; but this view should be balanced against the unofficial, inside, libertarian view of prison, which is unfortunately not given in such a convenient form. There have been many good books about prison written from personal knowledge, and many good articles (some of them in FREEDOM and Anarchy). There have also been some excellent collections of inside information—such as English Prisons Today (edited by Stephen Hob-

house and Fenner Brockway in 1922, based on the experience of conscientious objectors in the First World War), Gaol Delivery (edited by Mark Benney in 1948, based on similar experience in the Second World War), Prison Etiquette (edited by Holley Cantine and Dachine (edited by Holley Cantine and Dachine Rainer in 1950, based on American experience in the Second World War). and Inside Story (produced by the Prison Reform Council in 1962, based on the experience of nuclear disarmers). But it is a pity there is no single simple book like this one but on the other

As it happens, one of the best expressions of our view of prison is given in several articles, a pamphlet, and a book written during the 1880s by none other than Kropotkin. Besides his detailed documentation of the various things wrong with prison, his most important point was that 'the system is wrong from the very foundation' and that this is true of 'all systems and that this is true of 'all systems based on depriving the condemned man of his liberty'. Those who cannot accept this ideological attitude must still answer Kropotkin's two practical questions: 'Are our prisons worth the enormous outlay in human labour yearly devoted to them? Do they guarantee society against the recurrence of the evils which they are supposed to compat?' Anyone against the recurrence of the evils which they are supposed to combat?' Anyone who reads *Prison* will say no to both questions, which suggests that it is worth reading despite its bias; though I must add that it is written in an almost unreadable style.

#### ANARCHIST YOUTH

NCREDIBLE though it may seem to some, none of us are getting any unger. As the Rubaiyat puts it— 'Alas, that Spring should vanish with the Rose!

That Youth's sweet - scented manuscript should close!' Anarchists can be found in all age Anarchists can be found in all age groups, and for the most part we manage to avoid the 'generation gap'. Yet once again somebody with more enthusiasm than intelligence has proposed an anarchist youth movement (FREEDOM, 13.7.68). What for? Organisations which deny youth a voice always have separate sections for the young. But we aren't the Hard Labour Party or the League of Russian Empire Loyalists. What possible justification is there for such segregation by age amongst anarchists?

F.C.J. of Harlow wants 'a federation of student and youth groups'. What if a group consists of three youth, two elders, and one person who refuses to state his/her age?

I can see the sense in an apprentice

I can see the sense in an apprentice rganisation, though it would need the didarity of older workers. I can see solutarily of other workers. I can see the sense in students conspiring to raise merry hell, indeed, as a taxpayer, I'll be very annoyed if they do not. But this nonsense about a Young Anarchist League just isn't on.

DAVE COULL.

LETTER

#### Selling Freedom

Dear Comrades,
I would like to assure the Editors that
the copies of FREEDOM which I receive not distributed among the other

are not distributed among the other people in the group.

I am quite sure that many more could be sold in this area if the younger comrades chose to sell FREEDOM rather than IT. I don't enjoy standing in the road on a Saturday afternoon, I'd rather it wasn't necessary, it isn't very exciting, but it's the type of spade work that is necessary if the anarchists are to make their views known.

Fraternally,

rown.
Fraternally,
ROY EMERY

## BLACKBURN'S JOLLY LUNATICS ment for the day and got together with K. Nolan, deputy children's officer, for a chat. Foulkes and Barker being chairman and vice-chairman of the children's committee. 'Anybody with a little bit of brain could see there was a message behind the letter', said Dr. Buechse and indeed Freda Barker is so qualified for she seemingly understood the message and resented it. This chairman or chairman or vice summaned Dr. Buechse

she seemingly understood the message and resented it. This chairman or chairwoman of vice summoned Dr. Buechse to the Town Hall institution where a lackey handed him a letter of suspension. Mr. Spiers, who suggested the initial protest letter, was also suspended.

This suspension was difficult, for Dr. Buechse and his wife, the matron, live in a flat above the centre. There is also a chronic shortage of staff to look after 23 children. The reason given for this extreme reprisal was that the letter of protest had given the centre's telephone number but this does also happen to be the number of Dr. Buechse's flat. After he'd sent a letter of 'explanation and apology' and publicly considered taking legal advice the suspension was promptly lifted. 'Even in cases where people have been under suspicion of beating children, they have not been suspended. But I, advocating the exact opposite, have been suspended', he complained to reporters.

The jolly chairman or chairwoman of vice, Freda Barker, minced that 'the situation is so loaded that it would be unfair of me to make any comment, especially since children are involved in the case'. Never mind dear, you can get out that long black bullwhip and be Queen of the children's committee for the day. Better not let that nasty doctor see you though.

DAVE CUNLIFFE.

### Story of the Welfare State

AT 58 YEARS of age Mr. Coling AT 58 YEARS of age and thought he was lucky to get a mort-gage of £550 to buy himself a home. The terraced house was old and small but could be made comfortable. Everything seemed rosy after they moved in

The terraced house was old and small but could be made comfortable. Everything seemed rosy after they moved in but then Mr. Coling made his fatal mistake—he got sick.

Although he had made no payment off his mortgage he was still surprised to return home to find his wife and furniture on the pavement; not to mention his two dogs and two cats.

He approached Reading Corporation's Welfare Officer, Donovan Comerford, for shelter. In all his kindness Comerford was happily able to offer separate hostel accommodation which was bad enough but no dogs or cats; they would have to be destroyed. The couple, complete with animals, decided to camp out in a nearby park.

That was 11 weeks ago and since then Mr. Coling and his 56-year-old wife Lily

have spent the days on a bench in Palmer Park and slept the nights in the porch of their old home in Radstock Road. Donovan Comerford rattles off like some obscene tape recorder: 'They have been offered accomodation... They have been offered accomodation... They have been....'

When it rains the Colings have to let their clothes dry on them. Meanwhile Welfare Officer Donovan Comerford spends his days in his comfortable office (Reading 55911) and dry, comfortable nights at his 'nice' home at 41 Boston Avenue (Reading 50567).

Mr. Coling has been to Bracknell to find a home, but was let down. Can any local comrades supply information of cheap comfortable places willing to take four animals, too? Or can comrades in other parts of the country write and telephone Comerford and make him do his job?

# The Actor of the Year

FRANK COUSINS DESERVES the 'Oscar' for the best actor the Oscal for the ocst actors of the year, correction, any year. His 'Joan of Arc' act when he left the Cabinet and then Parliament was the first stage of his acting career, since then he has gone from strength to strength.

#### **Co**ntact Column

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

Let's get out of the Wood! Discussion meeting on how to build a libertarian movement with a real basis, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1, on Sunday, September 8 (11 a.m.-6 p.m.). Ad hoc Meeting Group, c/o Freedom Press.

3 Day Polaris Demo. Glasgow-Faslane-Coulport. March starts in Glasgow Green. Saturday, August 31, at 2 p.m. Accommodation available. Correspondence to John McCrystal, 33 Gairbraid Avenue, Maryhill, Glasgow, N.W.

Red Paper \*produced to evoke radical\*

gow, N.W.

d Paper 'produced to evoke radical response in those parts of East Anglia not subject to that gravitational pull towards London which deprives an area of any identity of its own'. 6d.: from Tony Reeder, 44 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich.

archist and girl need two in transport to any point here and Tangier—leave August, share petrol expenses.

Box 15.

Box 15.

Folk evening—August 23, 'Old Mill', Harlow Mill, 8 p.m. Folk singers and poets wanted.

Birmingham Discussion Meetings: Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. at The Crown, Corporation Street. August 13: Geoffrey Ostergaard on 'Workers' Control'. August 20: 'Attitudes to Vietnam'. General Discussion. August 27: Peter Neville 'The Demonstration'. September 3: no meeting. September 10: The October Vietnam'. General Discussion.
August 27: Peter Neville 'The
Demonstration'. September 3: no
meeting. September 10: 'The October
Demonstration' Mike Sheridan.
Worthwhile work wanted by girl 20, ex
voluntary work team. Margaret,
11 Barway Road, Manchester 21.
Room or small flat required by anarchist.
Central or South London. Please
write to Shirley Parsons, 12 King
Edward Road, Maidstone, Kent.
Male and female (musicians) wish to
share flat, convenient central London,
furnished or unfurnished. HAM 7785.
Embryo anarchist collective seeks people,

Embryo anarchist collective seeks people, preferably with resources, but currently young girl without welcome. Baby, interest in agriculture/toys/printing welcomed. East Anglia.

Box 14.

Teacher visiting London weekly next
academic year seeks rudimentary
comradely kip every Tuesday night.
Jeffery / Burnt Oak / East Bergholt /
Colchester.

Colchester.

Anarchist Black Cross Bulletin No. 1 now available, 6d. (plus postage) from 7 Coptic Street, London, W.C.I.

Nancekuke: Groups are urged to send a representative to St. Ives, Cornwall, on Sunday, September 1 (Bank Holiday). Planning meeting for ambitious autumn campaign against Nancekuke and CBW. Contact Graham Hewitt, 24 Back Road West, St. Ives, Cornwall.

Anarchist camp in Shropshire August 31-September 2. Contact B. Shuttleeptember 2. Contact B. Shuttle-orth, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, anchester 14

September 2. Contact B. Shutle-worth, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

Comrades of 'Le Libertaire', organ of the Anarchist Federal Union (French), would like to correspond with comrades in Britain. Contact René Leclainche, Boite No. 1, 41 Chailles, C.C.P. Orleans, France.

Anarchist International Summer Camp. This year at 'Camping Jobel' in the village of Turnos. 4 km. from Bayonne, 12 km. from Biarritz. August 1-31. Inf. from 'Les Amis de la Nature', Camping Jobel, Tarnos 40, France.

Voluntary Work Team. Present address: Play Group, Winchester Way, Bolton.

Peace News—Weekly, price 1/- from 5 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Frank was to be the knight to lead the Prices and Incomes rebellion and the left labourites actually believed this, including their weekly comic *Tribune*, but something went wrong. The only weapon 'Frank the Reb' was prepared to use was his tongue and that is not a lot of use if your expenses is using a machine. if your opponent is using a machine

Many, many trade unionists still look to their 'leaders' for guidance. It is mistakenly believed that these are the men who have their fingers on the pulse. The only pulse they have their fingers on is their own, it races a bit when trouble is brewing.

busmen have not appreciated this fact by now they never will. As pointed out by 'Lumpenproletariat' in FREEDOM (27.7.68): 'I cry to in Freedom (27.7.68): I cry to Barbara Minister of Employment and Productivity Castle that she takes our union leaders, for they are of more use to her than they are to

of more use to her than they are to the London busworkers.'

Any wage increase that the busmen secure (London or Municipal) must be paid for out of their pockets, through rationalization of labour. One-man buses are definitely cheap labour even 'if' one accepted the fact that the saving should be shared 50-50 employer and man; 15/- is nowhere near that percentage. 15/- is nowhere near that percentage, and this is not the only ingredient in the stinking productivity package. As an afterthought, what about the passengers? A 'bus' will be a 'sight'

to treat the kids to on the rare occa

to treat the kids to on the rare occasions that they will appear.

Where precisely do the municipal busmen go from here? Obviously they were not prepared to tackle the Government 'head on' (who can blame them—no one else will). Some local authorities are prepared to backdate the Cl. then prepared Some local authorities are prepared to backdate the £1, then negotiate their productivity deals in addition. This, of course, is not in line with Government policy, which is 10/-increase in basic rate backdated to last December and 10/- per week bonus backdated to June plus higher rates for one-man bus operators. In return for this great remuneration one-man buses will be introduced and general productivity discussions will be started.

The question posed—is the fight

The question posed—is the fight postponed until December? If this is the policy in the mind of the delegates, then surely all municipal busmen should operate the same policy, because if some accept the employer - government terms now, come December those who have not.

come December those who have not, will be beaten before they start.

The demand is £1 on the basic, and then the busmen 'may' talk about cutting their own throats but only if no blood is spilt.

Passengers can help on one-man buses, always tender a £1 note for your fare. This should speed up productivity no end, it is impossible to have a worse service than now to have a worse service than now

### **DUNLOP DICTATOR DEFIED**

IF YOU KICK anybody hard enough, IF YOU KICK anybody hard enough, often enough, they'll bite back. That's what happened at Dunlop Rubber Company, Rochdale, last weekend, where workers banned overtime.

For years the Dunlop rubber workers have put up with the bad management of 'Mac', a jumped up little Hitler, who's been driving them daft with his ignorant attitude to all and sundry.

Tell Tales; Creeps; Spies; and Bullies have all been used to make the 'Mac' management into an industrial hell at work.

work.

His hired Greencoats (leading hands) hide behind stacks of tyres and sneak and spy on the workers here. To talk freely is to risk the sack in this dirty den. An air of fear and suspicion hangs over this evil rubber regime.

FOUL ATMOSPHERE

Seals was the foul atmosphere which

Such was the foul atmosphere which led to the overtime ban of Saturday last. And things will get worse if manager 'Mac' doesn't start treating people like

'Mac' doesn't start treating people like human beings.

Last Friday, the workers walked out at half four after 'Mac' had said work all weekend or not at all. The weekend before some workers arrived at work only to be sent home.

The lads are doing right! The only way to deal with a dictator is to stand up to him, and cut him down to size. Now

our union, the Municipal and General, should do what we pay them for, tackle the management like men.

As for the management itself; surely there must be a better way of doing things than making everybody shit scared. Most people know that dictatorship is a daft system, and only gets people's backs up. The ideal management would probably be one elected and directed from the shop floor.

Workers' Control, cracking the coupon, and beating the bookies, are the working man's only hopes in this life.

#### FARES FREEZE

OVER 700 NORTH WALES busmen

OVER 700 NORTH WALES busmen are now supporting the 112 Rhyl busmen, who had already banned higher fares (see FREEDOM last week).

The busmen, all employed by Crosville Motor Services, are not charging increased fares of between 1d. and 6d., due to start last Sunday.

Depots at Rhyl, Chester, Caernarvon, Flint and Llandudno Junction, are now affected by the busmen's fare freeze.

A union official of the TGWU said the men are angry because the firm has been allowed to raise fares, while the busmen's wage increase has been frozen by the Prices & Incomes Board.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

## For Workers' Control

AUGUST 17 1968 Vol 29 No 25

The committee of the second

## **Electricians Strike** at Euston

FOR THE PAST three weeks, electricians on the huge Euston Station reconstruction site have been out on strike. The dispute stems basically from the interpretation of the new Joint Industry Board's agreement, which introduced a system of grading of electricians and did away with chargehands and adult mates. Many mates were made redundant, the rest being regraded as labourers for which they received a \darkletder d. an hour increase.

inorease.

The JIB consists of officials of the Electrical Trades Union and representatives of the employers. It has wide powers to 'regulate and control employment (without abrogating an individual employer's right of management), levels of skill and proficiency, wages and welfare benefits and the industry's productive capacity'. The Board can also fine or expel electricians for taking unofficial action.

action.

The JIB's agreement carries the cooperation of the employers and the
trade union leadership to its limit and
undermines the rank and file organisation
on sites and their traditional bargaining
powers. This is what the Euston Station
electricians took action about for their
employer, Electrical Installations, had
refused to recognise the shop committee
of stewards, to negotiate at site level and
had referred the shop committee's proposais to the JIB.

ALTER TEA-BREAKS

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ALTER TEA-BREAKS

Because of the lack of recognition, stewards had been 'clocking-off', so losing wages, in order to carry out normal stewards' duties. The members decided that until their shop committee was recognised by the management they would work to rule. The management then decided to alter the times of the teabreaks, bringing them forward by half an hour, from 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. where they had been for 4½ years and stopped members leaving the site for tea. However, the electricians continued to have their breaks at the old times.

The shop committee had interpreted the JIB agreement as being that labourers should do all the unloading of lorries and informed the management accordingly. (Before the agreement, everyone had mucked in.) However, the management ignored this and asked four skilled

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

members to unload. They refused and were sacked on the spot. A deputy steward, who had 'clocked off' because he wanted to tell members not to leave the site for tea, approached these four men. The foreman, who was present, the site for tea, approached these four men. The foreman, who was present, asked him to unload and he explained that he had 'clocked off'. The foreman ignored this explanation for his refusal to do the unloading and sacked him as well, saying that he had been 'clocked on' again by the members of the shop committee. The management then called the shop committee together and sacked them all for disregarding the new teabreak times. With this, the members came out on strike. break times. With came out on strike.

#### BREAKING TU ORGANISATION

BREAKING TU ORGANISATION

A leaflet got out by the electricians says that 'because the shop showed their solidarity by asking the management to recognise the shop committee as the proper negotiating body at site level, the management decided to alter the times of tea-breaks and restrict members from leaving the site. The JIB Agreement, in itself, is ambiguous and leaves interpretation at site level to the discretion of the shop steward and foreman. Because of this situation there is bound to be conflict, and this ambiguity over an ill-conceived agreement has led to the sacking of 90 ETU members employed on this site. It would appear that the management had received their instructions from the JIB to break the Trade tions from the JIB to break the Trade Union organisation on the job, so that they could bring in their own interpreta-tions of the JIB agreement.

they could bring in their own interpretations of the JIB agreement.

All strikers have been sent their cards and money. The ETU Head Office has informed them that they have 'no dispute' with Electrical Installations and that they should apply for their jobs. As an experiment, some have done this, only to be told that they cannot start. The strike, however, is very nearly 100% solid except for five members who did not come out and two who have since started with the company. Unfortunately some of the 'scabs' are coloured and one of the strikers informs me that there is a lot of bad feeling over this.

It is also unfortunate that the Works Committees representing the other opera-

a lot of bad feeling over this.

It is also unfortunate that the Works Committees representing the other operatives on the site have not given very much support. If they had been solid behind the electricians, the strike would most likely have been won by now.

SUPPORT NEEDED

Support from other electricians employed by Electrical Installations at London Airport has been in the form of a collection. A strike for support was thought to be on the cards, but this hope faded with the prospects of a weekend working and the possible repercussions on a steward who is already likely to be expelled from the ETU for opposing the JIB agreement. Of course, these are unfortunate setbacks, but the strikers are determined to battle on. They have visited ETU branches, asking for support and have toured building sites, factories and the docks seeking financial support. They see this strike as a defence of the traditional rights of workers to elect stewards to negotiate for them at site level, This is denied under this new agreement and it should be remembered that this agreement has been described as a 'blueprint for the building industry'. From this, it can be seen how important it is that the electricians win this strike. Readers can help by raising the issue in their branches and at work, or by sending money to M. C. Herbert, 110 Victoria Road, Kilburn, London, N.W.6. Collection sheets can be obtained from the same address.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

# **Employers Attack Printers' Union** work to rule the employers issued dismissal notices and since that date have continued to publish, minus certain blocks and pictures. Fleet Street is one of the last sections of print to hang on to the COL agreement. It was lost in Scotland and in general print. When the sliding scale agreement was first constituted the employers believed they were on a good thing. Because it has gone against them and they have Government backing, they wish to dispense with it.

SINCE SEPTEMBER 1967 printing unions in Fleet Street have been endeavouring to secure a wages agreement with the Newspaper Publishers' Association (NPA). September 1967 is the date on which the 1964 agreement

the date on which the 1964 agreement expired.

From information circulated it appears that the talks have progressed in ever decreasing circles. One concession that has been wrung from the employers is the continuancy of the sliding scale cost of living (COL) arrangements but according to the NPA this will cease with a final payment in September, irrespective of finalising any agreement. This proposal by the NPA to terminate the COL agreement is an endeavour to force the printing unions to accept a small increase with all the productivity strings attached, 'two bob in the pocket is better than

nothing, so to speak', and this is the basis of the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers (SLADE) dispute.

SLADE realized that talks were not making progress. Its members were disgruntled and the notification concerning the COL agreement was the draught to the smouldering fire. They decided to work to rule.

SLADE's current claim is an increase on the basic wage of 23/- to provide a rate of £25 without continuance of the cost of living honus. The union also concedes some working concessions. On the question of productivity agreements, SLADE is of the opinion that this is best discussed at shop level because of the varying requirements of newspapers.

As a result of the continuance of the

As a result of the continuance of the

with it.

The feeling amongst printworkers in Fleet Street is that it is only a matter of time. This is a suicidal attitude, a stand must be made on this issue. If we do not, then our basic wage will not be worth a brass farthing.