

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 

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March for your Rights!

Sack Adolf Craig!

—Disband the B. Specials!

THE B. SPECIALS in Northern Ireland came into existence ostensibly to give protection against IRA attacks in the twenties and the renewed activity which came to a halt in 1958. They are still in existence, over 9,000 of them, costing £700,000 each year.

But what do they do? Since there has been no IRA attacks for over ten years they have been used as 'auxiliary policemen', but rightly or wrongly (and with a good deal of justification) NI's RCs regard them as a political force. They are only paid £15 p.a. and have to provide their own boots. For this they patrol an area on Friday and Saturday nights once or twice a month. Heavily armed. This is the big attraction. The guns. Regular shooting practice, dressing up in para-military uniforms, patrolling with a sten or a revolver the city streets or the country roads with the power to arrest, to push people around, to assert the authority so desperately needed by the inadequate and the feeble-minded. (Although another little-mentioned inducement is the 30/- paid per patrol—it may not seem much, but it's nice tax free pocket money or twelve pints of porter on the Saturday afternoon for the poor in a land with 7% unemployment.)

They are all Protestant.—'Now look here, that's not quite true, we had a Catholic in the force only six years ago.' One Uncle Tom. Recruitment, which performance is dying off due to economic crises, is on a personal recommendation basis. It's a glorified self-perpetuating armed social (or anti-social) club. They publish no details openly of their activities. They come under the Ministry of Home Affairs, led by Adolf Craig of Derry fame. They tend to be less trigger-happy than a few years ago when there was a crop of incidents in which members of the public were careless enough to get themselves shot by the Specials—luckily the Special Powers Acts ensures protection since

the authorities can prohibit any inquest on any corpse found in an embarrassing place, like police station. This 'cooling it' is regretted by many.

'It used to be great walking the roads at night with your old sten scarin' the shit outta the teagues, but now the bloody RCs are getting cocky knowing we can't shoot', one told me, 'but some of us are hoping that all this civil rights crap will give us a chance to get in and sort these fenian bastards out.' (In NI anyone connected with civil rights, be they anarchist, socialist, communist, liberal or good old NILP, is branded as a Catholic, Republican and IRA.)

Two months ago a resident Belfast magistrate remarked in court upon hearing that the accused had said something about civil rights to the arresting officer, 'Civil rights! Whenever I hear that phrase sure enough it's some hooligan uttering it!'

Certainly the Specials won't die out for a long time yet. Every attempt to suggest it at Stormont is met by Bully Craig's statement that he personally has secret inside information that the wicked IRA is resurrecting itself—e.g. 'I am taking seriously news of increased IRA activity and assume a campaign of violence is being planned' (Craig, 3.10.68). 'The notorious IRA man Cathal Goulding was present at the so-called civil rights march in Derry' (Craig, 6.10.68). That well-known organ of the IRA and the Communist Party, *The Times*, stated that they had categorical proof that Goulding was in Bray, Eire, 150 miles away at the time of the march. Has the IRA discovered the lost art of teleportation?

The quarries around Belfast will still echo with machine gun fire as the Specials practise. The police will still have help to beat up the odd helpless drunk or unfortunate youth—well, you've got to do something to keep warm these nights'. And there's always the Special Powers Act if they get into any trouble. J.C.

Taunton Tenants, Too

WE ARE HOPING that the Lambrook, Taunton, Tenants Association is going to revive itself, because the need that brought it into being is still here. More than 200 families live in concrete houses 50 years old which leak and let in damp. The council has carried out whitewashing running repairs, but the opinion of many experts is that the appalling conditions of mildew and condensation in these 'concrete coffins' can only be cured by demolition and rehousing. It is thought that by using the existing land and drains costs could be kept down. Certainly the council's patchwork has not improved things.

After intense pressure and threats of protest marches involving saturated mattresses, and a hard-hitting entry in the local carnival last summer, the councillors agreed to yet another survey, this time an independent one. This is going

to be done this winter, when conditions are at their worst. Two of the most militant committee members have lately been rehoused, indeed one got a 100% local authority mortgage, and another has been affected by a bereavement. But the tenants' greatest loss was the secretary of the Taunton Communist Party, John Holland, a local builder and a fine man who had done a great deal to help after having been called in by Lambrook residents. His sad death has dismayed many of the people and there is talk of 'Now John's gone, it's no good'.

But a recent incident has heartened us and we think the old fire may be there to be revived. The Council proposed to tear down the front garden hedges and fences along one of the holiday through routes on the estate and provide gates to keep the kids in the back garden. They called it 'open plan' and the idea was to provide visual amenities for the traffic jammers on their way to the coast. And incidentally it is amazing how only those houses which can be seen from the through routes have been colour-washed outside. But the tenants were not by any means in agreement with the plan and an immediate and successful protest took place in the form of a deputation and letters. A letter in the local paper is about the only contribution the Libertarians have made, but we hope to do more in the future. We have a member on the committee and are looking forward to positive results. J.M.D.

Risinghill & Kilquhanity
in ANARCHY 92

ULSTER IS STILL in some ways stuck in the seventeenth century. It must surely be one of the last places in the world where the old Protestant versus Catholic struggle is still a major political issue. The Protestants are on top, although many are very poor, almost as badly off as the Catholics in fact, but it pays the rulers to keep the poor divided, and the Catholics are treated as Negroes are elsewhere in the world.

A significant feature of Ulster's towns are the children of eight or nine, who can be seen late at night, up to 11 p.m. or later than that, selling righteous papers like *The Belfast Telegraph*.

The population is just about 1,500,000. The Catholics constitute 34.9% of it, yet the Unionist (Protestant) Party controls 57 out of 68 local authorities, even where there is a Catholic majority in the population. There are housing qualifications for voting, arranged in such a way as to disenfranchise those who live in lodgings, who are of course mainly the poor and the Catholic. There is also a system of 'company votes', whereby a limited company with a valuation of more than £10 has up to six votes in a local election. This obviously favours the business community, the well-to-do, who are mainly Protestant.

There is a great housing shortage, but only those who are likely to vote the way the Tories want are likely to get a house. A Unionist alderman stated, 'We are not going to build houses in the South Ward and cut a rod to beat ourselves with later on. We are going to see that the right people are put into these houses, and we are not going to make any apology for it.'

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, whose march triggered off the fighting, was concentrating on the Special Powers Act. This gives the police the right to arrest and detain, without making a charge. It virtually creates a totalitarian state. The Association also demands a reform of electoral boundaries, and the introduction of a universal franchise in local government elections. Anywhere else this would be a most innocuous programme. But not in backward Ulster.

The eyewitness report sent in to FREEDOM, and published in our last issue (12.10.68), was so vivid that we decided that we must go to Northern Ireland at once to see for ourselves, and to see what we can do to help. On the Saturday

(12.10.68) the papers were full of the supporting action by the Queens University Students in Belfast. The television showed how they were stopped by the police, so that they should not clash with the Paisleyites. The film showed that 1,500 sat down in the road. What we did not know till we got there was that they sat for 3½ hours! They are now planning another great march for Wednesday, and this time they intend to get to the City Hall. The students have been in continuous session since the Derry police brutality. They have coined the phrase 'People's Democracy' under which they publish their leaflets, and posters, and hold their mass meetings. The discussions are going on until the early morning. Every aspect of the case is mullied over in the kind of free debate of which the Sorbonne in the May Days was the best example. Their demands are contained in the following leaflet:

PEOPLE OF ULSTER,

WE ASK YOU TO SUPPORT:

One Man One Vote. At present many working class people have no vote in local elections. Businessmen have up to 20 votes.

Houses on Need. Not enough houses are built in Northern Ireland and many of those built are not fairly allocated.

Jobs on Merit. At present there are not enough jobs and many of these are allocated on the basis of religion and not of merit.

Free Speech. Every man has his grievances. Every man has the right to express them publicly.

Fair Boundaries. In Derry a substantial majority elects eight councillors and a definite minority elects twelve councillors. Is this fair?

Repeal of the Special Powers Act. This Act gives the police power to take away your rights. It can be used to prevent strikes.

In Derry itself the militant leadership of Eamonn McCann and others has been momentarily circumvented by a sixteen-man committee mainly comprising local businessmen. Even so they plan a mass civil disobedience demonstration for next Saturday (19.10.68).

The civil rights movement has a very difficult job on its hands. They not only have to face the Unionist

Government, and the brutal police force, but the incredible Paisleyites. The issue is further complicated by the fictitious freedom Northern Ireland enjoys from Westminster, and there is a dread of civil war on the wrong issues.

The Government and the Press is frantically trying to turn this into a battle between Catholics and Protestants. The civil rights movement has its job cut out to keep the movement secular.

Badges are worn in lapels. The most popular is 'Sack Adolph Craig!' (William Craig, the brutal minister who ordered the Derry Massacre). Also there are satirical ones like, 'Come to Derry for the Olympics', and printed over a typical tourist brochure picture of idyllic countryside, 'For your holidays you must visit Fascist Ulster'.

The overwhelming impression is of a people suddenly woken up, discussing, arguing, standing up for their rights. They still can't believe it is possible. That it is they who are standing up for themselves. FREEDOM sold like wild-fire, not just because of its police brutality front page, but, I was told, because of the word 'Freedom' itself.

The anarchist group has also grown into a sizeable force. Their meeting was short and to the point, which was a welcome relief from the interminable waffle of our very earnest socialist friends. There was no action that weekend (12 and 13.10.68), which enabled us to go over the border on the Sunday, when all pubs are closed in Northern Ireland.

Everybody was afraid of Paisley (a present-day Savonarola) with a ferocious following of middle-aged women, who are more royalist than the Queen. There is also the Special Powers Act (on which more in a future issue). Under it the police can ban any inquiry, even if someone dies in the police station.

Anarchists have no illusions about the rôle played by Catholicism in the world. Nonetheless we can give no support to methods of suppression, whoever the victims may be, Jews, Arabs, Catholics, Communists, nationalists or whatever you like. Suppression always has the effect of driving people deeper into their delusions and fanaticisms.

and March with us on Vietnam!
Assemble on Victoria Embankment (near Cleopatra's Needle) 1.30 p.m. October 27

ELLIOTT AUTOMATION DEMO

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, there will be non-violent direct action in Central London against the war in Vietnam. The action will be at No. 34 Portland Place, W.1, where the firm, Elliott Automation, has its head office. This firm is the largest producer for the US military and has at least five contracts with the US Department of Defence. Among these are the supply of navigational aids for the giant C-5A Galaxy transport aircraft and the production of an 'Integrated Light Attack Avionics System' (ILAAS) for the US Navy. ILAAS is a sophisticated integration of an aircraft's navigation, bomb-aiming and target selection processes. Elliott are also bidding for the contract to build an electrified barrier across the de-militarised zone between North and South Vietnam.

The decision to organise this action was taken at a conference of 47 people held in London on September 21. These

people had come together because of a common concern about the war in Vietnam, also about the fact that demonstrations on the issue recently have all been violent. Also, it seems that the real meaning of non-violence becomes less and less well understood and any debate about it recently has been on a very superficial level.

Details of the action will be worked out by a planning group meeting weekly. At its first meeting on September 23, it was decided that the action would be a non-violent siege.

Demonstrators will assemble in Great Portland Street, near the station, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 3. They will display placards explaining the firm's involvement in the Vietnam war, also stick notices onto the building itself. The aim will be to explain to the public at large, very few of whom have probably even heard of Elliott Automation, just how deeply this firm is implicated in helping

America pursue its dirty war. The demonstrators intend to sit down around the building and to stay all through the night until the office workers arrive the next morning. They will try to talk to them. They will also try to enter the building non-violently.

The conference was in favour of extending the campaign to the factories of this firm after the initial confrontation at the head offices. The aim would be to do field work in the area followed by a demonstration.

We would like to hear from people who will take part in the action on November 3—we would also like to hear from anyone who will give us some money to organise the action.

NOVEMBER NON-VIOLENT ACTION COMMITTEE

c/o 3 Caledonian Road, N.1
01-278 4972

ANARCHISTS ON THAMES TV
'This Week' programme
Thursday Oct. 24

books? THE RETURN OF THE WILD ONE

we can supply any book in print

SECONDHAND

We have a large stock of secondhand books. Try us for what you want. This week's selection.

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- The Strategy of Civilian Defence** (ed.) Adam Roberts 17/6
- America in Mid-Passage (1939)** Charles & Mary Beard 12/6

Freedom Bookshop

Write or Come!

Editorial office open Friday, October 18, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, October 21, 2-8 p.m.

Telephone: BISHOPSGATE 3015.

New temporary address:
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Temporary opening times:
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WHEN I WAS at school there was one legendary 'X' film we could not worm our way into and it became, therefore, the most violent, sexy and desirable film our fevered imaginations could dredge up. The film was *The Wild One* and I can't even remember now how I knew of its existence—it just seemed to pass into the folklore of the time along with Craig and Bentley and the pitched battle that never quite took place on Victoria recreation ground, between the 'Elephant Boys' and the 'St. Mary Cray Mob'. Now, after all those years, *The Wild One* is doing the rounds of the Odeons as a 'B' feature supporting a cold war/spy/Berlin wall/routine and I've wormed me way in at last.

In 1947, at Hollister, California, a gang of elderly American teenagers on motorcycles were turned away from a motorcycle hill climb and worked off their frustration and boredom by whooping-up the town, drag racing down the mainstreet, drinking and bouncing one or two saloon cars—or so the film goes. The leader of this gang of outlaw bike riders is Marlon Brando, then the big new Hollywood face, and his rival for leadership is Lee Marvin; the action takes place over the 24 hours before Brando rides out, like a motorized Shane, a good badman doomed to keep moving on with one eye forever open for the Lawman.

The film was released in the USA in 1953 and has been banned in England until this year because the Powers That Be were terrified that it would spark off riots from The Ace to Scotch Corner and that the British Way of Life would collapse under a wave of Rocker Anarchy.

The film is incredibly soft-centred and innocuous now and I'm doubtful whether it would ever have aroused much response here. But the laugh was on the Teds, those earthbound ancestors of the Rockers, who, while being prevented from seeing *The Wild One*, were aroused to apparent frenzy by the Alan Freed Rock 'n' Roll package films of the mid-fifties and the Bill Haley tours. These harmless offerings were accompanied by nationwide outbreaks of jiving in the aisles, seat slashing, police baiting and that incredible reception for Bill Haley at Waterloo Station. It all seems a long time ago and now *The Wild One* probably only appeals to deprived nostalgists like me... but I loved it.

The story is really a Western, one of the new fifties style Westerns, where the Baddie isn't all bad and the Goodie isn't all good, and has the classic ingredients... weak lawman, greedy tradesmen, posse and lynching party, good-time Broad and All-American Girl. Brando has about twenty lines in the whole (probably cut now) film but

occasionally curls a lip or scratches his nose—he doesn't need to do anything else. He looks magnificent and commands absolute respect from his gang, who jump at his every word. In fact, The Leader mystique is the most objectionable part of the film. Lee Marvin, unlike Brando who looks like a somewhat puffy Rocker from *The Leather Boys*, is much closer to the current Hell's Angels style and his performance at times looks like a trial run for his role in *Cat Ballou*. Having read Hunter Thompson's excellent book *Hell's Angels* it's possible to see the origin of the whole HA ethos in this film, and Thompson tells of Frank who 'was so completely hip that he went down to Hollywood and bought the blue and yellow striped sweatshirt that Lee

**Hell's Angels*, Penguin 5/-.

Marvin wore in *The Wild One*.

At the beginning of the film is a portentous message to the effect that the film was based on a real life incident and that it should be taken as a warning so that such an event would never again take place in the USA. Evidently the warning went unheeded as proved by the widespread publicity attached to the Hell's Angels activities of 1964/5/6. Thompson's book goes to great lengths to separate the reality from the myth but even he is occasionally overwhelmed by the sheer potency of their mystique and anyway the reality is pretty hair-raising. Finally the Angels became so famous that they were 'taken up' by Society/hippies/poets and stray thrill-seekers, nutters and various hustlers who saw a chance of making a few dollars out of them. Thompson is also very good on the bizarre circumstances

which led to the Angels becoming the heroes of the American right after their attack on the Berkeley Peace marchers and their extraordinary offer to fight as commandos behind the VC lines.

But apart from superficialities of style, *The Wild One* of the fifties has very little to do with the Hell's Angel of the sixties and the film even has those inseparable wise-cracking buddies of Hollywood films of the 40's, this time in leather jackets, but hep as ever and still swapping 'rebops' and 'oohbopshe-bams' with the best of them.

Hell's Angel, Preetam Bobo, remembering when *The Wild One* came to San Francisco in 1954 said, 'We went up to the Fox Theatre on Market Street... there were about fifty of us, with jugs of wine and our black leather jackets... We sat up there in the balcony and smoked cigars and drank wine and cheered like bastards. We were all Marlon Brando. I guess I must have seen it four or five times.'

Well, after all those years I've seen it once and in a curious way it was worth the wait. JEFF CLOVES.

MAY DAY REVIEWED

THE FRENCH 'REVOLUTION'

MAY released a flood of books on to the market. At the last count there were 85 titles, and they have pretty well taken over the non-fiction section of the French best-seller lists. Some of them are the journalistic rubbish one expects, but a few of them are extraordinarily good—though that isn't much use to people who don't read French easily. British publishers have been much slower to respond, but they are now releasing a smaller and rather stale flood of their own to coincide with the beginning of the academic year.

The first title is *French Revolution 1968*, by Patrick Seale and Maureen McConville, published in hardback by Heinemann (35s.) and in paperback by Penguin Books (6s.). It has 16 pages of good photographs, but apart from that it is rather disappointing. The authors reported the May Days for the *Observer*, and their book is uncomfortably like a Sunday newspaper article which gets left until Saturday and then wasn't worth reading after all, blown up to book length. It's better than nothing, but no more.

The most obvious thing to publish would be translations of what has already appeared in France, but so far there is only one, *The Student Revolt: The Activists Speak*, published in hardback by Cape (30s.) and in paperback by Panther Books (6s.). It is an interesting though now rather dated collection of interviews with student leaders—Jacques Sauvageot, Alain Geismar, Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Jean-Pierre Duteuil—compiled by Hervé Bourges and translated

by B. R. Brewster. It's worth having, but no more either.

Panther Books have also published a companion volume, *The Beginning of the End: France, May 1968* (6s.), by Angelo Quattrocchi and Tom Nairn, which is the best of the bunch. Quattrocchi is the Paris correspondent of *Avanti* (the Italian socialist paper once edited by Mussolini); he is associated with the March 22 Movement, and took part in the Paris demonstrations. His contribution is an impressionistic account of 'What Happened', written in what could be called 'Frenghish', and it gives a most convincing feeling of what it must have felt like actually to be on the barricades. Nairn is a freelance writer and journalist; he was a sociology lecturer at Hornsey Art College, taking an important part in the rebellion there, and he is an editor of *New Left Review*. His contribution is a carefully argued analysis of 'Why It Happened' and of why it is still happening and is going to go on happening, based on an ideology of libertarian Marxism which is almost more libertarian than Marxist, and it gives a most convincing version of what the May 'revolution' was all about.

One of the most interesting things about *The Beginning of the End* is that it gives proper attention to the part played by anarchist ideas and by the anarchists themselves in the 'revolution'. Quattrocchi gives the following definition of 'The Dream':

Abolition of Capital, and its profit. And to its expressions: State and money.

Workers' control. (The new workers.) No delegation of power. Decisions taken by representatives-spokesmen at any time.

All work according to their inclinations, necessary toil (machine supervising? manual labour?) is shared by all. No distinction between manual (if any) and mental labour.

All participate in the first, when necessary, and share the second. Self-determination will make the eternal repressions, State and money, wane and finally disappear. Then, feelings and concepts yet to be invented.

Nairn mentions 'the resurrection of anarchist thought and feeling in May, the host of black flags which sprang up from nowhere alongside the red ones', and comments:

The anarchist 'groupuscules', feeble organisationally and small in numbers, were nevertheless far closer than the Marxist sects to the spirit of what was happening.

And adds: All the evidence of May suggests strongly that without a powerful dose of anarchic sentiment and ideas, a revolution of this sort and in these conditions is very unlikely to get far. The book ends with a reminder of the Paris Commune; the closing words are as follows:

The anarchism of 1871 looked backwards to a pre-capitalist past, doomed to defeat; the anarchism of 1968 looks forward to the future society almost within our grasp, certain of success. We couldn't put it better ourselves. N.W.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

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

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, E.7. GRA 9848. Regular activities.

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.

3rd Friday of each month at Dennis Fen's, 314 St. Paul's Road, Highbury Corner, N.1 (above Roundabout Self-Service).

3rd Friday of each month at Donald and Irene Room's at 13 Savernake Road, N.W.3, at 8 p.m.

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.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 95909) or Tim Deane, Juliet, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset (Fernwood 3588).

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 7546).

EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact: Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx.

HERTS. Contact either Stuart Mitchell at South View, Potters Heath Lane, Potters Heath, Welwyn, Herts OR Jeff Cloves, 46 Hughendon Road, Marshwick, St. Albans, Herts.

IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dea, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

KILBURN, LONDON. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, London, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.

NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.

NOTTING HILL. Meetings at John Bennett's, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, W.11. Every Monday evening, 8 p.m.

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

REDDITCH ANARCHISTS AND LIBERTARIANS. Contact: Dave Lloyd, 37 Feckenham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs.

SELBY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact D. Mackay, Residential Site, Drax Power Station, Drax, Selby.

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 Peter Newell (see N.E. Essex Group).

Group Addresses:—**BASILDON.** M. Powell, 7 Lingcroft, Basildon, Essex.

BISHOPS STORTFORD. Vic Mount, 'Eastview', Castle Street, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

CHILMSFORD. (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.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Peter Newell, 91 Brook Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Tiptree, Essex. Regular meetings.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

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

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Sue Warnock, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14. Every Saturday: 'Freedom' and 'DA' selling outside Central Library, 2.30-4.30 p.m.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence: Jack Bennett, c/o 16 Devonshire Road, Liverpool, 8. Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays of month at Pete Dukes, 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool, 8 (3 rings), at 8 p.m.

SUSSEX FEDERATION

Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Finden Road, White-

bank, Brighton. **BRIGHTON & HOVE ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Nick Heath, Flat 3, 26 Clifton Road, Brighton, BN1 3HN. Regular fortnightly meetings. Contact Secretary.

WELSH ANARCHIST FEDERATION

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

MERTHYR TYDFIL ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Huw Rowlands, 16 Cromwell Street, Methyr Tydfil.

SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 3 Bay View Crescent, Brynmill, Swansea. Weekly meetings. 'Freedom' sales and action projects.

LLANELLI. Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llwynnendy 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 Underground.

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

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, Ilford.

DAGENHAM. Alan Elliot, 98 Hatfield Road, Dagenham.

WOODFORD. Douglas Hawkes, 123 Hermon Hill, E.18.

LIMEHOUSE. M. Solof, 202 East Ferry Road, E.14.

STUDENT GROUPS

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Francis Jarman, Red Brick Lodge, 49 Upper Rock Gardens, Brighton. Meetings every second week jointly with Brighton Group; book-stall every second week outside J.C.R., 12-2 p.m.

YORK UNIVERSITY. Contact Nigel Wilson, Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York.

EAST ANGLIA UNIVERSITY. Contact Dave Lomas, E.A.S. II, U.E.A., Norwich, NOR 88C.

LIBERTARIAN STUDENTS FEDERATION. Contact address: Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow.

SCOTTISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION

Secretary: Dave Coull (see Montrose). Groups and Proposed Groups:—**ABERDEEN ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** Contact Bob Conrice, 288 Hargate or Ian Mitchell, 3 Sinclair Road.

FIFE. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Joe & Kay Embleton, 26 Kirkland Road, Glasgow, N.W.

HAMILTON DISTRICT FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. Contact Robert Linton, 7a Station Road, New Stevenston, Motherwell.

MONTROSE. Contact Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden.

NORTHERN IRELAND BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Robert Dunwoody, 10 Newry Street, Belfast, BT6 9BN.

DUNWOODY. 10 Newry Street, Belfast, BT6 9BN. Meetings every Sunday, 3 p.m., P.P.U., 4 Arthur Street (top floor). Saturday gather same place for Street (top floor). Saturday gather same place for 'Freedom' sales, 2-3 p.m.

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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

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.

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

GREYTON, AUSTRALIAN ANARCHIST, c/o 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.

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

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact: Derek A. James, 1644 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, Allmänna Vågen 6, Gothenburg.

T O R O N T O LIBERTARIAN ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 TorYork Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

PROPOSED GROUPS

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY. Contact Mike Don or Bill Jamieson, 14 Victoria Road, Manchester 14.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE. Contact Les Smith, 192 Euston Road, Morecambe, Lancs.

PERTSHIRE/CENTRAL SCOTLAND. Contact Iain MacDonald, Craigreach, Bridge of Gourn, Macraoch Station, Perthshire, Scotland. NOTE NEW ADDRESS!

Dear Comrades,
On October 27 you will be leading a lot of people in the 'October Revolution'. You surely, as self-proclaimed Marxists, are well aware that such a jamboree has nothing whatsoever to do with a revolution. It is either Russell or Orwell, I forget which, who writes in one of his books about the cheapening of language. 'Revolution' is proclaimed by the manufacturers of baths, cheese, motor oil and baby foods, on TV adverts. This is 'revolutionary', that is 'revolutionary'. This flippant use of the term to describe a demonstration (one at which the motives of many demonstrators must be questioned) can only aid the process of making the word revolution totally meaningless.

The organisers of VSC appear somewhat confused in their political attitudes. Some of the local VSCs have been trying to persuade our group to join the demo—under NLF flags. Now, it is true that Aberdeen anarchists have marched under NLF flags before, but times and opinions have changed.

I, at one time, was prepared to stand up on a soapbox and give support to the NLF. But one matures.

The VSC have not. They are marching to support Uncle Ho—who happens to be one of the few world Communist leaders who supports the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Russian imperialism. The VSC line would appear to be—'We support Ho in his fight against US imperialism—let's not mention his support for the Russian variety'. Their other idol (and a veritable God to many of the new, hairy student 'left') is Fidel. Fidel Castro has anarchists in prison, but I am told by a VSC supporter, 'He's bad, but he's better than the others'. Exactly how any person calling himself an anarchist can march on a demonstration supporting Ho and Fidel, I can't imagine.

The organisers expect to get 50,000 people on the 'revolution'. Would their mind telling us just what it will accomplish? Says another VSC supporter, 'So what if there's a battle, the day of demos is past—they never did impress anyone anytime.' Now, I came into CND, and via various routes, to the anarchist movement exactly as a result of being impressed by the attitude of those who took part in the very early DAC and Committee of 100 sit-downs. I know of a number of other people who did the same. God knows, I'm no pacifist (in fact, I'm a good deal more committed to violent revolution than most of the VSCers), but the fact is that, at the moment, people (the people) don't want to see violence, consider it stupid, and oppose those who use it.

Of course, many VSC supporters have

COME ON!

MOVING FUND

Target is £500.
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Pledges honoured to date and donations—£475 3s. 0d.

GOING WELL!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Estimated Expenses:
40 weeks at £90: £3,600
Income: Sales and Subs.: £3,030
DEFICIT: £570

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Belfast: H.Y. 6/6; Portmadoc: G.M. £1/13/-; Wellington, Salop: J.P. 5/8; Peterborough: D.L. £1/4/-; Aberhonddu: H.P. 3/-; Taunton: D.P. 3/3; Banbury: W.D.W. 5/8; Sheffield: G.L.W. 13/-; Leiston: A.S.N. 13/-; London, S.E.17: D.S. 1/8; London, S.W.14: J.W. £1; Oxford: C.B. 2/10; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Hong Kong: M.S. 7/4; Newcastle u. Lyme: 10/-; Romford: N.S. 5/8; Bromley: J.K. 3/4; Rannoch: J.MacD. 5/8; Newquay: D.G. 1/8; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Bristol: A.G.C. £2/5/8; Bradford: E.R. 3/-; Sidmouth: J.L. 5/8; Mansfield: C.S. 5/8; London: J.F.M. 6/6; London: Anon 6/-; London, S.W.11: C.B. 10/-; St. Albans: Poetsdoos £1; Birmingham: J.N. 10/-; Glasgow: A.J. 3/6; Bangor: E.D. 1/4; Chicago: R.S. £1/4/-; Eccles: K.P. 5/8; Bristol: A.N. 3/-; Manchester: D.W. 5/8; Manchester: R.C. 5/-; Washington, D.C.: W.M. £2/5/-; Manchester: M.D. £3.

TOTAL: £14 13 0
Previously Acknowledged: £620 5 4
1968 Total to Date: £634 18 4
Deficit B/F: £570 0 0
TOTAL SURPLUS: £64 18 4

*Denotes Regular Contributor

Open Letter to the VSC

the romantic notion that they're in the Sorbonne, or the Cuban Sierra, or Mexico, fighting the forces of oligarchic repression. They're not! One can make a perfect public clown out of the British bobby and the State machine without firing a shot or throwing a brick. And by using the brain (and aren't socialists what they are by being cleverer than the fools who support the present system?)

Anarchism & Class

Dear Comrades,

Of course Tony Gibson is right when he says that an anarchist is, or should be, declassé. No one can grumble at this. But declassé in a particular sense surely? An anarchist should have freed himself from the facade of norms and values that strangle the individual. He should, in a sense, stand outside his class of origin, owning his self, and by his words and actions expressing his oneness. An anarchist must free himself from society and re-create himself as a person breathing, thinking, acting, creating, freedom.

Yet society itself is not anarchist and it exists. Society has not freed itself from the class system and our particular culture pattern. Society exists and furthermore we exist in society and because we do so we have to make choices. Choices with whom we work and with whom we identify. I may be wrong, but never yet have I heard any anarchist wish to identify himself with the middle class, nor the upper class. So we anarchists, declassé in the sense of the values and thought patterns of particular classes, identify ourselves with the working class (or classes, if you prefer). So do other political activists. The middle class (or

you don't give the capitalist press the way out by being able to concentrate on the violence, not on your message.

The hypocrisy of Comrade Tariq Ali sickens me. He appears on TV saying, 'There will be no violence', when he knows damned fine, and so does everyone going to London that there will be. Is he scared? Frightened of arrest? If he is, then he shouldn't be where he is and he shouldn't be saying such things. Most of the people I've met who are going are rubbing their hands at the thought of kicking a cop. Dishonesty converts no one.

Socialism will not be achieved on October 27. Its eventual intellectual supremacy over the present concept of society will be gravely endangered. Socialism will come, not through violent student pranks (rag weeks under Red Flags) but when the people are socialist. Such a state of affairs will come through

Letters

so-called declassé) pacifists that I was attacking in my *Peace News* article do not. Very well, that is their choice. But if they can choose so can we. And we have done so. We have chosen to call ourselves working class revolutionaries, working class political activists, and if necessary we re-define the term 'working class' to include ourselves.

To us then the term 'working class' is used to encompass those of us who work as employees, who do not own or control the factors of production, who are dependent upon the economic system for our livelihood, and are united in political struggle and have a consciousness of our identity. Perhaps Tony Gibson and others will quarrel with this definition? Perhaps some will say it is too loose, has too many loose ends? But surely any definition is merely a loose approximation to reality that we use to describe something, it does not create the reality, merely isolates a portion of it for identification? It is a useful tool

MAXIMUM SECURITY FOR LUIS EDO

OUR COMRADE LUIS EDO, who is serving a sentence of nine years in Soria Prison (Spain), accused of conspiracy to kidnap a high American military official, as a protest against the Franco regime, has been placed under maximum security confinement in the dungeons of the prison. His cell was searched last month, and a letter discovered which was addressed to Stuart Christie in London. The letter revealed the strict measures taken against the political prisoners of Soria Penitentiary. Another letter, which was smuggled out safely last week, disclosed this fact; and a very important news item. A number

of comrades were arrested by the Spanish secret police within the precincts of Soria prison, whilst visiting their relations. The Spanish Social Brigade (secret police) claim that these people were part of a commando attempting to release the prisoners being held in the penitentiary of Soria.

The old director of the prison has been transferred to Alicante prison, because of the discovery that letters had been smuggled out of prison. The new director, one of the Franco old guard, had the father of one of the prisoners detained while he called the police, it being suspected that he was involved in the alleged escape attempt. The prisoners have organised a protest. A copy of the statement sent by a number of the prisoners, including Edo, to the Director-General of Prisons, and the Minister of Justice, has also been received by the Anarchist Black Cross in London.

We are in the process of translating these documents.

SEVEN COMRADES IN VALENCIA

The seven comrades arrested in Valencia (FREEDOM, 12.10.68), stand in danger of their lives, after summary military tribunal. We cannot urge too strongly on all comrades the seriousness of this situation. As soon as the sentence, or the trial, is announced in the national

Sellers Wanted

for 'Freedom' & 'Anarchy' next Sunday, Oct. 20, at Civil Rights in Northern Ireland Meeting, Trafalgar Square, 4 pm, and for following Sunday's Demo, Oct. 27

Collect your copies in advance from Freedom Press, or in the Square on Sunday

A. R. SADIJEV.

socialist education. The Neo-Trotskyists of VSC have no desire to see a conscious people, hence the current student line about the people being bourgeoisified, etc. If they are (and I don't deny it), then the VSC should be out converting them. Hitting coppers won't help. Must the anarchist movement destroy itself by associating with those who support governments? Especially governments with anarchists in jail?

IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

Editors' Note:

Comrade Sutherland should note that at the recent AFB Conference in Liverpool, it was decided (though admittedly not unanimously) that the anarchist movement should not support the VSC's slogan 'Victory for the Vietcong', should dissociate from the VSC and should organise its own demonstrations.

for description and action. That surely is enough?

All this I went into in much greater detail when I sent my reply to my many critics in *Peace News*. If the editors of *Peace News* had only published it—but then perhaps it would have destroyed some case they were trying to put, so much for freedom and free discussion in a 'radical pacifist' newspaper.

Sincerely,

Birmingham 23. PETER NEVILLE.

Hampstead Garden Prison

Sirs,

I shuddered when I read in FREEDOM of the fiendish Oriental tortures practised by the Gramdan movement. According to Barbara Higgins, under the 'social revolution as Gandhi envisaged it' there is 'No punishment, no imprisonment' but any poor wretch accused of 'a particularly anti-social crime' is dragged away (screaming no doubt) 'to live for a time in an ashram with aesthetics, holy men and intellectuals'. Dear God, not that.

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO HAS SUFFERED.

press, it is of the utmost importance that we should demonstrate our solidarity by immediate direct action in all its forms. Remember also that this is a deliberate plot to embarrass the French and Belgian Governments and to finger once and for all our comrade under house arrest in Flanders, Octavio Alberola.*

*URGENT! Could comrades who have the Alberola petition please send them as soon as possible to 7 Coptic Street, London, W.C.1.

BULLETIN

The Black Cross Bulletin (No. 1) has been completely sold out. Apologies to those still waiting for a copy. No. 2 will be ready within the next week or so. It will include comrade Edo's letter from Soria.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS.

Attention all London Groups

ON October 4 about 20 comrades from various groups met and decided to reorganize the London Federation of Anarchists. The Federation would be organized on the following basis:

(1) Fortnightly delegate meetings—the first of which will be this Sunday, October 20, 4 p.m. at Freedom Press. All groups please send two delegates.

(2) Weekly public meetings to be arranged, commencing in November. It was decided that to be effective the Federation must be properly organized. It will co-ordinate the activities of all groups and indulge in activity itself, and publish literature about this activity, building up over a period contact with people involved in struggle! The public meetings are going to be serious discussions of activity and problems of today—putting an anarchist line. They are not going to be a shambles; anyone consistently preventing proper discussion will be removed from the meeting.

This is a real attempt to organize anarchist activity in London and make an anarchist presence felt among ordinary people struggling for better conditions and greater control over their lives. This is lacking at present—to succeed it must have your support. Please send two delegates this Sunday—or come yourself if you are not from any group.

RON BAILEY.

What Marriage is for

THE LETTER from Peter Lumsden and Anna Mieke on this page last week I find hard to understand. They explain that they went through a state marriage ceremony to protect Anna from being harassed by the Home Office. They went through a religious marriage ceremony obviously because they are religious. I would not argue with anybody defending himself from the state by using one of its rituals; I would not argue with anybody religious obeying his conscience.

But I fail to see the relevance of either of these marriage ceremonies to the rest of us who are not in danger of deportation or hell fire. People who live together, whether they have children or not, organise parties for their friends; so do people without close relationships. But there is no reason why a party to celebrate the coming together of two people should be described as a marriage—any more than the party which celebrates the birth of a child needs to be called a christening. And *Anarchist marriage* is stretching the language a little.

The most extraordinary paragraph in the letter is about discrimination: 'I don't see why I should push illegitimacy on my kids any more than I should push heroin.'

Perhaps Peter's children will be ridiculed if he gets jailed after a demonstration; why should children have to suffer from radical parents? In a society such as South Africa or Rhodesia—or Wolverhampton—why should a white child be afflicted with parents who talk to spades? Worse, why should a child have to be born brown of one black parent and one white one? If parents are to protect their children from discrimination they must follow the line of least resistance and repudiate rebellion and deviant behaviour.

Children learn most of their intellectual and social attitudes from the behaviour of their parents. The children don't necessarily keep these attitudes for ever but they can have a profound effect. Peter's children will presumably learn that their parents were married partly because Peter and Anna were afraid of 'illegitimacy': the children will acquire a fear of the law and a respect for social convention. After all that is just what marriage is for.

What the State is for

ONCE it is agreed that modern war destroys not only people but the claims of their rulers to act humanely, democratically or in the spirit of socialism it is not difficult to see that the state is the enemy. But the state's activities are of course not restricted to war.

The state has its tax collectors and policemen, its prison wardens and immigration officers. The state intervenes in our ordinary lives to an increasing extent. Not all that it does can be described as harmful: many of its services are useful. But operations like the postal service are clearly inefficient and are not run for the benefit of the people as the current two-tier mailing farce shows.

Moreover the fact that the state controls the postal service means that letters can be opened and telephones tapped. Thus it is not really possible to separate the socially useful activities of the state from those which are obviously coercive and harmful. The important point is that the state has the power to use any of its functions or activities to help in its major one which is the maintenance of power over the people.

It used to be argued that the people had chosen to have a state and that the interests of the majority were protected by authority. It was then pointed out by revolutionary socialists and anarchists that the modern state had been established by the bourgeoisie and that the people who got most of the protection were those with power and money.

In the nineteenth century a ruling class of capitalists and landowners was easy to identify: the state served its interests by protecting property and attacking the organisation of labour and political agitation. The state was 'the executive committee of the ruling class'—chosen by the bosses to do their dirty work.

But as executive committees have a habit of doing the state became more important than the bosses. In all countries the state became a boss itself: in some countries the only one. The state is now its own executive committee: it does its own dirty work.

WYNFORD HICKS.

Which way, what way?

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, was the day of reckoning for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers (AEF) in general and for Hugh Scanlon, its president, in particular. Whilst the executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions support the AEF strike call because of its block vote on the Confed, Scanlon is on his own. Press propaganda, Government and television are making him the number one 'Charlie' because, whichever way it goes, he cannot really win.

If Barbara, with her tea and buns, pulls of a compromise, the left wing of the AEF, which means the Communist Party, will lay the blame at his door for a lousy deal. On the other hand, if the strike takes place, the right wing of the union, plus the reactionary politicians such as the Labour Party, will accuse him of pulling the country down. Scanlon is out on a limb.

It is interesting to note all the bullshit that is being spoken and written about democracy and how the AEF should have balloted on this issue. Can we cast our minds back to the days of Carron and the AEU and the strokes he pulled on the union's policy regarding defence. It was the joke of the year the

AEU could always face two ways under Carron. The difference being of course that Carron was classified as a statesman.

The AEF national conference decided by a 31-30 majority on strike action, that's a majority, if it had been the other way, 31-30 against, the question of a ballot of the AEF would never have been mentioned. Who would have said 'that on such a narrow vote the members are entitled to ballot for a strike'?

Wilson and the Labour Party are worried sick, not about the engineers' basic wage, but the effect of such a strike on the chances of the Labour Party being returned at the next General Election. But perhaps nearer than that, eighteen days to the Bassetlaw by-election with its 10,428 Lab. majority, which is a marginal seat these days.

What exactly does the AEF want? It wants its skilled workers' basic wage to rise to £20 per week over three years. I hate to think what £20 will be worth in three years. The employers have offered to consolidate to £17 10s. in 1971—'big deal!' The AEF, and rightly so, want a realistic basic wage, not to have on the one hand their members scrambling for overtime to make their money up, or on the other hand having their members working

at the whim and fancy of the employers.

The AEF also want three weeks holiday per year—a terrible demand in 1968, when all the bums who are writing attacking the AEF probably get a month. As for the politicians, well their job is one long bloody holiday!

Finally progress towards equal pay; such a demand should not cause much trouble, it is TUC policy. Sorry! the implementation for TUC policy on equal pay is the year 2008. The old cart horse is not so young as he used to be.

And what do the employers want? 'Productivity.' As far as workers are concerned this should be the most obscene word of the 20th century. Employers are rationalising their labour forces as hard as they can go assisted by Government-supported mergers. The outcome of such a policy can only mean one thing. For those in work higher wages for harder work at the expense of their mates without work, and without wages. Productivity is only good when it is controlled by the people who do the producing as with automation. Until that time it is plain suicide. A larger slice of the production cake is of no use, it is all the cake, that only makes sense.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Contact Column

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

Free the Schools! We are proposing to start an anti-authoritarian schools campaign in S.E. London area. Provisionally to start November 1. Please contact A. R. Sadiev, 90 Ermine Road, S.E.13 (or Mike Rasley, Duncan 1572, after 5 p.m.).

Selby Anarchist Group would like to contact Yorks Anarchists with view to discussion/co-operation. Write D. Mackay, Residential Site, Drax Power Station, Drax, Selby.

Some things 6 (Mimeo magazine). Contributions required, poetry or prose, for December issue. MSS with S.A.E. please to Geoff Charlton, Flat 1, 69 Sandon Road, Birmingham 17. Copies of mag. 1/- plus postage (4d.).

Ken McGowan—Split 101, collect bags Jane 93—John.

Harlow Anarchist Fed. need speakers for indoor public meetings. Any offers to: Geoff Hardy, 6 Redricks Lane, Harlow. Please state which evening you would prefer.

Up tight with the draft! Call Support, 278 4994, Monday-Friday, 6.30 to 10.30 p.m. 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

October 27. Accommodation inquiries to Chris Broad, 116 Tyneham Road, S.W.11 (BAT 4086). Also offers of accommodation.

E.L.W. (Burslem) please contact Bob Blakeman, 116 Hassall Street, Newcastle, Staffs.

Anarchist publishers need working manager(ess) to take full charge of office, circulation and distribution. Modest salary and some voluntary help offered. Box 22.

Elliot Automation. Non-violent protest against Vietnam complicity. Information, 3 Caledonian Road, N.1.

Is your group ready for October 27? Flags, banners, etc., made to order. Details from: Hazel McGee, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne, Cornwall.

Birmingham Discussion Meetings. Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. Venue usually at The Crown, Corporation Street. Further information from Peter Neville, c/o Peace Action Centre, Factory Road, Birmingham, 19. (S.A.E.)

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Wages Campaign Gets Going

DESPITE THE LOYAL support given year after year for the Government's Incomes Policy by the leaders of the construction unions, the Prices and Incomes Board have been given permission, by the Government, to delay its report on the wage negotiations until the end of November. This is over a month after the new agreement is scheduled to start.

Even a right wing union official is reported as saying: 'They are just mucking us around. It looks as if they are deliberately withholding the reports. We must have a new labour contract, preferably with a high basic rate by November and will now have to go ahead independently of the PIB.'

The PIB wants the extra time to work out a new wage structure which will prevent wage drift on sites where union organisation forces employers to pay high bonus rates. This new structure could also mean interchangeability and the grading of craftsmen, similar to that of electricians in the industry.

In fact these are some of the concessions that the employers are demanding in exchange for a three year package deal, at the end of which craftsmen would get £17 5s. and labourers £14 14s. They also want the introduction of work study, with a view to reducing bonus earnings and penalties for taking part in strikes or work-to-rules.

The unions have demanded a minimum wage of £15 for labourers and £17 11s. 8d. for craftsmen to be paid this November. This claim, although not high, does represent a considerable increase of 15% on the low basic rates received by construction workers. Union conferences have demanded more and have also come out against any three year tie-up or grading.

After a slow and disappointing start, a wages campaign, organised at rank and file level, has begun to put the case over for such an increase. All of the negotiations have been done under a 'veil of secrecy' and any attempts to get any real information from union leaders have been unsuccessful. National union leaders refused to speak at meetings held at Friends House, Euston Road and Hammersmith Town Hall.

It is important that a national agreement be free of the type of strings attached to the Shell Star agreement, for workers know that these will lead to further unemployment. If the union

leaders of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives concede such strings, then they will be responsible for any addition to the unemployment figures. Before the meeting with the employers on Monday, October 14, they should re-read the editorial of the monthly rag they produce. 'How much longer are we to allow this situation to continue? Is it divinely ordained that construction should always have an unemployment rate more than twice that of all industries? How much longer, indeed!'

Today's lobby of union leaders and demonstration of well over a 1,000 workers shows that determination is mounting to win the full claim. The wages campaign, slow to start, has met with a good response. Large sites like Laings and Turfiris as well as their site at Tay Bridge were prominent, MacAlpines from London Airport and numerous union branches sent delegates. Workers from Liverpool and Manchester were also represented.

We marched from Speakers Corner to the employers headquarters in Cavendish Street, shouting slogans and giving out leaflets.

A deputation saw union leaders and impressed on them that the rank and file wanted no tie-ups or grading, but the straight increase.

A good response from the lads, but while we are still thinking in terms of changing union leadership and putting pressure on them, what will happen when the usual compromise takes place? We should be organising with this in mind.

P.T.

LETTER

Victory for Militants

Dear Comrades,

Following upon the bonus dispute at Stoneywood Mill (FREEDOM, 28.9.68), a new system has been introduced, giving all workers in the Mill 1s. 6d. an hour bonus, replacing the old graded bonus, which varied according to the work a person did and how long he'd been in the Mill.

This change represents a real wage rise for most of the workers of up to 10/- a week, and gives workers in Stoneywood an average of £1 a week more than workers in other paper-mills in the region. Aberdeen. SOGAT MEMBERS.

Freedom For Workers' Control

OCTOBER 19 1968 Vol 29 No 32

THE SHELL STAR LOCK-OUT

UNLESS THERE is an acceptable settlement for over 1,000 men locked out at the Shell Star site by October 16, 8,000 workers on construction sites in the North-west will strike in sympathy.

The Shell Star is a massive £25m. plant being built for the production of nitrogen and compound fertilisers at Ince Marshes, near Ellesmere Port. Work has been going on there for over 18 months, a lonely desolated stretch of marshes alongside the Mersey. As one can imagine, building on this type of ground brought special problems, especially to the workers who had to work in a sea of mud. However, despite the mud, the rain and the cold winds, there were more than enough men willing to work on the site. Liverpool construction workers do not have the luxury of picking and choosing their jobs, for with the high rate of unemployment, they take what is going.

The initial disputes were over conditions on the site, such as toilets, canteens, protective clothing and wellington boots, things taken for granted in many other industries, but which a lot of contractors skimp on. Last May, the stewards negotiated a bonus which Barbara Castle found unsuitable unless it was tied up with productivity strings. This was achieved with the help of her department, the Ministry of Productivity and (Un)employment, the employers and the national officials of unions.

After only two meetings, they reached an agreement entitled 'Productivity, Interchangeability and Avoidance of Disputes'. The agreement gave craftsmen 11/- per hour and their attendant mates 9/3d., with a Productivity and Interchangeability allowance of 2/- per hour worked. This was subject to the completion of an 'average weekly progress rate of 34% of outstanding work' and would be forfeited if any 'unauthorised stoppages or strikes, interference or pressure to prevent other employees working' took place. The agreement, in the words of Roy Jones, a steward on the site, will 're-draw lines of demarcation. Present lines have been drawn to protect jobs, but have also increased the safety of workers by specialisation. For example, the erection of easy-fix scaffolding has been done by one trade, namely scaffolders.

'But as other trades have to wait for its erection, time is lost. Yet lives may be saved as there is evidence that people have died in accidents on easy-fix scaffolding because of its not being the subject of specialisation.

'Solve management problems by interchangeability between trades. This terminology revolves around the question of an "unbalanced labour force".'

LINES OF DEMARCATION

Obviously, if a craftsman is carrying out jobs normally done by other operatives, such as operating 'pumps, motor compressors and other equipment' then the management will need less men. With the present trends in unemployment and the casualness of the industry, these types of agreements are disastrous to construction workers. Any allowance earned could be lost if even a meeting takes place.

The Shell Star agreement is the type that was recommended by the Donovan Commission and is the kind the Wilson Government wants. They are on the increase in other industries as well as the construction industry.

After working this agreement for a month, the men realised just how disastrous it was. Some men were sacked because of interchangeability and at

times the stewards were tempted to advise strike action. The unwillingness of the men to operate the agreement fully and their mounting opposition led the main contractors, Chemical Construction, to sack its entire labour force of 450 men for 'industrial misconduct'. Other operatives quickly came out in support.

Since then, September 6, between 80 and 100 pickets have manned the gates and not only has no work been done, but no lorries have entered the site. The police tried to break up the picket, but their efforts were defeated by a sit-down.

Although this agreement involves unions and workers who are not employed in normal building contracts, such as the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers, Boilermakers and Union of Sheetmetal Workers, men on other contracts have given their support when many sites in the area stopped work for a one day token strike. 2,000 men marched through Liverpool to a meeting at Central Hall, at which a decision was taken to set up a shop stewards' movement for the region.

Speakers at the meeting were very critical of the union officials for signing this agreement and one summed up the general feeling when he said: 'Many officials say they are against the Incomes Policy. But not one of them has marched with us, or is here on the platform.'

AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE CHALLENGED

Stewards, union officials and employers are meeting on October 16 to try to reach a settlement. If none is reached, as mentioned earlier, then other construction workers will give their support. It cannot be stressed enough that the Shell Star type of agreement is being negotiated on many sites and factories and it should be challenged. Construction employers are adding the same strings to their three year pay offer which is now being negotiated at national level. The rejection and defeat at Shell Star is very important for the implications are there for the rest of the industry.

The national Press have realised this as well, for, as far as I know, only the *Financial Times* and the *Morning Star* have given any publicity to the dispute. But what is important is that construction workers in the North-west are realising the implications and are giving their support. Stewards have visited some of the London sites and have been given a good reception. Contacts have been made between stewards which could prove important in any future struggles which may affect the whole of the industry.

Once again the agreement has shown that the trade union leaders are quite willing to go along with the plans of the Government and the employers to hamstring the trade unionists. The whole agreement was foisted on the rank and file without consulting them. Some officials have said that the reason was to avoid any trouble with the Government and that it was only for the duration of the job.

The rank and file, however, thought differently and are putting up a struggle which deserves to get every support. Donations to Bro. P. Herley, 66 Brook Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington, Lancs.

P.T.

STOP PRESS: A settlement has now been reached and a new agreement is to be negotiated this week.