

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 6d

FEBRUARY 15 1969 Vol 30 No 5

Housing the Homeless

THE SQUATTERS' CAMPAIGN continues. Now there are three families rehoused by direct action in London (two in Ilford and one in Notting Hill) and two more houses are held ready for homeless families.

A mass meeting to install families was held last Sunday at 2 p.m. at Manor Park. Over 300 people turned up and marched behind the purple London Squatters' banner to Oaklands Road, Ilford, where two families occupied empty council houses. A third family, the Beresfords, were evicted by the police but it is hoped that another house will be occupied by them by the time these words appear in print.

The mass meeting was the culmination of many weeks' hard work and planning by the London Squatters. For reasons of security many of the details cannot be revealed even now. But it is sufficient to say that no detail was considered too little or that it should concern anybody else but the person being dealt with. Here was organisation at its most efficient that authoritarians can never emulate.

Whereas people thick in the middle of organisation did not know where the occupation was going to take place, the capitalist press and councillors have spent sleepless nights trying to guess our intentions. The *Evening Standard* even reported last week that our plans were foiled by the council who have moved in old folks in empty flats near Manor Park. (We only met in Manor Park, the action was planned in Ilford, of course, but it shows that the council can rehouse people when it is

frightened by direct action! How much longer would the old folks have had to wait if the council did not mistake our intentions!) Another typical (and vile) reaction of the Newham Council was to rip up the floorboards of many empty flats to prevent the squatters moving into them.

Both families are delighted by the action of the squatters, at last they have a home of their own and they are determined to defend it. There was an impromptu meeting in Oaklands Road to celebrate the squatters' victory when a messenger arrived to announce that another house was occupied in nearby Cleveland Road. The great crowd cheered the news to a man!

The houses in Cleveland Road are owned by the GPO and have been left empty for the past two years. A homeless man made a moving speech from one of the windows saying that he and his family have

been without a home for the past four years and he will not move until he is given alternative accommodation. As he was speaking another window went up in another house and a comrade from West Ham announced that yet another house was occupied.

The police at that point decided to throw their weight about and produced a GPO personage to say that this last house was meant for offices and contained documents. The great crowd laughed when a squatter shouted down that the rooms were completely empty except for a 1966 calendar hanging on a wall.

London Squatters want and deserve all the help we can give them. Their address is 128 Hainault Road, E.11 (LEY 8059). They want people for guard duties especially.

The campaign continues!

STOP PRESS Injunctions served on Ron Bailey and 12 others

PICKETS PROSECUTED

THE FARCE of Campbell, O'Kane and Green versus assorted pigs was presented at the petty sessions theatre last week in Belfast. It ran to two performances and may well be revived since the uniformed performers seemed quite keen for a re-run at the earliest possible opportunity. O'Kane's case was open and shut—five witnesses attesting that he had been neither disorderly nor obstructive, while the two gentlemen in blue provided the necessary comedy element by

at the demo walking around looking at people's legs.

Roger Green, pacifist, Quaker and student, was found guilty of kicking the star performer, the omnipresent pig of the week, Laird the boot. This remarkable man has eyes in the back of his head which enable him to give marvelous evidence. When Green tentatively mentioned that it would have been rather difficult to have kicked the gentleman in question, since he was ten feet from him and with thirty demonstrators interposed when the unfortunate gentleman apparently sustained his fall, the witness Responsible senior citizens who offered character witness were of course ignored and his fines totalled £50 while he was bound over for two years. Urgent help is needed to raise money for these fines and the numerous other ones which will inevitably be doled out after the cases arising out of Newry are 'heard' next week.

The only consolation was that about 20 students witnessed this pantomime, some of whom had hitherto naively believed that it might be possible to get 'justice' in the majesterial courts of 'law'. A pity the entire student body had not been there—there's nothing like a farce to fertilize the ground.

P.S.—New petty victimization. M. Farrell of the PD is now going to be charged with damaging a pig-wagon to the tune of £2 0s. 6d. on the long march. As yet there is no news of the 500 'Christians', who smashed up young girls and old women as well as assorted students at Burntollet, being charged. Doubtless the fact that many were 'B' Specials and prominent local citizenry, including the odd cleric and Corporal Bunting, has something to do with this.

REV. AUGUSTUS BERKE.



Photo by Serena Wadham

Italy—Crisis of Leadership

THE ITALIAN STATE is facing a leadership crisis. For years the political parties have been unable to form a Government from their own ranks. Coalitions have been the rule rather than the exception. One reason for this is that the Communist Party in Italy is the largest in the Western world and at the last General Election, they got 8m. votes and 177 deputies were elected to Parliament.

However, despite this lack of firm political leadership and direction, Italy is, according to one of its bankers, 'the world's third richest country', for since France's decline, Italy's gold reserves have placed her behind the United States and Germany. Italy's economy, like Germany's, has a persistent balance of payments surplus and, like Germany, they refused to revalue last November.

But despite this rosy economic picture, which Britain's Labour Government is trying to emulate, there is widespread discontent amongst workers, peasants and students. Unlike this country, their Government has not clamped down on wage increases, since these will create demand, which in turn will take up the considerable slack that exists in the economy. In turn, this will give work to some 600,000-odd unemployed. Of course protests, wage increases and higher pen-

sions are all right if they can be kept under control. This is the crucial question for any State, whether in the West or the East.

ONE DAY GENERAL STRIKE

Last week the Italian State faced its biggest strike since the war. Eighteen million workers stopped work for one day and virtually brought the country to a standstill. Although the strike was of a short duration, such a show of solidarity is an example of what can be achieved and that once men and women feel strong enough on an issue, then there is no greater power.

However, this show of strength was not for any revolutionary aim, but for increased pensions. The unions, the Socialist Communists (CGIL), the Social Democratic (UIL), and the Christian Democratic (CISL), are all claiming a pension of 80% of a worker's wage at retirement. Negotiations with the Government and the employers were near to an agreement and there was some surprise that the strike took place. The explanation seems to lie, once again, with the question of control, for just as there is a crisis of leadership in the Government, so there is one in the trade unions. This is especially marked in the Communist union and Party. Now that the

Communist Party is more open, the rivalries and splits have occurred. This looser, freer and more open atmosphere has meant that the leadership is now under constant pressure from below.

OCCUPATION

The strike was not just a stoppage, but was also marked by demonstrations in practically all towns. In Genoa, 5,000 workers occupied the main railway line. The police were called in to clear the lines and some clashes occurred. Agricultural workers have also clashed with the police when they blocked the Rome-Naples railway at Fondi in their protest over the pricing of oranges. Textile workers are also planning strike action after employers refused to negotiate until 5,000 workers at the Maryotho plant at Valdarno call off their occupation.

Italy has long had a high strike record, often these stoppages have been very militant. Anarchist and syndicalist methods are still prevalent and are increasing of late. In the past, anarchist ideas had a large following and a still wider influence. In the present crisis of trade union and Government leadership, the economic demands now being put forward could become of a revolutionary nature.

P.T.

TENANTS & STUDENTS ACT TOGETHER

THE FOLLOWING account is based on a paper read to the Community Action Union Conference, January 4/5, 1969. The report is too long to be published in full.

The Abercromby Ward Tenants' and Residents' Association was already in existence in July, 1968. The meetings however were sparsely attended, although it was in a ward containing some of the worst slums in the country. Some promises had been extracted all the same from local councillors in connection

with the clearance plan. The Abercromby Community Council was of no assistance. It believes in action from above downwards.

The Association had gained most of its know-how from the Amalgamated Tenants' Associations Co-ordinating Committee, which had fought the Corporation over the April rent increases and gained significant concessions from the Government.

Liverpool University is situated in the middle of Abercromby Ward. Its

magnificent new buildings tower over decaying streets, which are mostly scheduled for demolition. Many students live in this area, and at the beginning of October a handful of them, faced with an exorbitant rent, decided, at the same time as going to the rent tribunal, to contact the Tenants' Association. They agreed with the secretary to publicise the next meeting with a leaflet addressed to all student-tenants in the area. Though only about six people turned up, the foundations were

laid for something much bigger. At the same time the University Shelter Group were considering starting a tenants' rights campaign, and the Liverpool Anarchist Group were considering the possibility of creating a playspace on a site in the ward by direct action. People from both these groups were present at this meeting. An agreement was made to put out another leaflet on November 9.

At the next meeting tenants arrived from derelict Melville Place. They described the appalling conditions there, and said they were paying rent to the University. The students were surprised to learn this. During the discussion someone suggested that the tenants should stop paying the rent. They decided to try this, and to withhold their rent from that Thursday.

Meanwhile the students undertook to find the responsible party in the University, and located the office of Mr. Higby, the University Estates and Development Officer. The students discovered that while the University owns

the property, it is managed for them by Liverpool Improved Houses Ltd., a voluntary housing trust, who are responsible for getting the contractors to do the repairs. The University foots the bill. Tenants had been complaining to the LIH Rent Collector for months, but could never get to see the people at the head of either LIH or the University, and adequate repairs were not done. They were being kept in the dark regarding rehousing. The houses were in a dangerous condition, ceilings leaking and floors on the slope. Mould and rats were plentiful.

The tenants accepted gladly that the next meeting should be at the Students' Union. The students manage the publicity for meetings, putting up posters in pubs, hospitals and cafes in the area, and distributing 2,000 leaflets every fortnight. In addition, by virtue of contacts in the School of Architecture, it was possible to get hold of confidential documents from the planning department concerning the redevelopment.

Continued on page 4

books

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Freedom Bookshop

Write or Come!

Editorial office open Friday, February 14, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, February 17, 2-8 p.m.

Telephone: BISHOPSGATE 3015.

New temporary address: 84a 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

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- Berkman's ABC of ANARCHISM 2/6 (+5d.)
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- Woodcock's THE WRITER & POLITICS 7/6
- Annual Volumes of Selections from FREEDOM 1952-1964
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Shake-up in Cambridge

THE BEGINNING of the year found Cambridge political groups in the traditional trough of impasse: the Free University weekend conference sanctioned by the authorities dribbled to its futile conclusion, enlivened only by an angry exchange about the rôle of 'leaders' between Dave Widgery (of Oz) and Perry Anderson. The anarchists met three times a week and considered some fine nebulous topics such as the effects of violence in the struggle for anarchism; or simply partook of collective self-ridicule over a cup of coffee. We had failed to break free of the authoritarian clock (the mechanism of which is regular work supervision), nor the continual package of entertainment spectacle. Without this liberation, a mailing list of over sixty was of little use.

Fragmentation ceased on January 29 when action sparked off by the LSE crisis culminated in the occupation of the Council Chambers in the Old Schools in the city centre. University politics was shaken out of its cocktail-party-joke milieu by the first sit-in to be held at this seat of learning (at any rate within living memory). During the forty hours

LEFT IN THE LURCH

Dear Comrade,

Why does FREEDOM need to smear the IS Group? The item in your last issue, 'Left in the Lurch', is wrong in fact and obviously jaundiced and motivated by political spite.

Facts: I was sacked as reported and that night I raised the question at an IS public meeting of about 70 people, many of them non-members. Certainly some were not as interested as they might have been, not surprising considering the nature of the meeting. It is true that one IS man (whose politics are closer to those of FREEDOM than *Socialist Worker*), criticised my tactics as 'Sticking my neck out'. Whether or not one agrees with his views or that the correct time and place for their expression was at the public meeting, as a militant building worker he at least has the moral right to hold them, and it has nothing at all to do with the end of term. (There are more IS workers than Anarchist workers anyway.)

I was not only given moral support, but an IS member was delegated at and by the meeting to help me produce a leaflet for the factory. This proved unnecessary, however, as I was reinstated almost immediately — not 'As

luck would have it' but because the management capitulated before the action of the workers.

So your story is a lot of crap—that is, exaggerated gossip (possibly inspired by my own indignation at the builder's attitude, but your correspondent should have checked). Any gossip is bad, written down and printed it is a liability only to those responsible.

But why smear IS? Surely the reason is pique because IS is taking many young people away from your own periphery. Previously many young would-be revolutionaries were easily drawn into the world of impotent phrase-spinning and sterile middle-class self-indulgence and attitudinising that is the sum total of the Anarchist movement (with the possible exception of a few of the syndicalists).

Now, by its flexibility and anti-authoritarianism it is able to attract and educate such people and educating them politi-

caly, not merely to dream about the final overthrow of the state but also how to begin to fight effectively for the first major step in its achievement — the Power of the Working Class.

No wonder you resort to smear tactics, it's all there is left to you!

JOHN GAFFNEY,
(Manchester IS).

Cheetham, Manchester 8.

Manchester replies

Dear Comrades,

We would like to reply to the letter, supposedly written by John Gaffney (actually written by Sean Matgamna of the Trotskyist faction of Manchester IS), in reply to the article by North West Worker, 'Left in the Lurch'.

This article was written based on the facts which John Gaffney told us on the evening after the IS meeting. At this meeting, about two-thirds of the attendance were members of IS. We have it on authority that the matter of John's sacking was brought up at the beginning of the meeting, but was referred back to later on in the evening. As the IS claim to be a militant industrial-based grouping (or party?), one would think that this would be a matter of great importance. Perhaps this is a reflection of the fact that IS is a

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

group composed of mainly students and assorted people who have joined the organisation because it is the nearest thing to Labour Party type social democracy. Yes, Sean, the IS is flexible, to the point of being opportunist. Anyone with opinions left of the Liberal Party will find a comfortable niche in one of the many and varied factions of IS.

It is also extremely debatable whether there are more workers in IS than among the Anarchists. Perhaps the IS believe their own mythology and think that Anarchist capitalists exist!

A certain building worker may have accused John of 'sticking his neck out' and that the views of the person are near to Anarchism, but surely a single statement cannot be taken as representative of libertarian ideas.

It is true that John Gaffney was not reinstated just by luck, but because of the action of the workers. However their attitudes are because of John's libertarian socialist ideas influencing the workers, not through any militant action by IS. The workers were quite capable of acting for themselves, without the need for 'correct leadership' which so-called revolutionary parties insist is necessary.

Sean asks 'why smear IS?' He knows quite well the reputation for political dishonesty which Manchester IS has. They have consistently adopted a policy of either controlling completely or smashing broad-front organisations such as VSC or RSSF. They have collected money, supposedly for playgrounds in Moss Side, and used the money for political purposes for their group. Whenever any kind of left wing activity occurs in Manchester, IS claim credit for it.

It has now reached the stage when most of the left organisations in Manchester find it impossible to work with IS.

IS is not taking members from the Anarchist group, which is growing at the moment. On the contrary, many members of IS are becoming thoroughly pissed off with the methods used by IS and are leaving, often becoming interested in libertarian ideas.

Our attitude to John Gaffney is that he should not complain to us about the views of his organisation, if he is not prepared to defend his opinion. It is our view that John is submitting to pressure from the right wing of IS in signing this preposterous letter.

Yours fraternally,
JAN MARSDEN, RON MARSDEN, JANET HARRIS, FELIX PHILLIPS, PHIL ROBERTS, BEN SMITH, SUE WARNOCK.

Manchester 14

We are satisfied that our comrades acted rightly on the information they received. It is not the first time that 'group loyalty' has put unbearable pressure on the individual—EDITORS.

Contact Secretary: CRAWLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Richard Ashwell, 87 Buckswood Drive, Gosops Green, Crawley, Sussex. SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP (see details under Student Groups).

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION
Meetings every 8 weeks. Next meeting February 2. Secretary: Colin Beadle, c/o Oakwood Farm, Cliffe-cum-Lund, Selby, Yorkshire. Look out for 'Liberty'!

HALIFAX: David Stringer, c/o Paul Simon, 91 Essex Street, Parkinson Lane, Halifax.

HULL: Jim Young, 3 Fredericks Crescent, Hawthorn Avenue, Hull.

KEIGHLEY: Steve Wood, 26B Cavendish Street, Keighley.

LEEDS: Direct Action Society. Contact John Boudwood, 142 Brudenell Road, Leeds, 6.

SHEFFIELD: Dave Jeffries, c/o Students Union, Western Bank, Sheffield, 10.

YORK: Nigel Wilson, Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York.

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

SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 22 Glanmor Road, Uplands, Swansea. Weekly meetings, 'Freedom' sales and action projects.

LLANELLI: Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llwynnydd 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.

Active groups in: LEYTONSTONE, STEPNEY, NEWHAM, ILFORD, DAGENHAM, WOODFORD AND LIMEHOUSE.

STUDENT GROUPS
ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY GROUP. C/o Ian and Peggy Sutherland, 8 Eslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, AB2 4SL.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Matthew Robertson, Trinity College, or John Fullerton, Jesus College.

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Francis Jarman, Red Brick Lodge, 49 Upper Rock Gardens, Brighton. Meetings every second Thursday jointly with Brighton Group; bookstall every Monday outside J.C.R., 12-2.30 p.m.

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

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

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

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact us at the bookstall in the Students Union Foyer every Friday lunchtime.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Francis Casline, Pembroke College, or Steve Watts, Trinity College.

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY. Contact Mike Don or Bill Jamieson, c/o University Union,

Anarchist Federation of Britain

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press, Sunday evening meetings at the 'Metropolitan' (corner of Clerkenwell Road and Farringdon Road), 7.30 p.m. Next meeting Sunday, February 16. M. J. Walsh: 'Disunity is Strength'.

EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Lindsay Withler, 19 Aylmer Road, Shepherds Bush, W.12.

HARINGEY. 'Siege of Sidney Street Appreciation Society'. Meet Wednesdays, 8 p.m., at A. Barlow's, 2a Fairfield Gardens, 'Crouch End', N.8.

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

PORTOBELLO ROAD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings and activities contact Mr. T. Plant(?) 10 Thackeray Road, East Ham, E.6. Tel: 552 4162.

Forward with Finch's Anarchists. Regular meetings. Contact P.P., 246 Portobello Road, W.11.

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.

Every Monday at A. Barlow's, 2a Fairfield Gardens, Hornsey, N.8. (Siege of Sidney Street Appreciation Society).

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

BEXLEY ANARCHIST MOVEMENT. Steve Leman, 28 New Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2. Tel: ET 35377. Meetings every Friday, 8 p.m., Lord Bexley, Bexleyheath Broadway.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary, c/o Birmingham Peace Action Centre, Factory Road, Birmingham 19. Libertarian discussion groups held 8 p.m. on each Tuesday at 'The Crown', Corporation Street (Opp. Law Courts), Birmingham City. S.a.e. to Secretary for details.

BOLTON. Get in touch with John Hayes, 51 Rydal Road, Bolton.

BOURNEMOUTH AREA. Local anarchists can be contacted through Nigel Holt, Rossmore, Harvey Road, Canford, Wimborne, Dorset. (Wimborne 2991).

CORNWALL ANARCHISTS. Contact Arthur Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Discussion meetings on the second Friday of each month at Brian and Hazel McCree'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 Oller, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath (LIV 7546).

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

HERTS. Contact Val and John Funnell, 10 Fry Road, Chells, Stevenage.

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

LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 'The Crescent King Street Leicester'.

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 Ore-ways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson. Next off centre meeting Greenways, Saturday, March 1, 5 p.m., 'What to do about Violence in Education'.

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

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION
Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Peter Newell (see N.E. Essex Group).
Group Addresses:—

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

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

CHELMSFORD. (Mrs.) Eva Archer, Mill House, Purligh, 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-WEST FEDERATION
Secretary: Rob Wilkinson, 73 Trafford Street, Preston. Next federation meeting March 29/30.

CHORLEY. Contact Kevin Lynch, 6 Garfield Terrace, Chorley.

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE. Contact Les Smith, 192 Euston Road, Morecambe, Lancs. Meetings Mondays at 8 p.m., Phil Woodhead's, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Regular literature sales.

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

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. 'The Secretary', 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14. Regular weekly meetings. Contact Secretary for venue.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHISTS. Meetings every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at 118 High Park Street, Liverpool 8. Contact: Chris Kneath, Basement, 52 Belvidere Road, Liverpool, L3 3TQ.

PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact J. B. Gowburn, 140 Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston. Meetings: 'The Wellington Hotel', Glovers Court, Preston. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

SURREY FEDERATION
G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom, Surrey. Groups and individuals invited to associate.

SUSSEX FEDERATION
Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tilbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.

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

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JAN MARSDEN, RON MARSDEN, JANET HARRIS, FELIX PHILLIPS, PHIL ROBERTS, BEN SMITH, SUE WARNOCK.

Manchester 14

We are satisfied that our comrades acted rightly on the information they received. It is not the first time that 'group loyalty' has put unbearable pressure on the individual—EDITORS.

OXFORD ROAD, Manchester, 13. SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY. Contact Robin Lovell at the Students' Union.

LSE ANARCHIST GROUP. C/o Students' Union, LSE, Houghton Street, W.C.2. Read and sell 'Beaver'.

KINGSTON COLLEGE of Technology, Penrhyn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. Contact G. Wright.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION
All correspondence to Dave Coull, secretary, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden, Montrose, Angus.

ABERDEEN ANARCHIST GROUP. Bob Comrie, 288 Hargate or Ian Mitchell, 3 Sinclair Road.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Lynn, 12 Ross Street, S.E. or Joe Embleton, 26 Kirkland Road, N.W.

EDINBURGH. Tony Hughes, Top Flat, 40 Angle Park Terrace, Edinburgh 11.

HAMILTON AND DISTRICT ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Linton, 7a Station Road, New Stevenston, Motherwell.

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

NORTHERN IRELAND
BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Meetings every Saturday, 2 p.m., 44a Upper Arthur Street (top floor). 'Freedom' sales.

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 4 389, Sydney South, NSW 2000. Phone No. 69-8095. Open discussion and literature sale in the Domain—Sunday, 2 p.m. Call at 59 Eveleigh Street, Redfern, NSW 2015 for personal discourse, tea and overnight accommodation.

BELGIUM. Groupe du journal Le Libertaire, 220 rue Vivigis, Liège.

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

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, c/o 24-160 East 20th, N. Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel: 985 7509 or 987 2693.

USA: VERMONT. New Hampshire Anarchist Group. Discussion meetings, Actions. Contact Ed. Strauss, RFD 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

TORONTO LIBERTARIAN ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 TorYork Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

PROPOSED GROUPS
THE MALATESTA GROUP meeting Thursday, February 20, 7.30 p.m. C/o Reg Beard, 5 Welbeck Court, Addison Bridge Place, W.14 6Q3 0550.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE. Interested friends contact Chris Segar, 8 Moorland Way, Mansfield.

READING. Libertarian and Anarchist group would like to contact fellow anarchists in the district and in the university. C/o 57 Kilm Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire.

ROCHDALE, BURY & OLDHAM areas. Those interested in libertarian activity contact David Purdy, c/o 35 Balmoral Drive, Darn Hill Estate, Heywood, Lancs.

WATFORD. Anyone interested please contact Ronnie Anderson, 31 Marlborough Road, Watford, Herts.

Mutual Aid for Revolution

WORKERS' MUTUAL AID by John Lawrence. Published by Fred Emmet, 35 Micheldever Road, S.E.12. Price 1/-.

'WORKERS' MUTUAL AID was started at a meeting of London workers, mainly builders, printers and engineers, in October 1968. Its objects are to advise that no trust be placed in politicians and political parties, and to encourage independent action by workers themselves to secure control of their own lives, and to give help to all who fight for better wages and working conditions, shorter hours and less hard work and more free time. Membership is open to all who agree with these objects.'

This explanation is printed on the inside of the cover of this pamphlet. The outside is decorated with a picture of a man with a big broom who is sweeping away liberals, Maoists, wage freezes, Tories, Leninism, the House of Lords, HP Sauce, blacklegs and many other things, including even The History of the Twentieth Century.

The term 'worker' is defined thus, in a note:

'Where the terms "working class", "working people", etc., are used, they denote the worker by hand or brain, their wives and families, apprentices and students, etc.'

The author begins by explaining how the Labour government works for the capitalists, just as did the Tory government before it. People are homeless and wages are frozen. The politicians say of course that all this is temporary, mean-

while, work hard, increase production and exports, and all will be well in time.

True, nobody is seriously taken in by all this, but equally they are unable to see a way out. Instead a scapegoat is found, the immigrant. 'The danger now looming is that the anger of the people will be deflected from the real cause of their suffering on to the heads of a defenceless minority. It has happened in history time and time again.' Before the black people came to Britain conditions were just as bad, if not worse. It is the inevitable product of the economic system.

By setting black against white Enoch Powell and his followers hope to divide the working class against itself. In fact the shortages of housing, etc., could be solved in a couple of years, but this would not be profitable in terms of capitalist economics, that's the point. 'There could be abundance for everybody. As a matter of fact, it is perfectly possible right here and now for every human being in the world to have good food, decent housing and a life free from back-breaking toil. The material resources are there, and modern machines (though at present used to put men out of work) could eliminate physical and mental drudgery and cut the working week by half.'

We could have this, instead we have the rat race, pain and suffering. Workers' Mutual Aid wants to see this changed. The producers should be the ones to make the decisions about production. However WMA is not a new political

party. It is opposed to all parties, because they all want to command the workers, they all preach that the making of decisions should be left to leaders. Since the war a succession of Labour governments have not improved conditions for the working people. Most people would by now probably agree that Labour is a fraud, but what about the 'revolutionary' parties? Russia, China and Eastern Europe show that they would be no better, Russia has had a Communist government for fifty years, but the Russian workers are exploited by the state instead of lots of little bosses.

Workers' Mutual Aid is not a trade union. Membership is open to all who accept its objects. The trouble with trade unions is that they accept the existing system and fight for better conditions within it, sometimes against the interests of other workers organised in different unions. Moreover such organisations tend to become bureaucratized. 'From Tolpuddle to the House of Lords' is the heading of this section of the pamphlet.

Mrs. Castle's White Paper on 'reforming the trade unions' is an attempt to legalise an already existing situation. The unions have become in practice state organisations 'with the leaders acting as the jailers of the workers'.

But Workers' Mutual Aid does not want to take over the unions. It is not an organisation of office seekers. It wants to work with people, not for them.

'We shall try to stop modern technology casting men on the scrap-heap—automation must make all our lives

easier, not increase the done queues. We won't go in for "productivity" deals that get some men a few bob extra by putting others out of a job. We won't stand for wage-freezing and, above all, we shall defend anyone who has the guts to take action in defence of the workers' interests. If there are enough Mutual Aid members in the unions they might well change from the docile institutions that they are at present into real instruments of the workers' struggle.'

'Petitioning and appealing is for beggars.' Workers' Mutual Aid proposes that we dig in our heels and fight back. On bad housing, homelessness, eviction, means-testing, wage-freezing, down to what time children go to school, all members of Mutual Aid in the district concerned can quickly come together and decide on what action to take. 'We want an army of active, determined and angry people... a network of Mutual Aid members all over the country.'

'We believe that Mutual Aid is the best way to organise our forces to win a better life right here and now.' It is not proposed in this pamphlet to offer a blueprint of a future society. But wherever men have attempted to take the control of their lives into their own hands they have always created roughly the same kind of thing. Society tends then to be equalitarian. Decision-making is in the hands of the workers themselves. The social units are smaller and decentralised. The big nightmare cities will disappear in the future.

Certainly there will be many problems to be solved. Mutual Aid members will have their own ideas on many of them. There will be more pamphlets to come. Anyone who is interested in joining can fill up a simple form at the back of the leaflet and send it (with 2/6) to the address given at the beginning of this article. **ARTHUR STONE.**

FIFTH COLUMN

Infected with Poison

DAVE POULSON, who wrote defending morality on this page last week, has no wish to enter into a long polemic on the subject. So I will not defend Nietzsche from the charge of infecting me with individualist-anarchist poison—though this seems a little harsh: poor old Superman is already accused of having inspired the Nazis. I will not argue with Kropotkin who has 'stressed the vital importance of morality to a revolutionary credo' although he must have got himself into a terrible tangle in 1914 when he had to explain how war was suddenly morally right.

I will answer Dave Poulson's question: Do I discard the concept of solidarity as glibly as I do that of morality? I will answer it by using a concrete example which will also illustrate my views on morality.

When Stuart Christie was arrested, tried and sentenced in Spain for carrying explosives the anarchists in Britain were divided. Some were not surprised when he was arrested knowing him to be capable of translating his ideas into action; others who did not know Stuart well were amazed and shocked; they thought that only a frame-up by the Spanish police could explain his arrest.

Some had been theoretically in favour of using explosives against the Spanish regime while others had opposed this for a variety of reasons. Naturally the various groups differed somewhat in their immediate reactions.

But whatever their views on the use of explosives and Stuart's 'guilt', British anarchists protested against his arrest, trial, conviction and sentence and worked for his release. They acted in solidarity with him.

There is a convention—not restricted to anarchists—that you help your friends when they're in trouble. I accept this convention. But I would not turn it into a moral rule. I would not regard myself as obliged to help someone merely because he claimed the anarchist label.

One particular issue in the Stuart Christie case illustrates the absurdity of moral generalisations. Some anarchists thought that belief in Stuart's 'innocence' might encourage liberals and others to help him. But those who thought he probably had been carrying explosives when arrested were obviously unable to say 'Stuart is innocent' without lying.

Anarchist Books Group

TALKING of Stuart, I can reveal that his explosive views are to appear in a book. And, talking of books, I can announce the formation of a group to edit anarchist books.

We are now preparing a list of titles for a paperback series. The books will be written by anarchists and sympathisers, edited by members of the group, produced and distributed by a commercial publisher.

If you have any suggestions for individual titles or ideas on how the series should develop, please write to the group, c/o Freedom Press.

Free Communication

ON a much more ambitious scale than the anarchist books group is the Free Communications Group which is open to all workers in newspapers, magazines, television, radio and book publishing. There were 120 at a meeting last week: mainly from newspapers and television, including both reporters and printers, production staff and technicians.

They were there because of their dissatisfaction with the way the media are controlled by a small number of capitalists and bureaucrats. In spite of a few curious references to 'public ownership' most people at the meeting seemed sympathetic to the idea of workers control.

I hope to discuss the Free Communications Group in greater detail next week. Their address is 13a Greek Street, W.1.

One Blaze of Truth

THE day after the LSE students had voted to defy Dr. Adams the *Daily Express* commented:

'From the mass meeting of students at the London School of Economics one blaze of truth emerges: most of them are responsible and intelligent young people. The cranks, anarchists and troublemakers are a noisy handful.'

* The editor of the *Daily Express* has big hands. **WYNFORD HICKS.**

NON-VIOLENCE

LOUIS LECOIN, whom I interviewed in Paris a year or so ago described himself as an anarchist-pacifist. Contradictory, my dear reader? The editor of *Le Monde Libertaire* explained that he supported pacifist and non-violent principles because the free self-regulating society that he envisaged could not suddenly be realised by people who had been trained in regimented violence and had achieved their victory by such means. As early as 1927 Gandhi had stated that deadly weapons would destroy the administrators but would only serve to perpetuate the system.

On the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the assassination of Gandhi, January 30, the year of the centenary of his birth, the Gandhian peace worker and writer Satish Kumar held the inaugurating session of the London School of Non-Violence. He has been working with Vinoba Bhave, present-day leader of the Gandhian movement in India, for 12½ years. He is a member of Shanti Sena, the peace army which engages in guerrilla activities of persuasion and service to convert Indian villages into communalistic equalitarian self-determining village republics and thereby transform the whole of Indian society. At present India has

not the type of independence that Gandhi had worked for. There is a shift of centralised power of government. But the 'Gramdan' way of life which has already been adopted by 40-50 million people, is gaining ground.

Satish Kumar regards it as a model for a non-violent society everywhere. He is taking classes in non-violent politics in London, Cambridge and Oxford. The programme of the London School of Non-Violence will also include sessions on non-violent economics and non-violent sociology, all held in the crypt of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on Mondays and Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m. After the first meeting, Satish said he hoped the sessions would be a forum for dialogue and that not all the people who came would already be convinced. There will be an open meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m. to discuss current topics. The Martin Luther King Foundation that is sponsoring the seminars has also sponsored Satish Kumar's book that introduces the Gandhian ideology of a non-violent society. It is a dialogue between the dubious inquirer and the peace guerrilla whose beliefs spring from principles that have determined his life. The book will no doubt provoke discussion and analysis that will deepen and broaden our understanding and methods. Above all, it conveys the illuminating experience of the life of the Gandhian peace worker in a lively and compelling manner.

HELEN MAYER.

Scottish Conference

Dear Comrades,

The following resolutions have been submitted for consideration by the second conference of the Scottish Anarchist Federation, which will be held at 24 Adelphi, Aberdeen, in two sessions, from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, March 1 and from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, March 2. So far the following groups will be represented—Aberdeen, Montrose, Fife and Edinburgh.

1. Glasgow Anarchists: 'We propose that the idea of clubs be established by the various groups in conjunction with other interested libertarians to promote social, propaganda and other activities of common interest. Where practical and desirable, clubs could organise projects and events in unison.'

2. Glasgow Anarchists: 'We propose that conference should decide to advocate a stoppage of work on May 1 to express solidarity, rather than on the first Sunday in May. We advise, in advocating this, that no one should be committed to do so, unless support is given by fellow workers at the respective places of work.'

3. Andy McGowan (Glasgow): 'That discussion should be made concerning the practical advantages or otherwise of working within the trade unions and trades councils.'

4. Ian Sutherland (Aberdeen): 'That this conference makes a firm resolve to establish a Scottish Anarchist magazine, of a propagandist nature, as soon as possible.'

5. Ian Sutherland (Aberdeen): 'That this conference considers the relations of the anarchist movement with such Marxist bodies as Solidarity and IS, and

gives an indication of how far militants of an anarchist persuasion may work with them.'

6. Ian Sutherland (Aberdeen): 'That this conference, failing the production of such a leaflet by any other group, issues a leaflet on racialism.'

The following topic for discussion on the Sunday session has been received from Aberdeen Solidarity Group, 3 Sinclair Road, Aberdeen: 'That conference discusses the limitations of the British anarchist group and its press.'

Accommodation in Aberdeen is now getting tight and anyone who has not yet decided to come is advised to indicate their intentions quickly. Further resolutions should be sent to me.

Fraternally,

IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

8 Esslemont Avenue,
Aberdeen.

Congratulations!

Dear Comrades,

I have just read the article about James Bell and the Ministry of Employment, etc., and his struggle against them.

Please extend my warmest congratulations and admiration to the Wokingham comrades who helped him. If only more people had their courage.

This is the first time I have ever written to any newspaper, etc.

I hope that there will be more demonstrations of concern and warm solidarity.

Fraternally,

London **COMRADE MIKE EAVES.**
P.S. Though I don't expect you to! Just thanks to the comrades, you helped another human being! Am always ready to help!

in left co-operation. All agreed that it was a success. The next step in the squatters' campaign will be a mass teach-in. Selby Squatters have made quite an impact!

COLIN BEADLE.

PRODUCTIVITY— Stuff It!

SO SAY the steelworkers in the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundry Workers (AEF). Ron Smith, ex-general secretary of the Post Office Workers' Union, now the British Steel Corporation's personnel director, thought he was on a good thing and was hoping to push on with productivity deals for the manual workers.

The Corporation made an offer of an increase—just over 4d. an hour—and with that grand offer they hoped to buy the bloody world. Dropping of cost-of-living increases and shift premiums. In consequence, the AEF steelworkers have ceased talking 'productivity'. Early last year the Corporation started talking 'productivity', some of the union leaders swallowed the bait, but the people who matter, their members, said 'stuff it'.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

PREMISES FUND

Target is £1,000 per year.
1969 Pledges honoured and donations to date: £90 17s. 0d.

MOVING FUND

Target is £500.
Donations to date: £439 14s. 3d.

THANK YOU!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Estimated Expenses:
6 weeks at £90: £540
Income: Sales and Subs.: £478
DEFICIT: £62

PRESS FUND

Hford: G. 6/-; Capetown: Anon £2/7/-;
London, N.8: T.A. 1/6; Llandysul: H.D. 5/8;
Glasgow: A.M. 16/6; Wellington: J.H. 3/-;
Lund: C.B. 2/6; Kirkby Mallory: P.C. 5/8;
Miami: Miami Group Proceeds of Picnic £41;
Cloquet, Minn.: J.C. £1;
Carlton, Vic.: B.H. £4/8/4; Oxford: Anon* 5/-;
Wolverhampton: J.L.* 3/-; J.K.W.* 2/-;
Selby: H.N. 6/6; Leicester: P.M. 5/8;
Glasgow: A.J. 2/8; Arizona: A.J. £4;
F.J. £2.

TOTAL: £58 1 0
Previously Acknowledged: £66 4 11

1969 Total to Date: £124 5 11
Deficit B/F: £62 0 0

TOTAL SURPLUS: £62 5 11

*Denotes Regular Subscriber.

Mr. Freedom

THIS FILM, written, directed and produced by William Klein was given a free preview at the Chelsea Essoldo, prior to opening in the West End.

The film's theme is how 'freedom' is merely a catch word used to justify tyranny and oppression, and there is little about the truth of the matter that escapes the director's observation.

The story shows the adventures of 'Mr. Freedom', an All-American boy, who is sent to Paris to take France for the American empire. Mr. Freedom is garbed in college football kit, with a few extras thrown in from outer space, and the grim humour of the political satire is woven from a comic-strip treatment of the subject.

Some of the dialogue is hysterically funny, particularly the exchanges between Mr. Freedom and his pentagonal boss, Doctor Freedom. The colour camera creates a Paris that none of us have seen before, and is used with great inventiveness, originality, and meticulous attention to detail.

The Great American Dream gets the treatment it deserves, and the symbolism of its soldier-policeman militarist—reliving moments of schoolboy glory, psychopathic, sexually useless—says it all. Klein is much indebted to a dedicated cast, with ears attuned as one to his brilliant script. **I.D.**

SELBY SQUATTERS Impact Made

THE SELBY SQUATTERS, an alliance of anarchists, socialists and liberals, started their direct action campaign off last Sunday.

About a dozen or so people moved into historic Selby Abbey, which is 900 years' old this year, and held a symbolic sit-in. A black flag was affixed to a lamp-post outside the Abbey; a banner inscribed 'Selby Squatters' was laid out on the Abbey floor and the two-hour-long symbolic action had begun.

Church officials started to buzz around like flies, reporters and cameramen flattered about as we handed out leaflets to curious visitors.

Some of the Abbey's visitors were so impressed by our action that they joined in the sit-in to discuss the housing scandal.

The vicar of the Abbey eventually bounded in to discuss the action with the squatters and to calm the officials. The general opinion expressed on the action was one of amazement. ('Selby's got 100 slums?—I can't believe it.') The only hostile reaction was from a local councillor! **I.D.**

The whole demo. was an object lesson

Produce for 'The Sack'

THE MAIN PLANK of Wilson's economic and industrial policy is bearing fruit, increased productivity with rationalisation of labour, 3,500 more workers are to get the sack from the General Electric Company (GEC).

Whilst Wilson and his Labour hatchet men and women pay lip-service to full employment, they know full well that their economic policy needs unemployment if it is to function. To get the desired mobility of labour and the necessary productivity they feel an economic whip is needed, and that whip is

either the sack or the threat of the sack.

Mergers are encouraged by the Government, because here is an opportunity to cut the labour force. The brainwashed economists of the capitalist system tell us that large-scale production is in the public interest, because from it we should obtain cheaper goods. The fact that profits and dividends increase is coincidental. They 'kid' to us that healthy profits mean employment. I know that at least 3,500 people would violently disagree.

In November, 1967, GEC took over Associated Electrical Industries. Since that date 8,000 jobs have been abolished. The new 3,500 to be abolished will bring the grand total to 11,500. When announcing the latest sackings, GEC were quick to point out that the rationalisation was not as the result of the merger but shrinking orders. 'Excess capacity has saturated the international market.'

The production of switchgear is to

cease at Willsgden and Witton. Work being done there will be transferred to other factories where there is already enough capacity to absorb present orders. No doubt we shall hear a plea for increased productivity in these factories or in other words 'produce for the sack'.

Frank Chapple, general secretary of the electricians' and plumbers' union, whose members are involved, was very constructive. He felt there was little that could be done and that the company had argued its case logically. It is not one's enemies that one has to worry about but one's so-called friends.

Clive Jenkins stated that he was not prepared to have his members made casualties of public policy and private rationalisation and that is precisely the situation.

In the Black 'White Paper' 'In Place of Strife', reference is made to Restrictive Labour Practices and how employees see it as a way of protecting their JOBS or maintaining earnings. Need one say any more except bigger and more efficient restrictive practices, or dare one mention shorter hours and a shorter working week without loss of pay?

Let's face it, this wage negotiating lark is an intellectual exercise. Increase in 'money wages' mean nothing, increase in 'real wages' means a change of system, and only when Joe Soap wants the change will it come about, in the meantime the 'Show Goes On' despite the spasmodic withdrawals of the 'supporting cast'.

B.C.

Contact Column

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

Community Research and Action Group meets every Monday at 8 p.m. at 58 High Lane, Manchester, 21. CHO 1788.

Teach-in on Housing. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 5-9 p.m. at West Ham College of Technology. 6-7 p.m. Ron Bailey v. J. Frazer, MP.

S.W. London Schools Action Group. Contact Max Hunt, 83 Kingsmead Road, S.W.2, 674 1556 for aims and activities.

The New Spectre. First issue out. Write to: 3 Abbey Street, Bath.

Freedom in Birmingham! At the Hyperion, 21 Waterloo Street, Birmingham, 2.

Cambridge University anarchists wish to exchange views/experiences with other university groups. We would also like speakers (expenses paid). Write to Paul Sieveking, Jesus College, Cambridge.

Siege of Sidney Street Appreciation Society. Nicolas Walter will be speaking on anarchist co-operation with other groups on Monday, March 3, and not on February 17 as previously announced.

Matrix Lives! Saturday nights at Northgate Youth Centre. Crawley 27275 for information.

Chelmsford Meeting. 'Anarchism Is Humanism'. Speaker: Philip Sansom. Tuesday, March 4, Civic Centre Lecture Room at 7.15 p.m.

Basildon. Will readers and members of Basildon Group please contact (write to) Essex Federation Secretary, Peter Newell, 91 Brook Road, Tiptree, Essex, as Basildon Group Secretary, Mick Powell, has gone to Australia without sending the Fed. Sec. Contact and Group addresses. (Mick Powell wrote us, though.—C.C. Compiler.)

Spare rooms in flat, Ladbroke Grove. Phone 969 8053, now, Marshall Colman, Cathy Edwards, Ros Kane.

Scottish Anarchist Conference in Aberdeen March 1 and 2. Details from Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden.

Birmingham Discussion Meetings. Tuesdays at 8 p.m. At The Crown, Corporation Street. Feb. 18: Review and criticism of L. Tower Sargeant's 'The American Right'. Speaker: Peter Neville. Feb. 25: Godfrey Webster on 'Organisation, Anarchy and Anarchism'.

Poster Workshop, 61 Camden Road, N.W.1. Free silk screen facilities at the service of the class struggle.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMP

Funds are urgently needed. Only a few pounds has come in so far, and £300 is needed.

An article giving full details and information about the Camp will appear in the next 8-page issue. Send money to:

Ann Lindsey,
39 Upper Tulse Hill,
London, S.W.2.

Tenants & Students Act

Continued from page 1

ment scheme. The problem of meeting the needs which emerged during the meetings led to the idea of a community project based on a neighbourhood centre. A house has been found, which could serve as a place to get free legal and welfare advice. Several tenants have already expressed interest in running it, and it could also serve as a place from where the Tenants' Association itself could be run, and other projects such as play programmes. Two possible sites for adventure playgrounds exist. The bill will be sent to the Corporation, which is supposed to provide three acres of playspace for every 1,000 children. Plans for re-development could be put on display and made public.

The problems of bad housing, in which tenants may be living for at least two more winters, are the most pressing that the tenants have to deal with. At the next meeting, on November 20, a lot of people arrived to discuss their problems, following increased leafleting. The whole meeting was a continuous tale of bad conditions resulting from inadequately repaired property, and of frustration from bureaucracy.

The need for a strong Association made itself felt. The meeting was lively if informal. Students took details of the problems of individual tenants and promised to try to do something about them by bringing pressure to bear wherever possible. Letters were written to the relevant councillors, doctors, engineers and surveyors' departments. By a system of cross-referencing and covering letters it was hoped to forestall buck-passing. Although in some cases evasive replies were received, in others action did take place. The need for permanent secretaries made itself felt. It became clear that much effort would be needed to follow up the various problems. The actions of the Association were to be 'regularised' around the fortnightly meetings. The students would still do the publicity, but leaflets would be distributed to a key person in each street, who would then distribute them. Several tenants volunteered. The University Estates and Development Officer was to be invited to attend the next meeting.

Between this meeting and the next one the contractors arrived to start repairs in Melville Place. Not all tenants had withheld rent, and it was those who had got repairs done.

At the next meeting, on December 4, about 50 people were present. The Estates Officer and the Chairman of LIH and the Chairman of the Liverpool Housing Trust were present too. The tenants delivered a spirited attack on the Estates Officer. The University and the LIH were forced to a position of co-operation with the tenants. On the

issue of rehousing they agreed to report to the next meeting on the result of talks they would have with the Corporation.

The meeting became something of a free-for-all. A student took the chair. Constructive work was achieved. Several tenants undertook to write to Councillor Daniels to invite him to the next meeting. A shilling a fortnight was to be paid by each member towards the cost of publicity. The idea of a neighbourhood centre was accepted, and the money collected has been paid into an account opened at the local bank. Weekly meetings were to be held in each street.

The meeting with Councillor Daniels was a success. The Estates Officer came also, and the two other councillors for Abercromby Ward. The councillors, particularly Daniels, were strongly attacked. Councillor Daniels took notes of all the cases put to him, and promised to deal with them. The Estates Officer brought news of his dealings with the Housing Department. The Corporation had undertaken to rehouse the tenants of Melville Place in twelve months. Mr. Higby had written to the chief housing manager reminding him that the houses the Corporation were taking over from the University were in a dangerous condition. He has put himself at the disposal of the tenants in their dealing with the Corporation.

It seems that street groups are gaining in strength, and something like a genuine 'grassroots democracy', call it what you like, is growing up in the area. The part played by students is still a major one, although hopefully it will become less as the tenants build up their own infrastructure of communication.

The students can help in the building up of a network of professional people for advice-giving services at the projected neighbourhood centre. They can use contacts to raise money for the renovation of the house to be used for this, while the tenants are already discussing raffles and jumble sales in this connection. It is hoped that a neighbourhood newspaper could be started as an open news and information bulletin run for and by the people of the area to cover its problems. Students could be of use here. This could contribute to maintaining the cohesion of the community. But the tenants are running the association, and students' ideas are only accepted when the tenants believe them of value. However many of the workers employed in the University are local tenants, and many of the students are tenants themselves, so perhaps the way is open to all of the people of Abercromby Ward to run more of their own environment.

Based on a paper by
BILL HOOPER.

Freedom For Workers' Control

FEBRUARY 15 1969 Vol 30 No 5

THE GIRLS

THE BLACKLEG has always and with justifiable cause been a figure of hatred and contempt among the working class. In the battle for survival, be it strike or lock-out, the spectacle of the police-protected blackleg being escorted through the mine or factory gate for no other purpose than to break the will of the weak sisters has justified whatever violence took place, for in this most primitive and most absolute of all class battles the blackleg was a recognisable enemy. And we wait for that academic thesis on the nature of the beast. But there are times when we can afford to be benevolent or amused as the blushing, blustering stooge is driven through the picket lines to sit out his guilty day in the empty factory to contemplate in sick misery what will be his portion when the strike or lock-out ends and the management, as they have always done, rat on his Judas service.

For our services as labourers are in demand and for a brief while the battle is in our favour. But what can we do about the thirteen women cleaners at the Armstrong Patents plant in York who chose to waltz across the picket lines while a strike over a wage agreement is being fought? Joyce Spark, the shop steward for the 1,000 women production workers, told them that the women members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union would refuse to work with them when the strike issue was settled, but blackleg Dorothy Aylesbury waved a gay hand and told a picket that 'We are quite happy with our wages. We don't want an increase and even if we get one, we'll pay it back to the firm'.

Joyce Spark and the 1,000 women are in the right in their fight but for these 13 kooky characters one should only, at this point in time, treat them as the joke they are and give them one single and collective raspberry on the first Friday they draw their increased strike-won pay and do not hand it over to the governor.

LUMPENPROLETARIAT.

Unrest in Rochdale

ROCHDALE TEACHERS taking part in the National Association of Schoolmasters' work to rule, last week got a threat of disciplinary action from the local council bigwigs.

Last weekend, stout Cecil Smith, Chairman of the Education Committee, local employer, alderman, and Rochdale's very own rags-to-riches success story, warned each of the teachers individually 'that if they refuse to take a class or classes as from next Wednesday morning (12.2.69) disciplinary action will be taken'.

The Rochdale Education Committee has now transferred all power to sack and suspend teachers to Smith and his crony Alderman Fox for the duration of the dispute. An offer by the local teachers' union to call off the work-to-rule, if the Education Committee agreed to support their call for an inquiry into the Burnham Report, has been turned down.

'FLAT CAP'

Last week also saw 1,000 engineering workers at Whip & Bourne, Rochdale, start a work-to-rule. The Whip workers, backed by their unions, are after fetching their pay, well behind local rates, into line with other firms in the area.

The thing is, workers at Whips will now work at 'Flat Cap', that is they will earn only flat rate. Under this kind of go-slow, piecework and time and motion

go for a burton, while workers not attempting to earn bonuses reduce production to an all-time low.

Because of this the firm will be unable to meet orders in time, and will suffer from 'Penalty Clauses', often agreed upon when jobs must be finished within a certain period of time.

WAGES SEE-SAW

Again in Rochdale at David Bridges, the workers have been threatening to strike, if their wages aren't stabilized. Here workers' wages vary according to the sales of certain machines.

With bonuses based on this unreliable source, nobody ever knows what they're going to draw from one week to the next. And many workers feel it unfair that their wages should suffer from bad sales or pricing on the part of the management.

SUBVERSIVE TRUTH

There is hardly a factory, building site or college, where situations of the kind described don't exist. The anarchist propagandist has a job to do in such cases and that is to record the facts, e.g. in FREEDOM, etc.

On the shopfloor the most subversive thing we can do is report the truth as we see it. It was observed by Winston in 1984 that 'The best books are those which tell you what you know already.'

*P. 205, 1984, G. Orwell.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

NO THANK YOU!

AT THE SAME time as the Government introduced its industrial White Paper, Ford Motors announced their own new industrial policy. In exchange for a 5% increase in wages, increased sickness and pension benefits plus two-thirds basic pay for stoppages outside the company, Ford workers were expected to surrender the only real weapon any worker has, 'strike action'. Workers would face a six-month disqualification from receiving guaranteed lay-off pay and sickness benefit if they took part in a strike in breach of the disputes procedure, an overtime ban or a go-slow. This in fact is a blank cheque for Ford's management to play 'bloody hell'!

A Ford spokesman summed the proposal up very neatly when he said, 'Basically we are convinced it is a sound proposal and the extra money it is going to cost will be more (my emphasis) than well spent.' Why? Because any dispute at Ford's could be classified by management as 'breach of disputes procedure'. Secondly, speed up of the belt could be gradually increased without the workers being able to retaliate effectively. Whilst

some would sacrifice lay-off pay, etc., for six months, very many more would think twice.

It is reported that the Ford's package deal received a cool reception from the shop stewards. One's right hand is a valuable asset.

ON FEBRUARY 20, union officials meet Ford management to discuss the company's package deal. It is reported that the company is considering increasing its 5% offer. Union leaders are pressing for 10%.

Union leaders share, with the company, concern about unofficial strikes, but even they are sceptical about 'the strings' to the package deal.

Ford shop stewards are under no illusions about 'the strings'. Three hundred of them agreed to recommend a total stoppage of work from February 24 unless the outcome of the February 20 talks are satisfactory. Obviously the union leaders have their mandate; any variance and they know the consequences.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.