

Freedom

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GUILTY UNTIL FOUND INNOCENT?

IN A SOUTH LONDON prison there are about two hundred prisoners; they are allowed to wear their own clothes, they can have cigarettes, beer and food sent in, they can have books and newspapers, they can have two visitors a day at least, more for legal purposes; they need do no work. This sounds like a middle-class nightmare of a holiday-camp prison. Nevertheless, all these privileges can, with the fearsome alchemy of the Prison Commissioners be turned into punishments or a complex obstacle race.

Laundry must be brought in by the prisoners' friends and relatives but dirty clothes cannot be taken away until clean ones have been supplied. Food may be sent in as an alternative not as an addition to prison diet (sweets are allowed but not biscuits). Every item sent is examined for contraband smuggling, eggs have been known to be cut in half. Saccharines were forbidden as they were classified as 'drugs'. Beer or wine are allowed but not spirits. Beer is decanted and left in the cell for about half-an-hour. Facilities for heating food appear to be rather primitive and not always available. Rolls are allowed but sandwiches are barred—who knows what they might contain? Food can be sent in as a meal from a local restaurant—which seems to have a monopoly—the cost is 13/6 for two meals.

Books sent in must be new paperbacks. 'Pornography' says the list in the food reception office 'is not allowed'. It would be odd if HMP allowed what the DPP bans. However this could indicate a censorship by HMP—I was once asked by a prison officer if *The Brothers Karamazov* was sexy or smutty. I told him I didn't remember. Local newspapers are not allowed; apparently one is not allowed to read news of one's own case.

Both one's visitors must arrive at the same time. Visits are made in the usual conditions of speaking to someone through a grille in a small cubbyhole. At the same time all the adjoining booths are occupied with conversing visitors so the acoustics—the invention of the microphone seems to have bypassed HMP and her Police Courts—leave something to be desired. Paranoics believe that the microphones are secreted in the ceiling. These visits are not allowed on the days when people can be expected to have free time for visits—no Sundays, Good Friday or Christmas Day and no evening visits!

These friends visiting must be 'respectable'—whatever that means and yet, when queuing up for visiting permits, one is asked loud and clear what one's name and address is so that many of the people standing around can absorb this information. The shock given to some 'respectable' people in finding that their friends and relatives are just as likely to get into 'trouble' as the criminal classes—whoever they are!—is added to by being forced to divulge aloud one's address.

However, the usual bureaucratic inefficiency prevails and from time to time prisoners get lost—within the prison—or, more frequently, are away at court on the day that visitors arrive. Bureaucratic efficiency is seen in operation when the rules and regulations are interpreted vigorously and visitors are turned away because they arrive too late, or because the quota has been filled. Gifts brought along with more love than regard for regulations are returned because the appropriate rule has not been conformed with. One

senses the usual totalitarian atmosphere. 'Everything that is not forbidden is compulsory'.

But hovering over everything is the climate of prison—the depressing surroundings, the inevitable dirt, the unappetizing food, the emotional turmoil, the non-selective companions and, worst of all, the lack of freedom, lack of chosen contacts, lack of varied living, lack of a sex-life, lack of the majority of amusements. The cynical utterance of an officer 'You're here for punishment, not for nourishment' was never more true. The deprivation, humiliation and degradation of this life is more bitter since the tantalizing fruits of liberty are dangled in the privileges of being 'on remand', only the substance of liberty is lacking.

For in this prison all the inmates are innocent. They have not yet been found guilty. In such circumstances a man may remain for six months providing that every eight days he appears before a magistrate who can remand him for a further eight days until the prosecution (i.e. the police) are ready to 'go to trial'. This process may in itself take three months if you are unfortunate enough to arrive in remand cells at the wrong time. One of the rewards of the guilty is that terms served on remand are deductible from sentences—if, in fact you are found to be innocent, the time served is 'just your hard luck, mate!'

The mere fact that one has been detained 'on remand' is sufficient to carry associations of guilt in the minds of many people. A reaction is 'he must have done something otherwise he'd never have been in there'. It is not unknown for persons to be detained on remand for a longer period than that usually given when found 'guilty' of the offence.

The simple facts of the remand system are sufficient to destroy the fond British illusion taught to us in civics, 'everyone in British law is innocent until they are found guilty'. Apart from questions of frame-ups, false evidence, perjury and mistaken identity, the two hundred remands in Brixton are a repudiation of this illusion.

JACK ROBINSON.

Alan Barlow and Phillip Carver are expected to go for trial this Thursday. Alan has so far not been granted bail and until he does he will be on remand. Meanwhile money is needed for remand comforts and for defence costs, which will be high.

Solidarity with Squatters!

LAST WEDNESDAY Ron Bailey and Dermuid Breamach were arrested and charged with 'malicious damage' after being caught in a house that had been empty for two years and was due for demolition in a redevelopment scheme.

Ron was released next day on bail but Dermuid was refused bail on the grounds that he has broken his last bail in which he promised to refrain from entering empty properties. He is held in Ashford Remand Home until the case comes up this Wednesday.

The campaign continues in Ilford despite police and council harassment.

May Day is Workers' Day



May Day March 1968.—This year's march meets at Tower Hill 11.30 a.m., then on to Victoria Park for a day's enjoyment.

IN BOTH AMERICA and the Soviet Union, May Day is celebrated: by official parades of floats and bands in the former, and by displays of military might in the latter. In this country, however, many people connect May Day with the maypole and Morris dancing.

But May Day, May 1, has been the traditional day when workers refused to work for their employers. The idea originated in America and formed part of a campaign by the American Federation of Labour in their struggle for an eight-hour day. This campaign grew from the bitter and bloody strikes which had taken place earlier in Chicago where, in 1886, the workers were fighting for the same demand of an eight-hour day. In those struggles, six men were killed by the police and many protest demonstrations followed. At one of these, when police were once again preparing to open fire, a bomb was thrown into their ranks. This and the subsequent gunfire between workmen and police resulted in the death of eight policemen and twenty workers.

Eight anarchists, who had played a prominent part in the strike, were arrested and accused of the murder of these policemen. Seven were later sentenced to death, four finally being hanged and a fifth committing suicide. At a later enquiry into the case, a flagrant breach of justice was revealed and those men still in jail were released.

In 1889, at a Congress in Paris, May 1 was adopted as a day of general strike, when workers would demand the reduction of the working hours to eight per day. From its first adoption, May Day has been a manifestation of international solidarity. May Day, 1890, became the first day when workers stopped work and showed their solidarity with their brothers in all lands.

However, nowadays, the internationalism that linked workmen and their struggles has almost been forgotten. Two world wars have turned the labour movement in on itself to become mainly nationalistic and, in most cases, only conscious of material gains. The enormous injustices that workers faced in the past and which bound them together have been overcome. They are still exploited, but not in such an open, ruthless and callous way. But because workers are exploited, told

what to do, pushed around, sacked, etc., there is still a need for May Day. Workers throughout the world have more in common with each other than with their rulers and employers. The exploitation may differ from country to country, but only by degree. By comparison, a worker here may be more wealthy than his counterpart in Brazil, but he nevertheless occupies the same social position.

STATE INTERVENTION

Many an industrial struggle has been fought over the State's intervention or restrictions on the labour movement. Throughout history, the State has stepped in with its laws, police and armies when the people were demanding social justice or where a threat to the present established order existed. State intervention is nothing new. From their inception, trade unions have had to contend with it.

It was because of the increasing intervention, by means of the wage freeze legislation, that, two years ago, a small group of print workers in Fleet Street revived the idea of May Day as a workers' day. A May Day Committee was set up to make the strike and demonstration planned for the next year a much bigger success and in this they succeeded. Once again, the May Day Committee has put a lot of work in to achieve an even bigger turnout this year.

It is becoming more and more obvious that workers will have to fight not only the employers, but also the plans of the Labour Government for State control of the labour movement. The control over wages may well be relaxed, but in its place will come much tighter controls. The policy put forward in 'In Place of Strife' would firmly shackle workers because it encroaches on the weapon of strike, which is the only one the workers have. The plans are aimed not so much at the unions as such, but at the workers who are prepared to struggle for demands. They are meant to curb the militancy and independence that so often erupts in industry today. The Government is not worried about the 5% official strikes, but about the unofficial 95%.

FACE THE SAME PROBLEMS

Faced with increasing competition, the employers in all countries

turn to the State for assistance to keep workers in line. Measures of this nature are to be found in other countries, so, in fact, the struggle is an international one because workers face the same problems. Employers the world over, whether nationally, or on an international scale, such as Fords with factories in many countries, are trying to increase their profits at the expense of their workers. Increased productivity, modernisation and rationalisation, have brought further exploitation, worsening of conditions and the sack.

With the assistance of the State, the employers have carried out their plans. The May Day Committee leaflet says: 'If we are not to become absolute slaves of the State, we must resist—and what better day to start this resistance than May Day—Workers' Day—Thursday, May 1.'

This is in fact happening because workers are waking up to this. The Liverpool Trades Council, Surrey AEF shop stewards and London dockers are calling for action on May Day. I hope those in London will join the May Day Committee's rally at Tower Hill and march with us to 'Victoria Park and enjoy the rest of the day with music, dancing, games, plays, etc. No violence, no appealing to Parliament—just a solid act of defiance by taking the day off, enjoying ourselves and showing both the employers and the Government that we are not yet the slaves they would like us to be.'

Unlike the Communist Party who want to 'recall the TUC', there will be no appeals to leaders, either left or right, and no lobbying of MPs. Both the London Federation of Anarchists and Freedom Press are supporting the May Day call and we urge readers and comrades to help in any way they can.

The May Day Committee needs help in the distribution of leaflets at factories, building sites, meetings and trade union branches. Raise support in your trade union or at work. Any donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Help and donations to John Lawrence, 29 Love Walk, S.E.5. P.T.

FREE SCHOOLS IN ABERDEEN

IN A 'FREEDOM' ARTICLE a few months ago, the Aberdeen militant 'Peter the Painter' mentioned a move to distribute free schools literature at the school of Mr. Goldie, who objected so loudly a couple of years ago to anarchist propaganda circulating among his pupils. On Friday, March 21, this freedom-loving head got a new headache, courtesy of 'Peter the Painter', in the form of dozens of Free Schools Campaign leaflets and copies of the Free Schools Educational Supplement. Several of his pupils, who don't share his own good opinion of himself, have said they will write something for a future edition. 'Peter the Painter' has gladly promised to turn up outside their school and sell it for them. Get ready on the line to squeal to the local Tory press, again Comrade Goldie.

At another school on the same day, Peter hove in sight, and dumped another load of educational dynamite. Jack Marshall, ultra-authoritarian head, will also have a headmaster-sized headache soon.

ALBERT LIBERTAD.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKET?

Anarchist May 2 Ball at Shoreditch Town Hall. Groups include 'The Deviants', 'Blonde on Blonde' and 'Dr. K's Blues Band'. Tickets now available. £1 double, 12/6 single. Licensed bar (extension applied for). Please get your tickets early from Digger, c/o Freedom Press.

AFTER CONSIDERABLE wavering the People's Democracy (PD) has decided finally to go from Belfast to Dublin. Realising that the majority of the march would be banned in the North, it decided on holding meetings on the way, and to start the actual march from Newry. Despite this the N. Ireland Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Porter, restrained the right of free speech in a tactic reminiscent of many of other police states. His police woke up four members of the People's Democracy at 4.30 a.m. serving them with injunctions not to march or hold public meetings outside certain ghetto areas. Not intimidated by this they went to see Mr. Porter at 5.30 the same morning. Mr. Porter, dishevelled, unshaven, and in his pyjamas, was not very happy at this return call.

The contingents from Britain, having arrived, were busily pursued by the RUC. At a meeting outside Queen's University that morning, the marchers were briefed, but a 'manifestation of personal discontent' remained a mystery. A meeting took place outside Belfast City Hall, attended by police and Paisleyites. People then made their own way to Lurgan where it was immediately evident by the tension in the town, that a great police force was alerted. Here

IRISH MARCH REPORT

comrades saw with their own eyes the police repression and the fear that they caused in ordinary people. Here guns were worn by police regulars (first time in two years); here any public meeting was refused except in the Catholic ghetto. This was a deliberate attempt to stop the march talking to the Protestant working class. A meeting to discuss the situation was held in a local hall.

Frustration mounted when it was realised that the police considerably outnumbered the marchers. Nevertheless, after a lengthy discussion, we were swayed by emotional and ill-conceived oratory and the realisation that some action had to be taken and we decided to hold a meeting at the crossroads leading to the motorway. This was still well inside the area. Here occurred one of the slickest pieces of police action that we have even seen. At the crossroads the police attacked. Marchers instinctively sat down. The first to sit was thrown across the road before the last sat down. The police waded in with fists, black-thorn sticks and boots. It was Good

Friday. The police were especially sadistic towards the women (see court report). It was massacre. The marchers were driven back into the hall or sheltered by the local population in their homes.

It was then that we experienced the most moving moment of the march, the spontaneous gathering of the Lurgan people and children and the subsequent public meeting. The children revitalised us with their gaiety and courage. They marched through the police like a knife through butter. When a senior policeman tried to stop them by saying: 'Halt. Do you know who I am?' they looked at him and said: 'You are a pig' and calmly walked round him to the conference hall where they restarted the meeting.

The citizens, backed up by their children's example, sent a deputation of six to the local 'barracks', protesting against the arrests of 17 people both at the crossroads and in the town centre, also against the brutality.

The local district inspector showed his disdain for normal democratic protest by crumpling the note and throwing it on

the ground. The protest meeting in the evening was attended by 2,000 people.

The rest of the march was like all marches. Bad organisation, good improvisation, meetings on the way especially well-organised in Dundalk, and also well-attended in Balbriggan and Swords. The meeting in Dublin was welcomed by 3,000 people, speeches at the GPO were warmly received. A march took place from the GPO to the Department of Justice where copies of the Special Powers Act and the Fianna Fail's criminal injustice bill were burnt. Then a breakaway from the Dublin SDA went to the British Embassy to protest against British Imperialism.

Despite the bickering of PD and the SDA, the message that the majority of marchers wished to carry, i.e. repression in Eire, in a subtle form, is just as bad and sectarian as in the six counties.

DIGGER WALSH.
REG BROAD.
JOHN RETY.

BATTERED BATTIPAGLIA

THE SICK MYTH of the stable Italian society was given another blow in a small town 20 miles to the south of Naples last week. The great myth of the affluent contented Common Market peels apart under the repeated blows of the real suffering of the workers and peasants. In France, near Nantes, the peasantry also exploded against the ruinous society of the grand comedian De Gaulle.

Battipaglia is like the crucible of everything that is wrong in Italy, state corruption, exploitation of the South, police brutality as a solution to economic underdevelopment. The workers of this small town saw the prospect of two factories being closed down and having to migrate, like so many of the people of Calabria and the South. But unlike the same situations which have arisen in recent years the people of Battipaglia demonstrated and struck against this disgusting manipulation of their lives. They held a peaceful demonstration which was turned into a bloodbath by the viciousness of the political corrupt state police. Two died, shot by stray bullets, fired from the only guns there, those of the police. It is an inevitable product of the policies which allow capitalists to come into underdeveloped areas and bleed the people dry for a number of tax-free years and piss off when the lads want some of their hard-earned lolly back.

Battipaglia is not the last place in Italy that will see this determined opposition. Elsewhere the storm is gathering now that people realise that the only way to get a decent living is to smash the state apparatus that allows this exploitation.

We would like to point out that there is an official State Visit of the Italian President to London on April 22. Perhaps someone might like to remind him of the deaths both in Battipaglia and Sicily two months ago that lie on the conscience of the State he represents.

DIGGER.

MAY DAY IN MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER'S ANARCHISTS are active on the newly-formed Manchester May Day Campaign Committee. It is intended that we hold a demo in Manchester on May 1, and that we encourage workers to stop off work.

The 1,000 workers at Shell, Carrington, seem keen to come out and we expect more support as May Day approaches. The thing is how to get local workers to appreciate the need for a day of protest against the Government and at the same time overcome the risk of victimisation.

Unfortunately, the Manchester Committee, ignoring the advice of the anarchist and libertarian workers, decided to concentrate their propaganda on the Government White Paper 'In Place of Strife'.

The anarchists believed workers to be far more likely to respond to a broadly-based campaign against the wage freeze, rising rents and prices. No doubt the anarchists hope to involve local tenants' associations which are largely libertarian.

Nevertheless the anarchists are right, and the Committee, in limiting itself to the legal question of the White Paper and avoiding the realities of wages and living costs, is fighting with one arm tied behind its back. Also the outdated notion that we must water down our attack on the Labour Government, so as not to put off Labour's sympathisers in the factories, only has place in the minds of the most backward socialists.

Finally, an anarchist social is planned for the evening of May 1.

NORTH WEST WORKERS.

FIFTH COLUMN

KILLING NO MURDER?

I SAID a fortnight ago that I would be prepared myself to kill a suffering person in certain circumstances: I think most people would. Unless you think that human life is sacred it's difficult to argue that it should never deliberately be taken. And there are very few who believe that life is sacred.

One of the absurdities of the current ruse of euthanasia is that so many of its opponents are quite happy to defend other kinds of killing. It is morally right to bomb Vietnamese villages and murder civilians in their thousands; morally wrong to end the life of an incurably ill and suffering person who wants to die. Similarly with abortion: it is wrong to prevent babies from being born but quite all right to kill them after their birth if they have the misfortune to be born to our rulers' enemies.

To the Catholic militarist all human lives are sacred—but some are less sacred than others.

As I said very few people really believe in the sanctity of human life. I would not argue with those who do. There is no point in trying to contradict a consistent religious belief: you accept it or you don't.

I can't accept this principle myself. In the hypothetical situation which opponents of pacifism present to pacifists—you have a gun and are watching a man who is about to press the button which will start a nuclear war—I find it difficult to say with hand on heart: I will never shoot.

So with euthanasia: if I watched another person suffering day after day from an incurable disease—and if he repeatedly begged me to kill him—I don't think I could refuse.

However there are a number of arguments which need to be considered: the disease might be incurable now but curable in the future; the sick person might be described as unbalanced by pain and depression—incapable of 'deciding' as we normally think of ourselves as doing; the killer might be less concerned with the suffering of the sick person than with its effect on himself.

The last point is, I think the weakest. If the mercy killer can be accused of acting primarily to avoid his own painful experience of the sick person's pain someone who refuses to kill can be accused of being more concerned with his own conscience than with the sick person's suffering. When you disagree with what somebody does you can always say that he doesn't understand his real motives.

People are often reluctant to recognise that their actions the responses to their own needs, attempts to solve their own problems. To point this out may help them understand their general behaviour but it won't necessarily dissuade them from a particular action. One common reaction is to say: if what I'm doing is really to make me feel better then that's fine; I'll go on doing it but I'll describe it differently.

It's quite reasonable to say that the mercy killer may act to end his own pain but I do not regard this as an objection.

The claim that the sick person can be 'unbalanced' by his suffering is more convincing. It's obvious that pain and the depression which accompanies it can make us behave in a way which we will afterwards regret. It would be absurd to ignore the effects of stress and act on the first plea of a person in pain.

And it's possible that a disease which is 'incurable' today will be cured in the future. Seriously ill people have been known to recover suddenly: some apparent certainties turn out to have been inaccurate guesses.

But those who suffer from a disease for which there is unlikely to be a cure in their lifetime and who spend their daily lives in pain may resent the suggestion that they should hope and pray for a miracle—or the opinion that they are unbalanced.

A sick person who recovers may look back and say: during my illness I was unbalanced; but the incurably ill have to come to terms with their present situation. They may be 'unbalanced' by comparison with the healthy—or with themselves when they were healthy. But they have nothing else: if we deny them the opportunity to decide whether they should die aren't we turning them into corpses before they are dead?

I do not want to imply that the decision to kill another human being because of his pain, his hopelessness and his demand that he should die could ever be easy. But sometimes it may be inevitable.

WYNFORD HICKS.

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

Lurgan court of summary jurisdiction. April 10, 1969, or the function of criminal justice as a cathartic game.

REST EASY ABED tonight, citizenry, the match is over. The score: police £145, dropped charges 7, dismissed 1, cockups 3, and appeals 1.

The Spion Kop end of the Lurgan courthouse was packed with enthusiastic fans eager to see the boys in blue's new transfer, Uncle Tom Maxwell (97) and a real match-winning Resident Magistrate, as they were led out of the tunnel by their captain, DI Thompson.

First blood went straight away to the blues with an impressive mass swear-in from the jury box and this was followed up with a shrewd stroke that had the scurvy PD reeling when Maxwell proved to be worth every penny of his fee by agreeing to let the English demonstrators have time to pay their fines (they hadn't even been found guilty yet or even pled) from England—'You haven't any Indians or Pakistanis, have you?' Well, then, that's all right.

PD struck back, however, with Vincent 'I'm just back from Derry' Hanna, their lawyer, for once in superb form, doing a deal with DI Thompson to get charges dropped and then, having got the gullible prosecutor to admit that the demonstrators had been very well behaved, only to double-cross him with a left wing attack on police brutality. This sneaky move was rightly deplored by the blues' fans who strenuously countered with the unanswerable retort, 'What else do you expect from the police violence (or force as we prefer to call it)?' Nonetheless by half-time things were definitely going against the force, many of whom seemed to be over the hill for this kind of robust game. Allegations as to girls being dragged by their hair, punched and kicked, were let go unanswered by Skipper Thompson who was clearly having an off-day, and totally unable to combat these unexpected tactics from the passive academic thugs.

The second half looked like turning into a rout when their new young star, Constable Flanagan (8 Platoon, riot squad) broke down completely under questioning. Even the most partisan fan of PD blanched at the inexperience of this young testifier came to the surface and he contradicted himself for the fifth time. Sure enough he limped off 15 minutes from time to a sympathetic but embarrassed silence. Right up to the final whistle it looked as if PD had won the game hands down, but in the last minute RM Maxwell rallied them to score a glorious equaliser with his summation in the Scott case. It had been conclusively shown that Scott (a guest star from RSSF) had been charged in error for someone else by the incompetent Flanagan and that he had only been trying to find out why a 17-year-old schoolgirl was screaming in the pig-van after having been struck by a senior police officer. But el

magnific Maxwell closed the proceedings with the masterstroke that 'it wasn't a question of beyond all reasonable doubt', but he would choose 'a straw in the wind' (sic), i.e. that after the wrong copper had charged Scott for the wrong offence he had said, 'OK, fine', thereby indicating his guilt. At this great equalizer the honest lawmakers went berserk with joy and chaired their team from the pitch.

However, extra time will have to be played since Scott is appealing (the ungrateful swine) and the scurrilous civil righters have pulled another dirty move by serving a head constable with a summons for assaulting the 17-year-old girl with his blackthorn stick—well, how was he to know that she is an MP's daughter?

Funds will be needed to aid this gallant officer of the RUC. Patriots, rally! Send bread now to Robert Porter, Minister of Home Affairs, 26 Marlborough Park, Belfast. No donation under £100 accepted.

YOUR MAN IN THE DOCK.

Clearing up the Confusion

AS THE BRITISH PRESS has once more managed to play down the Irish situation and what it has said amounted to farce, it is now necessary to clear up the misconceptions about the Belfast-Dublin March.

There has not been a sectarian clash throughout the March. Although the Paisleyites are a small minority, the English and N. Ireland Press have continuously represented them as being the whole of the Protestant community. They are a tiny and exaggerated group of very violent extremists who are used by the Unionist Government to justify their policies of sectarian division. The fact that many of them are in the notorious 'B' Specials, and who are almost certainly responsible for the explosion at the electricity sub-station at Castlereagh, explains the remark that the difference between Paisley and O'Neill is one wears his orange sash over his coat and one

prefers to wear the sash beneath it! This policy deliberately contains within it the seeds of a sectarian civil war. It also ensures that Catholic and Protestant worker are divided and live in disgraceful conditions, exploited by both the Protestant and Catholic rent-racketeers and capitalist-subsidised fly-by-nights. It must be clearly stated that, despite many misgivings over PD's recent actions, they have courageously not fallen into the political trap set by this sectarianism and have always fought to persuade the workers of all religions that their interests are to be in solidarity and both should be opposed to any exploiter.

There are a lot of misconceptions about PD which is (in organisation) an open libertarian umbrella movement. It consists of many sections and is open to anyone who wishes to speak. Of course this means the rise of charismatic leaders, furthering their own factional ends. It is also evident that PD will only survive if the bulk of the people are aware of this problem and are determined to carry on their campaign on a non-factional basis with the use of free assemblies.

It may not be considered on the surface that the March was a complete success, but the number of contacts we made, the friendly reception we got from ordinary people, and the serious discussion of our ideas by marchers and some sections of the Press, well justified the effort of the London organisers for taking such a large anarchist contingent over.

M.H.

Police Harassment at Hyde Park

THE APRIL 5 edition of FREEDOM had a photograph of the police riot in Derry on the front. This seems to have drawn the attention of a policeman at Marble Arch, who took a copy from our seller there and refused to pay for it. He also threatened that our seller 'might hear something later'. Other papers have also been persecuted, including *The International Times*. The authorities appear to be getting jumpy.

If the police do launch a campaign against sellers, it will help if there are witnesses present. The more people who are prepared to sell, or just to be there, the better.

GOING DOWN!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Estimated Expenses:	
15 weeks at £90:	£1,350
Income: Sales and Subs.:	£1,094
DEFICIT:	£256

PRESS FUND

PRESS FUND
Peterborough: F.W. 2/-; Southall: D.S. 11/-; London, S.W.17: B. 3/4; Washington: N.A. 14/-; London, E.1: G.M. 6/8; Manchester: O.M. 6/-; Carshalton: R.B. 5/8; London, N.W.2: D.S. £1; London, S.W.19: D.T. 6/8; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Cardiff: T.G. 5/4; Manchester: T.T. 5/8; Reading: B.M. 5/-; Durham: S.C. 5/9; Glasgow: J.B. £1/15/8; Manchester: M.D. 2/6; London, S.W.17: C.B. £1; Montmonecy: G.B. £1; Southampton: J.R. 2/6; Hyde Park: R.P. 3/6; Paris: F. & F. £1.

TOTAL: £10 6 3
Previously Acknowledged: £202 12 10

1969 Total to Date: £212 19 1
Deficit B/F: £256 0 0

TOTAL DEFICIT: £43 0 11

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

VICTORY FOR LONDON SQUATTERS

PAT SMITH WAS WITHOUT a proper home for seven years. During that time she was moved between six different hostels and reception centres and ended up at the notorious 'half-way house' Battersea Bridge Buildings. The appalling conditions which you know so well were too much for Pat. She felt unable to provide her five children with the standard of living which should be everyone's by right. After being shifted about for all those years she decided to do something about it. She had planned to move into a vacant council property and stay put there until the council either gave her a rent book or made a firm promise to re-house her properly. The mere threat of action was sufficient. We have since heard that the local authorities have agreed to give Pat and her family a council house.

You can get together and form a group for action, or, if you feel you can't go it alone, there are people in South London who will back you up. We know where property is empty. If you are prepared to act, we will do our best to help you occupy and stay in. If you would like assistance or want to help others in their fight for a decent home, contact:

South London Squatters Group,
39 Upper Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2.
Tel. 674 7886.

STRIFE!—

'In place of Strife'

MR. WILSON INFORMED the TUC leaders on Friday, April 11, that irrespective of the 'spiel' they put forward, the Government would proceed with its industrial policy outlined in the White Paper 'In Place of Strife'.

The PM made his position very clear, he was not interested in amendments but if the TUC could present alternative proposals quickly they might be considered. Obviously, this was a tongue in cheek gesture. Wilson knows full well the TUC is unable to do this even though some of its affiliated unions support the Government's industrial

policy.

Vic Feather, acting general secretary of the TUC, suggested a tripartite Government-CBI-TUC get-together, to work out a solution. Obviously Vic was playing for time and Wilson realised this. He made the point that such an arrangement would be 'too long-winded'.

Wilson is being forced to speed things along, the press are stirring the 'mud' up even though the majority press opinion thinks the Government proposals are milk and water. The Government believe they are on an election winner, with a middle-class vote-catcher on the one hand and blackmailing the industrial workers on the other, with the threat that the Tories would introduce stricter industrial legislation. Barbara Castle tried to convince the TUC leaders that it would not be all that bad, legal powers would be used sparingly and no one would go to jail. Barbara realises that once government action had made one martyr the prisons could become rather full.

The Government can continue the facade of discussing its industrial policy with the TUC as often and as long as it likes, but we all know that in the final analysis the Government will have its own way PROVIDED rank and file trade unionists co-operate; if that co-operation is non-existent, and continues in that vein, then the Government will be forced to think again. That is it in a nutshell, industrial action is the ONLY way to defeat 'In Place of Strife'. Left-wing MPs can scratch and claw as much as they like, but their protest is empty, because we know that the PM has only to threaten to call a General Election for three months' time and 'In Place of Strife'

would turn into a Labour Bible overnight.

John Bonfield, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, stated in London on Wednesday, April 9, 'If the unions are to challenge the Government over its White Paper on industrial relations, "In Place of Strife", it is probable that it will have to be done industrially'. During his speech to the annual conference of the administrative council of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation, Mr. Bonfield made a very potent and valid point when he said, 'There had been so many dire threats issued over the prices and incomes policy which have almost invariably tailed off into a whimper that it was unlikely the Prime Minister will place much credence on what we SAY (my italics) now'.

John Bonfield has never spoken a truer word. Therefore we do not SAY anything, we ACT. Members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) demonstrated last Saturday night again 'In Place of Strife'. One hopes that this is a foretaste of things to come, i.e. STOP ALL Production. A Mr. W. Freeman is quoted as saying, 'This is not a protest against the employers. It is purely against Wilson.' I have not read an editorial yet which opposes the Government White Paper on the basis of interference with union affairs, they oppose the Government proposals because they do not go far enough. 'Since when have the Fleet Street employers been on your side, Bill?' Industrial action is the only form of opposition a Government understands, even though we may have to wait till May 1 to implement it.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Contact Column

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

Lilian Wolfe thanks all those who have sent her kind messages, and would like them to know that she is feeling fine and expects to leave Hospital on Tuesday, April 15, to recuperate at home.

Civil Rights Conference. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, Saturday, April 19, 11.30 a.m.-5 p.m.

N.W. Federation magazine. Each group producing it in rotation. Donations welcome. Phil, 9 Boland Street, Manchester, 9.

Peace News. Six weeks trial offer for 5/-, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

Reading Anarchists. Meeting Friday, April 18, 7.30 p.m. Blagrove Arms, Blagrove Street, Reading.

Hyde Park Sunday meetings. 3 p.m. Speakers and literature sellers required.

Support 'Freedom' sales. Start now or with Scottish edition, May 31. Contact Ian J. Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen.

Biafra Action. Contact Nigel Wright, 1 Colville House, Talbot Road, W.11.

Seminar on Anarchism, Leeds. A six-week course starting on April 25, at Swarthmore Educational Centre (10 mins. walk from Leeds City Station). Starts 7 p.m.

Southampton—Any Libertarian activity? Contact Alan—Tel. 56657 (mainly vacations).

Cardiff Students: Libertarian/Anarchist (new) group—meeting April 30 (8 p.m.), Room C, Students Union, Dumfries Place.

Alan Barlow—Comrades wishing to visit in Brixton please contact Defence Committee, c/o Freedom Press for roster.

Large room or cheap flat wanted by anarchist librarian (London area). Box No. 35.

Graham Moss needs room (living accommodation) near Freedom Press.

Glasgow Anarchists meet socially at the Station Bar, London Road, every Tuesday evening. Folk-singing.

FREEDOM PRESS

NEED volunteers to make racks and other carpentry work in new premises.

Get in touch with Graham Moss c/o Freedom Press.

S. London Free School Campaign. Regular activities, projects. Mike Rowley or Roger Sadiev, 81 Ermine Road, S.E.13. 01-690 1572 (6-7 p.m. preferably.)

International Summer Camp. £1 booking fees to Ann Lindsay, 39 Upper Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2.

North London Free Schools Campaign, contact T. Swash, 49 Popham Road, London, N.1.

Help Increase 'Freedom's' Circulation. Are you willing to take 'Freedom' and 'Anarchy' regularly to local newsagents and collect returns and cash? If so we'd like to hear from you. — CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Conference on Workers' Control

I ATTENDED the Seventh Conference on Workers' Control held in Sheffield University on the weekend of March 29/30 as a delegate for the Syndicalist Workers' Federation. The Conference was attended by 1,032 delegates including representatives from 13 Unions and several Trades Councils.

Over two-thirds of the delegates were rank and file trade unionists including Sid Harroway, Chief Convenor of Ford's, who spoke on the recent dispute, and Paddy Tombs, Chief Steward in ICI, who was recently victimised and sacked.

Foreign delegates included Britta Gröndahl, International Secretary of SAC, the Swedish Syndicalist Union, delegates from the US, West Germany, Belgium, Italy and France (from Sud Aviation in Nantes; occupied by the workers during the May events 1968). There were delegates representing the Yugoslav and Czechoslovak Trade Union movement.

The Institute for Workers' Control, who convened the Conference, are to be complimented on organizing this very successful Conference at a time when the trade union movement stands in full blast from the Government and the employers.

The Conference was opened by Brian Nicholson, and the first speaker was Ernie Roberts, Assistant Secretary of the AEF. He was followed by Michael Barratt Brown and Tony Topham of the Institute.

On Saturday afternoon and evening the Conference broke into seminars, first on industries—motor car, engineering, fuel and energy, docks, building and education. Later the Conference split into seminars on more general topics—the anti-trade union legislation, the future

for workers' control, international affairs, women's rights and Black Power.

On Saturday night Ernest Mandel from Belgium addressed a meeting on current developments in capitalism. Later, films on the May events in France 1968 and Venezuela were shown. On Sunday morning reports from the various seminars were heard and followed by discussion.

This was followed by Hugh Scanlon, General Secretary of the AEF, and then the resolutions and amendments were put to the Conference and discussed. Readers will forgive me for condensing my review in the interests of space. I have room here for only commenting on the salient remarks of speakers and points that struck me as valuable.

The menace of mergers to employment and the rapid trend towards monopoly dominated the speeches of both Ernie Roberts and Hugh Scanlon. Ernie Roberts warned, 'We need action to ensure that mergers do not disturb the lives of people by throwing them on the scrap heap'. He pointed out that there have been 900 mergers in the first nine months of 1968. Hugh Scanlon spoke about technological unemployment where productivity will increase at the same time as unemployment. Absolute opposition to the White Paper 'In Place of Strife' was another dominating theme throughout the Conference. Stan Orme, MP, stated that they were not opposed to merely three clauses in the White Paper, but opposed the inherent philosophy that lay behind it. The Conference threw its support behind strike action on May Day in opposition to the White Paper.

In his speech Ernie Roberts called for real democracy on the job and an end to appointments inside Unions. Tony Topham spoke about the Institute's plans

Freedom

For Workers' Control

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'LET'S SACK THE BOSS'

A THOUSAND EMPLOYEES of Holmans Brothers engineering works marched through Camborne, Cornwall, on April 12 protesting against low wages. Holmans employs about 3,000 men and is renowned in the district as a nineteenth-century employer paying the lowest rates it can get away with. In the past the company has got away with just about anything it cared to try on: the present dispute is the culmination of several years in which each time a nationally-negotiated deal has increased the basic wage, bonus rates have been reduced to compensate. Hence the men have had a rise of only a few shillings in the past four years.

Matters came to a head in January when a so-called rise was more than cancelled out by another reduction in the bonus with the result that many men found ten shillings less in their wage packets. A semi-skilled machinist takes home £12 or £13 and they are not prepared to put up with this much longer.

The men began a work-to-rule in January and have been slowly turning the screw, opting out of the now-derisory bonus scheme altogether and increasing the cost to the company of each unit of production by three or four times. With bonus rates so low anyway, the workers are losing little, a factor the management perhaps did not consider when they high-handedly halved the bonus. As one of the posters on the demonstration put it: 'No carrot—no effort!' The work-to-rule has been one hundred per cent: indeed when one black-leg was discovered on the night shift at Maxam, a subsidiary of Holmans, the men threatened to walk out, whereupon a management creep told the man concerned to work-to-rule!

On Saturday the men marched behind a banner reading: 'Holman Workers March for Fair Pay' and 'Let's Sack the Boss!' Cheering crowds lined the main street and the column, six deep, filled the high street from one end to the other. The men wrote and distributed a short, punchy leaflet:

'TROUBLE AT HOLMANS

'The workers at Holman's are pro-

to establish a workers' information bureau to collect information about agreements and jobs, to keep shop stewards in touch with one another, to enquire into management practices and draw on the services of sympathetic accountants and economists. He warned that employers are keen to strangle the authority of shop stewards in order to reduce their labour force and he called for an end to 'back stairs' agreements.

The almost complete absence of libertarian delegates was compensated for by the attendance of Britta Gröndahl from SAC who distributed a memorandum telling of the campaigns that SAC has waged for industrial democracy in Sweden. The memorandum showed how for many years SAC had carried the battle for industrial democracy and only recently has been joined by elements of the Social Democratic Party.

Although many different political groups were represented by their literature, sectarianism did not break into the discussion. Criticism might be made of the lack of discussion on actual workers' control of industry, nevertheless Rome was not built in a day and to gather a large representative Conference under the banner of workers' control is a very valuable achievement.

DAVID PICKETT.

testing at their low wages. The dispute is a simple one. We want a fair incentive bonus for what we produce. We are tired of subsidising the inefficiency of the company with our low wages and would point out also that substantial sums are paid to the company by the Government which thus compensates for the management's inefficiency.

'A fair incentive bonus should be paid to all workers while professional consultants go through the whole organisation of the company to make it efficient, so that the company can be more profitable and the workers better paid.'

The men feel very strongly that they are being made to pay for the faults of the management, which is top-heavy with family names and in common with most of the ruling elite of Cornwall never had an original idea for the last hundred years. The men know they could run the company better themselves even within the present framework of society. The proportion of supervisory staff to production workers is ridiculously high and the directors are known to pay themselves at least £200 a week.

Labour militancy has been unusual in Cornwall where the standard reaction to hard times is still emigration; Holmans management are symptomatic of the vast majority of (Government-subsidised) companies in the county which exist on low wages and fantastic inefficiency. Now that Holmans workers are showing the way we can expect more widespread labour unrest, for undoubtedly moderate attitudes on the part of unions and men have been shown to be a failure—indeed to be the major cause of the very real poverty which still exists everywhere.

Every boss in Cornwall is looking anxiously at the Holmans fight, which must be won by the men for their wages cannot fall any lower. It will be a long, hard struggle against such a reactionary management whose standard answer to anyone who stepped out of line has been the sack. But the men are showing that it is solidarity and militancy which gets results; management is on the run and the superb turn-out for Saturday's demonstration has undoubtedly demoralised them even further.

DEREK JACKSON.

ALARM—Welsh Example

THE SWANSEA ANARCHISTS have produced a fine broadsheet, Alarm. So far three issues have come out at 2d. a copy and selling 1,500 an issue. The design work is good and it's a clean job despite the fact that they are reproducing typescript. Intelligent use of an offset Litho has produced an excellent little job. A bit more use of Letraset might help and a bit more subbing. That's a minor point. The main point is that Swansea should be congratulated on their imagination and work in getting this out. A good local coverage—that will, I hope, expand—will give the paper a firm grass roots grip—go out and get the stories as you have been doing. Nothing like it for sales. I hope the rest of the provincial (and some London) comrades get a grip of their knickers after seeing this broadsheet. DIGGER.