

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly

6d

MAY 17 1969 Vol 30 No 15

AMNESTY ME ARSE!

THE announcement of the 'amnesty' for all involved in 'political disturbances' since October 5 has been greeted with an incredible farrago of slobber by all concerned, from new parliamentary secretary to the ministry of injustice jovial John Taylor to green tory McAteer (the racketeer). The CRA's inane statement went to the effect that it seems very good but there must be a catch. The reasons for it are in point of fact quite obvious.

Firstly it must be seen in the context of the Derry trials which were to come up next week. These had all been adjourned from October 5 and the accused included Hume, Cooper, McAteer, McCann and most of the Derry CR people. 'La Pasionara' Devlin was due to appear soon too as well as two other opposition MPs.

Legally the cases would have been very difficult to prosecute and most would have had to have been acquitted, to the wrath of the Paisleyites who are incensed that their Führer and his corporal have been incarcerated—they of course were also offered the first six month adjournment but refused it for publicity reasons.

Acquittal or light penalties for October 5 would have sent them on the rampage, but conviction or stiff penalties would have been even more disastrous for the new 'liberal' regime of Chichester-Shark, for the people of Derry, eagerly awaiting a chance to repay their countless scores with the police and the corrupt unionist careerists of the city would have gone on the streets to demonstrate their solidarity with CR.

Thus by calling an 'amnesty', dropping the charges against the CR people and freeing Paisley and Bunting, they hope to appease their extremists and at the same time appear to be making a 'magnanimous gesture' to the opposition. Thus cowardice can be presented as a courageous virtue.

Secondly, by doing so they can make the 'moral equation' of peaceful CR marchers who take part in an unjustly banned march and are viciously attacked by uniformed thugs—armed B Specials arrested in Armagh while trying to prevent a legal CR march and the Burntollet ambushers. This has consistently been government policy.

The day before Burntollet 'Captain' Long met Bunting and Paisley and had a 'congenial chat' (sic). The same day our new PM Chichester-Shark had talked to Bunting during the march at Beragh and the next day when Bunting and his bully boys were smashing up the marchers they were benignly watched by Chichester-Shark's brother Robin, the Westminster MP, along with Anderson, Derry Unionist MP. Next day the 'liberal' O'Neill, the white hope of the intellectual pigmies and middle class, spent three paragraphs denouncing the injured marchers and one the attackers.

Now with his henchman and aristocratic relative at the helm he has been availing himself of the mass media and boring Canadian viewers by telling them that the worst troublemakers are the PD who 'are composed of anarchists and trotskyites and have had a bad influence on poor wee Bernadette'. His latest oracular pronouncement being that it is obvious that the civil rights movement has been the work of revolutionary students and is connected with all the ungrateful and revolting students around the world.

Furthermore the 'amnesty' can be seen as an attempt to forestall action over Burntollet when the book of the same name appears in five weeks' time. (Copies can be ordered from Freedom Press.) For as the government knows full well

this will document the ambush and name names. Full of photographs it will give the identities of over sixty B Specials, off-duty policemen and prominent citizenry, including a local JP who all took part in the infamous ambush. Full details of how, where and by whom the ambush was planned will embarrass the authorities who have quietly been 'conducting inquiries' into the 'incident'.

Any attempt to ban the book will result in sales rocketing and even more publicity and various people have made it quite clear that if the government doesn't institute prosecutions they will take private ones. In the light of yet more evidence of B Special partiality and criminality toady Taylor's admission that at present more than 4,000 of these armed Paisleyites have been called up to 'maintain law and order' can hardly reassure anyone concerned with civil and human rights.

To end with a footnote for the religious amongst us, alas too few in these days of brou-haha and hurly-burly. The much publicised tour of the Bogside and the Fountain ghettos by the swinging ecumenical bishops of Derry, teague and prod, was conducted not on foot but in a chauffeur driven Rolls-Royce, the poor man's car. Dr. Tyndall has subsequently had a heart attack and Dr. Farren, ex-blueshirt, has had to cancel all his appointments for the time being because of overwork. Further manifestations of the almighty at work have been the thunderbolt (erroneously described in the press as a 'meteorite'), and the release of a 'plague' which escaped from Crumlin Road jail. God is not to be mocked, comrades.

REVEREND AUGUSTUS BERKES.

CONFUSION AT THE LSE

LSE STUDENTS are at present fighting a losing battle. What is this battle, who is fighting and, more importantly, what has gone wrong? The socialist society here believe it is a revolutionary struggle involving continuous confrontation with the school authorities, breaking down the fabric of the school and thereby (somehow) uniting students and workers against the common enemy of capitalism. Fair enough, but where are the bases for these glorious expectations?

The majority of students at LSE are liberal, they are not revolutionary students at all. How, therefore, can a revolutionary struggle be waged through majority decisions at union meetings? Either the meeting has been packed out with soc-soc members and the 'majority' is meaningless and fail to back up subsequent action, or the resolution is at best a liberal act of conscience. Only when people are involved in direct action to change their lot (be it a decent house or honest course of study), bypassing LSE authorities, the state or the boss, when people take power and responsibility in their own hands, will an honest revolutionary struggle develop. The Marxists in fact blame the Anarchist minority for any direct action (*Observer*, 4.5.69)! They deal in empty majority paper resolutions that don't and can't involve the mass of students in anything except mere acquiescence to a nice 'naughty, naughty Wally Adams' sort of resolution.

Last week we were on strike. The analogy is of course ridiculous. So what if we 'withdraw our labour', so what if

IN 1649 the execution of Charles I heralded the end of a centuries old system of absolute monarchical power; an era involving the brutal oppression and ruthless exploitation of the people by a highly privileged family, who, considering themselves to be vastly superior to other beings, indulged in lives of decadence and



luxury at the expense of their impoverished subjects, and whose policies were based entirely on self-interest and the suppression of liberty.

The falling of the axe onto Charles' head was indeed a great blow in the cause of freedom. However, in spite of this we now have a situation where power has fallen into the hands of comparatively few bureaucrats whose policies are no less based on self-interest, and whose methods, although now highly disguised and devious, involve the oppression and exploitation in no less ruthless a manner than that of the old system. And to emphasise the matter further we still have remnants of this archaic institution who insist on parading about flaunting their wealth and privilege, who still indulge in luxury and decadence at the expense of the

British people, and who still personify the class system.

Why must the people bear this burden? In the present situation monarchical power is symbolic only, it has no authority in its own right. Monarchical decisions are a repetition of government policy—whatever senseless measures the ruling bureaucrats decide upon, monarchy will repeat it like a parrot. Clearly the existence of this national parasite, together with its symbolic power, is helpful to these ruling factions, due to the use they can make of many people's misguided loyalty to this family.

1. It provides an essential stable element in this society (continually changing because of its capitalist nature).

2. Loyalty to 'Queen and Country' is often quoted in the call for increased productivity, i.e. increased profits for the employers.

3. Monarchy is a tool of imperialism—the loyalty of many foreign peoples to the monarchy is used in the covering up or healing of differences caused by British im-

perialism, for example in Wales and the Commonwealth (witness Biafra).

4. The loyalty of British people to the monarchy is used to persuade them to fight in British imperialist wars (Malaya, Borneo, etc.).

The monarchy is retained at great expense to the British people in a situation where there are many unemployed, vast housing shortages, falling standards of living, inadequate hospitals and a grossly degenerate education system, etc., etc. Huge amounts of money are squandered in supporting this parasite whose only real function is involved in the trickery of the people.

It is 300 years since the axe fell on Charles' head; monarchy survived. Let the axe fall again—LET MONARCHY DIE!

NO CLASS SYSTEM
NO MONARCHY
NO CAPITALISM
NO BUREAUCRACY
FREEDOM AND ANARCHY!!!!
ABERYSTWYTH ANARCHISTS.

University as a Slum Landlord

STUDENTS AT Liverpool University voted last week to support local tenants in picketing the official opening of a new Senate House. Their protest was against the University as a slum landlord.

The University Administration may own up to 130 houses inside the campus. The property is bought up as a prelude to new University developments.

Recently tenants in two streets owned by the University have attacked its failure to keep the property in a fit state for human habitation.

In Vine Street, just bought by the University, the roofs gape and water

pours in quite freely. A house with a habitable top floor is a rarity. Entire families have to live and sleep in the basement.

For over 8 years in Melville Place, the University failed to keep the houses in a fit state of repair, to combat the dangers of damp to children, to alleviate squalid overcrowding, or to fight the problem of rat-infestation. The houses were declared unfit for human habitation by the Corporation.

In at least one instance the University bought a house for £75. Since then the tenant has paid a total of £624 in thirty shillings a week rent.

Pressure on the University and the Corporation intensified last autumn with the formation of a Tenants' Association in the area. In its few months of existence the Tenants' Association has been successful in fighting cases of repair or rehousing against the University and the Corporation.

The picket of the University's new Senate House is a protest by the tenants about the conditions in which they are forced to live, many of them with the University as landlord. Senate House cost £600,000 and the opening ceremony—featuring Princess Alexandra—£500.

The demonstration by tenants and students will question and condemn the distorted spending priorities of both the University and society as a whole. It will embarrass the University on a prestige occasion.

GERRY CORDON.

(For the Tenants' Association, University Soc-Soc, Anarchist and Labour Groups.)

Freedom Scottish Anarchist Issue

First issue out May 31
Sellers wanted
contact: Ian S. Sutherland,
8 Esslemont Avenue,
Aberdeen.

Subscribers wanting to receive Scottish Anarchist Edition should inform Freedom Press

it is even an 'official strike'—it is hardly going to have the foundations of

LSE: Revolutionary logic

LAST week's protests against the dismissal of two members of the teaching staff of the School of Economics show once again, as Michael Bellotti (LSE) and the 'Revolutionary' conduct the 'official' academic were true com-

But the violence and the teachers' conduct as if it is still important strictly according to the set up its promised review is needed is a well-thought from the authorities the cause. It needs no calling for the strike.



capitalism crumbling. We have this terrible fixation however, on working tactics and terminology be it completely irrelevant to our situation. It is hardly going to gain the respect, far less the support of the working class. Let us drop these foolish pretences.

For a couple of months now we have had six out of eight union council members also being members of the socialist society. (Mostly IS and more or less in order of hierarchy.) Just like Wilson and his jolly band in power, more bureaucracy leading to less efficiency and of course no signs of revolutionary socialism anywhere. Fight Marxist bids at union elections—do not be duped into apathy or even tacit support. So much for our little lot resigning on election, disbanding union and setting up the general assembly. Predictably they are still there. We were not conned and we have now been proved right though the lesson has yet to sink in all round.

Where is all this 'confrontation' actually leading? If it was genuine, mass-based or even honestly based, I suggest students would learn a great deal from the involvement, draw wider conclusions and relate these to the outside world. As it is, the students are manipulated cannon fodder, aware only of some sterile issues at this particular institution and led blindly into making the right noises at the right times. The general idea seems to be to push the Director into closing the school. Well, there will not be the massive support and left backlash then, mates, it'll be a couple of token strikes round the provincial universities if we are lucky.

B.M.

books?

we can supply any book in print

SECONDHAND

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

- Battle for the Mind** William Sargent 12/6
Economic History of England
 Milton Briggs and Percy Jordan 15/-
The Age of Reform 1815-70
 Llewellyn Woodward 20/-
Nineteenth Century Britain
 Anthony Wood 12/6
Evolution or Extinction
 Guilfoyle Williams 7/6
The History of Mathematics in Europe
 J. W. N. Sullivan 3/-
News from Nowhere William Morris 5/-
My Right to Work (1906)
 R. B. Suthers (paperback—loose covers) 3/-
The Citizen Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher 3/-
Easy Outline of Economics
 Noah Ablett (paperback—loose covers) 3/-
A Preface to Morals
 Walter Lippman 3/-
Urban Government Benjamin Baker 10/-
I Will Still be Moved (Reports from S. Africa)
 (ed.) Marion Friedmann (paper) 6/6
Socialism and the Individual
 John Lewis 3/6
Socialism and Socialism
 J. Ramsay MacDonald 3/-
The Labour Party Today
 Mary Agnes Hamilton 3/-
Aims and Means John Boynton 5/-

POSTAGE EXTRA

Freedom Bookshop

HERE WE ARE!

Editorial office open Friday, May 16, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, May 19, 2-8 p.m.
 Note new telephone number:
 BISHOPSGATE 9249

New address:

84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET.
 (entrance Angel Alley),
 WHITECHAPEL, E.1.
 (Underground: Aldgate East. Exit:
 Whitechapel Art Gallery. Turn right
 on emerging from station.)

FREEDOM PRESS and Bookshop

Opening times:

Closed Monday, Sunday.
 Tuesday-Friday, 3-7 p.m.
 Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

FREEDOM PRESS

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

Subscription Rates

(Per year)

Inland	
'FREEDOM' ONLY	£1 13s. 4d.
'ANARCHY' ONLY	£1 7s. 0d.
COMBINED SUBSCRIPTION	£2 14s. 4d.
Abroad	
'FREEDOM' ONLY	£1 10s. 0d.
surface mail	£2 16s. 0d.
airmail (US\$8.00)	£2 16s. 0d.
'ANARCHY' ONLY	£1 6s. 0d.
surface mail	£2 7s. 0d.
airmail (US\$7.00)	£2 7s. 0d.
COMBINED SUBSCRIPTION	£2 10s. 0d.
surface mail	£2 10s. 0d.
Both by airmail	(US\$12.50) £4 5s. 0d.
'Freedom' by airmail,	
'Anarchy' by surface	
mail (US\$10.50)	£3 17s. 0d.

PUBLICATIONS include

- Berkman's
ABC of ANARCHISM 2/6 (+5d.)
 Roeder's
NATIONALISM AND CULTURE 21/- (+4/6)
 Richards'
MALATESTA: His Life and Ideas.
 Cloth bound 21/- (+1/3);
 paper 10/6 (+1/-)
 Berner's
NORTHERN EAST or WEST 6/- (+9d.)
 All list on application.
 Woodcock's
THE WRITER & POLITICS 7/6

RURAL BERKSHIRE seems to be the part of Britain that the State has set aside for its dirty work. It houses Aldermaston AWRE, Burghfield ROF, RSG6 (Warren Row), USAF Greenham Common, USAF Welford, Mr. Stanley who exports arms to Nigeria, Dow Corning (that I wrote of a few weeks ago), Elliot Automation Space & Weapons Factory, and just over our county borders the Fighting Vehicle Research and Development Establishment and good old Porton Down.

It is not surprising therefore that peace activists view any large government establishment with suspicion, especially when it is secluded.

One large establishment that has drawn attention is the Road Research Laboratory in Crowthorne, near Bracknell New Town. The following facts and theories about this place have come from people who have worked in the RRL as employees of sub-contractors or who live near the establishment.

The most interesting sight, once past the security checkpoint and inside the grounds, is the strange structure on the roof of the new, multi-storey office block. This is not visible from the road and closer inspection shows it to be a full blown, green glazed control tower complete with radio antenna. A local lady complained that, at times of intense activity, helicopters are coming and going day and night. They land on the large central test area which, with the off-shooting trackways, could take a fair sized aircraft.

Local conjecture ranges from a replacement for, the now exposed and therefore useless, RSG6 (Warren Row) to just plain suspicion of the groups of foreigners who arrive for courses on Road Research.

The test track used for experiments goes off deep into an enclosed pine forest which has no visible buildings but workers have seen a large domestic fuel tanker go deep into the woods only to return the way it came and leave the establishment completely. The test track is used for some spectacular crashes using radio controlled cars. The cars are controlled from Land Rovers fitted with large telescopic pneumatic aerials. Military observers will recognise these vehicles as those used by the British Army for remote control missile launching.

As for the construction of the buildings themselves they are almost all new and with up to three storeys of basement. The above ground buildings are offices and laboratory/workshops and there can be no doubt that it is a road research laboratory. What people are asking, however, is what else is it?

The fresh water piping is enclosed in

Road Research... or RSG?

4 ft. wide by 3 ft. deep solid concrete troughs. I have been told by two different builders that this is, and is not, standard procedure on government contracts. Perhaps an architect reader can throw some light on this? It is not known whether these are connected to the two wells inside the establishment's boundaries.

Employees of Triduct Ltd., the Slough-based air-conditioning sub-contractor, have told me that the air-conditioning

plant would handle an air volume of two to three times the volume it is in fact handling. Triduct have been involved recently in contracts at Aldermaston AWRE and USAF Upper Heyford.

The main building group contains a radioactive store but the size of this and its contents are unknown and it may be used only for the inspection of test cores.

The building contractors would work without question from the security department over the weekends. However, on

the Friday before the October Vietnam Demonstration last year, when even stout state hearts faltered, the Director of Road Research sent around a memo to contractors requesting the names of employees who proposed to work over the weekend. Workers attempting to enter whose names were not on the security department's list would be turned away.

A local journalist attempted to do a legitimate article on the activities of the RRL but was 'discouraged' maybe because it is better that the RRL was not there at all; as it is on seventh series Ordnance Survey maps the laboratory is shown as 'woodland'.

There is, as ever, a precedent. Two buildings (and a wind tunnel) house the US road research laboratory in the grounds of the multi-million dollar Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Presumably because of this all the approach roads to the American intelligence nerve-centre are signposted 'Bureau of Public Roads, Road Research Laboratory'.

LARRY LAW.

An Anarchist Fairy Tale

A LOVER FOR LUCIA by Charles Humana (Tandem paperback 5/-, post 8d.).

WHEN I BECAME acquainted with anarchism at the beginning of the 'fifties, which was before the mass demonstration filled the scene and before our society acquired its 'permissive' appellation, free love was a major interest in the anarchist movement. This novel was reviewed in FREEDOM when it was first published in 1954. Now it has appeared in paperback.

Set in poor, peasant, priest-ridden Sicily, it is about an unbeautiful woman seemingly predestined to a companionless life of duty to an aged blind parent and a lone struggle to wrest a living from the stony soil, to whom love and liberation come at the age of thirty-five. I have called it a fairy tale because, while the ugly duckling does not turn into a swan, there is a mysterious air about the appearance on the scene of the 'fairy prince', whom the author impishly names Fausto.

Reality convincingly takes over in the drawing of the tiny timeless Sicilian town and its people; ignorant peasants, the hardness and rigidity of whose lives have bound their responses into resentful hostility towards anything or anyone from 'outside', into a hatred born of envy for lives touched by magic. All astutely channelled into the course set by the interested upholders of the status quo. It is here that the author's insight draws the most incisive strokes; the priest, dedicating himself remorselessly and tyrannically to preserving what he believes (with some justification) to be

good values from depredation by what he (mistakenly) identifies with the meretricious; the mayor, seeking to remain a big political fish by keeping the pond small; the doctor, whose calling doesn't quite let him range himself with a good conscience on the side of privilege and prejudice against justice and mercy. And, above all, in the police chief—perhaps the real hero of the story—who is the tool to do their dirty work, a victim of his vanity and taste for power, but conscious of the hollowness of his authority and the insipidity of his own life and marriage.

Perhaps I have been wrong to categorise this story as a fairy tale. While this is a lyrical work and not a powerful drama, there is an element of the inevitable progression of tragedy of which the Greeks made their dramas in the death of Lucia's father which sets the subsequent events in motion, and the final deliverance is brought about by the 'Deus ex machina'.

The motive of the story is the courage with which the lovers assert the simple, natural dignity of their relationship and undergo the persecution meted out to the non-conformist. (If you're sceptical about how two people emerge from the chrysalis of that restrictive environment with fully-fledged libertarian attitudes—well, how is it that you are an anarchist in this society?) The persecution reaches the extreme pitches of the imprisonment of the man and the rape of the woman. This is the second of Charles Humana's novels I have read containing a rape scene, and while in this one it fits logically into the plot, yet in the optimistic, lyrical, and yes, I think

sentimental work of this author the X-certificate scene usually seems incongruous. It reminds me of a film in which Bob Hope entered a saloon in the Klondyke full of great bearded brutes of gold prospectors and asked at the bar for a lemonade. Desperately reacting to the menacing, silent incredulity of the assembled toughs, he twisted his face into a grimace intended to look like ugly brutality and added: 'In a dirty glass'.

Most people will be aware of the astronomical numbers of paperbacks churned out every month, and some will have noticed recent references to moves to cut down on the number of titles circulated; principally by W. H. Smith who have set up a single selection centre for a restricted list which will be circulated to the very large proportion of the market for which they are sole distributors. Naturally the James Bonds and Barbara Cartlands will be included. It is good that one work of good craftsmanship by a competent advocate of a liberatory morality has slipped through the net.

M.C.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

- LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press, LAVENDER HILL MOB. Contact C. Broad, 116 Tynesham Road, S.W.11 (228 4086).
 LEWISHAM. Mike Malet, 61B Granville Park, S.E.13. (852 8879).
 MALATESTA GROUP. Contact Reg Broad, 5 Welbeck Court, Addison Bridge Place, W.14. 603 0550. Meetings every Thursday at 'The Cedars', (upstairs room), next to Baron's Court library, 8 p.m.
 PORTOBELLO ROAD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Andrew Dewar, 16 Kilburn House, Malvern Place, N.W.6. Meetings 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Regular meetings. Contact P.P., 271 Portobello Road, W.11.
 BEXLEY ANARCHIST MOVEMENT. Steve Leman, 28 New Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2. Tel: ET 35377. Meetings every Friday, 8 p.m., Lord Bexley, Bexley Heath Broadway.
 S.W. LONDON ANARCHISTS. Meeting alternate Wednesdays. Phone Brian 672 8494.

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 (LE9 8099). Ten minutes from Leytonstone Underground.

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.
 SIEGE OF SIDNEY STREET APPRECIATION SOCIETY. Frances Cooper, 2a Fairfield Gardens, Hornsey, N.8. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

- BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary, Peter Le Marc, 22 Hallowell Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16. 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.
 BOURNEMOUTH AREA. Local anarchists can be contacted through Nigel Holt, Rossmore, Harvey Road, Canford, Wimborne, Dorset. (Wimborne 2991).
 BROMLEY BLACK FLAG. John and Maggie, 2 The Mount, Susan Wood, Chislehurst, Kent. Meetings as above Fridays, 8 p.m. 'Freedom' sales.
 CORNWALL ANARCHISTS. Contact Arthur Jacobs, 13 Ledral Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Meetings on the second Friday of each month at 42 Pendarves Street, Beacom, Camborne, 7.30 p.m. Visiting comrades very welcome.
 CROYDON LIBERTARIANS. Meetings every 2nd Friday of each month. Laurens and Celia Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath (LIV 7546).
 EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx.
 HERTS. Contact Val and John Funnell, 10 Fry

- Road, Chells, Stevenage.
 LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian action and debate. Ever Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester.
 MUTUAL AID GROUP. c/o Borrowdale, Carriage Drive, Frodsham, Cheshire.
 NORTH EAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Peter Ridley, 4 Rockcliffe Gardens, Whitley Bay, Northumberland. Phone 25759.
 NORTH SOMERSET ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Roy Emery, 3 Abbey Street, Bath, or Geoffrey Barfoot, 71 St. Thomas Street, Wells.
 NOTTING HILL. Meetings at John Bennett's, Flat 4, 88 Clarendon Road, W.11. Every Monday evening, 8 p.m.
 ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.
 REDDITCH ANARCHISTS AND LIBERTARIANS. Contact Dave Lloyd, 37 Feckenham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs.
 WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Regular meetings and activities contact Mr. T. Plant, 10 Thackeray Road, East Ham, E.6. Tel.: 552 4162.

ESSEX & EAST HERTS FEDERATION

Three-monthly meetings. Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Peter Newell (see N.E. Essex Group).
 Group Addresses:—
BASILDON & WICKFORD. Steve Grant, 'Piccola Casa', London Road, Wickford, Essex.
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, Purling, Chelmsford, Essex.
IPPING. John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping, Essex.
HARLOW. Ian Dallas, 18 Brookline Field, Harlow and Annette Gunning, 37 Longbarns, Harlow.
LOUGHTON. Group c/o Students' Union, Loughton College of Further Education, Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Secretary: Phil, 9 Boland Street, Manchester, 14.
BLACKPOOL. Contact Christine Seddon, 111 Ingham Road, Blackpool.
BOLTON. Contact John Hayes, 51 Rydal Road, Bolton.
CHORLEY. Contact Kevin Lynch, 6 Garfield Terrace, Chorley.
LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE. Contact Les Smith, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Meetings Monday at 8 p.m., Phil Woodhead's, 30 Dunkeld Street, Lancaster. Regular literature sales.
MANCHESTER ANARCHISTS. 'The Secretary', Felix Phillips, 6 Draycott Street, Manchester, 10.
 Regular weekly meetings. Contact Secretary for venue.
MERSEYSIDE ANARCHISTS. Contact Jenny Rathbone, 20 Sefton Park Road, Liverpool, 8. Meetings every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., at Pete Duke's, Flat 6, 70 Huskisson Street, Liverpool, 8.
PRESTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact J. B. Cowburn, 140 Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston. Meetings: 'The Wellington Hotel', Glover Court, Preston. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
STOCKPORT. Dave Crowther, 1 Castle Street, Edgely, Stockport.

SURREY FEDERATION

- EPSOM. G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom. Tel. Epsom 23806.
 KINGSTON. Michael Squirrel, 4 Woodgate Ave., Hook, Chessington.
 GUILDFORD. Peter Cartwright, 33 Denzil Road, Guildford.
 DORKING. Mungo Park, 16 Overdale, Dorking.
 MERTON. Elliot Burns, 13 Amity Grove, London, S.W.19. Tel. 01-946 1444.

SUSSEX FEDERATION

- Groups and individuals invited to associate: c/o Eddie Poole, 5 Tilbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.
BRIGHTON & HOVE ANARCHIST GROUP. Sebastian Melmoth, 6 Foundry Street, Brighton. Regular fortnightly meetings. On Saturday, May 17, a FREE SCHOOLS meeting, 3 p.m., Unitarian Church Hall, New Road, Brighton.
CRAWLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Richard Ashwell, 87 Buckswood Drive, Gossops Green, Crawley, Sussex.
SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP (see details under Student Groups).

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION

- Meetings every 8 weeks. Next meeting in Hull, May 4. Secretary: Colin Beadle, c/o Oakwood Farm, Cliffe-cum-Lund, Selby, Yorkshire.
HARROGATE. Contact David Howes, 16 Park Parade, Harrogate.
HULL. Jim Young, 3 Fredericks Crescent, Hawthorn Avenue, Hull.
KEIGHLEY. Steve Wood, 26B Cavendish Street, Keighley.
LEEDS. Direct Action Society. Contact Martin Watkins, 6 Ebersthor Terrace, Leeds, 6.
SELBY. Contact Colin Beadle, (address above). Regular activities: 'Freedom' sales.
SHEFFIELD. Dave Jeffries, c/o Students Union, Western Bank, Sheffield, 10.
YORK. C/o Students' Representative Council, Goodricke College, University of York, Heslington, York.

STUDENT GROUPS

- ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY GROUP. C/o Ian and Peggy Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, AB2 4SL.
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Matthew Robertson, Trinity College.
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY LIBERTARIAN/ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Chris Short, UWIST Union, Cathays Park, or Chas. Ball, UCC Union, Dumphries Place.
COLLEGE, or John Fullerton, Jesus College.
SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Colin Beadle, Brighton, Sussex. 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 S. U. 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, Oxford Road, Manchester, 13.
SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY Revolutionary Anarchist Federation. Contact Student Union Bookstall lunchtimes on Tuesday and Friday.

- LSE ANARCHIST GROUP. C/o Students' Union, LSE, Houghton Street, W.C.2.
KINGSTON COLLEGE of Technology, Penrhyn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. Contact G. Wright.
MANCHESTER COLLEGE of Commerce. Contact Kevin Hill, c/o Students' Union, College of Commerce, Aytoun Street, Manchester, 1.
WELSH FEDERATION
ABERYSTWYTH ANARCHISTS. Contact Steve Mills, 4 St. Michael's Place, Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Wales.
CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to: Pete Raymond, 18 Marion Street, Splott, Cardiff.
SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 22 Glamorgan Road, Uplands, Swansea. Weekly meetings, 'Freedom' sales and action projects.
LLANELLI: Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llwynnandy Road, Llanelli, Carm. Tel: Llanelli 2548.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION

- All correspondence to Bobby Lynn, Secretary, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow, S.E.
ABERDEEN ANARCHIST GROUP. Bob Comrie, 288 Hardgate.
ABERDEEN FREEDOM GROUP. All those wishing to sell both national and Scottish editions of 'Freedom' contact Ian S. Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen.
GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Robert Lynn, 12 Ross Street, S.E.
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.
MONTROSE. Dave Coull, 3 Eskview Terrace, Ferryden, Montrose, Angus.
ROSS-SHIRE. Contact David Rodgers, Broomfield, Evanton, Ross-shire, Scotland.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- BELFAST ANARCHIST GROUP. Meetings every Saturday, 2 p.m., 44a Upper Arthur Street (top floor). 'Freedom' sales.
SOUTHERN IRELAND
ALLIANCE OF LIBERTARIAN AND ANARCHIST GROUPS IN IRELAND. Please send all communications with stamped envelope to The Secretary, c/o Freedom Press.

ABROAD

- AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. Box A 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 Vivegnis, Lille.
USA. James W. Cain, secretary, the Anarchist Committee of Correspondence, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA.
TORONTO LIBERTARIAN ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 TorYork Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'. Third issue now out and it was well worth waiting for!

PROPOSED GROUPS

- NORTH DEVON. All those interested in forming a local group please contact Hugh Bensley, 'Boathyde', Northam, Bideford, Devon.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC. Anyone interested in forming a Montreal area Anarchist group please contact Ron Sigler. Tel. 489-6432.

THE LISTENER (8.5.69) publishes an article based on a talk given by John Sparrow in the Third Programme. This talk is called 'Civilisation', but consists of a sustained attack on the youthful protest movement. The part which interests us as anarchists is the last half. The speaker discusses the 'soft' form of protest, an example of which is Father Huddleston oddly enough, and then passes on to what he calls the 'hard'. The soft opt out of the system... the hard, if they had their way, would destroy the system entirely. They are the activists... but whether Marxists, Trotskyites, Nihilists, Anarchists, they don't subscribe to any agreed political doctrine, except revolution. Che Guevara is their god, and Herbert Marcuse is his prophet... Then follow a string of names, Cohn-Bendit, Tariq Ali and Adelstein of the LSE.

In short, a complete pot-pourri. To begin with, one can't really write about Marxists and Trotskyists, since Trotskyists are Marxists, one of the innumerable Marxist sects. It is like talking about Christians and Methodists. Then we come to the Nihilists. Now, the Nihilists were young intellectuals of Tsarist Russia, who flourished about a hundred years ago. They believed that one should subject all social institutions to criticism, nothing should be left unattacked. Hence the name 'Nihilist'.

They did not however wish to destroy society. They believed that what was worthy would survive the most searching criticisms. In fact they were Puritans, and their solution for the government of Russia was liberal, parliamentary democracy. One of their sayings was 'A pair of good boots is worth more than all your fine talk about Shakespeare'. (Not, please note, 'worth more than Shakespeare'.) They believed in literacy, in setting up schools for the peasants, etc. Many of them, or those influenced by their ideas 'went to the people', in order to educate them. Their ideas were therefore reformist, part of the nineteenth-century movement for self and social improvement.

MOVING FUND

Three weeks ending May 10, 1969

Target is £500.

Donations to date: £451 13s. 11d.

PREMISES FUND

Three weeks ending May 10, 1969

Target is £1,000 per year.

1969 Pledges honoured and donations to date: £191 8s. 7d.

IN THE RED!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2 weeks ending May 3, 1969

Estimated Expenses:

18 weeks at £90: £1,620
Income: Sales and Subs.: £1,273

DEFICIT: £347

Montreal: R.S. £1/2/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; K.C.F. 2/-; London, N.W.3: G.A. 11/8; Pembury: R.W. 5/-; Peterborough: F.W. 5/-; London, S.W.17: T. 12/10; York: S.M. 2/6; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; J.F. & C.F. 2/-; Southall: D.S. 3/-; Woodstock, Vt.: E.S. £6; Bideford: H.B. 7/6; Somerset: D. 5/-.

TOTAL: £10 7 11

Previously Acknowledged: £264 15 3

1969 Total to Date: £275 3 2

Deficit B/F: £347 0 0

TOTAL DEFICIT: £71 16 10

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Week ending May 10, 1969

Estimated Expenses:

19 weeks at £90: £1,710
Income: Sales and Subs.: £1,359

DEFICIT: £351

Peterborough: F.W. 1/4; Todmorden: G.B. 12/10; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; K.F. & C.F. 2/-; Bangor, N.I.: J.T. £1; California: M.G. £14/17/-; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Liverpool: P.S. 6/-; Pembury: R.W. 5/-; Canterbury: G.A. 1/8; London, N.W.3: C.H. 5/-; London: B.C. 4/-.

TOTAL: £18 4 10

Previously Acknowledged: £275 3 2

1969 Total to Date: £293 8 0

Deficit B/F: £351 0 0

TOTAL DEFICIT: £57 12 0

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Gift of Books—London, E.13: R.P.; Liverpool: M.C.; Taunton: D.P.

Anarchy & Chaos

The anarchists, notably Peter Kropotkin, were influenced by them, but believed that they did not go far enough. Anarchists, one hardly needs to point out in the columns of **FREEDOM**, believe in the ability of mankind to get along tolerably well without coercive institutions, on a basis of co-operation between equals. Some may admire Che Guevara, most I think regard him as a romantic character, without much relevance to their own day-to-day problems. Some anarchists believe that the rulers of society will never relinquish their power without a fight, others believe that non-violent methods can succeed. Others concern themselves not at all with social revolution, or possible future societies, but instead concern themselves with trying to achieve as much freedom as possible here and now. Most anarchists in practice seem to oscillate from one point of view to another, according to circumstances.

Cohn-Bendit is, I believe, an anarchist. Tariq Ali is not, but belongs I think to one of the schools of Marxist thought which flourish today. About the other names Mr. Sparrow mentions I do not know much, except that they are not anarchists, but perhaps they may sometimes approach anarchism at some points. Mr. Sparrow talks about 'muddle', but

it seems that he is the muddled one. Not necessarily all the young militants who today call themselves 'anarchists' know what the word means, and not all those who do are necessarily articulate. I myself, who have been in the anarchist movement since 1948, and have read all the books, and written articles, and delivered lectures on anarchism, cannot always cope with some (obviously hostile) interviewer, who approaches me on some march or demonstration, notebook in hand, and fires questions at me.

Recently I was cornered on a Biafra demonstration by one of these eager-beaver characters, who wanted to know why I was demonstrating, and was not satisfied with my answer that I was against war and genocide.

Before I realised what I was doing I had wobbled my way into a long and involved lecture on my theory of the origin of warfare among human groups, and had got back to Neolithic civilisations and human sacrifice, and war as a religious rite among the Aztecs, when my assailant developed a glazed look and hastily withdrew, no doubt thinking, 'Another crank! He will soon take us back to the Lost Atlantis, flying saucers, and astral bodies or something of the sort'.

Freedom of Speech

Dear Comrades,

While not agreeing with Philip Holgate, I think Digger's reply to him should not go unanswered. (Philip has, I think, forgotten that an university should be a community of scholars and the lecturer learns from the student as well as vice versa.)

It seems basic that there is a difference of kind rather than merely of degree between heckling designed to break the flow of a speaker's remarks and to demonstrate that not everyone agrees with the speaker, and heckling that is designed to prevent the speaker speaking at all.

The Olympia meeting Digger instances was so rigged that in fact the hecklers knew perfectly well that they had no hope of preventing the meeting (as they prevented Mosley from speaking in Cable Street) but they were able to show up Mosley for what he was by courageous self-sacrifice.

This of course does not mean that all outright attempts to prevent speeches are to be put in one condemned corner and all interjections in the other. Cable Street, Ridley Road, Ladbrooke Grove and Smethwick Town Hall, were occasions when fascist speakers were part of open attempts to intimidate a minority and that both solidarity and refusal to be intimidated necessitated that the right to speak had to be denied.

But are we saying that at no time and in no place should a fascist be allowed to speak? If we are, if we are denying utterly and absolutely the right of all racists to express themselves at any time—then we must logically take the argument further to say that we shall decide who can, and who cannot speak and this entails an abandonment of anarchism.

Not only is there the very material point that if we start by sanctioning limitations on free speech, then we can be very sure that soon after limitations will be placed on our rights of free speech and our words will be quoted by those who have far more power than us to give or withhold such freedom.

But also it is inconceivable that one could have freedom for all working class groups to express themselves, without extending that freedom to all groups. If you attempt to say we shall permit Maoists to speak but not fascists (quite apart from the fact that there are plenty of racists among Stalinists), you then have to say we will set up a yardstick which will govern who shall or who shall not be allowed to speak. If you do this you must abandon anarchism; only a state could enforce such a yardstick.

Anarchism insists on freedom for all, it denies the right of any to exploit others, and it is one of our difficulties to allow the freedom of someone who is not an anarchist to argue for a different system of society without allowing him to create an exploitative system. But if we do not allow non-anarchists to argue against anarchism we are not true to our anarchism.

We have to decide when freedom for a fascist to speak is itself an aggressive act against already oppressed peoples, and then use what action we can to deny it, and when that freedom does not

menace anyone, and in that case interjectory-heckling is fair, but not deliberate attempts to suppress.

This does not of course apply only with the Right. Some years back the anarchists and Committee of 100 rightly adopted the slogan 'Orme shall not speak for an Aldermaston March' on the grounds that the Campaign had decided that a Labour MP should speak and be reported in the press on behalf of marchers and we wished to demonstrate that the marchers themselves did not want a parliamentarian to do this. It would have been an entirely different matter if Orme had wished to speak at a Conference of Unilateralists, or if the CND had not rigged the Trafalgar Square platform so that only the parliamentarian wing of the campaign was represented.

We are left then with at least three factors which have to be taken into consideration:

That there is a qualitative rather than quantitative difference between interjections designed to ridicule a speech, and a deliberate attempt to drown out or otherwise prevent the speech being made.

That where the speech is itself an act of aggression and intimidation, then it is reasonable and laudable to react to this aggression and intimidation by attempting to prevent the speech (though on pure grounds of expediency, this may not in fact be the wisest course).

That where the speech is ostensibly made on behalf of people who do not agree with the majority of it, then it is natural that that majority will take the only means they can to disassociate themselves from it and make that disassociation felt despite the fact that the speaker has the advantages of loud-speakers, and better relations with pressmen.

But having stated these, we must also state that as anarchists we believe in the absolute freedom of all people to express their ideas. Agreed, bourgeois politicians have more access than we to the mass media, and so as of now we do not look as if we are ever likely to prevent

Mr. Sparrow seems to be under the impression that anarchists do not believe in running hospitals, or in people studying anything that requires effort and concentration, and self-discipline even. Yet the anarchist movement has usually been most successful among independent craftsmen, artists and self-employed people, who often work for longer hours and for less money than those who have regular nine to five jobs.

In the last century anarchism was strong among the watchmakers of the Jura mountains, in Switzerland. Fishermen and peasants in countries like Spain, Italy or Mexico, have often been anarchists. They are the very people who are at the very basis of the tree of civilisation which Mr. Sparrow wants to preserve. Without them there would be no tree at all.

It is understandable that moderately prosperous middle-class gentlemen, for whom the world is, if not very safe, at least safer than it is for some Negro in Harlem or Notting Hill, should look with anxiety on the rebellion of students or other groups.

On the very next page of *The Listener* Alistair Cooke denounces the armed Negro students of Cornell University, and compares them to Nazis in effect. It is understandable that they should forget that to many people in the modern world the conditions are intolerable, and that they should mock and abuse all rebels. Nothing is to be expected from their brand of 'liberalism'.

ARTHUR W. ULOTH.

FIFTH COLUMN

'The Warning'—

I disagree

I CAN'T AGREE with the 'warning' issued by Arthur Uloth and John Rety on this page last week. I think that their premise is false, their argument muddled—and their conclusion absurd.

Let's look at the premise first: the anarchist movement has not become political, that is involved with other political groupings... in our opposition to the Bomb and the Vietnam War, etc., we as anarchists took a moral and uncompromising position with which political groupings could not co-operate... in direct action issues, like the Squatters' Movement, other groupings were afraid of the total implication of our actions.

In my experience this is just not true. The Oxford Committee of 100 started off in 1961 as a coalition of the New Left, International Socialism, communists, those who believed in non-violent direct action—and those who just wanted to ban the bomb and were willing to try something new. There were one or two anarchists but even they tended to fit into one of the other categories: they were on their way out of the New Left or were committed to non-violent direct action first and foremost.

As the Oxford Committee developed it declined numerically: the CP dropped out, the New Left drifted away, those who just wanted to ban the bomb got bored. At the same time more and more people in the Committee started to call themselves anarchists: the Committee spawned the Oxford Anarchist Group. But revolutionary socialists—mainly IS—remained active members after the other marxists had left. In the end they too dropped out of the Committee was left smaller than the Anarchist Group: by this time the Committee was end they too dropped out and the Committee was left smaller than the Anarchist anarchists.

I wonder if Arthur and John consider the Independent Labour Party and Solidarity to be part of the anarchist movement. If not the co-operation between these two groups and the SWF and LFA to produce the *Spies for Peace* pamphlet must have been 'political action'.

I wonder if Arthur and John consider Socialist Current to be part of the anarchist movement—the group is usually described as Trotskyist. Whatever label you give it Socialist Current was involved, with a number of other radical groups including anarchists, in trying to establish an independent unilateralist movement a few years ago. Once again—'political action'.

The last eight years or so are full of examples of 'political action'. Someone with a better memory—and a more profound understanding of the complexities of revolutionary politics—than myself (stand up Laurens Otter) could undoubtedly write at very great length on various campaigns and movements involving anarchists and other groups.

I will give just one more example. Not only is it contemporary: it directly conflicts with the second point made by Arthur and John. The South London Squatters Group consists of IS and CP members, anarchists, two members of the Labour Party and one or two not committed to any group. Those who are not anarchists may disagree about the implications of squatting but so far practice has been more important than theory.

Arthur and John start from a false premise—that British anarchists have not in the recent past been involved in 'political action'. Even with this premise they have difficulty in showing that it is dangerous to co-operate with other groups against the Government's anti-working class measures. I agree that the 'machine of politics' is full of lies and deceit, that the moderate opposition at the TUC will be prepared to compromise—but the remarks which follow leave me confused. How does this show the 'treachery and stupidity of the novice rogues of IS'? How does it prove that 'the opponents of the Bill, with the exception of the anarchists, are in this political game for power and in order to recruit members'?

The argument of Arthur and John seems to amount to: some 'political' people are treacherous; IS are political; therefore IS are treacherous.

On to the absurd conclusion: faced with a danger let us have a 'free assembly' to work out our policy. First the existence of the danger is yet to be established. Secondly anarchist assemblies are notoriously unsuccessful in deciding policy. I was not at the last AFB conference but I gather that it was agreed not to join demonstrations organised by the VSC—and not to carry banners on them either. Comment is superfluous.

WYNFORD HICKS.

them saying what they wish anywhere, and also we know that reportage of incidents will always favour them. But there is a question of principle here, we are not Bolsheviks, and we do therefore believe that the bourgeois politician must always have the right to continue advocating capitalist society; though we are determined to prevent them exploiting anyone which means we are determined to prevent them translating their desires into actions.

L.O.

DEMONSTRATION

to expose

BAD HOUSING

in Notting Hill Gate

Saturday, MAY 17, 2.30 p.m.

Street meeting in

Colville Gardens, W.11

followed by

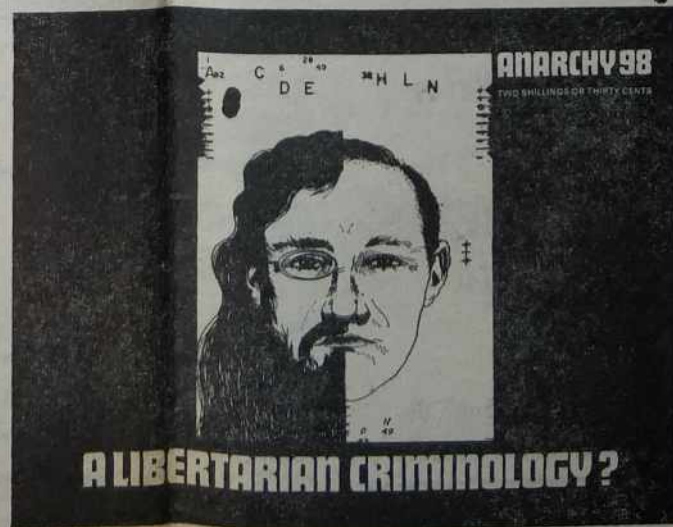
'CONDUCTED TOUR'

of area

with Revealing Exposures

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMP SOCIAL

Evening Sat. May 24
at Freedom Press



Realities of Governing

IN THE LAST few weeks, the Labour Government has really been taking a hammering. The latest issue to give rise to a storm of protest has been the decision to increase the charge for spectacles and dentures.

While deploring this increase, it does not really come as a surprise.

Contact Column

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

'Alarm', Swansea Anarchists weekly broadsheet obtainable from Group address: 2/6 for next 5 issues inc. postage. Also new duplicator bought for £60 and not yet paid for—all donations very gratefully received and necessary.

Ken: Gravy—now flat 11—Bill.

Aberdeen Anarchists want to meet a printer (offset litho or letterpress) to handle future leaflets. Please contact Ian S. Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, giving details of prices.

Biafra meeting to plan demonstration in October—Friday, May 23, 7.30 p.m., Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Have you any (do you know whereabouts of) unpublished material such as letters, diaries, notebooks relating to anarchist movement(s) or individuals of 19th and early 20th centuries? A student preparing a thesis on anarchist thought would be grateful for your help. Please write to Sam Wolf, 55 Harvey Court, West Road, Cambridge.

Surrey Free Schools Campaign. K. W. Bennett, 63 Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey.

Manchester Squatters. Meetings every Wed., 8 p.m. Manchester University Union, Oxford Road, Manchester.

Wanted, to buy or borrow, a large tent (up to 15 people) for the International Summer Camp. Offers to J.N., 25 North Villas, N.W.1.

Read the Northern (Ireland) Informer, 1/- from Janet Wilcox, 103 Balham Park Road, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W.12.

Lock-up shop to let. £6 a week. Stoke Newington. Ring Barbara TER 4473.

School students in North London are forming a Schools Anarchist Fed. and Libertarian Group, any Comrades wishing to help or who could give advice please write to John Mann, 133 Haden Court, Seven Sisters Road, London, N.4.

Freedom Press Manager needs room (living accommodation) near Aldgate East, Box No. 35.

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

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.

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

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

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.

for if a Labour Government can deprive children of free milk at school, then they certainly would not have any qualms about the present increases. What is surprising, however, is the inept timing. With talks of ousting Wilson and the local elections a few days away, it did seem to be an act of a Government committing suicide.

The Minister who made the announcement was Mr. Crossman, who resigned from the Government in 1951, with Aneurin Bevan and Harold Wilson when the original imposition of charges for prescriptions was made.

The increased charges will only bring in £1,700,000 this year, and £3½m. in a full year. A small amount indeed, but one that will bring them more in line with costs and, after all, this is what it is all about. This was a Cabinet-approved Treasury decision, for the Treasury are enforcing a limit on all Government expenditure. These permanent civil servants are the people who make the decisions, the bureaucrats who never come up for election, basing their decisions on the economic standing of the country.

The left-wing of the Labour Party say it was another move to impress our foreign creditors, but this does seem rather ridiculous. Certainly our creditors do require and look for such evidence, but these increases are imposed in isolation and at such a time seem to give the impression that the Government is losing its grip.

It is naive of people to believe that Governments are humanitarian and act on principles, as does the *Guardian*. They say the timing was a secondary issue and 'What is more alarming is the way the Government in their present mood are abandoning more and more of their traditional principles.' They do not list these 'traditional principles', but I would say that these are the policies that are put forward at elections and which are usually forgotten when in power and the realities of governing come home.

PLEDGE LATER OMITTED

First and foremost, a Government must govern and the economic circumstances dictate how many and which policies or principles are forsaken. If the *Guardian* had looked at the election manifestos of the Labour Party, it would have seen, in actual fact, how realistic they were. Having gained power in 1964, with a manifesto that pledged to restore a free Health Service as soon as possible, this pledge was forgotten and omitted from the 1966 manifesto.

The emotion aroused by these increases has also been in evidence with regard to the Government's plans on industrial

relations. Once again, people mistakenly think that Governments will act in a principled way. The Labour Party might not have included in its election manifesto the proposal contained in its White Paper 'In Place of Strife', but a number of prominent MPs gave warnings of State intervention if the trade unions did not reform themselves. However, during the 1964 election, Anarchists posed this question and asked whether a Labour Government would legislate against unofficial strikes. While our friends on the Socialist left thought this was ridiculous and canvassed for a Labour Government, we mounted an anti-election campaign. But being proved right is little consolation, for one has only to look at the high principles and promises of politicians at election and then examine their record in office to see how far short they fall.

THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

The dilemma facing the Government is that not only must it prevent a massive rebellion in the ranks of the Labour Party, but the economic situation must ease a great deal more if they are to have a chance of winning the next election. 'In Place of Strife' is an attack on our freedom to withdraw our labour when we have a grievance with the employer. It is also aimed at capturing the floating voter and continues the process of re-orientating the image of the Labour Party as the traditional party of the working class.

The opposition to the Government's plans on industrial relations is mounting. The Government itself is looking to the TUC to get it off the hook, while the TUC has placed proposals before the Government whereby it will do their dirty work for them. There should be no interference in the right to strike, whether from the Government or the TUC, who wants to extend its power in order to be able to intervene in unofficial strikes. If unions concede this, it could mean that militants would be expelled from their unions by the TUC. The TUC would then become a disciplinary body for the employers, expelling and blacklisting militants. This is what could happen if the working class fails to organise itself independently and relies on the leadership of the trade union executives and Labour Party politicians.

These are critical times for the Labour movement and only solidarity in industrial action will defeat attempts to shackle the working class of this country.

P.T.

Squatting in Norway

OUR NORWEGIAN correspondent, Erik Disch, writes: 'Last night a group from "Et sted å vare" (means a "place to live"—a name used by Oslo apartments as a demonstration against apartments as a demonstration against the city council which has let a part of the town which is to be reconstructed to a bank.

'The bank is going to build a big shopping centre, luxury hotels and luxury apartments, parking lots, bank buildings, etc., while 50-60,000 people are on lists waiting for a place to live, while there are 3,000 homeless people in Oslo, while children have to play in streets.

'Oslo needs more apartments and social institutions, not a big concrete "piggy bank" for 400,000,000 kroner! The police will probably try to throw the occupants out today.'

GBW GROUP FORMED

ACHEMICAL and Biological Warfare Action Group has been formed in London. Apart from the main group which will meet regularly for discussion, to exchange ideas and to co-ordinate activity, several sub-groups have been formed. These include Research: London Localities (this group will initiate activity in various parts of London, using every kind of media, to make Londoners aware of what is happening at Nance-

Freedom For Workers' Control

MAY 17 1969 Vol 30 No 15

WORKERS UNDER APARTHEID

AT A TIME WHEN 'In Place of Strife' is being forced through Parliament it is very interesting to see how trade union rights have already been successfully attacked by the Government in South Africa.

The facts are contained in the latest booklet published by the International Defence and Aid Fund (2 Amen Court, London, E.C.4) called 'South Africa: Workers Under Apartheid'.

The black workers are not allowed to carry out any collective bargaining at all. Yet when they take on a job they are bound by a legal contract. During negotiations between employers and the white trade unions the interests of the African workers are supposed to be watched by either one or two white Government officials.

All strikes by blacks are absolutely illegal. This also applies to work-to-rules and stoppages over unsafe conditions (762 were killed and 30,677 injured in the mines alone in 1966). For any strike, however justified, black workers can be fined £500 and imprisoned for three years.

Apart from this there is no protection against victimisation. This was illustrated when 194 African busmen went on strike. All were fined. Then FOUR YEARS LATER ten were picked out and jailed for 4½ years for 'furthering the aims of communism'. In addition any Africans who join a union are often evicted and find it difficult to get work as there are far more workers than

work. The whites are in a slightly better position but they too are vulnerable.

A warning of what was to come was made when the Nationalist Party said in opposition that the unions under them would not be concerned with wages and conditions but 'the spiritual welfare of the workers'.

The white unions must have a ballot before striking and they are forbidden to strike within one year of a wage increase, if they work for a local authority or for an essential public service. For striking under these conditions they can be fined £100 and imprisoned for one year.

In addition both blacks and whites are threatened by the Sabotage Act and Suppression of Communism Act. Both have fairly wide definitions of sabotage and communism.

Sabotage includes causing considerable financial loss to an employer or the State (almost inevitable in a large scale strike), encouraging a social or economic change or crippling an industry. For this the minimum sentence is five years' prison and the maximum is death.

The President can use these acts to declare any trade union an unlawful body and so eligible for these punishments. A white union has a right of appeal against his declaration but African unions do not.

The Riotous Assembly Act can be used to ban strike meetings and several other laws are interpreted to impede organisation of workers. An example of this was when pamphlets issued by the Non-European Railway Workers Union were seized. They complained that white railwaymen had got a rise but the non-whites had not. This was judged to be 'promoting hostility between Natives and Europeans'.

The Government has another strong hold on both blacks and whites through their ability to reserve jobs for whites. This was originally demanded by the white workers who wanted protection from the cheap African labour. (Africans on average get one-fifth the wages of whites doing the same jobs. In the mines it can be as little as one-seventeenth.)

So far the Government has reserved far more jobs for whites than there are actual whites to fill them. This is so they can issue special permits and exemptions to blacks to do work normally reserved for whites. These can be withdrawn at any time and the blacks put out of a job. Once they are unemployed they can no longer live in that area and so the Government uses this power to direct labour where it suits it (by withdrawing exemptions from one area and issuing permits for another). Needless to say the convenience of the black workers or their family ties are not considered.

There is, however, no reason why the Government should not reverse this policy if the white workers started getting too militant (by reserving less jobs for whites and allowing the employers to use the far cheaper black labour and put the whites out of work).

As the blacks are not allowed to organise themselves effectively this policy would lead to a work force even less organised than it is at present (only 13 per cent are properly organised in unions).

It was with this sobering thought in mind that the Trade Union Council of South Africa feared in 1968 that 'the trade union concept will disappear from the South African scene'.

This booklet costs 6s., or 4s. to trade unions or trades councils which order six or more.

M.P.

Anarchists in Oslo

A NEWLY STARTED anarchist group in Norway has a building in the centre of Oslo, which they share with other radical groups. Our correspondent, Erik Disch, mentions that the group comprises 'a few hundred workers and students'. This makes the new Oslo group far bigger than any British group and indicates a bright future for anarchism in Norway. Their premises are visited by hundreds of people every day, and they request support from the British movement in the form of old FREEDOMS, anarchist pamphlets, posters, etc., which they can supply to callers. Comrades who would like to support this grand effort should send relevant material to Erik Disch, Konglefare 19, Oslo 7, Norway. Come on, comrades, do some international mutual aid!

IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

kuke, Porton, Schermuly, etc.). Anti-Vivisection (a group that will publicise and possibly promote action at Allington Farm, Porton) and Porton Action (the group that will plan regular activity at and around Porton).

The pamphlet, originally published as 'Silent Death', revised and republished later as 'Conspiracy of Silence', has again been revised and may be re-published as 'Conspiracy of Death'.

It is hoped to publish leaflets and posters, concerning this subject, but at the moment the group has no funds. Donations would be welcomed, but as we do not yet have a bank account, cheques and postal orders should be made out to the undermentioned (all will be acknowledged) and from whom further details of activity, meetings, etc., can be obtained. Douglas Kepper, 21 Vernon Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11.