

Freedom

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THE SQUATTER WAR

AT A TIME when the press is full of the latest space flight, and headlines describe the 'fantastic ride' of spacemen on their way to the Moon, many people in London, one of the centres of civilisation, are still homeless. A society which can build spaceships is incapable of providing houses sufficient for its population. Nor is this mere incompetence. An element of deliberate viciousness enters into the matter. The struggle of the London squatters is beginning to escalate to the proportions of a minor civil war. Not only are squatting families viciously assaulted and thrown into the street, the houses they occupied are then wrecked and made uninhabitable. Human folly and malice could

hardly go further.

The action of Redbridge Borough Council may have repercussions that will extend much further than the members of the Council can possibly have imagined. In the early hours of April 21 a small army of bailiffs descended on three families of squatters in succession, smashed their way into the houses they had occupied, and threw them (literally) into the street, children as well as adults being manhandled. This attack was, by the way, illegal. Not that we anarchists have much to say in favour of law, which is generally made to protect the property owners (the strong) against the propertyless (the weak). But it is just as well to remember that this action was

illegal, if on the one hand you believe that anarchists are people who would like to tear down the very structure of civilisation. People who hold this belief about us are usually the same people who point to the institution of the Law as a safeguard and basis of civilised living. Well, here is authority itself breaking its own laws when it suits it. Perhaps it is tearing down more than a few houses in Ilford.

Mr. Nicholls, the Town Clerk, claims that he used his 'common law' rights in evicting the squatters. In fact he was breaking the law. According to the Statute of Forcible Entry, 1381, 'None from henceforth make any entry into any land and tenement, but in case where entry is given by law; and in such case not with strong hand nor with multitude of people, but only in peaceable or easy manner. And if any man from henceforth do to the contrary he shall be punished by imprisonment.'

This means that no one may seize land by force, but must instead go through the courts. That the person who forcibly seizes the land has a rightful claim to it is no excuse. This statute was introduced to stop barons, returning from the Hundred Years War, from waging their own private wars over disputed estates. It was ineffective then, and seems to be equally so today. Victory still goes to those who are best organised, and who are prepared to strike ruthlessly, without what we nowadays regard as 'normal, humanitarian considerations'.

In order to achieve his evictions Mr. Nicholls employed a small feudal army. Readers may be surprised that in a modern city, in a quiet modern country, not in barbarous Chicago, or in volatile Paris, but in dear old England, it is possible to hire an army of mercenary warriors to commit acts of violence. Nonetheless it is so.

Mr. Nicholls hired the services of a Mr. Barrie Quatermaine, who runs a 'private detective agency' and appears to be a fanatic of violence for its own sake, claiming to be of Norman descent. One hopes that his ancestors are looking down in pride upon him from whatever Valhalla they have flown to, as he unleashes his little horde upon helpless and defenceless people.

In doing this Mr. Nicholls may



have begun a process the end of which he himself would not desire. Society in Western Europe since the end of the Middle Ages has striven, in the main successfully, though with some shattering setbacks (such as two world wars and the Nazi regime), to create a situation of social peace. Daily life becomes more and more humane. Institutions like the death penalty, flogging, the press-gang, etc., are done away with, or reduced step by step. Civil war is eliminated. In medieval times it was a feature of normal life.

The strains and stresses of modern technological and social change are gravely threatening the structure of our culture however. The two world wars, and above all the appalling Hitler episode, show that our civilisation is not very deep-rooted. The settling of disputes by the hiring of private armies is not civilised behaviour. It is a sign of barbarism.

The logical consequences are obvious. What one group can do another can imitate. Karate chops may be answered with pickaxe handles, pickaxe handles may be answered with molotov cocktails. Before long firearms begin to make their appearance. The entire social structure begins to crumble, life becomes precarious, essential services run down. No one goes to work if he can avoid it. It is too dangerous

to go outside one's own district, and one is not very safe there from marauding bands. One cannot possibly run a big city on such a basis.

As the economic crisis deepens, and a sense of insecurity grows among all classes, including the ruling and possessing class, the temptation to resort to strong-arm tactics will probably increase. To do anything to encourage this tendency is to help to undermine the very structure that makes even the much-vaunted space flights possible. Dark Age tribes cannot send rockets to the Moon. The secure and comfortable life which today the bourgeois enjoy, and probably also the vast majority of the working class, in most of Western Europe and North America, is only possible because, on the whole, people do not settle their disputes by hiring assassins, or mercenary soldiers, or gunmen. The Kray gang are denounced, but Redbridge Borough Council, who used a gang on the squatters, are apparently acceptable in respectable society. This may be a sign that this same society is losing faith in itself, in its own 'law and order'.

A.W.U.

*'Q-Men', 25 Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, S.W.1. (The National Front has its office in the same block at 11 Palace Chambers!)

Please May We Come In?

THE PRESSURES for Britain to enter the Common Market are about to be brought out of cold storage. The pro-marketisers believe the stumbling block has gone with General de Gaulle in retirement. Many people forget that some drivers can drive a car from the rear seat and it is quite possible that de Gaulle can do just that. The Gaullist Foreign Minister has his eye on the forthcoming French elections and for any politician this is the be-all and end-all. French politicians are no exceptions, Debré sees no hurry for Britain's admission.

Other members of the Common Market are very eager for us to join, not because they love us, but because they have a problem. They find they are overproducing in the agricultural section and therefore they have to extend their market—and where better than in Britain. It is of no consequence to them if the price of our food rises. The situation is reaching

such a critical stage that the Vice-President of the EEC put forward proposals for curbing production in agriculture; needless to say, the idea was not received with acclamation by the European farmers. Therefore it is possible that the French will be forced to say 'oui' instead of 'non'.

Big Business, in the form of the Confederation of British Industry and their French equivalent, do not wait for Governments, they have plans to make. French and British employers had arranged to meet a few months ago but by mere chance their meeting was in fact just after de Gaulle's retirement.

German and British managers from leading companies met in London a couple of weeks ago. Although they have met about half a dozen times before, this latest meeting must have been in the atmosphere of Britain's potential entry into the Common Market. Included in the topics discussed was equal pay and participation.

Britain on her part was able to point

to the 12 part-time employee-directors of the British Steel Corporation. In the German coal and steel industry, the Supervisory Board contains many employee members. On equal pay it was agreed there were prejudices and difficulties.

And so the embryo of the Common Market picture (Britain in) can be seen to be forming. From Joe Soap's point of view it is a bigger financial and industrial power bloc intensifying the workers' problems. The ultimate goal is political union and labour mobility. Such mobility could make for workers' solidarity, but we can be sure that nationalism will be used as a wedge. It is up to us to prepare now. International solidarity of workers has always been overrated; we may have our various international union federations but the seamen's strike exposed that set-up for what it was worth—less than the paper it was written on. It all boils down in the final analysis to what 'Joe' is prepared to accept.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

ON THE NIGHT of May 9 the War Resisters League suddenly was cut off from all 10,000 of its members and friends across the country. This was accomplished by a group of unknown persons who broke into the office and stole ALL membership cards and stencils. In addition, they wrecked the premises, dumped all files, smashed office equipment.

Thus the War Resisters League has to reconstruct its mailing list from scratch. It is therefore urgent that every person who was on the list write to the League at its new headquarters, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012, giving their name and address (with zip code, please).

Message to the Homeless

THE South East London Squatters have issued a leaflet, 'A Message to the Homeless'.

'Everyone pretends to care about the plight of the homeless', it begins, and goes on to say that the authorities claim to be doing 'all they can', but in fact it is all a pretence. The aim is to make the homeless, and those who have homes of a kind, content with their lot. '3,000,000 families in this country live in substandard conditions, 18,689 people exist in homeless hostels. In London alone, 170,000 people wait on the official housing lists. . . . Nobody ever tells you to

give up hope, because hope is the bribe that keeps you quiet. . . . We believe that the housing problem will only be solved when sufficient pressure is exerted from beneath, and the first and obvious step is to use the houses already available on the basis of need.'

There are plenty of these, houses which for one reason or another stand empty. Some for years at a time. The South East London Squatters offer to help anyone wishing to attempt a squat. Their address is: The South East London Squatters, 9 Guildford Grove, S.E.10, telephone 692 4704. A.W.U.

Powell and the Powellites

ENOCH POWELL was booked some time last year by the Harwich Division Conservative Association to speak at Clacton Town Hall, on Friday afternoon, March 21, though much of the information about the meeting was kept secret right up to March 10.

Despite this, however, various known racists and fascists in N.E. Essex had been, for some considerable time, writing 'anti-immigrant' and 'pro-Powell' letters to the local press; and members and supporters of the National Front in Colchester had been daubing walls (and the premises of the AEF and the Labour Party) with such slogans as 'Power To Powell' and 'Niggers Out!'

Prior to the Powell meeting, N.E. Essex anarchists decided that a 'quiet and dignified' demonstration against racism should be planned. This was organised by libertarians (including members of Peace Action) at St. Osyth Teachers' Training College in Clacton. It was quite successful. About 60 first stood silently outside with banners, then later sat down, and sang 'We Shall Overcome' as Powell left. A few students from the University of Essex, and an even smaller number of Victor Norris' pro-Powell group, were present. Our 'quiet and peaceful' demonstration got quite good publicity in *The Times*, the *East Essex Gazette* and the *East Anglian Daily Times*, all of which emphasised the 'non-violent' nature of the protest.

Following our articles on 'Racism In East Anglia' and 'The Facts About Race And Immigration' in *FREEDOM*, the

Colchester Express gave considerable publicity to our exposé of racism and the racists, quoting *FREEDOM* (the anarchist weekly newspaper) at length. Said the *Colchester Express* writer: '... it is here, in Colchester, that remnants of the Nazi Party still lurks, that Fascists openly proclaim racism. . . . With the upsurge of neo-Nazism in Germany this country is again coming alive to the threat of Fascism.' Moreover, a special supplement of the St. Osyth College magazine, *EMOT*, contained a statement on 'Local Racist Propaganda' by the secretary of the Essex Anarchist Federation; which was widely circulated in Clacton during Powell's visit. A condensed version (but with credits to *FREEDOM*) of 'The Facts About Race And Immigration' entitled 'Racism Is Evil', was also published in the latest issue of *CHURCH* (Peace Action).

At the time of writing, reaction from the racists has been: a leaflet from Colin Jordan's 'British Movement' proclaiming that 'Powell Was Right' and a copy of 'The Thunderbolt' from Savanna, Georgia, both sent to the writer from 'the Essex Ku Klux Klan!'

Unlike Liberals (and Communists), we do not intend to report the racists to the Race Relations Board. But we are exposing their ideas and activities—and are beginning to get some support from people who, only a short while ago, were inclined to think that Enoch Powell (and his rather disreputable supporters) was right. Now, they are not so sure. P.

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- Nobody Starves Catharine Brody 3/-
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- An Atlas of Empire (1937) J. F. Horrabin 2/6
- The Greek Sedition (1949) F. A. Voigt 3/-

POSTAGE EXTRA

Freedom Bookshop

HERE WE ARE!

Editorial office open Friday, May 23, 6-8 p.m. and Monday, May 26, 2-8 p.m.

Note new telephone number: BISHopsgate 9249

New address: 64 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

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

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COMBINED SUBSCRIPTION	£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.)
- Rocker's NATIONALISM AND CULTURE 21/- (+4/6)
- Richards' MALATESTA: His Life and Ideas. Cloth bound 21/- (+1/3); paper 10/6 (+1/-)
- Berneri's NEITHER EAST or WEST 6/- (+9d.)
- Woodcock's THE WRITER & POLITICS 7/6

IN CELEBRATION by David Storey; Director: Lindsay Anderson. Royal Court Theatre till mid-June.

WHAT THERE IS to celebrate in *In Celebration* is the preservation of the status quo. Mr. & Mrs. Shaw have been together now for forty years, and there isn't a lady living in the land as Dad'd swap for his dear old Dutch.

But behind these conventional rejoicings, the sentiments incumbent on the three sons on this occasion, there is the failure of each of the three—they are now, I suppose in their thirties—to fulfil himself. Dad is a miner, and Dad has fulfilled himself after his own fashion. It's not much of a job, night shift, lying in a tunnel two foot high, hacking laboriously at a dim black seam of coal; but Dad describes even these conditions with pride, and it is very plain early on that he is not going to retire from the mine this year—year 49—as his wife and richest son would like. He wants to complete his fifty years.

Where's the sense in it? Mother doesn't see much, but then she has never been down a mine in those forty-nine years, and would find it disagreeably dirty if she did. She was only a pig-keeper's daughter, but—well, as one of her sons keeps repeating with fascinated loathing, she won the first prize at school for a subject called 'Human Hygiene'. Since then, she has never looked back, or down, or wherever; and Dad, keeping only his work for himself, has allowed her to be Queen of the house: allowed, no—encouraged; for, within this perfect reproduction of a northern semi's interior, furnished with flashy lack of conviction, he pays her the warm compliments that contentment and a happy marriage would demand.

Colin is the good son, he has done well, and is in Industrial Relations. He pays warm compliments to his mother too. Andrew is the scapegrace; he's thrown up his career and become an artist (not even a good one). He is coldly hostile to Mother, and in turn she - doesn't - know - how - he's - going - to - manage - with - the - children - with-out - a - steady - job (but there, it's his own affair). The first of the sons to enter is the youngest, Steven. Steven is painfully ill-at-ease and quiet, at the same time putting on his Sunday face. Around him the battle gathers.

Andrew believes Steven to be cracking under the strain of the tensions his upbringing has sealed into his character; he also, having made his own decision to break out, is resolved to drag into the open the unhappinesses in the family that have been apparently buried for so long. Does he believe, Freud-like, that the bringing out of it all will help Steven?

Anarchist Federation of Britain

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. All correspondence to LFA, c/o Freedom Press, LAVENDER HILL MOB. Contact C. Broad, 116 Tyneham 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. FINCH'S ANARCHISTS. 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 (LEY 8059). 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 Arts Lab, Summer Lane (not the Crown). 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 Ledrah Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Meetings on the second Friday of each month at 42 Penryn Street, Beacon, Camborne. 7.30 p.m. Visiting comrades very welcome.
- CROYDON LIBERTARIANS. Meetings every 2nd Friday of each month. Laurens and Celia Otter, 35 Natal Road, Thornton Heath (LIV 7546).
- EDGWARE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx.
- HERTS. Contact Val and John Funnell, 10 Fry Road, Chells, Stevenage.
- LEICESTER PROJECT. Peace/Libertarian

Trying?

Or does he just want to destroy peace, having little himself? We don't know. Colin, for his part, would leave things as they are. He's not much concerned with Steven, but when he becomes difficult to ignore Andrew's verbal attacks on both himself (heavy sarcasm about his job, his not being married, and so forth) and the Queen, he throws all his weight behind Steven's non-decision to let things go on as they are.

Throughout the first Act the characters

CROSS PURPOSES

IF THERE WAS ever a time when the validity of the Theatre as an effective influence on world events was open to question, then that time is now—the time of Biafra, Vietnam, Anguilla, Northern Ireland, and the augmentation of our modern industrial state. From the prosceniums of the land flit the inky shadows of reality: eloquent, conscience-stricken, the vivid re-enactments of man's inhumanity to man, swimmers in a draining paradise; powerless phantoms condemned to the secondary actions of response and retaliation.

Three times in the past weeks I have heard the allegation of 'preaching to the converted' levelled at attempts to lessen irrational fear and increase understanding among people. Two were made by BBC reporters perfunctorily dismissing the message contained in two contemporary dramas, the third was made by a friend of mine at the implied negatory value of FREEDOM and the Anarchist press in general.

This widespread impression is fallacious, and destructive. If I could describe my own experience first as proof of this—I arrived at some of the principles of Anarchy under my own steam, but didn't know the true meaning of the word, the extent of the movement, or call myself an Anarchist until I bought a copy of FREEDOM from the bookstall. Brain-washed, coerced and perverted by the gutter media for years, I was staggered to find that there were many other people who belonged to a philosophy based on humanitarian principles. I was used to promises of human rights being wielded as a political placebo at election time.

AT THE THEATRE

any value? And is it healthy to succeed if you succeed not in doing something well—being a miner—but in the *Sunday Times* rat race? In the second Act, Andrew sets out to create an explosion. At the end of it is Steven, enigmatic, who keeps control of the situation; though his own situation is desperate. Andrew attracts most attention on the stage: he is flamboyant and assertive, and besides, it is Alan Bates. A beautifully judged performance of Colin by James Bolam balances this perfectly. But the play itself makes Mother (a superbly right characterization by Constance Chapman) into the pivot and Steven into the most haunting character. If ever one felt a man's utter sleeplessness one feels it in Brian Cox's muted performance, and it is Steven who is given the most moving lines about what the family is.

The fact that nobody's viewpoint 'triumphs' in the end has made it difficult for critics to adopt an attitude to the play. The grossest of them, such as Albert Hunt,* invent a resolution of the play and say that is what happened (after pronouncing that all plays which happen to have a miner in should deal with Aberfan and 'Society's neglect of the miners'). But the action concerns people, and their coming to grips with the background that has formed them: the author never says who is right. He gives us, merely, a subtle and painstaking accumulation of what is most personal to each of the three main characters, implying how this is connected with their joint past. Ironically, only Andrew, the destructive, seems to have made any progress with his problems finally, perhaps because he at least recognises them. Mother is left patting the cushions, Colin goes off to an important meeting, Dad and Steven, shaken, are standing still on what is.

The ending throws one back on the rest of the play. This is not theatre at the level of a whodunnit: it is at the level of trying to understand one's friends.

It is not difficult to see why this play has been shunned by the professional theatre. It is a wordy, measured play, extremely difficult to play in the context of what modern audiences are used to seeing; it is, by modern standards, plotless, and contains no element of surprise. It says much for the amateur cast that they avoided the pitfalls of melodrama in which a looser production would find itself inextricably bound.

To Camus, the tragedy of life is that of action at odds with intention. The play has as its theme the wandering son who returns to his homeland and deliberately conceals his identity. Camus has obviously chosen this easily recognisable theme so that he is free to weave his own philosophy of life throughout, unhindered by dramatic convention.

He asks us to consider the importance

SURREY FEDERATION

EPSOM. G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom. Tel. Epsom 23806. KINGSTON. Michael Squirrel, 4 Woodgate Ave., Hook, Chesham. 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 Feltham, 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. Secretary: Colin Beadle, c/o Oakwood Farm, Cliffe-cum-Lund, Selby, Yorkshire. HARRGATE. Contact David Howes, 16 Park Parade, Harrgate. HULL. Jim Young, 3 Fredericks Crescent, Hawthorn Avenue, Hull. KEIGHLEY. Steve Wood, 26B Cavendish Street, Keighley. LEEDS. Direct Action Society. Contact Martin Watkins, 6 Eberston 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 Eslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, AB12 4SL. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Matthew Robertson, Trinity College, Cambridge. CARDIFF UNIVERSITY LIBERTARIAN/ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Chris Short, UWIST Union, Cathays Park, or Chas. Ball, UCC Union, Dumfries Place. College, or John Fullerton, Jesus College. SUSSEX UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. John Byford, 26 Bedford Square, 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 UNIVERSITY. Contact Dave Lomax, E.A.S. II, U.E.A., Norwich, NOR 88C. LIBERTARIAN STUDENTS FEDERATION. Contact address: Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow. LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact us at the bookstall in the Students' Union Foyer every Friday lunchtime. OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Francis Casline, Pembroke College, or Steve Wath, 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.

any value? And is it healthy to succeed if you succeed not in doing something well—being a miner—but in the *Sunday Times* rat race?

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JOHN ROE.

*New Society.

of accepting and enjoying our loved ones while there is still time, to live life to the full, and to reveal our identities—our loves, hopes, fears, doubts, joys, uncertainties; to base all action on truth.

This play, performed before a small town audience for two nights only may, you think, be a trivial event compared with the rest of the paper's news. But I am thinking of the one or two, leaving the little hall, forced by Camus' purpose to think and ponder on the value of communication.

This is what it is all about. I.D.

KINGSTON COLLEGE of Technology, Penhryn 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, Cardiganshire, Wales. CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to—Pete Raymond, 18 Marion Street, Spilot, Cardiff. SWANSEA ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Ian Bone, 22 Glamor Road, Uplands, Swansea. Weekly meetings, 'Freedom' sales and action projects. LLANELLI. Contact Dai Walker, 6 Llywennandy 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 Hargate. ABERDEEN FREEDOM GROUP. All those wishing to sell both national and Scottish editions of 'Freedom' contact Ian S. Sutherland, 8 Eslemont 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, Liège. USA. James W. Cain, secretary, the Anarchist Committee of Correspondence, 323 Fourth Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720, USA. TORONTO LIBERTARIAN-ANARCHIST GROUP. 217 Torvork Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada. Weekly meetings. Read the 'Libertarian'.

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 Sieler. Tel. 489-6432. ASTON UNIVERSITY. Colleges of Art and Commerce. Anarchists and Libertarians wishing to form group please contact Malvern Hostick at 62 Wheelways Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

Where do we Squat from here?

AS I SIT here it is possible that the bell may ring indicating that the bailiffs may have arrived next door. By the time this paper goes to press Joan Foster and her three children may have been moved on to a new 'squat', to a council flat or, which is unlikely to happen, moved back to the appalling Battersea Bridge Hostel. Joan Foster has stated that she will never go back there. (It is even conceded by Hammersmith Council that these buildings are 'deplorable' and they have plans to close it as soon as possible.)

Ironically enough the only victory so far, in the squat (which started on Tuesday, May 13) is a large-hearted invitation by Alderman Bill Smith that Mrs. Foster and her children can go back to the hostel if they will leave Rumbold Road; transport will be provided! One of the last acts of the 'Welfare' workers in the hostel was to tell tenants that if they joined in a squat they would not be allowed back in the hostel.

There has been a great deal of co-operation from neighbours. Help has been provided for shopping, timber for the barricades, there has been volunteering for taking the two eldest Foster boys to school in Battersea, help was given in fixing a gas stove, and we are

assured by many in the street that they will turn out in case of an attempt at eviction.

There is a great deal of resentment in the neighbourhood in the failure of successive Hammersmith Councils to put through the re-housing scheme and the announced policy of the Council (Conservative) to sell vacant houses or as houses become vacant. One tenant who had applied for one of the vacant houses on health and over-crowding grounds, only to be refused, said of the occupation, 'If we'd have had courage we'd have done what you've done.'

Help has been promised from a nearby building site and a hostel for homeless in Fulham Road, we have also received help from one of the new settlers in the road.

The whole district has been eyed by property-speculators; the 'London Property Letter' has frequently recommended Fulham as a good place to make money out of property (see *The Guardian*, May 19). The Hammersmith Council have clearly indicated their determination to alter the social status of Fulham to people the houses with residents who have sufficient money to spend £3,000 to £5,000 on converting

the houses into chi-chi pieds-à-terre which will look good in the colour supplement of the *Times* server. Alderman Smith, leader of the Council, has given his blessing to an Ideal Home in Fulham, which at a cost of £5,000, has been made over for a family—with space for an au pair girl.

It is impossible to tell what Hammersmith Council will do about Mrs. Foster but even a victory in this case does not mean an end to the struggle.

It is claimed by some that 'squatting' is merely reformist, that it does not teach any revolutionary lessons, that it takes up time—(true!)—better spent in other aspects of the class struggle.

If one takes a squat in isolation it can be thought of as do-gooding even though the constant aim is—and must be—to get people to help themselves. It is the aim of squatting to set an example which others may follow—although as Nicolas Walter points out in an excellent review of squatting in *The Listener* (May 15) the response has not been so great as it was in 1946, although the squat in Northern Ireland on Defence Ministry property has been most impressive.

An incalculable by-product of the

squatters' movement is the galvanizing of councils into action by the threat of squatting. Some of this is undesirable, viz. Ilford Council's employment of strong arm thugs squads and the wanton vandalism of Ilford, Haringey and Hammersmith Councils when squatting was threatened or had taken place. But in some cases one is reminded of the description of Russian government as 'despotism tempered by dynamite' and Kensington and Ilford's concessions are seen more as a recognition of the dynamite of the aroused homeless families than a charitable gesture.

In the same way that every strike is a rehearsal for the general strike, every squat must convey the idea that houses should be available to all who need them, that there is the need for a property-using democracy. By using the methods of mutual aid and direct action, lessons will be learned and applied to other fields of life.

The accusation of 'reformist' tactics can only be rebutted by realizing that one's demands for homes must be followed up by demands for rent-free homes. Every concession that councils give they give grudgingly, only those which are taken will be permanent.

JACK ROBINSON.

FIFTH COLUMN

Reasonable Condition

IT WAS a good weekend for squatters in the pish Sunday papers. The *Sunday Times* told us all about the James Bond whose gang of thugs carried out the recent evictions in Ilford. The *Observer* exposed the GLC's worst slum in South London at the invitation of the local squatters group.

I say 'the worst'—but of course I have not seen the others. All I know is that the house featured in the *Observer* came as a shock. I knew before I went there that it was going to be bad but I wasn't really prepared for what I saw—and smelt.

Before you got into the house you had to pass the stench of sewage coming up from outside the basement. On the right of the front door was a great hole in the plaster: you could see through into the room. Everywhere in the house the plaster was rotting away. At the top of the stairs there were broken banisters just waiting for a kid to fall through and break his neck. In several places there were broken light switches leaving wires exposed. The lavatory couldn't be used: it flooded. The basement couldn't be used: it was damp. Other rooms too were unusable for one reason or another.

This house was recently described by GLC officials as in reasonable condition. The tenants, the squatters and the journalists who saw it disagreed. So did a housing charity which has offered the tenants another house.

If this had not happened—and if the GLC had persisted in its attitude—the South London Squatters would have found an empty GLC house in a less 'reasonable' condition—i.e. fit for people to live in.

Elsewhere in South London the two families squatting in Bullen Street, S.W.11, have both left. One has gone to Manchester, the other just across the river into Fulham. The second family is now squatting in a previously empty house owned by the Borough of Hammersmith: Battersea Bridge Buildings, where the family was originally, is administered by Hammersmith. For further details see elsewhere on this page.

Hunger Strike

NEARLY 100 political prisoners at Carabanchel prison, in Madrid, are on an indefinite hunger strike in protest against the conditions there. The news of the strike, which was given by the wives of some of the prisoners, comes just before the trial on Tuesday of 13 alleged members of the illegal workers commissions on charges of 'illegal assembly'.

The informants said that the hunger strike began after prisoners were confined to cells with common criminals for refusing to attend either obligatory Mass or readings from Seneca the Younger, the Stoic philosopher.

WYNFORD HICKS.

ANARCHY 99 The French Revolution

1. I Love You and Don't You Forget It—Metropolitan Police Brass Band.
2. Smash Hits of 1963—Harold Challenor.
3. Happiness is a Warm Gun—Mayor Daly.
4. Can I Get a Witness?—P.S. 37B.
5. I Pity the Poor Immigrant—Southall Police Choir.
6. You Got Me Floatin'—Scotland Yard Drugs Squad.
7. With God on Our Side—West End Central Folk Group.
8. We Love You—South Kensington Police.
9. Wonderful World—Vice-Squad Boys.
10. Can't Take My Eyes Off You—CID Blues Band.

F.A.9.

Italian Comrades Arrested

SEVEN ITALIAN COMRADES were arrested in Milan a fortnight ago and are accused of belonging to the clandestine anarchist action group 'Marius Jacob'. They are accused of a series of explosions and other acts of revolutionary terrorism throughout Italy, and will be tried for these events although there is only circumstantial evidence against them. By the machinations of that international combine of professional criminals, Interpol, an eighth person is being held in custody in

Lausanne, accused of belonging to the same group and involved in terrorist activities in Zurich.

Issue No. 5 of the *Bulletin of the Anarchist Black Cross* will be coming out next week, and contains an important announcement of concern to anarchists and revolutionaries throughout the world, as well as a new concerted plan for sending parcels direct to prisoners in Spanish jails.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS.

STUDENTS & WORKERS' CONTROL

LETTER

Dear Comrades,

I am surprised to read that Philip Holgate's important article was held up for publication for three months 'owing to continuous pressure on editorial space' in view of the quality of much else that has been published in *FREEDOM* in that period. As it was felt necessary to publish it only with a 'reply', I would have thought that enough time elapsed for a commentator who knew something about the subject to be found.

Holgate is right in drawing the parallels he does between students and staff on the one hand and consumers and producers on the other. The analogy between the broad readership of this, or any journal, and its producers, and the student-staff relationship, is also apt. It is surprising that this aspect of the problem has not been properly debated before. The student revolt is mainly a consumers' movement not a workers' movement. The degree to which this consumers' revolt is justified varies very much between universities and it is complicated by the issue of the impertinent (I use the word in its correct sense) interference in the personal lives of students which is practised in some quarters.

In this country the student revolt appears to be most justified in the art schools. There the teaching role of the staff is limited. The students naturally expect to be taught certain basic skills, but also to be provided with the wherewithal to develop their talents and become fitted to take their place in the productive role in society which they have chosen. They complain that not only are the facilities provided inadequate for their proper development and acquisition of relevant skills, but that much which is utterly irrelevant is

required of them in order that they can get their formal qualifications. In addition to all this is imposition of authoritarian rules on the students which are out of place anyway and serve to exacerbate the whole situation. The situation which blew up at Guildford Art School produced such a degree of sympathy with the students from the staff that seven full-time and thirty-three part-time teachers received the sack—about a third of the teaching staff.

Student revolt in most English universities is less about the content of the courses, as in the art schools, and more about the manner in which they are conducted. Many outsiders will be surprised to learn that for most courses attendance at lectures is entirely voluntary, and students can absent themselves from a good proportion of seminars, classes and tutorials if they are so minded without coming to grief. The average working person may therefore be rather puzzled in contrasting his own working life with that of the students' leisure and privileges. He may wonder what the latter have got to complain of.

'Digger', in his reply to Holgate, is utterly wrong in supposing that the students of the social sciences are particularly liable to revolt because they have 'to suffer three years of a man's life with rubbish rammed down their throats, and contradictory rubbish at that'. The phrase 'contradictory rubbish at that' reveals the poverty of his conception of what a university course is or should be. Presumably 'Digger' would applaud the university regimes in the totalitarian countries where nothing 'contradictory' is expounded. In my student years at LSE I was able to pursue my studies of anarchism, Marxism and many other brands of social theory, and to discuss them in seminars with staff of widely differing points of view. The current issue of *Anarchy* (a *Libertarian Criminology*) contains articles by various lecturers, students and research workers in the social sciences and demonstrates why the study of social science is likely to lead to revolt. Although many social scientists are strictly Establishment, social science itself is likely to lead to an extremely radical approach to the Establishment, and it is responsible for much of the ferment in the universities.

The ferment in the universities is entirely desirable from an anarchist point of view. It is the job of the young to question and improve upon what has been created by older generations. We will be all the better for a good revolution—but I mean a good revolution. There are plenty of signs that many militant students are being led by the nose by politicians whose purpose is to teach them to chant, 'Four legs good, two legs bad!' If these politicians ever achieve power they will change the chant to, 'Four legs good, two legs be-cetter!' in the tradition of *Animal Farm*. There will be a hell of a sight less freedom for students, staff and society in general if Marxist socialists achieve power. If university debate is to be degraded to the level of 'Four legs good, two legs bad!' then the student yobs who prevent free speech are as fine

fellows as those yobs who prevented the anarchists from holding their Sunday evening meetings in central London, as Holgate has pointed out.

To my mind an anarchist paper like *FREEDOM* is of immense potential importance. From the anarchists, and from the anarchists alone, can come the essential critique of just what is going on. At present the anarchists just appear to be a sort of shaggy variety of camp followers of the Marxist socialists, who can blame them if anything goes wrong. At present, the Socialist Society at LSE are blaming the silly heckling of lecturers on 'irresponsible anarchists'. If the Editorial policy of *FREEDOM* is to hold up publication of such pertinent articles as Holgate's and to publish them only with such commentary as 'Digger's', the more intelligent militant students are unlikely to take the anarchist point of view very seriously.

TONY GIBSON.

A Reluctant Reply:

Tony Gibson's letter contains many misconceptions. He also omits to deal with the subject which was freedom of speech. On this the anarchist point of view has been summarised by L.O. in last week's *FREEDOM*. That it is still comparable to tightrope walking should hush the circus audience unless they want us to fall to our deaths.

As to his own embroideries. If apprentices are workers, and they are, then so are students.

One agrees that local grievances (as

METROPOLITAN POLICE HIT PARADE

WELCOME TO RADIO FF, pop-pickers! That's it—Friendly Fuzz! All you Anarchist ravers will be quite knocked out by this week's Fuzz Hit Parade. As all you grooving kittens know, the police radio is THE only free radio, announcing the best arrests every half-hour. We tune in to anything and everything—yes, we know the whole scene!

This week I interviewed Superintendent Parker of the Special Branch to find out what he thought of this week's top ten:

'Well, I'm particularly pleased to see that our Brass Band has beat its way up to number one, the music just hits you!'

What did he think of the CID boys smashing up to number ten? 'Well, they really socked it to the public. It sounds like dynamite to me. I must say I do like number four by Police-Sergeant 37B of Notting Hill; he's one of our top men—always does his own thing—a real individualist!'

What did he think of this week's newcomers, the Drug Squad? 'The beat just hits one. There really is a lot of explosive stuff going on at the moment and I'm very proud of all our boys.'

With a commendation like that, I'm

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Week Ending May 17, 1969

Estimated Expenses:

20 weeks at £90: £1,800

Income: Sales and Subs.: £1,407

DEFICIT: £393

PRESS FUND

Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; K.F. & C.F. 2/-; Cambridge: S.W. £3/15/-; London, N.W.11: R.M. £1/15/-; Selby: C.B. 2/-; Kent: D.P. 5/10; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Birmingham: M.H. 10/-.

TOTAL: £6 19 10

Previously Acknowledged: £293 8 0

1969 Total to Date: £300 7 10

Deficit B/F: £393 0 0

TOTAL DEFICIT: £92 12 2

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Whose Finger on the Trigger?

FOR ANY WORKER who recognises that the trade union movement should be free and independent, the last few days of talks between the Government and the TUC must have made him turn away in horror. While deploring this spectacle, no one is surprised by it, for the very essence of bargaining is compromise and this is what the TUC and Government are seeking over the Industrial Relations Bill. However, any compromise arrived at must mean that workers have lost, if not in whole, at least a part of what has been achieved by years of struggle on the part of their forebears.

The Government, for its part, is determined to stamp out what are called unofficial strikes. To do this, it sets out in its White Paper, 'In Place of Strife', a cooling off period for unofficial strikes and 'penal sanctions' against those who will not comply. The TUC has become so scared of the Government's proposals that it is putting forward its own proposals for doing the Government's dirty work. Of course this is so much the better for the Government, but it does not matter much to any victimised militant if he has been fined by law or disciplined and expelled by his union. In fact the latter could be worse, for it could mean the loss of livelihood.

Trade unionists should not be kidded by the proposals of the TUC, nor should they be fooled by the TUC resistance to Government interference. The General Council of the TUC wants to produce binding rulings on unofficial disputes which are 'protracted and have serious repercussions'—like the Girling strike. They want the unions concerned to accept their judgements and likewise the members involved. If these will not obey the TUC rulings, then union rules will be used to fine or expel strikers who refuse to abandon their action. However, if the union, with members in dispute, refuses to discipline them, then the General Council proposes to expel the union, itself, from the TUC.

NO COMPROMISE

There can be no bargaining or compromise on an issue of 'penal sanctions' on strikes for the only reply is outright rejection. I do not expect the General Council of the TUC or the trade union leaders to do this. To call upon these people to organise a 'one-day national stoppage', as the Communist Party's *Morning Star* does, is ridiculous. These people, our so-called representatives, have far more in common with the employers and the Government than they have with the rank and file. They all want to lead, to tell and order you what to do. They, the employers, the Government, the TUC and the Communist Party, all assume that they know what is best for workers and trade unionists. They all have one thing in common—they want power over you to push you around, to tax you, to expel you, to fine you, to jail you and, if that does not work, to shoot you down. If you continue the struggle for freedom, for human dignity, for anarchism, those leaders will do everything to prevent you from gaining these things.

As anarchists, we do not look to trade union leaders, not even the 'left wing' varieties, the Communist Party or any political party to defend our freedom to withdraw our labour when we deem it necessary. We look to ourselves and to the men and women who have to spend eight or more hours each day at work for a boss. We look to the vast majority of people who are blamed for not working hard enough by others with soft hands and the people who continually struggle to make ends meet while others live in luxury.

WORSE COULD FOLLOW

Those who seek compromise are only laying the foundations for something worse, for once restrictions are accepted, worse could follow in the form of legal contracts. No matter what party is in power, they will seek to run a profit-motivated system and, to ensure the return on the vast capital investments needed today, they have to provide the necessary restrictions on trade unionists and their practices so as to make these investments worthwhile.

The big international investing companies are looking for legislation against strikes and the only difference between a Labour or Tory government

Freedom For Workers' Control

MAY 24 1969 Vol 30 No 16

Sacked, Suspended and Suppressed

A LABOUR-TRADE UNION-sponsored majority on Durham County Council is repaying its debt in a curious way. They are throwing their weight about in an attempt to enslave their schoolmaster employees and by suppressing official trade union action by teachers.

Durham County Council have—
suspended teachers for refusing to work with blacklegs; invited scab labour to work in Durham schools; sacked and suspended schoolmasters for refusing to disobey union instructions; refused to discuss the dispute with the union—the National Association of Schoolmasters.

In a strongly worded leaflet the NAS protests against this vicious hostility. 'Where once miners led the struggle against the arrogance of owners, teachers are facing a similar despotic determina-

tion to impose industrial serfdom.' The present struggle began in December of last year when a special delegate conference in London demanded militant protest action against the ineffective negotiating machinery and for an independent inquiry into pay and conditions.

Since then NAS members in schools in many parts of England worked according to the rule book intending to show that schools could not function without voluntary co-operation from teachers doing unpaid tasks such as collecting dinner money.

The work-to-rule has been called off in many districts after councils have agreed in principle to the NAS demand.

Incidentally by working to rule they still have to take classes of thirty pupils. You may be able to keep pupils in order above that number, but can you teach them?

M.H.

Contact Column

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

Help! Can you help with the despatch of FREEDOM (Thursday p.m.) and also on Friday (May 29 & 30) because of extra work caused by Scots edition and increased circulation.

Rectangular metal badges (red/black or plain black) 2/6 each post free. Bulk rate (10 or more) 1/- each. Flags from 10/-. Cash with order please. Hazel McGee, 42 Pendarves Street, Beacon, Camborne, Cornwall.

Anti-NATO weekend. Planning meeting June 3, 7-10 p.m. Conway Hall. Action Committee against NATO.

Jamaican girl desperately seeks accommodation; small flat or bedsitter, or indeed almost anything habitable, the need is urgent. Box No. 36.

Modern Jazz at Loughborough University Union Building every Friday night.

Birmingham discussions. Every Tuesday 8 p.m. at the Arts Lab, Summer Lane (Not the Crown).

Spanish Libertarian Youth Festival. June 7, 6.30 p.m., Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Programme includes 'Fury Over Spain' (filmed during the Spanish Revolution). Tickets 6/-.

International Anarchism. First issue out now. 1/- from C. Beadle, c/o Oakwood Farm, Lund, near Selby, E. Yorkshire, England.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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JUNE 5 CONFERENCE

It is ironic that the General Council's proposals for shackling trade unionists will be put at the recall conference of the TUC on June 5. This recall conference was demanded by the Communist Party and the 'left wing' of the Labour movement, who wanted it to condemn and reject the Government's Industrial Relations Bill. However, knowing the trade union leaders' capacity for compromise, I cannot share the optimism of Jack Jones, General Secretary-elect of the Transport and General Workers' Union and a member of the TUC General Council. He feels that the June 5 conference will not 'compete with the Government in the amount of fines or penalties that can be applied to workers. That is not the field in which we are looking.

'On June 5, we shall, in my view, unanimously and absolutely, oppose the application of penalties on workers or trade unionists in relation to industrial disputes. We shall do this in order to expand collective bargaining and not descend to collective begging.'

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Cash with order—please!

FREEDOM PRESS

FREE SPEECH vs. VERBAL AGGRESSION

THERE HAS BEEN so much deliberate distortion in the mass media about the issue of 'Freedom of Speech' that L.O.'s article (May 17) merits following up. He says Digger's original article on the subject 'should not go unanswered' but does not really contradict anything he said. On the contrary, L.O. makes the important point that freedom of speech so far as we are concerned should be absolute, and this applies to fascists and the like as well. (Much as they disliked William Joyce, anarchists did protest at the legal swindle by which he was hanged.) However, as L.O. admits, sometimes 'freedom for a fascist to speak is itself an aggressive act'; that is, words can be just as deadly a weapon as arms, something which those ready to quote the cliché about the pen being mightier than the sword are apt to forget.

A deliberate tactic used by some fascists in pre-war days was to get on a tramcar somewhere in the East End, knowing a number of Jews to be on board, and carry on a loud anti-semitic discussion with each other. If interrupted, 'You see, these Jews won't even allow you to talk to each other nowadays' or 'Who was speaking to you?'; if not interrupted, it made for a climate in which they could insult Jews with impunity and establish a reign of terror over others ('If they didn't say anything, why should we?'). On one occasion to my knowledge in Hackney, three fascists were beaten up by some Jewish workers as a result; the magistrate, sentencing the latter, told them they had to 'respect freedom of speech'!

will be the extent and degree of the measures they impose to ensure the continuation of a profit-motivated society. They will not act in the interests of the people, but in that of those who finance, own, run and control the raw materials and productive resources of this world.
P.T.

There is a considerable difference between normal discussion, normal speech, and the use of speech used as aggression.

One of the most canting Christians I know is full of Quakerish-type pacifistic sentiments about non-aggression and non-violence, and spends his entire time writing abusive letters, signed and unsigned, to and about his acquaintances. What is this but violence of a permitted sort? I would not limit his freedom to express his inhibitions by writing these letters; but I certainly should not help him to do so.

Why, the Press asks us, should people like Enoch Powell not be allowed to go to universities and express their views on (say) Greek verse? If they have to be smuggled out, yah-yah-yah-you-are-the-fascists, freedom-of-speech-is-in-peril. If, however, they are allowed to speak, it proves the brilliance of their oratory, they silenced even the radical students with their charm, and their image is gilded a little more.

If people like Mr. Powell make the lives of Negroes a little more uncomfortable, why should they expect to be personally immune from discomfort and have no personal issue made of it?

L.O. says, 'If you permit Maoists to speak but not fascists you make a yardstick of it'. But the yardstick is an obvious one. The Maoists are in this country engaged in stating their views, but the fascists rarely do this. Instead what they engage in is terrorisation of minority groups by verbal or physical propaganda; once a minority is terrorised their reputation for thuggery grows and

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

they are able to terrorise a majority. It is interesting to note, however, that in China where Maoists have been persistently howled down at factory meetings in the last two years, the official Press has always claimed this is 'fascist tendencies at work' (just as does the British Press when some official idiot with all the mass media at his disposal is shouted down when saying, 'I declare this building open', which they claim is a breach of free speech). Surely, the Chinese workers were taking one of their few opportunities for free speech as it affects public policy, as we would do when shouting down, say, Harold Wilson at an election meeting.

But this has nothing to do with the question of free speech and I would challenge anyone who says he believes in the censorship of fascists, for instance. I tried recently, for serious purposes, to get a copy of the original *Mein Kampf*, and some stupid 'liberal'-minded librarian objects to handling it, as if she were my moral guardian and feared it might corrupt me!
JOVEL.

WE GO TO PRESS ON MONDAY
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