

All Powell Corrupts

ENOCH POWELL, in his speech to the Young Conservative Conference in Scarborough, has shaken Tory Party complacency. It is not intended that immigration should appear in the forefront of Tory Party policy at the next General Election. Whilst individual MPs may be forced to declare their 'interests', officially the Party must declare immigration above 'Party interests'. Therefore from a tactical point of view Powell has 'done it again'. Personally, I think he is gathering support and not only from Tories.

In his last speech Powell has hit one of the nerve-centres of the immigration problem, 'housing'. His choice of words and turn of phrase neatly supplies the ammunition not only for the many people on housing lists but for all the critics of the concept of a Welfare State. If one casts one's mind back to the early years of the National Health Service, how many times was heard, 'He has had two pairs of glasses'. 'She spends the family allowance on fags'. According to the Health Service critics Joe Soap was the ponce, now of course it's the immigrants.

To counter the people who support the idea that more houses and schools will assist in easing the problem, Powell made the following statement, 'Nor is it assisted by the deduction that those attitudes can be changed by laying out more and more public money on health, on housing, on schools, on development. It is the hoariest of fallacies which experience has refuted over and over again to suppose that the morals of a society will improve, individually or collectively, if that society is better housed or better educated or consume or produce more per head. Neither crime nor violence nor war has yielded to improvement in any of these conditions and there is as little reason to suppose them relevant to the causes of communal strife.'

possible, it should not be attempted. Send them back.

Quite frankly I believe one could argue with Powell from now to eternity and his position would remain the same. He produces statistics to convert others. I do not believe his research brought him to his present position, any person who believes that Europeans should live in one country and non-Europeans in another should be living in the 11th or 12th century where very dark skins were a figment of the imagination. There are no arguments to counter these types of people, fortunately the position they hold is in the minority. Their supporters may appear to subscribe to these views, but only because they are waiting for a house or their kids are held back by classes of forty or more.

Powell therefore spells his position out very clearly. We are white, Britain is for whites. Not only is integration, or cohabiting, impos-

But, having said that, we must not be under the illusion that when housing and education facilities get

better immigrants will be welcomed with open arms. The gap is too wide. No man or woman wants patronage, no matter what the colour or culture.



All Joes in this world have to struggle for their rights as a person; the going is tougher for some than others. Co-operation on a meaningful basis is the only answer. It may sound pious, do-gooder liberal but I believe it is a fact.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

'Aid' to Nigeria

'WHY SEND aid to Nigeria? They're an independent country now, aren't they?' commented a colleague in my office a few days ago.

Why, indeed? Well, Michael Lake ('Biafra—the morals of investment', the *Guardian*, 15.1.70), answered that question—and spilt the beans on the business of 'aid' to Nigeria, and all so-called underdeveloped countries for that matter. 'British policy on Nigeria,' says Lake, 'has been dominated all along by the balance of payments.' Not starving Biafrans!

'This remains the Government's pre-occupation, in spite of the plight of the last three million dying Biafrans, the anguish and frustration of hundreds of relief workers, and the provision of £5 millions from aid funds.' But future financial stakes are much higher. That is why the British Government is crawling to General Gowon. Moreover,

the 'socialist' Soviet Union, with its 'socialist' Mig fighters, are becoming increasingly influential in Nigerian high places.

Remarks Lake: 'The Cabinet has no intention of jeopardising the £350 millions-odd British investment in oil in Nigeria; the oil could yet be nationalised and the product sold to keener buyers, such as the Russians who are short of oil for their build-up against the Chinese threat. Neither has Mr. Wilson any inclination to undermine the private investment British firms have made in Nigeria, £75 millions on paper, much more in current values, which represents substantial potential income for the balance of payments.'

King Harold and 'schoolmaster' Stewart may have 'Soul', but Royal Dutch Shell-BP take precedence over starving Biafrans. That is why the British Government has been 100% behind (and at times in front of) the Federal Government of Nigeria. Indeed, 'The routine of providing traditional supplies to a traditional customer turned into a greatly increased, permanent pipeline of armoured cars, small arms and ammunition.'

Not only that, but British Big Business, backed by Wilson and Stewart, expect to reap a £1,200 millions rehabilitation order—against strong French, Italian, Polish, Russian, and even Chinese, competition.

Simple, isn't it? First you help someone to devastate and smash up a country; then, at a price, you offer to help them build it up again. Good old capitalist morality and ethics! That's what 'schoolmaster' Stewart calls 'an honourable settlement!' Bloody (literally) hypocrite!

PETE NEWELL.

LINES FOR TEACHER

AS YET another period of 'controlled militancy' by the National Union of Teachers draws to a close, it seems time to ask what the relationship between the anarchist teacher (if this is not a contradiction in terms as some comrades would have) and the teaching unions should be.

It may be of some help to the reader faced with a plethora of initials to have some idea of the various unions. Officially they now all pay lip service to reform of conditions though many branches remain downright reactionary especially in rural areas. By far the largest union is the National Union of Teachers (NUT) led, until very recently, by the establishment figure, SIR

of in the rural backwater where I teach. This is the rank and file movement, now dominated by the IS after the militant group left in July 1969.

The National Association of Schoolmasters is an all-male union, militant over pay but otherwise reactionary. Pressure from their Cardiff branch caused Cardiff Council to abandon their plan to abolish caning in PRIMARY schools.

There are also two associations for graduate teachers—the AMA and the AAM—who have always been most non-militant (their current concession to militancy hardly goes any further than a decision not to blackleg)—but they get £300/year more than college-trained

fight to keep up with inflation instead of fighting to change the system, which the State, of course, could not tolerate.

There are contradictions inherent in the teaching profession as in other 'white collar' occupations. Economically, but not socially, the teacher is part of the working class. Historically, in this country the teacher has sided with his bosses, the bourgeoisie whose 'respectability' he hopes to attain. But whatever the class, young teachers especially are feeling more and more exploited and also alienated by the horrors of many parts of our educational system. The first recent attempt to channel off militancy was over dinner duties. Now it is £135. No one (not even the Government) denies that the teachers deserve this and more. What I wish to attack is the leadership of the NUT that has convinced its very apolitical membership that a pay rise is the be-all and end-all of the struggle.

What indeed is the position of these 'militant' leaders when faced with pupil militancy? How many actually allow their pupils to discuss the strike? Very few. Most are too scared for their jobs (which is natural) and too well-trained into the belief that the pupils need a carefully selected body of information and that all the rest is anathema. One rôle of the anarchist teacher must be to help the younger teachers overcome their indoctrination—for they often show dissent with the system—in the security of the staff room.

We must expose the union machines for what they are—but this must be done—paradoxically—from within the union. I do not mean of course that an anarchist should take a union office but I do mean that we must not quit the union in disgust. Nominal membership will allow our voice to be heard. Given the present state of consciousness of teachers—a Trade Union one, and only just—it would be ludicrous to quit as this would only brand us in the eyes of most teachers as belonging to the *Daily Express*-reading wing of the profession.

TONY LEVENE.

Witnesses Needed

JAN PURDIE was arrested on August 17, 1969, during a civil rights march to the Ulster office in London. He was charged with throwing a petrol bomb and with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

He needs urgently to contact any people on the demonstration who saw the incidents from which the charges arose. He can be contacted during the morning at 01-727 6352.

ON HUNGER STRIKE

MEXICO'S 'Revolutionary Government' is that in name only, since most of its revolutionaries are locked up in jail.

In October 1968, a large number of students were trapped in the Square of Three Cultures, in Mexico City and brutally murdered by the hired assassins of the State. Many of those arrested at that period are still in jail, some without ever being charged, while others have just disappeared.

At that time the demonstrations threatened the Olympic Games, due to be held there, and now Mexico is about to play host to the approaching World Cup series. However, in the intervening period there has been no great exodus from the jails and they remain full with those who are critical of and oppose the present government of President Diaz Ordaz.

Eighty-seven of these prisoners, in

wards C, M and N of Mexico's City's Preventive Prison went on indefinite hunger strike, on December 10 'for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners'. Information received from the Strike Committee so far is that twenty-three days on hunger strike 'have passed without the event of any contestation by the government responsible to President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz in answer to the prisoners demands'.

The report says that two prisoners, both diabetics, have had to break their fast 'and that many of the other strikers are suffering from 'flu'. January 10 'has been designated as an International Day of Solidarity with the hunger strike and demand'. (Unfortunately we received the report after that date.) A demonstration of solidarity has been called, to be held at all Mexican Em-

Continued on page 4



Ronald Gould. It has taken the executive of this union five years to realise that the arbitration procedure laid down in the Remuneration of Teachers Act 1964, for use after a breakdown of the Burnham Committee, was weighted against the teachers and even now they have not realised that capitalism cannot be challenged if you accept its own rules. For their own bureaucratic reasons the NUT has always believed in one union for teachers. It is headmaster-dominated and until now the executive has relied upon the apathy of its largely female membership as an excuse for doing nothing. There is a left-wing group within the NUT, fairly strong in parts of London but unheard

teachers (80%). Ironically, it is the young teacher who has been to university rather than training college that is more likely to have been politicised. Now all these unions are pressing for £135 and they have closed their ranks in an effort to contain membership militancy.

In most schools it is very difficult to attack the NUT for reformism as most teachers cannot conceive of revolutionary opposition. Indeed, one even feels a desire to praise them for their stand until one realises that it is only over money—and the capitalist system can withstand and even welcome changes of this sort as they put the militant in a position where he has continually to

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

A Hell on Earth

THIS CHILD'S GONNA LIVE, by Sarah E. Wright. Calder and Boyars, 35/-.

THIS STORY is set in Maryland at the time of the Depression, and it concerns the life of a small Negro community, who are almost down to rock-bottom. Sarah Wright creates an extraordinarily vivid picture. She makes you feel hungry, bruised, cold or ill as you read. She has nevertheless succeeded in leaving at the end the impression that, despite all the suffering, everything is not lost.

As is so often the case, the oppressed aid in their own oppression, are as savage to each other as their rulers are to them. The whites, who are themselves probably not all that prosperous, have taken elaborate pains to isolate the blacks from the world. The dream of the

heroine is to escape to the cities, where Negroes are at least permitted to make money as entertainers. But this is the Depression time, and she learns that even in the cities all is far from well.

I found it difficult to follow all the ins and outs of the relationships of the various black and white families, but it seems quite clear that all are related to each other. The same family may have a white branch and black branch, or at least they share the same name. Treating one's own relations as an inferior species seems to add an additional touch of horror to the whole thing. Racial chauvinism of course works both ways. Black families are afraid of producing white children, white families of producing black. The whole situation is quite mad and horrible.

The black community is almost a

theocratic matriarchy, dominated by women preachers. One can imagine this in ancient Crete, but it seems strange in a Christian context. The form of Christianity is Protestant nonconformist, but, perhaps not surprisingly, the Virgin Mary receives the sort of special veneration more common among Catholics. One usually thinks of matriarchy as permissive and gentle, not so here. The women rulers are puritanical, fierce and repressive, frightening to a degree. This possibly springs from the fact that the community is so threatened the whole

time. The mothers feel that they are the only cohesive force left.

Sexual sin is one of the main interests of the village. The sinner, usually female because the male finds it easier to run away, is hauled up before a committee of the matriarchs, and publicly humiliated in the church, before the whole congregation.

The men, probably because they have been conquered, even though generations ago, lack authority. Something of the same situation developed in the Highlands after the disaster of 1745. They

try their best however, scraping a living by agriculture and by fishing, but the whites have taken all the best land and fishing grounds. Nevertheless the black men live by the same 'rugged individualist' philosophy as the whites do. Of course they cannot possibly hope to win through, the dice are loaded, and so they end by blaming themselves for 'their' failures.

Change black for Catholic, white for Protestant, and you have a fair picture of life in Ulster, I should think. A.W.U.

Not What It Seemed

I JUST FINISHED reading Robert Skidelsky's *English Progressive Schools* (Pelican, 7/-) and I'd like to warn any unsuspecting readers of FREEDOM not to be deceived by the book's title. The author visited eight 'English progressive schools' (two of these 'English' schools were in fact in Scotland and another in Wales) and he uses his experiences there as resource material and background for his book. Now I'm an American and as such I find it a bit strange that what you English call 'public schools' are really quite private. Perhaps I'm running into a similar problem of semantics with what you call 'progressive schools'. At least that's the impression I get from Mr. Skidelsky's definition. Half the schools he considers require uniforms while many aren't even co-educational. Even the prefect system is an integral part of some of these schools. If that's 'progressive' I see why A. S. Neill abandoned the label, preferring instead to call Summerhill a 'pioneer' school.

The bulk of the book is devoted to the biographies of three men and the schools they founded:

(1) Cecil Reddie first turned to education because he believed that he had a mission to protect adolescents from sexual vice. He was a complete autocrat who never doubted that some were born to rule and others to obey. 'The Tertiary School I am endeavouring to organize is not intended to suit the whim of a few faddists, but the normal wants of the Directing Classes of a Reorganized English Nation.' The school Reddie founded for this purpose was Abbotsholme, his 'ideal miniature kingdom' as he called it. He had special desks imported from Stuttgart; don't want the future directing classes of

England to slouch, now do we?

'Reddie was convinced that indoor lavatories were a potent source of evil; and under his regime Abbotsholme reverted to more natural and wholesome practices. In addition, so convinced was he of the need for regular movements that the boys were forbidden to visit the earth cabinets except at the appointed hour.'

Enough of this shit!

(2) In many respects Kurt Hahn, the founder of Gordonstoun, is quite similar to Reddie. There's no question that Gordonstoun is also a school for the 'directing classes'. With alumni like Prince Philip and Prince Charles how could it be otherwise? It seems that nearly every name one encounters in reading the section on Hahn is either hyphenated or prefixed by 'Lord' (or both as in the case of Lord Baden-Powell). It is not surprising, therefore, to find that Hahn believes that 'social and economic problems (are) at root moral problems'. Hahn too is a great believer in patriotism. However, unlike most patriots, the object of Hahn's patriotism is a function of the country in which he happens to find himself. While living in his native Germany he was great friends with Prince Maximilian of Baden. During the last month of World War I we find Patriot Hahn urging Prince Max (then Chancellor of Germany) to fight on to save Germany's 'honour'. Later we're told that the Versailles treaty would have to be revised, by peaceful means if possible, but 'if all else was of no avail, then the German sword, which must be kept unsullied, would have to speak once again'. Anarchists will be happy to hear that Hahn found CND a 'mass movement of escapism which, by de-

liberately placing itself outside the bounds of politics, highlighted youth's disillusionment with, and rejection of, the political process'.

(3) The one bright spot in this book is the 60 page section on A. S. Neill. Anarchists of course need no introduction to Neill. His many books on education and psychology have served as an inspiration to countless parents and teachers, especially in the United States and the Scandinavian countries. The very fact of Summerhill shows that freedom in education not only can exist, but does exist... and has for nearly fifty years. What makes this section especially valuable is the extensive biography of Neill, drawn largely from an unpublished autobiography which Neill

Book Reviews

made available to the author. There is also an excellent short chapter in this section on 'The Influence of Wilhelm Reich' which in eight pages explains Reich better than the whole of *Anarchy* 105 in my opinion.

But the book on the whole is a great disappointment. One looks in vain for any attempts at progressive education in the state schools (Michael Duane's Risinghill rates a footnote on the third to the last page). Information about day schools is nearly non-existent, limiting itself mainly to the more expensive boarding schools. Bertrand Russell is given five sentences, at least three of which contain factual errors. And poor Neill somehow both 'volunteered for the war and was drafted'. I think the book on English progressive schools has yet to be written. KEN KNUDSON.

Turn The People On

IT IS AN unpalatable truth that we are all products of bankrupt cultures and that our attitudes and actions are largely determined by this. Prevailing human social structures are also shaped, in part, by past conditioning. Those who nurture the conviction of a deep existent personal freedom are often forging their own shackles of delusion. The degree of conceivably possible individual liberation is dependent upon those rare fleeting insights which explode and shatter stale destructive myths. Such glimpses, if recognised and understood, can elude the restraining hand of educational indoctrination and decaying parental folklore. To approach the relative truth it is necessary to see through the relative lie. Mass-media, history book, scientific and specialist misinformation can only be seen as such when there exists an alternative source of available factual data. That which is obvious is often that which is overlooked and the above verbiage is intended not to bore but to emphasise a fact which many anarchists choose to ignore. Each one of us being a broken victim of systems which have totally failed as instruments to promote the continued good of peoples. As vehicles towards the exploration, discovery and realisation of full human potential, they have all been non-starters. Even those few theoretically disposed towards such ends.

In every area of concern, traditional and orthodox notions and methods have eventually proved wholly or partly wrong and occasionally dangerous. Furthermore a few cranks have usually worn out tongues and typewriters toppling rigid dogmas which the rest of us long lovingly cherished and sustained. Anarchism is pervaded by a vision of deconditioned men freely evolving new forms of human societies and relationships. The likely results of spontaneity and imagination, released from repressive inhibition and control, are perhaps beyond the speculations and dreams of unfree conditioned men. Nevertheless, chained and ignorant as we are, we must propagate the anarchist vision inasmuch as we understand

its depths and strength. Truth is on our side but time is possibly not.

Today as yesterday it is fashionable to sneer at the squares; those pathetic grey men and women. Who does not occasionally indulge an ego-boost derived from casual examinations and dismissals of these conforming human stereotypes of the adman's fantasy. Know and suffer them we do and feel a hollow superiority flowing from the put-down process. Unthinking and willing conformity to an abnormal society is symptomatic of psychosis or rank stupidity but it is utterly useless just to tell people so. Likewise it is unproductive to merely label people as hopeless and abandon them. We have to do our Jesus bit and resurrect the dead. Lacking in vitality or intellect she may be but we have got to turn on the sleeping housewife. We must turn on the cop, skinhead, soldier, jailer, careerist, servile, vicious, selfish, mercenary, bureaucratic, frigid, puritanical, sadistic, wicked, deluded, authoritarian, competitive, acquisitive robot man. Nobody is so lost as to forever resist the truth. Even judges, bishops and politicians. Countless years of brainwash and manipulation to combat. It is impossible to function freely in an unfree society. There is no total dropout today; only degrees of compromise and escapism. The self-liberated individual or commune cannot exist in harmony within a diseased and disruptive social frame. Anarchism, as it is generally interpreted, has no utopian blueprint other than the liberation of individuals who can join to promote and create societies capable of releasing the repressed creative energies and joys innate in us all.

It is possible to turn on the squares, straighten out the conformist, raise the dead. Anarchism is a true and natural message to bestow. The key that opens prison-minds. The essence of anarchism is painfully obvious to those who can be persuaded to drop their blinkers and dare to look at the sun. This message of liberation, by its very nature, is not an esoteric and cliquish thing. Nor is it

Continued on page 4

CARVING UP EUROPE

THE BRITISH CABINET PAPERS for 1939, published on January 1, have been seized upon by the communists as proof of the correctness and purity of Stalin's pre-war foreign policy.

It is true the documents show the Russian rulers were better informed and more competent than their British counterparts. Chamberlain was convinced that Poland was militarily more powerful than Russia, so he ensured negotiations for collective security agreements in Moscow failed by sending only junior diplomats to the discussions with no authority to discuss any of the basic issues.

Yet in spite of several warnings by Molotov that if Russia was snubbed by the Western powers she would have no alternative but to make an alliance with Germany, the August 23 'Non-Aggression' Pact took Whitehall completely by surprise.

There is no better illustration of the anti-working class nature of the Soviet state than the terms of this Pact, and the policies it engendered. Contrary to its title it was in fact a Pact for Aggression.

Its final protocol, signed by Molotov and Ribbentrop, determined the exact territories to be occupied by the aggressors a few weeks later.

'In the event of a territorial and political re-arrangement of areas belonging to the Polish State the spheres of influence of Germany and the USSR shall be bounded approximately by the line of the rivers Narew, Vistula and San.'

The same agreement carved all Eastern Europe from the Baltic to the Balkans into 'spheres of influence'. Stalin was wild with enthusiasm, and ordered that Ribbentrop be awarded the 'Order of Lenin'. Indeed the only contention between Berlin and Moscow in the weeks that followed was the slowness of the Red Army to occupy Eastern Poland following Hitler's attack. Ribbentrop sent daily telegrams to his Ambassador Schulenburg, demanding 'concrete action' from the procrastinating Russians. Molotov pointed out that the Soviet Union wished to avoid giving the appearance of being an aggressor!

Sixteen days after the German onslaught the Red Army fulfilled its part

of the agreement and occupied the agreed territories. In places the Germans had been forced, by military necessity, to advance up to a hundred miles into the Russian 'sphere'. As the Red Army moved in the Wehrmacht withdrew, without a single incident along the entire front.

On September 28 a 'Friendship' Treaty was signed in Moscow.

'The Government of the German Reich and the Government of the USSR consider it exclusively their task, after the collapse of the former Polish state, to re-establish peace and order in these territories and to assure to the peoples living there a peaceful life in keeping with their national character.'

The same treaty confirmed the Soviet 'interest' in the Baltic States.

In the two years that followed the whole apparatus of world communism became actively pro-Hitler. As early as September 6, 1939, a delighted Schulenburg reported to the German Foreign Office:

'... The press is as though it had been transformed. Attacks on the conduct of Germany have not only ceased completely, but the portrayal of events in the field of foreign politics is based to an outstanding degree on German reports, while anti-German literature has been removed from the book trade.'

A year later the French editors of *L'Humanite* were to approach the Nazi occupation for permission to republish their paper, and the readers of *Pravda* were treated to feature articles which showed how Marxist theory proved the identity of socialism and national socialism.

The co-operation applied equally between the 'police' forces. A confidential protocol of the 'Friendship' treaty had decreed:

'The Government of the USSR shall place no obstacles in the way of Reich nationals and other persons of German descent residing in the territories under its jurisdiction, if they desire to migrate to Germany or to the territories under German jurisdiction...'

Under this clause thousands of anti-fascists who had taken refuge from

Hitler's terror were handed over to Himmler's Gestapo.

Throughout the two years of Nazi-Soviet 'friendship', the Kremlin never failed to give Hitler the fullest unconditional support. The many agreements signed were far from the reciprocal non-interference pacts which the Stalinists in their re-write of history try to imply.

That Stalin genuinely believed Hitler was happy to share the world with him was to be shown by his refusal to accept the reality of the German invasion of Russia when it came. (Soviet troops were ordered not to return the fire as the attack was possibly a 'mistake' by a local commander!) All this was to be documented by Krushchev in his revelations to the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party. Krushchev is borne out by the documents that passed between the two capitals in the last weeks of peace.

Communists have always maintained that the Soviet Union is that famous contradiction in terms—a workers' state. At no time throughout the period discussed above were the interests of workers even considered.

The policies of the Soviet State vis-à-vis the people proved indistinguishable from those of the other imperialist states.

BOB POTTER.

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**ANARCHIST
FEDERATION
of BRITAIN**

The AFB information office will produce an internal bulletin. Comrades interested in its production are to meet in Birmingham on the first weekend of each month, from November onwards. All groups will be informed in detail. Address all letters to:

Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Tel. 021-454 6871. Material that cannot wait for the bulletin to be sent to R. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York. The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information.

Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should

write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

AFB REGIONAL GROUPS
There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:

North West Federation: John Walker, 92 Clyde Road, Manchester, 20.
Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell. (M. Ma. B.)
Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, FL.)
Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.
Sussex: E. Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.
Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, 3 Marlborough Grove, Leeds, 2.
Scotland: B. Lynn, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow.
Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).
N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.
S. Ireland: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).
University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare.
(Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine; B—badges; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets)

AFBIB 3 is now out. It has been sent to all those who paid for it but not to those who didn't. If you want to know the internal news of the movement send some cash (15/- for 12 issues for instance) to Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road, Birmingham, 16. Next AFBIB meeting: Birmingham, February 1. SEND YOUR DELEGATES!!!

Back Where We Started, But—

AS WE ALL now know the planned strike of power station workers on January 5 has not materialized, but the shop stewards committees, at a meeting in London, have declared that they have won, and gained what they wanted. Have they?

They demanded a rise of 18% and more local bargaining, in fact it was a motion at the Communist Party annual conference to struggle for entirely local bargaining and to do away with the National Joint Industrial Council, the national bargaining body through which all the trades unions involved have to work. They have, of course, gained neither.

The unions got 10% backdated to September 22 a long time ago and the strike was for more. The shop stewards now have an undertaking for more local consultation, but no local bargaining, so in that they have failed.

As anarchists we have always argued for local bargaining, but if the CP wants it should we not think again. In this industry local bargaining has the advantage of real communication

between the men concerned, which is difficult enough with the men on shift, whereas national bargaining gives the unions the advantages. This really is why the strike failed.

To get a whole disjointed industry out on strike by the action of shop stewards is very difficult and that we came so near is amazing. But local bargaining could lead to greater wage discrepancies in the industry. Already workers in big stations get more than those in small ones, which is reasonable for some jobs as they entail more responsibility, but a cleaner is the same whatever size floor he's polishing so why pay him less in a small station, they are paid little enough in the big ones!

The advantage to the CP, as I see it, of local bargaining is to point out how much more workers in CP-controlled stations get and so try to attract workers to their side, which is hardly a situation we would like to see. So at the minute we have little choice—the CP or the unions.

It is now clear what a large role

the CP have played in this. The strike meeting for the Western Region, held in the Colston Hall, Bristol, was in fact paid for by the *Morning Star* and organised by Vic Bryant, secretary of Portishead shop stewards committee. Major coverage has been given by the *Morning Star*, although I haven't seen any on sale round here, and, as far as I can find out, many of the stewards in the Midlands are Party members.

However, now in retrospect the big laugh is that the engineers have also got 10%, handed to them literally on a plate to 'maintain the differential', and rumour has it some are thinking of striking for 20% to 'maintain the differential', which shows some error in mathematics.

In an emotive appeal in *Power News*, the house journal, 'Sir' Stanley Brown said on January 1:

'Any man who puts into effect the unofficial strike action threatened for January 5 will therefore be regarded as having repudiated his contract of employment.

'And remember, besides losing wages for no good purpose the families of strikers are as likely to suffer as anyone else without heat and light in mid-winter.

'Finally I would say to anyone still in doubt: Don't be misled by an irre-

sponsible minority who represent no one but themselves. Remain loyal to your union and to your contract of employment with the Board.

'Reject the unofficial strike call and safeguard your jobs and this vital service for which we are all responsible.'

How we manage to all be responsible, when we have no workers' control, I do not know, but remember this drivell is paid for by your electricity bill.

Which leaves us all back where we started. We are 10% richer, which should almost put us back to the standard of living we had three years ago. We have the pay and productivity deal in force with the little men with stop watches running round already and we can look forward to more redundancies.

We find the capitalists have sold the industry with power stations that don't work properly, the unions have ignored us, the CP has tried to take over the shop stewards movement, and we still have large communication difficulties, but the men are still not happy and so the struggle will certainly continue. The next major wages and conditions review is in the autumn, so I suppose we'll all sit back till then.

SCRUMP.

OUT FOR EQUAL PAY

TEN DAYS AGO a one-day stoppage by a thousand Fife busmen succeeded in having one-man bus services operating out of Cupar discontinued, after the end of January. After that the one-man buses stop, whether the management has found conductors and conductresses or not.

At present the conductresses are demanding equal pay for equal work. At commencement of employment a conductress is paid £10 5s. against a conductor's £11 5s. A conductor receives one increase after a year, but a conductress has six yearly increments, and then her pay equals a conductor's!

The conductors and conductresses are out on strike now at Methil and Kirkcaldy over this, and the drivers have been laid off. As yet the Union Executive have not made the strike official. The other garages are supporting the strikers by collections and by guerrilla tactics: working to rule, half-day and one-day stoppages (which are 'official' but no strike pay is paid).

Tonight the Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath buses stop at 6 p.m. for a Union meeting, to decide whether they will

come out. As a point of interest there is a football match on tonight in Dunfermline, with a crowd of 30,000 expected. Mr. McIntyre, a Dunfermline T&GWU official, suggested that the police would have an interesting exercise in crowd control.

The strike is really hurting the Fife factories, they do not know when their workers will be in, and when not. Some managements have tried to arrange temporary contracts to bring their workers in by special buses, but the Union will only allow permanent contracts, which would be in the interest of the workers, giving them a cheaper, faster, more comfortable service (at present many have to stand, and occasionally some are left at the factory).

At present the busmen have no control over their working environment, and up until now the bus company has been playing fast and loose with them.

Mr. McIntyre said that things would get worse before they got better, but their aim is to provide a real service for the million people living in Fife, 'free, just as a sewer is free!' B.T.

LETTER

Enlightment Please

Dear Comrades,

D. Cunliffe (FREEDOM, 17.1.70) views an anarchist society as 'solitary contemplatives, nomadic individuals and tribes'. The international capitalists have us, the proletariat, neatly split on national lines. Our comrade, a so-called anarchist, would have us further split, would he? Perhaps he would enlighten us as to how the 'individuals' and the 'tribes' will defend the revolution against revanchist capitalism—which, in the post revolutionary period, will certainly assume a Fascist form?

Who is going to clothe and feed the 'solitary contemplative'. No work,

no bloody eat, mate. Such an individual would be as much of a parasite as Lizzy Windsor or the chairman of ICI. Just how are we supposed to run modern industry, necessary to give normal people a decent life, on a tribal basis! Cunliffe can live in a tent, weave his own clothes, generate his own power and remove his own appendix if he wants. But, for Christ's sake, must the paper of the Revolution print this anti-working class garbage?

And we wonder why anarchism is not a vital force among the British working class! Please restrict your columns to supporting the class struggle. There are all sorts of hippy and mystic papers where Cunliffe can dodge reality.

Fraternally,
Aberdeen IAN S. SUTHERLAND.



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Revolution in Your Community

DURING THE NEXT two months, Jill Maguire, an active member of WRI, will be making a tour of the country to talk about the principles of nonviolence and ways in which we can build the grass-roots revolution within our everyday lives. In particular, she will outline the scheme she is involved in at present—that of developing a Craft Centre where people with creative ideas can live and work together and on a voluntary basis produce some of the basic needs of an underprivileged community. Jill would particularly like to speak with groups in local schools, colleges and universities. Where possible she can bring along films relating to the problems created by our present way of life—poverty, hunger, war, ecological imbalance.

We recommend that you arrange meetings with Jill in your area. If you are interested, or have any questions, write to Jill at War Resisters' International, 3 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

LEAN AND HUNGRY

WE ARE CONSTANTLY told that, with the passing of the privately-owned family firm and the creation of the share-owning democracy, gone are the days of nepotism and direct exploitation of the many by the few. As often as not, management now owns only a minuscule proportion of the shares of a given company, and (if one ignores the firm's car, the flat in town, the tobacco and booze at Christmas) draws only a salary. In numerous cases, firms encourage their workers to have a 'sense of participation' by issuing them with a bonus of shares after they've completed a stint of so many years with the firm. We're all in it together lads: you bet.

But this can still mean rather different treatment, depending on which side of the management/worker line you stand. The Great White God of the business world, as we all know, is now efficiency (hence the birth of such corny concepts as productivity, cost consciousness and budgetary analysis) and, unless profits rise at least as fast as inflation, then management is deemed to be not doing its job: the shareholders want 'growth'.

There hasn't been too much growth of efficiency at the Guildford firm of Dennis Brothers lately. Dennis makes all sorts of specialised vehicles like fire-engines and road-sweepers and, in addition to losing some £180,000's worth of stock last year (for which Dennis' accounts received only qualified approval from the auditors—a procedure almost unheard of in the city), profits disappeared completely in 1969 and the company made a loss of £240,000. The excuse given out by management was firstly, high production costs as a result of reorganisation (which has been going on since April 1968) and secondly, heavy expenses on new accounting and stock control systems, designed to prevent fur-

ther stock losses: though it must be pretty difficult to lose fire-engines or whatever in the stock in the first place.

The remedy, predictably enough, has been to sack a proportion of the 1,300 workers, 150 of whom 'will now be looking for new jobs' as the company hand-out blandly puts it. Though since Dennis is Guildford's biggest employer of labour, looking for another job will be no easy matter. A company spokesman says that the cuts are being made 'to adjust the balance between direct and indirect labour in relation to sales and production. We have to go lean and hungry to survive and prosper,' he maintains. Note the 'we'.

But those who won't be going lean and hungry at Dennis and who have just been appointed to top posts at the company are: Mr. John King, former chairman of the ball-bearing manufacturers Pollard Group; Mr. I. H. G. Wilson, formerly an executive at Tecalemit (which almost took Dennis over last year but backed out when it saw what it was getting for its money); Mr. J. A. Terry, formerly finance director at Chilton Electric; Mr. F. S. Baddeley, who comes from the green pastures of Fords; and two newly-appointed executives, one from Lansing Bagnall and one from Butterfield Group.

In addition two non-executive posts have been filled—one by Julian Amery, MP, former Minister of Aviation in the Tory cabinet (Dennis also makes aircraft servicing equipment) and the other by a city accountant, Mr. G. S. Stone. There has been no news of any sackings to go with appointments, so presumably all the new faces (with the exception of the non-executives who are generally unpaid) represent additions to the payroll. Perhaps this is what management means when it says we're all in it together. PETER SHERWOOD.

Ireland, The Same Old Story

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, saw the biggest demonstration against the Springboks yet, this time in Dublin. The 12,000-15,000 who marched also made it Dublin's biggest demonstration ever and the huge drop in attendance figures at the match, the official government boycott and the militant trade union action can have left the racists in no doubt about their unpopularity. Nonetheless, despite the threats of bombs and violence the Irish RFU went ahead and the game was played while the demonstrators swarmed around outside.

For the benefit of the TV cameras the Guardai were very restrained, although Eugene Todd, a student from Belfast, was beaten up in their offices inside the ground. Any militancy there was restricted to the PD groups from the North and the party from Derry who were singled out by the Guardai as the enemy.

But that night while the Dublin so-called left drank themselves into a

stupor and chatted with the 'important personages' like Devlin and Conor Cruise O'Brien, the Guardai hit back. The pickets outside the Shelbourne and Hibernian Hotels where the Boers were attending lavish functions, were brutally attacked by the forces of law and order. A young girl, Teresa Dynes, and her two sisters, all from Armagh PD, were bated and put into hospital. Those Northerners coming to her rescue were also smashed to the ground and a German TV crew's camera wrecked by baton-wielding guards. Despite attempted sit-downs the teams got to their bus and demonstrators suffered more casualties at the hands of the pigs. For any who hadn't already known it, it was a revealing glimpse of Jack Lynch's little police state, and by the end of the night everyone was referring to the Guardai as 'the B men'.

Meanwhile in the North the persecution continues. Following Devlin's 6 months (probably to be suspended

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on appeal), Niall Vallely, a major figure in Armagh PD, has been jailed for 4 months for breaking a pig's collarbone (in self-defence). Judge Conaghan in court showed his true mettle when he said, 'It's a hard sentence, but if I jail Vallely it'll stop all these protests in Armagh.' (Armagh PD have constantly picketed and protested about the failure of the RUC and courts to charge the Tynan B-men with the murder of John Gallagher on August 15.) Sir Arthur Young, panicking, has now said that 'if, by chance, anyone isn't satisfied' he might bring over a Scotland Yard pig to do the job.

Conaghan's solution to the protests has hardly been a great success. Protests were at once held in Belfast (outside the judge's palatial house), Newry, Armagh, Enniskillen, and Dungiven (where police murdered Francis McCloskey in July). Two days after the case Armagh PD staged a big protest in the town about Vallely and Gallagher and another is scheduled for Saturday.

On Monday, January 19, 27 PD members are due up in court on adjourned charges in Enniskillen (crimes include carrying a blank placard, and one saying 'We can't speak here.'). The court's actions are being attentively watched, for if the pressure of oppression continues, the government will be sowing dragons' teeth. CHARLES HILL.

WORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE

TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN delegates attended the London and Home Counties Conference on Workers' Control in Chelsea College on Sunday, January 11, organised jointly by the LCS Political Committee, the Institute for Workers' Control, *Tribune*, *Voice*, and *Target*, a busmen's paper.

After the Chairman's introduction, Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary AEF, spoke on 'The aims and objects of Workers' Control'. In his speech he emphasized the need for trade unionists to control their own unions. 'We need to see that we do participate inside the trade union movement in the struggle between left and right.' He supported the need for Combined Shop Stewards Committees and called for international committees between trade unionists. He attacked trade union members who complained but failed to bring their complaints inside the trade union structure.

Referring to the Roberts-Arundel dispute, he said that no workers should go down to defeat. The trade union rank and file should determine the policies and leadership of the trade unions. He concluded by saying that trade unions should do the job they were set up to do, emancipate workers of this and other countries.

Later, during the seminar on democracy in the trade unions, he said that in recent ballots only 5% and 6% of trade unions had voted, resulting in victories for right-wingers.

Following Ernie Roberts, Ted Mooney, Shop Steward in GEC Merseyside, spoke about the abortive take-over of GEC plants by the worker. He pointed out that the take-over had first been proposed by a right-wing AEF official in order to stave off demands for a general strike. Nevertheless once the decision had been

taken, committees were established and set to work to look after transport and catering. Once the right-wing saw that the workers really meant business, they set to work to undermine the project by sowing seeds of doubt. The project suffered from the workers' failure to understand the revolutionary implications of workers' control and they questioned the legality of their proposed action. This was a question workers never asked when they were taking strike action, Ted Mooney pointed out. He concluded: 'Workers' control cannot take place in one factory but must be done on a broad base in industry generally.'

The next speaker was Ernest de Maio, General Vice-President of the United Electrical Workers of America, who are involved with 12 other unions in a nation-wide strike against GEC in the US. Since October 26, 150,000 workers in 13 unions spread over 33 States have been engaged in a bitter dispute over GEC attempts to throttle trade union organisation in the factories and an attempt to cut real wages.

He drew attention to the vindictive campaign being waged by the company against the unions. He held up newspaper cuttings containing advertisements with which the company hoped to confuse the strikers. He said that each worker received at least one letter a week and was contacted by his foreman often twice a week in a company attempt to break their morale. De Maio spoke of the Vietnam war and said that GEC was the second largest supplier of war material to the Pentagon. It was the fourth largest corporation in the US, he said.

He asked for solidarity from trade unionists in this country with their dispute and is seeking to have work diverted from GEC in the US blacked in this

country.

Then followed dispersion into a number of seminars held on Housing, Women in Industry, Trade Union Democracy, Education, Engineering, Co-op and Distribution, Transport, Press and Clerical Workers. I attended the seminar on Trade Union Democracy along with 33 others. This seminar was led off by Walter Kendall.

Three papers were presented to this seminar on Democracy inside the Trade Union Movement.

The first paper illustrated the undemocratic practice in one union where the Regional Organisers are appointed by the top for a probationary period of two years. After that they are submitted to 'election' by the membership. A one-candidate election by block vote of branches. This paper asked for support from the Institute in starting a campaign to bring such practices to an end.

The second paper stressed the need for industrial unionism as opposed to trade unionism. The writer quoted the writings of Daniel De Leon on industrial unionism and recommended the adoption of De Leon's industrial unionism. As a Syndicalist I was puzzled and a little amused at the writer's pains to point out that this was not Anarcho-Syndicalism but De Leon's ideas emphasized by Lenin. Apart from this quirk of imagination, however, the paper posed the question of how else was capitalism to be overthrown other than by industrial unionism.

The third paper began, 'Before the concept of workers' control of industry can be discussed seriously, it is necessary to discuss the undemocratic character of the trade unions... before we can visualise the working class taking the giant step forward of socialising the economy and taking control of industry, surely they must remove the obstacles—

within their own organisations—that stand in their way.' The writer attacked the TUC leadership for their lame reaction to the White Paper 'In Place of Strife' and for their current proposals to member unions for disciplining 'unofficial' strikers. The paper listed proposals to bring the leadership under the direct control of the rank and file: Election of all full time officials for a given period and subject to recall; the elected representatives earn a wage no higher than the highest paid worker in the union; abolition of the block vote within a union; and no bans or proscriptions against any party or political tendency.

The discussion in the seminar which followed these papers was lively and in general reinforced the points expressed in the three papers. Speakers opposed the check-off system of trade union dues as being employers' invasion of workers' territory and the dangers inherent in compulsory legal recognition by employers, of trade union membership were pointed out. One attractive young female comrade, from Greece, a sociology student, asked the pertinent question, 'Can the present trade union structure bring about workers' control?'

Walter Kendall wound up the seminar by asking those interested in continuing this investigation into Trade Union Democracy to give their names and it was agreed that the discussion should be adjourned. It was announced that there will be a school on Trade Union Democracy on March 7/8 in Buxton. Enquiries to Institute for Workers' Control, 45 Gamble Street, Forest Road West, Nottingham.

Following the seminars, John Cousins, a T&GWU organiser, spoke on 'Workers' Control and Productivity Bargaining'. He said that there was nothing new about productivity bargains and that in the 70's there would be much greater militancy, and productivity increases of the order of 10%, 15% and 20% would be the norm. Although he said that many productivity bargains were phoney, he raised a howl of protest when he defended productivity bargains against his belief that there would not be a revolution in this country in the foreseeable future. He quoted an experience to illustrate that workers were at this time more interested in wages than revolution. This brought howls of derision. However Cousins went on to stress the importance of organisation and the establishment of a force of shop stewards and full-time officials. He made the point that co-partnership will not work.

The reports from the various seminars followed and the women present were particularly vocal in a campaign for: (1) equal pay for equal work which must be taken from the profits; (2) equal opportunity at work; (3) a drive to increase militancy amongst women; (4) important not to concede demands for the abolition of women's protective legislation; and (5) that in future conferences the Institute for Workers' Control should provide child care facilities.

There was some discussion following these reports and Walter Kendall then wound up the Conference. In his concluding remarks he quoted the following from James Connolly's *Socialism Made Easy*:

'Every fresh shop or factory organised... is a fort wrenched from the hands of the capitalist class and manned with soldiers of the Revolution to be held by them for the workers. On the day that the political and economic forces of labour finally break with capitalist society and proclaim the Workers' Republic, these shops and factories so manned will be taken charge of by the workers there employed, and force and effectiveness thus given to that proclamation. Then and thus the new society will spring into existence ready equipped to perform all the useful functions of its predecessor.'

The organisers are to be congratulated on organising this Conference which probed workers' control and how it will be achieved. Their detractors should first ask themselves where else will they find 218 workers, a cross-section of left political opinion and representative from the shop floor discussing this vital issue, the very essence of socialism. Talk, talk, talk, all right, but talk always precedes action and if it does not then there is action, but action to where and in what direction. France in May 1968 was one step from revolution, sure, and it may as well have been 1,000,000 steps from revolution. Because two months later the workers were back where they started. Why? Because it was action without any clear idea of where to go. Contrast this with Spain 1936!

The Conference was once again conspicuous by the absence of Libertarian or Anarcho-Syndicalist delegates, yours truly came as a member of the Syndi-



Contact Column is for making contact! Use is free, but donations towards typesetting costs are welcome

Assistance to find work urgently needed. Brian J. Banks, 553 Liverpool Road, Platt Bridge, Nr. Wigan, Lancs.

'Listen Marxist'. New Libertarian Student pamphlet, 1/6 post from LSF, c/o Keith Nathan, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York.

Left Literature Conference, January 31-February 1 at Nottingham University. Pamphlet and book display by over 20 political groups and distributors of left publications. Discussion about aims of political publications and about ways to facilitate distribution of pamphlets, books, newspapers, etc. 'Alternative' newspaper workshop. (Write to S. Ferdinando, 78 Clarendon Road, Wallasey, Cheshire. 021-639 5448.) Information, write to Agit Prop Literature Programme, 160 N. Gower Street, N.W.1. 01-387 5406.

Leicester: Contact Di and Arthur Humphrey, 74 High Street, Leicester (22046).

Could anyone with articles written by Pa Chin (alias Li Fei-Kan or Fei Kan or Hei Lang) in Chinese or translation contact Denis Watson, 25 Retreat Road, Hampton 3188, Australia.

Tuesday Evenings at Freedom Hall. Starting January 20. Informal discussion/entertainment/chess evenings. Small musical instruments and pocket chess sets welcomed. Refreshments. From 7 p.m. admission 2/-. Proceeds to Press Fund.

Manchester Anarchist Group. Secretary: Rachel Golditch, 34 Waterpark Road, Salford, Lancs. (740 2516).

N.E. Anarchist Group. M. Renwick, 122 Mowbray Street, Heaton, Newcastle on Tyne, 6.

Worthwhile work wanted by ex-voluntary worker. Mike, c/o 11 Barway Road, Manchester, M21 1JZ.

Combat Academic Psychology. Conference at Keele, February 28-March 1. Anti-Behaviourism; Psychology in the service of the late capitalist State; Examination of Alternatives: Body—Freudians (Brown, Reich, Marcuse), Phenomenological Approaches (Laing, Merleau-Ponty), 'Humanistic' Psychology, Psychedelia, etc. Anyone willing to write a paper or anyone wanting details, please contact Keith Paton, 21 Victoria Street, Basford, Stoke-on-Trent.

Anarchist Revolution. (Leaflet back in print.) 5/- per hundred. Cash with order please.

Malatesta Poster Screen Printed. 7/6 (inc. post) from Freedom Bookshop.

Floodgates of Anarchy by Stuart Christie and Albert Meltzer. Available mid-January at 22/- inc. post. Advance orders to Freedom Bookshop.

Nova Scotia. Comrades please contact Pete Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office.

Urgent. Help fold and dispatch FREEDOM every Thursday from 4 p.m. onwards. Tea served.

Visits Please! Two of five squatters remanded in custody do not have family in London, and would welcome visits. Brixton: Diarmuid Breatnach ('Buzz'); Ashford Remand Centre, Middx.: Michael Ali. For rota please phone Sonia Markham at RENOWN 2014. (Letters also welcomed.)

Schools Anarchist Group in Gloucestershire? Contact Kate & Joe, 3 Withy Lea, Leonard Stanly, nr. Stonehouse, GL10 3NS, Glos.

Barbarians vs Springboks

Dear Friend,
This match is the final one in the current all-white Springboks rugby tour and needs a turnout of anti-apartheid demonstrators on a scale that has not as yet been achieved.

We need to ensure that the body of people opposed to apartheid sport, and British complicity with it, is growing and will continue to do so. The all-white Springbok team have, throughout their tour, been challenged at every match and on many other occasions by people who condemn the racial basis of their selection; who believe that sportsmen should be chosen only on merit; who know that racism is written into the South African constitution and that this represents misery and deprivation for the vast majority in that country; and who reject British support for apartheid in sport as in other fields.

The response throughout this tour has

been magnificent, by students, representatives of the Labour Movement, the Churches, other organisations and the general public. We hope to exceed it on January 31.

Details of the demonstration are as follows: ASSEMBLE in St. Mary's Road (adjoining Twickenham station) from 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, January 31. MARCH off at 1.30 p.m. to reach Twickenham Stadium at 2 o'clock and DEMONSTRATE there until 4.30 p.m.

We hope that you will alert all your members and supporters to turn out on this occasion and look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely yours,
ETHEL DE KEYSER,
Executive Secretary,
Anti-Apartheid Movement.

89 Charlotte Street,
London, W1P 2DQ

Turn the People On

Continued from page 2

burdened with the tortuous terminology and ideological gymnastics of the authoritarian Left or consumed by the psychopathic hysteria of the extreme Right. Happily it is a seed that can be planted in stony and barren minds. However sparsely watered and neglected, its roots will cling fiercely and determinedly to eroded soil. Growing healthy and strong until an illuminating flash flowers it into realisation and unfolding leaves brush away encrusted grime. It is invaluable to venture into shop, factory, office and street to agitate for justice and revolt. To relate the System and wider social issues to each narrow dispute. Perhaps it is also meaningful, even necessary, to blow the fear cobwebs from people's minds. The fear of living. Assassins of the Big Lie. Turning people onto the joys and agonies of life. There are many who cannot comprehend the simplest political analysis. They can, however, understand the contradiction between natural constructive urges and State suppression. How they would like to spend most of their time and how they are forced to waste the greater part of their lives in impersonal drudgery in order to accumulate useless possessions from a vast consumer machine. How the obscene discipline and pointless restrictions at work curtail their natural desires for free expression, albeit only childish fun. Revolutionise the people by all means but first it may be advisable to turn some of them on.

DAVE CUNLIFFE.

The Market in Slaves

SQUATTING MANACLED round the smouldering fire, they discussed the affairs of the day, how they had got on with the job, what the overseer's temper was like. This was the only time they could steal for themselves before sleep overtook them.

There had been rumours about. These were their staple diet. These contained all their hopes and few of their fears. What other hopes could there be in life-long slavery?

Lab had talked about it first. 'They say that all the slave-owners are getting together and we shall join them in a great new plantation. It means we shall all have less work to do because the new place will have big machines to help us to do it.'

Con said, 'More likely we do more work with those lazy bastards coming in and expecting us to feed them.' Com said, 'After all they are fellow-slaves but I think we'd be better off joining Red's plantation and not Blue's.'

Lib asserted, 'To join some other plantation is a step in the right direction. What we need is a world-wide plantation with all of us working together. It's the only way we can stop the plantation owners from quarrelling.' In his little dark corner An broke in, 'When the owners quarrel is the only time we get good rations.' They'll cut down our rations if we join,' said Con. 'If we don't join,' said Lab, 'we shan't get any work.' Lib said, 'It's inevitable. It's progress.

You can't stop it.'

'Are you going to stop there all night?' shouted the overseer, cracking his Whip. They all rose to their feet, chains clanking, and shuffled their hobbled ways to a couch of exhaustion.

JACK SPRATT.

Hunger Strike

Continued from page 1

bassies and Consulates in such countries where they exist, demanding from President Ordaz the 'immediate and unconditional release of the Political Prisoners'. Letters and telegrams of protest are also requested.

At the Preventive Prison some have been held from one to two years without being charged with any crime and have no legal representation. Some are US army deserters who were living in Mexico rather than fight in Vietnam. One of these is on hunger strike.

However, we have received no further news, so do not know whether they have abandoned the hunger strike or, as is more likely, been forcibly fed. What possibly could secure their release is a campaign to embarrass the Mexican government, which wants everything to run smoothly for the World Cup.

P.T.

(Acknowledgements to A.L.)

Come to the
**JUMBLE
SALE**
10 am on Sunday
January 25
at Freedom Hall