

# ENOCH EXPOSES HIMSELF

**M**UD STICKS, and we are always embarrassed if one of our enemies says something approving of our activities. How we squirm when a Liberal or a Socialist takes up the cry for 'workers' control', for example, when we know that anarcho-syndicalists are the *only* ones who really mean *workers* in control of industry instead of workers-participation-in-the-control-of-industry-under-the-supervision-of-the-government. Even when anarchistic attitudes are obliquely referred to with so-called approval, we feel uncomfortable, if it is from an obvious supporter of government. Last weekend, for example, Mr. Ted Heath told Young Conservatives (isn't this a misnomer, by the way—aren't all Conservatives decrepit, whatever their birth certificates might say?) that he has 'No quarrel with those who question authority. It is right that our institutions should be challenged to explain and justify the principles on which they operate'. An interesting quote, and one we must remember, just in case Mr. Heath's party win the next election.

Our raised eyebrows came down again, however, on reading the next paragraph, where the leader of the Tory Party ran true to form: 'What is not right is that those who have a duty to these institutions—be they trade union leaders or university vice-chancellors—should react to

this challenge by abdicating their authority and their responsibilities.'

So we end up with a typical politician's gambit—the sop to libertarian principles, followed with the reminder that they must never be allowed to prevail! For what is upsetting so many politicians at present is the evidence that the weapons of direct action—of direct challenge to authority—are so much more effective than going through the 'proper channels of negotiation', etc., etc.

## THE UNFORGIVABLE TEACHERS

Nothing has underlined this, and incidentally nothing has engendered more Tory bitterness, than the teachers' triumph. In the first place, that a middle-class 'professional' body should resort to methods traditionally used only by 'workers'—this was a cruel betrayal of middle-class snobbery. Secondly, it creates a dangerous precedent in that it breaks the division between the middle and lower classes, which hitherto has meant that *in fact* and by virtue of default, the middle class has supported the upper class in its never-ending war against the workers. Thirdly, the even more dangerous precedent of practising solidarity and learning the techniques of direct action, and, fourthly, and unforgivably, the teachers **WON!**

And in winning and going through

the actions which led to their victory, a great deal of experience has been accumulated by the teachers. They can now assess, on the basis of their own treatment by the Press, for instance, the value of Press reporting on trade disputes. A month ago the London *Evening Standard* was telling the NUT that it had lost the sympathy of the public and that it should settle for the 'generous' offer already made—which was for £85! Further militancy would alienate further and get them less! Now the teachers know the value of such views—and can apply them to the next strike by dockers or railwaymen or dustmen. The one great lesson the teachers will have learnt from their action is solidarity—not only with each other, but with their children's parents and with all those at the receiving end of authority.

And this, of course, is what authority fears: solidarity. Dividing makes ruling so easy—unity makes it so difficult. Hence the attempts all the time to divide the 'militants' from the 'silent majority', attempts which are clearly building up into a sustained and hysterical campaign by the Tories in the run-up to the election.

## LUNATIC FRINGE BENEFIT

In this connection we want to say a great big 'Thank You' to Mr. Enoch Powell, who is in the process of do-

ing us much more good than harm. Having placed himself out on the lunatic fringe of the Tory Party—and a very wide fringe it is too—anything he says now will rebound to the benefit of those he attacks. Nothing has done more than his speeches to strengthen the anti-racialist movement and draw support, even for extreme tactics like the anti-Springbok campaign, from moderate opinion of all shades. While that section of the Tories who seek to woo the centre for election purposes must squirm at Enoch's honesty, the rest of us can only rejoice at his political stupidity. We much prefer our Tories to be seen to be Tories!

Hence we are delighted when Enoch talks about student anarchy! Even though we know he is getting it wrong, the fact that he is condemning us can only be good propaganda. Certainly, it will attract some support for the Tories from skinheads of all ages and classes; Enoch is playing, still, the typical fascist role of the defender of the nation against all disruption and undermining of any kind. In soft-peddalling on the colour question for the time being, he is showing uncharacteristic discretion, but perhaps he has finally heard his own deafening clangers, whilst in jumping on the Loranorder bandwagon he is joining the ultra-respectable Quintin Hogg and the ultra-safe Edward Heath.

As usual Enoch is a confused liar. Hence we get: 'The essential ingredient of the success of anarchy in its new form is the enslavement of the majority by a tiny minority.'

(Pretty good from a Tory politician!) But then later on, we get: 'The assertion is commonly made that the great majority of students are not involved and do not approve. Nothing could be more mistaken. These things can only happen because the majority allow themselves to be taken for a ride and, having uncritically swallowed the anarchist assumptions, positively enjoy it. We find, not a few dozen, but literally thousands of students, from Swansea to Manchester, ranging themselves on the side of the violent and disorderly as soon as there is any question of discipline being restored.' And further: 'There is no rational justification for students to participate in the academic, administrative or disciplinary management of the universities.'

In other words: you do as you are told! If you don't, you are a sucker for the anarchists—which you will positively enjoy!

We thank you Mr. Powell. Thank you for making your own love of freedom so clear to us. We know the freedom you want to send the wogs home. We know how you want to let supply and demand solve the housing problem—and the devil take the hindmost. You have now exposed yourself to the students, who already find you detestable anyway, as being in favour simply of old-fashioned discipline in an educational system for producing profit-fodder for your old-fashioned capitalism—unjust, greedy and squalid as ever.

And for naming the anarchists as the ones you dislike the most—thank you Mr. Powell! JUSTIN.

## Student Files, Student Trots, Student Farce

**T**HE CONTROVERSY over political files being held by British universities continues—with students holding occupations of university buildings and demanding assurances from the authorities that all documents be made available for scrutiny.

The wave of action which has followed in the wake of the Warwick disclosures has, perhaps, held up the process of serious thinking about the files issue. Immediate actions such as sit-ins, taken without a great deal of thought, have tended to hinder the emergence of a class analysis of the question of the keeping of political files.

Basically, the position is this. The documents seized by students at Warwick show that that university is an institution totally integrated with and beholden to, big business. But the reaction of the student world—including the student 'left' groups—has been, in my opinion, downright bourgeois. It amounts, in effect, to a more than usually militant display of our old friend—the outraged middle-class conscience. The vast majority of student 'militants' restrict their political operations to campus matters; sexual freedom; accommodation problems; the content of courses—it is upon these issues (entirely or almost entirely) peripheral to the class struggle, that student unrest has based itself.

It becomes noticeable, upon a reading of the Warwick documents, that what really worries capitalist industry and

its academic puppets is that element of the student population (and university staff) who engage in *class politics* and who advocate direct action, not over the head of the prices at the university library tea machine, but in the factories, offices and shops of this country.

Do the protesters seriously believe that it is possible to be a socialist, communist, anarchist, Trotskyist, etc., and *not* be featured in the system's files?

There appears to exist, among the students, a large body of opinion which considers the keeping of files to be somehow 'immoral'.

Our answer would be that these comrades must realise that *capitalism* is immoral, that *government* is immoral and that the only morality ever observed by British capitalism is the morality of profit; the ethics of five per cent.

The issue of files goes far beyond the universities and the student left is rapidly isolating itself by its total failure to present the working class with the political issues involved in this struggle and with any form of coherent critique thereon. Millions of people in this country are being watched—by the Special Branch and by various employers' organisations such as the Economic League.

Not one word of this and the lessons from it has been whispered by the 'left' groups currently attempting to arouse

and control the student protest—namely the International Marxist Group; International Socialism and the Socialist Labour League. These groups, usually vehement in their attacks upon anarchists and other libertarians as 'non-theorists', 'adventurists', etc., have been caught with their ideological knickers down and appear to be in grave danger of vanishing up the arsehole of a middle-class protest based upon liberal/bourgeois sentiments. Are the 'vanguard of the working class' (for thus they call themselves) going to be found at the head of a mob, whose main worry is that they won't get a good job as the personnel manager of ICI because they once said 'Boo' to teacher?

The SLL, to be fair, has suggested the formation of joint committees between students and trade unionists to do (an undefined) 'something' about these files. But who'll be the 'trade unionists'?

With reasonable certainty, we may presume this slogan to refer to the All Trades Union Alliance—which, on Sundays, becomes the SLL. The politicians are in on this like tomcats in a dustbin with the lid off. All the Marxist jargon about 'students must turn to the class struggle', etc., goes by the board when there appears a possibility for these groups to gain recruits and take over a struggle—even when the recruits are bourgeois recruits and the struggle an isolated issue totally unlinked by the participants and their leadership to the central class issue.

As long as capitalism exists, there will exist people who oppose capitalism. These people will be shot, jailed, tried, exiled, beaten, betrayed, hanged, brain-washed—and fled.

Under attack, capitalism defends itself with all the guile and craftiness that it devotes to accumulating wealth and power—it can only be defeated by the conscious and *autonomous* action of the working class. In that struggle, students can play a vital role and consideration of what that role can be will prove a vastly more productive course of action than sitting in draughty offices playing follow-my-leader with the 57 different brands of Trotskyist morons.

There's a place for you, comrade student, in your local anarchist group. IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

## OCCUPATION & CONTROL

**T**HE CARPENTERS SACKED on the John Laing's site at St. Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth, are still maintaining their picket line. Official support was withdrawn following an agreement between the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers and Laings which allows a labour-only sub-contractor, Whelan and Grant, to continue on the site, with these 'Lump' men becoming members of the union.

Naturally the pickets and other members of the ASW are enraged about this decision, while the painters, whose union recently amalgamated with the woodworkers, are also concerned about the behaviour of the EC.

Two weeks ago, in an effort to do something about it, over 200 carpenters, many of whom had voted the previous day on the jobs to support the St. Thomas' Hospital picket and came from the Barbican and Horseferry Road sites, went to their union headquarters at Clapham Common. A vote was taken that the usual small delegation should be dispensed with and we should all go in to meet the EC. So instead of standing outside in the cold, members occupied the luxurious oak-panelled and carpeted boardroom where the EC conduct their business (sic).

The police were called to eject us from the premises, but were told by us in no uncertain terms to get out of 'our' building. They did in fact leave and EC members realised that they would have to agree to our terms. A six-man delegation met them while the rest of the lads waited in the hall just outside the boardroom. The delegation put our case and the outcome was that our points of view would be put before the full EC on the following Wednesday. We left the building with the cry, 'we will be

back' and so the next week carpenters and painters, with a few 'bricksies' and labourers turned up to face the full EC.

### THE SECOND OCCUPATION

A heavy fall of snow, police and locked doors greeted us, but undeterred and following a breakfast at a nearby cafe, we again entered 'our' building. This time we saw the General Secretary, George Smith, who, with the assistance of the police, tried to prevent us from entering the main hall. Members told him exactly how they felt about the St. Thomas' dispute and the recent manoeuvres to revise the General Rules of the union. We left following an agreement that the pickets from St. Thomas' should meet the Executive Council after lunch.

When we returned at 3 p.m., we were told the outcome of that meeting which was that the EC would not discuss the dispute under the present circumstances and that other matters had to be looked into before any decision was taken. Members were disgusted that the EC was unwilling to discuss the dispute with the pickets. All promises for discussions made that day and the previous week had been broken because the EC were too scared to face the membership.

We went straight to the boardroom to meet the EC and members had the satisfaction of telling these grey-faced bureaucrats exactly what they thought of them. Many men spoke of their ideals, their dreams of what trade unionism should be, of feelings of solidarity for fellow workers and how these men seated in this oak-panelled room had made a mockery of it. Moved by the occasion, many a man who in the past has stumbled and expressed himself hesi-

Continued on page 2



# The Floodgates of Anarchy

**THE FLOODGATES OF ANARCHY** by Stuart Christie and Albert Meltzer. Kahn & Averill, February 1970, 21/-.

SUCH IS the readability of this book that I read it from cover to cover in a very short time. If I have delayed in reviewing it, that is partly due to the difficulty of criticising such a frank and extended expression of the sincere opinions of two of our most active militants. Considerations of personal friendship and memories of past conversations have added to the difficulty of objective analysis, but I suppose that this book will be the subject of argument and debate for a long time to come, so maybe the first hesitant comments upon it will soon be forgotten.

The implication of the last sentence is that the opinions expressed by the authors are controversial (in fact this is the first point made by John Rety, too, in his review for last week's *Peace News*)—but could they be otherwise? Only the most diluted and nebulous statement of anarchism could fail to raise a howl in some sections of our fragmentary and multi-faceted movement today, and whatever else one may criticize about this book, one must give full credit to the authors for the blunt intransigence of their views.

The authors should also be praised for their attempt to write with humour, thus providing a balance between the seriousness of the ideas expressed and the swash-buckling style of expression. Many a

phrase or sentence lends itself well to quotation, but to illustrate the characteristic irony so often employed I have chosen the following:

'If nowadays we have a little more to lose than mere chains, so much the more reason for making sure of victory.'

This is a very fine sentence, and the witty allusion to the Communist Manifesto is a salutary reminder that anarchism was born as a fighting movement at the time of the First International and remains a fighting movement today—despite what some of the strange people dancing around on the sidelines might say or think—with social revolution as its ultimate objective.

I hope it is not necessary for me to spend very much time listing the praiseworthy features of this book—particularly in a paper like *FREEDOM*. Stuart and Albert are too well-known, both in person and in print, for readers of this article to expect anything that wasn't first-rate from them. What is more to the point is to find the book's weak points and give them a public airing so they can be ironed out in time for any subsequent editions or translations.

There were many small things I objected to, but I'll let them go and concentrate on the more serious faults, the first of which is the carelessness and lack of precision in the way some points were made. Take a sentence like the following:

'All forms of economic exploitation arise from the division between classes and the fact that man is robbed of the

full value of his labour.' (p. 17.)

Now if the last part of this were true, and 'man' was 'robbed of the full value of his labour' then the human race would have followed the dinosaurs into extinction in no time flat! What the authors mean is that the productive classes are robbed of part of the value of their labour, which is a vital point, I agree, but this is no way to make it. In all fairness, I must say that most of the book is well written, with lucidity and coherence, but that only makes the occasional lapses from good English (not to say good sense) more painfully obvious.

Then there is Chapter 5, 'Do Classes Exist?' which is bad enough to be a satire on itself. In fact, everyone to whom I have so far showed this book has actually ended up laughing at this section. Even the typographical lay-out adds to this unwanted effect, for the chapter opens with a flourish of rhetorical questions, followed by an enormous empty circle taking up half a page. However, this is not a surrealist joke but a diagram of the class structure in early society, we are told. Six other circles follow, segmented in various ways to illustrate different social divisions through history, and I will pass on to the authors the advice of a friend of mine with a knowledge of physics who looked at diagram 5, labelled 'the "geiger-counter" of capitalism' and recommended them to have a look sometime at the pattern a geiger-counter actually makes, before trying to simulate it.

This whole chapter, in fact, is an irreparable disaster, and the book would have been much better without it. This sort of classification of society into its various elements and sub-sections is best left to sociologists. I prefer to stick to the traditional divisions which anarchists have always held, having learned them from the people, I might add, such as: 'rich and poor', 'them and us', 'haves and have-nots', 'rulers and ruled', etc. Of course this is wrong, and an over-simplification and all the rest of it, but the point is, it's not that wrong, and it's not that much of an over-simplification, particularly when talking in terms of popular allegiances. No doubt the authors will take issue with me strongly about this and reiterate their reason for including such a chapter, namely that 'There is so much confusion that we have not only to spell out what is meant by "classes" but to explain it by diagrams.' A reasonable motive, I admit, if a trifle condescending, but I am far from convinced that such an approach will eliminate rather than increase the confusion of which they speak.

It is a pity to end on a sour note and if what I have written above tends to dissuade people from reading this book, then let me make plain that such was not my intention. It is a crucial book and the most important publication to emerge for some time, and although it should be read carefully and critically, it **SHOULD BE READ!!!**

DAVE POULSON.

## IT SHOULD HAPPEN TO THE ISLE OF DOGS

### UP DESPATCH

IT CAME AT MIDNIGHT. While the world held its breath following the daring exploits of last week when a London Transport bus was prevented from getting to its terminus on the island, the self-styled Prime Minister sent a postcard to Tower Hamlets Town Hall proclaiming UDI for the Isle of Dogs and repudiating the suzerainty of Tower Hamlets which exercises power over that strip of the Commonwealth on behalf of the Queen.

### DAILY WAIL

It is thought that the application of sanctions will bring the rebel territory

to its knees. It is not known whether or not the Government and Tower Hamlets Council will apply sanctions since the Isle is dependent on the mainland for its food supplies, its electricity and gas. However it has plentiful supplies of Thames water and has several manufacturing plants well-stocked with raw materials, and unless a naval blockade is mounted, ships will be entering the docks. It is quite possible that businessmen will find it profitable and necessary to carry on business as usual.

### MORNING CLINKER

The tenth day of the Isle of Dogs struggle for national independence from the tyranny of Tower Hamlets has dawned. The emergent nations throwing off the yoke of GLC imperialism have shown to the world that they can brook no interference with the onward march of progress. A Soviet Trade delegation has arrived ready to supply arms necessary for the defence of the workers' struggle in exchange for harbour facilities, a flow of imports, bases for measures against capitalist aggression and a cultural centre in the Methodist Hall for performances by the Bolshoi Ballet and the Red Army Choir. It is learned that CIA agents have been seen infiltrating the Millwall tunnel and plans are known to be afoot to turn Millwall Football Club into a baseball team.

### KNOTTY GORDIAN

Twenty-five days after the seizure of power by the Isle of Dogs *junta* the United Nations has acted. In bold ringing tones it has declared that the breakaway government is illegal. It is not precisely disclosed what they can do about this but a motion has been gone through. The United Nations will have the support of every peace- and liberty-loving progressive who supports it and whilst inevitably we feel there are commercial difficulties (namely trade) in the imposition of sanctions we must not let this stand in the way of affirming at every possible moment what we stand for regardless of the fact that

given the circumstances ultimate action is an imponderable.

### MORNING CLINKER

The first month of the tyrannous puppet regime in the aptly-named Isle of Dogs has passed. The free communities (led by Solly Kaye of Tower Hamlets) grouped around the GLC have shown to the world that they can brook no interference with the onward march of progress. Yankee arms merchants are already at work supplying aggressive weapons, driving a hard bargain for a duty-free port, dumping of surplus US goods, bases for weapons which will menace the heart of Whitechapel and centres for the diffusion of degenerate Yankee culture. High-level Russian diplomats have made overtures to progressive elements in Greenwich and Blackheath has been visited by the Bolshoi Theatre with a performance of *Uncle Vanya* in the Welfare Hall.

### DAILY BOG-TROTTER

Guerillas operating in Bethnal Green have struck a blow for the free world. 'Che' Healey, acting on advice from Mao Tse Tung, has swamped Club Row with supplies of the Little Red Book and portraits of Chairman Mao and Trotsky. It is felt that this gesture of solidarity will hearten those comrades of 'neither Washington nor Moscow' who have been sticking it out for two months in the Isle of Dogs swamps. As Chairman Mao says, 'We should support whatever the enemy opposes and oppose whatever the enemy supports.'

### DAILY HELIOGRAPH

It is reliably reported from Whitehall that military victory is expected in the Isle of Dogs at any time in the next twelve months. The first six months have been used by military advisers to Tower Hamlets establishing a *rapport* with the borough council. Municipal employees have been trained in guerilla tactics. Combat units have been set up to collect rents on behalf of the GLC. It is rumoured that it is possible that defoliant will be used in the municipal

parks since there is thought to be considerable activity going on there after nightfall. It is not at the moment thought advisable to use low-level strike aircraft since these would obliterate London's dockland. The islanders' means of communication (bicycles and walking) are still operative and there is considerable infiltration into the East End and by Millwall Tunnel. Military experts do not know how to deal with this; there have been top-ranking suggestions of employing a nuclear deterrent but this is thought by some to be inadvisable.

### DAILY REFLECTOR

For nine months the canine population of the Isle of Dogs have been without their ration of pet-food. Manufacturers of the food have steadfastly refused to send their products to the Island. 'Sanctions is Sanctions,' said a prominent dog-food manufacturer. Sources on the embattled Isle reveal that the telies are switched off at the commercials since these would cause offence to our dumb friends and their owners. Listless, with dull coats and without a welcome bark for that well-known tin, they stand about pleading for that which cannot be. 'I'm so desperate,' said dog-loving 28-year-old strawberry blonde laundry-packer Mrs. Irene Scoggs, 'I can't give him anything but meat and bones.' Will not this move the stone-hearted men of Whitehall? Where will it end?

### THE ISLE OF DOGS HERALD

Fifteen months ago we made our stand for independence. Today the United Nations, Westminster and Tower Hamlets have seen the justice of our claim. We have been granted self-government. From now on citizens must pay their rates at the local office. The new school which has been re-opened will give all lessons in the Dog language. All road signs, police notices, summonses and rate demands will be in Dog language. This will, of course, cost extra and will be compulsory. Anybody found not speaking Dog, standing up for the Dog anthem (composed by Bach) or not flying the Dog flag (a cocked dog-leg rampant) will be imprisoned in the first of our municipal projects—the new jail.

Dog Save the Queen! JACK SPRATT.

## Supplement Pamphlets

THE LAST ISSUE of 'Freedom' this month will include a four-page supplement which we think will not only be of vital interest to anarchists, but will also give a good introduction to people who are not so familiar with our ideas.

The supplement will deal with the lives of Makhno and Durruti, both activists who carried out their revolutionary ideas and succeeded in bringing anarchy to parts of the Ukraine and Spain respectively. It is not meant as a complete document of their lives, but we hope it will serve both the readers and general public alike as an introduction to these men and the struggles in which they took part.

It will be printed in such a way that by folding and cutting two of these folds it will form an eight-page pamphlet which can be sold on its own in the weeks and months following publication. It is our intention to do further supplements in this form and future subjects will include new translations of writings of Kropotkin and a re-write of a lecture on the life of Emiliano Zapata and his involvement in the Mexican revolution, which was given at a meeting of the London Anarchist Group. We also intend to produce a folder for these pamphlets so that they may be kept for addition to the library of Anarchist writings.

We feel they will be important publications and should be read by the public at large. Perhaps groups and individual comrades will order separate copies of the pamphlet, on a sale or return basis, in order to achieve this. It will be priced at 9d. per copy. We think that this is a worthwhile venture and with your help will prove a success.

EDITORS.

## MERSEYSIDE WORKERS

LAST WEEK'S high winds meant a delay of two days for the appearance in the Mersey of the 200,000-ton addition to the Shell fleet of tankers.

These new giants carry very small crews who have the use of bicycles to race around the quarter-mile-long vessels. Together with the improved turn-round performance and correspondingly shorter periods ashore, this illustrates the problems facing Merseyside seamen, who increasingly find themselves in the same position as land-based industrial workers, with more and more demands being made on their work performance. In the case of seamen this is aggra-

vated by the extremely long number of hours worked. Their position is reflected in the first round of the negotiations which are taking place between the seamen's union and the shipping employers' federation. At the first meeting, the union representatives turned down flat the employers' offer of 16% on basic pay.

### CAR WORKERS

With the recommended return to work at Girlings brake factory, Bromborough, the Merseyside car industry would seem to be in for a period of quiet.

At the mass meeting of Ford workers, held at Liverpool Stadium two weeks

ago, the men voted on their stewards' recommendation to strike against the employers' offer of £4 5s. Despite some gerrymandering—the apparently short-sighted stewards counting both hands of the eager front ranks—the men voted approximately two to one to accept the firm's offer.

When the night-shift turned in on the Monday, it was only for the paint, trim and spray shop to come out on strike on the grounds that they were being asked to use 'black' material from the Swansea axle factory. This later being found to be untrue, the whole plant was working normally by the following Monday.

### DOCKERS

Liverpool Port Authorities and the TGWU alike are blaming the stewards

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in the 'Northern section' for the hold-up to recruitment of 7,500 extra dockers.

The 'Northern' stewards are insisting on their right to recommend the extra men. The employers and the official 'White' union want to parcel out the nominations between themselves. Traditionally 'job control' through nominations has been the base for solidarity between Merseyside dockers. Rightly, they feel that if they hand over this right, then it will only be a matter of time before the axe of 'hire and fire' is used to chop down the militants.

WOBBLY.

# Scottish Teachers - Heading for Betrayal

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

LAST WEEK saw the first action by Scottish teachers to press their long overdue wage claim of 20%. Selective strikes have been chosen as the main weapon, as in England. But have the English teachers gained their goal and does it really look as if they will? Will the Scottish teachers fare any better?

In an earlier FREEDOM article this year, I analyzed and attacked the English teachers' organisations (NUT and NAS) as reactionary Tory bodies, merely responding to rank and file pressure and with no real intention of truly pressing the teachers' claims. If this is true of England, the Scottish teachers' leadership is even worse.

The majority of Scottish teachers belong to the Educational Institute of Scotland—founded last century as a 'professional body'. The very base of this phoney union serves to show that any 'militancy' from this lot must be regarded with a very jaundiced eye. Like the English NUT, the EIS is largely under the control of the aged headmaster clique and its membership is largely based upon female primary school teachers. The membership, if anything, is more reactionary than the leadership. It is, perhaps, difficult for people outside the Calvinistic prison of Scotland to appreciate the mentality of the Scottish primary teacher. It has always been a job to which rigid adherents of the right wing Church of Scotland have been drawn. There exists, indeed (and this is not nearly widely known), a kind of 'fifth column' directly and deliberately urged into teaching by the Church. Scotland is still, on the eve of the 21st century, ridden by the repressive race of

Sunday School teachers—dowdy, frustrated, spotty, 'specky' virginal haridians, old before their time, who weekly indoctrinate tiny children with anti-Christian Calvinist doctrines better suited to the ravings of Ian Paisley or the racist Reformed Church of South Africa. During the week, the same creatures infest the Scottish classroom—a chastity belt round their iron knickers and an EIS card in their handbags. Many of them are recruited from backwood country districts and regard their employers in the same deferent manner as their near-servant parents regard the 'lairds'. They view themselves as servants and not as workers.

The EIS maintains its leading position on such a base—further reinforced by a sizeable number of teachers from secondary schools—many (or most) graduates whose view of life is a classically petit bourgeois one. They join for two main reasons:

1. Nothing else really exists (except the Scottish Schoolmasters' Association and we shall come to that shortly); and
2. The EIS provides a wide range of free or cheap services such as insurance and legal aid (the latter very important, due to the propensity of Scottish teachers towards near sadistic use of the leather 'tawse' and the fact that most of them are far too quick to use their fists on fractious juvenile heads).

The SSA is a body with one main plank in its middle-class platform—male supremacy. Any body with such a programme isn't worth the time of day, let alone the warm support, of any decent trade unionist.

For a variety of reasons, the majority

of women teachers will not fight for better wages; this is no excuse for abandoning them and, thus, providing the government and councils with a trained force of blacklegs. The people really concerned about their positions are the young teachers—both primary and graduate—who are married with young families and who, at the most difficult stage of their lives, are at the bottom of a miserable wage scale.

There is a sarcastic American workers' song which runs, 'Unions are for workers, but a teacher's got prestige; he can feed his kids and pay his rents on that old "noblesse oblige"'. It just about sums up the teachers' plight. The International Socialism group have repeated their English act by issuing a Scottish version of *Rank and File*, the IS controlled militant teachers' bulletin. As in England, it aims at pushing 'reform' of the EIS/SSA machines. What a waste of militant time! Trying to alter these bodies is like trying to shovel out a constantly self-replenishing shite heap.

Two reasonably sane and effective courses of action are being pushed by militants not concerned with advancing themselves (and their political factions) within the bureaucracies of the EIS/SSA. The first is a mass emigration of teachers into the militant Association of Technical, Scientific and Managerial Staffs—a genuine trade union. Some Edinburgh teachers have taken this step—to the accompaniment of horrified screams from the EIS. The other is the course most anarchists would adopt; the creation of new teachers' bodies—in which headmasters would be denied membership—organisations under the control of working teachers, constituted on a syndicalist base with all officials serving for fixed terms under the rule of immediate recall.

Isn't it about time that revolutionary and libertarian teachers north of the border got together and had a real go? There's nothing to lose but the EIS, the SSA and a penurious existence.

IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

## The Agony

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK of theatreland, about eight minutes' walk from Kings Cross, on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only, the Unity Theatre is showing the *Agony* of Black Panther activist Obi Egbuna, which he penned whilst amongst us in our very own Brixton Jail.

Taken seriously with a pinch of salt, the play is cathartic in its openness and gentle irony that lie beyond sentimentality and constitute what Dylan Thomas might have called another 'Map of Love'.

In the USA inquiries are now being made into the recent 'crackdowns' on Black Panthers there. (See report in *Race Today* published by Research Publications Services Ltd., 11 Nelson Road, Greenwich, S.E.1, and *Life Magazine* of March 2.) Twenty-eight have been killed and more than 200 are in prison. They seem to have become the scapegoats in a racist backlash. We share the London-based agony out of which a more united struggle for a saner society could emerge.

HELEN MAYER.

# Conference of Women's Liberation

THE SUBJECT of oppression and liberation is of constant interest and concern to most of us. So it was no surprise when approximately 500 angry people, both women and men, gathered at Ruskin College, Oxford, to discuss the subject of women's liberation. The women came from all walks of life and there was a fair cross-section of trade union militants, socialists, housewives, intellectuals, students, as well as a few suffragettes.

Those of us who expected the emergence of a coherent philosophical theory on the nature of women's oppression and liberation were disappointed—no such earth-shaking theory emerged from the Conference. The approach was primarily pragmatic and we discussed various aspects of women's oppression and liberation.

There were basically three focal points to the Conference as far as discussion was concerned. The first focal point consisted in the presentation of papers, which briefly outlined the work of some feminist organisations. This session was only open to women. The main observation which I made about these groups may appear at first sight to be somewhat of a paradox; individually each group had its own 'action' area and method of analysis—the impression was therefore one of creative anarchy. But when viewed collectively, the group could be divided into those who worked and thought on Marxist lines, and those whose approach can be loosely defined as liberal. The Women's Equal Rights Campaign, the Socialists, The Tufnell Park Workshop were fairly representative of the first approach, whilst the Committee for Civil Rights for Women and Children of Broken Homes, the Peckham Rye Workshop, the Open Door Council, Women on the Move and the Ginger-Bread Group represented the second approach.

This paradox can be explained on a number of grounds. Historically, feminist organisations haven't suddenly come to the forefront, their growth has been both piecemeal and fragmentary. The subject of women's liberation (unlike, for example women's emancipation), covers a wide spectrum of analysis, which allows for the mushrooming of a number of feminist groups. (The group reports neglected this factor, and dealt with subjects ranging from a change in the economic structure of society to the reactionary powers on the part of the local Security officials.) But however wide the spectrum of analysis, and however loosely structured the historical

growth of a movement, there is sometimes a tendency in movements for a type of collectivisation if not polarisation to occur, when it comes to relating one's own political activity or strategy to the wider context of society as a whole.

The main disagreement centred on the method of change, rather than the areas in which change was needed. There was a unanimous feeling in the Conference that these areas of change should permeate every area of a woman's existence. The papers which were presented at the Conference reflected this general discontent. They covered the economic field (the Myth of Equal Pay), the 'political' field (Militancy Amongst Working Class Women, and the Myth of Female Inactivity), the legal field (the Changing Patterns of Delinquency Amongst Women), the home (the House Bound Mother), the responsibility of society towards the mother (Child Rearing and Social Revolution). In addition there were discussions on female sexuality, and racism and feminism. It is perhaps significant that none of the papers were given special priority. It was basically up to every individual feminist to allocate or specify her own priority, and that priority depended very much upon which part of the spectrum of analysis she considered to be the most important.

The third and final focal point of discussions consisted of resolutions, which were passed at the end of the Conference. This session was only open to women. These resolutions reiterated the importance of the feminist movement and its continuance. It also pointed to the need for more analysis and research. The Conference agreed that National and Regional Conferences should be held every six and three months respectively. A National Co-ordinating Committee and an International Committee should be established to act as information centres on the activities of feminist organisations in the UK and abroad. Research groups should be established to analyse the role which women have played in history, and also to find alternatives to the nuclear family. The one resolution which advocated some form of immediate political action urged the Government to pass legislation similar to the Race Relations Act (without the criminal sanction), which in its turn would lead to the establishment of a Sex Relations Board.

OUR CORRESPONDENT.



## Aberdeen Housing Leaflet

IT'S AMAZING what you can find in your own city—if you go out and look for it! The first print of our housing leaflet has been distributed recently to selected areas of town. It is our eventual plan to produce a pamphlet on local housing in the future and quite a bit of material has come our way already. Behind the facade of 'The Granite City',

there exists some bloody awful housing. One idea put forward is that we run an 'exhibition' on the city main street, complete with lots of enlarged photographs of the worst cases we've found. As soon as we raise some more money, we'll reprint the leaflet and tackle some more areas.

IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

## Fishermen & PD will Fight

FOR CENTURIES the fishermen fished for eels in Lough Neagh, Britain's largest lake. The area has the richest harvest of eels in Europe and they are in great demand on the London market. In the 17th century, however, the robbers arrived. The most prominent was Sir Arthur Chichester, ancestor of the corrupt and incompetent oaf laughingly referred to these days of PM of NI.

In 1601 Sir Arthur said, 'I have found, said and written that it is famine that must consume the Irish as our swords and other endeavours work not that speedy effect which is expected. No course will bring the country into quiet but famine which is well begun and will daily increase.' They burnt the crops, stole the land by force of arms and killed those fishermen they could catch on the Lough.

Toome Eel Fisheries Board (NI) who bought in on the ground floor of the racket send well over 1½ million lbs. of eels to London, over 50% of the market. The fishermen are being forced off the Lough. Absurd regulations restrict them. Bailiffs attack them. Desmond '£200 a day' Boal (Shankill MP and UVF brains) prosecutes them. There are no canning or processing factories here so the profits even are spent in the detritus of London.

But the fishermen are fighting back. For years now bailiffs' terrorism—boats sunk, fishermen fired upon, etc.—has been met with resistance, including sabotage. Today the bailiffs are more frightened. The fishermen are organizing. The local priest who organized the fishermen's co-operative wants to see the Lough nationalized. This is useless, it merely means the profits go

to the Stormont fascists instead of European capitalists. Arboe (on shores of the Lough) Fishermen's is holding meetings, pickets and demonstrations all round the Lough. demand an end to robber lord robber 'rights'. The Lough below the fishermen. Only a fisherman lective, established on voluntary can solve their problems. If the Eel Fisheries think that a sl force and guns can intimidate th men they've another think and surprise coming. SEAN MCG