

LET'S GET one thing straight. No government has any concern for the sanctity of human life. Way up high above this stands the sanctity of institutions—particularly the defence mechanism of institutions: Law and Order.

It is Law and Order which has killed Pierre Laporte in Canada last week, just as surely as it holds 33 Quebec separatists in jail, puts Cambridge students in Borstal, has a million Biafrans on its conscience, killed Sacco and Vanzetti and holds every one of us to ransom every day of our lives.

Because the bullets which actually killed Laporte came from a gun held by a Quebecois separatist 'terrorist', the whole of bourgeois Canada is horror-stricken, that such a thing could happen in its midst. But for two weeks, Pierre Trudeau had played Russian Roulette with the lives of both Cross and Laporte while refusing to accept the kidnapers' terms for their release. The Government 'could not' accept these terms because it would have been 'yielding to blackmail and anarchy'. In less emotional terms this simply means that the Canadian Government could not accept the fact that an unofficial organisation held the whip-hand; could not lose face by releasing its prisoners under duress; and when it came to it, was quite prepared for the hostages to die rather than see the myth of Law and Order challenged.

For it is a myth. Law and Order depend just as much on violence and the threat of violence as do kidnapers. The maintaining of

WE ARE ALL HOSTAGES

what is laughingly called order in authoritarian society depends exactly upon the armed forces of the state, backing up its front organisations of the law, the police, the ownership of property, the money and wages systems, bourgeois morality and religion—the whole apparatus of kidology by which we are governed.

Government itself is violence: the domination of man by man. But it is so wrapped up in legality, so made to look respectable by due process of law, carefully manufactured to give the appearance of fairness ('Everyone is equal before the law') and so arranged that only those who break its self-made and self-perpetuating rules are subjected to violence (and then away from the gaze of the law-abiding), that the vast majority of human sheep, who do as they are told and buy themselves a stake in capitalist society, honestly do believe that they are protected by the law and that the law is their only bastion against violence!

To the very limited extent that the law has the apparatus to exert vengeance upon the individual violent person, this is half true. But it overlooks the fact that the law exists primarily, not to protect you from the footpad, but to deter by violence if need be any who think

of challenging the rights of the property-owning class to rule the others.

But since violence is so disruptive and even causes anger and retaliation, the property-owning class is very concerned to maintain the myth of the law being peaceful and proper and civilised and quietly orderly, while, of course, providing proper channels for gentle change by those who are not quite satisfied with the way things are.

The proper channels provided by Law and Order also provide means for the ruling class to delay change almost indefinitely, and if they have to accept it, even by their own rules, then the procedures laid down give them ample time to adjust their own positions and still remain in control. But all the time, the real and abiding violence of the division of society into the haves and have-nots continues.

What is wage slavery; what is employment in someone else's factory, using someone else's materials on someone else's machines for someone else's profit on someone else's terms—what is this but being held to ransom? Government depends upon people being forced to work all their lives for employers; forced to live in landlords' houses; forced to pay taxes—not merely out

of your paypacket before you even get it, but over the counter for practically everything you buy; forced to fight and die when the government tells you; forces you to be educated as the state requires, rendering you subject to the forces of conditioning, the pressures to conform, the sinister influence of religions which aim at making and keeping us meek and mild, looking for release to the next world, rather than this one.

In these circumstances, we are all hostages. We are all being held to ransom all our lives. We all have a pistol at our heads and we have to do as we are told or else.

The 'or else' depends exactly upon the extent to which we wriggle. If we play the game of the kid-glove 'Law and Order' myth, we may get treated with kid-gloves. But if we try to break out, and more particularly, if we challenge the very myth of Law and Order itself, then the whole wrath of the state descends upon us.

The myth of Law and Order is precisely that it is unchallengeable; that it is necessary; that we can't live without it; that it is there for us.

When these concepts are challenged, the whole phony edifice of authority is endangered. When that happens, no price is too high for the state to make society pay.

Pierre Laporte has already paid for Law and Order with his life. Well, he was a government man; at any time, had the government needed it, he would have organised the deaths of any number of others. The Englishman Cross is also a government man. He may also be dead already, as we write. These two sacrifices to Law and Order will be mourned by the good bourgeois of the world, who never stop to think that we are all destroyed, some quickly, some slowly, by Law and Order. We are all victims of the protection racket of government, of capitalism, of the state. We are all hostages, but for every one who hits the headlines in some spectacular kidnapping, or hi-jack, or piece of 'terrorist' adventurism, millions live out their half-lives stifled by the myth of Law and Order, buried alive by those same bourgeois who mourn the spectacular sacrifices. While Law and Order exists, we are all victims. JUSTIN.

It Still Piles Up

THE STRIKE, or series of strikes, by local government manual workers is now in its fourth week. Many more workers are now involved that at this time last week, and they are more determined than ever to achieve their extremely modest demands of an overall increase of 55/- and a basic weekly minimum of £16 10s. In a number of areas, moreover, corporation busmen have gone on strike or have staged one-day walk-outs for better pay and conditions.

Of all the local authorities involved, the Greater London Council seems to have been the most intransigent in its opposition to the workers' claims. Early last week two 'white collar' Unions in London reacted to a circular sent out by Mr. L. Freeman, GLC Establishment Committee boss, calling on 'white collar' workers to volunteer for work in strike-hit pumping stations and sewage treatment plants in the Greater London area. Said Fred Hollocks, the secretary of the GLC Staff Association: 'Freeman is deliberately trying to break the strike by Council manual workers.' Both the GLC Staff Association and the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) have reaffirmed their support for their manual worker colleagues.

Of course, as in all disputes, there are a few blacklegs and scabs. Some 'white collar' workers, and sewage plant technicians and managers, are at present engaged in tasks for which they are not employed, but not very many. One such person is (or was when I last heard) Mr. Henry Rabbitt, supervisor of Aylesford Sewage works near Maidstone, who is (or was) operating the entire plant on his own. He claimed to have the support of the local NALGO branch, but he has—quite naturally—infuriated local NUPE branch members. It is quite possible that he, like other NALGO members, has misunderstood the position. I have seen a long and very involved letter of 'advice' sent out to NALGO members by the Union's district office in Chelmsford, which, to say the least, is extremely lukewarm in its support for its striking colleagues!

Last Friday, the employers' and the workers' representatives met again; but by the end of the day the national pay talks had broken down. The Unions rejected a new, but completely inadequate, offer of an additional 1% and a further 10/- from April 5 next year. The Unions are now trying to do local deals with those authorities who are prepared to 'play ball'. Following the breakdown, Mr. Freeman of the GLC once again opened his big mouth and proclaimed: 'The time has now come to draw the line. This is as far as we can go.' He described the employers' offer as 'generous by any standard' and called for an immediate resumption of

work. Union officials were said to be furious by his 'unfortunate and provocative' remarks.

Of the situation, *Public Employees*, the official journal of NUPE, declares in its latest issue: 'The local government workers' battle for more pay has assumed a new significance with the Government's call to council employers to resist Union demands. It has now become the front line in a wider campaign to defeat the Government's assault on public employees. Government intervention followed a firm rejection by Union negotiators of a feeble new offer by the employers. This would have given most local council workers another miserly two bob on top of the 34/- a week increase previously turned down by the Union.'

Meanwhile, our fight—modest as it is by any standards—continues.

SEWAGE WORKER.

Don't Drink Whitbread's Beer

THE STRUGGLE to save a village from ecological vandalism continues. Much has happened since my last report ('Tory Whitbread's Rape Salmesbury', 10.10.70). Demonstrations at the Tory Party Conference in Blackpool. Deputations to Peter Walker who performed some amusing, if irrational, verbal gymnastics. A campaign to persuade folk not to sup Whitbread's beer, which in Blackburn is Duttons ales.

Whitbread's are seemingly not interested in an alternative site at Walton-le-Dale. This would prove only fractionally more expensive and would involve considerably less environmental damage. *Private Eye* have discovered the real motive behind this Tory Whitbread conspiracy to ravage fertile land. The site is just inside what is legally designated as 'an intermediate area'. Factories are thus entitled to a 25 per cent grant. Machinery brings them

another 20 per cent grant and various other subsidies are available. Taxpayers could pay £3 million of the estimated £8 million costs to subsidise these brewers.

Predictably, the issue was briefly discussed at both recent political party conferences. Blackburn's MP Barbara Castle is a shit. 'I wanted to see the site because I have had representations from both sides of the argument about the brewery. It is a very delicately balanced argument and a very complex situation.'

Whitbread's intend to close their existing Blackburn town brewery and most of the Salmesbury workers would come from Preston. Thus more unemployed in Blackburn. Preston is not as short of jobs. Please don't drink Whitbread's beer. If you've no choice, brew your own. DAVE CUNLIFFE.

TUC WON'T FIGHT

THE TORIES have always stressed that as a political party and in contrast to Labour, they are in favour of more freedom for the individual and less Government intervention. Such slogans as 'Tory Freedom Works' and 'Freedom and Responsibility' offer a nebulous brand of freedom, wrapped up in all kinds of restraints.

Nothing can illustrate this better than the proposed Industrial Relations Bill, which although aimed at weakening the collective strength of organised labour, basically makes it unlawful for an individual to withdraw his labour if there is a grievance. The legislation would also mean that members of unions would have even less voice in the affairs of their organisations than they do today. The scrutiny of the unions by the Registrar would not mean the alteration of the rules in order to give members more control over the action of the executives, but rather the increase of the power of the latter. The limited control that members can exert through their elected lay members at district and local level could be wiped out.

The Government's intention is to strengthen the economy. Unlike Mr. Wilson, Mr. Heath did not inherit the worry of a balance of payments question. In common with other industrial nations, the problem that is now besetting economics is inflation and this is putting great strains on profit margins.

IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The Tories' answer to this is to outlaw strikes unless the long process of ballots and 'cooling off' periods has been observed, while other governments are imposing their own restrictions. In the case of Eire, the answer is a statutory prices and incomes policy. The concept of freedom as a principle means nothing when profits are threatened and all governments and States stand by the exploitation of workpeople. The restrictions are only different in the degree to which it is thought can be imposed. Such legislation, whether in America, here or the workers' states of Eastern Europe show up the class differences that exist in each nation state. Workers of one country do not have to fear competition from those of another. They are all striving against a boss of one

sort of another for the same things.

This 'labour problem' was referred to by Mr. Pierre Dreyfus, head of France's Renault car manufacturers, when he said in London, 'One has the impression that the ink is hardly dry when new wage demands are put forward.' Like other captains of industry, he felt that negotiated contracts with the unions would only be kept if the unions were strong and could discipline their members. He complained about young workers who rebelled against the industrial discipline of assembly lines and ignored the procedure for settling grievances, preferring to take action. He also spoke of inflation and excessive wage increases and said that demands were now being voiced concerning housing and transport. The bosses all speak the same language.

ELECTORAL MANDATES

What is at stake in Britain is the weapon that is used to put forward economic demands. By the way that the leadership of the trade unions is behaving so far, it is obvious that they will not put up a fight. They hide behind a constitutional debating point that the Government was returned with an electoral mandate to carry out such industrial reforms. Their answer will be regional conferences, local demonstrations, but not on work days however, and the publication of pamphlets putting forward the unions' case against such legislation. They will fight to the 'last drop of ink'. They also plan to reconvene Congress, but this will not take place until next February.

COUNCIL WORKERS AND MINERS

The TUC is not prepared to organise the trade union movement for action. If they did and it met with overwhelming support, as I think it would, then it could spark off a situation which they could not control. It could lead to a repeat of May 1968 in France, where the demands extended beyond those of monetary consideration to social questions and workers' control. In such a revolutionary situation, the TUC could be swept aside and the State and Government threatened with social revolution. Certainly, at the moment, the industrial action taken by

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Age shall not weary, Nor the years condemn

HARD TIMES by Studs Terkel, £3 3s.
PENGUIN BOOK OF SOCIALIST VERSE, 12/-.
THE LONGSHIPS IN HARBOUR by W. McIlvanney, £1.
THE STORE OF THINGS by Jim Burns, 3/-.
UNCREATED STARS by Tina Morris, 3/-.
CARTOONS FROM THE GENERAL STRIKE, 12/6.
WITCHCRAFT AT SALEM by Chadwick Hansen, 36/6.
(All can be obtained through Freedom Bookshop.)

EACH NEW GENERATION looks with compassion or contempt upon the documented lives of the aged tiredly dreaming away the ending years before the dead years and of their wisdom they smile and raise a mocking eye to heaven and softly whisper 'fool' for they know that not only are they the chosen generation but among that generation they, by virtue of their State certificate of education, could never have been the victims of the follies of the old men at the fireside.

In kindly but contemptuous retrospect they analyse the agony of the heart and of their brutish innocence loudly wonder why men and women allowed these things to happen to them. They watch, with a cinema ticket in one hand and a choc ice in the other, as the massed ranks of actors advance to their

puppet deaths as the French machine guns crucify them upon the barbed wire of *All Quiet on the Western Front* or sit in front of their television sets watching with puzzled pity as the dispossessed peasants of America's heartland are driven off their small plots of land into the dark sea of America's broken army of the night, for the time is midnight and the film is *The Grapes of Wrath* and the years are the nineteen-thirties and of their youth and their minor affluence they ask why their fathers tolerated those conditions. Why they went willingly to war and why they let their society die in fetid ruins around them, for the young can accept death but can never believe that they in their turn will form one small part of that human misery that we call the history of mankind.

With hindsight we solve all the great historical tragedies of the past yet are unable to provide a simple solution to the problem of the day for we defy Caesar in the mind but are frightened to say balls to the foreman in the mouth.

The First World War and the Great Depression were two major landmarks within one single generation and the people of that generation had to come to terms with those two evils, as no other generation had, for, for the first time in history the victims had the knowledge that there was no escape from these mighty events beyond their own parish and the knowledge that they were involved in a universal tragedy for which no one had an answer destroyed any hope that they had. In the First World

War and the Great Depression there were many heroes but no villains for this course of human events was like unto a great flood that struck hopeless horror to all those in its midst and all that each man could demand was man's only right, the right to survive.

When starvation, pestilence or alien armies sweep across the land no man can contract out and he who, from the comfort of a well-paid job or the latest paperback book, demands to know why the soldiers did not lay down their rifles by the millions or the unemployed who tramped across the map of the world from Moscow to Washington did not try to overthrow the government of the day and put a revolutionary and academic programme into immediate effect, is a reading fool for men did these things not in an atmosphere of reasoned debate but in blind and terrified mass horror for in that age of universal misery each man was an isolated individual desperately trying to survive, most literally, little comrade, from day to day, and it is man's glory that within that awful endless swamp of human misery so many tried to help each other.

BOOKS REVIEW

When Mayhew's *London Labour and London Poor* was published, it spoke of an age that could mean nothing to its readers for the time gap was too great and, like the social background of Dickens' stories, one could never identify with the baser characters or their living conditions, but *Hard Times* by Studs Terkel is a book that should surely be required reading by anyone under thirty who questions the immediate past. In this oral history of the depression Studs Terkel has performed a worthy service for an American generation that had to suffer too much. It is no bible of the working class for the American depression of the nineteen-thirties smashed the entire American economy and, as in Germany, a whole nation became a shambling ruin. It was an economic ruin that spewed up fascism in Europe yet had so little effect in the end on the sprawling mass of the American peoples for the very richness of the country killed the American conscience. What the American depression did give the American people was a proletariat culture that is one of their great heritages. From those bitter years of hunger and violence came men and women who, in recorded speeches, from small presses and in badly-printed papers, made the voices of the American working people known to history. No other nation did this and it may be a poor price to pay for the death of millions, but while the peasants and the proletariat of Europe and the East died in unrecorded millions,

Recent Small Mags & Pamphlets

I APOLOGISE for the recent non-appearance of this column. Producing one's own small mag leaves one little time to review the efforts of others in the same field. Here goes.

THE HYDE PARK SOCIALIST

A quarterly duplicated magazine produced by 'libertarian socialists' who, for once, are not misusing that currently overworked term. The magazine contains some interesting correspondence and the publishers welcome the views of anarchists and, indeed, say that they are willing to work alongside anarchists in a spirit of mutual co-operation. Can we see to it that this offer does not go unacted on? The *Hyde Park Socialist* is available, at the very reasonable price of 3/4d. a year, from J. Hughes, 48 Gilbey Road, London, S.W.17.

DEPTFORD COMMENT

That hardy annual of the revolutionary Left, Jim Radford, is at it again. This time, Jim has got the support (one suspects rather unwittingly) of hordes of top citizens, including members of the Royal Family, all of whom subscribe to the Albany Trust, a community centre and social work agency operating in

Deptford, London. Using the funds thus given, Jim has turned out an excellent example of what a community paper should be. For 6d., the *Comment* gives local residents the lowdown on such matters as just exactly what one is entitled to from the Social Security. Jim Radford describes himself as 'neither dogooder nor mindless militant'—which is a very good thing to be. Jim Radford, and the *Deptford Comment* have a sense of humour—dig that glorious misuse of top people's money—and for that reason alone, the *Comment* is worth having. Price 6d. from The Albany, Creek Road, Deptford, London, S.E.8.

PENNY BLACK

An offset litho job, single sheet from the already prolific publishing stable of Manchester Anarchists and Syndicalists. Price 1d., *Penny Black* (the issue I received, that is) contains excellent stuff of local and national interest—ranging from Manchester poverty statistics to information on the Nancekuke germ warfare plant. Get it from Ron Marsden, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester. This column exists for you to publicise your publications. Send them in for review NOW! IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

local authority workers is beginning to have an effect. Local Councils are starting to surrender and negotiating at local level. There is also the fact that coal miners are likely to be taking action in the near future, if there is a two-thirds majority for such a course. If this happens, the Tories will have a real taste of what industrial action can do. Both these struggles are of vital importance for, although both are official strikes, they have developed from the unofficial action of last autumn. They directly involve the Government and the State, being a direct challenge to both, and their outcome could have a lot of bearing on the proposed legislation. It therefore follows that it is crucial that both disputes are won by labour. It is also important that every support is given to these workers and that a campaign of action should be built up by rank and file committees of trade unionists up and down the country. Building workers have already started such a campaign in the *Building Workers' Charter*, their rank and file paper. It is at this level that the real opposition must come if we are to be successful. The organised strength is there and if the case is fully explained and the propaganda put across, then the response will follow. It is our task as anarchists to argue for the overthrow of this system of exploitation and to point out that political parties will not abolish it. Only the conscious desire of individuals for change, together with their co-operation and collective action, will end this exploitation.

TUC Won't Fight

Continued from page 1

Dear Comrades,
N.W.'s comments, in a recent issue of *FREEDOM*, regarding the anarchist 'phobia' that appears to haunt the Solidarity groups, deserve a little amplifying. N.W. correctly examines the publishing record of Solidarity, but it is the Solidarity of the present we must face. The days of freewheeling anarchist/Solidarist co-operation have long gone. The Solidarity

the American working class for the first time in history made their voices known and attended to, for they became the first literate working class.

Terkel's book is a truly magnificent record of that age and he ranges from Dorothy Day of the *Catholic Worker* to a jazz man like Jimmy McPartland, Myrna Loy to Judge Samuel A. Heller. Strikes and evictions, the IWW worker, Max Shachtman, the Trotskyite, to Colonel Hamilton Fish. Here they are within these pages, the sixteen-ton miners of Kentucky and gay happy Jerome Zerbe and Sally Rand, but always the bloody strikes and the industrial murders, the broken homes and the destroyed innocence of those too young to protest. But one feels that it will all have been in vain when 19-year-old Michael, within Terkel's book, asks 'What does the Depression mean to me? I don't know. I'm not depressed. I can pot out at any time I want. A Depression is to me when I can't sit down on my chaise longue and have a beer and this boob tube in my face.' And only we, who lived through that period, can be faithful and give life to these stories for this book is a magnificent requiem for an American generation and we can surely be bitter that the misery of those years within these islands shall never be so recorded for out of all our native agony of the thirties only Greenward's *Love on the Dole* spoke for the working class.

The voice of Britain is to be found in the newly-published *Cartoons of the 1926 General Strike* and here, in page after page of drawings of the time, are the British middle class bravely and good humouredly facing up to the British working class rabble as they are beaten back into their slums and factory work benches. What makes this book so suspect, and I refer only to the period cartoons, is that our middle class publications could use them today without even bothering to change the captions.

It is of interest when reasons why people conform to conditions they hate and fear are voiced to read Hansen's book on the *Witchcraft at Salem* trials for whereas Miller, in his play, *The Crucible*, used it as a ploy to strike back at the McCarthy political witch-hunts, Hansen indulges in a fantastic whitewashing job. His major theme is to correct that all involved in the Salem trials believed in witchcraft but

his justification for the actions of Cotton Mather and his attack on those few men who spoke up against the use, by politicians, of the mass hysteria of the time, does not read too well for I would hold that it can too easily be read as an apology for too much recent history and, if Orwell's *Animal Farm* can be read as an attack on the brutality of the State, then Hansen's book could be used to justify those who, for personal reasons, destroy others to further their own ends. I could do Hansen an injustice but for me his book does not read well and for its subject matter(?), it was too well reviewed by those with a committed interest.

Of Alan Bold's *Book of Socialist Verse* what can one say, for the area it covers is so vast. From Leroi Jones to Ho Chi-Minh, Yevtushenko to our own Adrian Mitchell and the dead Mayakovsky. I do not think that you can have an anthology of socialist verse for in that context the subject becomes too narrow but if one accepts that Alan Bold has sought to incorporate the cries of protest and of anger, the plea for happiness and for a universal understanding then he has succeeded and his book, that is by its very fulness too diverse to have a claim to a single theme, succeeds but only as the voice of protest and of permanent protest.

Like Tina Morris's *uncreated stars* it is a voice speaking without authority, only seeking to be heard. In page after page of lovely blank verse among a host of beautiful photographic illustrations she whispers her gentle songs and like the gentle winds she questions but never answers. But there is poetry of great social protest and it is in the recently-published works of Jim Burns and William McIlvanney. Jim Burns' *The store of things* has that committed air of the early Cunliffe poetry and, like McIlvanney's *The long ships in harbour*, it has that personal note of great poetry. It is the work of poets who know their trade and love the line. These two men speak for the silent and it is a joy and an honour to handle their books. Both men write of their fathers and one can do no more than end with McIlvanney's lines when he writes that 'My father's personal / Midian was The Strike / Say "Nineteen Twenty Six" and watch his eyes / Bruised still with images of boot and pick'. ARTHUR MOYSE.

Listen Solidarist!

like what Solidarity tried via the IS. Let us beware lest it happens to us. The anarchists must maintain the maximum democracy, individualist and syndicalist debating from now till Doomsday if necessary—but on a basis of mutual respect and fundamental unity. Ian Mitchell—the Solidarist who wrote the piece of which N.W. complains—remains, I hope, a friend of mine. To him, I pose the question, 'Does he really believe, as a former anarchist, what he writes?' We are the people whom he accuses of forming uncritical political relationships. Strange views, coming from a leading light of a group which, at one point, practically climbed into bed with IS. Ian Mitchell is a fine militant, whose record of activity would put most anarchists and Solidarists to shame. One hopes he will be more reasonable in future.

Letters

groups have become completely sectarian, hedged round with a set of rules (including provisions for 1 month's notice of joining in writing and, of course, eventual expulsion).

The insistent demands by Solidarists that the anarchists should split their movement has sinister overtones. An old Leninist trick involves forming your own group into a tight, rigid, disciplined force. You then engineer a split among an opposition group and digest one of the split parts. It sounds remarkably

'NO MAN IS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ANOTHER MAN'S MASTER'

POSTERS ON SALE
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Dear Friends,
How strange to read letters from female anarchists in *FREEDOM*. However, it reminds me that the general female silence might be the result of a tendency in anarchist males to dominate (oppress?). Now I would like to see the females contribute to the Violence/Nonviolence debate. I don't think we should be afraid of splitting the movement—if we are, indeed, keeping our females quiet we have only got half a movement anyway. Slough E.C.
(Eds.: We are not!)

Fraternally,
IAN S. SUTHERLAND.

Women's Liberation

Dear Friends,
How strange to read letters from female anarchists in *FREEDOM*. However, it reminds me that the general female silence might be the result of a tendency in anarchist males to dominate (oppress?). Now I would like to see the females contribute to the Violence/Nonviolence debate. I don't think we should be afraid of splitting the movement—if we are, indeed, keeping our females quiet we have only got half a movement anyway. Slough E.C.
(Eds.: We are not!)

INAUGURAL MEETING

On Sunday, October 25, at 8 p.m., Bristol Anarchists will be holding their first meeting as a group in the public bar of the 'Garricks Head' which is under the 'Embassy' sign opposite the bottom of Park Street. Anyone interested is welcome.

afb
All correspondence to
Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,
Rotton Park, Birmingham 16
**ANARCHIST
FEDERATION
of BRITAIN**

AFBIB. To all groups.

Having received one report only for the bulletin this month, we feel that it would be a waste of postage to send just this. (Apologies and thanks to Ian Sutherland, Aberdeen.)

No offers of a host for AFB conference yet, and similarly no change of venue for AFBIB.

Please make next month's AFBIB a bumper issue by sending your material by the last day of October. AFBIB meeting and production, Sunday, November 1. Please send a delegate to Birmingham if at all possible. (Accommodation provided if necessary.) 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, Hes-

lington, 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: Secretary, Tom Howard, 163 Rylands Road, Lancaster.
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.
Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, 3 Marlborough Grove, Leeds, 2.
Scotland: Tony Hughes, Top Flat, 40 Anglepark Terrace, Edinburgh 11.
Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).
N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.
S. Ireland: 20 College Lane, Dublin, 2.
University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare. (Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine; B—badge; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets.)

ANARCHISM & MUTUAL AID

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS which anarchists frequently have to meet is the situation which arises when someone, who has experienced a great deal of authoritarian repression, particularly when young, comes to reject the authoritarian mystique and concludes that any kind of order is authoritarian. Such a person will tend to despise organisation and pin his faith on spontaneity and general happy-go-lucky chaos. When reproached for an action which is a nuisance to others he will retort that one must not be 'bourgeois' or 'authoritarian'.

Probably after being in the role of put-upon victim for some time, he needs a period of irresponsibility. He must 'let off steam'. It is just bad luck for those who happen to be around at the time. All the same this is not anarchism, though opponents of anarchism like to make out that it is.

Any enterprise, even running a small group, let alone a paper, requires a lot of organising if it is to go on for long. Short-lived efforts may perhaps be able to rely on spontaneous enthusiasm, but anything which has to go on for more than a few days needs a lot of boring and repetitive work put into it. And this means that those who are prepared to do the work need the co-operation of others. Or at any rate they need to be left unhindered at the very least.

The whole basis of anarchism is that people can work together without an authority to overlook them and supervise their actions. Communes of 'happy hippies', where people light fires in the middle of the floor or 'liberate' the possessions of their friends, are usually short-lived affairs, and no one really expects them to be anything else. That's all right. But anything which hopes to be long-lived has to be run differently.

This means that those involved have to be ready to consider the feelings of those they are working with, and their wishes, and be ready to modify their own desires to some extent. I think that at this point one should beware of falling into the trap of 'self-sacrifice', the Christian ideal whereby one gives up one's own interests for the sake of other people's. This in practice turns round on itself, and becomes a subtle means

of domination. 'Because I have given up so much for you, you must do as I want.' The victim did not wish for the sacrifice to be made in the first place. This is not the anarchist ideal.

The anarchist generally, with the possible exception of some of the more extreme individualists, believes in the principle of mutual aid. This is a basis for ethics without supernatural sanction, and simply means that it is the interest of individuals engaged on a project to consider each other's wishes and needs.

Kropotkin, in his famous book of that title, went so far as to maintain that the impulse towards mutual aid was innate in the more successful animal species, and in man, and that it was as much a factor in the evolution of species as competition. Some believe that he overstated his case, but whether the impulse is innate, or something which is learned, there can be no doubt that it is fundamental to anarchism.

Anarchism rejects rulers, whether divine or flesh and blood, and anarchists rely on themselves and on each other. I think that it might be true to say that anarchists do not so much rebel against authority as turn their backs on it, and try to live as far as they can as if it had no power over them. They have got past the stage of seeing it as something to be continually defied in a self-conscious and dramatic way. They have progressed beyond the point where they see simple cleanliness or honesty as part of the authoritarian set-up. Of course authoritarians like to claim these virtues, despite the fact that the society they support is based on robbery and murder on a massive scale. There is no need however to agree with the authoritarians in this matter!

The authoritarians say, in effect, 'If you don't believe as we do, in the need for government, a privileged class, perennial warfare, poverty for some, discrimination for many, and so on, then you are a wicked person, destructive, dishonest and unwashed, and are probably destined to end in prison, the madhouse or death by suicide.' These people claim to be moral. It is an incredible paradox.

The anarchists would reply, 'We be-

lieve that human beings are capable of working together, discussing their problems and dissolving their association if no agreement can be arrived at. They do not need to be told what to do, halted immediately if they do what they were not told, scolded, lectured and held up to ridicule. We recognise that for many perhaps the anarchist ideal is still something they have not yet arrived at. They could not live by it because they are still too used to being under authority, but it is at least theoretically within the reach of everybody. We cannot see how it can possibly be morally right to support governments which wage wars, rich men who exploit their fellow human beings with the utmost ruthlessness, police who "keep order" by sadistically torturing the defenceless, bureaucrats who interfere with the lives of everyone, and all the rest of it.

'We believe that you cannot base an

ethical system on an unethical society. It is absurd to maintain that one must support authoritarianism and all its evils, or be an evil person. One cannot say it is a lesser evil to support authoritarianism, because nothing in fact could conceivably be worse. Try to imagine a worse world than the one in which we live. You could not do it. We anarchists maintain that if anarchism were practised there would, whatever quarrels might occur, be an end to organised warfare. There would be no privileged class, and there would be no organised brutality, whatever deviations individuals might wander into. We don't necessarily believe that humans are angels, but we do believe they are capable of living together and practising the mutual aid ethic sufficiently well to get along.'

Well, I think I have stated more or less what most anarchists believe and practise. Chaos and indifference to the needs of others is really a characteristic of authoritarianism, not of freedom. The vandal is merely a small-scale government, acting in the way governments normally behave, but they do it on an infinitely greater scale.



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- Zapata and The Mexican Revolution.

Condemned to Death?

WE ARE NOW witnessing the death agony of the British motor industry. —A bold statement you may think, but one which will, I'm sure, be borne out soon enough, and can be verified by anyone in management in any of the motor and allied trades.

A major shutdown is not far off—already profits have dwindled to zero, capital, in the shape of machinery, is depreciating rapidly, and with the advent of the Common Market entry we can see that the British family car will be drowned in a flood tide of superior competition. British cars of poor construction and design cannot hope to compete against specially finished, better designed, faster, more economical foreign cars offered at the same price.

The GKN-Sankey dispute has given us a rehearsal of the effects of a major shutdown in the motor industry. For example—the firm I work for is closely allied to the motor car industry and was very short of work during the GKN-Sankey dispute. In an attempt to prevent short-time working and laying off, we have been manufacturing 'provisional' orders even up to next February. (We are normally two months behind!)

At the same time the management has used this slack period as an excuse to sack the militants, the old, and the idle, with full agreement of the union. To add insult to injury, the management has the audacity to introduce time and motion study.

The motor industry bosses are no fools, and will use any excuse to absolve themselves and to attack the workers. Their main attack will be against 'irresponsible wildcat strikers', who will be blamed for lost time despite the fact that

far more days are lost due to accidents than through strikes. The press will of course whip this attack up to a frenzy of 'witch-hunting'. Secondly, 'lazy workers' will be blamed. This is an excuse to get the workers' approval for speed-ups, time and motion study, etc.

These lies must be refuted on the spot, and counter-arguments used, e.g. no wonder British Leyland lose money—they give it all to their directors—look at their salaries!

We must educate ourselves in the economics behind the forthcoming slump. It is no good simply advocating 'Workers' Control'. An isolated group of car workers cannot hope to rectify a gigantic capitalist crisis by 'doing their own thing'. What is needed is a greater understanding of the system which allows 'private enterprise' to toy with the lives of millions of workers.

The capitalists see their profits and dividends diminishing and prepare to pull out of the motor industry, leaving the workers to find other jobs.

Let us go all out for all the concessions we can get and damn the consequences. If the industry has been condemned to death by international finance, why should we spare any tears. Let us go for a decent wage so that we can stand on solid ground when the industry sinks. And finally before we say goodbye, we must campaign all out for work-sharing.

The workers must look after their own interests, we have no sympathy for directors and shareholders.

Forward to the funeral pyre! Then, perhaps we can build ourselves a new form of industry, to serve, not to be master.

LOKI.

THIS WEEK IN IRELAND

A VERY GRIM WEEK. First Harland and Wolff are practically bankrupt. Onassis holds 25% of the shares and there is talk that he may take over the whole shipyard, but the spectre of unemployment loomed large in the minds of Belfast people, and senseless rioting took over night after night in the Bogside area of Derry. There was the old story of CS Gas, rubber bullets, petrol bombs and arrests.

Someone described the whole of the Bogside as 'one huge gas chamber'. The Civil Rights supporters are threatening to go back onto the streets as the implementing of 'one man one vote' in the local elections has been put off indefinitely, and the wards are as gerrymandered as ever. Even the new Central Housing that gave everyone hope is, in point of fact, still slanted to give Unionist favours.

Bernadette Devlin come out of prison this coming week, and is going to complain to the Human Rights Court at Strasbourg about the unfairness of her trial in which the judge ruled out the calling of some of her witnesses, and refused her the right to appeal.

Paisley tripped over to England and saw Maudling and told him Unity Flats must get rid of their Catholic tenants and be made into shops. Then he went to Australia House and blew his top about the Pope going to Australia and how he would go to protest. He was told he would not be welcome at the same time as the Pope, and came away blustering that of course he could go but he would probably be too busy but he would send representatives!

Meanwhile in the twenty-six counties Mrs. Furey moved into the house allotted to her in Shantalla and the locals turned out to stone her house and terrify her and howl and behave like devils for several nights, up to 200 of them at a time. In case you have not noticed we are the most Christian country in the world. We are always telling everyone so. The Nixon battle wages furiously in the papers now he has gone, and the government clamp-down on what we said has been relaxed.

Then a very real tragedy took place. On a small connecting line between Connolly Station and Heuston Station near Phoenix Park and by the MacKee

Barracks, there was a terrible explosion. Liam Walsh was decapitated and Martin Casey is in hospital very ill. There are many conflicting stories. The Powers That Be think they were trying to blow up the barracks and the bomb went off too soon. Saor Eire to which they belonged say they went to remove the bombs in case children found them. They were in uniform and one of them had a revolver on him. Saor Eire is a very small militant Republican Party, only about 50 strong. The writer, who has drunk with both men, does not care to comment beyond wishing people would not be so militant but throw away their cruel weapons and get down to civilized TALKING instead. Violence in her opinion always defeats its own ends.

All travel fares are to go up again by as much as 15%. The very cheapest shortest bus fare will be 9d. This, with bitter winter ahead, is absolute cruelty to the old and infirm who can neither walk nor afford the bus fare. There will be many needless deaths before the winter is over. Rents, even for a one-room hovel, cost incredibly huge sums and landlords have everything their own way.

The writer herself is being abused in the papers and told she will be exported by force to China (wouldn't really mind!) because she dares to criticise openly what one writer describes as 'The best little country in the world with the best government in the world'.—GOSH!

The Conspiracy Trial drags on. It is plain every single member of the Government from the Taoiseach down was in it to the hilt. The bitter thing is their cowardice. If they HAD had the guts to surround Derry immediately the violence against the Bogside by the RUC started, we would now have a United Ireland. This trial is merely corrupt political expediency, and it makes one sick to the stomach with shame that Irish people should sink so low.

The one bright spot in this ghastly week has been the weather which June would not have been ashamed of, and the young walked around in their sleeveless frocks and bare legs and were not cold. It really does seem as if there was a chance of the end of the bank strike after six months and more. H.

Rent Strike UEA

OVER THE LAST YEAR students at the University of East Anglia have been trying to get the university to remove its bank account from Barclays Bank as a protest against Barclays' connection with the Cabora Bassa Dam and generally as a show of solidarity against apartheid.

The motions passed by the student body had no effect. The university kept the account at Barclays, mumbling academic freedom can't get involved in politics. (Of course, the university award-

ing Humphrey Gibbs an honorary degree for his services in Rhodesia wasn't a political act.) Perhaps the reluctance of the university to remove the account has something to do with the fact that a director of Barclays, a Mr. Gurney, is on the University Court and the Promotions Committee. Sitting on the latter committee with him is Brigadier Barclay. Further, the university receives a grant from Barclays. What price academic freedom?

The whole question of students' power is again raised. At UEA, a nice liberal university, the student is as much of an incidental afterthought as ever. University is still a matter of industrialist and careerist academics playing power games, a continual game of Monopoly but using real money, and what a monopoly. The power structure creaks from the top down and the faceless industrialist and mildewed clergy who only vaguely know where the university is make all the decisions.

Now is the time to show that students must have a say in the university. The first issue is the Barclays account. Now direct action is being taken—a rent strike. Students are refusing to pay their residence bills and the Students' Union is refusing to pay the university the money owed it until it changes its account.

This is the first confrontation, the first step towards bringing down the university power structure. We don't know what is going to happen in the future but things can no longer remain as they are.

Two Charged with Arson

TWO REVOLUTIONARIES, Joe Keith of the LSE, and Tony Swash, have been charged with six counts of arson, three of them against military establishments. The two are at present in custody in Ashford. Earlier they had been heavily grilled by anxious pigs, Joe for ten hours. Apparently the pigs are trying to find out about a rash of bombings that has been taking place in London, unreported by the straight press. Targets have included a branch of Barclays Bank in Commercial Road. There have also been a series of bombings by people who sent letters signed 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid'.

The people are rising, the pigs are in confusion. Seize the time!

AGITPROP.

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S.J.

'Meanwhile, Back at the front ..'

IN THE LAST thrilling instalment of 'Burrell House', I reported that our gas supply had been sabotaged by a non-union gang hired by Press Ltd, at the instigation of the North Thames Gas Board who had hired the hirers. We asked anyone with a spare electric cooker to help us out, and the response has been such that only two tenants are now shy an electric cooker: an elderly couple without children who were the last arrivals here, and a bloke who lives on his own—me. I have a mini-Calorgas thing plus an electric ring, so I'm sweet as regards the cooking stakes, pro tem... even if I had a cooker, I'm so bloody busy I'd have no time to use the bastard anyway. And don't think I couldn't use a cooker—I can cook, and bake bread into the bargain, which is more than most of you longhaired get-esses can do... For your information, we now have a few spare gas-cookers sculling around Burrell House.

What else has happened since then? Nothing as regards our tenancy of these flats, which are still run by the GLC, while Arbour Square is now and ever shall be probably a Tower Hamlets property. The LEB has installed slot-meters in the taken-over flats here; this was a fortnight ago. The meters take two-bobs, and the bloke's been round to empty the meters yesterday and today. Not having a cooker, I had about 18/- in the meter,

copping a shilling back as a refund... Denise in the flat above me tells me their refund was 18/-—of course, the two of them, Denise and Mike, are working, so they can do without being too economical with the juice. Being out of graft myself I make sure to put a light out when I'm finished with it, and feel lousy and miserly doing it, which may be why I fall asleep with the light on one or two nights a week and don't bother putting it out if I wake in the night.

We have contacted certain organisations regarding the situation here. As everyone here knows through bitter experience about political parties, we haven't bothered about them—with the exception of the Young Liberals, in the light of the vote for supporting direct action by the public such as Squatting. The Chairman of the YLs wrote to tell us that they would be discussing how to help us at their Committee Meeting last Sunday (October 11)... Maybe they'll come good, if they don't we shan't be too disappointed, they won't be any worse than the rest of the politicians, and I'm relying on other things personally... Before I forget: some Leeds comrades sent word of a cooker in Leeds if it were possible to get transport for it... We couldn't take advantage of your offer, friends, but don't think it wasn't appreciated.

So the situation at Burrell House at

present is, while keeping on the qui vive for things like gases being cut off and Inspector Grests also acting as we see fit in our fight for... gawd help us... a damned rentbook (you regularised GLC tenants try living in your flat without paying rent—and we want to pay rent and they won't take it!), coming up for air I'll say that most of us are jogging along doing a bit of prettifying the place up and making good odds and ends out of whack due to neglect or vandalism and unfixed as yet. This flat I have, for example: when I moved in I found that vandals had ruined the electrical fittings in the living-room, and the doors of three rooms—living-room, a bedroom, and the galley-door—were conspicuous by their absence. I still lack a galley-door but the other two are now back in place, and as for light in the living-room, I'm running it off a long lead pro tem, but I'll get the real thing rigged in time... There were other things adrift too, little things such as the wardrobe fittings, coat hangers, etc., bath and sink plugs and the chain in the carys, but replacing them was a curl-the-mo job which is an Aussie way of describing what we call a laydown in London and you in Leeds call a bobby's job. What with the fair amount of painting I've done into the bargain (I did cut in the front door red, white and blue hoping they'd think I'd turned respectable and bung me a rent-

book but it's red, white and grey now), the joint doesn't look too bad at all. I've even got one of those wooden gates across the landing with No. 12 painted on it; the reason for this was a dog which was addicted to crapping outside my flat door; owing to getting worming medicine said crap was of an unbearably nauseating calibre; the dog isn't here now and I was about to unship the gate this afternoon when I saw not one but two puppies, delightful little things too, bouncing along the landing. They turned back before they came to the gate, so I think I'll be safe in chopping it up for firewood in a week's time. They'll have either been taught to go elsewhere outside the flats or got used to going somewhere which isn't outside my door.

The cookers given us by readers of FREEDOM have done a fine job of maintaining morale here, it goes without saying. Half the tenants have young babies needing regular feeds at a certain temperature—just imagine what their mothers felt like when the gas cut out, and the only thing available was the open fire in the living-room.

Sorry there aren't any fireworks in this instalment for them as likes 'em, I prefer a quiet life meself—and tomorrow it might be 'on' again all of a sudden.

GEORGE FOULSER.

Contact

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

Proposed Group: Kingston - on - Thames and surrounding area. Write to Roger Willis, 69 Woodlands Avenue, New Malden, Surrey.

Frank Keane Defence Committee. Social at the Kings Head, Fulham Broadway, October 24, 8 p.m.-midnight, admission 5/-.

People wanted to take part in Folk or Folk/Gospel Gig to be organized in the near future. People must be willing to give their services free in aid of the Drug Dependents Care Group. Contact: Roger Edwards, 23 Sutton Court Road, London, W.4.

Libertarian Teacher urgently seeks accommodation E. London — Romford-Brentwood area. Any help appreciated. Write Tony Levene, 51 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex.

South Africa Day. This is October 24. We cannot afford extensive publicity so we must rely on your help. This 'South Africa Day' can only be effective if you use your own initiative and do all you possibly can to help. The notice about the public meeting at Conway Hall may be enhanced by other speakers who have been invited, and possibly a film taken under extremely dangerous circumstances in South Africa. We are still working on these 'attractions' but meanwhile it is essential you help spread news of the October 24 activities. Enquiries: Hilda Morris, 6 Endsleigh St., London, 01-387 5501.

Proposed Bristol Group. Alex Bird, 23 Rosewell Court, Kingsmead, Bath.

Demonstrations and the Left—Effective Protests? Speaker: Pat Jordan. Followed by discussion. Date: Thursday, October 22. Time: 7.30 p.m. Place: Friends Meeting House, Euston Road (opposite Euston tube).

Libertarian Analysis. First quarterly issue out at end of September. Box 210, Village Station, New York, N.Y. 10014, USA. Prices \$5.00 a year or \$6.00 a year overseas, and \$1.25 an issue or \$1.50 an issue overseas.

Germ's Eye View (London). Rank and file paper from the Royal Free Hospital for all hospital workers. Current issue includes articles on the NUPE pay claim, domestic labour in hospital, private medicine, and the doctors' pay settlement. Available from 50 Colebrooke Row, London, N.1, at 3d. a copy plus 4d. postage, or on sale or return.

Comrades in Plymouth wishing to form group or just meet other anarchists. Contact: John Northey, 16 Adelaide Street, Stonehouse, Plymouth.

Dublin Libertarian Library requires back issues of 'Freedom', 'Anarchy' and any other anarchist or allied publications, any language. Books also welcome but no payment possible. Send to Freedom Press.

Elephant and Castle Project Junior Club. Saturday morning play project for boys and girls, urgently needs reliable helpers. New ideas and cast-off toys, etc., welcome. Contact: Club Leader, Valerie E. Bickers, 26 Bromyard Avenue, London, W.3.

Freedom Weekly? Eight pages every week? If all readers could get one extra subscription—it could be done. You may prefer to sell by the week. We can let you have copies on sale or return.

Proposed Group. Alex Bird, 23 Rosewell Court, Kingsmead, Bath.

Wednesday discussion meetings at Freedom Meeting Hall from 8 p.m.

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

Please help. Union of American Exiles in Britain: c/o WRI, 3 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

Los Amigos de Durruti. A group of active campaigners in London dedicated to the propagation of Anarchy (society organized without authority) and the defence of brothers in need. Write to Bill Dwyer, c/o Freedom Press.

Anarchists in Enfield area please contact Leroy Evans 01-360 4324.

Oxford Anarchists. New group being formed, contact Dave Archard, Corpus Christi College, or John Humphries, Balliol.

Lowestoft Libertarians contact Ann & Gordon Collins, 9 Ontario Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, Tuesday evenings. Comrades welcome for short stay by the sea.

My Lai Defenders

BUSINESSMEN in the United States last week met with Captain Ernest Medina to start a fund-raising campaign for his defence in the forthcoming court martial over the massacre at My Lai. The meeting, at lunch in Beverly Hills, California, decided to defend vigorously all those accused.

The Vietnam war has brought vast profits to American big business and it seems only fitting that they should now spring to the defence of their mercenaries. The businessmen claim they are as interested in gaining 'moral support' for the 'boys' as in raising money.

ARMS AND MONEY

The Greater London Council has just published a study *The Future of London Transport* in which they state that a free system of transport in the area would cost £130m. per year—an expensive dream. They concede that a greatly improved service would result.

The Defence Budget for 1970 is officially estimated at £2,280m. The amount of wealth and energy that this sum represents can be seen easily by contrast with the cost of free transport in Greater London. Obviously the diversion of resources wasted on 'defence' would easily provide all of England with free transport, clear all the slums and comfortably house everyone, and then leave plenty for a great variety of worthwhile projects culminating in a higher standard of living.

White Australia

The international concert pianist Fou Ts'ong refuses to perform in South Africa 'as a protest against its racist policy'—a protest all people who hate such discrimination can cordially endorse.

Now the Australian Broadcasting Commission has invited Fou Ts'ong to play in Australia. Despite his British passport the Australian High Commission subjected him to an intense screening and interrogation. The Australians tend to make a cult of vulgarity and rudeness, particularly at official level. Add racial prejudice to this and Fou Ts'ong's intimation that he might, in the future, have to extend his boycott to Australia is completely understandable.

Australia is still a bastion of white supremacy. Its aboriginal population still largely subsists in primitive mission and

THIS WORLD

government settlements or are assigned to the classification 'drawers of water and hewers of wood' when they venture into the cities. In immigration Australia nearly equals New Zealand—which bars Southern Europeans as well—by rigidly excluding all 'coloured' people. Pitiful handouts in Asia keep the Australian conscience clear. At home the government blatantly appeals to popular dread of the 'yellow peril' to justify its participation in the Vietnam war.

Revolution in South America?

Once again army officers have seized power. In Bolivia the new government claims to be left wing. Nationalisation is to be extended but it is made clear that previous commitments will be honoured. Thus the pledge of the previous government to pay the US firm Gulf Oil of Bolivia \$70m. compensation will be honoured.

The nature of the new regime may be accurately assessed by its indecision over the issue of freeing the French intellectual, Regis Debray, currently serving a 20-year sentence for allegedly aiding the guerillas in 1967. Indeed, the guerillas themselves state that the officers now in power actively persecuted them at that time.

Meanwhile the 'right wing' government in Brazil is confronted with mass starvation. Desperate peasants in Ceara state are looting food depots in a grim effort to stave off starvation for their families. None of this hinders the regime's determination to stand by its order of £100m. worth of frigates to be purchased from the British firm Vosper Thornycroft.

No continent is riper for revolution than South America where there is a notorious gap between the extremely rich and desperately poor. Countries like Britain and the United States are storing up a tremendous legacy of hate by supporting the regimes there—all differing only in degree in suppression and exploitation of their populations.

Friends of the People

Preaching in Westminster Abbey, the Rev. Harold S. Godwin has come out

against the current rash of strikes. Pleading for 'generous charity', the worthy cleric tritely observed that 'agreement between the parties concerned is almost inconceivable'. Quite obviously what is required is a Christian docility on the workers' part, knowing their place and allowing the affluent a quiet enjoyment of their wealth.

A few days later, at the Lord Mayor's dinner, Sir Leslie O'Brien, Governor of the Bank of England, also conceded the inevitability of 'industrial confrontation'. Ultimately, he wants 'a successful incomes policy based upon the consent of... all'. The governor's bogey is inflation and higher wages are, to him, a great peril. Like any conventional economist he wants the system functioning smoothly and efficiently, but without change to the status quo. Vaguely he realises there are, in this framework, irreconcilable elements (like workers and bosses) but he hopes this will only be 'temporary'. Such appalling simple-mindedness is characteristic of many in the highest positions in the establishment—a factor which no doubt assists its survival.

Towards a Free University

The defiance at Birmingham University, where the fired sociology lecturer Richard Atkinson continues his work with the moral and material support of students and staff, contains promise of developments interesting to all advocates of a free university. If the experiment proves successful, instead of establishing a separate campus, this goal may be achieved through the present university. At least the initiative will have been provided to stimulate the academic world to co-operative efforts and to rehabilitate the university as a community of scholars where exchange of knowledge and views can be made in freedom.

At Cambridge the role of the proctors—who acted as police informers in the Garden House Hotel affair—is being investigated. Even the authorities there are determined that proctors should never again appear in court as witnesses against members of the university. More gener-

ally their existence is being questioned although the modern university has made common practice of employing a private police force. Where tradition is so firmly a strength of the authorities, any dent in it—as the discrediting and abolition of the proctors undoubtedly is—may open up further weaknesses in the system and make an alternative inevitable.

manager for the last four years. Apart from Sundays, you get one other day in the week off and another of the boss's tricks is to ask you to work on your days off, promise you that you can have them all off together to make an extra week's holiday, then forget about it and God help you if you try to remind him.

I'm going to leave as soon as I can but I suggest that the first move for shopworkers in a bid for higher wages is to get a closed shop and put a ban on part-time workers unless they join the unions too. Just think how much a big supermarket stands to lose if the staff walks out and leaves the customers to help themselves.

—Reprinted from *The Fighting Mouse*, No. 6.

Supermarket Slavery

The following article was written by a supermarket worker and deals with some of the general problems facing shopworkers in Aberdeen. We hope to expand on this question in the next edition of the 'Mouse'.

IV'E WORKED in a supermarket for two years. When I started I took home the princely sum of £4 10s. a week. Now that I'm seventeen I get £6 11s. 1d. plus all the abuse I can take from the boss.

No one in our shop is in the union and the last time I saw the union organiser was a year ago when he came in to buy his groceries.

I think the reason for the lack of organisation among shopworkers is that most of them are women, half of whom are part-timers doing it for pocket money, and the other half are young girls straight from school who've never heard of the union and probably couldn't afford to pay anyway.

One of the boss's tricks is to tell the shop hard man that he's going to be put on a course as trainee manager so that he works twice as hard and goes round bullying everyone just to impress the boss. Sometimes he's made into a supervisor which means that he has more work but no more pay. I know one bloke who thinks he's been a trainee

ally their existence is being questioned although the modern university has made common practice of employing a private police force. Where tradition is so firmly a strength of the authorities, any dent in it—as the discrediting and abolition of the proctors undoubtedly is—may open up further weaknesses in the system and make an alternative inevitable.

Arms for the Free World

To prevent 'communist domination' and keep the Cape open to the 'free world' the South African Prime Minister Vorster has made a plea for heavy armaments including ships and aircraft. If the 'free world' means Britain and America, the appeal falls on receptive ears. There are few countries—either in the 'free' or 'communist' worlds—so un-free as South Africa, yet Vorster indulges in political jargon as unashamedly as any politician. With the mass media firmly under their control, politicians in power seem to have no trouble in deceiving their subjects on the subject of freedom.

ANARCHISTS

The meetings in Freedom Press every Wednesday evening are attracting so many that it is necessary to make an appeal—if you have a spare chair please give it to the group. You can bring it with you on the tube! The meeting next Wednesday—October 28—is now a party as Paddy McGuinness has had to postpone his lecture 'Towards the Abolition of Money'. You could contribute to the success of the evening by bringing food and refreshments with you.

BILL DWYER.



Keep Knocking It Down!

PRESS FUND

October 13th to 19th inc.
Oxford: Anon 7/-; Leamington Spa: D.H. 16/7; Ilford: A.G. 16/7; Shipley: E.R. 8/-;
Lancing: H.T. 2/6; Corby: T.P. 2/6;
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Total:	£103 5 9
Income, Sales & Subs.:	£95 5 7
	£198 11 4
Expenditure:	£150 0 0
Deficit b/f.:	£963 18 2
	£1,113 18 2
Less Income:	£198 11 4
DEFICIT:	£915 6 10

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