

## Mean, Moody and Money-mad

THERE IS NO DOUBT that the Tories see themselves as the real, traditional, God-intended rulers of this country, and it is only honest for everybody else to accept them as such. After all, whoever is in apparent charge in Parliament, the real rulers of Britain are the banks and finance houses, the insurance companies, the landlords, the brewers and distillers and stock-brokers and civil servants and property developers and supermarket hustlers—all money-mad and Tory to a man.

When a Labour Government is superimposed on this set-up, schizophrenia sets in, because the inescapable pattern of government in Britain is Conservative, but the people who put the government in expect some difference to manifest itself—and it can't.

When the centre of political clap-trap is also securely in the hands of the Tories, there is no conflict between the Government's supporters and the inescapable pattern of government. God's in his heaven and all's right with the world. Right and proper, as it should be.

We should not complain about this. Ted Heath was right when he talked (before the election) about 'honest Government', or 'Gubmnt' as he likes to call it, and anarchists should prefer honest gubmnt every time to the reformist rubbish dished out by Labour and other socialist pretenders. The big lie that socialists depend upon is that gubmnt can be run in the interests of the ordinary people, most of whom are underprivileged. An even bigger lie is

that it can be revolutionary, and the biggest lie of all is that it can be libertarian.

Honest gubmnt, therefore, should be authoritarian, counter-revolutionary and run strictly in the interests of the ruling and owning class. Hooray for Honest Ted, then, for this is just what he is doing.

It is true that he had to be slightly dishonest when cadging for our votes in the election last June, but this was only because he had to win voters away from the other parties. The silly, ignorant, poor people of this country, after all, had just had a hammering from the Labour Government, but had to have some bait dangled in front of them to get them to express their silly ignorance to the extent of voting Tory. So Grocer Ted made his ploy about prices—and they all fell for it.

### PUBLIC MONEY INTO PRIVATE POCKETS

Whether Ted Heath really believed his own lies we shall never know—or at least not until Lord Heath writes his memoirs in 1984—and anyway, does it really matter? The trouble is that a lot of other people believed them. The ability to tell good honest lies at election time is part and parcel of honest gubmnt and it is not for anarchists to complain about that. How much we should be concerned about the silly, poor and ignorant who voted for Laughing Boy, however, is another matter, for they are the ones who are going to have to pay for their foolishness.

Not only have prices of goods

bought across the counter continued to increase as though the cash registers had never heard of Ted Heath, but the Tories have lost little time in organising their policies in

the interests of the class they represent.

Take the new proposals for housing, for example. The intention of the gubmnt is to push for the sitting tenants in council houses to buy those houses—a great step forward towards the property-owning democracy proposed by the late Anthony Eden. One aim of this of course is for housing to cease to be regarded as a social responsibility; another is put more profit in the pockets of money-lenders. For practically all council tenants will have to take up mortgages, borrowing money from building societies, who get their money from private investors. The new council-house-owner, then, usually working class, will be paying interest at something like a hefty 8½% which will eventually end up in the pockets of someone far better off than himself. The capital that goes back to the council from the building society will be used to implement the second part of the gubmnt's proposals: the ending of the Rent Restriction Act, the ending of controlled rents, and the subsidising of private landlords! For together with the ending of rent control comes the freedom for landlords to claim an 'economic' rent—but in the case of poorly paid workers, if a means test shows them unable to pay the new 'economic' rent, the council will pay a proportion of it to the landlord.

### ROBBING THE POOR TO PAY THE RICH

More money to help pay for this will come from council tenants, for those who live in flats which it may not be practicable to sell, or who cannot be persuaded to buy their council houses, will find that their rents, too, will be pushed up to the 'economic' norm.

A certain proportion of public money, then, is going to find its way into private pockets—pockets al-

ready jingling with loose cash won from Mr. Barber's mini-budget concessions on income tax.

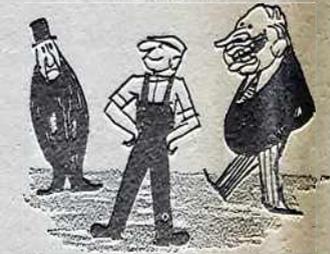
Here again, we should thank Ted Heath and his merry men for making exactly clear where they—and we—stand. The barbarous proposals to raise the prices of school meals, end free milk, charge more for prescriptions and dental treatment, and the intention in the pipeline to end food subsidies, all these are going to hit the working class, while the reduction of income tax will help the better-off who pay more direct taxation and are not bothered by the few extra bob on school meals, etc., and are probably already paying into BUPA or other schemes for private medical treatment anyway.

Ted Heath's honest gubmnt, therefore, shows itself to be exactly what we always said it was: robbery of the poor to pay the rich. The only snag in having it spelt out so clearly is that a lot of people will hanker after the good old days of Harold Wilson, when the blows were muffled under an apparently benevolent welfare umbrella. But that simply could not go on, because the money system has a life of its own—and it is getting out of control.

The Labour Party could not get out of the money system, and the Tories don't want to, for they cannot conceive any other motivation for human endeavour than private profit. They are mean, greedy, snobbish and elitist. Mr. John Davies, the new Secretary of State for Industry, mouthed what most Tories really think about the underprivileged when he described them as 'lame ducks', and it is this kind of pressure in the Tory Party which is sweeping grammar-school-boy Ted Heath before it like back-up in a sewer. Well, it's going to land him in the shit, and that, at least, should wipe that stupid grin off his face.

JUSTIN.

IF YOU SEE A MAN STANDING UP...



...FIRST YOU KNOCK HIM DOWN...



...THEN YOU MAKE HIM FILL IN A FORM ASKING TO BE PUT BACK ON HIS KNEES...



...WHICH IS WHERE WE WANT HIM TO BE—AND FOR WHICH HE IS TERRIBLY GRATEFUL!

## Playing Games at the TUC

AS WAS PREDICTED in FREEDOM a few weeks ago, the bureaucrats of the TUC are doing nothing to mobilize effective opposition to the Government's anti-union Bill.

The members of the TUC General Council have 'strongly advised' union members not to support in any way the activities of unofficial bodies who may be arranging conferences or demonstrations or recommending stoppages of work. One of the objectives of their forthcoming publicity campaign is to 'convince the fair-minded man in the street that the Bill is unjustified in the light of what unions are doing to improve industrial relations'. (When union leaders talk of 'improving industrial relations' it usually means selling strikers down river!)

Of course, all of this comes as no surprise. The union leaders are forced to make occasional militant gestures in order to placate the rank and file members but they are busy scheming how to turn the situation to their own advantage.

Their desire is to increase their own power over the rank and file without losing any of their power to the Government. They would like to do a deal with the Government whereby the Government will keep its nose out and the TUC will 'bash' the militants for them.

This would, of course, necessitate greatly increased power for the TUC so over the next few months they will try to convince us that the Government can only be convinced to drop (or modify) the Bill if the TUC's power is increased. What a joke! The Bill can only be defeated by militant rank and file action both nationally within the union and locally between unions.

As the opposition heats up and the hypocritical role of the union leaders is revealed to more and more workers, the opportunity must be seized to extend rank and file control of the unions. The attack must be two-pronged: against the Bill and against the union bureaucrats. And then onward to the social revolution!

TERRY PHILLIPS.

## TERRORISTS IN UNIFORM

IN THE POPULAR PRESS last weekend there were diverse reports on the incidents in the Ardoyne area of Belfast last Thursday and Friday nights, October 29 and 30. With headlines like—'Furious Troops Hit Back' and 'Horror Bombs Outrage Angers Troops'—they sensationalised and completely misrepresented the facts. Many reports totally disregarded the facts and misled many people into seeing the British troops, who occupy N. Ireland, as heroes.

On Thursday, October 29, some youths coming from a dance in St. Gabriel's Secondary School were told that girls were being molested on the Woodvale Road, some 400-500 yards down the road. To the boys it seemed quite possible as in the previous weeks crowds of Protestant youths had made threatening surges into the Ardoyne area. The rumour was accepted as fact and the youths rushed down the road towards

Continued on page 2

## The 'Dirty Jobs' Strike Settled at Last

WELL, I SUPPOSE you could call it a victory—of sorts. Most of the national press has moaned about it being inflationary, and said that the settlement was a smack in the eye for the Government. Indeed, the Unions' chief negotiator, Dereck Gladwin, described it as a 'bloody nose' for Mr. Carr.

As usual we had an inquiry, chaired by Sir Jack Scamp, which came up with the usual compromise. This was accepted with indecent haste by the three Unions involved. It must be admitted, however, that the inquiry's findings were much nearer to our demands than is generally the case. This, in my view, was because of the determination of the lads and lasses involved, and the considerable sympathy (despite all the stinking garbage and untreated sewage) of wide sections of the working-class not immediately involved.

The basic recommendations for the 770,000 manual workers employed by 1,600 local authorities, councils and corporations are: an overall increase of 50/- a week for male workers and 42/6d. for women; rates for rotating shifts (in sewage works for example) to be increased by 34d. to 11d. an hour, and for alternating shifts by 12d. to 73d. an hour; all employees with five years' service to be entitled to an additional week's holiday a year; and, lastly, all

productivity schemes to be introduced, where practicable, by February 1972—the sting of the agreement obviously being in the tail!

### SCABBING

During the dispute allegations of scabbing and blacklegging have come up time and time again. What was the position then? The November issue of the TGWU journal, *The Record*, says that 'Scabbing is being encouraged by the employers. In London the employers are paying £21 extra on top of the normal salaries to staff to scab. Contractors are paying scab labour money well up on £16 10s.' But the latest issue of NALGO's *Public Service*, under the banner headlines 'STRIKE: NORMAL DUTIES AND NO BLACK-LEGGING', proclaims: 'Almost total support has been given by NALGO members to the National Executive Council instruction not to undertake any duties normally performed by striking local government manual workers and not to take any action "to inhibit the effectiveness" of the strike unless people's lives or safety are threatened. Enquiries in the districts show that the few reported cases of alleged blacklegging have almost been confined to supervisory staffs who, in carrying on working, are, in fact, carrying out their normal duties.' *Public Service* then brings up the case

of Henry Rabbit (mentioned in these columns previously) who has been operating Stoke Bardolph sewage works single-handed, and says that he was not scabbing and had the support of his branch. The local NUPE branch, however, thought otherwise. Other supervisors also originally volunteered for extra work, but, says *Public Service*, 'none was doing so after NALGO's instructions about not doing duties normally carried out by the strikers'. And there the matter must rest.

But the struggles of public service workers will go on. The Government has got to consider what it will offer the 250,000 hospital workers and, after that, what it will do with the Union of Post Office Workers' demand for an extra £3 a week for postmen. Comments the *Evening Gazette*: 'Now the flood gates are open in more senses than one. The rank and file in many Unions will be tougher—towards both their employers and their own leaders who lack militancy' (6.11.70). And of the other workers employed by local authorities, the *Guardian* says: 'One of the main results of the settlement... will be to make other local government workers, particularly in the white collar sector, restless for more money' (5.11.70). Step forward NALGO!

SEWAGE WORKER.

# Lightening Our Darkness

REVOLT INTO STYLE, by George Melly, Allen Lane—the Penguin Press, 50/-

THIS BOOK is something of a compilation, begun in 1966 and finished in 1970. Its purpose is to show the influence of the Pop Arts in Britain. George Melly begins by distinguishing between 'pop culture' and 'popular culture'. Popular culture is the old working-class culture. 'Whereas the older popular culture stood for the spirit of acceptance, pop culture represented a form of protest.' It is the culture of the youth, and its centre is pop music. Its protest does not go all that deep however. Pop is in a constant state of flux. It picks up bits and pieces from the past, but refuses to allow itself to freeze into a tradition.

## BOOK REVIEW

Yet in avoiding the pitfall of traditionalism it falls into that of superficiality. At the end we are left with the gestures of John and Yoko, weird time theories and flying saucers.

As a youth thing pop is continually being renewed, as people pass the thirty (or even twenty-five) mark, and become old, and new young people come forward. But it cannot progress, because it has continually to go back and begin again with each new generation. A slogan of the Paris revolt of 1968 was, 'Trust no one over twenty-five'. This seems to have proved self-defeating, since a large section of the population are over this age.

'Pop acts out revolt rather than provokes it. It's almost a substitute for revolution in the social sense and is anyway geared, even these days, to the Capitalist system. Its only revolutionary value is in its insistence on personal freedom. This is certainly important, but the right to smoke pot or strip naked in public are not going to affect the structure of society. This is not to deny the pop world a political bias. It is almost totally anarchist because, alone among the schools of political thought, anarchism defends total freedom. But pop anarchism is of a limited order in that while perfectly prepared to call the police "pigs" (or whatever the fashionable epithet may be) it is nevertheless totally

unprepared to lift a finger to change the power structure which controls those police.'

This seems to me to summarise the position very well. It is a sort of young man's individualism, a poor hippy's Stimerism.

George Melly admits to being less optimistic than he was when he began his book. He does not expect that a puritan 'backlash' will be the death of pop, but rather that it may die away for the reasons given above. But he believes that it has done a great deal of good in making life less stuffy, making people less afraid of their feelings, less ready to hide behind taboos. I am sure he is right. Looking back on the fifties I can see how much things have changed, for the better I believe. There is more freedom of expression; anarchism is no longer a queer little cult tucked away in the corner; men can wear their hair as long as they like, no one is going to call them 'cissies'; there is more sexual freedom I think; no doubt all these are marginal gains but worth having even though they don't, all taken together, constitute the social revolution. Conditions before were greyer and it would be a great pity if a new puritanism were to return us to them.

Much pop culture is irritating, and some of it absurd, but I do think it has lightened the darkness of the world a bit. George Melly guides us around its various manifestations. A very large section of the book is devoted to pop music. This is the most important aspect of pop culture. There are shorter chapters devoted to the visual arts, film, TV, radio, the theatre (where results have been disappointing) and literature (something of a paradox, since pop is anti-literature).

The author ends on an amusing note. He owns a cottage in a remote part of Wales, and he describes how the traditional village culture has absorbed pop without trouble. First the pub put up Beate wallpaper. Then children appeared at a fancy dress carnival dressed as hippies. Finally a Hell's Angel turns up as a spectator at the local coracle race. From this he concludes that pop and popular culture may well happily co-exist in the future.

A.W.U.

## Terrorists

Continued from page 1

the alleged scene. The youths, many bearing in mind August 1969 when the RUC and 'B' Specials machinegunned Ardoyne, stoned a police wagon which lay in their path. Reaching Ardoyne, the youths found the rumour a lie, so joined the crowds coming from the dance, and would have proceeded home but for the Army, who had been alerted, and barred their way with troops from two landrovers.

As the crowds of young people were hustled about by the soldiers, a stone was thrown from the direction of the corner of Brompton Park and Crumlin Road. At this, a soldier turned and deliberately fired in the direction of the corner from the pavement outside a bank some 75-100 yards up the road. The soldier did this with total disregard to the safety of the young boys and girls walking home round the corner into Ardoyne. As a result of this action three young men were shot as they walked round the corner on their way to 'Freddies', the local chip shop. The act was witnessed by many people who were actually beside the soldier when he fired. So obviously it is clear that instead of 'Horror Bombs Outrage Angers Troops' the headline should have read 'Deliberate Shooting of Three Boys Angers Citizens'.

Another fact that should be stressed is that the three boys were not 'shot while rioting' but that their shooting occurred 45 minutes before the rioting started and was, in actual fact, the cause of the riot. One paper quotes a soldier as saying 'We have reasoned with these people long enough', but this could be better attributed to the working class of Ardoyne who have had to bear the overhanded brutality and arrogance of the Imperialist Forces occupying their area. I watched as an Army officer turned his back on the protest of people who witnessed the shooting, and his arrogant attitude was an example

of the 'reason' that forced the people of Ardoyne to take to the streets and make their complaints the only way they were sure of being heard.

But if they had a reason for fighting on Thursday, the violence on Friday night had an even more acceptable cause. The victimisation of the people of Ardoyne became even more apparent to the citizens of the area when they considered the incidents of Thursday in the context of the incidents since August 16, 1969, when the Army first occupied Ardoyne. One paper quotes an Army officer as saying 'we now intend to dominate the area', but can he tell the people of Ardoyne when the British Army has not dominated their area since August '69?

The people of Ardoyne, like many of their fellow-citizens in Belfast, have been virtually imprisoned behind barbed wire and high corrugated fences, which remind one of Berlin, since June. They have had to face terrible doses of CS gas which have had awful tolls among the old, invalids and very young. The arrogant attitude of the Royal Marine Commandos, and the whining of Saracen armoured cars and Army landrovers, sour their days and disturb their nights.

So on Friday, sickened with the presence of the Army, and in the knowledge that many of their comrades were in jail or hospital due to the unwarranted actions of the military, the people of Ardoyne watched as cloud after cloud of CS gas was pumped into the slums they are forced to live in. One CS gas cannister shot by a 'professional' went soaring into the upstairs bedroom of a Mr. Moore in Kerrera Street, setting the house ablaze. On this occasion the water-cannon came in handy to douse the flames, but not the anger of the men who helplessly watched a 13-year-old boy being carried choking and petrified out of the house by fellow citizens. This, and other actions of a similar nature, infuriated the people. The screams of the terrified old men and women choking with CS gas called for a terrible reprisal. And so one

hour and a half later homemade bombs were thrown at the troops who had so cruelly gassed the residents of Kerrera Street.

The bombs were not a planned attack, but the actions of an infuriated and frustrated people, infuriated by the terrible injustices suffered at the hands of the Imperialist Forces, and frustrated by their lack of control over their own destinies. The headlines should have read 'Furious People Hit Back', for on Friday night in Ardoyne that was just what happened. The debasement of the people in the area by the troops on the following two days (October 31 and November 1) may well have forced the citizens of Ardoyne to the conclusion that this form of violence is the only answer to their problems. If they are forced to this, the blame must lie squarely on the shoulders of the Governments of Stormont and Westminster whose inaction, injustices and whose tools, the military, have so violently disturbed the people of Ardoyne and all the six counties of Ulster. Their 'ring of steel' may enforce a lull in the confrontation, but there will never be 'peace' until the people are liberated from the source of their frustrations—poverty and injustice—by the withdrawal of what must be considered the British imperialist occupying forces in Ulster and the termination of all political and financial control of this country by British politicians and businessmen.

The violence in Ardoyne is the culmination of frustration caused by fifty years of misrule, and an even longer period of inaction by those who are the nominal leaders of the people to do anything concrete about the position. So it must be stressed that the solution that the people chose on Friday was forced upon them by their enforced isolation from those who claim to 'lead' them and by the frustration caused by terrible living conditions, repressive laws and the presence of Imperialist Forces who represent the embodiment of all their grievances.

THE LADS OF ARDOYNE.

## LIVERPOOL CONFERENCE

AS there seems to be no signs, as yet, of an AFB conference this year, we have decided to offer Liverpool as a venue for one in the near future.

If this idea meets with any enthusiasm the conference would be held over a weekend at the end of November or the beginning of December.

I should be grateful for any reactions to this offer and for dates which people feel suitable, so that the attendance can be maximised.

If all goes well, further details such as sleeping arrangements and meeting places will appear in 'Freedom' later.

Any correspondence please to Geoff Sproson, 172a Lodge Lane, Liverpool 8. Geoff Sproson.



# S.O.S.!!!

## PRESS FUND

October 27 to November 9 inc.  
 London, S.E.17: G.W. £1/0/8; Peterborough: D. & C.J. 12/-; Oxford: A.C. 14/2; Banbury: D.W. 2/10; Lo.W.: L.B. £1; Leeds: A.M. 12/11; Iford: A.G. 3/-; New York: L.M. £2; Hamburg: J.L. £5; Leicester: P. & J. £1; Wolverhampton: J.L.\* 11/-; J.K.W.\* 4/-; Taunton: D.P. 5/6; Mansfield: C.S. 9/5; Oxford: W.H. 5/-; Hove: B.P. 2/7; Sheffield: P.L. 10/8; Nr. Chester: D.J.J. 6/10; M. & G. J. 11/3; Corby: T.P.\* 10/-; London: J.H. £4/15/-; Lancing: H.T. 3/10; Boulder: W.S. £17/7/-; Driffield: E.R. £2; Peterborough: F.W. 2/3; London, S.E.5: R.O. 7/6.

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2 weeks at £150:	£300 0 0
Deficit b/f.:	£969 10 5
	£1,269 10 5
Less Income:	£248 13 10
DEFICIT:	£1,020 16 7

MIGUEL GARCIA GARCIA.

## LETTER

### Female Anarchists

Dear Comrades,

The rather patronising little letter from E.C. (FREEDOM, October 24) seems to ignore the fact that many contributors to FREEDOM write not as 'females' or 'males' but as anarchists. My own occasional

contributions have generally been signed by initials, but of course the tendency to assume masculine authorship, unless otherwise specified, is strong. I shall continue to write to the paper about issues which concern me, as I and numerous other anarchist women have always done, even without E.C.'s kind invitation.

However, I welcome the observation that anarchism without women is only half a movement. Revolutionaries should stop thinking of women as a 'group', oppressed or otherwise, and realise they're talking about people who make up half, more or less, of society at all levels.

Fraternally,

Belfast

LIZ WILLIS.

## Transported to Brixton

OUR COMRADE George Foulser is at present resting from the squatters' struggle as a guest of Her Majesty. He writes, 'Since I began squatting operations on the "Irish Riviera" the solidarity has been marvellous. It has come not only from Burrell House tenants, but from readers of FREEDOM and from Freedom Press itself (thanks for the plays!). Noel of the Friends of Durutti has visited me twice, the second time with a collection from the Freedom Press Wednesday Club—thank you very much, comrades!'

Tribune (6.11.70) has published a poem by Martin Green in honour of our comrade. Entitled *Genealogy*, it ends

It's a very odd world  
 In which Foulser and Greens  
 Were not transported  
 For dad's misdemeanors.'

## DEMONSTRATE!

Against All Military Alliances And States

Saturday, November 28  
 Assemble 1 p.m., Czechoslovak Embassy (Notting Hill Gate).  
 Bring banners & flags. March to Greek Embassy.

RALLY!

3.30 p.m., Trafalgar Square

## PRISONERS IN SPAIN

THERE IS an old Spanish folksong that says 'one is better dead than spending one's life incarcerated in Puerto Santa Maria'. This old prison is notorious for its dungeons. Close to the sea and very damp, its walls bear the names of thousands of men who suffered there to the limits of human endurance. Like all old prisons, its history is full of tragedy. To stand there on the shore by the sea makes one shiver at the thought of the years of oppression and misery. But it is not just a whisper from the past. Puerto de Santa Maria is still an active prison. It is not just a grisly page from the history book. Recently, seven political prisoners were sent there by the Director General of Prisons.

They were: Floreal Martinez, Jose Antonio Mendez Alvarez, Jesus Redondo Ahuin, Celerino Mendez, Tomas Jimenez Molina, Adoni Arizabalaga, and Beguiristain (we do not know his forename). Recently, a prisoner died there. He was Juan Munoz Duran. As usual in such establishments, his death was due to medical negligence. The seven 'politicals' signed a joint letter of protest. Jesus Redondo Ahuin handed it to the Governor, who promptly put him in solitary confinement, in a punishment hole. But the seven are normally living in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day, cut off not only from the world outside but from the rest of the inmates. 'Politicals' are given different treatment from 'criminals'—far worse.

These seven comrades, buried alive, need human solidarity. Through the Black Cross we have organised the sending of many parcels to prisoners in Spain. The diet of beans and maggots does not sustain life and without outside help from relatives and friends, prisoners are lost. However, because of the campaign we have been making in publicising the crimes of the prison administration in Spain (which in some directions has had positive results), there have been reported many instances, such as at Burgos, where parcels have been returned. This is a petty vengeance on the part of the Direccion General de Prisiones. The fact is that without such aid there would be mass deaths by

malnutrition. The amount allocated by the authorities per head of prisoner is 18 pesetas a day (about 2/3d.) but this small amount, even so, does not get spent. The job of administrator is highly sought after and, although the actual salary is not large, all administrators retire wealthy.

There were recently certain changes in the list of prisoners. Francisco Salcedo, who was serving 72 years, has been transferred to Prison Central de Jaen, and with him there are three more libertarians: Bernardo Terrel Lamela, Dario Puertas and Jose Luis Ibanes Sierra. In Ocana a young libertarian has been sent—Fernando Sanchez Pintado, a student under 21, like Francisco Gill de Jaen who is already there and whose case we referred to in the September *Black Cross Bulletin*. These two 'acratas' live with a group of political prisoners in a special department of the prison of Ocana and in circumstances similar to those of Puerto de Santa Maria.

These are part of many changes which have been taking place since the conversion of the old fortress of Segovia to a central prison for the 'recalcitrant' politicals. Another has been the need to convert the prison of Zamora for imprisoned priests; since as a result of the vigorous Basque movement of ETA, priests are being arrested for political offences against the regime for the first time. There is room for fifty priests in this special prison to accommodate them, though at the moment only 25 are in fact detained.

The third prison, Ocana, appears to be the centre for political offenders under 21.

In view of the fact that parcels are now being returned, sometimes at expense to the senders, it is better to send money orders which can be cashed by the prisoners. Should they be returned the cost is comparatively small. Though this may seem a lesser gift as it is more impersonal, it must be remembered that it proves both to the prisoners themselves, and to their captors, that they are not alone in the world.



All correspondence to  
 Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,  
 Rotton Park, Birmingham 16

## ANARCHIST FEDERATION of BRITAIN

AFBIB—To all Groups.  
 Next AFBIB Meeting and Production, Sunday, December 6. 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, Hestlington, 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, Les Smith, 47 Clarence Street, Primrose, Lancaster.  
 Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell.  
 (M. M. B.)  
 Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Acgean', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, FL.)  
 Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.  
 Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, 3 Marlborough Grove, Leeds, 2.  
 Scotland: Temporary Secretary, Neil Munro, 203 Cornhill Drive, Aberdeen.  
 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)

# CUE FOR SOCIAL GENERAL STRIKE

**THE GOVERNMENTS** of most Western countries are facing inflationary problems of near crisis proportions. Britain's problems are particularly acute since costs are rising without the appropriate increase in productivity. There is a stagnation which can only lead to an economic crisis and increasing unemployment.

The Tory answer to 'inflationary' wage demands has been to resist those made in the public sector and so set an example to private industry. Its consultative document, setting out their proposals for legislation on industrial relations, is another weapon to weaken trade union organisation and to ensure profit margins.

Mr. Carr, Secretary of State for Employment, has pointed out that 1970 will be the worst year for strikes since 1926. So far this year, strikes have increased by 82% compared with the same period last year. It is small wonder that the Government and the employers are worried about this situation. Worried because, in Mr. Carr's own words, 'Britain is up against a rapidly increasing tendency to strike first and talk later'. The very fact that the Government wishes to curb the strike weapon shows how effective it has become and the willingness of the workers to make use of it. The increases gained by council workers following the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry and which leaves the Government's policy in shreds, proves the effectiveness of the strike weapon.

The present economic situation is turning the purely monetary demands of trade unionists into demands of crisis proportions. It is now important to see these struggles and the coming fight against anti-trade union legislation as being against a system which makes such struggles necessary. For the plans of the present Government are such as to give the employers the backing of the coercive power of the State.

## 'ASKING WHEN'

Already strike action has taken place against the proposed Bill. Five hundred workers at Birmingham SU Carburettor factory took part in a one-day strike. Union official George Wright, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said he was not surprised by the strike. 'In the Birmingham area, we are holding back the flood-gates. Our members are not asking us if we are going to demonstrate. They are asking when. There is a great deal of agitation at the moment for something to be done, and some of this is coming from smaller firms that up to now have led a fairly peaceful life in industrial relations terms.'

George Wright was also present at a meeting of his District Committee where delegates said they wanted action. He said afterwards: 'It was only with difficulty that full-time officials prevailed on the delegates to defer action and support the TUC official campaign. We know there is a great deal of following on the shop floors and we are under no illusions about the difficulties in trying to persuade everyone to support a co-ordinated campaign on democratic lines. We can only hope they will go along with us.'

Instead of waiting for the TUC to co-ordinate its campaign to persuade the general public against legislation, workers are taking action, while union officials, as usual, are trying to hold back militancy and channel it off to a harmless campaign. Further action will take place on December 8, when a token strike has been called by the Defence of Trade Unions Liaison Committee. Support for this strike is growing fast. Decisions affecting 15,000 building workers have already been taken, as well as growing support from factories in the Midlands and North West. The DTULC conference will be taking place on November 14 when a packed hall is anticipated, with delegates from all over the country.

## THEIR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES

From this support it seems that there is no lack of opposition to the Tories' legislation by trade unionists. But for what purpose is this mobilisation of support? The Communist Party, International Socialists and the Institute of Workers' Control have all pledged their support. All see this mobilisation as a political thing, the Communists for support of their party, the IS for the recruits they can get to build up their growing Marxist party, and the Institute for making the Labour Party into a 'democratic workers' controlled political instrument'.

They all have one thing in common—power. Instead of going beyond the issue of legislation, these left wing politicians are using it for their own political purposes. They see workers as mere members and not as individuals desiring social justice and change. Like the trade union bureaucracy, they want to lead and control. They see their objective as the taking over of the State, rather than its overthrow.

Bert Ramelson, Communist Party industrial organiser, sees it like this: 'Only in the sense that the workers as citizens have a political say in determining the economic and social policies of the State, in determining the main lines and indications of the overall plan and in contributing towards the plan plan, can it be argued that workers' control becomes feasible under socialism. Pricing, allocation of investment funds, decisions on whether a particular plant or industry should expand or contract, I think must remain the function of the State during the first stage of Communism-Socialism.'

Trade unions were built on a spirit of unity and solidarity. But all too often this spirit is channelled and disciplined to support leaders and political parties.

This fighting spirit which is growing around the legislation issue will once again be dissipated in lobbying Parliament, electing new trade union leaders and building up an alternative political party. We should not be confining our struggle to just a political strike against legislation, but directing our efforts to a social general strike.

It is not changes in political or trade union leadership that we should be seeking, but rather a new social order. To make this a reality, workers must believe in a vision of freedom. The political strikes against legislation should be only a start of a new consciousness to make social changes.

The strength that lies in strike action has not been fully grasped. In the past, as of now, workers are capable of achieving the social revolution. During such times there are always too many leaders who are willing to change social demands into economic ones and who are always willing to cool and control. Rather than the general strike being used for political purposes, it should be extended as a means to achieve the social revolution. Only then will we end the exploitation by the employer and the State. In its place, we want workers' control. We believe that workers can run industry, can grow the food necessary for the needs of the community.

Workers are discouraged from taking responsibility, but we want people to be socially responsible. They can take over the social responsibility of running the affairs and providing for the needs of the community. Such a vision of a free society, free from the State and the rule of capital, should replace the narrow view of change in leadership and power to one of social revolution and individual responsibility.

P.T.

\*The Debate on Workers' Control. Institute for Workers' Control.

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## OUT OF PRINT

Berkman's ABC OF ANARCHISM is no longer available. A new printing should be ready by January 1971.

## BACK IN PRINT

Third printing of ABOUT ANARCHISM (Anarchy 100) now available. Single copies 2/6 (30¢) inc. post. Bulk supplies at 2/- or 25¢ each, post paid.

# THIS FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND

**BERNADETTE** CAME OUT of prison two days early and vanished for a very brief holiday, in Cork, Donegal, the west or mid-Ulster, according to the paper you read. A good deal of journalistic fury is abroad as she has sold the rights of her second book about her life in prison to the *Daily Mirror*.

When she did publicly resurrect she said, 'We cannot afford the luxury of getting rid of our frustrations by rioting,' which is true. The aim must be silent hard pressure to force the Unionists to honour their promises of reform (there has been much clamping down while paying lip-service since the Tories got in) and then to work for the 32 county really free Ireland this war-scarred island has never known, and needs so much. Craig says the reforms must be accompanied by 'the mailed fist' and Chichester-Clark agreed with him. Stormont reconvened and Paisley thundered about rearming the police and re-calling the 'B' Specials (he has a monomania about this).

The cut in finances (National Health charges, free milk, etc.) in Great Britain hits the North even harder than it does its country of origin and no one is pleased with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Children are still being sent to prison arbitrarily for six months for the most minor of offences in the six counties, and the Left and Opposition all call for the rescinding of the Criminal Justice Bill—in vain. In fact C-C says he would not hesitate to use the Special Powers Act of internment without trial for any length of time 'if necessary'. The second reading of the Housing Executive Bill went unopposed though neither side liked it at its introduction.

Bernadette Devlin has now gone to Westminster and been sworn in. She also found time to visit Butch (James Anthony Roche) where he has been held in Brixton Prison since July, not allowed bail, for throwing two canisters of CS Gas in the House of Commons to show the honourable members just what it felt like—more power to his elbow.

Just about 20,000 grenades and canisters have been used in the six counties, killing one baby and seriously injuring the health of very old.

Down in Dublin the Arms Conspiracy accused all got off scot free—'Not Guilty'. Justice and truth are completely dead in Ireland. Everyone knows Gibbons was the power behind the throne about this matter and no one even dared charge him. All this trial accomplished was a terrific waste of money which is Fianna Fail's strong suit. Colley, the Minister for Finance, brought out a 'Wages and

Prices Bill' which meant rises offered and accepted would not be paid and no one could bargain freely any more. This bill hit the poor and brought such a violent reaction from the trades unions that he had to do a bit of rethinking and now has said those rises promised for January may be paid after all. Then he brought out a mini budget taxing what he calls luxuries. Being in Wexford and half my papers only, and only one wireless station instead of the four I usually listen to available, I gather it is road tax that has gone up, and cars, mopeds, records, wirelesses, etc., that will cost more. At least not food which is an incredibly expensive item anyhow. Honest Jack returned from the United Nations where he endeavoured to sound just that—'Honest Jack'—a name WE give him in sarcasm, and nearly all FF trailed out to the airport to meet him on his return. However when the Dail reassembled motions of 'No Confidence' were called for by both Opposition parties and five of his own party indicated they would either vote against him or abstain. It is almost certain now, in spite of his declarations which are getting less confident every time he opens his mouth, there will very soon be a general election.

In spite of the complete state of unrelieved chaos Ireland is in, all 32 counties of it, we continue to fight over lesser things too. At midnight on Sunday a concert was given by Mancini and Bernstein who gave their services free, to help raise the £4,000,000 some people think are a necessity to build a concert hall, to be called in a sick-making manner 'The John F. Kennedy' Hall. No one does anything to raise money to help house our 10,000 Dublin homeless. We need a new concert hall about as much as I need a hole in the head. Those we have are never full to capacity. £4,000 or £5,000 for improving acoustics is all that is required. This is a very emotive subject and the writer practically gets herself murdered over it... she considers by the snobs!

Light relief. Shop in Wexford. All the papers about the arms trial with revolvers and rifles, etc., sitting on top of them, and a placard that read 'Why send to Austria for your arms when you can get anything you need at O'Brien's in Wexford?'

Of course Paisley said the trial showed HE was right and all the trouble in the six counties was engineered by the wicked IRA, Anarchists and Communists and (once again) 'Rearm the RUC and recall the "B" Specials. He also says it has been threatened that one of his children is to

be kidnapped and the RUC are refusing to do anything about it so he has had to take his own precautions. Some of us laugh sardonically at this obvious notice-attracting stunt.

If I have forgotten anything or misinterpreted anything this week, my excuse is that 60% of my time is taken up with music (Wexford Festival) and, if the truth must be told, a lot of the rest with drinking! How better to spend one's days and nights?

The news has just reached me that Michael Farrell was fined £25 and sentenced to a three months' suspended prison sentence at Magherafelt Court for a sit-in at the offices of the Toome Eel Fishery. Fifteen other PD members were similarly dealt with. At the outset it was agreed by the Crown counsel and defending solicitor that the charge against Mr. Farrell should be taken as a test case.

Mr. Farrell told the court they had gone there to register a protest, and put to the Company that Lough Neagh should not be owned by a small group of absentee landlords but by the people as a whole. There were no representatives of the Company there at the time and they waited until a man came in who said he was the manager. It was never their intention to take possession of the premises. Justice how are yez?

A fortnight ago Mr. Colley, Minister for Finance, introduced a bill controlling prices and incomes. Twice, owing to outcry from trades unions he modified it, then he scrapped it, and proposes to introduce a new bill with an unenforceable fine of up to £5,000 for trades unions who strike, plus £5 per day for individuals, and much more quite above the head of your writer who can only think in shillings, not millions of pounds. However, she knows if she kept either her personal accounts (or that of the organization of which she is treasurer) as Fianna Fail have kept theirs, even to the inexplicable £100,000 they got from the Red Cross for relief in the six counties and apparently spent on arms, she would have been in prison long ago.

In the Dail it has been chaos, charges and insults and counter-charges and counter-insults being freely hurled, as Fianna Fail sacrificed their last shred of honour and credibility to stay in power. Even those who had been most vociferous against the Taoiseach voting 'Confidence' in him when it came to the point, although they have no confidence in him, and hate and distrust him and each other. Even Messrs. Blaney and Haughey voted with the Government. Mr. Boland

alone had enough integrity to resign rather than go against his conscience. I have fought Mr. Boland tooth and nail when he was Minister for Local Government for his hardness on housing matters and his uncontrollable temper, but he has gone up in my estimation 100% as he would not go in with such a blatant liar as Gibbons or such a Janus as Lynch. The Party is not doing what the public wish and going to the country. They hope things will blow over and the ordinary person will have forgotten by the spring. They are strong. So are the Mafia, and though one can fool some of the people some of the time, etc., the day of reckoning must dawn sooner or later. Let us hope the Opposition will get together and come up with something realistic, but oh how much better we would be sans governments.

In the night of October 26-27, rioting broke out again in Belfast. Three Catholic teenagers were returning from a dance when they were jeered at and attacked by a counter-religious group. Troops arrived and shots and water cannon were used. Three children were shot (teenagers) and taken to hospital. CS Gas was used and snatch squads. A marine is on a charge for shooting but it is all being kept rather quiet. The rioting continued for two or three more nights, and a command post in Derry was attacked while Paisley thundered within a hall nearby 'Protestants have been betrayed. We must now use the mailed fist.'

Scotland Yard found that the RUC had been guilty of serious misconduct in the Samuel Devenney case, but quickly whitewashed it by saying they were under a great strain, it was one or two, etc. They did, however, say that there had been a conspiracy of silence to protect the guilty men by other RUC but added, anyhow the amnesty of Chichester-Clark's had made any punishment unfeasible even if the men could be identified now. Again he did suggest all sergeants and constables in uniform should wear identity numerals. (Down here they take them off when disturbances are in the air.) The Opposition are not satisfied. Naturally the deaths of Frank McClusky, John Gallagher and the nine-year-old Paul Rooney, machinegunned in his bedroom, come to mind, as does the case of the baby of Mrs. Jean Weir in Derry who was gassed to death. The local doctors affirm this, three of them to wit, but the Unionist Coroner says, 'Natural causes of acute bronchitis'. Will all these murderers go scot free?

H.

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

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**THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE** had an 'open day' here recently in an attempt to 'build confidence' with the public. The centre, at Portreath, Cornwall, specialises in the production of nerve gases and research into substances that could prove 'useful' as lethal chemical weapons.

The unfortunate people of Cornwall have, so far, been the victims of this experimentation. Firstly, former employees have developed mysterious illnesses. Secondly, there has been inexplicable destruction of marine life off the Cornish coast. Thirdly, there is the psychological terror of never knowing when some accident—which even the authorities concede is possible—may cause a fearful disaster amongst the civilian population, such as the escape of lethal material.

The official justification for the production of these weapons is the necessity of keeping up with the Joneses—in this case the Russians and Chinese. In plain language the rat race and madness of scientific murder, sanctioned by the State, is being maintained. How public confidence is to be won by an 'open day' can only be ascribed as bureaucratic mythology in view of the large amount of secret research which is simultaneously admitted and access to which is still denied on the grounds of 'security'.

#### Patriots v. People

During the recent rubbish strike Lady Caroline French Blake, daughter of the Duke of St. Albans, with a sturdy band of fellow scabs, cleared away rubbish in front of 10 Downing Street. They claimed this was 'a demonstration of patriotism'.

Meanwhile 1,000 people in Hackney piled up their rubbish in the main streets—in this they were assisted by striking dustmen—in a spontaneous and brilliant protest against the authorities and as a gesture of solidarity with the strikers. The end of the strike shortly afterwards

# THIS WORLD

brought a complete victory to the men who, despite the obvious discomfort suffered by the general public, had widespread sympathy in their efforts to achieve a measure of justice.

#### Game of war in Ulster

Newspapers, in this country, have often pictured the unhappy lot of the troops in Northern Ireland, the risks they run, the casualties suffered. Now the Army throws another light on the picture. One officer commented on the unexpected re-enlistment of men who had tasted blood there: 'Soldiers traditionally love a roughhouse'. Years ago Jack London described the 'good soldier' (namely, the disciplined, obedient slave) as the lowest animal alive. The soldier, if he is to serve his master's wishes, must necessarily strip himself of his humanity and substitute a pseudo-comradeship and mystique of violence for ordinary principles of everyday living. In the North today, Catholic and Protestant alike have learned they have a common enemy—Her Majesty's hired thugs.

On the police front Sir Arthur Young, chief of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, has conceded that police present at the murder of Mr. Samuel Devenney have entered into a 'conspiracy of silence' to cover up the crime. Last year Devenney had his home broken into by the police who mercilessly beat up his son and daughter, and two others also in the house, before being murdered himself. Again, we are assured this is not 'normal' for the police and there are a few 'bad eggs' in every basket.

#### Tory Budget

While conservative but intelligent businessmen promote efficiency by dis-

pensing luncheon vouchers—virtually free meals—to their staffs the canny Government, as one of its penny-pinching economies—has withdrawn the free meal service to schoolchildren and its free milk service to those over seven. Spectacles, teeth and medical services are also to cost more for the general public. The actual saving to the Government is negligible and one can only assume that these measures are merely a foretaste of harsher economies to come. Defence expenditure comes to £2,300 million, an indication of the true interest of the politicians now in power.

#### 'Foul smell of Anarchy'

Sir John Wolfenden—previously Vice-Chancellor of Reading University—has joined the throng of social commentators who warn us about that impending disaster, anarchy. In typical confusion of thought, he adduces as proof the increase in kidnapping of political personages and the growing incidence of air piracy. These, of course, are part of the game of politics and are the activities of aspiring leaders. More to the point, however, Sir John points to the rejection of authority itself in universities. He finds it 'disturbing if not alarming' that student militants should be aiming at a 'state of affairs in which there was no legislative authority, no laws, and therefore nothing prohibited'. Protests about 'who sleeps with whom' or 'participation in decision-making' are one thing, he maintains, rejection of authority another. But are they? This attempt to isolate the concept of anarchy from its ingredients—and surely sexual freedom and participation in decision-making are amongst these—is typical of the middleheaded. To Sir John anarchy smells most foul. But then he has a vested interest in the status quo, quite apparent from his obvious ignorance of what anarchy is all about.

#### From Russia with

Bad news for freedom. The latest tactic for dealing with critics of the

regime is in mental hospitals to which I have referred in previous articles. The poetess Natalya Gorbanevskaya and Pyotr Grigorenko, who have both written extensively on human rights, are in mental institutions administered by the police. These latter wretches are only skilled in torture and no refinement escapes them. For Grigorenko, who suffers from a weak bladder, they have reserved a cell with no toilet facilities. His hospital, previously a prison, is administered by a Major Belokopytov of the Russian Army. This officer emphasised the position of all 'good' soldiers and slaves, when the prisoner's wife pleaded for a visit he refused stating: 'Don't plead with me. At work I have no feelings, only instructions.'

#### South Africa

The Defence and Aid Fund has published some illuminating details about life in this republic. No negro can strike. 87% of the land belongs to the 3.8 million whites, 13% to the 14.9 million 'others'. 47% of the world's legal executions occur there. 496,071 sentenced and 157,651 unsentenced people were imprisoned in the year 1968-9. The claim of the government that it has secured high living standards for all should be set against the facts of increasing tuberculosis and widespread malnutrition suffered by the native population. In one area—Sekhukuni—over 50% of all children die before the age of five years. And South Africa is a modern, civilised society!

#### ANARCHISTS

The meetings every Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Freedom Hall are attracting large attendances. Apart from the intrinsic value of the discussions and entertainment (!) there, we trust that the meetings will give birth to a host of other anarchist activities. For the new year we need more speakers and suggestions for alternative types of engagement. If you are willing to help please write to Graham Moss or myself c/o Freedom Press. Immediately scheduled are: November 18, Social; November 25, S. E. Parker on Individualism; December 2, Peter Neville—Group Organisation; December 9, Arthur Uloth—Anarchism and Cultural Diffusion.

BILL DWYER.

## HOMES FOR ALL?

**THE NUMBER** of houses being built in Britain each year gets less and less. About 340,000 'units' were completed last year. The number of 'starts' this year will probably not exceed 320,000—not even enough to replace those slums (of which there are millions) which each year fall into decay, and—literally—fall down. No more has been heard of the politicians' promises to build 500,000 houses a year.

Moreover, many of the houses that are being built are going up in the 'desirable' outer commuter-belt areas of Berkshire and North East Essex, necessitating journeys of up to 70 miles to and from London and other places of employment. At the same time, there are hundreds of thousands of empty properties—sometimes empty for years on end—unable to find 'takers'.

Millions of people need these houses. Many thousands are completely homeless. Yet there are no buyers. Why?

A recent statement on the rising costs of housebuilding by Mr. F. T. Biggs of the Nationwide Building Society, and an editorial on the same subject in the *Guardian*, largely answers that question. Says the *Guardian* editorial:—

"No matter how wages and earnings rise, house prices seem to advance at an even faster pace. High house prices require large mortgages, and building societies simply will not contemplate lending anything like the full cost to the average wage earner. The latest figures published by the Nationwide Building Society show that it costs, on average, £4,613 to buy a house today—£1,000 more than it cost four years ago. But a worker earning around the national average of £25 a week can expect a mortgage advance of only £3,000 from a building society. Without several thousands of pounds savings, this effectively rules out house purchase' (15.10.70).

And very few workers, young or old, have 'several thousands of pounds savings'. Moreover, it should also be remembered that the vast majority of those who so fondly imagine that they are 'house owners' are, in fact, not so. Most of them never actually own their 'little boxes'. They remain eternally in the clutches of the building societies or, as is often the case, a second-mortgage finance company. Discontinue the monthly payments, and you'll soon find out where you are—on the street!

Anarchists have always argued that the so-called housing problem is really a poverty problem. Most workers are propertyless not only in the means of production, but in most other things (including housing) as well—and will remain that way until they die. If it was not for 'our' profit-motivated capi-

talist society, houses, like most other things, could be produced both well and in abundance. Houses are not produced today because people need shelter. They are built (when and where they are being built) to make fat profits for building contractors like Costain, Wimpey, or Wates. Of course, with so many buildings standing empty for so long, a lot more squatting than has hitherto been attempted should be the 'order of the day', though squatting can only alleviate the situation.\*

Whilst capitalism remains, profits—in housing or anything else—will always take precedence over people. We anarchists say: Put People Before Profits! And let us, the people, build homes for people—ALL the people!

PETE.

\*It also dramatises it, and brings it to the notice of the public-at-large as an effective form of 'propaganda by the deed'.

## Torture in Brazil

**WE BELIEVE** everyone is by now quite familiar with the methods of torture used by the Brazilian Military Dictatorship on the 12,000 political prisoners and the general population still at large in Brazil.

You may also know something about the usual 'whitewashing' attempts being made. To give current examples:

The Brazilian Ambassador's talk at Edinburgh University (shouted down by the students).

Brazilian Book Exhibition (no mention of censorship or writers in prison being tortured).

General allegations of an international Left-wing conspiracy to discredit the Government (please refer to the pronouncement made by that rabid Commie, the Pope, on 21.10.70 and amply reported by such organs of the Underground Press as the *Financial Times*, *Telegraph*, *Times*, *Guardian*).

A demonstration is to be held on November 22 and we urgently need your support.

2 p.m.: Meet at Speaker's Corner. March to Brazilian Embassy at 32 Green Street (off Park Lane) then on to 49 Lancaster Gate, 'The House of Brazil'. Please come.

BRAZILIAN INFORMATION FRONT.

## That was Freedom Day

To the Editors,

In the lead article of the October 17 *FREEDOM*, Jack Robinson takes issue with the so-called 'anarcho-capitalists' who believe that given freedom for private enterprise and the abolition of the state, free enterprise will run society to man's benefit. Although I wouldn't call myself an 'anarcho-capitalist' I do accept Mr.

## Letters

Robinson's description of them as my own and would like very much to reply to his insinuation that free enterprise implies 'exploitation of man by man and in itself is hostile to freedom'.

First let me look at the term 'anarcho-capitalist'. This, it seems to me, is just an attempt to slander the individualist-anarchists by using a supercharged word like 'capitalist' in much the same way as the word 'anarchy' is popularly used to mean chaos and disorder. No one to my knowledge accepts the anarcho-capitalist label, just as no one up to the time of Proudhon's memoir on property in 1840 accepted the anarchist label. But, unlike Proudhon who could call himself an anarchist by stripping the word of its derogatory connotation and looking at its real meaning, no one can logically call himself an anarcho-capitalist for the simple reason that it's a contradiction in terms: anarchists seek the abolition of the state while capitalism is inherently dependent upon the state. Without the state, capitalism would inevitably fall, for capitalism rests on the pillars of government privilege. Because of government a privileged minority can monopolize land, limit credit, restrict exchange, give idle capital the power to increase, and, through interest, rent, profit, and taxes, rob industrious labour of its products.

But I don't have to convince anarchists that government is hostile to labour. We all know that. What we all apparently don't know is that freedom in enterprise is favourable to labour. Unfortunately this idea is so foreign to today's world that I couldn't possibly hope to change people's minds in the few sentences space limitations impose. Suffice it to note

that this myth has so permeated society that even the government most identified with 'free enterprise' (the United States) takes annually an average of £2,000 from each and every family inside its borders. (This is not a misprint—it's a fact!) What an incentive for private enterprise if that state were abolished and the money taken from the people could be used by the people in whatever way they saw fit.

But Mr. Robinson says that free enterprise is hostile to freedom. Why? What other kind of enterprise would Mr. Robinson suggest if not free. Communal? Fine! Just so long as it's voluntary. But then of course it's free. Unfortunately anarchist-communism wouldn't permit that. One doesn't have to read very far into Kropotkin or Bakunin to see that the individual must succumb to the collective will. Communal property for the common benefit—it sounds more like 1984 than anarchism to me.

Yours truly,  
Geneva, Switzerland KEN KNUDSON

## 'Peace Action'

Dear Friends,

Once again we have to postpone our demonstration at the Schermuly factory on November 28, as this happens to be the date of the CND demonstration calling for the dissolution of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. This starts at 1 p.m. opposite the Czechoslovak Embassy, march via Greek Embassy and then on to Trafalgar Square for Rally and Dramatic Presentation, and we feel that we should participate in this activity and postpone our own until the New Year. We must apologise for the fact our own demonstration has now been postponed twice.

For your further information, we decided at the last CABWAG meeting, i.e. Wednesday, October 28, to broaden the perspectives of our committee and to include other aspects of the anti-war struggle, but of course we shall be keeping the campaign against chemical and biological weapons very much to the fore.

We have found that concentration on one specific aspect of the militarist threat to peace and humanity has failed to attract the support we had hoped for at the beginning and it has also raised difficulties for many people, as many groups are individual ones and it means that many of us who campaign on other issues as well as Chemical and Biological War-

# Contact

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

**Impoverished student librarian**, building up a collection, would like back copies of *Anarchy* and *FREEDOM*. Some payment for yearly volumes. Will be looked after and not locked away. M. Thres, Tideways, Ynys-las, Nr. Borth, Cards.

**To Mike W. in Norwich**: Thanks for note. Address please? Dave and Patricia.

**Durham Anarchists**—new group being formed. Contact Mike Mogie, 8 Mavin Street.

**Research Project**. Can you read German perfectly? Would you like to help an exciting research project on the early history of the British anarchist movement? Comrades willing to translate rare Max Nettlau manuscript material as an unpaid labour of love are needed. Please write to Sam Wolf, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

**24-Hour General Strike!** Against Government's proposed anti-Trade Union and anti-working class legislation. Close ALL factories, mines, offices, building sites, universities and schools on Tuesday, December 8. Called by Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

**Loughborough Group**. Correct address is 67 Griffin Close, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 9QQ, phone number: 2117, and not as printed previously.

**Simian Reprints**: Surrealism & Revolution, 7/6d.; Origins of Anarchist Movement in China, 2/6d.; Origins of Revolutionary Movement in Spain, Dashar, new edition with postscript and unpublished interview with Duruti, 4/-; 1649, 2/6d.; Bulletin of Anarchist Black Cross, 6d. All from Simian, 10 Gilbert Place, London, W.C.1, or Freedom Bookshop.

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

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

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

**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.

**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 Duruti**. 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.

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

fare find themselves tied down with innumerable meetings and committees leading to much unnecessary duplication of work.

Of course all this means a change of name and we have decided on 'Peace Action'.

Should anyone reading this letter be interested in joining us, or if you have any doubts in your mind and would like to read our new policy statement first, we shall be very pleased to forward same, so just write to me.

Yours for Peace,

62 Oxford Gardens, ROSEMARY DEANE,  
Ladbroke Grove, Secretary,  
London, W.10