

DECEMBER 8th: 'GENERAL STRIKE'— THIS IS ONLY A REHEARSAL!

DECEMBER 8 looks like becoming the biggest day for industrial action since the General Strike of 1926. It is right and appropriate that it should be so, for what we are striking against is the Tories' solution to the economic problems of the employers. This Government, in common with all over governments, either east or west, are following the same pattern, for it is the producers who form the working class who are attacked when a country faces economic problems. It is our class who are expected to make the sacrifices and to suffer hardship and unemployment so that the greedy, power-hungry minority can cling to the fruits of the labours of others.

The Government's proposals are designed to weaken the workers' organisations. They are aimed specifically at the shop floor and the places of work. Their intention is to legally break the organisation of rank and file trade unionists which has steadily improved conditions, pushed up wages and gained some control in order to make the daily grind bearable.

It is at this level that the trade unions are under attack. The leadership itself is not so sure. They are each picking out the clauses that might suit their purposes and calculating how many members they can recruit or lose by such legislation. Some unions would feel the effects of the outlawing of the 'closed shop', while others, especially the 'white-collar' ones, could gain from the provisions concerning union recognition.

THE TUC'S PLANS

The main task of the proposed legislation is to shackle the shop stewards and the rank and file members, thereby 'legally stopping' the 98% of strikes which are unofficial. To combat this threat, the TUC is conducting a campaign of public persuasion against the legislation. On January 12 they are calling 'lunch-time' meetings as well as an evening 'demonstration' at the Albert Hall, but so far they have not called upon workers to make the only effective protest; that of industrial action. On the contrary, the TUC have instructed trade unionists to ignore the strike of December 8 and not to take unofficial action. They, like the political leaders of this country, believe that there is no need for direct action in a 'democracy' and that a cross on a ballot paper every four or five years is sufficient.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Heath, said in a parliamentary debate that 'there is no justification in a democracy for using industrial action against a Parliament properly elected by the people of this country'. For the opposition, Mr. Wilson strongly condemned the strike planned for December 8 and said: 'I support the TUC's condemnation of these strikes for political purposes.'

A GRASS ROOTS MOVEMENT

To speak at their Albert Hall meeting, the TUC have invited Mr. Wilson, who only 18 months ago was putting forward similar legislation. Yet he and Mrs. Castle have

the gall to condemn the Tories' proposals. By now it should be obvious that the politicians on the Labour Party and the members of the General Council of the TUC are not our allies in the struggle to defeat the Tory legislation. The mass movement of protest that is developing around this is essentially a grass roots one and should remain as such. There should be no take-over by any political party or power-seeking group who wish to gain recruits. The control should be with the ordinary trade unionist.

History has shown us that the TUC will not fight a government and the State who are intent on hamstringing the working class. The meetings and 'demonstrations', to be held in your own time, which the TUC are planning, are not going to stop the Tories. We, the producers of the wealth, should not be led up the blind alleys of 'constitutional' and 'democratic procedure' any longer, nor should we leave it to the political parties or the trade union leaders. If we are going to defeat the Tories then we shall have to organise and mount such a campaign of action that they will be forced to abandon their plans. These plans would have made the recent strikes by postal workers illegal and will stop any form of action which has not gone through the long, wearisome procedure and been sanctioned by the union executives.

MAKE IT OUR MEETING

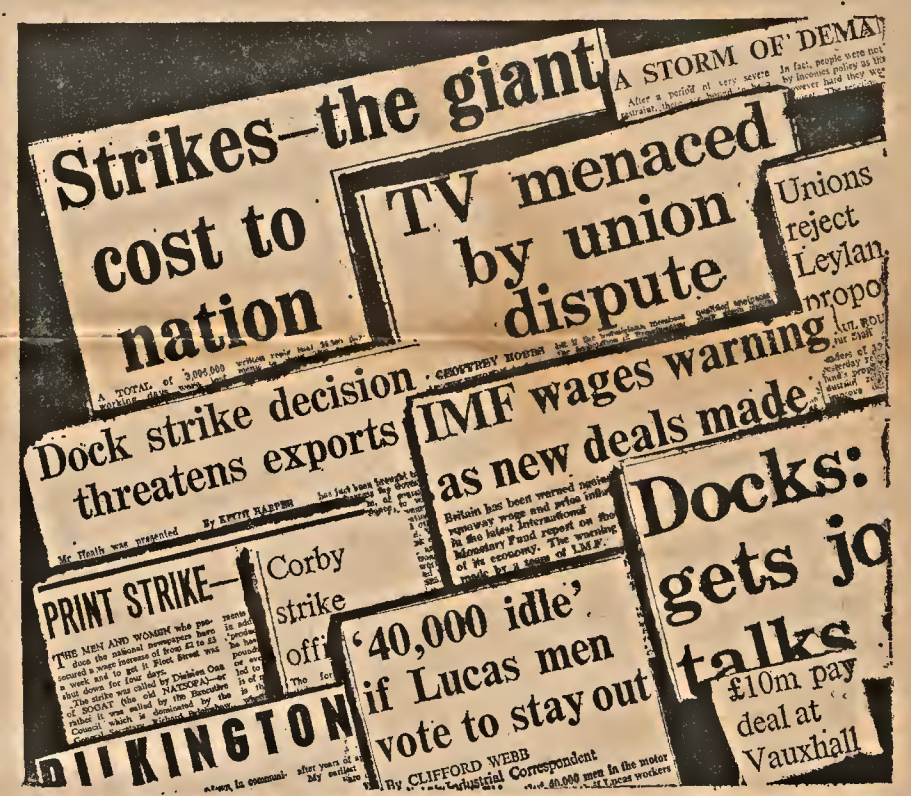
This is the struggle then and it will always be with us while the Government, the State and the em-

ployers remain. The demonstration of working class strength on December 8 is a start and January 12 could also develop this way. It should not be a day to listen to Wilson and Feather, but a day of action with the rank and file taking over the Albert Hall and making it our meeting. Wilson and Feather do not represent us or our aspirations. Basically they want a continuance of the present system of exploitation, for without this they would be out of a job. They are the safety valves of our discontent through which we

are supposed to let off steam while the system remains intact.

Let December 8 be the time when we start to make it plain that it is not just the Tories we want to bring down, but the capitalist system under which we live. December 8 could be the rehearsal for the Social General Strike to do this. Workers can build and create something which gives freedom and satisfies the needs of all. We as producers can take over and run industry to serve everyone instead of the few.

P.T.



The Postman's Wage Claim

WE SHAN'T SETTLE for 'half-a-loaf', say the Union of Post Office Workers' leaders. And by the time this appears in print negotiations should be well on the way. It is a three-part demand: (a) 15 per cent increase; (b) £3 on the maximum; and (c) drastic reductions in incremental scales.

NOT SINGLY BUT TOGETHER

Tactically, the National Executive Council—and I agree with them here—are not putting forward a 'grade-by-grade' claim, particularly in view of the present climate, and I'm sure I don't have to explain this point! But even if circumstances were not at all 'hostile', I still think it would be utterly wrong to operate on the basis of 'grade' claims in any form.

'Separatist' trends within the Post Office do exist. And there is no doubt that this type of strategy of individual grade claims, pursued in the past, has engendered a certain amount of resentment resulting in divisions among Post Office workers. If one views the situation seriously and dispassionately, one cannot but help noticing this 'splitting' element around. I don't wish to exaggerate its prevalence or effect, but certainly we must not dismiss it as totally irrelevant or meaningless as some do. In fact, I would say that some responsibility for the indifference that does exist among the workers can be attributed to the very

presence of a grade structure—and that is a problem we have to live with for some time yet!

The fundamental problem of getting the workers to stick together, on the shop floor, or elsewhere for that matter, especially when their type of work, wages, conditions, etc., are not identical, is no simple task—and of course this applies not just to Post Office workers. Today, it is not just this 'splitting', but also the decisive hardening of attitude on the part of the employers egged on by the Government. Both these factors must be taken fully into account when formulating policy.

BUT SEEN TO BE SO!

Therefore, it is vital for militants in all fields of industrial activity to strive, at all times, to ensure that the basic policy pursued for maintaining and bettering workers' standards is of a 'collective' nature. That is to say, from a practical point of view, and from the very outset of formulating a claim, right through all its stages, up to the very end of the negotiations, all grades of workers must feel that they are ONE! This approach must be strictly adhered to, and not just adhered to—BUT SEEN TO BE SO! If for instance our executive decide on industrial action, then it must be on the basis of 'collectivism'; that is ALL OUT, not one out or some out! More than once I have heard the remark:

'They didn't support us last time. We got them the rise. It's time they came out'—and many others. Of course, it may well be that that was just an excuse; but why provide ammunition to fire with, thereby arousing suspicion at a time when we least want it? No. If workers are 'thrown' together by virtue of the nature of class society, then it is up to us militants to see that that 'being thrown together' is cemented; is solidified by a 'collectivised' policy before, during and after a struggle.

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION

Obviously, we are not in an ideal society, or a situation where workers feel on 'equal' terms with each other. Differentiations do exist which we must fully recognise and understand in the context of present-day class society. Our executive may talk about not settling for 'half-a-loaf'; they may say a lot of things. But the real issue in my opinion is that the whole of what we can wrest from the employers in the course of our struggle should be distributed fairly among the workers engaged in that struggle—and it must be seen to be so. For it is this that will encourage the postal workers in future struggles, and enhance their solidarity with each other (irrespective of grade), a basic element which will be required all the more in the future. United we stand, divided...

MORRY SOLLOF (UPW).

THE PARTY OF PLUNDER

IN THE GOOD old days of the Labour Government the rewards of office, of service to the Party, and of manufacturing Mr. Wilson's raincoats or giving some such service to the great man himself, was one of those many 'jobs for the boys' with appropriate rate for the job, the delights and profitability of power and the prospect of a golden handshake at the end. After the sweeping changes of 1970, the rewards of office, of service to the Party, and of constructing boats for Mr. Heath, or giving some such service to the great man himself, will be

one of the tit-bits of de-nationalization, with the appropriate rate of profitability for the job, the delights of individual enterprise combined with State subsidies if you are very, very big or you have made a very, very big loss and the prospect of a golden handshake at the end, or of re-nationalization if your bankruptcy is so obvious.

The old American political-machine Tammany Hall used to describe this as the 'spoils' system—rewarding your friends and punishing your enemies'. The recent brou-ha-ha about Lord Hall has shed an unfavourable light upon the Tory aspect of this political practice. The Americans may be more frank about it or their system gave (and gives) more opportunity for plunder but it is increasingly obvious that political democracy in Britain has further declined under this system.

The rewards of nationalization to the politicians under Labour were obvious, in some cases as unveiled by the Lynsky Tribunal and Dalton budget leak, they were scandalous. The failure of the Labour Government in 1945 to fully nationalize road transport, thus wrecking any prospect of a co-ordinated transport policy, and their half-hearted approach to steel nationalization, showed that with Labour, nationalization was as fully opportunist as the de-nationalization of the Tories. Additionally, to Labour there was the added attraction of the power over 'the commanding heights of the economy', to use Bevan's phrase. For the

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COMMUNES, Journal of the Commune Movement, 3/- from Freedom Bookshop or the Commune Movement, c/o BIT, 141 Westbourne Park Road, London, W.11.

I REMEMBER SAYING rather sadly to a friend of mine some years ago that people brought up in a European-type culture seemed to find it impossible to live in communities. 'What,' he cried cheerfully, 'you still worrying about that!' He had turned individualist some time before, and no longer bothered about these sort of problems. It is fine if one can dismiss it all, but the trouble is that in our society the indi-

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vidual is increasingly isolated, and for many this isolation is felt as painful. For example, the rise in fares must have made things more difficult for old age pensioners and people earning small salaries to get about and meet their friends. The big city is the enemy of

Dreams and Hopes

friendship.

Unfortunately though it is true about people being unable to live in communities. Anarchists and others have been trying to set up communities in this country since the end of the last century at least, and none of them have lasted for long, at least as originally founded. Mostly they have not lasted long in any shape or form. So that it does look as if people have become too individualised to live a tribal life, but not sufficiently individual to become urban Crusoes, and live happily in dingy bedsits and drear suburban boxes.

If one complains about this situation sooner or later one is bound to be met with that quotation from Pascal about the world's troubles being caused by the inability of people to sit alone in a room. One will also be told about

'the inescapable loneliness of the human condition', a statement which as far as I can make out means nothing at all.

In fact man, so far as we know from archaeology, always lived in groups. The present trend towards isolation is a new development, and not a healthy one in my opinion. The community movement which is growing today is a reaction, but whether it will be able to overcome the forces working to isolate everyone it is hard to say. The present issue of *Communes* is the 34th. It seems quite hopeful.

Quite a number of communities seem to be flourishing at the moment. The trouble is that they mostly seem to be so small. The rather lengthily titled Community of Saint Simon the Zealot, in South West Africa, describes itself with cheerful optimism, 'Now there are

four of us. . . .'

Dormillouse, in the French Alps, has been going for eight years, an astonishing record in the matter of communities. It consists of about a dozen adults and five children. The Copenhagen Commune 'shouldn't be taken too seriously; I feel it's more our dreams and hopes we are expressing when using that term. . . . We are just four people living together in a four-room apartment. . . .'

The spirit is wonderful, but the results are meagre. Undoubtedly we have still a long way to go. There is an interesting account of a London meeting, which discussed the problems of women, in ordinary family life and in community, a meeting at which the men outnumbered the women four to one! Commonplace domestic problems wreck far more communities than any number of ideological differences.

There is an article on geodesic domes, a form of structure admirably suited for the creation of cheap and yet convenient housing. It's disturbing to see the building establishment going through what could be the first phase of an absorb and neutralise operation on geodesics, trotting out geodesic design features only for the most rich, most prestigious customers, when there's one

hell of a demand, even in the more prosperous parts of the world, for a sound, quick and cheap method of satisfying the basic human need for shelter.' As usual the rich are the first to benefit, who do not need the new invention, being already well enough provided for.

The letter pages are always to me the most interesting part of any paper. One writer remarks, 'I have the greatest sympathy for the Commune Movement—and very little sympathy for most of the members of it. What is needed by the Commune Movement is people who would be a success under any circumstances and who deliberately chose the Commune path. Instead the landscape is littered with people who have a record of failure under all conditions. . . . Which causes the writer to smile wryly, not being a great success anywhere himself. It's probably partly true, and yet not wholly fair. Some people are 'failures' in competitive society because they are not interested in competing.

There are many letters, covering a wide variety of topics, and it does make one feel that a lot is happening. It is encouraging, even if one feels at times that one is trapped in a grey and lonely civilisation.

A.W.U.

Will we Reach 2,000?

THE DOOMSDAY BOOK by Gordon Rattray Taylor. (Thames and Hudson, 42/-)

THIS IS A VITAL BOOK to read if you care about this world of ours at all. It is quite frightening and must shake to the core the faith of anyone who has trust in officialdom. It should make anarchists rethink their whole attitude towards the world scene.

There are many lines one could take up in Mr. Taylor's readable, scholarly book. Friends I've discussed this book with simply refuse to believe me when I say man is already creating earthquakes so let us take this one matter first. In

BOOK REVIEW

December, 1967, a severe earthquake occurred near Bombay in India caused by the filling of a reservoir created by building Koyna Dam. Tremors started in 1962 when the reservoir was being filled, in 1965 a greater shock was felt just a year after the 2,000 million cubic feet of water had filled the reservoir. In 1967 expert opinion said the shocks were due to crustal readjustments of the earth due to the great weight of water held back by Koyna Dam, but shocks could be expected to decrease. The earthquake which killed 200 people occurred in December of the same year. Before Koyna Dam was built the whole Bombay-Koyna-Poona area had been free from tremors. The Kariba Dam in Rhodesia has resulted in similar tremors but fortunately the area is sparsely populated. Basically, as little as two billion tons of water can produce an earthquake.

Yet America's Hudson Institute plans to dam the Amazon and create an inland sea one-third the size of France holding one hundred and seventy billion tons of water. In this process billions of trees would be destroyed together with the people living in the forests who could not be located.

This is possibly the most dramatic foresight we have from the work of Mr. Taylor but the list of ways in which men are ignorantly meddling with our planet contains many more horrifying portents of the future. Take pollution from lead: production is 4 million tons a year. Taylor reckons large numbers of people are being poisoned by lead annually

mainly as a result of the exhaust fumes from motor vehicles. The average level of lead in the blood of a country dweller is half that of the urbanite and a third that of the traffic cop with the level of the traffic cop near to danger level. In America and Britain traffic is expected to double by 2000 which is more than any traffic cop could take and quite a lot of ordinary urban dwellers, especially children, as well.

Radiation is another hazard to life we have heard a great deal about. All I can say is that I would not work at Harwell or live near it for all the tea in China. The nuclear power industry will probably be supplying half the world's electric power by the end of the century. Thus the radioactive waste will be hugely increased and it only becomes harmless (i.e. it cannot destroy human cells) after sometimes thousands or millions of years. These dangerous wastes are stored in tanks and dumped in the sea. Even the Atomic Energy Commission says the long term safety of these tanks is difficult to predict. At the moment in the US, according to the AEC, there is 'more than enough' radioactive waste 'to poison all the waters of the earth'.

Worrying as these prospects all are, they can be reduced to uncertainty by the chance of some discovery to combat radioactivity for instance. What is much more dire is the population explosion. In the opinion of this writer the population crash is a matter of time; it will as assuredly happen as night follows day and anarchists should view the world with this centrally in their minds.

There are already far too many people in the world and far too many of our fellow-men are underfed and inadequately fed. We should halve our population now to feel comfortable, let alone make anarchism really feasible. This won't happen. Indeed, instead of halving the population we will be doubling it by the end of the century which is about the time disaster on a massive, pitiful, harrowing scale will strike and nature will simply reduce the world to size. Man's reasoned choice is to limit population in a humane way by the use of sterilisation, abortion, contraception and the encouragement of small (i.e. two children) families. Together with this homosexuality needs to be seen as a useful means of limiting the population and

prostitution seen as a means to release sexual frustration without contraception and, without risk of birth. It is the humane, obvious path that will not be taken. Instead the Catholic followers of gentle Jesus will help to create a world where the horrors of Biafra will be like a vicar's tea party in comparison.

Church and State are leading a meek mankind to Domsday simply because they are afraid of the alternative. If you think this is rubbish read this quote from Taylor's book: 'Turkey, where at present 27 million people work on the land, and seven million people live in cities, a ratio of 80:20. Now Turkey's population is increasing at about a million a year, doubling every twenty-five years. The birth rate is 55 per 1,000. The death rate is 21 per 1,000. By 2010 the population will be pushing 110 million, with 20 million or so on the land, and 90 million in the cities. The city population will have grown from 7 million to 90 million. How are the houses, schools and other services to be provided, in a country which is still in the early stages of industrialization? What will conditions be like in the cities? Are they likely to be such as to impose an intolerable stress on the occupants?' Or take the city of Lima in Peru which had 600,000 inhabitants 25 years ago, will have 6 million in 25 years' time, and three-quarters will be in the squatter town around the main city—dying.

In conclusion, this is an important survey of our environmental position in the world today. Gordon Rattray Taylor has collected together the facts and figures which make a convincing case. I will just quote him again and encourage you to read more of Mr. Taylor if you can: 'Man is in no way exempted from the laws of population growth. He has rejected the practice of infanticide, but he has, up till now, been able to expand into new territory, thus avoiding the build-up of stress. But now expansion is becoming very difficult while his preference for living in ever-larger cities introduces a new element into the situation. Is it now likely that he will be constrained by stress more than by starvation? In either case, biology suggests that the population will not merely press against the limits but will decline catastrophically. Unless something quite unforeseen happens, we must assume that mankind is heading for a population crash.'

J.W.

Opposing the NDP

WE READ YOUR ARTICLE on the 'National Democrats in Britain' (FREEDOM, 26.10.70) with great interest, as a homogeneous group of young workers (IS, YCL, and Syndicalist) have been actively involved in opposing the steady growth of right-wing politics in Ipswich over the last few years. This growth has been nurtured by Dr. Brown and the NDP in various guises.

Dr. Brown is known nationally and letters have appeared in local papers from Chelmsford to Manchester, signed 'Dr. Brown' or 'Democrat', appearing as a local man under a local address. Dr. Brown appears to have used Ipswich as an experimental base from which to make attacks on Croydon, Leicester, Leeds, etc.

As you say in the article, Dr. Brown has steadily increased his vote in Ipswich. We feel that his considerable local groundwork has been a big factor in this. Dr. Brown has become more and more personally known and influential in the town with his big smile and friendly attitude.

Dr. Brown's connections: He has had connections with various 'front' organisations through his local agent, a Mr. Kingham.

Kingham and friends were involved in Fontaine's 'East Anglian Forum' (National Front).

Similarly, Kingham was involved in a 'Powell for Premier' campaign which was very well financed by local businessmen and farmers, although it came to nothing. The cash seems to have been appropriated by the NDP as Brown was able to produce well set and printed election addresses, leaflets, and small 'visiting cards' as well as a full page advert in the local paper.

Frequent visits by NF hierarchy and group leaders from distant towns show a certain amount of collaboration in all these campaigns, despite the NF-NDP sniping.

As for Brown's policies—they are really non-existent. All he knows is race. He is very knowledgeable on racial issues and can use his rhetoric to arouse the basest instincts and fears in the working man. He is able to produce figures magically about the number of black Rhodesians who have fled in a

'black flood tide over the Limpopo to the safety of South Africa'. Brown's arguments seem well reasoned—the USA is not a true democracy because the populace vote on racial lines. In contrast he considers South Africa to be a true democracy because the (white) population vote freely, unhindered by racial ties. Dr. Brown contends that we should not enter the Common Market because 'it would lead to a mixing of different ethnic groups' which would lead to strife.

Dr. Brown's support—Apart from the ubiquitous ex-Liberal Mr. Kingham, his local cadre seems to be the local half-wits and imbeciles, but the 2,500 who voted for him are just the ordinary worker expressing his racial prejudices, faced with an identical line-up of Liberal, Labour and Tory candidates.

Our actions against Dr. Brown were hampered by our lack of co-ordination, manpower and material resources.

In one case, a group unknown to us intervened in an NDP motorcade by adding two cars, one in front, one behind. The front car was decorated with swastikas and slogans such as 'Vote for Brown, your local fascist' whilst the other car verbally assaulted the NDP through a hidden loudspeaker. In Brown's meetings we continually asked economic questions, trying to divert the conversation from race. Brown was completely unable to answer questions on incomes policy, devaluation, taxation, etc., and the local press kindly photographed 'Dr. Brown at a loss for answers'. Private demonstrations by various comrades at factory-gate meetings were also of no avail as, in true Mosley style, Brown ridiculed any hecklers and soon had the crowd on his side against 'long-haired students' (despite the fact that none of us were students). In one case Brown advertised one future meeting to a group of workers by saying 'there will be a lot of long-haired student yobbos there, so come along and show them what you think'.

In retrospect we find that the only way to deal with Dr. Brown and the NDP is a concerted effort to expose his weaknesses and the true nature of his policies, rather than to heckle and break up his meetings which only give him the publicity he wants.

IPSWICH COMRADES.

Durham Anarchist Group

JUST TO LET you know that there is an anarchist group in the N.E. The group, which is only three weeks old, is holding its own embryonic revolution in Durham. We have several projects under way which we think might be of interest to anarchists in other parts of the country.

To begin with, Durham is a reactionary little bundle of houses and shops which is almost totally owned by the church, the council and the university. In the past the 'honourable gentlemen' of these establishments have hindered the building of youth clubs, dance halls, adventure playgrounds and many of the other types of amenity which make people happy. We are determined to radically change this state of affairs.

The arrival of the group has come as a bit of a shock to the local bourgeoisie, up to now they had never had anything

more radical than the Labour Party. We are very happy to say, however, that the town's people have reacted favourably towards us.

We are now working on several projects and have had some success. We are organising adventure playgrounds and youth clubs in the worst parts of the city. We are also trying to form rent committees, and we hope that these will take a militant stand against the forecast Government legislation on rents.

Local young people are very interested in what we are doing, and a lot of them have said that they will help us fight the local oppressors.

We are now engaged in a struggle to get the local War Museum closed down. So far we have forced the Museum curators to take down their most gory pictures and a symbolically peaceful

demonstration against the Museum will take place within the next few weeks.

Bill Dwyer wrote in FREEDOM last week about the Durham drug squad taking photographs of people in the public gallery of the local courthouse during a drug case. This photograph-taking follows months of police harassment against drug takers (to escape from the oppressive environment is a worse crime in Durham than in most other parts of the country). At present we are carrying out a campaign against the drug squad. We managed to get some stories in the local newspapers—including Thomson press!—which really has slammed down on the drug squad.

On Thursday night we burnt an effigy of Sgt. Brown, head of the drug squad. We suspended this effigy on the end of

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afb

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

ANARCHIST FEDERATION of BRITAIN

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

Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

AFB REGIONAL GROUPS

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

North West Federation: Secretary, Les Smith, 47 Clarence Street, Primrose, 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: 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—badges; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets)

The Communist Party and December the Eighth

IT IS A COMMONPLACE for most that everyone is against sin—but it all depends on (a) what is meant by sin and (b) what being against means.

Similarly more or less every trade unionist, everyone with pretensions of being Socialist, Labourist, Liberal or any other form of leftist is against the Tory Industrial Relations Bill, though many—even now—still regret the death of Barbara Castle's Bill on the same issue and for many others the criticism is that it will not do its job efficiently not that it is designed to perpetuate existing unjust relationships.

Of those whose opposition is more than lip service there are two currents; those who aim to get an united trade union movement with the TUC at the head, in serried ranks, allegedly in opposition—though ready to offer the same medicine under a different brand name to the Tories as they did to Barbara Castle; and those who want unofficial action.

As long as the jobs of the TU bureaucrats are preserved, as long as there is no suggestion of a demarcation dispute in the task of keeping the workers down, the TUC will yield to none in disciplining workers, but let any outsider lift a finger to do the job without his consent and the TUC will stand shoulder to shoulder to prevent 'Tory blacklegs' stealing the union bureaucrats' jobs!

Those who want unofficial action are not confined to honest industrial militants, they include anyone who is in the position of having to win such militants to their own policies. Every such militant wants action now. Every politico, whose field of work is in industry and who is busily trying to tie that militant to the wheels of his own party chariot, be that party the Labour Party, the CP, or a Trot or Maoist faction, knows that if he too does not call for action here and now, bang goes any chance he may have of continuing party work.

This puts the CP in one hell of a dilemma. Never before have their prospects within the TUC looked so rosy. (Scanlon, Jones, Seabrook, Daly, McNamee, Jenkins, Briginshaw. . .) Their past allies or members who are still sympathetic to them who hold significant positions in the trade union world are not to be sneezed at. Yet all of them know that they would weaken their own influence within the TUC if they broke the TUC's semblance of unity on the issue and all of them are therefore busy attacking any prospects of unofficial action. Can the CP lightly abandon the prospect of seeing its friends in high places take over the TUC? Put shortly—no!

But on the other hand can the CP

lose all its contacts among rank and file industrial militants? Its industrial cadres have been reduced to very little of late, can it really risk seeing those cut off from the industrial militants amongst whom they have worked for so long and isolated? Well, that depends on what one means by the CP. The poor rank and file CP industrial member who has worked so long in industry and built himself some influence is going to say no, but to the party leadership he may well be expendable.

So one has a CP trade union front organization calling for December 8 demonstrations, and CP members in high places in industrial unions denouncing that demonstration as disrupting the unity of the TU movement. One has a demonstration called by a CP front organization that is more wholeheartedly supported by groups who hate the CP (there are of course similar anomalies in the Labour Party and its left, but being larger it can afford them).

The CP dilemma is believed to be 'not unconnected' with the SOGAT split. Although the roots of the latter go far deeper than the present Tory legislation on trade unions (not necessarily deeper than the Castle legislation) as yet it is not apparently reflected by differences on international issues. JOLFE ROSSE.

SECONDHAND NEW Books

Any book not in stock, but in print can be promptly supplied. Book Tokens accepted. Please add postage & cash with order helps.

SECONDHAND

We have a large stock of secondhand books. Please let us know what you want. This week's selection:

Sesame and Lilies	John Ruskin	3/6
The Orloff Couple and Malva	Maxim Gorki (damaged)	3/-
Attitude to Africa	Lewis, Scott, Wight, Legum (Penguin)	2/6
Four Lectures on Freethought and Life	Chapman Cohen	6/-
Sketch for a Theory of the Emotions	Jean-Paul Sartre	6/-
An Outline of Economics	W. T. Colyer	3/-
The Story of my Dictatorship	(Henry George)	4/6
Married Love	Marie Stopes	6/-
The Evolution of the Mass	Louis Coulange	7/6
Gibbon	J. Cottier Morison	3/-
Modern Birth Control Methods (1948)	George Ryley Scott	5/-
The World Since 1945	Hebe Spaul	6/-
The Pastures of Heaven	John Steinbeck	5/-
Women in Bondage	V. M. Hughes	5/-
Feeding the Human Family	F. le Gros Clark	5/-
On Being Human	Ashley Montague	8/-
Liza	Ivan S. Turgenev	6/-
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FREEDOM PRESS

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UP AS PREDICTED

THIS YEAR we have tried to keep our costs for the production of FREEDOM to a minimum, particularly by a decrease in the use of photographs and variations in type face. As we said last year, we have produced six-page issues when we have been able and because we felt that our finances could not stretch to the bringing out of new pamphlets, we have tried to remedy this by the bi-monthly supplement pamphlets. With these we feel that we have fulfilled two purposes, firstly by providing a separate pamphlet and secondly by making the paper more attractive from a financial point of view.

However, this year's increase to 9d. per copy has not brought us any surplus funds as our deficit fund shows. The weekly difference between income and expenditure averages around a loss of £25. Over the past year the production

costs have increased in excess of the figure anticipated, as has been the case also with the general cost of living. Paper, ink and block-making costs have all risen in price and we have also had to pay extra to our full- and part-time workers, if only, as in one case, because of the tremendous increase in bus and rail fares.

In view of all this we shall have to carry out what we anticipated in these columns last year and raise the price of FREEDOM to 1/- per copy with effect from the New Year. The new price will also bring it into line with the new decimal currency of 5 new pence as we said last year. We want to have more six-page issues, but with our still uncertain financial position we cannot promise this.

However, we can improve and enlarge the paper with your increased support—by selling more papers at meetings, on the streets, by getting subscriptions and by getting your local newsagent to stock it. Many comrades have regularly contributed to the deficit fund in the past. We would like to thank them for this and hope that they will continue their support. Maybe others will consider helping in this way.

Recently our sales have increased and we hope that this will continue. We think that the forthcoming year is a crucial one and that it is important to increase anarchist propaganda. Freedom Press will provide and publish as much of this as your support can provide. We, for our part, are prepared to work at this worthwhile job, but we need more support to be really effective.

EDITORS.

'FREEDOM' and 'ANARCHY' SUBSCRIPTION RATES 1971

Decimalisation and still rising costs have forced on us a revision of rates for the coming year.

'ANARCHY', however, for which the price was fixed in decimal currency last year, remains unchanged in price.

'FREEDOM' will be priced at 5p plus a charge for postage. We are absorbing a portion of the inland postage. Should there be a significant increase in postages during the year, we fear we shall be obliged to add the appropriate amount to all subscriptions, including those already in operation. The new rates are as follows:

Inland & Surface Mail (except the Americas)	
'Freedom' per year (40 issues)	£2.50 (£2 10s.)
'Anarchy' per year (12 issues)	£1.80 (£1 16s.)
The Americas Surface mail	
'Freedom' per year (40 issues)	\$6.40
'Anarchy' per year (12 issues)	\$5.00
Airmail	
'Freedom' per year (40 issues)	\$10.00
'Anarchy' per year (12 issues)	\$8.50

Subscriptions are entered January—December. Subscriptions taken out during the year will be calculated on the portion of the current year to run, unless back-dating to January is requested.

Truth about Essex

IN VIEW of recent publicity that the outbreak of 'anarchy' at Essex has been receiving, we thought you might like an exposition—first-hand—as to what the situation really is.

The reputation of the University of Essex has been exhumed yet again; aired by the press, filed by the authorities, it has been returned to its conclusive place of rest, where it may remain, we trust, in pieces, for future reference.

Since Tuesday's events, we have been assailed with journalistic invectives, decrying us for our non-intellectualism, our immaturity, our violent tactics, but, most magisterially, for our predilection for 'anarchy'.

Through the smoke-filled atmosphere that surrounded the 'Battle of the Bonfire' (my expression), the antagonised pressmen, who had turned out in force for the occasion, emerged, choking and expostulating—with rage rather than tear-gas—confirmed in their presupposition that Essex is the archetype of decadent student politics. As one irate journalist wrote:

A 57-year-old fireman was man-handled, dragged to the ground, and soaked with his own hose. Two fresh crew fought a running battle up steps to the courtyard.

But the students, kicking, screaming and throwing thunder-flashes, wrenched a 5 in. canvas hose from them. They used it to drive eight of the firemen down a 30 ft. spiral staircase to an underground car-park, before slashing the hose with a jack-knife.

Unfortunately, the press, being obsessed with anything that could by any stretch of the imagination—the stretch here, needless to say, is so great as to be an actual distortion—be construed as violence, omitted to give a reasoned account of the protest.

The one-day strike was organised as a token-protest against the continued existence of the campus Star Chamber. 'Membership Committee', as it is misleadingly known, is a three-man body, in the staff-student ratio of 2:1, established with the express purpose of investigating the cases of those students who have been convicted by a court of law. Nominally, it deals with any case that could possibly be included under the indiscriminate heading of 'non-trivial criminal offence'. Not only does the Committee meet in secret, but the defendant is not even allowed to be present at his own

trial. As far as the authorities are concerned, its saving-grace is the existence of 'Membership Review', at which the convicted student is magnanimously conceded the right of appeal.

This is the derivation of several slogans that have been bandied about the university by the outraged student population, namely, a case of 'double jeopardy' and of being 'tried once, sentenced twice'.

It is also a breach of common procedure as propounded by the NCCL/NUS report on academic freedom, which claims: 'In no circumstances should a college discipline a student for conduct which has already been the subject of criminal proceedings.'

This authoritarian mechanism has so far proved highly effective in purging the university of its 'undesirables', either by absolute expulsion, or by exclusion from campus-residence or by subjecting its victims to enforced visits to the medical office.

Essex is widely reputed to be a liberal's haven; the advocacy of liberalism may, indeed, have formed part of the original blueprint, but its gradual negation and its replacement by ever-increasing evidence of the obvious deleterious creeping authoritarianism, now forms the basis of our campaign against the hierarchical power-structure of the university.

Last year, the Vice-Chancellor was quoted as having said:

A community committed to free and rational discussion (sic!) can be really effective in exerting authority only over those who are directly or indirectly involved in its decision-making.

The University of Essex, as the above quotation blatantly manifests, is an inexcusable contradiction in terms. That Essex is an amalgam of neurotics and misfits attracted by the reputation—a most interesting self-condemnation—as one newspaper editorial suggests, is immaterial. What is more important is the question why Essex has so obviously failed in its stipulated policy of half-measure liberalism, a question which I do not presume to answer here.

The issue in question is confined to the temporal expediency of Membership Committee. But we have no illusions; the aforementioned is only one example of arbitrary authority, and the student repression only a small blot compared to the unsightly stain of universal repression of individual freedom.

FELICITY FRANK,
p.p. Univ. of Essex Anarchists.

more to inform you of within the very near future.

D.A.G.

DURHAM

Continued from page 2

a long rope from a local bridge, held a mock trial, condemned him to death and then burnt him to the cheers and heartily vocalised abuse of all the local heads. This was at midnight and afterwards a group of about sixty people staged an impromptu march on the prison, registering disapproval in the usual way and with a black flag raised on the prison flagpole. Following this we marched through the town, an almost unprecedented event in the peaceful Wear-side village of Durham, and one which caused concern and loss of sleep among the local pigs.

The Durham Anarchist Group is off to a good start, getting more followers each week and we will definitely have

INCONCEIVABLE

THE INSTALLATION of an automatic distributor of contraceptives in a street is not permitted on account of article 558 of the penal code which prohibits the spread of information on birth control. (This is the opinion of the Procurator of the Republic of Padua, Dr. Fais.)

The machine was placed next to a pharmacy a few days ago. Inquiries are proceeding to identify the owner.

IL GIORNO.

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MOTION FOR DEBATE

MOTION ENDORSED AND PRESENTED TO THE LIVERPOOL AFB CONFERENCE BY ANARCHIST COMRADES FROM LANCASTER, MANCHESTER, LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, YORK, PRESENT AT THE LANCASTER CONFERENCE OF NORTHERN ANARCHIST GROUPS, NOVEMBER 21, 1970:

'Conference recognises the need for a more coherent and cohesive reorganisation of the Anarchist Federation of Britain. It realises the vital necessity to form a more theoretically united movement upon which an active organisation can be based and developed. We recognise that this conference can only be a first step along the road to such a reorganisation, and in order to allow time for maximum discussion on all levels call for a further reorganisation conference to be convened within the next three months.'

Police acquitted

WHILE ANARCHISTS do not wish even to imprison the police the activities of the latter and their occasional appearance in the courts as defendants is of great interest. The Nottingham drugs planting trial has now concluded with the acquittal of all the police accused. The difficulty of establishing how the police operate and to what malpractices they resort is borne out by the trial.

People, like myself, who have had numerous encounters with the police know full well that framing innocent persons, forcing confessions, perjury to secure convictions are all part of the police stock-in-trade. To prove it—were we interested to test the matter in a court of law—is another kettle of fish entirely.

The trial certainly raised serious doubts about police integrity but the Judge, in his commentary at the end of evidence, seemed far more concerned to make an attack on the victims of police tactics. In referring, for example, to 'the deadly harm which springs from the addiction to cannabis', he demonstrates his ignorance and prejudice since all the medical evidence is that this substance is entirely non-addictive. Worse still his innuendoes and lies defame the many millions of persons who find innocent pleasure and relaxation in its use.

WHAT TO DO?

Eminent personages such as Lord Cranbrook and Sir Roy Harrod have just resigned from the council of East Anglia University in protest against the decision to provide alternative banking facilities for students. The latter was brought about as a result of Barclays Bank being exposed as a bulwark of the South African government. As it happens the alternative bank—the Midland—also has interests in South Africa as the distinguished personages named above have pointed out.

The interesting point at issue, of course, is what to do about injustices—such as apartheid in South Africa—which are beyond our immediate power to remedy. It may be argued that actions such as

THIS WORLD

changing one's bank account are futile although as a gesture it may hearten those in South Africa who have to bear the full brunt of the tyranny there. Lord Cranbrook scored a point in demonstrating the Midland Bank's involvement in South Africa but then hastened to expose his own arch-conservatism by advising students to 'start obeying the regulations . . . stop bleating'. In other words accept the status quo and become obedient robots.

The Cox Manifesto

Professor C. B. Cox of Manchester University has secured the collaboration of 150 colleagues throughout the country in issuing a declaration on 'freedom of enquiry' in the university. Opening with platitudes about the nature of a university and the rights of 'free expression, particularly freedom from political interference', the document is insidiously deceptive unless one takes care to read it carefully. Like South American constitutions that guarantee the most wonderful liberty to the State's subjects while managing to give nothing away Professor Cox's letter is a thoroughly political one. So much so that the Conservative Party has embraced it with the enthusiasm once reserved for Edmund Burke.

The proclamation denounces 'direct action by students despite the fact that this is often the only means of redress open. Last week students barricaded a street which runs right through the London School of Economics after one of them was knocked down by a speeding vehicle. It will require a lot more action of this sort before the authorities are forced to see reason.

The claim by students to participate in the decision-making process is reserved for particular hostility. Not without reason, for this is in recent years the most revolutionary and meaningful of student aims. It is not to be expected

that those who now have authority will meekly surrender it although all the evidence is that a saner society would evolve from an entitlement to share in the decisions affecting one's life.

Sex and Pornography

Denmark has for some time now enjoyed a measure of sanity by abolishing the laws on pornography. Germany is considering following suit. Here in England, however, the 'sex is dirty' lobby is still a powerful voice. The National Council of Women—that custodian of morality and reviver of Victoriana—indulged in a splendid example of masochism at their recent annual committee conference: Primed for some stirring announcement they first enjoyed a Mrs. J. De la Poer Beresford reading from a teenage fashion magazine which tendered young women advice on 'the quickest way to get a man into bed'. Suitably aroused by this pornography they climactically called for severe laws to punish offenders. Not, however, before being further treated to lurid accounts of wife-swapping, nudity, obscene language, sexual gyrations, lustful films, venereal diseases and illegitimate births. A good time was had by all before returning to hubby.

Psychiatry and Quackery

Once upon a time when patients in mental asylums became violent they were set upon by burly warders who savagely beat them—events which sometimes terminated in death. Nowadays the warders go around the tables at mealtime dispensing drugs which have the effect of 'tranquillising' the patient by robbing him of his energies. This is considered advanced treatment, although actually no cure is being effected at all.

Recently the US Army belatedly took cognisance of the fact that a large percentage of their ranks resort to drugs—

not merely the harmless cannabis but highly addictive morphine and heroin. The Army has even embarked on a programme of therapy which consists of injecting a narcotic into the victims which gives a 'high' for a few moments and then causes nausea and vomiting. Colonel Marsh, director of this operation, commented: 'We hope that they will begin to associate drugs with anxiety and sickness.'

Much of the so-called 'shock' treatment in mental hospitals is based on the same principle. Thus a homosexual can be so treated that later if he entertains any of his old desires he suffers violent pain and the doctors designate this process a 'cure'. In actual fact the process is merely a device to secure conformity to 'normal' society. No attempt is made to understand the real nature of the situation. The homosexual, the pot smoker, perhaps ultimately the protester, is assumed to be a deviant and the cure is an unscrupulous use of powerful drugs. Legal drugs in the hands of the State!

Strikes, Symptoms and Remedies

In the wake of Lord Robens attack on the 'communist conspiracy' the former Labour Party minister Lord Shawcross found a receptive audience in the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce when he referred to 'the sinister men in the background' of industrial unrest seeking 'to destroy our existing society'. There was a time when the Labour Party itself was thought of as a destroyer of the establishment but, as symbolised by all the party members with titles today, only a hysterical Tory could see it in this light any more.

The simple fact—which the ceaseless search for scapegoats and bogeymen only obscures—is that Labour and Tory politicians do not know what is wrong with society. They have all sorts of 'experts' advising them. One of these is Professor Edward L. Page on loan from the University of Michigan. He suggests four basic remedies for industrial unrest which I will summarise as: 1. The establishment of a national job evaluation system to abolish wage inequities. 2. Job security for those threatened with redundancy. 3. Jobs with 'decent wage rates' for all

those willing to work. 4. On the assumption that 1, 2 and 3 will solve the major problems there should be established an arbitration system for 'minor disputes'.

The basic weakness with this seemingly commendable recommendation is the assumption that the status quo is really satisfactory—it is only the mechanism that needs a little tinkering with. Thus the raising of the issue of Worker Control of Industry would in this context be considered as the raving of a lunatic. Notwithstanding that some otherwise conventional social scientists have pointed out that participation in decision making is essential to a healthy social organism. The same argument, at the level of the individual, has been made by psychologists. Not to speak of the poor old anarchists who have been battling for this over the years.

XMAS SOCIAL

As a culmination to the successful series of lectures and social evenings the Social of the Year will be held in Freedom Hall on Wednesday evening the 23rd December. We hope the evening will attract all those who have found some interest in the Wednesday evening happenings and in between drinks will be arranging a schedule of events for next year.

BILL DWYER.

Contact

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

Sellers needed for December 8. Pick up your copies from Freedom Bookshop. Sale or return. Also give out the leaflet, 'The Right To Strike—The Power To Strike'.

Young Man (degree) desperately seeks some form of employment. Ring 229 6713 (evenings only).

Male Spanish Anarchist, age 19, needs wife very urgently, for obvious reasons. Anyone willing to help please write to Freedom Press.

Toward a Free and Comprehensive Family Planning Service for Britain. Conway Hall, 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8. Admission Free. Organized by the National Secular Society.

Exeter Group. Anyone interested in getting a group together contact: Nigel Outten, Westerly House, Cullompton Hill, Bradninch, Exeter. If possible, please write first.

Young anarchist requires accommodation and employment in London area. If you can help with either please contact Mark Johnston, 3 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex.

George Foulser, now squatting as No. 090123, HM Prison, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, S.W.2. Letters, books welcome.

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.

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. Tower Hill, meet 9 a.m.

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

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 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.

THIS WEEK IN IRELAND

A VERY SICK-MAKING WEEK, with all the hypocrisy possible both sides of the border.

As Fermanagh has suffered more than almost any county in Ireland from sectarian discrimination and the non-implementation of any of the promised reforms, a Civil Rights march in protest has been planned for next Saturday. Ivan Cooper and the rest of the Opposition always said that if Stormont lagged in carrying out reforms they would take to the streets again, but now the crunch has come they back out saying the march could be provocative. In other words, now they are safe MPs they are becoming more and more Establishment. When it comes to John Stewart resigning from the Civil Rights Executive as he 'won't do anything illegal and against the law', words fail me. They might just as well all join Orange Lodges at once and be done with it.

Brian Faulkner and Lord Brookeborough both thundered against the march, but nary a squeak out of them about the 'Victory Celebration' Ian Paisley is holding in Armagh on the same day to commemorate his armed and illegal take-over of that city two years ago. One of his satellites, Ivan Foster (who is out for John Brooke's seat in Stormont), is holding a Protestant counter-demonstration in Enniskillen on Saturday. No one has rebuked HIM. However, the march has the backing of the Republican Labour Party, Mr. M. McGurran and Mr. Frank MacManus, Independent MPs, and most of the CRA.

It is to be on our part ABSOLUTELY peaceful, with many stewards and all possible avoidance of direct confrontation. It remains to be seen if the army and the RUC will protect or help carnage by the Orange bully-boys and Paisleyites as they have done so frequently in the past. Since the Conservatives got in, Stormont has done ABSOLUTELY NOTHING about reforms and has made efforts to hinder those promised.

Mr. Cooper raised the question in Stormont of the way prisoners are treated in the Crumlin Road Prison. He said the cold was intolerable, the food uneatable and prisoners often assaulted by warders who punch them in the stomach. Mr. Taylor trots along and says he sampled a meal and it was excellent. Does he really imagine he got it served in the manner the prisoners do? One is left gasping at the sheer stupidity of Government Ministers.

In the south, Fianna Fail is more divided than ever, and with two by-

elections next Wednesday the slanging matches are incomparable. A fool personified by the name of Burke (FF, North County Dublin) said that FF was 'Christian Socialist'. It does not know the meaning of either word. In answer to a question in the House, Dr. Hillery said he had no doubt the British Government now knew how the Irish Government felt about the boarding of ships in transit to Irish ports but he added, if the question was left alone it might be better, i.e. Don't offend dear Britain, we depend on her and I want my big ministerial salary at any price.

It has transpired that 10% of our people are illiterate, and cannot even fill in a form necessary for obtaining a job or relief. This according to Fianna Fail, is because 'they do not keep up reading after they leave school'. The real reason is that they are taught things in a language they do not know, by teachers who do not know the language in which they are imparting the information. Religion and Irish are the subjects to which two-thirds of the all-too-brief schooling time of our children is devoted, and that in classes of up to 45, and slap, bang, beat, pinch, if you don't keep quiet. Any parent knows that more favoured children are

reading fluently by six and one can't keep their noses out of books. In fact one of my grandsons was taught to read by his mother at three, so the obvious cause is bad teaching.

Evictions still go on. A woman with a new baby was evicted and left on the street. She was occupying a chalet built for old people and which had been empty for a year and was in a shocking condition when she went in. The Corporation took full rent from her and then suddenly with no warning turned her out onto the street. The evictions always take place when the husband is at work and without warning, in case the Dublin Housing Action Committee should get wind of it and be there.

Tonight is Thanksgiving and we propose to hold a two-hour picket outside the American Embassy about the bombing of North Vietnam. I rather think the Ambassador is holding a cocktail party there.

The film about South Africa, about which there has been a rumpus by the South African Ambassador re its showing on TV in England, was shown to a chosen audience in Trinity and after there was a talk by a coloured South African who also answered our questions. It was a most convincing and moving film. Anti-apartheid has a strong following and is a very active movement in Dublin. There are also a large number of dedicated Fascists I am afraid, rich Fianna Failers.

PARTY OF PLUNDER

Continued from page 1

Tories, power is spelt in cash values in the lush pickings of the foothills of a capitalist economy.

It is not for anarchists to debate the merits of a half-baked State socialism versus a half-baked free enterprise economy. To us, as has been said before, it is debating the merits of strychnine or arsenic for suicide purposes. It is enough to observe the failures of the Conservatives to carry out Conservative policy alongside the no less abysmal failure of the Labour Party to herald in Socialism—whatever that is.

However much one welcomes the spontaneous strike of Post Office workers in support of Lord Hall, one reflects that the seed of Post Office rot was sown by the Labour Government before they were voted out. Their sale of the Post Office directory franchise and the Labour set-up of the Post Office as a separate utility company with a specific undertaking to make a profit was a foretaste of things to come. The Post Office has always made a profit but it has regarded itself as a public service. Over recent years

this aspect has gone and profitability has been the sole criterion for nationalized industries from Beeching to Robens; this has been the strange device on the 'Socialist' banner.

The Tories, on the other hand, despite their opposition to nationalization, are quite happy to see loss-making enterprises remaining under the wing of the State and to hive away Post Office contracts, steel production, airlines, commercial radio, private medical treatment, to the tender care of private enterprise. At the same time, private enterprise industry will happily accept all the fruits of research and all the protection of export markets that a bountiful State will afford from the pockets of taxpayers.

Lord Hall has gone, but his two-tier post and his sevenpenny letter will be with us for some time, until the next increase!

The Post Office Workers' Union was, at one time, firmly for workers' control. Benjamin Tucker claimed that Wells Fargo was much better than the US PO (despite the Indians?). Nevertheless the profit system, whether Tory or Labour, is no way to run a Post Office.

JACK ROBINSON.



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1. Makhno and Durruti.
2. Students For A Stalinist Society. (Includes 'The Myth of the Party', an extract from 'Listen, Marxist!')
3. Zapata and The Mexican Revolution.

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