

## THE LIP WORK-IN

SINCE THE beginning of June until today (14th August), workers at the Lip watch factory at Besançon, France, staged a work-in, in an attempt to safeguard between 400 and 600 jobs and prevent the breakdown of the company. The firm's proprietor, M. Fred Lip, sold the main shareholding to a Swiss company, Ebauches SA. They in turn decided to sell off the weapon and machine tool section and to sack the workers they did not need.

The workers' reaction to this, at first, was the traditional strike. They then returned to work but started production under their own management. Since then they have been manufacturing watches and selling them (56,500 of them) to the local community and trade unionists at reduced prices.

All this action remained outside the law, whose processes were grinding on, and last week the workers refused to allow the gates of the factory to be officially closed as ordered by the official receiver. So it was obvious that if no agreement was reached some form of confrontation would take place with the forces of "law and order". It came at six o'clock this morning. Three thousand riot police to persuade the fifty workers then occupying the factory to leave in an orderly manner.

### Passive Resistance

The Lip workers had stated that they would only offer passive resistance if the police moved in to evict them. And so they "came quietly". BUT, reports later in the day are that they had removed:

'vital parts' of machinery so that the plant could not be used except by the workers, their tool kits

some thousands of francs in cash, and millions (!) of watches, and

the firm's records including computer tapes - and they intend to carry on the business, which they say it is impossible for the firm to do without the foregoing.

### The beginnings

The Lip work-in was basically a struggle to safeguard jobs. In their statements they made it perfectly clear that if a new investor would put new capital into the company and save their jobs, they would return to work under the old conditions that existed before Fred Lip sold out. This placed the Lip work-in along with the similar situation that existed on Clydeside two years ago, and at Briant's Colour Printing last year. At Upper Clyde Shipyards they continued to work on uncompleted contracts but did not turn this weapon to their advantage, or turn over production capacity to other products as was suggested in FREEDOM at the start of the work-in. The fact that the Lip workers make a product which can be sold fairly easily to the general public gave them an advantage. Support has been gained simply because people who are sympathetic can help by just buying a watch. On the other hand others are attracted because the prices have been reduced by as much as 40 per cent. Unlike the shipyards on Clydeside, Lip only employed 1300, making it much easier for them to re-start production and provide jobs.

In France since the occupations of factories in May 1968, 'participation' and other terms which imply some form of control from below have been one of the main topics of political discussion. However, the authoritarian attitudes of French management have meant that little has changed since 1968. The political attitudes of the government also remain very much like De Gaulle's but under a different name.

Staging a work-in and continuing production does have revolutionary implications. It is a vital part of a continuing revolutionary struggle to complete the changeover from private and state control of the means of production to

workers' control. Having occupied the place of work, production and distribution must start and become integrated with the needs of the community. The Lip workers have done this, but it seemed they were isolated and either not aware of the potential they have created or were only concerned with retaining their jobs within the capitalist system.

### How far forward?

Other work-ins are taking place in France. In Nantes, a clothing factory has been taken over and at a German-owned shoe factory workers have moved the machinery out and set it up elsewhere in an effort to safeguard their jobs. Despite the revolutionary potential that exists when occupations challenge the so-called 'rights of management', they haven't up to now gone beyond the stage of a good tactic in defeating proposed closures. In Britain the usual compromises have been made and an outright confrontation has been avoided. These solutions have done little to help those concerned, except on the issue of retaining some jobs, but have suited both the authorities and the trade union leaderships. However, the French authorities wanted a quick solution. Government proposals for the split-up of the Lip company would bring a similar loss of jobs as those proposed by the new Swiss owners. The Communist C.G.T. and the Socialist C.F.D.T. have called for solidarity with the Lip workers; the Socialist Party had already issued a statement warning the government against the use of force at the Lip factory and that it would issue a call for national action if it occurred.

The government has used force, and the Lip workers' response is a demand for these promises to be made good. As we go to press, railway workers are reported to have come out in sympathy.

Have the Lip workers won victory out of defeat - or started a war? M.H.

# CLOCKWORK LITTLEJOHNS

THE JUDGE said, "We must stamp out this horrible trend... Cases like yours present, in my view, an unassailable argument in favour of the return as quickly as possible of some form of censorship."

The Film Director said, "A successful picture is one in which you identify with the hero or heroine. . . every man wants to be Superman."

The latter's films have been a great success, so have the books on which they have been based. The cult has spread far and wide, so far that it has influenced human behaviour, and that of Governments to an alarming extent.

The Director and the Judge were not, in fact, speaking of the same film. Judge Bailey was speaking of the Clockwork Orange which has been given some blame in cases of juvenile hooliganism - including one murder, of a tramp by a sixteen-year old who was merely told of the story of the film.

The identification with the Droogs is obviously something socially undesirable and must be stamped out and censored, according to authority. Hence the rigorous repression of football fans and the spectacle of police herding visiting fans from football grounds to railway stations like cowboys rounding up cattle.

On the other hand the cult of Supermar (or Superwoman) is something to be fostered and cultured by present-day consumer society. Advertising's ideas of excellence, fast cars, slow-thinking women, tattoos on fore-arms, horses, cool mountain streams, all build a picture of achievement, of possession, of super-masculinity. The popular literature of such an age is but the logical extension of the advertisement with the hero as luxury-class consumer.

From the film-version we get 'You come out feeling tougher, drive your car faster, and fancy yourself with all the birds' said, quotes the Mirror, "a Bishops Stortford wages clerk with seven kids".

By and large, the statesmen of our day boast of their comparative illiteracy. At one time there was a fashionable addiction to the detective story; while the Spanish Republic was being murdered with the

connivance of Non-Intervention Committees and Czechoslovakia dismembered with the aid of its best friends, statesmen were reading of bodies in the library with neat round holes, and alibis from Bradshaw's timetable. Now, with a light laugh the boast of illiteracy is tempered with the confession that the leader of his people reads Ian Fleming's James Bond series. And, what is more, appears to live them.

It is not without significance that Ian Fleming and his brother Peter, like so many other popular novelists, worked for British Intelligence during the war. The thin line that separates reality from fantasy snaps completely during such a time and becomes shadowy at all times with statesmen, journalists and other psychopathic personalities.

The private fantasies of the James Bond superman and the Walter Mittys are only of psychological and social interest and indicative of the insanity of our society but when they are translated into approved action and find a sanctioning voice they become the destructive element of our time. Such are the Watergate affair and the ramifications of the Littlejohn Brothers' exploits.

To quote the Mirror again: "Kenneth Littlejohn modelled his whole life on the Bond Image, his wife, Christine, said last week. 'He saw every Bond film', she said. 'He was always surrounded by glamorous women. He liked the best wines and lived in the best hotels. Late at night, when I had gone to bed, he used to come into the room and practise in front of the mirror, drawing a gun from a shoulder holster. Once, he drove me around the streets of Dublin at sixty miles an hour with the cassette turned up full blast to the James Bond Theme'."

One might feel that a character like this with his occasional forays into bank robberies (of a not very successful nature) and a splash as Whizz Kids Ltd. into the miniskirt business and a final fling to open a restaurant in Torquay is the kind of nuisance-price that the acquisitive society must pay for being what it is. Ironically, Keith (the younger

brother) had connections - he was once featured in a Sunday supplement as a reformed criminal - disastrously, 'something went wrong'. An Anglo-Irish prison visitor put in a word for him with her friend Geoffrey Johnson-Smith that he knew something about Ireland and the I.R.A.

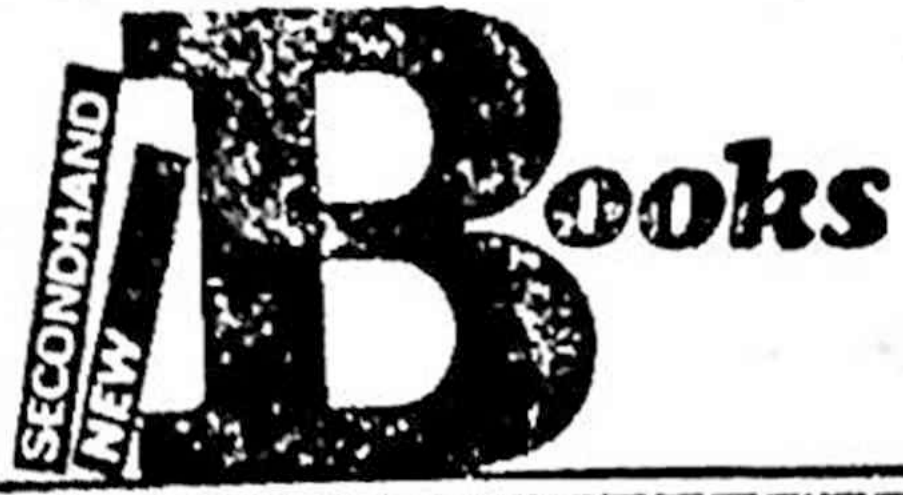
Typically, Johnson-Smith, ex-junior in the Defence Ministry, was chosen by Littlejohn because, Johnson-Smith having been a television personality his face was recognisable. Bonds can't be too careful! It was overlooked, in some sense of the word, by the Defence Ministry that this new Irish contact with stories of a Russian rifle (seen by his brother), and of the proposed assassination of John Taylor by Joe McCann, was an ex-Bcrstal boy and his brother was on the police 'wanted' list. However, Defence Ministries with an Irish problem on their hands can't be too choosy!

The fantasies of the Littlejohn brothers and of Geoffrey Johnson-Smith coincided...The British had new agents. The Littlejohns claimed that they had been well-paid and had been given telephone numbers to report to; that they had been promised entry to Sandhurst for their children, promised amnesty for future and past crimes and almost, in the mortal words of Ian Fleming regarding James Bond, "given a licence to kill".

They returned to Ireland, met a man called Smythe who they later found out was also known as Wyman. In Ireland the brothers lived out their fantasy lives with official sanction. Reputedly, for truth and fiction intertwine in all this story, they gave information on the Aldershot bombers, the Taylor assassination attempt took place as forecast, the brothers robbed a bank - or was it a post office? - at Newry (for which Kenneth was dismissed from the Provisionals); two Provisionals were blown up by an (Army) booby-trapped car at Crossmaglen (the Littlejohns were believed to be the fingermen); the Littlejohn brothers attacked with petrol bombs police stations at Louth and Castle Bellingham; Kenneth was dropped by the Birmingham police from a 'wanted to interview' bulletin. On October 12th, 1972 as a grande finale the brothers, aided by Mathers (a Provisional expellee), robbed a bank at Grafton Street of £67,000, claimed to be an Irish record. The brothers behaved well during the raid and talked of football and gave out cups of

...continued on P. 6

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## Book Review

### THE MAKING OF A MYTH

A DEATH OUT OF SEASON by E. Litvinoff (Michael Joseph) £2.75

One of these days someone will write a novel about the Angry Brigade, it will probably describe the death of one of the 'bomb' victims, describe Stuart Christie as a police spy, and beautify - if that were necessary - Hilary Creek. (Come to think of it Royal Court's already done a play loosely based upon it.) The latest opus upon the Siege of Sidney Street (1911) commits all the well-worn errors of fact, and retreats into fiction with an occasional surge into fact.

It even has the corniest scene at an art exhibition. "Schtern [Peter the Painter] entered another room without bothering to reply. The bookseller stuck grimly by his side. Suddenly he seized Schtern's arm. 'Look! Look who's there!' He jerked his head at a figure in the crowd, a tall, spare, red-bearded man dressed in cycling breeches and a Norfolk jacket. 'You don't recognize him?' Hoffman's voice was husky with awe. . . ." No prizes for the answer, it's always happening to Arthur Moyse! Worse is to come in this department. The oxygen blow-lamp is traced to none-other-than "a well-known anarchist who had fled to political asylum in England from his native Italy." "A pacifist and Kropotkinite by conviction, the Italian was deeply shocked." This is Malatesta and it is not the first time that this opprobrious libel has been pinned on to somebody who thought that the actions of erstwhile comrades were unwise. Mr. Litvinoff (and others) please note, Malatesta believed in defensive violence which he believed to be different from the violence of the oppressor.

One hardly knows where to begin with the factual errors (it's fiction!) or the fictional absurdities (it's fact!) and, what is more, it is the "first of three novels using the same central characters. He is now working on the second, set in Russia and Berlin during the first years of the Revolution" A sort of hindsight saga?

Firstly, and all the errors are deliberate since they are obviously used for fictional effect - to make a better story - and it fails! Mr. Litvinoff pretends that Peter the Painter was the unreal kind - instead of being a

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house-painter which he probably was, he got the name from painting scenery for a play at the Jubilee Street club.

Mr. Litvinoff, who has not the usual Fleet Street excuse of political ignorance, makes all the 'Sidney Street' participants anarchists whereas the truth that they were Social Revolutionaries has never caught up with the myth. Mr. Litvinoff does not build up the Churchillian myth (it is no longer fashionable) but he underplays (or doesn't know) the role of Churchill in bringing in the Scots Guards and in holding back the firemen until the ruins were so dangerous that a fireman was killed in their collapse. He omits the Tottenham tram-car chase, the "last" words of Wensley, "Bury me at Putney", and the civilian casualty of a shot-away walking stick.

One would not complain if all this butchery of the truth had produced a work of art but this is a mish-mash of Peg's paper romance, a slide into Ian Fleming (a midget as a Czarist spy) and newspaper cuttings (e.g. Sir Philip Gibbs and the Malatesta "interview") stuck in so casually that one can almost see the paste-marks and scissors cuts. We look forward with trepidation to parts two and three. Will Peter the Painter be caught? Or will he lead the Russian Revolution and become head of the OGPU? Will he make Countess Alexandrova an honest woman? What will become of him? What will become of all of us?

J.R.

# NOTHING FROM NOTHING

DE NIHILO NIHILUM, IN  
NIHILUM NIL POSSE REVERTI

LONDON IS the great city of the western world, a sprawling living metropolis that holds a dozen living cultures and daily spawns great tragedy and ignoble comedies. It is a city whose masters are unworthy of their trust in that in the interest of passing profit and political power they willingly and knowingly destroy the visual history and heritage of the people of London. The old London rivers from the Old Bourne to the Fleet, the Wallbrook and the Lang Bourne were turned into underground sewers while the great churches and houses were and are destroyed for the work of lesser men. The facade of St Paul's is pocked with lavatories and statues, the temple of Mithras was unearthed and within weeks destroyed in the interest of office building and Somerset House, in the Strand, carries a necklace of irritant scabs in the form of small and tatty shops.

It is in this context that one should visit the quatercentenary exhibition of the work and the musings of Inigo Jones, grand whoremaster to the cultural life of three courts. Inigo Jones died in 1652 and his reputation lay in the great mass of documented drawings and sketches he mapped out for the amusement of the courts and their satraps. Much is made of his ability as an architect but he was a man who loved the ruled line too well. He lacked Wren's genius for creating a great and noble building as a living entity, for Jones' skill died on the paper and in construction became no more than mannered frontispieces. In an age when labour was cheap, stone the building material and space to view for the taking the regimented layers of stones, columns and windows in the Italian manner suited the purpose and the functions of a new and broken backed ruling class who no longer had to defend by force of arms their private claims but for all his ability to pander to the aspirations of the nouveaux riches of the Elizabethan and Stuart Court, Jones gave them too much building material for their money and columns crowd upon columns turning the great houses into prisons. While the Greeks used their columns to give light and freedom, Jones produced buildings that despite the massive grandeur were prisons on the outside and brothels on the inside. If the analogy sounds harsh then remember that modern factory, house and

office building merely reverses the pattern.

The Inigo Jones exhibition is on display within the Banqueting House in Whitehall ('permission of the Department of the Environment') and this is deemed to be the finest surviving example of Jones's work. A long high ceilinged room with white painted walls and slim columns tipped with gilded leaves, it has the air of a beautiful inverted jewel box. The nine magnificent panels of Paul Rubens, of shadowed scarlet, form a heaven for the masquing and the prancing of the courtiers until it was pointed out that the smoke from the torches were destroying the paintings. This was the age when the London mob had not yet learned its power and Jones's



backcloths with his obsession for deep perspectives formed by regimented trees, houses and columns and his gay and uni-sex design of costumes for the performers suited a servile and affluent society. The Banqueting House was finished in 1622 and Shakespear's comedies of manners were already part of the Court's repertory of accepted plays, with Falstaff leading the revels. But it was also the age of Beaumont, Fletcher, Dekker Greene and Webster. While the Court were applauding 'As You Like It' the groundlings were roaring their delight in the bloody melodramatics of Webster's 'Duchess of Malfi'. The Globe and the Rose was an accepted tourist engagement in 1624, Dekker, Ford and Rowley were pulling in the London mob with their lost play 'The late murder of the son upon the mother, or keep the Widow waiting' at the Red Bull at the mouth of the Fleet river, and all no more than a

stage version of tabloid journalism for in the same year the living victims of this stage farce were imprisoned, lately murdered or waiting to be hung.

When you enter Inigo Jones's Banqueting Hall in Whitehall in the year 1973 remember it in this context and to those who arranged the exhibition one black mark in that you have, like Inigo, crowded too much into a fixed space and the hanging tapestries clutter and spoil Inigo Jones's delight in perspective but for all that my masters you have done well by the Joneses.

## KOESTLER AWARDS

And for the Town and his frau it was hands on wallets and to Reed House at 82 Piccadilly to view the 1973 Koestler Awards. Arthur Koestler, who awaited a firing squad in a Franco prison during the Spanish Civil War founded this award scheme in 1962 to give a public recognition to the creative works of prisoners, Borstal trainees and detained mental patients and one welcomes the exhibition and the work on display. It is always of an extremely high order but this is of less importance than that a prisoner should be able to have an audience for his creative work. Lord Colville in his speech, as Minister of State, said that 'it is right that people in custody should have proper opportunities to express their creative leanings' and one would have assumed that it was their creative leanings that put them in custody in the beginning but it is not a point that one should pursue. The work is good but speaks of too many lonely hours and it is distressing that the subject matter almost always related to a dream conception of life outside the prison.

In 1966 Harry Roberts was sentenced to 30 years for killing two policemen. It was a stupid and futile waste of human lives, in the matter of money, for the police and Harry Roberts, and now Harry Roberts finds his escape in the two-dimensional world of painting. At the Reed House exhibition only the names of the prisons are given and never the names of the prisoners so that it was impossible to check if Harry Roberts had any work on display but I do not believe this is so for his excellent draughtsmanship and bizarre subject matter should have made his work recognisable. Dr Lester a psychiatrist has chosen to read much evil into Harry Roberts' paintings but as always, I would hold, from hindsight for

painting is the only art form that the ill-informed and the uninformed in high office believe they have a right and a public duty to offer moral platitudes on. The Koestler Award exhibitions are slowly winning a recognisable public acclaim and one can only pray that the powers in office do not at some future date decide on the ultimate heresy of exhibiting in order of merit.

#### ANGELA FLOWERS

Meanwhile up those little wooden steps to the Angela Flowers Gallery among the fruit and veg. at 3 Portland Mews W1 with the Town and his frau lapping up the free flowing champagne while Angela Flowers, tall slim and very beautiful, wearing a simple full hanging robe moved among the mob handing out benedictions to the wine-swilling free-loaders like unto a female false pope early renaissance period. It was an exhibition of the works of Penelope Slinger. The collages and the modelling are extremely good and Penelope is a sweet and demure 30 years of age. It is all good fin de siecle with Huysmans updated in Penelope's Black Mass made with 'wax life-cast of torso, pubic hairs, flies and candles' or the lovely chocolate box containing lumps of shit. One opens a cast of a woman's stomach to find a circle of standing sausage limp kosher pricks or a cast of a woman's torso with human lips in place of the cunt and I use these namings in relation to the work on display. The talent is there but I feel that there is a sense of guilt and one wonders who is to be shocked in this alleged permissive period. Huge jugs of yoghurt, rose-water and honey was there for us to drink and one drank glass after glass to be able to claim that one had drunk yoghurt, rose-water and honey. One peered over the heads of the drinking mob, blew a kiss to Penelope holding court among the plastic turbs and fannies, bowed to Sir Roland Penrose and genuflected as Angela Flowers floated by over the heads of the crowd handing out benedictions, 'lo Arthur', without reference to the saint or sinner's bank account and as one descended the wooden steps one spoke of Baudelaire's 'Fleurs du Mal', Verlaine, Rimbaud, Anatole Baju's 'Le Decadent' and felt rather sad and old.

#### PORN & THE ALTERNATIVE

The question is always asked, and rightly so, of the production of pornography in relation to children and the answer is not to censor but always to provide a rich and varied alternative and when you have a just society sure

THE PUBLIC Relations Officer of the British Plastics Federation complained in a letter to the Guardian (11th August) of "world shortages of petro-chemicals" which are used for the making of plastics. Petrofina, a British oil company, said the world energy crisis was contributing to difficulties in its production and supply of diesel fuel. Esso commented, "The supply situation is tight". The Conservative Political Centre in a pamphlet, Energy Equation by Peregrine Fellowes, a former oil industry trade co-ordinator, says satisfying oil consumption at its present rate of increase up to the end of the century would require the discovery, every four years, of oil-fields the size of the whole Middle East reserves (a new "North Sea" every week) which was "beyond the bounds of possibility". Fuel Economy Consultants, which advises industrial firms on fuel supplies, advised them "to store as much Fuel as possible during the summer in case of rationing later".

Mr. Wedgwood Bern, Shadow Secretary for Trade and Industry, asked the Government about forecasts of future fuel resources and suggested they must influence the Government's attitude to Maplin and the 'Churnel' "and must have serious implications for industry, including large-

of itself and its responsibility to each and every one within its accepted way of life, then one can enjoy the small and witty deviations in the cultural field knowing that it will not corrupt our way of living. Thinking we are a weak and selfish society and our laughter is guilty laughter and we applaud to drive away the fearful imagery of the hour. And for the Town and his frau, and their committed applause the 'Pioneers of Modern Sculpture' at the Hayward Gallery. A truly magnificent assembly of sculptures from the pure corn of the beginning of the century to today's sad handouts in resin and plastic. It is a truly magnificent collection but so much of it is academic trivia, so much good solid uninspired journeyman work. What becomes so obvious within this exhibition is how meaningless, nay worthless, was the work of the avant-garde in those exciting mid-war years when only Epstein could show us that he was the only true master of his age. Here is the true artist in all his magnificent splendour and his subject was man.

Arthur Moyses

scale investment programmes in the motor industry". Mr. Robert Adley, Conservative M.P. for Bristol North East, wants to discuss with Mr. Walker, Secretary for Trade and Industry, future transport planning and aviation policy. Nazli Choncri of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology writes in a contribution to World Eco-Crisis (University of Wisconsin Press): "It is difficult to see how levels of energy demand can be met with known sources of fuel" (p.25).

And the Government. . . they deny that the issue of petrol coupons to Post Offices has anything to do with any oil shortages. But perhaps they are past caring whether anyone believes them or not. J.W.

## IN BRIEF

The Crown Commissioners have tightened up by-laws in Windsor Great Park banning camping overnight and music after dark. Organisers of a festival (Paul or Bill?) say they do not need permission to enter the park and are going ahead with plans for a People's Festival of 'Love, Music and Peace' during August Bank Holiday. Information on the Festival from the Magus Bookshop, 314 Munster Road, Fulham, S.W.6. Tel. 01-385 8383.

Municipal waste from households, commerce, and light industry in Western Europe will exceed 100 million tons a year by 1990, according to the Battelle Research Centre in Geneva.

Someone flung a cream pie at the 15-year old Guru Mahara Ji and hit him in the face. "I wanted to prove he was mortal," said the assailant.

An unofficial group, after a ten-year study, say there is no case for putting fluoride in Britain's water supplies. Not only, they say, is the prevention of tooth decay minimal but there is evidence that it may harm teeth and be bad for pregnant women and people with certain illnesses.

CHENG TZU-TSAI, who was tried for the attempted murder of Chiang Kai-shek's son, after being extradited from Britain, was sentenced in New York to up to five years' imprisonment.

# LETTERS

## DEMONSTRATION OR

### COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION \* \* \*

Dear Comrades,

In FREEDOM 28th July there was an article by Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa called 'Demonstrations and Counter-Demonstrations' relating to the thirteen people in Liverpool who were arrested for breaking up a meeting that Colir Jordan of the British Movement was trying to organise. They said in their article that anarchists were among the 13 arrested. How they got this idea I don't know as there was only one anarchist out of the 13.\* The article wasn't up to much, which is typical of Jack Robinson's articles.

Now in this week's edition of FREEDOM (11th August) we see a letter from a Mr. Vincent Johnson supporting Jack and Mary's article (which he's entitled to do). But his letter is nothing but a load of rubbish. For your information, Mr. Johnson, I don't play 'cowboys and indians'. In his letter he talks about street fighting and he's done his share of it and he's got scars to prove it. Mr. Johnson also attacks Big Flame in his letter by saying that they exclude anarchists from their meetings. This, I must inform Mr. Johnson, is a load of wind which has come out of his mouth again. There was a meeting where they did exclude anarchists but I must point out that this incident happened years ago. As a matter of fact, Mr. Johnson, I and some other comrades have been to Big Flame meetings many a time and none of them have objected to us being there. Let me also point out to Mr. Johnson, they are an active group not like some anarchists in the Liverpool area, and Mr. Johnson knows who they are. Also, Mr. Johnson, Big Flame has helped us out quite a few times with our rent strike by sending up pickets, etc. If you read FREEDOM each week you will know about the Tower Hill rent strike. There are anarchists in Liverpool who also read FREEDOM and know about the Tower Hill rent strike but these anarchists didn't offer us any kind of support, neither did they approach the squatters in Croxted (Liverpool) to find out if they needed any kind of help, pickets, leaflets printed, etc. All they do is sit in pubs and talk and turn up at conferences just for the social and then vanish. I have no time for this type of anarchists who are neither active in industry (or wher-

ever they work) nor within their community. I would rather work with libertarian groups like Big Flame than associate myself with pub philosophers.

Andy McGowan

Liverpool.

\* My mistake - MC

## MENTAL PATIENTS' UNION

Dear Editors,

In the report on the Paris Conference on mental patients (28.7.73) it was stated that

"mental 'illness'...[is] a reaction of the oppressed class to their situation of appalling social and economic conditions... such as social inequality, poverty, bad housing, unemployment, etc."

This appalling piece of socialist simple-mindedness must be a nadir of reductionism. How does the author account for mental illness amongst the middle and ruling classes? Presumably they do not suffer from social inequality, poverty, etc., but, nonetheless, mental illness is not unknown amongst them.

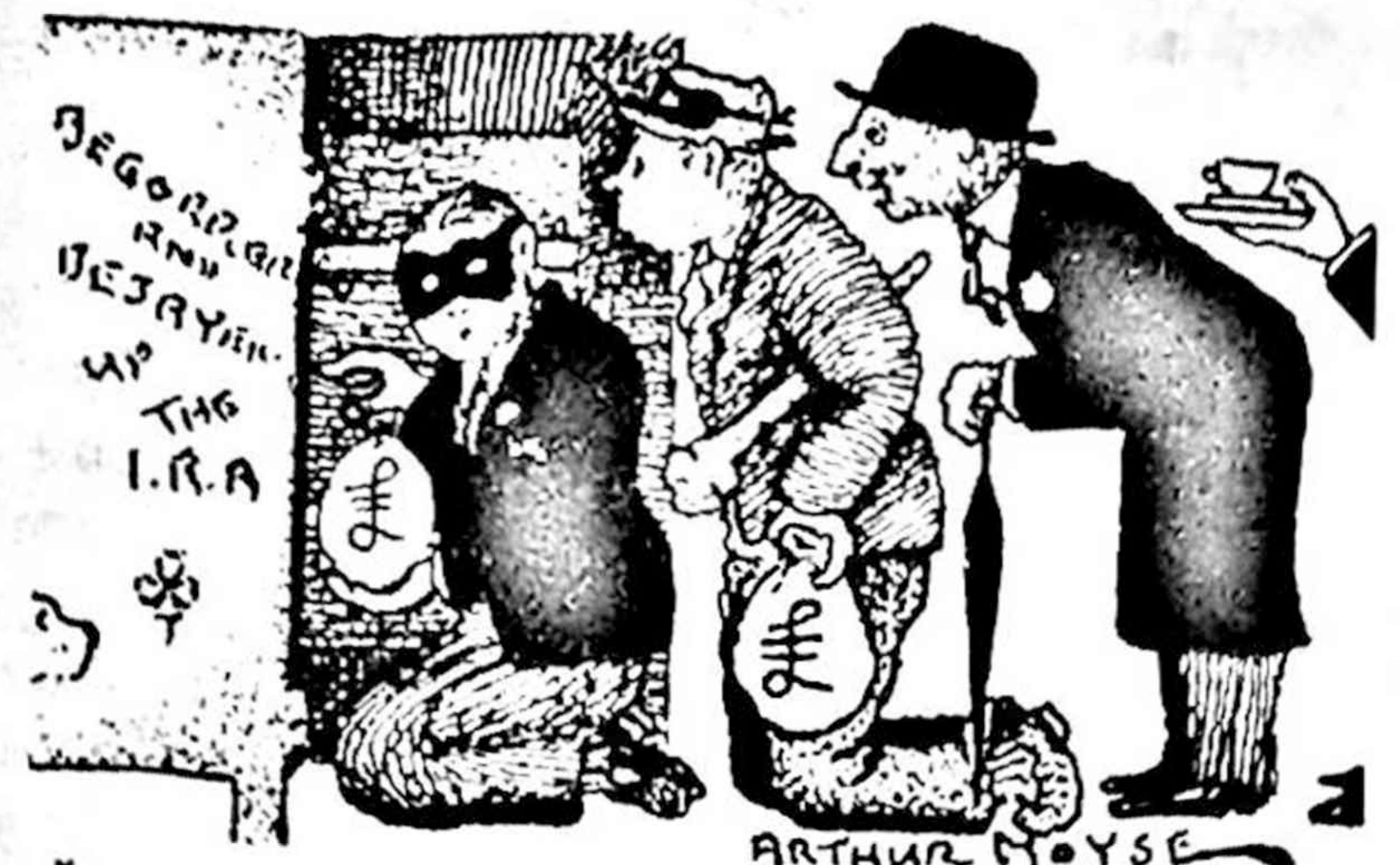
S. E. Parker

(This in fact was a report from the Mental Patients' Union which is not an anarchist (or as far as we know, political) body. --Eds.)

## LITTLEJOHNS...continued from P.2

tea to the manager whilst holding him up. All this (and reportedly much more, including the planning of assassination of MacStoiphon, Shamus Costello and Sean Garland) was carried out or dreamt up under the auspices and with the aid of the British Defence Ministry. So thought the brothers Littlejohn.

In November 1972 presumably, the jig was up. The Brothers Littlejohn were highly expendable. Even Geoffrey Johnson-Smith appears to have become expendable by then, according to a cute little note in the Telegraph's gossip column (7/8/73) which reads "since last November when he dropped his responsibility for the Army in Northern Ireland...he has had a self-effacing role in the Cabinet office. As joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Civil Service Department his task is to advise Ministers on the presentation of their policy and keep an eye on long-term Government public-relations. In this unenviable work he is probably the only Minister not to answer Parliamentary quest-



ARE YOU BOYS WORKING FOR THE ENGLISH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AS WELL? "YOU BLOODY IRISH PEASANT WE ARE THE MINISTERS."

N.W. London Anarchists now have a street bookstall in Winchester Road (next to civic centre, Swiss Cottage, NW3, open 10 till 6 every Saturday, and would be very glad to see anyone there who would like to come and chat, and perhaps help sell. (Or contact Ramsey at 37 Kingsgate Road, NW6 (off Quex Road) on weekday evenings.

## SUBSCRIBE TO FREEDOM

We welcome news, articles, letters. Latest date for receipt of MSS, notices etc. is Monday in the week of publication. Earlier receipt is helpful.

ions or take part in debates". An un-person, in fact!

And...the brothers Littlejohn They were probably exchanged by the British government for the spy Wyman (witness Mr. Lynch's present embarrassment) and they got ten and fifteen years respectively. Mathers, their accomplice, had his sentence viciously doubled (from five years to ten) on appeal.

A spy has no friends, and governments who would use such agents and such methods of provocation and subversion for their own criminal purposes merely ask for the exposures that they are getting. It adds further substance to the demand that the Army and all para-military set-ups should get out of Ireland since they and their trouble-making agents so obviously create much of the lawlessness they are there to put down. Crawl back into the book, James Bond, and let the clockwork Littlejohns and their ilk run down!

## THE STATE OF THE STATE

ITV's first programme of the three-part series The State of the Nation, on the passage of the Fair Trading Bill through the committee stage of Parliament, was excellent. No doubt by 11 p.m. most viewers had gone to bed but there were many intriguing moments for those who stayed on.

Some telling phrases reminded us of what parliament is all about: the Labour opposition "picking a few amendments", the Consumers' Association "tinkering with Government policy" and the revealing remark from a senior civil servant: "Once these Bills get into print they're difficult to get rid of". Enlightening this, in view of the pressure that precedes the printing of Government Bills.

The programme was about opposition from Labour, the Consumers' Association and three rebel Tories to sections of the Bill and their pretty unsuccessful effort to significantly widen the powers of the Bill to safeguard the interests of consumers. The function of the permanent civil servants stood out as quite essential to the passage of required legislation, the others were playing games yet they showed themselves for what they are in the process. The senior politician with "We'll use the Goebbels technique. Say it is radical long enough and people will begin to believe it." The CBI's expressed consternation about the consumer being entitled to a spare parts service - "What," they seemed to ask, "would become of planned obsolescence?" - and the multitude of shiny-bottomed bureaucrats quietly getting the State's business done.

It was an interesting, faithful description of the use of power.

Who Controls?

The second programme, a simulated Select Committee, asked whether Parliament had lost control, thus implying Parliament had held control in the past. It was lacking in life, due no doubt to the fabricated discussion staged for the TV cameras. As such the participants never let anything out of the bag and the programme became almost dull.

Sir William Armstrong, head of the home civil service, countered the question as to whether the senior, permanent civil servants run the country by pleading merely influence

(but how much?) He, none the less, suggested there had been a decline in Parliamentary control over the past 20 years.

Maudling felt that this was no bad thing for efficient management of the country and economy was assisted by this lack of control. (Ask Haldeman and Erlichman about that!)

It became apparent with the programme's investigation of the Broadcasting Act that the Bill had been pre-packaged and it was acknowledged that it had been drawn up without consulting one politician and that suggested alterations of any substance by the standing committee of Parliament were not allowed.

The clear message of the programme seemed to be that it was not the will of Parliament that prevailed but the will of Government that decided on policy and expenditure with something approaching contempt for the Parliamentary process. Parliament, to the State, is a nuisance to be dealt with in accordance with its status - which is slight.

Who Knows?

The third State of the Nation programme consisted of another phoney show. This time a staged, all male, debate which asked whether M.Ps were too ignorant to do their jobs properly. The debate was set as in a standing committee but without political affiliations being in operation. I couldn't stay up for the complete debate but would give our comrade Philip Sansom a five star rating compared with the politicians' range of from one star to three, although I have heard Michael Foot speaking as well as Philip Sansom in a proper debate.

The gist of the discussion centred on whether MPs had enough information about what the Executive was doing. Lack of facts on Concorde and Maplin and revelations by the Public Accounts Committee on Hawker Siddeley, Ferranti and North Sea Oil's avoidance of tax were examples given of the need for more information.

Enoch Powell said that the fifty F111 aircraft project had been dropped because it was simply asked what was to be done with all these airplanes. Powell's case was that select committees of the House of Commons actually weaken the real debating chamber but he was not convincing. Edward du Cann was pretty exact when he complained MPs resembled skeletons as regards enabling information. Parliamentary resources had not been matched with the growth of the work of the Com-

mons and thousands of millions of the taxpayers' money was voted about perfunctorily without adequate knowledge.

Brian Walden considered Parliament was the mediator between Government and governed and that understanding of public sentiment was required to bring life back to an "ailing institution". Dick Crossman gave the example of the Atomic Bomb which was shockingly made without the knowledge of Parliament but Maudling made the best point of the night when he explained that the Bomb had been developed without the Public Accounts Committee seemingly being aware of the operation, so what could a select committee have discovered?

\* \* \*

Thus we had our six hours or so about the State of the Nation and I wonder, comrades, how the politicians could take six hours of debate by the alternative society. With all the palaver about the BBC programme in which a few minutes of "The People Talking" actually allowed people to talk, it seems unlikely that anyone will get time on the Telly to put forward views which challenge the status quo in any fundamental way. That is the real state of the nation: the people having always to listen and when there is a little talking back...wham.

J.W.

## I N B R I E F

We understand American radicals lack of marked enthusiasm for the tentative 'Impeach the President' campaign, seeing that removing Tricky Dicky thereby would have moved up the Vice-President. But now that Spiro Agnew is under criminal investigation . . .

David King, a Stirling University student temporarily employed by the Department of the Environment, was told to address official acknowledgements about Maplin airport scheme. He decided the anti-airport protests were not getting any attention - and said so in postscripts. A handwriting test gave him away and he was sacked. David King said, according to the Guardian, "The so-called consultation over Maplin is just a sham. I was acknowledging questionnaires about Maplin and the answers had to be fed into a computer. But the questionnaire took it for granted Maplin would be built."

Sancho Panza

# OUT OF AFRICA

THE COMMONWEALTH Conference in Ottawa concluded with a statement on Rhodesia that Heath "welcomed the constructive suggestions made and undertook to take them into account as the situation developed". This was a reference to a scheme to have a "Commonwealth presence, either troops or police on the lines of the peace-keeping forces in Cyprus" sent to Rhodesia at the time a political settlement was being put into force there. According to Nyerere of Tanzania: "It would be an independent unit to guarantee the security of the Europeans of Rhodesia".

The Guardian correspondent, Patrick Keatley, reported on August 11th that Mr. Heath had vetoed the scheme, saying it would be unacceptable to Mr. Smith, the Rhodesian leader. But Colin Legum in the Observer (12th August) says Mr. Heath was prepared to "take note" of the proposal, originally made by Mr. Burnham, Prime Minister of Guyana. Legum realistically maintains: "Only by the way Britain acts in the next few months...will the answers be known" to how far Britain is committed on this issue. Senior members of Britain's delegation to Ottawa feel there is no change of policy or commitment and it is a feeling with which this writer concurs.

Commonwealth conferences are yawn-inducing events which entitle correspondents to play games with words as the Commonwealth leaders huff and puff about ifs and buts, yet the truth is that by a diplomatic shift of no consequence Heath maintained his changed image as regards his approach to world affairs. Stage management is not the stuff of human life, however, and Ian Smith will lose little sleep over the Commonwealth Conference's statement.

Smith, who is fond of comparing his concentration camps with British ones in Ulster, has acquired another link with Northern Ireland. On the day that IRA attacks were made on the wives and children of British troops in N. Ireland reports from Zambia described rather similar operations in the rampage and ransacking of African villages in North-Eastern Rhodesia. The Zambia Daily Mail published photographs of women and children with gunshot wounds who had escaped from Rhodesia, a boy described being pursued by a helicopter and falling down in

a hail of bullets in the area, and a 40-year old woman had her baby and her own body pierced by a Rhodesian bullet. Meanwhile at the University of Rhodesia in Salisbury black students were being beaten up and chased by police with dogs on the University campus.

It is only a fool who could suppose a regime such as the Smith one would agree to a Commonwealth force entering the country to observe a political settlement aimed at majority rule. One only hopes the next generation of African leaders will not fall for such nonsensical plans. If we are to go from the African and Coloured students in Southern African universities there is room to be hopeful about an added realism and toughness emerging.

And if attitudes to elections such as were witnessed in the Ovambo district of Namibia (S.W. Africa) are widely emulated we may yet see a changed political consciousness amongst Africans. In Namibia SWAPO (S.W. African People's Organisation) pressed for a boycott of elections to set up an Ovambo Bantustan. Their success must gladden the heart of all readers of FREEDOM: in Walvis Bay district 3 people only voted, in Tsumeb 4, in Gobabis 2, in Windhoek 2 (both policemen). With a population of 350,000 Ovambo we can certainly claim this as the best kick in the arse the ballot box has had since elections were foisted on us. It is a message which a Commonwealth conference could never produce. J.W.

## IN BRIEF

Thames Television announced that it is to screen this autumn a musical version of 'The Road to Wigan Pier', the book written by George Orwell in 1937. We can hardly wait for '1984'.

China's People's Daily dropped the word 'Great' from its habitual description of Chairman Mao as 'The Great Leader'. It is thought possible this was done at Chairman Mao's request to lessen the cult of personality.

From W I N (June 28th) adverts:

"I am a strict vegetarian. Still, I crave Jello and have perfected a process whereby I can make my own gelatin. Please send me your toe and fingernail clippings and a self-addressed envelope for further information. E. Arthur Hoffman, 6594 Segovia, Apt. 7 Goleta, Calif., 93017, U S A



THURSDAYS 2 p.m. onwards.  
Help fold and despatch FREEDOM at Freedom Press.

Syndicalist Workers Federation Pamphlets Voice of Syndicalism; and Makhno and Durruti, Revolution 1917 1936 reprinted from Freedom. Both 5p each from Freedom Press plus postage.

Any Anarchists/Libertarians in the Aberystwyth area please contact Peter Good, 39 Portland Street, Aberystwyth.

Nudist Challenge, the radical/protest liberation movement, rejoices in the trusting defencelessness of nakedness. Temporary postal address: c/o 985 Peace News, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

Help to set up a SE London Gutter Press. 61B Granville Park, SE 13. Phone 852-8879

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION  
General Meeting Sat. 18th Aug.  
Friends Meeting House,  
Euston Road, NW1. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Room 789

INTERNATIONAL CAMP this year July 25-Aug. 20 (possibly to 30th) at SAINTE ENGRACE (Basses Pyrenees), Bayonne-Pau route & via Tardets-Soholus. Camp will be indicated 'Citoyens de la Nature'.

EVERY SATURDAY 2-4 p.m.  
Picket outside Brixton Prison.  
BELFAST TEN DEFENCE COMMITTEE (88 Roslyn Road, N15. Tel. 800-9392)

CORBY ANARCHISTS  
Discussion meeting first Friday in every month at 7 Cresswell Walk, 7.30 p.m.

DRUG DEPENDENTS CARE GROUP urgently requires cash donations, trading stamps and cigarette coupons, in order to survive. Send to Douglas Kepper, Walnut Cottage, Moorland, Bridgester, Somerset.

LIVERPOOL ASA contact May Stone, C.32 Summerfield, Tower Hill, Kirkby, nr. Liverpool.

LONDON ASA for details of meetings phone 226-0817. Black & Red Outlook always available for 5p + 2½p post from 3 Grange House, Highbury Grange, N5.