

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

ONCE MORE the horrendous prospect of being without a government appears to face us. Once it was the so-nice Mr. Heath who, baulked by the miners and the reds-under-the-beds, had to give up our government. Now, the equally nice Mr. Wilson is threatened by Mr. Heath and the new boy Mr. Thorpe that they will vote against him (so there!) and bring down his nice new government - and leave us without.

It is quite possible that Mr. Wilson will refuse to play and take no notice of what they say or how they vote; he can just say that the rules of the game do not mean that at all and he has to have a vote of 'no confidence' or say he kept his fingers crossed all the time; in any case he didn't make the rules, Mrs. Windsor might have the last word, there aren't any rules and if there are he can twist them, so sucks boo to you, Heath and Thorpe!

We can survive without government. Several European countries seem to have survived months (on and off) without a government, ours frequently go

on long vacations. Nevertheless bureaucrats still rule and tax us; policemen dragoon and arrest us; armies kill for us, and sometimes kill and maim us. With government on top of this, to think up new laws, new taxes, new moral codes, new wars and security operations it is a wonder we survive with government.

* * *

THE GAME of politics has assumed gigantic proportions and importance with a new boy (Jeremy Thorpe) bringing along his marbles. The occasion for the present brou-ha-ha is the Queen's speech - not written by, approved of by, or even perhaps understood by her Goodness Gracious Majesty Mrs. Windsor, who was snatched back from a lovely holiday in Australia to preside over these tiresome romps. The Queen's speech is like everything else in parliament, an anachronistic formality, and the last ration was a lovely piece of tightrope walking by Harold Wilson saying nothing and sounding very profound and socialistic without any committal.

However, the Queens Speech evaded saying what the new Government was going to do about Stage Three and the Prices and Incomes Board, the Pay Board, etc. So, not only the Conservatives but also the Liberals had amendments to the speech which, if carried, would defeat the government. However, Mr. Wilson has appointed a Leveller, a rebel, a "Tribunite" to the post of Minister of Lab-

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LABOUR'S PROGRAMME



"STAY WHERE YOU ARE MELORD AND LADY - IT STILL HASN'T EXPLODED"

IBERIAN RESISTANCE

CHRISTIAN FASCISM

THOSE WHO were naive enough to think that the dispute between the Vatican, the Spanish church and Franco's fascist servants (a dispute caused by the outspoken Bishop of Bilbao) would help in any way to bring about a change of political atmosphere in Spain, should by now be aware that the Spanish church is an integral part of the fascist regime and that it never will dissociate itself entirely from the values that brought about fascism in the Iberian Peninsula -- Christianity and property.

The Church and the State have been the main instruments of oppression - one physical and the other spiritual - of the dispossessed and exploited peoples of Spain and Portugal

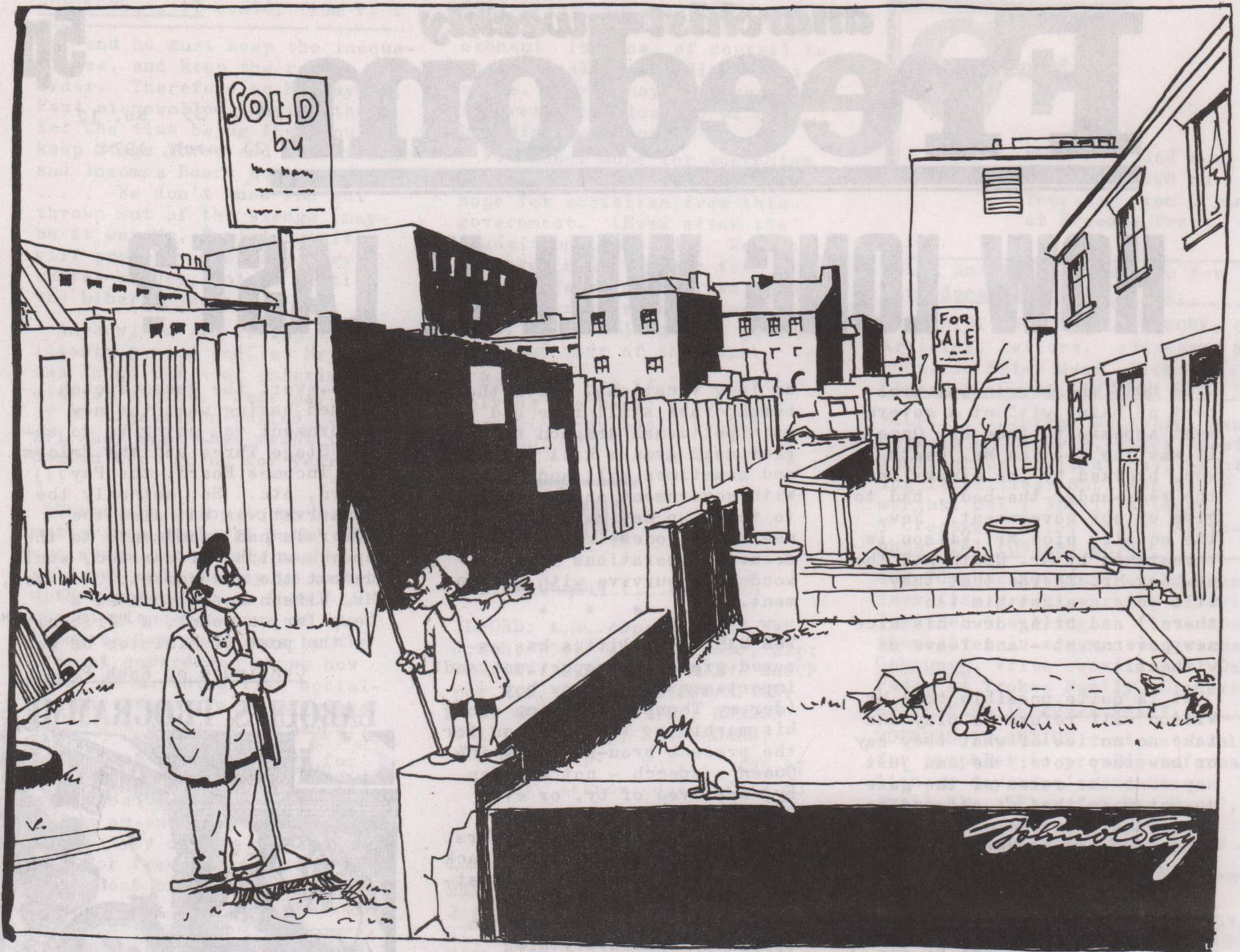
and although some sections of the church would like to do without fascism in its present form, it is unthinkable to expect the Vatican or the Portuguese and Spanish church to openly denounce fascism for what it is.

But those are the hopes of the communist underground elements, which already are flirting with the so-called "progressive wing of the Vatican", hoping to get their bourgeois blessing and make another step to power. The modus vivendus reached by the Polish State and the Polish Church must certainly be an inspiration for those "comrades of christianity". After all, divergent dogmatism can always be reconciled in the name of the State

and the church of god.

This is why the traditional anti-clericalism of the Iberian anarchist movement allied to the anti-state teachings found in anarchism have made anarchists the most revolutionary elements of the anti-fascist struggle. God and the State are enemies of anarchism. Those of the Left who are contemporing with such strongholds of authoritarianism in order to further their political escalation to power are just blurring the issues and causing ideological confusion among those who have nothing to lose in revolting against the fascist state and the Catholic church.

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"COME THE REVOLUTION, COMRADE, ALL THIS WILL BE OURS !"

IN BRIEF

Pat Arrowsmith was remanded in custody charged with posting abusive handbills (relating to Withdrawal from Ireland) and attempting to seduce a member of the armed forces from his duty. Speaking to the Guardian, Wendy Butlin said, "She (Pat Arrowsmith) decided she would resume her normal life when Labour won the election, because she thought there was a possibility that the Labour Government might not bring a charge under the Incitement to Disaffection Act from a civil liberties point of view."

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence stated that recruiting for the forces dropped in 1973 to its lowest level for the past ten years. The Ministry said that Northern Ireland "is a factor along with pressure on the labour market, raising of the school-leaving age, and pay which is currently being reviewed".

The Ministry of Defence has given secret authority to army guards at Long Kesh detention centre, Northern Ireland, to use a new riot control agent in the event of a major distur-

bance. The agent is an irritating liquid known as C.R. which can be fired from water-cannon or from hand-held aerosol dispensers.

Dr. John Pollard, a squatter evicted from Kentish Town, London, was imprisoned because he refused to stand up for the magistrates at Clerkenwell Court. He will remain in gaol until he agrees to recognize the court.

The workers' co-operative intending to take over the Triumph motor-cycle factory at Meridan have hit a snag. The present owners are demanding £2million more for the factory than previously estimated, making £5million in all - for a failed business!

Le Monde reports that following the meeting of 9 March of the Spanish Cabinet, Spanish police may be sent to various European countries "to protect Spanish property and persons". They would be assigned to embassies, consulates and Spanish offices.

Sancho Panza

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Valpreda

THE TRIAL of Pietro Valpreda started (for the third time) in Catanzaro, Calabria, on 18th March, held in the volleyball court of a juvenile reformatory, since there is no courthouse. It had been foreseen that a legal move by the families of the victims and survivors to have Valpreda's trial held in combination with the trial of the two neo-fascists who were recently charged with Valpreda's alleged crime, might shorten the trial. It was in fact adjourned after an hour and a half. The Times (19.3.74) makes the quaint point: "Some commentators have suggested that all the Catanzaro court has to do is to pronounce Sr. Valpreda innocent as quickly as possible. This raises the constitutional point that everyone is innocent until found guilty and courts cannot properly be used simply to ascertain innocence." It will be recalled that Valpreda spent 3 years in prison awaiting trial.

THE MARINI CASE

The trial of Giovanni Marini has commenced, after 21 months since his arrest. On 7 July 1972 Marini and a comrade were attacked in Salerno by a band of neo-fascists. In the course of the fight one of the fascists, Falvella, received a knife wound from which he died. Marini is charged with murder. During 1973 we reported on this incident, and subsequently carried reports of ill-treatment of Giovanni Marini in prison, and of the persistent obstacles put in the way of his defence by his continual removal from prison to prison.

We have now received the following report of trial proceedings:

"The 4 March hearing of the Marini trial was rich in incident. In the first place, the knife which had been lost in the course of last week's hearing has been recovered. It is supposed to be the knife which Marini used to defend himself against the fascists, but Marini didn't recognise it as his, and it doesn't correspond with the description he has always given of his. (The recovered knife is much longer than Marini's.) Clearly there were a lot of knives about on the night of the fascist attack! In the next hearing, two of Marini's friends, to whom he showed the knife immediately after buying it, will give evidence about it.

"Another important fact: the court has rejected a three-point suit made by Marini's defending lawyers, viz., 1) examination of all the people whose names have been brought up in the examination of Marini; 2) calling as a witness the prefect of police on duty at the time; 3) calling as a witness Gennaro Scariati, the friend of Marini who was present during the attack, and who gave himself up after the death of the fascist Falvella. He was arrested but released shortly afterwards because of lack of evidence. The court refused the last point because the Italian legal code doesn't allow a person who has been released because of lack of evidence to be called as a witness in the case.

"Another tense moment occurred during the examination of Marini by the fascist lawyer, De Marsico, who questioned Marini about his studies. Our comrade, surprised by this line of questioning, answered ironically. De Marsico reproved him sharply, saying, 'Answer without laughing.' Marini replied, 'I laugh at the fascist

Minister of Justice, at the collaborator with the Rocco code, at the criminal...' The prosecution reacted immediately by demanding that his words should be taken into the record, and declared that 'afterwards a report of what has just taken place in the courtroom will be made.'

"The second hearing on 5 March was long and lively, with frequent disputes between the defence and the public prosecutor's lawyers. Marini protested about being deprived of books and personal possessions in prison. 35 witnesses were heard, including Ucci, the captain of carabinieri who carried out the first interrogation on the night of the attack. The defence examined him at great length, putting him on the spot (especially with questions about the knife found at the scene) and making the public prosecutor so nervous that he had to intervene abruptly to help the captain out.

"During the long hearing of 6 March about 20 witnesses were heard. The father of the fascist Falvella said amongst other things that his son knew Marini well. Later the Vice-Prefect of Salerno, who is also the director of the Political Bureau, gave testimony. The defence put to him a series of questions designed to establish the atmosphere of tension and fascist violence which preceded the death of Falvella, but he gave general 'bureaucratic' answers which evaded the question. Then a member of the 'Monarchist Youth', a friend of Falvella, gave evidence. He said that on the night of the attack he had seen on the ground a blood-stained knife with a black handle, about 20 centimetres long, and Falvella's glasses. He also said that he had heard from a friend that on that night Gennaro Scariati had fled from the Via Velia (the street of the attack) with a knife in his hand. The defence lawyers said about Scariati, 'He is the crux of the case.' The last witness was the attendant of a parking-lot near the Via Velia, who claimed to have seen a young man running away immediately after the fight. He described him as tall, thin, long-haired and clean-shaven, a description which does not tally at all with Marini."

Milan, 7.3.74.

(translated by D.M.)

The Daily Telegraph reported 16.3.74:

"Masked youths armed with clubs and crowbars roamed the streets of Salerno, south of Naples yesterday after battles between right and left-wing extremists over the trial of Giovanni Marini, an anarchist charged with killing a right wing extremist youth leader. The court decided to postpone Marini's trial." (Our emphasis.)

IN BRIEF

The use of an electronic detective device is to be reviewed by Oldrids department store in Boston (Lincs.) because the system has indiscriminately trapped innocent and guilty people. The move follows the acquittal of a woman accused of shoplifting. The general manager of the store said, "I must admit we have embarrassed as many people as we have caught." The store has had to issue public apologies for three women wrongly accused. Occasionally transistor radios and hearing aids set off the alarm system. ***

I B E R I A...cont'd from P.1.

PORTUGAL

Army "Revolutionaries"?

IF IT wasn't for the innocent blood of the conscripted Portuguese soldiers caught in the middle of this push for power by one faction of the army, we could wish to see these military fascists confront each other and drown to death in their own blood. But unfortunately the Portuguese youth is serving unwillingly in the armed forces (2 years in Portugal and 2 years in Africa), and desertion seems to be the most effective way for them to fight fascism in Portugal (100,000 deserters and war resisters in Europe alone) --serving in a colonial army that since 1960 has committed crimes against humanity, again in the name of God and the State.

The trendy Left in Europe believes that the Portuguese colonial people can be saved by backing unconditionally the African liberation movements.

We believe that a drastic change in the African situation would occur as a result of the smashing of fascism in Portugal and Spain. This is why we are prepared to support our Portuguese comrades in exile and those in Portugal, who are organising themselves to pass into action alongside our comrades from the Spanish Resistance.

So every penny collected for the Spanish Resistance Fund will help the struggle in Spain.

Spanish Resistance Fund,
c/o T.P. & P.T., "Freedom"
84B Whitechapel High St.,
London, E. 1.

IN LOW AND HIGH PLACES

AS THE UNIFORMED muscle of the public conscience the police moved through the streets of Soho fixing chains and padlocks to the doors of the hard porn shops we, the Town and his hard-eyed frau, milled round to examine their work with all the enjoyment that one finds at the remains of a fatal accident. Within the wrestlers' pub in Old Compton Street the staid and dignified business men of the hard porn racket smoothed their grey hairs with soft white hands, drank their whiskies and shook their heads at "the Gestapo action of the police" and we wondered how their case would rate with the NCCL razorwise. A few chains and padlocks remain but the boys are back in business and they have learned a lesson, and that is not to carry stocks of hard porn in the shops but only to carry a single day's supply and to let a runner ship in fresh supplies only when needed. There is a demand for hard core pornography and its sale lay beyond that shy-making little doorway at the back of every Soho Tits-and-Bum shop; and so long as censorship denies the appetites, there is a money market for its sale and the talent to create and distribute an illegal ware exists, the need will be met be it Solzhenitsyn, the Bible or Miss Lash and her Bondage Girlfriends.

And so for the Higher Arts and the dirty mind it was back to Bond Street. With my hand on my heart, my knees on the floor of Wards Irish pub and my eyes gazing at the dirty ceiling I state that the Bond Street works have nothing in common with the Soho industry artwise or moneywise but it seemed that the same old full frontals were on view. Victor Arwas (Champagne RSVP) is once more showing the work of David Remfry at his Editions Graphique at 3 Clifford Street, W.1, and there among the erotic and exotic look of the fin de siecle hang Remfry's sketches and paintings of his gamine girls. Crudley sketched, crudely coloured they have a schoolboy's fascination with the forbidden and in this they succeed as works of art for to quote Victor Arwas: "Breasts and pubic hair delineate the curious, almost unconscious sexuality of the subjects". Remfry uses the pubic hair as the target centre of almost every canvas and this heavily scribbled target forms the focal and the reason for his work. It is Graham Ovenden's work at the Piccadilly Gallery at 16a Cork Street W.1 that causes the Puritan head to bend in sorrow.

Ovenden is a brilliant academic painter obsessed with his subject matter and his subject matter is small girls. One has viewed his work in the past yet still one hesitates at the sight of these small girls whose nakedness has become nudity under Ovenden's talented brush. It would appear to me that Ovenden gives these small girls a sense of shame as they pose with their few clothes in disarray and I would hold that one canvas is enough and let the buyers seek another subject for their money. And on to the Serpentine Gallery lost behind the statue to Prince Albert to view the paintings of Roger Hilton. I may wrong the man but I have a memory of Roger beating up Lawrence Alloway because Alloway felt that Roger did not conform to Lawrence's high aesthetic standard and the sight of a high monied critic on his knees on a gallery floor bleeding like a stuck pig must put fear into lesser

lovers of the Art Beautiful. But Roger is back in town with his own version of the full frontal in a mixture of realism and abstractionism and they give pleasure which is less than one can say that Roger gave to Lawrence, now running New York's art world.

MELVILLE and IMPRESSIONISM

Robert Melville, the art critic of the New Statesman, has always led the teenybopper race of the instant avant garde and he is leading the literary streakers with his Erotic Art of the West (published by Weidenfeld and his mate Nicolson) but at £8 a lock it is still the back rooms of the Soho porn shops for the rank and file. I agree with Kenneth Tynan, if for no other reason than an excuse for name dropping, that Robert spends too much space filling, in seeking and claiming to find, erotic significance in sexually neutral paintings. Tynan sees the future for erotic art in the full length animated cartoons such as the work of Osamu Tesuka and Eiichi Yamamoto but both Robert and Kenneth are wrong for when pornography becomes high art and passes under the dealers' title of erotica it no longer excites, for it is the illegality of erotic and porn art that makes it desirable. It is the shame of being observed leaving a Soho hard porn shop, it is the pleasure of finding new wit and talent on the scribbled lavatory wall that makes this art style worthwhile and it is this that the Hilton, Remfry, Ovenden paintings never achieve and Melville's bock on erotic art is but one more exercise in paste and scissors job. And the works of the late Titian, Rubens and the rest of the worthy ancients may tumble in Melville's hay with Dali and Rops but individually or collectively they will never raise a guilty stand, and if this is not the purpose of the exercise then I have wronged good and noble men in the field of painting/publishing/art dealing and the soft sell.

* * *

BUT THE TOWN is a small village for the committed, and I sat with Robert Melville within the Royal Academy Diploma Gallery while he lectured me on the virtues of the Impressionists' painting now on current exhibition. As the most important and worthwhile critic of our time it is good that he should be rejected by all the office holders and the committee men of the State art racket but when the cultural history of our time comes to be written it will be Melville who will be quoted, for though always seeking the passing bandwagon, always wrong in his judgements, he loves his subject and he writes a clear and lucid and readable prose that men like Russell and the rest of the fodder can never emulate. And he sat like unto a decadent Renaissance cardinal publicly accused but indifferent to the charges of flogging the relics while I fetched the free press whiskies and the pretty sketches of the Impressionists merged into an alcoholic blur of colour, while only Melville's gentle wit and learning filled my mind.

I have small use for the Impressionists for I hold that much of the work is trivial but over the years has been turned into art dealers' currency in the same manner as most of Picasso's later daubs were. They now hold their place within the State

art galleries of the world but as time and space make their demands their importance and their art will become that much less. On April 15th 1874 Monet, Renoir, Pissarro, Sisley, Cezanne, Degas, Guillaumin and Berthe Morisot held an exhibition at the studio of the photographer Nadar, and Leroy of Le Charivari dismissed them as 'impressionists' and for almost a century Leroy has been held up to Establishment ridicule as the writing oaf who did not know his real and actual genius when he saw it. But Leroy was right then, and weep over his grave, he is right now for Impressionism is no more than pretty picture book art. True it broke the dreary academism of establishment art, but, comrades, this is the role of the fledgling artist and revolutionary and the Impressionists gave fresh light to studio darkness and showed the talent and the beauty of spontaneous sketches. Yet in themselves they were small-minded petty bourgeois, whining that they were rejected by an Establishment that they publicly tried to enter and to their shame they succeeded in being accepted. As artists they had little to say for they merely reflected their own unheroic world. It is a pleasant way to spend a morning to view this work and to realise that Constable's huge sketch in the V and A is not on view while Sickert's mirthless music hall "The Gallery of the Old Bedford", included, could hardly be described as a hymn to light and joy. But that is the way of the world, my masters.

BEAUTY, PLEASURE and HEROISM

And there is beauty and pleasure within the Town. Beauty at the Redfern at 20 Cork Street W.1 with Rory McEwan's lovely watercolours of dying leaves and Ken Howard's gentle landscapes and city scapes at the New Grafton at 1a Grafton St., W.1 and pleasure in viewing Angelo Bozzolla's inch wide strip around the wall of the Situation Gallery in Horseshoe Yard W.1 and in all honesty not understanding what it was about. Mladejovsky at Grabowski's as 84 Sloane Avenue S.W.3 and Stephanie Bergman crucified upon the walls of the Garage Gallery in 52 Earlham Street W.C.2, for despite the critics of the hour her slabs of colours do not herald a new Matisse for he was no wonder boy and Stephanie's colours are too muddied for the ton's art lovers.

If the Labour Party honours its pledge and removes the admission charges to OUR national galleries we can ignore the gutless rabble of directors who publicly knelt down and ate shit rather than refuse to implement these non-legal charges, but, comrades, what you cannot do is to ignore the homage to the Chilean People, Festival of Chilean Popular Art, at London's Trade Union Congress House (off Tottenham Court Road). Of its nature it can be no more than a requiem for the Chilean dead and the death of liberty. With paintings and photographs, singings and readings, lunch-times and afternoons, let those who care pay homage to the people of Chile, and while we remember the murders of the poet and the musician Victor Jarra and Pablo Neruda, let us remember that this worthwhile exhibition is the heart cry of the Chilean shanty town people who bore the full brunt of that counter-revolution... so pay that homage.

Arthur Moyses.

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Review

SPANISH CIVIL WAR FILMS

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE

THE TWO EVENINGS of films were not all about Spain, and came under the general heading of 'Britain in the Thirties'. There was nothing of direct anarchist interest in these disappointing shows. The National Film Theatre catalogue and programme notes were either misleading or useless. The film "Spain 1936" was billed in the catalogue as compiled by Buñuel. He denies authorship. No wonder. It is a socialistic collection of film extracts neatly cut together of republican Spain and its bourgeois parliamentarians, with a commentary which turns very glib after about 15 minutes. Not very subversive. Feeble thirties music of the 'Mairzy dotes and dozy oats' variety dribbled out of the loudspeakers before and after the films. The NFT did not bother to get hold of the easily obtainable Pete Seeger disc of Spanish Civil War songs on Folkways, let alone anarchist discs.

HUGH THOMAS AGAIN

In the discussion after, an anarchist complained to Ivor Montagu, Sid Cole and Prof. Hugh Thomas that the films were bland and not illuminating and showed nothing of the anarchist revolution. (The fact is that the international labour movement took up the propaganda struggle in earnest only after the communists had come to power. Catch Stalin's fellow-travellers supporting an anarchist revolution!) Hugh Thomas sneered that if there were any films of anarchist collective farms and so on, he would love to hear of them. Someone else got up to point out that there was an anarchist commissariat of filmmaking - and the National Film Archive (like the NFT, part of the British Film Institute) actually contains a number of items, including anarchist soldiers drilling each in his own fashion. The organiser of the show did not bother to explain why these were not shown besides the "rare" Sussex CP home movie shots of three International Brigaders returning home.

LIBERALS, BEAT YOUR BREAST

The film about Basque orphans in camp in England, "Modern Orphans of the Storm" of 1937 was suggestive: what happened to them? No information was given. "Spanish ABC" of 1938 about the

wartime teaching and anti-illiteracy work of the Ministry of Information was as visual and constructive and satisfying as Ivor Montagu's other work leads to expect - the best film shown. Joris Ivens' long feature-length documentary "Spanish Earth" inevitably loses its impact as soon as you realise that the makers had no intention of depicting any of the events and effects of the social revolution carried out by anarchists. "Spanish anarchism does not exist" might have been the watchword of all these films! "Spanish Earth" left a tepid liberal-socialist feeling of righteousness - nothing more. (Some of Ernest Hemingway's script stank of John Wayne.) You might as well watch BBCTV Horizon films on ecology. As for the "Free Thaelmann" film, anyone who wanted to free that bullet-headed Stalinist would free anyone. Precisely. Let's free anyone! Remember that the Moscow trials were going on at the same time.

* * *

Nothing in these two evenings was as vivid or as committed as BBCTV's unusually pungent 'Yesterday's Witness' film, directed by Michael Rabiger, about the Spanish Civil War. Although that film - which consisted of archive extracts some from films shown at the NFT, knit into interviews with Sam Wolfe, Claud Cockburn, etc. - gave an orthodox CP account, at least it conveyed movingly the commitment and the blood and guts, and a summing-up of the international situation. Since it was primarily about the British International Brigaders, it tells much about 'Britain in the Thirties'.

ODD INSIGHTS

The insights offered by this programme of films were oblique. The rubble and the smoke of war, the zooming planes, whining bombs and fleeing civilians have lost the curious newness they held for cinema-goers in the 1930s. The speakers reckoned that a lost Hollywood movie (called "Blockade" on republican Spain starring Henry Fonda (lost in the BFI archives?) probably had more effect than anything we saw. The films were shown to committed trade union audiences and the like. The only time that a 5-minute short about Spain was included in the cinema circuits, the cinema managers replied as one man (Lord Rank, perhaps?) that "audiences do not like this sort of film". We could certainly do with a few shorts on the same bill as such tosh as "The Sting". Gaumont-British News of 1935 revealed the characteristic combination of beefeaters, royalty (Greek royalty, at that) and tradition,

plus rumbustious British populist humour: as we watched the parade of fur coats of the 1935 season, the commentator announced that bearing their huge cost in mind, he preferred to tell his girl friend to wear a thick dress instead. The US March of Time newsreel of 1939 on the UK was similarly heavy with tradition, but ended with a shot of a British workman "bearing up", tending his tulips next to his Anderson shelter in his tiny back garden. At the NY World's Fair shown in this film, the British pavilion concentrated on the British Empire, heraldry, George Washington's ancestry and all that claptrap. The programme notes did not remind us that the organisers of the British pavilion rejected Grierson's documentaries as too subversive and rooted in the present. If you have seen any of Grierson's Statist and patriotic and craft-labour-worshipping films, that may raise a horse-laugh. In some of the newsreels the make-up was showing. That didn't start with TV.

LEFTWING BIAS ?

The discussion stopped just as Ivor Montagu was describing his commitment, with feeling. He told the story of how his heart sank when a French poet arrived at the House of Commons with a file stacked with photos of Spanish suffering. Montagu knew that the English ruling class response would be, "Great! So our embargo is working!" Montagu raised the question of whether these propaganda films could possibly tell the terrible truth. (And to take only one example of blandness, the bloody and costly battle of Jarama became, on film, a bloodless republican hurrah-victory.) But none of these films tell us anything about anarchism in Spain. Faced with leftwing bias of this magnitude, who cares about other vices? What was the FAI? Why has Salvador Puig been murdered in Franco's prisons? These questions had no time to echo in the salons of the NFT, before being swamped by the muzak of the thirties.

Julius

Squatters moved into a block of luxury flats at Dover Street, Piccadilly, in London's West End. The owners have applied for a court order.

Manufacturers of Harris tweed are sitting-in at a factory in Stornoway in the Hebrides in order to keep the factory (threatened with closure) viable for a take-over and to ensure that the trained labour force will not drift away. £50,000 was invested in the plant - partly by the Highlands and Islands Development Board. Later, it was said that the sit-in was threatened by the cutting-off of electricity.

LIVING WITHOUT AUTHORITY

ANARCHY is society organised without authority. But because the present system is basically authoritarian whether in the family, work, or the State, the vast majority of people cannot envisage living their lives without some form of authority over them. Often some resent this but their resentment is often turned on others whom they try to dominate rather than trying to replace the authoritarian structure of society.

And yet all of us have at some time or other resented authority. Nobody would admit to any satisfaction at being pushed around, but this is what happens. People seek the line of least resistance because they feel this the easiest way out. Society is really divided into two sections, those who give orders and those who take them. It is this class power division, rather than monetary wealth, which creates separate interests and an ensuing class struggle between them.

We are a community divided, in which an internal struggle is continually taking place. Unfortunately even many of those who are opposed to the present system of exploitation and authority support others which would only change those in power and not the authoritarian nature of society.

Anarchists believe that authority curtails the free development of people's lives and of society. Everyone should be free from authority to live the life he or she wishes. It is within this freedom of choice and decision that people can grow and develop without the stifling effect of authority.

Although anarchists, as a basic principle are opposed to authority, we are, despite what our opponents say, in favour of organisation. A society without authority does not exclude organisation but implies that people shall organise their daily lives to bring the full benefits to the whole of the community rather than to a minority as the present system does. Anarchists want things organised and not to be organised by others. We want to see the means of production placed at the disposal of everybody and not controlled and workers exploited under the present wage slavery. Without authority and exploitation there would be common interests and no need

LETTERS

New Federation

IN strongly welcoming your call for a new anarchist federation of Britain and T.P.'s offer to produce a new internal information bulletin for it, let me add the suggestion that this initiative should be supported by a new series of regular meetings in London and as many other places as feasible in order to encourage a frequent exchange of information and opinion on a wider and firmer basis than in possible in our various papers or in sectarian or social gatherings.

It seem to me that the following points are essential:

1. Such meetings should each have a definite subject of anarchist relevance, whether there is a set speech or an informal discussion.
2. They should be open to anarchist speakers belonging to any group or none, and also to guest speakers having contributions to make to the development of a libertarian consciousness, all speakers being guaranteed a fair hearing.
3. They should take place every week at a time and in a place convenient to the largest possible number of interested people, avoiding clashes with other activities of an anarchist complexion.
4. They should be arranged and chaired by a person or group of people enjoying the confidence of the widest possible spectrum of the anarchist movement, and organised to facilitate the freest and frankest possible exchange of views.

for order givers and takers. In this way we could build and produce for the good of all. Everybody could take part and make the decisions that will affect their lives. It is only in this way, with people consciously playing their part, that prevents decisions being imposed.

Anarchists are not just in revolt against the present social injustice, but have to show that society can be organised without the institutions of authority. Anarchy can bring well being and the free development of the individual to everybody. It is our job to propagate these ideas and win support for them.

Editors.

So far as London is concerned, I should be willing to take the responsibility for organising such meetings, together with any other comrades who are equally willing. I should therefore welcome any offers, comments, ideas, criticisms, objections, etc.

Nicolas Walter
134 Northumberland Road,
Harrow, Middlesex.
(tel. 01-866 9777)

CORRECTION

In the editors' article "For A New Federation" last week a line was omitted. Para 6 should read:

"In this context it could be that the existence of a NEW ANARCHIST FEDERATION would have a magnetic role to play, attracting into the anarchist movement those willing to embark on fresh and winning struggles against capitalism..."

The underlined words were omitted by the typist, who apologises.

SPAIN

Dear Comrades,

Like thousands I was appalled at the death of our Spanish comrade Salvador Puig Antich.

I went out of my way to inform many radical friends to send protest letters to the two addresses which FREEDOM published.

I wrote to Franco but on reading the form of slow torture I thought: You Bastards I sincerely hope all responsible die of Cancer; and I still hope so.

However, those garotting bastards will have this horrible crime on their conscience all their life. I well remember the other horrible crime in America, Sacco and Vanzetti. This swept the world.

How anarchists can spend a holiday in Spain, I find it difficult to appreciate. I'm referring to a comrade a few years ago justifying his holiday. I know others too.

I thought public opinion might save our comrade, but not one word from the Vatican.

My own solidarity will never cease and don't you think thousands of letters of condolence could be sent to his parents if the address was known.

I'm personally sending one to Franco via Salvador Puig Antich address.

Sincerely,
Geo. H. Leaf
Leeds.

our and he must keep the inequalities, and keep the rebels in order. Therefore on Monday Mr. Foot stonewalled, saying that for the time being they would keep Stage Three and the Prices and Incomes Board but eventually . . . We don't know who got thrown out of the sledge (maybe it was Mr. Foot!) but it will probably keep the Tory wolves at bay, not to mention the Liberal jackals!

Anyhow, we are living in an interim period and, as Mr. Foot has found out - of interim socialist ethics. Some may speak of a 'transition period' but we all know what that means too. Stalin kept going for years on it!

There are going to be some mutterings of 'sell outs' of socialism but nobody can be sold out unless they go around with a price-tag on them. A casual glance at some of the 'progressive' promises by the present government shows how short of anything like socialism the Labour Party promises are - let alone performance!

The fine evocative cry for 'Bread' has been heard. Not good bread. (Peace News, March 15 has an excellent article on the quality of our bread.) Not even for free bread. Nor even very cheap bread. But---subsidized bread! In order that the huge baking combines may have their usual profits, inflated, like their bread) the sales of bread must be maintained, so the revolutionaries of the Labour Party have decided to subsidize bread...and profits! Gone, even, are the days of the Webbs' municipal bakery, or even a municipal oven (useful for fuel economy). We do not expect Shirley Williams to lead a raid on a Lyons bakery a la Kropotkin but we do not expect bread to be turned into a foundation stone to prop up profits under any pretence to socialism.

The second basic cry for 'Homes!' has been translated in modern times as 'Mortgages for heaven's sake!' The Building Societies (which don't build) have run out of money. Because people do not lend them money, they cannot lend other people money so no houses are getting built. One would think that Building Societies need not wait for money to come in before they lend it out. What about their capital? What about their foreclosures and sales of property? Their only answer to the financial puzzle (incidentally they lend money at a greater rate of interest than that at which they borrow it) is to suggest that this government (like the last one) subsidize it. Once FREEDOM extracted some hilarity from a Morning Star heart-cry to

nationalize money-lenders. Now, a radical proposal by the Government (on ice, of course) is to nationalize building societies. Have they ever heard of interest-free loans? Or of building more houses?

We cannot hope for anarchism from any government. We cannot hope for socialism from this government. (Even after the transitional period!) We cannot even hope or fear for laissez faire capitalism from the Conservative or Liberal parties. All we'll get is government and more of the same.

How long can it last without solving one basic problem or supplying any basic needs?

Jack Robinson.

PRESS FUND

Contributions 7 - 13 March

ILFORD: A.G. 40p; LONDON NW5: J.R.H. 75p; GLASGOW: A.J. 22p; RENFREW: L.B. 20p; MIAMI GROUP per J.S. £23; WOLVERHAMPTON: J.L. 40p; J.K.W. 10p; LONDON SE11: H.H. 37p; RENSSALAER, NY: G.T. 43p.

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MENTAL PATIENTS UNION every Sat. 2 pm at Robin Farquarson Hse., 37 Mayola Rd. E.5 tel. 986 5251. Mtg. open to all mental patients & ex-pts. foll. by coffee & work group. MFU News 10p + 4p post

LONDON SCHOOL OF NONVIOLENCE at Crypt of St. Martin in the Fields every Mon & Wed 6.30 - 9 p.m.

NEW YORK: LIBERTARIAN BOOK CLUB Lectures alternate Thursdays 7.30 p.m. at Workmen's Circle Center, 369 8th Ave. (SW corner 29 St.). Admission free. No coll.

March 28: Sharon Presley on "Anarchism and Feminism".

April 11: Sylvia Barnes on "Labor and the Left"

April 25: Irving Levitas "The Anarchism of Gustav Landauer"

TUCSON, Ariz. April 18, 19 & 20. Conference on the Life, Literature & Cinema of B. Traven. Courses to Leo L. Barrow, Dept. of Romance Langs., Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. 85721 (tel. (602) 884-3123 & home (602) 793-0789.

NEW YORK: Preliminary Continental Anarchist Conference & Festival April 19-21. Details from Conference Correspondence c/o Hunter Libertarian Alliance, 47 East 65 St., New York, N.Y. 10021

STOKE NEWINGTON FIVE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, 54 Harcombe Rd. N.15

GIOVANNI MARINI DEFENCE COMMITTEE: Paolo Braschi, C.P. 4263, 20100 MILANO, Italy

BRISTOL FRAME-UP DEFENCE FUND c/o Arthur, 19 Brigstock Rd. Bristol 2.

Contact

HELP fold and despatch FREEDOM on Thursday from 2 p.m. at Freedom Press.

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ANARCHIST INDUSTRIAL NETWORK. Articles, letters, addresses & subs. to Peter Good, Trokes, Llanarth, Cards., Wales.

WILDCAT, Internal Bulletin. Send details of pickets, demos, meetings, group publications, printing facilities. Sub. 40p for 6 months. Out 1 April. Wildcat, 7 Cresswell Walk, Corby, Northants. Tel. (05366) 66781.

THE COMMUNE MOVEMENT would like to hear from groups working & living together & willing to write about themselves in movement's journal Communes. Write coordinator: Dave Puddy at Trokes Family, Llanarth, Ceredigion (Cards.) Wales.

MOTHERS IN ACTION want material for pamphlet to provide information on day care/education. Available, "Plan for Day Care", free copy and material: Munro House, 9 Poland St. London W1V 3DG. tel. 01-624 3843

Saturdays & Sundays at Centro Iberico, 83A Haverstock Hill NW3 (entrance in Steele's Rd.), tube Chalk Farm/Belsize Park, buses 31 & 68:-

CABARET OF THE MINORITIES, Saturday 23 March. 8 p.m.

ANARCHIST CABARET

Sunday 30 March. 8 p.m.

ANARCHIST CINEMA: Sun. 24 March 7.30 p.m. Zéro de Conduite, Jean Vigo (Fr. dial., Eng. sub-titles) Sunday 31 March 7.30 p.m. El Verdugo (The Executioner) by Luis G. Berlanga (Sp. dial. Eng. sub-tit.) ALL WELCOME

Saturday 23 March: "Race, IQ and the Class Society" at Polytechnic of Central London. Enquiries to Br. Soc. for Social Responsibility in Science, 9 Poland St. W.1.

Alternate Sundays Hyde Park Anarchist Forum meets at Speakers' Corner 1 p.m. Speakers, listeners & hecklers welcome.

THREATS TO FREEDOM: 4 public mtgs at Caxton Hall, London SW1. First mtg. Tuesday 2 April 7.45 pm Threats to Sexual Freedom. Free programme from organisers: National Secular Soc., 698 Holloway Rd., London N19. tel. 272 1266

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