

VIETNAM DEMONSTRATION FLOPS

John Cowan (Univ Group) * Bill Hooper (Univ Group) * Arnall Richards (M/side Group)

Last Saturday and Sunday at the Pier Head underlined once again the fact that the Merseyside Anarchist Group lacks the infrastructure needed to translate ideas into practice.

Totally inadequate arrangements were made for the preparation and distribution of the special issue of Insert, with the final touch being provided when it was left at a flat where it could not be collected on Saturday morning. (On Sunday no-one bothered to collect it, so the whole demonstration took place without the one piece of literature which tried to present the pacifist-anarchist case as seen by those taking part.)

The planned teach-in at St Mary's Church Hall did not even take place and no further comment will be made here, though the whole matter will merit a careful post-mortem.

Most members of the Group who had indicated their support for the demo (though, to be fair, very few were enthusiastic about it) failed to turn up. Saturday produced three demonstrators, and Sunday the same number (but not the same people).

As anarchists we do not seek to blame individual members of the Group for "failing to pull their weight" or some similar phrase. Rather we look for the reasons in the nature of the situation. It is obvious that the project did not arouse the degree of enthusiasm needed for its success and this indicates that in future we must examine all suggestions for like projects with a critical eye and not commit ourselves unless we are fairly certain of success.

SOCIALISM

Paul Rowlandson

Fifty years ago there might have been some excuse (though not justification) for the widespread belief that socialism is a political theory motivated by benevolence and aimed at man's well being. Today, that belief can no longer be regarded as an innocent error. Socialism has been tried on every continent of the globe. Instead of

prosperity, socialism has brought economic paralysis and/or collapse to every country that tried it.

The essential feature of socialism is the denial of property rights. No human rights can exist without property rights. Material goods are produced by the mind and effort of individual men, and are needed to sustain their lives. If the producer does not own the result of his effort, he does not own his life. To deny property rights means to turn men into property owned by the State or "society". Whoever claims the "right" to "redistribute" the wealth produced by others is claiming the "right" to treat human beings as chattel.

Yet socialism, under the guise of "welfarism" or "social progress" continues. Under the label of "syndicalism" or "anarcho-communism", it infiltrates and poisons Anarchism. Daily examples of socialist barbarity produce more and more adherents to the socialist idea. The continuous invasion of South Vietnam, the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the mass-murder in Red China, the totalitarianism in Cuba, the growing imprisonment of freethinkers in Russia, the suppression of the Baltic States, the rise of National Socialism - all these outrages produce MORE SOCIALISTS.

The march towards Animal Farm progresses every day in Britain, with its own insidious brand of socialism. Communism differs from socialism by its degree, not by its nature. The ultimate aim is the same with all its variations - 1984.

The Anarchists are pawns in their game!

‡ Paul is an individualist and advocates a form of laissez-faire capitalism. Because of the gulf between his ideas and main-stream anarchism he no longer describes himself as an anarchist.

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST MEETINGS

118 High Park Street Liverpool 8

Every Tuesday at Eight O'Clock

At Other Times Contact Chris Kneath

Basement 52 Belvidere Rd L'pool 8