

OPEN LETTER TO LEWIS BAXTER

[Lewis Baxter is the author of a short article on SYNDICALISM which was published in Insert 2, three weeks ago. We are printing this response from Donald Harrison now that space is available.]

Dear Lewis

I am not manure to generations yet unborn. (Even if I were, they might not like, or require, that which I had bequeathed to them!) Nor am I a fertiliser to the half-real termed 'society'. I am logically, and ontologically, prior to society. Logically, in that if I were not here there could be no 'society'; and ontologically, and more importantly, because I am the existential centre. 'Society' does not feel, suffer, hope.... It is only I that feel, hope, suffer.... To pen panaceas for the future of the half-existent is not to have read Ivan Karamazov's 'Rebellion'. More factually, it is a naive 'narodni-chestvo' that looks for salvation in the 'workers'. The very use of the term epitomises conceptualised thinking at its basest and the most abject slavery to the generic. The anarchist sees only persons. It is in personality that freedom resides ...and not in some Augustinian hotch-potch nonsense of 'free will'. Indeed, personality is precisely freedom incarcerated. To be an individual is submission to the category of number. To be a person is to be unique, irreplaceable. My personality is that in me which is not common, which is not shared. It is not an endowment but a task to be accomplished. It can never be subservient to the conclusion of a syllogism. Its distinguishing feature is the act of creation - not in the sense of the re-arrangement of pre-existent parts, but in the introduction into the evil infinitude of time of the absolutely original, the unique, the new.

I think we should disabuse ourselves of the non-problem of epistemology. The act of knowledge is always a creative act, invariably passionate and engaging the whole personality in a movement of freedom. Reality is not 'out there'. Reality is the product of my creative insight and imagination. For too long revelation has been presented as coming 'ab extra' and from above. Revelation must be 'de profundis' and from within. If, in the rejection of the universal, the commonplace, we can transcend our

conditioned slavery to the rationalistic shibboleths of the past, the vision may dawn of a universe plastic in the hands, and to the aspirations, of man. It is vision that is required, dear Lewis, not the propagation of logical categories. It is the awareness that only a sheet of tissue separates the death of economic servility from the life of eschatological freedom. The reiteration of pious political platitudes is as airy as unleavened dough. What will rouse us from the narcosis of routine formulations into the adventure of self and mutual discovery and achievement? Should we not dream awhile of what life might and should be like? Can we not catch fire in the flame of self-awareness even now?

None the less fraternally

DONALD HARRISON

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST MEETINGS

118 High Park Street Liverpool 8
Every Tuesday at Eight O'Clock

DIRECT-ACTION PLAYGROUND PROJECT.

The site is on the corner of Bedford Street and Huskisson Street, measuring 70'x70', is 6' below pave level and surrounded by a 6' wall. Rubbish fills one corner. Children play in this area using the rubbish as a ramp. There is polio one street away. The Project involves the removal of this rubbish (we have a lorry) and the construction of a wooden ramp into the area (wood from a demolition site) Local children have expressed interest. ARE YOU INTERESTED?
Contact: Ken MacGowan, Bill Hooper.
152 Princes Rd., L'pool 8. LAR 1449

ANARCHIST - CATHOLIC DIALOGUE

"All Authority Comes From God"

SUNDAY 10th. Nov., 7.30pm
University Catholic Chaplaincy