



C O R R E S P O N D E N C E
R E C E I V E D

From Ian Cowling 140 Watling St.
Rd., Fulwood, Preston, on behalf
of the newly-formed Preston Anar-
chist Group:

The letter thanks Eric Barton
for sending a set of Insert
....."which we thought were very
interesting, especially Nos. 1 &
3. Please send us 12 every week,
as we would be glad to have them."

They ask how much it would cost
to duplicate 5 000 leaflets.

....."We are going to saturate
Preston with them - you see Preston
is a very backward place, there is
no C.P., only 13 Trots, some New
Leftists and (TA-RA) about 15 hard-
core Anarchists. Therefore we
thought that letting the people
know about Anarchism was
essential - no-one knows about it
and so we may get converts easily
merely by one leaflet. We are
managing to sell 60 'Freedom' a
week, and 10 'Anarchy' within
the group...."

....."Eric mentioned resurrection
of North-West Fed. in his letter.
We think that it would be a good
idea to get some form of personal

contact going, (for Ron Marsden
of Manchester helped us to get
started). Perhaps you (or us for
that matter could write to these
groups: Manchester, Bolton,
Chorley (if they're still going!)
and we are in touch with Les.
Smith in Morcambe about his
proposed group....A meeting one
weekend would be fine and would
give our members some moral up-
lift...."

L I T E R A T U R E
R E C E I V E D

"Excretia" from York University
Anarchists; weekly, duplicated.
Not taking itself too seriously,
it manages to satirize the stu-
dent politicians who take them-
selves all too seriously.

"Communes" 24 from the Commune
Movement, Selene Community, Bryn
Villa, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Sir
Gaerfyrddin. "Communes" is a
well-produced duplicated journal
running to some twenty pages of
articles relating to problems
to be faced by people living in

anarchist communes, together with
description of Selene Community
itself - a tiny, but articulate
group of people now living on a
farm in mid-Wales.

For anyone who thinks a move
towards an anarchist society can
be achieved by setting up such
communes, this bimonthly journal
is essential reading. Single
copies are available for 2/-
from Selene.

The object of the Commune
Movement is "to create a federal
society of communities wherein
everyone shall be free to do
whatever he wishes provided only
that he doesn't transgress the
freedom of another."

F E E D B A C K A T L A S T !

It is always a pleasant surprise
to hear that someone is actually
reading Insert, but so much better
when someone is moved to write
for it, particularly now we have
discarded the previous expensive
presentation in favour of this
duplicated version which can be
easily stretched at will to acco-
modate any dialogues that may
emerge.

Peter Hodgson, as those of you
who come along to the Friday
meetings will know, often plays
the useful role of voicing, in a
singularly reasonable fashion,
some of the popular objections

to anarchism which one otherwise
encounters in less sympathetic
circumstances.

Peter's article is, I think,
a response to Arnall's article
of 20th. December. (J.B.C.)

It was good to read in Arnall's
"Special", Insert Vol.2 No. 1,
that Anarchism has a healthy side
and that a modest optimism can
be detected. I am not in touch,
as he is, and my views have tended
to reflect the pessimism expressed
by those other contributions
mentioned.

Indeed, I am quite certain
that if anyone has ever seriously
begun to think of Anarchism as a
possible development of society
generally, as an alternative to
this or any other established
society or even as a subject for
serious discussion in this conn-
ection, doubt must have been an
immediate second thought and
pessimism a continuing emotion.
But pessimism should be tempered
by the realisation that human
society could hardly have devel-
oped differently. Humankind has
always seemed to rely on, to
respond to, to need leadership
to generate supermen and thus to
lay itself open to exploitation
of one kind or another by those
who have assumed, asserted or
been elected to authority. In
turn, those in authority have
been at pains to foster the
superman idea and create super-

....contd.

contd.....

dynasties to carry on the tradition. It has always seemed to me that self-interest, and the greed for possessions and power of a comparative few has resulted in humanity becoming the most completely exploited of all living species; and it has to be realized that this has been most vividly evident in the so-called socialist republics of modern times, while the church of Saint Peter is still grimly reluctant to loosen its bonds after nearly two thousand years.

I find it significant that our learned friend has had to point back to the pre-stone age for the last known example of the true Anarchist society, but not altogether surprising when one considers that among the first of man's artifacts were to be found the chains with which to bind himself - dependence on, or subservience to, the innovator - the beginnings of the inferior/superior relationship.

All is not lost however, modest optimism may not be quite so out of place.

With the rapid advance of science and technology the ruling elite have become aware that privilege, if not power, must be shared with a growing, indispensable specialist class and that the present merging of class boundaries will be replaced by a yawning chasm of 1984 proportions. Who better, then, to titillate

the political pretensions of the deprived "Proles": to begin the great experiment of the classless, leaderless society than the present breed of mild-mannered, inoffensive intellectuals who adopt that explosive-sounding name "Anarchist"? Who batter indeed for "their" purposes!

But I'm sure that if and when the time comes appearances will be deceptive!

MERSEYSIDE ANARCHIST MEETINGS

Tuesdays 8 pm, 118 High Park St.

Fridays nine to midnight, 170^A
Lodge Lane, Liverpool 8.
(over laundromat)

All contributions to Insert are welcome - if you can read it you can write for it.

Send to: 170^A, Lodge Lane, L80QQ
