

For Monday 27th January 1967
A meeting of the Freedom Press group was held on Monday 23rd January 1967 at 17A Maxwell Road, having been brought forward by one week.

Present: Peter Turner, John Rety, Jack Robinson, Vero Richards Golin Ward and Mary Canipa.

Apologies were received from Philip Sansom.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Premises: Vero Richards reported that the rental of the Gray's Inn Road premises was £750 a year exclusive of rates, making a total of about £20 per week.

Peter Turner asked whether we had sought an option on Bob Barltrop's Wlathamstow premises. No communication had taken place on this matter since last meeting. He thought we should try to keep this option open, and perhaps extend it; it being pointed out that the premises were not vacant yet. John Rety thought we should find out what the rent would be; if this were very low we could possibly later on have a second place.

Jack Robinson would be writing to Bob Barltrop soon and would raise this matter with him.

2. Harlow group - Easter leaflet: Keith Nathan had been acquainted with the Freedom Press group's feelings and would discuss with his group the suggestion of putting an article in Freedom and having it reprinted.

3. Freedom Press publications: Lilian Wolfe's pamphlet:

John Rety had read the material, and while it might serve as a basis for something, as it stood could not be used. He was asked to break this news to Lilian.

Kropotkin Reprints: Vero was proceeding with the revisions. In mentioning three volumes he had had in mind that the pamphlets could be compiled into one volume, and then there remained material for two further volumes. The pamphlets were The State, its historic role; The Wage System; Revolutionary Government; Law and Authority; and Anarchist Communism.

Nicolas Walter had recently offered to do translations of short pieces which had not previously been published in England. These appeared not to clash with Vero's

programme and he should be asked to go ahead and do some translations for publication in "Freedom".

Peter Turner felt it was necessary to decide which was the more important - the Read selections originally chosen for reprinting or the pamphlets. It was mentioned that there was a need for pamphlets, as we had no Kropotkin titles in print and were increasingly being asked for him. The suggestion was made that The State and Anarchist Communism could be set and run off as pamphlets.

The question of the means of financing again arose. John Rety thought it was ridiculous to tell Vero to go ahead without knowing whether or when money would be available for the printing. He thought money could be obtained by having in "Freedom" a longish article from the editors announcing well in advance the reasons for publication, what aspects the volumes were going to cover, why it was important, and asking for financial support. This was discussed. It was decided to ask Vero to complete the revised translations, and to cost the project and fix the price of the volumes and advertise for pre-publication subscriptions.

4. Editorial Secretary: The editorial committee felt the need of assistance in their meetings, for letter-writing etc. No objection was raised to their advertising in Contact Column for a voluntary editorial secretary.

5. Gift introductory subscriptions: It was decided to revive the two-months gift subscription and to increase the price by only one shilling to six shillings.

6. "Anarchism and Modern Society": Jeff Robinson had written under this title a pamphlet, published by S.E. Parker, which he had asked us to sell and to advertise in "Freedom". The pamphlet contained one disguised reference and one blatant attack on "Freedom". Comrades did not feel we should refuse to sell the pamphlet but it was none the less an affront and we should not advertise it.

7. Writ served by J.-P. Schweizer: Jean Pierre Schweizer, described on the writ as a free-lance lecturer, and known to several members of the group as an individualist anarchist, had served on Freedom Press a writ that he was seeking an injunction which would prevent the magazine Freedom being described as "anarchist weekly". His grounds for objection were not stated.

Jack Robinson was concerned at the possible consequences should J.-P. Schweizer's plea go for hearing and we not put in an appearance to contest it.

No one else in the group expressed the feeling that we should enter an appearance.

Vero Richards thought we should only bother when some official communication was received from the court; John Rety that if an injunction were granted to Schweizer we could merely change the subtitle to "weekly anarchist" or something similar; Colin Ward couldn't see on what grounds the application could be advanced and sustained; Mary Canipa that while we shouldn't apply for the court to find in our favour she would feel opposed to changing the name and thought there should be a re-arrangement of the legal position so that all members of the group had to be held legally equally responsible; Peter Turner, the nominal owner and therefore the only member at present legally liable, would also be opposed to changing the name.

On the question of whether or not to make mention of the matter in "Freedom", Vero was the most decidedly against as we did not in any case want to give Schweizer publicity, and the only kind of publicity we could give it was that one would have to start a war against the individualists and would be bad publicity.

8. Letter from Board of Trade Industrial and Manufactures Committee:

A letter had been received from the Board of Trade asking us to confirm that the price of "Freedom" had been increased during the period of severe restraint on prices and incomes imposed by the government, and requesting details of the steps we had taken to try to absorb increased costs prior to increasing the price.

Vero thought a protracted correspondence could be ~~back~~ enjoyable as well as successful.

Colin Ward thought this was a case where we could reproduce the letter in "Freedom", but Vero pointing out that this would end the possibilities of a to-and-fro correspondence the idea was dropped and Vero asked to reply to the Board of Trade.

re premises:

Essex

Stamford

Perth

R. Bartrop

The old vicarage

Radwinter

Saffron Walden

Essex

on the ground that the premises are not suitable for the purpose of the business of the company and that the company is not able to carry on its business at the premises.

and the company is not able to carry on its business at the premises.

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A meeting of the Freedom Press group was held at 17A Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6 on Tuesday, 19th December 1967.

Present: Lillian G. Wolfe, Vero Richards, Peter Turner, John Rety, Philip Sansom, Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa.

The following matters were discussed:-

1. Correspondence

(i) A letter signed by P. P. McGuinness and Mike Malet from Mike Malet's address, purporting to express dissatisfaction felt within the movement with FREEDOM's administration, had been received addressed to the Editorial Committee and proposing:

(a) that P. P. McGuinness take over sole editorship of FREEDOM for six months

(b) Mike Malet should examine the financial arrangements of Freedom Press.

(Paddy McGuinness had written articles for FREEDOM under the various pseudonyms of Bron Shatov, Sebastian Scragg and others. Mike Malet had for many months been stamping the envelopes for ANARCHY and was the mainstay of Lewisham Group and active in the Anarchist Federation of Britain and London Federation of Anarchists.)

The group was unanimous in rejecting any association of P. McGuinness with the editorial group. Regarding the financial question raised, it was conceded that the Press Fund could be more explicit or less obscure, and it was agreed to make a modification in the lay out to make more obvious the relationship between the figure shown as surplus or deficit, and the donations in the Press Fund. It was realized, however, that this was not the information the writers of the letter were seeking, and the view was expressed that Mike had an obsession with finance and organization; nevertheless he was a good comrade and it was felt we ought to profit from his efficiency by securing his services for the work of, say, compiling monthly statements, which was at present not being done at all, and the monthly bundles accounts.

While some members of the group felt strongly that the letter was a colossal cheek, it was decided to reply in serious vein, and Peter Turner drafted a letter informing Paddy and Mike that there was no thought of making any alteration in the editorial arrangements; that we had discussed the financial point raised and would be making an alteration in the setting out of the Press Fund, and we wondered whether Mike would give regular help with customers' statements and the bundles accounts.

(ii) South London Anarchist Group: What was virtually an anonymous letter, without address and from above-names group which is unknown, had been sent to the Freedom Press Group, levelling generalised complaints

against unspecified Anarchist Traitors. Philip was for printing it, as an example of what we sometimes have to put up with, but others thought it only worth ignoring.

(iii) National Committee of 100 - Resistance magazine:

Peter Neville, editor of "Resistance", had written saying that there was a possibility of a merger between this and the London Committee of 100 magazine "R.S.G.", and asking whether the resultant magazine could be produced on Freedom Press duplicator, if the editors supplied materials and a production team. This was agreed. (The covers of some issues of "Resistance" drawn by Arthur Moyse, had already been run off on our duplicator by Mary Canipa.)

2 (iv) Offer of printing services from Canada: Doug. Worthington, of Vancouver, had again written offering the services of his flatbed printing machine. It was thought the range of items that could be printed on it would be too limited to be useful, and that freight charges on the finished work would cancel out any saving, but we should ask him to tell us the price in Canada of paper (wt. 45lbs. per ream).

(v) Proposed literary page for FREEDOM: John Thurston was willing to undertake the editing of stories, poems and other literary contributions for inclusion in FREEDOM, perhaps quarterly.

If this was intended in addition to the existing once-monthly supplement, the group did not think we could afford this, but Vere suggested that if some other group wished to meet the costs there was no reason why an extra four-page supplement should not be published every week; and a notice could be put in FREEDOM saying that there was a group of people interested in putting a literary and poetry supplement in FREEDOM and asking for funds to meet the stated cost. John Rety would tell John Thurston the group's decision.

2. Freedom Press publications - proposed:

(i) Boris Yelensky had again asked if we were willing to publish an English edition of his book, to which he would supply a translation. He was to be told we did not have the money to publish a very specialized book such as this, especially as it had already been published (in Jewish) and distributed.

(ii) Syndicalism... Yet another enquiry had been received from Glasgow. Philip did not think it should be announced that this will not now be published -- he only has to re-write one chapter.

(iii) The Liberation of Work by Prof. Folkert Wilken of Freiburg.

Ernest Bader, of the Scott Bader Commonwealth, had sent a copy of the above, in a mimeographed edition of 87 a4 pages

F.P. publications contd. (iii)

a copy of the above, in a mimeographed edition of 87 A4 pages in elite type, which he has been unsuccessful up to now in having printed in England. A glance at the book indicated that it was not suitable for publishing under Freedom Press imprint, but he could be told we could quote for printing. Yet it was thought the book should be first read by someone, and it was agreed Colin should be asked to read it and see if it were of any interest to him.

(iv) Reprint from "Sennet": A student at London University had approached Philip Sanson to know whether we would be interested to publish as a pamphlet an article on birth-control which he had had published in the student newspaper Sennet with illustrations reprinted from the "Which?" supplement on contraceptives. This was intended for students, and the author would obtain lists of secretaries of student bodies throughout the country as an aid to distribution, and would try to obtain for the different areas addresses of clinics, etc., where advice can be obtained by students.

In principle the group was in favour of publishing, provided the author could provide the outlets for distribution as indicated, but the point was made in discussion that the article, which did not contain much of a previously unpublished nature, would be of real value to students only if the proposed lists of addresses where advice and instruction is available to them, can in fact be provided. On the matter of royalties, it was thought that for so small a publication an outright payment would be more suitable.

Philip would contact the author again, and would also work out the printing costs, etc.

3. PREMISES: Were reported that four friends were prepared to lend amounts totalling £9000, some requiring interest and some not, and the landlords were prepared to lower the purchase price to £9,500. The landlords had made enquiries two years before and had been told no development was planned for the site. They were also prepared to advance a £2000 mortgage. This would allow us money to carry out the necessary repairs. The only snag is that Gilbert, the occupant of 84B, had discovered that the premises he was to move into are unfit, and he has called off that move and is looking for somewhere else. This meant we could not move the Freedom Press offices into those premises, at any rate for the time being. (Perhaps it should be considered, once the success of our plans is secured and we have been able to buy both buildings, whether it might not be advantageous to leave him in occupation and paying rent.)

It was thought a separate company should be formed (F.F.P. Limited was suggested) to hold the premises, and the Articles of Association should make it quite clear that this

Premises contd.

company exists solely to finance publications of the Freedom Press and has no paid officers, and there should be clauses that whenever Freedom Press wants to buy out F.F.P. Limited they can do so. Anni Mygind as one of the lenders would like to be one of the directors, whereas the lenders in Italy do not care whether they are or are not.

It was obvious that we could not move the the end of the year. Until 17A Maxwell Road was vacated Hammersmith Council would not pay the purchase price, and Vero was having to borrow money at the rate of £33 per month to buy the property he and Peta wanted in the country. John Rety suggested that until we could move we raise our rent to £33/-/- per month. Despite Vero's protests this was unanimously agreed by the rest of those present.

Functions and staffing of new premises: Lilian contested the suggestion that had been made that we should cease to carry on a bookshop at the new premises. She thought the books, and especially the second-hand books, were the attraction to callers, and the figures for the current year up to October showed that the annual amount of shop sales of books was about £500, over £300 in second hand. Vero thought this was clear proof that it was unprofitable; Philip and others expressed surprise that the suggestion had ever been put forward that we should not operate a bookshop as we had always done.

The question was how it was to be staffed full-time; Jack Robinson's and Mary Canipa's attendance would cover only 3 days, and Jack was prepared to do Freedom Press work and order and collect new books from publishers and to try to obtain specific second-hand books for orders, but not to continue a second-hand book business at Freedom Press because he and Mary were now going to try to do this on their own account at home.

Lilian said she was prepared to come in from Tuesday to Friday, but required a room and asked if she could have one in 84B, for which she would pay £2 per week. It was generally felt that even if Gilbert vacated 84B it was entirely unsuitable for Lilian to be there alone at nights.

The meeting dispersed without arranging any future date.

[1967]

A meeting of the Freedom Press Group was held on Tuesday, 17th October at 17A Maxwell Road, S.S.6.

Present: Vere Richards, John Rety, Peter Turner, Colin Ward, Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa.

The following matters were discussed.

1. Editorial Committee Jack Robinson had the previous night retired from the editorial committee, feeling the differences in his approach and that of the other editors were too wide and the proportion of his articles rejected too high. He would continue with Freedom Press work but would do no writing except of any specific article requested.

Philip Ganson wished to record his regret.

2. Freedom Press Publications: Bound Anarchy: Colin expected that there would be 100 copies of the first six volumes ready within a few days.

Japanese MS: K. Hashimoto had sent a lengthy manuscript on the anarchist movement in Japan. Colin Ward would consider this for Anarchy.

3. Anarchy - design award: Anarchy had received from the Designers' & Art Directors' Association a Certificate of Merit for the cover designs. The group's congratulations and thanks were expressed to Colin and to Rufus Segar who designs the covers.

4. Premises:
 1. Hammermith Council: had only recently sent their reply to our letter of August 28th. This was a vague statement that they never promised to find other accommodation for business premises. They had been informed that this was entirely unsatisfactory to us and their further reply was awaited.

2. Express Printers premises etc.

Vere had seen the landlord's agent, who was agreeable to making the premises pest-proof and dealing with the places where water comes in, and to knocking the rent down to £750 per annum on a full repairing lease inside and outside. Vere had tried to obtain a clear statement of what this last phrase meant, and in his turn had said we would have to have it quite clear in what condition the premises were when we

took over.

However, in the course of the interview Vere had learned that the landlord really wishes to sell the entire property, including the building opposite, for Ten Thousand Pounds.

The various possibilities for the use of all these premises were discussed at length (including further discussion of the problem of the rubbish deposited by the neighbouring Wimpy Bar, and the possibility of locking up the alley at night to keep out urinating men) and included the suggestions that Freedom Press could occupy the opposite building, which was divided up into smaller rooms, as offices, and the large building could be let as studios, a small cinema, meeting room, and our library on the ground floor

It was felt we should try to find the £10,000 necessary (John Nety thought we should try for £12,000 and buy new printing machinery, but Vere pointed out that that had been discussed in times past but would need new or additional printing staff and further greatly increase costs). There was a paucity of suggestions as to where this money might be found, but the consensus was that a loan from individual comrades should be sought if possible, while ensuring that if any interested individual could be found, Freedom Press's interest should be safeguarded so that we did not merely become a tenant; John Nety alternatively suggesting that we could approach the bank and put forward the annual donations to the Press Fund and the Premises Pledges as evidence of security.

It was agreed that Vere should ask Annie Hygind if she were able and willing to put up the money.

Only two weeks had gone by since the announcement of the move and the appeals had appeared in Freedom. £16 had been received for the moving fund as well as three offers of help, and pledges of about £65.

Staffing of Whitechapel Premises: Mary Canipa and Jack Robinson

would each do two days, one of which to coincide, Lillian would seek a room near Aldgate and add a further day to her present three.

All discussion as to whether or how this would

17.10.67

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meet administrative needs was postponed until next meeting.

No date of future meeting was fixed. Vero would call this when he could report on the outcome of his approach to Annie Mygind.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Date not fixed

PREMISES report

Fund

Moving Fund

MOVE offers of help:

ALBON (Alan) Van, decorating
COULL (David)
GOODWAY (David) To sort out Library
HYAMS (David) ARCHITECTURAL
McGee (Hazel & Brian) Driving, decorating
MA ET (Mike)
MOYSE (Arthur)
NEWMAN (Max) Full time for bed and
 board
SWIFT (Alan)
ULOSH (Arthur)
also Max Range

New Premises: Functions to be carried on
 Staffing

F.P. Publications -various & enquiry from B. Yelenkey
 and ERNEST BADER

The meeting arranged for Monday 3rd April 1967 was abortive, owing to lack of time following the editorial group's routine meeting. The following attended:-

Colin Ward, Peter Turner, John Rety, Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa.

Vernon Richards, who sent apologies, reported that no further progress had yet been made in the production of the series of Kropotkin pamphlets but he hoped to make headway soon. Giovanni Baldelli had asked him whether Freedom Press might be interested in publishing a book he had written. It was agreed that Vero should ask him to send the MS. for consideration. B. Yelensky had also written to Vero saying he had heard nothing for a long time about the prospect of having an English translation of his book published by Freedom Press. The only decision recorded regarding this book was in 1965 when it had been agreed to accept a review copy of the original Yiddish edition for Philip Holgate. The enquiry was to be passed on to Philip Holgate to give Vero any information he could.

A letter had been received from a Robert Lallouette of 18 Rue de Cdr. Bicheray, 76 Le Havre, France. This was sent to Albert Meltzer for reply.

Swinton and Pendlebury public library had cancelled their subscription to Freedom and Anarchy. They were offered a free subscription for the rest of the year.

A meeting of the Freedom Press group was held at 17A Maxwell Road, London, S. W. 6. on Tuesday, 1st August 1967.

PRESENT: Colin Ward, Peter Turner, Jack Robinson, John Rety and Mary Canipa.

Apologies: Philip Sansom.

Before proceeding to the main item, i.e. discussion of memoranda as filed with these minutes, the following matters were dealt with:-

1. Correspondence:

Advertising - Aberdeen Student magazine: It was agreed to have an advertisement of 8 column inch size if it could be got into the first issue of next term, and Colin Ward undertook to draft and send this.

"Forward" and "Spartacus" (Cambridge University Labour Club publications). At £8 per quarter page (in both papers) this was felt to be too expensive, but at the beginning of term Cambridge anarchists should be asked whether they thought any benefit might accrue to their activities if we advertised.

Library Subscriber Bennington College, Vermont, USA had been receiving a gift subscription. After two subscription renewal reminders the librarian had written to say the publications have been read by some members of their community but they do not feel they can include a subscription in their budget at this time. It was agreed to continue the subscription.

2. Freedom Press Publications:

The Writer and Politics: Vero had got the binding done, but the cover had so far not been received. Philip was reminded.

Kropotkin pamphlets: No further information was available.

Bound volumes of Anarchy - no report.

Syndicalism, the workers' next step: R. Lynn had written expressing much regret at the non-appearance of this pamphlet. While it

was not thought that Glasgow would sell large numbers of the pamphlet if published, the relevant passages of the letter should be passed to Philip Sansom for his consideration.

3. PREMISES:

Before those present had discussed the matters raised in Vero's memorandum and the written replies of Lilian Wolfe, Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa to this and subsequent developments, Philip Sansom telephoned and gave his observations that

- a) We should make a try for the Wooden Shoe option for two years
- b) If when the time comes we cannot get a better place from the Fulham Council we should consider whether we could use the whole building of Express Printers premises, including a club on the first floor.

John Rety had talked with Vero on the telephone and had asked him about the Wooden Shoe proposition which had arisen subsequent to his letter. Vero took the view that this was irrelevant to the discussion. Vero had not had a reply from the owners of Express Printers' premises, but believed he could get the whole building for £750 per year, which with rates would come to about £1000, working out at the low figure of 10/- a sq.ft.

Colin Ward thought basically Vero was right; we were too few to carry out so many tasks. This had been Colin's own position in 1960 when the situation had previously been discussed, and he felt our priority ought to be propaganda, and personally he thought we should be publishing a monthly "Freedom" of the style he had advocated in 1960.

John Rety had made notes setting out his first reactions, which were that we should continue as publishers of Freedom and Anarchy and try to resume publication of books and pamphlets. This requires a four-way division of labour -- editing, printing, distributing, and accounting -- which whether or not a large staff, paid or unpaid, was employed, did entail large premises. He thought we should try to continue our work as it stands and if we fail in

our financial appeal, then we by the end of the year have to consider whether we curtail our activities exactly as Vero had suggested.

Jack Robinson was against curtailing activities; he felt Vero's proposals were measures of retreat and he did not think anarchism was at the present time in retreat.

Peter Turner thought we should not curtail our activities but should instead look for more comrades to help. He would like to know what the Council's plans were and it was agreed this was necessary to know before we could follow up definite plans, but on specific points observations included the following:

Printing:

Colin: It might be that we should give this up. He felt that ten years ago we should have been investigating the new methods of printing. He thought times had changed since we first decided our own printer was necessary to get round censorship; if the occasion arose now there were all the enterprises doing this sort of printing, such as Ted Kavanagh had taken up, and Pirate Press.

Jack: Thought we must keep our own printing because of the existence of censorship - as International Times had learned, even a visit from the police after the appearance of an issue could frighten off a printer.

Peter: Thinks we should retain our printers - firstly it has a lot to do with convenience and also we never know when we are going to need it.

Mary: While we do not have a full-time editorial staff, we need sometimes to call on Dick to hand set late items and make corrections, which service we would be unlikely to get from a commercial firm.

John: On his experience ten years ago of having a publication done, we could easily double our costs by going to a commercial printer (basing "Freedom's" printing costs on the figure published in the Press Fund). On top of which there was the possibility of censorship -- we already had an experience of the binders holding up an issue of Anarchy.

Library:

Colin: Since we always regard with suspicion people who come to do research, maybe it would be a good idea to get it passed on to some institution, provided it could be accessible. The most interesting for us would be one of the new universities, but it would be an inconvenience to ourselves to have to go far out of London if we wanted to consult it.

John: Agreed with placing it in an institution, but his preference would be for a public library - e.g. Whitechapel, right next to Express Printings, which would be perfect for us if we carried on all our activities there.

Peter thought we should keep the library -- while he had not used it much recently he had in times past found it invaluable.

Jack feared any university library would keep only a few books and discard the rest. The collection, while good, was not unique and not specifically anarchist; L.S.E. and similar libraries pre-existed most of the books and would already have them. As regards public libraries, their main function was the lending out of books, not preserving them as collections.

Wooden Shoe

Jack Robinson reported that the information he had verbally from Ted Kavanagh had been incomplete and inaccurate. The lease had one year to run, not two (but with strong possibility of extension), and the rent was not £5. per week but £112.10.0 per quarter, rates £86) per year (Total £535). Ted owed one quarter's rent and a whole year's rates.

This made the rent high, but it was a central position; that fact that it could be only for one year might not be such a bad thing, as by then we would know exactly where we were with regard to other premises, and in the meantime we would have an outlet and an office and some of the functions carried on at Maxwell Road could be transferred there before we actually had to leave here.

Colin: thought it would be only postponing the problem

*Better Books nearby, who had long distributed Anarchy and other radical publications, were threatened by their proprietors, Collins, with the closure of that section.

Even if we took it, he still agrees with the general tenor of Vere's opinion.

In his general comments earlier Colin had said he was not sure whether we should give up being booksellers - probably we had the problem of distribution, and there were the books not published by us which we distributed, such as the American paperbacks on anarchism which probably could not be obtained anywhere else in Britain except from us.

John: is against merging the identities of Freedom Bookshop and the Wooden Shoe. There is an increase in the number of bookshops willing to stock anarchist literature; up to now the Wooden Shoe and Freedom Bookshop had been two outlets, and he would like both ~~xxx~~ to continue separately; to transfer certain functions of Freedom Press to that address would only cause confusion. He thought the Wooden Shoe might provide an opportunity for Jack to become a public bookseller, but the mail order side as set out in Lilian's memorandum was invaluable and it was essential to keep Freedom Bookshop going separately, and new comrades would then have to be found to staff the Maxwell Road premises.

Jack believed that for the time being the business at Maxwell Road could be carried on without alteration, as Lilian would still be coming and he and Mary would alternate, the difference being that the days now spent by Mary at her job would be spent at the Wooden Shoe.]

Peter wondered whether we could see the landlords. Jack thought the lease would not be assigned because of the rent arrears, and that if Ted's tenancy ceased it was almost inevitable that the new lease would be issued at a higher rent.

The concensus was that the outlay was too much and period too short, and the risk of distraint by publishers for Ted's debts with them too great. In effect, Jack was offering himself as the bookseller envisaged by Vere. The decision was for him and not for the group, but if he did take the initiative we should do our utmost to back and regard him as the selling outlet for Freedom Press literature; although John Rety remained worried about cutting the throat of Freedom Bookshop, and we would still have to have personnel for the remaining time of the Maxwell Road premises.

Express Printers' Premises:

John: The premises are large enough, at as reasonable a rent as we are likely to find. With a little effort it could be made attractive by such means as a sort of garden where bomb-site rubbish exists at the back at present (Susan had offered to do this) and flowers or a garden seat where the Wimpy Bar now dumps the dustbins, so as to leave no space for the rubbish; and painting, and especially if the Council could be persuaded to allow the gates to the alley to be locked say at midnight.

Mary thought not a little but a great effort, regularly by a number of comrades, would be needed to transform and maintain the premises in the state John envisaged -- we had not succeeded in keeping our present premises, which are potentially much more attractive, in good state.

Colin thought that while the area was lively and appropriate, the premises were terribly depressing. He agreed with John that it should be possible to turn the place into an island which would be a demonstration of anarchism, in practice because we were all doing too much we probably wouldn't get around to it and it would remain a slum.

Premises Fund: Earlier Philip had volunteered to write an appeal for Freedom, and now in his letter Vero had offered to do this and to write to some foreign anarchist papers.

Summary: It was felt the first thing we had to know was what the possibilities were of the Council re-accommodating us - they might have old premises elsewhere in Hammersmith or Fulham even with a shop front - and we should make formal application provided this did not cut across Vero's negotiations. He should first be asked, and the application made if Vero did not disagree.

Decision regarding Express Printers' premises should be delayed pending the Council's reply, and also depending on the outcome the appeal by Vero and Philip for a premises fund should be taken up.

[1967]

A meeting of the Freedom Press group was held on Tuesday, 19th September at 17A Maxwell Road, S. W. 6.

Present: Vero Richards, Peter Turner, Philip Sansom, John Rety, Colin Ward, Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa.

The only item on the agenda was future premises.

Until the full meeting assembled, minor matters of correspondence were dealt with.

John Rety brought up the matter of the police harassment of literature sellers that had taken place at Hyde Park, and he had learned from Peace News that this was happening elsewhere in the country. It being mentioned that the new lay-out of the precincts of Hyde Park left a very narrow pavement which was soon obstructed, Vero Richards put forward that the obvious next step was to demand the right to sell inside the park.

Peter Turner asked if the F.P. group's fraternal greetings could be sent to the SWF conference in Manchester. This was not agreed, but it was thought the editorial group could send a message if they wished.

PREMISES: Philip Sansom had drafted an appeal for funds, as filed herewith, which was warmly accepted, it being ultimately decided to let the figure of £1,000 a year stand, although somewhat more than the total rent and rates as it included those already being paid for the basement, and to as for a separate £500 for the moving. The appeal would be printed in one issue of FREEDOM, and afterwards distributed with the papers as a leaflet. Vero would write to some Italian/American comrades.

There was some diversity in the way comrades saw the space being used, e.g. whether the ground floor should be used as a bookshop and the first floor as a club or meeting place or vice versa; Vero thought the ground floor was the only one that could be let (i.e. to another tenant as distinct from occasional letting for meetings), and Peter Turner foresaw snags about locking up. This was all left undecided.

With regard to Hammersmith Council and the application for re-allocation, nothing further than an acknowledgement had been received. Some, principally Mary Canipa and Colin Ward, were unconvinced that the Council had no obligations to business premises; John Rety thought the application had not been worded strongly enough and they should be pressed to say what they were

going to do. It was finally decided to write again to the Council and get them to reply, even if this was academic in view of a move by Christmas, and Vero should open negotiations with the landlord of Express Printers.

Staffing: Jack Robinson said he and Mary would not be able to give as much time in Whitechapel as they had been doing, Mary Canipa concurring, and while it was felt availability of people to man the place affected the whole matter, precise details were left over.

Date of next meeting was fixed for Tuesday 17th October.

A meeting of the Freedom Press group was held at 17A Maxwell Road, London S.W.6 on Wednesday, 31st May 1967.

Present: Philip Sanson, John Rety, Peter Turner, Colin Ward, Jack Robinson, Mary Canipa and Vero Richards.

The following matters were discussed:-

1. Finance - Special Donations : No acknowledgement had so far appeared in "Freedom" of the £159.10.0 received as a result of the individual appeals made by Annie Mygind, and this sum was not shown in the Press Fund.

Vero thought the £59/10/- could go into the Press Fund with a note of the individual donations of which it was made up, and the £100 kept out until the end of the year, so as not to boost the Press Fund too high.

Mary Canipa had drafted a note showing the total of contributions, but saying this was to be held in reserve to ensure the continuation of the 4-page monthly supplement. It was agreed she should get into touch with Annie Mygind and find out how the appeal had been couched - i.e., if a specific purpose had been stated and if Annie agreed the acknowledgement should be inserted, with the list of donors and a word of thanks.

2. Freedom Press Publications: No further action had been taken with regard to the series of Kropotkin pamphlets. It was pointed out that one of these, Revolutionary Government had been reproduced and placed on the market already by Ted Kavanagh. Vero promised to mark up and send to Express Printers immediately the first pamphlet, Anarchist Communism.

Bound Volumes of Anarchy: Colin reported that the preliminaries for these had been set and pasted up.

Other publications : The Writer and Politics. Vero said that Whitefriars Press had never replied to his last letter, but he was about to pay their latest bill for storage of the sheets and he would again take up with them the binding. There was further discussion about the cover. It was agreed to have the books bound in a plain white card, and we would ourselves print a dust jacket. Philip Sanson undertook to design one with a short blurb and some advertising of Freedom Press, and

Colin suggested putting on the cover the names of some of the writers discussed.

A general discussion of the depleted stock of the Freedom Press list ensued, in the course of which it emerged that the stock of our best title, the Elitzbacher: Anarchism, was now almost exhausted and there was no possibility of reprinting it as the metal had not been kept. (This printing had consisted of 2000 copies, of which 1250 had been sold by Libertarian Book Club and 750 by us.)

It was stressed that the obvious need was for new pamphlets. Jack Robinson thought the outlet for literature was now much smaller than in past years, the movement nowadays being differently orientated, and we had not the distribution facilities. John Rety disagreed; Peter Turner instanced the massive sales of the Incomes Policy pamphlet produced by a trade union group, and Vero thought that in having two periodicals we had the means of distribution; Philip Sanson pointed out our failure to do any notable advertising in "Freedom". Colin Ward brought forward the earlier idea of "Anarchy" as a monthly pamphlet, which could be printed in larger quantities with a different cover for separate sale, as had been done with the "Spies for Peace" pamphlet sold by Solidarity, and which guaranteed an initial sale of almost 3000 copies. It was agreed the method was not suitable for reprinting the Kropotkins, but Colin suggested that if the next January "Anarchy" consisted of a new pamphlet forming an introduction to anarchism, even the page numbering would be right for a separate pamphlet. The meeting was in accord with this idea.

John Rety suggested asking the readers of both Freedom and Anarchy to subscribe to a set number of pamphlets per year, as did "Peace News". It was felt we ought first to produce our pamphlets.

3. Premises : Peter Turner reported that a man from Hammer-smith Council had paid a visit to the shop but could not really offer any guarantee; it would be necessary to write to the Valuer at the Town Hall stating what we wanted, and he would see whether we could be located in the new scheme.

It was brought the present premises covered 400 square feet - Colin had the measurement in his plan and would give the figure to Vero. There was much discussion on possibilities. It was suggested we should try to get the Council to provide us with premises containing the printing works and a shop front. This would run to a high rent, but the same

consideration would apply to any premises we moved to and we would have to think of ways to meet it. Philip Sansom wondered about raising a continuing fund to cover the expenses of suitable premises. He thought of putting over an appeal for people to guarantee a certain sum each year - say 1000 people to guarantee £1 each, which he thought a negligible amount for most people. Mary Canipa thought this could necessitate giving the guarantors some share or association in the group, and Vero Richards followed it up with the opinion that it would only be possible to raise these guarantees by having somewhere to which people could come and be members (in which case one could look for a long lease or a freehold), and the discussion made a tentative round of possibilities of a club run on voluntary membership-partaking lines as the Malatesta Club, or a professionally catered for cafe and meeting place as the Partisan (which despite its greater scope and finances and ambitions had had a shorter life), before coming to rest on the offer of Philip to draft a tentative appeal and see what the response looked like, and the delegating to Vero of the responsibility of writing to the Council Valuer to ask for 15000 square feet to accommodate our needs as printers, publishers and booksellers.

4. Posters : John Rety said posters were still needed for Freedom sellers, both shops and newsstands and comrades, and he wondered whether Rufus Seager could be asked to design a two-colour poster for both Freedom and Anarchy. Colin Ward suggested a silk screen job would be the best method. John further wondered whether the poster could be done also to be displayed in the L.T. Underground -- while they wouldn't take political posters, one simply saying we existed and what the publications were would be unexceptionable. Colin thought this not puruable in the present instance -- a poster for the Underground would need to be very well designed and executed in order to have a good effect. After some short further discussion it was thought a simple poster having the names of Freedom and Anarchy, with space for the sellers to write in something relevant, as do the London evening paper sellers, would be adequate, and Philip Sansom took measurements and details of this requirement.

5. Readership Questionnaire : At the last meeting occasion Colin Ward had reported that Tony Gibson had suggested to him that he do another readership survey. It had been said we should get Tony to write a memorandum to say why this should be done. The last one was done in 1960. He thought the new one could be a pull-out

centre page in Anarchy, and he also suggested it should be done with reply-paid envelopes as a means of trying to get more replies than last time.

John Rety was in favour because Tony hadn't done any writing for us for a long time, and this might get him back. Vere Richards pointed out that we are interested in the people who don't read Freedom. Peter Turner was against. Jack Robinson thought it interesting but not useful - the contents of Freedom depended largely on what our writers sent in. Mary Janipa would not oppose the carrying out of this survey, but was disinclined towards sociology and towards market research, because of the danger that one slanted one's product to meet the taste of the potential buyer. Philip Sansom provided the corrective to this in pointing out that if the survey should reveal that we had a large preponderance of teachers in the readership and not a single agricultural worker, then this was a clear indication that we were failing to reach agricultural workers. Colin said the blockage was in distribution. One of the things that came out of the previous survey was that when people were asked how they came into contact with us they mentioned every means under the sun, so we know we are nowhere near our optimum circulation.

The discussion being indecisive, Colin put forward as a suggestion that we tell Tony we would have one done at a date ten years from the previous one. John thought this was the time to do it. To him the eight-page Freedom was important. Sooner or later we want to take it out of this distribution blockage, and he thought if Freedom had eight pages every week it could go to a commercial distributor. Peter questioned whether the survey would help in this direction. Vere pointed back to Colin's earlier comment about the circulation, and what it could show was the possible avenues. Philip said in that case we ought to decide upon the questions. Colin was of the opinion that Tony would be prepared to include any question helpful to us.

No decision at all was recorded.

Other Business:

6. Anarchy printing: Philip asked Colin once he had sent the page proofs of Anarchy, which he invariably did in good time, to follow up with pressure on Dick to get on with the printing, and to get the first form on the machine in the second week of the month. Otherwise Anarchy could not be on sale on its publication day. Colin

outlined the pressure under which he worked: by the time he sends the proofs of the current issue to the printers he is working on the next but one ahead, and has little time to follow up after an issue has left his hands.

Following on this, John Rety suggested to Colin that he advertise in Anarchy for a reader with spare time to take charge of distribution. Anarchy was an excellent magazine and should have wider circulation.

7. Proposed Liverpool Bookshop. Gerry Bree and his Liverpool group wanted to open a bookshop in Liverpool and wished Freedom Press to be associated with it. (On learning of this, Lilian had suggested a bookstall in a market would be more realistic.) While comrades would wish to help, no-one felt much practical help could be carried out from London.

8. Chris Davis, late of the Badge Shop, London, had written from the Simon Community, Liverpool, asking for details of the supply of Freedom, Anarchy and other literature in quantity for the bookstall in their shop. In the opinion of comrades who knew him, he was not a good risk. He should be told to obtain Freedom and Anarchy from Gerry Bree. He could be offered one-third discount on other publications, but only on firm order.

9. Ian R. Mitchell of Aberdeen had written saying that Voline: The Unknown Revolution was recommended reading for three history courses at the University, and suggesting that James Bisset, a local bookseller, should be informed of this and asked to carry a stock. It was agreed to write and offer him the usual one-third on firm order, and offering to supply a few copies on sale or return at 25%.

John Rety suggested asking Ian Mitchell if the student paper would carry an advertisement for Freedom and Anarchy.

10. Surplus Freedom Supplements. Jack Robinson said there were quite large numbers of the double issue freedoms left over, of which the outer pages had been discarded and the supplements remained. He suggested we sell these separately to groups. John Rety wanted to save them up until the end of the year and sell them in a set. Although this idea found favour it was decided the supplements could be sold separately at 2d each.

No date of next meeting was fixed

A meeting of the Freedom Press group was held on Monday the 2nd January 1967 at 17a Maxwell Road, S.W.6.

Present: Peter Turner, John Rety, Jack Robinson, and Mary Canipa.

Apologies were received from Vero Richards and Colin Ward.

The following matters were discussed:-

CORRECTION TO MINUTES OF MEETING 28.11.67.

(1) John Rety is in no way concerned with Vero in the drawing up of the programme of possible Freedom Press publications. He had not been assigned nor had he accepted any function in relation to a proposed publications committee; confusion had arisen because Jack Robinson had made the suggestion that perhaps John and Vero could get together and work out some means of financing the Kropotkin reprint.

1. KROPOTKIN REPRINT & Freedom Press Publications.

Vero had sent a letter, filed with these minutes, proposing instead of reprinting the volume of Read's Selections he revise the earlier translations published by Freedom Press as pamphlets and compile these into volumes.

Owing to the small attendance at this meeting no decision could be taken. It was wondered what new financial basis there was for the proposal for a completely new series of three volumes.

(b) Lillian Wolfe's projected pamphlet: John Rety would read this and ask Dick

Fugh to estimate the printing costs.

2. Premises: The Walthamstow premises had been seen externally by John Rety, Peter Turner and Jack Robinson.

They reported that these are near the William Morris Museum but in a backwater. From the outside the premises appear to be a good-sized property and would accommodate all contained in our present premises at 17A Maxwell Road and should the business be purely on mail order lines would, if the rent were acceptable, by quite an ideal place (even though the Victoria Line is coming near the shop is still inaccessible and there is no scope for passing trade). But if there is no other choice we ought to ask for the option to be extended. It was thought a possibility that if the option fell open earlier than we were prepared to take it up, and the rent were very low, we could take it and pay the rent for a time by voluntary contributions.7

3. Free distribution of "Freedom": Harlow anarchists had asked

for an estimate for the printing of 1,000 extra copies of "Freedom" for them to give away, principally on the Easter march,

Peter Turner pointed out that this would destroy our sales on the march and he suggested as an alternative that they write a substantial leaflet which we print in "Freedom" that week and also run off separately for them, so that they and other groups selling "Freedom" can distribute it on the march. This would be communicated to Keith Nathan of Harlow anarchists.

4. Correspondence (a) James and Elizabeth Fleming. A letter had been received from these parents of a Belfast subscriber and seller asking us not to send any further literature or correspondence to their 14-year old daughter. This was accompanied by a note from Margaret asking us to stop her subscription as her parents regarded it as subversive. As no separate communication had come from Margaret contradicting this the papers were no longer being sent to her.

(b) Request from Iowa S-D-S for permission to reprint from Anarchy 66 and for further information on the Prove was to be passed to Anarchy editor.

(c) The Los Angeles Free Press had asked for ANARCHY on exchange and if accepted want us to start with 25 copies. FREEDOM editors would like to receive exchange copy and Colin should be asked about exchanging ANARCHY. They should be asked to clarify their reference to 25 copies and told we could not sell 25 copies of an American newspaper.

(d) Request for speaker on "Anarchism and Aesthetics" from Wimbledon Young Socialists. Jack Robinson will go.

5. Cancellation of Glasgow libraries subscriptions.

Jack Robinson drew attention to the total lack of reaction to the report in "Freedom" of the withdrawal of "Freedom" from three Glasgow libraries who had subscribed for years. Mary Canipa would write to Alan Sinclair and Bobby Lynn and ask if Glasgow comrades were doing anything about this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING was fixed for Monday, 6th February at 17A Maxwell Road.

In order to arrange next meeting, suggest comrades who have anything for agenda send it in to the bookshop, and meeting can be arranged as soon as an agenda has compiled itself? (Last week in June is unsuitable for Philip, and Vero is away until 28th June)

MC