

# Why Vote? it gets you nowhere

During the period prior to the election, the voting public are bombarded by the party candidates, who are after votes. This is the only time that we are asked to take an active interest in political and social affairs. We are called upon to make our choice of government and once we have made it, the decisions affecting our lives are made for us.

What is the choice we have between the two main parties, Labour and Conservative? Over the years any differences in principles and policies they

had, have disappeared and now they only vary on matters of details. On all points of policy there is very little diversity.

The main thing that both parties want, and therefore have in common, is to run the present system of capitalism more efficiently. Little adjustments here, a smoothing of the rough edges there, but basically it is a society where the majority are exploited by the minority, who intend to keep it so. It is a society that is based on class privilege and inequality.

## JUST FIGURE-HEADS

We live in a so-called "democracy" and this is the way it works. The Government in power appoints Members of Parliament to be Ministers of the different departments. These are all important jobs which involve making decisions which affect the lives of everyone in the country. One would think, and rightly so, that to take on these jobs the Ministers would need specialised knowledge in their own particular field. But this is not the case.

However, what it really boils down to is the fact that the Ministers are only figure-heads who answer, or rather dodge, questions in the House of Commons. The people who really make the decisions, which the Ministers accept, are the Permanent Under-Secretaries, who are at the heads of the various departments. These men never come up for election, they are always there and they are not answerable to the electorate. We may elect a new Government, but these people remain. IS THIS

### GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE?

So now we come to the difference between the Government and the State. It is these permanent, unelected persons who are the State and it is the State that runs and controls our lives. Of course these are not the only persons who make decisions and are not elected by the people. There are other branches of the State apparatus such as the heads of the Police, the armed forces and the Judiciary, and so the State remains intact no matter what particular Party forms the Government.

This is why Anarchists believe that it is a waste of time to vote at the General Election. Nothing really changes. We are still ruled, decisions affecting our lives are still made for us. In fact, even though we are considered old enough and sensible enough to have the vote, we are treated like little children who do not know what is good for them.