

RESURGENCE

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Frankenstein society

Human society has so grown that we have the complex industrial civilisations of today, with great human forests that are called cities, with economic and social relationships that are utterly impersonal and non-lifegiving, with modes of work that are irksome and bereft of joy and opportunities of creativity and that have the sole criterion of productivity and efficiency to recommend them. Science has turned the whole world into a neighbourhood, but the modern civilisation has turned even neighbours into strangers. Such a complex and top heavy society cannot but be a heaven for bureaucrats, managers, technocrats, statisticians. Such a society cannot be a home for brothers and sisters to live together. Socialists, in the name of science, production, efficiency, standard of living and other hallowed shibboleths have accepted this whole Frankenstein of a society—lock, stock and barrel—and hope, by adding public ownership to it, to make it socialist. I submit that in such a society the very breath of socialism would be hard to draw. Self-government, self-management, mutual co-operation and sharing, equality, freedom, brotherhood — all could be practised and developed far better if people lived in small communities. — Jayaprakash Narayan

FEED BACK

Trying it on

Dear Mr. Sharman, I am informed by Mr. Peter Abbs, the Review Editor of the journal you publish, *Resurgence*, that the Editor will not publish a review I wrote at his request, of the book *Violence in the Arts* by John Fraser.

This is an outrageous form of censorship. But it is of course materially damaging to me. I am prepared to spend professional time to purvey ideas without payment if I am allowed to engage in proper intellectual debate, which ought to improve my reputation etc. But if the professional work I put in is scorned and rejected in this improper way, I must ask to be paid. I therefore enclose my account [of £20].

Yours sincerely, David Holbrook, New Farm House, Madingley, Cambridge. 15.5.75.

Editor's note: Writers wishing to be paid should try somewhere else. All contributions to Resurgence are love gifts but we reserve the right of printing or not printing.

Cheating Joint Issue

Dear Resurgence, Both generally and specifically I did not like in any way Resurgence Vol.6, No.1/Undercurrents 10. As a recent subscriber to Resurgence I do not want to receive Undercurrents or else I'd subscribe to that too. I don't mean that's any derogatory comment — as I may well purchase Undercurrents too soon. However I also feel the link to be somewhat of a cheat — half and half rather than a full issue of Resurgence. Or was it a covert admission that there's not enough material for a full Resurgence this time? Furthermore, the issue is rather confusing and waffly, striking like neither one nor the other, rather than a good joint issue.

Another fault that is undoubtedly mine

but not helped by the AT oriented Undercurrents section is the complex terminology. Yes, I am stupid, but that doesn't advance me nor you. It does seem that AT is no more simple than straight technology, and Undercurrents certainly isn't the way in. But where is the way into the basics of any technology?

One thing Resurgence and Undercurrents do share though is a distance by price and orientation from mass readership or understanding. How many workers will relate to either? Isn't this just the quality end of a self-indulgent counter-culture, "We're in and you're not"? I've not had Resurgence long, and though it's interesting I certainly don't feel part of it or relate to it and I'm a student/petit bourgeois.

Turning to the reviews — they seemed to talk more about the reviewers thinking than about the books. Fine, but why pretend to review books on that basis? Maureen Brent's side-swipe in *Irish Energy*: "So full points for the standard Marxist analysis of the status quo . . ." — full points, very clever. That's Marxism finished — now let's all be anarchist together again. As a Marxist I'm disgusted to see that you can't take Marxism seriously. Only yourselves. Can you explain Sinn Fein's Marxist connections to me and your totally unsupported conclusion about them?

I've almost talked myself out of a subscription but if cheque is not included, it'll arrive soon.

In fraternal anger, Paul Summers, Sheffield Polytechnic Union of Students, Pond Street, Sheffield. 30.3.75.

