

CORRESPONDENCE

FASCISM AND FREEDOM

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS

SIR,—Father Drinkwater states in his article "Money Free from Usury" (BLACKFRIARS, June) that Fascism hates the idea of the ordinary man being free and that they want to thrust the mass of men back into drudgery and poverty, etc. I would suggest that this is a complete travesty of facts which could be proved by a quotation from Mosley's *Greater Britain* or the *Blackshirt Policy*.

Father Drinkwater suggests that the mass of men are now "materially" free. Can he really mean to do so?

I beg leave to quote Sir Oswald's own written word in reference to liberty, material liberty:

Surely no one can imagine that the British, as a race, are free. The essence of liberty or freedom to enjoy some of the fruits of life, a reasonable standard of life, a decent house, good wages, reasonable hours of leisure after hours of work short enough not to leave a man exhausted, unmolested private happiness with wife, children and friends, and finally the hope of material success to set the seal on private ambition: these are the realities of liberty to the ordinary man.

How many possess this liberty to-day? How can the mass possess such freedom in a period of economic chaos? Many unemployed, the remainder living in the shadow of unemployment, low wages, long hours of exhausting labour, bad houses, the uncertainty of industrial collapse and universal confusion. . . . What humbug, then, to talk of liberty.

Surely it is only right for people to work reasonable hours for a real living wage, either by physical labour, the brain or capital (again for only a fair return), so long as people are taught to use their leisure profitably for themselves—a task Fascism deems extremely important.

I am, Sir,

Yours, etc.,

R. N. CLARK.