



S.D. No. 1 (Filmy)

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METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

day of June, 1959

SUBJECT

Independent Labour Party

Reference to Papers

60/50/20

60/500

1. This report deals with the Independent Labour Party and is based on information received from very reliable sources.
2. The I.L.P. regard themselves as a militant left-wing group serving the interests of the working man. In many respects their differences with the Labour Party are caused by a genuine and sincere desire to promote the class interests of the workers, and the I.L.P. are on the whole content to work within the framework of conventional politics.
3. Traditionally the I.L.P. was financed by contributions from stalwarts from the earliest days of the Labour Movement, who made payments of as little as one penny a week. Much of the original crusading spirit has evaporated from the I.L.P. and its present members are somewhat vague about the purposes of the organisation. They wish to offer an alternative to the Communist, Trotskyist and orthodox Labour parties, but their efforts to define such an alternative have not met with enthusiasm. There is a trend within I.L.P. towards Revolutionary Socialism and this has brought some of its members to notice in a public order context. It may therefore be appropriate to take a closer look at I.L.P. with a view to placing this development in its proper perspective.
4. At present the I.L.P. has a membership of exactly 742 fully paid up members. Subscriptions are of the order of 2 shillings a month. This does not cover the cost of I.L.P. expenses but the organisation has a number of assets, such as a printing press in Leicester (on which "Socialist Leader" is printed) and various dwelling houses throughout the country bought with funds from an earlier era. The organisation has therefore no problems regarding solvency.
5. The organisational structure of I.L.P. is quite straightforward. The United Kingdom is divided into 8 geographic divisions, each with its own Divisional Council, made up of representatives from local branches. Policy decisions and management are in the hands of a National Administrative Council elected from the 8 Divisional Councils.
6. Division 6 is the London and Home Counties area, and comprises I.L.P. branches at West London, Woolwich, Bexleyheath and Tower Hamlets. In addition to the divisional office at 335, Cambridge Heath Road, E.2,

the I.L.P. Headquarters is located in Division 6 at 197, Kings Cross Road, E.C.1. The secretary of Division 6 Council is Privacy

7. Privacy and Privacy (of Boxleyheath I.L.P.) are the chief advocates of Revolutionary Socialism within I.L.P. They hope to secure sufficient following to control the London Divisional Council and to influence the National Administrative Council. This could be achieved simply by setting up more local branches, as any three persons may form a branch, and thereby obtain representation at a higher level in the I.L.P. structure.

8. Privacy and Privacy hope to see the I.L.P. organising and taking part in street demonstrations, on any matter of left-wing interest. It will be recalled that Privacy was an executive committee member of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign in its hey-day, and that Privacy has in turn been an Anarchist and a Nazi. Both contribute feature articles to the "Socialist Leader". Their total support within I.L.P. at the present time is small, in the region of 20-30 sympathisers. They are optimistic of exercising greater influence in the future.

9. In conclusion it should be emphasised that the majority of I.L.P. members are concerned with industrial matters and local politics outside London. The activities of Privacy and his immediate associates are not typical of the organisation as a whole. Any efforts made to obtain further information regarding the I.L.P. will be concentrated on the Privacy faction and any significant developments will be reported.

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Constable.

Submitted:

*J. Sanders*  
Chief Inspector

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Chief Superintendent

Appendix to Special Branch report dated 16.6.69  
concerning the Independent Labour Party

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Privacy

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