

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report }

10 day of January 1972

SUBJECT North London Red Circle.

Reference to Papers 400/70/50

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

2. "A meeting of the North London Red Circle was held at the 'General Picton' public house, Killick Street, W1 on 4.1.72 from 9 pm to 10.15 pm. The Chairman was Privacy and there were nine persons present.

3. The only item on the agenda was a talk by Privacy on 'Women in Trade Unions'. The talk consisted of readings from newspapers, with a few added comments. The first account was from an article in 'The Guardian' concerning a Mrs Pat STURDY, the founder of the first all women's union known as 'Womans Industrial Union'. The report told of Mrs STURDY's fight to set up her union at a Joseph Lucas factory in Lancashire, as an alternative to the other unions there. She had applied for her union to join the TUC but they had refused to accept her affiliation. She had then registered her union under the Industrial Relations Act, which has led to a great deal of discussion in various quarters as to her precise motives. Privacy later said that he had interviewed Mrs STURDY twice and that a comrade from 'Socialist Woman' would be interviewing her shortly, after which it would be decided whether or not she could be of use to 'the movement'.

4. He then dealt with a strike at a thermometer manufacturing factory in Cleator Moor, Cumberland, owned by M & K Brennan. Most of his points were taken from issues of the 'Whitehaven News' between June and December 1971. That particular strike, he claimed, was noteworthy for the very militant role taken by women in it.

5. The ensuing discussion was of no particular interest. It was announced that at next week's meeting the 'educational' would be on China, but the speaker was not announced.

6. The following were among those present:

Andy BAILEY

Privacy

Privacy

SP 726/3
L616-10

BOX 500



7. Special Branch references are given in the attached Appendix.

HN340 1
Sergeant

Submitted:

HN332 2
Chief Inspector

3
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



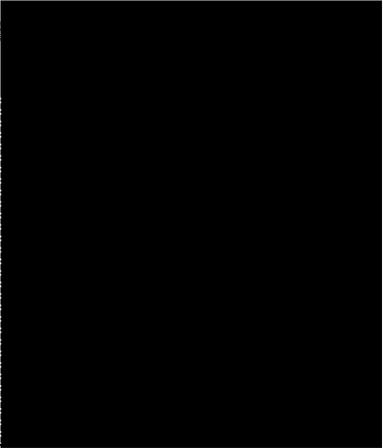


APPENDIX to Special Branch report on a North London

Red Circle meeting held on 4.1.72.

Andy BAILEY

Mention re Red



Privacy

