

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

4 day of May 19 72

SUBJECT 1972
Annual Conference
of the Young
Liberal Movement

Reference to Papers
400/72/12

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

2. "The annual conference of the Young Liberal Movement was held at the Winter Gardens, Promenade, Morecambe, from Friday 31.3.72 until Monday 3.4.72 and was attended by over 600 persons. At the conclusion of the conference there was considerable variance of opinion as to its value. The 'silent majority' resented the creeping factionalism epitomised by 'Commitment' from the left and 'Action Liberal' (a group formed in response to 'Commitment's' vociferousness) from the right. In the final analysis the 'centre left', characterised by the HAIN/LISHMAN/TOPE/WALLACE oligarchical axis, plus the silent majority, won the day and little change had occurred although on specific issues such as Northern Ireland and through 'Commitment' adherents chairing four of the eight commissions, the 'anarchist left' successfully left their mark on the conference.

3. Whether or not 'Commitment' will now remain within the YLM, is a matter for conjecture. However it seems likely that it will compromise itself yet further by remaining within the YLM although attempting to become less reliant upon that platform and by developing stronger links with such groups as the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists. To this end several 'Commitment' adherents can be expected to attend the ORA conference at York in April.

4. The 'Commitment' concept which might be described as strategy without responsibility, was clearly illustrated by their stance throughout the several ideology commission sessions, in which they eventually supported an option which read:-

"We look for the creation of new community groups, based on very real needs and actions, and this implies the replacement of the existing local institutions by such community organisations. Therefore, to engage in the present electoral procedure only serves to confuse the population further and thus is contrary to our stated eventual aims.

However, a rejection of an electoral strategy is not a rejection of a relationship with the existing institutions. Naturally, our campaigning action will often be geared towards gaining transitional benefits e.g. the actions and perspectives of the Claimants Unions. We are concerned with exploiting the system not in propping it up.

The passages underlined show clearly their desire to sever the existing links with the Liberal party and the system within which it operates, only retaining the means of spreading the anarchist gospel according to 'Commitment'.

5. However, when the vote was taken, the 'dual approach' (set out below) articulated and principally formulated by Gordon LISHMAN and

the many common problems of the two parts of Ireland are to be tackled effectively, but we accept that this can only come about when these communities recognise their mutual interests and rights, and cannot be imposed upon them.

We believe that it would be no solution to create a united Ireland at the present time, as it would perpetuate the present majority/minority conflict and would simply reverse their roles.

Conference expresses total opposition to the 'integration' of the six counties with Britain as a whole.

As a prerequisite to a long term solution, conference calls for a firm public declaration from the Eire government that it will immediately begin to dismantle the theocratic constitution, with particular reference to divorce, contraception and education, and that it will also improve the quality of its social services.

We call upon the British government to:

- 1) Withdraw all troops to barracks and peace-keeping lines, to resume their peace-keeping roles, and to introduce United Nations Observers to ensure that the Army behaves impartially.
- 2) Abolish the Ulster Defence Regiment, call in all guns, and disband all gun clubs.
- 3) Grant absolute freedom to all media to report on all Army activities.

In this context we reject the use of force by any section of the community.

While accepting that Britain had little alternative but to introduce direct rule in the circumstances that applied at the time, conference nevertheless believes that the Heath initiatives must not become the basis for a mere 'cooling-off period'.

In consequence, we state that the Whitelaw Advisory Commission should:

- a) Repeal the Special Powers Act, and all other acts which prevent the right of free assembly.
- b) End internment, and establish an independent tribunal, under the auspices of the International Commission of Jurists, to try those internees and detainees against whom charges can be, and have been brought; compensation should be paid to all those wrongly detained.

c) Institute with maximum speed the following:

a crash programme in public housing.

- 2) a massive programme of public investment through labour intensive industry and intermediate technology, to bring down the level of unemployment - using if necessary a block British grant.
- 3) the ending of segregated and private education and the creation of a fully comprehensive state educational system, the prohibition of religious indoctrination in all schools.
- 4) a social policy aimed at granting equal civil rights and opportunities to all the people of the North and at bringing about a redistribution of wealth and income.
- 5) recognising that a lasting solution to the N I problem can only come from within N I, we call for the establishment, at the earliest opportune moment, of an N I Government, elected by S T V - P R, at both parliamentary and governmental levels, so that all sections can be justly represented in governmental decisions.

Conference declares its own belief that the ultimate aim must be the reunification of Ireland under a democratic secular independent state which will guarantee within its framework cultural diversity".

33. The last session of the day was given over to an address by David STEEL, MP, the President of the Young Liberals. His speech contained nothing of particular interest and was described by Brian MILTON as "a talk about opinion polls and concerted efforts and amounted to nothing more than a political speech by a politician".

34. To show their disgust at this 'charade', 'Commitment' staged a demonstration to coincide with the commencement of STEEL's speech. Brian MILTON, dressed as a race-course bookie, heading a mock funeral cortege out of the conference hall. They then proceeded solemnly along the promenade where they held up the traffic, whilst MILTON offered to take bets on road casualties. Soon after their return to the conference, five people walked on to the stage bearing placards relating to the Gulf states of Oman and Dufar. Doug MARCHANT had engineered this particular event and began to question STEEL on the Liberal Party's stand on this subject. STEEL admitted that he knew very little about the situation but said that he had found the paper (Appendix 'K') given him by MARCHANT, most disturbing. MARCHANT continued his questioning until Peter HAIN finally persuaded him to sit down. Throughout the address STEEL was the target for a barrage of paper aeroplanes, originating from the box by the side of the stage which was occupied by students from the LSE. John 'Anarchy' NORTON was the central figure from the LSE representatives and frequently throughout the four day conference, held aloft a flag adorned in the anarchist colours of red and black,

bearing the legend "WE ARE WILLILY ANNOYED". He was a source of constant amusement throughout the debates and during the elections was rewarded for his efforts, by sharing with the 'Blagdon Amateur Rapist' and 'John MORTON's right leg' (the one that limps) the distinction of having been nominated for every single post within the YLM.

35. At the end of David STEEL's speech, Brian MILTON announced that 'Commitment' would be organising a national day of street closures, sometime in November, to coincide with the GLC's closure of Oxford Street. He hoped it would be a national day of Young Liberal action against cars in shopping streets.

36. Later that evening most of the election results were announced. They were:

President	-	David STEEL, MP
Chairman	-	Peter HAIN
Political V C	-	Gordon LISHMAN
Organising V C	-	Graham TOPE
Financial V C	-	Mike WALLACE
Publicity V C	-	Keith SEARBY
International V C	-	Guy THORNTON
Fund Raising Officer	-	Jeff BROOMFIELD

National Members

Colin PRICE
Simon HERRITCH
Steve ATACK
Mick TAYLOR

Monday

37. Monday morning saw the last of the plenary sessions dealt with, and finally, to end the conference, the Chairman's speech. Richard KREP and Brian MILTON in their forecast of the speech (a copy of which appears together with other 'Commitment' papers as appendix 'L') proved to be exceedingly accurate. HAIN condemned what he described as 'negative factionalism' and said that the movement was bigger than the personalities in it. It was time the YLM "got down to gut issues instead of emphasising the International ones". He concluded by saying "we must respond to things that are happening, instead of reacting to events". The conference then ended.

38. The following persons were among those present at the conference:-

Privacy

Peter HAIN,

Privacy

Privacy

Privacy

Privacy Ashley WOOD, Simon HEDDITCH,

Privacy Mike WALLACE, Peter TWYMAN, Privacy Graham

TOPE, Chris GREEN, Richard KEMP, Privacy W. THORNTON,

Bernard CREAVES, Mike SHARE, Colin DEANS, Privacy

Privacy Doug MARCHANT, Hugh COLLIE, John

Privacy STEVE McBRIDE, Colin PRICE, Privacy

Privacy Brian MILTON, Privacy

Privacy Nick PAYLOR, Privacy

Privacy Andrew WATSON, Privacy

Privacy Dawn PAULKNER,

Privacy

Privacy Jeff BROOMFIELD, Privacy

Privacy Tony CRAYFORD, Privacy

Privacy

Privacy David STEEL MP,

Chf. Tom STANBRIDGE",

The persons and organisations mentioned in the text of this report together with their references in Special Branch records are listed on attached Appendix 'B'.

[Redacted]

HN298

Constable

Submitted:

[Redacted]

HN294

Chief Inspector

A/ CHIEF SUPERVISOR

[Redacted]



APPENDIX 12

Appendix to Special Branch report dated 4 May concerning the
Young Liberal conference held at Morecambe from 31.3.72 to 3.4.72

Privacy

ANDERSON Victor

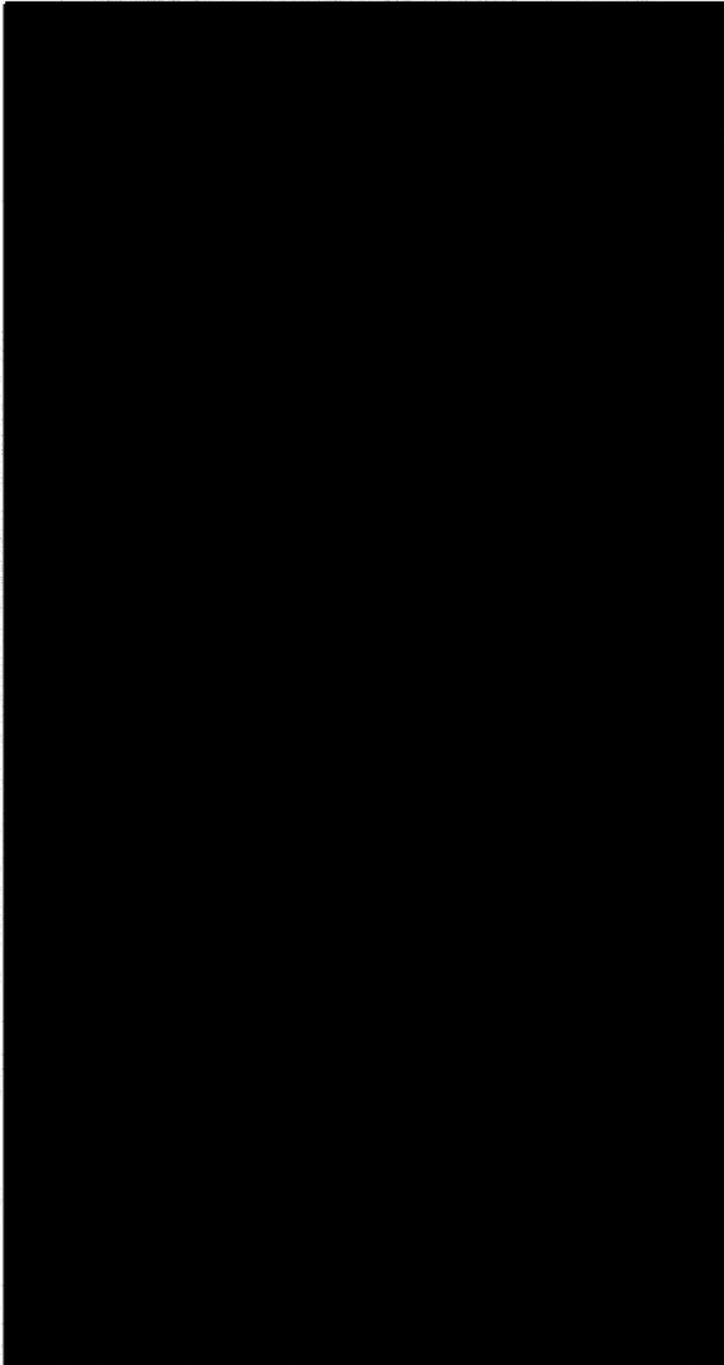
Privacy

BROOKFIELD Jeff

Privacy

COLLIS Hugh

Privacy



Privacy

PAULKNER Dave

Privacy

GRAVES Bernard

GRAVES Tony

Privacy

GRANT Adrian

Privacy

HAIN Peter

Privacy

HEBDITCH Simon

Privacy



Privacy

KEMP Richard

Privacy

KEOGH Andrew

Privacy

LISHMAN Gordon

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Privacy

MARCHANT Doug

MORTON John

McBRIDE Steve

MILTON Brian

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MOLE Stuart

Privacy

SEARBY Keith

Privacy

Privacy

STEEL MP David
STANDIDGE Cllr Tom

Privacy

SWYMAN Peter
TOPE Graham
THORNTON Guy

Privacy

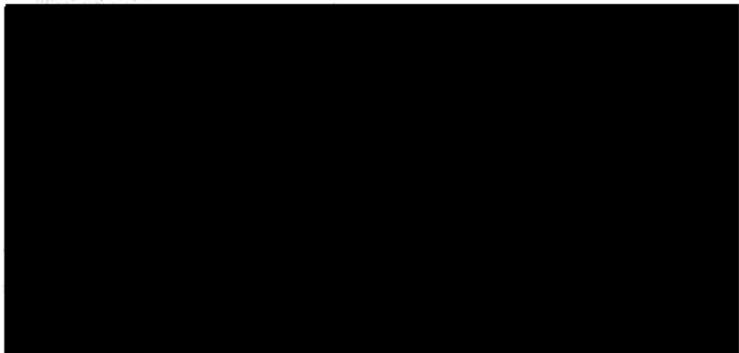
WOOD Ashley

WALLACE Mike

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L.S.E.
O.R.A.
A.I.L.
Action Bangla Desh

