

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

19 day of February

76
19

SUBJECT

WRP

Reference to Papers

400/75/218

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

2. On Friday 13 February 1976 at 4pm, the leadership of the Workers Revolutionary Party called a press conference at their Clapham headquarters, at which they announced the cessation of trading of Flough Press and its principal publication the 'Workers Press'.

3. The primary reason they gave for their decision to close the paper was the heavy cost of production and their inability to raise the \$50,000 'crisis fund' allegedly needed to keep the publication operating on a viable basis.

4. The image of the Party projected by the press conference was that the response from the membership and the readers of the 'Workers Press' had not matched up to the grandiose plans of the Political Committee, who had over-estimated the speed at which a revolutionary party and its paper could grow during a period of economic stress. This misjudgement had resulted in the 'Workers Press' being overtaken by exactly those problems which it had incessantly warned against, i.e; the insoluble crisis of capitalism.

5. The reality is that the WRP was confident that it could raise the money needed but in order to expand the paper it would need to employ more staff and, at the rates of pay currently paid to non-party members, serious problems could arise in the future, which would limit the potential growth of the publication. This problem had been foreseen when the Runcorn premises had been opened and so the opportunity was taken of passing off a number of Party members there as print employees to enable them to gain admittance to the relevant print unions.

6. Having succeeded in achieving that aim they are now in a position to staff their newspaper with their own members who will be paid at union rates but will then return to the Party that proportion of their pay which is in excess of the wage normally paid by the WRP. Labour costs will thus be reduced and development of the newspaper will become financially viable. As an added bonus the Party will also have absolute control of the union branch (previously Party members had been in the minority).

7. It can be seen that in order to achieve this position it was necessary to close down Flough Press so that non-Party members could be made redundant. This has been done. The result is that fresh impetus has been given to the raising of finance allegedly to pay off existing debts and thereby to save the Party from bankruptcy.

BOX 500



8. A new paper will be produced shortly and a public announcement of this will probably be made at the National Conference of the All Trades Union Alliance to be held at Oval Hall, City Hall, Sheffield on Sunday March 21, 1976.

9. The new paper will be an improved product with 16 pages instead of 12. It will have a new name, new lay-out and contain a sports page, racing results etc. and other articles and columns normally associated with the more popular press, including a political cartoon. The current price will be maintained and Party leaders believe that considerable sales advantage will be gained from the fact that readers will no longer be required to buy a second paper in order to read the more conventional news items. It is intended that a number of regional editions will be published and methods of distribution will change. Wholesalers will not be used initially but local newsagents will be encouraged to take the paper direct.

10. Knowledge of this information is confined to a very few people within the WRP."

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G.T.M. Craft

Chief Inspector

Richard Wren
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT