

S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy)

Special Report

SUBJECT

Reference to Papers

407-75/107

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

SPECIAL BRANCH

26 July 1975

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

2. On Sunday 29 June 1975 from 3 pm to 6.15 pm at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, a meeting organized by the Streetworks Two Action Committee was held under the aegis of the Workers Revolutionary Party. [REDACTED] attended.

Privacy

3. The meeting was chaired by [REDACTED] and the main point of resolution to [REDACTED] was given by [REDACTED] Secretary of the Streetworks Two Action Committee. There were three other speakers on the platform but they were not named nor did they play any part in the conference other than to adorn the stage.

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4. The meeting was delayed by the late arrival of coaches from London and was finally brought to order at 3.45 pm. [REDACTED] proposed the acceptance of the draft resolution (copy attached) which in essence consisted of a catalogue of recently introduced 'repressive' legislation. Coupled with this was a call for a General Strike and its inseparability from the building of the Workers Revolutionary Party to prevent the betrayal of the working class which was being conducted by [REDACTED] and HEALY in concert with other coalitionist elements of the right.

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5. There followed a seemingly endless flow of brief contributions from the floor which gave support to the content of the resolution.

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6. Before the break raised £151 in notes.

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7. At 6.07 pm the meeting resumed for the second half and was addressed by Gary HEALY, General Secretary of the WRP. His oratory was of his normal high standard and he spoke of the comparisons between the struggle to win the release of the Streetworks Two and the battle of Marston, the first battle at which Cromwell's troops were engaged and the only one they lost. The Streetworks Two

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CHARLES LUDDELL
languished in jail, not because the working class did not have the strength to get them out but because the trade union movement was staffed and led by cowards and traitors. He said that the single task of the Workers Revolutionary Party was to train a Marxist leadership in the trade union movement and that such a leadership would not be beaten. He received thunderous applause.

6. **Privacy** then proposed an amendment to point 1d, of the ~~amendments~~ incorporated in the resolution but this was not accepted. With the exception of two abstentions the vote on the main resolution was carried unanimously.

9. References of persons known to have been present:

Privacy

[REDACTED]

HEALY, Gary

402/43/45EA

Privacy

G.T.M. Craft

Police Inspector

1

Wilson
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Shrewsbury Two Action Committee

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 29 June, 3 p.m.

The Adelphi
Liverpool

DRAFT RESOLUTION

CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE to release the Shrewsbury Two by General Strike action!

Fight the betrayals of Stalinism!

The Conference resolves to continue the struggle to free the jailed building workers pickets, Eric Tomlinson and Des Warren, by fighting to mobilize the entire working class in general strike action.

It is now two-and-a-half years since the two brothers were jailed under the notorious 'Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act' of 1875. Since that date the working class has been assailed by a series of judgements handed down by the High Court which have seriously undermined basic rights, and persecuted members of the working class.

The law of conspiracy itself is now an essential weapon in the armoury of the capitalist state. It has been used in many cases - most recently against the Iranian students protesting against the Shah of Iran's barbaric I.C.I. regime.

This sinister police state power takes its place alongside a series of legal precedents handed down by Tory judges to attack the working class.

We have the continued scourge of the anti-Terror Act, used already against Irish Trade Unionists and now supplemented by vicious attacks against the right to protest.

In the case of the Islington squatters the Appeal Court abolished the right to protest in non-industrial situations - thus fundamentally undermining the right to protest, to demonstrate and the right of free speech. One dissenting judge, Lord Benning, warned that the courts were now undermining the very rights for which the demonstrators were massacred in Peterloo Fields, Manchester in 1819.

In addition the Labour government tries to bring back a tribunal which will be staffed by a high court judge to adjudicate in matters arising from the Employment Protection Bill, now on its way through parliament complete with several anti-working class measures moved by the Tory Party.

Finally we have the intervention of the High Court into the affairs of the N.E.W. engineering section in order to aid the right-wing in its attempt to split the union and put forward policies in the interests of the capitalist class.

This widespread use of judicial decree, the strengthening of the police, the intensification of Special Branch surveillance of the trades unions, the penetration of the CIA into the labour movement are unmistakable expressions of the necessity of the capitalist class to use its state machine to smash all basic democratic rights of the working class.

The fact that the jailing of the Shrewsbury Two had been possible is undoubtedly a source of great encouragement to the arrogant ruling class and the political lackeys in the Labour government.

This conference therefore sees the struggle to free the two brothers from jail as inseparable from a campaign to wipe out all this reactionary legislation and to create the conditions for the overthrow of the capitalist state.

To fail to recognize this basic principle of the class struggle would be to open up the entire movement to the greatest danger of all - the development of a police-military dictatorship behind the facade of some reactionary coalition of Labourites, Tories and big businessmen.

This perspective is the highest point of the struggle to maintain the independence of the trades unions and the right of the working class to take the action it requires to meet the challenge of the capitalist economic crisis. It is this crisis - now expressed in the form of a deep and irreversible slump - that is behind the frenzied mobilization of the forces of 'law and order' against the working class. It is therefore no coincidence that pickets are jailed precisely at a time when the bankruptcy of the capitalist system is expressed in uncontrollable inflation, mass unemployment, declining essential services and a total inability to compete with its international capitalist rivals.

From the start the ruling class, through the judicial and prison machinery, intended to make those two trade unionists pay the full price and serve out their entire sentences.

But this brutal victimization has been possible only because the trade union leadership in this country has consistently opposed every attempt to get Warren and Tomlinson out and return them to their families.

[**Privacy**] of the TUC declared 'the law must take its course.' [**Privacy**] of UCITT, with the approval of his executive, sent circulars round his branches instructing the membership to have nothing to do with the defence of these men. [**Privacy**] of the TGWU stood by and was silent. Now these bureaucrats enact the farce of protest and appeal which encourages Roy Jenkins and the Labour right-wing coalitionists to continue with the imprisonment and strengthen the repressive apparatus of the State.

The record of this TUC is one of outright treachery. This treacherous policy was facilitated and encouraged by the Communist Party principally. After a determined campaign to confine all actions to protests, to separate the struggle from a fight to expose the politics of the UCST and T&GWU leaders, these Stalinists came to the aid of the TUC, with the lying assurance that the TUC was 'leading the campaign'. But at two general council meetings of the TUC, resolutions for even one-day strikes were withdrawn or 'left on the table'. What is more the Communist Party and so-called left members of the general council agreed with this. Not one Stalinist has ever denounced the TUC leaders for their shameful betrayal. The Communist Party leaders are at the centre of the betrayal.

It was **Privacy**, the CP national industrial organizer who persuaded Warren to call off his courageous protests for political prisoner status on the ground that Jenkins now could not refuse parole. But parole was refused. The Stalinists then accused Jenkins of deception! This conscious deception and cynicism was resorted to principally in order to divert the campaign of the T.U.I. for a general strike to release the pickets.

The Stalinists themselves have their protectors in the revisionist groups. These groups have always opposed any principled fight to expose the trades union bureaucracy and demand General Strike action. Their main concern has been to make a 'single issue' of the Shrewsbury Two, to give political credibility to the Stalinist controlled Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trades Unions and prevent militant workers from gaining a clear understanding of the State and its relations with the bureaucracy.

This conference condemns unequivocally the method and policy of these groups. It declares that unless the working class are broken from the influence of the trade union bureaucrats, the Stalinists and the revisionist hangars-on, the working class cannot defend its basic rights. The struggle for the release of the Shrewsbury Two is therefore completely bound up with the fight for a revolutionary leadership in the working class.

The most significant struggles waged to free Warren and Tomlinson have been organized by the Wigan Builders Action Committee - Wigan to London, and the Shrewsbury Two Action Committee - Hull to Liverpool. These marches took the campaign for a general strike to free the two through all the important industrial areas in Britain. Everywhere we found that workers were prepared to fight if the leadership was given.

It was only the Workers Revolutionary Party, the All Trades Unions Alliance, the Young Socialists and the 'Workers Press' who supported these two campaigns for General Strike action to Free the Two.

This was because every other tendency opposed the demand of the two Action Committees for a revolutionary leadership in Britain.

This conference declares that the struggle to free the two, to smash the capitalist state, to remove the coalitionists from the Labour movement, to replace the present right-wing Labour government with an administration pledged to socialist policies, requires above all the building of such a leadership.

We say:

- ↳ * Free Warren and Tomlineon by General Strike action.
- ↳ * Demand the 'left' MPs, who claim to support the pickets, vote against the Wilson government over the continued jailings and the austerity measures in the coming budget.
- ↳ * Kick out the traitors in the trade union leadership who refuse to fight to mobilize their membership in strike action.
- ↳ * Scrap the judiciary Disband the army and police.
- ↳ * Expose Stalinism and revisionism.
- ↳ * Build the Workers Revolutionary Party, and its industrial arm, the All Trades Unions Alliance to lead the struggle to smash the capitalist state and repeal all anti-working class laws.