

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

1958 Day of Month 19

SUBJECT

Industrial  
Workers Party

Reference to Papers

10/17/58

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

2. It can be seen that Jim CHURCH and the North London District of the Socialist Workers Party are at present 'licking their wounds' and endeavouring to establish where they 'went wrong' in their association with the abortive campaign of the Islington 13 Defence Committee.

3. The campaign has now, in the view of the SWP, nearly reached its disastrous conclusion. In the trial of the eighteen defendants all the signs are that they will be convicted. At the same time the Party feels that the black nationalist faction which generally controlled the campaign will put the blame for its failure on the 'interference' of the SWP and of Jim CHURCH in particular. It would appear that much of the trouble has been centred on factional in-fighting among the several black groups involved, with the result that instead of a concentrated effort aimed at getting the defendants released, time and energy have been wasted in various attempts to gain control of the campaign.

4. CHURCH claims that at no stage was he actually allowed access to the parents of the defendants, with the result that the most pressing problem - that of organizing a co-ordinated and dedicated group of defence lawyers and counsel - was never tackled. He maintains that the campaign itself never really 'got off the ground' and that money raised had been wasted rather than used as it should have been. Now the most pressing problem for the SWP is how to avoid the allegations from the black factions that the 'interference' had resulted in the present confusion, without being seen to obviously abandon the campaign. To this end plans are being made for FINE, the black group within the SWP, to be involved in the organizing of the next Notting Hill carnival. It has been stressed, however, that those members of FINE taking part are to be as non-political as possible until their positions within the carnival committee are secured. At the same time, members have been told that they must assert themselves and stand up for their views, rather than be carried along by the feeling that they must not upset other people involved. It remains to be seen if this 'new' policy will meet with any success.

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[REDACTED]

James Joseph HICKS is the subject of  
of [REDACTED]

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**G.T.M. Craft**

*[Handwritten signature]*  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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