

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

8th day of October, 19 81

SUBJECT

Reference to Papers

1981 Right to Work March

346/81/12

BOX 500

12/10/81

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

2. On Saturday 26th September, 1981 at 2pm at the Community Press Centre, Lancaster Road, Preston, delegates from the "People's Campaign for Jobs" and the "Right to Work Campaign" (RTWC) met to finalise arrangements for the picket of the Conservative Party conference at Blackpool on 16th October, 1981. Thirteen persons were present.

3. The Socialist Workers Party (SWP), organisers of the Right to Work March, anticipate that approximately 500 marchers will participate on their behalf, whilst the Communist Party - dominated People's Campaign for Jobs intend that 125 persons should undertake their march. Both groups of marchers are scheduled to arrive in Blackburn on the afternoon of 13th October, 1981, where the former will be accommodated at the Brookside Community Centre and the latter at the Trades Council Club. The following day all concerned will leave Blackburn at 9am for Preston, where a welcoming rally is due to be held in Flag Square. On Thursday morning both marches commence the final leg to Blackpool.

4. The SWP has been campaigning for a 'United Front' with the People's Campaign for Jobs to oppose Conservative policies and to establish wider parameters to facilitate recruitment to the Party. Accordingly five RTWC organisers were instructed to determine how far the Communist Party would be prepared to co-operate, with particular reference to the final three days march from Blackburn to Blackpool.

5. Accordingly, the SWP delegates proposed to the meeting that the two marches meet in Blackburn Town Centre, and from there march together to King Georges Hall for a mass rally, which would be followed by a gig. (This proposal was rejected by the representatives of the People's March who claimed that their political approach to the unemployment issue differed to that of the SWP and furthermore they did not wish their members to be subjected to speeches by the SWP. They did however, agree that the two marches should link up in Blackburn and be addressed by local dignitaries).

6. The meeting then moved on to discuss the arrangements for the picket at Blackpool on the 16th October. The People's March intend holding a rally on Blackpool sands (opposite

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Blackpool Tower) from 11am to 1pm followed by a circuitous route march to the conference centre, culminating in delegates from the march (approximately 50-60 persons) approaching the conference centre in order to lobby Conservative delegates. The People's March organisers intend that the conference delegates and the marchers should be separated by a line of march stewards in order to prevent any friction occurring between the marchers and Police.

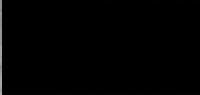
7. Needless to say these proposals were greeted with derision by the SWP contingent at the meeting unexpectedly supported by Privacy a member of the Liaison Committee for Defence of Trade Unions. The Right to Work delegates, in order to obtain a united front, eventually agreed to these arrangements provided that the march in the vicinity of the conference centre would continue throughout the afternoon and that individuals should be allowed freedom of expression in opposing Conservatives at the conference.

8. The Right to Work delegates have subsequently reported back to the SWP the reluctance of the Communist Party to participate in any form of a united front, and accordingly have made their own contingency plans as follows:-

- a) The Right to Work March will use whatever means at their disposal to link up with the People's March from Blackburn to Preston and likewise from Preston to Three Nocks. The SWP have covertly placed approximately six SWP members within the People's March in order to infiltrate and report movements and tactics to the RTWC organisers.
- b) The RTWC intend marching from their overnight accommodation in Blackpool to Blackpool British Rail Station on Friday 16th in order to meet the SWP train at 11.20am. They then intend to march from the railway station to the Conference Hall, timing their arrival there to coincide with the breaking up of the conference for lunch. They will then join up with the People's March.

9. The People's March is unlikely to present any public disorder problem either on their march or at Blackpool. However, the RTWC, whilst ensuring that an orderly and well disciplined march will take place from Liverpool to Blackpool, are determined to exploit every opportunity available to them in Blackpool to express their anti-Conservative feelings. The RTWC organisers expect 7,000 persons to participate in the picket.

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10. A list of SWP members engaged in the organisation of the RTW march is shown in the Appendix to this report.

11. The following persons were identified as having attended the meeting:-

Gerry FITZPATRICK RF 402/ Privacy

Phil COOPER RF 402/80/380



12. References of organisations mentioned:-

People's Campaign for Jobs	No Trace
Right to Work Campaign (RTWC)	400/81/46
Socialist Workers Party (SWP)	400/81/116
Communist Party	400/76/25
Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions	400/75/63

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T. Butler

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



[REDACTED]

APPENDIX

to Special Branch Report dated 6th October, 1981 concerning
RTWC organisers on route (all SWP members)

Liverpool	Privacy	Privacy
SWP Liverpool full-time organiser		
Warrington	Privacy	6 mentions re NUPE and SWP
	Tel: Privacy	[REDACTED]
St Helens	Privacy	2 mentions re Rank and File
		[REDACTED]
Manchester	Privacy	Privacy
	Tel: Privacy	[REDACTED]
SWP Manchester full-time organiser		
Bolton	Privacy	Mentions
		[REDACTED]
Blackburn	Privacy	Mentions
	Tel: Privacy	[REDACTED]
Blackpool	Privacy	No Trace
		[REDACTED]
	Privacy	Unable to Identify
		[REDACTED]