

THE ASCENT TO NAKED REPRESSION.

This document is offered as a sequel to the text circulated in our last mailing. It should be distributed immediately to RSSF militants as a background paper which RSSF has called to be formed.

LSE has been 'pacified.' LSE militants have been victimised. Walter Adams is left, with only policemen to govern and he smiles. But for how long?

These events at LSE are not an isolated incident, nor, while they have an internal logic and a relation to past events, are they a product of the history of LSE alone. The police invasion of Houghton St. represents nothing but a significant part of the new strategy of open repression conducted by the British state. The state suppression of all genuine political action is an attempt to prevent that action developing the crisis of British capitalism into a revolutionary struggle. The state is defending the beneficiaries of British capitalism, the international order of the bourgeoisie, against militant workers and students.

To make the connections between the LSE struggle and state repression apparent a little history is necessary.

After the first wave of student occupations: 1967, LSE; 1968, Aston, Leicester, Essex, Hornsey, and Hull: the vice-chancellors met at two significant meetings to 'contain' student militancy. At Cambridge, in the summer they met with moderate student creeps. In Australia, the Vice-chancellors met, in the seclusion of Perth to nail the 'international student conspiracy'. The 'Ashbyites' sought to extend the domination of 'liberal' repression by a development of its traditional forms:

- 1) 'To cool out' militancy by diversionary liberal concessions.
- 2) To act in direct alliance with moderate student leaders (that is, the willing slaves, the paid men, the proto-careerists of the traditional political machine) to divert the real aspirations of students down the winding paths of parliamentary cretinism.

Sir Eric's dreams, and these feeble safety catches have collapsed. Why-- because the contradictions of the university have been taken up and developed within the contradictions of British capitalism in general.

At the time when the vice-chancellors caucussed to contain the struggle within the universities it had already escalated beyond them (partly, it had begun beyond them in the mobilisation against the imperialist war in Viet Nam). The escalation of the struggle to a national political level made its local control impossible.

This national student challenge to British capitalism developed on two fronts:

- 1) a series of increasingly frequent, violent, and successful political demonstrations against international imperialism and Britain's role in that system. These demonstrations have been opposed with increasing police brutality: a brutality in direct relation to their success in generating a genuine political confrontation in the streets.
- 2) At the bases a sustained attack, upon: a) the integration of universities with naked elements of capitalist exploitation, for example, governors and principles who live off income from firms which oppress the proletariat of Rhodesia and South Africa. The LSE is the highest expression of this struggle; it has produced the most extreme results. b) the reduction of universities to sources of the production of labour to further this exploitation, for example, the stress on 'vocational and technical' subjects, and the blatant recruiting of the most guilty firms, Elliot Automation. c) the ideological foundations of this system; that is bourgeois ideology masquerading as science. The LSE has been an exemplary expression of this struggle too.

It is at this point that the university struggles have ceased to be the object of control by the university authorities alone. The general political struggle and the confrontation in the universities have become the objects of state control. The university authorities are now no more than one of the agents of state control and an agent of the state's master--the bourgeoisie.

The state and the bourgeois class are confronted by a political and economic crisis which threatens to become total and general. This crisis is expressed in two dominant contradictions. The economic crisis is an international crisis: production has not fallen, but profits, in particular the profits of the monetary and financial capitalists, are threatened with decline. The answer: squeeze wages and squeeze all progressive public spending. 'Parliamentary democracy', which exists to defend and represent fractions of this corrupt economic system, cannot be the framework of struggle for the victims of that system who seek to destroy it.

Inevitably action takes an extra-parliamentary form. Inevitably that action is developed by a vanguard; in this case of militant workers and students.

The task of the bourgeoisie: crush the vanguard before it can develop mass struggle.

The means of that task are defined by the fronts of the struggle:

- 1) the industrial front. The means: a) the systematic attack of working class standards of living through that organ of capitalist 'rationalisation', the PIB. b) the destruction of the effective basis of class organisation at the industrial level through Barbara Castle's White Paper--which abolishes the right to strike, which through the secret ballot before striking removes the capacity of trades union to lead their members, and the provision for the fining (read, the eventual gaoling) of militants. Even this is not enough for those sewer rats of capitalism, the Tory Party. Of course, the government will eventually compromise (read, capitulate) with them.
- 2) The universities front. The means: the agreement at the highest level between the state and the vice-chancellors to turn educational institutions into prisons: a) to turn grants into bail fees, Hornsey. b) to arbitrarily exploit the internal and external legal machinery, Guilford and Bristol. c) to cage the students behind bars--the ultimate refinement--the LSE.
- 3) the front of extra-parliamentary struggle. The means: authoritarian law and its application to the selective destruction of militant cadres and organisations: a) by savage fines, the total 'haul' from demonstrations at Essex, Birmingham, Bristol and Rhodesia House totals well over five thousand pounds. b) by prohibitions on the freedom to associate, act, and speak, comrade Davoren has been released on bail under the condition that he takes no part in political activities. c) by terroristic raids upon individual's homes, by questioning, by spying, and by the removal of books and papers, the case of comrade Ossner should by now be notorious. d) by the total abrogation of all judicial rights--the state can guarantee conviction even on absurd charges. The judiciary are, ~~despite their~~ regalia of professional jurisdiction ~~agents of the state~~, by no means autonomous sources of arbitration, but paid and willing agents of the state.

Authoritarianism has stepped into the centre of politics.

The liberal facade has crumbled: the rotten face of Capital is revealed.

The ascent to naked repression produces the ascent to open revolt.

FORWARD IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE LSE.