

THE FREE PAPER

CAMBRIDGE

FEBRUARY 1 1969

40 HOURS

Meeting called at 2.30 in Mill Lane to express solidarity with L. S. E. About a hundred took over a lecture room in Mill Lane to discuss action. Meeting disrupted by about 30 members of Tory right wing singing 'Rule Britannia'.

3 p.m. Meeting moved to Graduate Centre. After right wing left, meeting addressed by senior proctor, who appealed to Cambridge Spirit, but promised gates would be removed over his dead body ('literally'). Meeting decided that Graduate Centre be declared open to everybody in the town and University, and to occupy a central admin. building in solidarity with L. S. E. The decision to occupy was made in order to provide a discussion centre - it must be a University building. First choice was the Senate House, but owing to preparations for a concert it was decided to move to the Council Chamber in the Old Schools, the main University Committee room. 5 p.m. The meeting constituted itself a sit-in, and decided to stay for 24 hours minimum. The 6 demands were formulated, discussed, and approved overwhelmingly. At 6 o'clock, the Right opposition arrived, ripped down the banners and signs, setting them alight. O. T. C. detonators were set off. Some scuffling. The right withdrew. (One of the gentlemen was brandishing a whip and had to be restrained.)

During the evening, numbers rose to about 500. Between 8 and 10 a CUCA contingent, led by ex-Chairman Howard Flight, attempted to disrupt the meeting, but some useful dialogue was established largely with Bob Rowthorne and Ajit Singh. At 10 o'clock, meeting moved to the larger East Room. The right departed after interfering with fuses and making a mess. (N.B. during entire evening, anyone was free to enter the Old Schools and speak as they wished.) There was no violence. Between forty five and fifty people slept the night there, accompanied by two Proctors.

THURSDAY

Early morning, several of sitters in left to leaflet factories. Law lectures in the East Room were not prevented from taking place. Members of the sit in helped to re-arrange tables to this end.

About twelve students from the last law lecture and four officials tried to prevent five of the sitters - in from reentering the East Room after twelve o'clock lecture. After a short struggle, the five got inside, the sixteen walked away, and the East Room was secured. From three o'clock, discussion took place on whether or not to pull down gates, and at four o'clock a vote was taken, 233 - 166 in favour of taking them down. WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

At five pm it was decided to continue the sit in until business was completed. Then the first chink in the authorities armour showed. The Squire Law Library (next door) was closed five hours early after two right wingers had been seen trying to get on the roof. NO threat to the library was ever presented by the sit in. The discussion continued on Cambridge issues until 8 o'clock. At six o'clock the Senior Proctor announced that the twenty four hours were up, and the sit in was over. He congratulated those present on the orderly nature of the sit in.

At this stage the right wing were circulating a petition to denounce the sit in and confirm "complete confidence in the University authorities". In one college, the petition was taken round hall with the approval of the Head Porter. In Emmanuel however, two students who announced the sit in in Hall face disciplinary action. 8.15 to 10 o'clock, Professor Joan Robinson gave a talk on Rosa Luxembourg - meanwhile the colleges had reacted to the motion to remove gates.



All exterior gates were closed.

10pm: sit in discussion continued. It was learned that a large party of right wingers were ready to defend the gates with violence. A subsequent vote on gates resulted in an overwhelming decision not to carry out action so as TO AVOID VIOLENCE.

10.45pm: Vote taken to finish sit in when business was concluded ie in good time.

After the pubs closed, groups assembled in Trinity, from sports clubs and the right in general. By 11 o'clock, over 500 people, including many onlookers but some armed, drunk, and violent individuals assembled on the Senate House lawn. Four gardeners took all day to rake the lawn over after this manifestation.

At 11.30 about twelve members of the Tory Action Group entered the sit in and delivered an ultimatum to leave by 12 o'clock.

They offered safe conduct to those who would leave on their terms. These "spokesmen" were greeted by jeers from their "supporters" outside, and clearly had no control over them. Some people were sufficiently worried by the situation outside to want to leave. A motion was passed overwhelmingly affirming refusal to be intimidated into leaving or staying. A little after twelve it was generally agreed to clear up, but the meeting was divided equally between going and staying. Those who did leave at this point were insulted, intimidated and spat upon in front of TV cameras. Proctors and some CUCA members tried to restrain the crowd. A right winger who forcibly restrained a Proctor, demanding action, had his name taken. 700 were now outside the Old Schools. The right wing extremists were grouped round the exit; some were armed, one with a loaded shotgun, and some with whips.

12.30: By a small majority, the sit in voted in favour of a motion to leave at once. Most of them left through the front entrance, through a crowd held back by members of CUCA and sit in sympathisers. About a hundred, intending to stay in the Old Schools, moved into the Council Room and barricaded the doors. Between one and four am numbers rose to 175; after prolonged discussions about 30 slept in.

FRIDAY

9am: A number of middle aged men forced their way into the Council Room and forcibly ejected some of the occupants; the rest left.

The Senior Proctor said on Friday that: "More damage was done by the right than the left."

GOVERNORS CRUSH LSE

Early this morning (Saturday) we received the following report from London:

The LSE authorities have tried to persuade the 13 on whom writs have been served to guarantee no further disturbances, offering to drop charges in return. They met with no luck, but have dropped the trespass charges while going ahead with the writs.

LSE will probably re-open Tuesday - an attempt to render the Monday demonstration pointless. This will probably be announced in the national press on Monday. The march may then be forced to

bypass LSE on the way to Short at the Ministry of Education.

The LSE Union Council is to meet on Monday at 11am. It is rumoured that Adams - plus one of the staff - plus Francis Keohane - (the Chairman of the Union Council) plan a motion involving suspension of all direct action pending further discussion and in no case before a referendum. Whether such a motion would get through is considered touch and go - it would, technically, be binding on the whole school if carried.

LSE NEEDS ACTION IN SOLIDARITY AND MONEY NOW!

FULL TIME OCCUPATION OR PART TIME JOY RIDE ?

Everybody's talking about it; everybody's taking their girl to the sit-in. Couples in evening dress make the late-night scene. But funnily enough, nobody knows what it is. . . . so everyone's inventing reasons to be there. A pseudo-action for the most part. If the heavies hadn't shown up we wouldn't have known whether to have stayed or left, if we hadn't set ourselves a dutiful 24 hours of propped or bored and passive suffering of each other's company. Although we argued with one another as if we cared, we wouldn't even sleep in the same room. After all, who in Cambridge would dream of sleeping anywhere but in a bed, and preferably alone to be fresh and fit for another day's alienation.

And then the support and the solidarity! We automatically applaud anyone who deplores the violence of actively defending our convictions against whooping self-styled, but college supported vigilantes, forgetting that we are daily the victims of intellectual and emotional violence within the University.

We stand 100% behind the Proctor, applauding him hysterically every time he appeals for moderation in all things (moderation - the hall-mark of a mediocre life-style).

Our actions have no reality without big daddy's approval. We don't even need the Proctors there to keep us 'reasonable', since we have the Proctors in our heads. Who would have burnt files, painted on walls, taken down pictures - hundreds of big daddies hanging on the wall watching us - and generally created an environment in our own image, fit for living people?

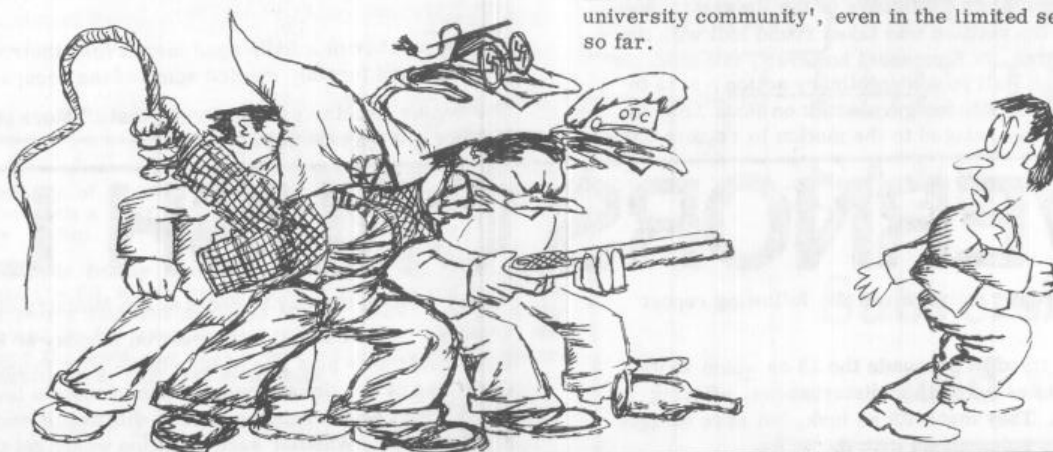
We stand 100% behind anyone who is staying, but we are all going. It's so fantastic to come back in the morning and meet all your friends and enemies in the same room! It's never happened before, and here we are in the novelty, liberated Council Chamber - daytime attendance 600; nighttime attendance 25 overtired people who present no problem for the guys who do Sir Eric's dirty work for him and push us out.

Solidarity with LSE is no more or less than the solidarity with ourselves in actions (not going through the 'motions') here and now in Cambridge. The right-wing heavies know instinctively what it's all about - that explains shotguns clubs and whips, the cries for our blood from big daddy's front lawn: we are tipping over the high tables they'll want to sit at, exploding the fictions of legality that they want to propagate: they call it the right of possession, we call it theft.

But there are the good boys who would keep us in the family because they can't see beyond it to their own freedom - the SRC, the Union bureaucrats, the consultative committees, and individual members of the Left. They'd like a better world for their children, but would like someone else to be the father.

It takes five minutes for someone who realises what's really happening to start living it. And a hundred years if you're hung up on ideologies and bodiless theory.

But some people did realise, did come together, and did start living a little more, and this is only the beginning.



WHO IS THE EXTREMIST MINORITY?

In view of the hostile and mischievous misrepresentation of the situation at the LSE being ceaselessly put about by the mass media, it is worth repeating and emphasizing the basic facts of the position:

(1) That the confrontation at the LSE was deliberately and knowingly brought about by the Governors of the LSE by their decision to install iron gates at the school during the vacation. This decision was taken, and the gates were installed without any consultation with students or the dons at the LSE.

(2) That most of the committee of Governors are not elected or chosen by those they are supposed to govern i.e. the dons and students. It has among its numbers heads of various business and city firms with interests in South Africa and Rhodesia. If there is any 'extremist minority' wielding undemocratic power at the LSE which the mass media keeps talking about, then it must be this self-appointed oligarchy led by Lord Robbins.

(3) That the grilled iron gates are opposed not just by the Socialist Society, but by an overwhelming majority of students at the LSE, as is clear from the numerous Union Society votes before the School was closed down by Lord Robbins and Walter Adams. The gates are also opposed by a large number of dons.

(4) That the decision by the students to take down the gates was taken by a vote at an open meeting of the Union Society on January 24 after the failure of the negotiations with the authorities.

WHY LSE AND WHAT IS ITS MEANING FOR US?

It is abundantly clear that the governors of the LSE have deliberately chosen a confrontation with the radical students. But the question is: why did they? The Governors after all represent the ruling elite of the country and why should the elite choose to have such a confrontation with the students at one university? The answer lies in the fact that the Governors know that if they could smash the radical student movement at the LSE, where it is at its strongest, it would stop the growth of this movement in schools and universities throughout the country. The aims of the radicals at the LSE, the democratization of the School, and the democratization of society, naturally do not hold much attraction for the Governors. Therefore, provided they can get away with it, the Governors would like to send down as many radical students and dismiss as many radical teachers as they can. If in the process, they trample over even the traditional values of the liberal university, this is of little consequence to them.

However, the Governors can be stopped. It is not at all difficult for them to meet the minimal demands of the LSE students if they wish to do so. These minimal demands, which command widespread support among students and teachers at the School, are:

- (1) Reopen the School and
- (2) No victimisation of students or teachers.

But the Governors will accept these reasonable demands and back down only if there is a nation-wide student and teacher movement which supports these demands.

It is not enough for the socialists to protest; it is imperative that they explain the situation to those that are not socialists, to the liberals, to the uncommitted, so that all of us can support the students and teachers at LSE. At stake are the traditional values of a 'liberal university community', even in the limited sense that it has existed so far.

MASS MEETING SIDGWICK WED 2-30

ACTION NEXT WEEK

On Friday Ashby was sent a letter, signed on behalf of those present at Old Schools on Thursday night, demanding that he

- 1) dissociate himself publicly from the actions of Adams and
- 2) allow free use of the Council Chambers and East room in Old Schools for social and political meetings: this by the evening of Tuesday 4th February.

The meeting of 300, almost all of whom had taken part in the sit-in begun at 5.00pm on Friday at Sidgwick and finished at 9.30pm in the Meetings Room of the Union Building,

- 1) decided to write an article for the Cambridge Evening News, appointed three people to draft it, approved it, and interviewed a Cambridge Evening News reporter. It was to be sent at 8 am this morning (Sat) with a delegation to see the editor.
- 2) resolved to support the actions of students removing spikes from colleges, given that they offer no violence to opposition from porters.
- 3) collected £43 for the LSE Defence Fund
- 4) resolved to produce this paper and collected £64 for it.
- 5) decided to call a meeting for Wednesday to discuss Ashby's reactions to the demands and determine action.

2.30 pm Wednesday. Mass meeting at Sidgwick site to decide on action.

2.30 pm Monday. Demonstration from University of London Union, Malet Street, to LSE, then on to Parliament to demand resignation of Short. Coaches from all over the country, at least two from Cambridge, leaving 11.15, outside Senate House.

8.00 pm Monday. The Cambridge Union discusses student action in Cambridge. Bruce Birchall and Alan Hayling to speak - coaches from London should be back in time.

8.00 pm Monday. International Socialism meeting, Africa Centre, King Street - LSE Soc. Soc. speakers on national situation.

8.15 pm Tuesday. Extraordinary Open JCR meeting to decide on a unanimous Committee Motion to send £25 to LSE fighting fund, King's College.

Continual sporadic action on gates and spikes throughout the week. Don't forget tenants leafleting, meet 11 am, 12a Metcalfe Road on Sunday, and Soc. Soc. general meeting, Caius, Bateman Room at 2.15

February 22. Senate Meets. This meeting must be open!

SOLIDARITY

WARWICK - 24 hour sit-in on Monday-Tuesday. Mass meeting Thursday. 350 march to Coventry Evening Telegraph. VC requests names of those who are not at lectures and who are on the march, especially checking on Soc. Soc. members. Union General Meeting condemns this victimisation 529 votes to 6.

SUSSEX - 400 students in occupation from Wednesday. OXFORD - Mass meeting on Tuesday. 30 students arrested for Powell demonstration. Proctors issue statement that anyone taking direct action will be expelled.

SHEFFIELD - Union General Meeting demands that VC dissociates from Adams.

KENT - Strike called for February 7th at a mass meeting on Wednesday. Occupation started on Wednesday and still continuing.

MANCHESTER - in occupation. Lectures are diverted to discussion of LSE. Bars and doors torn down.

GLASGOW - Occupation starts Thursday but out by Friday midday. Students thought to have been arrested.

BIRMINGHAM ASTON - Six hour meeting at Birmingham and token sit-in at Aston. But poor attendance at meeting to plan strike on Sunday.

READING - Union General Meeting condemns Adams.

LANCASTER - occupied on Tuesday. Guerrilla theatre in Admin Block.

ESSEX - 1000 of total student population of 1500 occupy university.

HULL - Occupation thought to have begun Friday afternoon.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL & AFRICAN STUDIES - 200 pass motion calling for solidarity.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON - 600 students pass a motion expressing solidarity.

LIVERPOOL - occupation of Social Science building on Wednesday

LEICESTER - Resolution of solidarity.

MANCHESTER TECH - Strike starting next week.

FIRCROFT TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE, Birmingham - Strike starting Sunday.



FESTIVAL

'We want to blow at least a little hole in the British Capitalist society - one on which we can work and expand in the future' - Essex leaflet.

Monday - Prospects for 1969 struggle.

- Workgroups on industry, housing, racialism, Ireland, street-tactics etc..

Tuesday - Speakers on students here and abroad, workgroups on tactics.

Wednesday - Workgroups on developing struggle, worker/student liaison etc., overall strategy.

Also films, plays, various theatre groups, folk music, painting, etc. etc.. Poster workshop, sleep free, food etc.

The whole place is yours - go there.

tenants

We voted to support the tenants' struggle. We are now under an obligation to do so. The tenants need us to do leafletting, poster sticking and printing, canvassing, to keep this first experience of communal political action outside the system alive. Its not a question of us descending from our ivory towers to help the unfortunate tenants. They are the working class. Ultimately they will make the revolution. We have a lot to learn from them of what it's like to feel the crunch of capitalism.

Come to leaflet and canvass tenants, starting from 12a Metcalfe Road: Sunday at 11 a.m., Monday at 7.30, and Tuesday at 7.30. If you want to help but can't come, contact Bruce Anderson, Emmanuel.

FROZEN FUZZ

Tired, disjointed thoughts following friendly talk following hostile confrontation 4.30 this morning. What it comes down to is that they're workers too - so they're perpetuating a system we don't like, but so were the GPO workers who keep business communications ticking over - and furthermore the fuzz are getting a pretty stinking deal at the moment. 1962: the Tory government gave them a rise and agreed to review their pay every two years. The Labour government has disowned this agreement and has just recently issued

a circular to all forces telling them that the police will be kept 10% under strength for the indefinite future. The man on the beat gets too much work and too little money - there's one cop in the town having to work night-shift even though his psychiatrist has said that he should avoid it. Remember that they refused to defend college gates on Thursday night. They are working for their bread in this system and like everybody else they're getting a rough deal. Talk to them sometime - see if there's any way we can help.

THE "PRESS"

Students sort

Express Staff Reporters

ONE way of dealing with rebel students was shown early today — by angry students.

AT CAMBRIDGE 500 moderates gave an ultimatum to 200 Left-wingers to end a sit-in — and it ended.

out rebels

1 am: Cambridge surrender

THE 'MODERATES' GO HOME.

AT LONDON

rowing types told L.S.E. marchers to get out of their hall — and they did.

This is how a rowdy night ended: —

CAMBRIDGE: For 24 hours sympathisers with the rebels of the London School of Economics had been staging a sit-in at the Old Schools. Late last night 500 undergraduates marched through the streets roaring "Out! Rule, Britannia!" They gathered on the lawns outside the Senate House, headquarters of the university, and told the sit-in crowd they must come out by midnight. Someone put out a false fire-call, and engines arrived.

NERVES

Near midnight a spokesman for the sitters-in came to a window and said they were frightened to come out.

They were promised: "No violence." Just before 1 a.m. they started to leave. There was a barrage of boos but it was peaceable enough.

What apparently started the fight-back by moderate students was a plan put up by the rebels to cut down college gates and railings which they said interfered with their freedom of action. A petition was sent to Vice-Chancellor Sir Eric Ashby. He issued a statement saying that the demonstration would not be allowed to interfere with studies.

The proctors took no action against the rebels. So the students decided to march. Swiftly the rebellion was over

chanted mindless violent slogans, those inside voted overwhelmingly to avoid giving any provocation. The only true statement in the article is the last paragraph — right wing students did take the law into their own hands. But the remedy proposed by the Express didn't work, and didn't even take place. THE REBELLION CONTINUES.

the very freedoms we have in this country of free speech, of a political system and of tolerance for such a body of scruffy cranks to be causing anarchy deliberately within our universities

If the sit-in is finally broken up by Rugby Club enthusiasts throwing out the SS, it will be a pity that violence has had to be used, but I fear a justified necessity in the interests of most students here and in the country as a whole. The "wreckers" will have to learn the hard way that a tolerant society has to protect itself ultimately from this sort of menace.

Howard Flight — Extracts from today's Varsity

They are wreckers. They are there to disrupt society. Their weapons are lies, misrepresentation, defamation, character assassination, intimidation, and more recently, physical violence.

Edward Short

Refusal

The trouble is, said one LSE lecturer this week, that most of the senior staff are so disciplinarian in their outlook that they simply refuse to enter the intellectual confrontation demanded by their students.

Many of the "expel the trouble-makers" brigade wouldn't mind if students took their liberties in the form of meaningless romps, or spent most of their time in a boating crew. It's the "politicking," as one paper suggested, that is so intolerable.

The national Dailies seem to think in the same way as LSE senior lecturers — they regard a horde of drunken frolicing rightists with more respect than those who for the first time had found an open place to conduct a serious political forum.

Similarly, in Cambridge, when 150 right-wing students came into the meeting on Wednesday night, only four were prepared to argue their views coherently at the platform

At 10.25 union moderates—including heavyweight members of four Rugby clubs and a rowing crew—moved towards the LSE students' conference chanting: 'Go home, you bums, go home. We don't love you any more'

For a time it was touch and go whether there would be violence between the two factions, but Right-wing spokesmen appealed for calm. Among those who urged restraint by the counter-demonstrators was Mr. Julian Gibson-Watt, son of the Shadow Secretary of State for Wales and the university Rugby captain, Mr. John Spencer.

We passed a unanimous motion that 'In the event of any confrontation there would be no provocation and non-violent reaction'. Two witnesses heard Mr. John Spencer shout 'Get the left-wing buggers out'.

Moderate students are planning to do battle with the militants.

MODERATE students at two universities fought back yesterday against the tide of violence.

Erratum: for 'moderates' read 'drunken louts'.

In the bar at the building were four university rugby clubs, a student boat crew and other university sportsmen who opposed the march through London.

Scuffles broke out between the left-wingers and the moderates after the bar closed at 10.30 pm.

The moderates forced their way into the conference room and began pushing the left-wingers down the stairs and into the street.

Rugger men oust LSE rebels

LSE wins writs against 13

13 BARRED FROM LSE BY JUDGE

THROW OUT LSE THUGS, SAYS SHORT

Subversion by lies and violence

WHO ARE THE THUGS? SEE ABOVE.