

14.5.68 (27)
ON ENLIGHTENED DISINTEREST.

It is an appalling comment on the responsibility of the staff at Essex that many of them stand idly by while three students are victimised for a first attempt to raise an issue which has for a long time been kept practically clear of the press - Chemical and Biological Warfare, its use and the implications of complicity with America which we carry by carrying on substantial research in this country and selling the results INDISCRIMINATELY to the U.S.

The Government, while maintaining that Britain must not denounce American action in Vietnam and dissociate us from these actions BECAUSE we are in a position to be able to instigate negotiations at Geneva (unfortunately we now seem to have been overlooked)

, at the same time allows C.S., which was invented at Porton Down, to be manufactured under license in the U.S. - 7,200lbs has already been dropped in 80lb BARRELS on Tay Ninh Province alone, further, it allows patents of results which have never been published, to be sold to the U.S. - again, crop destroying agents discovered at Porton are now in use by the U.S. in Vietnam. ALL of this in contravention of the 1925 Geneva protocol which clearly states that its signatories (Britain amongst them) will not only not use C.B.W. agents themselves but will also actively DISCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES from using them. Clearly, what goes on at Elliott-Automation and Dow are only minor links in the chain which ties the British Government and Industry to indiscriminate support for America, even to the point of supplying the means for genocide and soil destruction on a massive scale in Vietnam. It is perhaps unfortunate that the U.S. has already 40% control of British industry, this control being concentrated in the fast growing sectors - the Motor Industry, Drugs etc.

It is in this sort of a context that irresponsible members of staff are not even sufficiently concerned to want to know about these arbitrary suspensions, let alone do anything about them.

We may well wonder who is on trial at the moment, a permissive society (in that it will allow absolutely anything to happen without so much as a murmur), or those students who KNOWINGLY AND DELIBERATELY risk expulsion merely for the purpose of raising a Taboo issue.

The bastion of the establishment in this country is that it can rely on Liberal apathy and ineffectiveness to blanket any serious issue (i.e. one involving COMMITMENT AND/OR PERSONAL RISK) such that it is as much as the Guardian can stand is to handle one Court Lees issue per month.

HOW LONG CAN THIS CONTINUE ?