

G. J. Bullen — Account of events witnessed at the
Chemical Society meeting on 7th May 1968

I arrived at the meeting at about 4.30 p.m. and sat near the front of the room. The chairman of the meeting, Dr. Tillett, was concluding his introduction. As Dr. Inch was about to begin, students most, if not all, of whom were not members of the university Chemical Society began to enter the side door (near the front of the room). As all the seats were already taken the chairman tried to dissuade people from entering but he was ignored by them. The left-hand side and back of the room became filled by people standing and then the central aisle also filled up with people sitting on the floor, until the room was packed. While this was going on Dr. Bowden reminded these non-members that they were guests of the chemistry department. Still more students arrived and the side door ~~was~~ could not be closed because people were filling the doorway.

The chairman then repeated his introductory remarks. As Dr. Inch made to begin his lecture he was interrupted by Mr. Triesman who said in a loud voice ^{words approximating to} "We intend to stop your lecture and propose to conduct a war crimes tribunal. You will be indicted on charges which you will have an opportunity to answer." Triesman made a speech lasting some minutes on the subject of chemical warfare and was followed by a woman who continued the verbal attack on Dr. Inch. The atmosphere deteriorated — people began to talk and some staff present went to the front to talk to Dr. Inch and the chairman. The audience became restive.

At this point I left the meeting by squeezing through people at the side door and went to inform the Registrar of the state of the meeting. After talking

with the Registrar for a few minutes, I came with him downstairs from his room. I had intended to return to the meeting room but found the corridor leading to it blocked by standing students. It was apparent that Dr. Inch had left the meeting room and was somewhere in the corridors because I could hear him being questioned by students ^(although I could not see him) and I heard him answering, sometimes with interruptions and responses by students. During this time Dr. Borden passed me and I saw that his hair and clothing were marked with a yellow powder.

After some time police officers arrived and surveyed the ~~same~~ scene in the corridor where I was. They gathered one by one until there were about six or more. ~~At~~ While they were arriving and gathering the students in the corridor remained standing but as soon as the police made a definite move forward the students sat down on the floor as one body following the instruction "Sit" given by one of their number. The police climbed carefully over them and disappeared from my view.

A minute or two later, the students got up and rushed along the corridor towards and past me on their way out of Wivenhoe House. I eventually followed them outside where a large number of people were gathered.

G Bullen

Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Chemistry,
University of Essex.

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