

Report on the Disruption of Dr. Incho's Lecture

by Dr. K. B. Owen (Lecturer in Chemistry)

Dr. Incho's lecture was arranged by the Student Chemical Society in cooperation with the Department of Chemistry. Dr. Tillett, of this department, informed me that some sort of demonstration in connection with the lecture was expected. A decision had been made to remove its venue to the room usually used for colloquia in Wivenhoe House. As a member of the department, a member of the society and Safety Officer of the department, I

concurred with the change. This was in the hope that we could enable the lecture to start and then continue in a reasonable manner in an environment which we could contain. I was asked to assist in the conduct of the lecture.

Professor Bradley and Mr. Rennie, the student president, informed me that the lecture was to continue and visitors who wished to hear the lecture were to be admitted.

Later I informed people who normally attend our lectures that arrangements had been made to attempt to ensure the lecture could both start and continue. I

was informed by two students associated with the demonstrators that the speaker was not going to be allowed to speak. I therefore delayed informing certain

T of E Ref 36p2

II

individuals of the new venue till just
before its start, to ensure the lecture room
was not occupied.

Dr. Incl had arrived after lunch and I was with him much of the afternoon. Just before the timed start of the lecture, Dr. Tillett took the speaker to the lecture room. The meeting was quiet and orderly. The forty to fifty seats provided were mostly filled and the room appeared to be almost full. The Fire Regulations do not state a capacity for this room but I estimated a safe limit of a fully seated audience plus up to ten standing. Hearing some noise outside the main back door, I went out to find Mr. Davies, the Head Porter, confronted by the arrival of about ^{admission} forty students. They demanded ~~admission~~. I informed them that this was a Chemistry Colloquium in a room booked by the Chemistry Department. As there was now only room for a few seated (less than ten) and ten standing, I attempted to avoid dangerous and illegal overcrowding, and ^{to ensure} continuation of the lecture. I asked the arrivals if they were members of the department of chemistry or the student chemical society, or genuine visitors who were welcomed. They only stated that they were members of the University and offered no proof of identity. They refused to state why they wanted admission to the lecture. However,

at this moment they burst in by a side door and flooded into the room. They would not stay out or allow the door to be closed. I then stayed inside the lecture to assist Dr. Tillett. I still attempted to control the inflow and, in fact, several members of the Chemistry Department who had arrived late were refused ^{admission} ~~admission~~. Several individuals, including the Wyvern photographer, however, entered. I asked the meeting to behave as expected of visitors of the Department of Chemistry and the Student Chemical Society. The meeting was now terribly overcrowded and many people could not see the speaker or the front of the lecture room. As the audience contained a number of local school children, I had serious fears for their safety.

Dr. Tillett decided to re-introduce the speaker and did so. Immediately, Mr. Triesman began a long speech in a loud and forceful manner. He stated that ~~and~~ ~~forwards~~ this was an indictment and a War Crimes Tribunal was to be held. The meeting became very noisy and sectarian. Triesman stated that Dr. Inch was not going to be allowed to speak. A female student later took up the monologue. I, myself, considered that Dr. Inch would not be able to lecture. Dr. Tillett and

IV

T of E Ref 36 p 4

Dr. Inch discussed the position in my presence and Dr. Inch asked to leave after listening to interruptions for a short time. At this point, Mr. Archard threw yellow powder over Dr. Inch, myself and other staff members near to the speaker. He shouted a statement which included his name and department, and references to Mustard Gas. At this point, the noise and movement by the demonstrators (about eighty) was beginning to breakup the meeting of those who had come to listen (about forty).

D. T. L. H. H.

Dr. Inel left
with some members of staff. They
were immediately assailed with
cries of "Dr. Inel is leaving",
"Sit down comrades" and "Stop
Inel". I attempted to follow Dr.
Inel but was attacked and
held by about three demonstrators.
This appeared to be happening to
my colleagues also. A student, Mr. J
Thomas, whom I knew personally,
struggled with me. In this ^{struggle}, his
glasses fell to the floor. As I
was now on the floor as well, I
picked them up. He had now
gone so ~~that~~ I retained them
and returned them intact to
him through the Porters desk
next day. A student whom I
later identified as Mr. Reeve

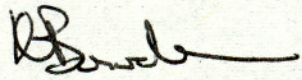
called either me or Dr. Incl a "Murderous Bastard" as I went to follow Dr. Incl. Dr. Incl had been cornered and held against the wall in the passageway connecting the House and Coach House. Particularly evident in manhandling and abusing him were Halberstadt and Gonzales. They would not allow him to move and restrained him when he attempted to go. The abuse consisted of accusing him of murdering Vietnamese children, selling poisonous gases to the U.S.A., and being intellectually immoral. After attempting to see the Vice-Chancellor, who was away, I went to the Porter's Desk. Ever since Dr. Incl had left the lecture room, we had been in no position to protect him as befitting a guest and scholar. I found the police had been already called and would have done this myself but for the previous action of another colleague. I then took a short time washing the yellow powder out of my hair and brushing my clothes. As the substance stung, I suspect it was mustard.

The police arrived
and four were available to
attempt to free Dr. Ingh. They
requested a member of staff to

accompany them to identify Dr. Inch. As I was the only suitable person available I volunteered. The demonstrators had sat down to impede our way and would not move even to allow us to walk. The police behaved at this time, and later, with care and great restraint. They and I were abused and threatened. A smaller central group were still holding Dr. Inch and continuing to abuse him. As the police reached Dr. Inch the violence increased. The demonstrators formed a tight, well-organised arm-locked circle to bar our way out with Dr. Inch. In particular, several students manhandled Dr. Inch, myself and the police. These included Mr. Reeves and a female student whom I later identified as Miss. L. Jones. Dr. Tillett and other students assisted us in extracting Dr. Inch. I must say here that there were a couple of demonstrators who tried hard to persuade the others not to be violent. I cannot identify these more responsible individuals.

The small group
consisting of the police, Dr. Inel,
Dr. Tillet, the security officer and
myself left by a side door. We
decided that Dr. Inel should

leave in a police car and I accompanied him. Several demonstrators had left the house and tried to stop the police car leaving. One student whom I have yet to identify sat on the bonnet of the car and hammered on the roof. He threatened Dr. Inch with violence if he returned to the campus. At the police station Dr. Inch was interviewed by the Duty Inspector after he had cleaned off the yellow powder partially. After they discussed possible court proceedings, Dr. Inch and I left.


 DR. K. BOWDEN
 24th May 1968.