

DR. INCH'S VISIT

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The following ~~are~~<sup>are</sup> some of my observations:

I saw the lecture advertised in Mr. Evan's newsletter. The significance ~~of~~<sup>of</sup> the lecture was, for me, that the lecturer, Dr. Inch was from Porton Down, where chemical and biological warfare ~~ix~~research is undertaken, and that he was actually lecturing on toxic chemicals.

As soon as I saw the lecture advertised I knew there would be a protest of some form against the crimes committed at Porton. Not because of any planning or organising, but because there are enough people at this University that feel strong enough about the research at Porton to actively condemn it.

I assumed that the demonstration, if that is the right word, would take the form that previous ones have. That is, those people of like opinion would perhaps have discussions in the coffee bar, attend the lecture and the demonstration would emanate from the meeting.

I was not around much at the weekend and on Monday morning I ascertained with much pleasure that ~~xxxxxxx~~ a few people had spent the weekend researching into the violence of Porton and had prepared an indictment to be read to Dr. Inch. Following the reading of the indictment it was planned to ask him questions on the ethical aspects of CBW.

Only on my way to the lecture theatre block was I informed that the lecture had been transferred to a room near the Chemistry Department at Wivenhoe House. I saw no official notice informing members of the university of this change - FREE SPEECH?

I was stopped from entering the lecture by Dr. Bowden. He informed me that the lecture was full. When I pointed to the empty spaces that were evident all around the room, he replied that the lecture was 'a departmental meeting'.

- FREE SPEECH?

Dr. Inch was in the corridor discussing with us the ethical aspects of CBW. Although there was nothing to suggest that Dr. Inch was in any danger (certainly he was quite calm) the police arrived and broke up the meeting - FREE SPEECH?

I arrived at the back of Wivenhoe House in time to see Dr. Inch depart in a car. I was standing watching when I heard a policeman say "Here, this one'll do" and four or five of them seized me. Their grip was so tight that I could not even struggle. I heard ~~xxx~~ a voice cry 'no arrests!' and the police were pulled off me. I ran, but two or three police caught me again. They were pulled off me a second time. The third time I was stopped by a middle aged non policeman - presumably a member of the administration or Chemistry Department. I could not run anymore through lack of breath and group of my friends encircled me for a time long enough to enable me to regain my breath. By this time most of the police were engaged in attempting to arrest

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those who had been helping me. I headed for the valley.

I have racked my brains since to find reasons for their picking me. Either

- 1. I just happened to be the nearest when the police decided to arrest someone.
- 2. Because the demonstrators had chanted one of the policemen's numbers when, in the corridor, I had made it clear that he had kicked me in the shin.

ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Each person has his own hierarchy of values, which may or may not be complimentary. In my hierarchy of values (which, as with any individual, is subjective and not absolute) I would place the ~~raising~~ restriction of one lecturer's freedom of speech to a handful of students below the raising of the scandal of British CBW research to a level of national discussion.

I regret very much that our society is such that it is necessary to go to such lengths to give the public a chance to comment about something so terrifying as CBW. Indeed, <sup>subsequent to</sup> ~~since~~ the Inch incident, members of our so called democratic society, are for the first time being told about the dangers of CBW.