

Q I want to ask you one or two questions about what happened on the afternoon of the lecture. Can I take you up on a point in your evidence: "phone calls to the effect that the venue (and for a period, the timing) of Dr. Inch's lecture had been changed". What had you heard about the timing being changed?

A That it was put forward by half an hour.

Q To 5 o'clock?

A I have forgotten the exact beginning of it, but I know the effect of it would have been half an hour earlier.

Q Sorry, it was 4 o'clock.

A Yes, that is right.

Q Do you know how you got that message.

A From my secretary.

Q We gather that you secretary had been told to relay to people down in the Valley the changed venue. Did she do that or did you?

A She did it.

Q Can you remember anything more specific than that the venue and the timing had been changed. It seems that the instruction to her might have been to delay giving the message about the change of venue until about 3.45 p.m.

A I think she said something like 'Don't spread this about', or I may have picked this up from other people, but I did hear 'Keep it quiet'.

Q Your memory about the time being changed is very clear?

A I am quite clear that at one time I was under the impression that it was half an hour earlier, and I think that means 4 o'clock.

Q. I only ask this because we have not heard about it at all before.

A I don't think this lasted for very long, it was by this time getting on for 4 o'clock. I remember changing my times for the rest of the afternoon, because I heard then that it would be at the original time.

A There may, of course, have been some misunderstanding in the relaying of the message.

Q Could we ask your secretary to let us know as much as she can of what messages she received.

A Yes.

Q You recalled this apology you made to Dr. Inch. Do you remember the exact words?

A What I said I remembered.

Q Do you remember whether five minutes later the move to go came from him or someone else?

A I think it came from him, but not in any dramatic way which was generally seen. My recollection is not very clear, but my impression was that he said 'Well, I want to go'.

Q Is it right to say that when he went to leave there was a throng of people in the doorway who effectively prevented him from leaving?

A Yes, that's right.

Q Did they prevent him just by physically being there, or do you remember positive attempt such as restraining someone?

A I don't remember any positive attempt, they were just blocking the way. They were doing this deliberately so that he couldn't get out.

Q We have heard from Mr. Davies that he made an attempt to extricate Dr. Inch and was dragged away. Did you see that at all?

A No, I did not see that, but there were many people thronging round - one did not always have a clear view of what was going on.

Q You remember Dr. Tillett being there at the time Archard threw the powder?

A Yes.

Q Do you remember if he was there for the rest of the time and went out with Dr. Inch.

A I couldn't say.

Q Do you remember anything being said by Dr. Tillett about the police or by anyone else, at that stage?

A No.

Q You say that the demonstrators had linked arms across the exit - is that a very clear memory?

A Yes.

Q About how many were linking arms - everyone?

A Certainly in the vicinity of the door, it would take about five or six, I expect, but it may have been more.

Q Do you remember anyone sitting down as well?

A Not at that stage - But this might well have happened as it was a confused scene and I was not immediately adjacent to it.

Q I suppose the way that Dr. Inch got out was to squeeze round the door - would that correspond with anything you saw?

A I have some recollection of him and the porter pushing against the chain of people.

Q You left by the main door - that is the double door?

A Yes.

Q You don't recall any specific struggles or fights going on in the meeting room?

A No.

Q I want now to go round to the scene in the lobby. You found your way by asking some people through some of the crowd. Where did you end up in fact?

A Right inside the lobby.

Q But with reference to Dr. Inch and the cordon round him ?

A About the opposite corner of the lobby.

Q Near the cigarette machines?

A I didn't know there were any there. There were coat hangers there.

Q About how many people do you remember being there in the lobby?

A I would estimate about 40 - it was very crowded. I remember certainly that there were two or three people standing in the closed doorway to the old Senate Room, because it was so crowded.

Q The impression we have got of most of the scene in the lobby, was of Dr. Inch in the corner, about three feet away from him, this cordon - an inner cordon of about five people?

A I don't remember that at that stage when the questioning was going on that there was a cordon - there might have been. I remember the room being very crowded and I was near the opposite corner. I thought the linking of arms occurred when the police came in , but it may have already occurred.

Q

Q You cannot express a view as to whether Dr. Inch at any time tried to escape from that cordon?

A If he did, I didn't see it.

Q Were you able to hear Dr. Inch's answers to the questions?

A Very clearly, yes.

Q We have heard the contrary accounts as to the reception ~~which~~^{of} your suggestion about moving the meeting. One fairly general impression we have received is that it was very soon after you made that suggestion that the police moved in.

A It depends on what you mean by very soon. It was not the next thing that happened by any means. There would have been at least three or four further questions and that is my estimate, it is difficult to exactly locate that far.

Q You didn't hear anyone take up your suggestion favourably?

A I didn't. I remember people shouting no and you will close the meeting, I remember that.

Q Did you repeat the suggestion more than once?

A No. Frankly I felt ~~that~~ a little hurt ~~that~~^{at} the suggestion that I had closed the meeting. I did not see any chance of succeeding.

Q Were you able to see where the shouts of no were coming from? Were they coming from near to you or from the direction where Dr. Inch was trapped?

A If I remember, they came from ~~the~~ near the two doors, one leads to the old Senate room and one to the dining room.

Q Did you leave the room before Dr. Inch left it?

A After, I think.

Q Which room are you talking about here?

A The lobby, definitely before, no doubt about that.

Q The impression we have got is that the six to eight policemen came in and were for some time themselves penned in by the demonstrators and didn't immediately succeed in extricating Dr. Inch.

A I think it must have taken quite a time but as soon as the body of the policemen had arrived I left because I thought too that too many people here and the police would have a job to do.

Q Did anything strike you about the attitude or manner of those in the inner ring surrounding Dr. Inch as being any different or more aggressive to the manner of those behind?

A I don't think so, no. I think there was a linking of arms when the police arrived but I gather from other evidence that they were already linked beforehand, but I cannot be absolutely positive about this.

Q One witness has had a rather strong impression that the inner cordon were certainly being more aggressive than the others.

A I wouldn't say that at all. I was in the room and I would be surprised to find clear recollections of that. I was concerned for Dr. Inch's safety so I feel that if anything like that had happened it would have prejudiced itself on my memory.

Q Apart from the fact, then, that Dr. Inch was penned in the corner and there was a huge crowd around him, apart from that fact there was nothing to make you afraid of his safety?

A I was concerned for his safety in as much as ~~there~~^{he} was in a small room with a lot of people and some were shouting and there was no offence or incitement to violence and a situation of this kind can in the long run be strenuous.

Q Can I take you up on a sentence in your statement. * 'He ~~was~~ clearly not there in accordance with his wishes.' Did you deduce this from the fact that he tried to move or the fact that it just was not planned to hold the lecture in that room? * Ref 37

A Well, he was not planning to come to Essex to be covered in powder or to be cornered in a room with people milling round him. He had said he wanted to leave before.

Q You did not deduce this from something that happened in the lobby?

A Definitely not, no.. I am sorry if that was ambiguous.

Q I just wanted to make it perfectly clear. Later on you say 'being questioned under duress.' Why do you say this? Was it his face, was it the way he spoke?

A By duress I mean he was in a place where he did not want to be and questioned on things that he had not come to talk about.

Q What I am trying to get at is, why did you get this impression? What was it about him that gave you this impression that he did not want to talk about this?

A I think it is a matter, as far as I am concerned, of common sense that a man who is standing in a corner with a crowd milling round sometimes shouting and he is covered in powder and he has not come to do this, he has come to do something else, he was being subjected to duress. I think that is my definition of duress. He did not come to do this and it is clearly not what he wanted to do.

Q Some of those who were questioning Dr. Inch and giving evidence have argued that Dr. Inch, although it is fairly clear, your point, that he did not come to Essex to do this kind of thing, that at that particular point he seemed quite willing to have a discussion about the indictment, indeed he made this quotation from ^{Wesley,} ~~Donnelly~~ something about reason rather than passion, and indeed some people seem to have interpreted your own suggestion that you move back and carry on with the dialogue as carrying the implication that this would be acceptable to Dr. Inch. Would you agree that at that particular moment although he might well have wished to be elsewhere he was in a sense prepared to discuss the issues raised by this indictment?

A I think that willingness itself would be influenced by duress. A man penned in may well find that the best course he can take is to reason but I still thought he was acting the way he was ^{he was under} because of duress.

Q One witness has said that the impression of the question and answer was that both ^{that} ~~of~~ the answers were audible and that the answers were fairly lengthy and the fact that Dr. Inch was speaking ~~less~~ more at the time than the questioners, the answers were longer than the questions?

A That is probably fair. There was no great distinction. It may quite well be that there were short questions to which ^{he gave} ~~long~~ long answers or vice versa but there was quite a dialogue but if I may come back to the question of duress, when I said I would like to move the meeting it was to lift the duress from him because I imagined he would be willing to continue and under conditions more civilised and I would have felt that duress was lifted.

Q The member of the ^{Department} ~~party~~ you spoke to when you said the police should be called was who?

A I think it is likely to have been Dr. Matheson but I can't be sure of that.

Q Did you observe Dr. Tillett coming into the lobby at all because he himself is very unsure of his movements and we are trying to establish them?

A I am afraid I cannot be sure of them.

Q Did you observe Dr. Bowden in the lobby?

A No. I have no clear recollection of who was there.

Q To put you in the picture, Dr. Bowden came into the lobby with the policeman.

A I was not in the lobby.

Q He accompanied the first group of people over the sitting demonstrators.

A That is a great surprise to me. I have a clear recollection of the policemen coming in and the demonstrators saying you have trodden on my hand. I have a picture of the police stepping warily into the room. I cannot remember Dr. Bowden being among them.

Q It was about this time that you decided to leave, was it, and leave it to the police?

A The police were in the lobby when I left, just after they had come in.

Q Were you able to see the police entering along the corridor.

A Yes. I was not far from the exit and I saw them coming in.

Q You say the ~~xxxx~~ police proceeded with great care. This seems to be generally accepted with one exception. A lot of people seemed to observe a red-faced policeman who apparently proceeded with less care. Can you recollect that at all?

A I am afraid I didn't see that.

Q Your impression of the entry is that they proceeded with care?

A With great care, yes.

When the member of staff told you that the police had already been called, did he tell you who had called them or who had decided that they should be called?

A No.

Q There has been an allegation that during the struggle to get Inch out of the meeting by the doorway that Mr. Halberstadt ~~has~~ attempted to strike the porter, Mr. Davis. Can you make any comment on that? Did you see Halberstadt there in the doorway? Can you help us in any way over that one?

A The short answer is no. I must say that I did not become aware of Halberstadt's name until I saw his picture in the Times later so it would not register in a crowd of people. At that time I didn't know Halberstadt. Apart from that I didn't see anyone striking anyone or being restrained from striking anyone.

Q I asked you if you could comment because it is ~~not~~ clear from this enquiry and ~~even~~ from photographs ~~as to~~ ~~whether~~ Halberstadt's ~~figure~~ ~~was~~ conspicuous figure that he is sitting in the middle of that ...

A I know now that I saw his face ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ the Times.

Q Thinking back, you don't remember him in that doorway?

A I'm sorry, sir, I don't.

Q The correction is noted. While the indictment was still being read and shortly before the decision to depart, one demonstrator has told that he went up and himself questioned Dr. Inch during the indictment. Have you any recollection of that, probably while you were conferring or deciding what to do, and it seems to be possibly significant happening that you might have observed?

A I think that people were standing or walking about, several people certainly in the front area where Dr. Inch was, it is not inconsistent with what happened but I didn't see it.

Q You don't mention this in your evidence, but did you see the Viva driven allegedly at breakneck speed?

A No, I didn't.