

BENTLEY GIVING EVIDENCE

- Q. You seem to have a very clear memory of what went on and it is clearly down in your written evidence. We really only asked you to come along for one specific part of the incident and that is what you saw of Dr. Inch from his leaving the meeting room and his being pinned in the corridor. It does seem that you were near here. I gather that you came out of the double doors and intercepted Dr. Inch. Do you remember if a substantial number of demonstrators had gone out in front of you and were already beyond him down the corridor?
- A. Yes. Several people came out of the meeting room before me but they milled inside the television lounge. I went through them where I saw a friend in front of me ~~you~~<sup>who</sup> shouted links and I linked arms with him. There appeared to be no-one down the corridor at that time, most of the people appeared to be up near the bar billiards table coming down towards where we were standing.
- Q. Behind Dr. Inch.
- A. Yes. We were stood by the doorpost. My colleague near the doorpost myself next to it.
- Q. So you coming out of the television room were about the first of the people who came through the double doors?
- A. I was not one of the first to come through the double doors



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- Q. But you were about the first to go out of the television room?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you remember if one of the chemistry staff who was accompanying Dr. Inch, was Dr. Tillett?
- A. I know no members of the chemistry staff whatsoever.
- Q. Do you have a memory of the person that introduced Dr. Inch?
- A. Not a very clear memory no.
- Q. You linked arms with one friend and was pushed out of the way?
- A. I was not pushed but my friend was.
- Q. Was this at the top of the bar?
- A. This was by the doorpost by the bar.
- Q. You say "That he then proceeded down the corridor, we continued after him". Does that mean that he was still in the lead?
- A. He went past and down the corridor. My friend and I went after him. He ran up to the end of the corridor, I can't remember whether he was running or walking very fast indeed, but he got up there some way ahead of us.
- Q. Was your friend Hatchett?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you remember seeing Hatchett in that corridor?
- A. No.



- Q. Between Dr. Inch and Mr. Davis at that stage, apart from you and your friend, were there other people there?
- A. When I turned round, all I saw was Mr. Davis coming through the doors at which point there appeared to be a fair number of people behind him, but no one in front of him. There was just the two of us at that particular point. Someone may have passed as I remember Mr. Davis was not the first person to reach us.
- Q. Could we have the name of your friend, because if he is giving evidence we can cross check?
- A. Colin Rogers.
- Q. You stood in front of him at the bottom of the stairs? Do you remember if anything was said at that moment?
- A. There was several things said. I can't remember what I was saying but I shut up because Colin appeared to be doing so much better than I was.
- Q. About how long was the wait at the bottom of the corridor?
- A. I would say about a minute but time extends in these cases. Probably about thirty seconds. We were on our own for some time before a little person, who I have never seen before, rushed up to him, at which point several students came up behind him.
- Q. Presumably the corridor was filling up behind you?
- A. It could have been.
- Q. Do you have any recollection of people passing behind you through the door into the lobby?
- A. No. There did not appear to be many people when we passed into the lobby.



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- Q. Do you remember what prevented the man with gold rimmed glasses from taking him through the corridor?
- A. He did not seem to know the way. They went in and we were going past them. They seemed to stand somewhere near the door to M.14. We then passed them, several students came along side and more went down behind us down the corridor.
- Q. Dr. Inch therefore must have stopped?
- A. Yes. He stopped.
- Q. As it were, not knowing where to go?
- A. Yes. He didn't know his way around the house. We went up towards the door. He was pushed in.
- Q. You say he was pushed in there?
- A. He seemed to be taken there by the small man.
- Q. Did you get any impression of what this man's intention was; where he was intending to take Dr. Inch?
- A. I don't know. He seemed fairly determined to take him through the door but after that he did not appear to be too clear as to where to take him. He passed him immediately then in which case the students came up behind.



- Q. We are trying to see that what might have happened was that this man, seeing the students piling through the door and beginning to surround him and Dr. Inch, led him into the corner just to wait.
- A. Most of the students went past down the corridor. There were very few students who actually stopped. Colin and I stopped and a few students came along side of us, but the main body of students either stopped in the corner of M11 by the cigarette machine, but most of them went down the corridor almost to the end. This all took place in a small number of seconds during which Mr. Wyatt might have told him to stop in the corner and a cordon of people was formed who then linked arms.
- Q. Did Mr. Wyatt then go back down the corridor?
- A. Yes. He appeared to come through the doorway.
- Q. Was Dr. Tillett there at this time?
- A. I don't know Dr. Tillett.
- Q. Was this cordon formed as a result of Mr. Wyatt saying "We'll get you out"?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why in your opinion was it formed?
- A. For the simple reason to contain Dr. Inch.
- Q. Were you in the front line of the cordon?
- A. Yes. There were five people in the cordon at the front and another cordon behind us which was much looser. The cordon at the front was very tight, of linked arms.
- Q. Were you aware of any plans in the demonstration to cover this situation?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you or anyone else push or shepherd Dr. Inch into that corner?



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- A. He appeared to be moving to the corner with the gentleman with the glasses. There were a lot of people crowding into the alcove at the entrance to M14 but by the time we had finished the cordon stretched from one side of the door to the other.
- Q. If I can reconstruct it, Dr. Inch with this other gentleman found their way to the corner without any prompting of any kind?
- A. There seemed to be a large ~~mf~~ number of people coming through the doorway, filling up the spaces and the small clear space down the centre between the two cordons and the people here (indicating).



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- Q. Some people were still coming through to the corridor, some, including you and Colin Rogers stopped, and as it were, it dawned on you standing there, that there was Dr. Inch fortuitously in a corner and the opportunity was there to surround him and question him?
- A. The immediate thing was that we linked arms. This is just how it occurred.
- Q. You linked arms?
- A. This is standard procedure in demonstrations.
- Q. How many people were in the front cordon?
- A. Five
- Q. Were you next to Mr. Rogers in the cordon?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who else was next to you?
- A. Alistair Hatchett.
- Q. And Halberstadt?
- A. He was in the second cordon. He was behind me.
- Q. Who were the other two because we don't want to come to a wrong conclusion?
- A. I am informed that one person has the first name Jeff. The other person's name I don't know. He was in here this morning but he was not giving evidence.



- Q. As I understand it, what happened then was that the chanting of slogans continued for a little time and then quietened down at the instigation of Peter Archard.
- A. There were several people shouting for people to be quiet.
- Q. And then they were quiet and the indictment was taken up again.
- A. Yes. It was mainly the front row that was shouting for people to be quiet.
- Q. Can you give me an estimate of the time that it took for the shouting to die down, from the time the cordon was formed to the time the indictment was restarted?
- A. I have no concrete idea. It took as much time as it took for M11 to fill.
- Q. Something more in the nature of fifteen seconds than a minute?
- A. Yes. It was very quick. May I just clear up when Mr. Wyatt came through. He came through at the very beginning and there were very few people in the corridor.
- Q. And he went off down the corridor towards the porters desk?
- A. Yes, but I am informed on hearsay that he was seen earlier before Dr. Inch came through to go down that corridor before.
- Q. But on this occasion he came through M11 at the very beginning of the formation of the crowd and then went down the corridor?
- A. Yes. I first saw him after he came through the door, after he had appeared to come through the doorway from M11. I don't know whether he came up the corridor to M11 and then stopped by the



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doorway and came back or whether he came through the doorway into M11 and then straight down the corridor.

Q. Did Dr. Inch at any time try to break out of the cordon, or to move away from the corridor?

A. No.

Q. Now you agree that one of the effects of forming the cordon was to prevent the chemistry staff and members from coming through and they were prevented?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what happened to the gentleman with Dr. Inch?

A. No I don't. There was some person with Dr. Inch but I can't remember clearly who this was. That person then moved closer to Dr. Inch, the other person seemed to fade somehow into the crowd by the entry to M14. I don't know whether he left the cordon, stayed in the cordon or what.

Q. Was Dr. Inch alone when he was surrounded and being questioned or was there somebody with him?

A. There was somebody with him.

Q. Are you able to recognise who was with him?

A. No.



- Q. There is one point I want to try and establish. This is the time that Dr. Inch was trying to leave the meeting room. What you saw was Dr. Inch being pushed through the door, you then turned round to the double doors and intercepted him so that was fairly quick?
- A. Yes.
- Q. It is really the time before Dr. Inch got through the door that I am concerned with?
- A. I did not actually see Dr. Inch go through the door. I saw him get by the doorpost at which point he appeared to be going to get through the door.
- Q. For how long did the confusion continue from the time that Dr. Inch first made his way to leave to the time he got out?
- A. There appeared to be some confusion. He took possibly about thirty seconds to get to the door at which point I then left by the double doors at the back but I should then say it probably took about five or ten seconds for me to get through into the bar, at which point Dr. Inch was half way <sup>to</sup> the bar billiards room, so I assume that he must have been held up in the doorway for some time.
- Q. At the time that you passed through the door of M17, across the bar and across the stairs, at any time in that passage do you recall seeing Janet Steel?
- A. No.
- Q. Going back to the preliminaries. You were away ~~on~~ until Monday, but before Monday morning had you taken part in the discussions we have heard about.
- A. I mentioned to several people that this was going to take place.



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There were several discussions that action should be taken and we should find out as much information as we could but these were only in informal groups in the coffee bar. I was just told to keep it quiet.

Q. We have been told notably by Peter Archard, David Triesman and I think also Rogers, of quite lengthy discussions taking place with perhaps as many as thirty people mostly on Saturday and Sunday and maybe Friday as well. Were you at those discussions?

A. No.

Q. So you heard what was going on but you weren't present when the main lines of the demonstration were discussed?

A. No. I understood that these were to be thrashed out on Monday.

Q. Apart from the meeting on Monday, we have heard that there were discussions on the question of violence or non-violence and on the question of the form the demonstration should take i.e., the reading of the indictment and that it should be read at the beginning rather than at the end. Did you hear about this informally or were you present?

A. The first thing I knew about the indictment was when it was put in my hand. I assumed that someone was going to read it and that I should be prepared.

Q. Looking at Number 4. Was that the document that was put in your hand?

A. Yes.

Q. Definitely that and not Number 35 which is a pamphlet?

A. As far as I am aware I did not see the pamphlet until the following day and I have never read the pamphlet, so it looked like the other one.

Q. Good. Thank you very much for coming along.