

BLAIR GIVING EVIDENCE

Q.

I want to take you up on one question in your evidence. On the first page is your seeing Dr. Inch trying to push his way through a crowd of students. Could you pinpoint on the map where you saw this?

A.

As I came up into what I think is called the lobby, I came through that corridor through the porters desk entrance and walked into the lobby and that is where I saw it. I had just arrived and people were shouting. In fact I don't know exactly where he had come from.

Q.

Did you see him in the corner?

A.

I think the first time I saw him was just before he got into the corner, but then I definitely remember seeing him in the corner.

Q.

You use the words "pushed his way through the crowds". Do you definitely remember Dr. Inch actually trying to get out?

A.

What I mean was that when I walked in there was no linked arms or anything like that. It just looked like he was trying to push his way through and people wouldn't move. I am very vague about this.

- Q. Do you actually recall Inch pushing and being pushed back?
- A. No. I didn't see it.
- Q. As you came upon the scene were there people already in the corridor?
- A. Yes. But there couldn't have been many because I got through very easily.
- Q. Did you come up with White or did you see White?
- A. No. I came up by car and I entered the house before them. I was the first one to get out of the car.
- Q. Did you notice a police car there?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you notice Mr. Wyatt when you came through the porters desk?
- A. No.
- Q. It seems that there may have been a police car in square 5 about the time you left?
- A. I had gone down the steps towards the lecture theatre block, met some people who said it had been switched to the house and then went down through the squash courts. I heard afterwards that there was a police car but I didn't see it.
- Q. Have you in fact heard people who say they saw the police car?
- A. Yes. People who weren't involved in the demonstration in fact who were around the square.
- Q. I wonder if you can remember seeing various people as you came in or got into the lobby. Do you remember seeing Dr. Tillett?
- A. There were about two blokes. I didn't know either of them but had about the same colour hair and same dress but whether he was one

BLAIR GIVING EVIDENCE

of them I don't know. Quite possibly.

Q. Do you know Janet Steel?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember seeing her?

A. I think that when Dr. Inch started asking questions I remember her being behind me.

Q. Were you in the corridor?

A. No. While Dr. Inch was answering questions and the indictment was being read I was standing with my back to the garden door.

Q. You seem to have arrived in the lobby about the same time that Dr. Inch did. We gather that around that time there was still a lot of shouting and after a while the shouting died down?

A. Yes. Very quickly after I arrived.

Q. Can you put a time to it?

A. I would say about two minutes at the most. Someone made it plain that they were going to read the indictment and everyone shut up.

Q. You say he stopped trying to leave. This could convey that for a while he was making attempts to get out and that later he stopped making attempts.

A. When I arrived in the room he wasn't in the corner. Very quickly after that he was in the corner. I couldn't see how he got into the corner and it was probably from hearsay that I wrote he stopped trying to leave rather than I actually understood what was going on.

Q. Do you remember him being pushed and jostled by demonstrators?

A. No.

Q. You seem to have quite a clear view of the way in which Dr. Inch was extricated. Have you seen Dr. Bowden since? Do you know who Dr. Bowden is?

A. I should do but I am not sure.

Q. Would you call him a tall or short man?

A. Tallish. It was a dark haired man with a suit.

Q. If there had been among that throng among the people round Dr. Inch and the police trying to get him out, someone who was in a temper waving his arms about, do you think you would have noticed him?

A. Yes. If someone had been having a standup fight, because for some time things were fairly quiet.

Q. While the police were there? I am talking really about the period after the arrival of the police until they got him out of the room.

A. Yes. If someone had been going wild I think I would have seen them.

Q. The person we are thinking of did in fact come into the circle by Dr. Inch with the police.

A. There was a couple of scuffles. There was a tall fairhaired policeman who got hold of a fair haired student who I am told

BLAIR GIVING EVIDENCE

was Brian Reeve.

Q. Did you see any incident involving Chris Ratcliffe?

A. Only outside the House later on.

Q. Do you know Mr. Wyatt.

A. Yes. I saw Mr. Wyatt in there but I had the impression that he came from behind me along the corridor. I don't know whether that is right.

Q. Is that when the police came in?

A. I remember standing there, and I think it was while Dr. Inch was speaking that I turned round and saw two policemen in the corridor with the head porter.

Q. Do you remember being near Halberstadt?

A. I remember seeing him in the lobby but I wasn't close to him. I didn't notice him in particular.

Q. We have heard that were discussions over the weekend about the demonstration. Were you involved in those?

A. I think I heard on Monday.

Q. Did the police at any time try to arrest you?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did the incident take place?

A. I remember seeing Chris Ratcliffe and someone got hold of him.

Q. Where would this be?

A. In front of Wivenhoe House. A couple of policemen got hold of Chris Ratcliffe. I wasn't actually that close then. When he ran away, I followed him and one policeman got hold of me. Some other student got hold of me as well.

Q. Can you remember who the student was who got hold of you? Where would this have taken place?

A. Behind Wivenhoe House (shown on map)

Q. Was anyone around at that point?

A. Not that I remember.

Q. Do you remember any policemen's hats coming off at this time?

A. No. I don't remember.

Q. You say a policeman got hold of you. Did he attempt to arrest you?

A. He didn't say I arrest you or anything.

When I went round there there was someone who I thought was a chemist who grabbed hold of Chris Ratcliffe but later on someone said it was a plain clothed policeman.

Q. When Chris Ratcliffe was attempted to be arrested do you remember who was close?

A. I just don't know.

Q. Could anyone have got the impression that they were trying to arrest you?

BLAIR GIVING EVIDENCE

- A. Yes. I think so.
- Q. It has been stated that at one point you were rolling on the ground with a policeman on top of you. Would you comment on this?
- A. The policeman got hold of me. I got away but I didn't just pull away and run away. There were no blows struck or anything but we may have slipped on the ground.
- Q. Was there a scuffle between you and the police?
- A. It depends on how you describe a scuffle, but I suppose you could call it that.
- Q. Did you get hold of each other?
- A. He got a hold of me and I tried to get away.
- Q. And he had hold of you for a length of time?
- A. About half a minute.

BRODIE GIVING EVIDENCE

- Q. It has been rumoured, and only rumoured, as having withdrawn from the demonstration because you thought the plans to be too extreme. Can you comment on that?
- A. I didn't withdraw from the demonstration because of threats.
- Q. Is there any foundation in this rumour?
- A. Not as expressed in this letter. I was talking about the demonstration before it took place. I can't remember to whom, when or where and I stressed my view that I thought it should be a peaceful demonstration; no violence at all. I didn't know what the plans were.
- Q. From what you know now of the plans, do they fall within your definition of peaceful?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When in fact did you become aware of the demonstration at all?
- A. I think it was on the Thursday before the demonstration. I was away from the Friday to the Monday. I was unfortunately unable to take place in the formation of the demonstration.
- Q. Is there any point ^{you} ~~we~~ want to raise on the demonstration itself?
- A. It has been said that I shouted to sit. I did not do this but I did obstruct the police.
- Q. By sitting?
- A. Yes.
- Q. By any grabbing hold?
- A. No. No violence.