

TILLETT GIVING EVIDENCE

Q. A general question, is it correct that the same piece of research in chemistry or related fields, could have both medical and weapon implications, that is to say, the same piece of research might have implications in both directions and if the ~~yes~~ answer is yes, would it be true of this particular subject.

A. I think that work on sugar chemistry, which I would/be the subject of this lecture, I think couldn't be used in either direction but there is clearly a body which would be used for good or for evil if you like to put it that way. ^{take to}

Q. Can you think of any possible evil application?

A. Not related to sugar chemistry. Not immediately but you must appreciate that I am not connected with German warfare.

Q. Should you at any later stage read or hear of any item of evidence which you believe not to be accurate, you have every right to come back. Thank you.

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Q. I want to ~~turn~~ first to the action taken before the meeting began. As I understand it you were approached on the morning of May 7th by Dr. Tillett?

A. Yes.

Q. Prior to that had you heard any rumours of a demonstration?

A. Yes.

Q. I believe you discussed something with Mr. Tillett that morning?

A. Going back to the first question of a rumour that something was going to happen, it was on the morning of May 6th when I was told by Mr. ~~Lilly~~ that some information had been relayed to him which indicated that a demonstration would take place on the following day. At about 11.0 on the morning of the 7th Dr. Tillett came to me and suggested that it would be a good idea to change the venue.

Q. Was it his idea or your idea?

A. No it was his idea and I readily agreed.

Q. What prompted you to agree?

A. Largely as the result of the feeling which had been gathered the previous day when it seemed that something quite dramatic was going to happen.

Q. How did you feel that changing the venue would improve the prospects of an undisturbed meeting?

A. From the security aspect the lecture where it was scheduled to be held

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in would have made it very difficult if anything had happened to control the situation and by moving it to Wivenhoe House where there were facilities very much better than where it was originally to be held.

Q. What sort of facilities were you thinking of?

A. In the event of a demonstration taking place, being able to get the lecturer out.

Q. Can you be a little more precise when you say 'something dramatic'?

What was your information of what kind of demonstration did you have reason to believe would happen?

A. We had three separate people come to us with information about this, ^{Professor} Mr. Evans, Mr. Butler and ~~Mr.~~ MacIntyre, that something was going to happen.

Q. The point I am trying to get at is that there are crucial differences from the point of view of University discipline between one kind of demonstration and another. Did you have any grounds for believing that this would be a demonstration that would go beyond what people have a right to hold?

A. I had no information as to what would actually happen.

Q. Was it clear to you that one of the reasons why Dr. Tillett made this proposal was to try to keep the venue of the meeting secret from the demonstrators.

A. No. The major thought was that it was a much better place to have it in Wivenhoe House in the event of something happening. The position of the lecture theatre block, as I think everyone knows, if anything had ~~happened~~ happened would have meant taking him through a building site.

Q. In Mr. Liley's evidence he writes "In my absence Mr. Wyatt arranged with Dr. Tillett to have the lecture transferred secretly to Wivenhoe House" It appears that you made a definite decision to try and keep the new venue secret. Does that ^{explain} ~~impartiate~~ it accurately?

A. Yes because Dr. Tillett said to me at the time that it was only meant to be a chemistry lecture.

Q. When you say chemistry lecture do you meant that Dr. Tillett said to you that it was a lecture for members of the Chemistry Society only?

A. Yes.

Q. In the conversation with you, was any decision reached as to whether ^{that} the demonstrators/ were non-chemists should be admitted if they turned up?

A. No, this was never mentioned.

Q. This a little puzzling partly because we have contradictory evidence but it appears to be a University regulation which says that all

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meetings of Societies that are affiliated to the Union are open to all members of it and this was in fact such a meeting. That is to say any member of the University was entitled under the University regulations to attend. Were you familiar with ^{the} regulation? When you say that nothing was discussed on the subject, does that mean that you were neither told to admit demonstrators or exclude them or that you were told one or the other?

A. ^{nothing.} I was told ~~nothing~~. I had no handling or running of the meeting or anything like this.

Q. Had you seen the advertising poster?

A. No.

Q. In fact, you weren't one of the people that were to be concerned with the organising of the meeting in ~~any~~ way?

A. None whatsoever.

Q. When you discussed the change of venue, did you discuss the fact that the accommodation in the House was very much smaller than that in the lecture block?

A. No.

Q. Back to the business of changing secretly. You said, when I first asked you the question, that the decision was taken entirely on security grounds and not as an attempt to foil the demonstrators?

A. That is perfectly true because I didn't know what the demonstrators were going to do.

Q. Were you aware when you were having the discussion with Dr. Tillett that one of the objects of changing the venue was to keep the venue secret so that the demonstrators should not find it?

A. No, I wouldn't go as far as that. The object of the change was one purely and simply from the security aspect, but if there was going to be some form of demonstration, as I have experienced at previous ones here, then the obvious thing to do was to make it fairly easy to get the lecturer out.

Q. Would it be true to say that you accepted the change of venue purely on the security grounds, and that if there were any other motives in Dr. Tillett's mind then you were not aware of this?

A. No, they were not discussed.

Q. Did you know that the news of the change of venue was to be given to the members of the chemistry society at the last minute?

A. No.

Q. Did you take part in any conversation about whether the police should be warned?

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A. I knew at round about 3.0 in the afternoon of the arrangements that had been made with the police.

Q. Which arrangement are you referring to?

A. The one that Mr. Lilley made.

Q. Mr. Lilley has not gone into those, perhaps you could give a note of what you heard. What arrangements did you hear about at 3.0?

A. Mr. Lilley said to me that he had had a visit from the students who had discussed ways, if the demonstration broke out, the way we were to play it and that he had taken action to warn the police, but that in the event of anything serious happening, we should call for them.

Q. And this discussion discussed the number of police to come?

A. No.

Q. As far as you are aware, ^{it was} /a police decision ~~was~~ how many would turn up?

A. Yes.

Q. We will go now to the meeting itself, we know that the change of venue was discovered. You then proceeded to Wivenhoe House and you must have entered the meeting room.

A. I never got into the room. I got to the door.

Q. With Mr. Davis? What did you find when you got to the door? Was it open?

A. Yes. The first thing I saw was a person and Dr. Bowden covered in yellow powder.

Q. That person you know now to be Dr. Inch?

A. Yes.

Q. Where was he positioned? Was he near the door?

A. Reasonably close to the door. If you were in the building, he would be on the right hand side nearest the door.

Q. How long a time lapsed between you coming to the door and Dr. Inch leaving it and getting out of the room?

A. He never attempted this while I was there.

Q. So you tried to get into the room and what happened?

A. Immediately I tried to go into the room with Mr. Davis, Ian Brodie who was in the doorway shouted out "Sit down comrades" or words to that effect.

Q. Until that moment no one was sitting down?

A. No.

Q. And did people sit down? Would you say all the people by the door?

A. No. Only those who were actually in the doorway.

Q. You were obstructed then by the people sitting down?

A. Yes.

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Q. Besides being obstructed by the presence of these people, whether sitting down or standing, was there any other kind of action taken on the part of the demonstrators to stop you, or was it just the fact that they were there?

A. Just that they were sat down in front of us.

Q. You didn't see any kind of assault or attempted assault?

A. Within seconds of this happening there was then an attack on Davis by Halberstadt.

Q. Which you then forestalled?

A. Yes

Q. You say in your evidence that you restrained Halberstadt from striking Davis. Is there no question in your mind that if you had not restrained him, then he was intending to strike Davis?

A. In my opinion, the blow was on the way when my arm locked round his.

Q. Where would it have landed?

A. Probably on his chin.

Q. And where was Halberstadt standing at this point?

A. In the doorway.

Q. In your earlier evidence you refer to Halberstadt trying to stop Mr. Davis from going into the room. Can you clarify exactly what Halberstadt was doing in order to stop him?

A. He put his arm across the door so that he couldn't go by and people sat down at the same time.

Q. What did you do after that? Did you wait there or go off?

A. I heard Dr. Tillett announce that there would be no meeting.~~and~~

Q. Did you hear or see him?

A. Both. And then Dr. Inch was confronted with Dr. Bowden by students standing up yelling questions at him. I have no idea of what the questions were.

Q. This is still inside the doorway?

A. This was just inside the door.

Q. Were there slogans being ^{chanted} ~~chanted~~ at this time?

A. I heard somebody reading from inside. I have no idea what it was.

Q. But apart from the reading what other noise was there?

A. Just people generally shouting.

Q. Did you stay there for a little time or did you go off?

A. Immediately Dr. Tillett said that the meeting would not take place and Dr. Inch would not deliver his lecture there was a sort of uproar.

Q. Was it this announcement that caused the uproar?

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A. No, this was already going on. I doubt whether those, except those close to Dr. Tillett, would have heard him say it.

Q. Was it a general announcement?

A. He tried to but there was so much noise I would have thought it was impossible for everyone to have heard.

Q. You say you weren't present when Dr. Inch left?

A. No. The next thing that happened after this was that Dr. Tillett was seen to leave the room and as he passed me he said something to the effect "I am going for the police".

Q. Are you quite sure that he didn't leave the room with Dr. Inch?

A. Positive.

Q. What did you do when you heard this?

A. I said to Mr. Davis "I know the arrangements, I'll go after him" and in fact I went after him and took the phone from him.

Q. Went after Dr. Tillett?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you happen to know what time this was?

A. A rough guess, 4.45.

Q. Which phone would this be?

A. The porters desk at the Wivenhoe House up the other end of the passage.

Q. Where were you and where was Dr. Tillett when he first mentioned the police.

A. He was in the room, he pushed his way out and I went after him leaving Mr. Davis in the doorway.

Q. Was Dr. Inch still inside?

A. Yes.

Q. There must be some conflict of memory here because Dr. Tillett said that he got out of the room with Dr. Inch and went some way ^{past} ~~passed~~ the stairs towards the main staircase and it was some time after that that he saw someone call the police. He had given instructions to call the police while still in the room.

A. He ^{used} words to the effect that he was going to get the police and Dr. Bowden was actually in the room with him when this announcement was made, well between them, and when he went out of the room, I went after him and removed the phone from his hand when I got down to the desk and he was actually on the phone and I said "I know the arrangements that are being made, leave this to me."

Q. And then what happened?

A. I don't know where he went but I spoke to Inspector Fairgood and told him that we had had ^{some} trouble, would he please come and

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get the lecturer out for us.

Q. Were those more or less your words? Did you say we had had some trouble or were you more specific? Obviously you were trying to say something to the police which would make the police think it was necessary for them to come.

A. I am trying to remember. I think the words I would have used was something to the effect that we had had a demonstration and that we were unable to get Dr. Inch out and that would they come and help us.

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Chairman: When you left the doorway, presumably you went through the bar towards the phone?

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: Everyone was still inside?

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: Except you and Dr. Tillett? You were following him, were you?

Wyatt: I followed Dr. Tillett downstairs. He got to the phone, sort of twenty yards in front of me.

Chairman: But as you were following him, say through the bar, there were no other demonstrators outside at that stage? Do you remember anyone else being outside the bar?

Wyatt: No. There may have been one or two people there. I don't know names and that sort of thing.

Chairman: Then you say you phoned Mr. Lilley. Is it right, then, to say that you did not witness anything that went on inside the building until after the police came? Perhaps I will rephrase that. In your evidence you say that you made the call to the police ^{about} at 4.45?

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: You phoned Mr. Lilley, The Police arrived.

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: Well obviously there was a gap of some minutes before the police arrived. They were coming from Colchester, were they?

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: What were you doing in that gap? Were you waiting for the police?

Wyatt: For the latter part of the time I was outside Wivenhoe House waiting for the police.

Chairman: Then you did not go back inside until the police arrived?

Wyatt: No, that's true, I didn't. I came back into the porters' desk and that sort of thing but I did not actually go back to the room where the event had taken place.

Partington: ~~Chairman:~~ How long did it take from the phoning to the arriving?

Wyatt: I thought at the time a long time but what really happened was that the car went to the Physics Building first and then subsequently came on to Wivenhoe House.

Partington: Can you make a rough estimate of the time?

Wyatt: About ten minutes.

Chairman: You followed the police?

Wyatt: Yes. Initially there were only three policemen arrived, one of whom was an officer and I explained the position to him and all he did was accompany me up to the corridor which by that time was full of students who were sat down.

Chairman: Who sat down when the police came? Or were they already sat down?

Wyatt: They were already sat down. I told him that he could see Dr. Inch ~~xxi~~ at the end of the corridor and I said that is the individual we want out, and they just waited until some more policemen came.

Chairman: Would you just look at the plan again, I think it is in front of you. The room in which Dr. Inch was is M.11 which is the little room by the garden exit.

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: You say the whole of the corridor leading up from there was full.

Wyatt: Yes. It is a long narrow corridor. The whole corridor was not full but three-quarters of it was full.

Chairman: And I suppose the police came up past those stairs, did they?

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Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: And when you pointed out Dr. Inch to them you were standing at the end of the corridor, and you could see Dr. Inch down the corridor through the mass in M.11 or did you just point out ~~xxx~~ he is up there?

Wyatt: No, I said he is in the corner and was surrounded by students who were all standing up but he was up against the wall.

Chairman: You could actually see him?

Wyatt: I suppose you could say you could see his face.

Chairman: We know that there was a gap while other policemen arrived.

~~Chairman~~ Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: And you would have said about eight policemen tried to get across to Dr. Inch, would you?

Wyatt: At the very most, yes. I'm afraid I cannot give an accurate figure for this.

Chairman: Then you clambered, too?

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: For some time, I gather, I think this fits in with your evidence, Dr. Inch was surrounded by policemen and was still in the corner, and the policemen couldn't get him out.

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: Were you among the policemen at this stage or were you among the students behind?

Wyatt: I suppose you could say I was a little late going in behind the police. One has to think fairly quickly and the reason I decided to follow them after a momentary gap was that they would not know any exits when they would ~~xx~~ want to get him ~~xx~~ out. Consequently I went in after the police had gone through and surrounded him.

Wyatt: When I arrived at where the police were there was then a number of students on the outside of the police with linked arms.

Chairman: And quite a lot of chanting going on?

Wyatt: Yes. And noise generally.

Chairman: I want to take this in stages. As the police clambered over to get to Dr. Inch, obviously there was a mass of people in the room and down the corridor, and obviously the presence of so many people obstructed the police from getting in and made it difficult for them, and obviously they had to climb over people. What you saw, was it as the police tried to get to Dr. Inch, was it just obstruction caused by the mass of students or did you see any kind of physical attack of any kind? ~~or~~

Wyatt: Just obstruction.

Chairman: Were you present when the police finally did manage to get Dr. Inch away?

Wyatt: Yes. When you say this, I was present only to the doorway when he went out in the rush.

Chairman: Again, as the police were extricating him through the door, obviously they had to push their way as there were so many people, but again was there anything worse than the obstruction?

Wyatt: There was a policeman's hat removed. I think I have said this in my evidence. I can identify the chap, but I would have to see him. I cannot really enlarge on what I have said here.

Chairman: I understand.

Freeman: You say on page 2 'I saw a policeman knocked to the ground.'

Wyatt: This is later on, outside.

Reissland: Was there anything in particular that you would describe between Mr. Davis and Mr. Halberstadt. Was Mr. Davis aware that he was about to be struck? He does not describe it.

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Chairman: We are going back to the previous incident.

Wyatt: The question of striking?

Chairman: Yes.

Wyatt: My difficulty is that I happen to know what Mr. Davis has said and therefore I have got comments from him.

Chairman: Your impression generally was that there was a mass of people in and they were intent on barring the way, barring your way, but did they ~~not~~ offer any violence to you?

Wyatt: No.

Freeman: Something which I am not clear about - the time at which the police were called and connected with that the reason for which they were called. Dr. Tillett and yourself both seem to be in agreement that the main reason for calling the police was to get Dr. Inch away. Is that correct?

Wyatt: Yes.

Freeman: One version of the time when they were called was when Dr. Inch was penned in the corner. I can see why it might have been thought at that point that some considerable help was necessary to get him away because there was a group of people pinning him in the corner but if it the case that the decision to call the police was taken while Dr. Inch was still in the Committee room then I am not clear why it was thought at that stage that it would be impossible to get him away without the help of the police. Would you comment on that?

Wyatt: Not really. I am convinced that Dr. Tillett ^{said} actually ~~said~~ in the meeting ~~the~~ hall that he was going to call the police and for that reason I followed him.

Freeman: As far as you could see, there was nothing in that situation, I mean we know that Dr. Inch did get out of that room. Was there anything in the situation at that time which suggested that police help would be necessary to get Dr. Inch away?

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Wyatt: All I can say is that I considered it a pretty horrible mess when I arrived. It was generally an uproar. There was no sign of a meeting, there were students gathered round, people covered in yellow powder, shouting, indictments being read and this sort of thing. It was generally an uproar, there was no sign of a meeting actually taking place,

Chairman: Could you be mistaken over this? Could it have been that Dr. Tillett asked you ~~to~~ not while he was in the room but after he got out of the room somewhere by the bar or the stairs.

Wyatt: No. I am perfectly certain that this happened while he was in the room.

Chairman: Turning to what happened outside, I ~~don't~~ have no real question. The only incident you remarked on as being exceptional or out of the ordinary among the throng that was milling around outside was this incident of Julian Harber. Otherwise there was a general throng, you did not remark on anything.

Wyatt: There was the discussions between the police and the students concerned.

Chairman: But the only time it went further than discussion was this one you spoke of.

Wyatt: Yes. I am not saying, I hope you gather, that Julian Harber actually struck the policeman. I did not see this. I have specifically pointed that out.

Chairman: I had not quite gathered that.

Wyatt: I saw a policeman knocked to the ground. I do not know who did it. There was a subsequent chase in which students assisted and Julian Harber was at the head of that column being followed by a policeman ^{that were there} and the twenty students or so ^{that assisted} were getting worse.

Chairman: Let us establish this. When you say he was knocked to the ground, ^{being aimed at him} as a result of some blow/or did you not see?

Wyatt: I did not see. He was just suddenly on the ground.

Freeman: You say at the top of page ~~xx~~ 2 of your evidence that you saw various students you name do everything possible to stop Dr. Inch from being got out of the building. Could you make that a little more precise as to what they were doing?

Wyatt: Instead of answering the question could I try and describe what actually happened. Once the police surrounded Dr. Inch with linked arms they were then themselves surrounded by students who persisted in pushing forward the whole time which made the job of getting him out very much more difficult because you cannot move when there are people from behind pushing in, and of those that were pushing in the four that I name were members of a group of students that were there. They are not alone in this but it so happens that these are the only ones I know by name.

Freeman: I was less interested in the names ^{than} ~~xx~~ in the phrase 'do everything possible'. It was essentially a form of obstruction rather than, say, assault?

Wyatt: Yes. There was no assault, it was pure and simple obstruction.

Gray: On the question of the dogs. Did you at any time see a police dog let out or got out of the van?

Wyatt: No.

Chairman: I think you said that you heard at 3 o'clock from Mr. Lilley that arrangements had been made with the police?

Wyatt: Yes.

Chairman: You were not party in any discussion which resulted in making those arrangements?

Wyatt: I was present in the room when he made the phone call and spoke to the police.

Chairman: Do you know whether he did this on his own initiative or because he had been told to, or don't you know?

Wyatt: No. I think this follows up as a result of all the information that had been fed into us by the various people who had been to see us.

Chairman: More specifically, I mean you didn't ask Mr. Lilley to phone the police?

Wyatt: No.

Chairman: And you do not know who did? You don't know how he came to ask the police, you don't know whether Dr. Tillett asked him or whether Mr. Davis asked him or whether he did it off his own bat?

Wyatt: No, I think you had better ask him that question.

Chairman: I think you were asked this one earlier. In your discussions with Dr. Tillett that morning was mention made of the police?

Wyatt: Not to him, no.

Chairman: The first think you know about the police was when you heard Mr. Lilley ringing them?

Wyatt: Yes, about 3 o'clock, after the visit of the Dean of Students.

Chairman: Mr. Mullins, since you put your name to this account we would like to go through it with you. Did you in fact draft this account?

* Ref No. 16

Mullins: Perhaps I can clear up a few questions about this account. The four of us together drafted this account, only two of us were there, that was Joan Busfield and myself and therefore the evidence is made up of interlocking bits and pieces of evidence of hers and mine. In fact what we were trying to do was to establish between us, with the other two people sort of helping draft the article as such, establish a fairly accurate picture of what happened for the purposes of bringing out this alternative account.

Chairman: In fact as far as the account goes I am not very worried about it. The only trouble is that it does not go quite far enough. Can I ask you this? Talking about preliminaries before the 7th May. Did you take part in the discussions which led to this demonstration being planned?

Mullins: I was involved in one discussion, but I gather there was more than one discussion.