Dear Reader,

Probably you have read "Power Without Glory". If you haven't you have certainly heard about it - and will have heard that the author, Frank Hardy, is to be tried for criminal libel.

Since this has been known, savage attacks have been made on Hardy from many quarters and particularly in parliament - where the attackers are safe from libel actions themselves by parliamentary privilege. The accused man has been denied the elementary protection of British law, for his attackers have assumed him guilty before his case has been heard.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the case - and we believe Hardy to be innocent of this extraordinary charge - he is at least entitled to a fair trial - or to as fair a one as can be in an atmosphere of violent abuse, hatred and hysteria. For a fair trial he needs a proper legal defence and proper legal defence costs money.

That is why we ask you as a reader and lover of books to help as generously as you can so that a man who is the target of unfair attacks, who, like Defoe, H.G. Wells, Bernard Shaw, and other popular writers of their day, is being pursued now for his courage in seeking to bring the truth to the people, and whose guilt has been already presumed by his enemies, may have the chance to defend himself in court.

What are you able to do to help Frank Hardy? His trial affects you; his arrest and fingerprinting as a common criminal affects you; his ability to write what he finds to be the truth, and your freedom to read what you think is the truth - are vital to the community. Will you give to the Frank Hardy Defence Committee your active support?

Sincerely yours,

14th November, 1950,

ALAN MARSHALL
ROSS HARDY

Joint Hon. Secretaries