

Print

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Monash People's Daily.

POLICE RIOT ON JULY 4th:

Friday's demonstration against American imperialism began as a peaceful march to the American Consulate in Commercial Road. It would have continued as such had not the police gone out of their way to act in their typically fascist, brutal manner.

The first incident occurred when a Caltex petrol tanker supposedly "stalled" across St. Kilda Road, blocking the path of demonstrators in an attempt to break the flow of the march. When the marchers started to walk around it half a dozen cops pounced upon some of them, slammed them against the tanker, started hitting and kicking them and endeavoured to "persuade" them that if they did reach the Consulate they would be subjected to more brutality.

When the marchers reached Commercial Road they found that the 300-400 cops had erected barricades across it and they felt that the only way to counter this act of provocation and aggression would be to force the barricades. The cops were forced back and twenty people managed to break through the "thin, fascist line" - at this juncture the cops drew their truncheons, rode horses into the crowd, and attempted to smash the marchers back behind the barricades. The police were hardly justified in employing this animal brutality against the demonstrators!

Our Print reporter saw two incidents which should elucidate the police/capitalist ideology. One demonstrator broke through the police ranks where he was met by a truncheon blow to his face and he staggered back then while in a dazed state the cops shoved a pole in hands, photographed him (thus providing "evidence" of assault with a weapon) and bundled him into a paddy wagon.

The other incident involved a Melbourne Uni. student who was at the demonstration just to see what was going on. After the crowd marched back into the city he was walking across Commercial Road back to his car, to return home, when he picked up a red flag. Seen this three of the bastards began to chase him through Faulkner Park where they caught him and beat him until a senior officer came up and charged him with assault. Both incidents show that the cops have no compunction about fabricating charges - if that is the only way they can make them stick. So far as these cops, and many others are concerned the purpose of a conviction is not to punish the person but to stop him dissenting, to remove him from the political scene and to intimidate others (just as in the of Albert and the State's attempt to convict him).

At 9.15 p.m. the marchers moved back to the city where 300 of them gathered outside the Southern Cross. The police immediately moved in with horses and truncheons, attempting to beat the marchers into submission rather than attempting to disperse them peacefully. The police attack - riot was completely unprovoked, in fact the demonstrators had shown no signs of approaching a provocative or militant attitude. The crowd scattered and the cops ran after them like mad rabid dogs, lashing out at anybody who happened to be in their path.

DOES THE POLICE STATE DEFEND ONLY U.S. IMPERIALISM?

PRINT is used to police brutality - we witnessed it at L.B.J.'s visit, last July 4th and last Friday - and it is admitted by all except the cops themselves. But what we want to know is why is it selective? There has been a sit in at the British High Commission over Wilson's handling of the Rhodesian problem, a bomb has been exploded at the Russian Embassy, and the Yugoslav Embassy was rioted in Sydney last year by a group of Creations - but in none of these cases have the police acted with anything like the ferocity they displayed on Friday or any other anti-U.S. imperialism demonstration.

It is apparent that their brutality is selective- they use force only when the interests of the U.S.A. are threatened. Australia, as a client state of U.S. imperialism, acts as a cringing servant in protecting the interests and property of the U.S.A.'s exploiting class. The only explanation for this seems to be the huge amount of American capital investment in Australia which enables them to dictate policy to us. Australia has become just as much a cringing dependent of the forces of U.S. capitalism as it is their ally in attempts to stifle the growth of democracy throughout the world.

SIR ROBERT ('s) BLACKJACK (s)

It was noted that the truncheons used by the cops at the demonstration were manufactured by the Dunlop Rubber Company and Sir Robert Blackwood, the former Chancellor of Monash Uni., just happens to be head of this company. Consequently at the demonstration Monash students were beaten with "Monash" truncheons.

P.L.A. STRIKES BACK.

On Friday the police valiantly defended the U.S. Consulate against the rebellious screaming hordes. However, on Saturday our flat-footed friends, basking in their glory, were out-witted. A so-called 'Liberation Army' attacked the Consulate successfully, according to reports in the capitalist press. Thus, all the power and force of Capitalism is of no avail when confronted by the might of the people!

Print commends and congratulates the unknown warriors of the P.L.A.

"PRINT SUGGESTS":-That following Friday's debacle a squad be set up to control rioting police.

INFORMATION REQUIRED:

On July 4th a yellow 1963 Holden station wagon, license number HHY 317, knocked down a girl in St. Kilda road when demonstrators were marching back to the city. Would anyone who knows this girl and/or witnessed the incident please leave a message at the Bakery, 120 Greville Street Prahran tel. 513 667.

The driver appeared to be implementing Premier Askins's instructions when he said "Drive over the bastards".

Authorised by P. Butcher for the Monash Labor Club.