

.....OPEN ROAD, Special Issue, Fall/Winter 1979.....News Bulletin.....

.....PERSONS UNKNOWN: WHY TAFF LADD SKIPPED BAIL!.....

The following is a statement from Taff Ladd, one of the six "Persons Unknown" defendants in the British "anarchist terrorist conspiracy" trial (see Open Road #103, Fall/Winter 1979, p.6). We received this statement too late to include in the story, but we're reprinting it here because Ladd's jumping bail has raised a serious moral question for the anarchist movement. His two women sureties have been ordered by the courts to forfeit approximately \$30,000 and one of his co-defendants, Ronan Bennett, has called his action "despicable." In this statement Ladd attempts to explain why he skipped bail.

"THE SURETY COMPLEX ...The superficial liberalism of the bail system is intended to defuse and morally blackmail, in the furtherance of the aims of class justice. The capitalists have in their blind worship of their God, Money, equated it with identity and life.

My release on bail, mainly for medical reasons and despite the terrorism against the sureties, was in the eyes of the pigs a defeat. Their safeguard was to hold me ransom for £17,500 and to make economic hostages of 2 people. The intention was to bind, to appear at their show trial, to deliver myself voluntarily--by moral blackmail--to their corrupt justice.

My failure was that I was unable to make clear to the hostages, despite the obvious escalation by, and intentions of the pigs in our case, that you cannot equate identity or life with money. Also that by appearing at their show trial I would be allowing myself to become a puppet of their manipulations, it would not have been me taking the action. Those who say my failure was in not appearing, that I "let friends down" are blind to or don't want to recognise the methods of the pigs, equally they are thinking along the lines of capitalist ideology, being "objective," not taking a subjective stand in the struggle. Thought should be given to what the show trial means, what prison means, with its control units for "anarchists and subversives," the threat at the trial and in prison to identity and life. Your energy should be directed against the aims of capitalist judiciary and prisons/control units, in helping the sureties to pay the ransom, and freeing yourselves from the mental chains of capitalist ideology, i.e. your colonisation."

Taff

(the second part of Ladd's statement):

"The State manipulations in this case since May 1978 have heralded the introduction of European State security judiciary into British courts. These manipulations, i.e. legally institutionalised repression, have become common practice in occupied Ireland, as well as in the show tribunals against Irish Republicans in Britain. What is new is the use of these "measures,"

pig media campaign--is a repeat of what has been happening throughout Europe, e.g. France, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, etc, after a programme scientifically refined and computerised by the techno-pigs in Wiesbaden. Their concrete participation in this case is shown in their involvement in some of the raids, here and in W. Germany, and the passing of information under the Consular Convention, from Brixton Prison to the W. German embassy during our internment there.

Most of the repressive measures had been ignored until the jury vetting became public. Despite the hue and cry by the media, the State has had to and been able to proceed with its blatant manipulation of the jury--the proposed abolishment of juries in "Terrorist" trials--in case they would reach independent and/or political verdicts--is not yet publically saleable, as it was in Britain for occupied Ireland through the infamous Diplock tribunals. It was necessary for the pig structure to continue to push its programme despite the adverse publicity--Britain has too long been the odd one out in European unity--amongst other things the peculiarities inherent in British class justice have to be Europeanised and this trial is to be a medium for this.

The interest of liberals, the left and the media around jury vetting, show that the basis for mobilisation of opposition is there, but its effectiveness and coherence lie in the recognition of the continuity of repression, and not in regarding pig manipulations around the Persons Unknown trial in isolation. The ratification of the "European Convention Against Terrorism" by the quietly enacted "Suppression of Terrorism Act," was a first step in the unified European jurisdiction--co-ordinated anti-guerilla "measures" have repeatedly laid the basis for the integration of differing European legal systems, with the aim of a strong supra-national system under the hegemony of W. Germany. The witch-hunts, extradition proceedings, arrests, (and immediate handing over to Wiesbaden pigs) in various countries have created the conditions for freedom of action internationally by W. German pigs, and thus the beginning of consolidation of the legal unification.

Resistance against the spreading tentacles of the W. German model of "inner stability" (the quiet of a cemetery) can only take form in solidarity with resistance abroad, specifically W. Europe, especially Ireland. My decision not to appear in court is not a flight, it is a decision to determine the conditions of struggle, to move from the defensive to the offensive, against the soul-destroying machinery of imperialism."

Taff.

Venceremos

More info on the Persons Unknown case from the support group, c/o Rising Free, 182 Upper St., London, England, or check out the following British publications: Black Flag, Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, Britain; Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1 1RN.