

ASIANS HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM RACISTS

—say Bradford 12 police

socialist
worker
22 MAY 82

THE BRADFORD 12 trial continued last week with an illuminating description of how the police investigated the case.

It was contained in the evidence of Detective Inspector Brian Sidebottom who like his superior Detective Superintendent Holland has been demoted since last July because of the West Yorkshire Police Forces' dismal record in the Ripper case.

Sidebottom was giving evidence about the arrest and interrogation of Tarlochan Gata Aura—at 25 the eldest of the defendants and the only one against whom the police have any forensic evidence.

Charged

DI Sidebottom arrested Tarlochan at 7am on 30 July. He was held for three days until he 'confessed', had been charged and the rest of the 12 rounded up.

He was not allowed to see a solicitor nor told that one was phoning the police station on his behalf.

DS Holland had instructed the investigation team, said Sidebottom, not to let any of the 12 see solicitors until after they'd been charged.

Sidebottom denied that Tarlochan had even asked for one. This was challenged by Mike Mansfield who represents Tarlochan.

Defence

Sidebottom told the jury he became convinced early in the investigations (on the very same day he arrested Tarlochan) the petrol bombs weren't made for self defence against an anticipated skinhead attack. This was just one week after skinheads had invaded Southall last year leading to the riots.

He said he didn't believe Tarlochan when he said in his confession; 'I made petrol bombs in defence of our community which has been constantly under attack by the National

by JOANNA ROLLO

Front the British Movement and Column 88.

'That afternoon (11 July) there was a phone call saying that coachloads of skinheads were coming to Bradford. Later I realised the petrol bombs should not be used as they were likely to cause injury to someone innocent.'

Smacked

He added he didn't believe Tarlochan because he's got confessions from other defendants saying Tarlochan wanted to use the devices against policemen and large shops.

The jury are still hearing of the way in which these 'voluntary' confessions were made.

Sighbat Kadir acting for Ahmed Mansoor (who'd just turned 17 when arrested and never been in a police station before in his life) asked DC Brooster of West Yorkshire SPG whether he'd smacked Ahmed in the face.

'What me?' said Brooster ...

Once equipped with

these confessions Sidebottom and the rest of the 'investigation' team piled on the most serious charge in the book—The 1883 Explosives Act—normally reserved for IRA bomb cases.

Sidebottom was so convinced he'd cracked the case he didn't even take the elementary step of phoning to check whether there had been rumours of a skinhead attack.

Anyway Sidebottom like every one of the 20 or so members of the West Yorkshire police who've given evidence so far doesn't believe the Asian community in Bradford have anything to defend themselves against.

This is surprising since last year the Home Office selected West Yorkshire for a survey because of the high number of racist attacks.

The trial continues ...

The Bradford 12 campaign are organising a mass picket of the court every Wednesday. BE THERE IF YOU CAN. 9am Leeds Town Hall.

Information and donations to: Bradford 12 Defence Committee c/o 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2.

