

# THE TIP OF THE RACIST ICEBERG

The Police have frequently claimed that if racism occurs in the Police it is only in isolated incidents. But in fact, racism is found at all levels and ranks of the force. Take for instance the remarks made by Supt. Barker - Head of the Attercliffe Police Station which is responsible for most of the areas in which Sheffield's Asian community lives. At a Community Police Liaison Meeting in Ellesmere Community Centre on 9th July he and other officers spoke to a black and white audience supposedly to reassure them of the Force's enlightened approach. Explaining the history of Community Policing, he declared: 'Twelve years ago, though, things were different; if somebody was seen in the City Centre after 10:30 p.m. they were told to push off by the Police. But now things are very different. You cannot do that now. You've got too many coloureds and people from ethnic minorities.'

This statement was particularly offensive to Asian members of the audience, but when one Asian man challenged Supt. Barker, he responded aggressively: 'It's alright for those who're laughing, but we'll put them in their place.'

Both these statements are confirmed by three Labour Councillors who were present at the meeting, these are Councillors A. England, T. Damms, and B. Flanagan.



The smallest incident can crack the thin veneer of politeness and express the racism beneath. The cartoon shown here appeared in the national magazine of the Police Federation to virtually no objection from its readership. It shows the true attitude of Police to the window dressing of trying to recruit black police officers, or to erase racism.

Why are the Police racist? It isn't just a coincidence or that they are abusing their powers. It is because of the way they are used by Government to implement laws which divide the working classes. Deportations, raids on the black community, and harassment is one way. The attempts to criminalise militant trades unionists through the Prior and Tebbit Bills are others.

That's why the fight to defend Ahmed Khan and other black victims of harassment is not just an issue for black people, It is in the interests of all working people to unite against increasing use of the Police in all areas where they try to defend their interests.

These fights can be won - mass action secured the release of the Pentonville Dockers, reunited Anwar Ditta's family, and won freedom for the Bradford 12,

With your support we will win again.