

PUBLIC ORDER OR POLICE REPRESSION?

If the Government's public order proposals become law, basic freedoms won in the last century - to assemble, to march and to act in solidarity (to picket) - will be swept away.

Marches and Demonstrations

You could be arrested for:

- * organising a demonstration without police permission;
 - * taking part in a demonstration which has been banned;
 - * ignoring police conditions, for example, laying down the route;
 - * ignoring police directions during a demonstration.
- Also spontaneous demonstrations will become illegal.

Pickets and Rallies

- * Static demonstrations and pickets will be allowed only on conditions set by the police - for example, location, size and duration.
 - * The police will be able to limit the size of any static demonstration and say where it should take place, and how long it can last.
- They can do this whether the demonstration is at a factory, shop, embassy, etc.



New Offences

- * Ancient Common Law offences like riot will become statutory, making it much easier to get convictions in court.
- * The scope of 'breach of the peace' will be widened.

Paying For Protest?

- * Organisers of demonstrations where police conditions have been breached will be liable to receive 3 months in prison or a £1000 fine and will have to pay the cost of policing. Merely participating in a banned march will mean a £400 fine.

There will be no freedom to assemble march or picket except on terms controlled and dictated by the police - THAT IS NO FREEDOM AT ALL. When combined with the current paramilitary tactics of the police to break up demonstrations, THE NEW POWERS WILL MEAN AN END TO THE FREEDOM TO PROTEST.

NORTHERN MARCH AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION Saturday March 15th

There was a march against police repression in London on January 25th. However, in common with many demonstrations in London, this march was probably under-attended by people from the north of the country. This is not because we aren't bothered about the Government's public order proposals, but because many of us who will be most directly affected are either unemployed, low-paid, or students and can't afford to get to London every time we want to make our voices heard and our anger expressed.

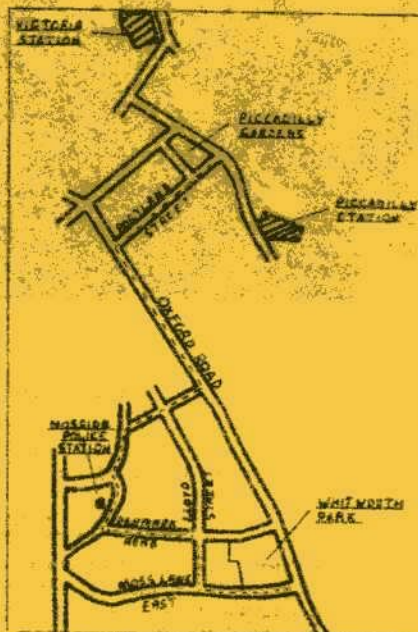
Also it is important that the campaign isn't centralised in London. When this happens only people in London get to see or hear about it, unless there is national news coverage (there was no coverage of the London march) and so the issue gets hidden. Ideally there should be marches in Leeds, Birmingham, Sheffield, etc., but a march in Manchester is as good a place as any to start spreading the campaign throughout the country. The more protest actions there are, the more the issue is brought to people's attention.

On March 15th there will be a march against police repression in Manchester from Whitworth Park to Piccadilly Gardens, going past Moss Side police station. We will be assembling at 11.00am and moving off promptly at 12.00 noon. It is important that the march moves off on time so that people who want to go to the march and rally in Stockport against the council's ban on lesbians and gays can do so. A creche will be available on the day and there will also be a limited amount of overnight accommodation. For further details write to -

N.C.A.P.R.,
Box S.M.A.G.,
c/o Raven Press,
75 Piccadilly,
Manchester.

**Assemble Whitworth
Park at 11a.m.**

**March moves
off at 12noon.**



Buses from Piccadilly Gardens to Whitworth Park are 41 to 49 inclusive.