



POWELL AT STIRLING

On Friday, 23rd, Enoch Powell spoke at the Albert Hall in Stirling.

He arrived to shouts of "siege hell" and "Powell out" from the forty or so people who had gathered in torrential rain to protest at his appearance. Inside the Hall he received an entirely different reception and when he entered the auditorium, the good Tories of Stirling gave him a rousing welcome.

The audience was packed into every available seat and in composition tended towards being elderly and female. The numbers of young people were fairly low and what ones there were tended towards short hair sports jackets or blazers - no skinheads here.

The welcoming speech (a real experience and a very real pleasure") was given by a Miss Fordyce. She gave a quick run down of Powell's biography and the part of the great man's rise from the rankshad been having trouble and

to the position of brigadier received great applause. One particularly interesting point she made was that Britain was witnessing a resurgence of the political meeting especially through the good offices of Mr. Powell. She could have backed this up with reference to the many "Kill the Bill" meetings as well but she did not.

UK ECONOMY

And then Powell was on his feet nodding vigorously to the applause, settling down with a few quick jokes.

Right away he launched into the subject of his speech - the problems of the British economy.

"There is a most pressing anxiety over the value of our money and the accelerating process of inflation."

"In times of anxiety the irrational bubble up and clamour to be heard"

(take that as you choose) Powell's analysis was Britain has been having trouble and

now many people are demanding a prices and incomes policy - but we have had these before: the Conservative effort of '61 that proved a "washout" and then the Labour government's attempt that proved equally unsuccessful. To Powell the message was clear:

"an incomes policy is doomed from the beginning to its inevitable end."

GESTAPO

Controlling rates of change in the wages and prices for Powell comes up against the great difficulty that to control something you've got to know what it is and the sheer mass of information necessary for such a policy makes such a task in Powell's eyes impossible.

"not even if the Gestapo and the O.G.P.U. were rolled into one and ordered to enforce an incomes policy could the market be stopped from forcing its way through"

Thus Powell's call is to let supply and demand work - the

great forces will do their duty to save Britain. (But was it not demand for labour that brought coloured immigrants to Britain in the '50's - isn't a policy of "assisted repatriation" interfering with the market as well as being morally revolting?)

floods of money

Powell went on to give his view of the Trade Unions place in the picture.

"Why was there a wage explosion in 1970? Why not in previous years?"

"Since when have the Trade Unions acquired printing presses for money?"

"Why do they only demand 14% increases, why not more?"

Powell's answer is that it is not the Unions who are responsible for calling into existence "floods of money" but the responsibility of the government.

"Some where in the recesses of government is situated the money tap." This tap is turned on and off. The government spends this money and claims generosity but Powell says, the money belongs to the people anyway: the compassionate government is a sham - redistribution of wealth is carried out "not in the hope of losing votes".

And so he went on until winding up.... "I consider it the duty of any politician in a democratic society to demonstrate cause and effect".

The applause was tremendous as he sat back smiling to the general acclaim of the audience. All that was left were a few questions which were dealt with quickly, a vote of thanks and it was all over. Never a word about immigration, forgotten were the "rivers of blood" - everyone was too polite.

Anyway, all that only happens down in England



COMMENT

on the outside...

It is a comment on Powell's speech making ability that he could control an audience for a period of about half-an-hour on the subject of economic theory which is hardly the stuff of an emotion laden spectacular. But Powell did it - one could see the old ladies straining forward to hear his voice, every pair of eyes in the hall riveted to this rather insignificant man who looks more suited to the role of bank clerk than demagogue.

The combination of exaggerated gesticulation, the literary and classical allusions and the fine old homilies of duty, service, respect and honour made a powerful brew for the faithful of Stirling. Powell knows his audience and what will appeal to them. He will rage about a subject as dry as monetary policy, threatening his audience with the image of a cynical government letting their Britain crumble away with God knows what coming round the corner and then explaining in a clear simplistic manner what is wrong and what the great new remedy is.

Powell's great force is not his logic or his rationality but rather the impression he creates. His movements, the changes in intonation are all there to boost the image.

As the audience walked out after the speech, the general mood was that Powell was a great man, but that unlike the other great men, he might also be their saviour.

But Powell is more than that - he is also a dangerous man. An economics lecture in Stirling will hurt no-one but what of his other speeches, can any student of current affairs say that this man would not implement his vision of Britain, a white Britain, unmolested by troublesome youths, immigrants and strikes in a very forceful manner, should he gain power in this country?

As the audience came out 2 Stirling students were somewhat inexplicably arrested. They were swiftly carted off to the police station where they were subjected to the same usual polite behaviour of our wonderful police.

FASCISTS OUT

The demonstrators formed two lines along the entrance of the hall and, from behind rows of policemen, the audience were given a warm reception. Some of the more boisterous members of the audience passed down the gauntlet of arms uplifted in Nazi salutes and cries of "Fascists out", and then broke through the police lines to have a go at the demonstrators. Others walked out looking either somewhat embarrassed or bewildered, though one student Tory came out grinning like a tit, and flashing the victory-fuck you-peace sign.

PIG

As the crowds continued to come out, one gentleman took a swing at one of the students. When asked why he did that, he disclaimed any such action but offered to punch the girl demonstrator's face. This patriotic pig was allowed to go away entirely unmolested by the police. However, at about the same time

After their ties, belts, and shoes had been removed to prevent them from committing suicide! One guy was refused his glasses even though he protested he needed them to see with. No doubt the police feared he'd garrot himself with them.

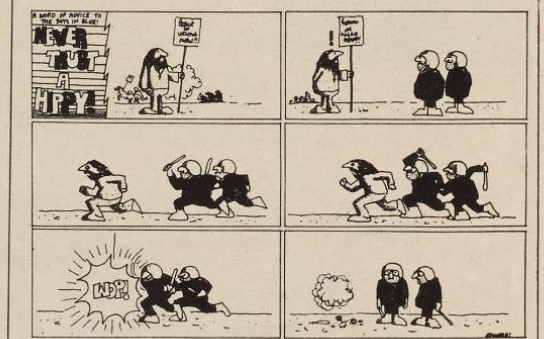
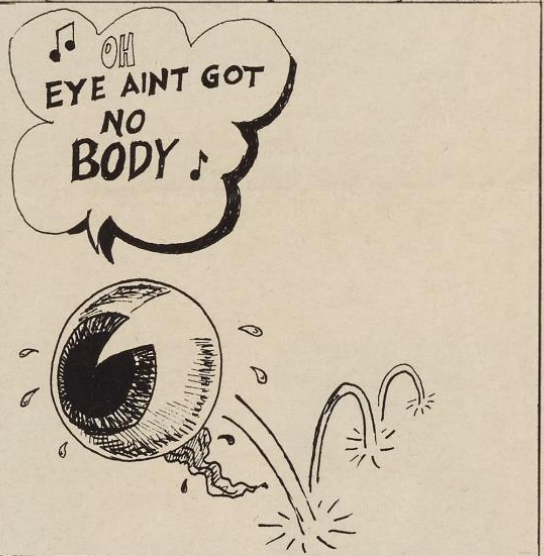
charged

Meanwhile the other demonstrators gathered together and made their way to the police station to find out what had happened to their colleagues. A delegation was sent in to enquire only to be told that it had nothing to do with them and that they should get out. A little persistence revealed that both students had been charged with breach of the peace; this escalated through the night to charges of resisting arrest and aiding a prisoner to escape!!

The C.S.A. lawyer is to be contacted to defend the students.

1ST YEAR

FOOTNOTE: One point - noticeable from the student point of view, was that practically all the demonstrators who turned up to brave the elements were from 1st year, and in particular the Level Three Socialist Group. This demo. has, to an extent, marked the entrance of 1st year into the university's political spectrum.



JAMES DUNCAN

AERATED WATER MANUFACTURER AND BEER BOTTLER HAS PLEASURE IN SUPPLYING THE UNIVERSITY

