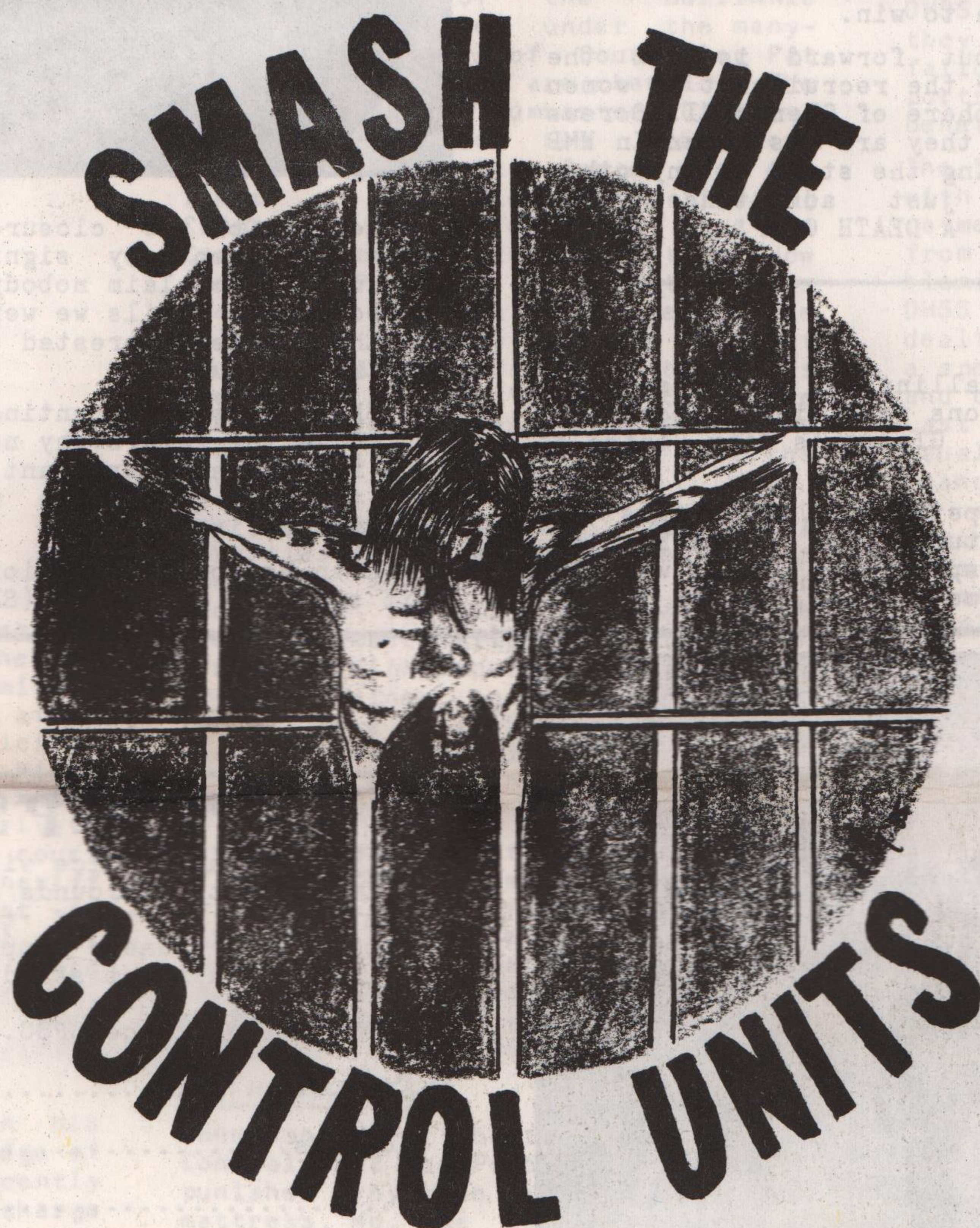


SCOTTISH PRISONER



20 P.

Printed and published by the SCOTTISH PRISONERS SUPPORT COMMITTEE, (SPSC). No. 3
Address: FOOTPRINT, (SPSC), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ, SCOTLAND.



Drawn By Alan Bradley, Arizona State Prison, USA

The Scottish prison population is the highest in Western Europe. A staggering 688 people out of every 100,000 are jailed, more than double the rate of imprisonment in England. And despite the intolerable levels of overcrowding in Scottish jails there is no doubt that this rate of imprisonment will continue to spiral resulting in Prisoners being subjected to even more degradation, even harsher regimes and more heartache and suffering for their families.

A CONVEYER BELT SYSTEM OF IMPRISONMENT.

The road to imprisonment is a well-oiled, extremely efficient state-controlled conveyer belt. It begins in the poor, deprived, decrepit working class housing schemes where poverty, bad housing, lack of any decent services and high unemployment combine together to make life in these areas a never-ending battle to make ends meet and retain a level of dignity and self-respect.

Then we have the police. In all their guises - 'community' police, mobile patrols, foot patrols, plain clothes, CID and Special Branch - they exist to oppress working class people and to ensure the prison conveyer belt is continually running. They prowl around the housing schemes harassing the people, especially the youth and the unemployed. They heap abuse on ordinary working class folk. They beat them up, crash in the doors of their homes, often illegally without any warrant, they fit people up and they arrest them willy-nilly. They hate and detest the working class and the working class quite rightly hate and detest them in return.

Then we have the courts - the so-called 'havens' of justice and democracy. What a sick joke! Highly paid servants of the state, who dress up each day in wigs and fancy robes, tower above the 'accused' doling out fines and prison sentences with an air of smug self-satisfaction. They care nothing for justice and democracy. Indeed in a truly just and democratic society they and their like would be standing trial for their anti-working class activities not to mention their tax-fiddling, drunk driving and all the other rather unsavoury practices they no doubt get up to.

The campaign to expose the real conditions in Scotland's jails cannot be separated from other issues like bad housing, the abysmally low levels of Supplementary Benefit, high unemployment, the police and the courts. Because it all boils down to one thing - the working class folk struggling against all the injustices handed down to them by the ruling class, the bosses, the people with power.

A MIGHTY FORCE.

It might at first glance appear as if all the odds are stacked against the people of places like Muirhouse in Edinburgh, Easterhouse in Glasgow, Lochee in Dundee, that the conveyer belt can't be smashed. But it can! The powerful in this society can be toppled because we the working class are a mighty force. We are a proud people who always give the struggle for real justice and real democracy our full support. If we stand together in unity against those who oppress us we will have the strength to destroy that conveyer belt once and for all.

DARE TO STRUGGLE.....DARE TO WIN

Smash Glenochil death camp

GLENOCHIL UPDATE

"The inquiries decided that two of the deaths were "manipulative" hangings - young men pretending to kill themselves but tragically mismanaging the affair."

GUARDIAN Tuesday 22.10.85.
From the Glenochil Inquiry

Reports, inquiries, facts and figures yet the place is still open for business and the same screws are still there. They treat us like idiots with their excuses as to the how, where, what and why these people were murdered by the system that is Glenochil. Young men whose families will forever grieve for the loss of a son, brother, nephew, grandson. Families who have been treated to the by now normal closed-shop affair when it comes to getting at the truth.

Since the last SCOTTISH PRISONER very little that is new in the fight to 'Smash Glenochil' has arisen. This is to be expected, we can't expect to win overnight. We need your help, lots of it, if we are to win.

One new 'suggestion' being put forward is from the CHISWICK REPORT which calls for the recruitment of women to reduce the aggressive atmosphere of Glenochil. Screws are screws no matter what sex they are as women in HMP Corntonvale will tell you. Changing the staff or any other superficial 'improvement' is just admittance that Glenochil is what we say it is - A DEATH CAMP!

GLENOCHIL STALL

Over 400 signatures collected calling for the closure of Glenochil Death Camp and donations totalling almost £45 made the SPSC's first stall in Glasgow's City Centre a resounding success.

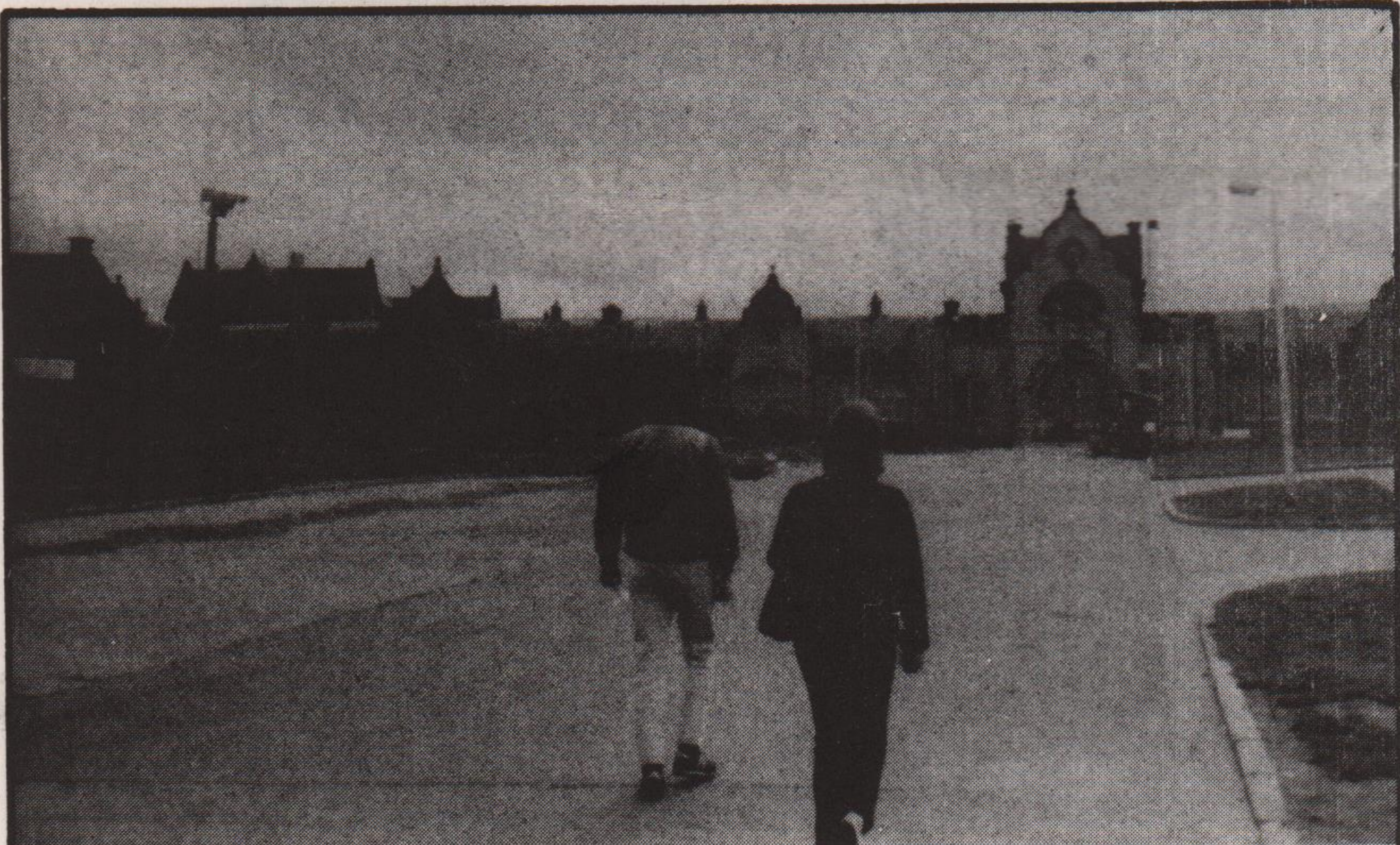
Armed with placards, leaflets, petitions and copies of SCOTTISH PRISONER, the SPSC captured the attention of Glasgow's pre-Xmas shoppers. Despite the cold weather hundreds of people took the time to stop, listen to our



arguments for the closure of Glenochil and registered their agreement by signing the petition. To those pessimists who claim nobody is interested in what goes on in Scotland's jails we were able to show that not only are the people interested - they are angry and want to do something about it.

The SPSC intends mounting these stalls in Glasgow City Centre in the future. Why not come along and join in? It's good fun and an important part of the struggle to break down the wall of silence round the jails built up by the Scottish Office.

Write to us for information of time, date and place of the next stall at FOOTPRINT (SPSC), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ



SAUGHTON JAIL

Last July members and supporters of the SCOTTISH PRISONERS SUPPORT COMMITTEE (SPSC) visited a Scottish Political Prisoner in Saughton jail in Edinburgh.

After the visit our supporters distributed "Smash Glenochil Death Camp" leaflets to other visitors. All perfectly legal, no problem as far as our people were concerned.

However the Saughton screws were not amused! As the SPSC members tried to leave the jail the electronically-controlled doors from the visitors' waiting room were closed. When our supporters asked a screw on the other side of the doors to let them out he turned his back on them, ignoring their perfectly reasonable request to leave the jail.

Eventually after around 5 minutes, the doors were opened and the 4 thought freedom was at hand. How wrong can you be! The 4 were told that the 'chief' wished to see them and they were to wait. SPSC members don't much like screws 'chiefs' or whatever they call themselves, so they declined the 'offer' to meet him and made their way towards the main exit door. But this was immediately blocked by a few burly screws. Well, we all know that internment without trial takes place in the North of Ireland - that it had now been introduced in Edinburgh came as a complete surprise to the hi-jacked SPSC members.

SPSC

Only a mighty voice will break down the wall of silence that surrounds Scotland's prisons. If you want to be part of that voice then join the Scottish Prisoners Support Committee today. Our prisoners must not stand alone.

I wish to join the SPSC.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

I wish to support the work of the SPSC by making a donation of £.....

Write to FOOTPRINT (SPSC), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ.

Cheques/POs payable to SCOTTISH PRISONERS SUPPORT COMMITTEE.

Well the 'chief' duly arrived on the scene - a scene we might add where the bold SPSC members were keeping up a constant barrage of abuse against their jailers! The 'chief' took the 4 into an adjoining corridor and began to demand names, addresses, the name of the Prisoner they had been visiting, what they were doing giving out leaflets etc etc. The 4 in turn demanded to know his name, what his problem was etc etc. He let the 4 know he didn't approve of their giving out leaflets. Tough! He then suggested that if they had "requested permission" perhaps they could have put a leaflet up on the notice board in the visitors' waiting room. The 4 asked for permission - it was refused!

The 4 asked the 'chief' if he was going to call the police and lay charges against them. It appeared not. So they decided to leave. The 'chief' said the Assistant Governor wanted to see the 4 but they were free to leave whenever they wanted. So the 4, siezing the olive branch of freedom decided the AG would have to wait till another day and made a hasty exit.

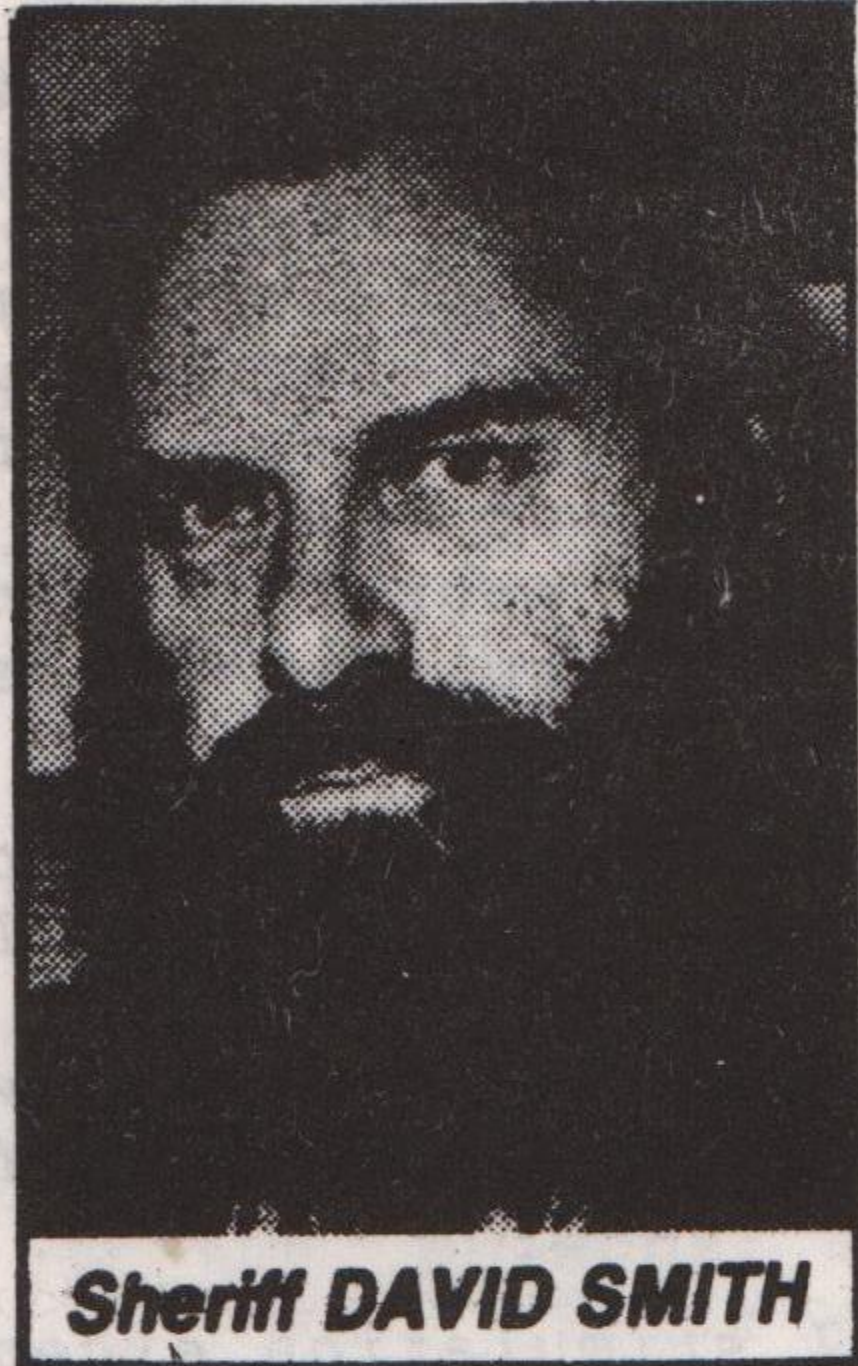
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THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Our wonderful judiciary, police and screws are the pillars of our society. Sick society, you might say, rotten pillars. Reports come to us from all over Scotland about their doings. Write to us and keep us in touch with their goings-on. We leave judgement to you.

MODEL OF IMPARTIALITY

Sheriff David Smith of Kilmarnock has reached new heights of impartiality-even by his own soaring standards. The Sheriff who sang the Sash twice in court - yes twice, a feat never even attempted in the model no-jury courts in the North of Ireland - has had yet another verdict appealed.



Sheriff DAVID SMITH

14 Miners had to take their cases to 3 Appeal Court judges on whether Sheriff Smith should have dismissed himself from their cases after commenting to the defence solicitor at a social occasion that no Miner would get Legal Aid from him. Smith is appalled that a private conversation could figure in court proceedings! Well, Smith, the Sheriff Principal states the legal test is not whether you ARE impartial, but whether a reasonable person would suppose you to be impartial. Reasonable readers, what are your views of the good Sheriff's impartiality?

Smith is also unsurpassed in his detailed and scholarly knowledge of the law. Appearing before him recently a woman pled not guilty to a charge of shoplifting, supposing in her logical mind that a date would be set for trial. Not a bit of it. "Six months" says the bold Sheriff. I'm pleading NOT GUILTY says she. "Six months" cries the Sheriff secure in his superior knowledge of the law. Ah well, another appeal.



Les Robertson

PAT TRAINER, CHEERIO, CHEERIO

Many thousands of Barlinnie Prisoners have had cause to revere the achievements of the Barlinnie Visiting Committee under the many-year chairmanship of Councillor Pat Trainer. Alas times are changing. The rot set in when Dumbarton District Council nominated Les Robertson, Councillor, ex-Peace Camper and ex-inmate of Barlinnie, to the Visiting Committee. Trainer demanded that the Council withdraw the nomination. How can an ex-Prisoner know what prisons are like, was his very reasonable point! But not only have the District Council confirmed Les Robertson's nomination but the Visiting Committee elected him Secretary. Trainer, no longer Chairman, has resigned from the Committee.

The Scottish Council for Civil Liberties (SCCL) recollect well their complaint made to Chairman Trainer and to the Scottish Office about the lack of dimmer switches on lights in certain high-security cells. No, replied Trainer, not in my prison, it is not true. I would never let it happen. Yes, replied the Scottish Office, we admit the fault and will rectify it.

Several years ago the then Chairman of the SCCL, Norman McEwan, felt obliged to resign from the Barlinnie Visiting Committee because under Trainer it was appallingly biased in favour of the prison authorities. Do write and send us your personal fond memory of Trainer for publication.

WOT NO MATTRESS?

John Donald, Prisoner in the B Hall Control Unit at Peterhead was to be punished by the removal of his mattress. No, the European Court of Human Rights does not regard this as a "cruel or unusual" punishment so it must be kind and quite normal. John contrarily refused to hand the mattress out of his cell. Naturally a large squad of well-equipped screws had to be sent in to sieze it, that justice might be done. Bursting into

his cell they found no mattress. They had never bothered to give him one! John was subsequently found guilty of insubordination and lost a week's remission for laughing at them. What a perverse sense of humour you have John!

SHERIFF "OFF TO THE CELLS" MITCHELL

Thousands of Glaswegians appear each year at the Sheriff Court summonsed for wilful non-payment of their lawful rent. The Glasgow District Council lawyers also appear, not in the dock as you might think to explain why the Council has not awarded Housing Benefit within 14 days as legally obliged to do, but to know why tenants cannot pay the full rent the Housing Benefit law says they need not pay, and to demand their evictions. The DHSS is never represented, though well they ought to be to explain their failures to send through rent "pass-ports" for tenants on Supplementary Benefit.

The Sheriffs seem to be out of touch with reality demanding as they do repayments of £20, £30 or £50 a week from desperately poor families and blaming THEM for not making sure the DHSS and Housing Department have dealt with money matters on time! But a special thankyou for upholding law and order must go to Sheriff Mitchell. Last October he was bawling with his usual courtesy at a woman who had changed her rent payment day because of a change in her works payday. Mitchell was making heavy going of this minor point and the woman became upset. Rising to help explain this simple matter her husband came to her aid. Mitchell then lost the rag altogether shouting and screaming about the man's contempt of court, a court already thoroughly rubbished by Mitchell's contempt of all who appear before him. He went on to threaten the woman's husband with the cells if he spoke another word and flung him out of court for good measure. Well done Sheriff Mitchell, that'll teach them to change the payday!

PROMOTION OUT THE WINDOW!

Sheriff Middleton of Haddington will not be backed for promotion. Forgetting his loyalty to the state, he found 2 Musselburgh youths not guilty of Breach of the Peace. At the trial of the youths he boldly stated "It is not a criminal offence to swear at the police or even to be cheeky." Furthermore he found one of them not guilty of resisting arrest. "They seem to have arrested him without any justification at all" he said. "In such circumstances it is reasonable to resist arrest". Well done Sheriff - next time we get wrongfully arrested we'll make sure it's in Musselburgh!

JUSTICE

Which is more serious - shooting and killing a 5 year old boy or stealing a pint of milk? In any sane and just society, which puts the interests of its people before and above the interests of property and profit, this question would hardly need to be asked. However we don't live in a sane and just society and 'our' legal system proves this time and time again.

Katherine Griffiths, a 17 year old girl, was recently remanded in the notorious Holloway prison. Her 'crime' to which she pled guilty, was to attempt to steal a pint of milk - value 24p. This was her first offence.

Katherine had two major disadvantages in getting 'justice' in the courts. Firstly, she is working class and secondly she committed a 'crime' against property. She was remanded in jail "because of the seriousness of the offence". After all what could be more serious than an unemployed working class girl trying to steal a pint of milk!

Brian Chester fared better when he came up in front of the courts.

Chester is charged with the unlawful killing of a five year old boy. Was Chester remanded in jail "because of the seriousness" of the charge? Of course not. In a two-minute hearing Chester was given bail.

Chester had two important advantages in getting 'justice' in the courts. Firstly, he is 'only' accused of a crime against a working class child - not a crime against property. And secondly, he is not working class himself, but part of the state machinery. Brian Chester is a policeman. Isn't British 'justice' wonderful!

Mick McCallum

Mick McCallum, former Prisoner and a member of the SPSC gave an interview to the newspaper NEWS LINE last November. We reprint extracts of Mick's views on HMP Inverness and the notorious "Cages" ('Behaviour Modification Units' as the authorities call them) where Mick did 2 stretches.

"You can be put in the 'Cages' on the order of the prison Governor himself. You don't have to break the law: he just decides you are a 'subversive'; in fact 'suspicion' on his part is enough.

"You are removed from association with other Prisoners for the maintenance of good order and discipline" under Rule 36. They are supposed to review this decision after a month, and to keep you in isolation for a maximum of 3 months - but it's not uncommon for people to do eight or nine months. I did two stretches of three, and three-and-a-half months, in a nine-month period.

"They take guys in and exert psychological pressure on them, turn them into Pavlov's dogs. They subject you to emotional stress; they use "stress stimulæ" to see how you will react. They have a meeting between the five 'screws' on the unit each day, to decide whether to give a particular Prisoner the 'hard' or 'soft' treatment on that day. They know, of course, that they have ultimate power over you within the unit.

"The only other movable object in the cell, besides the Prisoner, is a plastic chamber pot. Outside the cage is a mirror, which you can look into and see yourself behind bars. The deprivation of natural light is combined with the deprivation of sleep. The screws rattle the chains at night when checking locks, in order to wake you up, so you don't get a restful night. But they take care not to stick to a fixed pattern which you can get used to.

"They use sound to torment you mentally. There are two extractor fans which draw air out of the cell, making you feel breathless. One minute, it's silent, the next this fan is on, sounding like a helicopter just overhead. On some days the screws flush the toilet every time they pass, to annoy you. They stand outside jangling keys to annoy you.

"Some days they will stand and stare at you, five of them with their arms folded. They slander you and try to bring you down with abuse. You have to slander and abuse them, to fight to keep your sanity. On one occasion I spat at them in turn, and they spat back; it was like a punk rockers' tea party! I tried to provoke them to attack me to show they weren't mentally demoralising me.

"Periodically they come into the cell, and body-search you, knowing fine well there is no way you could get anything in as you have the five of them guarding you all the time, and no contact with other Prisoners or visitors. They search the palms of your hands, soles of your feet, up your anus etc etc.

ROUND THE JAILS

PETERHEAD

FOLLOWING ON FROM AN INCIDENT ON 20 JULY LAST YEAR WHEN VISITORS WERE STRIP-SEARCHED AND SUBJECTED TO DEGRADING ANAL SEARCHES BY PETERHEAD POLICE SEARCHING FOR DRUGS, LAST AUGUST 3 A DUNDEE WOMAN WAS ARRESTED IN PETERHEAD'S VISITORS WAITING ROOM. SHE WAS TAKEN TO PETERHEAD POLICE STATION WHERE SHE WAS FOUND TO HAVE ON HER TABLETS PRESCRIBED TO HERSELF AND HER SISTER. SHE WAS CHARGED WITH TAKING THE PILLS 'ONTO PRISON PROPERTY'. THE GRAMPAIN POLICE LABORATORY FORENSIC SCIENCE REPORT STATED THAT NEITHER OF THE TWO TYPES OF DRUGS WERE "controlled drugs in terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971". (COPY OF THE FORENSIC SCIENCE REPORT SUPPLIED TO THE SPSC BY WILLIAM HAMILTON, PRISONER AT PETERHEAD).

AT THE TRIAL WILLIAM HAMILTON'S PRISON FILE WAS SENT FOR AND IT WAS STATED IN COURT THAT HE SUPPLIES OTHER PRISONERS WITH DRUGS. OF COURSE WILLIAM WAS NOT BROUGHT TO COURT TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST THIS CHARGE WHICH HE STRENUOUSLY DENIES. AND OF COURSE MRS. HAMILTON WAS FOUND GUILTY AND FINED £150 DESPITE HER STATEMENT IN THE WITNESS BOX THAT THE PILLS WERE ONLY FOR HER OWN USE. AND OF COURSE THOSE IN THE PRISON SYSTEM WHO ADMINISTER, OFTEN AGAINST THE PRISONER'S WILL, THOUSANDS OF DOSES OF MIND CONTROLLING DRUGS EVERY YEAR WILL NEVER BE BROUGHT TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

FROM THE DATE OF HIS MOTHER'S ARREST WILLIAM HAMILTON HAS BEEN ON CLOSED VISITS AND IS NOW ENGAGED IN PROTESTS TO HIGHLIGHT THE INJUSTICE PERPETRATED AGAINST HIM AND HIS MOTHER. WE SEND HIM ALL OUR SUPPORT AND WISH HIM EVERY SUCCESS IN HIS BATTLE TO CLEAR BOTH HIS AND HIS MOTHER'S NAMES.

ON 2 NOVEMBER 6 PRISONERS ATTEMPTED AN ESCAPE AND HELD 7 SCREWS HOSTAGE FOR 3 HOURS. THE SCOTTISH OFFICE IMMEDIATELY STATED THAT ONE PRISONER HAD SUFFERED AN INJURY TO HIS HAND. THEN THE SCOTTISH OFFICE CLAIMED THE PRISONER HAD TAKEN ILL THE DAY FOLLOWING THE ESCAPE ATTEMPT AND "had his appendix out and that is all".

Photo: NEWS LINE Mick McCallum



"Another method is to try to alienate blokes from their families. This ranges from abuse like "What's your girl friend doing tonight then McCallum" to actually failing to pass on letters, failing to post out visitors' passes and so on. They read your mail of course - and then torment you about any little family issues that they know about as a result.

"They quite often refuse to let you out to empty your chamber-pot, even when it is full. They refuse to let you out to get drinking water. They pass your food to you under the grill, usually covered in spit. They convey the impression to you they have interfered with your food or put dope in it.

"In the cages there is no mental stimulation except what they decide. They are supposed to supply you reading material, newspapers, visiting rights, and access to the prison visitors' committee. They don't. They do provide you with books: for example they will give you an adventure story of some kind - with the crucial last few pages ripped out. When I was in the 'cages', they refused me even a two-inch stub of pencil to write my application to the European Court of Human Rights. The court itself had to intervene and insist they gave me something to write with.

"The suicides at Glenochil youth jail complex have been exposed and I welcome that. But there is a far bigger issue in Scottish prisons as a whole. Arthur Padden burned to death in his cell (at Barlinnie), and I maintain that more effort could have been made to reach him in time. I have documented cases of drug addicts put in cells without medical attention or treatment for addiction - and they have committed suicide."

HOWEVER THE TRUTH HAS FILTERED OUT OF PETERHEAD. THE INJURED PRISONER WAS THOMAS CAMPBELL. HE WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AT 7.15PM ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER AFTER BEING ATTACKED THE PREVIOUS DAY, SUNDAY. A PETERHEAD PRISONER INFORMED THE SPSC THAT THOMAS CAMPBELL WASN'T INVOLVED IN THE ESCAPE ATTEMPT AND THAT "he got messed up pretty bad, a right few-handed with riot sticks plus a few jumped on his chest. So last night he called over and said his body and head were knackered. I saw and heard everything right outside my door. He wasn't in good health, 5 stone underweight - pretty much skin and bone. When there's a few with riot sticks there's nothing a guy can do. This mob wouldn't get the doctor - once TC got himself up (after lying on the deck for 5½ hours) they then got the doctor. No matter what we said they weren't moving so he had to lie there. Something must be done about this place".

THOMAS CAMPBELL, AMONGST OTHER INJURIES, SUSTAINED A RUPTURED SPLEEN. HIS LAWYER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE AN ACTION FOR DAMAGES AGAINST THE SCREWS.

IN EARLY NOVEMBER AN EDINBURGH WOMAN REVEALED HOW, ON A VISIT TO PETERHEAD, HER 14 YEAR OLD SON WAS TAKEN BY POLICE TO THE STATION WHERE HE WAS GRABBED BY THE THROAT AFTER PUTTING A CHOCOLATE IN HIS MOUTH. HE WAS TAKEN AWAY AND MEANWHILE HIS MOTHER AND 3 OTHER CHILDREN WERE SEARCHED AND HELD FOR 7 HOURS. THE BOY, MARK, WAS SEARCHED, TAKEN TO PETERHEAD HOSPITAL WHERE HIS STOMACH WAS EMPTIED. TWO HOURS AFTER BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM HIS MOTHER BY THE POLICE MARK RETURNED BEARING A BRUISED NECK AND SWOLLEN FACE. HE SAID "The police stuck their fingers down my throat and grabbed my neck so tight I could hardly breathe". AS WELL AS THE BRUISING MARK SUFFERED 3 BURST BLOOD VESSELS. THE PROCURATOR FISCAL, THE FRIEND OF THE POLICE AND THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE, HAS DECIDED NOT TO TAKE ANY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE POLICEMEN CONCERNED WHO TRIED TO JUSTIFY THEIR ACTIONS BY CLAIMING THEY THOUGHT THE CHOCOLATE MARK HAD PUT IN HIS MOUTH WAS DRUGS.

ON 25 NOVEMBER PETERHEAD SCREW PETER SHANKS WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY AT PETERHEAD SHERIFF COURT OF ASSAULTING PETERHEAD PRISONER GARY McMENAMIN. IN SEPTEMBER 1984 GARY HAD REFUSED TO UNDERGO A STRIP SEARCH. HE SAID HE WAS TOLD HE

Solitary in Canada

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT - the six-by-ten concrete cells of the solitary areas usually have solid steel doors with peepholes that can only be opened from outside. Occasionally there is a steel clad opening through which a meal tray can be inserted..no windows. A light burns night and day..Exercise is often no more than a 30 minute daily walk in a 75-foot long corridor. (McNeil and Vance, CRUEL AND UNUSUAL, 1978).

".....(Solitary confinement) is designed, I believe, not so much for security purposes but to reduce the individual to that condition where there is no conceivable human resistance, where they represent essentially nothing. To come to have no meaning. to come to be nothing, is essentially the greatest human suffering. That is to say it leads ultimately to insanity and suicide." (Iowa Psychologist, Stephen Fox, 1975, Canadian Federal Court, McCann vs The Queen).

ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOCIATION - the prisoner can be placed here on his/her own request or under authority of the prison administration "for the maintenance of good order and discipline of the institution". This practice essentially acts as a control mechanism.....is potentially indefinite in its duration up to the expiry of the prisoner's sentence. (John Howard Society Ontario Newsletter, Fall/Winter 1983).

PUNITIVE DISSOCIATION - is used as punishment for prisoners incurring an institutional offence (includes all Criminal Code Laws and prison rules). Punitive dissociation sentences are set up to a maximum of 30 days at a time (which can and often are continued indefinitely). (John Howard Society Ontario Newsletter, Fall/Winter 1983).

"You wouldn't treat animals like that. They'd die." (Lionel Beaudoin, MP, Subcommittee 1977 after a tour of BC Pen. Segregation).

It did not take a dairy farmer to realise that many of the men in solitary across Canada were ill to varying degrees. Their pallid faces, shaky hands told the story. Huddled in blankets in the wintry air or seated in bath-like conditions, they usually looked happy to see anyone. (McNeil and Vance, CRUEL AND UNUSUAL, 1978).

"The keepers have a deep-seated need to retain their control, to demonstrate the legitimacy of their position, to justify doing to other men that which they know they could not or should never do to members of their family or to people who have any meaning to them; the prisoners have a deep-seated need to hold on to that which is most precious to them, their sense of self, their sense of who they are, and to resist becoming the disembodied image of a penitentiary number. Solitary confinement is the ultimate battlefield of that conflict". (Dr. Richard Korn, former assistant warden NJ State Pen at McCann vs The Queen, Michael Jackson, PRISONERS OF ISOLATION, 1983) The Canadian pattern of torture of prisoners in solitary confinement can easily qualify for the never-ending catalogue of human rights violations that are prevalent in countries such as Chile and Argentina during military rule. (Claire Culhane, STILL BARRED FROM PRISON, 1985).

Under United Nations principles, endorsed by the Canadian government, a prisoner retains all the rights of an ordinary citizen, except those expressly taken away by law or necessary implication. (5th. UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, 1975).

Solitary confinement, being used more and more in Canadian prisons, is a form of psychological torture, especially when continued indefinitely. When it is used, as it frequently is, to punish prisoners who have not been convicted of any prison offence, it is a clear violation of human rights, and of international principles that Canada has agreed to adhere to.

The above information on the use of solitary confinement in Canadian jails was supplied to the SPSC by Claire Culhane, a tireless campaigner for the rights of prisoners in Canada



Claire Culhane

DUNGAVEL PRISON

Anyone having problems with transport to Dungavel prison for visits? Drugs Project Leader, Denmark Street, Possil has kindly offered the Project's mini-bus. Anyone interested please contact TRUDY MADDEN at: 336 3316 or call into 42 Allander Street, Social Work Department for further information.

← P.4 ←

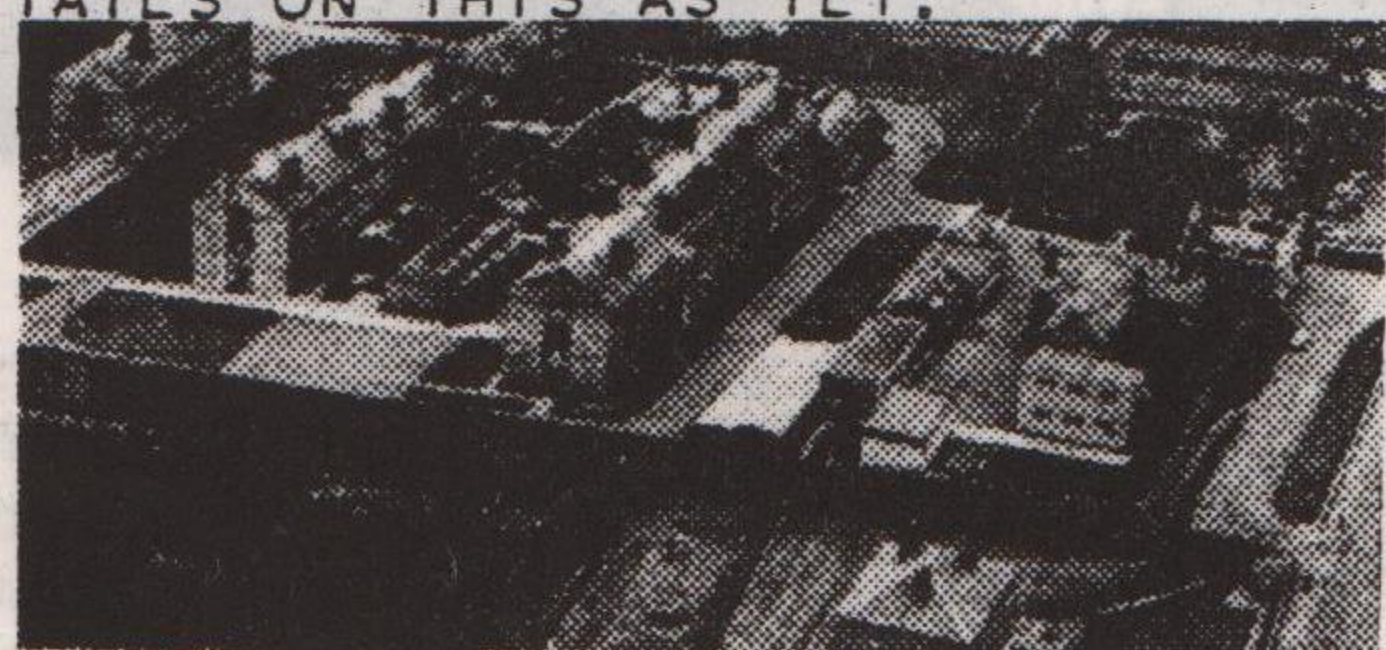
WAS BEING PUT 'ON REPORT' AND THAT HE SPUN ROUND. SOMEONE JUMPED ON HIS BACK AND A SCREW HAD AN ARM ROUND HIS NECK. HE THEN SAW SHANKS APPROACH WITH A SET OF HANDCUFFS RAISED OVER HIS HEAD. "I saw him swinging down towards me then I felt the handcuffs strike me on the top of the head. I felt another blow". HE HAD TO RECEIVE 4 STITCHES TO A WOUND IN HIS HEAD. SCREW SHANKS CLAIMED HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW GARY SUSTAINED HIS INJURIES AND WALKED FREE TO RESUME HIS JOB AT THE PETERHEAD HATE FACTORY.

AND IN DECEMBER AT PETERHEAD SHERIFF COURT GARY McMENAMIN RECEIVED AN EXTRA 4 MONTHS TO HIS LIFE SENTENCE FOR RESISTING THE PETERHEAD TERROR REGIME. AFTER BEING FOUND 'GUILTY' GARY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING:

"I would like to suggest that instead of spending thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money on bringing me back and forward to this court, you spend this money on a public inquiry into why these incidents keep happening. The prison authorities are making statements about them having trouble under control. I may tell you that the trouble hasn't even started yet".

AT ABERDEEN HIGH COURT ON 2 DECEMBER PETERHEAD PRISONERS ALAN BROWN, WILLIAM VAREY AND JOSEPH McGRATH WERE SENTENCED AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO ASSAULTING SCREWS AND ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM THE JAIL LAST MARCH. ALAN BROWN AND WILLIAM VAREY RECEIVED A FURTHER 6 YEARS ON TOP OF THEIR PRESENT SENTENCES AND JOSEPH McGRATH A FURTHER 5.

ON SATURDAY 18 JANUARY A PETERHEAD PRISONER WAS TAKEN TO WOODEND HOSPITAL IN ABERDEEN AFTER WHAT THE AUTHORITIES DESCRIBED AS A "MINOR INCIDENT" AT PETERHEAD. THE SPSC HAS NO FURTHER DETAILS ON THIS AS YET.



PETERHEAD

ON FEBRUARY 7 WILLIAM VAREY WAS HANDED ANOTHER 9 YEARS AT EDINBURGH HIGH COURT WHILE GARY McMENAMIN WAS GIVEN ANOTHER 7 YEARS FOR TAKING PART IN AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT AND A 'RIOT' AT PETERHEAD LAST NOVEMBER. 7 SCREWS WERE HELD HOSTAGE FOR 3 HOURS AND DAMAGE AMOUNTING TO £2,650 WAS CAUSED TO THE BUILDING. PERHAPS WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE FACT THAT GARY McMENAMIN HAS BEEN IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

SINCE 1982 YOU MIGHT BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HIS HATRED OF THE PETERHEAD REGIME.

WHEN ALISTAIR THOMSON, DIRECTOR OF THE SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE APPEARED ON BBC'S 'CAUSE FOR CONCERN' PROGRAMME (30 JANUARY) CLAIMING THAT ALL WAS WELL AT PETERHEAD, THAT IT WAS A 'LIBERAL REGIME' COMPARED TO THAT IN OTHER SCOTTISH PRISONS, IT CAN ONLY LEAD US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HE SUFFERS FROM DELUSIONS AND SHOULD URGENTLY SEEK PSYCHIATRIC HELP.

LONGRIGGEND

ON 21 NOVEMBER A JURY FOUND RAYMOND SMITH GUILTY OF A BREACH OF THE PEACE AND ASSAULTING A SCREW AT LONGRIGGEND REMAND CENTRE ON 18 APRIL LAST YEAR. ON THAT DAY PRISONERS HAD ENGAGED IN AN ACT OF RESISTANCE IN PROTEST AT VISITS BEING STOPPED THE PREVIOUS EVENING AFTER A PRISONER HAD SUCCEEDED IN ESCAPING. PRISONERS REFUSED TO LEAVE THE DINING HALL AT THE END OF BREAKFAST AND SAT SILENT AT THEIR TABLES. BUT AS USUAL THE RESPONSE OF THE SCREWS WAS PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND PRISONERS WERE FORCED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES WITH TABLES, CHAIRS, CUTLERY AND SO ON.

RAYMOND SMITH SAID "I was grabbed and carried bodily by 3 or 4 officers to the gym changing room and was kicked and punched on the legs, back, anywhere".

LOW MOSS

ON XMAS NIGHT 19 PRISONERS MOUNTED A 6 HOUR PROTEST IN LOW MOSS WITH 5 OF THEM SUCCEEDING IN CLIMBING ONTO THE ROOF AND A DORMITORY WAS CONSIDERABLY DAMAGED. THE SCOTTISH OFFICE STATED THE 19 HAD BEEN DEALT WITH UNDER INTERNAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND TRANSFERRED TO BARLINNIE. THE SCOTTISH OFFICE WOULDN'T SAY WHAT THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES WERE BUT WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT IT DIDN'T JUST CONSIST OF LOSS OF REMISSION OF 'PRIVILEGES'.

PERTH

WILLIAM MOOREHOUSE, AGED 26, DIED IN PERTH ROYAL INFIRMARY AFTER AN 'ACCIDENT' AT PERTH PRISON ON 16 FEBRUARY. WILLIAM HAD BEGUN A 5 YEAR SENTENCE IN JANUARY FOR ASSAULTING A SHERIFF AT ARBROATH SHERIFF COURT. THE SCOTTISH OFFICE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON A REPORT THAT WILLIAM HAD 'FALLEN' FROM AN UPPER LANDING. WILLIAM SUFFERED SEVERE HEAD AND OTHER INJURIES.

TO END ON A VICTORIOUS NOTE, PRISONERS IN PERTH HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SABOTAGING SCREWS' UNIFORMS. MOCK STITCHING IN TROUSER SEAMS CAUSED THEM TO SPLIT WHEN A SCREW BENT DOWN. AND WIRE WOOL SEWN INTO THE CROTCHES MUST HAVE CAUSED ALOT OF PROBLEMS! WELL WHEN YOU GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR TROUSERS DOWN YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH! WELL DONE PERTH PRISONERS.

D.H.S.S. cheaters

Like all other aspects of Social Security the question of expenses for prison visits is dealt with appallingly, if at all, by local DHSS offices. Different treatment for different people, no treatment at all for the unlucky. Among the problems reported to us are:

- * No allowance for meals or overnight expenses or not enough;
- * Neither visiting expenses nor babysitting expenses allowed for children of single parents who are going on a visit;
- * Refusal of petrol money as an alternative to bus or rail fare;
- * Late payment causing the family to miss a visit;
- * Day return rail warrants for a Sunday visit to Peterhead - a visit impossible to do by train in one day on a Sunday.

* Total refusal for families not on Supplementary Benefit.

Difficulty and uncertainty about visits is heartbreaking both for the Prisoner and the family.

THE REAL GUIDELINES

These are laid down by the Home Office and apply to visits within Scotland, Wales, England and the North of Ireland.

* Convicted Prisoners are allowed a minimum of 13 visits each year. Special visits can be paid in special circumstances. These might be serious illness or injury to the Prisoner, death or serious illness in the family or urgent family business.

* Where the head of the family applying is a man AND in full-time work no visiting expenses will be paid. Every one else is eligible if on a low income. If you are, say, £3 above Supplementary Benefit the whole cost of the visit is payable, less £3. Your local Welfare Rights Officer, Advice Centre or Unemployed Workers Centre will help you work out how far above Supplementary Benefit you are, and may even help you claim Supplementary Benefit successfully.

* Meals should be paid at the full adult rate for any children visiting with you - Breakfast £1.10 and lunch/dinner £1.55 each.

HOW TO GET IT DONE RIGHT

If you can't get anywhere with your local DHSS office, don't despair. Although there is no right of appeal on this issue, most MPs are quite helpful with this matter, even those who are not helpful on other prisoner issues. Your MP's address is always "House of Commons, London". And your local library will have details of your MP's local surgeries - dates, times, place etc. Get help with a letter from Welfare Rights etc if you feel you need it. If all else fails contact us for a bit of publicity.

We all know visits are a lifeline for our Prisoners in many ways so it is worth fighting for the right to visits expenses.

Johnny Steele

JOHNNY STEELE - BACK IN CIRCULATION

In SCOTTISH PRISONER No.2 we announced we would make every possible effort to end Johnny's years in isolation and Control Units. Well, he went back into 'ordinary' circulation on 27 August last year. We issued a stern warning to his MP Hugh Brown (Labour), to George Younger the then Secretary of State against Scotland and to Michael Ancram that we would hold them personally responsible for any harm that might come to Johnny. Wriggling on the hook they were forced to give in. Though in a fit of petty spite the Governor put Johnny into the hated mailbag squad - rotten wages, rotten job. After so many embarrassing deaths in Glenochil they dared not risk ignoring the warnings about Johnny's physical and mental state. We will continue to press for his family's other 2 demands - an independent medical investigation of his 'ulcer' and an end to interference with his mail.

PETERHEAD HATE FACTORY

The screws of course are raging at Johnny's victory over the prison system and their hate campaign against him has continued. Screws!

war on Prisoners is conducted on two fronts, psychological torture and physical brutality. On September 27 Johnny wrote to us:

"And now they tell me they're throwing me a LIFELINE! I certainly don't believe that for one moment. I'd be a fool to. I know it's all part of the abuse and psychological torture. Governor Smith tells me I've caused the Secretary of State alot of embarrassment! It's always me and never them. I can't believe the Secretary of State knows exactly what goes on in here....."

"They tell me my maw is getting beat up by neighbours - but of course they're telling me lies. They tell me my uncle is not dead when he is (Arthur Padden). They lock me up for years and ask me why I'm doing this to myself. They tell me to have a nice time when going for my visits when they know my younger brother is in Barlinnie for 6 murders, they know I've just lost my grand-father - have a nice time! Yet when I come back into circulation and smash the TV they get upset and ask me why I did it."

SCOTLAND'S MOST PUNISHED PRISONER

"I'm not prepared to go on living like this and at the same time I'm not prepared to give up living. For 7 years now I've been suffering at the hands of the authorities, in and out of the punishment block, in and out of the cages (Inverness) in and out of the courts. Governor Smith tells me he only sends me there to give me time to think. He also says I've got more reports than any prisoner in the penal history of Scotland."

Send Johnny Steele a card at HMP Peterhead, AB4 6YY. Tell him you support him and all other Prisoners whose refusal to accept dehumanisation makes them the special targets of their jailers. The last word goes to Johnny:

"That's all we do in here, abuse each other. They (screws) hate me and I hate them. If they tell me they like me I tell them I like them too, it's all part of the abuse. After a while it becomes my recreation. But in all honesty it's a lamentable way to have to live but that's the way it is."

SUPPORT PRISONERS RESISTANCE!

CLOSE DOWN SCOTLAND'S HATE FACTORIES!

Meechan family picket

IN AUGUST LAST YEAR THE MEECHAN FAMILY CALLED A PICKET OF THE EDINBURGH SHERIFF COURT TO PROTEST THE INNOCENCE OF JOSEPH MEECHAN, PRESENTLY SERVING A 7 YEAR SENTENCE IN PETERHEAD FOLLOWING HIS WRONGFUL CONVICTION.

THE SCOTTISH PRISONERS SUPPORT COMMITTEE GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO THIS PICKET ATTENDING WITH THE COMMITTEE'S BANNER AND ISSUING A LEAFLET AND PRESS STATEMENT. THE CLYDESIDE ANARCHISTS ALSO ATTENDED AND HELPED WITH THE TRANSPORT.

THE 20-STRONG PICKET ASSEMBLED AT THE COURT WITH THE LEAFLETS, COPIES OF SCOTTISH PRISONER AND HUGE PLACARDS MADE BY JOE'S DAUGHTER MARGARET. HIS YOUNGEST DAUGHTER MARY-ANNE HAD A SPECIAL PLACARD: "FREE MY DADDY!". EDINBURGH WAS PACKED FOR THE FESTIVAL AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FROM SCOTLAND AND ABROAD STOPPED TO INFORM THEMSELVES AND TO SUPPORT THE PICKET. THE PUBLIC IS TRULY HORRIFIED TO HEAR THE TRUE FACTS ABOUT CORRUPTION IN THE POLICE AND COURTS. THE PRESS WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE. THE GLASGOW HERALD PRINTED AN ARTICLE THE NEXT DAY, AND RADIO SCOTLAND BROADCAST A 10-MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MEECHAN AND A SPOKESPERSON FROM THE SPSC. THE PRISON AUTHORITIES HAVE SPITEFULLY PREVENTED JOE FROM SEEING HIS OWN PRESS RELEASE. HOW CAN HE CONDUCT HIS CAMPAIGN PROPERLY WITH OBSTRUCTION LIKE THIS?

THE FAMILY ARE GREATLY TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR BEING THE FIRST WE KNOW OF TO BREACH THE WALL OF SILENCE ON THE MASSIVE SCANDAL OF WRONGFUL CONVICTION BY A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION. IT'S NOT AN EASY THING TO DO, BUT THE MEECHANS' COURAGE HAS PAID OFF. THE QUESTIONS THEY HAVE



PRESSED ON THE SCOTTISH OFFICE FOR YEARS HAVE NOW AT LAST BEEN RE-OPENED.

LAST NOVEMBER 4 THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK REPLIED TO JOE'S NEWEST SUBMISSION:

"The paper Mrs. Meechan enclosed from her husband raised many questions about his case and, though many of these have already been considered we decided that we should make enquiries into certain aspects of these latest representations."

THIS IS THE FIRST CRACK IN THE SCOTTISH OFFICE'S WALL OF CORRUPTION THAT SURROUNDS JOE MEECHAN, AND THE FIRST HOPEFUL ANSWER. WE WISH JOE AND HIS FAMILY ALL GOOD LUCK IN THEIR JUST FIGHT AND GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE MANY SCOTTISH PRISONERS CONDUCTING SIMILAR CAMPAIGNS.

U.S. solidarity

Dear SCOTTISH PRISONER,

I just finished reading issue No.2 of SCOTTISH PRISONER and I thank you for throwing the harsh reality of screw brutality and administrative harassment in the spot light. More literature should be printed on this subject as for too many years it has been "swept under the carpet".

Being in prison myself I spend most of my time reading. I read books of fantasy, drama, horror, cops and robbers, westerns, romance and newspapers, but nothing has ever in my life affected me as did your articles on the Glenochil Death Camp. Seven very brutal murders since 1981. Two of those victims were 19 years old. Two more were 18 years old, another two were only 17 years old. And now the seventh victim, Derek Harris was merely 16 years old. My god, they were only babies. Is society too blind, too ignorant to hear the cries of these children? Or is society too caught up in their own small world to really care? Is not the idea supposed to be rehabilitation, and NOT RETALIATION? AS I write this I do not direct it to the Glenochil Death Camp alone, but to Peterhead, Perth, Longriggend, Barlinnie and Dumfries as well for they too are death camps.

Tomorrow marks my 65th. day in solitary confinement. I have been subjected to physical brutality and have recently been made aware that the screws have been slipping mind-altering drugs into my meals. If they can't subdue or kill you physically, then they attack the root of the 'problem' - the mind. But alas, the victory is not theirs. Because the more they subject me to their beating and terrorist tactics to conform me into a 'model prisoner', the stronger I become. My crime you ask? "Disobeying a direct order" The last uprising of this prison was 10 years ago. The main population stream of this prison are 'model prisoners' - those who are too weak, or too scared, or who have fallen under submission, and the fighters of this injustice called

'penal reform' are locked away and isolated for as long as 6 to 8 years. This is to ensure that there is no rising against their authority, no publicity or adverse reactions from the working class.

The administrators of the penal system, not only here in the States, but in Scotland, Ireland, England and the world round should be held accountable for these CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY! They should be brought to justice to pay for their crimes, to serve their full sentences in their own tombs of steel.

I support SCOTTISH PRISONER the Scottish Prisoners Support Committee and the Prisoner resistance in whole, in their struggle for justice. I would like to send my financial support but because of my own situation I cannot, but can and will send my support in the form of my thoughts and prayers.

I would like to correspond with Prisoners in Scottish jails to exchange viewpoints on jail conditions in our countries and to sincere individuals concerned with jail injustice and the resistance of such.

To the ladies of the womens prison in Holloway, I support your struggle as well and encourage letters from you as well. All letters will be answered. I shall include my mailing address.

Well dawn has arrived, so I begin my 65th. day in solitary confinement. Perhaps I'll begin the new day by reading this SCOTTISH PRISONER a friend has shared with me and hope that somehow you can add me to your mailing list to receive more.

I send you my total respect and support. I shall leave you with this.....



Tho they engage my body
my soul remains free.....
Tho they attempt to capture
my mind
I elude their grasp.....
Their torture only
strengthens my will
to remain an eagle in
flight.....

Yours sincerely,
Timothy L. Wiley, Arizona
State Prison, PO Box B-39542
Florence, Arizona, 85232,
USA.

Censorship...

Dear SCOTTISH PRISONER,

I am writing this letter in the hope that you can help me with some difficulties I am now experiencing in Dumfries prison at this present time. I am serving two years in Dumfries prison and recently I have had some difficulty with my mail. ie on 23 September 1985 I sent out a letter and visit pass. The letter arrived but the pass didn't. When I queried this with the principal officer I was told another visit pass would be sent out. When I asked why the first pass did not go out, I was given no explanation. When I told this officer I would take it up with the governor, I was told "to take it up with the Queen if I like" and that I was nothing but a "moaning cunt". I would appreciate your opinion on this matter and what steps I could take to make sure this never happens again. I am also writing to my solicitor for legal advice on this. I await your most urgent reply to my problem.

Yours faithfully, Gordon Burns, HMP Dumfries.

...and more...

Dear SCOTTISH PRISONER,

I've just been introduced to your great literature. Needless to say I'm very impressed with the way you publish facts of goings-on inside Scottish prisons.

I have a visit coming up with my mother. I'm sure she will be in touch with you shortly after - no doubt with some 'scandal'. I'm sure my mother would love to be a member of the SPSC. Could you also enlist me as a member please. I think you do a great job and long may you continue to do so. I enclose a £2 PO donation and I intend to send £2 or £3 every month or so.

I await a copy of SCOTTISH PRISONER and I do hope I receive it. The Deputy Governor informed me I might not get it issued to me but we can only hope. I wish you all the best with the new issue that comes out soon. Should the Governor refuse me SCOTTISH PRISONER that's ok. I will have my literature forwarded to my mother. She can hold the papers up to the glass at my visit. Oh yes, I'm still on closed visits.

Well thanks again for taking the trouble to write. The letters were most welcome and joyful. You used the word 'solidarity' in one of your letters. Well that word means alot to people like myself.

Keep up the good work - you're all doing a great job.

Yours in solidarity, Hammy, HMP Peterhead.



goes on all the time with the SPSC engaged in a constant battle with prison Governors who try to suppress SCOTTISH PRISONER and stop it getting into Scottish jails. Indeed a majority of the letters the SPSC receives from prisons contain complaints about censorship of Prisoners' mail and literature.

Contact with the outside is vitally important for Prisoners - it is in fact a lifeline. Therefore the fight against censorship is a priority in the campaign to high-light conditions in Scottish jails.

The SPSC has taken up this incident with Alistair Thomson Director of the Scottish Prison Service, the Governor at Saughton and the Scottish Secretary of State. To date we have not received a satisfactory answer to any of our complaints, although Alistair Thomson has given the 4 SPSC members his permission for them "to act IN ANY WAY THEY SEE FIT if they believe they were treated unlawfully!" If he is serious about this the SPSC may well take up his offer.

SPSC members have been back to Saughton on visits since the July incident and we will continue our campaign to expose the reality of prison life. Harassment, intimidation, illegal detention will not deter us.

← P.2 ←

HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION

While this incident has its funny side it also must be taken seriously. It is serious that screws feel they have a right to detain, harass and attempt to intimidate visitors. It is serious that our 4 members were effectively jailed, albeit for a short time, without being charged with any crime, without any trial, without any access to a lawyer or legal advice. Although our members were only held for a short time the reality is that they were in effect quite powerless to resist this illegal detention. In reality the screws could have held them there for hours, days perhaps. It is well known that Prisoners can 'disappear' for weeks in the prison system being ghosted around the jails while their families have no idea where they are. Now it would appear visitors can 'disappear' on prison visits.

END CENSORSHIP, END THE SECRECY

Of course in this case the action of the screws was an attempt to censor the views of the SPSC. They tried to intimidate our members in an effort to halt the work of the SPSC - to stop the truth being told. This censorship

...and more censorship...

Dear SCOTTISH PRISONER,

I received a letter from you today which was sent Recorded Delivery, but not before the acting Chief officer had words with me in his office.

I have never received any previous letters from you or a copy of your newspaper and asked the people in charge of this place for an explanation, of which they had none to offer. So I can only leave the rest to your imagination. You were saying if I wished you would send me duplicates of letters which you have already posted on to me and I have not received. I would be grateful if you

could as I've had more problems in the past couple of months with the people who run this place. I do not see why they have to play games with my mind and I can assure you they have devious tactics. There is alot I could tell you but if I put it on paper it will never reach you as you have already witnessed.

You were asking if I wished to publicise the mail problem. Well I think something needs to be done about it along with some other problems a prisoner faces in prison. I'll finish for now but hope to hear from you soon and will keep in touch myself.

Yours faithfully, John Getgood, HMP Dumfries.

SPSC

Only a mighty voice will break down the wall of silence that surrounds Scotland's prisons. If you want to be part of that voice then join the Scottish Prisoners Support Committee today. Our prisoners must not stand alone.

I wish to join the SPSC.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

I wish to support the work of the SPSC by donating £.....

Write to FOOTPRINT (SPSC), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ.

Cheques/POs payable to SCOTTISH PRISONERS SUPPORT COMMITTEE.



Joseph Meechan Picket



...and more again.

Dear SCOTTISH PRISONER,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter. The enclosed matter SCOTTISH PRISONER has once again been suppressed. The excuse given "It constitutes an offence against good order and discipline". I do not agree with that statement from the governor and I made my feelings on the matter known to him but to no avail. Said SCOTTISH PRISONER has in fact been suppressed yet again.

I had a great deal of trouble with my mail being suppressed at this prison, and this at a time when I was actually involved in presenting a civil action. Even legal documents, extracts of court tran-

scripts and much more were all subjected to being suppressed. Even documents sent to the Scottish Select Committee in the House of Commons and members of the public that could, in the interests of justice, assist me. They were all suppressed. It was as if some Mason in high office gave the order to make sure no-one outside this prison was to obtain any documents from me. Moreover as they contained evidence I had been subject to tortures and assaults and thereafter wrongly convicted.

It was as if I was put in a concrete box with no way of letting the public know of my plight. Under those conditions I felt it was best to kill myself. In doing so the public would

hear about it. I went on hunger strike refusing all food. After quite some time they removed me from this jail to Barlinnie prison hospital. It seems the rules of this prison make provision that a hunger striker must not die here. It is quite okay to die in Barlinnie. The reasons for that hunger strike were in protest at my mail being suppressed and my wrongful conviction, and past medical care or lack of it.

I was fully prepared to die. Then on the 57th. day I was informed the governor was instructed, due to direct "ministerial intervention", to inform me if I called a halt to my hunger strike my mail would no longer be subject to suppression. On those grounds I ended the

hunger strike and since then the only suppressed mail has been copies of SCOTTISH PRISONER which you sent me. I feel very strongly about this latest suppression. Here I am suffering wrongful conviction, having almost killed myself on hunger strike to prove the point they had no right to suppress my mail. And here the governor is once again back to his old evil tricks. I shall have to give this alot of thought.

I remain innocent and wrongly convicted,
William Manson, HMP Peterhead.