

The police verdict - officers are not guilty

Liverpool police force has been cleared yet again. It has taken the Director of Public Prosecutions twelve months to notify Lennie Cruickshank, of Tagus St., Liverpool 8, that his complaint about being assaulted and planted with drugs is rejected.

The investigation into the complaint was conducted by an officer from within the Liverpool force.

Deputy-chief constable Dalzell wrote to Lennie and said: "I have carefully considered all the evidence in this case and whilst it is regretted that you felt you had cause for complaint I do not propose to take any further action"

Seven day trial

The Director of Public Prosecutions wrote to Lennie: "I have received from the chief constable of Liverpool and Bootle constabulary a file relating to an investigation of your complaint of assault, perjury, and 'planting' of drugs.

"Having carefully considered all the evidence I have reached the conclusion that, taken as a whole, it is not such as to justify the institution of criminal proceedings against the officers concerned."

Lennie Cruickshank's case was one of the most remarkable ever to be heard in Liverpool Crown Court. It lasted seven days, and during the trial the original charge against Lennie of possessing cannabis was almost forgotten.

Police officer after police officer was grilled on the events in the police station on the night Lennie Cruickshank was arrested.

The police were questioned in the witness stand for four days, and were cross-examined at length about a series of anomalies and discrepancies in the whole case.

Two policemen, not in court, but recognised by Lennie as they walked in the court precincts were called into the trial, and their evidence substantiated Lennie's statements about where they had been on one particular night many months previously.

The coincidences were too much. Lennie was acquitted.

The case was totally ignored by the Liverpool Echo, apart from a few lines recording the verdict.

Towards the end of 1971 the police officer Lennie accuses of planting the drugs on him was dismissed from the force, after being fined £25

for an offence.

Lennie's photographic memory helped him give a clear and minutely detailed account of had really taken place at Cheapside police station on the night that could not be faulted by the police.

But now an internal police inquiry has stated

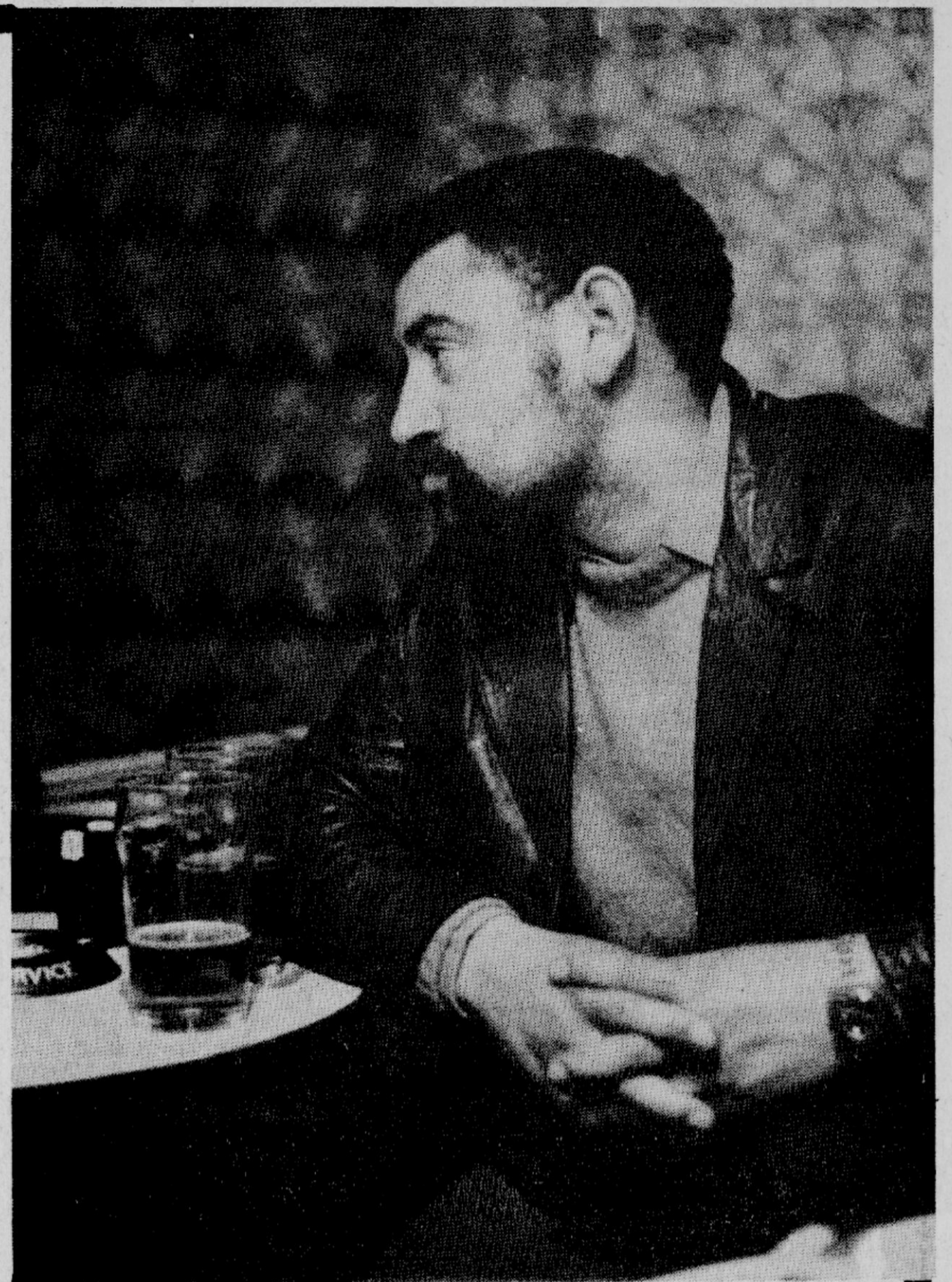
Radio broadcast

Allegations about drug-planting - agriculture - by a member of Liverpool's police force last year, broadcast on Radio Merseyside, were not investigated. The chief constable found there was no reason to follow them up.

Then, an inquiry into the harassment of councillors and a JP leaving the National Council for Civil Liberties meeting in the Why Not pub, Harrington St., cleared the police officers concerned.

All that is left for Liverpool police to do is to announce their findings on the drug-planting allegations made by former police basketball coach and assistant community relations officer Jimmy Rogers.

Houghton, the chief constable,



Lennie Cruickshank

has complained loud and clear this year, with the help of the Liverpool Echo, about malicious complaints against the police.

Last year complaints increased yet again to 543. 45 police officers faced disciplinary charges after the complaints had been

investigated. 22 were cautioned, 3 reprimanded, 10 fined, and one was dismissed.

The cries of whitewash will continue until complaints against the police are investigated by independent inquiries bodies and not by the police themselves.

IRO strike

(continued from page one)

settlement that never came.

However, after a meeting with the employers on May 19, Mr John Byrne, chairman of the strike committee said he had detected a "definite change of attitude."

The cause of this changed attitude could be the lift system now being installed in the IRO building. If the strike continues work on the site will come to a standstill in a few

weeks. If this happens damp will get into the new lifts and the mechanism will be ruined, says Mr Byrne.

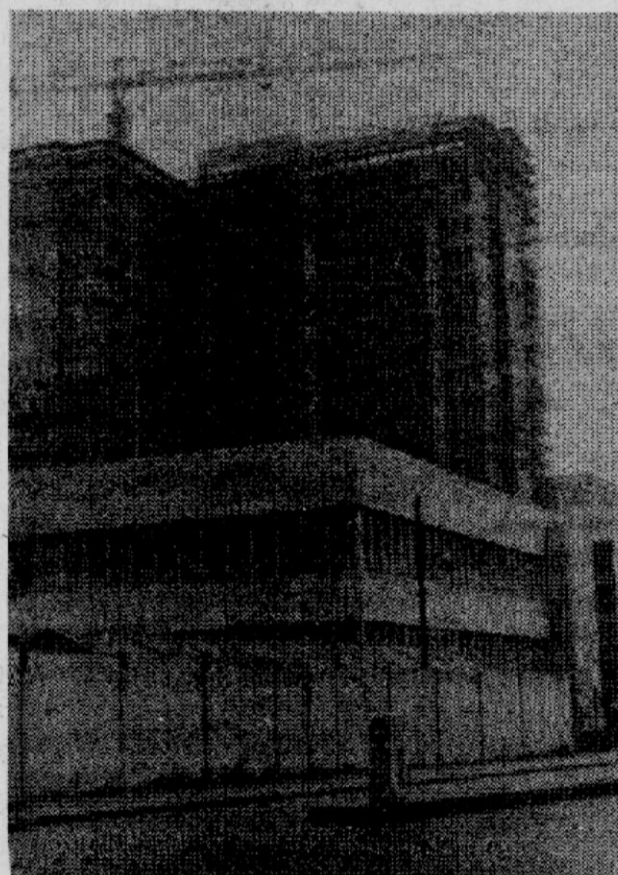
If the lifts are ruined the cost of replacement will be more than the cost of meeting the electricians wage demands.

Lowest paid

Main obstacle to the claim JIB (Joint Industry Board) which fixes pay and conditions for the whole electrical contracting industry. The board consists of 11 employers' representatives and 11 officials of the Electrical, Electronic and Telecommunications Union (formerly ETU).

Since the JIB took over all negotiations four years ago, electricians have become the lowest paid workers on building sites. No electrician can earn more than the fixed rate - no bonus, no dirt money, no danger money.

Although the meeting on May 19 was attended by all the contractors involved - McAlpines, Scotts and Lee Beesley - the representatives of the JIB who had been invited failed



The IRO building (St John's House)

to attend. As a result no settlement was reached.

Nobody would guarantee a wage increase - the only people who can do this are the JIB. The electricians and McAlpine's will be getting in touch with them.

UNION BLACKING

If the IRO building is completed without the strikers, it is likely to be blacked by the men who maintain, service and work government computers.

The Society of Civil Servants (Executive and Directing Grades, Data Processing Service) have told the strike committee: "If Scott and Beesley are successful in getting the site completed without the strikers then we will have no alternative other than to recommend to our members that they do not take up employment at the location or assist in any way with the work which is to be performed there."

● There will be a march round the IRO site on June 9. Details from Liverpool Trades Council.

Labour councillors who play truant

Over the last few months a strong lobby in the St James ward Labour party has called for the resignation of Councillor Bob Parry, who also sits as MP for Exchange.

The opposition to Parry mounted after his poor attendance at council meetings.

Parry refused to budge. But his critics now have fresh ammunition. The secret whips' report on Labour councillors' attendance at meetings of the city council - leaked to all the Press by most Labour councillors - shows that Parry comes bottom of the poll. Out of a possible 74 hours attendance, he managed only nine hours.

Free report

Frank Marsden, the Vauxhall councillor who also divides his time between Westminster and Liverpool, put in only 30 hours.

It's little wonder that the Scotland Road area of the city doesn't get much of a voice in council affairs. Their three councillors - Marsden, Orr and Dunford (now an Alderman) - only attended a total of 80 hours out of a possible 220 hours.

The loud shouts for the withdrawal of the Whips' Report were accompanied by some pointed observations that three of the six Labour whips (who compiled the report) hadn't attended more than 50 hours.

Free photostat copies of the Whips' Report will be sent to all Free Press readers who send us a stamped addressed envelope



Free tests and advice

A free pregnancy testing and advice service has been set up by the Merseyside Women's Liberation group. Anyone who wants a test should call at 2 Rutland Ave, Liverpool 17 (Saturday mornings only) with a urine sample, or phone 733 2100.

Women's Lib general meeting will be at 2 Rutland Ave on June 14. The members will be discussing "Women and work."

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Further events in the Merseyside Arts Association
FESTIVAL OF INDIA
SASIKALA - Classical Indian Dancer
Neptune Theatre. Thursday 1 June, 7.30

**IMRAT KHAN
AT THE PLAYHOUSE**

UNIQUE RECORDING EVENT - Mon 19 June, 7.30
Full details from the Box Office

RAVI SHANKAR - Thurs 17 August - Philharmonic Hall