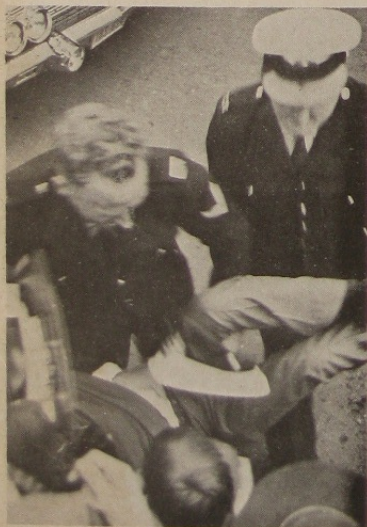


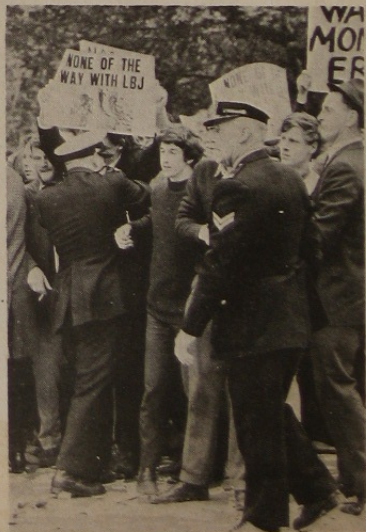
This pamphlet has been produced completely independently by a group of adult individuals concerned at the flagrant disregard for law and order shown by the police — local and Commonwealth — in their treatment of those who wished to demonstrate their dissension:

FACTS ABOUT THE ANTI LBJ DEMONSTRATION



On Friday, the 21st of October, many people gathered to show that they disagreed with some of the policies of the Australian and U.S. governments. During and after these demonstrations many ugly incidents took place. Some arrests were made and a lot of people were assaulted by the police. Some of these assaults were carried out in an exceedingly brutal manner.

Whilst it is recognized that in some cases the police may have been provoked, it must be remembered that they have not got the right to assault citizens no matter how badly they have been provoked. If demonstrators are to be convicted and fined for losing their tempers, swearing and assaulting others, is it right that police should have immunity from the laws which they are upholding?



■ FREEDOM & RIGHTS

about this pamphlet

A number of students have devoted a lot of time and effort at a critical time of the year, to help produce this free pamphlet. If you think that their effort has been worthwhile, you can send or leave donations to/at "The Pamphlet on Civil Rights"

C/- S.R.C. Office,
Monash University,
Wellington Road, Clayton.

The statements and incidents reported here are only the more prominent ones. We have collected statutory declarations from forty (40) other people, in which incidents involving unprovoked and indiscriminate police violence are described. These are available to any one who is interested.

If you are interested in further information on civil rights organizations, or literature on civil rights, such as a pamphlet entitled "What to do if you are arrested", contact the Monash University S.R.C. Office.

Collated by Phillip Fraser, Peter McIntyre, John Price and Peter Viola.

Authorized by Monash University Students Representative Council.

PRINTED BY — L. R. MCKINNON & CO

We apologize for the standard of photographs in this publication, but wish to point out that:

The worst examples of police brutality (at and near Government House) took place at night and the one Pressman who was interested in what was going on had his camera damaged. We have evidence that other cameras were interfered with and in some cases damaged near Government House and also at Princes Bridge and in Grattan Street.

Australians are very conscious of the freedom of people in other countries — conscious to the extent of sending troops to Viet Nam and Malaysia to give foreigners the basic rights that freedom entails.

SOME Australians disagree with the way in which this is done.

MOST agree.

NONE realize that many of these rights are being slowly eroded away in Australia. **If any people realize then they don't seem to be concerned.** We have book and film censorship to an extent unequalled in most countries of the world; government intervention in TV programmes; suppression of news by the press.

The most disturbing suppression is the suppression of the right to dissent. This right is being gradually eroded away. For example, the police in Sydney on Saturday, the 22nd, were told that they should take stronger action against demonstrators.

In a democracy a citizen should be entitled to present his views as long as he does not interfere with anyone else.

- ★ HAVE the police got the right to tear up the placards and posters of people assembled to so present their views?
- ★ HAVE the police got the right to 'move on' collections of people assembled to air their views in a democratic and peaceful fashion?
- ★ HAVE the police got the right to use indiscriminate force to make people move on? For example have they got the right to use a police car as a bull-dozer?
- ★ HAVE the police got the right to use the kind of language that they arrest others for?
- ★ HAVE the police got the right to smash the cameras of pressmen and others who may be recording evidence of their actions?

The police **have**, if the actions of Friday, the 21st, are to be accepted, assumed these rights. The public should be aware of the over-zealousness of **their servants** and exert what force they can to see that their basic rights are protected.

It is pretty poor when the police force whose job it is (among others) to protect a civilian's rights, is actually used to suppress them.

As President Johnson has said:—

Once a man has to whisper in the community for fear of police reprisals it is very sad day indeed for the community.



CLERGYMAN PUNCHED — KNEED

The following is a summary of the events in which I was involved on Friday, 21st October, 1966, in St. Kilda Road.

After the motorcade had passed there was a minor scuffle in which two people were detained. The reaction of the crowd in the nature of police actions seemed to provoke some police officers to further actions. One young demonstrator, known to me by sight but not by name, was involved in an argument very close to me with another person. As I moved forward to attempt to pacify him, a solidly built man, whom I later ascertained to be a member of the Stolen Car Squad in plain clothes, turned to face me. He pushed me heavily in the chest and shouted, 'Get back'. Even had I been willing to comply with such a roughly delivered command, I could not have. The press of people at my back would have prevented me doing so.

With no further warning or preliminary action, this policeman began to hit me. The ferocity and brevity of the attack make full details unclear but he delivered at least two blows, a 'fore-arm jolt' to my upper jaw and nose; and a knee to my groin. I was also struck punches in the ribs by at least one, and probably two, uniformed police. I do not believe that clergy are entitled to special treatment, but it is perhaps interesting to note that I was wearing clerical dress at the time.

It was found necessary for me to have chest X-rays and medication as a result of the body blows, and my nose is still extremely sore. It is my opinion that these police, in common with many others observed that day, used undue physical force on members of the public including myself. It is clear in my mind that they caused more trouble than they suppressed. Almost all the incidents were due to police action begun when the parade was past and the demonstration thus logically over.

PETER LANE.

T. V. CAMERAMAN KICKED

As an officially authorized Television Film Cameraman I was stationed outside the Royal Children's Hospital — Flemington Road — on the occasion of President Johnson's visit. The motorcade drove up and passed stopping some 50 yards ahead opposite a group of people with beagle dogs — my assignment was to obtain pictures of President Johnson with these dogs should he so stop. The President's car was followed by that of security men, one shouted, "Get out of the way or you'll get hurt". Almost immediately I felt what I assumed to be a kick in the groin and was grabbed by the back of the collar and thrown off the road. An American security man shouted, "Get out buster or I'll fix you". This man then proceeded up the route pushing spectators as he went. I must emphasize that I was wearing my Official Press Pass and a later viewing of my pictures showed that this man had approached from the front with fist raised. Further viewing of videotape and other film showed this same officer assaulting people. (Name supplied).

A. B. C. NOT INVOLVED

On Friday, 28th October, a week after the above incident, Mr. Taylor who is Chief news editor for the A.B.C., denied that any A.B.C. photographers or newsmen were involved in any incidents with police or security men.

He further stated that if the A.B.C. did possess films showing the alleged incidents, he would not be willing to release copies or even to show the film.

MONASH STUDENTS STATEMENTS

On Friday, October 21, many people from many walks of life assembled in St. Kilda Road to demonstrate against conscription and the war in Viet Nam on the occasion of President Johnson's visit. Despite the fact that the crowd in St. Kilda Road was overwhelmingly peaceful, the demonstrators were subject to petty harassment by the police throughout the demonstration, and on several occasions were subjected to unprovoked violence on the part of the Victorian Police, plain-clothes police (or security men) many of whom were easily identifiable as something other than ordinary civilians because they wore small white lapel badges.

Many instances of assaults on demonstrators and even bystanders have been reported and or collected by the A.L.P. and other organizations. The conclusion which inexorably emerges from the statements collated below is that the police acted excessively to disperse a crowd of people without allowing the crowd the time or chance to disperse quietly and of its own accord.

The following are extracts from some of the forty signed statements that have been given to us. Most of these are in the form of Statutory Declarations. The names of the signatories are included and their statements and the others can be perused at the Monash University S.R.C. office by anyone interested.

ALBERT LANGER

The uniformed police were taking practically no action at this stage except in one incident where a girl was knocked on the head with a barricade. I saw her lying on the ground and the police, uniformed and one plain clothes, putting the barricade up again. I asked one policeman and the plain clothes man for his name and number. They did not give it to me. However, I noted down the police car number on my clip-board.

Later on I saw this same plain clothes man tripping up a number of people and grabbing their placards. I also saw him seize a student reporter's notes which he was taking of the incident.

About this time someone grabbed my clip-board from behind. A fellow student said that he saw the same plain clothes man grab the clip-board and shove it up the back of his overcoat.

While I was in the cell a policeman — wearing plain clothes came into the cell. He pushed me away from the door further into the cell. He held me against the wall and asked me what I was studying. I didn't reply. He then bashed my head against the wall of the cell. He asked me again. Before I had a chance to reply he bashed my head against the wall ever harder. I then said I was studying for a science degree. Then he pushed me away, saying if I had said I was studying to be an idiot he would have knocked me unconscious.



Less than a minute after this photo was taken in Domain Road, South Yarra, the photographer, a veteran news-cameraman, was charged with using indecent language.

The photographer was then placed in the cells and bail offered on condition that the film be surrendered to police. He refused to accept this condition and bail was then not allowed until after the deadline time for that evening's television news film.

I called out 'Don't kick me'. Each time he did anything I called out 'Don't kick (or punch or slap) me'. He replied, 'Don't tell me what to do — I'll bash your face in if I want to'. I raised my arms in self defence — fists were not clenched — He said, 'Don't raise your fists at me'. He then kicked me and I again called out, 'Don't kick me'.

NOEL LETHBORG

A boy was thrown to the ground forcibly and lay on the ground writhing in pain. There were a number of people around the boy trying to help him. The police immediately formed a ring around the boy. A Security Policeman shouldered me aside and ran to the rear of the crowd. I followed him and watched him kick viciously (strongly) into the crowd. I am not certain that he kicked at the boy on the ground but I am certain that he kicked strongly into the crowd.

LIONEL BARRY McINTYRE

That on Friday, 21st October, about 8.30 p.m. on the Main outside Government House in St. Kilda, I was walking away from the drive when I was punched on the side of the face by a man in a grey suit. I presumed he was a policeman because he had a small white disc on his lapel.

SPECTATOR STRUCK

POLICE USE BATONS

ROBIN EDWARDS

On Friday, 21st October, 1966, after Johnson had left Parliament House, I was walking back to my car across the park. I had a placard in my hand. I stopped when I saw a plain clothed man (presumably a security man) hitting and pushing a woman around. Suddenly I noticed two security men coming towards me. One of them told me to drop my placard. He then tore it out of my hands. Then both men took me by each arm and pushed me backwards. I was then given a blow to the left side of my jaw, whereupon I fell upon the ground. One of the men said, 'Get going'. I immediately got up and started running. I was aware that someone was chasing me. I glanced around and saw the two men who had first seized me and several uniformed policemen chasing me. I ran about 200 yards across the park where I was caught and knocked to the ground. I was then hit upon the head with a baton. I told them to stop it. Then another uniformed policeman hit me in the stomach with the butt end of his baton. I lay upon the ground out of breath. They then told me to get up. A uniformed policeman then took me by the arm and led me back to where the incident had begun. One of the plain-clothed men kept saying, 'There's only one thing to do with these bastards, Jack'. Then a discussion followed among the uniformed policemen and the plain-clothed men. The uniformed policeman who had me by the arm wanted to know who it was that wanted me. (Presumably the two men who had first seized me had either not bothered to chase me all the way or had decided not to say anything.) The uniformed policeman not finding out the information that he required suddenly hit me in the stomach. I fell to the ground. I lay there for a while and watched the group of them move off toward the police car. I then got up and made my way to my car. When I got back to my car I noticed that I had lost my glasses which I must have lost during the incident.

KEITH JEPSON

I also witnessed soon after, an action whereby a bona-fide newspaper reporter (later identified as being Ian Carroll) was struck across the face and his notes forcibly removed from his person and subsequently destroyed, by a plain clothes policeman. The Reporter identified himself by showing his Press Card to the Security Man who remained silent. The victim had in no way provoked this incident as he was quietly writing his notes when the action occurred.

Sir,

For my own part, I waved neither flag nor placard. I carried a camera. I am not Australian and have been here but a short time. My one interest today was to record on film the reaction of the citizens of Melbourne to the visit of the President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson. I found that I faced many unexpected difficulties. Among them being direct and unprovoked physical assault by plain clothes security officers, and threatened arrest by uniformed police.

At about six o'clock this evening I was in Domain Gardens. I took a number of photographs while moving around the crowd gathered to see the President. Up to the time of his arrival it was calm; the road was packed with police. Those demonstrating waved banners and shouted their views. There were a few verbal clashes between members of the public holding opposite views. But I saw nothing more.

After President Johnson had passed I was located near the barrier closest to the gates of Government House. Close by there were three gentlemen, all of over average build, and wearing suits practically identical to each other. Several bystanders seemed sure that the latter were American Security Police. One couple in particular, a young man and his girlfriend were holding a loud conversation to this effect.

There was a general jeering by the crowd. The young man turned and shouted, "This is my country, not yours! Why don't you go back where you belong?"

The three men made no move to identify themselves, nor warn anyone. The young man addressed his girlfriend again, "They're just bloody thugs! Did you see what happened to . . ."

He was cut short by a shout of "Get him!" Two of the men rushed forwards, grabbing him by the arms. As he stumbled back, one of them hit him on the head and in the stomach. Before he could recover he was kicked in the groin. His girlfriend started screaming, "Leave him alone!", and ran forward. The other man headed towards her.

At this point he noticed that I was taking photographs. He stopped and swung towards me. I still had the camera to my eye when he lashed out, knocking the camera from my grasp. I stumbled and dodged as he reached out to grab it. I turned and ran. He followed for a few yards and then ran back to help his colleagues. I stopped behind a tree to check my film. The front of the camera was bent and twisted where it had been hit. The mechanism was jammed.

Before I could get my camera to function, it was again grabbed by a gentleman in a suit who stood by the van.

"Get that bloody camera out of here," he shouted.

A uniformed policeman then began shoving me back, threatening, "Do you want to join them in there! Use that thing and he'll smash it!"

On demanding the name of the officer who had broken the camera, and what right he had, I was given an answer which is unprintable. In retrospect it seems ironical that several demonstrators were arrested on charges of using offensive language in a public place!

(Extracts from statement.)
By Mr. Brian Walsh, 21/10/66.

PRESSMAN BEATEN UP BY STATE POLICE

A young photographer on the staff of The Australian was beaten with fists and truncheons by Melbourne police last night while attempting to photograph a man in the back seat of a police car.

The photographer, Michael Mulrine, 19, was in St Kilda Road at 8.30 pm last night when he saw demonstrators clashing with police.

President Johnson's car had passed on its way to Melbourne Airport 15 minutes before.

Mr Mulrine approached the police car and took two photographs of three men in the back seat — one holding his bleeding face.

Police jostled him and demanded that he leave the area. Mr Mulrine told them he was a newspaper photographer. A policeman swung his baton at the lens cover of Mulrine's camera.

JOSTLED

They demanded that he open the back of his camera and expose the film, and he refused.

A policeman seized his camera and tried unsuccessfully to open it. Mr Mulrine had been punched several times during the exchange, and struck from behind. The camera was struck with a baton.

Police eventually ordered him to remove the film from the camera and give it to them.

A plainclothes officer took the film.

THE AUSTRALIAN — Oct 22nd

Photographer attack claim

Victorian police have opened an immediate inquiry into allegations that a Press photographer was attacked by police last Friday during Melbourne's welcome to President Johnson.

Supt. Milner said today it was against police policy to hinder newspaper men.

"At the moment I'm not sure that the main person complained about was in fact a member of the police force," he said.

He said the photographer's complaint was the only one so far received from the public about the way police controlled the crowds at the Johnson visit.

HERALD — Oct 24th

THE DETAILS

We now offer a more detailed account of the Mulrine incident than published in The Australian.

Mr. Mulrine had been sent to Prince Henry's Hospital to investigate a report that some American Security Service personnel had been treated at the Hospital. So at about 8.40 p.m. on Friday night he was standing alongside the hospital opposite Government House Drive or on the west side of St. Kilda Road. This was several minutes after President Johnson had left for the airport.

His attention was drawn to a large group of people walking down the drive from Government House, several of them carrying a large white banner. Mr. Mulrine then crossed to the plantation in the middle of St. Kilda Road, camera in hand. A policeman alongside encouraged him with the words, "good on you"! Mulrine looked across to the east side of St. Kilda Road where a man was lying across the footpath with two policemen standing over him. Mulrine crossed over to this corner hoping to take some photographs.

By this time the police had bundled the protest man into a police car along with two other men, and he was sitting on the back seat holding his face in his hands, obviously in pain. As Mulrine moved up to photograph the three men through the car window a policeman obligingly moved some batons of the front seat. Mulrine then took two photos. The police now began crowding around the car and attempted to jostle Mulrine out of the way. Mulrine identified himself as a press photographer and asked to be left alone. The police jostling increased, one uniformed policeman actually grabbed the flash lead, thus forcing Mulrine to walk on for several feet; but he let go of the lead when asked to do so by Mulrine. Mulrine was now forced to move right away from the car, but he adjusted his camera and came back for a "grab shot". Once again the police attitude hardened; this time someone yelled to him to fog the film.

Mulrine was at this stage completely encircled by about twelve uniformed police officers and one plainclothes man.



Several events now occurred in quick succession.

A uniformed policeman stepped quickly past him, flicking out his baton and hitting the camera. This action severely jarred the camera, breaking both the film counter and rewind clutch.

A uniformed policeman again asked him to fog the film, threatening to smash his camera otherwise. Mulrine stalled by winding on film and repeating continuously that he was from the press.

This stalling manoeuvre resulted in the first assault on his person; a hard blow in the back.

Still refusing to fog his film, Mulrine received a second blow in the back, this time on the left hand side.

This was followed immediately by a baton blow which struck across Mulrine's gadget bag.

A uniformed policeman grabbed at his camera, but succeeded only in taking the lens hood. He then threatened to break the camera unless Mulrine handed over the roll of film.

Mulrine now wound the film back, hoping to substitute an unexposed cassette for his used film.

The plain-clothed officer now grabbed the camera and attempted to wrench open the back.

Mulrine now offered to hand over the film if his camera was returned.

The plainclothed officer moved in closer to him. Mulrine took his camera, opened the back and removed the film.

The plainclothed officer then grabbed the film and walked away through the surrounding police.

As the other police began to disperse, Mulrine called out to them. They ignored him, so he went up to one and deliberately asked him, "Why has this happened? Why did you stop me?" The policeman looked slightly ashamed, turned his head and walked off. At this stage a reporter from "The Australian", Brian Kitching, appeared and asked what had happened. Mulrine told him and pointed out a plainclothed officer. Kitching moved towards him, but was shouldered away twice by uniformed police. Mulrine then asked Kitching to stop, explaining that he had just been bashed.

Mulrine at this stage was quite dazed, and Kitching took him back to the offices of "The Australian". Ken Randall, the Melbourne editor, immediately rang Russell St. police headquarters and arranged to see Superintendent Milner. Randle, Mulrine and Roy McInnes later held an interview in police headquarters with Milner, who took a signed statement from Mulrine.

Soon after these photographs were taken, I was approached from behind by a plain clothed policeman who attempted to punch my camera from my hand. He was unsuccessful and hurried into the crowd. Two other security officers ap proached immediately after this occurred and told me to "get lost", which I promptly did. I later witnessed another attempt to wrest a ca mera from a photographer, by a security officer but after a long and violent struggle, this too prov ed unsuccessful.

Signed: John Walsh.

The most interesting portion of the statement dealt with a description of the plainclothed officer who took the film. Hatless, with short, thinning hair, medium build, aged between 35 and 40, and noticeably shorter than the surrounding uniformed police, he wore either a dark-coloured scarf or cravat and either a light-coloured suit or sportscoat. He spoke with no distinctive accent.

Mulrine later visited a doctor who examined his back, which was still troubling him at night-time when we interviewed him.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. Rylah, made a statement the following Monday to the effect that the incidents were being investigated by Supt. Milner. This was also stated by the Minister for Public work, Mr. Porter, in parliament on Wednesday. No further statements will be made until the police complete their final report on these enquiries.

Mr. Randall made a statement to me last Thursday on the actions his newspaper proposes to take regarding the assault on Mulrine. "The Australian" intends to obtain redress through the normal legal processes of prosecution for assault, theft and damages unless they obtain a satisfactory result from either the Government or the police force. This satisfactory result would entail the display of genuine concern and a public statement on proposed departmental action.

If Commonwealth Officers are found to be involved, it would also be necessary for the State Government to make a vigorous protest to the Commonwealth Government.

The Victorian Central Executive of the Australian Labour Party is also concerned. More particularly, they are taking action over other complaints arising from Friday night's incidents. A subcommittee of lawyers and Members of Parliament has been set up, which will issue an interim report this week prior to a full-scale enquiry.



12 PEOPLE WITNESS ATTACK

The following is a true and correct account of the happenings of this evening as witnessed by the twelve people, whose names are appended hereunder:

Mr. J. Dunstan
 Mr. M. E. Hamel-Green
 Mr. J. Hicks
 Miss B. Higgins
 Mr. J. R. Layfield
 Mr. K. R. Layfield
 Mr. M. C. O'Connor
 Mr. M. Radzner
 Miss H. Russell
 Mr. B. Walsh
 Mr. L. Wayman
 Mr. P. Wighton

The addresses of these people were supplied.

For an hour before President Johnson, of the United States of America, was due to arrive, large crowds had been massing outside the gates of Government House. Many were there to welcome the President; many were there to tell the President that all Australians do not accept his political and military policies unquestioningly. All seemed to be in good spirits at first. Good-natured chanting of "propaganda" slogans was carried out by both factions. Those welcoming the President of America chanted "All the way with L.B.J." and similar slogans, while those who came to protest chanted, "Hey, hey, L.B.J., how many kids did you kill today?"

People from both "camps" tried vociferously to "convert" those of the opposite "camp", by reasoned argument. There were many uniformed and plainclothes policemen on the road-way; the latter being easily distinguishable by means of their clothing, which amounted almost to a uniform and by means of the small white badge all wore in their lapels. Many plainclothes policemen moved among the crowds behind the barriers.

After the President had driven past at about forty-five miles per hour into the grounds of Government House, one of the plain-clothed policemen interfered in an argument, telling the man who was arguing against the war to be quiet. The plainclothed man with a white badge on the lapel of his coat spoke with an American accent, and was accompanied by others with white badges.

The young man became angry at this; "There was a general jeering by the crowd. The young man turned and shouted," this is my country, not yours! Why don't you go back where you belong?"

The three men made no move to identify themselves, nor warn anyone."

(Quote from Mr. B. Walsh, Statement made, 21/10/66).

Other plainclothed men moved close to the area. "A short, stocky man, in the midst of demonstrators shouted at a group of security policemen, '... You're selling our country down the drain for American dollars! It is my country!

Why don't you go home? — Mugs!' The security men had been walking towards him as he had been speaking, and at this last word one security man grabbed him by the arm . . . about seven or eight security men converged upon him and dragged him to the ground. While he was down on the ground they continued to hit him for a short while, and then they dragged him off. A man took a photograph of the incident, and they punched at him. I did not see if they hit him or not. Two girls who tried to drag the security men off the man on the ground were flung to the ground themselves." (Quote from Miss B. Higgins, Statement made, 21/10/66).

When the plainclothes men were beating the man on the ground, he was kicked about the head and was kicked once in the groin. He seemed to onlookers to become semi-conscious, and in this state was half-dragged, half carried to a waiting police van, on the roadway. He was again assaulted on the way.

"A young man with lightly coloured hair, aged 20 to 25, was being carried along by a plainclothes man. His back was to the plainclothes man, who had his elbow above the young man's neck, whose feet were above the ground. There were several plainclothes men following him . . . (they) proceeded to punch him, kick him and assault him violently about the body. Those attempting to come to his aid were violently pushed away by policemen and plainclothes men, who took advantage of the situation to start several other fights. The young man was then dragged away . . . they did not appear to formally question, arrest or charge him at any time." (Quote from Miss Megan C. O'Connor, 21/10/66).

A young woman, terrified by what she had just seen, ran onto the roadway screaming, "Leave him alone!" A large, thick-set man seized her by the hair and proceeded to drag her back to the barrier, hitting her about the head as he did so, still holding her by the hair, he pushed her head down, under the heavy barrier, and then pulled her head up, dislodging the wooden beam, which he then allowed to fall on to her head.

"I ran up and saw a young woman sitting on the ground just behind the barricade, dazed and crying, with her head turned into the breast of another young woman who had her arms around her. . . . Several people were taunting the police for hurting the woman. Someone said that the police had forcibly pushed her backwards, and she had hit her head on the barricade. A pressman with a cine-camera started taking shots of the woman, but a plainclothes policeman put his hand across the lens, successfully preventing him from taking any further pictures."

(Quote from Mr. M. E. Hamel-Green, 21/10/1966).

Plainclothes men then moved along the crowd, most of whom were demonstrators, waiting for the President of the United States to leave the reception at Government House. The crowd was shocked and incredulous after having witnessed the events described above. And so, the plainclothes men took advantage of the situation, and hit out indiscriminately at men, women and girls; they ripped posters from the hands of their owners and tore them up, all without a word of explanation. Complaints were lodged with the uniformed policemen, but they said, either that they saw nothing or that the men in plainclothes were American security agents, and were not subject to any laws, or any restrictions.

"I was watching a plainclothes man walking through the crowd towards me, and I could see his hands making short rapid darting movements as he brushed against demonstrators. Many people were being shoved out of his way, and stumbled into the other around them. I was startled by several loud bangs, and for a moment I thought that someone was shooting. I turned and saw a tall thick-set man breaking the shafts which had been supporting a large cloth banner. The man charged into the crowd, trampling anyone who was in his way. He headed towards me, and I stepped back to let him go through, but he stopped and punched me on the left shoulder, reached out and snatched my poster from my grasp, saying, "Gimme that". I asked him who he was, and by what right did he assault me and destroy my personal property. He grunted and continued through the crowd. I followed him. He walked up to a friend of mine, who held another of my posters, and ripped it up. A uniformed policeman was standing about four feet away. I asked the policeman to arrest this man, as I wanted to lay charges against him. The policeman refused."

(Quote from Mr. K. R. Layfield, 21/10/1966).

Many people tried to take legal action against these men, who refused to identify themselves, and many sought police protection.

"Then I saw a burly man with a smooth, rathel puggy face, wearing a hat and coat, pushing his way through the crowd, bumping against people . . . (he) went up to Helen (a friend). He took her poster and started to tear it up. Some people . . . formed a circle around him, and demanded an explanation. I said, 'That's her private property. Why are you tearing it up? What right do you have to do this?' Then he merely stood there and said nothing. Ken (a friend) said, 'This is the sort of freedom that we're being conscripted to fight for in Vietnam.' Other comments were made, but none were derogatory or insulting. . . . I saw some friends go up to a uniformed policeman and question him. They asked him about their legal rights in such a situation, but he said there was nothing he could do."

(Quote from Mr. M. Radzner, 21/10/1966.)

Uniformed police, while at this stage taking no part in the provocative incidents which were occurring continuously, told many people that the men who were acting in such fashion were Americans who had "Diplomatic immunity", and that they were outside the jurisdiction of anybody in Australia. However, anyone who attempted to defend themselves would be subject to the law.

"A plainclothes man was striding between the demonstrators. He approached one group, snatched a poster from them, and ripped it in two. He then strode on, barging heavily into people he came into contact with (including me), ripped up another poster, and finally stood, arms folded, a little back behind the demonstrators. The plainclothes man, after standing with his arms folded for a minute or so, went up to a group of people, and crashed his hand into the face of one of the young men. He then strode away. Those who were close by complained to the uniformed policeman who had been standing close behind them and had witnessed the whole thing. The young man who had been hit and done nothing to provoke the attack from the plain-clothes man. The uniformed policeman told them that he could do nothing about it."

(Quote from Mr. M. E. Hamel-Green, 21/10/66.)

As night fell, the assaults became more frequent and more vicious. The demonstrators were in a

highly frustrated state by this time. The situation was essentially that large men, who always refused to identify themselves as policemen, were able to assault people without intervention on the part of the uniformed Victorian Police, while if an assaulted person made any attempt to defend himself, or herself, he would be arrested on the spot, and beaten up by both plainclothes men and uniformed police. The demonstrators tried to shame these "men" into ceasing their unprovoked assaults, and refused to run away. The plainclothes men then resorted to a campaign of "terror", making threats to people, and often using obscene language.

"A man in a grey overcoat, with a small white button in the lapel, came up to my friend (Miss B. Higgins) and me, pointed to my friend's banner, which read, 'Protest Against Police Brutality', and said: 'Tear that up'. Barbara asked: 'Why? and when the man became insistent Barbara pulled out a booklet called, 'If you are arrested' to attempt to ascertain her rights. She voiced one question out loud, regarding what a police officer could legally do. The man made what we could only take as a threat to the effect that 'the answers you find in the book might not be what will happen here tonight'. He then forcibly took Barbara's banner and walked away."

(Quote from Mr. P. L. Wighton, 21/10/66).

One of the plainclothes men, against whom an attempt had been made to lay charges, and who had been described as an "American security agent", was later identified as the man who arrested and charged a young woman after she had been subject to strong provocation. The charge sheet which he made out against her identified him as a First Constable of the Fitzroy CIB. Yet a Victorian Police Force member, in uniform, had not even asked him for identification when a charge was made.

"About this time an increasing number of cars and couples on foot were coming out of Government House and along the road, and each was heckled by the demonstrators. With a friend, I went down to where the crowd was thinnest, about a third of the way to St. Kilda Road, and suddenly, some time before nine, a team of police on motor cycles came speeding by in formation, with a great flashing of bright blue lights and wailing of sirens at about sixty miles per hour, to be followed very closely by a dark, streamlined car. It was supposed to be the President, and the security men and police started herding all the demonstrators towards the main road. . . . I stopped and stared over into the park. I heard a girl screaming, 'No, that's mine!', and I saw a policeman confiscating and tearing up posters. At about the same time, I heard a girl sobbing and screaming in the centre of the crowd, and I heard people saying, 'What are you doing, leave her alone, for God's sake!' All this time people were being pushed and shoved in milling crowds towards the lights of St. Kilda Road.

(Quote from Mr. M. Radzner, 21/10/66.)

"A car escorted by several motor cycles drove at high speed away from Government House. Some of the police on the road said that it carried President Johnson. They then began ordering every-one to leave immediately. Most of the demonstrators began to obey this order and some, including myself, looked around for some friends with whom I had arrived. I started to move through the crowd in search of my friends when I became aware of the security men massing at the top of the hill near the

guardhouse. These men spread out and started moving towards the dispersing demonstrators. I saw a group of about ten of these men converge on a demonstrator and surround him. I heard somebody cry out, but did not catch what was said. I immediately started moving towards the group to see what was going on. However, before I had covered half of the distance I saw an arm belonging to a security man raised and brought down sharply. I could not see where the blow fell but the demonstrator was instantaneously catapulted from amongst the group. He hit the ground and rolled and skidded past me, ending up about 15 or 20 feet from the security men. He was laying quite still and was covered in dust and bleeding from the head. By this time there were many terrified screams from the crowd and some were crying hysterically. I rushed toward the bleeding demonstrator, intending to help, but the police, both uniformed and plain-clothed, shoved me away. The same fate awaited all the others who rushed in. Feeling rather shaken at this, I walked towards St. Kilda Road in the company of Helen Russell.

(Quote from Mr. P. L. Wighton, 21/10/66.)

". . . people could be heard screaming all over the area. I saw several groups of people being shoved and hit by the security men and uniformed police. As I moved closer to St. Kilda Road I saw several police (plain-clothed) sitting on what I presumed to be a demonstrator, and beating him. A man who was standing over him then appeared to kick him. A girl who was screaming ran toward the group but was flung savagely to the ground by a man. Several others attempted to assist the person being beaten but all met the same fate. By this time the whole area of the park seemed to be covered with screams and cries of pain. The whole affair seemed to turn into a nightmare, and there was no escape. Rather dazed, I met up with some friends and we headed for the road, being hurried along by the shoving and urging of police. Closer to St. Kilda Road I saw two reporters carrying cameras walking down the road. With a friend I hurried over to them and asked them what they thought of the bastardries being committed, and what they were going to print. They did not answer at first, but on pressing them continuously they said that they had seen nothing. This was rather strange as people were screaming and crying within a few yards of them. Further down the road I saw another youth set upon by a group of plain-clothed men. He fell to the ground and the police jumped on him and began to beat him. Feeling sick and disgusted I walked into St. Kilda Road and left.

(Quote from Mr. S. R. Layfield, 21/10/66.)

"I witnessed a young man being dragged and kicked down the grassy incline. He was thrown into the gutter pinioned by at least three police while a fourth proceeded to hit him around the body with his truncheon. He was screaming and incapable of resistance. While he was still being held a security officer ran down the incline and jumped feet first — onto his back. We were then pushed across St. Kilda Rd. Meanwhile a police escort followed by an official car drove at high speed down Government House Drive after which I only have impressions of running, screaming, and flashing lights and general turmoil. We hailed a taxi and went home."

(Quote from Mr. J. R. Hicks, 24/10/1966). This was verified by Mr. J. Dunstan.

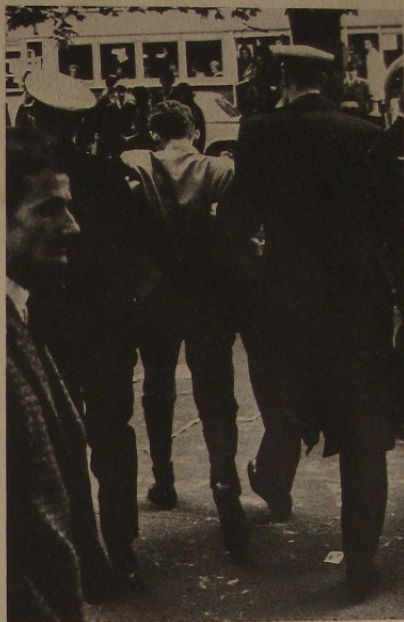
"A motorcycle escort with three official cars in it sped very quickly from Government House. There was some uncertainty among the demonstrators as to whether or not President Johnson had been in it (they were expecting him to leave Government House at any moment). Several uniformed policemen on the road near the barricade where I was standing approached the demonstrators in a friendly fashion and told them that L.B.J. had been in this last escort, and now they could go home. I told the policeman nearest me that I hadn't seen him in the escort (it had gone past so quickly that I had only seen a blur of faces), but he assured me that he had seen President Johnson in the right-hand window of one of the cars.

Groups of demonstrators gradually started to move away from the barricades, walking down the incline towards St. Kilda Road. As this general movement of people was occurring, I glimpsed several plain-clothes men striding among the demonstrators, snatching posters and ripping them up. A few moments later several running fights broke out. Amid the shouting, I heard a woman shouting and screaming, and saw a middle-aged woman being dragged along between two policemen in uniform. As I tried to get closer to some of the running fights, other policemen pushed me away, telling me to go home. Two uniformed policemen pushed and shoved me for about fifty yards telling me to go away. As they marched me away, I asked them repeatedly, "Why don't you do something? Aren't you here to protect us? You can see for yourself, it's not us that is starting it . . . they're deliberately provoking us; they're (i.e. the plainclothes men), the ones who're starting it . . . they're deliberately provoking us and beating us up." The uniformed policemen did not answer these repeated questions, but told me to "keep moving" and "you're using the word 'us' . . . don't you know, you're already talking as if you are a member of a group . . ." I then asked them, "Haven't you got a conscience, haven't you got a conscience? You can see that they are the ones who are provoking us?" One of them replied, "No, we haven't got a conscience . . ."

I circled back around the gardens to rejoin the main group of demonstrators. Near the bottom of the incline, close to St. Kilda Road, I met up with the main group of demonstrators. Police were pushing and jostling the demonstrators down towards St. Kilda Road. I saw a friend (Marc Radzner) punched in the stomach and double up; I went over to him and tried to guide him away. All the time the police kept urging and shoving us forwards. Right near the bottom of the incline, I caught sight of something more serious: several uniformed policemen were struggling with a man. A young woman nearby was screaming at them to leave him alone, and sobbing hysterically. I saw the man pulled down across the pavement of St. Kilda Road, with his head just over the gutter. Three uniformed policemen were pinning his arms and legs, while a fourth was beating him with a truncheon. They pulled him up and dragged him over to a police car nearby."

(Quote from Mr. M. E. Hamel-Green, 21/10/1966).

Suddenly, as I was standing there, looking around, a big man bumped into me from behind, and told me to get out of his way. I moved to the other side of the footpath, but he followed right close up behind me. He said, "Come on,



move along now". I said: "You asked me to move out of your way, and I did, but you just followed behind me." He told me to walk on, and I said that this was a public place and I could walk in any direction I liked. Then I said I might be waiting for someone, "in fact, I am waiting for a friend," I said.

At this point, he started to push me along, and John Shepsey came up to me and pulled me away. As we were crossing the stretch of lawn which forms a large V between Government Drive and St. Kilda Road, there was an uproar on our left and we saw both policemen and plainclothes men hitting and beating young men and girls. Then we heard screams and I saw one young man being held by several policemen, and being hit and bashed over the head with truncheons.

Michael (a friend), said, "Come on, they've got truncheons out," and we diverged to our right away from the bulk of police and crowd. We were surrounded — there were police and plainclothes men everywhere, before and behind, and on our right and left. The three of us were more or less running now, towards Government House Drive, when suddenly a uniformed Policeman on my right started swinging his fists around hitting wherever he could reach. As he ran past me he punched me quite hard in the stomach. I yelled, "Oh God", and I think it was about this moment, though it might have been sometime before, that we saw and heard another team of motorcycle police tearing down St. Kilda Rd. followed by five or more cars. This time it was the President who had emerged from the Trades Entrance of Government House. Meanwhile, over on our left, right on St. Kilda Road itself, I saw police half-dragging the man whom they had been truncheoning, still beating him, across the lawn, and they forced him down on the footpath with his head in the gutter. He was screaming and sobbing, and people were milling around, calling comments in a general hysteria."

(Quote from Mr. M. Radzner, 21/10/1966.)



"MOVING THE CROWD ON"

On LBJ day, despite undoubted provocation, the police showed just how incompetent they were in their attempt to handle the crowd. Before the President came, there seemed little to object to — the first unfortunate incident was LBJ's high-speed dash past the demonstration. This was probably the basis of all the conflict that followed. Justifiably or not, the 5000 demonstrators felt, for perhaps the first time in their lives the great extent of their powerlessness.

At this stage, even a few moments after the motorcade had passed, there was not much trouble from people that were standing around, and many seemed rather bewildered. The first unfortunate incidents seemed to start when police asked people to "move on". Ostensibly a reasonable request, this was in fact quite foolish in a situation of mass frustration, and is characteristic of the incompetence with which they handled the whole situation. They failed to see the benefits of saying nothing at all. Once the police had asked a few people to "move on", and jostled them a few times, the violence that followed was only to be expected.

In the following incidents demonstrators may have been at fault, but the initial lack of discretion displayed by the police shows an incompetence as culpable as the use of violence later on. It is obvious that if crowd scenes such as this one are to be avoided, the onus of action must lie most heavily with the police. They should avoid indiscriminate jostling, and realize that a frustrated and powerless crowd is perhaps best fit to disperse itself. "Moving the crowd along" only provokes anger directed towards the police.

LBJ visit charge dismissed

A 21-YEAR-OLD university student had two charges against him arising out of President Johnson's visit dismissed in Carlton Court yesterday.

Victor Watson, a commerce and arts student at Melbourne University, of Parlington St., Canterbury, pleaded not guilty to charges of offensive behavior and having assaulted police.

First Constable John Johnson, of the Breathalyzer Squad, said that he saw Watson among a crowd of students waiting for President Johnson in Grattan St., Parkville, on October 21.

Watson was waving a glass of beer and spilled some of it over several people. He was also calling to the crowd.

The chairman of the Bench, Mr T. C. Dolan, said there was doubt as to what actually happened and dismissed both charges.

SUN - Oct 28th

Police threat to a colonel

SIR, — I WISH TO ADD my voice to those raised in protest against the actions of the police, and more especially against several U.S. security guards, for their appalling behavior towards the crowd at the gates of Government House last Friday after the arrival of President Johnson.

Neither my wife nor myself had gone to demonstrate, but were, in fact, most enthusiastic about the visit.

Yet we were both threatened by the police, and one of the U.S. officials pushed my wife, causing her great concern as she is in poor health.

Having fought for my country in two world wars, I am greatly angered at the fact that both my wife and I were treated so badly, and especially at being menaced by officials of what is still, after all, a foreign power (the USA), whilst still in our own land.

CHARLES L. GARDINER
(Lieut.-Colonel, 1st AIF R'td, Eltham).

AGE - Oct 27th