

**DO YOU APPROVE THIS?**



This happened in Sydney only a few days ago  
**CAN YOU IGNORE IT?**

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# UNPROVOKED POLICE VIO

## A peaceful demonstration . . .

On Friday afternoon, April 11, about 500 students gathered on Sydney University lawn, in a meeting sponsored officially by their Students' Representative Council.

They were continuing the campaign of protest by student bodies against the Government's conscription of young men for the useless, unwinnable war in Vietnam.

They were addressed by ALP Senator L. Murphy, Mr. T. Uren MHR, student and trade union leaders. They cheerfully lined up (top picture) to sign a huge petition against conscription.

Then, carrying anti-conscription banners, they set out on a peaceful march into the city, along a route already approved by the police (lower picture).

Trade unions and other interested organisations met them by invitation at Chifley Square for a demonstration meeting outside the Department of National Service.

It was the second such demonstration by students in Sydney this year; if anything, this march was numerically smaller than the first, held early in March, when police made very few arrests.



SIGNING ANTI-CONSCRIPTION PETITION

BELOW: STUDENTS MOVE ALONG PARRAMATTA ROAD TO CITY



## BUT THE POLICE HAD THEIR ORDERS!

But this time, on April 11, State police preparations were on a scale that can leave no doubt their intentions were not peaceful.

In charge of police operations was Assistant Commissioner L. Newman, the second highest police officer in New South Wales. Afterwards, he admitted that 500 police had been mobilised from metropolitan stations to deal with the demonstration—"the highest concentration of police ever seen in NSW" (Australian, 12/4/69).

Part of this police army began occupying strategic positions near the university just after lunchtime. By 2 p.m., with police vans and squads in position, unknown to the peaceful demonstrators, the stage was set in the city itself.

Over 100 police cars were in front of the Commonwealth Centre. Reserves, emerging from lanes and behind buildings, soon surrounded the demonstration.

Then massive violence was launched against some demonstrators who approached the Attorney General's office building, Phillip Street and carried out a passive sit-down.

There, and outside the Wentworth Hotel, and later the Reserve Bank and the US Consulate, developments showed the police implementing a consistent plan of action in which they had obviously been well drilled.

At each place, after first allowing the demonstrators to form up in a group, police surrounded them on all sides and attacked with a flying wedge from one

end, while maintaining pressure from the sides.

In this way, scores of demonstrators were crushed against the front wall of Wentworth Hotel. Many young girls were nearly trampled underfoot. Arrests generally followed deliberate harassment.

One policeman, accused by an angry bystander of brutality, admitted: "Don't blame us, it's orders from the Premier."

Another said afterwards: "There'll be no more demonstrations now the students have a taste of firmness."

All these facts point to only one conclusion: A top police decision had been made that police were to terrorise demonstrators, especially students, to prevent any build-up of the protests on conscription and Vietnam in this federal election year.

# LENCE IN SYDNEY STREETS AT A SIGNAL THEY LAUNCHED A CALCULATED, BRUTAL ATTACK

**M**R. George Petersen, Labor MLA for Kembla, saw the outbreak of police violence in Phillip Street at about 4.30.

In a letter to Premier Askin, in which he protests in the strongest possible terms against police actions during the demonstration, he says he personally saw a policeman punch a student who was slow to obey a policeman's order to move on.

He knew also that a girl student was knocked unconscious. Although he did not himself see this, he saw the ambulance take her away.

Mr. Petersen says students' attempt to enter the offices of the Commonwealth Attorney-General were non-violent, and that the number of arrests was quite unwarranted by the situation, even on the Government's terms of "creating an obstruction."

Mr. Petersen adds in his letter to the Premier that although he was not himself present at the demonstration outside the Wentworth Hotel, he had spoken to several demonstrators, most of whom were not themselves arrested, and they had told him that they personally witnessed or experienced the following incidents:

- A girl demonstrator punched in the breast by a police officer.
- A baby knocked out of a man's arms when he was punched.
- A woman and her eight-year-old daughter both kicked by police.
- A policeman striking a demonstrator with his belt.
- A man carrying a child being pulled by his hair from behind.

Other people have reported seeing a pregnant woman punched in the stomach by a policeman, the pulling of girls by the hair, the throwing of arrested people into wagons with heads striking the step in some cases, and the arrest of elderly people quite unconnected with the demonstration.

In a repetition of a police tactic first employed at the July 2, 1968 demonstration in Martin Place, police removed their numbers at certain points in the demonstration.

The Federal Secretary of the Australian Railways Union, Mr. Ralph Taylor, has claimed that outside the Wentworth Hotel he saw a policeman remove his number badge and deliberately strike a young woman.

Mr. Taylor said: "I saw the policeman's hand fumbling just above the breast pocket of his uniform shirt. Then he placed something in the pocket, and immediately struck a young woman.

"When I looked to find the man's number to note it down, he was wearing none."

Mr. Taylor said that the incident, and others he had witnessed during the demonstration, had been a great shock to him. He said: "I have always been a believer in law and order."

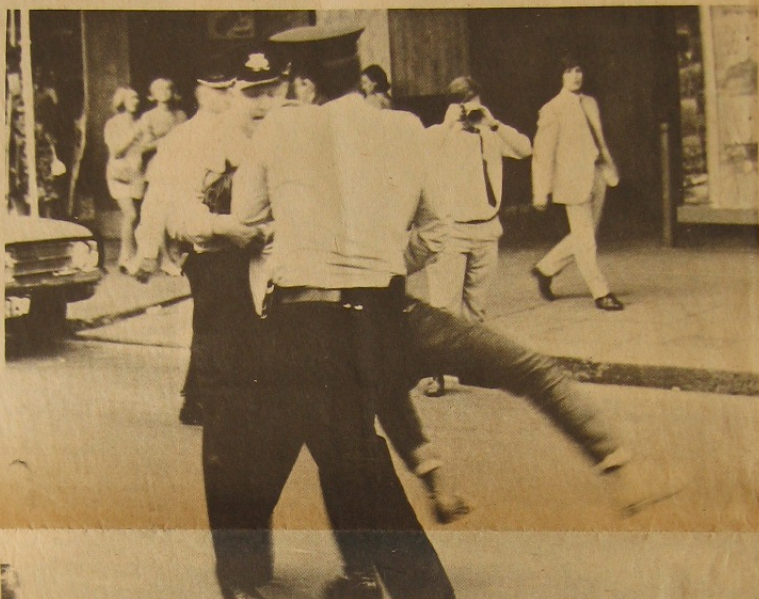
"I feel that next time I go to a demonstration I should be prepared to help defend those who have no means of defending themselves."

A constable wearing no number kicked a student in the crutch in demonstration outside the Attorney-General's office in Phillip Street.

A passer-by commented: "Isn't it nice to know we live in a democratic country?"

A constable allegedly kicked a student and his head was bashed against the patrol van — evidently deliberately — as several police threw him in; he had to be hospitalised. (Picture next page).

Manhandling and arrests of demonstrators continued for some hours as the protest moved from the Wentworth Hotel to the Reserve Bank in Martin Place, and then to the US Consulate in Wynyard Street.



**ABOVE: Let's show him who's boss.**

**BELOW: The dignity of man.**



## MASS ARRESTS — 110 SEIZED

# DEMOCRACY? Your rights are at stake



TRADE UNION OFFICIAL SEIZED



UNIVERSITY STUDENT FELLED

BELOW: HOSPITAL CASE



**MAKE YOUR PROTEST! DEMONSTRATE!**  
**Wed., April 23, 4-6 p.m., State Office Block, Phillip St., City.**

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HELP PAY for the 50,000 copies of this broadsheet that have been issued, and for the legal costs of young people now facing heavy fines for exercising their normal right of peaceful protest against conscription and the Vietnam war.  
 Send donations to: Mr. E. Boatwain, c/- Building Workers Industrial Union, 535 George Street, Sydney. 26-6471.