

**International Communist League
(Fourth Internationalist)**



THE LOGAN DOSSIER

Documentary Evidence and Testimony in the
August 1979 Trial and Expulsion of Bill Logan
from the international Spartacist tendency for Crimes Against
Communist Morality and Elementary Human Decency

Volume II

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Joel S.: Yes.

Logan: And you were involved in those conversations—in those discussions?

Joel S.: Yes. Absolutely.

Logan: Was there any dissent from them?

Joel S.: No.

Logan: Was there any dissent in the organization as a whole?

Joel S.: None that I can recall.

Logan: In your duties as treasurer, do you know if special consideration was given to Vicky financially before having a child?

Joel S.: Yes, Vicky was allowed—

Logan: Was given special—special money in some fashion.

George C.: Is that it?

[Trial body consults on schedule and procedure.]

George C.: Okay, proceed.

Marie H.: First of all, comrade Dave S. mentioned that the Logans used to read Vicky's correspondence. Now, part of the campaign against Vicky was that she didn't make available to the organization enough, the information she received through David's letters. So once when I came home from work I discovered them rifling her room and looking for her letters. After that they were more careful. The next thing is that I want to corroborate what Keith said in terms of the campaign against Vicky while she was pregnant and after she had the child. The only member of the organization who, you know, went against the leadership in this matter was [John] E___ and it was in the context of defending himself. But he maintained that the organization interfered too much in the personal lives of comrades. That was his whole argument. There's a stack of documents this high of the [John] E___ case and I'll read from one of [John] E___'s documents where he says, in the case of comrade Vicky, "It illustrated to me that there was little attempt to 'advise', persuade, or convince that comrade rationally, to have the child adopted. In other words, what I observed was uncomradely behaviour, shunning of comrade Vicky, and prolongation of her candidature status while I was in Melbourne and Sydney last year before my departure overseas." He's referring to '73-'74. And I'd agree with him.

Logan in answering [John] E___ simply, you know, talks about the red ogre who steals little children. He, Logan said, "The truth is that our advice to Vicky—that her contribution to the revolutionary movement would be very limited if she kept the child—started to carry much more weight with her as it became clear in practice that she was going to have continuing difficulty coping. It was the realization of this which led her to find a means of having the child far better cared for than were she to keep it and remain a professional revolutionary. Comrade John seriously denigrates the consciousness represented by a very difficult decision for

which Vicky must take full credit." It was a victory for the organization when Vicky had the child fostered out. Logan always—also says the fact that we "waited until the child was five months old to 'force' the mother to have it fostered must be seen as positively diabolic." Anyway, that exists in the written record. It's public in that we know that at the January 1977 conference of the Australian SWP these extracts in particular were read out to the entire membership, the extracts concerning Vicky's baby and John E___'s relationship with a comrade Suzi in Germany which Logan insisted must be tested for about six months before they could consider those comrades joining each other, because after all Suzi had f--ked a lot of comrades in the tendency. Those are the flavor of the regime which are public in Australia, which are notorious in Australia. And contacts we have coming around now even will ask about them.

George C.: Those should be part of the record. We do not have those documents.

Marie H.: Sure. On the period when Vicky was pregnant, in Melbourne, the campaign included a lot of pressure against her financially, because members then paid most of their money—most of their wages to the organization. After she had the child, which was in July, I believe, I want to read an extract taken directly from the official minutes of the organization in Melbourne. The point is named "Communists and Babies." The extract reads: "Vicky will probably run out of money very soon. Her payments of rent and food must be a priority. And she must be urged to return to work as soon as possible." This was when the baby was a few weeks old. The organization, in its minutes, is putting pressure on Vicky to go out and work. And so Logan's bleating and Adaire's bleating in the documents about how they looked after the child should be seen in that context. Okay, the point about—I don't know how I'm going—the point about sterilization—not only was there compensation in the rules, but the organization actually would pay for sterilization—that's how the rules were formulated. It only cost me two dollars, but, you know, if you weren't so lucky it cost you more.

And it certainly was probably a breach of the organizational norms, the dealing with candidate membership, but there were lots of examples like that. That was in a period when we had compulsory rounds in the organization. The membership was seen to be such stupid idiots as not to know when they didn't have anything to say. So that in meetings, you had to speak. There was no raising of hands. The rounds were compulsory. And that was a pretty severe breach of an organizational norm. And similarly was the open hand show for elections of leadership. But then there were no elections to leadership except later after the other comrades came in anyway. In each case when there were objections to such procedures, Logan would say: "It's Australia." And he's fond of saying he had to make things up as he went along. Well, he did it, and he knew what were the norms.

George C.: Okay. We would like a copy of all of those.

Marie H.: Sure.

Martha P.: I just have one question of Marie before