

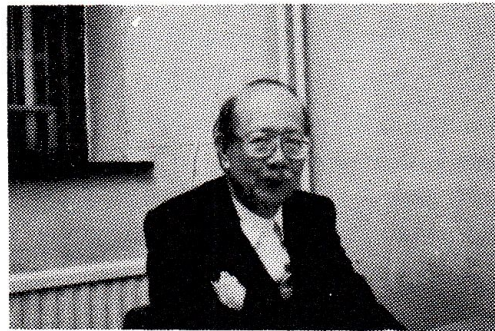
# anti SOCIAL un DEMOCRAT ic il LIBERAL

The lenient sentences recently doled out to the Guinness conspirators for fixing the market have been interpreted as a blatant case of one law for the poor, another for the rich. This is simply not true, though admittedly it does help if you belong to the right club: namely if in addition to being well heeled, you're white, move in the right circles and are committed to the Tory concept of monopoly capitalism. Though rich, Lorrain Osman is none of these other things, which may explain why nearly five years after his arrest he is still being held in Pentonville Prison without bail pending extradition to Hong Kong.

Lorrain Esme Osman is a 59 year old ethnic Malay. Mr Osman, who trained as a barrister and is a graduate of Cambridge, was the non-executive director of Bumiputra Malaysia Finance, a Hong Kong-based Malaysian bank. BMF loaned heavily to Carrion, a speculative property developing company run by Hong Kong's answer to Donald Trump. In 1982, after Mrs Thatcher upset the Chinese (the same way she upsets everyone), bellicose pronouncements from Beijing torpedoed the Hong Kong property market. One of the biggest casualties was the Carrion group, which was liquidated with debts of over a billion dollars. Subsequently, Lorrain Osman was accused of fraud and arrested on a warrant issued by the Hong Kong authorities; he has been in custody ever since. Two other men who were implicated in the Carrion affair were George Tan (who was accused of bribing Mr Osman), and Ibrahim Jaafar (who admitted

accepting bribes from George Tan). Mr Tan has since spent one day in prison; Ibrahim Jaafar was given immunity from prosecution, and allowed to keep his job with the bank. (Perhaps they drink Guinness).

Ernest Saunders was jailed for five years and will probably serve less than two years in one of the cushiest open prisons in the country. If Mr Osman is returned to Hong Kong, he will die in prison because he will be unable to defend himself against these trumped up charges and will, on conviction, receive a massive prison sentence. And, not one day of his past five years on remand will count against any future sentence. A number of politicians from all sides and both chambers of the House have already expressed grave concern over the treatment of Mr Osman. This treatment, or rather mistreatment, includes denial of due process and the deliberate withholding of over 150 documents on the case which could clear Mr Osman's name. The main 'evidence' against Mr Osman is the word of a self-confessed criminal who has been given immunity from prosecution.



To receive further information about this appalling abuse of civil liberties and to find out what you can do, please contact our representative here at Blackpool or The Friends of Lorrain Osman, Room 10, 29 Harper Road, London SE1 6AW (tel. 071-403 9377).