

## AT WAR WITH THE EDITOR: A DISCLAIMER

In 'Third Way' No 22 (August 1994), you kindly published a short study by myself under the title of 'Activists or Agents?'. It is therefore, with deep regret that I find myself forced to issue a disclaimer with regards to several editorial deviations from my original text.

I of course have no objections to you changing the title from its initial working title of 'At War With the Secret State', but you also omitted the sub-heading which read "A Review of 'At War With the Truth: The True Story of Searchlight Agent Tim Hepple', Larry O'Hara, Mina Enterprises November 1993). This sub-heading clearly highlights that my study was a simple book review with some additional historical commentary, and not as read, a political article on the subject of 'Searchlight' and the State.

However, there then follows a number of editorial changes which to my mind completely alters the gist of my review and more importantly distorts my own political persuasion.

1. "the true political agenda of the supposedly 'anti-fascist' magazine 'Searchlight' has been a subject of concern for those investigating the actions of Britains Secret State...MI5/MI6", ('Third Way' August 1994).

This should have read...

"the true political agenda of 'Searchlight' has been a subject of concern for those investigating the actions of Britains Secret State...MI5/MI6"

The difference here is that I was in no way implying that 'Searchlight' does not possess anti-fascist credentials, this to mind is indisputable, the whole point of O'Hara's booklet and my review, was to expose the true Statist agenda of Gerry Gable and 'Searchlight'.

2. "Larry O'Hara, an independent researcher of Britains 'far-right' whose roots are in Trotskyite politics", ('Third Way' August 1994).

This should have read...

"Larry O'Hara, an independent (ex-Big Flame; Green Party; International Socialists; Socialist Workers Party), researcher of Britains 'far-right'"

I feel that here you have used the term "Trotskyite" to imply that I was attacking O'Hara's political background, whereas my original intent was simply to highlight and not to attack O'Hara's background. It matters not to me one iota that O'Hara's political background lies in "Trotskyite politics", I simply felt that the reader had a right to know a little about the author of the booklet under review, the relevance being that O'Hara actually has a political background as opposed to being an academic with little knowledge of either the 'far-right' or 'Searchlight'.

3. "Gable has continually attacked O'Hara, either directly by suggesting a grand conspiracy between O'Hara, sundry fascists and our own Patrick Harrington...", ('Third Way' August 1994).

This should have read...

"Gable has continually attacked O'Hara, either directly through 'Searchlight' by suggesting links with Steve Brady (ex-National Front now Revolutionary Conservative); Patrick Harrington (ex-NF now Third Way) and Tim Scargill (ex-NF/BM now Class War Organisation) etal".

Firstly, you omit the names/organisations with whom Gable accuses O'Hara of links, a fact that I deem relevant since Gable implies that O'Hara is not so much involved in a "grand conspiracy" but is acting as a cohesive link between the various 'far-right' radicals and anarchists.

Secondly, the quote "our own Patrick Harrington", implies that I am either a supporter/member of the Third Way. This as you know is not the case; my position is that of an independent researcher of the 'far-right'.

As for my writing for 'Third Way', I am more than willing to write for any publication which offers me freedom from editorial interference, something which it seems I was misled to believe that 'Third Way' offered. Indeed the review in question was initially submitted to the 'Socialist Standard' for consideration, they in turn making the decision not to publish because "it concerns the sort of dispute between our opponents that we wouldn't want to get involved in".

4. You also completely omitted the final sentence of the paragraph which read...

"Felicitous to Gables plan was the visit to O'Haras workplace of two young 'Searchlight' operatives intent on photographing O'Hara in order make the 'target' more accessible to a larger readership".

Once again I felt that this sentence was important in that it informed the reader of the extent to which 'Searchlight' would stoop in order to harass O'Hara in order to maintain their position.

5. "In 'A Lie Too Far...' O'Hara described 'Searchlight' as "inveterate liars and disinformers...political vampires, seeking to suck the vitality out of the anti-fascist movement", ('Third Way' August 1994).

This should have read...

"In 'A Lie Too Far...' O'Hara described 'Searchlight' as "inveterate liars and disinformers...political vampires, seeking to suck the vitality out of the anti-fascist movement, the left and radical causes generally".

Your omission of "the left and radical causes generally" distorts the fact that 'Searchlight', at the behest of the State, seeks to manipulate and destroy all radical groups including such groups as the Animal Liberation Front, and not just the anti-fascist movement.

I trust that you will print this disclaimer of your editorial deviations.

Paul Cox, August 13 1994