

Anti-fascist smeared

INDEPENDENT anti-fascist researcher Larry O'Hara is circulating a statement supported by a dossier of material in an attempt to clear his name after the July 1992 issue of *Searchlight* called him an "errand boy" of fascist Patrick Harrington.

The article in question, written over the name of Ray Hill, but presumably with the approval of *Searchlight* editor Gerry Gable, attacks a recent piece by O'Hara in *Tribune* and slurs its author as "better known for his praise of Patrick Harrington's 'third positionists' and his attacks on *Searchlight* than for his support of the Labour Party".

In his *Tribune* article, which surveyed the current state of the British far right, O'Hara had suggested that Harrington's grouping, which left the National Front two years ago, had "dropped anti-semitism and moved away from fascism".

Regular readers of *Briefing* will be aware that an article by O'Hara in these pages drew an angry response from *Searchlight* and some sharp exchanges on the letters page. That there will be different assessments of developments within the far right by different observers is natural. However, *Searchlight's* character assassination exceeds the limits of healthy debate.

O'Hara points out, "It is not just in my personal interests, but those of the anti-fascist movement as a whole that such calumny should not be accepted as truth.

The point is not whether every single thing I say about the far right is correct or not, whether you agree with this or that point.

The point is, *Searchlight* is trying to close me down as an independent researcher outside their orbit."