

• **The Qld Special Branch and other stories** \_\_\_\_\_

Ian

First of all, can I just say that I don't consciously search your site - ever. I do have a system where my computer "Googles" my name every day. Today that search popped up my name with the link to your current article.

So, just as you would do yourself, I had a look to see what they were saying about me this time.

I was certainly not offended in any way. And as I have said before, I am quite willing to assist clarify any issues/questions in any way. I have to be able to do that in a legal and ethical way - and protect my years of research as well.

I have not published yet. I have two documents of about 120,000 words each. I am not sure whether to do a thesis or just publish - or both.

Re the arrest of Peter Beattie.

I can assure you the incident took place exactly as he described. I have all the documents to prove it and I am prepared to share some of them with you. He was chased into the Trades Hall and arrested by a Constable Daniels. He was injured and later driven home by police.

The results of the court case were well documented in the Brisbane newspapers at the time. (I have them).

Re the Springbok Tour generally, Make sure you get a copy of Griffith University's Griffith Review (Spring 2008 edition).

In fact, I would be surprised if you have not already read this publication. It is a great collection of works.

Look at page 77.....

Professor Finnane has written an interesting account of the Springbok Tour; assisted by some "insider" information from impeccable sources.

Re Special Branch files. This is the situation. It is no secret that a copy of most Special Branch files went to AS#0 soon after compilation. That happened from 1949 and I assume it still happens today - with better controls I would think.

Most Special Branch files were destroyed in the basement of Police HQ in the last days of the "Joh" government.

They were destroyed at the direction of the Police Commissioner and the Chair of the (then) CJC.

No files were formally lodged with State Archives.

Having said that, during my research I did find some which were accidentally filed there. Co-incidentally, they all related to the Springbok Tour; and were in fact copies of Special Branch files placed on files from the Commissioner's Office; and then filed. Pure accident that I discovered them. They have since been formally "discovered" by several journos during their annual (pre 30 year release) inspection of archive material.

It's no big secret. They mentioned them in the Courier-Mail. I have copies of all their articles plus copies of all the Special Branch files they found. I had to pay to get them copied at Archives; the same as any other researcher.

Noone can tell you how many Special Branch files were ever generated as they were never numbered. I

have a well researched "guesstimate" which is as good as anyone will ever get.

There is no doubt about the shredding of the files. AS#O conducted a major investigation into allegations that they received some; and that investigation report is available to you or anyone else.

In my work I look back at the history of the origins of Special Branch in Great Britain.

When AS#O was established in 1949, that organisation encouraged all Australian Police Forces to re-name their respective security intelligence agencies "Special Branches". A Special Branch officer came out from England to assist with that.

The Branch in Queensland was formerly "Special Bureau", but that was changed to "Special Branch" in 1950. Every state had a "Special Branch" at that time.

The Queensland Police Special Bureau was established during the great rail strikes of 1948.

It was established by Labor Party Premier Hanlon and its first charter was to conduct surveillance on rail unionists.

I expect to do more work with Professor Finnane in 2009; and there could well be some announcements re Special Branch matters.

2009 marks 20 years since the handing down of the Fitzgerald report and 20 years since the Special Branch was disbanded on the first day of office of the Goss Government.

I have all disbandment documentation. The Queensland Police Department decided themselves to disband the Branch; it's very well recorded.

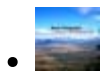
I am preparing a brief account of the Special Branch for publication in the Queensland Police Journal. That will be across two editions, early in 2009.

I am not sure what sort of working relationship I might have with Professor Finnane or Griffith University, so please just understand that I cannot disclose my whole account just yet.

However, as I have previously stated, I am happy to meet with you any time for a coffee.

After looking back over the information I have already provided to you today, I suggest you probably owe me a coffee.

Barry Krosch  
Kingaroy on November 26th, 2008



[We are all mates now](#), on [November 26th, 2008](#)

There are some bizaare aspects to running a public website.

One is that occasionally old enemies just pop up on the comments pages of the website.

This always sends a tingle down my spine.

You expect the right wingers, the racist haters, the Joh men (and women) and the just plain crazy to track down public utterances you make and those of your comrades from time to time.

As the former special branch officer, Barry Krosch, points out above it is all so easy with Google.

In the world of ideas and information everyone seems to have rights to share, it all seems so cosy. How

does Rupert Murdoch put it in the ABC's Boyer Lectures?

### **The Golden Age of Freedom**

For those of us who have tried and failed to build workers political organisation in Queensland, all this warm sharing 'democracy' seems a little too ... what is the word ... liberal (?)

When a former Qld special branch officer offers to share a coffee with you, it is more than that, it is truly weird.

Especially in an era when the old slanders from the Right seem to have returned, or just never went away. We have just been through 12 long Howard years where he rewrote the industrial record in order to prepare the way for bosses to hurt workers during the current global economic crisis. But hasn't it been like this for the past 30 years? With the economic rationalists in political parties, unions and community groups always on top.

Meanwhile the State continues to put political prisoners away. People like Lex Wotton. Serving 6 years jail for standing up for his community while Inspector Hurley runs free after killing Mulrunji.

Not so long ago political and industrial police put away militant unionist Craig Johnston for supporting members of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union [AMWU] who had been sacked and replaced by scabs in Skilled Engineering in Victoria.

Spies at the Australian Building and Construction Commission [ABCC] have been trying to put away union organisers like Noel Washington (till yesterday) and Joe McDonald. [See <http://www.greenleft.org.au/2008/776/40033>].

And on the 'war-on-terror' front, the Australian Federal police have been attempting to nail Jack Thomas, Mamdouh Habib, Mohammed Haneef and Terry Hicks.

In contrast to this, I can't get out of my head the equally bizarre statements made by ex-communists like Mark Aarons, when talking about the ASIO files held on his family and his comrades for more than a generation:

**"It (ASIO) is certainly a marvellous way of recording the details of one's life that would otherwise have been forgotten."**

[see <http://www.abc.net.au/dynasties/txt/s1504560.htm>

Perhaps I am missing something, but I do not get it.

### **Who set up the Queensland Special Branch and why?**

Barry Krosch answer is (above):

**The Queensland Police Special Bureau (later name Special Branch) was established during the great rail strikes of 1948. It was established by Labor Party Premier Hanlon and its first charter was to conduct surveillance on rail unionists.**

You would think this was a question and answer session at a Trades and Labour Council trivia night.

Well it actually was asked at a TLC trivia night in South Brisbane a couple of years ago, all the young Labor people present thought it was either the Country Party's Frank Nicklin or the National's Joh Bjelke-Petersen who set up the Special Branch.

Krosch may have the right answer to who set it up. Or was it someone above Hanlon in the Federal sphere, like Ben Chifley perhaps? What was the real reason? I will leave it to the historians to work out which version of history is right, if either.

## The Lives of Others

And now people who spent their time tracking our often poor attempts at building organisation, reporting these attempts to their superiors who, in turn, ordered our arrest either at demonstrations or in our houses. You know the people who put us in jail, these people who now offer to share a coffee with us. Is it because they think what we stood for is all academic? Just a clash of ideas? Or is it a strange idea of a shared history? Or are they after redemption? In some perverse way, thinking a comradely handshake of former enemies will make reconciliation possible, as if we were not committed forever on an opposite course all those years ago in the street marches.

A National Party politician best put this strange notion from across the class divide to a group of workers in regional Queensland.

He was speaking after the economic rationalists in the Labor Party government had amalgamated shire councils, thus shedding jobs in regional centres across Qld, all in the name of economic efficiency:

**"We are all mates now".**

Ian Curr  
November 2008



• **Errol O'Neill**, on [November 26th, 2008](#)

Ian

I found this exchange between you and Barry Krosch quite interesting. As is your analysis and commentary also.

The question of reflecting on the past is always a very interesting one, as we call up memories which are slightly different each time we call them up. Not to say that we necessarily fool ourselves into thinking that something occurred which didn't actually occur. But what's different each time is that our UNDERSTANDING of the recalled events has developed since our last recall. And, along with our understanding, our compassion and our willingness to forgive. I was once firmly convinced that I could never forgive political enemies, but now I have a different attitude. I will never of course be able to reconstruct Bjelke-Petersen into anything but the lying, thieving, undemocratic corrupt old mongrel that he was, but now that he is well and truly dead and I have had a chance to further develop my own attitudes to human life, he has become but a minor dead-end sidetrack on the evolutionary scale of human history. I was always disappointed (and remain so) that our society was not able to bring him to justice in his lifetime, and I remain constantly amazed that there are still people in Queensland who actually think he was not corrupt. But the fallback position one always has to be content with is that people have different attitudes and beliefs and there's nothing one can do about that, except to be true to oneself. And my attitude in this regard has been influenced by the example of Fred Paterson (Communist MLA 1944-50) for whom I have the utmost respect and admiration, who, it is said, urged us even to forgive scabs. Even my old dad wouldn't forgive scabs. But then Jim Healy also showed a great deal of understanding in this matter when he (for the very good purpose of building a better union) "forgave" the scabs in the alternative bosses' union and skilfully got them amalgamated into the one union (Waterside Workers' Federation) which then was able to do much to contribute to the industrial and political landscape.

I was there on the night of the Tower Mill police riot and even though I can now accept that there were many coppers who were simply "doing their job" and probably were Labor-voters anyway, there were many of them that simply found it quite a lark. There was a sort of class conflict clash - we were after all the "privileged" ones having a wonderful life at university drinking coffee and sitting around talking about the meaning of life, while they were out there in the working class doing the nitty gritty job of keeping a corrupt government in power!

I remember seeing cops chasing students down the steep hill of Albert Park in the darkness and kicking them, yes, actually kicking them when they had fallen over (you yourself may well have been one of the victims!). And yes, I remember the students who were pushed over the cliff edge onto the Albert Street footpath ten or twelve feet below as the chase ended. I saw some of the injuries they sustained. And yes, I still retain the anger and resentment from that occasion. But I would not let this stop me now, some

decades later, from having a coffee with one of the enemy, should they suggest it. I would take the opportunity to discuss the matter and ask them about what they were thinking at the time. Because if they've got this far and still think they were doing something good or noble at the time, then I would want to know how this state of mind operates.

Best wishes,  
Errol O'Neill



**Barry Krosch**, on [November 26th, 2008](#)

Ian

Mate

(Krosch mumbles to himself " No that's stretching the bow too far, Ian is an acquaintance")

(Curr mumbles to himself "Even that's stretching it a bit. I think I saw him in King George Square a few times - about 30 years ago")

As you are aware, I have been researching Special Branch for many years, and I don't respond on the internet unless I am sure I am 100% correct.

I have full details on the establishment of Special Branch in 1948. I have the directives from the Premier to the Commissioner to the OIC of the Branch/Bureau. This era in Queensland history is very well documented, several historians have looked at the Hanlon years and the great rail strikes.

Joh most certainly had nothing to do with the establishment of Special Branch; it existed long before he arrived on the scene.

That's an historical fact.

The federal government, did have an interest in security intelligence as well of course. As I also mentioned AS#0 was established around the same time, and for many years there were national conferences of AS#0 and state Special Branches.

I have all the conference Minutes for the first 30 or 40 years. As you know, Australian Special Branches began to be disbanded during the 80's anyhow.

All that aside, all Australian states had operated police security intelligence agencies for many years before WW2. In Queensland, most of the Queensland police officers from that Branch were seconded to Military Intelligence during the war.

I don't mind sharing my basic research material with you, or anyone else. I am very surprised (with respect) at how little (historically) you really do know.

For example, the facts surrounding the arrest of Peter Beattie are well documented and widely available. You could drive out to State Archives and get the lot this afternoon. The Courier-Mail would give you material and I could give you the material.

So it's up to you. If I can help you with any questions re Special Branch or if you need documentary evidence to support anything, just let me know.

The offer of coffee still stands, and will always stand.

I am not about to go top myself off if you refuse; it's your call.

We can visit the local RSL, where I have been a members since I returned from Vietnam. (That's another

issue; we probably should not go down that path?).

We can "do" coffee in any of the other venues in Kingaroy.

Or we can visit "Bethany" and have coffee and scones served by Florence and son John?

I can see the pic on your web site now. Messrs Curr and Krosch being served scones by Florence on the verandah at Bethany.....overlooking Kingaroy and the peanut silos.

(That's a joke, crack a smile.....)

However, if you want to do that.....

OR

The next time I am in Brisbane.

Regards

Barry Krosch  
Kingaroy



• [Ciaron](#), on [November 27th, 2008](#)

I'll do coffee Barry!

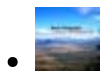
If Pacino and DeNiro can do coffee in "Heat" why not?

There's a former FBI guy (he's interviewed in "USA V John Lennon") he was only a couple of years of his retirement payout and was told to infiltrate / surveil a Catholic church group in the 80's concerned about Reagan's war on Central America. He refused, was sacked, blew his pension and joined the Catholic Worker. I met him on the steps of Congress during a fast by Vietnam Veterans against U.S. policy and had a very interesting chat.

Back in the day when Phil and Dan Berrigan was underground and was one of the "FBI's 10 Most Wanted" their mother was dying (in Syracuse from memory?)...the good nuns at this Catholic hospital gave the Feds the room opposite to the dying Mrs Frieda Berrigan hoping her sons would surface for a visit. He felt pretty guilty about doing that gig.

We all come from somewhere and Phil had come from a lot of combat in WW2 where he had killed a lot of people, he was still looking for redemption, I'm still looking for redemption, we are all in need of redemption. Maybe Barry's not looking for it but it would be an interesting dialogue to move beyond stereotypes of each other from those times. Hopefully Barry has been back to Vietnam for a visit by now?

And another thing, the violence unleashed by the Victorian Labor Party on nonviolent blockaders at Melbourne 2000 S11 Crown casino was far worse and more considered than anything I experienced in Queensland in the '70's. Ask my brother, ask my lawyer for confirmation.



• [Ian Curr](#), on [November 27th, 2008](#)

Hello all,

I am grateful for your comments.

It may be worth while tracing back as to why the above discussion came about.

I say this because the comments above while interesting miss the original point of the story. I apologise as this may have been partly my fault because in my reply I correctly challenged the claim that Peter Beattie was arrested in the street marches of the 1970s but incorrectly challenged the claim that Beattie was arrested at the anti-racism demonstration during the Springbok tour in 1971 (yes, that far back).

My piece titled 'Political Leadership' (or lack of it) was not about Qld Special Branch but a response to a short article by Humphrey McQueen titled '[The Very Right-wing Rev. Rudd](#)'.

The special branch issue arose as a side issue from the following remark by Humphrey McQueen:

**What has Rudd ever done to show that faith without works is dead?**

**Did he ever join a non-violent protest?**

**Has he put himself in the way of getting arrested in support of a just cause?**

**Even Peter Beattie got nicked during one of the Brisbane Street Marches.**

**Rudd belongs to the would-to-God Brigade:**

**"Would-to-God that I had been born in Germany in 1900, for then I too could have been a martyr."**

I made a minor reference to Beattie's arrest and the special branch which excited ex-Qld Special Branch officer, Barry Krosch, who has a Google Alert system for his name and special branch for research reasons.

And hence the subsequent discussion.

So the original point was about Rudd's Christianity and about his politics.

It is a strange a perverse world we live in.

A place where conflict of the ancient world is still played out.

The West went to war against Islam.

As a result the insane killing yesterday where young Mujahideen shot people randomly in Mumbai Central railway station and nearby hotels.

Why doesn't the West call off this crazy war?

Will Obama call it off?

Will the British government? Will the Very Right-wing Rev. Rudd?

Where is [the political leadership](#)?

Peace can only come from ordinary people, workers, who refuse to fight and refuse to build the war machines.



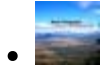
**Errol O'Neill**, on [November 28th, 2008](#)

Ian

There's nothing wrong with one thing leading to another. A discussion may have started with a reference to Beattie and the Springbok tour in the larger context of a critique of Rudd. But it's not surprising that we are

led thereby to examine the Qld Special Branch in more detail. Joining the dots is what intelligent discussion is all about. And the reason is that the apparent randomness and chaos all around us is actually driven by certain principles of action and belief. Indeed, the CLASH of these principles. The more we examine apparently unconnected events, the more we discover the same principles motivating different people in different time periods. We can't just lose interest in one concern (the desire to analyse and explain the horrors of the corrupt Bjelke-Petersen government and the role played by Barry Krosch and his colleagues in supporting that obscenity) and shift all our attention to another concern (the current conflict between east and west). I think that to understand the Special Branch experience in Queensland 30 years ago will actually help me (and probably countless others who've come out of the same experience) to understand the more pressing contemporary problem of east vs west. I for one am surprised that someone who actually worked for the Special Branch has popped his head up after all these years and seems prepared to talk about that gross injustice as though it was just some ordinary bit of police work, like investigating a break and enter, or directing traffic. I note that Barry is at pains to remind us that it was Hanlon who invented the Special Branch and not BjelkeCorruptPetersen. Well, yes, this has been general knowledge for a long time. Similarly, it was Hanlon who invented the gerrymander and not BjelkeCorruptPetersen. Who started some injustice is not the point. The point is: who continued the injustice? Who knowingly supplied the effort to keep unjust systems operating? How did they rationalise this work to fit with their concepts of duty, liberty, etc? I have many questions to pose to Barry and hope to do so shortly.

Best wishes,  
Errol O'Neill



**Ian Curr**, on [November 28th, 2008](#)

Hello Errol,

To take up one of 'the dots' you mentioned ... I will try not to 'shift all our attention to another concern'.

### **Scabs**

You said your dad would not forgive scabs.

Our fathers and mothers lived through the period of some of 'the big strikes' that former ALP leader and legend, Dennis Murphy, described in his book of the same name.

Strikes that prompted ALP Premiers like Hanlon and Chifley to use force against workers and their unions — force in the form of police (Hanlon) and the army (Chifley).

This repression of workers and their organisations required a secret police force to entrap and provoke ordinary workers, unionists. The Special Branch used 'guilt by association' to weaken worker organisation.

Working class organisation does not come from people who live in a world of ideas, academics like [Dennis Murphy](#), despite the fact that Murphy (1936-1984) lived during an era when 'the clash' (as you put it) was strong.

Working class organisation was stronger then.

But it lost its strength from that time on, 30 years ago. Ironically Dennis Murphy chose to describe the very strikes that his party, the ALP, had done so much to sell-out.

One sell-out Murphy did not live long enough to describe was the [SEQEB dispute](#).

Still, it is not surprising workers from the 1950s or 60s would refuse to forgive 'scabs' in later life.

### **The Big Strikes**

Their attitude comes from a set of experiences in the workplace, in the union. As you have documented yourself in your plays "*On the Whipping Side*" and "*Faces in the Street*" this was not the first time in Australian history, it happened in the 1890s, and again in the 1912 and later in the 1920s when working

class organisation was stronger than it is now, ironically at the time of the Great Depression (1929).

**The coming of global economic crisis to Australia is the first time the working class has faced such a crisis with such poor organisation in the past 100 years (13% union membership in the private sector). Even at the outset of the 1912 Brisbane Tramway Strike, described in your play *Faces in the Street*, union participation rate was about 20% across the workforce in Australia. By the Stock market crash of 1929 it had risen to over 50% participation rate.**

### Workers Political Organisation

During the past 30 years the economic rationalists (or whatever you wish to call them) have been everywhere, in the unions, in the Labor party, in management, in the workplace — everywhere.

Perhaps this explains, in part, an attitude to forgive scabs?

An alternative to acceptance is described in the LeftPress publication "[After the Waterfront - the workers are quiet](#)" This book talks about the need to set up workers political organisations [WPOs], not unlike the WPOs set up in the late 1890s and early 1900s, he says with more than a little optimism.

in solidarity

Ian Curr

PS It is naive to think that Barry Krosch and people like him just 'pop up' out of the blue. They are there all the time, often in working class organisations, and it is not redemption they seek.

Ciaron, your hope of the copper that turns in the hope of redemption comes rarely. And what does it achieve? Remember Michael Egan.

**References:** [Faces in the street : a story of the 1912 Brisbane general strike - a play / by Errol O'Neill](#)

[Popular front : a play / by Errol O'Neill ; foreword by Patsy McCarthy](#)

[The Big Strikes : Queensland 1889 - 1965 by Dennis Murphy, St Lucia 1983.](#)



• **Errol O'Neill**, on [November 29th, 2008](#)

Ian

Thanks for your comments. And I realise that this side track into the Qld Special Branch came up as a one-off in the discussion of something probably more relevant to the current situation which we and the world are in. I am not uninterested in the inspection of Rudd by such luminaries as Humphrey McQueen, nor am I uninterested in the pressing problems of the so called war on terror and the hypocrisy of the Americans (and therefore of the Australians) in the matter. I read all the stuff I see, but, unless I can contribute something new to the discussion, I don't offer anything. But, if you will indulge me a little, I would like to have one more stab at the Special Branch issue, believing it to be fortuitous that such a thing as your website can bring together many related issues in a very immediate way. Now, to get a discussion of the Special Branch going at a public meeting these days would be just not a conceivable thing. But here, where the would-be participants in such a discussion can easily communicate, it strikes me as silly not to take it a little further distance, for the sake of those (however many of us there are) who might find it beneficial, or at least stimulating.

I know the Special Branch is something that most of us are well and truly over, as they say. But the interesting aspect here that makes it not just a regurgitation of the past struggles among those affected is that there is a former Special Branch officer who seems, apparently, to express no shame or guilt about taking part in the gross injustice which the actions of the Branch represented during the period of BjelkeCorruptPetersen's government. Barry Krosch seems quite happy to identify himself and his locality — the very symbolic locality of Kingaroy. And I find this quite fascinating. As I said previously, I have a

number of questions to pose to Barry.

There were an enormous number of Special Branch files and the men chosen (I can't imagine there would have been any women police officers engaged in this task, but perhaps Barry could enlighten us) to compile them were pretty intelligent and ambitious policemen. How, I wonder, did they reconcile their intelligence and their respect for law with what they were actually being asked to do?

I got a job in the government sector in the early seventies and was summarily dismissed after a fortnight when the "security checks" were completed – and there was no other reason for dismissal except my Special Branch file. Not a criminal record, mind you, just a Special Branch file. I know that there were many others who were similarly blacklisted.

I wonder, Barry, what you and some of the others might have done when you learned of the nefarious activities that Special Branch or other police carried out – abducting and frightening students in the backs of police cars late at night, pointing guns at their heads and other such "security" measures. When you learned about these events, did you laugh along with the others or did you report this (who to? – yes, that would have been a problem at the time) as something cops shouldn't have been doing? Did it worry you? Did you pretend not to notice? Take us into your confidence, Barry, tell us what exactly you did do when you realised one of your colleagues had gone too far.

I wonder if Barry could tell us what he and his colleagues did with their consciences as they sat in their Falcons in their suits and hats and photographed us walking in and out of buildings. Did they have a special place to put their consciences when they arrived at work so the damned pesky things wouldn't have to accompany them on the job and cause unnecessary delays, clogging up their smooth operations with moral quandaries?

Or perhaps there was a Special Branch chaplain who went around and visited the men regularly much as a padre might do in the trenches – imagine the scene:

**CHAPLAIN: Morning, Barry, Les, Don, Leo... others. Now I know some of you have expressed qualms about the moral aspects of these files you're fattening, but I'm here to tell you not to be concerned. I've just checked with the Leader and don't you worry about that. Whatever it takes, he says. And remember, there's only one way to secure preferment...**

**LES: But Padre, is it true that our subjects will never be able to get a job in the public service on account of these files, even though they've done no criminal activity?**

**CHAPLAIN: Les, don't worry. It's not you who's making sure they never get a government job. Anyway, you wouldn't want people like these unwashed animals working in the same public service as you, would you? There's a higher authority who has all the moral concerns under control. He's prepared to take full responsibility.**

**DON: Phew, thanks, Padre, that's a load off my mind.**

**BARRY: Me too. I don't fancy being in the firing line when all this is revealed...**

**LEO: What do you mean "revealed"? This stuff will never be revealed.**

**BARRY: No, I mean, what if somebody starts asking uncomfortable questions on a website or something, long after we shred the files just hours before the imminent arrival of the Goss government (assuming they will have more than a passing interest in such files)?  
(the Chaplain and the Special Branch men all look at Barry)**

**LES: What's a website, Barry?**

**CHAPLAIN: Barry, have you been time-travelling again?**

**BARRY: Well, I just wanted to check if we'd be okay on this...**

**CHAPLAIN: Lack of faith, Barry. I told you before, just do your work and you'll never have anything to fear. It's God's work, after all.**

**LES: Yes, you've explained that, Padre. These people are commos, ratbags, subversives. They think it's all right to read books, discuss philosophy, and imagine a better world. I mean, that's pretty depraved, isn't it?**

**DON: They don't deserve civil liberties.**

**LEO: Too good for 'em. They shouldn't even have been taught to read in the first place.**

**CHAPLAIN: You see, Barry, it's not worrying your comrades, why should it worry you?**

**LES: Er, Padre...**

**CHAPLAIN: What, Les? Oh, you're concerned about my use of the word "comrade". Yes, I know, it's a bit risqué, isn't it? After all, it's the word they use among themselves. I guess I picked it up when I was doing that undercover work on campus a couple of years ago. Now, Barry, hand over the keys to the time machine.**

**BARRY: Ok, Padre, here they are. I'm sorry. I won't doubt in the future. And even if it all goes bad, which it won't, I know I can make a career out of research.**

**CHAPLAIN: Now, men, don't let the innocent faces of the enemy trick you. Behind those fresh young smiles and idealistic dispositions there is an evil reality. Just imagine what Queensland would be like if we ever let any of them emerge out of this era with credibility. Now I want you to take out your combined National Party DLP hymn books and sing with me...**

Yes, Barry, while I probably will never have a coffee with you, I think you owe some of us a bit more of an explanation, even though you are probably taking umbrage at this reckless and possibly "undergraduate" lampooning from someone with little respect for the work of one small section of Bjelke's army during the war.

Thanks, Ian, for your indulgence.

And thanks, Barry for what I'm sure will be a totally honest, warts-and-all explanation of your work and the work of your colleagues in that distant golden era, in the very near future.

Errol O'Neill



• [Ciaran O'Reilly](#), on [November 29th, 2008](#)

What I find ironic is that Goss attended "Taking it to the Streets" exhibition opening when his government (Rudd as right hand man) sent all my previous civil liberties convictions (illegal procession, handing out leaflets, illegal assembly, placards larger than 24 inches by 24 inches) to the F.B.I. to get me more prison time in the U.S.

When McEnroth was questioned about this he replied "Justice has to be done!" The U.S. prosecution tried

to introduce them in trial to the jury as proof of my "habitual criminality". The defence called for an offer of proof, the jury was removed and the judge was taken through every conviction and description of arrest from Oct. '77.

For some reason once he gave up the ghost after the description of me arrested dressed as an angel in a pink gown with radiant wings at a nativity blockade of a nuclear warshipvisiting Brisbane one Christmas time. The judge ruled that such activities would not be classified as crimes under the U.S. constitution guaranteeing free expression.

While awaiting trial in Ireland, the Queensland Labor government moved against my registration as a school teacher based on my "bad character" based on my civil liberties convictions of the '70's. Thanks to the solidarity of lawyer Phil Hall, Drew Hutton, Noel Preston, Jim Dowling, my brother Sean and folks from around the world who wrote character references we had a successful hearing in my absence and I remain registered. Hopefully they won't go after the next guy or gal with similar convictions from the '70's. Convictions I'm sure the Labor Party promised to erase once they came to government.



• [After Joh](#), on [November 29th, 2008](#)

Hello Errol and Ciaron,

This is not the first time Barry Krosch has turned up on Workers BushTelegraph, he last fronted in late 2006 and then again in early 2007. Ciaron may remember the exchange, particularly [the conversation between Krosch and John Tracey](#) in the comments to the article [Not Guilty](#)

*Bjelke's army during the war, perhaps Barry could enlighten us?*

Errol, you may wish to reconsider this question, probably tongue-in-cheek, after you read the thread of that conversation where Krosch denied:

- 1) going around arresting students
- 2) playing any part in the arrest of Terry O'Gorman at Parliament House in 1979;
- 3) being a spy on University of Queensland (UQ) campus; and,
- 4) that Special Branch kept files on students (at University of Queensland).

All of these statements are untrue. To see why visit comments in the thread near <http://bushtelegraph.wordpress.com/2006/10/28/not-guilty/#comment-87>. It is worthwhile reading the article itself, [Not Guilty](#).

*I can't imagine there would have been any women police officers engaged in (Special Branch duties)?*

There was at least one female member of special branch, a Detective (Mrs) Reid. In 1978 Det. Reid helped plain clothes police arrest and verbal me on a charge of conspiracy to breach the peace in the night time. Det. Reid and other Special Branch police are pictured at <http://bushtelegraph.files.wordpress.com/2007/02/special-branch-outside-griffith-uni-1978.pdf> after they had arrested 8 people (including myself) at Griffith University in 1978 [There are 3 photos in this PDF file the first two show the police intelligence personnel at a street march and the third shows my arrest by Det Sgt Glancy and another detective. Barry Krosch has his back to the camera in the first photo, and Det. Reid is the plainclothes female detective wearing sunglasses.

*Special Branch is something that most of us are well and truly over*

For mine it is too glib to turn 'the other cheek' and seek solace in writing amusing satirical exchanges between a police chaplain and special branch cops. The Bjelke-Petersen government did things with police (including Special Branch) assistance during that time which will never leave me.

For what it is worth, for those seeking redemption and those who think it possible, my view is that christian forgiveness is simply a denial of history of the Bjelke-Petersen regime, especially when some did not survive the ordeal, either through loss of jobs (SEQEB) or physically - I refer here to suspicious deaths in custody,

both black and white but particularly aboriginal deaths, the OH&S accidents of SEQEB workers, the mining disasters and other fatalities traceable back to that regime. Of course, some of these deaths continued after Bjelke-Petersen despite (or because of) nearly 20 years of Labor rule since.

I feel glad and lucky that I did (survive).

### **Other Intelligence Agencies**

Bear in mind that the CIA (& ASIO) keeps an eye on websites which challenge the dominant paradigm. The main CIA computer surveillance of emails and websites in Australia is situated at Pine Gap in Central Australia. If you look at [the map of Australia](#) on the [Iraqi Beacon](#) website counter you can actually see the visits by CIA computers (with their unique IP address at Pine Gap) to Iraqi Beacon (which is a local website). Just look at red dot in the middle of the map of Australia, that's Pine Gap. To see it click on <http://www4.clustrmaps.com/counter/maps.php?url=http://iraqibeacon.wordpress.com>

Needless to say, the Rudd labor government supports this US spy base on Australian soil.

Keep a clean nose, watch out for plain clothes.

Ian Curr  
30 November 2008