

Evening News

LONDON: THURSDAY OCTOBER 27 1977. 8p

Rape protest is foiled by police

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The attempted invasion was to protest against a six-month sentence Judge Mason

imposed last week on naval officer Maurice Markham, 19, for attempted rape. The judge said he hoped the navy would reinstate Markham.

Protest leader Ruth Hall, 27, said: "We are angry that judges are freena rapists so they can still serve their country."

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"The judge's sentencing was a replica of the Holdsworth case, the guardsman freed in June."

The protesters carried on chanting outside the court building and later warned: "You judges can't expect any peace. We will be back."

Another protester Joanna Castella, 21, claimed a nine-year-old girl Maxine, who came with her, had been injured as police banded them out of court.

Evening News
27/10/77

Evening Standard

47,506

London: Thursday October 27 1977

TRN

Women in rape demo

FIFTEEN women stormed into a London court today protesting about a sentencing judge's sentence.

Two of the women, one claiming a nine-year-old girl were carried, stumbling from Sharnbrook Crown Court, Wanslet, by police.

The women, with ten children, burst through the front entrance past startled court officials, and tried to force their way into Court One, where Judge Peter Mason was hearing a case.

Last week, the 38-year-old judge, a former Army officer, sentenced Royal Navy sailor

Maurice Markham, 19, to six months' prison.

Markham had admitted trying to rape a girl he met at a dance hall, and battering her about the face.

He told Markham at Sharnbrook: "It would be a crying shame if the country lost your service. It might be best after your sentence this whole thing is forgotten and you are reinstated in the Royal Navy."

Judge Mason sat undisturbed as the screaming women tried to force their way into the courtroom.

Evening Standard 27/10/77

FC, Castella 4, 41

THE GUARDIAN

Tuesday November 29 1977

Women protest on growing rape danger

By a Staff Reporter

Women demonstrating against what they say is the increasing danger of rape in Britain today protested with banners and loudhailers outside the Home Office yesterday and demanded a meeting with the Home Secretary, which they did not get.

The women claim in a circulated pamphlet that a number of judicial decisions in rape cases — notably the decision in the

Carol Maggs case, where a soldier was found guilty of sexual assault was not given a prison sentence because of his army career — have acted as a "go-ahead to rape."

Although the women did not manage to see Mr Merlyn Rees yesterday a group of them have been promised an appointment early next month with Mr Brynmor John, Minister of State at the Home Office.

One of the women on yesterday's demonstration was Mrs

Philomena O'Grady, a Manchester woman whose three-year-old daughter was sexually assaulted last year. She said yesterday that the child's attacker was given a year's suspended sentence, which had greatly shocked her and her family.

The Women Against Rape group has also written to Prince Charles saying that a number of cases show that servicemen who commit crimes of rape appear to be dealt with too leniently. They ask him to comment publicly on one such case

and "to make it clear that women are not there for the taking."

Helen Buckingham, the woman who has organised a number of meetings and campaigns to define prostitutes' rights more clearly, was at the demonstration and said that most of her clients, if spoken to about cases in which rapists had been dealt with leniently, expressed their abhorrence of rape and their belief that it was a crime which deserved heavy sentencing.

THE TIMES

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29 1977

Prince asked for view on case of attempted rape

By a Staff Reporter

The Prince of Wales was asked yesterday to comment publicly on a six-month prison sentence given recently to a Royal Navy sailor for attempted rape and causing actual bodily harm.

Women Against Rape delivered a letter to the Prince, a retired Navy commander, giving details of the case of Maurice Markham, described as an engineer in the Royal Navy, who was jailed in October.

The letter complained that the case was one of a long line, in which judges "had seen fit to be lenient to men in uniform".

"Returning from your recent tour you must know the kind of effect such a scandalous situation can have on international relations", the letter said.

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Joanna Casatello and Maxine Jones on the ground outside the court as other demonstrators are moved away. Picture by Gerry Dalton.

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By PETER OLIVER

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said he hoped the navy would re-instate Markham.

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"The judge's sentencing was a replica of the Holdsworth case, the guardsman freed in June."

The protesters carried on chanting outside the court building, and later warned: "You judges can't expect any peace. We will be back."

Another protester Joanna Casatello, 22, claimed a nine-year-old girl Maxine, who came with her, had been injured as police bundled them out of court.

WEATHER SERVICE

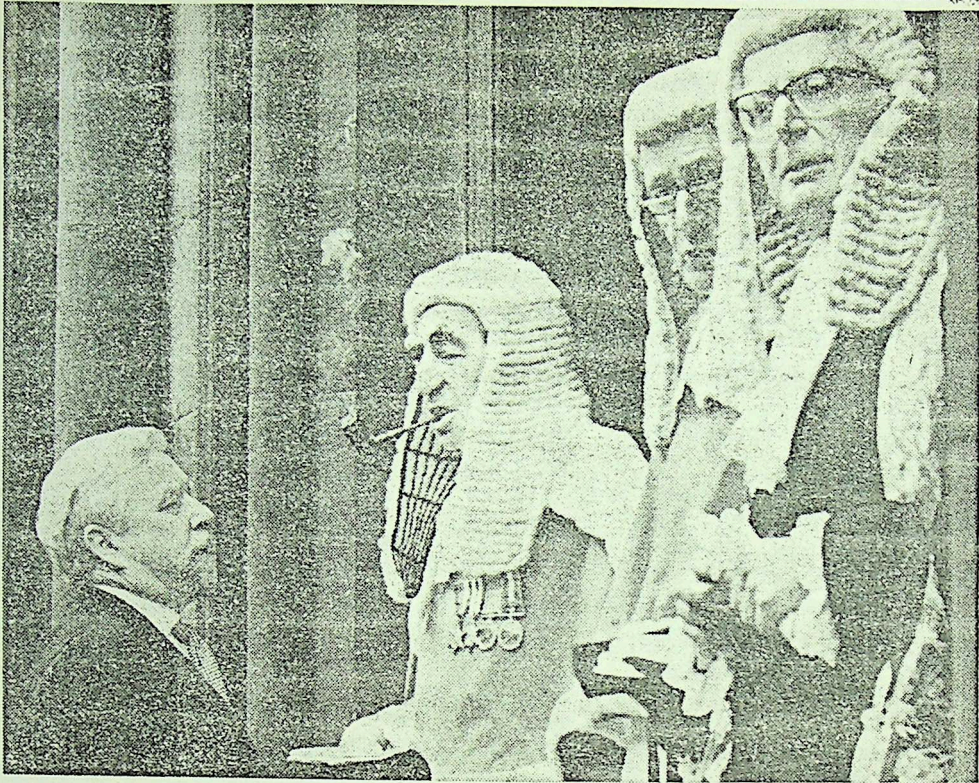
This evening: Rain.
Tomorrow: Mainly dry and bright. Rather warm, max. temp. 16C (61F). Wind moderate south-westerly.

Irish Sea: Rough. **Channel and North Sea:** Moderate. **Channel:** Slight. **North Sea:** Light, becoming mode-

Outlook: Rather cloudy. Rain at times. Cooler.

Sun sets 4.43 p.m., rises 6.47 a.m. **Moon rises** 5.11 p.m. sets 8.5 a.m. **High water** London Bridge 2.4 p.m. **Tomorrow** 2.26 a.m. 2.37 p.m. **Lighting-up:** 5.13 p.m. to 6.17 a.m.

Judge under fire puffs peace pipe



Picture: JACK MANWARING

IT LOOKS like that moment in the TV commercial when the pipe smoker demonstrates his utter contentment.

But in this case we'll probably never know if the judge was merely putting up a smoke screen to hide his feelings.

For Mr Justice Wein had just heard angry wives call for him to be sacked—along with two other

COOL FACE OF JUSTICE

judges who freed a guardsman jailed for a brutal sex attack.

Eight members of the Women Against Rape group chanted 'Get the judges out!' outside West-

minster Abbey at the start of yesterday's traditional procession to the Strand for the opening of the new law term.

The demonstrators carried banners saying: 'Judges, we charge you with rape' and 'Rape in marriage is a crime.'

Perhaps at the end of it all Mr Justice Wein felt the need of a calming pipe, when he lit up on the steps of the Law Courts.

4.10.77 Daily Mail p 15

Rapists get Go-Ahead Sentence

FACTS

Join the forces: license to rape

June 1977: Thomas Holdsworth, soldier in the Coldstream Guards walked out of an Appeal Court with a suspended sentence, after raping Carol Maggs, and causing her injuries which put her in hospital for two months. The three "Justices": Roskill, Slynn and Wien.

Judge's comments: "he allowed his enthusiasm for sex to overcome his normal good behaviour." . . . his "career would be completely destroyed if this sentence of three years were to stand." (Wien).

October 1977: Royal Navy Engineer Maurice Markham was sentenced to six months for attempted rape and actual bodily harm. The judge, Peter Mason, a wartime Royal Artillery Officer.

Judge's comments: "It would be a shame if the country loses your services. . . . It might be best if after your sentence this whole thing be forgotten and you reinstated in the Royal Navy."

January 1977: Private Roger Surch received a suspended 2-year sentence after raping a woman in Northern Ireland. The court was told that his commanding officer would be happy to have him back in the King's Regiment if he did not go to gaol.

May 1977: Two Guardsmen in the Coldstream Guards, like Holdsworth, kill two gay men. Gay women and men are investigating how army training takes attack on gay people as normal like rape. Sentences: one jailed for life, one for 5 years.

Rape of Children: a trivial offence

September 1977: Manchester. Judge Zigmund gives John Burgess, 20, a suspended 6-month-sentence and £ 100 fine for sexually assaulting a 3-year-old girl. Burgess' father a business man and a land-owner.

Judge's comments to the mother of the child: "You will forget it and so will your little girl."

October 1977: Aylesbury. Ronald Stevens, 57, village headmaster in Bletchey, sentenced to 18 months suspended sentence for 29 assaults on girls aged 9 - 12.

November 1977: Southampton. Children's Home Head, Harry Bunker, sentenced to 30 months for sexual assaults on girls in the home over a period of 6 years.

One mercy for men, one mercy for women

Mr. Justice Wien (see above) giving 2-year suspended sentence to a man who had killed his wife: her death was the result of her husband's "years of torment, sexual deprivation and humiliation."

Mr. Justice Croom-Johnson, giving a man 3 years suspended for killing wife: ". . . provocation has gone on so long." No such sympathy for Norcen Winchester, Belfast, sentenced to 7 years for killing her father. He had raped her continually for years and beaten and raped her little sisters.

Through the law's fingers

In 1976 there were 1,094 cases of rape known to the police in England and Wales.

These cases were only the tip of the iceberg. Many rapes are not reported because of the treatment the victim gets. Many rapes fall outside the legal definition. There were 10,901 reported cases of "indecent assault" by men against women. There were uncounted rapes of wives by husbands: rape in marriage is not a crime in Britain.

Of the 1,094 less than half, 428 reached the Crown Court for trial.

112 were acquitted.

78 were sent to borstal, put on probation, fined, given conditional discharges, etc.

11 received suspended sentences.

238 received immediate prison sentences.

Of those who were sent to prison, 47% received 3 years or less. As it is normal to serve 2/3 of a sentence, or less, by the end of next year all but 126 of the rapists will be back on the streets-- or still on the streets.

If the Home Secretary wanted to tell men to go ahead and rape, could he find a clearer way?

The bias of the authorities cannot be hidden

It is a standard practice for the Judge to warn the jury; that women lie about rape. As Judge Sutcliff told a jury, "It is known that women in particular and small boys are liable to be untruthful and to invent stories."

October 1977: London. Detective Chief Inspector in Markham case says of the woman, "I doubt whether she's as clean and innocent as she would like us to believe."

In 1976 The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board paid out £ 9,000,000 to people who suffered criminal damage. For the injuries she sustained, Carol Maggs was offered £150.

The reluctance of the police to pursue rape charges, the fact that it is the woman put on trial instead of the man, the frequent go-ahead sentences even when a conviction is finally obtained have caused such fury that one Judge (Justice Kilner Brown) is afraid "if courts don't crack down, sex offenders could be tarred and feathered by vigilantes."

For more information: WOMEN AGAINST RAPE, Women's Centre, 138 Drummond Street, London NW1, Tel: 624 6364, Maid's Causeway, Cambridge Tel 57142
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