

## Plus ca change . . .

Perhaps time marches on but old habits never die. At the time this article was submitted, amid revelations of British police passing on information about overseas students here to the secret police of their own countries, and of Special Branch approaches to British students to spy on fellow students, the journal of the Socialist Education Association reported an interesting case. Apparently Special Branch members visited a W E A class on William Morris and tried to obtain the names of students.

A Labour MP protested to the Home Secretary and an enquiry was held. Subsequently the Minister admitted that this had in fact occurred 'not because the course itself could be regarded as subversive but because it might attract extremist elements . . .'. It is reassuring to know that Special Branch and others are as active here safeguarding society today as the French were in Morris's time. Ed .