Taking to the streets in Brisbane to express your opinion in the 1960’s and 1970’s was not for the faint-hearted. In that era, political dissent was a serious business. A devoted conscientious effort was made by the Queensland Premiers Frank Nicklin and later Joh Bjelke-Petersen, war on the public to demonstrate and the ‘right’ was boss. Marchers could be targeted, bashed by police, arrested, strip-searched, and spend at least one, and sometimes several days in the police “watch house” before release. The police Special Branch would spy on anyone considered a threat, burglarizing their homes, and compiling secret dossiers to use against them.

Encouraged by the State Government, the Queensland police used the Traffic Act, approximately half its 1970s to block protest marches. The Superintendent of Traffic had the power of absolute veto over march permits, which he could refuse without providing an explanation. At the time, there was also a fee for carrying placards.

The year before (October 1966), an attempted anti-war march was proposé by the left-wing University students protesting against the Vietnam War had been broken up by police before it could leave the campus. Marchers who were condemned by students regardless of their political orientation. This earlier event set the stage for the large numbers of both “right” and “left” students that marched in the 1960’s and 1970’s. It helped to set in motion an exceptionally grim place to be in terms of civil liberties.

In 1960s and 1970s, it was an exceptionally grim place to be in terms of civil liberties. The Special Branch was disbanded and many of its secret dossiers destroyed. Looking back on Queensland in the 1960’s and 1970’s was not for the faint-hearted. Taking to the streets in Brisbane to express your opinion in the 1960’s and 1970’s was not for the faint-hearted.

The 1967-68 and post-1977 campaigns were the only protest movements in that era. It helped to set in motion a tipping point in deepening levels of commitment to a wide range of social and political important issues of the day.

This march proved to be a pivotal event that inspired and helped to propel a new decade of protest in the years that followed. It was the broad base of support by a politically diverse cross section of the student body as a whole.

Compared to earlier marches, the surge in the number of participants in the protest that day was significant, as was the broad base of support by a politically diverse cross section of the student body as a whole.

People were outraged and, once arrested, 114 were dragged by their clothing and hair. There were 114 arrests. Compared to earlier marches, the surge in the number of participants in the protest that day was significant, as was the broad base of support by a politically diverse cross section of the student body as a whole.

The march was to be a pivotal event that inspired and helped to propel a new decade of protest in the years that followed. It was the broad base of support by a politically diverse cross section of the student body as a whole.

The original 16mm film has been deposited in the Australian National Film and Sound Archive for its long-term preservation.