

UNITED IRISHMAN

An tEireannach Aontaithe Nollaig (December) 1978

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GOREY TANNERY TO CLOSE

On Wednesday, November 8 the Management of GOREY LEATHER CO. LTD. called in the unions to discuss rationalisation within the Company.

They were met by Mr. Donal O'Brien, Managing Director of Irish Leathers who told them that what he meant by rationalisation was complete closure of Gorey Leather Co. On January 31st 1979 he would shut the gates and put 200 people out of work.

It was as blunt as that. He merely added that he would also be laying off 140 workers in Dungannon and 30 in Portlaw.

When Trade Union officials sought further information he brushed them aside saying there was nothing further to discuss.

When he was later approached by Michael Bell, National Group Secretary of the IT&GWU he made the extraordinary statement that "Irish Leathers intended to close the Gorey Leather factory and they are not prepared to enter into negotiations for the takeover of the factory by anyone else."

The news hit the town of 3,500 people like a bombshell. The Chairperson of Gorey Town Commissioners, Mr. Tom Murphy immediately moved into action.

Jobs Plan for Inner City

The Dublin Council of Trade Unions held a Public Meeting in Liberty Hall on November 25 to launch a policy document on Dublin's Inner City.

The meeting was well attended by people with a special interest in this area — teachers, social workers, priests, trade unionists, a councillor and representatives of the IDA and AnCO.

The document got a very good reception and detailed discussion. Their objective is to preserve the inner city as a living community, to improve the environment, housing, education and social services.

They regarded employment as a priority and called for development of port industry.

The compilation of the document was done by council delegates most of whom live, work or originally came from the inner city.

The committed support of Dublin Council of Trade Unions for the huge inner city community comes at a crucial time in its struggle for survival.

The Government has just begun a clearance plan for the area presumably to leave the land free for property speculators.

Existing flat complexes in the inner city area should be razed to the ground. But there is ample space for building new housing units in the area.

This is what 80% of the people in the area want and this is what they should get.

On Thursday the 9th he called to the factory and unsuccessfully sought a meeting with the Management. He later had a meeting with union officials led by Mr. Paddy McDonnell, Branch Chairperson and Mr. Des Corish, Wexford Secretary of the IT&GWU.

He then decided to mobilise the whole town behind the 200 workers. He organised a widely representative meeting for Monday 13th which was attended by the Wexford T.D.s, local councillors, the Town Commissioners, Trade Union officials, business leaders, community groups, clergy and also the Regional Manager of the IDA, Mr. Frank O'Rourke.

Mr. Donal O'Brien, Managing Director of Irish Leathers was approached directly by Tom Murphy but refused to go to the meeting.

He said he didn't feel he had to explain anything. It was his factory and he could do what he liked with it!

There was a tremendous sense of solidarity at the meeting. The whole future of the town is dependent on this 40 year old industry. They are determined to fight to keep it open.

The meeting appointed a deputation of seven, led by Tom Murphy to meet Mr. O'Malley, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Energy. They mandated Tom Murphy to speak for them and to represent them on the deputation.

At this stage they are not prepared to trust any outsiders. The workers at the factory are baffled by the decision to close. They say the factory was making money and was exporting 88% of its production.

Their customers in Britain testify to the fact that the Gorey leather was the highest quality available. The Management refuse to give



•Tom Murphy.

separate figures for Gorey. But Irish Leathers, the controlling group who own five factories in Gorey, Dungarvan, Portlaw, Waterford and Carrick-on-Suir made a net profit of over £3 million in the five years 1973-'77.

The Gorey workers now recall that the factory bought obsolete machinery last year for one of the other factories in the group. It is lying there unused. This could be one way of transferring profits from Gorey to another factory.

But these facts only add to the mystery. Maybe the deputation can force the Minister to carry out a thorough investigation of all the companies in the Group?

Apart from their five tanneries they have a further eleven subsidiary companies in Ireland engaged in manufacture of footwear uppers, leatherboard, rubber soling and compounds, animal foodstuffs and in the warehousing, export and distribution of skins and hides.

They also have a subsidiary, Ebtan Ltd. in Holland and Allied Leather Distributors in the U.K. They probably make more profit out of the export of skins, and hides which provides only a couple of dozen jobs, than they do from their tanneries which employ 1,200 workers.

The ITGWU say that if the Gorey factory is closed they will halt the export of skins and hides immediately. Last year 3 million kgs of cattle and horse skins were exported while 1½ million kgs of cattle and horse leather were imported.

Irish Republicans meet in U.S.

Delegates from all over the USA and Canada assembled in Minneapolis in Mid-West America on the 4, 5 and 6 November for the 8th Annual Convention of the Irish Republican Clubs of North America.

Guest speakers included Alderman Seamus Lynch, Belfast City Council, and Vice President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party and Clyde Bellecourt, a leader of the American Indian Movement.

Seamus Lynch is at present on a six week information tour of the United States.

The Convention was described as "a great success" by Tom Hayden of the Sheehy-Skeffington Irish Republican Club of New York and resolutions covering the Irish and international scene were debated and passed by the large attendance.

Re-elected as President was Dr. Maire Bradshaw of Limerick and New York and the incoming executive are: Mike Dollard, Albany, New York; Kevin Joyce, Boston; Susan Kiley, Minneapolis; Bob Meisel, San Francisco; Tom Hayden, New York and Seoirse Mac Domhnaill, Madison, Wisconsin.

During the Convention workshops were conducted on "Women in Ireland", by Eileen Sheerin; the "Role of Multi-National Companies", by Gerry McKinney; and the

recent World Festival of Youth & Students in Cuba, by Peter Draper and Seamus Lynch who were there.

The Irish Republican Clubs of North America have offices at 160 Fifth Avenue, Room 604, New York.

Derry remembers Mick McKenna

County Derry Executive of Republican Clubs The Workers' Party has presented a trophy to the Derry County Board of the GAA.

It is to be called the 'Mick McKenna Memorial Trophy' after the great Derry Republican who died early this year.

The Trophy was donated by the Clubs Executive and was presented by Mick's great friend and comrade Councillor Francie Donnelly, who is Chairperson of the Executive.

Mick McKenna was a life long Republican and gave his total support to the struggle for democracy and civil rights. After internment he devoted himself to aiding prisoners and their dependants. He was Chairperson of CABHAIR at the time of his death.

Provo Pogrom Recalled

The Provisionals' pogrom against members of the Republican clubs in Belfast on the night of October 29, 1975 was recalled in a Belfast court last month when Phillip James McCullough was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Robert Elliman.

McCullough was sentenced to concurrent terms of 18 years and five years for possession of arms with intent and for membership of the Provisionals.

The court was told that Robert Elliman was drinking with two friends in McKenna's Bar, Stanfield Street, when three masked gunmen burst into the bar and shot him five times. Some of the shots came from an Armalite rifle.

On the same night, October 29, 1975 at 6.30p.m., a carefully planned and co-ordinated attack was made by the Provos on 30 members of the Republican Clubs in different parts of Belfast.

Robert Elliman was killed and 19 others were seriously wounded on that first night. Belfast, which had seen so many religious pogroms in its long history, was now witnessing Ireland's first ever political pogrom.

Many of the attacks were launched from the joint British Army/Provo Incident Centres.

The Provisional Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle issued a statement from their office in Kevin Street, Dublin, commending the killers, while their American CIA friends and supporters stated that they were engaged in a war against communism on the streets of Belfast.

McCullough, who refused to recognise the court, said after sentence that he was "going on the blanket". He is presumably looking for POW status. There seems no reason why the Brits shouldn't give it to him for 'services rendered'.

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AntEireannach Aontaithe

PRISONERS

Our front page story 'Provo Pogrom Recalled' mentions the fact that the killer of Robbie Elliman will be seeking 'Prisoner of War' status.

He will of course, be in good company. He will join the mad bombers who have murdered hundreds of innocents whom they never even saw and he will join his own kind such as the callous killers of the ten Bessbrook workers and of Sam Llewellyn the good samaritan in Belfast.

Such killers are not entitled to any special POW status when captured any more than the killers of the Miami Showband or any of the other killers of the Loyalist paramilitary groups.

As prisoners, however, they are entitled to humane treatment no matter what the crime of which they are convicted. The days of harsh, penal, prison treatment should be over.

There should be no compulsion to wear prison clothes or to carry out specific prison work. There should be freedom of association, adequate facilities for education and craft work and visiting conditions which would reduce stress on family relationships.

These are realisable objectives but claims for special status are not. It is become increasingly obvious that the prisoners are mere pawns in a Provo publicity game.

They are not worried about the disgusting conditions in which their prisoners are living. They are not even worried in case someone dies. From their public statements it can be inferred that they are in fact eagerly looking forward to the death of some unfortunate prisoner.

It is untrue for Ó Brádaigh to say that the leadership outside have no say in what the prisoners do. They do not allow prisoners to engage in any unofficial protests so it can be taken that the form of protest has been sanctioned by the leaders outside. It is they who will decide if and when it should end.

For the sake of the prisoners the campaign for status should be dropped and a broad based campaign for conditions should begin. Only then can the British government be put in the dock on the issue of prisoners, their torture, false convictions, long remands and penal prison conditions.

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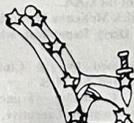
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Letters

Dear Editor,

When I mention peace and talk about disarmament it is frustrating to be told, "Tell it to the Russians".

The United States government has always been singularly unconcerned with limiting the Soviet nuclear arsenal.

Under the provisions of the so-called Strategic Arms Limitation Talks now under negotiation, the Soviet Union will be permitted to 'limit' its arsenal of strategic nuclear weapons to 8,000, an increase of 100% over its present stockpile of 4,000.

Though American 'limitation' will represent a mere increase of 30%, from 9,000 to 12,000 warheads, it will be sufficient to maintain American

overwhelming superiority and that, apparently, is all they are truly concerned with.

In light of this, the War Resisters League undertook a co-ordinated international action on September 4, taking the message of peace to the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States.

At two o'clock, seven persons in Red Square in Moscow shouted "Peace and Friendship" in Russian and unfurled a banner reading "U.S. - USSR Disarm Now." At the same moment in Washington, D.C., eleven persons stepped out of their tour on to the White House lawn and unfurled the same slogan.

In Moscow the demonstrators were apprehended within 15 seconds by

police. Detained for an hour, they were told the Soviet Government is in sympathy with their aims, but that "Red Square is simply not the place for a demonstration."

Accordingly, the demonstrators, as well as three newsmen scooped up while covering the action, were released and permitted to leave or continue their tour as they wished.

Their counterparts in Washington were not treated so gingerly. Held overnight in jail on \$500 bond awaiting arraignment, they are facing several charges, including 'illegal entry.'

Fraternally,
 Jim Savage,
 "Sunnydale",
 Western Road, Cork.

IRISH ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT HOLDS A.G.M.

The Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement held its AGM on November 17. The meeting was well attended reflecting the growth in membership during the past year.

The guest speaker was Didymus Mutasa, a member of the ZANU central committee. In the course of an information address he stressed the lack of African support for the internal settlement in Rhodesia and said this was growing by the week and that the Patriotic Front now controlled one third of Rhodesian territory.

Referring to the current controversy within the World Council of Churches re their grant of £43,000 annually to the Patriotic Front he pointed out that this would not feed refugees at present in Mozambique and Zambia for even one day.

However, he stressed that it was an important symbol of solidarity between western christianity and the African people.

A number of important resolutions were passed at the AGM. The resolution on Zimbabwe condemned continued raids by the Smith regime into Zambia and Mozambique; deplored the complicity of the British government in the breaking of sanctions by the oil companies and pledged continuing support for the Patriotic Front in the struggle for independence.

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution on Namibia calling for an end to South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia in defiance of the United Nations; saluting the struggle of the Namibian people led by SWAPO and its armed forces PLAN,



● Didymus Mutasa.

and also calling for the release of all political prisoners in Namibia.

The resolution on South Africa was also critical of the Irish government's failure in International Anti-Apartheid Year to fulfill so few of the demands made by the United Nations.

It called on the Irish government to give material assistance to the struggling people of Southern Africa, in particular to the National Liberation Movements of the Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa — i.e. medical supplies, radio and telecommunication equipment, provision of offices in Dublin for permanent representatives of the Liberation Movements.

The co-operation between the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Trade Union Movement was stressed in a resolution which also appreciated the Dundalk Trades Council and No. 1 branch of the IT&GWU whose militant action successfully prevented a South African apartheid Tug-of-War team taking part in the World Championship held recently in Dundalk.

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Women's Seminar

A lively and enthusiastic seminar was held on November 12 by the National Women's Committee of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party. Delegates were present from around the country North and South.

The seminar was both vigorous and wide ranging. Nothing was left out. We heard about women at work and at college. Women's legal and social welfare rights were explained. We looked at the women's movement in the North and heard how women fare under a different system from a woman who attended the youth festival in Cuba.

The social attitudes about women which underpin women's position were aired and challenged.

The necessity to include the many aspects of women's lives was illustrated by all the contributions. This examination of women's inferior situation as workers, citizens, pupils and welfare claimants reflected also the advances made within the last decade.

Women are joining men at work in increasing numbers. Just over a quarter (26%) of all workers are women. The old bars against women retaining their jobs after marriage have

been swept away and today between seven and nine per cent of all workers are married women.

However, women, especially those who are married, are still not considered permanent or central in the work force. Women's work is still low paid with unequal wages. Maternity leave is limited. No provisions are made to ease the burden of the 'double-shift' of home and child minding. Vocational training is inadequate and opportunities are limited.

Recent laws which prevent the husband selling the marital home without his wife's knowledge, or which bar a violent husband from the marital home, although proving themselves

very necessary, have not proved adequate.

Both reforms have highlighted the urgent need for a law permitting divorce. Although the Supreme Court recognised the right of access to contraceptives more than six years ago the government has steadfastly refused to legislate this basic human right.

The most serious discrimination against women by our institutions — because it has the most serious consequences, is in the area of social welfare. Women's rights as equal citizens eligible to equal entitlements are brushed aside by the assumption that women are men's dependents.

A consequence of this is that in a survey conducted by social workers in

Dublin it has the all-female categories — deserted wives, unmarried mothers, widows etc., who made up the overwhelming majority of those people who are living in poverty below the breadline.

Our conclusions centred on the steps needed to ease immediate hardship, the reforms which would advance women towards equality and the changes demanded from our society and ourselves to obtain far reaching goals.

The National Women's Committee has issued a pamphlet outlining our Party's policies on women. (Available from 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. Price 5p.)



European Monetary System

At present there is debate and much speculation about "breaking the link with sterling". Until recently Brendan Halligan of the 26 Co. Labour Party was a very strong advocate of a break with sterling but now that there is some chance of it happening he is very silent about the matter!

There is no general agreement about the nature of 'money'; it is impossible to find a single expert or school of thought with views acceptable to all. There are some very loose definitions and perhaps it might be as well to look at them before looking at the meaning of expressions like "a break with sterling" or "The European Monetary System" — the EMS.

Money is sometimes defined as 'a store of value' and 'a medium of exchange'. The definition 'store of value' has had a very limited application in the last few years. In conditions of inflation money loses its value rapidly. (One hundred pence in 1976 was worth eighty-eight pence in 1977.)

Value

Money is still a store of value in the sense that you can store up the value of a week's work or a year's work without a too serious loss on small amounts — like a wage packet.

Money as a medium of exchange in ordinary everyday life is a simple matter. You put a part of your wage packet on a shop counter and receive in exchange a quantity of goods.

In international trade the question is a little more difficult — people talk about 'strong currencies' and 'weak currencies'. The currencies referred to as 'strong' or 'weak' are generally the world's main currencies.

At one time the value of money was valued in gold. Indeed, until almost the time of the outbreak of the first world war, gold itself was used as the actual currency.

Confidence

At present agreed amounts of paper are issued over and above hoarded gold;

this has a special name 'a fiduciary issue'. It is now said that nothing stands between us and disaster only "confidence".

When money is used for international trade it must be acceptable to the country it is offered to in exchange for goods. We do not, of course, pay directly to every country from which we purchase goods. All countries must trade and all do. This means that countries cannot do whatever they like with their money on the international market.

This applies with more force to small countries than to big countries. It is for this reason that almost all the world's currencies are associated with some arrangement to give strength — very few currencies stand alone.

At one time many currencies were associated with Sterling — now not so many have this association. Irish money is still linked to Sterling and in the sort of world we live in at present Irish currency must be linked to one of the strong currencies.

Several

Naturally these arrangements are made at meetings attended by several countries or trading blocks. Ireland could not just declare itself linked to Sterling, to the US Dollar, to the Mark or the Franc.

In the Common Market there is a certain amount of confusion about what will happen in relation to "money". The big companies — some of the multi-nationals — are reported to be in favour of establishing a single currency for Europe.

Opposed

Irish business, as distinct from foreign companies operating in Ireland, are fairly solidly opposed to a break with Sterling.

Fifty per cent of our trade is still with Britain which is one of the most solid arguments for maintaining the link with Sterling. There are also arguments that if we link to the currency of a strong economy then our economy will automatically become

"healthy".

It is not true that it is as simple as that because the only way the Irish economy can become healthy is by building factories and by making better use of our own natural resources in order to create jobs.

Grant

Fianna Fáil are obviously hoping for a massive grant of several hundred millions — in the present value of our currency. This they hope to use in order to boost the economy but there is no evidence that even if they succeed getting such a grant that they intend to do other than build more roads and "factories to let" and then hope for the best.

Links with a strong currency might make it more easy to pay our massive debts — money we owe because of foreign borrowing. This is a major problem which will start to appear in a serious form around the time of the next general elections. It is, no doubt, haunting Mr. Lynch.

However, if Britain joined then Ireland will also join. If Britain does not join and Ireland does then certain elements on both sides of the border will be very happy because all sorts of currency rackets will become possible.

Before the Berlin Wall was built it was possible to leave one country and to enter another by simply crossing the street. That in itself was not a serious matter, what was serious was that in so doing one left one currency zone and entered another. All sorts of racketeering and speculation at the expense of the Eastern currency became the order of the day.

With little debate on the matter and even less knowledge of the long term effects Fianna Fáil seem determined to make the change to the EMS if they can win the gamble for a grant of six hundred and fifty million pounds.

This is the prize they are after for 1979. They cannot borrow anymore money and the £650m grant would take them out of a hole. To hell with the future.

Research Section
Department of Economic Affairs
Sinn Féin The Workers' Party

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PORTRAIT

John Mulcahy

When John Mulcahy took over *Hibernia* he believed that a market existed in Ireland for a liberal middle-class publication.

He was encouraged in this belief by the fact that at least one other publication had for a time successfully harnessed this market.

Mr. Mulcahy is himself a man of liberal, middle-class views and there are many healthy and wholesome aspects to such an outlook on Irish life.

Many people of the serious left in Ireland admired his courage in facing all the odds and all the risks attached to launching an even mildly radical publication without the safeguard of a national network of supporters. It is now clear that Mr. Mulcahy, the Irish liberals and people of the political left seriously underestimated the handicaps of launching such a venture on a strictly commercial basis.

Falling sales

Sales of *Hibernia* are now falling rapidly and at least two of its better known journalists have packed their bags and departed to places where they believe they can reach a wider audience.

Over most of its lifetime *Hibernia* faced some serious problems which publications of that type did not previously have — it badly needed liberal

middle-class campaigns. Earlier publications campaigned for the liberalisation of Irish society and because of the stupidities of Irish censorship there was quite a lot of support for such campaigns.

Agents

In practice these publications acted as advertising agents for banned books and well-read people and those who wished to be 'fashionable' needed this information in order to obtain the banned books from Britain.

The great advantage of campaigns against censorship lay in the progressive image they gave to publications while at the same time not antagonising the advertisers — a very important source of income.

Hibernia cannot, for example, do a really serious exposé of housing racketeering, property speculation or speculation in land. Auctioneers and estate agents are important advertisers and an important source of revenue to a struggling publication.

Afford

Hibernia's basic problem is poverty; it could never afford to buy first class journalistic talent. In its early years some talent was attracted — a few people in the profession were

prepared to make sacrifices in an endeavour to establish a radical journal. These people moved away when the Trotskyite, ultra-leftist element employed on the paper began a campaign of cheap political smears and witch hunts.

It is to Mr. Mulcahy's credit that he did endeavour to maintain some standards in his paper — it was never allowed to descend to the level of soft pornography which is now the main stock-in-trade of the *Sunday World*.

Restraints

John Mulcahy obviously did place some restraints on these irresponsible people but on political questions and, on matters of truth in relation to politics, the rein does not appear to have been so tight.

These people have a vested interest in political questions; the Trotskyite 'Fourth International' is seriously interested in infiltrating its views into journals and newspapers.

The decision of 'The Fourth International' to support terrorism meant that the Trotskyite element on newspaper staffs began to attempt to give a respectable face to obscenities like car-bombing and proxy bombing. They began to attack people and parties opposed to mindless violence.

It is easy to sensationalise violence; people read about

it with the same sort of appetite that accounts for the sales of crime thrillers. But the Irish people are becoming heartily sick of activities which are disgusting and are certainly not helping Irish unity or independence.

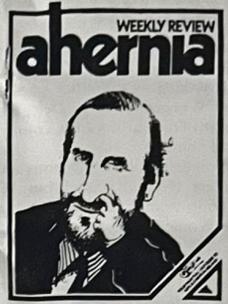
The ultra-leftists made a serious attempt to infiltrate Sinn Féin The Workers' Party some years ago. They attempted to prevent activity on social questions and to push the organisation into association with the Provos. They were prevented from doing this and these elements were expelled from the party.

Normal

Hibernia has a difficult problem in attempting to give a sinister twist to activities which are the normal activities associated with building a working class party. These activities are completely open and public and in line with policies which are on sale to the public.

Mr. Mulcahy's journal has never reviewed most of the publications of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party and has not mentioned its films and plays — surely newsworthy activities for a political party to engage in.

When *Hibernia* writes about The Workers' Party it is to say that it is breaking up, losing its best militants, losing support. This line is followed against the hard evidence of increasing



All The News That's Fit To Pack

● John Mulcahy — as seen by 'In Dublin'.

support for the party at the polls. It is becoming ever more difficult to present the story that a party winning increasing support at the polls is in fact losing support, so a new line has lately appeared.

One feels very sorry for a man who set out with such high hopes and with such a fund of good will for the success of his venture. He has honest radical opinions and he wished to provide a journal in which these views could be expressed. It is sad to have to say that he failed in what he set out to do.

The truth of the matter is that a small staff which involves several committed ultra-leftists writing under different names in every issue is not the best way to maintain the sales of a journal appealing to the liberal market.

Mac Giolla at Limerick meeting

Tomás Mac Giolla, President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party speaking at a well-attended meeting on Wednesday 15th November on "The Right to Work V The Rights of Private Property" in the Mechanics Institute, Limerick said that:

"Large scale industrialisation is essential to provide jobs for a rapidly growing population.

We already have the appropriate expertise in the I.D.A., the IIRS and the Local Authorities to ensure that the highest standards are set and maintained.

However we cannot industrialise without treading on some toes and upsetting some people's ideas of luxurious living. We have got to build factories, oil refineries, smelters. These must be functional and economic and will, hardly win any prizes for the beauty of their architecture.

But the fact that people living nearby don't like the look of them should not be accepted as sufficient grounds for objection. Yet this was one of the main grounds for objection by

the party platform

the Sandymount residents of the building of an oil refinery in Dublin Port. They called it "visual pollution". This, they claimed, reduced the value of their houses.

By their objection they denied jobs to 2,000 construction workers and permanent jobs to 350 skilled and semi-skilled operatives. The loss of the oil refinery reduced the value of the food on the tables of these workers' families.

It reduced the value of the clothes on their backs, the condition of their housing and in some cases their sanity or even their lives. Which is the greater value, property or life? Denial of the right to work is denial of the right to life.

The courts of the land have for too long been used to protect property rather than people. They must no longer be allowed to discriminate against workers. All environmental safeguards must be retained and upheld but property rights must be seen to take second place to personal rights."

The film on Irish resources, *Going, Going Gone* was shown during the meeting.

Bomb attacks show Provos' contempt for workers

Brian Brennan, RCTWP candidate in West Belfast, condemning the bomb attacks carried out on November 16 on the Ulster Brewery and Finlay's Packaging company said "That the Provisionals stand accused before the working people of naked terror and absolute disregard for the basic rights to life and work."

"No words can express our anguish at the death of a fireman as a result of these attacks."

"The Provisionals have declared war on working people today. Their victims must rally together to withstand the onslaught on their lives, jobs and liberty and refuse to be drawn into the sectarian conflict their actions are designed to provoke."

Left on the Economy

Addressing a meeting of the Left on the Economy, organised by the Christians for Socialism Group, in Dublin last month, Eamonn Smullen, Director of Economic Affairs, Sinn Féin The Workers' Party said that:

"Irish natural resources are useless to Ireland unless processed on the national territory in order to create employment. The first stage of production gives the least number of jobs — the mining, farming and fishing operations. The greater number of jobs are at the second stage of production — at the processing stage.

"Processing means building smelters to process our ores into pure metal so that they can be then worked up into consumer goods of various kinds. Unless slab zinc is produced from our zinc ore — to give just one example — it is impossible to think of manufacturing typewriters, televisions, office equipment or motor car parts.

"Sinn Féin The Workers' Party see the expansion of the Irish State Companies as the only practical way to develop manufacturing industry of this sort. We see this as the road, and as the only road, to full employment in Ireland."

POLEGLASS A History of the Development

SEPTEMBER 1973

Minister of Development in NI announced its intention to develop 1,100 acres of land in the Poleglass/Lagmore area for housing, industry and social facilities.

NOVEMBER 1974

Preliminary development proposals published. The scheme was to be known as the Poleglass/Lagmore Development Plan. It proposed the building of 4,180-4,600 houses to accommodate 16,700-18,400

people. Four industrial sites, totalling 122 acres would ultimately provide in the region of 3,000 jobs.

The proposals were warmly welcomed by progressive politicians, but strongly rejected by the County Antrim Grand Orange Lodge and by Loyalist councillors in Lisburn Borough Council, within whose boundary Poleglass/Lagmore would be situated.

DECEMBER 1975

Housing Minister Don Concannon announced the halving of the original scheme to 2,000 houses and 60 acre industrial estate and 'substantial' recreations area. Mr. Concannon said:

"The scheme has been scaled down in light of representation made on the original proposals

and on more up to date information on the need for new housing in West Belfast."

Kevin Smyth, South Antrim Executive RCTWP called the decision "The Great West Belfast Housing Swindle" and challenged Mr. Concannon to make public "his more modern up-to-date information" which indicated that housing need had so dramatically lessened in such a short period. This information never appeared.

MAY 1976

Full details of Poleglass Development Scheme published and Public Inquiry into scheme announced.

JULY 1976

Public Inquiry into Poleglass Scheme held. Heard by a 3-man panel. Lasted 12 days. Submissions heard from Dept.

of Environment, political parties, community groups and individuals.

OCTOBER-DEC. 1977

Planning Appeals Commission Reports to Government.

JANUARY 1978

Statement from DoE announcing its formal adoption of the Poleglass Development Scheme. Planning Appeals Commission Report published.

AUGUST 1978

The Anti-Poleglass Action Committee set up. The five man committee counted among its members Rev. William Beattie, Cllr. William Bleakes and Mr. Bill Whiteley, who later announced his intention to stand as Official Unionist candidate in forthcoming

Westminster elections.

Mr. Whiteley, who always protested his innocence of bigotry has since resigned his position on the Action Committee to take up an appointment with the NIHE. The Committee planned two major rallies in Lisburn and Dunmurry.

NOVEMBER 1978

Proposals for Collin Neighbourhood, Stage 1, of the Poleglass Development Scheme, published by the Dept. of Environment. Completions of the first houses of the scheme are expected in mid-1980 as is the Springbank Industrial Estate.

By that time it will be seven years from the first mention of Poleglass.

POLEGLASS: A VICTORY OVER BIGOTRY

To date, detailed planning of work on Collin Neighbourhood — Stage 1 of the Poleglass Scheme has already taken place and the design plan for the first 300 houses has already gone for approval to the Board of the N.I. Housing Executive.

These design plans have been drawn up by two firms of private architectural consultants. One of the firms concerned was responsible, albeit under another name, for the design of the notorious Springhill Housing Development which is adjacent to Ballymurphy in West Belfast.

Housing

The Collin Neighbourhood will contain some 800-900 houses and will have an eventual population of 3,000 people. The housing will be planned in 5 identifiable estates to be known as Old Collin, Pembroke, Collinbrook, Collinglen and Springbank. It is hoped that specialist housing for the elderly and handicapped will be provided by Housing Associations at Springbank and Pembroke.

There will also be private housing development at Pembroke which will be adjacent to the existing privately developed Glengoland estate.

Industry

Twenty-six acres of industrial land will be developed by the Department of Commerce at a site to be known as Springbank Industrial Estate. Design work on the site has already started and it is expected that the area can be levelled and serviced and sites available

during 1980.

Community facilities

The following facilities are to be provided at a site to be known as Collin Neighbourhood Centre:

1. A primary school including associated youth/recreation provision.
2. Nursery school.
3. Hard playgrounds associated with the schools.
4. Branch Library.
5. Local shops.
6. A family day centre and day nursery, incorporating health clinic facilities.
7. Car parking in a number of separately defined areas.

Kevin Smyth, welcoming publication of the Collin Neighbourhood Proposals, congratulated Environment Minister Ray Carter on his resolute stand on the Poleglass Development Scheme. He said:

"It is a shame that such determination had not been shown five years ago. If it had been, there would be families living in Poleglass now. It should be now clear to hard line members of Lisburn Borough Council that despite their sectarian statements and poorly attended demonstrations, housing need in West Belfast will be met in a determined manner by the NIHE.

It is the duty of the Government to ensure that it is not another five years before these plans become a reality."

Mr. Smyth has called for the establishment of an Advisory Develop-

ment Team to assist the Minister and the Housing Executive in the planning of the new community at Collin Neighbourhood.

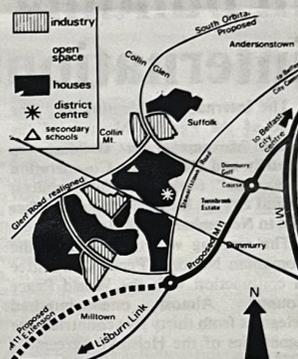
Such a team would ensure that maximum consultation in the interests of an imaginative and integrated planning approach to Poleglass.

The precedent for such productive consultation was set with the recent announcement of a £1 million community development project for the Shankill area of Belfast. The plan for this project was drawn up by a 12 strong sub group of the Belfast Area of Needs Planning Team and included representatives of statutory agencies and local community groups from the Shankill Road. Ideas from the PROJECT came from local community representatives in the Save the Shankill campaign.

Thinking

"If this type of approach can work successfully in the Shankill and lead to a £1 million development why can the same thinking not be applied to the development of Collin Neighbourhood Centre and Springbank Industrial Estate," Mr. Smyth asked, "My request for a meeting with Mr. Carter to discuss this idea has so far fallen on deaf ears."

Many of the facilities to be provided at the Neighbourhood Centre, viz, primary school, nursery school, playing fields and youth and recreation provision have been closely linked with the development of schools in the area.



Map of original Poleglass/Lagmore scheme. The area south of the black diagonal line was scrapped in December 1975 by Housing Minister Don Concannon.

These would no doubt, be the joint responsibility of the South Eastern Education & Library Board and the Down & Connor Maintained Schools Commission.

The record of the latter in providing adequate schools in the nearby Twinbrook estate is, to say the least, lamentable. Poleglass provides a unique opportunity for the imaginative development of an integrated comprehensive community schools under secular control.

Lessons

Community provision at Collin Neighbourhood must be planned to coincide with housing development and the lessons of the nearby Twinbrook estate, which is sadly lacking in adequate social, recreational and educational provision after seven years must be learnt.

Mór Fhéile Ardnósach an Oireachtas

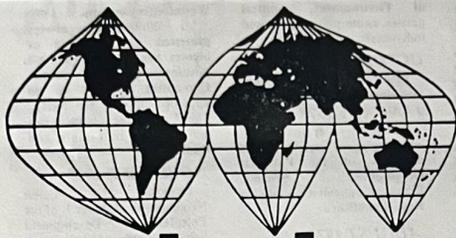
Tar éis dhá bhliain a chaitheamh sa nGaeltacht d'Fhíll Oireachtas na Gaeilge ar Bhaile Átha Cliath i mbliana. 'Mór Fhéile Náisiúnta na nGael agus na Gaeilge' a thug Aindreas O Mhuimhneachán, Uachtarán Oireachtas na bliana seo, air. Más ea ní raibh mórán den atmasféar Gaelach le feiceáil i óstán an Bhurlington, áit a raibh na himeachtaí ar fad nach mór ar siúl. Cupla bhliain o shoin aithníodh gur chomhair go

mbéadh an Oireachtas ar siúl (ar a laghad chuid dhon am) sna h-aitreacha ina bhfuil an chultúr, agus an teanga ba chúis leis, beo fós. Mar sin beartaíoch é bheith dhá bhliain i gceanntracha Gaeltachta agus dhá bhliain sa phríomh chathair. Leis an socrú nua seo bheifea ag tnúth go mbéadh deire leis an ardnósachas a bhí ag tiocht i bhfeidhim ar an fhéile de réir a chéile. Ní mar sin á tharla áfach, is léir ón iarracht i mbliana go

bhfuil an scéal ag dul in olcais. Más féile chultúir agus cheoil atá i gceist san Oireachtas ba cheart dhos na heagarthóirí ionad a fháil ina bhféadfadh na hiomatóirí agus an lucht éisteachta tiocht le chéile i dtimpeallacht nádúrtha. Ní áit oiriúnach é óstán an Bhurlington chuige sin. Chomh maith le sin ní chomhair go gcuirfí cúrsaí airded bac ar dhaoine freastal ar ócáid mar seo. Bhí na tálle ar roinnt dos na

himeachtaí an árd ar fad agus má bhí deoch uait thairis sin bhí ort é cheannach ar phraghasanna óstáin mhór — seasca phingin a bhí de dhiol ar bhuidéal beórach. Maidir leis na himeachtaí féin, gan tracht ar an atmasféar, ba dheacair rud ar bith a fheiceáil ar stáitse an halla mhóir gan bheith id shuí shuas in aice leis. Bhí Club an Fhéile gan órd ná ergair agus ní raibh aimplitheoirí ar bith curtha ar fáil dhos na ceoltóirí ann. An

bhliain seo chughainn beidh an Oireachtas ar siúl i mBlá Cliath arís agus má tá coiste an Oireachtas dáiríre faoin fhéile ba chomhair doibh níos mó béime a chur ar an dtaobh chultúrtha de agus an foirmíúlacht agus an ardnósachas a fhágáil ar lár. Sa gcaoi sin d'fhéadfai bheith ag súil le "Féile Mór Náisiúnta" a chuireadh cultúir na hÉireann ós chomhair an phobail mar ba chomhair.



an domhan

Role of the people in building international peace

The International Meeting on "The Role of the Peoples Masses, of the Peace Movements in Building up Security and Developing Co-operation in Europe" took place in Bucharest capital city of Romania from October 31st to November 1st 1978.

The meeting was organised by the Romanian National Peace Committee in conjunction with the World Peace Council. Almost one hundred delegates from thirty five countries, the signatories of the Helsinki Agreement 1975, took part.

The conference was opened by Professor Doctor Tudor Ionescu, President of the R.N.P.C. who reminded the delegates that they were in a country which had always taken a firm stand for a policy of peace and international co-operation.

First hand

All of the conference was held in plenary session and many of the delegates were able to give first hand accounts of the work and progress the Peace Movement was making in their various countries. Among those who gave such valuable speeches was General Costa Gomez, former President of Portugal, a vice president of the World Peace Council and who deputised for World Peace Council President Romesh Chandra.

General Gomez dealt in particular with the role of the masses in peace work. The Canadian peace Congress delegate along with the United States representative Patrick Tobin, Longshoreman's Union, Washington, gave the conference a lengthy report of the situation in the two non-European countries which had signed the Helsinki Agreement in 1975.

Grave

The Cypriot delegate John Potamitis and the delegate from Malta, Paul Naudi both made comprehensive speeches in which they outlined the grave situation in the Mediterranean and of the need to have no foreign bases or troops on either island.

An outstanding contribution came from Professor Gerhard Dengler of the German Democratic Republic who linked his work of studying peace with the practical task of clarifying issues for people and involving the masses in peace work the main theme of the conference.

It is hoped that some of the main speeches will be produced by the World Peace Council in the future, including contributions from Michel Iernewall Editor-in-Chief of Grafica, Swedish Typeographers' Union, that of the Turkish delegate Bedir Aydemir, of Jean Pavett, World Peace Council secretary and of Glen Williams Secretary General Conference of European Churches, along with those of Carlos Silva World Federation Democratic Youth and Michael Korkozowicz of the International Union of Students.

Ireland

The General Secretary of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, Sean Garland, was the only Irish representative and he spoke to the conference in the Monday afternoon session.

In the course of a lengthy and wide ranging speech he dealt with the situation in Ireland over the past ten years. The role of the Civil Rights Association, its impact and influence along with the successes it had achieved came in for special attention.

The violence of the Right Wing nationalists of the Provisional Alliance and that of the Ultra Left Terrorists coupled with the violence of the State Forces, British Army, R.U.C. and U.D.R., the Protestant paramilitaries was dealt with in some detail. It was clear to the Irish delegate that a great deal of ignorance and confusion was all that the majority of delegates had about Ireland.

The Peace People had been heard about and it was necessary to inform delegates as to the beginnings of the Peace People, their role and their effect. He clarified for delegates the true position of the Peace People and of what was really required in Ireland to build a stable and effective peace movement.

Better life

He was able to give an informed picture as to the mood of the Irish people in relation to violence from any source and of the continued efforts on the part of the progressive peace forces in Ireland to build support for the Irish Trade Union Movement's "Better Life for All Campaign".

In relation to the Helsinki Agreement he told the delegates of the Irish Government's total silence on this

and of the continued efforts on the part of many politicians and other interests to have Ireland become a part of the N.A.T.O. military alliance.

In a submission to the drafting commission for inclusion in the final document of the conference Sean Garland "called upon the conference to support the Trade Union Movement in its Better Life for All Programme. That the conference calls upon the British Government to introduce a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and that the British Government take steps to establish a Democratic Local Assembly elected by Proportional Representation system of voting as a first move towards political normality.

That the Conference calls upon the Irish Government to publicise more widely among the Irish people the Final Helsinki Agreement which was signed by the Irish Government in 1975.

And the Conference urges the Irish Government to resist all and every effort to have the Republic become a part of the N.A.T.O. military alliance."

Communique

The final session of the conference was given over to discussing a final communique which had been prepared by a drafting commission composed of delegates from Finland, France, Poland, Romania, U.S.S.R., Portugal, U.S.A. and Britain. The chairman of the drafting commission was James Lamond Labour M.P. for Oldham, Manchester who asked the delegates to endorse the communique and explained that it was not possible to include specific references to any

country because of the need to keep the final communique brief.

The participants called on peace movements and all mass organisations to intensify their efforts to ensure that their governments prepare for the meeting in Madrid in 1980 of the representatives of the States participating at the Conference for security and co-operation in Europe in a constructive spirit, giving the greatest possible attention to effective measures towards disarmament thus leading to gains in the process of building lasting security and detente on our continent, and realising the ideals which gave birth to the Helsinki Final Act.

Satisfaction was expressed concerning the various national and international events which are to take place with the object of broadening the exchange of views among the largest possible circles of public opinion.

Among the initiatives mentioned were the International Conference in London 25th and 26th November on the subject of Conversion from Arms Production, the International Conference of Solidarity with Cyprus, Barcelona on 25th to 27th May 1979 and the international meeting of parliamentarians in Canada, Spring 1979.

It is hoped that necessary conditions would be created for bringing together different peace forces of Europe for security, co-operation and disarmament.

The participants expressed their concern about the activities of fascist, terrorist and racist elements, and stressed the necessity to combat them.

● The monument in Bucharest built in memory of those who fought and died for the liberation of Romania.



CONFERENCE OF WORLD SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE

From November 9-12 this year representatives of over 100 countries attended a World Conference of Solidarity with Chile in Madrid.

The Irish representatives were Pat McCartan, Secretary of the Ireland/Chile Solidarity Committee in Ireland and Pdraig Mannion Vice-President of International Affairs in the Union of Students in Ireland.

The Conference was attended by representatives of governments, and national and international organisations of all sections of the world political and cultural spectrum.

The Conference in conclusion declared a Solemn Act of Madrid which pledged continued and unceasing support for the freedom of the oppressed people of Chile.

The Conference was significant not only for the movement for freedom and democracy in Chile but also proved a significant event in the internal developments in Spain itself. Presently there is a major campaign in progress which is supported by the left and the central democrats for the implementation of a new constitution in Spain.

The vital referendum is due to be held on December 11 next. The campaign is supported by the left for much the same reasons why our Party has campaigned for a Bill of Rights as one of the immediate demands in the settlement of the Northern crisis.

As in the Six Counties the peaceful road to democracy in Spain is threatened by the pro Francoists on the one hand and on the other by groups like ETA, who recently met with leaders of the Provisionals here. Despite the manoeuvres of these groups, which have involved direct attacks against communist party offices etc. it is expected that the constitution will be accepted by a vast majority of the people.

During the Conference Pat McCartan, who is Chairperson of the Dublin Executive of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, was invited to meet with Leonor Bernao, Director of International Affairs of the Communist Party of Spain.

In the discussion strong parallels were drawn in the struggle of both our countries and plans were laid for a full meeting between the two parties and their youth movements in the early spring, when the hard work of their present campaign will, we hope, have borne good results for our comrades.

Speakers at Romanian Peace Conference stress power of public opinion

In his opening address Professor Doctor Tudor Ionescu, President of the R.N.P.C. said to Romania's citizens who, by choosing to go along the path of socialist development, have successfully made radical changes in their country's aspect and prospects, and are freely and proudly participating in the building of a society that can carry them, at a steady and speedy pace, close to the achievement of the ideals that their forefathers had defended for centuries, the status of peace, good understanding and co-operation between countries and nations is a vital requirement.

According to our philosophical outlook, the peace policy does not simply mean the abstract attachment to a worn out ideal. Peace represents, especially today, a concrete target that can be reached by means of the efforts of all peoples who can join along the winding paths that lead to the settling of all important issues facing the contemporary world.

Interests

Peace does not merely mean the absence of war. It means the continuous strengthening of the prevailing course toward detente and security achievement, the assimilation of new principles and norms of conduct in the relations between states, the setting up, through joint endeavours, of the new economic and political order in the world; it also means real disarmament, the abolition of colonial and imperialistic practices, the settling of disputes and imperialistic practices, the settling of disputes and misunderstandings only through political talks as well as co-operation between nations, equal in rights, who mutually observe each other's interests.

If we are all confident, the way I am confident, that all nations share in the capacity and strength of consciously creating a new type of international relations, let us try to discuss in what manner the European public opinion and peace movements may more efficiently contribute to the setting up of long-lasting security and co-operation.

Deter

I believe that our debates should go along such lines. For though our political and philosophical outlooks may differ this cannot deter us from sharing the opinion that in order to create European as well as international security and peace, the contribution and desire for co-operation of the broadest democratic and progressive forces, of various political and ideological opinions and religious creeds is necessary alongside with the firm will and active work of all states.

In the opening report to the conference the head of the Romanian delegation stressed the importance of public opinion in the European countries in bringing the governments to the position where they will take firm and decisive action for Europe's transformation into a zone of peace and understanding to the benefit of all the nations of the continent, and of the general cause of progress and prosperity in the world.

Continuing, the delegate said "It is

a coincidence that our meeting takes place a short time after the "Disarmament Week", an action initiated by the United Nations as an expression of the deep concern about the intensification of the dangers of the arms race and the demand for firm efficient disarmament measures.

And Europe is called upon to make an important contribution to the fulfillment of this objective, to give mankind an example of political will and a high sense of responsibility.

Today's mankind owes a lot to Europe. Our continent had and continues to have an outstanding role in the development of the production forces of science, technology and culture, of human civilisation in general. But, at the same time, we cannot forget that our century alone, experienced the outbreak of the two world wars in our continent which brought with them huge human and material losses and was a powerful obstacle to the progress of the whole of mankind.

Friendship

Being deeply attached to the cause of peace and collaboration in the world, the Romanian people, socialist Romania, host this meeting with hospitality and deep friendship, confident in the prospects it can open up.

We hope it will be an important contribution to the cause of the mobilisation and stirring to activity of the largest and most representative forces of the people's masses of the signatory States of the Final Act of Helsinki, for really progressing on the road of the full putting into practice of the provisions agreed on at the summit level of the 35 States participating in the General European Conference, in the perspective of the meeting in Madrid in 1980.

Spending

The countries that have signed the Helsinki Final Act, are spending over 80% of the funds allocated for military purposes in the world, and have about 50% of the globe's military effectives. About 75% of the total of foreign military effectives permanently stationed on the territories of other States are on the territories of 18 European States.

The destructive force existing in Europe makes it possible for each of its inhabitants to be theoretically killed 72,000 times while the entire continent can be destroyed over 20 times by nuclear explosions.

It would be a serious mistake to give the European nations the illusion that they can live in peace so long as the concentration of destructive forces persists, so long as Europe continues to shelter armed effectives and arms, capable, pure and simple, to smash it to smithereens.

The consolidation of detente and the achievement of authentic security cannot be conceived without the adoption of decisive disarmament, and, first of all, nuclear disarmament measures.

Practical

We believe that in order to achieve this, a series of practical measures must be taken such as the assumption by all European States of firm commitments regarding the reduction and cessation of military manoeuvres, of all kinds of show of force at the frontiers of other countries, the 10-15% reduction by 1985 of armament, of foreign troops stationed on the territories of other European States, concomitantly with the diminution, at

the same proportion, of the national troops.

The closing down of nuclear military bases and the withdrawal of all troops within the national frontiers; the passing on to negotiations for the concomitant abolition of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty; the conclusion of a general European Pact containing the commitment to renounce the use of and threat with force.

We consider it of great importance that undelayed action should be taken to establish relations between the European States on new basis.

Relations

The sole basis for the cultivation of such relations is the observance of full equality of rights, national independence and sovereignty, the renunciation of any form of aggression or interference in the internal affairs of others, the abolition of force and the threat of force in inter-State relations.

The social forces in the European countries, which pronounce themselves for peace and collaboration must play a role of highest responsibility in the mobilisation and stirring to action of the advanced forces of the European peoples' masses.

The political parties in the European countries, the parliaments, all politically minded people are called on to increase their contribution to the cause of European security and co-operation, to the masses' large involvement in the consolidation and stimulation of the process of detente, of the intensification of bi- and multi-lateral collaboration, of the building of a Europe of peace.

The working people's professional organisations, through their character and large-scale preoccupations, can make an outstanding contribution to the masses' mobilisation to actions which should stimulate co-operation and understanding in the continent, should strengthen the friendship and solidarity of the European peoples.

The women, who account for more than half of the population of the continent and their organisations constitute a social force that must be mobilised to a much greater extent for the ensurance of well-being, progress and peace.

The younger generation, the entire youth movement in the continent, vitally concerned with the forging of a peaceful future of freedom and progress, is called on to play a more dynamic, more active part, to place its entire combativity, enthusiasm and power of abnegation in the service of the cause.

Media

One of the most important roles in the promotion of our common ideals of peace and co-operation in the continent is incumbent on the press, radio and television, on the other mass media. Journalists, exponents of public opinion, have the duty, at the same time, to form a large trend of opinion for the fulfillment of the fundamental aspirations nurtured by all the peoples, to support all efforts directed towards good understanding rapprochement, friendship and collaboration between the European peoples.

Public opinion in Romania will continue constantly to act for the development of collaboration with all these forces, being convinced that the peoples are well capable to ensure mankind's future of peace, prosperity and progress.

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Finglas South — Builder's Shame

During the late sixties, in response to the pressure from homeless families to curb house prices, land speculation and to increase Local Authority housing output, Fianna Fáil introduced their 'low cost' housing schemes.

The low cost was achieved, not by controlling speculation but by reducing the standards for construction and specifications for materials, and allowing the private builders to design and build the houses as they pleased.

Speculators

Finglas South was part of this scheme and consists of almost 2,000 houses built by a variety of 'spec' builders using corporation labour.

They operated under contract for the NBA, who in turn were agents for Dublin Corporation. The land of course was owned by Dublin Corporation.

The houses were in the main built without fireplaces and were designed to be heated throughout by central heating.

Following the rise in oil prices, central heating became too expensive for most people and, not having any fireplaces, they switched to bottled gas and paraffin oil heaters.

Fungus

The consequence of this has been that a large number of houses where families are forced to vacate most of their bedrooms, where clothing turns green mouldy from damp and where a black fungus forms on the walls.

In 1974 Sinn Féin The Workers' Party surveyed 200 houses in a section of Finglas South and found over 600 defects covering faults in sewage pipes, electrical wiring, walls, dampness, doors and windows which would not close or fell out altogether.

In April of this year 18 of those same

houses were found to have defective roofs.

And the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards reports that the roofs of almost 300 of these houses, built by McInerney Ltd. were put up out of plum by as much as four inches and have moved a further three inches.

The net result of this 'low cost' scheme is many houses unfit to live in, continuous high cost maintenance, and the need to spend an estimated three million pounds to remedy all the defects effectively.

Pubs

The only indoor recreational facilities are a recently opened public house and the local school which is available at the discretion of the Parish Priest.

A site has been provided in one section of Finglas South for a community centre but no money is available to build on it.

There is no Health Centre, no Library, no Post Office, no Playgrounds, and the only crèche facilities available are provided by parents on a voluntary basis at their own cost and in inadequate accommodation.

There is also no direct bus link between Finglas South and Finglas Village, the main shopping area.

In working to have all these defects and deficiencies rectified we have been conscious of the need to avoid negative policies, personified by calls for total demolition, being made by some politicians.

Roots

The Finglas Constituency Council of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party recognises that almost 2,000 families now live in this scheme. They have put down roots here, made friends, spent their hard-earned money in trying to

improve their homes and have their children attending local schools which they have built.

Our attitude is that no matter what it now costs, proper living conditions and a good social environment must be provided for these families.

Consequently we have launched our campaign 'Save Finglas South — a living community. This is aimed to highlight what is needed in the area and to 'buck up' the efforts of all the local associations which are active in seeking solutions to their problems.

In this regard we should say that we have consistently advised people in the area to form and support associations and that they should affiliate to NATO.

Heritage

The Viking heritage to be saved at Wood Quay is certainly well worth saving but unless the same effort and the same kind of money is pumped into areas like Finglas South, Ballymun, Tallaght, and Blanchardstown, then Wood Quay might as well be bulldozed for all the value it will be to the children growing up in these areas.

Protests

The Campaign will use public protests, posters, leaflets and petitions, and will lobby all elected representatives for Finglas to push for implementation of the Party's proposals.

These proposals have been developed over a number of years and in discussion with the people directly affected. They cover not only housing defects but also the lack of amenities and services and needless to say, come next June we will be seeking a mandate from the people to pursue our proposals on Dublin's City Council.



● Proinsias De Rossa, Chairperson of the Finglas Constituency Council of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, who has been to the forefront of the campaign to Save Finglas South.

COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

On Thursday, December 14 at UCD, Earlsfort Terrace in Dublin, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties will be putting the case for an ombudsman in Irish life.

This is part of a series of well-supported public meetings which the Council has been running for the past three months. Each month a different theme has been tackled by two or three speakers with plenty of discussion.

Topics included so far have been Civil Liberties and Mental Health, Women and Discrimination and Adoption.

The programme of meetings has been an informative supplement to the Council's work. The Council for Civil Liberties is providing an important function in an area of Irish life that receives scant attention from the major political parties — the equal rights of all citizens regardless of class, sex or race.

The Constitution of the Republic of Ireland guarantees the rights of all citizens to equality. Ireland is a signatory of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the European Convention of Human Rights.

But the Constitution of the State has rarely been tested by citizens asserting their rights. Although an Irish man's challenge and an Irish team's work won the right of all European citizens to take their Governments to the Human Rights Court at Strasbourg, Irish women and men have been the most reluctant to take up cases in this court.

Dáil deputies and senators with notable exception have rarely bothered to champion the rights of their constituents or fight to broaden the scope of liberties available to the citizens of the state.

Publications on the contempt of court law, restrictions on freedom of speech, and a proposed bill for access to information of public concern, were issued by the ICCL.

In its work the Council has sought and won the support of individuals and organisations.

If you wish to become a member then you can write to the ICCL at Liberty Hall, Dublin 1 for membership details and add your support to the aims of the Council.

As we go to press news has reached us that Jim Skeffington, a veteran Republican from Tyrone, who has resided in New York for several years, has died. The January issue of The United Irishman will carry a full obituary on Jim Skeffington.

Another comrade whose loss we mourn is Jack Sullivan who died last month in Dublin.

All of his life was devoted to the struggle for a Socialist Republic. He was a brother of Councillor Redmond Sullivan of Killarney.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Adrian Gallagher, General Organiser of Clann na hÉireann in Britain, of the death of his mother.

I.D.Y.M. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Ireland has the highest youth unemployment in the EEC. Nearly a quarter of our people in the 14-19 age group are out of work and as a result of this appalling level of unemployment thousands of youths are forced onto the dole queues or into dead-end sweatshop jobs."

With this bleak picture, Phillip Moran opened the debate on youth unemployment at the 1978 Irish Democratic Youth Movement Conference.

He condemned successive Irish and British Governments for their failure to take positive action against unemployment and he dismissed schemes like the Work Experience programme in the South and the Youth Opportunities programme in the North as "stop-gap measures designed to disguise, rather than to alleviate the problem of our jobless youth."

Over 100 delegates from all parts of Ireland attended the IDYM conference which was held

● Delegates of the Irish Democratic Youth Movement voting during the Annual Conference.



on 18 November in Liberty Hall. Tomás Mac Giolla, President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party was the guest speaker.

Also among the visitors were observers of other Irish youth groups, including Ógras, National Youth Council and the Connolly Youth Movement.

A representative of the Communist Youth of Iraq presented his organisation's fraternal greetings to the IDYM in an address to the conference.

Messages of solidarity and support were also received from a large number of progressive parties and movements around the world.

While youth unemployment was the main talking point at the conference, many other issues, ranging from education and housing to nuclear power, were discussed.

UNITED IRISHMAN 30th ANNIVERSARY 1948 — 1978

Political Journals are notoriously short lived. To last a decade is unusual. To reach its 30th year is a record.

In the long history of the Irish struggle for independence and for the establishment of a people's Republic various revolutionary journals have played a leading role in educating and mobilising the mass of our people.

One of these was John Mitchell's UNITED IRISHMAN whose name we took one hundred years later in 1948.

To celebrate our 30th Anniversary we intend to hold a concert in Liberty Hall on January 24, 1979 in the Social Hall at 7.30p.m.

As well as music and songs from different periods of our history there will be a display and review of the role of the press in Irish revolutionary history — *The Northern Star, The Nation, The Irish People (Fenians), An Claidheamh Solus, The Workers' Republic (Irish Citizen Army) etc.*

Tickets at £2 are available from 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. Phone 741045.

Annual Christmas BAZAAR
Servia St. BELFAST
Fri. 15th & Sat. 16th December