

1968 A Decade of Struggle

1978 for Civil Rights

Pages 6/7

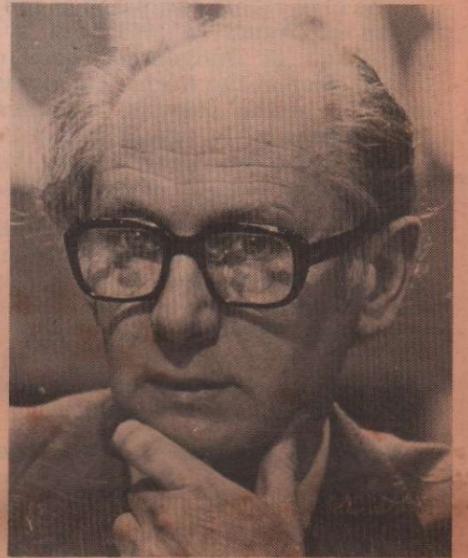
UNITED IRISHMAN



AN tEIREANNACH AONTAITHE EANAIR (JAN.) 1978 Vol. 36 No. 1. 10p (30c)

Monthly Newspaper of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party

E.E.C. NOW TAKES OVER



● Lynch.

On January 1, Ireland became a full member of the European Economic Community. The five year transitional period is now over.

Apart from the few areas such as car assembly where the extension was given under a special protocol, the full force of the Treaty of Rome now takes effect as the law of the land.

During the course of the referendum in 1972 many wild promises about the benefits of the EEC were made by Flanna Fail and Fine Gael. Apart from the bonanza for farmers, few of these have come true. Thousands of jobs have been lost due to the sudden advent of free trade although the government said the effect would be minimal. Prices rose at an unprecedented rate although the supporters of the EEC said the rise would be only 1% or 2%. Great benefits were promised from the regional fund, but nothing has materialised.

In a Dail debate on 13th December last it transpired that both Jack Lynch of Flanna Fail and Garret FitzGerald of Fine Gael, the two most staunch supporters of the EEC were becoming somewhat disillusioned. Lynch pointed out that instead of catching up with the other member countries in the prosperity league we had fallen further behind.

In 1970, he said, Ireland's per capita gross domestic product was 54% of the EEC average. In 1975 this

had fallen to 48% — a drop of 6%. In 1970 the average income in Hamburg was five times that of the West of Ireland. In 1975 Hamburg was six times better off.

"We cannot contemplate a situation" said Lynch, "where regional funds and policies are allowed to languish while other policies of the Community are applied with vigour and enthusiasm! But in fact of course that is what we are contemplating.

Garret FitzGerald was even more scathing. "The scale of the regional fund was absurd in comparison with the scale of the problems it was intended to deal with". He also said that we should not have allowed the freezing of trade without first establishing measures to transfer resources. "The heads of government of the larger states have got away with murder" he said.

When this newspaper and speakers from Sinn Féin The Workers' Party pointed out the problems of dealing with the large

industrial states Lynch and FitzGerald scoffed at the idea. Now they are all set to rob our fisheries, take our mineral resources, especially our uranium and break up our State transport company.

The farmers did well out of the EEC up to now. Of the total of £436m received in Community grants and subsidies between July 1973 and June 1977 a total of £404m or 93% went directly to farmers. Only £16.7m went to the Social Fund and £13.6m to the Regional Fund. In those four years the 26 county state paid in £47m to the EEC. So in fact those of us who are outside farming actually paid in to the EEC £17m more than we got out!

But those were good years. The bonanza for farmers is now over, as they have reached parity of prices with the other EEC countries. The gains will be getting less and the losses will increase as we go through the next five years of membership.

Restrictions on Civil Liberties

Taoiseach Jack Lynch and his Justice Minister, Gerry Collins, are considering the introduction of new repressive laws.

These will practically eliminate bail in the majority of cases, will abolish the right of an accused person to remain silent, will end the gardai's duty to caution subjects before taking statements and will force the production of alibi evidence before trial.

These changes were foreshadowed in speeches at passing-out parades of newly-trained gardai by Gerry Collins at the end of November, and by Jack Lynch on December 8th. Earlier in November, Jack Marriman, Secretary of the Garda Representative Body, had publicly called for changes in the judges' rules which govern procedures for custody and trial.

The quick response of Justice Minister Collins indicated the strength of garda pressure for changes in the law. The gardai want to make it easier to get convictions — even convictions of the innocent. The seven-day detention section of the Emergency Powers Act was a great help in extracting confessions. However, following the damning Amnesty report on Garda brutality

the Fianna Fail government were forced to put the Act into cold storage.

They got Garda agreement to this move only on the promise that other repressive measures would replace it. It was to reassure the Gardai and the law and order brigade of the party that Jack Lynch himself went to Templemore Barracks to spell out his determination to bring in new measures.

Despite pressure from Fianna Fail members of the legal profession for acceptance of the Taoiseach's proposals, resistance is already building up. Mr. Seamus Sorohan, one of the foremost criminal barristers in the State, opposed the move, as also did the Irish Association of Democratic Lawyers.

Resentment

in

Coalisland

The campaign of bombing and arson by the Provisionals was continued right through December despite earlier predictions of a possible cease fire. Belfast continues to be the main target for attacks, most of which consist of planting small incendiary devices in shops.

On Stephen's night however, three fires were caused by explosive devices in Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. Two shops on the main street and a 130 year old weaving factory on the edge of the town were destroyed. The immediate result has been the loss of 40 jobs in the factory and 20 jobs in McGrath's Furniture store. In a town of already high unemployment the loss of these 60 jobs amounts to almost disaster.

People in Belfast have become immune to bomb blasts and fires and now regard the Provos merely as a nuisance. In Coalisland however, people are much more resentful of what has been done to their town and their workers. They want to know what purpose it serves apart from boosting the egos of a small and politically impotent group. No one except the Provisionals themselves believe that these tactics hurt the British economy.

The continuation of a now obviously futile arson is also beginning to cause resentment among the long term prisoners. Every bomb is postponing further the possibility of developing a release the prisoners campaign and mobilising support for an amnesty.

The calling of a permanent ceasefire would be the best New Year present the Provos could give to the Irish people.

UNITED IRISHMAN

An tEireannach Aontaithe

MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF SINN FEIN THE WORKERS' PARTY

HOPE

The decade from 1968 to 1978 has been a most traumatic one for the Irish people. In 1968, in common with the world wide upsurge of progressive movements as a result of opposition to the U.S. War in Viet Nam, the Irish people came on the streets in their thousands to demand a better deal.

In the south they demanded houses and an end to repressive laws such as the proposed Criminal Justice Bill. In the north people of all religions and politics joined in the demand for Civil Rights under the banner of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association.

The civil rights campaign in the north, which began on August 24 1968 with a march from Coalisland to Dungannon, soon captured the imagination of the world. The massive numbers involved in the peaceful marches proved the genuineness of the demands and the brutal way in which they were dealt with by the RUC proved the repressive nature of the regime.

Over the next couple of years the growth of democratic and progressive ideas raised the political consciousness of Irish people north and south. Morale was high and hope for the future of the nation rose to a peak. Many felt we were entering a new era which with patience, organisation and political skill could lead to the democratic socialist republic.

But the right wing militarists were waiting in the wings. The British government was preparing to unleash the Paras, the Dublin government was organising the Provos and the unionists were setting up the UVF and the UDA. The combination of these forces eventually succeeded in breaking the morale, the will and the magnificent determination of the masses of people who had sung "we shall not be moved" under the RUC batons and CS gas.

The murderous assaults of the British Army alone could not have broken the spirit of the people. This was proved after the bloody attack on the Derry marchers which left 13 dead. The following NICRA demonstration in Newry brought over 50,000, the largest gathering ever assembled. But the bombing campaigns, sectarian killings and protection rackets of the paramilitary groups drove the people off the streets and divided and confused them.

The demands which inspired the people to such great heights and which brought almost total international support were now dropped. Unionist paramilitaries fought for "Protestant supremacy", the Provos fought for a vague "declaration of intent" and the SDLP wheeled and dealt for "power sharing". No one had marched for these demands. They had not inspired or welded a people together. They had divided them in such a way that they could be picked off one by one by the British Government. And this is what has happened under direct rule.

As we enter 1978 then we can see that the wheel has turned full circle. The growth of militarism and fascism in the north had its reflection in the southern state also. Nothing spreads faster than reaction. It was unfortunate that the period of political reaction coincided with one of the worst periods of economic recession we have suffered. The result was that the period of highest unemployment was also the period when the political organisations of the workers were at their lowest ebb.

However, there are already indications of a swing in the political pendulum. It seems we have reached the bottom of the trough and are beginning a slow upswing.

There are many causes for hope. But the greatest hope is in our young and growing population. If they can be mobilised behind the clear coherent political ideas of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party then indeed the eighties shall be Socialist.

Letters to the Editor

A Chara,

I was astonished by the revelation in last month's United Irishman that information on the Tynagh ore, which led to what is now Tynagh mine, was fed to a private businessman by Murrough O'Brien, then director of the Geological Survey.

The Geological Survey is an Irish State organisation, and as such its findings and information are subject to the Official Secrets Act. If Murrough O'Brien tipped off Pat Hughes of Tynagh Mines about the results of State tests and surveys, which he gained as Geological Survey director, surely he is liable for prosecution under this Act?

Murrough O'Brien has since been appointed a director of Tara: coarse and cynically-minded people might suggest he is reaping the reward for a gross betrayal of information held in trust for the Irish people. To refute such suggestions, will Murrough O'Brien answer: did he or did he not pass Geological Survey information to Tynagh boss Pat Hughes?

If he did, he should be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act. If he did not, he should say so.

Le meas,
Seumas Phelan,
Howth, Co. Dublin.

★ ★ ★

A Chara,

I would like to make a few comments on the UI article dealing with the Irish Republican Clubs' recent Ard Fheis here in New York.

The prominence given to the convention was certainly welcome and should only help the movement here. There are some small criticisms which have to be made. Most of these are minor but there is, I feel, one glaring error — that is the minimal coverage given to the address of Zehdi Terzi, the P.L.O.'s chief delegate to the U.N. When we arranged for him to come we felt it would be one of the most important features of the Ard Fheis. And certainly his 45 minute talk was important. I'm sure it was impossible to fit in all that took place but we missed a great opportunity to show our solidarity with an excellent and important liberation movement.

As mentioned before there are also some minor problems with the article. For instance, John Joe Hoey, a long time supporter of the clubs here was not included in the photograph which appeared with the article. Also, Seamus Naughton who was in the photo should have been listed as representing the National Association for Irish Freedom — the NICRA support group here.

Finally the executive of the clubs as given was incorrect. Neither Ann Hess nor myself are members of the executive but Gerry McKinney is and his name was unfortunately omitted. Just this year Gerry established a club in Manitoba, Western Canada.

He is a trade unionist and has good contacts with the trade union movement and progressive wing of the New Democratic Party in Canada.

In closing I want to thank you again for your coverage of our convention and I wish you all the best for the New Year.

Yours,
Tom Hayden,
PRO/IR Clubs of North America,
Room 604, 160 5th Avenue,
NEW YORK 10011.

★ ★ ★

A Chara,

I was very interested in one of your front page articles last month. I remember when the Trade Union Congress was split in the late 1940's — the real reason being that Sean Lemass did not want a strong trade union movement just after the war. I can see the same sort of thing happening again and the publication New Liberty helping to do the job for Fianna Fail.

I remember when the unions were drawn into discussing all sorts of things about British based unions and so on, the Irish workers were pouring out of the country to look for jobs in Britain. Now when jobs are pouring out of the country in the ore-boats, New Liberty is set up to

attack the leadership of the trade union movement.

New Liberty is without doubt helping the government in its anti-trade union stand — whether it means it or not.

Is mise,
Peader O Murchu,
B.A.C. 9.

★ ★ ★

Dear Editor,

I would like, on behalf of the Editorial Committee of New Liberty, to reply to your attack on our organisation in December's issue of the United Irishman.

It is a little difficult to know where to begin in the face of such a welter of misrepresentation, innuendo and smear tactics. Perhaps the most serious charge is that our group engages in "anti-trade union activity". Absolutely no evidence is presented to sustain this allegation. Instead we are somehow linked to Fianna Fail trade union splitting policy in the forties and the B. and I.C.O. policy of splitting the movement on North-South lines. A curious combination to say the least! For the record, we are, of course, resolutely opposed to both and stand four-square for the unity of the whole trade union movement in the face of attack from any quarter.

You accuse us of "deliberately attempting to foment disputes on questions of slight importance in order to distract attention from the really serious issues". We recently brought out a pamphlet exposing the scandalous collaboration of some ITGWU leaders with right-wing Labour Party leaders to misuse the union for personal and political gain — is this of small importance? Our last issue carried a detailed report on the anti-trade union activities of Ferenka management, backed by the ITGWU bureaucracy — is this of small importance?

We have consistently given prominence to the campaign against wage restraint and National Wage Agreements — is this of small importance? If you accuse us of also taking up local disputes and instances of bureaucratic manipulation in the union, we plead guilty. We are, you see, a rank and file group and we take up rank and file concerns.

You, of course, would deny that we are any such animal. You refer to a "collection of ultra-left splinter groups". It's a time-honoured smear. There are members of revolutionary left groups in New Liberty (including SWM), there are members of reformist-left groups (including the Labour Party), there are many independents (including ex-members of B. and ICO).

Actually the majority of members would claim to have no political allegiance. New Liberty is a coming together of rank and file

activists in ITGWU (shop stewards, branch committee members and ordinary members) to fight openly and consistently for democratic change in the union.

Our aims are: for greater democracy in the union, with election to all union positions; to make the union fight for the right to work for all its members; to ensure that the union gives official backing where a democratic decision for industrial action has taken place; opposition to all wage agreements which restrict trade union rights and hold down wages; and for wage negotiations to be conducted by the rank and file.

We believe that such aims should be fought for urgently and openly in ITGWU. Perhaps SFWP does not. If so, we ask why you could not have argued such a position in a constructive and fraternal manner in your article. The growth of New Liberty in the ITGWU has seemed to have caused not a little confusion amongst some sections of the left — unfortunately your article will only have added to it. Let us hope that a real debate can shortly be opened up.

Fraternally,
John Kane
(Secretary-New Liberty)
15 Ventry Drive,
Cabra, Dublin 7.

OBITUARY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Mick McKenna, Newbridge, Co. Derry, who died recently.

Mick was a lifelong member of the Republican Movement in South Derry. A staunch supporter of the civil rights cause, he foresaw the dangers of the Provisional campaign. In recent years he devoted himself to the cause of the welfare of prisoners and their dependants.

All ex-internees and prisoners from the South Derry area will be forever indebted to him.

At the time of his death as well as being an active member of the Republican Clubs, Mick was Chairman of Cabhair, the Republican Prisoners' Welfare Committee.

Mairfidh se in ar gcumhne.

UNITED IRISHMAN

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Port redundancies a further blow to Dublins black spot

An exclusive report in the IRISH PEOPLE before Christmas revealed that over 200 redundancies will take place in the Dublin Port area early in 1978.

Hardest hit will be the Port itself where it is believed discussions are already under way for a reorganisation of the labour force which will require 100 to 150 redundancies amongst deep-sea dockers. It is estimated that approximately £1 million will be made available in severance payments and a substantial part of this, £700,000 will be put up by the Government.

The other area affected by redundancies is the CIE Rail and Freight depot on the North Wall. Here again the introduction of containers and computers had reduced the amount of work available.

Other implications of discussion documents, drawn up by the Port and Docks Board and the Stevedores, include shift working, job flexibility, bonus and pension schemes.

Over the past number of years there have been large

scale redundancies involving over 600 men because of the introduction of containers into the Port and general rationalisation.

The total amount of tonnage being put through the port of Dublin is steadily increasing. The volume of traffic in 1962 was less than four million tons. If the present rate of steady increase continues then the projected tonnage going through the port in 1981 will be eight million tons. This figure does not include 500,000 tons of Tara ore, which is, of course, business that the port could well do without because it is in reality an export of jobs.

Jobs are lost in the port because the nature of the traffic using the port has changed and is continuing to change. The container traffic and the roll-on, roll-off traffic required much less labour. Crane usage has dropped sharply in the last few years. The highest figure for the use



● Dublin Port area should be the base for planned development to ensure the survival of the inner city community.

of cranes in Dublin Port was 61,000 hours for the year 1969. The present annual total is 33,000 hours, including the use of container cranes.

Dublin is the port for the Eastern Region which has a fast growing labour force. In 1961 the actual labour force in this region was 361,110. In 1991 the projected labour force will be 568,000. If unemployment is to be reduced in this area it is necessary to create new jobs at a rate of 20,000 a year for the next five years.

A substantial part of the unemployment in the Eastern Region is concentrated in the port area. In fact the worst unemployment blackspot in the state is in the area of Dublin which stretches from O'Connell St. across to Alexandra Basin.

The Port of Dublin is the best natural resource of the Eastern Region and as such should be developed with a view to creating a vibrant industrial heart for Dublin. Without new industry coming

into the Port area, the process of turning inner city Dublin into an office complex will continue to further deprive workers and their families of decent housing and social amenities.

Indeed for Dublin to survive an overall Dublin plan using the port area as an industrial base is essential.

The Dublin Port and Docks Board has produced such a plan but its implementation is being prevented by the local opportunist politicians such as Sean D. Loftus aided by so-called community councillors like Kevin Byrne. When they successfully opposed planning permission in 1976 for an oil refinery on reclaimed land in the bay they deprived 3,000 construction workers of jobs. They also deprived workers in the port area such as the redundant Goulding workers of 300 jobs running the refinery. They deprived Dublin Port and Docks Board of revenue of £1 million per year which would have been

available for the development and modernisation of the port.

Worst of all however is the fact that the Loftus campaign has scared off other industries from seeking planning permission to establish in the port area. Having destroyed the potential for jobs they now sit back to wait for the next industrial development to attack.

With the potential of massive land reclamation under way, the only intelligent approach is to support economic development on a comprehensive planned basis which ensures that industrial development goes hand in hand with social planning, housing and social amenities.

This approach is clearly the only way that the inner city community can survive and from which Dublin can be saved from massive and growing unemployment and the social decay that follows from poverty.

Antrim Crystal another SDLP plant in trouble

Mr. Paddy Duffy, prospective SDLP candidate for Mid-Ulster in the next Westminster elections is again in trouble with the workers in one of his factories. During a time of threats of redundancies the management of Antrim Crystal invited the APEX union to organise some clerical members of the staff. This move was opposed by the ITGWU which represented the rest of the work force. When they went on strike the management immediately closed the factory.

Readers of the UNITED IRISHMAN will recall (see November issue) that an attempt by Paddy Duffy to lay off over 40 workers at his Tyrone Crystal factory in Dungannon was opposed by the workers. They occupied the plant and shut out management with the full backing of their union, the A.T.G.W.U.

The workers in Tyrone Crystal called for public ownership of the factory since the state had put up most of the capital. Eventually the dispute ended when the government established a counter-redundancy training scheme to re-employ the 46 workers concerned.

In Antrim Crystal, a subsidiary of Tyrone Crystal, the workers also occupied the factory, led by the ITGWU representative Paddy Devlin, former colleague of Paddy Duffy on

the Executive of the SDLP. Production at the factory continues and a co-operative is being set up. But instead of being assisted in saving the workers jobs, they are being thwarted by Managing Director Stevenson, by the Board of Directors under Chairman Paddy Duffy and by the Government sponsored NIDA who are the biggest shareholder.

Ulster Crystal, the holding company for Tyrone and Antrim Crystal, was set up by Paddy Duffy, Treasurer of the SDLP and a number of SDLP businessmen with the 'aid' of government funds supplied through NIDA. This was part of the economic power sharing scheme set up to compensate the SDLP for loss of office in the political power sharing assembly which fell in 1974.

A call for an investigation into all the companies launched with public money which has associations with the SDLP group of businessmen was made by Brian Brennan, Chairman of the Belfast Executive of Republican Clubs, The Workers' Party. "If Ulster Crystal is a model of what is meant by regional development," he said "the NIDA should look again. It would be far better to invest the tax-payers money in properly run state industries."

Government backs Employers in attacks on Trade Unions

Throughout December the build-up continued for the coming attack on the trade union movement.

The Federated Union of Employers placed the full blame for the Ferenka closure on the unions despite the growing evidence that the loss-making venture at Limerick was due for the hammer anyhow. The F.U.E. went on to call on the government to overcome its reluctance "to become positively involved in creating a new framework for the conduct of industrial relations."

The Irish Exporters Association were even more specific. They called for a ban on unofficial and wild-cat strikes, for rationalisation of the trade union structure, a cooling-off period before a strike could commence and making Labour Court decisions mandatory.

Following closely on these attacks the Employers magazine Business and Finance published results of

the special poll which they had carried out on attitudes towards trade unions. By use of heavily loaded questions they succeeded in getting 55% of those interviewed to agree that the trade unions had too much power.

The poll also showed strong support for making unofficial picketing illegal.

Both the Taoiseach and Minister for Labour Gene Fitzgerald responded to this pressure by promising government action. Gene Fitzgerald said that he had "come to the conclusion some time ago that there was a need for a re-appraisal of the conduct of industrial relations in this country." He said he had decided to have a review undertaken of the entire system and he expected to see this under way soon.

So 1978 then could well be the year of the Big Stick! Lynch, feeling safe behind

his massive majority, will likely yield to the employers demands to bring the unions to heel. If his 5% pay restraint is not accepted by the workers he may well impose it statutorily. He will then blame the workers for his failure to deal with unemployment and will introduce new repressive anti-strike legislation.

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WINTER ISSUE

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New Year statement

The new year unemployment figures both North and South contrast sharply with the hopes aroused in 1977 that the recession was at an end. Figures both official and unofficial put the total way above the 200,000 mark and there is no sign of any fundamental steps to tackle the problem.

The Ferenka closure adds great emphasis to the decision now facing the Irish people. Neither the protectionism of small industries in the '30s nor the opening of the floodgates to foreign investment in the Lemass period have solved our unemployment problem.

The country is faced with the choice of continuing to rely on inadequate economic policies or bidding the Government use all the resources of the State to satisfy the ever-rising demand for employment. During the coming year, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party will highlight this hitherto untried capacity of national self-reliance and re-generation in order to provide the answer. Coupled with a rational use of our natural resources such as our natural gas and lead-zinc deposits the basis of a new industrialised Ireland can be realised and the renewal of emigration on a massive scale prevented.

There is hope in the North to the extent that the counter-revolutionary campaign of the Provisionals seems to be burning out. It has, of course, served the purpose of the British and Dublin Governments in restoring the status quo of the pre-Civil Rights era.

The end of the year recommendation by the Plant Commission that there should be no Civil Rights Bill for the North marks the ultimate determination of the British Government to concede

nothing to the demands of those opposed to discrimination and oppression there. And now that the bankrupt policy of power-sharing has at last been exhausted it is time to begin again the search for the thread of unity that will unite all those opposed to repression, anti-democratic legislation and discrimination.

The demand for the Bill of Rights still remains as the most progressive demand in the North and the Government in Dublin must be asked to declare its position on this fundamental demand.

ARD-FHEIS

The 72nd Annual Ard Fheis of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party will be held in the Mansion House, Dublin on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 3rd, 4th and 5th next.

Three forms in connection with the annual conference were issued from the General Secretary's office to all cumainn and comhairli ceanntair on December 6th. Cumainn secretaries should take another look at the final dates for submission of these forms.

They will find that the form for submission of resolutions must be returned to the General Secretary by the 20th January. Delegates must be nominated not later than February 3rd and nominations for President and Ard Comhairle must be in by February 10th.

Special meetings of all cumainn, clubs and comhairli ceanntair should therefore be called immediately to get their resolutions in by January 20th. Any secretary who did not receive the relevant forms should contact an Ard Runai immediately.

CORK

I.D.Y.M. plans local A.G.M.

The annual conference of the IDYM was held recently in Dublin and proved to be a very successful event. A year old at the conference, the IDYM has grown in strength

since its formation and now has branches in all major cities, North and South.

The Cork delegates attending the conference felt that the level of debate was very high and they see this as an indication of political awareness in Irish youth, such as was never seen before.

The AGM to reorganise for the coming year will be held shortly and the Cork Branch are always looking for young people interested in this type of organisation. Anyone interested should contact Sean McCarthy at the Thomas Ashe Hall. Phone: 23844.

The Party Platform

SEAN Mac DONAGH
P. H. PEARSE
JAMES CONNOLLY

NEWRY

Republican Clubs member addresses London meeting

The Chairman of Newry Trades Union Council, Tom Moore, addressed a number of meetings on the "Better Life For All" campaign in London last month.

On Saturday, 3rd December, he was the main speaker at a special conference of the London School of Economics organised by the Irish Liaison Committee. Amongst the 70 delegates present were representatives from four Trades Union Councils, 14 Trade Union Regional & District Committees throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and five Area Committees of the Students' Union.

The Cities of London and Westminster Trades Union invited Mr. Moore to its monthly meeting on the 6th December. He was given the opportunity to address the members and answer their questions on the Trade Union Movement in Ireland.

Account

The same facilities were accorded to him on Wednesday, 7th December, when he attended the weekly meeting of the North London District Committee of the AUEW.

At the three meetings Mr. Moore gave a brief account of the launching of the BLFA Campaign, its successes to date and the Trade Unions proposals for the creation of jobs in Northern Ireland. There was great interest shown by the trade unionists present when he outlined proposals for the extension of the British Nationalised Sector into Northern Ireland, such as the steel industry, along with the establishing of State-sponsored industry in the manufacturing, chemical and technological fields.

Before returning home, Mr. Moore met three Department Officers at TUC Headquarters and discussed plans for the February London Week of Action in support of the "Better Life For All" campaign with one of the organisers, Mr. Ron Todd, Region 1 Secretary of the AT & GWU.

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Call for action against drug company robbery

Two thirds of all the state expenditure on the General Medical service is spent on drugs. This money goes to the drug manufacturers and to pharmacists in the form of fees.

The state also pays for a good deal of the drugs bought by people who have limited eligibility to health services. Under this scheme, health boards must pay for all drugs bought on a private prescription over and above £5.50 worth in any one calendar month. The state is paying at the full retail rate plus prescription charge which makes the drugs even more expensive than on the general medical service. The remaining 15% of the population must pay the full price for their drugs. This can be very expensive. A recent drug introduced for stomach ulcers could cost the ulcer sufferer £70 for a 6 week course.

On average drugs cost the Irish state 15% more than the National Health Service in Britain and the unfortunate patient without eligibility a good deal more. Nothing has been done by successive Governments to control the monopoly profits of the multinational drug companies. Profits in the drug industry, even during the recession, were running at 30% at a time when the average rate of industrial profit was less than 11%.

In other countries attempts have been made to curb the profiteering of the multinationals with limited effect. The action taken by the British Government against the largest drug company in the World Hoffman la Roche has ensured that the price of their products to the National Health Service is a good deal less than it is to the Irish tax payer.

The proliferation of new drug products, many of them copies of other drugs, has ensured that practising doctors could not possibly be familiar with all the side effects and actions of the 13,000 drugs available to him for prescription. The World Health Organisation has recently shown that there are only 150 drugs necessary for all eventualities from the simple relief of minor symptoms to the treatment of life threatening disorders and yet on the Irish market there are 90 times this number of drugs.

By 1980 the IDA estimate that we will be exporting more drugs manufactured in this country than we are importing. This is because large multinational companies are setting up processing plants in Ireland to supply the

European market. It is interesting in this regard to note that the IDA has subsidised the setting up of a massive plant owned by Syntex in Clarecastle Co. Clare to manufacture the contraceptive pill while the legislation on family planning for Irish people remains medieval. Many welcome high technology jobs have been created in these plants for Irish workers but the presence of these plants should not hinder the state taking action against drug companies who are profiteering at the expense of the health service.

Drug costs and efficacy must be controlled by a National drugs board who should draw up a National Formulary of Drugs which could be prescribed to patients in the health services. The function of such a formulary backed up by a centralised drug buying agency would be to ensure that the Irish patient, doctor, and state were getting the best drugs at the keenest price. If the cost of drugs could be cut back in this way then the failure to extend the General Medical Service to all would be even less excusable. While in the future Sinn Fein the Workers' Party would envisage the nationalisation of the drug industry our initial demand in relation to drugs is for a statutory National Drugs Board to control the cost as well as the quality of drugs manufactured in the private sector native and foreign.

The concluding article in this series by Dr. John McManus, spokesperson on Health and Social Welfare for Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, will appear next month.

Working for the private hauliers— the driver can't win!

We talked recently to two truck drivers about their jobs with private hauliers. The firms the drivers work for, and firms of this character, are in business as rivals to CIE, our state transport company. The state company gives 40% of the profitable business offered to it to private enterprise and the state then pays the bill for CIE losses; last year the loss was £30 millions.

Two items in the annual CIE statement did show a profit — coach hire and road haulage. It is the profit-making business, not the loss-making business, they give away.

The drivers we spoke to would welcome the chance to drive for a state company; it is not by their wish that they work for private enterprise.

"There is no set wage in this job; we are paid on tonnage; we don't get paid nearly enough. We have to drive hours and hours beyond the eight hour day to make up our money — sometimes regularly. British and Northern Ireland drivers get about twice what we get. In this country we say: 'the driver always loses'.

The firms are not all the same, of course, some are better than others. You might say — they are all bad but some are worse than others.

They try to save money on trucks, all these firms. You'd think, sometimes, that it would be cheaper for them to keep the rules than to get up to all the tricks that they do get up to, in order to save a few bob, on tyres or something.

There is a bottled gas company who carry truck loads of gas around. Well, they are only single-axled trucks, maybe not too bad around town but when you have to make a run out of town — Cork maybe — they are no good at all.

The trucks they have turn over very easily. You have 15 tons up and if anything goes wrong on a run out of town over she goes. They turn over regularly; all the drivers are complaining about them. And the braking system is very bad, when you start to move a bit, with 15 tons up, if anything goes wrong there is no way you can stop it — the brakes haven't got a chance. By using single-axled trucks they save on tyres and they save on the purchase price.

Many firms' lorries are overloaded; they put far too much weight on them. I'd a load the other day, 48 tons gross; it is only a 35 ton lorry so I was tons over the maximum. They are not interested in what they let loose on the roads.

If you get a breakdown you have to try and fix it yourself. With CIE now, if you were employed by CIE, all you have to do is phone in and tell them that you've had a breakdown. You are told that you must not drive the truck in dangerous conditions but if there is bad frost on the roads and you pull in somewhere there

is a big enquiry about why you did that.

The maintenance of the truck — the driver is responsible for that; when the truck is at home base you have to change the oil and service the truck with some of these firms. They get a mechanic as well as a driver for their money. Safety has a very low priority with these private hauliers; the responsibility of keeping trucks in running order is put on overworked drivers.

The law is wrong about a driver's responsibility on the road. A very serious view is taken of driving an untaxed lorry. The boss tells you that he can't afford to licence it and the law says that if a driver takes a truck out on the road then it is his responsibility. The driver gets the dirty end of the stick; it is the driver's licence gets endorsed. They will tell you that they can't afford to tax trucks but they can afford to pay £20,000 or £30,000 for the trucks.

You get endorsements on your licence; the firm gets fined £20 or £30 and they have saved more than that by not paying tax. When you get an endorsement on your licence then you are trapped with that firm; no other firm will want to know you. I got a three year endorsement on my licence for driving an untaxed truck. How can you get a justice to understand that if you refuse to take an untaxed truck out on the road you will probably get sacked. He wouldn't know what you were talking about; he has never been sacked; he has never been in that position; he has never had to put his job at risk. Half the trucks on the road are not taxed.

There is a lot of undercutting in the trade. Hooker*, now, he can offer cheaper rates because he has men employed and he is not half-paying them. They say that

he is not the real boss; all the men believe that. One of the real bosses is a Fianna Fail minister and the other real boss is an ex-member of Fianna Fail who was going around a few years ago telling everyone about being a great patriot. He used to have a house out on the road to the airport but he has sold that now.

The big trucks have sleeping-cabs. You'll see them out on the roads outside Dublin asleep in the cabs waiting for 5pm to start driving. Two runs to Cork that day — there and back, there and back. You only stay overnight if you have a load up and you can't get it off until morning. I've got out of Cork at 10pm and I've been on the road again at 6am.

He might come to you after you've been out from early morning. He might say to you: 'I'll give you three pounds if you get it there', or maybe £10 or a bit more. You get back at 4am in the morning and you are still at your work at 8am.

You think you can do it but, of course, you can't and you should be off the road next day.

There was a young fella employed by Hooker and he was paying him half-nothing. We worked for other firms but we told him when we met him that he should ask for more money. The young fella went to him and told him that if he wasn't paid more he'd have to get another job. He shook-hand with the young fella and said: 'the best of luck, son'. The young fella's job was gone.

The Black Box — I have one in my cab but it is not connected up yet. It could stop the hours and hours of driving. He'd have to put two drivers on the Cork run, for example. But it is going to be harder to get money out of them; they'll make the drivers pay as much of the Black Box as they can. You heard the saying: 'The driver always loses' ". (*Hooker is not the real name of the firm. Readers who wish to know the real name should apply to the Editor.)



Private Haulage firms with trucks on the road in as good condition as this are few and far between.

Torture verdict against Britain

The long awaited judgement of the European Court of Human Rights on Ireland's torture allegations against Britain is expected to be issued on January 18. Here Cormac O'Donnell gives the background to the courts finding which began on August 9, 1971.

For the first time in the history of the European Court of Human Rights a case involving inter-State litigation is before it for judgement. The Republic of Ireland, a founder member of the Council of Europe, of which the Court is one organ, has charged and arraigned Britain, another founder member of the Council, with the use of torture in Northern Ireland in 1971 in contravention of Article 3 of the Convention of Human Rights which forbids such practices.

Already the European Commission of Human Rights has concluded, in 1976, that Britain, as charged by Ireland, had used torture as charged by Ireland in contravention of Article 3 of the Convention. Ireland, over the vehement protestations of Britain, decided to press for judgement at the Court instead of accepting Britain's undertakings to outlaw the torture techniques admitted before the Commission by the British Attorney-General, Sam Silkin.

The case which Ireland is now putting to judgment against Britain finds its origins in the events of August 9, 1971 and the months that followed in Northern Ireland. On the morning of August 9 a massive, well-planned, internment swoop took place and hundreds of suspected I.R.A. sympathisers were rounded up throughout the Province. Internment, in the words of the then Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Brian Faulkner, had been introduced "to round up the I.R.A.". A few days later, as civil disturbance reached hitherto unknown heights of violence, Mr. Faulkner stated that internment had been introduced to "flush out the I.R.A."

The swoop was confined exclusively to nationalist areas and the detainees were brought to Girdwood Army Barracks (in the case of the main swoop in Belfast) and from there to Crumlin Road Gaol or to the Prison Ship Maidstone in Belfast Harbour. Long Kesh Concentration Camp had not yet been opened.

Within a matter of days of the swoop the Irish media were full of allegations of brutality and ill-treatment.

There were allegations — arising from the treatment of suspects at Girdwood Army Barracks and torture allegations arising from the treatment of a small number of men at the unknown location. These became the subject of a Committee of Inquiry appointed by the British Government as the outcry continued to mount in both the British and Irish media.

Appointed on August 31, 1971, the three man Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Edmund Compton, G.C.N., K.B.E., reported in November of the same year to the then British Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling. The Compton Report concluded that while there had been instances of "ill-treatment" with regard to the specific

complaints made by the eight men who had been held until the 16 and 17 of August in the unknown location, referred to by Compton as "the centre", there had been no brutality on the part of those handling the complainants.

The findings of the Compton Committee of Inquiry and that of the European Commission of Human Rights, delivered five years later, relating to the same allegations by the same complainants presents an interesting contrast.

The Commission of Human Rights found that five techniques described to it by the Irish Government constituted torture. These techniques comprised: 1. Wall-standing; 2. Hooding; 3. High-pitched "white" noise; 4. Deprivation of sleep; 5. Deprivation of food and water.

Under the five headings above Compton concluded that they constituted "physical ill-treatment" but not brutality. "We consider" it says "that brutality is an inhuman or savage form of cruelty, and that cruelty implies a disposition to inflict suffering, coupled with indifference to, or pleasure in, the victim's pain. We do not think that happened here".

By October, 1972, when the Human Rights Commission found that the Irish Government's application for a hearing was admissible the attitude of the British Government towards the proceedings emerged as one of non-cooperation. Delay after delay in complying with the procedures laid down are noted in the Commission's Report.

In the years between 1972 and 1976 while the Commission was pursuing the truth of the allegations placed before it by the Irish Government it became clear that the British Government, counting on changed circumstances in Ireland and the improved relations with the new Irish Government elected in 1973, hoped to secure a friendly settlement. But the Irish Government, influenced by popular opinion in Ireland, decided to seek the verdict of the Court.

At the first hearing by the eighteen Judges of the Court of

Human Rights in April 1977 the British attitude changed. The British Attorney General, Mr. Sam Silkin, gave an "unqualified undertaking" to the Court that the use of the five techniques of interrogation, which the European Commission found constituted torture, would not in any circumstance be re-introduced in the United Kingdom as an aid to interrogation.

For the Irish side it was pointed out that while the "five techniques" had been discontinued in practice they had not been outlawed in British domestic legislation. The objectives of the Irish Government side in the case presently at hearing before the Court can be summarised as: (1) a reversal of the Commission's ruling that internment was not applied in a discriminatory fashion contrary to Article 14; (2) an endorsement of the Commission's findings that Britain was guilty of breaches of Article 3 involving torture and ill-treatment in Northern Ireland in 1971, and (3) a broader ruling that breaches of Article 3 occurred as an administrative practice from 1971 to 1973. Last, but not least, the Irish Government was seeking the prosecution of security forces personnel involved in specific breaches of Article 3.

If as expected the Court endorses the Commission's finding on Article 3 the question of the prosecution of security personnel involved in the torture will become a major political and moral issue. Not only have none of them been prosecuted or even reprimanded: many have been promoted and continue to serve.

Another major issue arising from the Courts endorsement of the Commission finding under Article 3 will be what legislative steps will be taken by Britain to ensure that the same can never happen again. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland has long been the demand of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association.

During the Strasbourg hearings, it was learned that such a Bill for Northern Ireland was unlikely and that the British Government was of the opinion that such a Bill, if found desirable, must be framed to cover the United Kingdom as a whole. The Feather Commission has now reported on precisely those lines.

Such a general Bill of Rights as proposed would not be specific enough to satisfy the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association which seeks to combat discrimination in jobs and housing and political opinion, to reform the RUC and deal with the repressive system peculiar to Northern Ireland.



● Coffins of the 13 victims.

A decade of struggle

The reality of 1978 is that we are back to the era of the mid-sixties in political terms. The achievements of the Civil Rights Movement from its first march in August 1968, ten years ago, to the commencement of the Provisional campaign, in 1971, have been virtually all swept away. The apparently invincible Unionist monolith, split into warring factions by the Civil Rights movement, is

virtually re-united. The RUC rearmed. The Specials re-formed. The name of the Unionist Party, Nationalist Party, equally banked. The damaging of the British position of Unionist hegemony undermined and overturned by the triumph

Bloody Sunday not forgotten

Of all the bloody and murderous acts carried out in the Six Counties during the past decade none will remain more etched in our memory than the hail of British bullets which mowed down 22 civil rights demonstrators on January 30, 1972. Thirteen were dead and nine wounded.

The high number of deaths in the casualty list proved that this was not wild indiscriminate shooting. These were aimed shots, intended to kill. The Commander of the 1st Battalion British Parachute Regiment, Lt. Colonel Derek Wilford knew precisely what his job was and gave clear instructions to the men who were selected to fire the live rounds.

The political decision for Lt. Colonel Wilford to carry out the murders was made by Mr. Reginald Maudling, then Home Secretary and approved by his Prime Minister, Ted Heath. Their decision was made under pressure from the Unionist Government of the day under Mr. Brian Faulkner. In fact the Democratic Unionist Association called off their

usual counter march the previous day following assurances that the Civil Rights march would be halted "by force if necessary."

On the evening of Derry's Bloody Sunday Brian Faulkner said coldly and with absolutely no regrets, "Today's events illustrate precisely why it was found necessary with the full support of the Government at Westminster, to impose a general ban on all processions... those who organised this march must bear a terrible responsibility for urging people to lawlessness and for providing the IRA with the opportunity to again bring death on our streets."

The response of NICRA and its mass following was to defy all the forces of the state by holding the most massive meeting of the whole campaign. In February 50,000 people assembled at Newry. Faced with such massive and determined civil disobedience the Westminster Government dissolved Stormont a month later.

Britain's last word — no Civil rights

Having studied the history of Anglo-Irish relations, one prominent British historian says that "the superficial similarity in many respects between Irish and British customs and institutions made it natural for many to (wrongly) assume that what was good for Britain must also be good for Ireland". The latest British Government Report on Human Rights protection in N.I. demonstrates that this assumption still lingers.

Setting out to enquire what legal protection is necessary in the very unique circumstances of N.I., the Report comes to the conclusion that no special measures of rights protection should be introduced for N.I. which are not to be applied to "the rest of the U.K.", since "any other approach would underline differences in the nature of citizenship". This astounding conclusion is

reached despite an earlier recognition of a very striking difference in the nature of citizenship of "people in N.I. (who) have lived in a situation unparalleled in Western Europe since the Second World War".

On publication, NICRA denounced the Report as a "sell-out", and recalled their original views of 1975 that the Commission was simply an attempt by the British to "shelve" the demand for a N.I. Bill of Rights, while they experimented with a series of abortive political gimmicks and military manoeuvres. In May '75, Vic Feather, the first Commission Chairman, announced that he intended to spend a year studying whether a N.I. Bill of Rights was needed. Nearly three years later, under their third Chairman, (the first two died in office), the Commission has finally reported. It calls for a U.K. Bill of Rights, the

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Civil Rights movement in the heady years of '68, '69 and '70, has been reaffirmed and solidified.

THE UNITED IRISHMAN goes to all parts of the world and the articles included on this two-page spread analyse the position today after the happenings of a decade that has given the friends of Ireland much cause for hope and despair.



● 1st. Paras arriving for the Widgery Hearing suitably disguised.

First Paras return

The British Ministry of Defence announced on December 6 that the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment would be returning to Northern Ireland early in the New Year for a tour of duty. It was the 1st Paras, under Lt-Colonel Derek Wilford, who were responsible for the murder of 13 innocent people in Derry on January 30, 1972.

Every regiment of the British Army in the North has been responsible for its share of killings of innocent civilians. In a pamphlet issued in the autumn of 1977 the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association details the case of four of the most recent killings of the innocent there since Roy Mason took up duty.

Leo Norney, a 17-year-old Post Office messenger, was murdered by soldiers of the Black Watch Regiment in September 1975. Majella O'Hare, a 12-year-old schoolgirl, was murdered by

soldiers of the 3rd Paras on July 14, 1976. Brian Stewart, a 13-year-old schoolboy, was murdered by a soldier of the King's Own Scottish Borderers on October 4, 1976. Danny McCooly was beaten to death by a rifle butt when stopped by a British Army patrol in May 1977.

But the 1st Paras were responsible for the most cold-blooded mass murder of all. Their return now is a deliberate act of triumphalism on the part of Roy Mason. He is proclaiming his victory.

There is only one way to answer Mason. He may well have beaten the Provos but he has not beaten the mass of the people who fought the brave fight for Civil Rights before ever the Provos came on the scene. Let us reply to the return of the 1st Paras by a greater commitment to Civil Rights for which their thirteen victims died.

incorporation of the European Rights Convention into domestic British law, changes in administrative law, and the codification of police and emergency powers. All are suggestions which will do little or nothing to tackle the urgent question of rights in N.I., the deprivation of which is the basis of so much of the current communal strife.

The specific N.I. Bill of Rights drafted by NICRA has been rejected, and in its rejection can be seen a total refusal to recognise the particular problems of N.I. as opposed to Britain. The demand for a U.K. Bill of Rights is in fact a reactionary one, which finds favour with right wingers such as Sir Keith Joseph, who seeks its introduction to deal with organised labour. Again, the incorporation of the generalised abstractions of the European Convention into domestic law could not

adequately answer the unique problems of N.I., some of which are not even covered by the Convention. Suggesting the clarification and codification of police and emergency powers is no more than an embarrassed avoidance of the gross violation of rights in N.I. by government forces acting under emergency law.

In short, the Report really says nothing to lay the basis for peace and progress in the north. Republican Clubs Chairman, Cllr. Malachy McGurran summed up the situation . . . "If the British Government really want peace in the north, it is time they legislated for it. An end to military manouvering and the introduction of a specific Bill of Rights confined to N.I. and designed to suit our specific and unique problems is the only base on which peace and community progress can be built in the north".

UDR new "B" Specials

On July 30th 1975, three musicians in the Miami Showband were murdered at a UVF road-block near Newry. Some three weeks later, two men returning from an All-Ireland football match were stopped at a similar road-block and shot dead by UVF men operating from the same area. But what distinguished these killings from other Loyalist operations was the fact that the ambushes were carried out by terrorists dressed in Ulster Defence Regiment uniform, and the murderers themselves were all UDR or ex-UDR soldiers.

Set up in 1970, the locally recruited, British Army-led Ulster Defence Regiment replaced the notorious B-Specials militia.

In September '75, the UVF claimed at a press conference that they were being supplied with information on Republicans by the British Army and the RUC, and produced photos and intelligence dossiers as evidence. In a series of recent East Antrim UVF trials, several UDR members were convicted of a series of offences from robbery to murder. (Among them was 38 year-old UDR Private John Gaw, convicted of murder, who had said that he "got turned on by the sight of blood").

In February '77, UDR Sergeant Sam Cooley from Newtownabbey, an area notorious for sectarian killings, was convicted of possession of 5 pistols, 5 revolvers, a sawn-off shotgun, a rifle and 3000 rounds of ammunition, all belonging to the UVF. In November '77, in a RTE documentary, Andy Tyrie the leader of another right-wing Loyalist para-military group, the Ulster Defence Association, said that his men joined the UDR to get basic military training. A British Army spokesman said that membership of the UDA did not automatically bar volunteers from the UDR.

Since 1970, over 300

weapons have been stolen by Loyalists from UDR armouries while several hundred other weapons have been similarly stolen from the homes of UDR members. In many cases, the circumstances of theft have been farcical.

Not surprisingly, there have been calls for the disbandment of the Regiment. In July '77, Mr. Justice O'Donnell, sentencing UDR Private Richard Long for "conspiracy to murder", criticised vetting methods for the regiment and said "it could be infiltrated by terrorists". But a month before O'Donnell's belated complaint, Fred Mulley, for the British Government, told Parliament that "the highest priority is being given to the expansion of the UDR". This priority is part of the British Government's overall military and policing strategy.

In April '76, a secret report drawn up by senior civil servants, Army and police, recommended an "Ulsterisation" security policy. This means that while there is no overall "British withdrawal", on the cards, regular British troops are being widely re-deployed, and in future will serve fewer, but longer trips of duty in the north. Currently, regular British Army numbers in the north are lower than for several years. The "gap", is being filled by

the RUC and UDR, who are now being seen in ghetto areas where they previously never ventured. This is in line with the April '76 Report which called for the RUC to be given precedence in policing, while the "supporting role" of the British regulars is gradually to be handed over to the UDR.

Expensive advertising campaigns to build up the numbers of RUC and UDR have been carried daily in the local newspapers, radio and television for the past two years. The RUC has now been re-equipped with a number of armoured personnel carriers, high velocity rifles and MI Springfield carbines.

Remember the heady days of autumn 1969 when under the massive pressure of NICRA's Civil Rights Campaign at home and abroad the British Government were forced to disband the B Specials and disarm the RUC. Under cover of the Provisionals' mindless sectarian campaign, the Brits have now defeated the peoples campaign and reimposed the jackboot.

There is no doubt that on the military front, as on the overall political front, the British are relentlessly pursuing a policy aimed not at peace and reconciliation, but simply to maintain what Reginald Maudling once described as "an acceptable level of violence."



SDLP sold out on Rights

The six northern M.P.'s who later formed the SDLP were elected on a Civil Rights ticket in the election of spring 1969. Eddie McAteer and his nationalist party who had given no support to the Civil Rights campaign were completely annihilated in that election.

Fitt, Curry, Hume, Cooper, Devlin, and O'Hanlon showed little enthusiasm for Civil Rights once they had been elected. However, there was little they could do while popular support remained firmly behind the NICRA campaign. After internment NICRA called for a firm commitment by all, that there would be no negotiations or talks of any kind with the British government until internment ended. This stand had massive popular support and a great campaign of civil disobedience developed in 1972.

Had this position been held internment could have been

ended that year. However, the Provos stupidly fell into the British trap and flew to England in an RAF plane for negotiations with the British. They were pleased as a bunch of school kids at being made much of by the headmaster!

Broken

There were no serious negotiations of course — but the NICRA "no talks" pledge had been broken. The SDLP immediately followed suit and opened talks with the Brits. They did not talk about Civil Rights but about Power Sharing. The people had again been sold out. None of the so-called Civil Rights MP's have ever spoken even one word of support for the NICRA Bill of Rights. Now the Power Sharing cup has been dashed from their lips and they too, like the Provos are out in the cold.

Butcher's Dozen

By Tom Kinsella

And one stepped forward,
soiled and white:
"A bomber I. I travelled light
— Four pounds of nails and
gelignite
About my person hid so well
They seemed to vanish
where I fell.
When the bullet stopped my
breath
A doctor sought the cause of
death.
He upped my shirt, undid my
fly,
Twice he moved my limbs
awry,
And noticed nothing. By and
by
A soldier, with his sharper
eye,
Beheld the four elusive
rockets
Stuffed in my coat and
trouser pockets.
Yes, they must be strict with
us,
Even in death so
treacherous!"

The United WORLD



Peadar O Claine from the International Affairs Bureau of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party presenting a SWAPO Medical Aid Poster to members of the Dick McKee cumann at their meeting room in Finglas, Dublin. L. to R., Pat Foley, Joe Oman and Peadar O Claine.

The fund to supply medical aid to the South West African Peoples Organisation is steadily growing. Launched by the International Affairs Bureau of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party through the UNITED IRISHMAN last June the Fund is to help S.W.A.P.O. of Namibia in their Liberation struggle to oust the illegal South African regime from Namibia.

The Fund has been established by S.W.A.P.O. to supply

bandages, dressings, plasters, surgical instruments, drugs, antibiotics and salt tablets to S.W.A.P.O. field doctors working in the operational zones to allow them to give desperately needed medical attention to the rural population.

Last week International Affairs sent S.W.A.P.O. a cheque for £200 towards the Fund and donations are still arriving at 30 Gardiner Place in Dublin towards the Fund.

SWAPO Medical Fund

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of the following donations to the S.W.A.P.O. Medical Aid Fund received during the past month: Pearse Cumann, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, Rathmines/Ranelagh, Dublin, £5.00; Sean O Sullivan, Dublin 12 — £50.00; Irish Democratic Youth Movement, £6.00; Gerry Lynch, Dublin 8, £5.00; Fintan Lalor Cumann, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, Marino, Dublin, £5.00; Seamus Mullan, Lisnaskee, Co. Fermanagh, £6.80; Mitchel Cumann of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, Ringsend, Dublin £3.00; Waters Cumann of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, Mallow, Co. Cork, £5.00; Irish Democratic Youth Movement, Maghera, Co. Derry, £10.00; Clann na hEireann, Manchester, England, £5.00; Brendan Ownes, Drimnagh, Dublin £2.00; Republican Club, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, £3.50; Gerry Flynn, Dublin, £4.84; Ballyfermot, Dublin, Supporter, £2.00.

It is expected to close the S.W.A.P.O. Fund in the coming month and any donations should be now sent to International Affairs Bureau, SWAPO Medical Aid Fund, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

The International Affairs Bureau of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party has sent "socialist greetings to the people and Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the PDRY."

The telegram, signed by Sean O Cionnaith, Director of International Affairs, expressed "solidarity and support to the struggle of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen against the imperialist policy of destabilisation".

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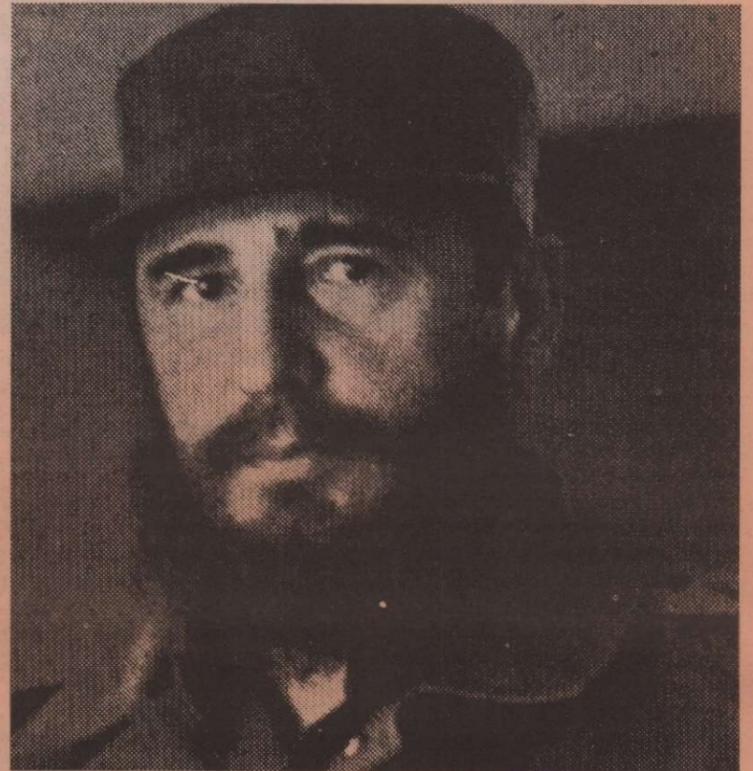
"It is easier to win a score of wars than to win the battle of underdevelopment"

Fidel Castro

Next summer a number of Irish young people will attend the 11th World Youth and Student Festival in Cuba. Among them will be delegates from the Irish Democratic Youth Movement who are eager to experience the accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution first hand, to talk with the Cubans and learn of their heroic struggle against underdevelopment.

It has not been easy to learn and read about Cuba in the Western press. News channels are dominated by the United States information network and their hostile handouts have been full of lies, distortions and misleading reports. In spite of the American Government's efforts to strangle the Cuban Revolution, and when this failed, to silence all news of its progress, there is a growing interest in Cuba worldwide. This is partially due to bits and pieces of information which have been allowed to reach our press in spite of the blockade. It is also very much due to Cuba's internationalism, her commitment to the struggling and oppressed peoples of the world. "We are fulfilling a basic international duty — to share the pain of another people", said Melba Hernandez, President of Cuba's Committee of Solidarity with Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

What country understands pre- and post-revolutionary struggle more deeply than Cuba! The depth of that understanding is translated in the assistance the



Cuban people have given other struggling peoples and newly independent nations. In answer to the Vietnamese people's struggle for human dignity and self determination, the United States dropped billions of tons of bombs, attempting to destroy every living thing, while the Cubans sent doctors to save those Vietnamese lives they could since Victory, more health care workers and technicians to help the country's reconstruction.

Cuba has made great strides in the building of a truly humane and equitable society. We in Ireland are ignorant of their accomplishments and the UNITED IRISHMAN wants to begin righting that situation by giving Irish people access to information on Cuba. These reports will appear periodically in the next months previous to the Havana Festival of youth. The first article will appear in the Feb. issue and will deal with HEALTH CARE IN CUBA.

Saharan Polisario Front

Sinn Fein The Workers' Party in a telegram to the French Ambassador to Ireland has protested at the bombing and killing of Saharan Polisario Front freedom fighters by French warplanes. The telegram continued: "We pledge our support for the Democratic Arab Sahawri Republic and for the progressive forces in France opposing France's entry into war on the Sahawri people."

ANTI-APARTHEID
MOVEMENT
DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST REPRESSION
IN SOUTH AFRICA

January 21,
2.30 p.m. Parnell Sq.,
to Department of
Foreign Affairs



● Polisarie freedom fighters with captured Moroccan weapons.



Forbairt gan Feabhas

Beidh forbairt mór ag teacht ar chursai chraolacháin na tíre seo le bunú RTE 2 i mbliana. Tá ceannaisí ceapaithe dhon stáisiún nua agus pleananna aige cheanna féin faoin saghas chlár a bhéas le feicáil ar an stáisiún nua. Onnmhuirthe ó Shasana agus na Stáit Aontaithe a bhéas i ochtó faoin gcéad dhos na clárachaí. An fiche faoin gcéad atá fágtha is cháracha dúchasacha a bhéas iontu chun freastail ar mhionluchta is mór-luchta a bhfuil failli dhá dhéanamh orthu faoi lathair. Cláracha ar chuile shaghas rud ó chúrsaí sláinte go chúrsaí gluaisteanáíochta, cláracha pop-cheoil agus cláracha grinn atá beartaithe ag an gceannaisí, Dick Hill.



Le bunú an stáisiún nua beidh athraithe ag tíoche ar RTE 1 chomh maith. Tá sé beartaithe ag an ceannaisí nua Muiris Mac Conghail go gcuirfí níos mó cláracha ar siúl dhon aos óg. Tá sé beartaithe aige tuille aire a thabhairt dho fhadhbanna na bailte móra agus níos mó freastail a dhéanamh ar mhuintear na tuaithe. Beidh níos mó ama ar fáil do chursai beag-suime, mar shampla ceol chaisiceach. Tá dream amháin áfach nach bhfuil á chur san áireamh ag ceachtar ceannaisí, dream a bhfuil failli dhá dhéanamh orthu ó thosaig RTE, siad sin na daoine gur suim leo a gcultúr dúchasach idir litríocht, drámaíocht, ceól agus teanga.

Stasiun nua

Tá maoin saibhir litríochta, drámaíochta agus ceoil sa tír seo ach is beagán dho atá la fáil ar RTE fé lathair agus de réir cosúlacht ní beidh feabhas ar an scéal le tíoche an stáisiún nua. Tá an-tábhacht ag baint leis an meánchumarsáide maidir le ceist na Gaeilge. Ba oheart, go mbéadh lán sheirbhís Telefise agus Radio le fáil ag muintear na Gaeltachta agus Gaeilgoiri na Galltachta. Nuair nach bhfuil an seirbhís seo le fáil ba cheart ar a laghad go mbéadh réim leathain cláracha Gaeilge ar fáil ar abhair éagsúla chun freastail ar an dream seo. Is náireach an scéal é nach mbeidh fiú is an méid seo le fáil idir RTE 1 agus RTE 2.

Sinn Fein Pairtí na nOibrí
Árd Fheis
Márta 3adh, 4adh, 5adh.

O Briain sa Bhaile fe Dheire



Ní fheadar cad tá in ann do na meáin chumarsáide sa bhliain atá romhainn amach tar éis ar tharla le tamall. An Dochtúir mór Crús O Briain a cheannsaigh seirbhís 'nuachta' RTE go maith le roinnt blianta anois i bhfeighil an Observer thall.

Ní hionadh ar bith go raibh amhras ar cheardchumann na n-iriseoirí sa pháipéar sin faoi dhearcadh CCOB maidir le srianta a chur ar ghnéithe áirithe de scéalta áirithe. Tá a gcuid rialacha smachtaithe féin ag na Sasanaigh ar ndó ach bhí faitiós ar ghnáththuarisceoirí an Observer faoi chinsireacht lom an Dochtúra.

Is cosúil gur thug iriseoirí RTE roinnt éigin eolais dóibh ach ní raibh leigheas an scéil acu mar nár éirigh leo féin aon cheo a dhéanamh chun ceangal an fhir mhóir orthu siud a bhriseadh. Ar ndó ní hionann seirbhís nuachta ar stáisiún naisiúnta craolacháin agus Observer na Roinne Gnóthaí Eachtracha thall ach is cinnte gur fear a fheifidh a phost nua dó ná imeall Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre anseo. Ní fheadar cén caibidil de stair Shasana a athscríofar amach anseo.

Marach gur ghlac CCOB le tairiscint an Observer chomh sciopaidh sin d'fhéad-fadh sé gur ag cur isteach ar phost Árd Stiurthóir RTE a bhéadh sé na laethanta seo. Tá na cáilochtaí cearta aige don

phost — easpa taithí ar chúrsaí craolacháin; easpa tuisciona ar mheón, ar thréithe agus ar chultúr choismhuintir na hÉireann — agus dúil san ól. B'fhearr a leanfadh seisean Editor-in-Chief Maloney, a tharraing chuile chumhacht san eagraíocht amuigh i Montrose chuige féin, a dhiúltaigh cead a thabhairt dá ghiollaí riaracháin aon socru a dhéanamh gan udarás speisialta uaidh féin, gur fhág sé praiseach níos mó agus níos fearr amuigh sa teach gloine úd ná mar a bhí ann nuair a ceapadh é.

Ach is ó cheartlár an chaipitleachais a tháinig an scéal is fearr faoin **news media**, ó Washington féin. Tá fochoiste éigin de Dháil na Stáit Aontaithe ag fiosrú an ghaoil idir an media céanna agus an CIA. Thapaigh William Porter, Ambasadóir na Stáit Aontaithe i Vietnam Theas o 1965-'67, an deis chun a rá go raibh freagracht at leith, agus príomhfhreagracht, ag iriseoir Meiriceánach that lear, i leith a rialtais agus ní i leith a pháipéir nuachta.

Chaitheadh sé cloi leis sin agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do Rialtas a thír féin dá mbeadh air scéalta bréige a chur sa timpeall — i nuachtáin ar ndó. Níor mhór dó comhoibriú ar chuile bhealach a d'iarradh an CIA air. Agus d'fhéad-fadh sé airgead a ghlacadh don obair seo. Ní raibh Porter sásta chor ar bith gur socraíodh le deireannaí nach n-íocfadh an CIA iriseoirí a thuilleadh.

B'fhéidir gur cheap sé gur fearr a d'oibreodh dílseacht na n-iriseoirí don rialtas dá mbeadh airgead a ndóthain acu. Bhí Porter go láidir in aghaidh na ndaoine a bhí ag iarraidh an CIA agus iriseoirí a choinneáil neamhspleách ar a chéile ar bhealach ar bith.

Is cinnte go bhfuil obair den chineál seo ar siúl níos conagraí do bhaile.

SIOPA NUA

Tá Sinn Féin Pairtí na nOibrí tar éis Siopa Leabhair nua a chur ar fáil in Árús Tomás Aghais, cé an tAthair Matthew, Corcaigh. Beidh an siopa ar oscailt gach Satharn idir 3pm agus 5pm. Tá leabhair le lúdar cáiliúil á dhíol ann comh maith le irisí an pháirtí. An tÉireannach Aontaithe gach mí agus An Choismuintear (The Irish People) gach seachtain.

Cursai Reatha

● Anuraidh, b'é bliain na ngeallúintí a tugadh: i mbliana 'chuile sheans gur bliain na ngeallúintí gan comhlíonadh a bhéas ann.

Níl aon aimhreas ach gur bhain Fianna Fáil toradh ceadtach as na geallúintí a tugadh. Ceann díobh sin abea Udaráis na Gaeltachta a chur ar bun. Bhí blianta fada cipiléireachta caite ag Tomás Ó Domhnaill agus é ar a chamachuaire sna Gaeltachtaí ag labhairt ar an abhar seo. I ndeireadh na dála thosaigh Ó Domhnaill ag labhairt faoi Bórd na Gaeltachta a bhunú agus thuig muintir na nGaeltachtaí narbh fhiú an trioblóid an tairbhe nár tháinig.

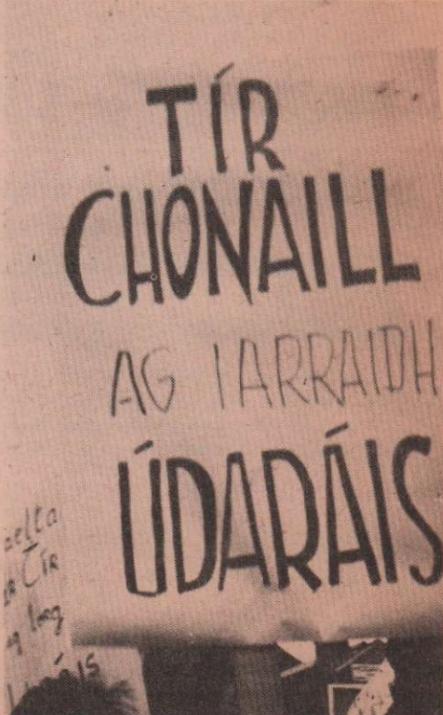
Aimsir an toghcháin tháinig Fianna Fáil ar an bhfód agus Udaráis á gheallúint acu. Tugadh le tuiscint gur Udaráis iomlán mar a iarann Cumann Cearta Sibhialta na Gaeltachta a bhí i gceist. Ach anois go bhfuil Donncha O Gallchóir ina Aire Gaeltachta ní fios níos mó céard tá i gceist ag Fianna Fáil.

Ainneoin nach bhfuil sé sásta a rá céard a bhéas san reachtaíocht atá le tabhairt ós comhair na Dála i mbliana tá an tAire sásta bunteoiric an Udaráis a dhísbeagadh ar go leór bealaí. Dar leis nach bhfuil an dara duine sa Ghaeltacht ar aon fhocal faoi'n gcineál Udaráis a theastaíonn. Má's mar sin atá, conas ar éirigh le Fianna Fáil an gheallúint a thabhairt sa chéad áit nó céard ba bhrí leis? Tá focal i nGhaeltacht na Mumhan ar iompar an Aire — lubaireacht. Focal eile i nGhaeltacht Chonamara — camiléireacht. Níl fhios agam cé'n fhocal atá ag na hUltaigh air, ach bhféidir nár tugadh an gheallúint sna bolai san ar chor ar bith.

Tá rud amháin cinnte. Mara gcuirtear Udaráis atá tofa go daonfhathach ar bun a mbeidh cumhachtaí uile an ghnáth Chomhairle Chontae ar a laghad aige ní fiú trumpa gan teanga an t-ainmhi a thiocthaid chugainn as Roinn na Gaeltachta.

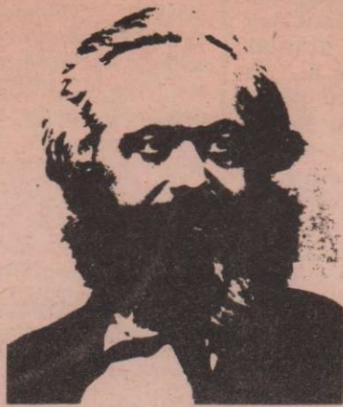
● Tá leas eigeant dóchais san bhliain úr seo go dtiocfaidh deireadh le feachtas uafásach na Sealadach I thuaidh. 'Tuige nach dtiocfadh? Tá obair na frithréabh-lóide i gcrích anois — dóchas agus aontacht mhuintir an Tuaiscirt agus na tíre fré chéile ina smionagar agus dea-obair Chumann Cearta Sibhialta an Tuaiscirt curtha ar ceal ar fad beagnach.

Anois go bhfuil breis agus 1,500 príosúnach istigh ag na Sealadaigh tá cúis eile ag a lán éirí as feachtas nach bhfuil aon rath air. Níl seans dá laghad feachtas éifeachtach a chur ar bun lena saoradh uilig go mbeidh deireadh leis an bhfeachtas leadránach 'míleata' seo go bhfuil an oiread san d'óige an Tuaiscirt thíos leis.



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I.D.Y.M. sees Irish Youth as force for change

Two years ago the Irish Democratic Youth Movement was organised by Sinn Fein The Workers' Party and delegated the crucial task of forming a nationwide and vigorous organisation of Irish youth, guided by the principles of Socialist Republicanism.

Young people are potentially the most potent political force for change in Ireland today. They constitute over half the population — so the time is right. Recent surveys show that the young are more openminded than their elders — so the atmosphere is right. A shameful percentage are jobless, and those who do find work are exploited by the antiquated apprenticeship ploy, and others are condemned to low-paid, unskilled and insecure work by an education system blatantly favouring the better-off.

To many of the young people of this country, arguably the section of the population worst hit by the holy art of profiteering, without jobs, security, amenities, a future, and above all without direction, the IDYM will seek to give a voice.

For such victimised youth, especially those in urban areas, the logic of Socialism is almost irrefutable — but they must be reached. This necessitates concerted organisation, and above all a good measure of experience in political activism. Therefore liaison and guidance from the parent movement, at all levels, is essential.

During the new year the IDYM, with a revamped National Executive and a sizable injection of new members, will be pushing forward to educate and motivate young workers — and the young workless. It will be seeking to win young people away from narrowminded, religious-dominated organisations, and the peddlers of bigotry.

It will hammer home the message of the raiding of Irish resources by slick multinationals,



Philip Moran who was returned unopposed as national Chairman of the I.D.Y.M. at the recent Annual Conference.

and the aid given these pirates by Irish politicians. With every shipment to European centres of Irish resources the prospects and prosperity of the young go with it.

The development of the Irish Democratic Youth Movement, and the rate of that development, will be closely linked with the further development of Sinn Fein as a mass workers' party. It is therefore crucial that it receives the support and guidance from Sinn Fein that it may need in the coming struggle.

That struggle is winning the active allegiance of a new generation who want a better deal. And getting it.

Victorious U.S.I. meets

The Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland which takes place on the second weekend of January, will, for the first time in many years, strike a triumphant as well as a protesting note this year.

The second half of 1977 has seen U.S.I. win two major victories on issues which seemed all but lost at this time last year. One of these was the regranting of degree awarding powers to the National Council for Education Awards, which was perhaps, the most outstanding campaign success ever achieved for Irish students. Not only was it a victory for the Union, however, but it was also a clear indictment of those who had accused it of 'tilting at windmills' during its long and lonely campaign against the Coalitions Education Proposals of December 1974.

The second victory was the granting last month of a £150 increase in third level students grants. Although inadequate in size (it does not even bring the grant to the level it was at in 1968 in real terms) the fact that John Wilson felt it necessary to concede something to the

Union so soon after he took office is itself a victory for an organisation which, only three years ago, the then Education Minister Dick Burke, was refusing to meet.

All of which will give the delegates at the Wexford Congress something to ponder on. No doubt they will reflect on their recent successes with some pride. There can be no doubt but that U.S.I. has considerably tightened its national organisation and increased its presence on college campuses over the last few years.

Chaos

This happy reflection, however, is bound to be tempered by a realisation of the deepening chaos of Irish Education and the likelihood that the change of Government will have no effect on the basic cause of this chaos — lack of finance.

Indeed the recent campaign by students in U.C.D. for more money for the (postponed) expansion of their library underlined the fact that increasing student grants may well have been merely a 'sop' designed to

distract attention from the gross overcrowding and the running-down of basic facilities.

U.S.I. is now larger and stronger than at any other time in its twenty year history. It is firmly united, following the collapse of the attempt by right-wing students to break up the Union last year, under a capable left wing leadership. It has many allies inside and outside the academic world. Its problem now is how to use this strength most effectively to fight for a realistic increase in education spending and a clear overall plan for educational development. The fact that the Teachers Union of Ireland will be operating a series of half-day strikes with very similar aims while U.S.I. is gathering at Wexford gives one important pointer to the way forward. The current opportunity of building a teacher/student alliance against education cuts should not be missed by U.S.I.

Employment Action Team

ACTION MAN is a toy you probably heard a lot about in the pre-Christmas shopping orgy.

Now let us introduce to you Fianna Fail's Action Man: Kevin Heffernan. Kevin, and his Employment Action Team, are supposed to act as a ginger group to concentrate on finding solutions to the country's unemployment problem. The Team was the product of Fianna Fail's Election Manifesto. It was to be the main spearhead in that Party's promise to 'get this country moving again', with an initial job-creation target of 5,000 jobs.

Kevin Heffernan was seconded from his job in the ESB to head the team. He was to be the big 'name' because of his fame as trainer of the Dublin football team. The other members were delegated by trade unions, employer bodies, youth and industrial development organisations with a hard-core of ten public employees.

Fianna Fail publicly launched the Team with a stirring address from the Minister for Labour, Gene Fitzgerald. "I cannot over-emphasise how urgent the Government considers this Team's task to be", he said.

In November came a series of formal proposals, which were the results of the Team's deliberations. These were: that 840 young people be trained as physical fitness instructors. Cost: £3,000,000.

Secondly, that environmental improvement schemes mop up another 1,000 able-bodied workers for a year or 2,000 for six months or 100 for 10 years, this to cost £4 m and be carried out under the direction of Local Authorities.

Local Authorities, again, could take on about 150 construction industry apprentices. Cost: £200,000.

A short term census in Ballyfermot would occupy 40 odd young people for a month and cost £9,140.

Lastly, and most nebulous, was a proposal to give young people "short term working experience". Without going into details of where and how, the scheme was costed at £1,800,000 and was to account for 3,000 people for a period of six months.

It is noticeable that almost all of the proposals made by 'Heffo' and his team rely on Government funds and the help of Local Authorities or public bodies to succeed. This is from the Gover-

ment which, since it came to office, has continuously trumpeted its support of the private sector as the source of economic development and employment. Yet, the Employment Action Team could find no area in the private sector which could be harnessed to its job creation scheme. That's some indictment of private business.

There were no proposals for development of industries based on mineral processing or oil refinement, on fish or food processing or any form of manufacturing or employment based on our own natural resources.

The EAT must have realised how weak its proposals sounded. The most enthusiastic remark that one member could make was that they could not meet with any opposition. After all, who can argue with physical fitness? We know Fianna Fail pledged to get the country moving again but no one realised that physical jerks were all it had in mind.

In fact, the Action Team could hardly have done any better if it had wanted to. Its terms of reference prevent it from considering any job schemes which have already been mooted; it must come up with new proposals. Smelters and refineries may be effective but they're old hat — forget them!

Secondly, the Action Team can only recommend; it cannot make final decisions or act in its own right. So, should a controversial suggestion slip through the net, it will only be knocked on the head by the Minister anyway.

So, there you have it. Physical jerks, planting flowers, a local census, temporary employment. That is the Fianna Fail formula for full employment. It's enough to make you laugh — all the way to the Dole!

Build a Socialist Future!

JOIN THE

IRISH DEMOCRATIC YOUTH MOVEMENT

"To enable young people to play a full part in the struggle for the creation of a United Democratic Socialist Republic of Ireland in which the people of Ireland will own and control the wealth and resources of the country."

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Age

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Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.



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A REPSOL PAPERBACK



"Account for Yourself" is written by Rosheen Callender, an economist working in the Research Department of the ITGWU. It is published by Kincora Books in association with the ITGWU.

BOOK REVIEWS

UP DEVI by Kevin Boland. Published by Author £1.75p.

Kevin Boland fights the crisis of 1969-'70 all over again in this publication and both himself and the reader emerge as confused as ever. One reason for this is that Boland is keeping a lot back and only printing what supports the tortuous logic he engages in throughout, a logic that condemns virtually everyone in the crisis with the exception of himself.

No one escapes at Cabinet level. Previous to this Boland held out hope for Haughey and Blaney. Now even that is gone and Boland withdraws his Dail allegation against Peter Berry to the detriment of Haughey who featured in the clash of evidence with him at the Arms Trial.

One valuable assertion emerges, however. Boland emphasises again and again that "to preserve what we have down here" was the guiding star of the Fianna Fail Cabinet in that crisis. There is no reason to doubt his judgement on this matter and it is supported by all the external evidence of the period.

Again, he is right to claim that Lynch knew all along. Indeed, it was the United Irishman which published the Government policy in November 1969 when it publicly accused the Fianna Fail Government of trying to undermine the progressive mass movement led by the Civil Rights Association in the North.

Here again perusal of all the sources is necessary to lead to a balanced view of confusing and contemporaneous happenings.

Lynch dated his knowledge to April 1970. Lynch was fully aware of undercover propaganda in the North

as early as February 1970 (Report of Public A/c Enquiry) when requested to pay for the secretly sponsored "Voice of the North" and various pamphlets which aimed at winning minority nationalist allegiance back to the side of the Dublin Government.

Boland does not venture across the Border because if he did then the aim and purpose of the Government's intervention would have to be discussed. That was simply to control the forces making the running in the North or to destroy them. That was the Government's way of "preserving what we have down here".

Had the Civil Rights Movement or the Republican Movement succeeded in winning major concessions from the British Government in the North then Fianna Fail's political base in the southern constituencies would be vulnerable to electoral challenge by either Republicans or people associated with the successful Civil Rights development in the North. Which explains Lynch's efforts to join them in his Derry speech "We won't stand by" or his willingness to spend £100,000 on propaganda or other efforts to subvert what he might not be able to control.



● Kevin Boland

The unexplained mystery is why the Cabinet bust-up came when it did? A probable explanation was that Haughey and Blaney judged, incorrectly as it turned out, that the Northern crisis was the opportunity to get rid of Lynch as Taoiseach: that Lynch used the bungling of an element of the overall Government scheme — the gun running — to turn the tables on them and that Kevin Boland disagreed on tactical grounds, subsequently converted to Republican grounds.

Boland's "UP DEV" does contribute to the debate as the recollection of a former Cabinet Minister must. The surprising thing is that it contributes so little fresh information on what happened and why as distinct from a tiresome reiteration of his own opinions.

Sad, in the national sense, to think that Fianna Fail spent the critical six months which the Civil Rights Movement had provided to lift the weight of Unionist and British oppression in the North "preserving what we have down here" and struggling among themselves for power.

The impetus their fear and greed gave to the Provisionals is with us to this day and for many more days to come. If Kevin Boland were honest as he claims, he would write another, more detailed and frank book. This would tell us about the role of the four Captains — the intelligence officers sent North to undermine and disrupt the work of the CRA, the citizens defence committees and the Republican movement.

"Account for yourself"

Paperback, 240 pages.
Price: £2.20 (incl. VAT)

"Account For Yourself", has two main objectives. First, to help trade unionists and other non-specialists in the accounting field to understand and interpret company accounts for themselves. Second, to pinpoint some of the deficiencies of company information as currently presented (or not presented) to employees and other interested parties — with a view to getting companies to 'account for themselves' better in future.

The climate concerning disclosure of company information to

employees is changing throughout Europe. It is increasingly recognised that worker participation is a key issue in industrial progress, and that it cannot become a reality until such time as workers are provided with the relevant information on which decisions are to be based. We in Ireland are trailing a long way behind some of the other European countries in this field, but at least this gives us an opportunity to prepare for the necessary changes and learn from experience elsewhere.

The book begins with a brief description of the various types of enterprises in Ireland, the numbers and sizes of each type, and where to get information on them. The general information available on both public and private companies is noted, and then the accounts are dealt with in more detail. The balance sheet, profit & loss account, and 'sources and Uses of Funds' statement are all explained in straightforward, jargon-free language, with particular attention being given to some of the terms and concepts that 'laypeople' often find confusing.

"Account for Yourself" is directed primarily towards trade unionists, but will also serve as an invaluable introductory guide to anyone wishing to study accountancy and the disclosure aspects of company law. It is written by a non-specialist, for all non-specialists with a general interest in these subjects.

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PEOPLE IN POLITICS

SUPPRESSED

Councillor Seamus Rodgers of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party who is a member of the Donegal Fisheries Committee, has called on the Minister for Transport and Tourism to publish the report of the enquiry into the loss of the fishing trawler Carrig Una in November 1976.

The Carrig Una disaster off Rathlin O'Beirne island Donegal, followed a similar disaster to the Evelyn Marie at the same spot just a year earlier. The entire crew was lost. Councillor Rodgers expressed the anger of Donegal fishermen and their families at the Ministers suppression of the report. "Fishermen are entitled to know every detail" he said, pointing out that the facts could help to avoid similar tragedies.

CLIMBDOWN

Goodyear Craigavon workers called the companys bluff successfully last month. The US multinational threatened to pull out of North Armagh if the 1,600 strong workforce refused to accept a 10% productivity deal as part of the new wage deal.

Earlier the company had only offered the men 3% pay rise until a work-to-rule forced them to offer 15p per hour on the basic rate in return for the productivity increase. The workers objected and pointed out that, an across the board productivity deal of 10% would mean some employees doing 25% more work.

The company told local newspapers it planned to pull out in the hope of mobilising public opinion against the men. Now it has agreed to accept a 5% productivity deal for the same wage rise.

BIGOTRY

The Rev. William McCrea is chairman of Magherfelt District Council and also chairman of Ian Paisleys Democratic Unionist Party. He certainly justifies Paisleys confidence in him and is worth to fill the shoes of the most bigoted man in Europe, if he departs from the political scene!

Last month Mr. Justice Donal Murray of the Chancery Court ruled that Magherfelt council had acted in a discriminatory manner by dropping the G.A.A. from its coaching facilities.

It was the first court ruling under the Northern Ireland Constitution Act of 1973 which was supposed to outlaw discrimination.

But was the Rev. William McCrea downhearted? Not at all. He "was quite happy with the court decision because the judge had ruled that the GAA was clearly a discriminatory body." He said the council decision had been justified.

Isn't it amazing how everyone else got it wrong!

N.C.C.L.

Jack Dromey and Catherine Scorer are in charge of a special Irish Desk of the National Council for Civil Liberties in London. This was set up following the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Britain and has handled over 200 cases under the Act. It informs relatives, approaches M.P.'s and police and provides legal aid.

The size of their task can be judged from the fact that 3,017 Irish people in Britain have been detained under the Acts since 1974. Only 115 of these have been actually charged.

The services which the NCCL provide are becoming very costly and they have now made a direct appeal for funds to the Irish in Britain. We would add our voice to this appeal. There should be a huge response.

IRISH VISIT

Richard Figueroa, a long time fighter for Socialism in Chile, will address Public Meetings in Dublin, Newry and Belfast from January 16 to the 21st organised by the International Affairs Bureau of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party.

Richard Figueroa, a Chilean University lecturer, was arrested by the Military Junta on September 17, 1973 and held for several months without charge or trial in "Quiriguina" Island Concentration Camp off the Naval Port of Talcahuano.

A high class restaurant in Galway City pays its workers £20 for a 50 hour week. This is just one of the shocking cases of mass exploitation revealed by a survey of working conditions in hotels and restaurants in the Galway and Salthill areas.

When Mr. F. X. Burke, Director of the Irish Hotels Federation was asked to comment on the surveys findings he had no constructive answer. He confined his remarks to questioning the objectivity of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party. He did not attempt to give the actual pay and working hours in hotels.

The survey was carried out by local members of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party at the height of the tourist season in July and August last. It was confined to hotels and restaurants and did not cover guest houses or take-away food shops. Many of those questioned referred to fellow workers in guest houses whose wages were even lower than theirs and whose hours were longer.

The main findings of the survey were:

- * Sixty five per cent of those questioned were seasonal workers.

- * The average weekly wage of seasonal workers is £20 for a 45 hour week.

- * Eighty per cent of seasonal workers were not covered by social insurance stamps.

- * Only 10% of seasonal workers were paid extra for "unsocial hours". Ninety per cent were only paid the basic wage for all shifts whether late nights, week-ends or bank holidays.

- * No seasonal workers received any holiday pay whatever despite the legal right, under the Holidays (Employees) Act 1973 — to 1¼ days pay for each month worked.

- * The survey identified a widespread practice of employing underage workers particularly in lounge and hotel bars. It further says that this is an abuse which warrants further study.

Besides being a damning indictment of hotel and restaurant owners the survey — in its introduction — questions the whole purpose of the so-called tourist industry. Apart from the huge amounts spent abroad on advertising by Bord Failte most of the millions of taxpayers money they spend goes on grants to hotels and restaurants.

Survey shows workers in tourist industry have worst pay and longest hours

The report points out that this is not surprising considering the interest groups such as P. V. Doyle who is on the Board of Bord Failte and who has been involved in disbursing the money. Mr. Doyle will in fact be opening another massive new hotel in Dublin in April 1978.

The Report suggests that if the millions of pounds of capital invested in Tourism were put into schools, hospitals or housing it would be of greater benefit to the Irish people.

The conclusion of the Report is worth quoting in full: "Sinn Fein The Workers' Party's view of tourism would embrace the whole concept of leisure. A socialist policy of tourism

would be part of a large-scale policy towards leisure and would have to put the interests of the native working population above all the others.

The provision of employment in capital intensive industry must take precedence over the extension of seasonal unskilled employment. It is the function of a socialist policy to make sure that the country's workers are all able to enjoy a holiday.

"Our task must be to build an economy which can support proper leisure time for all its workers. There is no reason why the existing investment in resorts and hotels should not become part of a national holiday policy for the people who paid for them to be built — the Irish workers."



● Solidarity of workers and strike action achieved proper wages and conditions for these Dublin restaurant staff.



PEACE, WORK & CLASS POLITICS

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