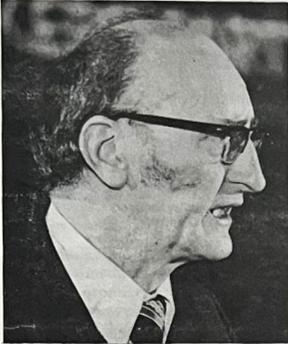


UNITED IRISHMAN

An tEireannach Aontaithe Eanair (January) 1979

Vol. 32 No. 1 Price 10p



• Tomás Mac Giolla.

New future for N.I. Linen industry

A new company, Lintrend Development (NI) Ltd has been formed to develop jointly with the Northern Ireland Development Agency, new linen fabric finishes and to licence them.

The linen industry in Northern Ireland has been in serious difficulties for the past 15 years. The popularity of man-made fabrics was responsible for the decline. Linen has many advantages over man-made fabrics; it has coolness and comfort due to its high moisture-absorption qualities.

The main difficulty with pure linen garments is that they quickly develop a crumpled look and this is a serious disadvantage even against cotton. It almost put linen completely off the market.

The northern linen industry faced the same choice as many another industry challenged by a new product in the same field or by a new and cheaper production technique — modernise or go under.

They have at last decided to face up to the challenge of man-made textiles. Linen is to be used in blends — a bleached linen fibre called "Linron" has been developed. In addition, a new crease-resistant one hundred per cent pure linen has been developed called "Elite".

Linen is being increasingly used in the luxury clothing trade in the last few years. In spite of serious set-backs it still has a future in the Northern economy.

Government ignores £200 million tax fiddle by self-employed...

P.A.Y.E. TAXPAYERS BEAR THE BRUNT

In what Tomás Mac Giolla, President Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, described as "an almost unbelievable anti-working class decision," the Fianna Fáil Government, in their final act of 1978 took subsidies off bread, butter and milk.

"This decision" said Mr. Mac Giolla, "is the same as imposing a tax on basic foods and comes on the heels of a reduction of corporation profits tax to a mere 10%. Already the Lynch government has removed Wealth Tax and reduced Capital Gains Tax by 80%."

"Now they are recouping this loss of revenue to the wealthy by actually taking the food from the mouths of those who are already undernourished."

"Even Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph" he said "would not have dared to adopt such ultra right wing policies as Lynch and O'Donohue now pursue."

Highest

Food prices in the 26 counties are already among the highest in the world. In the September issue of the *United Irishman* we gave a table of prices in New York and Dublin which

showed New York prices consistently lower although wages there are nearly three times higher.

This further Government tax on food is simply going to mean less food on thousands of tables. The rise in food prices is not accompanied by any concession whatever — no wage, increase, no social welfare increase and no reduction in tax.

It is when taken in the context of the Government's taxation policy that the full enormity of their crime against workers is seen. When Fianna Fáil came into office last year PAYE workers were already paying 87.5% of all tax on incomes.

Burden

It was reasonable to expect that this burden would be lifted off their backs and spread over self-employed businessmen, farmers, doctors, solicitors, accountants etc.

In fact the reverse happened. Owners of cars, and houses had tax and rates abolished. Wealth Tax was removed from the rich. Capital Gains Tax was reduced by 80% and Corporation Profits Tax is to be reduced from 45% to 10%.

Taken together with these extraordinary measures the removal of food subsidies is in fact a direct transfer of resources from the poor to the rich.

The booklet *Come On The Taxpayer* recently issued by the Research Section of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party estimates a £20 million tax fiddle by the self-employed. It reveals that a directive has been given to the tax inspectors that they must not question a well presented account from the self-employed.

Criminal

It is very frustrating for these civil servants — who themselves are PAYE taxpayers, to see the wealthy get away scot free in criminal activities which leave bank robbers in the hal'penny place.

This arrogant and incompetent government secure in its 84 seats, is walking all over the wage and salary earners. Further savage taxes are being prepared in the Budget and statutory wage restraint.

But the camel's back has taken on as much as it can bear. The year 1979 will see the beginning of the fight back. The PAYE taxpayers are in the mood for a revolt. They are already organising in their trade unions.

Irish Congress of Trade Unions President, Mr. Harold O'Sullivan has condemned the Government for its totally "inequitable income tax system".

R.U.C. on murder charges

In a surprise move in December a total of seven members of the R.U.C. were taken into custody and questioned about murder, kidnapping and other serious offences in the Ahoghill area of Antrim and in South Armagh.

After being put through the notorious Castlereagh Interrogation Centre four were charged and remanded in custody.

Sergeant Oliver Weir (28) from Magherafelt and Constable William John McCorkey (27) from Lurgan were charged with the murder of William Strathearn, a grocer from Ahoghill on April 19, 1977.

Kidnapping

Constable McCorkey and Sergeant James Armstrong (24) also of Lurgan, were charged with the kidnapping and imprisonment of Fr. Hugh Murphy, Parish Priest of Ahoghill, last June. Reserve Constable Ian Mitchell (34) of Armagh was charged with the attempted murder of farm labourer

Michael McGrath (64) at the Rock Bar, Tassagh in January 1976.

The surprise is not that members of the RUC were involved in serious crimes but that they were arrested and charged.

No charges

Many allegations of serious criminal activity have been made against members of the RUC over the past decade beginning with the well documented case of Sam Devenney of Derry who died from the savage beating he received from the RUC. That was in 1969 yet no charges have ever been brought against those responsible.

It is in this context that the present charges have caused such a stir. Does the move signal the beginning of a new policy? Are we about to witness a complete clearing out of all the criminal elements from the RUC?

Will we finally see the murderers of Samuel Devenney brought to justice? If this is just a beginning then Chief

Constable Newman is indeed to be congratulated.

Sceptical

There is much scepticism, however, in Civil Rights circles. The word is that Newman's arm was severely twisted in this particular case and that he had to act.

A complete shake-up of the RUC is an essential element of any interim settlement. They cannot be trusted to uphold democracy and civil rights until they themselves have been democratised and brought under civilian control.

Clearing out the criminal element would be only the first part of this process.

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UNITED IRISHMAN

An tEireannach Aontaithe

INDECISION

There is a noticeable air of bafflement in Ireland at the opening of 1979. No one seems to have any clear idea of where we are, not alone where we are going.

Both of the governments which are ruling us seem to be in a permanent state of hesitation. They lack political conviction.

Jim Callaghan's main preoccupation is to stay in power. He does this not by putting Labour Party policies into effect but by winning votes of confidence. This is easy since everyone is scared stiff of Margaret Thatcher.

Britain is in the EEC but would rather be out of it. She is out of the E.M.S. but would rather be in it.

We all keep wondering what Britain plans to do in the North. In fact she doesn't plan to do anything. Callaghan's only directive to Mason was "when in doubt do nothing." Mason is always in doubt. So carry on Direct Rule.

Jack Lynch lives in a lovable state of wonderment at his own popularity. No one really expects him to have any particular policies. Anyway he won't be staying around too long.

Meantime Martin O'Donoghue enjoys himself testing out his own pet economic theories. While George Colley trots around at his heels.

They also evolved a great republican plan for solving unemployment and wrapped it in a green paper. It was simple — everyone who has a job must share it with someone unemployed. Then everyone will have half a job and no one will be unemployed.

Of course the employer is not asked to share his factory, his bank or his farm with anyone. That would be interfering with private property rights and would be against De Valera's great republican constitution.

The euphoria of Fianna Fáil's great victory of 1977 has been dissipated in a cloud of incompetence in 1978. Each particular minister is left to sit in his own mess.

But Jack is not worried. The EEC will make whatever decisions are necessary about the economy, 6 Counties' problems can be blamed on Callaghan or the Provos and Jimmy Carter will tell Michael O'Kennedy what to do.

So tighten your belt and put on your crash helmet for a rough ride in 1979.

letters

Dear Comrade,

The Irish clergy must be prepared to recognise that Marxism, at its best, is concerned with human issues that no Christian can ignore and that the churches should not lend unthinking support to anti-Communist campaigns.

The current thinking among clergymen is that Marx should be dismissed as anti-Christ. The relationship between the two is of particular political and human importance, the fact is that an increasing number of Catholics live in Marxist states. Both put forward universal claims about the hopes and the future of mankind.

Marxism is attractive to many because it has a passion for people's welfare and a sense of the sins of society. It also has an absolute conviction that history has a purpose which can be related to human fulfillment. They seem to label every criticism to do with ownership and control of wealth as Communist which would imply that it is wrong and that the capitalist system is both right and christian.

The use of the term "Communist" purely as one of abuse and rejection is to avoid many of the just criticisms which should be seen as reflecting the Judgement of God. It also means that many positive forms of protest and reformation as well as those put

forward by the Marxists are stifled.

In place, therefore of an automatic and unthinkable rejection of Communism, the Church should identify itself more with the poor and voiceless.

The following is from *The Irish Times*, "The people here are the most deprived in the country and it is driven into them that they have no alternative but to accept their lot. It is a trap that there is no way out of. The only way is to organise very militantly.

Go to Foxrock or Killiney and see people living in luxury. Come in to the middle of Dublin and see families of 13 and 14 crowded into decayed houses and their children growing up with no future. It does not present a picture of a Christian society. The most able children will end up in Loughan House because they have no outlet for their abilities except in crime. A society that does that to children is not worth having. That some young people are not prepared to accept it is the only sign that there is any hope."

The clergy of Ireland are so unlike their counterpart in Latin America countries.

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

Sir,

There were almost one hundred applicants for the 16 County Council houses recently allocated in Riverstown. Proper planning down through the years would have ensured that such a situation would not have arisen. Now that the population of the greater Cork area is steadily increasing, together with the fact that private house prices are escalating rapidly, it is vital that the county council immediately undertake a further house-building programme in the area.

Yours sincerely,
John Kelleher,
Dunkettle,
Glanmire, Co. Cork.

The Editor,
A Chara,

I should be interested to hear from any of your readers in the Bantry area who would like to form a Discussion Group on Socialism this winter.

Is Mise,
D.C. Rose,
Kealkil, Bantry,
Co. Cork.

BUMPER BAZAAR

The Cabhair committee has asked us to thank all those who participated in making this year's Bazaar such a great success. This annual event which is held in Belfast's Servia St. Hall is an essential source of revenue for the dependants of prisoners.



On Monday, November 20, James Skeffington, a native of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone died at the age of seventy-five years.

In the period 1919-1923, Jim served with the Tyrone Brigade, 2nd Northern Division, IRA. After service with the IRA, he emigrated to Canada and later to the United States. In New York, he joined the Napper Tandy Club, Camp 1, Clan-na-Gael and IRA Veterans.

In 1948, Jim was active with the Irish Republican Prisoners' Release Association of New York. In 1952, he joined the Northern Republican Society.

When the Irish Republican Clubs of North America were formed in 1971, Jim became a member. For several years thereafter until ill-health assailed him, he was the unpaid, volunteer custodian of the Republican Clubs headquarters.

In 1974 Jim and his wife Mary visited Ireland to attend the Anti Imperialist Festival that summer. While there he attended the Wolfe Tone Commemoration in Bodens-ton where he laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Clubs of the US and Canada.

His wake, held at Toomey's Funeral Home, 57-04 Roosevelt Ave., Queens had a large attendance from Clan-na-Gael, The Irish Republican Clubs, The Northern Republican Society, and the Tyrone Society. After a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Sebastian's Church he was buried in St. Charles Cemetery on Wednesday, November 22.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mary, his daughters, Margaret Kane, Maurel Wall and Collette Hold and his son, Peter.

Cabhair

Irish
Republican Prisoners'
Defence & Aid Fund
30 Gardiner Place
Dublin 1.

Funds
are urgently needed for
● Republican Prisoners'
Welfare
● Aid for Dependents
● Legal Aid
All
Contributions
Acknowledged

Our deepest sympathy goes to the relatives and friends of Paddy Ennis of Kimmage, Dublin who died last month.

RESULT OF CABHAIR DRAW

- 1st — W.N. Sandham, Baile na mBocht, Cork.
- 2nd — C. Moran, Coolock, Dublin.
- 3rd — P. Holloway, Castledermot, Kildare.
- 4th — A. Murphy, Ballyphehane, Cork.
- 5th — S. Power, Mayfield, Cork.
- 6th — P. Whelan Edenmore Dublin

Dublin West County
Constituency
Sinn Féin The Workers' Party

Draw Results

- 1st — E. Lawless,
9 Sarsfields Close, Lucan.
- 2nd — J. Landy,
c/o Irish Meat Packers
Leixlip.
- 3rd — Paul Keely,
c/o L. Holmwood.

UNITED IRISHMAN

An tEireannach Aontaithe

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Fianna Fáil's breach of promise on

JOBS



Dole queues lengthen

Fianna Fáil in their election campaign made many extravagant promises. Their dishonesty was rewarded, they won the highest number of first preference votes ever.

A study of the 1977 elections made by a USA team of experts says: "the 1977 election was clearly dominated by economic issues and the side which was seen as having an advantage - on that issue won an astounding victory."

Sixty per cent of the electorate told pollsters that inflation and unemployment were the most important issues of the day while another eleven per cent listed taxes.

Seventy five per cent of the electorate said, according to the surveys: "if the state would only take the right steps inflation could be cured quite easily."

Judged

Fianna Fáil will be judged on how far they have succeeded in keeping their promises on jobs and prices. They have been helped, so far, by heavy foreign borrowings. It was possible to increase the number at work by a series of "once off" schemes — the numbers employed in the Civil Service and the Gardai were increased.

It is obvious that there are serious limitations to the number of jobs which can be found in this way. Only 10,000 new jobs were found in the all important industrial sector of the economy.

In fact the Fianna Fáil promise to reduce the number of unemployed by 20,000 in 1978 has failed miserably.

The cost of living has shown a steady increase. Taking the consumer price index in 1968 as a base of 100 the index is now at the figure 285.9. If the rise continues at its present rate the consumer price index next year will reach a figure three times what it was in 1968.

Last year showed a very big increase — it was, in fact, one of the years of biggest increase. The year 1973/74 showed only an increase of 25.4 points. The year 1977/78

FOOD PRICES



Subsidies taken off basic foods

showed an increase of 34.3 points.

The cost of living index does not show a true picture of the hardship experienced by various sections of the population. It is the stated policy of Fianna Fáil to push people towards the private sector in order to satisfy their housing needs.

Very few family houses, on which a loan can be raised, are selling at less than £14,000. This means that a young couple thinking of buying a house must have about £4,000 to put down and an ability to repay £10,000 at a rate of £31 a week on a twenty year loan.

A reduction in the cost of housing was one of Fianna Fáil's big election ploys — they made much of the promise that they would give £1,000 towards the cost of a new house. Their builder friends quickly put up the price of new houses and put the extra money into their pockets. The price of food has continued to rise and the increases are mostly on food items we produce here and should be able to produce more cheaply than anywhere else.

In the last year round steak has increased by 17p a pound; sirloin steak by 19p; rib steak by 12p; neck of mutton by 6p; loin chops by 19p; back rashers by 5p; black puddings by 2p; whiting by 4p, — even bread has increased in price by 2p per 800 grams.

The volume of exports rose 17% in 1977 but only a 10% rise is considered in 1978. Industrial exports increased in volume by 20% in 1977 but a 10% increase is forecast for 1978. The balance of payments deficit in 1977 was £120 millions; the official estimate for 1978 is £150 millions deficit.

The bank rate under Fianna Fáil went up this year to its highest level. This will of course begin a further spiral of rising prices in 1979 as the banks rake in higher profits.

And then we have the imponderable of the new EMS link! Not much prospect of a happy new year for workers!

HOUSING



House prices soar

Mussel farming — a £6m. industry

Neither Mr. Brian Lenihan, the 26 County Fisheries Minister, nor any of the top Civil Servants from the administrative side of his department were present at a most important three day seminar on Mussel Farming which was held in Leenane, Co. Galway in December.

In fact this was the only such seminar ever held in Western Europe.

Experts

The seminar was organised by Mr. Michael Crowley of the Fishery Research Centre, Abbotstown. A total of 21 papers were read by experts from The Netherlands, Spain, France, Belgium, Italy, Wales and Ireland.

On the final day three working groups were formed. Their job was "to quantify the potential yield (in weight and cash) of mussel culture in Ireland and to propose a realistic timetable for reaching this potential."

The report of the working groups indicated that within a period of ten years the mussel industry could reach a potential yield of £6 million. This would be a large industry by any standards and could grow indefinitely.

Employment

It would provide employment for 500 workers directly with a further 700 in spin-off industries.

AN TAISE MUST CHANGE ITS PRIORITIES

An Taise — the Irish National Trust — is a voluntary body established to concern itself with conservation and general protection of the environment.

This is an important objective and one which should have the support of the whole of Irish society.

To retain widespread support however the Board and membership of An Taise and its spokespeople must, like Caesar's wife, be above suspicion.

They must never be seen to

But this cannot be done while we remain in the era of hunting wild mussels. Mr. Michael Crowley in a paper on the history of mussel fishing in Ireland, indicated the problems of wild mussel fishing and the difficulties experienced both in the purification and processing. The best wild mussels at present are on the east coast at Mornington, Wicklow and Wexford where yields of between 18 lbs and 24 lbs of meat per cwt. have been got.

Experiment

The only mussel farming in Ireland has been taking place on the West coast of Galway and Mayo. This has been done on an experimental basis by a State company, Beirteach Teo, based in Carna.

Mr. N. Herriott and Mr. Tony Berry of Beirteach told the seminar of their experiences and of the different types of raft design they have developed for mussel farming. They now feel that the way is open for commercial production of mussels.

This is where our troubles could start. If there is money in it private enterprise will try to move in to exploit it and the workers for their own profit.

Mr. Paddy O'Callaghan of Cromane Co-operative Co.

Kerry, who read a paper on "The role of the Co-operative in Development", saw this danger.

Co-ops

He pointed out that this was an ideal industry for co-operative development. He had 12 years experience of mussel fishing and he said that an individual free-for-all would be destructive for the industry.

He pointed to the co-operative development of fisheries in Watersay Island in the Hebrides and gave a detailed account of the marvellous fishery co-operative in Tallin in the Soviet Union which he had recently visited.

Committee

A steering committee was set up at the seminar to look into the various existing shell-fish organisations to see if they could cater for mussel farmers.

If they find none suitable then it is intended to set up their own organisation.

There was general agreement at the seminar that the industry could not work on an individual basis and that the co-operative would be the best method of organisation.

be puppets of pressure groups or of big business.

An Taise showed in a very bad light when they spoke with the Loftus lobby in their efforts to have Dublin Port included in an amenity order on Dublin Bay.

It is very well known to workers around the port that that occasion had been a member of the management of Gouldings and that this firm was a great polluter of the Bay.

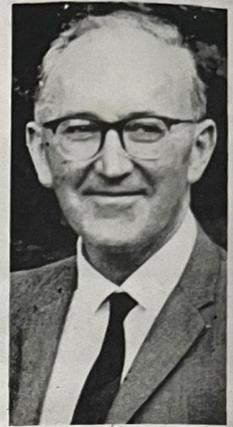
An overhead pipe can still

be seen by anyone who cares to walk along East Wall Road; a pipe which was used to pump gypsum into the water. NET had a similar problem at Arklow but they now use the waste as a raw material to manufacture plasterboard.

Many people cannot understand why An Taise does not ask Gouldings to clean up the pollution that they put into Dublin Bay. They certainly know that it is there. Industry, with proper safeguards does not need to be dirty.

PORTRAIT

Peter Berry



The late Peter Berry.

Peter Berry joined the Department of Justice in the late '20s, served under P.J. Rutledge and was appointed personal secretary to Gerry Boland. He continued to serve in this capacity through the '40s, when the Fianna Fáil Government engaged in the judicial murder, or execution of its Republican opponents.

By 1957 Peter Berry was in a position to draw up lists of those to be interned. When a colleague pointed out to him that, to his certain knowledge, one of those on the list shown to him was not a member of the IRA, Peter Berry replied, "I know that, but he could be useful to them."

Peter Berry slowly became the real Minister in

his Department during the '50s and '60s. In the 1969/70 Northern crisis, and subsequent Arms Trial, he figures prominently. It was he who, when Michael O'Moráin the Minister was sick in hospital, brought the Captain Kelly file to Lynch's attention as Taoiseach. It was Berry's action which led to the plan to import arms into the country being called off.

One man who must be relieved Peter Berry is now dead is Charlie Haughey. A feature of the Arms Trial was the total clash of evidence on a vital point between the two men. One or other was lying.

Kevin Boland, in his Dáil outburst, and in the first of his two subsequent books on the Arms Crisis, was inclined to blame Berry for

lying. However, in his more recent "Up Dev!" Boland is significantly silent on this issue.

Peter Berry subsequently resigned as Secretary of the Department of Justice to take a libel action against *The Irish Times* for publishing a photograph of pickets which featured Mairín de Burca and a placard with the words "Peter Berry 20th Century Felon Setter Helped Jail Republicans in England."

The placard referred to the evidence given by Garda sources as to a previous conviction under the Offences Against the State Act of Eamonn Smullen, then on trial in England for alleged attempts to purchase arms from a police agent, provocateur, Reginald Gee.

Peter Berry failed in his action in the High Court and appealed to the Supreme Court, where Chief Justice Cearbhall O'Dálaigh threw his case out.

Peter Berry's next action was against the Department of Justice, to try and recover several years salary which he claimed he was entitled to because of his premature resignation. Again, he failed. For a man who spent so long in the Department of Justice that he felt he was Minister, Peter Berry never had much luck in the Courts.

Had he lived in Napoleon's time, Peter Berry might have rivalled the notorious Fouche, so extensive were the powers he commanded in terms of the regular Garda force and

secret Garda forces, and so long was his tenure at the head of affairs in the dark area of the Department of Justice. Perhaps he never found his Napoleon.

I.D.Y.M.

"On behalf of the Irish Democratic Youth Movement I wish to comment on a speech made by the Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Lenihan, at the annual dinner of the Dublin Junior Chamber of Commerce," said Richard Dunphy, National PRO in a statement.

"In his speech, Mr. Lenihan claims that unemployment is on the decline and he goes on to give his government a "pat on the back" for their "very significant contribution to employment expansion."

Failure

Quite amazing really, when one considers the massive unemployment which this country suffers from and the failure of either the Fianna Fáil government or its predecessor to do anything apart from trying to suppress the true facts.

A confidential Report, financed by AnCO and the Department of Labour, which is now in the hands of the Minister of Labour, confirms the worst forecasts about youth unemployment and states that 50% of school-leavers now face life on the dole.

PARTY ARD FHEIS

The Annual Ard Fheis of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party will be held on March 2, 3 and 4th at the Mansion House, Dublin.

Should any cumann, club or comhairle ceantair not have received documentation to date please contact Head Office immediately.

the party platform

MAC GIOLLA OUTLINES EDUCATION POLICY

The failure of the private sector to provide full employment and its inability to ever do so are now obvious to increasing numbers of people. What is needed is the nationalisation of our natural resources and the expansion of public sector investment.

Unable

But the Government cannot implement this policy because it represents big business.

TRINITY CLUB

At a public meeting of Trinity College Republican Club on the "Better Life For All Campaign", the following resolution was passed:

"We, the Trinity College Republican Club express continuing support for the Better Life For All Campaign by the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and regard the six points of the Peoples' Declaration as the most positive way forward for the people of Northern Ireland."

Tomás Mac Giolla, President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party when addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Ballyfermot Constituency Council of the Party last month said:

"The recent statement by the Higher Education Authority that it is not prepared to recommend substantial fee increases, such as those proposed in the Green Paper, in those institutions within its jurisdiction is to be welcomed, though we note that this is not based on any rejection of the principle of a private component in educational financing but rather on the conviction that the idea is unworkable.

Limits

"The H.E.A. has drawn attention to the urgent need for considerable improvements in the Higher Education Grants Scheme both in the income limits for eligibility and in the amount of grant payable.

The H.E.A.'s statement that inequality on the basis of income and geographical location has been increasing in recent years is disturbing in a country whose participation rates at third level already lag considerably behind other EEC countries, though those of us who have always expressed concern about the under representation of lower income groups at third level are not at all surprised at this

finding.

It is clear that this trend will only be reversed if steps are taken towards a fully comprehensive grants scheme, whether or not fees are increased.

"Sinn Féin The Workers' Party are committed to the principle of free education up to the highest level as the only guarantee that discrimination on the basis of income will not be allowed to operate and that this country will benefit from the skills and talents of all its people.

Problems

"We do not underestimate the problems. The Tussing Report partially outlined them by showing that for a number of reasons. Education is becoming far more costly per head at precisely the time when a huge increase in demand is inevitable due to our rapidly expanding young population and when cut-backs in public spending are

being proposed in many quarters.

"The motion that there is no way out of this impasse is only correct if one insists on operating within the terms of private enterprise, whose track record is pretty miserable in this country. But it is no longer sufficient to tell us that Ireland is a poor country.

"We know that vast reserves of mineral wealth exist in this country. We also know that the Irish economy has benefited little from this because unprocessed minerals are being exported and with them the jobs and prosperity which should belong to the people of this country.

Develop

"Expansion of the existing State sector to develop and process these raw materials is the only way of ensuring that this wealth is used to create jobs and to expand the neglected services in the areas of health, social welfare and education. Private enterprise cannot and will not do it.

"Education faces a crisis, of this there is no doubt", stated Tomás Mac Giolla. "Private enterprise society has no answers — but there are answers", concluded Tomás Mac Giolla.

Build a Socialist Future

join the

IRISH DEMOCRATIC YOUTH MOVEMENT

Name
Address
Age

Applications to:
General Secretary, I.D.Y.M.
30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

SOME CASE HISTORIES

Mr. McMenamin, 44 New Barnsley Drive, Belfast 12. Husband, wife and seven children aged 6 months to 14 years. Husband has been unemployed for all but 1 year in the period 1972-1978. He normally receives £48.96 from Supplementary Benefit. Under Payment of Debt Act they now take £12.50 a week off his benefit in respect of rent and electricity arrears. Family are left with £36.00 to live on.

Mr. George Hannon, Whitecliff Crescent. Labourer with NI Housing Executive. Deductions of £13.70 are made from wages in respect of rent arrears under PDA since August 1978. Now left with less than £30.00 a week for himself, wife and adult handicapped child.

James Smith, 6 White-rock Parade, Belfast 12. Unemployed: married with 3 children aged 11, 6 and 3. From December 1976 - June 1977 was having £9.45 deducted from unemployment benefit of £21.00. They reduced the amount taken to £8.65 a week when his earnings-related stopped.

Mr. McMahon, 11 Whitecliff Crescent, Belfast 12. Husband, wife and 4 children, one an infant. £12 a week being deducted out of £31 leaving £19 for the family. He is looking for a voluntary agreement which would leave them enough to eat.

N.I. Payment for Debt Act Makes poverty a crime

One of the main hallmarks of the old Orange/Unionist regime in Northern Ireland was the viciousness and extent of its repressive legislation. Its greatest showpiece was the notorious Special Powers Act.

The spectacular success of the Civil Rights Campaign exposed this to the world and eventually forced it off the statute book.

As a result of the fascist bombings and terror campaign it has all been replaced by acts such as the Emergency Provisions Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

However, the most outrageous piece of legislation of all was the last one introduced by the Stormont Government. This was the Payment for Debt Act. Nothing like it exists in Britain or in the 26 Counties.

Innocent

The other Acts of Repression, although hundreds of innocent people are constantly being caught up in them, can at least claim to be aimed at a particular military situation.

The Payment for Debt Act is blatant repression of class. It is social repression of the most evil and vicious kind. It is aimed at the poorest section of society and drags them further into the poverty trap.

It is not confined to adults, as men, women and children down to the tiniest infants are penalised by it. In the case of some it is a death sentence.

Enacted

The Payment for Debt Act was enacted by the Stormont Government in response to the Civil Disobedience Campaign called by NICRA and others against Internment in August 1971. Even by Stormont standards the legislation was

quickly on the statute book... September 1971.

The Payment for Debt Act permitted the then local councils to apply to Stormont for deduction of rent monies owed out of Social Security Benefits hitherto guaranteed by the Social Security Acts at Westminster.

The first real impact of the legislation was felt in 1972 when mothers sending in Family Allowance books for annual adjustment (April) did not have them returned at all... they were literally confiscated although the amount of money due on the books was, for most families, in excess of the weekly rent amounts.

Penalties

With the advent of the 'power-sharing' Executive in 1973/74 Austin Currie SDLP, became Minister of Housing. Since he had supported the Civil Disobedience Campaign it was widely expected that he would have the Payment for Debt Act repealed. In fact he introduced further penalties — a fine of 25p a week later raised to 50p a week.

In February 1977 after a major campaign against the PDA led by the Republican Clubs, Minister Lord Melchett announced that no longer would the Act be used to interfere with Child Benefit (formerly Family Allowance), or benefits payable directly to women e.g. widows' benefit.

Exercise

Republican Clubs The Workers' Party pointed out that this was merely a "cosmetic exercise". It would not substantially alter the plight of those caught in the poverty trap and unable to

pay. Melchett's purpose was to damp down the rising protests. In April 1978, Melchett announced that he was extending the Act to cover gas and electricity arrears.

Following this the Belfast Executive of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party together with its three Belfast Councillors sought a meeting with Lord Melchett. At this meeting they made a 300 word submission on the Payment For Debt Act.

This submission pointed out that there was no evidence that the level of public debt in Northern Ireland was any greater than in similar depressed regions of Britain.

Yet no similar legislation operated there. They also detailed the higher costs of essential services such as rent, gas, electricity and coal and contrasted these with the wages which are 25% lower than in Britain.

The Belfast Republican Clubs Executive and Councillors emphasised that what is being deducted under the Payment For Debt Act is the resources available to the mother as housekeeper.



● British Minister Lord Melchett.

Starvation

"It is in effect nothing less than a child starvation charter", they said. They called for total repeal of the Act.

A renewed effort should be made now, at the beginning of the International Year of the Child to get this appalling anti-social legislation off the statute book. Perhaps the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association would initiate a campaign on this.

Ireland no longer neutral

In a dramatic foreign policy about-face the Fianna Fáil Government has moved Ireland from the neutral and non-aligned position to that of being a US satellite state.

The first indication of the change was at a disarmament conference in Belgrade a year ago. The Irish representatives voted against a resolution in favour of disarmament. It was proposed by neutral and non-aligned states such as Switzerland, Sweden, Cyprus, Austria, Finland and Yugoslavia.

Protests
Although there were some protests,

the vote was not regarded as a policy change but as a stupid error by a government only a few months in office.

The new policy directive has now been confirmed by our permanent representative at the United Nations. They joined Britain and the US in voting against a resolution on Nuclear weapons which was proposed by the neutral and non-aligned states.

The resolution declared the use of Nuclear weapons to be "a crime against humanity and a breach of the UN charter". The Soviet Union, Japan and China abstained from voting.

Abstained

In a further resolution asking nuclear powers not to station nuclear weapons on the territories of non-nuclear powers, Ireland abstained from voting.

Neither Mr. O'Kennedy, Foreign Minister, nor the Taoiseach, Mr. Lynch have made any public statement on this extraordinary about-face.

It was a former Fianna Fáil foreign minister, Mr. Frank Aiken who led the non-aligned nations in the long and successful fight in the UN for a Nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Fight

Our nuclear policy stance then against Nuclear weapons and for disarmament gave Ireland immense prestige internationally. We were in the leadership of the fight against war. That after all is what neutrality is all about.

The new policy change is ominous at a time of American 'sabre rattling'. We are now against disarmament and for nuclear war. We are no longer neutral. Soon we may see attempts to establish an American base here... with Nuclear weapons?

"Laistigh den réabhlóid, gach rud; i gcoinne na réabhlóide, faic." Sin ráiteas de chuid Fidel Castro atá le fáil ag ceann cabidse san úrscéal seo, maile le síloch-tanna ó scríbhinní Trotsky, Mao agus Herbert Marcuse.

Ní minic a bhuailtear lena leithéid i litriocht chruthaith-each ar bith agus is cinnte go bhfuil raon nua oscailte ag an údar don scríbhneoireacht as Gaeilge leis an leabhar seo.

Mar cé gur ghnóthaigh sé duais chiumhneacháin Sheáin Uí hEigeartaigh in Oireachtas na bliana 1977, is leabhar polaitiúil é seo go bhfuil sé.

Úsáideann an t-údar foirm an úrscéil chun míon-tuairisc a thabhairt ar saol sóisialta, eacnamaíoch, cultúrtha agus polaitiúil stáit nua Africeach darb ainm Zanidia, an tír chumtha ina bhfuil an t-úrscéal suite.

Afraic an lae inniú

Léirítear dúinn céard a tharlann do mhac léinn óg nuair a fhilleann sé ar Zanidia tar éis tamaill de bhlianta a chait sé ag staidéir san Eoraip. Cruthaíonn an t-údar bias na tíre agus na príomh-cathrach go fóirfe cé nárb fhéidir liom mórán spéise a chur sna pearsain féin, ach amháin san Uachtarán Tumba b'fhéidir.

In ainneoin sin measaim gur éirigh leis an údar sa phríomh-chuspóir a chur sa rólma mar tugann sé cúlra gonta solleir ar mhodhanna ansmachta an rialtais, ar chéasadh na bpríos-únach, ar bádás ná-choilínach na tíre, ar dhearcadh na n-intleachtóirí óga san ollscoil, is ar mheoin an lucht rachmáls nua

Africeach.

Níorbh aon ionadh dom léamh gur chaith Alan Titley tamaill ag obair agus ag taisteal san Afraic.

Mheabhroth Tumba an t-Uachtarán Mobutu, nó Hastings Banda, Uachtarán Mhalawi, nó an t-Uachtarán Amin féin duit. Ach ní chuireann an t-údar an milleán go léir ar gealtachas anarach an uachtaráin, tuigeann sé go maith go bhfuil réimis dloranacha na hAfraice bunaithe ar bhonn eacnamaíoch an nua-choilín-eachais.

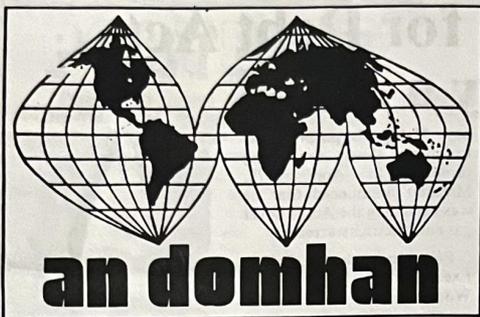
Aithníonn an t-Uachtarán Tumba freisin gurb é an sóisialachas an namhaid is mó dá réimeas, ní nach ionadh os rud é go bhfuil treallcogaithe

ag troid i bhforaoiseacha Zanidia cheana, agus ní leas leis an 'fealsúnacht eachtrannach' a chéineadh.

Tuigeann Tumba freisin go bhfuil sé ag braith go hiomlán ar an iarthar is dá bhri sin deineann sé iarracht aghaidh daonlathach a chloimlead ar bun chun nach ngoilfidh sé ró-mhór ar a chairde san C.I.A.

Má tá léitheoireacht eadrom uait b'fhéidir gurbh fear duit cloigh le Frederick Forsyth agus 'The Dogs of War', ach más mian leat tuiscint níos doimhne a fháil ar Afraic an lae inniú, b'fhiú go mór duit an leabhar seo a léamh.

'Máirscl' na Treibhe' le Alan Titley, An Clíchomhar, 287 leathanach, £3.50.



● The Mayor of Wisconsin, Paul Soglin presents Seamus Lynch with the Key of the City.

Seamus Lynch in North America

Belfast City Councillor, Seamus Lynch, Vice-President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, recently completed a very successful lecture tour of the USA and Canada.

Dealing with the current situation in Northern Ireland, Cllr. Lynch spoke in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Winnipeg, Denver, Madison, San Francisco, Boston, Washington, Albany, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Portland, Amherst and Philadelphia. He also made numerous TV and radio appearances whilst the press gave him good coverage almost everywhere he went.

Theme

The main theme of Cllr. Lynch's lectures was that the struggle in Ireland was a class struggle and not a sectarian one as British propaganda had the people of America believe.

Always outlining that the main problem in Ireland was the presence of the British and Anglo-American Imperialism he made it clear that the British Army were the main source of violence, helped along by the mindless violence

of the para-militaries.

Call

Calling for peace with democracy Cllr. Lynch urged that the British implement immediately a Bill of Rights for NI with a Devolved Government and elections held under a system of PR.

In seeking support for these demands Cllr. Lynch met with the following people and groups: In Madison, Wisconsin he met with the Mayor, Paul Soglin, and was presented with the key to the city.

On his arrival in Canada Cllr. Lynch was met by the Mayor of Winnipeg, Robert Steen, and another member of his council.

Guest

During the tour Cllr. Lynch was the guest speaker of the Irish Republican Clubs of USA & Canada Convention held in Minneapolis during November. He was impressed by the level of discussion that took place during the number of workshops on Irish and international matters.

United Nations acts on Puerto Rican situation

Puerto Rico is a Caribbean Island inhabited by some 3,000,000 people while almost another million have been forced to migrate to the U.S.

The Island became a possession of the USA as spoils of the Spanish American War in 1898, and the USA quickly transformed it into a surplus value extraction centre. The development of capitalism and the North American control over the Island have resulted in a drastic exploitation of the Puerto Rican people throughout this century.

North American capital controls 81% of assets and manufacturing, 85% of retail trade, virtually all marine and air transport, 81% of the labour force, 65% of housing construction, over 60% of banking and finance, most of the means of the mass communications and recreation, and 90% of exported industrial production.

Seventy per cent of Puerto Rican families live under poverty levels and are eligible for the US food stamp program. This situation provokes a tremendous dependency of the Puerto Rican people on welfare payments and constitutes a dramatic loss to the pride and dignity of a people who want to work but are given no opportunities.

Thus, the majority of Puerto Ricans are caught in a destructive situation in which their traditional culture is constantly undermined, their homeland is being put to use for the benefit of others, and they have little control of the forces affecting them.

The question of the colonial status of Puerto Rico has been brought to the attention of the United Nations for many years, and particularly since 1965 it has been a key issue in the Decolonisation Committee of the UN.

Very recently, on the 12th of September, 1978, the Decolonisation Committee approved a resolution which is deemed a victory for the independence struggle that the island leads.

The resolution reaffirms the inalienable right of the people

of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution

The resolution of the Decolonisation Committee also states that in the event the Puerto Rican people decide to form an independent republic, they have the right to recover the totality of their territory including all lands now used by the authorities of the Government of the United States.

At the moment US military holdings in Puerto Rico include 12% of Puerto Rico's arable land and no payment is made to the island for the use of such areas. In the small offshore island municipality of Vieques US Navy controls 80% of the territory and the US have been using the area for military exercises of all kinds.

Vieques is being used for bombing exercises involving

bombs of 2,000 pounds launched by planes and ships, and for firing exercises with tanks, hand grenades, machine guns and rifles.

The forces of NATO (including Britain) are also participating in firing exercises which have caused the destruction of coral reefs, beaches, and bays, a substantial reduction in the fishing industry, and a large number of accidents involving the people that live on the island.

Another two important points of the UN resolution call for the unconditional release of the four political prisoners who have been incarcerated in US prisons for more than 24 years, and for the termination of persecutions, harassment, and repressive measures to which organisations and persons struggling for independence have been subjected to during the last thirty years.



● Pictured below are the four prisoners who were arrested in 1954 and are serving sentences from 25-75 years in U.S. jails: Irving Flores, Andrés Figueroa, Rafael Cancel Miranda and Lolita Lebrón. Above are recent sketches of Rafael Miranda and Lolita Lebrón.



Children of Che. Childhood and Education in Cuba: Karen Wald. Ramparts Press. £2.35 399pp.

"Children of Che" by Karen Wald portrays via children what a revolution really means. She writes in an open, honest and detailed way of how children are cared for.

Health care, nutritional education, housing, general

education and jobs, all of which were non-existent to Cuban workers and peasants previous to the Revolution are now available to all.

However, one is very aware throughout the book of the hard work it has been and still is for all the people of Cuba.

The enthusiasm of the children who spend a part of each school day working in the fields, their whole approach of collectivism rather than individualism — they don't want to be best in the class, they want their class to be best in everything so that they all

know and understand, their understanding of international affairs, their knowledge of their own history are all revealed through interviews with the children themselves.

It was the wish of José Martí — the Cuban rebel that all the fortresses would be

turned into schools and in his memory Cuba has done this believing in Martí's words.

"An educated people is a free people". "Children of Che shares the achievement of Cuba and one is consciously aware of the humane consideration of a socialist society for its children to that of any Capitalist country.

CHILDREN OF CHE

'We Are Your Sons' by Robert and Michael Meeropol, £4.40p: The Judgement of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, by John Wexley, £1.75p: Death House Letters of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, £1.25p.

The end of 1978 closed an anniversary year of immense poignancy and historical consequence. Twenty-five years ago the American left was crumbling under loyalty oaths, House Committee allegations of an Americanism and Korean war-inflamed patriotism and was dodging from prison or betrayal behind the Fifth Amendment. The left was on the run.

At the peak of this fear Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, the children of Jewish immigrants, sometime members of the CPUSA, and admitted anti-fascists were electrocuted in the Sing-Sing death house. The State alleged both husband and wife had passed on to the Soviet Government plans of the atomic bomb.

Innocence

Twenty-five years after their deaths there is a vibrant campaign to assert the innocence of the Rosenbergs and to expose the role of the government agencies in the campaign of anti communist hysteria which contributed to their deaths.

The frame up of the trials of labour and revolutionary men and women is an enduring tradition in the United States.

From the Molly Maguires, the Haymarket martyrs, Sacco and Vanzetti, Tom Mooney, Angela Davis and the Wilmington Ten, the State has sought victims from the labour and revolutionary movements, from among the oppressed and dispossessed, from among those men and women seeking justice and equality.

Frequently the victims of these frame-ups have had to pay with their lives.

In August 1950 Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were arrested on the allegations of her brother and his wife and of a self-confessed courier, that they with others recruited Ethel's brother, David Greenglass, to join a conspiracy to obtain secret information concerning the atomic bomb for the Soviet Union.

They were both found guilty in April 1951 and sentenced by Judge Kaufman, who stated his reasons for sentences of death: *I consider your crime worse than murder... I believe your conduct in putting into the hands of the Russians the A-bomb... has already caused, in my opinion, the*

Communist aggression in Korea, with the resultant casualties exceeding 50,000 and who knows but that millions more of innocent people may pay the price of your treason.

Indeed, by your betrayal you undoubtedly have altered the course of history... We have evidence of your treachery around us every day — for the civilian defense activities throughout the nation are aimed at preparing us for an atom bomb attack.

John Wexley, playwright and Hollywood scriptwriter was deeply involved in the campaign to save the Rosenbergs' lives. He published *The Judgement of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg* after their executions and has updated it in the light of new material being released under the American Freedom of Information Act.

His identification with the Rosenbergs and the first hand information gleaned from his involvement lends an intensity to his exhaustive account of their trial.

Whatever about their guilt or not, and the Rosenbergs turned down a last minute deal to save their lives in the affirmation of their innocence, Wexley forcefully presents a case for the accusation of injustice both in their trial and in their sentence.

Neither of the Rosenbergs were tried for treason, which in United States law demands very stringent rules of corroboration. Neither of the Rosenbergs were accused of supplying information to any enemy — the United States was in alliance with the Soviet Union at this time. Ethel Rosenberg was only alleged to have typed the secret reports for micro-filming.

They were the first and only Americans ever put to death for espionage in the history of the American civilian courts. Clearly the sentence in the Rosenberg case was both a cruel and unusual punishment.

Clemency

Reaction to the death sentence even in the anti-communist climate of the United States in 1953 was sharp and thousands of Americans took part in the clemency campaign. World wide the response was enormous. Millions of men and women demonstrated in cities and towns across the globe.

When Pope Pius XII added his voice to the clamour calling for



● Ethel.



● Julius

clemency he expressed his abhorrence, in particular, at the judicial execution of Ethel Rosenberg, which left two young children, Michael and Robert, as orphans.

The two boys of the Rosenbergs are now both university teachers in the United States. They have written a moving and distressing testament and account of their childhood and youth in *We Are Your Sons*.

Both sons eventually took the name Meeropol from their adoptive parents who cared for them after their parents' death.

Their book proposes an analysis of American capitalism and America's world role in the Great Depression and the war until the close of the cold war and the emergence of the New Left in which the Rosenbergs figure as victims by chance.

The National Committee to reopen the Rosenberg Case is supporting Michael and Robert Meeropol's lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain the government files on their parents' case. The Pentagon papers and Watergate eroded what little public confidence in the government remained from the conduct of the Vietnam War.

The Committee is confident that the release of the papers will demonstrate the Rosenbergs' innocence and the government's culpability.

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Yesterday's Men!



people in politics

MENTEN

Tomás Mac Giolla's call to have former Nazi mass murderer Pieter Menten barred from Ireland found an echo in the Dutch Parliament in December. Dutch M.P. Joop Wolff, urged the Irish Government to ban Menten and told the Dutch Parliament that Sinn Féin The Workers' Party had requested the Irish Foreign Affairs Minister to have Menten declared an undesirable alien.

Menten owns Comeragh House in Lemybrien, Co. Waterford, and it is believed that many of the art treasures there were stolen from Nazi victims during the Second World War. Tomás Mac Giolla, points out that Menten is a convicted war criminal and it is only on a legal technicality that his sentence was remitted.

As the President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, Mac Giolla's intervention helped highlight the possibility of Menten returning to Ireland with the Dutch socialist movement. "It was the labour movement in occupied Europe who were the chief victims of men like Pieter Menten who later became respectable businessmen, investing their ill-gotten gains in legal exploitation after the War."

DISSIDENT

It doesn't pay to be a dissident in West Germany. Hans Apel, aged 39, is a teacher in West Berlin. He is also a member of the Socialist Unity Party.

At their Congress in November 1974 Apel spoke in the debate on Education saying the evils of the West Berlin Educational system were organically linked with the evils of capitalist society. This was treason.

The local Christian Democratic Union accused him of "abuse of office" and preliminary investigations began in 1975. In 1976 he was brought to court accused of "anti-constitutional" activities. The judge ruled in his favour.

The CDU lodged an appeal which was supported by the ruling Social Democratic and Free Democratic Parties. On September 12, 1978 the West Berlin Supreme Administrative Court ruled that a state employee could not be a member of the Socialist Unity Party. Hans Apel was barred from teaching, the only job he knows.

Our 30th Anniversary

In 1948, the first edition of The United Irishman rolled off the presses. The aim of the new publication was threefold: to communicate the Republican message to the Irish public, to act as an organiser and recruiter for the movement, to survive on its own financial resources.

That was thirty years ago and in the interval The United Irishman has bravely carried the Republican message not only throughout Ireland but throughout the world.

A huge tradition has grown up over that period involving not only the contents of the paper or particular stories and features but also about the sellers who made the miracle of its survival possible by selling it through good days and bad.

The input of The United Irishman is difficult to quantify but it can be safely stated that it has lived up to its original aims.

It is part of a proud tradition and continues to champion the cause of the dispossessed and exploited.

For so many Republicans, active, passive and sympathisers, The United Irishman has acted as teacher, guide and lifeline over the years.

That is why the 30th anniversary is worth commemorating.

Ireland is E.E.C. scapegoat

After weeks of doubt, hesitation, double-talk and contradictory statements from Government ministers as to whether we were in or out of the E.M.S. mess we ended the year in a sort of no-man's-land. The Government's humiliation was complete.

At no stage of the negotiations were the Fianna Fáil ministers in command of the situation. All the vital decisions were made by others — Britain, Germany, Italy or France.

So from one day to the next Jack Lynch didn't know whether we were in or out. Finally in the last few days of December when everything seemed all set for a January 1st start to the EMS, France, who with Germany had promoted the whole scheme, pulled the plug and everyone was left high and dry.

Ruthless

The ruthless French action, more than anything else, has exposed the weakness — even the stupidity, of our whole EEC position. From the beginning we were to be, at all costs, good little Europeans. This has been the stance of both Fianna Fáil and coalition governments.

We would abide by all the rules. We would do nothing to protect our own industries even when it led to thousands of job losses. No, this was against EEC rules and we were good Europeans.

Of course everyone else patted us on the head and said what 'good little boys' we were while they laughed behind our backs and proceeded to break every rule in the book themselves.

Evasion

After all they made the rules and knew every trick about how to evade them.

While our ministers were being good Europeans the Italians were being good Italians, the Germans good Germans and the French good Frenchmen. In the EMS negotiations each of these knew what they wanted for themselves.

The French decided to use their bargaining position to fight for a better deal for their farmers as against the Germans. So when they didn't get what they wanted they said to hell with Europe, we back France. And rightly so.

Did Jack Lynch look for anything except a handout? Why didn't he look for MCA adjustments to suit our farmers? Why didn't he look for adjustments of the free trade rules to protect jobs in the textile or shoe and leather industries, or even in the timber industry which is in such dire straits?

Disaster

It is in industrial jobs that the EMS entry (if it ever comes) will have the most disastrous affect, because of the

danger of losing our competitiveness in the British market which takes 47% of our exports. It seems there were no negotiations whatever in this area.

Lynch could also have held out for a better deal from the Regional and Social Funds. These were two of the major selling points of the EEC in the 1972 referendum.

Yet the amounts received from them since our entry have hardly equalled our contributions to the EEC.

No go

The one thing Lynch asked for he didn't get — a cash transfer of £650 million. Over a five year period he will probably get the equivalent of about one-third of what he sought immediately.

Of course he will get £1,125 million in loans over a five year period at 6% interest. But we are already in hock up to our ears! In any case over half of this loan will probably be spent on a nuclear power station which hardly anybody in Ireland wants.

Is there any positive side to the whole mess? There is in fact. As part of the preparations for entry to the EMS the Central Bank had to introduce exchange controls between the 26 Co. State and the U.K. This action has been continually called for by Sinn Féin The Workers' Party.

Effect

Now for the first time ever there is a bar on the free flow of capital to the

U.K. One immediate effect of this should be a much larger fund of investment capital for Irish industrial development, as Irish holders of accounts in banks or other financial institutions in the U.K. must close them and return their capital to Ireland within three months of December 18, 1978.

Another plus factor of the exchange controls is that we are no longer forced to keep our interest rates in line with those in the U.K. Up to now if we had lower interest rates than Britain our capital would all flow across the water to avail of the higher returns.

Power

Now the raising or lowering of interest rates will be part of Government fiscal policy giving them new power and control over the State's finances.

Taking into account all the snags of the E.M.S. and the sterling link it could be that our present situation is the best of all. We have gained more financial control and independence from sterling and have, by a stroke of luck, remained free of the E.M.S.

HIDE EXPORTS BLACKED TO DEFEND JOBS

For 370 workers in Irish Leathers the new year prospects still remain grim. (See December issue United Irishman.) The Government seems to be unworried by the large scale redundancies. Certainly they are unmoved.

This may be due to mental paralysis or simply fear of confrontation with some of their paymasters.

The Trade Union movement has no such inhibitions. The IT&GWU and the ATGWU have taken quick and decisive action. They have placed a total ban on the export of hides as from Tuesday, January 2nd, 1979.

Refused

This action was decided on in the face of the total intransigence of the

company. Irish Leathers had refused the unions' request to defer their closure decision pending negotiations with the Government and EEC.

Irish Leathers have eleven subsidiary companies operating in Ireland, the U.K. and Holland. Some of these are engaged in the warehousing, export and distribution of skins and hides.

As pointed out in our December issue they probably make more profit out of the export of hides, which only gives a few jobs, than from their tanneries which employ 1200.

The blacking of this end of their business by the trade unions might make them re-think their plans for the closure of the Gorey tannery.

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