

UNITED IRISHMAN

An tÉireannach Aontaithe Márta (March) 1979

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DEVOLUTION TO END DIRECT RULE

A determined campaign for the ending of Direct Rule and the establishment of a democratic assembly in Northern Ireland was decided on at the Ard Fheis of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party.

Almost seven hundred delegates packed the Mansion House Dublin for the Ard Fheis on March 2nd, 3rd and 4th and discussed a wide range of social and economic issues as well as holding major debates on Taxation, the EEC and Devolved Government for the North.

Emphasised

In his address to the Ard Fheis the President of the Party, Tomás Mac Giolla, laid great emphasis on the major jobs crisis facing the people of the North.

He repeated a comment he made in his address in 1976 when he said, "The people of the North are at an economic crossroads which is going to have a far greater bearing on their lives and the lives of their children than the Constitutional crossroads which is stirring up such great emotions.---- It is important that the people of the 6 Counties study the flimsy economic base on which their future hangs. They will then see that there is little, if any, power left for them to share."

Crisis

He then went on: "The current economic crisis must be met by a united and determined political campaign. For this purpose we are requesting the Direct Rule Administration to convene an All-Party Jobs Forum through which the widest possible support, free from all constitutional wrangling, would be put behind a coherent job creation plan. We would hope that all parties, irrespective of their constitutional position, would recognise the real crisis which exists and in the interests of all the people, unite behind this effort."

In order to enable the people in Northern Ireland to work out their new thinking and to

fight together for their future a democratic framework is required. The ending of Direct Rule is a priority. Maximum pressure should now be put on the British Government for devolution of regional powers to a Democratic Assembly elected by the normal democratic procedures under the proportional representation system. In calling for such an Assembly in my address to you last year I suggested that it should operate under a firmly entrenched charter of democratic rights and guarantees which would be signed by all parties participating in the Assembly and by the London and Dublin Governments. As a further guarantee I also suggested that such charter be then lodged at the UN and the European Commission on Human Rights.

Majority

Recent calls by our party representatives for devolved government in Northern Ireland have been represented by the SDLP as some kind of betrayal of the "nationalist minority". Well we are a non-sectarian secular republican party and we are not representing any minority group. We represent the large working class majority. We have consistently fought for democracy in the North since the sixties. We never called for the dissolution of the Stormont Parliament, we called for its democratisation and that's what the civil rights campaign was all about. It is the SDLP, who were elected on the basis of their claim to support civil rights, who have betrayed their followers and led them back into the old 'nationalist' trap from which they thought they had escaped."

The Ard Fheis then debated a document on Devolved Government for Northern Ireland submitted by the Ard Comhairle.

Reforms

Having outlined the various reforms which have taken place in the past decade such as PR, universal franchise, housing points scheme and fair

employment legislation, the document goes on to say that "there is a groundswell for democratic and progressive change in Northern Ireland to-day."

The depth and far ranging effect of this process of rationalisation and of the institutional changes heralded in by the Civil Rights campaign clearly guarantees that there can be no turning back in NI politics. The former Local Government system has been completely restructured. Reforms such as PR in elections and anti-discrimination legislation and procedures in jobs and housing are now penetrating deep into every corner of political life and Public Administration. Although a sectarian rearguard is being mounted at some Local Government levels the political basis now exists to win Devolved Regional Institutions for Northern Ireland which will be radically different in form and character from the previous NI parliamentary experience.

Objective

The Devolved Government document, which was passed unanimously, states firmly that "There can be no turning back in Northern politics." It goes on:

The central objective of the Civil Rights movement — the creation of progressive democratic regional government in NI remains unfulfilled under Direct Rule. The completion of this democratic process, with the protection of and consolidation of the Civil Rights gains already achieved is essential to the vast majority of people in NI and stands clear as a vital rallying point for the broad spectrum of democratic progressive opinion which constitute the real peace forces in our community.

Our Party always demanded more democracy in NI not less. For this reason we oppose the sectarian powersharing solution and reject a prolonged Direct Rule period on basic democratic grounds.

Demands

Our Party believes that the progressive elements in NI politics should rally around the twin demands of a Devolved Regional Assembly and an early end to the Direct Rule procedures.

● The following members were elected to the Ard Comhairle (National Executive): Sean Garland, Des O'Hagan, Brian Brennan, Eamonn Smullen, Cathal Goulding, Seamus Lynch, John McManus, Tom Moore, Donnacha Mac Raghnaill, Joe Sherlock, Francie Donnelly, Mick Ryan, Kevin Smyth, Sean O Cionnagáin, Sean Walsh and Pdraig Yeates.



● Party President — Tomás Mac Giolla "demanded more democracy for the Six Counties, not less".

Advance

The introduction of a comprehensive Bill of Rights or Charter of Civil Rights is essential to guarantee:

That political patronage and petty corruption in the allocation of Local Authority houses and jobs can never be re-established on a wide basis in Northern Ireland and the Housing Points Scheme and Fair Employment procedures in particular are reinforced and expanded;

That such Civil Rights gains as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Proportional Representation and universal franchise are given a permanent legislative basis in Northern Ireland politics;

That internationally accepted standards of human rights are established in Northern Ireland, for the first time, involving the removal of all repressive legislation especially the Emergency Powers Act and Payment for Debt Act;

That outstanding Civil Rights reforms namely the creation of a Northern Ireland controlled civilianised police service, progressive standing down of the UDR and judicial and penal reform be introduced.

Bill of Rights

Our Party therefore advocates the introduction of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, underwritten by the Westminster Government and internationally guaranteed through the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The campaign for devolved government will be the central issue in the Westminster elections in which Sinn Féin The Workers' Party will be putting forward seven candidates.



● Delegates voting to accept the Devolved Government document.

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UNITED IRISHMAN

An tEireannach Aontaithe

PUBLIC ENQUIRY

Among the many price increases recently announced was one of up to 20% in the price of footwear. The price increase is blamed on a big jump in the price of leather and this we are told is due to the world scarcity of leather.

Many reasons are given for this scarcity. We are told the East European countries are buying up huge quantities of hides, that supplies from Iran have dried up (we thought that was oil!) and that more people are buying leather coats and jackets!

Due to this shortage then, we are informed, the price of leather has shot up and so shoes must go up in price as well. Doesn't it all sound perfectly reasonable and logical? But there is one thing that puzzles us. In our December issue we carried the story of the collapse of our leather industry.

Gorey Leather was shut down and 200 workers put out of a job. Another 140 were being laid off in Dungarvan and a further 30 in Portlaoise.

The explanation for this was that the price of leather had fallen, and there was a flood of cheap leather on the market from South America. Now suddenly the South American leather seems to have disappeared and there is a shortage!

We are one of the exporting countries of hides and leather. Our exports of hides went up by almost 20% between 1977 and '78 from 48,000 tonnes to 57,000 tonnes.

In the same year our exports of live cattle went up by over one third from 358,687 head to 486,176 head, and our exports of calves doubled from 56,120 to 119,314.

Now who is fooling who? Why is a surplus of leather given as a reason for the closure of the Gorey Tannery and a shortage of leather given as the reason for the rise in shoe prices? And why should a world shortage affect our footwear industry when we have huge surpluses of hides to export?

Before any increase in prices of footwear is sanctioned there should be a public enquiry into the whole shoe and leather industry.

The Government should be forced to control the exports of hides and live cattle in order to protect workers' jobs and also to ensure reasonable prices of footwear for the consumers.

Letters

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your portrait of Oliver J. Flanagan but I think you were too kind to him.

The book *Ireland in the War Years* by Joseph T. Carroll quotes the following extract from a speech made by Oliver Flanagan in the Dáil soon after his election in 1943.

"How is it that we do not see any of these Acts (Emergency Orders) directed against the Jews who crucified our Saviour 1900 years ago and who now are crucifying us every day of the week?"

"How is it that we do not see them directed against the Masonic Order? How is it that the IRA is considered an illegal organisation while the Masonic Order is not considered an illegal organisation?"

"There is one thing that Germany did and that was to rout the Jews out of their country. Until we rout the Jews out of this country it does not matter a hair's breadth what orders you make." (Dáil debates Vol. 91, Col. 569).

Yours,
Sean Boland,
Ofaly.

A Chara,

The Post Office workers strike is being deplored by the Government and the business community. Most sections of the media have become very eloquent about the harm the absence of a postal service will do to the economy — especially our export trade.

The establishment does not attempt to explain how a person working in the

postal service and receiving between just over £40 and just over £60 a week can run a home when rents and mortgages take half the pay packet.

How can postal workers feed a family when food prices are at record high levels? Many more workers will be forced to take strike action unless the price of housing is drastically reduced by curbing the greed of building contractors and land and property speculators. High food must mean high wages even if the economy has to be disrupted by strikes in an effort to force up wages and salaries.

It is becoming very obvious that the working class will no longer tolerate a situation where they are expected to pay all the taxes and pay high prices for the necessities of life while other sections of the population make tax-free fortunes.

Willie Brady,
23 Muskerry Road,
Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.

Dear Friends,

The campaign for the release of Solomon Mahlangu, the young ANC freedom fighter sentenced to death after a clash with police in Johannesburg, continues and we can report further support on all levels to demand that the execution shall not take place.

We appeal to the international community to intensify this campaign, more particularly to take immediate action in the event of a decision being reached by the new State President Vorster.

Solomon Mahlangu was sentenced to death in March, 1978. He was refused leave to appeal in June

and subsequently a petition was made to the then State President, Diederichs, the result of which is still pending.

On November 24 an appeal for the retrial of his case was heard in the Supreme Court, Pretoria. This appeal was refused. We are not in possession of the legal grounds on which this application was made. An appeal against this decision has been lodged.

We ask you to send your messages to: Mrs. Mariba Mahlangu, African National Congress, 2445 Section H Mamelodi West, Pretoria, South Africa.

We are sure they will feel sustained by well-wishers from all over the world pledging support for their son and brother.

Messages to Solomon Mahlangu himself can be sent c/o Pretoria Central Prison, Private Bag X45, Pretoria, South Africa. Or to African National Congress (South Africa), P.O. Box 38, 28 Penton Street, London NI 9PR England.

Dear Friends

I enclose a cheque for the two issues of November and December of your excellent publication *The United Irishman*, which you have been kind enough to send me. I wish I could send more but as an O.A.P. am afraid it's not possible.

Am however still actively campaigning on Civil Rights, Anti-Apartheid and Disarmament.

With very best wishes,
Eileen Bernal,
London NW1

Dundalk and Bray.

He increased the number of seats on Dublin County Council from 25 to 36 and the number of electoral areas from six to nine.

He went back to the ward system of elections in the boroughs of Galway, Sligo and Drogheda and in the urban districts of Dundalk and Bray, but it was in Dublin city he did his most blatant political gerrymander.

There were nine 5 seater constituencies and he has changed this to ten 4 seaters and one 5 seater. The purpose is of course to get two Fianna Fáil seats in each constituency.

The rights of the citizens of Dublin never entered into it. The attached map of one constituency gives the reader a good example of what gerrymander means.

The linking of Finglas West with Drumcondra by a narrow corridor through Cabra can only have been done for the most sordid party political reasons.

It certainly has nothing to do with fair representation for the people of Finglas or Drumcondra and shows total contempt for the people of Cabra.

The citizens of Dublin are already under-represented on the City Council. But the Minister refused to increase the number of seats.

There will now be only one councillor for every 8,500 voters in that area. They are as well represented in the Dáil.

NEW GERRYMANDER

In a new Fianna Fáil electoral gerrymander the Minister for the Environment, Sylvester Barrett

announced a carve-up of local election boundaries in Dublin City and County, Galway, Sligo, Drogheda,



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IDYM, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.



● Dessie O'Malley.

O'Malley's new Minerals Bill

Mr. Des O'Malley, 26 County Energy Minister, is at present working on a Bill called "The Minerals Development Bill 1978" through the Dáil. The Minister's statement in relation to his Bill makes it clear that his main purpose in introducing the Bill is to ensure that the giant mining companies are not in any delayed or hampered in shipping out our valuable mineral resources.

The history of mining in Ireland since the state was

established, has been to allow foreign mining companies to take out the minerals in a raw state and to give a few 'natives' a financial cut out of the profits.

Cut

It is not without significance that the natives who get the cut are Irish politicians or their near relations who have no long nor technical association with mining.

Mr. O'Malley stated that there are four main provisions

in his Bill: "Vesting in the Minister the exclusive right of working minerals"; (One would imagine that meant a state mining company if the Minister had not gone on to explain what he meant in more detail.)

"The granting by the Minister of a lease or licence to any person with an exclusive right to work minerals; payment of compensation to persons entitled to any estate or interest in the minerals and the making of certain amendments to the Minerals Development Act 1940".

Clear

The last sentence in the Minister's explanation of his Bill is clearly related to the Bula situation where three

Irish citizens were not only able to prevent the complete ore-body at Navan going to "Tara" but were able to get £9 millions from the Irish government for just sitting on a piece of land.

The Minister refers to this difficulty without naming the parties: "It is desirable in the national interest to ensure that companies doing exploration work here should have reasonable assurances that, if they discover a deposit and produce development plans acceptable to the state, they will not be prevented from proceeding with these plans because of legal problems of the ownership issue." The Minister wants to make certain that no one else "does a Bula".

End of Irish car assembly

In 1984 the 26 Counties will have full free trade in motor vehicles. Many people, including the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Energy, Des O'Malley, expect that car assembly will come to an end in Ireland in that year.

The Minister told members of "The Society of the Irish Motor Industry" that time is running out and that firms should provide long-term comparable employment for their workers in new alternative manufacturing industry. The Minister expressed himself in a blunt statement: "what I mean, first and foremost, is male jobs for male jobs!"

Not allow

The present position in car assembly is that the unions and the workforce in the various firms have said that they will not allow cars that are now assembled here to come in fully assembled. The difficulty is that the crisis will not hit all firms at the same time but will be a continuing run down between now and 1984.

The British Leyland operation in Ireland is now in crisis, both the car assembly and, to a lesser extent, the car

seat manufacturing section which came to replace other jobs lost in car assembly. Seat manufacturing gives about 130 jobs but these jobs were not filled by direct transfer for lost car assembly jobs.

Car-seat manufacture means bending and cutting steel tubes and welding them together, drilling a few holes and putting springs in position. The raw material is imported and the seats are not upholstered before export.

Opposition

A firm called Brittain used to assemble Leyland cars here. They ran an old-fashioned operation and went down very quickly when serious opposition appeared.

Reg Armstrong now have the franchise to assemble Leyland cars. They were awarded the franchise on "a year's trial" and, it seems, that they are now going to close. A firm called Ryan used to assemble Leyland lorries but Leyland themselves now do this work in Ireland. This operation is also expected to close. Irish assembled cars will not sell on any market other than the home market.

Markets

If the Irish car industry

wishes to export cars and reach a much bigger market and a secure future then a car manufacturing industry must be established. The economic facts of life and the highly specialised nature of this industry means that the government should be endeavouring to persuade the Japanese car manufacturing industry to locate here with the EEC market in mind.

There is every indication that if a suitable package were put to one of the major Japanese car manufacturers they would be very willing to establish their European bridgehead in Dublin.

Even a medium sized plant would employ up to 20,000 workers. We have never yet seen an industry on this scale outside of Belfast.

This is just the kind of boost that's needed for Dublin's unemployed youth and particularly for the workers in the assembly industry whose future looks very insecure.

Willie Brady of the Ballyfermot Cumann of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party put this proposal to the party's Ard Fheis at the beginning of March and got unanimous support for it.

GOVT. SHOULD MAKE DEAL

Some members of the Irish Off-Shore Services Association (the group of companies servicing the oil rigs) exhibited their products at Earls Court, London last October. One of the main attractions at the exhibition was a half gallon of Irish Porcupine oil which the Department of Industry, Commerce and Energy made available to the Association for the exhibition.

There are proven oil resources in the Porcupine Basin — Philips (a giant American oil company) made an oil strike there last September. Marathon and Esso have also made oil strikes off Cork and Waterford.

Guarantees

The giant oil companies will not bring any of this oil or natural gas ashore unless the discovery guarantees them a return on investment of over 25%.

Season

The 1979 drilling season will start again in the early summer. Gulf (of Bantry Bay)

are expected to drill just north of the block where Philips made an oil strike last year.

Servicing

Last year all this activity brought in over £100 millions for private companies engaged in off-shore servicing. CIE and other Irish State companies are still excluded from providing any service which can be provided by private enterprise. This year nineteen new companies have joined the seventy-four companies who shared out last year's profits.

Most of the services provided by these companies could just as easily, perhaps much more easily, be provided by the Irish State companies. The giant oil companies are anxious to secure drilling concessions; it is the one area in the Irish economy where the government are in a really strong position to make good terms. They give away the concessions and the oil-rig servicing business for nothing.

DeLorean cashes in on North's cheap labour

There have been several attempts to capture the American sports car market and, so far, all have failed. Mr. John DeLorean, who is about to attempt to capture this market was a group vice-president and in the running for the top job at General Motors, USA.

He resigned his 500,000 dollars a year job in 1973 because he wanted to start his own car company. He is now well advanced with preparation to build his car factory at Dunmurry, Northern Ireland. He expects the first car to roll off the assembly line in 1980.

Claim

The car which he is presenting to the American market is at present called

DMC-12. It is claimed that it will get more than 32 miles to the gallon and move from a standing start to 60 miles an hour in eight seconds.

The claim that it is so constructed that it protects passengers at 80 miles an hour head-on crashes is qualified a little by Mr. DeLorean's statement on the question. "That doesn't mean that you can walk away from a collision but you will still be alive. A good doctor will be able to screw you back together."

Recommend

The exterior panels are of fibreglass covered with stainless steel. One claim is made for the car which should recommend it: "In theory you can drive it for 20 or 25 years

and nothing should happen to it. It is not designed for early obsolescence." The expected retail price is about 15,000 dollars.

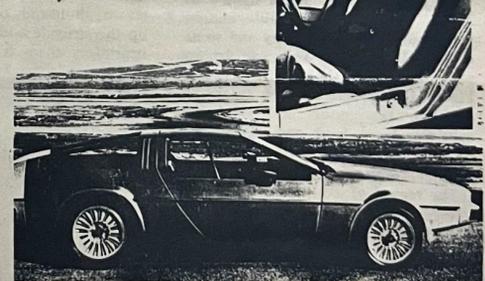
Dunmurry has a 30% rate of unemployment and Mr. DeLorean expects to engage a labour force at one third what he would have to pay in the American car-capital, Detroit.

Loan

The French car company, Renault, will make some of the parts and put up a 25 million dollar loan. Sammy Davis Jr. and the giant American concern, Sears, Roebuck and Co. have also put up money. Mr. DeLorean has put up 4 million dollars of his own money and government agencies have given 122

million dollars.

The factory will give much needed industrial jobs and should help to develop a fibreglass industry based on the plentiful supplies of Basalt in County Antrim.



● The extroved John DeLorean and his dream car.

ARD FHEIS 1979

The main resolutions on the EEC which were passed by the delegates were from the Ard Comhairle and the Bray cumann.

That this Ard Fheis in contesting the first Direct Elections for the EEC Parliament calls on the Party to campaign vigorously on behalf of the Irish working class along the following lines:

- 1) for the expansion and development of the public sector to combat unemployment;
- 2) for Government action to ensure through its fiscal policy that EEC funds are distributed in a manner which will benefit the consumer/taxpayers since they, through higher food prices, are paying for the benefits which are accruing to farmers from the Common Agricultural Policy;
- 3) for the mobilisation of the European Left forces in favour of a democratic peaceful solution in N. Ireland;
- 4) for the establishment of independent Irish ambassadorial links with the Socialist countries of Europe.

Ard Comhairle

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party recognises that the EEC, constituted as it is under the terms of the Treaty of Rome, is a mechanism by which European capital has strengthened its position against the growing power of the European working class.

Through participating in European parliamentary institutions Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, if elected, will work with other European Workers' Parties to reconstitute the EEC on a more democratic basis.

Therefore it will be an integral part of the Party's European Election Manifesto that we are opposed to the terms of the Treaty of Rome, and in particular to Article 90 which enables the Commission to issue directives to member Governments to limit investment to state industries (such as shipbuilding, steel and state controlled oil and gas industries).

James Connolly Cumann, Bray

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

"In the Local Government elections we expect to make quite a significant impact despite Fianna Fáil's blatant gerrymander in Dublin City and some other urban areas. This will be an opportunity for the voters to make Fianna Fáil answer for their record of robbing the poor by removing subsidies from food and paying the rich by removal of Wealth Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

The record of our public representatives, whether in Cork or Donegal, in Waterford or Belfast has been one of outstanding achievement and dedicated work on behalf of the working people of their areas. Let us all ensure that by our work we will add to their number in June.



● From Left to Right: E.E.C. election candidates: Joe Sherlock, Cork; Mick Dunphy, Waterford; Francie Donnelly, Sth Derry; Tomás Mac Giolla, Dublin; Donncha Mac Raghnaill, Drogheda; Sean Walsh, Kilkenny; and Sean Garland, General Secretary.

The issues which Sinn Féin The Workers' Party will be putting to the voters in the EEC elections were spelled out by Tomás Mac Giolla in his Ard Fheis Address.

"The whole question of agricultural and industrial policy as well as many other issues such as prices, taxes, neutrality and national sovereignty will be raised during the course of the coming EEC elections which we will be contesting.

During the course of our opposition to entry to the EEC I spoke at meetings throughout the country both North and South. The issues we put in regard to problems for industry, prices for consumers and the absence of any real regional policy were the same in both areas although agriculture did not play such a dominant role in the debate in Northern Ireland where only 9% of the labour force are engaged in farming.

Only Party

We will now be the only party putting up candidates in both the 6 and 26 Counties and we will be asking for the support of all who are concerned about the operation of the EEC as it affects people in Ireland and especially urban workers whose case is not being put in the EEC Assembly.

All discussion of the EEC down here is dominated by the Common Agricultural Policy. This is the only common policy which is working in the EEC and farmers have done very well from it. Our farmers have had long decades of struggle against poverty and tens of thousands of them had to give up the struggle and emigrate. No one begrudges them a reasonable profit and a steady market, so long as they don't scoop the pool at everybody else's expense.

Transfer

But this is precisely what is happening under EEC policy and it is happening in two ways. Firstly, 90% of the net transfer of funds from the EEC last year went through the C.A.P. to the farming community.

Yet in 1977 only 21% of the labour force in the South and 9% of the labour force in the North was engaged in agriculture, forestry or fishing. So

only 10% of EEC funds were left to spread over 70% of the population in the South and 90% in the North.

Secondly, more than half of Irish farm produce is consumed at home. Through high food prices on the home market, there is a huge transfer of resources from the urban consumer to the rural producers. The urban workers who get nothing from the EEC, are forced under EEC rules to transfer part of their earnings to the farmer. This system will be challenged by Sinn Féin The Workers' Party during the election.

Increase

Apart from the spectacular increase in food prices the most marked result of entry to the EEC has been the large scale of redundancies and closures of industries. In 1978 there were 13,000 jobs lost in the 26 Counties. In the 6 Counties there has been a similar experience leaving 64,000 unemployed there now or 11.7% of the workforce.

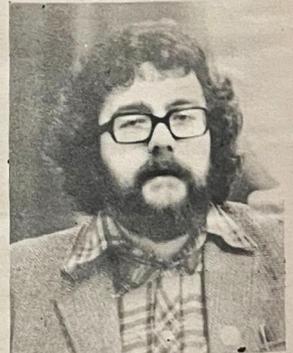
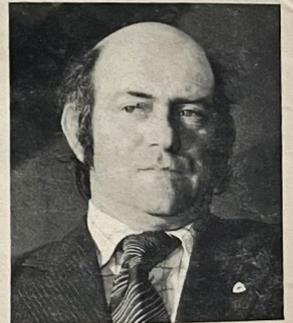
The Common Agricultural Policy has been of little benefit to them and their receipts from the Regional or Social Funds were too tiny to make any impact on the urban housing or unemployment problems.

The unemployment figure of 64,000 in Northern Ireland, had as it is, does not reveal the real scale of job shortages there. There are over 50,000 jobs there depending totally on direct government short term subsidies like the Temporary Employment Subsidy, Selective Employment Premium and Small Firms Employment Subsidy and a number of training and Youth Employment Schemes.

Scrapped

These schemes could all be scrapped under a Tory Government in Britain or perhaps under some new EEC regulation. If this were to occur unemployment would jump to over 100,000 or over 20% of the insured population.

ARD FHEIS 1979



Some delegates who contributed to the debates:

Sean Walsh: Kilkenny.
Mary McMahon: Belfast;
Joe Sherlock: Mallow, Co. Cork;
Tony Heffernan: Sth Co. Dublin.

Fiosrú Poiblí faoi cumhacht eithneach

Tá daoine saimeanta ann a rá gur éirigh leis an lucht frith-eithneach a chur ina iui ar rialtas Fhianna Fáil gur ceart fiosrú poiblí bheith ann faoin gcumhacht eithneach in Éirinn sula ngabhfaidís i mbun stáisiún a thogáil i Rinn an Chairn.

Agus cé gur deas an rud a cheapadh go bhféadfadh an gnáthphobal a dtoil a chur i bhfeidhm go daonlathach faoi cheist nó faoi fhadhb ar bith a bhaineann go dlúth lena saol féin agus le saoil na nglúnta atá le teacht, nil sé sin i gceist chor ar bith an babhta seo.

Nil aon amhras ach go raibh Fianna Fáil glíc go maith faoin gceist áirithe seo. Dhíúltaíod ar agus dhíúltaíod arís eile fiosrú poiblí a chur ar bun a thabharfadh eolas do mhuintir na hÉireann ar ghnéithe agus ar fhadhbanna uile na cumhachta eithneach.

Ní bheidh muid in ann aon bhreith cheart a thabhairt ar an mórcheist seo go dtí go mbeidh an t-eólas iomlán

againn faoi bhuntáisti agus faoi mhíbhuntáisti na cumhachta seo.

Séard dúirt an easóigin O Máille nach raibh aon ghá le fiosrú poiblí, go raibh an t-eólas go léir faoin gcumhacht eithneach ag an Rialtas agus go bhféadfaidís siud breith a dhéanamh — cur amú ama a bhéadh ann dar leis, an t-eólas seo a roinnt le muintir na hÉireann tré chéile.

Níor theastaigh ó Fhianna Fáil an t-eólas a roinnt ar fhaitíos go mbéadh orthu an t-eólas ar fad a chur ar fáil, eólas a thabharfadh le fios nach bhfuil na heolaithe féin ar aon fhocal faoi shabháil-teacht na cumhachta eithneach.

Bhéadh orthu a admháil go bhfuil baol árd tubaiste ann agus go mbéadh muid ag fágáil oidhreacht dainséarach do shliocht ár sleachta san draíodar eithneach a bhéadh curtha i bhfolach faoin talamh nó ar ghrinneall na farraige — draíodar a bheidh chomh dainséarach faoi cheann cuple

céad bliain agus atá anois féin; draíodar a bhéadh ag dul i méid go rialta, seasta ó bhliain go bliain.

Bhéadh orthu a admháil dhá dtarlóidh tubaist de bharr timpiste nó faillí daonna — agus cén t-amadán a shéanfadh gur éasca a rud an faillí daonna — go scriosfaí achar mór tíre, na mílte marbh agus na mílte eile fós faoi ealaing ar feadh a saol. Cuimhnimis ar an dream mí-ábharach atá beo fós taréis ár Hiroshima.

Ach ná biodh aon dul amú orainn, nil sé i gceist ag Fianna Fáil a bpleananna faoi stáisiún cumhachta eithneach a athrú díreach toisc go bhfuil fiosrú poiblí geallta acu. Taréis an tsaoil is iadsan a stiúróidh an fiosrú céanna ar bhealach amháin nó eile — agus cuma cén toradh a bhíonn air féadfaidh siad droim a thabhairt leis agus an rud a bhí uathu ón gcéad lá a dhéanamh.

Ba chliste an cleas Ard



An Reiteach Criocnaitheach!

Fhese mar sin féin, an fiosrú a fhógairt. Bhí fhios go maith ag Fianna Fáil go leagfadh na nuachtáin an-bhéim ar an ngníomh breá daonlathach seo. Chiuinóidh sé lucht agóide a dhireódh a n-aigine ar ullmhúchán don fhiosrú agus a stopfadh sé iad ó neartú agus ó

chur le chéile in aghaidh bunfhadhbanna eile na tíre, an difhostaíocht nó títhíocht mar shampla.

Agus mhaoladh sé — nó tá súil acu go maoilodh sé — na mórchrúinnithe agus an agóidíocht in aghaidh na cumhachta eithneach.

Westrock aluminium bungalow estate in the heart of West Belfast is coming under the redevelopment axe later this year and there won't be one single objection from residents.

The 96 bungalow estate was thrown up in 1947 with a life expectancy of 5 years.

Years of agitation by residents fell on deaf ears. But the creation of the NI Housing Executive in the early seventies was coupled with the growth of a local Republican Club and in 1974 a local man, Bernie McDonagh became a member of Belfast City Council.

From that date pressure on the Housing Executive and Department of Environment became relentless. In September 1975, after months of research into possible new sites and new methods of house construction the Party sent a document to the following: Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Planning; Dept. of Industry and Commerce; Dept. of Manpower Services; and NIHE outlining a plan for renewal.

Amenities

"Our proposals would provide proper housing and amenities as well as local job opportunity for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour." The plan was to replace the aluminium bungalows — to which external repairs could no longer be carried out because the firm that manufactured them had gone out of business — with factory made

W. Belfast bungalows to go

housing.

The advantages of this scheme were:

1. Sufficient ground space was available for initial erections, without demolition, thus keeping the community intact;
 2. There were three industrial sites in West Belfast where the units could be manufactured;
 3. Landscaping and amenity provision could be undertaken by Enterprise Ulster.
- The cost of the scheme was £3 million.

In November 1975 Don Concannon, then Minister responsible for housing, replied stating: "Any scheme for the replacement of these bungalows is in the first instance a matter for the Housing Executive... the Dept. must in the present climate of financial stringency, take into account the need to concentrate financial

and other resources on areas of greatest housing and social stress.

"While aluminium bungalow estates are defective to some degree these bungalows provide considerably better homes than very many older dwellings in the inner city."

Despite the rebuff and apparent indifference of the Government, local residents, supported by Cllr. McDonagh refused to concede defeat. Throughout 1976 they met Housing executive officials to discuss redevelopment, using the Clubs proposals as a basis for discussion. And their efforts did not go unheeded. In October 1976, exactly one year after making their proposals, Cllr. McDonagh wrote to Belfast Regional Architect Don Craig asking him in a formal proposal that development plans be drawn up, which could be discussed with residents.

● Delegation to meet Ray Carter Nov. 78; 1 — r Bill Whelan, Westrock resident; Cllr McDonagh; Brian Brennan; Tony Kerr, Housing Dept.; Harry Robinson, Westrock resident.



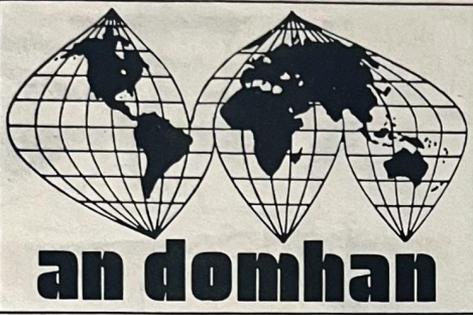
1978. Following on this residents met architects in September in a local community hall, at Cllr. McDonagh's initiative, to discuss phasing of scheme, house types, etc. Over 70 residents attended. A follow-up meeting took place last month at which agreement was secured on all outstanding matters:

1. Between ¼ and ½ of all residents were technically squatters though they had been there for years and were paying User Occupation. This factor had been used by HE management division to hinder earlier discussion;
2. Residents in Phase 1 of the scheme would be provided with portakabins instead of having to leave the area;
3. All residents would receive a Disturbance Grant on moving into new home;
4. Residents of 5 years standing or more would receive a Home Loss Grant.

Work will begin in June 1979 and all 112 families will be rehoused in 1982/3. Thereafter a further 50 over-spill houses will be completed, providing further breathing space in West Belfast.

Welcome

In a statement welcoming the HE initiatives on Westrock Cllr. McDonagh praised the close co-operation between the Executive and residents which has proven that redevelopment, for so long a dirty word in housing and community politics, can and does work for the benefit of all when sufficient time and energy is spent on making it so.



Foreign guests at Ard Fheis

Among the many telegrams and telex messages of solidarity received by the Ard Fheis was one from Dr. Augustino Neto, President of the M.P.L.A. — The Workers' Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola.

Dr. Augustino Neto in his message said: "In the name of the Central Committee of the M.P.L.A. — The Workers' Party, of its Political Bureau, and of the Angola people in general I have the honour of

warmly greeting the Central Committee of your Party as well as all its members.

Our expression of solidarity to your glorious Party will help to further strengthen the links of friendship which will always unite us in struggle against the common enemy, international Imperialism."

Many foreign visitors including representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, attended the Ard Fheis



IRELAND—CUBA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

The inaugural public meeting of the Ireland-Cuba Friendship Society will be held in ROOM 3074, NEW ARTS COLLEGE, TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN on Saturday March 31 beginning at 2p.m.

The aims of the Society are: (a) to promote greater links between the Irish and Cuban peoples;

(b) to encourage and assist a greater flow of information between the two countries;

(c) to organise cultural, educational and social activities with a view to achieving a better understanding among the Irish people of the way of life in Cuba;

(d) to work to achieve diplomatic relations between the Irish and Cuban governments.

Sean McBride, Nobel and Lenin Peace Prize winner, has agreed to become the first Hon. President of the Society. Patrons include Kadar Asmal, Elgie Gillespie and John

Horgan T.D.

The meeting on March 31 will include:

- adoption of Constitution and election of Committee;
- film on Cuba;
- speaker from Cuban Embassy, London;
- speech on life in Cuba by Elgie Gillespie.

All are welcome to attend. Membership of the Society is £2 per year.

SOLIDARITY

The International Affairs Bureau of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party was represented at the recent Congress of the General Union of Arab Students held in London.

In a greeting read to the assembled delegates and observers Sinn Féin The Workers' Party sent "greetings to our Arab comrades in struggle. We salute your efforts to fight the sell-out to Zionism and to establish a democratic and socialist society throughout the Arab homeland.

"In this fight the enemy is the same in Ireland. Anglo-American Imperialism. And your struggle is our struggle, your victories are our victories."



• War has been a fact of life for many generations of Viet Namese.

Major threat to World peace has been averted

China's withdrawal from Viet Nam (announced as we go to press) has helped to defuse a still dangerous threat to world peace.

The Vietnamese people, whose courage and tenacity in their struggle for freedom won admiration throughout the world, had faced an invasion army of a quarter of a million men backed with planes, tanks and heavy machinery. This is even more than the US forces had in the country at the height of the Vietnam war.

Having taken on and defeated first Japanese imperialism, then British, then French, and finally the most powerful war machine in the world, the US, the Vietnamese are once again battling a huge invading army.

They must abandon the painstaking reconstruction of their war-ravaged country, and defend their land and their people against massive foreign attack. No one can doubt that they will do so with calm bravery and determination.

Brutal attack

Any lingering doubts about China's world policy must be dispelled by this brutal attack on Vietnam. The Peking regime's support for racist South Africa, for Zionist Israel, for fascist Chile spelled out the reality clearly enough — hatred and terror of the world socialist movement, while mouthing "marxist" slogans.

The tragedy is that the insane clique in Peking have usurped control of a people with a magnificent earlier record of socialist achievement. Even five years ago, who could have believed China would attack and invade the country whose

people have probably the finest record of anti-imperialist struggle in the world!

But Peking may get its fingers burned very badly indeed. The stated intention of the invasion is to "teach Vietnam a lesson." But in the early stages of the war it was Chairman Hua who learned the hard way what magnificent fighters the Vietnamese are. However there can be no doubt that in the end the sheer weight of numbers will favour the Chinese forces.

World War

Socialists throughout the world will also be learning a lesson from the invasion — that the only power in the world which stands between Vietnam and annihilation is the mighty arm of the Soviet people. Can anyone doubt that if the Soviet Union did not exist, or if it were weak and unarmed, that Vietnam would be destroyed?

The Peking regime is now in the process of modernising its industry and arming its military forces with the latest and most up-to-date weapons of destruction — supplied courtesy of US and British imperialism naturally. But the regime's publicly repeated international policy is that a third world war is "inevitable" — and that they will be the only ones to survive.

This psychotic junta threatens the whole future of humanity. To put nuclear weapons of mass destruction in the hands of such people is a programme for world suicide.

Support

The Soviet Union is most unlikely to invade China, but they will most certainly not

abandon the Vietnamese people in their hour of danger. They could be expected to pour in men and materials to help the Vietnamese war effort, and Cuba too would not be short of volunteers willing to defend international socialism. Vietnam will not be defeated.

The Chinese forces are in Vietnam to do Washington's dirty work. The Pentagon has never forgotten the Vietnamese people for the humiliating defeat of their mighty invasion army, or the way in which the Vietnam war exposed the naked aggression of US imperialism before the world.

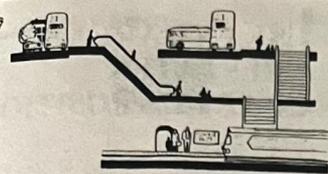
Orders

Clearly the Peking number two, Teng Hsiao-ping, was given orders for the Vietnamese invasion on his recent US visit. And the US Treasury Secretary, Michael Blumenthal, rushed to Peking to supervise the progress of the invasion on the spot.

Blumenthal's visit exposes the hypocrisy of Washington's call for "moderation by both sides".

Once again the people of South East Asia are being slaughtered in their thousands on orders from Washington. How can the Vietnamese be "moderate" when their country is occupied and their people under attack? They will have the support of millions of the world's peoples in their heroic fight to defeat and repel the invading fascist forces. And they will surely win.

• A resolution in support of Viet Nam was unanimously acclaimed by delegates to the Party Ard Fheis.



The primary aim of a transport policy must be the maximum mobility of people and goods in the most efficient way possible without damaging the environment or the quality of present & future life. The aim must be to move people not cars.

The means of facilitating, developing and extending public transport as the most efficient means of people. It means also providing, where necessary, in favour of the car, the young, the physically handicapped and the less well-off sections of the community - in other words, 80% of the population.

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party believes that the needs of the majority of Dubliners would be best met by the Electric Rapid Rail System proposed by CIE. This system has many advantages:

- It is safe, silent and is pollution free and it can be provided at less than half the cost of the proposed motorway. But the main benefits would be to the travelling public. The service would serve 47 stations with connecting bus services. The CIE plan estimates that over 200,000 employment places would be within a 10-minute walk of a Rapid Rail station.
- CIE's Rapid Rail plan, if implemented, provides Dublin with a sound basis for a fast, efficient public transport system suitable for a modern city. Finance will, of course, have to be raised by the State.
- The motorways plan to help but their many building contractor friends. But Dubliners should write for nothing less than the best. And that's the Rapid Rail system.

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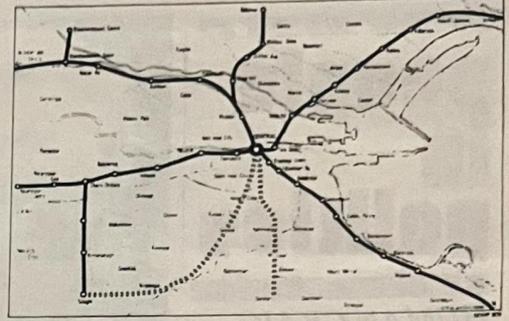
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RAPID RAIL

... For a Greater Dublin



Sinn Féin The Workers' Party



RAPID RAIL PLAN

This recently published study of Dublin transport, which includes Sinn Féin The Workers' Party's proposals, was written by a Committee of our members living and working in the Dublin area.

Here we describe the present situation of Dublin transport in the light of the future development in the City. We then go on to examine some of the different answers or responses of Government.

Finally we make our own proposals for transport in Dublin. The work of this committee will continue and this pamphlet is not considered the last word. We see it as the first systematic approach to the whole question of transport.

Stimulate

We hope that it will stimulate discussion on our proposals in the Trade Union movement and tenants' and residents' associations especially.

Our approach is based on the belief that private transport alone cannot meet the transportation needs of a modern community. The severe limits on the role that private transport can play will increase with the spiralling financial and environmental costs that it generates. This picture is more than confirmed for us by our look at Dublin transport.

This pamphlet is available from **The Bookshop, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1, Price 15p.**

BOOK REVIEW

ON ANOTHER MAN'S WOUND. Publication Date March 16, 1979; £8.00p hardback; 344 pages /Published by Anvil Books Ltd.

Anvil Books are to be commended for getting out a new hardback edition of *On Another Man's Wound*; that outstanding classic account of the Irish War of Independence by Ernie O'Malley.

Action

No other book brings the readers so close to the action or enables them to get such a clear picture of the character and motivation of the participants.

O'Malley introduces the reader to the un-named rank and file volunteer and lets us see how they differed from area to area depending on the historical tradition which spurred them to action or cowed them and made them docile.

New edition

The new edition of *ON ANOTHER MAN'S WOUND* by Anvil Books, which includes the six pages omitted from the original 1936 edition, is a chance for the older generation to renew acquaintance with one of the most famous books of the period; for a new generation to read "The outstanding literary achievement of the Anglo-Irish war."

Fresh

After 43 years it is as fresh and compulsive as when it was first written, still retaining what Malcolm Crowley of *The New Republic* called its "curious springtime atmosphere, almost like that of mediaeval romances."

As history, as literature, it is essential reading for everyone interested in Ireland's fight for Independence.

IDYM EXPANDING

In his report to the Ard Fheis Sinn Féin The Workers' Party General Secretary stressed the importance of involving the youth of the country in our Party activities.

The Irish Democratic Youth Movement is now in its third year. Despite not having achieved its initial target of having branches in all major towns and cities we are confident that we have now the nucleus of a strong socialist youth movement.

The IDYM is now an associate member of the National Youth Council of Ireland. As yet IDYM have not been able to affiliate to the World Federation of Democratic Youth, this despite the fact that their application was made over two years ago. It would seem that some people or group already involved in WFDY have, for their own narrow sectarian reasons, decided to block the IDYM's application.

Contacts

Nevertheless, despite its narrowness, the IDYM continues to forge international links and contacts. The Youth Festival in Cuba last year gave the IDYM tremendous opportunities in this field which they are pursuing through the International Affairs Bureau of the Party.

● Martha McGrath, a member of the IDYM in Dublin.

Schools were held in Mornington on such topics as public speaking, organisation and public relations.

On Mayday the Youth Movement, under the direction of the Party Cinema and Theatre Workshop presented the play 'Waiting for Future' at the Project Theatre.

At the third annual IDYM Conference the party, through the Director of Education, presented to the IDYM a broad directive on the youth movement.

Succeed

To succeed in our task we must have the youth who are the party activists of tomorrow. Whilst many members and branches of the party assist the IDYM a considerable number still do not take any part in this work. We must insist that all members play their part not alone in establishing and expanding the IDYM, but in recruiting new members for the Party.

There is still in some few areas an unwillingness to move out and reach people and recruit more members. Such people seem to regard the Party as an exclusive club and that we have no need or wish to involve the mass of the people.

● Sean McCarthy, IDYM member from Cork.



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people in politics

HUMAN CRAIG

A certain Mr. William Craig presented a report on behalf of the Legal Affairs Committee to the last session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The report, which was adopted, recommended the widening of the scope of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In the current issue of *Forum*, the journal of the Council of Europe, Mr. Craig writes about this. He says "The question is what to do and how. It is not a matter of drawing up lists of rights; there has to be a means of enforcement — and if they are truly fundamental human rights then the remedies must include a right of individual petition.

The art of politics is the possible. The politics of human rights do not rest on simple majorities but on broad consensus and the virtual absence of controversy over their nature."

Hard to believe this is the same William Craig, who as Stormont Minister of Home Affairs brutally suppressed a peaceful march for civil rights in Derry in 1968. Still we must presume his change of heart is genuine. He can prove it to the world now by campaigning for a Bill of Rights to protect civil liberties in Northern Ireland.

UNION HATER

Fianna Fáil Senator Noel Mulcahy has suddenly become very concerned about "British based" unions operating in the 26 County State. He says "we must be on our guard to prevent the British-based unions over-influencing our choice here. They have a vested interest in preserving our link with Britain."

We haven't heard this kind of codswallop for years — not since the Lemass days when he succeeded in splitting the trade union movement right down the middle. We now have a united trade union congress in this in this country and all the sectarian backwoodsmen of the past decade have failed to split it. Right-wing union haters like Mulcahy are not going to succeed now.

WHOSE ORDERS?

Colonel Robin Eveleigh was a former Commander of the 3rd Battalion Royal Green Jackets and did two tours of duty in Northern Ireland at Springfield Road Barracks. He has now written a book about his experiences which the British Ministry of Defence tried to suppress.

The book is a damning indictment of the British Army "shoot first, talk after" policy. But it is most of all an indictment of the British Cabinet and Prime Minister, whom he points out, are directly responsible for what they call "a flexible policy" on enforcement of law.

He points out that this policy of direct cabinet control dates back to 1920 when Lloyd George gave direct orders to the Black and Tans to take "unauthorised reprisals."

"There is absolutely no legal justification for issuing them (the B.A.) with orders to break the law," says Eveleigh. "If such orders could be traced back to their source I should not be surprised to hear that they extend back to the highest level, possibly even the Cabinet itself." These are strong words. But he seems to be on firm ground since the S.A.S. were in fact sent into the North by direct order of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Perhaps it is Jim Callaghan who should be standing in the Dock of Ballymena Court for the murder of John Boyle rather than Alan Michael Bohan and Ronald Joseph Temperley.

Our sympathy goes to three of our members who suffered family bereavements in recent weeks. To Tony Ebbs, Dublin on the death of his mother. To Seamus Rodgers, Donegal whose father-in-law died and to Anthony O'Connor, Tralee on the death of his father, Patrick.



• Sean Garland, Party General Secretary and Kevin Smyth, Sth. Antrim.

CHEAP FOOD PLAN NEEDED

"In terms of jobs", said Tomás Mac Giolla in his Ard Fheis Address, "the industry with the greatest potential for expansion is food processing. But it needs a coherent plan for production and marketing, such a plan could create tens of thousands of new jobs", could give a secure market to farmers and could lower the cost of food.

But the Government leaves food production entirely in the hands of the free market forces. They have no food production plan, no farm structure plan and no industrial plan for expansion of food processing and marketing.

Chaos The result is chaos and inefficiency with thousands of farms under capitalised and under utilised and at the other extreme many other farms with far too high capital investment in farm machinery and buildings and far too low productivity to pay for it.

Drastic and revolutionary changes in farming structure must be undertaken soon if agriculture is to fulfill its primary role of feeding the population.

• May Clifford, President of Dublin Council of Trade Unions addressing the Ard Fheis.



Ard Fheis Innovation

One of the outstanding features of this year's Ard Fheis of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party was the work of the commission on Health and Social Welfare.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. John McManus, the commission met for two lengthy sessions on Saturday and reported to the Ard Fheis on Sunday afternoon.

The report which was both concise and comprehensive, dealt with aspects of health care and social legislation in both the 6 Co. and 26 Co. States.

It called for a free comprehensive Health Service, a state income-related pension scheme to supersede all existing private pension schemes, legislation to deal with marital breakdown and domestic violence, the repeal of the Payment of Debt Act in the North, the provision of day-care centres for children and a civil legal aid scheme based upon the ideas of the Pringle Report.

A special section also dealt with the Family Planning Bill presently before the Dáil. It listed five specific objections to the Bill and called for the bringing of family planning under the jurisdiction of the Health Boards.

The report also called for support for the newly formed Disabled Persons Action Group whose chairperson Tom Gallagher was given permission to address the Ard Fheis on the aims of the group.

A more detailed review of the report of the commission on Health and Social Services will be given in a future edition of the *United Irishman*.

• Elected to the Party National Executive, Padraig Yeates, Editor of The Irish People newspaper.



SEAN GARLAND RESTATES PARTY'S POSITION

The General Secretary of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, Sean Garland, in his report to the Party's Ard Fheis on Saturday March 3rd, gave a comprehensive review of the work carried out by the different departments of the organisation during the past year.

He dealt with the publicity work done during the year, the opening of the new Bookshop at 30 Gardiner Place, the education sessions held at the Mornington School, the growth of the Irish Democratic Youth Movement, the work of the National Women's Committee and the research work done by the Economic Affairs Department.

Elections

He also detailed the preparations made for contesting the Local Government Elections, the EEC Elections and the Westminster Elections in the North.

Pointing out that the EEC Elections are the first elections held throughout the whole 32 Counties since the famous 1918 election, Sean Garland said that Sinn Féin The Workers' Party will be the only Party contesting them in both the North and South.

Approach

"We have constructed our approach on the reality of Ireland now, Ireland as it is — and not as we would like it to be — in 1979. Ireland divided, yes; bitterly, blatantly and criminally divided, in the old division between artificial states; but bitterly, blatantly and criminally divided in an even older division between the rich and poor, between exploiter and exploited, between the nationalist profiteer and the nationalist pauper as clearly as it was ever divided by race, religion and riches. That is the reality.

Artificial

The division of our country into artificial states was an act of international vandalism, designed to deprive the great majority of the Irish people of their expressed ambition; national independence.

Results

That was and remains our position and we are at last beginning to see encouraging results from it. When Malachy McGurran, who devoted the last decade of his young life to the struggle against sectarianism, died last year the people of Craigavon whom he represented crossed the boundaries of traditional religious and political allegiance to double the Workers' Party vote in the election that followed."

ELECTION FUND APPEAL

During the coming months three separate elections are being contested by Sinn Féin The Workers' Party: Local Government Elections — 26 Counties; Westminster Parliamentary Elections — 6 Counties; E.E.C. Elections — North and South.

Funds are urgently required

We appeal to all our readers to send a subscription now

Subscriptions (Cheque or Postal Order) to: Election Fund, Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. Or lodge to a/c 97492384, A/B, 7/12 Dame Street, Dublin 2, marked "Election Fund".