

# UNITED IRISHMAN



AN tEIREANNACH AONTAITHE DEIRE FOMHAIR (OCT.) 1977 Vol. 35 No. 10. 10p (30c)

Monthly Newspaper of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party

## NATO SEES IRELAND AS SOURCE FOR URANIUM



Little had been heard of the hunt for Ireland's potential uranium deposits until our EEC Commissioner Richard Burke announced in September that "Uranium prospecting in Ireland has produced very promising results." The Government had nothing to say on the subject. This was not their concern. This is entirely an EEC enterprise. Under the Euratom Treaty any uranium found in member states shall be 'community property'.

On May 27, 1976 Justin Keating quietly issued the first prospecting licence for thorium and uranium. It was issued to Maugh Ltd. a subsidiary of a French exploration firm called Minatome. It covered an area of 500 square miles in what is known as the Leinster Granite Belt stretching from Co. Dublin through Wicklow to Carlow. Subsequently in 1976 a uranium prospecting licence was issued to Irish Base Metals, a subsidiary of Northgate Exploration.

The green light for uranium prospecting was given not by the Irish Government but by the EEC Commission.

This year the Commission announced that five times more money would be made available for uranium exploration than last year. A quarter of this money goes to Ireland, the total being £471,000. Irish Base Metals grant goes up to £139,000. Maugh Ltd. gets £52,000 and the Geological Survey Office gets £32,000 for ground and air surveys.

Other firms to which the government have recently granted licences are Dungannon Exploration and Argosy Mining. On the 1st June Silvermines Ltd. announced that they were "getting out of the risky business

of exploration" but they apparently saw little risk in uranium exploration because they took out a 20% stake in Maugh Ltd.

But the exploration is not of course confined to the 26 county state. To the EEC Commission Ireland is one unit. The British Government have issued prospecting licences to Glencar Exploration, a Dublin Based Company, and Sabina, a Canadian firm. Both of these have an interest in the Rennicks and Bennet property in Navan. They have selected the Fintona area of Tyrone for exploration and the work is being carried out on their behalf by Minarex Ltd. Minarex found 'uranium anomalies' in the Allihies region of West Cork while they were exploring for copper on behalf of Dennison Mines.

No reports had been issued on the progress of all this exploration work until Mr. Burke made his dramatic announcement. Then Mr. P. J. O'Connor head of the national Uranium Reconnaissance Unit in the Geological Survey Office confirmed that "although no uranium deposits have been found, the programme had discovered evidence of 'uranium showings' in the South East, South, West, North West and East of the

country."

This is surely exciting news which one would expect Minister for Energy Mr. O'Malley would like to announce personally. On Sept. 13 O'Malley addressed the National Science Councils Conference on Energy Development. His only reference to uranium was when he said "we are promoting substantial exploration programmes in respect of petroleum and uranium which are of great interest not only to us but to our fellow members in the European Community."

Mr. O'Malley's lack of interest is due to the fact that this is a community project out of which we will get absolutely nothing. Under the Euratom Treaty which the Government were forced to sign before they joined the EEC we will have no part whatever in mining, selling or refining any uranium found. In fact we will also have no share in the use of it without permission of the Atomic Agency.

"Any uranium found in member states shall be community property." We have given it away before it is even found.

This Treaty was drawn up during the Cold War, at the behest of the N.A.T.O. Command in which the leading, and sometimes almost the sole voice, is American. Uranium is vital war material for mass destruction. Ireland is not a member of NATO. But how can we maintain any semblance of neutrality while supplying war material to the war lords of NATO?

## Dublin Oil Refinery

In January 1976 an appeal was heard against the refusal by Dublin Corporation to grant permission for development of storage and processing units for petroleum east of Pigeon House Power Station, Dublin.

Mr. Jimmy Tully, Labour Party Minister for Local Government in the last government refused permission to build a very much needed oil refinery in Dublin Port.

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, The Dublin Council of Trade Unions, The Building Unions and The Port Unions said at that time that if a refinery were not built the major Anglo-American oil companies would stretch this country on the rack.



The Fianna Fail spokesman for energy at the time — Mr. Silvester Barret — supported the idea of building a refinery; he recognised that it was necessary to build an oil refinery. He now occupies Mr. Tully's former ministry — although it is now under a different name.

Are Aquarius Securities Ltd. still interested — even at this late date — in building an oil refinery without cost to state or port authority in the form of grant or loan? Are they still willing to pay a rent of £1 million a year to the Dublin Port and Dock Board?

The major Anglo-American oil companies and the "Community Councillors" lost Dublin and Ireland the chance to get cheaper petrol and cheaper gas. They lost Dublin at least 2,000 building jobs and 500 permanent jobs which would have come as a result of building the refinery.

Will Mr. Silvester Barret urge the Government to build a State Oil Refinery in Dublin Port?

### FEATURES THIS MONTH

• See page three

30,000 New Jobs From Fishing  
New Survey by Students Union of  
University College, Galway.

How Poor Are The Farmers  
An Analysis of latest statistics.

• See page five

A Worker in a Betting Office  
Speaks about Her Job  
This is the third in a series of articles  
where workers speak frankly about  
their own jobs.

See  
page  
seven

MASON'S  
LINE ON  
RISING  
UNEMPLOYMENT



# UNITED IRISHMAN

An tEireannach Aontaithe

MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF SINN FEIN THE WORKERS' PARTY

## EXPERIMENT

Despite a drop of 1,600 in the unemployed figures in the Six Counties there are still a record 67,219 people out of work. This represents 12.6% of the work force as we move into the period of highest seasonal unemployment. The British Government has no clear plan for dealing with this disastrous situation. As an article in this issue shows, Britain looks to high emigration as a major solution to the North unemployment problem.

In Britain itself unemployment is also increasing at a time when the economy generally is daily reported to be recovering. The Stock Exchange shows boom conditions with the share index reaching an all time high and expected to reach the magical 600 figure by the end of the year.

This reflects a growth in Business and a growth in profits. But the Confederation of British Industry and the Government keep hammering the Trade Union movement. While there is no restriction on profits they are trying to prevent workers getting a rise of more than 10%.

As usual Northern Ireland is being used by the Westminster Government as the experimental base for their illegal activities. There is no statutory incomes policy in Britain. Therefore Mackies Ltd. are breaking no law when they concede a 22% rise to their badly paid workers. Junior Minister Concannon is attacking Irish workers in their pockets and threatening them with further large scale redundancies for the sole purpose of bringing British workers to heel. It is very similar to the Kitsonian policy of the British Army. These are the fruits of British rule.

## PEACEMAKER

The award of the Lenin Peace Prize to Mr. Sean McBride, following his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize for Peace in 1974, makes him unique. He is the only person ever to receive both honours and is therefore a unique worker in the cause of peace.

But the Irish people are completely baffled by all these honours. "What on earth has this fellow done to deserve them"? they ask. Irish media coverage of his international career has done little to remedy this matter. We have been told nothing of his work at the United Nations, of his background work for disarmament conferences, of the great stature he had achieved by being made United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, of the deep regard in which he is held by the Namibian people and by almost all the African nations.

It is not surprising that we hear nothing about Sean MacBride's work because all our international news, no matter what paper we read, comes to us from the wire services of Reuters, P.A. or UPI, which are under Anglo-American control and only propagate the imperialist line.

McBride recognises the fact that the greatest enemy of peace in the world is imperialism and colonialism. He has always placed himself firmly on the side of the oppressed and exploited and knows that their fight against imperialist exploitation is in fact their fight for peace.

He is now the internationally recognised leader in the campaign for complete disarmament. In his acceptance speech in Dublin he again took up the challenge. "The people of the world", he said, "be it in the socialist states or in the Western capitalist states, do not want war. The leaders of governments must not allow militarist hawks or merchants of death to create a situation which will destroy humanity".

Sean McBride's political career in Ireland was, to say the least, controversial. We would not endorse the policies he pursued or the political decisions he made. We do however, fully endorse his international policies and the stand he is taking against imperialism, against war and in pursuit of peace.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was delighted to read of the protest against the neutron 'people-killer' bomb planned by the U.S.A., and would congratulate Sinn Fein The Workers' Party on organising the protest.

Plans for this terrible new weapon are currently being opposed not only by world opinion, but here inside the USA itself. Many Senators and Congressmen have spoken out against President Carter's proposals for production of the weapon, and the vast majority of the people here want nothing to do with it.

The most important single issue facing humanity is the issue of peace — and on our attitudes to Peace could depend the survival of the human race. Plans for the neutron bomb, which kills people without destroying property, must be stopped before it is too late.

The money and resources wasted on the neutron bomb, and other even more horrible weapons currently being developed in the USA could and should be devoted to helping the suffering millions of the world. I hope the Irish government will join the world movement against weapons of mass destruction, and for constructive efforts towards peace and disarmament.

This was the first 'United Irishman' I have ever read — it was lent me by an Irish friend. I certainly found it informative on the Irish situation, which is little understood here in the USA. I'm looking forward to reading the paper monthly in future.

Fraternally,  
Steve Delaney,  
Fort Lauderdale,  
Florida.

A chara,

My husband is a working fisherman, and we just wanted to write to say thank-you for the way Sinn Fein The Workers' Party has spoken out to defend our fisheries against the EEC.

We were all told how wonderful the EEC would be

for this country, and all the Yes-men went out and voted for it in the referendum. Since then prices have gone up, and jobs have gone down, and now our fish-stocks are threatened by our so-called partners in the EEC.

These people have fished their own waters empty, and now they want to come here and rob our stocks as well. The big owners will be alright here — they can put their money into something else, but my husband is a skilled fisherman, and he does not know any other job. We do not trust the IFO — they would take compensation, and leave the deck-hands with nothing.

Fianna Fail made a big noise before the election about how they would have a fifty-mile limit for Ireland. But now Brian Lenihan is changing his tune, and says he will do the best he can.

Sinn Fein the Workers' Party

are the only ones speaking against the EEC fishing our waters. If the EEC boats are not kept out, there will be no fish left in a few years time, and we will all suffer — the working fishermen most of all. When we read Tomas MacGiolla's speech on the paper, it gave us new hope. Keep it up.

We support the Fishermen's Union, the ITGWU. We want our fish-stocks kept out of the EEC, and not fished empty by our own big owners either. On my husband's boat, they are catching big and small fish, and throwing back the small fish dead. This is a scandal, but when my husband spoke against it, he was threatened with the sack. And no other boat would take him if that happened. The big owners don't like Union men anyway.

Please don't print my name.  
Fisherman's Wife,  
Killybegs.

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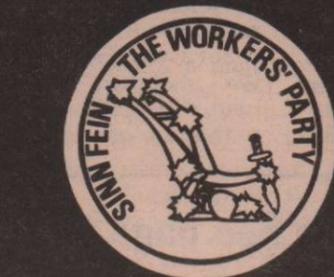
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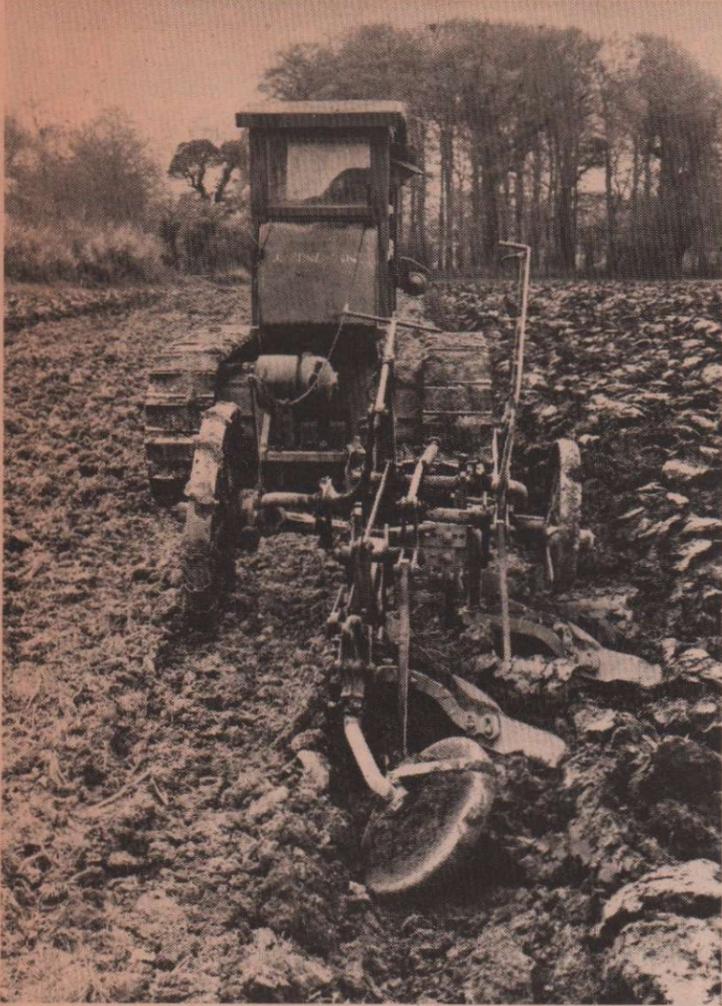
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# PEACE, WORK & CLASS POLITICS





Inefficiently run farms and outdated methods means poor productivity and subsequently high prices for food.



## Fishing for jobs

Some of the main demands of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party in relation to the fishing industry have been endorsed by a recent study carried out by the Students Union of University College, Galway. The study, which was published in September under the title, *Fishing For Jobs*, was sponsored by UCG Student's Union, the ITGWU, the Irish Fish Producers Organisation and B.I.M.

The report states that a 50 mile exclusive limit is the minimum necessary for the progressive development of the fishing industry and goes on "We would call on the government to make the recently declared 200 mile limit (EEC zone) an exclusive one. This would make it possible for the government to negotiate with individual countries for the right to fish inside our own waters... the government would have power to regulate mesh sizes of nets, the types and sizes of boats and how much of a certain species could be caught.

This could be done ensuring that all boats fishing in our waters are based on Irish ports which would greatly increase the number of workers on individual piers and harbours."

The study however, while calling for all boats fishing in Irish waters to be based in Irish ports omits to point out the need for regulations to ensure that all fish caught are landed in Irish ports. Even Irish fishermen do not land all their catches in home ports. If the skippers hear of higher prices

elsewhere then they head for British or French ports with their catch. Compulsory landings in Irish ports are essential if we are to build up the continuity of supplies needed for a viable processing industry.

The job potential of a fish processing industry is highlighted in the report. At present in Ireland the ratio of jobs onshore to those fishing offshore is less than one to one. And in Denmark it is as high as one to seven! This means that by failing to make proper use of our catch we are losing out on about 30,000 jobs. Our present catch is only 8.5% of the total fish caught in Irish waters.

But the study makes it clear that none of this great potential will be achieved by dependence on private enterprise which has left the fishing industry here in such a chaotic condition. It points out that Bord Iascaigh Mhara was originally engaged in the processing and marketing sector of the industry but was instructed by the government in 1962 to "sell or lease its

# Low Farm Output Means Dear Food and Poor Farmers

A major indictment of the level of farm output in the 26 counties is contained in a farm management survey carried out by the Agricultural Institute. Covering a three year period, the survey has concentrated on the full time farmers only, of which it says there are 137,273 leaving roughly a further 50,000 who are part-time farmers.

One thing evident from the report is that farmers in general are doing a bad job and the farmers on the good land are doing the worst job of all. "If the good land of the country were farmed as well, in relation to its potential, as the poorer soils are, then accumulated output would be a great deal higher", the report states.

Obviously referring to

L.I.F. promotion in the Farmers' Journal the report says "no matter how many individuals instances may be cited to further a claim of dynamism in dairying, the actual position must be portrayed as one calling for major improvement."

Beef production is shown to be in a much worse state than dairying, the best average return per acre for dry stock being £44.5. This proves that for small farmers beef production would not give sufficient income to bring them above the poverty line, but for the large rancher it can bring in a fat income with the minimum of labour or other costs. However, even the large farmer is dependent on high prices for cattle to stay in business, so with this system the consumer must pay ever higher prices for beef. The State's function is to see that there is maximum production of food at prices which the consumer can afford. If this is to be done in the case of beef major structural changes in farming must take place

The table of distribution of full time farmers by income is difficult to analyse. What is the explanation for the 9,060 farmers who actually lose money? The survey found that the same number were losing money over the three year period of the survey. Over two-thirds of these were farmers of less than 50 acres, but 412 of them had over 200 acres and a further 275 had between 100 and 200 acres.

These are apparently farms which are not being worked at all — amounting to approximately 300,000 acres. Land to these people seems to be just a hedge against inflation and with land prices

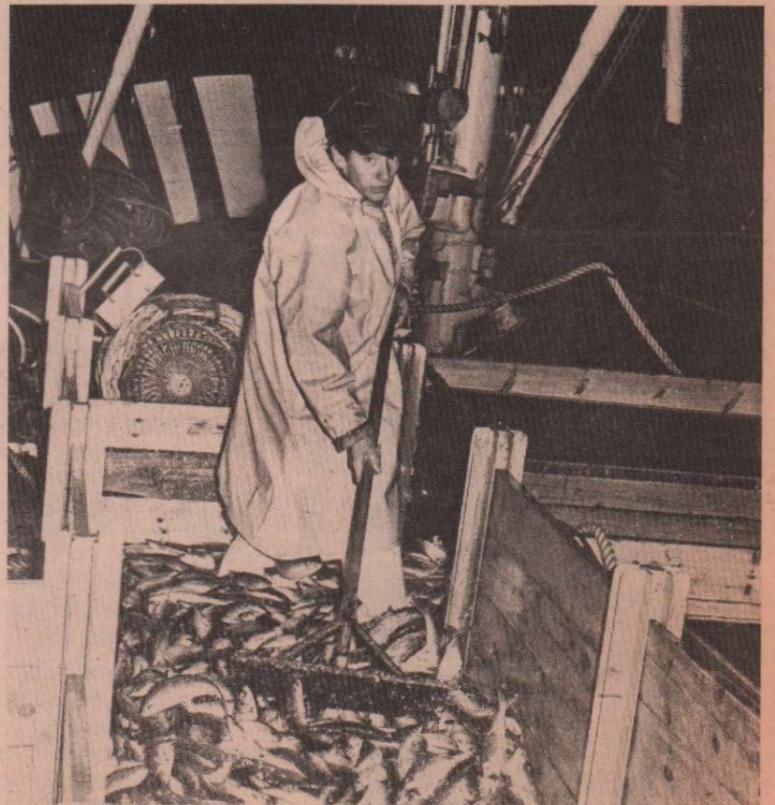
soaring to just £2,000 per acre as against £1,000 in Britain, it is certainly paying off for them in capital appreciation.

All in all this survey just whets the appetite for more information. Its main conclusions are that most farmers are not putting enough into their farms in terms of capital investment, labour and new technology and therefore the majority cannot and will not make a reasonable living and will eventually have to get off. It does not by any means show that all farmers are poor or unable to pay tax. The table of income distribution relates to 1975 figures and says family farm incomes rose by 12.9% in 1976 and a similar increase is expected for 1977.

When these increases are applied there are 52,435 farmers with incomes of £50 per week or more. on what grounds can they object to being taxed on the same basis as workers and getting the same allowances as workers do?

The poor productivity of Irish farmers leads to high prices for Irish consumers as well as low incomes for the majority of farmers. It is high time that the state took a hand in food production. Land in the hands of the state at the moment must not be allowed to be divided up amongst inefficient farmers. It should be farmed on an intensive scale by existing state company such as Bord na Mona or the Irish Sugar Company.

This would lead to lower prices, especially for vegetables and also would develop new techniques of farming and new research on soils and crops which would be of the greatest benefit to existing farmers.



Irish catches sold in foreign ports means loss of Irish on-shore jobs in the fish processing industry.

**GALWAY**

# U.C.G. students commended

At a meeting of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party (Galway City Cumann) held last month Mr. Tony Coffey welcomed the report "Fishing for Jobs" issued by U.C.C. Student's Union. Mr. Coffey said: "U.C.C. Students Union should be congratulated on their fine work in producing this report. Our Universities are run on public money and it is heartening to see students using their training, to contribute to the debate on the Irish Fishing Industry."

It is not surprising that students should see our Fish Resources as a source of jobs and wealth. We in Sinn Fein The Workers' Party support the reports call for an end to the export of

unprocessed fish. Too many of our resources are exported unprocessed from Ireland, to provide jobs and wealth on mainland Europe.

Our ore is exported, our live cattle exported, our fish are exported while our youth draw the dole. In Rossaveal now, the fish-processing plant is on short time because the fish catch is exported.

Only through the intervention of state companies, can the maximum development of our resources be ensured. As this report shows there is a potential for upwards on 30,000 jobs in the processing industry if the Government has the political will to allow B.I.M. to expand into commercial operations such as fish processing. Fianna Fail was elected with a commitment to secure jobs for our young people. Implementation of the recommendations in this report would go a long way to fulfilling part of that commitment."

**BELFAST**

# Belfast Cllrs. active for jobs and peace

Republican Clubs Councillor Seamus Lynch has demanded a major programme of industrial development for the Ardoyne district of North Belfast to alleviate the chronic unemployment problem.

Addressing a meeting of the North Belfast Constituency Council, Councillor Lynch declared.

"It is no co-incidence that the areas of greatest social and economic need are those areas that have borne the brunt of the physical violence of the past eight years. In districts such as Ardoyne and Ballymurphy, unemployment has become a way of life as a result of systematic discrimination in the location of industry. Side by side with Government's failure to provide jobs there has been a dearth of recreational amenities. It is this violence of State that must be tackled head on by the Government if it is seriously concerned about eliminating physical violence on the streets. There can be no compromise on this matter. We can never end the utterly futile campaign of the para-militaries while delaying action on the economic front. As Mr. Terry Carlin, of the Northern Committee of the I.C.T.U. declared earlier this week "It must be jobs first, then peace".

"There is no room in this community, with 70,000 unemployed people, for squalid sectarian squabbles on figures. The dole queue is not the preserve of one particular section of the community and little can be gained by categorising the

out of work by religion. The problem of job security faces all working-class people: what we must be concerned about now is locating new progressive industrial development in these areas where the previous economic fabric has collapsed. This is particularly true in districts where textile mills were once the life-line of the community.

"It was with this very much in mind that I proposed, at the Areas of Needs Meeting held in Ardoyne in June, that Government acquire the now empty Beltax Factory in Flax Street and open up a training centre and light engineering industry there. Training for our young people alone is not sufficient. West Belfast is vivid proof of the soul-destroying effect of training young people to sign on the dole. New job opportunity must be located now if training centres are to perform a function other than that of temporary work-houses for young people.

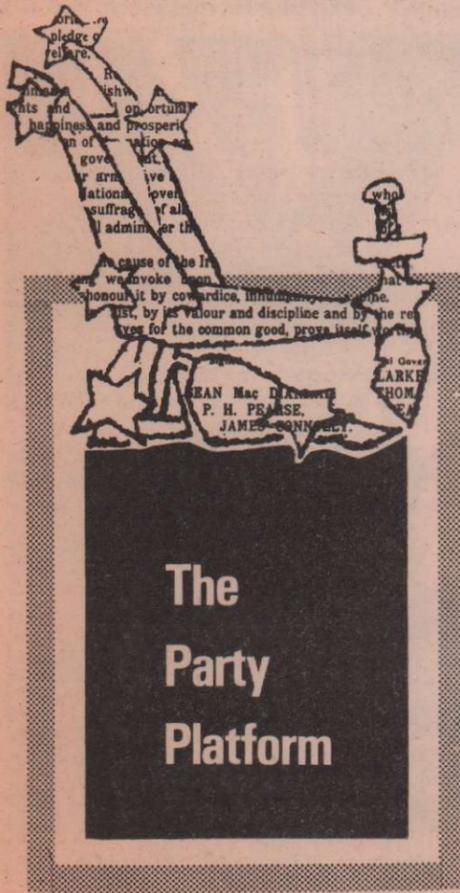
"The sectarian conflict which has bedevilled Ardoyne throughout its history is but the open manifestation of the much greater and more fundamental social and economic ills that plague the community. The mindless militarism of the Provisionals has only exacerbated that situation making travel to work much more difficult in an attempt to maintain entrenched sectarian ghettos.

The right to work is the first demand of the Trade Union Movement's Better Life for All Campaign. It is a demand that, increasingly, the community is making of Government. It is a demand that can only be met by new industrial development, not taking off those who have to give, to those who have not. Unemployment takes no cognisance of sectarian division."

Republican Clubs Councillor Jim Sullivan has declared that the increasing political deadlock and confusion within the major political parties here was a direct consequence of the failure of the British Government to take any initiative to release the political vacuum they had imposed on the community.

"The political and economic disaster of direct Rule is now bearing its ungainly fruit as tension within the parties concerned primarily with constitutional politics is now pushing them back into entrenched sectarian positions. The carrot of power-sharing as institutionalised sectarianism has now ceased to be the lucrative attraction it once appeared.

"Republican Clubs, the Workers' Party alone among the political parties here has correctly identified the political and economic issues in this situation. We have consistently maintained that there can be no progressive, political activity here until the British Government face up to its responsibilities.



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**CORK**

# Cork workers condemn loss of jobs

The jeopardising of the prospects of a new Ford factory providing 4,000 jobs in Cork was referred to at a recent meeting of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party.

Addressing the meeting Ted Tynan said that "it was nothing less than disgraceful that a project which could provide enough jobs to employ most if not all of those at present drawing the dole in Cork should be endangered by people whose opposition seemed to be based only on the fact that they were not consulted about the matter".

Supporting the previous speaker Tom O'Mahony said that it was

surprising that "the Department of the incoming Minister for Industry and Commerce should have opposed the project and even more surprising that a Fine Gael ex-Minister — himself a Corkman — should have made an ill-advised and mis-timed intrusion in the matter."

The Chairman, John Bowen, stated that "the thousands of Cork men and women struggling to exist on social welfare payments now know where their interests lie and who is prepared to support them. Neither of the two main parties really cared about the workers of Cork," he concluded.

A large body of writing is turned out every year to sing in praise of the family firm, the personal contact, the employer who knows the workers. This sort of writing usually deplores the changing times we live in, modern methods of production and business, the loss of a personal relationship between employer and worker.

We are continually warned by TD's, Ministers and Bishops that we are spending too much on our personal pleasures — on drink and on betting. Astronomical figures, millions of pounds, are said to be spent, by us on betting every year. It would seem that this Irish industry should not have problems because of changes in the fortunes of sterling, the high price of imports and all the other problems which beset other industries.

When I heard that an old established betting firm was having problems with their staff I wondered what could have soured a relationship which seemed to fulfil all the requirements for an ideal understanding between worker and boss!

I asked three of the girls who worked for Kilmartins how the misunderstanding arose in the first place; was it a misunderstanding which had led to what is obviously a bitter industrial dispute.

"People went to head office in order to get a job with Kilmartins. Adverts were seldom put into newspapers — it was mostly on a friend to friend basis — the family worked for the firm. That means three or four sisters and maybe a mother or two working for the firm for years. Some people never worked anywhere else and never changed their attitude to the present day. People on our staff have worked all their lives for Kilmartin's, one woman I know has worked for them for

not much chance of everyone getting together about what was wrong.

They used have 140 betting offices but they were down to 70 when the dispute began; of the 70 I would say that 10 were fit to work in.

Before the union came in there was a lot of strong feeling growing about the low wages. One day there was about twenty girls in a queue to go upstairs to ask for a rise but it was go in one by one as usual. When he refused the first two



Kilmartin's workers staging a sit-in in the Head Office last month.

## Low wages and poor working conditions a safe bet when you work for Kilmartins

forty years. Women have worked for years and years for Kilmartin's.

**You got no pay for overtime no matter how long you had to stay in the office. You worked six days a week; they said that you got a half-day off in the morning on one day of the week but you had to be mostly in about twelve. Your dinner-time was not allowed that day which means that you got about two hours really for your half-day.**

No one knew what the other one had, what wages they were getting, they had a hold over-people that way. There was no national wages agreement or anything like that; it was just how often you went upstairs and asked for a rise. You'd worry about it for a long time and when you had reached the stage that you couldn't stand the small money any more you'd go up the stairs at head office, wait outside the door, and then go in and face the boss alone.

Some people on the firm never changed their attitude, they had worked for the one firm all their lives, or most of their lives, and never learned any different or any better. They were used, and they did not know what to do in a situation where there was no national wages agreement and everything depended on how often you went upstairs and how you got on when you did.

The wages were always low and with all the small offices the firm had, with two or three girls in an office — there was

the others sort of drifted away. It was hard going in one by one.

Betting shops are usually owned by family concerns and they are all nearly equally bad where working conditions are concerned. A lot of girls about 14 or 15 came in during the holidays.

I started to work for Kilmartins at 15. It was very low wages to start with for me. The wages to start — well, it all depended on who you were — you'd get more if you were a friend of the management. I had £6 of a rise as soon as the union came in. One woman was coming out with about £12 after 25 years service; when the union came in her wages trebled overnight.

You didn't get any sort of real training for the job, you were just, well, thrown in at the deep end and expected to swim. If there were three in an office it was not bad; if two, the new girl would be doing as much work in a few days or a few weeks as the other girl. No, I never did hear of anyone coming along and offering someone a rise; if they did that everyone would die of shock.

**You had to be quick and accurate at figures; there was an awful lot of bookwork involved but it is not a system which is used in any other sort of office. There are about 180 betting office girls redundant now as a result of Kilmartins and they really have to get retrained.**

You had to be quick and accurate at figures; there was an awful lot of bookwork involved but it is not a system which is used in any other sort of office.

There are about 180 betting office girls redundant now as a result of Kilmartins and they really have to get retrained. When the business was going all the Kilmartins understood was profit and loss — the workers really ran the thing. They might tell you not to take any more money on a certain horse; they might put off money somewhere else.

There were no facilities in any of the offices for a cooked meal; in the winter time a cooked meal was a necessity in those offices. Eat in a restaurant! What! On the money we were getting! There was an electric kettle that was all. We had to supply our own cups; our own tea towels, our own toilet rolls — even "Flash" if we wanted to wash the floor. We had to supply our own pens.

If you had a busy day you were worried in case the books did not balance. They did not supply adding machines, no typewriter — nothing. The only machine they have in an office is a clock which registers the bets. If you mentioned that sort of thing to the manager he blamed everything on the boss. He was very uncivil — he shouted and screamed and even he is made redundant after all.

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You got no pay for overtime no matter how long you had to stay in the office. You worked six days a week; they said that you got a half-day off in the morning on one day of the week but you had to be mostly in about twelve. Your dinner-time was not allowed that day which means that you got about two hours really for your half-day. You might be in the office sometimes until half past eight at night and you got no overtime.

About going in to meet the boss about a rise — they'd always tell you that business was bad and that you were in a bad office in any case. The old man — who is dead — used to be very sympathetic when you'd tell him about family troubles in connection with a rise. You might then get a rise of ten shillings or a pound. We haven't had to look for that sort of rise since the union came in; we get the national wages agreement.

The attitude was that you should be grateful to have a job. When we had our sit-in the manager — who has been kept

on to pay out the holiday money and that sort of thing — said: "This is terrible after I've been so good to you". You'd be afraid to get someone to ring up for you when you were sick — they would be abused — if your mother rang or someone like that — if a woman rang. He used abuse a man one time but one or two of them came around to see him. He gave up doing it then.

Those who did not work at head office had to phone in at nine o'clock. They were always interested in what time you got in at; they were never interested in what time you got home at. If you were working at head office and you were late he'd make a show of you; if you did not phone in at nine o'clock he'd get on the phone later and devour you and then bang the phone down on your ear.

The place we worked in — the windows wouldn't be cleaned in a year; they were depressing places to work in.

When we talk about it we don't know how we stuck working there for so long the way it was. Coming in at 8 a.m. when you'd want to wash the office — some of the offices got brushed, only brushed, because they would only pay 20p a week an office to have the office cleaned.

There was no cash box; you brought in your own tins; one tin for pennies; one tin for two pence; one for five pence and one for ten pence — you put notes in the drawer.

They wouldn't modernise the business; they never arranged to provide a commentary on the races and they did not take bets on some of the dog races. They did not take bets on Miss World and things like that. They wanted the profits and they would not put money into the business.

Cash registers for instance — you'd add up as you went along and then take out the roll and count your money because they wouldn't put in cash registers. They just wanted to use our hard work and our brains.

They are going to turn some of the offices into pool halls now but some will be betting offices — some have been advertised in the papers. There are 32 of us left in the dispute and we want jobs in these offices when they reopen.

When I left the girls they were sticking paper around collecting cans which gave the reason for the collection. If you want to bet on the union as your only protection in a job you should send them a few bob. They are members of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union.



The pickets outside the home of the widow of Kilmartins Managing Director were continued all during the summer.

# Major drive for jobs

Republican Clubs branches in Central Belfast have launched a major drive to transform derelict industrial land between the Falls and Shankill roads into a new industrial estate.

Under the chairpersonship of Kathleen Carberry party branches in Falls, Beechmount and Clonard have started a massive leafleting campaign urging local people to demand new jobs for the central city areas as Kathleen Carberry states.

"The central areas of Belfast have suffered badly from the collapse of local traditional industries which have lost jobs in Northern Ireland at the rate of nearly 4,000 per year during the last ten years. The government's recent Belfast Area Needs Study has clearly identified this problem which we in Republican Clubs have been stressing for years. The government study has shown that these Central areas have unemployment rates averaging up to 30% and have in fact, the largest single unemployment problem in Northern Ireland".

"It is hoped to make the land between Falls and Shankill the first industrial estate under the Area Needs Programme. The development of this 80 acres of derelict land into a factory estate is a much more meaningful first step than the neighbourhood Industrial units proposed by the government which at the most will employ 10-12 people each".

Supporting this viewpoint Sean O'Hare said "We have been fairly successful so far with our resolution on the development of this land being passed at Belfast City Council and referred by the Town Clerk to the Area Needs Planning Team." The idea is under consideration by the Planning Team set up by Lord Melchett with the aim of launching industrial and environmental projects which would help alleviate the poverty and unemployment crisis identified by this report on deprived areas of Belfast.

"We hope," said Sean O'Hare, "to mobilise local opinion behind this effort to ensure that a substantial portion of the initial £6 million at Lord Melchett's disposal is allocated to jobs provision in Central Belfast through such projects as the Falls-Shankill industrial estate. We have some 10,000 leaflets to distribute and hope to follow with a poster campaign urging maximum unity of effort to bring jobs to the area."

## The Navan ore saga

During September the Ore from the vast Navan lead and Zinc Mine, the largest in Europe, began to flow down to Dublin Port. Shipments had been held up for some months by the action of redundant workers from the shut down Goulding fertiliser plant.

These men have been fighting for their jobs in Gouldings for the past fourteen months in one of the most determined and persistent campaigns ever carried out in Ireland by any group of workers. In a series of court actions they had in the Supreme Court they won the right to continue the picket at Gouldings to prevent any movement of their goods in or out.

In the meantime Gouldings leased their jetty to Tara Mines for the export of the Navan Ore. When the first train load arrived it was halted by the Gouldings men and the matter again came before the courts when Tara Mines sought an injunction to restrain the picketers. The High Court ruled in favour of Tara Mines on the basis that there was no dispute between the mining company and the picketers. The men defied the injunction and were forcibly removed by gardai to allow the trainload of ore to pass.

One man faces a possible prison sentence but they have at least won the right to negotiate with Gouldings.

Now the trainloads of ore run freely to the docks. Tara Mines put the value of ore exports at £50 million worth of lead and zinc concentrates each year. It is probably much higher. If this ore were retained in Ireland, smelted here and used for the production of finished goods for the home and

export markets the added value would be in the region of £100 for each £1 of ore concentrate. Therefore for £50 million we are exporting a potential £5,000 million pounds of goods.

Put in terms of jobs this loss is incalculable. In the short term the loss is certainly many thousands of jobs but in the long term we lose the potential for rapid industrialisation and tens of thousands of jobs in new industries.

But the ore hasn't left the country yet. It is lying on the docks until a more complicated dispute involving the employment of 12 men to load the ore is resolved.

The wasteful export of raw ore is a National problem which requires a National effort to prevent. We cannot sit back and hope that individual groups of workers like miners or dockers will solve the problem for us by preventing the ore from going out.

Government action is required and the combined efforts of the Resources Protection Campaign, the Trade Unions Movement, the political parties concerned with the interest of workers and all other concerned groups or individuals must force the government to take action on this National scandal.

Time is running out. It would take at least five years to construct a smelter and bring it into production. Yet no decision has yet been taken by the state to construct a smelter. The job should be given to the ESB now. The Resources Protection Campaign has done a marvellous job in mobilising public opinion on the resources issue. They must now move into the "action campaign" stage.



● Jim Sullivan (second right) of the Republican Clubs was one of the Belfast Councillors who met Minister for State Lord Melchett (centre) during his recent visit to Belfast.

## The cuckoo has flown!

There was little remarkable in the Oxford speech of Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien. His speech was one more revelation of the same mind that controlled RTE for four years and heavily influenced the foreign policy of the Coalition Government. The timing was significant. Dr. O'Brien was paying his first debt of gratitude to his imaginary constituents of Trinity for having elected him to the Senate by intervening in the most sensational manner possible in the Callaghan-Lynch talks.

But the true significance of the good Doctor's remarks concern the future of the Labour Party policy on the national question. The Oxford speech marks the end of O'Brien's connection with the Parliamentary Labour party, begun in 1969 when Michael McInerney and the Irish Times helped foist him on an unsuspecting Labour rank and file. Now that the Doctor's mesmeric influence on the Labour Party has been removed it is time for its long-suffering membership to review the total impact of his sojourn as policy-maker on the National Question.

Nothing could have better illustrated the traditional weakness of Labour on the national issue than the manner in which O'Brien could substitute for a non-policy a policy of total collaboration with Britain and sustain that policy through several Party conferences despite the evidence of what is going on in the North since 1969.

The whole O'Brien escapade calls in question the political nous of a Labour Party leadership which totally capitulated to the pet obsession of a single individual, albeit a brilliant academic, for an eight year period. The "Dear Frank — Dear



● Conor Cruise O'Brien.

Conor" tone of the resignation ritual should fool no one. Dear Frank gave Dear Conor the push after the latter's obsession had carried him over the cliff at Oxford. It was Frank Cluskey's first opportunity to show that maybe he has a little of what Corish, O'Leary and Co. totally lacked — a little savvy. For the Labour Party an ounce of savvy will prove more valuable than a ton of genius, particularly when the genius proves to be of the exotic O'Brien variety.

Like all politicians Cluskey likes to learn and absorb lessons quietly: hence the courteous lowering of O'Brien to the ranks. How long will O'Brien remain there? That will depend on the Labour Party. But with the departure of O'Brien the formulation of a rational approach to the national question can begin.

That process should see the end of O'Brien's nominal membership and an end of massive Trade Union investment in the career of a brilliant and accomplished dilettante and opportunist. Inoculated, if not immunised, against fly-by-night intellectualism the Labour Party is free to turn again to Connolly and common sense. Having soiled the nest the cuckoo has now flown.



# Radical economic changes needed in the North to offset massive emigration

A smaller population — an annual emigration rate of between 12,000-16,000, continuing high levels of unemployment and bad housing, and a widening gap in living standards between Northern Ireland and the U.K. . . . this is the picture of life in N.I. in the year 2,000 unless a radical shift in economic conditions is achieved.

This alarming projection is contained in the Department of the Environment's 'Regional Physical Development Strategy' over the 20 year period 1975 — 1995.

Published in May of this year and when taken with the earlier publicised Quigley Report, the Development Strategy is a welcome step towards long term centralised planning and assessment of the employment, housing and environmental needs of the people of N.I. over the last quarter of this century.

The Quigley Report was the most serious Governmental study of the options open for the development of the Northern Ireland economy and the Development Strategy spells out very clearly the grim facts of life if the more progressive and radical options contained in the Quigley Report are not made social and economic objectives for Northern Ireland.

## Failure of Private Enterprise

Continuing commitment to private enterprise, particularly the 'small manufacturer' and 'community industry' theories so strongly advocated by the 'knockers' of the Quigley Report, will condemn N.I. economy to a prolonged period of negligible or non-growth.

The forward projections in the Strategy Document based on current economic trends are a damning indictment of the Northern Ireland capitalist class and its failure to provide jobs and decent living standards for the people of N.I.

In the period 1966-74 the growth in total employment in N.I. was more rapid and sustained than in any period since the early years of the present century. However, during this period of sustained growth the traditional N.I. manufacturing sector lost jobs at an average rate of 3,700 per year over the period. This was offset only by an average annual expansion of 2,600 jobs in new industrial projects in synthetic

textiles, light and miscellaneous engineering — all mainly foreign monopoly capital — and by a massive average annual increase of 5,300 jobs in Public Sector Service Industries (See Table I).

Since 1974 unemployment has exploded from a low of 27,000 in June 1974 to 59,600 in June 1977 and now the massive 70,000 and still rising figure of August 1977.

The reduction in new jobs resulting from the industrial development programme has been an obvious factor in rising unemployment in recent years with most of the new industrial projects in the early seventies being second stage expansions of firms — mainly

**Emigration of the magnitude of 350,000 young people is the traditional human sacrifice demanded by local capitalism to guarantee its survival.**

American — which had been set up in N.I. during the 1960's. (See Table II).

## Human Sacrifice

If these trends continue the fall of 4% in the population by the year 2015 projected in the Development Strategy, could in fact be nearly twice that level. Even working to the lower figure over 500,000 people will leave Northern Ireland — the equivalent of 1 in three of the present population of 1.5 million. Some 350,000 or 70% of this half a million people will be in the 15-29 age group. With a falling birthrate this decimation of our most vital age group will continue to have a significant effect on future birth rates, and will extend the situation of negligible population growth well into the 21st century.

Emigration of the magnitude of 350,000 young people is the traditional human sacrifice demanded by local capitalism to guarantee its survival.

The loss of a further 25,000 jobs in

traditional industries by 1980 as predicted by Quigley and re-iterated in the Strategy Document, demonstrates clearly that the Northern Ireland business class cannot be relied upon to play even a minor role in any economic recovery.

Furthermore, as can be seen from Table 1, expenditure in public sector services has been the main driving force in employment growth in N.I. for the past decade. If the present cutbacks in public expenditure are realised expansion in public sector service employment will slow down to a snails pace or perhaps go into reverse.

It is precisely this type of crisis — in which jobs lost by traditional N.I. owned industries and agricultural are barely made up by Government

TABLE 1

## Civil Employment in Northern Ireland

	Annual Change		
	1966/74	Average in 1975	Absolute level 1975
Agriculture	-2,000	-1,200	47,700
Construction	+100	+900	47,500
Manufacturing industry	-1,100	-11,900	156,400
of which			
Government sponsored	+2,600	-6,300	70,000
Rest	-3,700	-5,600	86,400
Services	+5,100	+10,200	301,000
of which			
Public Sector	+5,300	+9,800	156,600
Private Sector	-200	+400	144,400
Total	+2,100	-2,100	552,600

Sources: N.I. Department of Manpower Services  
N.I. Department of Commerce.

TABLE 2

## Industrial Development in Northern Ireland

Government assisted jobs promoted in

	New Firms	Expansion of Existing Firms	Total
1966	4,900	2,593	7,493
1970	2,102	3,382	6,484
1973	1,213	3,969	5,782
1975	473	2,602	3,075
1976	1,172	1,079	2,251

Source: Department of Commerce.



Thousands of N.I. workers are forced to emigrate annually and use their skills for the benefit of other countries.



sponsored monopolies and expanding public sector employment — which the Development Strategy sees continuing over the next 25 years.

Not being an economic development programme the Development Strategy can only work within existing and projected trends and reflect the physical and environmental needs accordingly. In this its conclusions are alarmingly clear and the grim facts of massive emigration and declining population are spelt out. The effect of this on physical development — in particular housing and environment, are far reaching and the Report offers a shift to improvement and upgrading of living standards, especially in the

**Only Republican Clubs The Workers' Party have rejected the high emigration solution and have called for a major shift away from the private enterprise grip on economic development.**

Belfast area as feasible priority in the face of continuing negligible economic and population growth.

## Republican Clubs Reject Emigration and Non-Growth

The Development Strategy Report will help force the Quigley Study back into the central argument on jobs creation in N.I. The many critics who sniped at and dismissed the Quigley recommendations are strangely silent when the grim facts of their own economic performance are paid before them in the

## Development Strategy.

Only Republican Clubs The Workers' Party have rejected the high emigration solution and have called for a major shift away from the private enterprise grip on economic development.

The Workers' Party in N.I. have put forward the alternative economic strategy of a step by step translation of the Westminster economic subvention to N.I. into a planned expansion of the U.K. nationalised industries into the North along with a similar expansion into new manufacturing areas of the existing publicly owned industries in N.I.

The operation of the U.K. nationalised sector in N.I. has traditionally been resisted by the local business community and the urgent establishment of huge modern state corporations like British Gas and Steel Corporation, and the State Energy Industries in Northern Ireland is an urgent priority not only for Republican Clubs but for the broad labour movement in both N.I. and Britain.

The Development Strategy Report clearly warns that private enterprise is unable to prevent the export of over half a million of our people. The Workers' Party rejects this way forward in particular the emigration of 350,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 29 years over the next 25 years.

Economic recovery we believe is possible but only in the context of centralised planning of state owned industry in new manufacturing and high technology industries.



The Public Sector is the main growth area for jobs in Northern Ireland.

# The United WORLD

## Spanish Prime

### Minister Suarez pledged to recognise Catalonian autonomy

Virtually unnoticed by the world outside a significant part of the Spanish Republic which was destroyed by the fascist forces of Franco in 1939 has begun to live again. On September 11, the Government of Adolfo Suarez announced the re-establishment of the Catalan Generalitat and the recognition of the head of the Catalan Government-in-Exile Josef Taradellas.

This represents the first formal step towards the autonomy of Catalonia following the June 15 election in Spain when Socialist and Communist candidates, pledged to Catalan autonomy, swept 95% of the popular vote in the vast industrial region around Barcelona.

On June 25 the 85 Deputies and Senators met in Barcelona and constituted themselves as the de facto Generalitat (Catalan

Parliament) and demanded recognition from Madrid. Trying to keep one step ahead Spanish Prime Minister Suarez immediately entered into negotiations in Paris through a personal representative with Josef Taradellas, who had last been elected head of the Catalan Government in exile in 1954 by 27 of the surviving 83 Deputies who fled the Franco terror of 1939. In 1940, Lluís Companys, the previous President of the Generalitat was executed by Franco when he was caught in occupied France by the Germans and handed over.

The recognition of the 87 year old Taradellas and the ending of his vow never to return to Spain until the Generalitat was re-established marks the undoing of Franco's second main aim in launching his mutiny against the Republican Government in

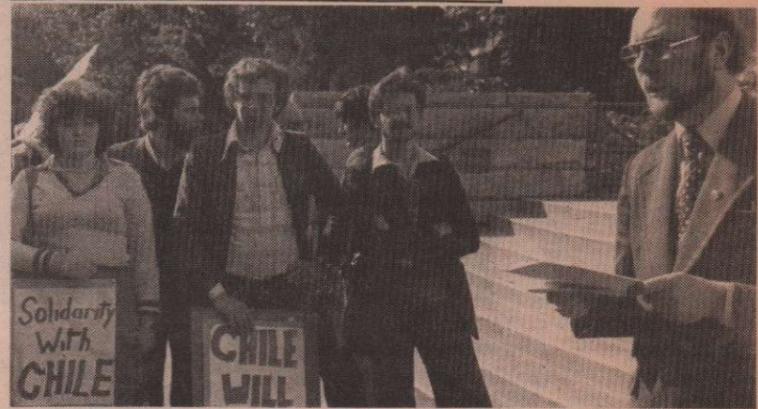
1936; the destruction and suppression of Basque and Catalan autonomy. Now the Catalans look forward to the restitution of all their rights under the Generalitat which lasted from 1932 to 1939. One of their constitutional rights under the Generalitat of 1932 was the recognition of the Catalan language as the first official language of their region, a right suppressed by Franco's regime for 38 years.

However, the struggle for the Generalitat is only beginning. Now that the formalities of recognition of Taradellas (though not of the de facto Generalitat) have been completed there remains the definition of the actual powers to be granted to the future Catalan Government. By Christmas legislation is expected before the Cortez in Madrid setting out the substance of Catalan autonomy.

In Catalonia itself the demand ranges from a form of home rule to full independence. Spanish Prime Minister Suarez knows he must settle his Catalan "problem" or add the hostility of Catalonia to all the other problems besetting his Government.

And the Basque region, galvanised by the example of Catalonia, is demanding that its own former autonomy under the 1932 Republican constitution be restored.

Many former Franco supporters see the Republic on the march again: and so far they have been powerless to prevent it.



Over a hundred people picketed outside the American Embassy in protest against the C.I.A.'s part in the military take-over in Chile four years ago.

## Chile's 4 years of terror

Four years ago last month the democratically elected government of President Salvador Allende was overthrown by a military coup which put a sudden end to democracy and freedom in Chile. It also put an end to the hopes of the Chilean people, for under President Allende's Popular Unity government, valiant efforts were being made to abolish the poverty and exploitation suffered by the Chilean people.

Under the military junta led by General Pinochet, Chile was plunged into a reign of terror and torture which has been condemned throughout the world.

The role played by U.S. multinational corporations and U.S. governmental agencies' in the events leading up to the coup is well documented and they bear a great responsibility for the torture and murder that occurred in Chile and which is still taking place today.

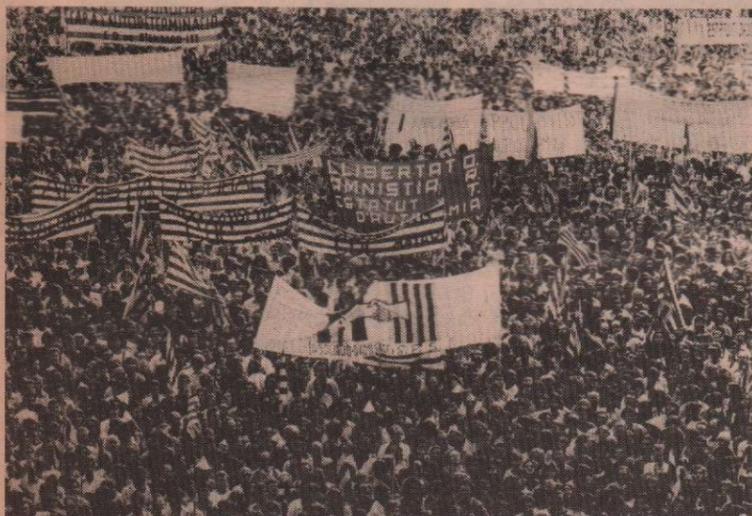
Despite President Carter's much trumpeted concern for human rights, when one of his senior aids apologised for the U.S. role in the Chilean coup, he received a swift rebuke from Carter.

Over 100,000 refugees have fled overseas to escape the brutality and repression of the regime.

The situation in Chile today is worse than ever. The great mass of the Chilean people are suffering poverty and

hunger which makes their condition truly desperate. The unemployment rate is estimated at 25% and unemployed workers and their families are not entitled to any financial assistance or health care, i.e. they have nothing. Workers' wages are strictly controlled, strikes are illegal and the rate of inflation is up to 300% per year. So even a worker in full employment is living below the poverty line.

Throughout the world, a tremendous movement of Solidarity with Chile has grown up linking people of all political views in their determined opposition to the crimes of Pinochet's criminal junta. This solidarity movement has achieved notable success in its opposition to the regime. The junta has been isolated internationally and stands condemned throughout the world for its crimes against humanity.



Mass rally held in September '76 to demand autonomy for Catalonia.

Partido Comunista de Espana  
Comite Central

Madrid, 19 de agosto de 1977

II Irish Republican Movement.

Queridos amigos:

"Your cordial message of congratulations for the results obtained by our party in the last elections has been a cause of great satisfaction for us. The results obtained by the Spanish democratic forces constitute a big step in the struggle for Liberty and Democracy in our

country, in which our Party is involved.

"We use this opportunity to send you our most sincere greeting and our desire for your greater successes.

From: Commission of International Relations, of the Spanish Communist Party.

Members of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party picketing the American Embassy in Dublin last month in protest against American plans to produce the notorious Neutron Bomb.

In a statement issued to

## Dublin protest against Neutron bomb

coincide with the protest, the International Affairs Bureau of the Party said that the Neutron Bomb was not a 'conventional' weapon. It is, the statement said, a nuclear weapon that kills by 'enhanced radiation'. It breaks up the basic cells in all living things, resulting in agonising, somewhat prolonged but inevitable death.

The Carter Administration in the U.S. claims that its advantages are that "it kills people, but leaves buildings standing".



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## Eachtra stairiul

Seasca bliain o shoin an mhi seo a tharla an reabhloid ba mho riamh — reabhloid mor na Ruise. Ta an ocaid a ceiliuradh ar fuaid an domhain agus annseo in Eireann ta Sinn Fein Pairti na nOibri ag chur dinnear comoradh ar fail i mBaile Atha Cliath agus Beal Feirsde.

Beidh teasbaintas achu sa da cathair freisin den pheictiur cleasiceach faoin reabhloid a rinne Eisenstein ar a nglaoth se 'October'.

D'fhailtigh coismhuintir an domhain mhor roimh an reabhloid seo. Thuigeadar gur buille e in agaidh an caipitealachas agus an impiulachas agus gur gearr go mbeadh a bport seinnte. O shoin i leith ta an troid ar son an soisialachas ag leathnui ar fuaid an domhain faoi stiuriu Marx agus Lenin.

Ni fheadfai stop a chur leis an taoidhe seo go mbeidh deire leis an impiulachas, deire le cogadh agus re nua siochana tagtha.

# Troid in aghaidh Cios Talmhain i bPort Lairge

Ta muintir Phort Lairge ag fail reidh len iad fein a chosaint ar chomhlucht togala McInerney. Cios talun ata i gceist agus ta comhlucht McInerney, faoi'n mbreagainm Henry Hunt, ag cur an dli ar na ceadta teaghlach i bPairc na Leasa Moire ata ar stailc chios talun.

I suirbhe a rinne an t-Eireannach Aontaithe dha bhlian o shoin duradh gur thart ar £58,000 in aghaidh na bliana a bhailonn muintir McInerney ar fud na tire — glac deas airgead poca ag comhlucht ata



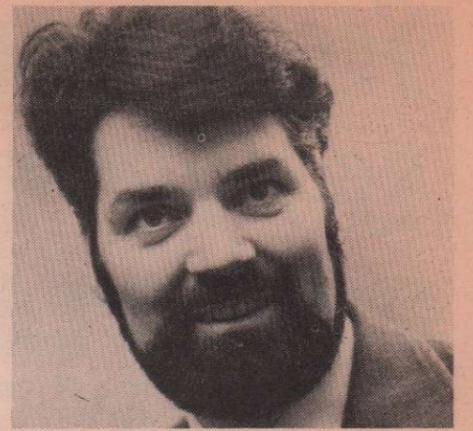
● Padhraic O Gallchoir.

tar eis costas na dtithe agus na lathair ar a bhfullid togha a fhail cheana fein o na daoine ata ina gconal iontu.

Sin e go direach a duirt Prionsias de Rossa, fear go bhfull taithi aige sa gcogadh chios talun i mBaile Atha Cliath, leis an gcrunniu a tugadh le chelle i bPort Lairge leis an mbagairt cuirte a phle. "Ar eagla a ghniomhalonn na comhluchtaí seo", duirt se, "eagla na cuirte, eagla an bhaille, eagla bheith id chadhain aonraic, eagla dhisheibhithe". I mBaile Atha Cliath, duirt an tUas. de Rossa, d'eirigh le Cumann na nAitrebhoiri no ACRA an fod a sheasamh in aghaidh na mbailli agus nior eirigh riamh le h-aon iarracht daoine a dhishealbhu.

I lathair ag an gcrunniu bhi thart ar dha chead de mhuintir na h-aithe agus ionadaithe tofa an cheantair, teachta Dala da chuid Fhianna Fail agus Fine Gael agus an Comhairleoir Padraic O Gallchoir, Sinn Fein, Pairti na nOibri.

An Teachta Dala de chuid Fhianna Fail, an tUas. O Fathaigh, ba speisula a labhair. Duirt seisean



● Prionsias de Rossa.

gur thug se lantacaiocht do theaghlach Phairc na Leasa Moire san troid a bhi ar bun acu. Chomh maith le sin bhi se go laidir ar thaobh cuiteamh a thabhairt do na teaghlach in ait i a thabhairt do na tiarnal talun.

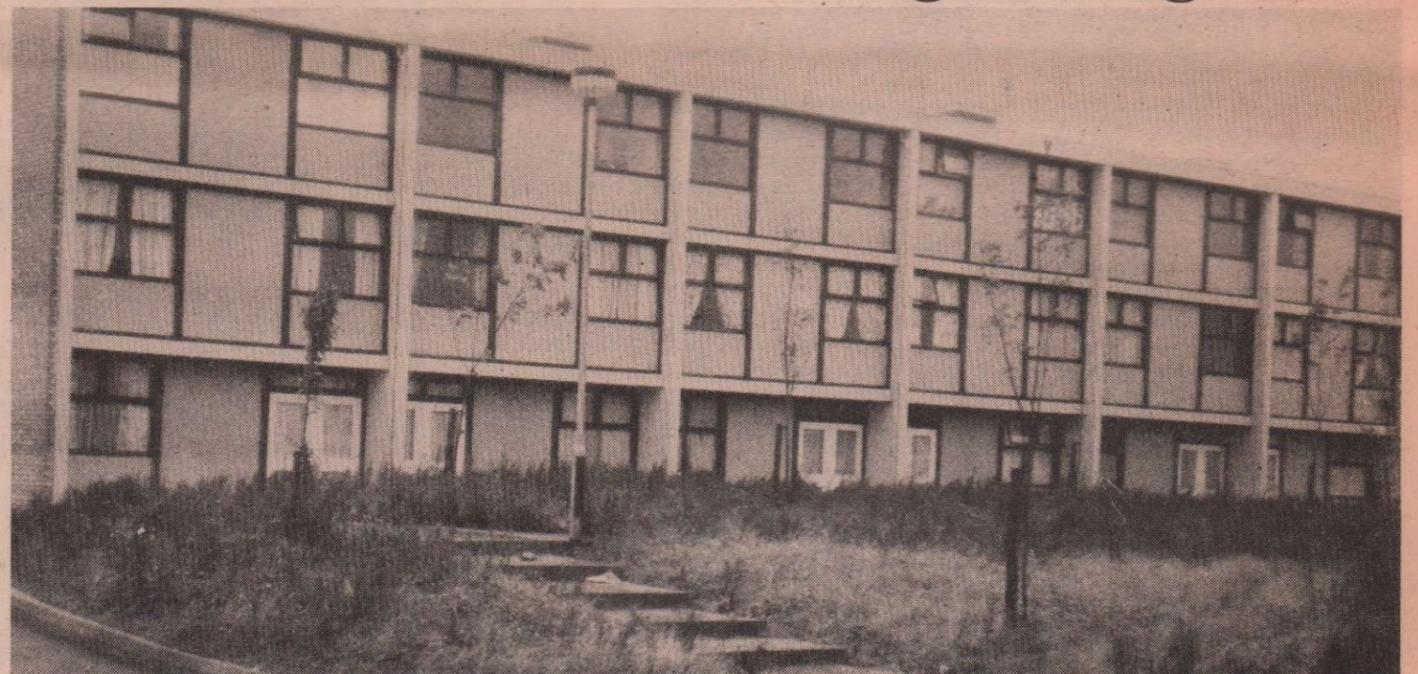
Cheap an Comhairleoir O Gallchoir narbh leor focla molta agus tacaiochta amhain agus ionadaithe poibli ag deighleail le eagoir den chineal seo. Theastaigh sampla a thabhairt chomh maith. D'fogair se go raibh se ar stailc chiosa e fein le cupla blian agus go leanfadh se air go mbeadh deireadh ar fad leis an gcoras eagorach feodach ba bhun leis.

Theastaigh Coiste Ghníomh laidir a chuirfeadh an ruaig glan ar na bithiunaigh a bhi ag bagairt ar ghnathdhaoine

Cuireadh na murtha failte roimh na cainnte seo agus ba leir, ag deireadh na cruinnithe, go mbeidh a gcuid oibre gearrtha amach ag muintir McInerney pingin rua amhain a bhaint o theaghlach Phairc na Leasa Moire.

Sean O Ceallaigh a bhi sa Chathaoir le linn an chruinnithe.

## Fadhbanna Pleanala i gCorcaigh



Mayfield Corcaigh. Caithfear 1,200 tighthe nua a chur ar fail gach blian go deire na haoise.

## Ceist faoi ghaeltarra

Ta ceist a chur faoi 'Ghaeltarra Eireann le tamall anuas. Ta suas le £4,126,010 caillte gan tairbhe ag Gaeltarra Eireann le blian anuas agus, nuair a scrudaitear na cuntaisi, ni feidir bun na barr a dheanamh astu.

Nuair a d'fhoilsigh an "Irish People" an sceal an mhi seo caite nior thug Gaeltarra freagra da laghad. Ach nuair a thiomsaigh seomra nuachta R.T.E. sceal faoi'n eachtra bhagair Gaeltarra go hindireacht go gcuirfidis an dli orthu da ndeanfaidis aon sceal a chur amach. Rud a fhagann nach bhfuil aon dul chun cinn deanta a thaobh firinne an sceil a aimsiu.

Ta rud amhain cinnte, afach. Go dti seo nior chuir Gaeltarra an dli ar an "Irish People" agus nior fhreagair siad na ceisteanna a h-ardaoidh.

Feach ar an choibhneas idir airgead

priobhaideach agus airgead poibli sna samplai seo leanas agus feicfidh tu gur feidir gur ag deanamh brabach ata dreamanna priobhaideacha airithe as teip monarchan sa Ghaeltacht.

\* C.P. Teo — £5,000 scairchaipiteal priobhaideach, £250,000 d'airgead Ghaeltarra. Ta C.P. dunta sios anois.

\* Talcoma Teo (Corcaigh) — £70,000 scairchaipiteal priobhaideach, £50,000 d'airgead Ghaeltarra, agus £60,000 d'airgead an Fhorais Fhorbartha. Dunta sios.

\* Iarmhuid Teo. — £65,000 scairchaipiteal priobhaideach, £110,000 d'airgead Ghaeltarra. Ta Iarmhuir Teo. dunta anois.

Ta go leor leor samplai eile den chineal cheanna. An fada eile a mbeidh ciuineas faoi'n sceal? Coinnigh suil ar an leathanach seo!

D'fhailtigh Comhairle Dail Ceanntair Corcaigh Thoir Thuaidh de Shinn Fein Pairti na nOibri roimh an caipeis a foillsiodh le deanai faoi "Population Projections from the Cork Land Use and Transportation Study". De bharr gur dhiultaigh an Comhrialtas daonaireamh a thogaint i 1976 ta se nios tabhachtai na riamh feachaint ar aghaidh ar an lion daoine a bheas againn i gCathair Corcaigh amach annseo.

Ta an t-eolas a tugtar faoi an 'Greater Cork Area' thar a bheith tabhachtach. Sa ceantair sin fe lathair ta 200,000 ach fe 1991 fasaigh an daonra go dti ar a laghad 243,000. Ce go bhfuil se seo nios lugha na an meastachan de 300,000 a deineadh roinnt bliain o shoin ni laghadaigheann se an gadh ata le pleanala agus na polasaithe cearta a chur i bhfeidhm go mor mhor i gcurai tithiocht agus fostaiocht.

Caithfear ar a laghad 2,000 jobanna a chur ar fail gach blian go cheann ceithre bliana deag. Ni feidir leis an coras priobhaideach an meid sin jobanna a chur ar fail. Caithimid bheith ag breath mar sin ar na

Comhluchtaí Stait mar an ESB agus NET.

Comh maith le 2,000 daoine a fhostu caithfidh 1,200 tighthe a thogaint gach blian chomh maith sa reigiun go deire na haoise seo.

Ni feidir le Bardas Corcaigh a radh gur mhaith a rinne siad i gcurai tithiocht le blianta beaga anuas agus na tighthe a thogadar ni rabhadar den cead scoth. Ni raibh an Comhairle Conndae comh dona sin. Ach caithfidh an da Comhairle teacht le cheile agus pleananna chinnte gearraimsearach agus fad-aimsearach a leagadh amach chun an uasmeid tighthe nua a chur ar fail. Da luaithe a toghar iad 'se is lugha a chosnochaigh siad, go mor mhor ma toghar iad tre saothar direach agus gan a bheith ag tabhairt brabus mor do togalaí gan scrupail.

Is breagh an lion daoine sa ceantair a fheiscint ag fas. Tugann se dochas duinn uile ach go hairithe dor' a os og. Ni choir duinn an dochas sin a bhreiseadh tre maoin na tire a leigint ar sruth agus gan a chur ar fail do dhaoine oga ach an di-fhostaiocht agus an imirce.



DINNENAR COMORADH  
Domhnach 30 ad Deire Foir  
ROINN GNOTHAI EACHTRACHA



**Sinn Féin**  
**The Workers' Party**

# Secure employment needed for youth

A call for employment opportunities and improvement of the social environment for young people as an alternative to the 'get tough' police measures was made by Philip Moran, chairperson of the Irish Democratic Youth Movement.

The new measures have been introduced by Justice Minister Gerry Collins in an attempt to deal with urban violence.

"These measures are bound to fail because they deal with the effects and not with the causes of urban crime", Mr. Moran stressed. Instead he called for:

- A crash programme of community development by social workers for deprived urban areas.

- Community Centres, Youth and

Sports facilities should be built in such areas.

- The channeling of young people's energy and enthusiasm into constructive social outlets to benefit both themselves and the communities in which they live.

- The provision of secure employment for young people in State sector jobs, as an alternative to the present situation where young people face unemployment or at best dead-end jobs in the urban ghettos.

"The problem of urban violence will not be combatted unless measures such as these are introduced", he said, "the tactics being used by the Government of increased repression in these areas will only lead to increased violence."

## Build a Socialist Future!

JOIN THE

### IRISH DEMOCRATIC YOUTH MOVEMENT

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

Name.....

Address.....

Age.....

Applications To:

General Secretary, Irish Democratic Youth Movement, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

AnCO (An Comhairle Oiliuna) published its report for 1976 recently. While the report includes statistics on the numbers of Apprentices (838), adults (9,429) and youths (460) trained, the part of the report entitled Training for Skill has the greatest implications for apprentices in Ireland.

This deals with the implementation of the new apprenticeship system which has now been in operation for over a year. A few years ago AnCO published for discussion a blueprint for restructuring the training of apprentices. Among the proposals contained in this was that the number of apprenticeship years be reduced from five to four.

During this shortened time the number of hours spent on-the-job was to be increased and the off-the-job hours reduced. Also most of the first year was to be spent off-the-job, in a V.E.C. college or training centre, and most of the following three years to be spent on the job.

At the time Unions, V.E.C.s and apprentices voiced their opposition to these proposals. They feared that apprentices would be trained only in one specific task and receive very little formal education.

It was not a love of academism that prompted these objections. The reservations were based on a fear that AnCO wanted to give industry the only say in how apprentices should be trained.

During these discussions industry assented by their silence. The scheme was introduced last September with little or no change. Industry was satisfied so there was no need for change!

This scheme has been one year in operation now and unfortunately for the apprentices many of the misgivings have been shown to be correct. Many apprentices are dissatisfied. They rightly feel that industry is having too much say in the running of their courses and they spend too little time in colleges and too much time on the job. The training they receive is only in one area of their individual trade. This

they feel will restrict them to remain in their particular employment.

AnCO have justified this by saying that employers cannot be expected to pay for the education and training of someone in skills that the industry has no use for. But AnCO are failing to ensure that apprentices have the opportunity to learn more than their employer wants to teach them. Obviously in any situation where the employee has the final say the education and training of the apprentice will suffer.

#### Going Away Presents

Michael O'Leary's parting gift to private industry was the extension of the £20 subsidy to cover unemployed apprentices. An employer can now take on an unemployed apprentice and make a profit before any work is done. The rate is approximately £14 for a second year apprentice. The employer gets £20 from the State and pays £14 to the apprentice plus £4.51 stamp. He has about 50p per week from each apprentice even if the apprentice never does a stroke of work. So now instead of employing apprentices as cheap labour the employer has subsidised labour to the tune of £100 per year.

If the Minister really wanted to do something for apprentices he should have forced AnCO to take companies to court for refusing to release apprentices for class, and for refusing to report to AnCO when apprentices are made redundant, and for not registering apprentices with AnCO.

There are many companies who have persistently broken the law in this area. AnCO are, by law, the body set up to protect apprentices' rights in this regard, yet they haven't exercised their legal muscle ever. Why?

## Dublin 1913

In Dublin City in 1913 the boss was rich and the workers slaves.

The women working, our children starving,  
But then came Larkin like a mighty wave.

The workers cringed when the bosses thundered,  
and seventy hours was our weekly chore,

We asked for little but less was granted,  
Lest getting little we asked for more.

In the month of August the bosses told us,

no union man for them would work.

We stood by Larkin and told the bossman

We'd fight and starve, but we would not shirk.

Eight months we fought and eight months we hungered,

we stood by Larkin through thick and thin,

But foodless homes and crying children,

They broke our hearts and we could not win.

When Larkin left us we seemed defeated,

The night was black for the workless men.

But then came Connolly with new hope and counsel,

His motto was "We will rise again."

In Dublin City in 1916, the British forces they burned our town,

They shot our leaders and smashed our buildings,  
The harp was shattered beneath the crown.

They shot McDermot and Pearse and Plunkett,

The shot McDonagh and Clarke the brave.

From bleak Kilmainham they took their bodies

to Arbour Hill and a quicklime grave.

But last of all of those seven leaders,

a dying man — they shot Connolly.

The voice of Labour, the voice of justice,

who gave his life that we might be free.

Repsol have designed and printed this new Larkin poster which retails at 50p. The poster, in black and white, is being printed in a limited number. Order now for what will become a collector's item.



Peace with honour?  
There can never be dishonour in peace!

Jim Larkin

1876-1947

Published by Sinn Féin The Workers' Party

## Books of the month

#### WORKS BY JAMES CONNOLLY

- Labour Nationality and Religion ..... 23p
- Erin's Hope and The New Evangel ..... 20p
- The Reconquest of Ireland ..... 26p

#### WORKS ON CONNOLLY

- Life and Times of James Connolly (C. D. Greaves) ..... 1.85
- James Connolly (S. Levenson) ..... £2.95
- J. Connolly: Selected Writings (P. Beresford Ellis) ..... 60p
- Relevance of James Connolly Today (G. Gilmore) ..... 23p
- Connolly — DeLeon Controversy (Cork Workers Club) ..... 50p
- Connolly — Walker Controversy (Cork Workers Club) ..... 33p

All above prices include postage for Ireland and Britain Only.

Orders to Repsol Ltd, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

## REPSOL PUBLICATIONS

#### Repsols in Stock

- Health Care, Dr. J. McManus ..... 28p
- Let the Nation Stand, P. Yeates ..... 48p
- Labour and the Republican Movement, G. Gilmore ..... 28p
- Principles of Communism, F. Engels ..... 23p
- Public Sector and the Profitmakers ..... 33p
- Republican Tradition, D. O'Hagan ..... 23p
- Tony O'Reilly's Last Game ..... 33p
- Liam McMillen: Separatist, Socialist & Republican ..... 33p
- Leggings and the Bandoliers, C. Gilmore ..... 28p
- Struggle for Democracy, Peace & Freedom, T. Mac Giolla ..... 23p
- International Obligations & the Irish Question, S. O Cionnaith ..... 18p
- Revolutionary Movements of the Past, J. de Courcy Ireland ..... 38p
- Workshop Talk, J. Connolly ..... 23p
- Marx and the Irish Question, S. Cronin ..... 58p
- Ground Rent Is Robbery ..... 28p
- Sinn Féin The Workers' Party Programme ..... 48p
- Full Employment by 1986 (2 copies) ..... 38p
- Ardboe Martyrs ..... 23p
- New Member's Handbook ..... 43p
- Culture & Revolution in Ireland, E. O Murchu ..... 38p
- Republicanism, Pt I (3 copies only) ..... 33p
- The Axe to the Root, J. Connolly ..... 33p

All above prices include postage for Ireland and Britain Only.

There is a constant flow of people and information in and out of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party from countries all over the world. Many of the visitors are Irish emigrants who have made new homes in other lands, and are still working for Irish freedom. Others are people without a direct Irish connection, but interested in the aims of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party — Peace, Work, and Progress towards a United Democratic Socialist Republic.

This month, the UNITED IRISHMAN brings you news of some recent visitors. People like:

**Mike Hughes**, from Mayo, now living in San Francisco. Mike brought three of his children home for a look at the old country — Rose, Carmel and Steven. Carmel liked it so much, she stayed on. Mike and his wife Frances (from Clare) are well-known and liked members of the Irish Republican Clubs of the U.S.A. and Canada, the support-group for Sinn Fein The Workers' Party.

The San Francisco and West-coast clubs are very active in information and fund-raising work for the Irish Republican movement, and organise concerts, benefit nights and traditional Irish music and dancing sessions, along the West coast of the USA. There's great crack in two San Francisco pubs in particular — the Starry Plough in Berkeley, and the Plough and the Stars in Clement-street, San Francisco.

The pubs are famous for their ceili music and singing, and anyone living or visiting in the area should be sure to call in for a session. Besides their Irish nights, the pubs run benefits for groups like the United Farmworkers' Union, the American Indian Movement and other groups supporting the struggle

# 'Across the sea to Ireland'

of oppressed races and peoples.

**Anci Koppel**, from Seattle, Washington, a member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and on the executive committee of Seattle Women Act for Peace. Ance was one of the U.S. delegation to the 'Builders of Peace' conference organised by the World Peace Congress in Warsaw, and has worked for Peace and Progress in the USA all her life.

Anci was in Ireland on holiday when she read of the protest-demonstration outside the U.S. embassy against the 'people-killer' neutron bomb planned by the USA. The protest was organised by Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, so Ance promptly called to Gardiner Place with a message of solidarity, and a generous donation. She couldn't be on the demonstration herself because she was flying home the same morning, but she promised to wave from the plane. Sliocht sleachta ar shliocht bhuar sleachta, Ance. You'll have to get someone Irish to translate that for you — but it's all good!

**Sean Cullen**, from Clan-na-hEireann, the support-group in Britain for Sinn Fein The Workers' Party. Sean is in charge of International Affairs for Clan, and was home for a short holiday. He helped organise the successful 'Ireland Information Conference' in Britain recently, attended by Tomas MacGiolla, an Uachtarain Sinn Fein Pairti na hOibri, and Sean O'Cionnaith, of our International Affairs Bureau.

Clan helped raise funds to fight the recent General Election campaign. The results were encouraging, and Sean looks forward to seeing Sinn Fein The Workers' Party in the Dail for sure next time around.

**Joan Maguire**, from San Francisco. Joan is an enthusiastic member of the Irish Republican clubs in the States. She runs a radio station, K-POO, on the West Coast, which plays Irish traditional music and songs, and runs information programmes on developments in Ireland. Joan spent a great evening in Club ui Chaidin, the popular social club in Gardiner Place — the best worker's club in Dublin.

Among the many other callers were **Liam Kelly**, from Co. Tyrone. Liam now lives in New York, and is Vice-President of the Irish Republican Clubs. He is President of the Connie Green Club in New York which has wide support among N.Y. transit workers. Liam has for many years now been active in support of the Irish people's struggle against imperialism.



Anci Koppel.

**Peter Logan and Cathy McCoy**, from Oakland, California. Peter and Cathy are printers and involved with union-work, as well as supporting the Republican Clubs. They help to put out a very successful Newsletter in the USA, explaining the Irish struggle.

## BOOK REVIEW

**To Present The Pretence by John Arden.** Published by Eyre Methuen Ltd, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P4EE. The price is £5.50 hardback. A paperback, priced £2.95, will be published in the spring.

A collection of Essays of the Theatre and Its Public by John Arden has been published. Two of the essays are written in collaboration with Margaretta D'Arcy. The purpose of the collection of essays is stated briefly by John Arden: "Twelve years ago I looked on at the people's struggle, but as an onlooker. Without consciously intending it, I have become a participant. These essays I hope will show how".

The dust-jacket is a copy of a well-known painting by Pieter Bruegel called 'The Battle between Carnival and Lent'. John Arden describes the painting as: "an emblem of death in the midst of life: Carnal life continuing despite the imminence of death. Tragedy and Comedy combined in one image".

Part one of the book contains a lot of material on theatre, on plays and playwrights from the rather distant past — Shakespeare, Ben Johnston and Milton — to more recent times, Brecht, O'Casey and films by Pasolini and Penn. The essays in this part of the book are interesting because they present a very highly educated opinion and information about great names in literature in the English language. They also express a view of life — life seen through the eyes of a leading artist of this day.

There are essays on the difficulties of producing plays in the USA. The description 'play' does not really give an idea of the piece of theatre which the Ardens staged on Viet Nam when they were in the United States. A 'Carnival' is a better word; the chapter heading is "Roll Up, Roll Up to the Carnival of War".

It is obvious from the details given that political theatre is not welcomed by the establishment and that it will not be given any of the financial help which more innocent — from an establishment point-of-view — theatre can have almost for the asking.

When the book talks about the Connolly plays this may possibly be of more interest to the average Irish reader — the reader who has little interest in theatre.

The Connolly plays are very well researched and tell the full story not just the Irish part of the story. Connolly outside Ireland is an element omitted from the man's life when he is talked about in Ireland.

The production of the Connolly plays in Dublin can be described as a triumph of faith and absolute commitment to theatre over impossible odds. Would you expect an audience to sit through an all night — 24 hour — production of anything at all!

The story of how the seemingly impossible feat was accomplished is given in the book. There is also a lot of detail on the particular — the unique style — of the Connolly plays.

## Official vandalism

Recent controversies in Dublin City Council about the Wood Quay excavations, the Project Arts Center grant and the loss of the Lowndes Trust Collection from the Municipal Gallery reveal very disturbing attitudes in our capital city.

We have become almost immune to the systematic destruction of many of the most interesting and pleasing architectural features of the city by the property developers and their replacement by aesthetic horrors. We are disgusted but not surprised when some of the leading architects are prostituting their profession and their art for the big money of the speculators and property developers.

But we cannot blame property developers for these most recent expressions of philistinism. Who do we blame? In the case of the Project Grant the blame sits squarely on the shoulders of the City Councillors many of whom expressed attitudes and opinions which one would have thought even the smallest Town Commissioners had outgrown. The dominating thought seemed to be if we give artists a grant we must censor their work. This is the attitude which traps and retards artistic development and results in the artist giving us what we deserve — mediocre art.

Hopefully the number of enlightened Councillors will increase at the next Local Government elections!

It might seem at first sight that the failure to complete the archaeological excavations at Wood Quay is also the fault of the City Councillors. This is not quite true. Nor are the officials of the Corporation to be blamed. Despite the crying need for new offices for Dublin Corporation, both for the convenience of the citizens and of the workers, the Corporation have constantly postponed the building of the offices to allow time for complete excavation. If this was a private property speculator no one would have got inside the site to interfere with the work of the bulldozer! In this case the blame must be laid

at the door of Mister Raferty of the National Museum.

The Corporation placed everything in his hands and were prepared to wait until he gave the go-ahead. This he has now done, despite the fact that only one third of an acre has yet been excavated. He wasted all of last year when absolutely nothing was done on the site and now "he has expressed satisfaction that all significant data has been successfully retrieved and recorded" according to Mr. Ruairi O Brochain, Assistant City Manager.

The National Museum comes under the Department of Education, and Mr. William Doran, Archaeologist who worked on the Wood Quay site, is correct when he suggests in an article in the Irish Times that it is up to the Minister for Education to provide the finance and see that the excavation of the site is completed.

Wood Quay is a National Treasure and it is the government's job and particularly Mr. Wilson's to see that it is protected.

The loss of the Lowndes Trust collection of pictures from the Municipal Gallery was a result of a deliberate decision by the Art Advisory Committee of Dublin Corporation to "phase them out". They have now "phased them out" to London. This was an outrageous decision secretly carried out by the very people whom the citizens trust to protect everything of artistic value in the city.

If we cannot trust our City Council, our National Museum, our Municipal Gallery or our Ministry of Education to protect our cultural heritage what do we do? How about an artists union to protect their rights and also to inform and guide the rest of us in matters artistic? We would welcome ideas on this.

If you're ever in California be sure to visit

**The Plough & the Stars**  
116 Clement St.  
San Francisco  
Ph. (415) 751-1122



**The Starry Plough**  
3101 Shattuck  
Berkeley  
Ph. (415) 841-2082

**DRAUGHT GUINNESS — REBEL MUSIC**  
**CEILI BANDS — DANCING**

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### Collet's

For All Your 'Repsol'  
Sinn Fein The Workers' Party  
pamphlets.

64-66 Charing Cross Road, London  
WC2.

## FILMS

### Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoire

Inspired by the famous 18th century epic poem 'Lament for Art O'Leary', this film has won critical acclaim both in Ireland and abroad. 60 mins.

### Going... Going... Gone!

The story of how Irish resources — and jobs — are being stolen with the help of some of the finest Irishmen, money can buy. 35 mins.

Further details from: —  
Margaret O'Leary, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

Name .....

Address .....

# PEOPLE IN POLITICS

## FULLER HAS HIS FILL

The word in Dublin property circles is that Bill Fuller, of Old Shieling and Teach Furbo fame, is selling out. Contracts for the sale of both premises have been drawn up, and a price-tag of quarter-of-a-million is being put on the deal. Two interesting questions arise: who is the mystery buyer, and what will happen to the State money Bord Failte put into Teach Furbo?

## PEACE PRIZE

Mr. Sean McBride, former Chief of Staff of the IRA in the 1930's and Minister for External Affairs in the Inter Party Government, was presented with the Lenin Peace Prize at a ceremony in Dublin on September 20th. The Prize, worth about £19,000, was presented by Mr. Nikolai Blokkin, Chairman of the International Lenin Peace Prize Committee at a ceremony organised by the Irish Peace Group, who had nominated him for the award.

Mr. McBride, who is the son of Major John McBride, executed in 1916, and of Maude Gonne McBride, has already been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974. He is the first person ever to be awarded both prizes. A great honour for a great international statesman.

## NEW YORK CONVENTION

Irish Republican Clubs in North America will hold their Seventh Annual Convention at the Irish Institute in New York City on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd October. The Convention will be opened by Dr. Maire Bradshaw, President of The Irish Republican Clubs, USA & Canada and resolutions dealing with Irish and international matters will be under discussion during the two day event. The Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party will be represented at the Convention by Sean O Cionnaith, Director of the International Affairs Bureau of the Party.

## AID FOR SWAPO

The International Affairs Bureau of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party reports a good response to its "Medical Aid for S.W.A.P.O." Fund launched throughout the United Irishman in June. Our aim was to raise enough money to purchase one Medical Aid Kit for the SWAPO Freedom Fighters — each Kit costs £100 — but the response from readers of The United Irishman and members of both Sinn Fein The Workers' Party and the Irish Democratic Youth movement has been so good that at the time of going to press the Fund has topped £200 and almost every day new donations are coming in from many parts of the country and abroad.

We are pleased to record the following donations towards the Fund which we received during September: Members of Leeds Trades Club, Leeds, England £2.40; Dick McKee, Cumann Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, Finglas, Dublin £2.30; Clann na hEireann, Hull, England £4.85; Seamus Corcoran, Offaly £4.70; IDYM, Lurgan, Co. Armagh £1.20; Rose and Kitty Hickey, Dunleer, Co. Louth £5.00; Residents of Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast £5.00; Richard Dunphy, Omagh, Co. Tyrone £6.30.

## MY FRIEND FRED

An interesting visitor to Ireland in September was 'Dr.' Fred Burns O'Brien, Information Director of the Irish National Caucus, Washington D.C. in the U.S. of A. Interviewed on Radio Eireann following President Carter's famous speech on August 30, Fred vigorously denied any connection with the Provisionals.

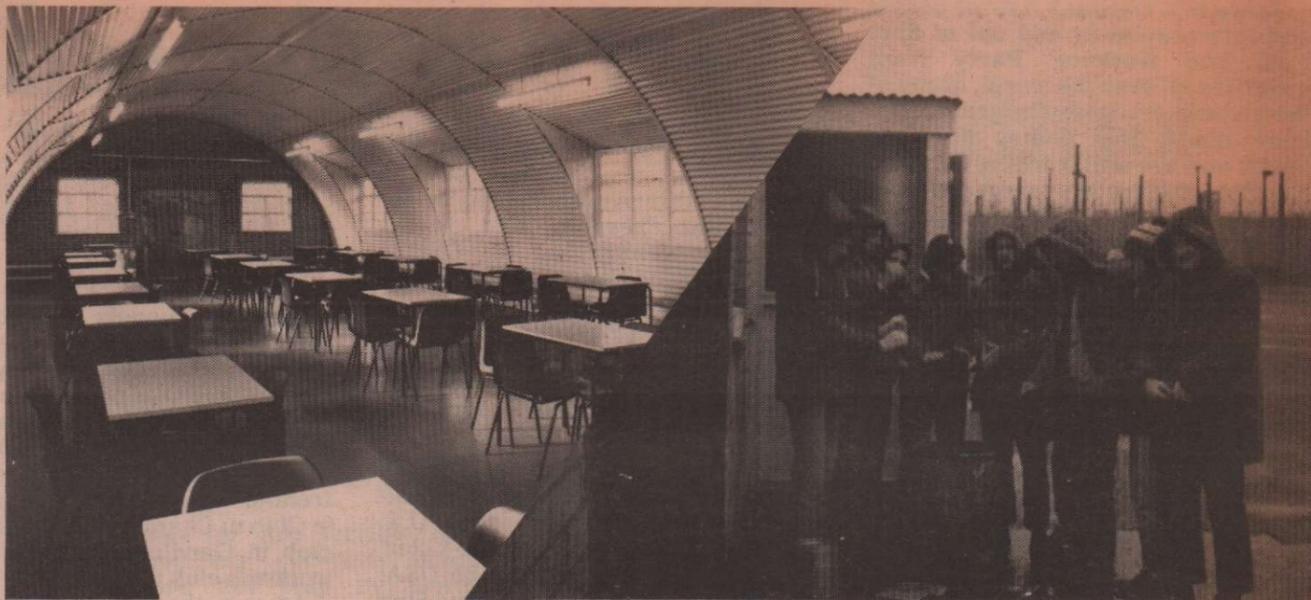
Within 48 hours Ruairi O'Bradaigh was interviewed about the parcel bomb found in his brother's house and he revealed that it was "my American friend Fred Burns O'Brien who warned him not to open it." His CIA training certainly paid off!

Fred is an employee of the Customs Bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department and the Customs Bureau has been assigned the responsibility of the detection and apprehension of those who would illegally export arms and ammunition from the U.S. A good inside man for the Provos to have, you would say. You would also think that he would have some difficulties in retaining his Government job while at the same time being 'North American Editor' of An Phoblacht and publishing many articles denouncing the US Government and its investigating branches in the Provisionals American Journal.

Far from having any difficulties, Fred Burns O'Brien was in 1976 seconded to the White House to act as an aide to President Ford on AMNESTY questions. This is the close friend and confidant of Ruairi O'Bradaigh and Daithi O'Conail.

Printed and Published by Clo na h-Eireann, 30 Plas Gardnar, B.A.C.I.

**NEXT ISSUE OCTOBER 27**



British Propaganda Pic. (above) and (below) the reality of life for prisoners in Long Kesh.

# Pressure from relatives will force Provisionals to develop new strategy on prisoners

## FORTY SHADES OF GREEN!

The only names publicly linked with the proposed new political party in the North are Eddie McAteer of Derry and Frank McManus of Fermanagh. Both of them have personal interests in climbing back to the seats of power from which they were ousted.

Strangely however, neither of them have any clear idea about the composition or policies of the party nor have they any idea what it will be called. In fact there seems to be a major controversy already about what to call the new party.

All this indicates that there are other forces behind the idea of a new party. The UNITED IRISHMAN can now reveal that the main backing for the party is coming from the Provisionals and the Irish National Caucus. Fred Burns O'Brien has been in Ireland (see People in Politics) in recent weeks, staying with his friend Ruairi O'Bradaigh, leader of the Provisionals.

O'Brien is the P.R.O. of the Irish National Caucus in Washington of which the secretary is Fr. Sean McManus, brother of Frank McManus. O'Bradaigh, O'Brien and McManus have had a number of meetings at which, it can be presumed, the new party was the major item for discussion.

Another source from which the new party may have sprung is the series of meetings which have been taking place since last March between the Provisionals, the I.R.S.P., the Communist Party of Ireland and the Irish Front. The last named group is a Derry phenomenon which itself includes Provisionals, Nationalist Party, I.R.S.P. and other ultra-left and maverick groups. These meetings have been taking place secretly over the past six months.

When they were publicly revealed in the Saturday column of the Irish Times some months ago, the Communist Party of Ireland at first denied participation but later admitted it in the Irish Socialist.

A further dissident voice involved in the proposed new party is Neil Blaney of Donegal. Frank McManus is a close buddy of his and campaigned vigorously with Blaney to get Keaveney elected in Donegal. Of course the old alliance of McAteer and Blaney is still as strong as ever it was.

With such disparate elements involved in its formation it is not surprising that they are still wrangling over what name it should have! The surprising thing will be if it ever gets off the ground. However, they do have a number of things going for them.

The Provisionals have destroyed the progressive mood of the late sixties and have pushed politics back into the old Unionist/Nationalist mould. So the people are just about ready for a return to old style green politics which explains the S.D.L.P.'s rush back to fill the vacuum.

A further factor which might bind all the elements together is the possibility of a Westminster seat. Big Eddie will probably be the only gainer here.

Public opinion in the North is rapidly discovering a fresh area of concern. Rediscovering might be the operative word as the plight of more than a thousand four hundred sentenced political prisoners begins to emerge as a major social problem affecting the whole community.

Thousands of families are affected by the loss of a breadwinner or by the absence of a father and, in some cases, a mother. The problem is highlighted now for the first time as the voluntary relief services which have kept food on so many of the affected tables during the past number of years begin to falter. Though not exclusively a Provisional problem most of the prisoners — about 1,320 in all — are or were members of the Provisionals when sentenced.

Already the Provisionals themselves are issuing statements claiming that some of the prisoners, the estimated 200 in H-bloc in Long Kesh, are being driven to the "edge of madness" by the solitary confinement and the enforced wearing of blankets because of refusal to wear prison clothes.

But other factors undoubtedly contribute to the mental state of the prisoners. Married men only receive about £6 per week subsistence from relief sources now and single men £4.

Add to that the realisation dawning for many of them serving long sentences that "victory" is no longer around the corner and the pressures can be better understood. Both inside and outside Long Kesh prisoners and their relatives are adding the continuing Provisional campaign to the

"blanket" and the cruel regime at Long Kesh as a cause of worry.

One attempt to give the relatives a more direct influence on the course of events was the foundation of the Relatives Action Committee at Easter 1976. This Committee has tried to highlight the plight of Provisional prisoners. However, the presence of miniscule groups like Peoples Democracy, the Red Republican Party and the Irish Republican Socialist Party has imported political frictions which has drawn the Committee into conflict with the Provisional leadership in Belfast.

The central tension which has not yet crystallised in relations between the Provisionals and the Relatives Committee is that of weighing the future of their bombing and shooting campaign against the misery being inflicted on the prisoners.

If the flickering campaign were to be called off, so the argument runs, the chances of a popular campaign to expedite the release of the prisoners would be enhanced. Some years ago such a line of argument would be considered treasonable by Provisionals but more and more it has been gaining weight as concern for the prisoners begins to outbalance dreams of a military victory.

## KEEP THESE DATES FREE!

60th Anniversary of the October Revolution

### DUBLIN:

Thursday, 27th October —  
Showing of Eisenstein's  
great classic OCTOBER.

Sunday, 30th October —  
Commemoration Dinner &  
Social.

Full Details from International Affairs Bureau, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party.

### BELFAST:

Friday, 28th October —  
Showing of Eisenstein's  
great classic OCTOBER.

Saturday, 29th October —  
Commemoration Dinner &  
Social.