

Samhain 1977

EAGARFHOCAL

We are not perfect. We have never pretended to be and, across the four years since we commenced publication, we have been accused of many faults.

Some of the criticism levelled at us was helpful and constructive. As such, it was accepted and appreciated.

Other criticism amounted to little more than abuse.

However, we have one fault - if fault it be - which we cannot deny. We cannot refute the arguments of those who have accused us of being ahead of our time. Least of all, can we refute it in this particular issue.

The REPUBLICAN WORKER of January last announced that plans were afoot to make drastic changes in Cork City bus services. So they were but the changes were not as imminent as we expected. In fact, the changes did not come into effect until late October.

In this instance, we were ahead of our time by nearly a year. We admit our fault and apologise but at least we did not print stale news and it is worth recalling that no other publication carried this news for over nine months after we did.

It is also worth recalling that, at the time, we were accused of "sensationalism", "scaremongering", "irresponsibility" and heaven knows what else. THE FACT REMAINS THAT CHANGES WERE ON THE WAY AND WE ALONE ANNOUNCE IT.

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RAMPANT BRUSSELESITIS:

With the announcement that direct elections will take place to the European Parliament next year, rushes for nominations with in the political parties have been announced. Our political correspondent reports that it is expected that redundant Ministers such as Mr. Cruise O'Brien, Mr. Cooney and Mr. Keating, will get first choice for nominations for these uniquely cushy jobs with the accompanying attraction of massive salaries. Yesterday, Mr Tom Richmann, businessman and author of the bestseller 'How To Become A Millionaire', said that if he had an All-Ireland medal, he would try for a nomination himself.

In Cork, it was reported that there is fierce interparty fights in both Fianna Fail and Fine Gael for nominations for what has become known as "Brusslesitis". "Not that it is the money I'm after", said one politician, "oh no, I want to do it for my country". One report of a planned dawn duel in the Lee Fields by two Fianna Fail Leading Lights

could not be confirmed, though the two men have regularly been seen practising fencing. Another politician, a well known Fine Gael T.D., who shall remain nameless, was last seen purchasing a pop guns and fears were expressed by the Fine Gael P.R.O. that things could get out of hand. He called for urgent Government legislation to outlaw Brusslesitis. Back stabbing and front stabbing has become common in party circles and St. Finbarr's Hospital reported treating six cases of it in one day. An appeal for calm was made by the famous Cork Hurler, 'Gentle' Jack Lynch. Armed with a hurley, he attended a meeting of Fianna Fail in Cork over the weekend where he reminded those who did not get a nomination that they still had profitable businesses to return to, such as auctioneering, farming or house building.

*****LATE NEWS*****

Unconfirmed reports have reached this office that a Top Level meeting of Top Gardai Chiefs was held last night in an upstairs room in Union Quay to discuss the problem.

THAT NEW BRIDGE:

The new footbridge, spanning the river between Morrison's Island and Georges Quay, which was recently officially opened and walked on by the Lord Mayor, was welcomed this week in a statement from the Cork Labour Exchange Users and Customers Association. The chairperson of the association, Mr. Sean O'Dole, thanked the Corporation for what he described as "their thoughtful and kind gesture in providing this bridge to make it easier for the unemployed to go to and from the Exchange". He added: "This is the sort of action which makes Cork's industrial relations the

best in the country and we have a lot to be thankful for that we have such understanding Councillors, especially as none of them ever had to attend the Exchange"

Our raving reporter spoke to some of the Labour Exchange users and customers on Friday last to get their reactions to this startling development. General appreciation was expressed by all and one woman commented that the "corporation are too good to us". A man added that the Government could now end their pretence of trying to end unemployment as the unemployed in Cork were happy to go to the Exchange with the excellent facilities being provided for them.

Chaotic situations can be seen at Cork City bus stops every day, especially in the early mornings, when school children and workers wait for buses to travel to school and work. This problem was discussed at a recent meeting of Cumann MacSwiney/MacCurtain in Mayfield, where it was pointed out that, every morning, between 8 and 9 a. m. crowds of children and adults can be seen standing in all kinds of weather while bus after bus passes them full up after leaving the terminus at the Cotton Ball. The result of this is that workers arrive late for work, often losing wages, and children arrive late for school disrupting classes and soaking wet in the bad weather. The situation is especially bad now that the winter months are creeping in. Young children are starting school for the first time and many mothers, who bring these children to school, often have to bring babies with them because they have no one to mind them.

An immediate solution to the problem, Cumann MacSwiney/MacCurtain is calling for city school opening times to be changed from 9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. This way, the number of bus users would be spread over a longer time and would relieve the pressure on

the service. Workers and school children would find it easier to get to their destinations and it should also suit C.I.E. bus crews who are unfairly often on the receiving end of commuters' annoyance. The cumann also asks the teachers unions involved to support this call as it would avoid disruption of classes.

This problem is, of course, not confined to the Mayfield area but is widespread throughout the city. Because of the policy of the management of C.I.E., headed by Liam St. John Devlin, of running down C.I.E. and because of its ban on recruitment - since May 1975 - the bus service has been steadily getting worse. Now a new timetable has been introduced (first reported in the REPUBLICAN WORKER in January of this year) but the service the public is getting has not improved. Sinn Féin The Workers' Party believes that only by reversing these disastrous policies, which would include the removal of Liam St. John Devlin, the ending of the ban on recruitment and the expansion of C.I.E. into profitable activities, such as road freight and the servicing of off-shore installations, can a proper, cheap and efficient service be provided to the general public.

TELEVISION

It was interesting to see a representative of Fitzgeralds & Co., Grand Parade, among the group of Cork Radio and T.V. dealers who presented a cheque to the chairman of the Cork Multi-Channel Group recently. Fitzgeralds is owned by Cllr. Paddy Fitzgerald who is a Fianna Fail member of Cork Corporation for the North-East ward of the city. He

must find it hard to reconcile his support for the Multi Channel group with his party's stated policy of support for R.T.E.2.

Indeed, were it not for R.T.E., these men would not have been in the T.V. rental business since the early sixties. The old saying "A dog never bites the hand that feeds it" does not apply to T.V. dealers.

We feel this month's song is particularly relevant following the attitude of some Galway residents to the housing of a family of Travelling People in their estate. After reading the words of the song, further comment is not necessary.

THE TRAVELLER

Some are born in mansions grand and never hardship know;
Other folk come to this world in misery and woe;
You, my son, were born to run before you grow a man,
You'll roam this land with a ragged band in a tinker's caravan.

Not for you a cosy bed or a kitchen snug and warm.
You'll tote your load on the open road through sun and wind
and storm;
The winter snows will soak your clothes, you'll heave and groan
and strain;
You'll find no friend at journey's end, only hunger, fear and pain.

You'll mend the pots and solder pans and drink the porter down,
You'll beg and steal for a lousy meal in city and in town;
Your mind will rust, you'll have no man's trust, blind hate will
be your guide;
No one will hear when your bitter tears flow in the lonely night.

Then maybe some fine summer's day, at a pattern or a fair,
You'll see a strapping tinker girl with long and golden hair.
Your eyes will meet on a busy street, she'll smile her woman's smile;
One hour of love in a shady grove you'll know for a little while.

She might even be your bride for life and come along with you.
You'll hold her tight in the winter's night and treat her good and
true.
In some meadow wild, she'll bear your child to cry in the early morn,
She'll curse the land and the ragged band and the day that she was
born.

You'll teach your son the tinker's trade like your father did before
You'll tell him of his heritage and the bygone days of yore.
You'll shake with dread when he asks for bread and call to you in
vain;
Your soul will die when you hear him cry and you'll hang your head
in shame.

Then maybe if his luck holds out, he'll grow up fine and tall;
He'll find a comely tinker girl and answer nature's call;
She'll bear for him a baby son, a new life will begin
And maybe if the gods are kind, he'll live like other men.

SINN FEIN THE WORKERS' PARTY
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