

The Irish People

AN CHOISMHUINTIR
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Belfast Dockers' View

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● Poulson: convicted of corruption.

THE IRISH POULSON?

Serious accusations have been made recently in the High Court, regarding transactions which were supposed to have occurred on the Nitrigin Eireann Teo. site at Arklow, during April 1971.

They range from bribery, corruption, accusations of fraudulence, forgery and the use of an illegal organisation to force a subcontractor out of the country.

The participants in the case include Gomac Construction Company Limited, 11

Sth. Anne Street, Dublin, Mr. Charles McAllister of Greystones, and a Mr. B. Hourican, a sub-contractor.

Gomac Construction is owned by an Englishman, Mr. Geoffrey F. Gomm of G Plan Furniture. They have large Irish interests in land purchase and development. Mr. McAllister is their Managing Director, but owns no share capital.

Mr. Hourican claimed that he had been defrauded of over £30,000, and that attempts

have been made by an illegal organisation to wreck his home. He equally claimed that supply companies have been instructed not to afford him credit.

The building industry is a particularly ruthless profession lending itself to all sorts of abuses.

Mr. Hourican, for example has stated that Bills of Quantities for extension work at the Nitrigin Eireann plant were priced

outrageously, but that Mr. McAllister said that no questions would be asked as the person responsible had had his house built from materials diverted from Nitrigin when it was being built by Wimpey's.

Mr. McAllister was agent for Wimpey at that time.

Currie a Northern

Mr. Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland received a guarantee from Harold Wilson that on his appointment to the post he could announce an amnesty for all rent and rate strikers in the North. The man who blocked that decision was Mr. Austin Currie, Six County Housing Minister and one-time squatter in Calendon.

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association last week accused Mr. Currie of "preparing to wage a campaign of victimisation against rent strikers". Not only will there be vicious deductions from wages but there will also be an additional charge of 25p to cover the cost of collection by the department.

Mr. Rees was certainly right when he said that Currie would make "them pay every last bloody penny and more".

This is but the first step in the creation of a "Free State" situation in the North. Mr. Roy Mason's recent statement about British intentions to withdraw the troops from the North must be understood in the light of Mr. Rees' recent interest in the history of the Irish Civil War.

Speaking informally to some Irish journalists in London recently Mr. Rees expressed his interest in the role of Richard Mulcahy in suppressing Republicans. Mr. Rees however felt that while he could never play such a role there was a man in the North who was capable.

That man, he thought, was the Housing Minister, Mr. Austin Currie.

Richard Mulcahy

The recent National Opinion Poll which gave the percentage supporting "violence" and the SDLP's success in the Assembly elections are the reasons why Mr. Currie feels that he has the green light to create a Third Force. As the UDR and the RUC continue to be unacceptable to the minority the only way left for Mr. Currie to deal with the bombing campaign is to create a Roman Catholic armed force under Assembly control.

Such a force would be used to smash the Provisionals in the "defence" of the new-found consensus in the North.

The manner in which Currie is enforcing the collection of un-paid rents demonstrates his ruthlessness. The next step should be easy.



● Those were the days.

Tax the oil millionaires

EXPERTS from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries met in Vienna on Monday to discuss ways of taxing excess oil company profits.

According to an O.P.E.C. spokesman, "We want to find ways of taxing windfall profits. The oil companies have made exorbitant profits like never before in the past few months."

"Until 1973 oil companies profits amounted to 50 or 60 cents per barrel" he said, "but in the last few months it rose to \$4 or \$4.50 per barrel."

The Irish People

An Choismhuinir, Friday, May 3, 1974.

O'BRIEN DISTORTS

R.T.E.'s "Seven Days" programme is to be congratulated on its use of Dr. Cruise O'Brien last week.

In the first part of the programme Dr. O'Brien spent his time defending censorship in R.T.E. He explained at length why censorship was necessary, denied that it prevented the Authority from giving a balanced and comprehensive view of political happenings and emphasised in particular why the views of the "men of violence" cannot be allowed on the screen or airwaves in any form.

In the second part of the programme Dr. O'Brien got into the gladiatorial arena with Enoch Powell in defence of the power-sharing Executive in the North.

While the result of this engagement was anything but clear or decisive one revealing factor did emerge. Dr. O'Brien had to spend some time representing the views of Republicans to Mr. Powell. That his description of their outlook was both dishonest and warped is of no account. That he could spend the latter end of his marathon performance representing the views the censorship of which he had defended so strongly in the first half must give food for thought — even to Dr. O'Brien.

We heard Dr. FitzGerald at exactly the same game on the "This Week" radio programme a few days later. Apparently whatever Minister takes up the Government free-time on radio and television will repeat this performance in the future. So that on top of censorship we are to have straightforward distortion and misrepresentation of the arguments of political opponents from the 'open government' Coalition.

U.V.F. VIEW

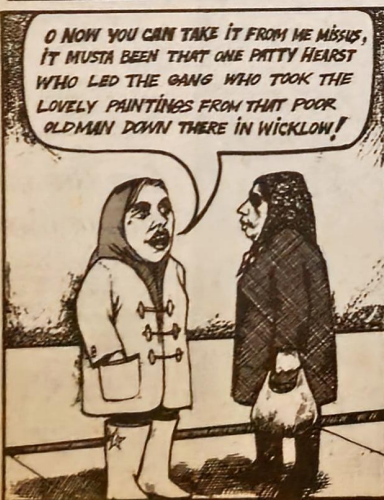
The most recent edition of the UVF magazine Combat has interesting political and cultural comment.

In a front page statement they declare their opposition to "the pseudo-republicans who have not only disgraced the name of Ireland but have trampled upon every principle and ideal that Wolfe Tone, Henry Joy McCracken and Samuel Neilson ever stood for."

In a further article, Proud of Your Culture? they remind the "Ulster Protestants, that they have as much claim, if not more in some cases, to the Gaelic culture as the Roman Catholic population."

They conclude with a question which will surely enrage the Language Freedom Movement. "Is it not a civil right of all the people of Ulster that they have access, in education at least, to all that belongs to their heritage in folklore, in music, in literature, in song and in the Gaelic language?"

As the Protestant people rediscover their national roots we can surely expect to see the dreams of Tone and Pearse realised.



Five workers have been left jobless following the collapse of an unofficial strike at the 'Knitwear' factory in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

The knitwear factory is six and a half years in existence and has received considerable grant aid from the Industrial Development Authority. It was not until May 1973, however, that members of the staff organised a union because of dissatisfaction with bad wages and conditions.

Since that date the management, mainly Mr. Cyril Cullen, the proprietor, has been putting pressure on the two girl shop-stewards who now find themselves among those unemployed following the breakdown of the strike.

The strike commenced on April 1 when management failed to keep its word to negotiate on the points raised by the Shop Stewards. These points included the questions of redundancies, repayment of penalties imposed for a work go-slow, proper wages for two employees employed for two years but still not on full rate, and inadequate lighting.

Abuse

As the workers were leaving on the eve of the strike date the Manager shouted personal abuse at the shop steward and other workers. He then left Carrick-on-Shannon and did not reappear until April 22.

Since then several members of the staff have gone back to work without any pre-conditions and the people who were active in bringing the union to Carrick-on-Shannon are out of a job.

Girls thrown out of jobs



● Picket at 'Knitwear'.

COUNTDOWN

Navan

The Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union, which represents 30 workers in Tara Mines Ltd., is seeking permission for an all-out strike from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The strike application, which is now under consideration by the I.C.T.U. industrial relations committee, is in support of a claim for a labour agreement for the union's members.

Meanwhile, Navan Trades Council is attempting to recruit the 500 employees of Navan Carpets Ltd. into a voluntary insurance scheme to help workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own.

A grant of £75 was recently made by the trustees to a local worker.

Ennis

The National Building Agency has refused to comply with a request from Ennis Urban District Council that it build a protective wall along part of the bank of the river Fergus. The river is at the rear of an N.B.A. housing estate and parents fear for the safety of their children.

The N.B.A. has suggested that the Urban Council build the wall if they feel that it is necessary.

Sligo

The gross inequalities in the taxation system, which N.I.T.R.O. had sought redress from, still existed, according to a statement from the Sligo branch of N.I.T.R.O. which criticised tax measures in the recent budget.

The statement expressed concern at the lack of effective measures to prevent tax evasion by self-employed and professional groups.

Drogheda

A survey, recently completed under the auspices of Ballsgrove Tenants Association, has shown that the majority of tenants are dissatisfied with the design and lay-out of their houses.

According to survey results, the bathrooms are inconveniently located inside the front door and houses are too small to accommodate growing families.

Kilkenny

After ten years in operation St. Canice's Credit Union is now the fifth largest in the country. With a membership of over 5,200 there is a sum of £500,000 recorded as assets.

Annagry

Thirteen children who have been without schooling for nine months because of lack of transport to the nearest school have started classes again.

Their parents, in defiance of the Department of Education, have re-opened the deserted school at Min na Leice which was closed down in 1971 and intend to hire a teacher at their own expense.

Finglas

Dublin Corporation has recognised West Finglas Tenants Association as the official negotiating body for tenants in the area. A deputation from the Association recently met Corporation officials with a plan for the provision of playing facilities and road safety measures to cut down the increasing accident rate.

ACRA SURE COONEY WILL AMEND



● Cooney to meet ACRA demands?

457 householders, out of a total of 714 canvassed to date in the Greenhills Estate, Walkinstown, Dublin, have come out in full support of A.C.R.A.'s anti-ground rent campaign and have contributed to the organisation's fighting fund.

A further 152 residents, who were absent during the canvass, have yet to give their opinion. The canvass is being conducted by the ground rent sub-committee of Greenhills Residents Association and one third of the entire estate has already been canvassed.

If initial results are a guideline a very high proportion of residents can be expected to take an active part in the anti-ground rent campaign.

The association will be holding a joint meeting of both members and neighbouring residents associations, to which local representatives have been invited, on 13th April.

With Local Government elections in the offing the association is confident that the Minister for Justice, Mr. Patrick Cooney, will shortly present proposals to the Government to amend ground rent legislation.

Whether Mr. Cooney's proposals will satisfy A.C.R.A.'s demands, however, remains to be seen.

HOLIDAYS ARE RISKY!

For Dublin flatdwellers taking a holiday can be a risky business with a constant threat of finding oneself homeless on return.

Such is the experience of the Groves family, late of 68 Cadogan Rd., Fairview. Before departing for a four-day holiday last month Mr. Groves had the following conversation with his landlord, a Mr. Gibson.

"You won't take our beds on us

when we are away, will you?"

"Oh no" came the reply.

He changed the locks instead.

Returning from their holiday, the Groves family were confronted by their landlord who ordered them off "his property".

On calling the Gardai for help Mrs. Groves was informed, that as far as the Sergeant was concerned "she could go and jump in the river".

Mr. Clinton is not only in trouble over the mountain of meat, pig producers and pig-fatteners are making demands which the Minister of Agriculture cannot meet. (No pun intended).

On Thursday 25, a delegation from the Pig Fattening Co-Operatives met Mr. Clinton in the hope of a £3 per pig subsidy and a demand that the Government impose restrictions on the price of bacon.

Mr. Clinton refused point blank to make any such order as this would affect the sales and price of beef.

Mr. Clinton's view is that "more people depend on beef for a living than on bacon". What is being ignored is the possible closure of bacon factories in Cork, Roscommon, Roscrea and Dublin, plus the threat to the family farmers.

The recession in the farming industry has already hit industry. For example Eurofabs Ltd., Limerick who provide prefabricated farm buildings will be going out of business.

On the matter therefore of pig prices, the interests of the small farmer, the housewife and the factory worker coincide.

Certainly they cannot be satisfied with the sort of gestures made by the Coalition government in introducing income tax on some large farmers. What is required is a positive attack on the price of meat and bacon.

Pig meat producers slaughtered



● Easy to look at but hard to buy.



● Clinton: ignores rising meat prices.

CLERY WORKERS STRIKE

Discriminatory pay structures, an archaic supervisory system and bad worker-management relations form the confused background to the now official strike in Clery's Ltd., Dublin.

One of Dublin's largest department stores Clery's is privately owned and many scions of the Guinness family enjoy supervisory positions in the store, a situation which leads to inefficient management and poor labour relations according to the workers' strike committee.

The strike is concerned with the transfer without notice of a lino salesman to another, less remunerative, department.

Departments such as "lino", carpet, and curtains employ sub-contractors who measure and lay the article.

The onus of organising this service lies with the salesman who must also accept responsibility, even to the point of dismissal, for any faults or damage incurred by the sub-contractor.

true intentions of the Coalition towards that abortive White Paper.

Almost within a week of publication John Kelly was in Galway visiting the country that the proposals were purely tentative and in no way indicative of Government policy. Richie Ryan appeared on the 'Late Late' to reassure the country — or the five per cent that matters — and to ask for submissions up until the end of June (when the Local Elections are safely out of the way).

Meanwhile Jack Lynch and Co. are selling the idea to both the business and farming community that the way to defeat the taxation proposals is to vote against the Coalition in the forthcoming Local Elections. Thanks now to Donegan, success is assured on this issue at least.

Richie Ryan has spent considerable time trying to placate the farming community and has recently announced that rates paid by farmers will qualify as an allowance under the new scheme. In the end it looks as if he will have established the principle of taxing farmers at the political expense of the Fine Gael party and with no visible addition to Exchequer income.

The White Paper faux pas, it is being privately admitted by Government deputies, has been the most illtimed and disastrous piece of 'open-Government' since the accession to power of Liam's men.

Fianna Fail, using their populist vocabulary to the full, can be depended on to sell the idea to a large section of working people that a wealth tax of the type proposed will be the ruination of the people. This will qualify their candidates for some renegade Fine Gael and Labour votes while the party's coffers will swell with the gratitude of the wealthy five per cent. When it comes to eating your cake and having it at one and the same time you cannot beat Fianna Fail!

**Meat
stink
rots
Coalition
roots**

The political stink from the 'meat mountain' is thickening in the nostrils of politicians all over the country. For older Coalition deputies it raises memories of the days of "yellow" Danish butter. Ireland's total tonnage in intervention now stands at twelve thousand and with eight hundred tons on offer each week meat factories have long ago exhausted their cold storage capacity.

Then came the shocking news that beef sold out of intervention for consumption in countries outside the E.E.C. is being enjoyed by British troops stationed in West Germany.

It appears that armed forces are considered as 'outside countries' in terms of disposed surpluses so that the British troops in the North of Ireland may be enjoying meat subsidised by the housewives of Limerick, Cork and Dublin. The housewives pay ninety pence per lb. while the soldiers scoff it at a cost of 20p per lb. to the British Defence Ministry.

Mr. Clinton's response to the crisis is to demand that Britain be prevented from importing beef from Uruguay and other "Third World" countries. People with memories long enough can recall that prior to E.E.C. entry we were told that tariff barriers would be erected against all countries outside the E.E.C. and that if Irish farmers did not vote for membership the hoof of an Irish cow would not touch the European mainland. Changed times!

But the real paradox is that while the Government and Department of Foreign Affairs officially encourage help and assistance for "Third World" countries (i.e. poor countries with only primary raw materials to sell) the Minister for Agriculture bends every effort to discriminate against them. And does that to prop up a 'dear food' policy while Mr. Keating in Industry and Commerce tries to keep down prices! It's all very confusing to the onlooker.

The Coalition retreat from the intentions of the White Paper taxation proposals can hardly be described as being in good order. Following Donegan's outburst in a Dail chamber which held only his mark man Joe Brennan many Coalition deputies are having second thoughts of Paddy Donegan as Minister for anything at all.

Donegan's outburst, however, represents the most honest comment to date by any Cabinet Minister on the

Growing Waterville opposition to Mulcahy

The People's Rights Committee in Waterville, County Kerry, are on the warpath against John A. Mulcahy, right wing millionaire, who claims to own the local strand.

Mr. William Keating, a native of Waterville village,

was prevented by Mulcahy from taking sand off the strand. As a result twenty local farmers and a large crowd of supporters took possession of the strand. Gardai who were present noted the names of the tractor drivers.

It is felt locally that it is unlikely that there will be any prosecutions as the Gardai are in sympathy with the people's wish to defend their strand and their rights to it.

This is the second such

protest about the efforts of Mr. Mulcahy to take over the local beach. As the Irish People reported on May 25 1973, Mr. Mulcahy had blocked the strand denying right of access to the villagers and small farmers in the area.

On the 'Chase' of massive profits



THE publication last week by the Chase Manhattan Bank of profit figures for 30 of the world's biggest oil companies graphically confirms the trend revealed in recent surveys of the oil companies carried out by The Irish People.

According to Chase the worldwide profits of these companies in 1973 increased by 71 per cent over 1972. In the United States, Chase notes, earnings last year rose by 19.1 per cent and over the last five years by 11.3 per cent.

An interesting point is made in the Chase report, which says: "Because of the unusual developments in 1973, the earnings of four European companies were much improved and that recovery alone accounted for more than one third of the profit gain."

The unusual developments were, of course, the OPEC decision to raise oil prices and the Arab cut back in oil production. While Chase indicates that these events helped to boost profits, all the oil companies have been attempting to prove that profits have been adversely affected.

In Washington there is growing anger at what Congressional leaders consider to be the exploitation of the oil crisis by the oil companies. The publication of the first quarter profit figures by Shell and Standard Oil of California has added to this anger.

Shell announced that between January and March this year net profits rose to \$121.8m (\$50.6m) compared with \$80.2m (\$33.1m) a year ago. Revenue increased by \$605m (\$252m) to \$1,893m (\$785m).

Standard Oil of California did even better, almost doubling its profits to \$293m (\$122m) from \$153m (\$63.7m) on revenues that rose spectacularly by \$2,000m (\$833.3m) to \$3,900m (\$1,625m).

According to Mr. Harry Ridges, president of Shell, the key factor for the sharp rise in profit was the higher prices

BY JOE
McGARRY

received from oil produced in the United States.

The oil companies defend their higher profits on the basis that in many cases they were derived from one-time only sales of crude oil bought at pre-November prices but sold at post-November prices.

This confirms the view that gross exploitation of the public has been practiced by the oil companies.

However, attempts by the Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives in Washington to force sharp cuts in oil prices to the levels of November 1st 1973 are unlikely to get past President Nixon.

It is considered highly probable that Nixon will veto any legislation giving effect to this proposal, thus giving the oil companies the green light for further price increases. These circumstances make it almost certain that the 60p per gallon level hinted at last week by Mr. Frank McFadden, chairman of Shell, will become a reality by the end of May and it is not improbable that the £1 per gallon forecast some months ago in the Irish People will arrive by December.

As Senator Birch Bayh said in Washington, one of the biggest ever swindles is being perpetrated.

RATHFARNHAM MOTORWAY, BUT NO MORE SCHOOLS

RESIDENTS on the Marlay Grange estate in Rathfarnham are becoming increasingly concerned at plans for a six-lane motorway which the Dublin County Council proposes to drive through their area.

Originally, the area now earmarked for the motorway was supposed to be designated as a

parkland and recreational area. On this basis many of the residents bought their homes.

However, it appears that not only will the motorway tear its way through the foothills of the Dublin mountains but also that the council is proposing to use land adjacent to the motorway for further

house building.

As if this was not bad enough, nowhere in the draft plan is there any proposal for the building of schools, which in a growing suburban area is surely a top priority. The present schooling facilities on the Grange Road are totally inadequate. Children must either go to the Loreto Convent in Rathfarnham, which is already overcrowded, or to the national school in Ballinteer, which is not yet complete.

So bad are things in Ballinteer that the school is refusing to take children from the McInerney estate on Grange Road.

Moreover, there is a complete lack of secondary schooling facilities in the area. The only two colleges in the area are St. Columba's and Wesley College, both of which are Protestant schools catering for Protestant children.

As far as Roman Catholic children are concerned, the Church authorities who claim the right to control their education, have made no moves to acquire sites for secondary schools nor have they made any representations to the County Council to have land designated for this purpose.

The only plans that seem to have made any headway are for new churches and the motorway. One wonders just which God is more important to the authorities.



● Belfust: site of proposed ring road.

The future is anything but rosy for those employed in the Irish printing industry, particularly those in the hundred or so firms, outside the greater Dublin area. In short, the problem is that the small country firms cannot raise the capital to turn over to modern printing methods.

Printers in Ireland have always had a strong trade union movement, perhaps too strong in that they refused to budge in the face of modern production methods. Computerised type setting came in suddenly, and left the whole hierarchy of letterpress type setters, compositors etc. irrelevantly aside. This happened for instance in the North, where the Morton Newspaper Group Ltd., changed to the modern system, bought out, and forced the closure of their rivals.

Here in the South, only four provincial papers have made the transition, in Cavan, Galway, Portlaoise, and in Kerry.

Grants

Some years ago, a Government Report here, spelled the death for many country printing firms. It said that the industry was too heavy, with too many plants. This resulted in the I.D.A. adopting a policy whereby they do not give grants for new printing works, (unless the system is entirely new to the country). The Industrial Credit Company Ltd. do consider giving loans, but, as the result of the modernisation is less, rather than more jobs, these loans are not granted with enthusiasm.

All this provincial printers have come to accept. What they cannot accept is being blatantly ignored by semi-State bodies, who do not bother to have their publications put out to tender. This has resulted in the Mount Salus Press Ltd., of Sandymount in Dublin for instance, getting a monopoly of this work.

Monopolies

Bord Failte, for instance, publish an expensive bi-monthly, 'Ireland of the Welcomes'. This has been published by the one printer for years (not Mount Salus Ltd.) and the job is never given for quotation. This printing job would particularly suit a country firm in that there is no news, and the deadline could easily be reached.

Another example is the Irish Management Institute, who



Small country firms cannot raise the capital to turn over to modern methods.

give most of their work to Mount Salus Press Ltd. The Management Institute recently announced that they were shortly starting a business weekly. No quotations were asked for, and presumably this work is to be handed out to Mount Salus Ltd., or one of the other large monopolies in Dublin. The Management Institute and Bord Failte are not alone

in giving out their printing to either Mount Salus Ltd., or the giant Jefferson Smurfit Ltd., or one of its subsidiaries. Almost every semi-State body does the same. The Agricultural Institute being another example.

Service

Mount Salus Ltd. for their part give a good service, and

run their machines 24 hours per day, to do this. That they are more expensive than most Dublin, and very much more expensive than country printers, does not worry semi-State bodies, who after all are free to toss around the taxpayers' money with little answering to anyone.

The I.D.A. are very sore on the question of backing new printing ventures, if they are

approached about some entirely new process. After extensively backing the Irish University Press Ltd., for their Shannon venture, Irish University Press Ltd., sold the works after six years, and let the staff go.

I.D.A.

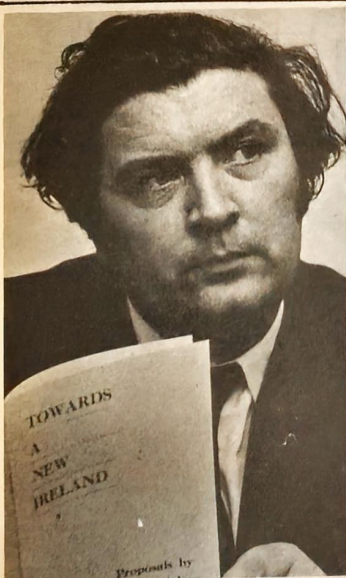
But Irish University Press Ltd., did not fold as a firm. Instead they bought extensive premises in Merrion Square in Dublin, and now have premises in New York and London, so that many see them as a property, as well as a publishing firm. Unfortunately country printers are still paying for this fast move, and unless something is done soon to change the

I.D.A.'s policy on financing the small printer, and the breaking of the racket run by the semi-State bodies, many country firms are likely to close, with consequent loss of jobs.

It is important that semi-State bodies by virtue of their position in the community and in the economy should be above criticism.

Target

It is all too easy for them to become the target of those who would wish to see them replaced by private enterprise. While in the main the movement of industry should be the other way.



John Hume, visiting the United States to sell the idea of the new consensus to American big business, is pointing out the rosy side of life in Northern Ireland.

All will welcome the advent of more jobs to the Six Counties, but side by side with the influx of American dollars is the whole question of when the new Assembly will begin to plug the leaks in the economy.

Grants to fly by night firms have caused more harm to the economy than jobs produced.

Anger has been growing for some months among workers in the Ballyfermot plant of Coppercraft Ltd. at the working conditions under which they are expected to operate.

Complaints range from dirty surroundings, unprotected machinery and scanty toilet facilities to the presence of rats in the room which serves as a canteen.

What gives an added rub to the wound is employees' allegations that training provided for apprentice copper craftsmen, a five year course, is so inadequate that qualifications are not recognised when youngsters, having finished their time, seek a job elsewhere.

The company, which is located on the industrial estate at Kylemore Park, specialises in producing copper cylinders and storage

boilers. The work is dirty and, in the light of a reported accident rate of about one mishap per month, dangerous.

Workers in one process, which involves the use of acid in cleaning finished cylinders, are provided with gloves and glasses but no overalls.

Only strong representation from employees increased the number of protective glasses provided from the original

situation of one pair for 18 people.

The factory operates on industrial gas which gives rise to very uncomfortable fumes

The threat of injury also arises from unprotected machinery which has claimed many victims to date. In the case of one employee, who was taken to hospital on a number of occasions, there was no compensation for his injuries.

Complaints such as these give rise to serious doubts as to the efficacy of the 1955 Factories Act which purports to regulate working conditions in industrial premises.

Equally serious are the allegations made in relation to the training provided for apprentices. Trainee craftsmen feel that obstacles are

being placed in the way of their attendance at Technical School. Of a total of eleven apprentices, only three are reported to be attending Technical schools. The issue came to a head last March when four dissatisfied apprentices, who were not unionised, threatened to walk out over the situation. Two were sacked.

The hope of learning a trade is often a temptation to young apprentices to endure less than pleasant working conditions in expectation of a good job elsewhere when qualified.

The NUS Executive was instructed to arrange a meeting with the British Secretary of State to inform him of the new Students' policy.

Dirty work in

Coppercraft

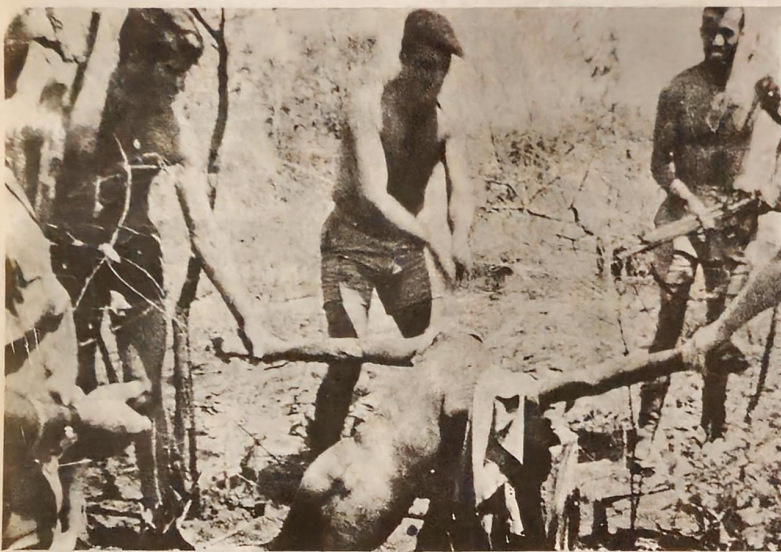
RESOLUTION ON BRITISH POLICY

For the first time in its fifty years of existence the National Union of Students at its annual conference at Liverpool had a stall representing the Federation of Conservative Students.

Also represented for the first time were Republican Club students from the six counties. They manned a stall selling books and pamphlets and met with a very positive response.

An emergency motion was put to the conference concerning aspects of British policy in Ireland. The resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority, demanding the ending of Internment and the withdrawal of British troops to barracks pending their complete withdrawal.

The NUS Executive was instructed to arrange a meeting with the British Secretary of State to inform him of the new Students' policy.



● Portugal's Colonial policy in action.

Sporting Ireland forgets Chile dead

Sporting life in Chile has suffered heavily from the fascist take-over last year. Many soccer teams have been decimated as their players were sacked, on the orders of the junta, because of their political opinions.

According to Anthonio Hernandez, who has been in exile since the coup which killed President Allende took place, even the country's school for sports teachers has been closed down as political purges reach into the sports arena.

Repression is already commonplace in academic circles and the student population of the country has been drastically cut. Over 30,000 students, out of a nationwide total of 100,000, were expelled because of progressive or leftwing leanings while thousands more were deprived of basic academic qualifications making them ineligible to continue university courses.

Mr. Hernandez was speaking at a press conference organised by the Union of Students in Ireland who have been prominent in their opposition to the proposed visit of the Irish soccer team to play in Chile.

Santiago stadium, where the Irish team is scheduled to play, has come to symbolise the brutality of the Chilean regime. After the coup it was used as a make-shift prison and witnessed the torture and execution of hundreds of political opponents of General Pinochet, the strong-man of the junta.

In the words of Pat Brady, President of U.S.I., the Irish team will be playing in a stadium where there are skeletons in the dressing rooms.

PORTUGAL'S COLONIAL POLICY

OUR GUILTY CONSCIENCE

Irish condemnation of Portuguese activities in Africa appears hypocritical once the record is examined in detail. We have preliminary diplomatic relations with Portugal, we trade with her, and even permit Irish personnel to work in the colonies. This happens despite our "condemnation" of Portuguese colonialism in the U.N.

In December 1960, Ireland voted in favour of the "Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", which was mainly directed at the African states still under European control.

Despite the UN resolution, Portugal did not begin de-colonising. Six months later war broke out in Angola, followed by Guinea in 1962. The Portuguese army was extended until it was over 150,000 strong, but the fighting has continued into this decade.

By 1965 (just after Mozambique revolted), the UN had passed a number of censure motions on Portugal for her refusal to comply with world opinion. Ireland consistently voted against the Portuguese African policy. However in 1965, the Afro-Asian block at the UN sponsored a resolution, calling for among other things, the rupture of diplomatic relations, and an international arms and trade boycott of Portugal. This was passed by 66 to 26, with 15 abstentions. Ireland voted against this resolution, excusing herself on a technicality. Observers of African affairs have noted that when the moment of truth arrived, very few Western countries were willing to follow words up with actions, even though they would not have been seriously affected by them.

It seems paradoxical that Ireland should not support a trade boycott, because our balance of trade is not in our favour.

We imported in 1972 about £3.9m worth of goods from Portugal while our exports were worth only £700,000. Even our trade with Angola and Mozambique is against us. We imported goods from the two countries worth

BY PAUL HAMMON

approximately £700,000, while our exports totalled only £45,000 for 1972.

There is one note of warning in these trade figures, for in 1972, our exports to Portugal included telecommunications equipment, which included telemetering devices and carrier frequency equipment. These are often component elements in more sophisticated radio equipment which can be used for military purposes. It is therefore conceivable that Irish manufactured goods are used in military operations in the Portuguese territories. If they are used (the Irish manufacturing companies have no guarantee that they are not), then this country would be in direct contravention of a UN "arms" embargo. The very fact that we continue to trade with Portugal places us against the majority opinion in the General Assembly.

All this adds up to the fact that we are aiding the Portuguese effort in Africa. The Portuguese settlement of the African states continues despite the fighting. The European population of the Portuguese territories does not exceed 400,000. When this is split between the various countries — Angola (200,000), Guinea (2,000), Mozambique (130,000) — it represents between 3% and 5% of the total population of these countries. Some 12,000 Portuguese settlers are "planted" every year, while the native tribes are forced to flee in increasing numbers. In Guinea alone, some 50,000 natives sought refuge in neighbouring countries in the first years of the war.

If we claim to support the Rights of small nations, we can not continue our present policy. All trade and assistance must be stopped if we are to live up to our claims made in the United Nations. Portuguese activities in Africa are blatant examples of modern colonialism, and if we do not act positively against Portugal, she will continue to ignore world opinion.



● General Augusto Pinochet: heads new military regime in Chile.

An 'Irish People' correspondent has been investigating working conditions at Belfast docks with men who are dissatisfied with conditions and pay.

Since decasualisation, dockers' guaranteed take home pay is £22.50. To earn even this amount they must report to potential employers for the full five days. An active trade unionist claims that this is ridiculously low and that an acceptable pay packet will have to be in the region of £40. As the cost of living soars and Belfast is experiencing the same problems as the rest of Ireland in this respect, frustration at the docks is mounting. As one docker put it, "Where other

industrial workers are going home on Friday we are going in for the weekend. This is the sort of practice which must cease. There should be no weekend work until we get a decent wage from Monday to Friday, and that should be based on a 35 hour week."

The crux of the matter is that the employers are making the men work a seven day week for a five-day week wage.

Belfast dockers are worse off than their counterparts in Dublin. Both

are paid by the tonnage. Belfast gets £5.40 per 150 tons and Dublin £6.80 per 90 tons. As one docker said, a ton must weigh more in Dublin than here.

Under these circumstances the Belfast dockers are being forced to work harder for less money. 'Heaves' which formerly consisted of 8 bags, one hundred weight and a half each, now have increased to between 12 and 15 bags. A practice which is dangerous and increases the employers' profits, leaving the men also in a worse bargaining position.

The Dublin package deal is being studied closely in the North and although understandably Dublin dockers are not happy about their conditions, they would represent a significant change for Belfast.

Working conditions are also a matter of serious concern. Dockers feel that there is no reason why they should not have the same facilities as any other heavy industry. There should be showers, protective clothing and lockers. The only recent advance has been the erection of a canteen. As yet diners are not available and the question of prices will have to be decided by a joint canteen-docker committee.

A major grievance felt by the Belfast dockers is the manner in which the Disciplinary Committee works. Only dockers can appear in front of the five man group to answer accusations, employers are not subject to the body.

Most men appreciate the need for some form of disciplinary body but are irritated that men can be suspended from work while they are compelled to put in an appearance seven days a week in order to earn a living wage.

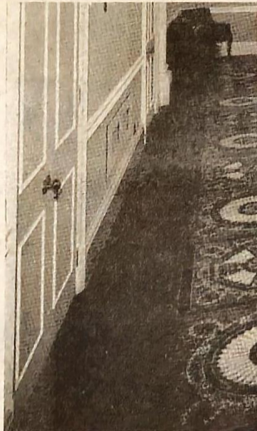
They would like to see an end to this system until there is a five day week and the employers brought under some form of control which would establish their responsibility to the men they hire.

'A TON MUST WEIGH MORE IN DUBLIN'



● Dockers' working conditions are dangerous.

Youghal Carpets bag profits



IN 1973 the 3,800 people employed by the Youghal Carpets (Holdings) group produced a profit for the company of £3.6 million pre tax.

This compares with a pre tax profit figure of £2.79 million in 1972 and represents an increase of 63.7 per cent. As a result of their efforts, the employees received £6.22m in salaries, wages and other remunerations from the company out of total turnover for the year of £24.5 million, which rose by 27.9 per cent over the 1972 levels.

However, the workers in Youghal cannot expect to get any great increase in wages because they are parties to the National Wage Agreement. On the other hand, the shareholders in the group will receive a payment of 50 per cent on the ordinary share capital as against 33 and one-third per cent in 1972.

Of the present board of directors, the biggest shareholder is Mr. Brian L. J. O'Brien the chairman who has a beneficial interest of 346,803 shares.

With earnings per share of 20.2p for 1973, this means that Mr. O'Brien made about 169,361 from his shares in addition to his fee as chairman of £1,584.

Another director received emoluments of £14,401 while two directors received between £10,000 and £15,000 from the company.

Clearly, any expansion in the number of directors such as is proposed at the A.G.M. will add to the burden of the profits produced by the ordinary workers at Youghal.

Not that Youghal Carpets (Holdings) is confined to the Youghal operation alone. In fact, under the umbrella of the holding company are included Navan Carpets Ltd., Youghal Carpets (Yarna) Ltd., Belvedere Carpets Ltd., Belvedere Carpets (Exports) Ltd. and Tivoli Spinners Ltd.

In addition, Youghal has extensive interests in the United Kingdom where it owns the Gloucester Carpet Company, Woolloft Ltd., Wilton Royal Carpets Ltd. and has recently acquired Frank Stone (Kidderminster) Ltd.

Youghal is currently looking for new markets, having in recent years concentrated its efforts in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The group is actively looking for new outlets in Europe and is likely to purchase plant and marketing facilities on the Continent in the near future.

Not surprisingly, then, foreign shareholding in the group is rising and currently 27.7% of the shareholders are non-Irish residents. Youghal is one of the companies that is undoubtedly attracting attention from speculators on the London stock markets.

The fact that the group has increased its pre tax profits from £122,000 in 1964 to £3.6 million last year indicates that it is a group that is a growing concern. Yet while the shareholders can expect to enjoy even higher dividends in the future, the people who actually create the profits, the shop floor workers, will remain tied down by the restraints of the National Wage Agreements. It is a situation that they can easily remedy the next time round.

It's enough to drive you to drink

THE ARREST of a member of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association by a Para on the Crumlin Road last week simply because he was wearing the badge of the Association has provoked no response from the leaders of the organisation.

Apparently the soldier accused the man of being a member of an illegal sectarian organisation, bundled him into a sarcenet and attempted to have him charged at Tennant Street.

The man was released after some hours when it was established that there were no grounds for believing that the Pioneers were a subversive movement. At least in the opinion of the British Army.

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PRIESTS DE-STOCKED

The decision of the Roman Catholic Church, in Co. Mayo in the Great Southern Hotel, which constitutes the greatest part of Mayo, to develop the Church as a people's church was welcomed by the twelve people concerned.

The meeting was described as a stock-taking exercise. It is not as yet clear who took the stock but Gardai are reported to be searching the premises of local publicans to establish the amount of wine in their cellars.

A significant statement on the role of the priest in preparing couples for mixed marriages was not further explained. Observers conclude that the Church now recognises that in most cases marriage takes place between men and women. At the same time this is not to be taken as a general acceptance of mixed marriages by the universal Church.

In a secret minority report of 4,529 90 year old parish priests leaked by the Vatican Propaganda Offices, exclusively to the Irish People there is criticism of the more liberal trend demonstrated by the Irish Roman Catholic Church.

Father Mac an tSagairt somewhat shamefacedly said that his family had been reproducing priests for generations.

On the other hand as spokesman for the minority report, he felt that marriage, mixed or otherwise was a matter which could only be arranged satisfactorily through joint negotiations between bishops, priests, theologians, Cardinals, popes, nuns and the Ministry of Defence.

Asked to explain the inclusion of the Ministry of Defence Father Mac an tSagairt stated that marriage was not all a bed or a sofa for that matter. Mr. Donegan he was certain could demonstrate how best the institution of marriage could be defended.

He cited Mr. Donegan's lessons to the travelling people as a classic example of defence.

As the conference broke up it was realised that members of the CIA recently deported from Rome where they had captured two orphanages and a convent were locked in the bar.

Local people claim that most of the conference had been 'locked' throughout the weekend. It is generally accepted in rational circles that this is the reason for the majority report.



The invisible man

It wasn't Lent but he was denying everything, said Mr. Brian Lenihan when interviewed by Belgian police on his way to a meeting of the E.E.C. Parliament.

Of course he did not know his name had been entered on the attendance register without his knowledge. He admitted in cross-questioning that this had only happened on one previous occasion in his lifetime — after he was born.

"No, definitely not", he replied when reminded that the Irish Comptroller and Auditor General had been in dispute with his Department when he was Minister for Justice over an item of expense which he refused to reveal. "No problem, no problem at all" he replied. "Simply a case of Mr. Suttie being too subtle for the good of the general public. We agreed it would never happen again. He got his ruling and I got my way. No problem at all."

Late last night Mr. Lenihan issued a statement. Re-issued this morning the statement calls on the President of the E.E.C. Parliament to investigate who would be so foolish as to forge his name on the register when the only possible beneficiary could be Brian Lenihan. "Either he's a split personality or he's got a double" commented the doorkeeper at the E.E.C. Commission building.

Mr. Lenihan issued another statement late last night. The contents of the statement are believed to be a denial of any complicity in the signing-on scandal but as the statement is embargoed until tomorrow night nothing definite is known.

Privately Mr. Lenihan is known to be bitter at the publicity surrounding the signing. Friends were pointing out that no one signed out while he was Minister for Justice . . . not even for 12s.

● Lenihan: a split personality — bitter at Justice publicity.

Workers in many Irish industries are daily facing the danger of serious injury, permanent damage to their health and even death.

Hidden hazards are not posed by unprotected or faulty machinery.

A far bigger boost to the industrial accident figures can come from seemingly innocent chemicals which prove deadly unless treated with the utmost respect: chemicals such as Xylene, Chloroform, Petroleum Spirit, Methanol, Ethyl Acetate, Nitro Propane, Carbon Tetrachloride, Monochlorobenzene, and so on.

Exotically named, many are better known by their trade names.

All are used in the manufacture of solvents for dry cleaning, printing inks and adhesives.

All can cause, over a period of time, irreparable damage to eyes, lungs, liver and kidneys.

Many can kill. Absorption can occur by inhalation, through the mouth or directly into the body's system through the skin.

Many solvents are used in dry cleaning to break down fats, oils and other dirty substances. Whatever about cleaning the body they can have exactly the same effect on human skin as on a dirty coat. Outer layers of fat are stripped away leaving the inner skin exposed to infection by micro-organisms and to acute skin disease. In some cases the body reacts as to an allergy and the result is dermatitis.

The action of such solvents can be lessened by providing generally clean and antiseptic working conditions and by limiting the time of contact with the substance. All should be kept away from heat. Not always an easy job in a busy

factory or bustling dry cleaning shop.

The effects of prolonged exposure to some chemical substances can cause minor irritation to eyes and little more than annoying headaches.

Or so it seems.

In the case of Trichlorethylene for instance, used in dry cleaning, although liver injury has not yet been definitely established as a side effect, signs of poisoning may not appear for years.

While a moderate dose of this mixture only causes an effect akin to inebriation getting drunk on the cheap can prove costly in the long run as many deaths have been reported.

Tetrachlorethane is an entirely different kettle of fish. It is a solvent for fats, oils and resins and also used in the manufacture of paints, varnish and rust remover. Although similar in name, knowing the difference can be worth a life, as it is regarded as the most

System poisons workers

BY PEIGIN DOYLE

dangerous and acutely poisonous of all common chlorinated hydrocarbon substances.

The maximum acceptable exposure to this killer is 10 parts per million but half an hour's exposure to the atmosphere can induce this danger level and after that jaundice, toxæmia, nausea, fatigue and damage to internal organs, especially the liver, can result. Eye damage is also likely to occur.

Not something to be sniffed in search of a quick 'trip'!

Ethyl Acetate is often used as a nail varnish remover.

If it can strip varnish from a fingernail the effects on the body's internal organs can well be imagined. It seems harmless but only seems. After all, you can't paint another coat of lining onto your lungs.

Chloroform is another familiar, apparently innocent

liquid. Long accepted as an essential part of dentists' equipment it often featured in early comic films as laughing gas. But a single dose, when administered to the hapless patient, could often bring the house down in the front stalls but the expression 'to die laughing' would be a far more apt comment on the effects of this chemical.

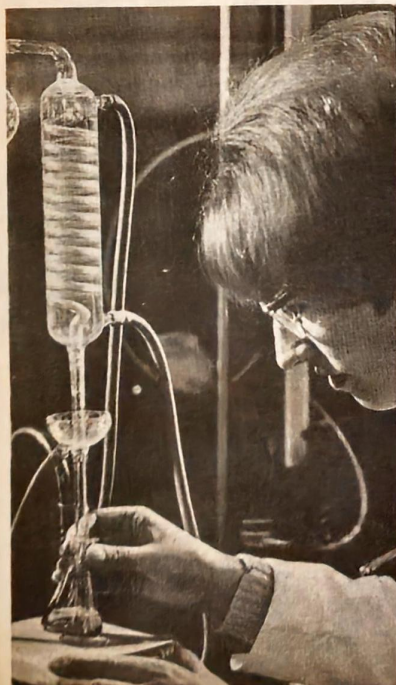
The list goes on. Not all the names can be pronounced easily but their effect is a five letter word: death.

How many people taking jobs in these industries are warned of the dangers involved in their work with chemicals?

How many are provided with completely protective clothing when handling dangerous substances?

How many more become over-confident in time and disregarding all warnings create potential death-traps of their workplaces?

Any is too many when human lives are at stake.



● A potential death trap.