



# THE STARRY PLOUGH

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Derry's Own Republican Newspaper

## THE COLLABORATORS

### TORIES ORGANISE TO SMASH WORKER'S RESISTANCE TO E.E.C.

THE BATTLE LINES are drawn. The Tory elements in English and Irish politics are preparing for the final offensive on all of those groups which they regard as a threat to their plans for consolidating and increasing their profits within the Common Market. They cloud the real reasons for introducing their latest pieces of repressive legislation by claiming that these laws are aimed at restoring "law and order" and isolating the "terrorists." Workers will not be fooled for very long by this deceit. After all, was it not Lynch and his government who were responsible for creating the Provos; a fact openly admitted by Neil Blaney in the Dail on Friday last. The Offences Against the State (Amendment) Bill is not only aimed at the Provos, but at any organisation or individuals who represent a threat to Lynch's future plans for the Irish people.

Nor is Lynch working in isolation. At his recent London meeting with Heath he was given a preview of the British Tories' plans for the North. Lynch liked the plans and, since he and Heath have been ordered by the other Common Market countries to bring stability to the Six Counties as soon as possible, he decided to co-operate. They then decided that the best thing Lynch could do would be to stifle all militants in the 26 Counties. It is necessary that these militants be gagged before entry into the Common Market leads to higher prices, freedom of wages and higher unemployment, since these are the groups who could organise the people to resist economic and political repression.

#### CENSORSHIP

In his desire to stifle all opposition, Lynch has gone to the extent of tampering with the freedom of the Press and the mass media in general. He showed how ruthless he, and his right-hand man, O'Malley, could be when he sacked the R.T.E. Board because it refused to broadcast "doctored" news, and again, when Kevin O'Kelly, the R.T.E. journalist, was jailed for his refusal to break a confidence. This is the man who claims to be protecting "democracy" and the interests of the workers. This is the man who called for Civil Rights in the North.

This is the man who took a case against Britain at the European Court of Human Rights (because it was opportune at the time) and who now flaunts the same conventions himself. This man and his government are suppressing the workers in preparation for the final sell-out within the Common Market. Workers must recognise the tactics that Lynch is using, reject these and organise to fight against any assaults on their wages or conditions. The only way to improve the conditions of the working class is to smash Lynch and his Tory cronies in the South.

The recent Dublin explosions came at such a convenient time, when a Parliamentary defeat for Lynch that would have disrupted Britain's plans seemed imminent, that one begins to wonder. Reports of the involvement of men with English accents lend weight to allegations that the bombings were the work of British S.A.S. This is exactly the type of operation that they are employed to carry out.

#### FEDERAL SOLUTION

Heath knows that the future interests of British Imperialism will best be served in the context of a United Ireland (Britain has a great deal more investment in the South than she has in the North) and so he is preparing the way for the sell-out of the Protestant workers with the help of Lynch and

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Lynch's troops in action at the Curragh

### IS RACHMANISM STILL WITH US?

If we cast our minds back to the first Civil Rights March, we remember that one of the very big issues at the time was the chronic housing situation in this city. Practically every young couple who got married were destined to be a victim of the Rackmans. The rents were exorbitant while conditions were miserable. It was not uncommon to find a young family of four or five living in a one bedroom hovel, the children with very poor health and the father generally unemployed. But, still the so-called Christian landlord demanded his £5 or £6 rent. This situation went on unchecked for years until the Derry Housing Action Committee, Republicans and other groups got together and decided that it must stop. We can all remember some of the protests carried out by these groups, the Guildhall sit-in, the caravan blocking the Lecky Road to name but two.

Due to continuous agitation at that time, one notorious RACKMAN landlord in particular was forced to carry out so many repairs to his property that he had to sell his own private bungalow and move into the rat infested property in which he had expected young families to live. Due to this agitation the Corporation at that time was forced to house all

the young families concerned. Every street had its share of flats, couples were prepared to pay £5 and £6 for a damp room or else live with their in-laws, who themselves usually lived in vastly overcrowded conditions.

Make no mistake about it, young babies died of T.B. and other diseases, due to the awful conditions their parents were forced to live in. Nobody cared, and to hear a voice speak out against it was uncommon. Every Sunday young families went off to church to worship and in all probability their "Christian" landlord was also there at the altar rails. Was there ever a sermon condemning these hypocrites. Nobody ever said about the RACKMANS "that hell was not hot enough or eternally long

enough" for them. No, these comments were reserved for the Republicans who fought against all injustices. To those people who think that the days of squalid housing conditions are over, we suggest that they take a stroll down Clarendon Street or St. James Street sometime. They will have their eyes opened.

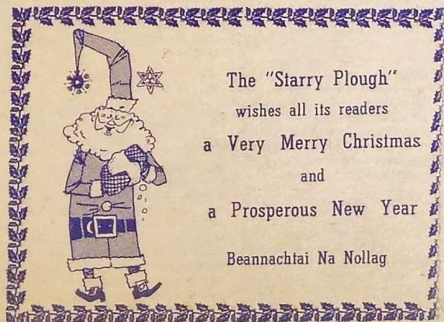
In one case an old lady has to face this winter without a sink in her little room; just a cold water tap sticking out of the wall. The room is cold, damp and miserable. This is Derry 1972. The RACKMANS are still with us. We intend in the coming months to expose these scum and we won't give up until they are gone forever.

There is, however, one bright spot. Since the struggle began in 1968, the number of flats in this city has been cut by half. The success of this campaign was due to the involvement of the people in the struggle. There is no power on earth which can halt a risen people.

We in the Republican Movement will be continuing our campaign against the RACKMANS of this city and indeed, against exploitation in all of its ugly shapes. If the people support these struggles then we cannot fail.



The result of actions by the S.A.S. in Dublin? Liberty Hall after the recent explosions.



The "Starry Plough"  
wishes all its readers  
a Very Merry Christmas  
and  
a Prosperous New Year  
  
Beannachtai Na Nollag





## HARASS THE ARMY

OVER THE PAST few months the level of British army harassment has increased sharply. (In other articles we examine the reason for this new approach). Many recent Press reports of house searches, unwarranted arrests, intimidation of people after dark, and brutal assaults on women, bear witness to this. Many more frightening cases never made the headlines.

We appeal to the people, not to lie down under this pressure, but to retaliate in the most effective way they know, by mass peaceful protest. This tactic has proved successful in the past. The British army are not trained to control thousands of protesting people who only show passive resistance. The British Government can ill-afford another Bloody Sunday. You can also play the British army at their own game, by ensuring that each time a soldier walks down your street or sits in your garden that he does so in fear. Light up your front door after dusk. Let these soldiers discover for themselves the terror that we now feel as we walk our own streets after dark. When they have experienced this fear, as they undoubtedly will, perhaps they will then think twice before they intimidate, or threaten or beat our people.

During the past year the risen people of Derry have shown great courage in their determination not to be brow beaten into submission by the terror tactics of the British army. We congratulate them on their stand and we ask them to keep up their courage and to prepare to continue the struggle in 1973.

We hope that the New Year will see an end to all violence and sectarianism and that once again we will return to a situation where the mass of the people confront the British Army on the streets. We must return to the streets to demand houses, jobs, decent wages and the chance to lead a life free from repression and intimidation. Action and demands such as these will confuse many working-class soldiers and may lead them to re-examine their role in this country.

Only an organised working-class can bring this struggle to a successful conclusion by taking the first step towards establishing a Socialist Workers' Republic in Ireland. This is the only solution that is in the interests of workers. We hope that 1973 will see serious efforts being made to organise the workers towards achieving this goal.

In the meantime we must all try to enjoy ourselves as best we can, though many of us can barely afford it. The "Starry Plough" wishes all of its readers a very happy Christmas and we hope that you will join us in the struggle in 1973.

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the more "enlightened" Unionists such as Bradford and Bailey, who see that to maintain high profits and power they must fall in line with Heath's plans. These elements recognise that their futures with a United Ireland on a Federal solution, in which they will have peace and freedom to exploit the workers and increase profits, in co-operation with their southern allies.

Now that Lynch has taken the first steps to stifle militants in the South, Heath, for his part will now take steps to suppress militants in the North. In the coming months, he will direct his troops mainly against the U.D.A. and U.V.F. since they will begin to be a threat to stability in the North. In recent months the British Army has dropped its softly, softly tactics in Catholic areas and has increased its harassment of the people. This is not purely coincidental, nor is one particular regiment responsible for this. They are acting on the orders of Whitelaw and Heath.

This repression of Protestant and Catholic alike is designed so that when the final crunch comes and Whitelaw produces his White Paper early in the New Year, both communities will be so fed up with violence, and frightened by the British Army terror tactics that they will be prepared to accept anything without a fight. It will then be a simple matter to mop up any militants who are not prepared to toe the line.

### MORE REPRESSION

The S.D.L.P. for its part, afraid that it might be left out of the final negotiations, has now taken the final step, in the sell-out of the people's struggle. It has decided to negotiate before interment has ended, and indeed, while there are sure signs that we are about to

have further repressive measures on the statute books, in the form of Special Courts and whatever recommendations the Diplock Commission may make. Of course, we never really expected anything else from Fitt, Hume and Co. Gerry has been trying to tunnel his way into Whitelaw's office for the past eight months.

They hope to win the support of the "minority" by pointing to the steps that Whitelaw takes against Protestant militants. The S.D.L.P. has, for a long time, been calling for the suppression of Protestant workers. Its wish is about to be granted! Another part of the agreement, no doubt!

Of one thing we are sure; further repression of workers, whether they are Protestant, Catholic or Dissenter presents no solution either long term or short term for the "problems" of this country. They are not solutions because the "problems" of this country are the middle-class Tory politicians, North and South, who are preparing the final push into the Common Market, the millionaires' club. Then Protestant and Catholic workers, North and South, will have the doubtful equal privilege of being exploited by foreign investors.

### REAL ISSUES

The only people who can solve the problems of this country are the workers, who must come together to start the fight against repression in all its forms and regardless of its source. Now is the time to start a national campaign to freeze prices, increase wages, improve conditions and end unemployment. In the South unemployment has increased by over 2,000 in the past year and 1,200 textile workers are now in danger of losing their jobs. The story in the North is exactly the same, as can be witnessed by the number of factories closing and workers

COMRADES AND Fellow Workers, we are gathered here today to remember those men who died so tragically on this spot some years ago, but I would also ask you to recollect and reflect those who have died more recently, in particular members of the Republican Movement like Joe McCann, Tricia McKay, John Pat Mullen and Hugh Herron. Also all our comrades in English and Irish jails. At the same time I would ask you to think of the innocent dead who died at the hands of the Paras in the Derry massacre — it is without fear or anger that I say that we will not forget — and we would also ask you to think of those who died on the Shankill Road at the hands of the same Paras.

It is notable, it is tragic that the people who flocked from the South gangsters. It will also be to the little or no comment when two service for the Derry dead made benefit of the working-class everywhere. We are not saying turn to the citizens from the Shankill Road. SDLP or the Alliance Party as you



A U.D.A. march in Belfast. How long before Whitelaw moves against them?

two Irishmen, were shot down by British troops. But we in the Republican Movement take this opportunity to state that these were Irishmen and that therefore they are as dear to us as any other who died at the hands of foreign troops. We shall not forget them.

### ARCH ENEMIES

In saying that it is important that the people who are usually described as Loyalists should understand that this is no false position, that this is not a sentimental, pious statement from a political platform in the interests of capturing newspaper headlines. For we stand unequivocally and without any doubt on the basic Republican sentiment, that there is only one definition of Irishman, that as it was Tone's wish (it is our wish) that all whether Protestant, Catholic or dissenter should be known by the common name of Irishman.

Our concern, our interest is the welfare of the Irish people and we say to the rank and file of the UVF and the UDA can you really accept that Craig and Faulkner, arch enemies of the working-class, men sworn to smash all workers organisations, are sincerely and genuinely your allies? Is it not obvious that their interests are the interests of the ruling class and that they see the workers, no matter what religion, as tools to be exploited, people to be manipulated in order to maintain profits and wealth for the owners of the international and local capitalist companies. It is to your

being made redundant. In Derry itself many people have lost their jobs and many more shirt factory workers are finding themselves on a short working week, with a substantial drop in wages. These are the initial effects of the government's agreement, North and South, to enter the Common Market. Conditions will deteriorate much more in the coming months. These are the real issues affecting workers and they are being clouded by the Tories as they take us into the E.E.C. which

turn away from the traditional rogues who gambled about the lush pastures of Stormont, we ARE saying that the Republican Movement is the only party in which the working-class can really be assured that their interests and only their interests will be protected. For let it be understood that we are a workers' party, we are a party that stands for the rights of the working-class in opposition to all other classes and we do so without any regard to religion, to creed of any kind. In other words we are a secular, socialist party in the tradition of Tone and Connolly totally committed to the aspirations of the 1916 proclamation which claims the wealth of Ireland for the people of Ireland.

### REPUBLICAN PHILOSOPHY

At this time it is tragically regrettable that it is necessary to outline once again the true nature of the Republican philosophy because sadly for many it has become identified with terrorism or with Roman Catholicism or simply with violence and therefore we in the Republican tradition must make our position absolutely clear. We do so without rancour without bitterness but firmly resolved that the honourable, human historically creative tradition which inspired the leaders of the past will not perish in some blind militant anti-partitionism, or perish in the evil

represents their last line of defence for their profits. The capitalists recognised the need to come together to protect their interests and so they created the Common Market. Now is the time for all workers in Ireland to see the need to form a revolutionary organisation to fight in their own interests and to work to bring about the downfall of all Tories. We in the Republican Movement are involved in such a fight. We appeal to all workers to come and join us

interest of a latter day Fianna Failism.

We claim the entire wealth of this country, we claim the entire territory of this country, we claim a distinct (though dying) culture and we do so in the face of Anglo-American Imperialism and its immediate tool — the British army. But we reject, abhor and totally condemn the sort of campaign which through its blind reliance on the terrorist actions of a chosen few have brought us to the verge of a sectarian civil war. A civil war in which the only people to suffer would be the working class. To the rank and file of the



Provisionals we say, halt this rush to the U.D.A. and return to the Republican position.

### REJECT SECTARIANISM

The Republican position is perfectly clear. We fully support and will give every aid to the working class to defend itself from any and all attacks by the ruling class.

We must remember that the five who died at Edentubber and Mullen and Herron knew that the struggle was not a struggle simply to change the colour of the pillar boxes on the Shankill or the Falls Road. They knew that the struggle was about which class was to have power, which class was to control the wealth of this country, which class was to make the future of this country and they knew that there could only be one answer to these questions — the only class that never betrayed Ireland, the working-class.

Today let us re-affirm our Republicanism we reject sectarianism, we reject the Protestant vanguard of Mr. Craig and the Roman Catholic vanguard of Mr. Kennedy. We call on all Irish workers not in terms of their religion but as workers to let their voices be heard through the trade unions, tenants' associations, and all other workers' associations, to demand that everyone and every organisation which has the real interest of the working class at heart commit themselves to serious and determined opposition to the British Imperialist policy for Ireland.

**READ THE UNITED IRISHMAN**



# BARRICADE JOE REVIEWS 1972 THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

HELLO COMRADES, Barricade Joe here. Back again with some comments before the festive season. Christmas is almost on top of us again and many changes have taken place since last year, so instead of my usual rule of trying to interview some of the people around town, I have decided to recap on some of the events of the last twelve months.

The barricades were up this time last year and Free Derry was being run by the I.R.A. The atmosphere among the people of Creggan and Bogside was one of great comradeship. The Vigilantes, sitting at their fires all through the night, were a very familiar sight and many friendships were made at these night long sessions. The regular movement of I.R.A. patrol cars on a twenty-four hour basis all round the Free Derry area is a memory that will stay in many people's minds for long time.

I remember hearing at Christmas time last year how the Official I.R.A. played Santa Claus to the children of Creggan, when one of their units liberated a large quantity of sweets and chocolate and distributed them among the families of Creggan. I am told that they did the same with some shoes that came into their hands. Those Sticks do get up to some revolutionary acts—like latter day Robin Hoods, robbing the rich to help the poor. The Officials don't seem to have secured the popularity that Robin Hood did, maybe it's because they haven't the access to T.V. that Robin Hood has.

The hi-jacking of cars was a nightmare for motorists, yet it was only an inconvenience to the working class as I'm told that any working class cars taken were always handed back. The only people who suffered were big business people and, as a Socialist, I haven't much sympathy with them. I almost forgot to mention the reason for the barricades and the hi-jacked cars; it was to try and stop the British army from coming and taking away young Derrymen to the Concentration Camps of Long Kesh and the Maldstone. There was death behind the barricades too. The Official I.R.A. lost Vol. Gerry Doherty in a very unfortunate accident.

## Bloody Sunday

Bloody Sunday is Derry's most painful moment of last year. It was the blackest day for the British army since the first Bloody Sunday. Thirteen Derrymen gunned down by the paratroopers, the crack British army murder squad. It started as a peaceful Anti-Internment March supported by the vast majority of Derry people who were to be taught again, by our English Masters, that corpses lie down. Of course

the I.R.A. were blamed, but the people of Derry know the truth. So to those in Derry who at this festive time may have short memories, in your encounters with the British army this Christmas forget the love your enemies bit and remember Bloody Sunday. The world watched the funerals of the Bloody Sunday victims and the world was shocked, but we in the Republican Movement won't forget.

Easter came around and once again the Commemorations were the big thing. It seemed by the turn out of marching I.R.A. men that the whole male population of Derry were members of the I.R.A. The Provos and Officials were trying to out-do each other and were counting heads to see who could attract the biggest support. The Catholic ex-Servicemen, trying to be all things to all people, marched with the Provos and Officials, hoping for the gift of bi-location. Ireland's dead were remembered all the same. Saw big Eddie, can't recall seeing John. The shopkeepers in Waterloo Street reported a complete sell out of Black Berets.

Many young men who did not get caught in the Internment net still found themselves in jail because of their involvement in opposing Internment. Others who sought to help the struggle by different means, found themselves in Jack Lynch's Curragh Camp. Most of these men will be separated from their families for a long time. The people of Free Derry week after week unselfishly gave to the many collections taken up by the Republican Movement for the Dependents' Fund. Many internees who spent last Christmas behind the barbed wire of Long Kesh are out. Others like young Seamus "Chang" Coyle look forward with despair to spending this Christmas behind the barbed wire of Long Kesh.

## Motorman

The British army code name for the invasion of Creggan and Bogside. We all knew about it in advance. Willie Whitelaw even came on our T.V. screens to tell us to get off the streets and leave it to the I.R.A. and his storm troopers to fight it out. The IRA may be mad but they certainly are not stupid. So British tanks and guns rolled into the Free Derry area to re-establish the Queen's writ. Mr.

Paisley smiled with joy, the barricades came down, the hi-jacked cars were abandoned and the I.R.A. fled across the border. The now familiar British army harassment soon got started. Road blocks all over the city, people thrown against walls and searched and young men beaten up by British soldiers. Who needs enemies with saviours like these? By the way, just in case no one has noticed, Stormont was abolished sometime during the year.

John Hume arranged the Provo ceasefire, but John isn't God—he could not stop them breaking it. But God has strange ways, maybe he is God after all? (Ha, ha, ha).

As predicted by the Officials, the S.D.L.P. sold out the struggle and has now decided to talk to Whitelaw.

The most important thing for the people of Derry this year, was the appearance on the street, of the Official Republican Movement's own newspaper, "The Starry Plough"—the workers' paper. If 72 is to be remembered for any great event, it must be the birth of Barricade Joe. Ha, ha, ha.

## Wall Artists

After looking back on some of the events of last year, I would like to now take a jump back to 1920.

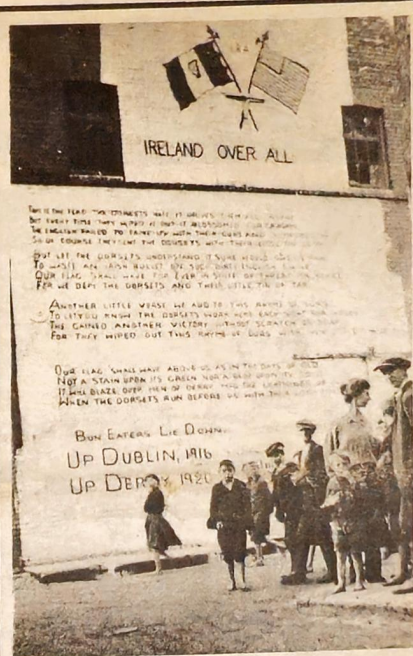
Since Motorman the wall artists of Creggan and Bogside have been plagued by what amounted to a war-like campaign carried out against them by the paint daubing regiment of the B.A. Some very artistic slogans and paintings were obliterated by the paint daubing soldiers in the stillness of the night. One very good one in particular was destroyed over at the Grotto at the Brandywell while other more humorous ones were wiped out all over the Bogside. Seemingly nothing that we have to suffer at present has not already been tried out on our forefathers.

In 1920 the notorious Dorset Regiment, who were stationed in Derry and whose name for brutality has only been surpassed by the now famous Paras, carried out the same type of war against the wall artists of 1920.

As our picture shows great effort was put into this particular wall painting and verse. This was painted on the wall of Watt's Distillery at corner of Frederick St. and Abbey St. where the Credit Union now stands. I think you will agree the present wall artists have a lot to learn from the men of 1920 who as the verse tells us were as defiant as any present Bogside. This picture will surely recall many memories to our older readers, and I wonder can any one recognise any of the people in the photo. I would be grateful if any of our older readers have any old photographs such as this or have any tales to tell about this period of Derry's history to contact me through the "Starry Plough."

Happy Christmas, Comrades.

*Barricade Joe*



## IRELAND OVER ALL

This is the flag the Dorsets hate, it drives them all insane. But every time they wiped it out, it blossomed forth again. The English failed to tame us with their guns and armoured cars. So of course they sent the Dorsets with their little tin of tar.

But let the Dorsets understand it sure would give us pain To waste an Irish bullet on such dirty English swine. Our flag shall wave forever in spite of threat or scare For we defy the Dorsets and their little tin of tar.

Another little verse we add to this rhyme of ours To let you know the Dorsets work here each night for hours. They gained another victory without scratch or scar For they wiped out this rhyme of ours with their little tin of tar.

Our flag shall wave above us as in the days of old, Not a stain upon its green nor a blot upon its gold. It will blaze over men of Derry mid the lightnings of war When the Dorsets run before us with their little tin of tar.

Bun Eaters Lie Down.

Up Dublin, 1916.  
Up Derry, 1920.

## AND STILL IT GOES ON

SINCE THE British army established themselves in the no-go areas, they have stepped up their harassment of the people. A lot of people still seem to think that the British army are here to keep the peace. We ask those people to consider the role of the British army in the area during the past few months.

The British army are the tools of the Tory Government and are here simply to keep the working people, Catholic and Protestant, in check. A lot of Nationalist-minded people still think of the army as being simply anti-Catholic. Recent events in Belfast only serve to show that the army are just as ready to attack the Protestant working class when the order is given. It only goes to show that the Tory Government are prepared to turn on any section of the working class who pose a threat to their existence.

The only way in which we can hope to break the sectarian barrier and to build a better society is to unite the Catholic and Protestant working classes in our common fight against the real enemies —

the Tories and the system they represent. We must stand together and fight on all of the issues which affect us all — high unemployment, low wages, bad housing and the high cost of living. Only then will we achieve a better society.

We must work for the unity of Catholic and Protestant, both north and south. We must also work for the overthrow of the British Tories in the North and the Green Tories in the South. We must demand the release of all internees; the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and an end to Special Courts, North and South.

Until these demands are met we must continue to agitate against our oppressors.



EASTER COMMEMORATION 1972



# THE EVENTS AND NO





# ON EVENTS OF 1972





# IRISH WOMEN'S LIBERATION

## OR WHO'S MINDING THE BABY!

ARTICLE 40 OF the Irish Constitution promises equal rights before the law to all citizens of the Republic of Ireland. But fifty-one per cent of the population are not accorded such rights. These are the women of Ireland. They are treated as inferior beings in law, in industry, in marriage, in religion, in politics, in education.

A profile of women at work proves the point. Women constitute one-third of all employees north and south. They earn only 54.9% of men's wages. A woman-hour in the Republic of Ireland is worth on average 27p. A man-hour is worth 49p. This scale degrades, cheapens and exploits a woman's work. It also militates against men — women by their cheap labour undercut the standards of men's wages. No one will hire a man if they can hire a woman at a cheaper rate. Take a look at Derry. 20% male unemployment, but plenty of work for girls — because they're cheaper. Men are hired under these conditions only if they provide a particular skill for which the women were denied training, or if it is a position of authority. And a group of women bearing the stigma of cheap labour will hardly be respected as being persons capable of positions requiring skills or authority. In the Republic, only 6% of administrative, executive and managerial workers are women. Only 12% of women at work are classified amongst the lower professions (teachers, nurses, etc.). Less than ONE PER CENT of women are classified amongst the higher professions, doctors, lawyers, etc.

### MARRIAGE BAR

It is significant to examine the areas in which women dominate. In domestic service almost ALL WORKERS are women. ALL TYPISTS are women. 83% of telephone operators are women; 77% of cafe, restaurant staff are

waitresses; 65% of cooks — though the chefs are men — are women; 58% of shop assistants and 53% of clerks are women. It is impossible to calculate for agriculture because there women seldom get paid at all.

The vast majority of working women are single. This is not by choice. In the South all State employment — Government offices, Telefís Éireann, etc. — operate a marriage bar against women — they are obliged to resign on marriage. Where the ban does not operate, as in private industry, it is difficult for married women to work because of heavy taxation on their half-pay, lack of nurseries, play-groups or creches. The argument is also introduced that married men deserve the highest pay, and a better chance for what work is available. (Everybody conveniently forgets the single man, who also gets favoured treatment.)

This argument falls down in face of the fact that 20% of working women are married, widowed or deserted wives — they also support families. They still receive only half-pay. It should be pointed out that male-dominated trade unions are not exactly killing themselves in the fight to get their sister-workers equal pay for work of equal value. The British TUC first passed the resolution to fight for this in 1888. Promises, promises. . .

### BABY MINDERS

Women workers are conditioned to slavery in the

### VICIOUS CIRCLE

And yet girls continuously do better at secondary school than

very beginning — at school. The early education of girls ensures that they never think of breaking into a male enclave, but regard their real career as wife and mother. Any outside job is regarded as a stop-gap between school, marriage and babies. Little girls are given dolls to play with, or cookery sets, just like mammy's. Little boys are given cars or carpentry sets, or aeroplanes, just like daddy's. At school girls are taught domestic science, and needlework. Little boys are taught science. As she grows up a girl learns to make a bed, clean a room, sew on buttons, wash up and cook — usually for her brothers, who wait to be served and have no idea how to do these things. The concept of girls in a service role to men is drummed into her. In a large family, girls, not boys, become baby-minders.

boys. Why then do more boys go on to University, or learn trades? Because, your daddy will tell you, he will have a better chance of a job when he finishes — after all most career jobs are not open to women — and because he will earn more pay to give into the home. And anyway isn't the girl going to get married? The vicious circle has begun. Given the choice between a rotten job at half pay with no prospect of promotion, and coming home to wait then on the male members of her family, a girl chooses marriage — visions of her own house, and a man earning lots of money to keep her and she making all the decisions affecting her own life as wife and mother.

Does it work out like this? NO. A married woman in Ireland has no real identity or existence in her own right. She is regarded in law as the chattel of her husband. First of all she gives up even her own name. Then she discovers the following:

Her domicile (place of residence) is automatically her husband's. That is to say, if he happens to be in America, she is, legally speaking, also in America, though she might be living in Creggan, Derry, or Ballyfermot, Dublin. She has to ask her husband's permission for all kinds of things — pledging any credit, putting her children on her passport; in certain cases if she needs to have a gynecological operation.

The slavery of Irishwomen north and south is not merely the fault of capitalism, or the Lynch-law, or repression by religion of whatever shade. The slavery is actively supported by all political parties and movements; and by men who never joined a party in their lives. In the next issue of the Starry Plough, we will examine the attitude of Irishmen to Irishwomen, quoting extensively from published documents. This article will be entitled, "Know your enemy — sexist quotes from male literature."



This picture shows a small "bugging" device which was found attached to a shed in Leenan Gardens shortly after a British army patrol had passed through the back yards. This is the new low to which the British Army has sunk. Be careful what you say. You never know who may be listening!

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MICHAEL HARKINS?

JOSEPH MICHAEL HARKINS, aged 22, ex-Private, 1st Battalion Queen's Lancashire Regiment, stationed in Flax Street Barracks, Belfast, deserted in disgust at the Bloody Sunday massacre of 13 innocent civilians in Derry. He was arrested about 6 weeks later in Rock Ferry, Cheshire, court-martialled and sentenced to 5 years.

His mother, an old age pensioner, has not seen or heard of him since. Appeals to both the British Army and the local M.P., Harold Wilson, have failed to reveal her son's whereabouts.

Since her son's court-martial Mrs. Harkins has been subject to harassment and intimidation by local thugs.

About a week ago, some days after the letter to Harold Wilson, Special Branch officers visited her at her home and told her that she would be informed of Michael's whereabouts, " . . . but it would be some time before she heard." This is the only response made to the desperate appeals made by Mrs. Harkins, who fears she may not see her son again before she dies.

It is over 6 months since Michael was arrested; the Republican Movement will spare no efforts to trace him and stop this cruel vindictiveness of the British military and security machine.



# Finn MacCOOL and the Fianna

The Fianna were great warriors noted for their strength, bravery and leadership ability. This gallant band, under their own leader, were bound by strict rules of chivalry and were sworn to fight for the High King of Ireland against any foreign foes who might invade the country. Finn MacCool was the greatest leader the Fianna ever had, for as well as being a brave warrior, he was a wise and just man, and under him the Fianna rose to its highest fame. Finn's father, Cool, had been the head of the Fianna too, but in his day a rival clan, the Clan Morra, wishing to get the headship for one of their own family, rose in revolt against Cool, and after fighting a bloody battle slew and drove his followers the Clan Balsene, into exile in Connacht, where, hiding in the barley glens, they sought to escape the vengeance of the Clan Morra.

Goll MacMorna then took the leadership of the Fianna and appointed new officers from among his own clan. From the dead hand of Cool he took the treasure bag of the Fianna, and gave it into the custody of Lia of Luachair, a Connacht Chieftain, who became treasurer of the Fianna.

After Cool's followers had been defeated his wife went into hiding and gave birth to a son, Finn. Because she was being pursued by Goll MacMorna, she gave her child into the safe keeping of two women friends, and bade them to rear him secretly in the mountains until he was capable of recapturing the

leadership of the Fianna from Goll MacMorna.

As he grew up they trained him, to hunt and fish and throw the spear, and he roamed the country taking military service with petty Kings and chieftains and so gaining in strength and skill of arms in preparation for the day when he should challenge Goll MacMorna for the leadership of the Fianna. Goll MacMorna learning of the feats of skill of young Finn grew alarmed. He summoned his fians and told them to capture him dead or alive.

Finn had now decided that it was time to take over the Fianna, and gathered a band of young men about him and went in search of his family clan, the Clan Balsene, in Connacht. On their journey the treasure bag of the Fianna was recaptured from Lia of Luachair who was slain by Finn. On finding his clan, Finn the son of Cool became the leader of the Clan and commenced to prepare himself to capture the leadership of the Fianna. Now Finn was a great warrior but he realised that a great warrior would not necessarily be a good leader. He therefore took leave of his companions and went off to study poetry and other things. He knew that before he could become a member of the Fianna he had to understand the rules of poetry and to learn by heart a number of old tales.

When Finn had finished his education he started out once more on his wanderings.

(To be continued in the next issue).

## BALLADS AND VERSE OF THE WORKING CLASS

### LAMENT OF JOE McCANN

By ERSKINE RADEK

Alt: The Valley of Knockanure



### Death of a Revolutionary

Joe McCann was a founder member of Liam Mellows Republican Club in the Markets area of Belfast where he was active in raising the issues affecting people's lives, housing, jobs, unemployment etc. He was arrested on the 15th August 1969, while defending the Markets from Unionist mobs who were attempting to burn people from their homes. Joe was held for three weeks under the Special Powers Act and was eventually released, due to public pressure. And when internment was introduced on the 9th August '71 and the people came out to give battle to the British army, Joe McCann was to the fore in the defence of the Markets Area. He led the battle against the British army at Inglis Bakery and with Starry Plough flying overhead and crouching beside a burning car, he and his comrades fought the might of the British army. From that night Joe McCann was "on the run" and during the following twelve months he risked his life many times, either in armed defence of his area or in taking part in revolutionary actions, addressing meetings of his Republican Club or out discussing the social issues with the people of the Markets. Joe knew he was a marked man, but he carried on his revolutionary work despite the dangers. And, when one day, while passing between the Markets and Falls Area, he was spotted by members of the R.U.C. Special Branch, Joe, knowing that he had been sighted, made his dash for freedom, but a company of the murdering Paras arrived on the scene and joined the Special Branch in their chase after Joe. They caught up with him in Joy Street. The first shot wounded him and he went down, but, not satisfied with capturing him alive, the Paras pumped many more S.L.R. rounds into his wounded body, just as was done to a man, whose life and writings influenced so much of Joe McCann's life. That man was James Connolly. Joe McCann knew the risks of involvement in the Revolutionary Struggle. We who are left to carry on will not forget his sacrifice.

O gather round while I sing to you  
Of a lad named Joe McCann,  
Whose praises will be sung for years  
In many a foreign land,  
Wherever Britain's Empire's shed  
The blood of martyrs true,  
O they'll sing and talk of our Joe McCann,  
How he died for me and you.

The first we heard of our gallant Joe  
Was that night in '71,  
Six hundred strong the Crown did send  
To take away our sons.  
Internment had arrived at last,  
The day that we all feared,  
But Joe McCann, the Pastry Man,  
Called out his Volunteers.

At Inglis' they made their stand  
With Connolly at their side,  
For six long hours their Thompsons blazed,  
Their spirit would not die.  
"Surrender now," they called to him,  
"You'll not save many a man,"  
But the I.R.A. had won the day  
With a lad named Joe McCann.

O the Yellow Card was tossed aside  
By the murdering Para corp,  
With their red beret and alien ways,  
Who came to conquer the poor.  
"O we'll shoot to kill this Joe McCann,  
Whoever he may be,  
And we'll send him off to join his friend,  
The one called Connolly."

O he walked the streets of his Belfast town  
Fearless of the threats that came,  
And the people saw he was unafraid,  
They sought to do the same.  
But the bullets tore his flesh in two  
On that Black April day,  
And as he clutched his wounds and fell  
The Paras blazed away.

They shot you in the Markets, Joe,  
You were unarmed, it's true,  
As you fell to the street, a nation wept,  
They riddled your body thru.  
"McCann is dead, McCann is dead!"  
There came the anguished cry,  
And from out the soul of Ireland  
The bitter question, "why?"

He died to make our country one,  
In a way not known before,  
No more, said he, can we fail to see  
The rich betray the poor.  
We'll drive away all those who seek  
To take away our land,  
For the wealth belongs to only one class,  
The workers of Ireland

## STICKEY PROBLEM

Two prizes of 50p will be awarded to the first two correct solutions opened on 19th January, 1972. Closing date for receipt of entries will be Monday, 15th January, 1973, and the results will be printed in our next issue of the Starry Plough. All entries should be posted or delivered by hand to The Editor, 27 Dunree Gardens, Creggan.



### ACROSS

- 1 You'll still find plenty of them in Long Kesh (9)
- 3 Memoirs - - - (3)
- 4 Formerly Irish Free State (4)
- 8 I.R.A. aide (8)
- 10 De Valera was not executed in 1916 because of his - - - citizenship (8)
- 21 Home of the Mormons (4)
- 15 He founded the Land League (8)
- 25 Red rum (anagram) (8)
- 16 19 across reports this (4)
- 19 Rachmann? (8)
- 22 What happened the barricades on 31/7/72 (8)
- 23 Orla's account (4)
- 24 Sir James " - - - an inch" Orla (3)
- 26 Strike-breakers (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Angry country? (7)
- 2 What's the number, there? (5)
- 3 Win over (8)
- 4 Depression kitchen? (4)
- 5 Conceded (7)
- 6 Brandwell (5)
- 9 It started on this date in October, 1888 (5)
- 10 deserted during the siege (5)
- 14 Van Gogh (7)
- 16 Puzzles (7)
- 17 Is never has (8)
- 18 The day for Panorama (5)
- 20 Branch of peace (5)
- 21 One of 25 across (4)

### SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 1

ACROSS: 1, Long Kesh. 8 & 7, Piggyery Ridge. 9, Instead. 10, Even. 12, Gunfire. 14 Inserts. 17, Demo. 18, Costume. 21, Arsenal. 22, Maeve. 23, Ascended.

DOWN: 1, Lapped. 2, Neglects. 3, Keep. 4, Saying. 5, Idle. 6, Meddle. 7, Risings. 11, Torture. 13, Interned. 14, Income. 15, Sweats. 16, Cooled. 19, Sten. 20, Isle.

Last month's winner: EAMONN O'DONNELL, 30 Circular Road, Creggan.

The people of Leenan and Malin Gardens have already set the trend for other areas; practically every house has a light above the front door. We hope that all other residents of Creggan and Bogside will follow their example as suggested in our editorial.





# THE INDUSTRIAL SCENE

An examination of the background of  
Regna International Ltd., before its arrival in Derry

## QUICK KILL

ON FRIDAY, the 22nd of October, 1971, the Belfast Telegraph read: "Northern Ireland today received one of its greatest morale boosts this year, a huge foreign investment which will create 450 new jobs, most of them for men, and it will be set up in Derry. This is a project for the production of calculating machines, cash registers and control panels by a Norwegian firm, Jorgen S. Lien. This industry comes at a time when the industrial and business life of the country searches for more confidence." The Stormont Government provided a rent free site and this concession is valid for 10 years.

The corrupt Stormont regime which was on its last legs was pleased at this development, since this was an opportunity to show that in actual fact it was trying to bring jobs to West of the Bann. This new industry was also welcomed by our local M.P. and indeed by some local Trade Unionists. We in the Republican Movement criticised the welcome given to this firm and stated that we believed that this would prove to be another of the long list of "quick kill merchants" to come to Derry. We then contacted a Revolutionary Socialist Group, the S.U.F., in Bergen in Norway, and they supplied us with enough documented information to confirm our suspicions.

Jorgen S. Lien's factory was established in 1939 and concentrated on producing electronics, calculating machines and safes. Gradually the firm established marketing contacts in 70-80 countries. Subsidiary firms were set up in France, Sweden, Germany, England, Australia, Spain and Denmark. As the firm is owned by one man, it is not surprising to find that the firm had relatively low capital reserves (in other words, the firm had little money to fall back on in the event of any sudden drop in the market). This lack of capital meant that in a period of crisis the firm had to make increased demands of the workers in order that it could maintain its level of profits. This meant that the workers' jobs were not very secure; as many were laid off in periods of decline only to be re-employed when profitable orders were received. In short, the factory and its employment has been marked by insecurity throughout its existence.

### Redundancies

The best years of the factory were 1968 and 1969 when 700 men were employed. Problems arose in 1968 however, and this resulted in four groups, each of 100 men, being made redundant. The factory got into further difficulties and as a result of this the owner, Lien, had to sell a large part of the firm to a Bergen bank to which he owed a lot of money. (This bank had financed all of his previous deals). As soon as the bank got control of the firm it did two things - (1) Jorgen S. Lien was removed from any controlling position within the firm, and (2) 90 men were made redundant.

The bank were owed a lot of money by the firm and they intended to get back as much as possible before the firm went bankrupt. After a close examination of the firm's financial position, the bank decided to dismantle those parts of the factory which they considered to be unprofitable in the long term. The bank sold off a lot of the firm's assets to the firm's foreign subsidiaries at considerable losses. This provided enough money to repay the debts owed to the bank. This resulted in the loss of many jobs in the Bergen factory but the bank and its directors were not interested in the workers. Their primary motive is to make profit and this they did extremely well, at the expense of the workers. The bank did not lose any money

by selling many of the firm's assets at a loss since they controlled many of the subsidiary firms which bought these assets. So what the bank lost in one account they gained in another.

### Bankrupt?

The Bergen bank had early on realised that the firm which they now controlled was very quickly losing money. They had immediately run down those parts of the firm which they considered to be a liability and they intended from the outset to declare the rest of the firm bankrupt as soon as they had squeezed all that they could from the factory. The firm, or what was left of it, was publicly declared bankrupt on the 17th June, 1971. An estate board was set up to dispose of the remainder of the firm's assets. This board was controlled by the bank.

From the beginning Jorgen S. Lien demanded that he be allowed to take over the whole concern with the help of £700,000 of foreign capital. The Estate Board strongly opposed this proposal and eventually sold the "Joll" safe department to the directors of one of the Scandinavian subsidiary firms who had got a loan from the Bergen bank. This part of the firm was sold for £36,000 and has now been moved to a site north of Oslo. This section of the firm got grants from the local authority there of about £80,000. They also were provided with a free site and large grants for the removal of machinery and the training of personnel. The Bergen bank had bought a large interest in this firm because they saw the possibility of high profits with the aid of these large grants from the Government.

It is interesting to note that, when the firm was declared bankrupt, the three directors were each guaranteed a year's salary, whereas the workers had to fight for their money from the crumbs left by the bank. Meanwhile, the workers were only recovering from the initial shock. They had realised that the firm was insecure but they had not known that it was about to collapse. As soon as they assessed the situation, the workers decided that they themselves should buy the factory. At first this proposal was not taken seriously, but as soon as the Trade Unions supported the workers' call every-one started to pay some attention.

### Workers' Control

When Lien's original proposal that he take over the whole firm had been clearly knocked on the head, he immediately put in a bid of £150,000 for Regna Ltd. On hearing that the workers were attempting to raise the necessary money, he immediately increased his bid to £177,000. However, Lien need not have worried, because the workers were prevented at every attempt from raising enough money.

Eventually Lien got control of Regna International Ltd. for £177,000, even though the machinery was worth a great deal more than this. And so we now find Jorgen S. Lien setting up shop in Derry. He has got a rent free factory, a rate free site, large

grants to cover the training of workers and grants to cover the removal of the machinery from Bergen to Northern Ireland. What more could he want? He has only provided £177,000 and we, in the form of grants from our taxes, are providing him with the rest of the money to set him up in business. Not only are we providing more money than he has done, but we are going to provide the labour as well. In other words, we are paying for the privilege of being exploited.

Within the next few years Lien will make ample profit to have made his little investment worthwhile and then when things show

signs of going badly he will, like many more before him, pack his bags and head off home with the profits, leaving the workers to fare as best they can. He and the Bergen bank have one thing in common - they have loyalties to no one but their own pockets.

We believe that as the public have helped to pay for this factory, then the workers must share in the profits. This is a reasonable demand. In the future, at the first sign of any pay-offs of any workers, we demand that the factory be taken over for the workers without compensation and

that the factory be run under the control of the workers. By that time Lien will have made enough profit from the sweat of the Derry workers and compensation will not be necessary. We in the Official Republican Movement will be watching Regna Ltd. very closely and we intend to ensure that there will be no question of more "quick kill merchants" making a quick profit out of the Derry workers and then leaving them stranded when it is decided that the time is ripe. We have seen too much of that in the past and we don't intend that it will happen again in the future.



## DERRY DOCKS - SOLD DOWN THE RIVER

THE DECLINE of Derry docks continues. The rotting timbers symbolise the general decay of what was once a thriving local industry. Most people think, in retrospect, that Derry, badly placed for cross-channel traffic and serving an industrial backwater, simply lost out to the better placed harbours in the east like Larne and Belfast.

There is some truth in this, but it is by no means the whole truth. There are other reasons for the decline of the port, reasons which have never been brought to light. For example, between 1956 and 1964, when, according to all accounts the port was declining, exports through the wharfe controlled by the Harbour Commissioners went up, from 96,184 tons to 139,621 tons - an increase of 33,437 tons. What had happened becomes clear when we examine the figures for the Lisahally wharf. Lisahally's export tonnage went up in the same period by 43,881 tons. And the loading and unloading at Lisahally was not being done by dockers. In other words there was an increase in dock work in this area. It was just that the dockers didn't get any of it.

Around the same period imports too were increasing from 512,579 tons (1959) to 1,000,038 tons (1964) - a rise of 487,459 tons. But the Derry dockers handled less than 75,000 tons of this increase. The bulk of the new work was, again, at Lisahally and, again, not being done by dockers.

Something roughly similar has, of course, been happening in docks in England recently. Traditional dock work has been taken from the dockers and in the interests of "efficiency" given out to container depots. The difference is that in England the dockers are putting up a fierce fight to save their jobs. Nothing like that happened at Derry docks nor does it appear probably that anything like that will ever happen. Indeed, researching through back numbers of the "Journal" and the

"Sentinel" and talking to dockers it seems that at the time it never struck the union that there was anything wrong with non-dockers doing the loading and unloading at Lisahally.

Lisahally handles the raw materials and the products for the Maydown complex. This it has taken precisely those cargos which are "modern" and which may, possibly, expand. The docks in Derry itself have been left with the older, declining cargos. Grain, offals, meal, eggs, hides, skins and pig-props, which once made a considerable contribution to the tonnage, are a thing of the past. Livestock exports decreased from 116,245 in 1954, to 28,712 in 1966 and have now disappeared completely. Potatoes, bacon and ham are now major export items - i.e., agricultural produce. Only 17 per cent of the city exports are manufactured products (the figure for Belfast and Larne is 58 per cent).

All the Lisahally exports are manufactured or partly manufactured goods. In other words the Derry dockers are starved of those items of cargo which would have helped to arrest the decline and give some security of employment.

### NEGLECT

This is not to suggest that materials and products to and from Maydown should have been brought into the city and then carried out to the site. There are cogent reasons for using the Lisa-

hally wharf - not least the fact that Lisahally can handle ships of up to 10,000 tons, the city harbour only 7,000 tons. (This, itself is a result of neglect). The work at Lisahally should have been done by Derry dockers from the start and the union, the ATUWU, should have seen that nothing else was permitted.

The decline of the port cannot be considered outside the context of the general economic depression of the area. One cannot have a thriving port in a depressed area. The port will only rise again when there is sufficient industrial activity in the area to "necessitate" it. And that will only happen when we have ended the system responsible for mass unemployment and poverty. However, we can't sit around waiting for the revolution to solve our problems. The dockers should no wisthat there be no further reduction in jobs at the docks. They should insist that the union immediately demand and get an assurance to it that any further wharf loading or unloading, which becomes available at a dock or wharf controlled by the Derry Commissioners is done by dockers and dockers alone.

## JOIN THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

All comments and letters about the "Starry Plough" 27 DUNREE GARDENS, CREGGON.

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