



Republican Press

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DEMOCRACY IRISH STYLE

Democracy as something generic and abstract does not exist. Democracies exist in the concrete: the British, The French, The American, The Belgian, The Swiss etc., in other words, each country has to evolve a type of democracy that is connatural with the national character, the history and traditions of its people.

What we have at the present in both the 26 county and 6 country states are systems which were imposed on us from Westminster and which did not evolve from the Irish People. The Irish nation as one of the oldest in Europe must not be mistaken with the Irish Free State which is but of recent origin. What passes for democracy in both states in this country of ours, is that of the Party System adopted from Britain when the free state was established. This system of government leads to a form of totalitarianism or Bureaucracy where all the power is centralised and comes from the top down, which is opposed to true democracy in which power comes from the people. This system has also led to a form of patronage where T.D.s have promised people all sorts of things in exchange for their votes. They barter with council houses, blue cards and promises about increase in pensions, children allowance and other such things which are controlled by the government instead of telling those people what their rights are.

When any one party gets a majority and forms a government. It is no different than having a dictatorship, because even though you may have voted for a certain T.D. his opinions must conform to the party and if he dares to oppose the party he loses his place in the party and can no longer act as a minister in the government. This means that no matter how good a local T.D. may be, his views and the views of the people voted him in are of secondary importance to the party. The Party in control can use the power given them to get rid of any opposition to them from within or without the system by making new laws to get rid of that opposition. Everyone is familiar with the Offences against the state act, the Criminal Justice Bill, The Special Courts Bill. We also have censorship of radio and television and to a certain extent newspaper censorship. How can this be democracy? How can it be democracy to set up special courts and imprison men and women on the flimsiest of evidence sometimes even without evidence? Is it democracy for the government to have its own private army (Special

Branch). Who bound and imprison anyone that is opposed to Fianna Fail? I mention Fianna Fail here because it was they set up the Special Branch and they are answerable to no one only to Fianna Fail. When the last coalition came to power all the records held by the Branch were burned. The only qualification to become a member of the branch is to have blind allegiance to Fianna Fail. Its time the people of this country began to question what is being done in their name. What this country needs more than anything else at the moment is a change in the system of government. What is needed is a system which will take into consideration that this is a Christian country and any new system should be based on that. What is also needed is a system where the power is given back to the people starting in the Parishes and growing upwards.

It can only be done by you the people.

ULSTER VOLUNTEER

C. I met a Volunteer last night, he walked with head held high,
And I thought I saw the light of freedom shining in his eye:
The moonlight shone upon his face, full joyous was his mein,
With his rifle slung across his back, in his battledress of green.

I knew he was a soldier of that gallant selfless band,
Who do not shirk their duty to make free our ancient land:
When, pointing to the three-barred flash that on his sleeve he wore,
He said: "We fight for Ireland, to set her free once more".

His accent showed that he was one of Ulsters noble sons,
Who, in the cause of liberty, now face the English guns:
He said: "I go to meet the foe, with comrades grave and true"
Then into the dark he disappeared, to do what he must do.

- Padraig S. O'Conneide.

THE CONQUEROR.

Who in this world today could possible justify the partition of our country
or who in all honesty can claim that England has any right to occupy any portion
of it.

Ireland is a country that has no borders except the sea. None can claim any
portion of our territory other than by conquest.

To conquest a legitimate or moral claim? If the conquest of today is morally
wrong, was it right ten, one hundred or one thousand years ago.

What is the length of time a conqueror can hold a country to justify his moral
right to it.

Not all the oratorical eloquence of the leaders of the great powers can
formulate a solution of world order based on conquest which would satisfy us or
any other of the people who today are suffering so tragically from conquest.

ST. BRITAINIA.

It has been made plain by the Republican Movement, time and time again that a man's religion is of no concern to the movement. You can trace the history of the Movement back to its beginnings for proof of this. Membership is open to all no matter what his religion may be. The only allegiance asked for by us, is to the Irish Nation. In the fight to obtain a 32 country Republic we oppose all, be they Protestant, Catholic, Atheist who shelter under the Union Jack the symbol of British rule in Ireland. It is to be regretted that so many Protestant people in the six counties have been led to believe that their religious survival depends on it, we must make it clear that under it there is no sanctuary, for there is no such religion as Union Jack and there is no St. Brittainia.

Therefore all those who shout and say that the Republicans in the six counties are fighting a sectarian war would want to remember that they are creating a new sect and should be condemned by all Christians. That is the sect of Flag worship whose God is Brittainia and whose bible is the six county Special Powers Act.

O BRADAIGH HITS OUT AT SPECIAL COURTS.

The leader of Kevin Street Sinn Féin, Mr. Ruadrai O Bradaigh, in statement last night, said that the Dublin Government, by its introduction of special courts, had once again pointed the way for the British administration who now proposed to follow in their footsteps. If the courts were brought into the Six Counties, he said they would be replacement of Long Kesh.

"It will be remembered", said Mr. O Bradaigh, "that Mr. Lynch also led the way in the matter of internment without trial when he threatened such action in December, 1970, many months before Mr. Faulkner's disastrous step of August 9, 1971."

"As in the case of internment Special Courts are a denial of civil rights and are clearly not acceptable. Just as internment failed to crush the spirit of the people, the proposed special courts will also fail to achieve this aim," he added.

SPECIAL POWERS ACT

Mr. O Bradaigh called for the abolition of the Special Powers Act in the North and the Offences Against the State Act in the South. Both of which authorised such courts. They were contrary to basic human rights and civil liberties, he claimed.

Sinn Féin members in the North and the Northern Resistance Movement would meet to discuss the situation. Action was likely to follow if the courts

were introduced, but he would not comment any further on the subject.

The introduction of Special Courts would take over only where internment without trial left off, he said. He felt that the courts would definitely be implemented. "If we have internment with trial we will do something about it," he declared.

'CONVICTED'

Mr. O Bradaigh said he could see Long Kesh being filled with people who were "convicted" of trivial and technical offences, but with as little justice as internment without trial.

It was merely a change of tactics by the British Government who wanted to replace internment without trial. It could not be considered as a change of heart.

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