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An Choismhuintir

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O'LEARY SHOCKS UNIONS

Hopes for the acceptance of a Third National Wages Agreement received a severe jolt at Cork last weekend when the Minister for Labour, Mr. Michael O'Leary, indicated that he was opposed to the

Mr. O'Leary was commenting on a motion calling for a minimum wage of £30 per week and while Union leaders consider his ideas on a guaranteed family income to be laudable they see no hope of this receiving serious Government consideration for a considerable time.

For them January 1, when the present agreement expires for over 80,000 workers, is the deadline. They know that a new agreement will have to contain provision for a minimum wage if it is to have any chance of acceptance by a majority of workers.

The working party consisting of employer and union representatives which is drawing up the terms of a new agreement is not expected to complete its task for at least six weeks. The terms drawn up will then be referred to the 50 member Employer/Labour conference which is chaired by Professor Basil Chubb.

Ratification by the national employer bodies, by the Government, and by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions will then be required.

With the January 1 deadline Union membership will, of necessity, have to make a hurried decision on the terms negotiated. A minimum wage guarantee as the principal clause would simplify the task of Union leaders in selling a new pact to workers. Mr. O'Leary's Cork boob has created problems for them.

idea of a National Minimum Wage.

Senator Michael Mullen and other Union leaders at the Labour Party Annual Conference are believed to have been taken completely by surprise at the Minister's remark.



● Senator Michael Mullen, I.T.G.W.U., Michael O'Leary, Minister for Labour, and Ruaidhrí Roberts, I.C.T.U., leading figures in the national wage debate.

National drive starts at

Nenagh

A historic step towards forming a national body to represent all the vital needs of householders was taken last Sunday at Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Representatives of residents' associations from twenty counties met in a packed meeting hall and established an Executive Steering Committee to plan policy and arrange for a national convention of all residents' associations to be held at some date in the future.

The Nenagh meeting was dominated by the two topics causing most worry to householders throughout the country — mortgage interest rates and ground rents. The Executive Steering Committee will plan progress on these two points but will also catalogue all problems needing attention at the national level.

The Nenagh meeting demonstrates that the lessons of the National Organisation of Tenants' Associations (N.A.T.O.), which planned on a national scale to alleviate problems afflicting tenants in public authority housing, have not been lost on homeowners and purchasers throughout the State.

The emergence of the Association of Combined Residents' Associations in Dublin, on whose initiative the Nenagh meeting came about, and the prospect of a strong national representative body for residential areas throughout the country following the Nenagh conference means that a strong new force is entering the national political scene. Remedial action by the Government in the fields of ground rent and interest rates will take on an added urgency because of this development.

Elected to the Executive Steering Committee are: Mr. Denis Ryan, Limerick Combined Residents' Associations; Con Gallogly, Ardmore Residents' Association, Bray; Hugh Murphy, Castletown, Leixlip; M. Fitzgerald, Sweetbriar Lawn Residents' Association, Tramore; Luke Boyle, Bishop's Meadow, Killiney; T. O'Gorman, Blackcastle Estate, Navan; T. A. Browne, Galway; Eamonn Horkan, Ballina; Siobhan Thomas, Ennis; Michael O'Shea, Killarney Residents' Association; L. O'Kelly, Combined Association of Residents' Associations, Cork; and Claran Sexton, Louth. A Dublin representative from ACRA will be appointed at the next delegate meeting of that body.

Home
loans
strike
spreads
fast

The mortgage strike organised by ACRA is sweeping Dublin's suburban estates where the people most heavily hit by the soaring interest rates live. Each estate is holding its own meeting following the ACRA decision in principle to withhold all repayments until its seven point plan for the reform of Building Societies is acted upon by the Societies themselves or the Government. Arrangements are being made to pay mortgage repayments up to the 10 per cent mark into local Credit Unions or special holding funds established for the purpose until the resolution of the strike.

Last week's enthusiastic meeting at Donaghmede, Raheny, is to be followed by a series of meetings throughout Dublin this week and next.

Associations holding commencement meetings this week include Roselawn and Ballydowd Residents, Lucan; Palmerstown residents; Sutton Park; Broadmeadows; Swords; Ballinater, Ranelagh and District; Portmarnock as well as other residents associations throughout the country in the wake of the Nenagh meeting reported alongside.

Most of the time at these meetings is expected to be taken up by the details of organising the strike and making arrangements for a common fund for withheld payments.

As the ACRA campaign goes into top gear the Societies have stepped up their advertising campaign in press, radio and television. The recent airing of the mortgage crisis on R.T.E.'s "Late Late" show was boycotted by the top brass of the Societies.

Trinity College lecturer in finance, Antoin Murphy, filling in as a type of devil's advocate for the absentee Society directors, agreed with charges of misdirected investment (commercial properties) and excess advertising.

NEW BELFAST SLOGANS

One of the most unusual slogans to appear in Belfast in recent years is pictured alongside. "Slow! Speed Kills!" is one of a number of similar slogans which have recently been written on strategic walls in the Andersonstown area of the city by members of the local Jimmy Hope Republican Club.

The slogans are part of a road safety campaign currently being run by the club after a local child was knocked down in the area. Club members believe that only an awareness of the dangers of speed can prevent further tragedy in this heavily populated area.

The message applies not only to local motorists — it is intended to register with members of the British Army also, as they are renowned for their high speed reckless driving of military vehicles in all parts of the city.

The slogan makes a welcome change from the more usual Belfast graffiti — and it has

been welcomed by the local people. The Belfast slogan writer has been given a new and more constructive role.

Resources campaign

An organisation which hopes to ensure that the Irish people receive the maximum benefit from the country's mineral resources was formed last week.

Chairman of the organisation which will be known as the Irish Resources Protection Campaign is Dr. David Neilligan. Other officers include Messrs. Francis Walsh, Pat Carroll, David Giles and Pat Kahlite.

The Campaign members hope to mobilise public opinion to demand the retention of exclusive ownership of the entire mineral rights in the country including those to Navan which the government is currently considering handing over to Tara.



● A new approach by the slogan writers of Belfast. — Belfast News Agency pic

the Irish people

An Choismhuintir, Friday, Oct. 19, 1973.

END OF THE DAY

"At the end of the day" is a favourite phrase of British politicians of all vintage. It applies very well this week to the long game which the British Government is playing at Strasbourg's Court of Human Rights.

Britain faces two separate sets of charges alleging violation of human rights in the north of Ireland. One set has been advanced by the Dublin Government and it is well known that behind the scenes moves are in train to reach an amicable settlement whereby the charges will be dropped by Dublin in return for some political consideration by the British Government.

The other set of charges at Strasbourg represent individual cases and are sponsored by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. On October 20 the British Government's appeal against the Court's acceptance of seven of these cases for judgement is being heard.

Britain has brought the appeal as part of a delaying procedure intended to drag out the hearings until January next. Article 25 of the Charter of Human Rights, under which Governments agree to answer charges by individuals as distinct from Governments, is due for renewal in that month.

All Britain has to do to shed the embarrassment of answering the N.I.C.R.A. cases is to refuse to renew this article of the Charter. Then only the charges of the Dublin Government will be left standing and the possibility of a deal suitable to both parties enhanced.

Irish public opinion has been lax in many matters relating to events in the North. On the matter of human rights, the dignity of the individual and the ending of torture and ill-treatment there must be vigilance in ensuring that Dublin presses the case against Britain.

Torture and brutality must be exposed and ended—even at the end of the day.

A WARNING

The E.E.C. Regional fund is being allocated not according to need but population. With such criteria in the ascendant Ireland will always be the loser and the gap between us and European countries subject to permanent increase. It is a warning also to Irish farmers—big and small—who think that the Common Agricultural Policy will last for years to come. With numbers counting the combined populations of Britain and West Germany will soon make inroads into the artificialities of C.A.P.

In common with France, Ireland is committed to supporting C.A.P. Dr. FitzGerald's veto might have to be used to save the agricultural policy. Will it be used to increase Ireland's allocation from the Regional Fund? Garret might soon have to put his veto where he put his mouth.

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● Successful Co-op shop at Stoneybatter in Dublin.

Move to form co-ops

All Dublin based tenant associations have been invited to attend a meeting organised by the newly formed Dublin Consumers' Co-operative on Sunday November 18. The associations have also been asked to form study groups to ascertain what support a Consumers' Co-Operative branch would have in their respective areas.

Mr. Matt Larkin, General Secretary of the National Association of Tenant Organisations, has for some

time been urging branches of the organisation to study the co-operative idea. Consumers Co-operatives would act as a means of consumer protection and price control, Mr. Larkin feels. Support for co-op development was pledged at the recent annual general meeting of N.A.T.O.

The Dublin Consumers' Co-operative Society Ltd. has been formed to spearhead the co-op organisational drive first in Dublin and then

throughout the country.

Chairman of the Society, Mr. Jack Byrne, hopes that study groups which will include representatives of Tenant Associations, Residents' Associations, Credit Unions and other interested parties will be formed in the different postal districts of Dublin. He feels that the establishment of Co-operative centres in the city on a sound footing could lead to similar developments throughout the country.

THE GOOD LORD KNOWS...

Lord Mountcharles, Marquis of Conyngham, one of the largest landowners in the Slane area of Co. Meath and owner of Slane Castle, has objected to paying a current bill for fishery rates in a letter to the Boyne Fishery Board. While paying the fishery rates bill of £725 he pointed out that he was doing so with "some degree of reluctance".

Lord Mountcharles attributed his reluctance to pay

his rates bill to a deterioration in the salmon catches on his stretch of the Boyne river as a result of a land reclamation scheme in the Boyne area.

Mr. Bruce Dean, of Bonshaw Navan, Lord Mountcharles's agent, has supported this call and announced that he was applying to the fishery board to have his fishery revalued.

Both Lord Mountcharles and Mr. Dean have been prominently involved in previous fishery controversies. Strongly opposed to any moves towards public ownership of the inland fisheries, Lord Mountcharles was the first riparian landlord to take out a court injunction to prevent "fish-ins" on his property.

Cork Board dissolved

Mr. Michael Pat Murphy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, has issued an order under section 51 of the Fisheries Act 1959 dissolving the Cork Board of Fishery Conservators and appointing Mr. Garret Byrne assistant principal officer in the Fisheries Division of the Department to carry out the functions of the Board.

This move arises out of the refusal of the board to review

the issue of salmon fishing licences this year, a total of 180, when the eligibility of many of the licence recipients had been placed in doubt.

One such disputed licence was issued to a full time Rate Collector for Cork Corporation and another to a student whose father is a member of the Cork Board.

The order is to be reviewed before October 1974 when the next elections for the Fishery Board fall due.



● Major B. G. Dean.

Victory for meat men

Three hundred jubilant employees of the International Meat Company, Grand Canal Street, Dublin returned to their jobs last week. They considered that the outcome of their two week unofficial strike had been highly satisfactory.

The strike occurred because workers felt that trimmers employed by the Meat Company should be paid a differential because of the skilled nature of their work. They also claimed that their Union, the Workers Union of Ireland, had failed to deal with the grievance.

The company agreed to the immediate payment of a 2½ pence per hour differential to the trimmers, and to make financial advances to all the strikers to compensate for earnings lost during the strike.

The strikers agreed to return to work provided that negotiations to advance on this offer would be held immediately.

Course change in Tralee

Tralee Urban District Council bowed to public opinion when a motion rescinding an earlier decision to build a road through the Town Park was carried at the Council meeting of the Council.

Only one councillor opposed the motion and among those who voted to alter the Council's plans was Councillor Michael O'Regan who had previously campaigned strongly for the building of the road. "I have never yet opposed the will of the people and I do not intend to do it now," he told the meeting.

Members of a Sinn Féin deputation addressed the Council meeting at which the rescinding motion was discussed.

Mallow No. 2

Three hundred workers in Mallow Sugar Factory have left the Mallow Branch of the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union and have formed a separate branch of the Union.

A spokesman has said that complete dissatisfaction with the service being received from the Mallow branch led to the workers' decision.

The new branch, which in the I.T. & G.W.U. will be designated "Mallow No. 2", has elected Mr. Joseph Sherlock and Mrs. Tim Fitzpatrick chairman and secretary respectively.

COUNTDOWN

Commons Road to commence within twelve months, the completion of another development brought a much needed amenity to the town with the opening of a new swimming pool.

Local contributions raised 20 per cent of the cost of constructing the heated indoor pool.

Derry

Brandywell Residents' Association has opened a full time office in the area to provide a centre where people may take their complaints concerning the behaviour of the army, repairs to houses etc. The office will open from 10 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 3 a.m. the following day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Members of the Association will staff the office in continuous shifts.

Dingle

On the spot auctions at the port organised by Dingle Fishermen's Co-op have proved so beneficial in higher prices to the fisherman that the co-op is to build its own auction shed in Strand St. The building, for which planning permission has been granted, will also contain a shop, chilling and filleting rooms and office accommodation.

Tyrone

Fivemiletown will be the site for a new industry due to go into production in January 1974. Construction of the factory, where production of prestressed and precast hollowcore roof, floor and wall panels will employ a work force of 33, is to begin immediately.

Mohill

Dancing, basketball, indoor games and drama are just some of the many interests catered for in the recently opened community centre in Gortletteragh. It is the first such enterprise in which the GAA has been involved in the area and was built by the combined labour of members of the GAA, ICA and many individuals.

Portmarnock

Following notifications received from building societies that repayments would be increased from 1 November and 1 January Portmarnock Community Association has announced its intention to call a special general meeting of its members with representatives of the building societies and ACRA to discuss the pros and cons of repayment increases. The association also intends to call a public meeting in November to discuss problems affecting the local area.

Ballinamore

On the commencement of the new financial year on 1 October, Ballinamore Credit Union showed an increase of £20,000 in shares from £50,000 to £70,000 in its annual report. Membership is now approximately 700.

Navan

While plans were announced at Navan Urban Council for the construction of a scheme of 150 houses by the County Council allied to the provision of 75 sites for private development on the

Jobs vanishing into the celtic twilight

Workers in the factory of Celtic Plastics Teoranta on the Gaeltarra Eireann industrial estate in Carraroe are apprehensive that their jobs are about to disappear quickly into the 'celtic twilight' as production in the factory slows down and machinery becomes idle.

Fear of lay-offs has caused the original work force of 120 to drop to 75 as workers leave for other employment in anticipation of redundancy and those who remain believe that the discontinuation of a collection service, previously provided by the company to bring the workers from scattered homes to the factory, making it extremely difficult to travel to work, is intended to encourage further departures.

Celtic Plastics Teoranta is engaged in plastic moulding of construction kits of model houses. The company was first formed in September 1971 and the Carraroe factory was established in October 1972. 1972 was a year of expansion for the company with its share capital increased to £20,000 from the original £100, and a Gaeltarra Eireann grant of £480,000 helped finance its operations.

Louis P. Smith

In the same year the board of directors was expanded with the co-optation of Professor Louis P. Smith, 6 Temple Villas, Rathgar, Dublin, Herr Peter Zucht, 6101 Gundershausen, Stetteritzring, 71, Germany, Joseph Parsons, 24 Moyola Park, Galway, and Dermot P. Whelan, 142 Drumgeely Hill, Shannon Airport, who, together with Fintan Tallon, 19 Cyprus Grove Road, Templeogue, Dublin, and David W. Prentice, 'Clonlea', Knapton Road, Dun Laoghaire, brought the board up to six.

Louis P. Smith, Fintan Tallon and David Prentice own jointly 14,798 of the company's shares while

Gaeltarra Eireann holds 5,200.

Despite the infusion of a strong German strain into C.P. Teo's celtic lineage with Director Peter Zucht taking charge of sales on the German market sales did not meet expectations. Orders from the U.S. and Canada, forecast by Mr. Hugh Murray, one of the chief officials in the factory, failed to materialise.

The prevailing air of uncertainty was intensified recently by a report that the Bank of Ireland had refused further credit to the company. The Bank of Ireland holds a charge on the company on all its assets including uncalled

capital and any property which should become vested in the company in the future. On October 2, Mr. T. Bacon, Works Manager, informed some of the workers that Mr. Tallon was seeking to have the plant transferred to Dublin.

Both Fintan Tallon and Louis Smith, associate professor of economics at UCD, are directors of a concern titled Irish Efficiency Centre Ltd. If C.P. Teoranta does 'transfer' from Carraroe to Dublin it will be a very efficient operation indeed — taking £480,000 in grants and leaving no permanent jobs in return.



• Matt Larkin

Call for intervention at Fermoy

The National Executive of the N.A.T.O. has called upon the Minister for Local Government to intervene in a dispute between tenants in Fermoy and the Cork Co. Manager. The dispute has arisen from what the tenants claim to be misinterpretation by the County Manager of the new Differential Rents Scheme.

According to the tenants' committee rent increases of as much as £2 per week are being sought by the County Manager. The County Manager is insisting that these increases are in accord with the negotiated agreement but the tenants' committee points that the Minister has stated publicly that the new agreement would not increase rents anywhere.

Mr. Matt Larkin and other members of the NATO executive attended a meeting in Fermoy last weekend where a campaign to fight the increases was discussed.

Labour and motor industry

A symposium entitled "Women in Industry" organised by the Women's Political Association will take place in Liberty Hall on Wednesday, October 24, at 8 p.m.

Speakers will be Senator Evelyn Owens, Mrs. Jean Carmichael, Chairman of the Women's Advisory Group to the Workers' Union of Ireland, and Mrs. Debbie King, American trade union organiser.

Job evaluation methods as a means of avoiding equal pay for women will be one of the topics covered by the symposium and women in trade unions will be particularly welcome.

VIEWPOINT/ copmac dudde

An 18-year-old girl, summonsed to the Dublin District Court for being drunk and disorderly and for causing damage to shop windows in Dublin, became the butt of a District Justice who thought he was being witty.

The girl happened to be from Killeenora, Co. Clare, home of the famous celli band. The District Justice, displaying a little knowledge but a colossal lack of discretion, quipped: "You should join a celli band".

If he thought he was being funny, he was sadly mistaken. Not only was he deriding the girl, but he was also by implication insulting a talented group of Irish musicians whose cultural values certainly outclass those of the District Justice.

It is not the first time District Justices have tried to score off defenceless and often ill-educated people in court. The courts are for the dispensation of law and justice, not cruel and malicious wit-fictions, too often laboriously concocted for the benefit of newspaper reporters with little to write about.

A little more justice and a lot less wit in the courts would be far more appropriate these days.

Aldershot

"Army Takes To The Trees" said the heading in the Irish Independent, and I wondered if the mighty, mighty Rangers (remember them?) had adopted new methods of rounding up gorillas, sorry guerrillas.

But the report merely told me that 12 of the Free State Army's physical training instructors had given a display after an intensive course in advanced gymnastics at Aldershot. Aldershot? Yes, the base headquarters of the Paras. It is also the headquarters of the British Army Physical Instruction School — but one can't help thinking that those Paras may have been around at the same time.

Must we insist on sending Army people and Naval Service people to British establishments for training? Are we not capable of giving that training at home? Surely by now there are senior officers in both the Army and the Naval Service who could draw on their training and service and experience to impart sufficient instruction to others coming on, to enable them to qualify?

The whole thing smacks of that West Briton thinking that seems to be reviving in Government circles today. Or are there other secret clauses in the Treaty of 1922 that forbid the training of Irish troops and naval men anywhere except in British establishments?

It has been suggested before now — and never denied — that some clauses in the Treaty lay down the size of guns and tanks, and the tonnages of naval vessels, that can be held by the defence forces of this country. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that similar clauses bind the Free State to sending its soldiers and seamen to British establishments for training.

After all, we must keep on eye on those wild Oirish, musn't we, old chap?

Protest on poor fishery protection

Iceland's action in defending her extended fishing limits will shortly affect Irish fishermen as foreign boats seek fresh fishing grounds. Existing legislation and penalties for poaching within the 12 mile limit are antiquated and unrealistic according to the National Fishermen's Defence Association (N.F.D.A.) and fines are couched in terms which bear no relation to the present value of money.

While commending the Irish navy for their successful record of arrests of encroaching trawlers and the manner in which they have subsequently prosecuted these cases in court the N.F.D.A. feel that the legislation covering this offence is so outdated and riddled with so many loopholes as to make the efforts of the navy meaningless.

This statement of the N.F.D.A.'s views follows a recent case in Letterkenny Court, Donegal, where a Dutch

trawler, the 'Zelhan' was prosecuted for having fished within Irish limits in Donegal Bay on October 3.

After hearing the evidence a total in fines of £100 was imposed on the Captain, Abraham Rog — £50 for encroachment within the fishing limits and a further £50 for having fished within the limits. The ship's gear was declared forfeited and also the catch, mainly of herring and mackerel, which was valued at £4,994 on the Irish market.

Meaningless

A statement on behalf of the N.F.D.A. was made in the court but a member of the N.F.D.A. subsequently pointed out that such action was meaningless while existing law remained in force.

The N.F.D.A. are seeking a complete overhaul of fishing legislation with the enforcement of penalties which would act as a realistic deterrent to foreign skippers contemplating fishing within Irish limits. A clearer definition of Base Lines from which the 12 mile limit extends is also a matter of priority. At present Tory Island lies outside the Base Line.

SYMPOSIUM

A motion unanimously passed at the Labour Party Conference called on the parliamentary party and the Labour Coalition Ministers to support ICTU and the trade unions in resisting the closure of motor assembly firms by multi-national concerns.

However, the Minister responsible, Justin Keating, gave no indication that he intended doing anything to save the 1,000 jobs immediately threatened at McCairns Motors and Reg Armstrong Ltd.

As an nGáibheann

MÁRTIN Ó CAIDHAIN

An méid do mbeas Máirtín ar mhaith ag ar mhóraisle na Gaeilge a lig an cinsire dó a léiriú sa srath litreacha a scríobh sé chuig Tomás Bairéad as an nGáibheann idir 1939 agus 1944. Léaráidí chomhaimseartha le Seosamb Mac Cossáin.

Réamhrá le Tomás Bairéad.

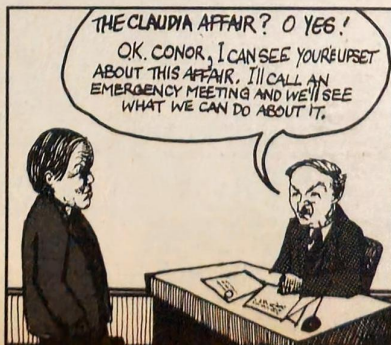
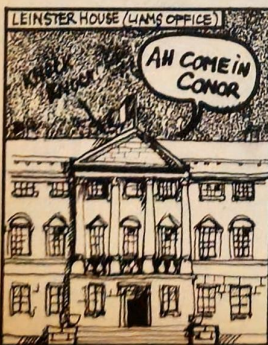
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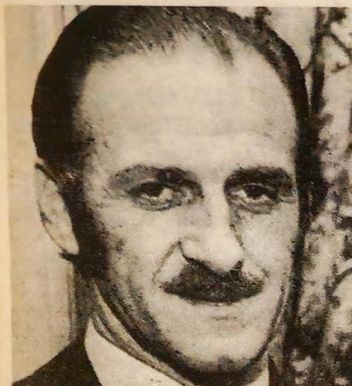
lárleide traidín do bhaill d'gCúib

SAIRSEÁL AGUS DILL

37 Br Ardpháirce th Cliath 6

The Dailmations





● P. V. Doyle . . . relying on a firm of solicitors.

EVICITION THREATENED

DEAR SIR, — In a situation of ever-increasing demands on our pockets there is one unnecessary demand. It is Ground Rent. Apologists for this feudal-based rent often argue that it is necessary to supplement the price already charged for the ground and included in the price of a house, but their case fails to withstand any serious examination.

For other reasons too, it is desirable that the ground rent system be abolished. As a result of a recent decision at Bray Court, a man and his family face eviction from their own house for non-payment of £22.50 ground rent. Residents of Marino Crescent are experiencing difficulty in renewing ground rent leases and, in one case, a nominal sum of money has been offered to a family to vacate the house they have bought.

The Government should immediately prepare to abolish ground rent and, in the process, introduce a breath of the twentieth century to the area of landlord and tenant legislation.

The not insignificant coverage given recently by the media to the ground rent problem is recognised by the Ground Rent Subcommittee of ACRA and is reflected in the volume of correspondence received by us from all over the country.

Yours faithfully,
Brendan Leeson, Secretary,
ACRA Ground Rent Sub-Committee,
33 Beech Lawn, Dundrum, Dublin 14

Is Fine Gael more radical

ACRA GROUND RENT CENSUS

- (1) Name and address of the landlord.
- (2) Number of house sites liable for ground rent.
- (3) Annual amount paid on each such site.
- (4) The number of years over which ground rent has been paid.
- (5) (a) The number of ground rent (if any) bought out.
- (b) Amount paid per house on such sites.
- (6) Any other action taken, e.g., attempts to buy out ground rents; refusals to pay ground rents, etc.

GREENFIELD ESTATE, MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE.

- (1) Civil Engineers, 58 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.
- (2) & (3) 170 ground rents @ £20 each. Approximate annual total = £3,400.
- (4) New estate. First year.

LAKELANDS ESTATE, KILMACUD, CO. DUBLIN.

- (1) McLoughlin, 3 Grafton Street.
- (2) & (3) 130 ground rents @ £18 each.
- (4) 50 ground rents being collected for 8 years; 80 ground rents being collected for 6 years. Approximate total collected to date = £15,840.

LAKELANDS ESTATE, KILMACUD, CO. DUBLIN.

- (1) Healy Homes, 46 Upper Mount St., Dublin.
- (2) & (3) 179 ground rents @ £18 each. Approximate annual total collected = £3,222.
- (4) 100 ground rents being collected for 6 years; 50 being collected for 4 years; and 29 being collected for 2 years. Approximate total collected to date = £15,444.

P. V. Doyle

Having failed to answer the case put to him in the public press concerning ground rent profiteering on the 166 house estate at Meadowbrook, Co. Dublin, Mr. P. V. Doyle is now relying on a firm of solicitors to collect his ground rents.

Chairman of Bord Failte Eireann, Mr. Doyle wrote to the papers defending his stake in ground rents and claiming that the levying of ground rent helped lower the cost of the Meadowbrook houses to their occupants.

A week later, Mr. Donal Donnelly, a member and a former officer of Meadowbrook Residents Association, gave a crushing reply to Mr. Doyle which the latter has never answered.

It read:
"1. P. V. Doyle bought the Lambert Estate for approximately £14,000.

2. P. V. Doyle, as Lelstner Homes Ltd., developed 166 sites on this estate at an approximate cost of £300 per site.

3. P. V. Doyle, as D. H. Homes, sold these sites at prices not lower than £900 per site.

4. P. V. Doyle, having now made a profit of £85,000 on this estate, continues to collect £3,000 per year as B. H. Engineering."

Recently Mr. Doyle's solicitors, Corrigan and Corrigan, have sent out further demand notes to the residents at Meadowbrook who are refusing ground rent payment because of certain outstanding defects yet to be remedied on the estate.

On July 24 last Meadowbrook residents decided to withhold ground rent until they got some satisfaction and at the same time forwarded a motion to the monthly ACRA delegate conference calling for an all-out strike against ground rent.

The decision was made at the last monthly meeting of ACRA to instruct the ground rent sub-committee to issue a general strike call within a three month period.

Therefore, by January next, at the latest, a general ground rent strike will be in progress.

From the activities of Corrigan and Corrigan it appears that P.V. wants his last pound of flesh before the strike proper commences.

wants his rent



● Henry J. Dwyer.

EBS HELPS OUT IN KILMACUD

The Educational Building Society has been acting as enforcer for a ground rent landlord on Lakelands Estate, Kilmacud, Co. Dublin. If the residents, many of whom have mortgages from the E.B.S., prove lax in paying the ground landlord,

Healy Homes, they get a reminder from the E.B.S. that if they do not pay direct the E.B.S. will pay for them and then demand payment direct.

Legally, the E.B.S. claims, this is quite in order. If a person defaults on a lease agreement then the E.B.S., who have the major interest in the house through the loan supplied, must move to protect its interests. The E.B.S. have a standing arrangement with Healy Homes whereby they are informed of the names of defaulters each six months.

This indirect enforcing calls for action by the local residents' association. The E.B.S. should be warned to stay off the sod and not intervene in the confrontation with the ground landlord. Public opinion is so opposed to ground rent that the Building Society interest in the house is as safe as the house itself — provided the Society does not act as shield bearer in the collection of an immoral rent.

than Labour on G-rents?

The monthly meeting of the Ballincollig, Co. Cork, Fine Gael branch was unanimous in calling for the abolition of ground rents. The unanimity of this Fine Gael branch was in sharp contrast to the composite resolution drafted by the Labour Party Standing Orders Committee for the Labour Party Conference in Cork at the weekend.

Much of the watering-down of Labour Party resolutions by the Standing Orders Committee was done on the excuse that the major partner in Government, Fine Gael, would not accept radical proposals.

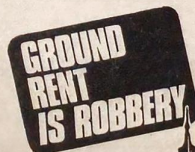
Eleven

No fewer than eleven resolutions were tabled by Labour Party Branches calling, inter alia, for the total abolition of ground rent without compensation. Yet the composite resolution produced made no reference to total abolition and argued for the existing status quo. It read: "Conference calls upon the Government to end the iniquitous ground rent system by preventing the creation of new ground rents and by giving to every householder the right to buy out the ground rent at an equitable purchase price, payable on deferred terms and with minimum legal costs".

Notwithstanding what happened at Conference the Standing Orders Committee

mutilation of the clear wishes of eight of the eleven branches who demanded the scrapping of the feudal ground rent structure can be taken as an accurate gauge of the irrational fear pervading the upper echelons of the Labour Party prior to Conference. There is nothing socialist in scrapping ground rents. It is merely a long overdue reform of a quaint feudal relic which every year is anointed with the cash of the suburban family man. Yet Labour, at Executive level, recoiled at the proposition and introduced a meaningless prayer which even invalidates past decisions by Labour Conferences which have called for the complete abolition of ground rent. It is a strange world indeed when a Fine Gael branch can be more radical than the Standing Orders Committee of the socialist Labour Party!

Were it not for the campaign of total abolition sweeping the country people might have to wait for a chastened Fianna Fail Government to do the honours in interring the remains of ground rent in Ireland.



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● On February 3, 1970 Sean Lemass launched Northgate Exploration shares on the New York Stock Exchange. From left to right: Mr. Robert W. Haack, president of the New York Stock Exchange, Mr. Patrick J. Hughes, Northgate's president and ex-Taoiseach Sean Lemass.

A combined Flanna Fall-Mining Interests operation took place last week in Dublin when about 150 people paraded to the offices of the Minister for Industry and Commerce to complain about the proposed taxation of mining profits.

The operation was part of a thinly veiled publicity campaign designed to counteract growing public demand for the retention by the Government of the peoples right to ownership of Ireland's mineral wealth.

The "spontaneous" protest began when Tynagh's top boss Pat Hughes spoke to a "committee" representing the Tynagh mine-workers. Mr. Hughes apparently managed to scare the men out of their wits. The Government was going to introduce a 70 per cent tax on the profits of the mine and this would lead to its closure.

If the story is to be believed the alarm quickly spread to the general mass of miners and a decision to march in Dublin was taken. The Flanna Fall dominated Loughrea Chamber of Commerce miraculously appeared with the buses necessary to carry the men to Dublin.

Placards demanding that "Ireland must honour her word" and "We want more mines in Tynagh", all written in the same hand, materialised as if by magic. Some of the men thoughtfully remembered to wear their mining helmets and belts to increase the impact. For a spontaneous outburst it clearly outlasted a professional public relations exercise.

There to meet them at the door of Industry and Commerce were Dr. Bill Loughane, Flanna Fall T.D. for the Galway area in which Tynagh is situated and Senator Brian Lemhan, former T.D.

Close links

Perhaps the main effect of the demonstration has been to demonstrate the close links between the Flanna Fall hierarchy and the international mining companies. It was Charles Haughey who introduced the 20 year tax-free holiday for mining companies in 1967. It was Haughey's father-in-law Sean Lemass, then former Taoiseach, who launched the Northgate shares on the New York Stock Exchange in 1970. It was Lemass' son Noel Lemass T.D., who wrote to the papers last week criticising the Government decision to end the tax anomaly.

The extraordinary march and the fears of unemployment voiced by the

marchers, and believed by some of them, is in the style of the ultimatum delivered by then then Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Lalor, in 1971 by Mr. Pat Hughes in his capacity as President of Tara mining company. If Tara did not get a formal promise of a mining lease by return of post then Tynagh would be closed down and hundreds of workers unemployed. Last week in Dublin some Tynagh workers were claiming that if Tynagh were taxed then Gortmum would close down almost immediately.

Pat Hughes' threat worked in 1971.

It remains to be seen whether Justin Keating and the Coalition Cabinet are made of sterner stuff.

The international mining companies operating here control the raw ores long after they have left our shores and make profits at every stage of the refining and smelting process. 95 per cent of the wealth extracted from Irish minerals lies beyond the tax net of the Irish Government: hence the need for public ownership or equity holding in order to direct the potential of Irish mineral wealth in the interests of the Irish public.

The "spontaneous" protest in Dublin last week is of a piece with the ultimatum to which a previous Flanna Fall administration surrendered so shamefully. We can expect more and more pressure of this nature from Mr. Hughes and his Flanna Fall allies as the demand for the retention of public ownership of Ireland's mineral wealth grows with each passing day.



● Arigna worker draws coal to the surface.

MINING — FIANNA FAIL CONNECTION



● "Spontaneous" protest by Tynagh workers against taxation of mining profits.

Strike at Arigna

An unofficial strike last week brought operations at the Arigna collieries to a standstill. Two hundred workers stopped work when the mine proprietors refused to increase the tonnage rate for "drawers" and pay the workers by the week instead of fortnightly. The strikers are members of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union.

The drawers had sought an increase of 22p on the present tonnage rate of 78p. It is acknowledged that the work done by the drawer is the most unpleasant of all mining jobs. The drawer goes to the coal face with the "cutter". There he shovels the loose coal into a hutch which he has to push from the face to the main tunnel. At Arigna the distance from coal face to the main tunnel is rarely less than several hundred yards.

LABOUR'S POVERTY

Labour now is the Party of Reality. Delegates were constantly reminded that the socialistic intent repeatedly declared in the late sixties has been relegated to the mental recesses of a leadership now committed to realistic coalition with elastic policies.

This is not to say, delegates were told, that the leadership has wandered from the path to socialism. It merely meant that the ascent along the path would have to be more gradual.

All the delegates were not convinced. A document distributed at the beginning of the Conference outlined the extent of poverty in the 26 Counties. The arguments in the document were impressive, the figures showing the numbers living in poverty frightening, and delegates did not have to be told that the cost of alleviation would be enormous.

Brendan Corish, the party leader, gave an account of Coalition stewardship. The debate on mining was interrupted so that he could do so. He outlined the progress which had been made by the Government; all the problems could not be cleared overnight, but all would be, "gradually", a beginning had been made.

However, the debate interrupted by the Party leaders speech, brought "gradualness" immediately into question. The proposer of the resolution on mining, Mr. Pat Carroll, reeled off figures which showed that the ore under Irish ground would put wealth of enormous proportions into the pockets of foreigners.

Dr. Noel Browne went on the rostrum to second Mr. Carroll. The mineral wealth of Ireland was the property of the Irish people, he told the delegates. The delegates responded with wild enthusiasm. Their enthusiasm worried the hierarchy on the platform. Michael O'Leary who was smiling benignly when Dr. Browne commenced was now far from amused.

But on the platform was a man to handle the situation and bring the conference back to realism. Justin Keating rose. He was a socialist but over and above all else he was a democrat. Labour had only received one vote in seven from the electorate. No matter how he felt about it personally one vote in seven was not a mandate for nationalisation. As a democrat nationalisation was out as far as he was concerned.

Justin Keating's technique worked. The mining motion like all other important matters before conference was "referred back".

Delegates left conference with appeals to study the Poverty document of the Party ringing in their ears. The leadership's path of "realism" as exemplified on the mining question will mean delegates at least will have Poverty to discuss at many, many more conferences.

Workers at the collieries (which are owned by the Leydon family) described last week's dispute as being merely "the tip of the iceberg". They claim that conditions there are atrocious and say that further trouble is inevitable.

Grievances

Among the grievances of the workers is the over utilisation of "piece rate" working (they say "piece work" particularly at the coal face should be ended and a proper basic wage introduced), the workers receive no payment when, through no fault of theirs, work is interrupted at the mines; absence of sickness or pension schemes; inadequate medical and washing facilities, and poor safety standards.

STRANGE DINGS AT KILLIMER

By
Our
Property
Correspondent

Crisp solicitors' letters, threats of prosecution for libel and defamation of character have delayed the unfolding of the true story behind the acquisition of land for an oil refinery on the banks of the Shannon at Killimer, Co. Clare.

The characters being "defamed" are those of a member of the Clare County Development Team, a solicitor from Kilrush, a Roman Catholic priest now ministering in a town in the Midlands, and an auctioneering firm.

The "public" story about Killimer began just over two years ago when the Shamrock Packaging Company applied to the Clare County Council for planning permission to erect an oil refinery and petro-chemical feed plant at Money Point and Kilbaha, Co. Clare. The Council granted outline planning permission for the development. The application was made on October 8, 1971; permission was granted six days later.

An appeal against the County Council decision was made by An Taisce. They pointed out to the Minister for Local Government that the conditions under which permission was granted were not sufficient to ensure against pollution of the en-

vironment and also because of the "indecent haste" with which the Council acceded to the application.

An oral hearing of the An Taisce appeal was held in Ennis in February 1972 and on July 5, 1973 the Minister's decision was announced. Permission for the development at Kilbaha was refused but outline permission, with conditions, for the development at Money Point was granted.

However in the interim people in the parishes where options had been taken on land for the refinery had been growing increasingly uneasy about the development. They decided to resist the Ministerial decision granting permission for the Money Point development.

Pressure was put on members of the Clare County Council and this resulted in a motion for the rescinding of the planning permission being carried at the last meeting of the Council.

There the "public" story ends. The story behind the story hinges around the methods used by the company and their agents to acquire options on the land for the development. It is for relating this story that some people in Killimer are receiving a crash course on the laws of libel.

The company which acquired the options, Shamrock Packaging Ltd., recently acquired a new name, Shannon Petroleum Company. Over 300 acres made up of five holdings are involved. That options were signed is not in question. However what is in question is whether in fact the farmers who signed the options knew what they were doing and whether undue pressure was put on them.

The first approach to the farmers it is alleged was made by Mr. Kevin Vaughan, Co. Development Officer and the auctioneers, Barrett Bros & Son who describe themselves as "Auctioneers & Valuers—Insurance Agents to Leading Companies". Farmers claim they "were pestered" by this team but rejected their approaches.

Then Reverend Father H. Sheehy entered the scene. He was brought from his parish in the Midlands and visited the farmers on Saturday afternoon, October 2, 1971. He told them he had been sent by the Bishop who encouraged the farmers to sell.

"What do they want the land for?" was a question which Fr. Sheehy heard quite often that afternoon. His reply was that it was a national project and the farmers shouldn't hold up progress.

He left them to consider their position "in the national interests" and returned later on that Saturday night to tell them that he had been in contact with the company who would be back next day. He advised the farmers not to seek too high a price as the maximum which the company were willing to pay was £500 per acre.

One young farmer who had asked £30,000 for 58 acres as well as the buildings was chastised by the priest. His asking price had "insulted the company" but if he lowered his sights they might still be prepared to buy.

Somehow the belief travelled around that the site was required for the provision of a Nuclear Power Station.

Tough customer

The farmers were confused. The buyers came again as promised by Fr. Sheehy. The first farmer on whom they called asked Fr. Sheehy's "maximum price" of £500 per acre. He was surprised when they readily agreed and, although it was Sunday, he was immediately whisked off to a solicitor's office where the option agreement was signed without delay.

The solicitor involved was Mr. P. O'Shea. A neighbour of the farmer mentioned proved to be a tough customer, however. He was approached by Mr. O'Shea, but rejected his approaches. Later he hunted an auctioneer from his yard. He rejected an invitation to Mr. O'Shea's office. However Mr. O'Shea persisted and eventually succeeded in getting the farmer to agree to travel to a hotel in Kilrush where "it would not hurt him" to talk to the company.

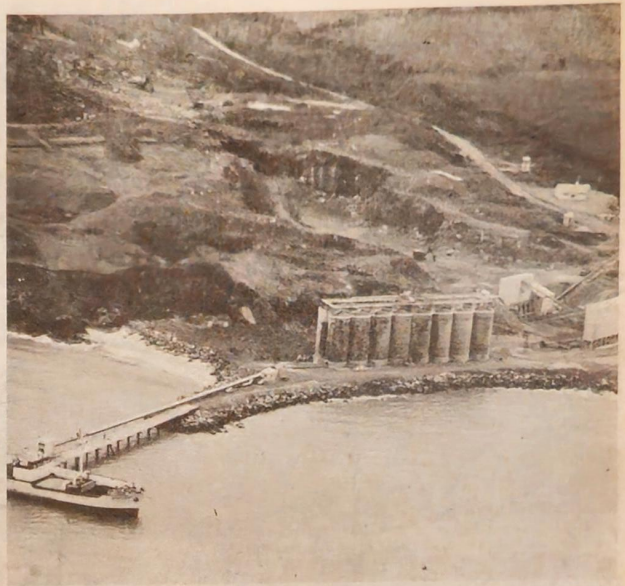
They finished up in Mr. O'Shea's office where the buyers were waiting. "How much do you want?", they asked him. Remembering Fr. Sheehy's "maximum of £500 per acre" he asked for £1,000. To his amazement the buyers immediately pushed the papers in front of him. He signed.

Mr. O'Shea, the solicitor who had brought him to the office, signed the documents as a witness representing the farmer. The farmer insists that Mr. O'Shea, far from being employed by him, had been engaged by the buyers.

Within two days the farmer had decided he had made a great mistake. He went to Mr. O'Shea presented him with the deposit cheque and asked the solicitor to return it to the buyers. But the buyers were not having any of it, the farmer was legally bound by the agreement which he had signed in the solicitor's office two days before.

This farmer and his neighbours are now members of the Killimer Residents Association, surely a unique body in rural Ireland. Irrespective of planning authorities they intend fighting the refinery development and will not part with their holdings.

● Oil refinery at Whitegate, Co. Cork.



Ryan attacks ACRA home loan strike

In a dramatic intervention on the home-loan scene Finance Minister Ritchie Ryan threatened home-loan strikers with the full rigours of the law if they joined the growing ACRA strike. That intervention came as a

result of contacts between James Tully's Department of Local Government and Mr. Ryan's Finance Department on the eve of the Labour Party Conference. Tully faced strong criticism on the Building

Society front in Cork after his three month stint in opening Society branch offices throughout the country.

The message to Mr. Ryan was simple. "I'm not going to take all the blame; you get out there and show yourself".

In the spirit of the Coalition, Mr. Ryan quickly launched a press release aimed at throwing panic into the ranks of ACRA before the strike machinery is fully mobilised. ACRA, engaged in an estate-to-estate mobilisation for the all-out strike, gave a quick reply to Mr. Ryan.

Stating that ACRA members would not be frightened by the Minister's threat, P.R.O. Andy Conlon went on to say: "The middle-classes are now in revolt because we realise that this monstrous imposition which is to be thrust upon us will be disastrous for our families."

One specific of the Ryan threat was his reference to the Government aid to Building Societies where he hinted that "the Government would have to consider carefully whether the interest subsidy should be provided for anybody who wilfully withheld loan repayments and interest... If the Government is capable

of making such a decision then the Government could equally decide that interest support pegging interest charges to individuals to the 10 per cent line be paid to individuals direct and not invested in the Societies where much of it goes to support advertising and expenses squandering. In his haste Mr. Ryan forgot his Airport statement on his return from Nairobi when he said about the new interest rates that "there is not much I can do about it". Many householders facing the outrageous increase to 11½ per cent are beginning to feel that Mr. Ryan can do a lot — when it comes to protecting Building Society abuses which have so contributed to the present crisis.

Propaganda

Much of Mr. Ryan's address to the South City Fine Gael members must have been tongue in cheek. "Those who are endeavouring to organise a loan repayment strike are obviously indifferent to any damage they might do to the house construction industry, or would be home purchasers".

In mounding this particular piece of Building Society propaganda Mr. Ryan was attacking Quentin Grivon, Chairman of ACRA, a solicitor with whom he has worked side by side with over the years in the same law firm. To attack a man who has a proven record of responsible work on behalf of Dublin's suburban dwellers over the years and a person whom he knows personally to be of indisputable integrity is going lower than the normal political low. Mr. Ryan should blush with shame. ACRA's answer to this intemperate attack was to point out that the prolonged, bitter and ultimately successful strike of the National Association of Tenants Organisations against the differential rents system in public authority housing was hailed by his colleague James Tully as a "victory for democracy".



● Ritchie Ryan, Minister for Finance; aiming at panic.

NEW TRAINING COURSE

Speaking at the recent launching of an In-Service Training for I.T. & G.W.U. Branch Secretaries and Assistants, the Union's General Secretary, Senator Michael Mullen, said that provision of the varied services now required by members necessitated continuous training programmes for Union officials.

Over forty officials attended the first training course which covered industrial relations law, procedures and institutions. A second session to deal with office procedures, administration and communications will be held after Christmas.

Lecturers for the programme, which will also cater for officials in provincial centres, are drawn from the Union's own tutorial staff as well as from government departments, the Labour Court and the legal profession.

The I.T. & G.W.U. has also organised

comprehensive educational programmes for activists and members. The Union, Senator Mullen says, is making a considerable sacrifice in terms of personnel, time and money in pursuing these programmes. He referred to the considerable financial assistance from public funds being paid to other training bodies, especially those concerned with training business managers. He was optimistic that the Union's efforts would be recognised and that some of the taxpayers' money being set aside for training purposes would be made available to it.

In the present financial year £300,000 is being made available by the Government to the Irish Management Institute for training purposes. The Institute will receive a further £150,000 for building purposes.

By comparison only £45,000 is being made available to the trade unions for education and advisory services.

The North

FROM: SGT BRIAN DENT



1st Bn. THE PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN REGIMENT OF YORKSHIRE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS
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Kitson in community relations

By a Special Correspondent

Although Brigadier Frank Kitson has been recalled from the North, his tactics are still very much in use there. The sudden departure of the Brigadier caused a ripple among the usually placid upper strata of the British Army and his premature retirement to military stud was regarded as the end of a promising military career.

But it is now clear that although Kitson has gone, his "Low Intensity Operations" remains the British Army's military bible for operations in this country.

Among Kitson's theories is one which advocates the destruction of any "unorthodox" political groups and their replacement by the political wing of the British Army. Since the British Army did not have a political wing, Kitson created one and called it the "Community Relations" section. This Army department is responsible for filling the political vacuum created by the internment of members of legitimate political groups. Their strategy is to involve themselves with the local people in day-to-day social problems, use the necessary influence with Government departments where possible, and then claim credit for any social advance that has been made.

Sergeant Dent is one of many similar "Community Relations" officers attached to every regiment in the North. Their main target is the replacement in the political field of the most active of the political groups, particularly the Republican Clubs, who are noted for their constant involvement in all kinds of social problems throughout the North.

A spokesman for the Republican Clubs pointed out that the Kitson tactics were now being stepped up on the political front because it was political and not military activity which proved the major obstacle to Britain's plans for the North.

With the decline of military activity in the North in recent months and with attention now turning away from violence and towards the new Assembly, the role of the British Army this coming winter may well be a more political one.

It looks like Kitson's plan of campaign for the North is right on schedule — and we may well hear a lot more about his "Community Relations" department in the next few months.



● Frank Kitson: now in community relations.

Faulkner — Fear Nua

Brian Dent

Among the more active of Brigadier Kitson's Community Relations officers has been Sergeant Brian Dent of the First Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of York, stationed at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Co. Down.

Sergeant Dent has involved himself in several social problems in the North Belfast and Newtownabbey areas. Describing himself as a "Community Relations Worker" for this part of the city, the Sergeant has claimed that he can see "many problems that affect the community in the area". He has then set about solving these problems, many of which are concerned with the provision of recreational facilities, particularly for young people. As he says himself, "One of the main problems that affect the work I am involved in is that time can be taken to get results". This is where Sergeant Dent differs from many other military personnel in Palace Barracks. It takes only a few days for most of his colleagues to extract information from any civilians who are unfortunate enough to be brought there.

Is iomaí athrú do-chreidte ar shaoil phoblaithe na hÉireann le roinnt blianta anuas, biodh go bhfuil daoine siniciúla ann a dearbhaí nár athraigh tada dáiríre ach lipéid. Ach d'athraigh Brian Faulkner arís le deanaí más fíor d'egarfhocal a bhí ar an "Irish Times". D'uirigh sé Brian ar 'moderates' an Tuaisir. Ní mó ná sásta a bhíadh Brian féin leis an geur síos sin ar féin. Mar pe rud a d'athraigh ó thuaidh ná ó dheas, cuma ceard iad na gothaí a chuireann sé ar féin ó an go ceile de reir athrú na gaoithe, cuma ceard iad na focail de-bhriochas agus tré-bhriochas a chuireann sé de reir na h-oicéid, má tá aon rud buan ann ná in Éirinn faoi láthair 'se croí cruá cleasach Faulkner é.

Chualamar go leor den braghghidh, den cur-i-geall ceanna seo, cupla bliain ó shin nuair a tháinig Faulkner i gcumhacht don chéad uair: d'adhaigh an uair ud 'gar realist' a bhí ann, fear gno a thuig cúlair ar tsaoil, a dhéanadh margadh dian ach a bhí so-athraithe, so-láibha; an fear ceart san áit cheart. Ní fada go raibh lucht an bhraic-dhoicéid a diachtadh ag na focla sin. Mar be é Faulkner féin a scaoil gadhair an bhais ar an dóir fóla ba mhéasa riamh ó thuaidh nuair a chuir sé imtheorannú i



● Brian Faulkner: slonnach glic.

bhfeidhm. Bhí an seál go dona roimhe sin. Bhí sé míle uair níos méasa ina dhiaidh. Ach tá Faulkner tagtha go bhfuil uisce arís. Agus arís tá dóchus ann ag corraí ina mease siúd atá sásta d'alalmulag a chur ortha féin. "Tá ar ais a Bhriain, tá chule shórt maite dhuit." Agus tá. Má chuireann tinceir a chois trí thumneog siopa agus é ar meisce, gheobhaidh sé sé mhí ar an bpointe. Má chuireann deagóir cloch le poilin gheobhaidh sé tearma fada freisin. Má tá sé de mhí-dhóir teach ar an saol seo i mBéile Uí Mhurchú nó i

mBaile Thormaid nó baile ar bith eile mar iad, 'chuire shéans go ngearrfar tearma fada dhifostaíochta ort as an choir sin.

Chuir Faulkner, a lámh i mbais na gceadta chomh cinnte is a rinne dream seiteach ar bith ó thuaidh.

Ach ní thabharfar ós cóir cuirté é. Ní chuirfeir coir ar bith ina leith. Ní thabharfaidh lucht na n-egarfhocal d'iumhtharhoir seiteach air. Is fear leo a bheith "realistíoch". Ar nós Fhianna Fáil.

An té a mbéadh fonn air ceacht a fhuaghaím as an rí-rá go léir de 1969 i leith, silim gur é seo é: nach zón leigheas ar thada é an cinéal "realistíochais", ó thuaidh ná ó dheas, a réitíonn cúrsaí ar mhaithe le lucht polaitíochta amháin, agus a fhágann an pobal ar leataobh. Rud fíor-shéadach a bhíonn ann. Seitheann ar nimh arís na chéad ghlin eile.

Ach oiread leis an slonnach, níor athraigh dúchas na bhFaulkner. Táid glic, táid sleamhain, táid fealltach. Agus is díol trua iad na sinéolaithe, na puidntes, na seiceabáir a shíleann nach é an Brian Faulkner nua seo an duine céanna a mháirséid síos an Longstone Road blianta ó shin lena geoid fíacal a chéileáil siar síos seórach na bhFinnín.

Letter from Belfast

DES O'HAGAN

One of the favourite ploys of the establishment media is to depict Republicans as mindless militants, emphasising the sanity, responsibility and representativeness of the larger political parties. Much of the hard work of local Republican councillors is unreported, deliberately, I believe, in favour of relating the verbal waffle of big name politicians.

For example, in the Andersonstown area of Belfast in response to urgent demands from worried parents, the Jemmy Hope Republican Club have begun a campaign on road safety. In spite of intimidation by the British Army, club members have been painting 'go slow' slogans on the main roads. The Brits threatened to charge the young people with defacing Her Majesty's highways! More slogans are to follow.

The area, which is virtually without street lighting, traffic signals and which carries a heavy volume of traffic on the main roads, has a number of accident black spots. At the weekly meeting of the Republican club some time ago it was decided to approach the Roads' executive of the Belfast Corporation demanding that immediate steps be taken to repair the existing lighting system and begin work on subways proposed years ago but never completed. The latest information was that consideration was being given to the proposals.

Parents in Andersonstown have co-operated enthusiastically in the establishment of Road Safety clubs, the distribution of leaflets and encouraging members to go to the schools to discuss the problem with local teachers. Accident prevention posters have been distributed to the schools and talks are being arranged for the children. Altogether a thoroughly creditable performance under the general supervision of Councillor Raymond O'Hagan.

The same Councillor in company with fellow Republican Councillor Jim Sullivan, are understandably somewhat bitter and angry with Ulster Television. A major controversial issue in Belfast is the Ring Road. Branchaid of Big Brother, former Minister of Home Affairs at Stormont and now leader of the ultra-right, the Ring Road threatens to destroy the working-class communities of Sandy Row, the Lower Falls and the Lower Shankill. Republicans have been absolutely opposed to this scheme since it was first mooted. Recently, Ulster Television invited Councillor O'Hagan to take part on a panel of speakers to debate the merits and demerits of the new highway, but at the last minute his name was removed without explanation. Why?

Under Craig, the Unionists used the Special Powers Act to prevent Republicans mobilising support and opposition to the Ring Road and actually prevented submission of evidence by the Clubs to a public enquiry. Although the reasons seem incredible, the reasons are simple. Money, lots of it. English construction companies have a vested interest in the scheme which promises enormous profits.

The Unionist Party, which is a constituent part of the English Conservative Party, a fact which is not generally appreciated, acted in the interests of those who pour funds into the Conservative Party, the big builders. They shut up the most articulate section of the opposition, the Republicans.

Obviously, someone in Mr. Whitelaw's gang became alarmed at the possibility of a reasoned working-class argument against the Ring Road and issued orders to cut out the Republican spokesman who would have been well informed by the Republican Research section as to who was going to make what and the disastrous effects of the scheme on the working-class communities. So much for free speech and democracy in the North.

Southern readers, by the way, should not feel complacent on reading this. The policy of censorship is well entrenched in RTE. When did a Northern elected Republican spokesman last appear on the 26 County screen, on any issue? Many people in Belfast are beginning to wonder exactly what side the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Dr. C. C. O'Brien, is on in the search for truth as to the problems which bedevil the Northern community. I understand that Councillors O'Hagan and Sullivan have written to the Minister, asking if they are banned from the Southern media. As yet they have received no reply. It should be interesting.

Loyalists unite

Yet another Loyalist organisation has appeared on the crowded Northern political scene. It is the Ulster Loyalist Front (U.L.F.), which has been formed to act as the political voice of the banned military organisation, the U.V.F. (Ulster Volunteer Force). The new organisation will be made up of ten different Loyalist fronts throughout the North and members will be forbidden to belong to any other political organisation.

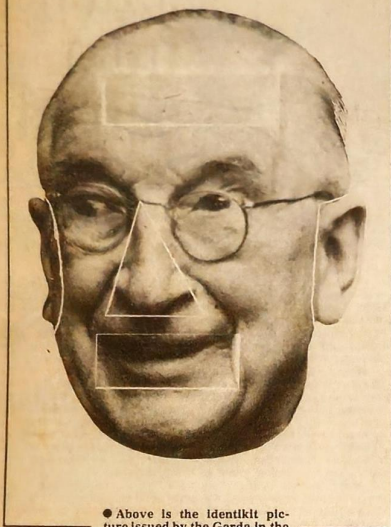
The new group will participate in future elections and its 17-point manifesto contains a unique blend of politics that is both left and right. The U.L.F. calls for the withdrawal of Britain from the

E.E.C. — and also from the United Nations. They demand worker partnership schemes in factories but they are opposed to the P.R. system of voting. They demand release of all Loyalist prisoners and at the same time they call for stiffer penalties for those convicted of violent crime.

The organisation believes in democracy and they demand the return of trial by jury, but they also uphold the right of Loyalists to carry arms for self-defence. Much of their manifesto is marked with political inconsistency and although they would appear to have some leftward tendencies, it has generally not been noticed that, just as they were being launched in Belfast, one of their associated fronts, the East Antrim Front, was being recognised in London as an integral part of the British Fascist organisation, the National Front.

By a small majority the Annual General Meeting of the National Front decided to allow a merger with the East Antrim Loyalists.

Ach is mó fós is díol trua iad an lucht óibre a bheidh thíos leis an geur i gceill. Nuair a fheiceann duine Faulkner arís i mbun caradais le Heath agus le Whitelaw le Cosgrave agus Fitt, le Lynch agus Rees, tá sé in am dó a chloigeann a fídh. Cé d'athraigh? Céard d'athraigh?



● Above is the identikit picture issued by the Garda in the hunt for a leading I.R.A. man.

LAWMEN IN BIG LEGAL BATTLE

A 92 year old judge was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday. He was convicted on the evidence of a Garda Superintendent who said he believed the accused to have been a member of the I.R.A. on September 21, 1971. The judge said he did not recognise the court as his eyesight was failing badly, and two drunk lawyers said that they did not recognise it either.

As the judge was led away there was a scuffle in the public gallery. His mother shouted "Up the Judiciary", and defending counsel drank a toast to this. The Garda Superintendent said that he also believed the State Solicitor to have been a member of the I.R.A. on October 1, 1933.

The sentenced judge was brought back from the cells and gave the State Solicitor 2 years, because, he said, "This is the second case of this sort we've had this morning". The accused Superintendent later admitted that he himself had also been a member of the I.R.A., but since he did not believe this, there was no evidence against him. The sentences have brought widespread reaction throughout the country.

On hearing the news ex-president de Valera immediately went on the run, and it is believed that he is considering going underground soon. The news sent old I.R.A. men diving for cover throughout the day as Gardai raided old peoples' homes and pensioners' clubs. Men on high speed crutches were seen heading for the hills.

The 20,000 men who claim to have fought in the G.P.O. in 1916 were last night lodged in Mountjoy along with several prison warders who were also in the I.R.A. at one time. Throughout the day men were burning I.R.A. medals and pension books.

The entire Free State Army was arrested during the afternoon for belonging to an organisation calling itself "Ogligh na hEireann". They are currently imprisoned in the Curragh, although some men on border duty are reported to have safely crossed into the Six Counties where they are requesting political asylum.

Meanwhile a major legal battle was raging last night in the Bridewell where one Superintendent said he believed another Superintendent to be a member of the I.R.A. The accused Superintendent said that he did not believe he was a member of the I.R.A., and the problem now is to decide which of the two men is thinking correctly. The Garda Arbitration Court under the chairmanship of Conor Brady will decide the issue tomorrow.

The jail sentence of the judge is expected to relieve overcrowding at the Dublin bar. Reports are coming in that the bar has just been blown up. No one will be called to it for some time to come.

Around the Supermarkets

● by Marie Antoinette

News that an American had been seen purchasing over 15 quids worth of groceries sent me rushing to William's supermarket this week to investigate whether this might in fact be an attempted take over, but the rumour proved groundless. When I got there I found that the supermarket had in fact been closed for the day as a mark of respect to a local 1916 veteran who had died of malnutrition the previous day. Cheated of what I thought might have been a first class news story, I decided to attend an auction instead in the sumptuous salon of Quinns-worth. It was indeed a memorable occasion for all food lovers. The star exhibit was a beautiful hen's egg in dark brown with a clever speckled motif, but cautious bidders failed to reach the served price.

Next on offer was a set of matching sausages, reasonably fresh, and we were assured that the preservative content was minimal, which was good enough for the Foxrock housewife who snapped them up for 2 guineas.

Hectic bidding ensued for a fabulous pair of twin lamb chops, which have been insured by the Green Shield Stamp Co. for a sum believed to exceed 200 guineas. Unfortunately I had fainted with hunger before I heard the final bid, but recovered in time to see a well known TD's wife carry them to a waiting Securicor armoured van.

Priceless

Good news of the week is that well known food lover and patriot Galen Weston has donated a priceless side of beef to the nation.

The beef will be kept in a special refrigerated display case in the National Museum, where it can be viewed by members of the public who are clever enough to outwit the force of 70 special branch detectives guarding it.

Ireland however, is not the only EEC



country with food problems and the Belgian government it seems, worried by the food riots which have wrecked the beautiful city of Brussels, may impose a price freeze on sprouts.

Finally, I'm glad to see some people have taken heed of my advice to eat cake. One peasant woman I heard of went into her local patisserie and remembering the patriotic ads about how many eggs went into the baking of cakes asked for "one of them Gatox cakes". "The correct pronunciation is Gateaux, ma'am" pointed out the heavily armed manager. "I shall put it in a box for you?" he asked. "No, you needn't bother yer bolleaux", she replied.

● Marie Antoinette is the authoress of a cook book specifically aimed at the average Irish housewife. The book, entitled "Skin an' all" tells you how to get the most out of a five pound rat, and is available from the Irish People, for 25 Green Shield Stamps, postage paid within Republic of Ireland.

● "So we come to the piece de resistance — a priceless rashor of bacon and two eggs."

Huge bomb blast rocks Belfast

A £200 bomb exploded in Belfast last night. Rich terrorists are believed to have been responsible. A British Army spokesman said that the bomb was made up of two bags of pound notes primed with a handful of half crowns. Odd sixpences and shillings were thrown in as shrapnel and the bomb caused a loud economic boom over a wide area of the city. "This was a lethal weapon bent on economic destruction", said a bomb disposal expert.

Passing the scene of the explosion at the time was Mr. Basil Glass, Chairman of the Alliance Party. The blast shattered glass over a wide area and a shattered Mr. Glass told me: "I am shattered and cracked all over".

The explosion was immediately condemned by Mr. Whitelaw who was away in England but who left a message saying that if any explosions occurred they were to be condemned as "cold calculated attempts at fiendish murder". Reliable sources indicate that Mr. Whitelaw is in England to have an anti-handling device fitted to himself, a process which involves Major Surgery, the well known British Army doctor.

He is due to return to Belfast tomorrow where he will announce details of Ireland's answer to the British Channel Tunnel. The Irish Tunnel will run from Long Kesh to the border where it will meet up with another tunnel from the Curragh. Members of the Irish underground movement will carry out the work and they are believed to have been engaged in underground movement for some time.

Unhappy

Although the proposed Council of Ireland will welcome the idea of a cross border tunnel the Irish Government is unhappy about the idea. They believe that it will undermine the state and undermine the mines in the state. A spokesman for Tara Mines said last night that if the Government undermined them any more they would have to go underground.

Meanwhile another bomb has just gone off here in Belfast leaving a large hole where the city used to be. It is believed to have been the biggest bomb for some time. Mr. Whitelaw will hold tomorrow's press conference in this hole and he is not believed to be annoyed as he always believed Belfast was a hole anyway. The whole of Belfast has been shocked at the news.



● Suspects being searched outside the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

Foreign Cos. in Ireland

This county by county series is intended to illustrate the degree to which Ireland is dependent on foreign-owned industry.

Name of company Parent company in brackets ()	Location	Product	Date production started
General Plastics Ltd. (Ward and Goldstone Ltd., Manchester, England)	Carrick-on-Shannon	Electrical accessories	1955
Metal Recovery Ltd. (Mr. D. Bollmeyer, Neumunster)	Mohill	Purified zinc ingots	1971

NO. 11 LEITRIM