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ORGAN OF THE IRISH CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE

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Worker Power for H-Block Prisoners



This is the kind of militant, traffic-halting, street action that must continue and increase if we are to secure justice for the H-Block prisoners. Picture shows workers from all over Dublin taking part in a one day strike and street demonstration supporting the H-Block protest and recent Hunger Strike by the prisoners.

To Combat Poverty

By John Clarke

The Lord Mayor's Banquet

On Christmas morning 1980 around 12 noon 300 or so of the poor and downtrodden of Dublin City crammed into the main hall of the Mansion House to partake of the Lord Mayor's Banquet.

Each person was given a packet of ten cigarettes and a box of matches on entering the building. After being seated they were given a choice of a bottle of Guinness or a bottle of minerals. There followed a paper cup of oxtail soup, a paper plate of chicken, mashed potatoes and peas, and a paper tub of Christmas pudding. All this time a variety show was being shown on the stage. After half-an-hour of this, the tables were cleared. The band struck up the Soldier's Song. Everyone stood to attention. With a dissenting voice shouting "Up the Rebels", the fraternity of poverty trooped out. The charade was over for another year.

The Lost Week-Ends

For the rest of the year, these poor unfortunates fend for themselves as best they can. The "Penny Dinners" are a poor substitute for the Lord Mayor's Banquet. On a survey that one of our members did recently, we found that they were offered in four different centres for three days of the week, the following menu:- Boiled potatoes (underdone), a meagre slice of tinned meat, or a thin hamburger, with a slice of dry bread, and a cup of tea-no sweet. On Friday they were offere the usual fish menu. On another day, they'll have a wateryt type of stew containing thread like strands of meat. These centres are not open on Saturdays or Sundays, which means that every week these unfortunates have veritable lost week-ends.

Clothing the Naked

If any of these poor people require clothing, they are under obligation, mainly, to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Her they go through a strict means test. If they pass this test, they then proceed to the centre in Mountjoy Square. There they are handed out second hand clothing. There is the presentable which the poor have handed out to them, and there is the not so presentable which os sold in bulk to dealers.

No Room For Dignity

Shortly after his Banquet, the Lord Mayor presented himself at another function. This was a demonstration against abortion, in defence of the unborn child. He addressed the 5,000 people on the need to take action against those clinics that are encourageing abortion of unborn babies, giving the impression that he and his colleagues have the interest of the Irish family at heart, conveniently forgetting in his address that the housing committee of which he os the chairperson is responsible for some of the most overcrowded and depraved housing conditions in Western Europe.

Right in the Inner City of Dublin, for example, we have families of up to eleven members-boys and girls in their teens crowded into flats which have room at most for four. It has been said in relation to this uncivilised state of affairs. These people are expected to stand on their dignity when they have hardly room to stand on their feet.

Unneccessary Charity

On every occassion when walking the streets of Dublin you will be confronted by the representatives of some charitable organisation jingling a collection box under your nose. There must be a thousand and one such like associations with fine luxurious centrally heated offices in Dublin alone all helping to contribute to the



Cases in Question

By John Clarke

An Abandoned Family

In other pages of this issue of our paper, we point to the hypocritical humbug of the Lord Mayor of Dublin going through the pious motion of being seriously concerned for the sanctity of the Irish family, by proclaiming vociferously from public platforms against abortion, when all this time he chairs one of the most inhumane councils in Western Europe, by, for example, upholding thier depraved housing policies. Bilow we give an account of two very sad cases in question, the case of Mr and Mrs Boland,and the case of Mr and Mrs Keogh.

The Keoghs have lived in a two roomed flat in Dorset St. for over eleven years. They have twelve children. The eldest is twenty years, and the youngest is two. For over ten years they have been on the housing list, having applied for a house in the Portland Row area, near the Mother's Pride bakery. They have so far been allotted 96 points. The children, seven boys and five girls(the eldest boy is twenty and the eldest girl nineteen) sleep in two bedrooms. Both parents make do with sleeping in the living room. The three rooms in question are 12'x12'. This family are in a bad financial state. Mr. Keogh works casually. All the time they have lived in the Dorset St. flat they have never had a visit from a social worker, regarding their case. They have heard no word from anyone for over 8 months regarding the fate of their family.

A Housing Agent

Mr and Mrs Boland are another case in question. Here we have a family of six—three boys and three girls aged from five months to fourteen years, all living in a two roomed flat in the Ballybough area. One of the children suffers from asthma. They have been twelve years in the two-roomed flat,and have been on the housing list for six years, seeking a house in the Finglas area. Recently Mrs Boland was told there was a house for her in Finglas, but it was pointed out to her by a Mr Byrne (room 5 in the Housing Department of Jervis St.) that she, Mrs Boland, was under obligation to get anothe tenant for her flat. Not being able to do this, Mrs Boland forfeited the house offered to her family. What an incredible state of affaers has arisen here. Mrs Boland is actually being set up as a housing agent for Dublin Corporation Housing Department.

Some questions arise from this: (1) Since when has it been a legal fact that tenants of Corporation flats are under obligation to seek other tenants for their flats, before they can vacate them for other premises? (2) How many other families all over Ireland have forfeited their right to a chance of a house, because of this serious beaurocratic directive. Final question and most important of all. What happened to the housing list and the points system?

Organised Chaos

We seemed to be faced here with a state organised chaos, which is merely a reflection in miniature of the state of administration of the whole country. It must stand surely as an indictment against this state of affairs being allowed to govern. Only the affluent are in a position to enjoy such a state of "Freedom of Liberties". The majority of our people are being slowly forced into a corner of deprivation.

Ireland/ Germany

By

Countess Markiewicz

I watched the red flame fiercer glow
The tide of war, it's ebb and flow
I see the nations breath and strain
I, who for freedom long am fain
And while I pray swift falls the blow
That raises tyrant England low
On her, whose fetters scared my soul
Whose rule is cursed from pole to pole
Whose trek across my history lies
One reeking path of infamies
Whose brutal hooves scarce left a trace
Of thy past beauty in my face
The stroke be sure O Germany
This wish I send thee oe'r the sea
From Shannon fair to Lordly Rhine
The foe that fronts thee, too, is mine
My sons as thine are true and brave
To aid thee in thy task they crave
To bring the pride of England low
And vengence wreck for all we owe
God grant 'tis thine to overthrow
And crush to earth our common foe

This poem was written by Countess Markiewicz at the beginning of the 1914-18 war and was given by the Countess to Mr. Padraig O Luainigh, now 86, who gave it to us for publication. To his or to our knowledge it has not been published before.

Eviction

When the Macken brothers and their aged and ill father were served with notice to quit from their corporation flat at Gardiner St. we went along to the corporation's office to find out what was wrong.

We were told it was a straightforward case of rent arrears going back over a long period. Further inquiries revealed, however, that rent-arrears was a misnomer. It was a *rent-strike* against the corporation's deliberate refusal to carry out any repairs whatsoever, leaving the Mackens with such home "luxuries" as a blocked unusable toilet, and a roof that leaks in more places than it doesn't.

All part of an inhuman plan to de-humanise the inner city-bulldoze the people out to allow speculators in.

The Mackens are among the faithful few who are prepared to fight for theirs and the people's rights. If you value justice you won't leave them to fight alone.

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Telephone 265898

The Siege of Limerick

WHEN the first phase of the H-Block campaign got under way following the Green Briar conference in October 1979 the Limerick Action Group were the front runners in the mainstream of activity in the South. Throughout the Campaign, their work was consistent ly diligent. Fund-raising specialists, they contributed hundreds of pounds at regular intervals to the National Committee as well as maintaining the required level of money to finance their numerous local activities.

But as Limerick's level of efficiency soared so did harassment from the special branch. People were stopped and questioned incessently. Before holding their collection day the Limerick committee, through their chairperson Gordon Hayes (solicitor) applied for a permit. The application was refused by the local Garda Supt., on the grounds that the funds were likely to be used for an unlawful purpose. Not a shred of evidence was forthcoming to substantiate this charge.

Undeterred by this state obstruction Gordon Hayes and his team went about their work, and made collections for the H-Block campaign when and where they could. Included in this work were visits to the pubs with collection boxes.

What kind of an Irishman is a Garda who is off-duty, and is having a drink in plain clothes in a Limerick lounge to spy on collectors, and in a sneaking manner prefers charges against them when he sees people putting money in their boxes? Were there no lonely old people in Limerick that night who needed his protection? Surely the great zeal for "duty" which he displayed on this occassion would have been better used to prevent muggings on the streets of that city-a matter which is so serious that the head of the Redemptorists Order threatened to mount a campaign on the streets against the Dept. of Justice unless something was done about it.

Any Garda who behaves in this craven manner should be boycotted by the community amongst whom he "works" and lives. A supt who stated in court that no application was made relating to the date on which the collection was made can only be described as a Prince of Naievity and Hairsplitting.

The whole policy of British Appeasement was best expressed in the attitude of a District Justice who revolted like the Devil from holy water when your soul-stirring slogan was produced in evidence —"Don't let them die".

This Siege of Limerick was not only directed against Gordon Hayes. Joe Harrington (editor of The Bottom Dog) and a H-Block committee member-summoned for making a H-Block collection during a public meeting at Thomas St. corner. Two members of the Bruff H-Block committee were also summoned for fund raising. Applications for permits to collect were made in all cases, and were refused. As if to add insult to injury, Mr. C.J. Haughey wrote as follows by way of reply to a letter sent to him by a member of the Limerick H-Block committee: "As you will be aware the hunger-strike has since ended. The Taoiseach is pleased that a potentially dangerous and tragic situation has been averted and considers that all who have contributed to the ending of the strike deserve the gratitude of the Irish People". It is worth noting that this letter was written on Jan 22nd, when it was clear that as the British had reneged on their promises, another hunger-stike was a likely development, and in fact has since been announced to begin on March 1st.

In spite of all this harassment, Limerick keeps working for H-Block. They have swung straight into this phase of the campaign by being in the forefront with a public meeting in Connolly Hall on 12-2 1981. Anyone who goes down there will see clearly that no amount of intimidation, no double dealing by Charlie Haughey, no adversity of any kind will stop the fight for justice for the H-Block prisoners maintained by unrelenting activists in Limerick City and County.



Charlie Haughey wears the yellow ribbon to welcome the American hostages to Shannon. President Reagan has stated they were not hostages but "prisoners of war." If Mr. Haughey can accept that, his refusal to accept that term in relation to Irish Republican prisoners in Ireland, England, and America is something that should not be acceptable to the Irish people.

suspected of involvement in anti-state activities. They had in some cases been arrested but subsequently released because they refused to sign a confession and there was no evidence against them. Paul Duffy, Colm McNutt and Denis Heaney were shot dead on separate occasions, unwarned, unarmed and without provocation. Then in Belfast on June 21st 1978 three suspects were gunned down along with a passer-by who was also deliberately killed. According to S.A.S. logic they had trailed four men-so four had to die. One of the victims, it is reliably reported, had 63 bullet wounds. Mason dismissed this State- approved carnage as "merely a result of developments the government has been promising since the security review."

Greatest public outrage was, however, aroused by the murder on July 11th that year of schoolboy, John Boyle, after the lad's father reported the discovery of an arms cache. Even the R.U.C. admitted the boy who was allegedly pointing a gun but was shot three times from *behind*- was totally innocent. Generally when the S.A.S. is involved there is not even the pretence of justice, and the cases of such killings are quietly dropped. In the case of John Boyle, the report sent to the Attorney General was leaked to the Press, so, eventually, a year later, two S.A.S men went on trial for murder....They were aquitted. We have yet to see any State terrorists serve sentences for premeditated murder.

After such events it is small wonder that S.A.S. involvement- with or without connivance from loyalist groups or individuals as "hit men"—is suspected in the murders last year of H Block campaigners Miriam Daly (July) and Ronnie Bunting and Noel Lyttle (October) only four days before the attack on the Berkery family who also campaign on this issue. Daly, Bunting and Lyttle were all killed in their homes in the heart of Nationalist West Belfast, areas where loyalist gunmen would hardly venture unless guaranteed safe passage by State forces. The attackers have detailed information on the layout of their victims' homes and whereabouts of their families. Such information would only be available from State "intelligence". Miriam Daly was killed with a standard issue British Army weapon. Her hands has been tied with the same kind of plastic handcuffs as were used on Moyra Berkery by the S.A.S....

In the North of Ireland, if no-one is ever convicted of a particular political murder, people begin to talk of the S.A.S. Following the killing in November 1978 of Derry grandfather, Patrick Duffy, who was ambushed by plain clothes soldiers, Boshop Edward Daly condemned the British authorities for acting as "Judge, Jury and Executioner". There is plenty of evidence that they still do so.

Eibhlin Ni Sheidhir

Speculation In Corporation Houses

If whats going on in the Drimnagh area at present in relation to the buying and selling of Corporation houses is going on in other similar areas all over Dublin, then it's time the Corporation started a house cleaning exercise, and started it fast.

Older Areas

The type of speculation we are about to expose is most likely taking place in the older areas such as Drimnagh, where people who have been corporation tenants have been able to purchase their rented houses at reduced rates and then sell them again at market value. We have been in touch with Dublin Corporation who have confirmed that when a house is being sold to a tenant the price is calculated as follows:— The cost of building the house plus consumer price index for each year of tenancy. (the point was made that this in itself constituted a reduced price, since if housing cost index were applied it would have been much higher). When this price is calculated reductions are implemented as follows: For every year of tenancy, up to a maximum of ten years, there is a reduction of 3%. The Government grant to house-purchasers of £1,000 also applies, as does a rates allowance of £300.

Re-selling

The Corporation official went to great pains to explain the restrictions imposed on anyone re-selling a Corporation House. In our view they didn't amount to very much. There is no limit to what you can charge the third party for the house. **However if you have been a tenant for less than five years you must refund a 'clawback' of 50% of your profit to the Corporation.** (The official said he didn't like using the term 'speculation') . It was in our view, very difficult to find a more appropriate word. This means that not only is speculation tolerated by the Corporation, but it is actually demanding a share in the speculation cake for itself, through the 'clawback' clause.

There are other rules as well. Before you can sell your house, the Corporation must be satisfied that the person buying the house is someone in need of a house. Ironically, when this is established the Corporation gives the householder the green light to screw the last penny out of the poor "someone in need of a house." There is not much social justice about that kind of administration.

"If you are talking about civil rights" the Corporation afficial remarked "surely it would be taking away civil rights to put any limit on what price a person can get for a house". The answer of course lies in the fact that extortion has no place in the civil rights code.

Solution

There is no argument about a Corporation tenant being able to purchase his house at a substantially reduced price. If we have any criticism it is that the reductions are not enough once a tenant has purchased his house. However, he should only be allowed to resell to the Corporation at the price he paid plus inflation for the intervening years, plus the value of any extensions that he has added to the property'. Under no circumstances should he be allowed to sell or to rent to anyone else.

These houses were built by the Corporation to provide subsidised housing for workers. That is the way it should remain, the long list of young married couples with children, who are living in one or two roomed flats, are the suffering proof of that need.

Before writing this article many people were consulted included people with a vested interest in selling their houses at the highest price they could get. They made the point that this would be the only chance they would ever get " to put a few pounds together". In the context of the present system there is no doubt but that this is true. The only way you can put a few pounds together is by exploiting your fellow man. This is because the system is rotten, and **will have to be replaced by one that will ensure that each of us will have our needs taken care of without any involvement in exploitation.**

S.A.S.—
Legalised Terror

At about 6p.m. on Sunday evening October 19th last, the mother of a young man on the "blanket" protest in Long Kesh, and her neighbours had gathered in her home in Twinbrook, Belfast, to discuss what to do about the imminent hunger strike. They were understandably anxious, but never thought their own lives were in danger.

Suddenly the front door was smashed in with sledge hammers and men in casual clothes rushed at them. As Moyra Berkery, whose home was attacked, described it: "I could hear crashing all over the house, I thought it was a loyalist assassination squad. A blond haired man appeared in a doorway and screamed to shut the baby up. Then I was pushed to the floor and my hands taped behind my back. I felt a gun pointed at my head. Then the men's English accents clicked in my mind and I thought 'It's the S.A.S...' "

Moyra's 15 year old daughter, Aisling, who was upstairs was brought down by the men, her hands tied. "We were sure they were out to kill by the way they came in," said Moyra. "The only reason they did not shoot anybody is that the neighbours all came out and witnessed it. If not for that, we'd all have been shot dead."

Following a neighbour's phone call, uniformed British soldiers and R.U.C. arrived 15 minutes later. According to witnesses they appeared not to know what was happening-despite a subsequent statement that the raid was a joint R.U.C/British Army operation! Far from any of the intruders being arrested, a police detective was seen to greet one of the "gang" in familiar terms, and all of them were given a safe passage out of the area In fact, in order to justify the action four of the victims were arrested and held for two days in Castlereagh during which time they were questioned about their political views and activities then hastily released as the incident had aroused a chorus of protest from among others, Bishop Philbin. When released they said they had the impression the police did not know why the Berkery home (and a neighbouring one) had been singled out for this (admitted) British Army attack. That was because the S.A.S operate as an elite undercover elite military unit, answerable to no-one except Whitehall and the British Cabinet.

It was 1974 when the British Government officially admitted there were 120 S.A.S. men in the North of Ireland, though it is known from ex-soldiers that S.A.S. groups had in fact been operating from barracks in Belfast and Armagh since 1972. Prior to that they had been active in Aden and other parts of the world where Britain was anxious to maintain a "presence" and had no qualms in resorting to subtefuge and assassination to do so.

A definition of the role of the S.A.S. is given in Paragraph 225 of the Official British Army (restricted) handbook entitled "Land Operations-Principals and Practice" which reads as follows:—

"S.A.S. squadrons are particularly suited, trained and equipped for counter revolutionary operations. Small parties may be infiltrated or dropped by parachute to avoid a long approach through enemy dominated areas in order to carry out any of the following tasks:—

a. The collection of information on the location and movement of insurgent held areas.

b. The ambush and harassment of insurgents.

c. Infiltration of sabotage, assassination and demolition parties into insurgent held areas.

d. Border surveillance.

e. Limited community relations.

f. Liason with and organisation, training and control of, friendly guerrilla forces operating against a common enemy."

It may be noted that the publication of the above is prohibited in the U.K. under the D Notices (security) regulations. British and Northern people are not allowed to know.

Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan people should note that d. above does not specify *which* side of the Border. In fact, Sean McKenna who recently nearly died on hungerstike in Long Kesh was kidnapped in Co. Louth by plain clothes S.A.S. men. He was never actually arrested.

One should also note the blatent use of the term "assassination" in the S.A.S instructions. Presumably the attack on the Berkery home qualifies as item b. or c. in S.A.S. language? In a Northern context it is not hard to define possible "friendly guerrilla forces" especially during the days of widespreas sectariand murders in the early to mid '70s.

In the light of these declared S.A.S. tasks, certain events of the past years assume a new significance.

In 1972, according to ex-S.A.S Sergeant Mark Franks, on Bloody Sunday the S.A.S were placed on the roof of the Derry post office to fire towards the Paratroopers to give them the excuse to fire at the marchers. In the event the S.A.S who were in a tactics dispute with the Ulster Defence Regiment, did not fire. The Paratroopers did...

From 1972 onwards there were a series of murders and attempted murders, mostly in Belfast, where shots were fired from an unmarked car, later allowed free passage through check points. Occasionally, to placate local witnesses of shooting incidents, official statements were made that "plain clothes" troops had been under attack. On other occasions men later claimed officially to be "British soldiers on duty" were shot while sitting in plain clothes in unmarked cars. All S.A.S. unit members are seconded from other regiments so that the S.A.S. "officially" scarcely exists. Consequently, there is never any need to admit that an S.A.S man as such has been discovered or killed.

In May 1977 Secretary of State Roy Mason gave the S.A.S. a free hand to mount undercover operations. In the following 18 months ten people, three of whom were certainly unconnected with any political activity, died at the hands of the S.A.S. or S.A.S.-type soldiers. Victims included people

The Children of Prisoners of War...



...were not neglected for Christmas. Santa Claus came with numerous gifts after getting a letter from Owen Lowe of the Political Prisoner's Action Group

impoverishment of our people, assisted by the £18 million annually contributed by the Government - all hard earned capital being syphoned from our economy, ending up in many cases in the pockets of professional confidence tricksters, a trickle of it finding it's way to those who really need it, in the manner of soup kitchens, penny dinners, and other such impoverished projects.

On the other hand, governments of most industrial developed nations think nothing of sending armoured cars, rifles, machine-guns, bombs and so forth to help intimidate the citizens of the so-called third world into accepting *their* imposed impoverishment. Five billion pounds sterling os spent annually on such armaments.

Money to Burn

There is enough revenue within the boundaries of all those nations , including our own to solve the problem of poverty and all the misery it entails. Of course this would not suit those who have control of the nation's purse stings, for in the resolving of the problem a radical redistribution of the wealth of the nation would have to take place, and this of course would impinge on the living standards of those, who at the moment have within their possession money to burn.

The Custom House Plan

As an example of the rank perversion of the above let us examine the proposed Ports and Docks Board of Dublin plan for the development of a £200 million commercial centre at the Custom House Docks as reported in various national newspapers.

The Port and Docks Board have under their control a 27.5 acre site which they are anxious to dispose of by sale. Their personell responsible for this site are not really interested in this sites development except in that it can bring in the highest possible cash remuneration. Others who are more interested like the Irish Life Assurance Society and other such assiciations for example, are also interested for purely mercenary reasons.

Planning Permission

All this is why the officials of the Port and Docks Board are anxious to get planning permission from the Corporation. Planning permission would enable the Port and Docks Board to completely demolish the warehouses, and clear the 27.5 acre site for the developers to take over what could be a great potential for an industrial area, and develope, instead of the neccessary industries, office and hotel accomadation, as well as car parks. The housing shall be of the luxury kind, pent houses, luxury flats, and what have you — accomadation well beyond the reach of the average wage or salary earner.

Opulent Residents

These potential opulent residents shall have at their disposal, restaurents, bars, a cinema, theatre, a large exhibition hall, and all requirements to ensure that there is plenty of night-life. Mr Ronnie Tallon, the Board's architect has already declared that this is the plan. Mr Tallon has also said he was hopeful that the Corporation would sanction a height of 150ft. for a tower type hotel.

The Unemployable

All this is planned to take place in an area where there is a very high rate of unemployment. Registered in the labour exchanges within Dublin at the moment are close on 50,000 people. There are another twelve to fifteen thousand young people coming into the market yearly with little or no prospects for work. Many of these young people are classed as unemployable by those in authority.

A non-productive plan

Our people would profit none from such a plan. A few would be considered for scrubbing floors, cleaning windows and cars, or securing the ill-gotten gains of the idle rich. Most of our youth would be caught-up in a dead end and become prey for the depraved predators such planning permission caters for. Looking around the great metropolises of Western Europe and the South American "banana republics" gives us a foretaste of what to expect from such projects. Prostitution, rapes, robberies, and drug peddling would be rife. Such projects, if they succeed, shall only add to the misery of our social problems.

Our Guardians

While all this is going on, all those planned attacks on the morals of our people, those who should be taking the offensive on our behalf, are caught up in the rat-race. Union executives and administrators are caught up in cabals, knifing and clawing each other for positions of authority. From a report in the newspapers recently we read of a prolonged row in one of our key trade unions over one of the executives. A group of members at the centre want this executive removed from office. All this apparently ended up in the courts last spring, and resulted in the granting of an injunction to restrain the executive from entering the union premises.

Neo-Colonialism

But the Federated Union of Employers are not bickering. This tightly knit group of arch-conspirators are assisting the International Monopolies in their new colonisation policy of Ireland . One of their "liberal" catch phrases is that the Irish workers are "pricing themselves out of work" in their demand for higher wages. Below we show a table that throws this lie back in their faces, and shows that the Irish worker is one of the most exploited in the World.

A Positive Policy

As we have said before no country today can be seriously considered as a nation that does not develope it's economy to the full. Ireoand must have economy to the full. Ireland must have a substantial heavy industrial complex. She must have a light industrial complex complementary to this.To balance all she must have a fully developed agricultural industry. There is no organisation in Ireland today prepared to put this vital policy into practise, for the simple reason that all political organisations in Ireland to-day are committed to self-centred policies. The production of our industries must be of such a nature that this social policy must serve the interests, not of groups of people or individuals, but of all the people. Our objective should be to secure the right to work, health care, education and all the neccessary material provisions in order to raise our society to the highest possible human level.

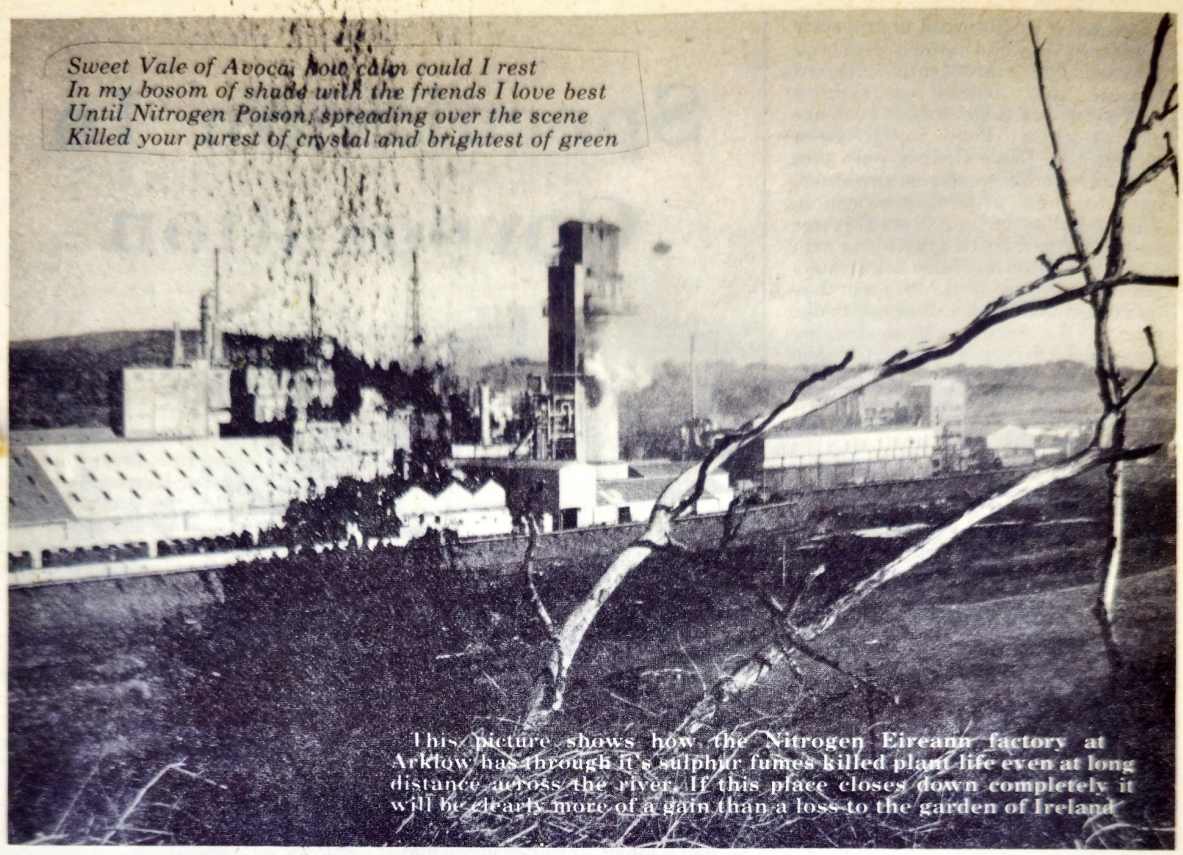
A Political Organisation

As long as we are weak organisationally, unemployment, poverty and human misery shall be rife amongst us, and we shall be able to raise but the feeblest protests like the dissenter at "The Lord Mayor's Banquet". A cry of derision, a mere source of humour. Therefore we source of humour. Therefore we must seriously consider the development of such a political organisation, disciplined in it's militancy to secure the political power needed to put such a positive policy into practise. Such should be our ultimate aim. A policy of the above nature is the only sound way forward, enabling us to combat poverty.

Note. The survey below was carried out by Imbucan, a firm of management consultants.

Switzerland tops the league for workers payment (£15,337/year), Holland (£14,205), West Germany (£13,582), Belgium (£12,658), Norway (£11,103), Denmark (£10,639), Sweden (£10,476), France (£10,240), Austria (£10,118), United States (£9,644), Canada (£8,917), Finland (£8,804), Australia (£8,278), Japan (£7,751), Britain (£7,266), Italy (£6,504), Ireland (£6,138), Spain (£6,012), Greece (£4,237), and Portugal (£2,041). The above figures are all in sterling. As you can see by this table, the Irish worker is well down the list regarding income. Still the Irish worker is expected to make sacrifices through wage restrictions in order, as they are told "to safeguard the economy" to "ensure the development of full employment" and so on. Neither the Irish worker or his representatives have any control over rising prices which are inflating at a geometrical rate annually.

Sweet Vale of Avoca, how calm could I rest
In my bosom of shade with the friends I love best
Until Nitrogen Poison, spreading over the scene
Killed your purest of crystal and brightest of green



This picture shows how the Nitrogen Eireann factory at Arklow has through it's sulphur fumes killed plant life even at long distance across the river. If this place closes down completely it will be clearly more of a gain than a loss to the garden of Ireland

How The Spirit Is Awakened

William Mulholland was a young Derryman in the final stages of leukamia in a Derry hostpital. The doctor called in the family to give them the bad news that William had only twenty four hours to live. There was one member of the family Don, who was locked away in the H-Blocks. The doctor was a kind and generous man "Look", he said "I will contact the Governor of the Maze, and see what can be done about getting Don out".

Non-political family

Apart from Don, the Mulhollands were not in any way involved in the Northern political situation. As best they could, they went about their day-to-day affairs. They were some what bewildered when the Doctor came back with the news that in spite of his representations there would be no parole for Don.

Inevitable

William died two days before Christmas. The hunger-strike was just over. The neighbours gathered into the Mulholland home to express sympathy and give whatever comfort they could. Like the Mulhollands, they were largely people who had no involvement in politics. Notwithstanding the refusal to allow Don home to see William before he died, the little gathering felt that there would be no problem about parole for the funeral.

When the inevitable news came that there would be no funeral parole, the apathy that had a grip of most of the people assembled at Mulhollands melted like snow. A full realisation of British oppression and insensitivity came down on each and everyone of them. Men who for twelve years of conflict had maintained a careful silence stood up and spoke out loudly and clearly. "We must get off this fence now. We must go out on the streets with our brothers, and stay on the streets until the British are removed from our country entirely and forever".

Why do the children of Ireland have to die in this case a sad innocent death before so many people will have their dormant spirits awakened, before they show their dignity by demanding justice and liberty for themselves and for their people?

Seven Men

Written into history
With letters made of Gold
Seven names of seven soldiers
Our children will be told

Seven sons of mothers
Suffered sorrow; suffered pain
And in the cause of justice
Would suffer all again

Seven wasted bodies
By hunger's fangs are torn
Yet proudly still remembering
The blankets they have worn

Seven men unyielding
To England's bloody wars
Have set the Plough for Victory
And touched upon the Stars

-Joe Stagg

(These lines are dedicated to the seven men who made history by remaining together on hunger strike without one coming off, untill all were given to understand that their demands were being met)