

Citizen Press

ISSUE NO. 8

WEEKEND ISSUE

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ABSURD QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Unite all you English speaking people of Ulster. Keep out the Italians, the Spaniards, the Russians and the bogmen from the Gaeltacht. That way you'll forget all your ideological differences and we'll all live happily ever after" Vivian Simpson only Opposition M.P. to attend Stormont suggests his solution to Ulster's problems.

KEEP THE BARRICADES UNTIL CALLAGHAN CARRIES OUT PROMISES

Mr. Callaghan is the biggest, the brashest, the bluntest, the best British Home Secretary ever to visit Northern Ireland. Maybe, but we are very sorry we must continue to man the barricades.

We have been granted an Ombudsman.
We have been granted redress of grievances against Local Authorities.
Most political prisoners have been freed.

We have been given £250,000
We have been lent a job lot of British Civil Servants.

All this is the result of an amiable agreement between Mr. Callaghan and the Unionist government. The Mad Major who was last week's murderer becomes this week's saviour.

Mr. Callaghan has guaranteed peace for worried British investors, and he has guaranteed continued power for the ruling Unionist clique. He has given them a new Liberal gloss which has as yet no substance.

Listen to Mr. Callaghan's comments on the role of the opposition in Ulster:-
"as to how the opposition can have an effective voice that is not for me to discuss here tonight — even if they do not have an effective voice politically, I think we have taken measures to ensure that they have fair play."

We must maintain the barricades until the reforms promised are enacted, until reform of the police and repeal of the Special Powers Act are included. We must show that we have no confidence in a reform programme introduced by the corrupt Unionist regime responsible for last week's terror.

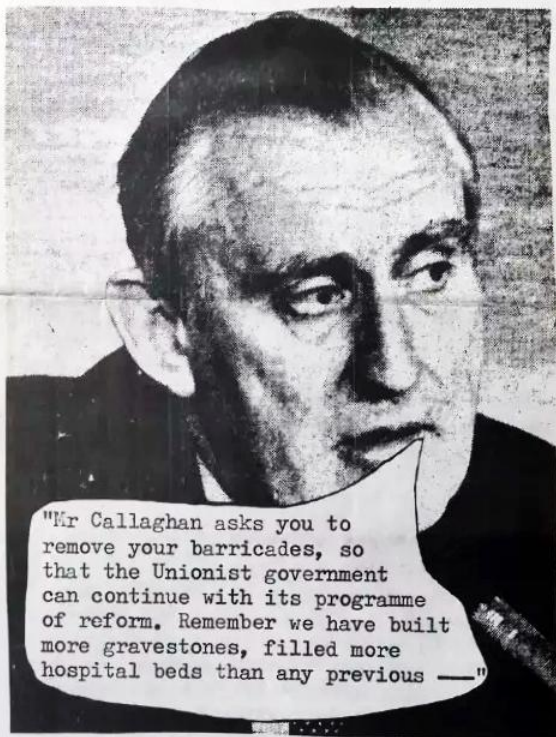
ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT MILITIA

Who is it who permits the display of U.V.F. recruiting posters inside the Electricity Department buildings? Two of these posters are to be found outside the stores department.

RADIO FREE BELFAST

Gets stronger every day on 232 metres medium wave.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAD MAJOR



"Mr Callaghan asks you to remove your barricades, so that the Unionist government can continue with its programme of reform. Remember we have built more gravestones, filled more hospital beds than any previous —"

BIG DEAL FROM THE CORPORATION

The corporation have provided 50 caravans to house the 3,000 left homeless in the riots.

The lucky few are already being terrorised by corporation bureaucrats. They are being charged £1 a week rent, they have had to give a down payment of 35/- for cooking equipment, and now they have been told "unless you give us £20 guarantee money or find two guarantors you will lose your key"

LORD STONHAM TELLS C.R.A. JUST HOW LITTLE WE ARE GETTING.

On Thursday 10 members of N.I.C.R.A. met Lord Stonham, they had been refused a hearing by Mr. Callaghan. Lord Stonham, a master at diplomatic waffle, failed to conceal the meagre nature of the steps so far taken by the British Government.

The N.I.C.R.A. representatives put 5 main demands to him, these were:-

- 1) Disbandment of the B-Specials.
- 2) Disarming and re-organisation of R.U.C.
- 3) Legislation for full Civil Rights by Westminster.
- 4) Suspend Stormont, and rule by commission for a while.
- 5) Financial and economic aid above present levels for a period.

Lord Stonham explained that the B-men had been disarmed, he was quite sure about this. He was in no way dismayed when C.R. spokesmen explained that only those on active duty had handed in their arms. He was slightly distressed to hear that the G.O.C. himself had denied that they were being disarmed, but he was sure that it was all a matter of interpretation.

Westminster had no intention of legislating for Civil Rights in Ulster. That was a matter for Stormont, where the people of Ulster had their own parliament. He ruled out any suspension of Stormont, even for a short period, he also ruled out the idea of government by a commission.

He ruled out the idea of extra financial aid above and beyond present subsidies from Westminster.

On security arrangements, he said that the G.O.C. was in charge, but he admitted that Stormont was in charge of the administration of the Special Powers Act and thus presumably in charge of any internees. He was asked about the recent raids in Derry in which the army took part. He explained that these were "normal police duties" of which Stormont had control. He could not explain why the army took part.

On Saturday N.I.C.R.A. were the only group not to fall about in joy over Callaghan's statement, after this unsatisfactory meeting, is it any wonder

BIG BUSINESS CANNOT SOLVE THE HOUSING AND JOBS CRISIS

Businessmen have warned that the present riots have harmed Ulster's chances of getting more jobs. The Housing Trust and Corporation officials warn that the present disturbances have jeopardised the housing effort.

Yet before the present riots, we had the worst housing and the worst unemployment in the British Isles.

If these businessmen could not solve our problems then, can they solve it now. The answer of course is no.

Let us consider jobs first. Despite the ludicrously attractive government grants not enough jobs came here. Too many of the firms which did come were like Senozip, here for the grants, here to exploit cheap labour, we were building an economy to help rich men picked at random in Britain, not an economy related to our needs.

Then look at housing. Both the Housing Trust and other Local Authorities are burdened by exorbitant interest payments they have to make on loans.

In our housing crisis why should the homeless have to wait, so that the rich men can be paid their interest. In the jobs crisis why should we wait for British industrialists to come and exploit us, when the government here could establish state industries to be run by the workers themselves for the good of the community.

These solutions will become clearer to Protestant and Catholic worker alike, in the weeks to come. The British Government is not going to pay to clear up the mess, it is not prepared to bale out Ulster's ruling class where money is involved.

THEIR CRIME WAS OUR DEFENCE

The Unionist Government had to make at least one Liberal gesture to placate Callaghan. They didn't repeal the Special Powers Act, but they did release most of the detainees. The four who remain behind are Willy MacMillan and Frank Card of Belfast, Malachy McGurran of Lurgan and Frank Campbell of Armagh. Three of these have been charged with the possession of firearms, which in the circumstances prevailing in the Bombay Street area is hardly a very serious crime, one is charged with the possession of illegal literature, namely the Sinn Fein constitution.

We condemn any regime which attempts to prevent its subjects from even thinking of disloyalty to the constitution.

MAKE THE DEMANDS FROM BEHIND THE BARRICADES CLEAR — PROTESTANTS HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM US.

In Belfast and Derry at the moment there appears to be a kind of stalemate behind the barricades. This has its good and bad points, let us consider where we go from here. The good point about the barricades is that they provide protection against all types of marauding Unionist militia, whether they be the R.U.C., the B-Men, or the thugs of the U.V.F.

For the first time in almost 50 years there are areas of the 6-Counties where those opposed to the Unionist ruling elite can do political work without the immediate threat of Unionist repression.

The danger about the barricades is that they surround purely catholic areas and hence that they will bring about even even greater divisions between Catholic and Protestant working people.

Defence Committee Members are very aware of this problem. They fought behind the barricades for purely defensive reasons, and their demands are merely demands to ensure the safety of the people. The barricades do not in any way represent a threat to the Protestant people of Belfast.

To make this clear plans are afoot to begin a political campaign within the barricaded areas and then beyond them, to put over the basic Civil Rights demands.

Street Committees should be formed in Free Belfast and Free Derry, in most areas they exist as barricade committees, they should discuss the demands being put forward in their name in the Civil Rights Covenant. These Committees should be permanent democratic organisations.

How do we carry the demands beyond the barricades. Obviously we must use different tactics in different situations, but we do have some contact with Protestants, who like us were prepared to work to avoid violence of the type that occurred last week.

Can they be persuaded to do more than just support a phoney peace in which no political solution has been found. We should discuss the issues in our Civil Rights covenant with them.

The Civil Rights demands too, should be wide enough to cover everyone. We should demand better housing, more jobs and higher wages for everyone in the riot torn slum areas of Belfast. Remember after 50 years of Unionist rule Protestant working people in Sandy Row and on the Shankill suffer housing conditions as bad as any in Ulster.

EDDIE MCATEER

Eddie McAteer has now asked for the barricades in Bogside to come down. Eddie is like the weather, he changes every day, he has no politics, he is essentially a romantic, he feels the spirit of "my" people. He does not ask his people if they mind having their spirit interpreted in this way.

Eddie was the man who condemned the famous P.D. march to Derry at Christmas as it set out, and welcomed it as it arrived three days later. Eddie was immensely heartened by Jack Lynch's statement of support for Bogside (nobody else took much notice) and was then immensely gloomy within two days. Eddie was sorry Mr. Callaghan had nothing to say about the border. In fact Eddie was so wrapped up in romantic illusions that he did not bother to see whether Callaghan had actually granted the simple, grimly factual, down to earth Bogside demands. Demands similar to our own, for disbandment of the B-Men, Disarming and re-organisation of the R.U.C., and an amnesty for political prisoners and all those who fought to defend their homes

BREAK-Down of LAW AND ORDER SAY POLICE !!

"The police are worried". Oh dear, and for why? Apparently "the people have taken the law into their own hands". What a disgrace "There are people behind the barricades whom the police would like to interview", they also want to drive their Whippet cars in the area.

Will we let them? Hell-No.

BARRICADE BULLETIN

Get Barricade Bulletin No. 1., on sale in all Free Areas.

TOMORROW EVERY HEAVY-MOUTH WILL BE AGAINST US

Tomorrow the storm will break, the whole world will tell us, "Take the barricades down. The English Liberal press will say "enough is enough" listen to man of wisdom Captain Terence or Major Chichester - Clark he is now a reformer. Remember they supported us after October 5th. but not before, after Burntollet but not before, and after August 15th but not before.

Eddie McAteer and Desmond Boal will slap each other on the back and agree that the barricades should come down. All moderate Ulster which never heard so much as a toy pistol go off will say bring them down.

But the poor of Belfast have their dead and injured, it is our duty and our fight to ensure that whatever these so called moderates say, the conditions never again exist for a bloodbath like that of recent weeks.

This does mean disbandment of the B--Specials, and it does mean re-organisation of the R.U.C. It still in all probability means legislation for civil rights from Westminster.

DERRY CITIZEN'S DEFENCE COMMITTEE MET LAST NIGHT FOR FOUR HOURS TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF THE BARRICADES NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, AND THE COMMITTEE MEET AGAIN TOMORROW AT 3P.M.

CLEAN THOSE STREETS

Citizen Press and Radio Free Belfast, have continually urged the women of the area to ensure that the Streets are kept clean. Some streets have responded well, but in general apathy has prevailed. Now the police are using the "Public Health hazard" as a smear against us, thus it is time something was done. If you cannot organise people in your street contact the C.D.C. or representatives of the Citizen Press and Radio Free Belfast.

C.D.C. MEET THE G.O.C.

Members of the C.D.C. have met the G.O.C., General Freeland. The discussion cleared up a number of points, and the C.D.C. feel that the G.O.C. now has a clearer idea of the fears and objectives of the people inside the barricaded areas.



P.D. SUPPORTERS PICKET THE CONWAY HOTEL AS CALLAGHAN ARRIVES. THEY WERE PROTESTING OVER THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF MEN UNDER THE SPECIAL POWERS ACT, AND ALSO OVER THE REFUSAL OF THE HOME SECRETARY TO MEET EITHER N.I.C.R.A. OR THE P.D.