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FREE CITIZEN

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TERRORISM!!!



THE LAST WEEK HAS SEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF TERRORISM AGAINST CIVILIANS ON A MAJOR SCALE. THE BOMBS IN THE BRITISH LEGION HALL IN SUFFOLK AND THE PUB ON THE SHANKILL ROAD WERE AIMED AT, OR TOOK NO ACCOUNT, OF THE LIVES OF CIVILIANS. THE EXPLOSIONS AT SPRINGFIELD ROAD BARRACKS INJURED THIRTEEN CIVILIANS, INCLUDING A TWO-YEAR-OLD CHILD. IT WAS SHEER CHANCE THAT NO CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN THESE ATTACKS.

The recent attacks on British troops are understandable. They are partly provoked by the thuggish, bullying conduct of the British army and are partly one group's attempt to fight imperialism and bring about a Republic. But attacks on civilians, or attacks on military or police which endanger the lives of civilians, are quite unjustifiable and almost incomprehensible.

There is only one argument which could explain the attacks on civilians. Both the British Legion Hall and Mountainview Bar are in predominantly Protestant districts. The victims were very likely to be Protestants. There are people on the fringes of both the Civil Rights and Republican movements who habitually refer to their Protestant fellow-Irishmen as "planters" and talk of driving them into the sea. An extension of this type of reasoning might regard all Protestants as legitimate targets for attack.

Already last June some 'Republicans' or Catholic gunmen fired into, admittedly, sectarian crowds of Protestants on the Crumlin and Newtownards Roads, killing six people. Recently the Provisional I.R.A. took credit for a wave of attacks on Orange Halls. It

may not be such a great step from justifying the shooting of Orangemen to declaring war on all Protestants.

The Peoples Democracy regards a physical force campaign against the British Army as futile and doomed to failure, as in the late 30's and 40's and in the 1950's. It can never win the support of the majority of the population in the North and, while it might win sympathy, will gain no real support in the South. The reason is simple. The businessmen, the wealthy farmers, the middle classes who led the national struggle for 'independence' in the 20's have got what they wanted. The only ones left are the workers and small farmers - and why should they fight to extend the bankrupt gombeen Republic to the Six Counties? After all imperialism rules as effectively in the 26 Counties as in the North.

But while we can sympathise with the motives of those who would launch such a campaign against the army we can have nothing but contempt for those who would try to build a Republic on the bodies of dead or maimed Protestant Irishmen. Such 'Republicans' would have disgraced the memory of Wolfe Tone, Henry Joy McCracken, Jemmy Hope, George Plant. They would too be the greatest enemies of the cause they claim to support. For the only Republic that can be established today is the Workers' Republic - and it can only be built with the aid of those very Protestant workers whom these men seek to murder.

FREE MILK FOR OUR CHILDREN - LOBBY CITY COUNCILLORS - JUNE 1st

DURING the last war provision of meals and milk became compulsory in Schools. Today it is an important factor in the improved physique of our children in spite of other hardships.

NOW the prices of school meals have soared from 9p to 12p and this Autumn the Governments are going to try to take school milk from the over six year olds.

WHAT is their excuse for this attempt to deprive small children of milk. The answer, they say, is that they must have parity with Britain and the cry is "we can't do a thing about it".

WELL, if this is so, why haven't we got full parity. Northern Ireland wages are much lower and unemployment is higher than in Britain. The Welfare Act is supposed to cover for the needy in special sections, like the Pensioners, the Children and for individual cases.

THE STORMONT Government can and does use its discretion in certain cases. THIS SHOULD BE ONE OF THOSE CASES!

WELL, what about it MUM are you going to let them take your child's milk away?? Of course you are not. WANT TO KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.....JUST READ ON.

WE ASK THE AUTHORITIES TO COPY MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNCIL'S ACTION SUPPORTED BY 101 M.P.s THAT THEY ARE NOW PROVIDING FREE MILK FOR CHILDREN....WE ASK YOU TO LOBBY BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AT 1.15 p.m. CITY HALL ON JUNE 1st.

FREE MILK

BRID McGLADE.

When the British Government announced in their mini-budget that milk would be withdrawn from schoolchildren, it seemed that the Stormont Government would slavishly follow suit. Northern Ireland has a surplus of dairy produce and the economy would gain little or nothing from such a measure. The amazing thing is that this is what they are trying to do, and for what? Capt. Long, the Minister of Education doesn't even know. He can only say that the Government must deprive little children of milk exposing them to the dangers of rickets, anaemia and general malnutrition, simply because N. Ireland must do what Gt. Britain does. He does not know where the surplus milk goes, but in all probability it will be put into butter for export! As long as the economy is making a profit and preparations are going ahead to raise prices for entry in to the EEC, Governments couldn't care less about undernourished children, pensioners or the unemployed. The price of school meals has soared to 12p, hundreds of old people die every winter of cold and prescription and health charges have doubled. All of these measures hit hardest at the working-class people and make a mockery of the so-called Welfare State. Mothers are alarmed about their children's welfare in conditions like these and are beginning to protest strongly on issues like school milk. Here in Belfast a non-political group of mothers, both Catholic and Protestant have taken action on the issue. They met Capt. Long to discuss with him this question. He was simply not interested and told them they must put up with these little discomforts. So the women, determined to win their fight, are petitioning all over Belfast for mothers to support a motion calling for free school milk, which will be proposed by Councillor Flanagan to Belfast Corporation on International Children's Day, June 1st. It will be a chronic comment on our City Fathers' care for their flock if this motion is defeated. Merthyr Tydfil's local council voted to continue with school milk, the cost to be met by the ratepayers. Moves are afoot to do the same thing in Manchester and Sheffield. Protestant Unionists and Republican Councillors have promised to support, though very little forthcoming from local Official Unionists. Headmasters on both sides of the education divide have signed the petition and clearly there is growing support from every humane person, regardless of political or religious beliefs, for such a basic issue as free milk for schoolchildren. The women behind this struggle do not belong to political organisations, but they have fought for lower bus fares and established a local club for schoolchildren, because they, unlike the Government and most politicians, are concerned about the needs of working-class people. They are determined to win the fight for free milk and deserve the support of every woman and mother. Every mother should join their march to the City Hall at one o'clock on the 1st. June to make sure that on this issue the mothers will win.

Licence To Kill

MIKE FARRELL.

British troops in the North have been given licence to kill by Faulkner's statement at Stormont on Tuesday. Faulkner announced that troops have premission to shoot at anyone carrying a gun or ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY! The British imperialist army do not waste bullets apparently; their soldiers are not trained to shoot to warn or wound: only to kill.

So, in future, anyone seen acting suspiciously by a nervous eighteen year old soldier will be shot dead. On Monday night, before Faulkner announced it, we got a taste of the new policy in action. A military patrol fired at three unarmed youths running from a stolen car. Presumably only the soldiers' poor aim saved their lives.

This is the culmination of a new aggressive role by the British army here. After more than a month of relative calm in Belfast troops of the Royal Highland Fusiliers rioted on the New Lodge Road last weekend. Military thugs batoned, cursed, and arrested everyone in sight, wrecked a public house and seized thirtyeight people, including an M.P., Councillors and solicitors in a single intimidating swoop. And even the New Lodge Road was only a large scale repetition of the taunting, jeering and bullying by British forces in working class Catholic areas of the City for weeks now.

The current wave of terrorism and attacks on the military is being used by Stormont to win acceptance for their tougher tactics. And the tougher tactics in turn are

being used by Faulkner to appease the Unionist right-wing in his delicate balancing act. The other half of the act is sending the renegade labourite Bleakley to Dublin to cement good relations with the Southern ruling clique. Thus on Monday at Westminster Faulkner can praise Jack Lynch for his 'moderation' and 'statesmanship' and talk of improving economic co-operation, while on Tuesday at Stormont he talks of shooting civilians on 'suspicion'. The Orangemen must be appeased, coming up to July, without losing sight of the long term aim of economic integration with the South. As usual it is the working class who must bear the burden.

No amount of revulsion at irresponsible political terrorism should divert attention from the escalation of military repression in the North. Just as no struggle for Socialism can succeed without mass support from Protestant workers in the North, so any Socialist struggle would be crippled from birth by having to operate under military rule.

It is time all those who formed the mass Civil Rights movement united again to demand an end to military rule; withdrawal of troops, first to barracks, and then out of this country altogether; real reform of the police and judiciary to bring them under popular local control; and the repeal of the long list of repressive laws - such as the Special Powers Act, Criminal Justice Act, and Public Order Act.

Stop Military Terror Now!