

# RAMPARTS

Vol. 1 No. 3 9d at least

**GLOVER A  
GO GO!**



DUKE STREET, DEVASTATED BY REDEVELOPMENT, RUDELE EVERYWHERE. MEN GRAPPLING WITH THE MUD, EARTH-MOVING MACHINERY RE-CONTOURING THE LANDSCAPE. IN THE MIDDLE A DEEP GOUGED-OUT CHANNEL WHERE A SEWER IS GOING TO GO. HOUSES, THE SHOPS WITH SLUM-FLATS ABOVE THEM, ALL TUMBLING; THE PAVEMENT TORN UP. NOTHING REMAINS.

OR ALMOST NOTHING. SOMETHING STILL STANDS. ONE LAST BRICK HULK RISING FORLORN OUT OF THE SURROUNDING DESOLATION. UNBLINKING WINDOWS SHUTTERED AGAINST THE OUTSIDE LIGHT; ITS SULLEN FACE STILL SET AGAINST THE ONCOMING DEMOLITION.

WHAT INVIOABLE BUILDING IS THIS? WHAT ROLE OF VITAL SOCIAL  
Cont. on back page.



# editorial

All over the world there is unrest and dissatisfaction with the status quo. These who unconsciously have contributed by their lives to the immutability of the status quo point to its critics, the cause of this unrest, and cry 'anarchists', 'communists', etc. Those who created the status quo and exploit it, nod approvingly at the reaction of their aw-awakened servants, and pull a string here, a string there to ensure that the efforts of the rebellious servants are discredited in the eyes of the public, which is a GOOD THING when it suits their purpose, and a BAD THING when it opposes their purpose.

Rebellion against authority on a world-wide scale may be dismissed as Youthful unrest by those who are too busy (or too lazy) to examine the root causes. It is readily seen that in many cases it is the youth of the world who are rejecting authority and who are suffering from the back-lash of an offended mammoth's tail. France, Czechoslovakia, America Ireland north and south, universities in England, the Catholic Church have all been the 'victims' of these dissatisfied people who refuse to blindly accept the dictates of an often anonymous and often stupid leadership, be it local councillor or dictator.

Perhaps youth figures so strongly in this revolt because young people are coming fresh to the status quo and see it for the frustrating, destructive, sprawling monster that it is. The ingenuity of man is not so far dispersed that we must accept our present civilisation as perfect, if this is the most perfect system we can devise, there is little hope for the human race.

This is the era of the card-index people, where everyone is a number to be recorded in a little steel drawer or a big steel machine, where problems are solved by a faceless, nameless bureaucracy which never visits the problem or its possessors. Solutions are dictated by financial restrictions, the time factor, or nepotism, and rarely, but very rarely, by the needs of the people concerned.

The card-index era will be replaced by the involvement era, if intelligence afflicts our world leaders - though heaven has hitherto preserved us from intelligence in our leaders, and will no doubt continue to so preserve us.

Those who criticize rebellious youth sneer that they have nothing with which to replace the present system - they simply want to tear it down. Perhaps there is a grain of truth in this, but surely the important part about the youthful attitude is that they feel it necessary to throw out the present system - it is so far discredited that it cannot be patched up.

People are becoming more independent nowadays. They want their views to be known, for they feel this can contribute to the making of decisions - they want to know how and why decisions are made. This is the dawn of the age of involvement, but the dusk of dictatorship still clings to its grip on power.

People want discussion, and this is why authority is so unpopular nowadays; authority, be it Pope or politician, has neither time nor inclination for discussion. Too many unknown factors, (none of which could possibly be revealed to the ignorant masses) dictate decisions.

No leader has yet emerged who is strong enough or honest enough to tell

# THE ARROG OF THE DISTAN RULERS



people the truth. Society has become too complex for its leaders and its members.

Suggestions from the rebels, poohed-poohed as being 'ludicrous', 'anarchic', 'communist', are that we have worker-controlled factories, student controlled universities, etc. This surely betrays a concept of one part of a man's life where he can become involved in some group which is not over-grown, where his contribution can be of value.

Efficiency and economics are the great essentials in our modern society; people never did matter, but they are now being absconded and severed from their leaders, administrators, decision-makers by volumes of paper. This is the cause of the unrest; the feeling of absolute helplessness and isolation on the part of the 'less important' members of society, the impatience with importunate citizens of those making decisions.

Arrogance is a dreadful fault in anyone, but especially terrible in rulers. People are no longer sheep to be driven; they have minds which have to be consulted, instructed and kept informed. We have had too much arrogance in N. Ireland, not to mention France, Czechoslovakia, the Catholic Church, Universities in Britain and Europe, etc.

We have seen arrogance in the Unionist Government at Stormont for 50 years; they are still arrogant, though their dignity is somewhat dented. We see arrogance in U. C. D., where students are being asked to sign an 'oath of allegiance' to the University Authorities. We see arrogance in the attitude of the Bishop of Derry, Dr. Farren, who after rejecting out of hand an invitation to put forward his church's views on integrated education, took the first opportunity to smear those who had extended the invitation & though still being careful not to engage in any such fancies as reasons or arguments. We see arrogance in the attitude of the Derry Citizens Action Committee who instead of going back to the people after four resignations in three months (surely an 'indication' of disharmony?) merely co-opted new members to plug the gaps; a lot of water has flowed under the Craigavon Bridge since the meeting of Nov. 19th in the Guildhall. This committee does not overmuch expose itself to the public, despite its commitment to meetings in the various districts of the city. We see arrogance in the Derry Development Commission's destruction of sound houses in the Waterside redevelopment scheme, and their refusal to re-allocate these houses to families living in absolute squalor; bad as some of these houses may be, they are vastly superior to the conditions inflicted of these people by the inefficiency and disinterest over the years of this city's rulers.

People cannot always be treated with disdain; at some stage they must answer back. It would be better for authority to recognise the unpleasant fact that involvement is essential to community spirit, that the period of peaceful authoritarianism has ended.

Perhaps the moral of the situation is: people want leaders, not drivers.

**w breslin**



# STUDENT NURSES FIGHT FOR A NEW DEAL

by PATRICK RICE  
(Student Nurses Association)

The demonstrations of discontent in a formerly passive profession were caused by the apparent reluctance of chosen representatives to demand a reasonable wage for all nursing staff and also by the blatant refusal of the Whitley Council (govt. negotiators) to concede that besides the undoubted vocational enthusiasm of nurses, other encouragements such as pay and conditions, would help to make life more bearable for nurses.

Sustained by the confidence that nurses by their choice of profession are dedicated people, the Whitley Council astutely juggled the financial scales and deceived the nurses' representatives into accentuating a very complicated but utterly negligible pay rise. We can now have another period of discussion while the Whitley Council think up another swindle, knowing the nurses' conscience will prevent them using the ultimate weapon of a strike to show their displeasure at having been cheated into accepting the pay award that never was.

The present issue of 'Pay as You Eat' has been discredited, not because it is not a sensible and practical idea but because in order to implement it the cost of food at all hospitals in Great Britain rose by some 110%, and in fact literally

Cont. on page 8

During the recent Civil Rights campaign, various Free State politicians expressed their solidarity with the movement; some made the point that partition was the root of all the trouble. These interventions embarrassed and confused civil rights supporters, most of whom, having been brought up in an anti-partition tradition, were now constantly hearing Civil Rights leaders insist that all they wanted were "British Rights for British Citizens."

The basic question is: in what way if at all is partition relevant to Irish politics? Typically the "non-political" Civil Rights movement has not discussed the question openly.

## Partition

The partition of Ireland paralleled a division between the interests of Northern and Southern capitalists. The North-Eastern area was industrially well-developed. The interests of the owners of the linen and ship-building industries lay in the maintenance of the link with their market and their most important source of raw materials - Britain. In contrast the underdeveloped industries of the South needed protective tariff barriers behind which they could grow. This division underlay the blood and thunder of the Home Rule agitation and the ultra-loyal hysteria of the Orange Order.

## Manipulation

When the line of physical division came to be drawn the Northern Unionists found it necessary to include within "their" part areas which had a solidly anti-Unionist tradition, in order to make the state up to a viable size. And in order to maintain political control of those areas - Fermanagh, Derry City, etc. they were forced to manipulate votes, houses and jobs, thus reinforcing the discontent of those who opposed the very existence of the state. In turn, that discontent and its expression demanded the passing of repressive laws and the maintenance of a political army in the shape of the 'B' Specials.

The oppressed Catholic minority naturally saw the ending of partition as the only possible solution to their problems, and Nationalist politicians like Joe Devlin manipulated and capitalized on that aspiration. Thus

# DECLINE UNFREE

Northern Irish politics were firmly set in the mould of Catholic anti-partitionists opposing Protestant unionists.

In the South a Cumann na Gael Government ruled in the interests of the biggest capitalists, fostering friendly economic relations with Britain. In 1932 De Valera came to power re-asserting the real class-base of crude nationalism - i.e. the interest of the small Irish capitalist who could not withstand free competition with British big-business.

Pianna Fail's central theme was the promise that they would create a viable independent Irish capitalism. They passed the Protection of Manufacturers Acts which laid down that fifty-one per cent of the capital in all new industries must be Irish. Licences to manufacture particular products were issued to small Irish industrialists and their market protected by high tariff charges on competing imports.

This strategy was followed by every subsequent Free State Government. But by the late 1950s it was obvious that it had failed. Tariff barriers had merely coddled inefficient and undersized concerns which because of the tiny home market, were incapable of real growth.

## Investment

Pianna Fail never a party to be hidebound by principles of any sort, changed the direction of economic policy. The Protection Acts were dismantled and Lemass went in search of foreign - i.e. mainly British - investment. The "Lemass miracle" had begun.

Investment did begin to come in, attracted by low wages and Government subsidy. Jobs were created, industrial production and the industrial percentage of total exports increased rapidly. The middle-classes whooped with joy in select bars around St. Stephen's Green. But, beneath it all, two things were happening.



# AND FALL OF THE STATE

by William Bradley

An expanding working-class, finding itself in an improved position on the labour market and influenced by the euphoric speculations of Government propagandists, became better organized, more confident and more militant than in any period since the twenties. At the same time the economy was being remorselessly assimilated into the British industrial complex. The Free Trade Agreement, signed in 1965 erased the last trace of economic independence and openly tied the fate of the Twenty-six County economy to that of Britain, "fastened to a dying animal" as Yeats expressed it.

## Dependent

Since the Southern ruling class have, in effect, re-joined the Empire their interests are no longer opposed to those of their Northern counterparts. They are both dependent on a "link" with Britain. They both look to the eradication of the border as a tariff-barrier, in order to broaden the base of the economy.

It is this trend which produced the Lemass-O'Neill meetings and the new policies of North-South "co-operation." Within the Six-Counties, the Unionists under the ineffective O'Neill made overtures to the Catholic minority, overtures which the Nationalist party - the Northern representatives of the class served by the Southern Tories - readily accepted. (This drawing together carried with it the danger of a Carsonite backlash, a danger which paralysed O'Neill and created the gradual build up towards the explosion of October 5th. Thus far, Chichester-Clarke seems to be making a more successful attempt to accomplish the essential capitalist task - that of satisfying all Tory elements. Orange, Green and pastel-pink, at the same time.)

Talk of "British Rights" and "Irish Rights" and argument about their relative merits is in the

light of this, absolutely meaningless.

The gathering economic crisis in Britain has staunchly the flow of new investment into the South. Fianna Fail has been forced to rationalize the economy, to encourage mergers, to automate, to hold down wages. In order to contain working-class reaction to this, they first tried to abolish Proportional Representation and then to introduce the repressive Criminal Justice Bill. The Wilson regime tries to make the workers pay for the capitalists' crisis via the Industrial Relations Bill which is designed to castrate the Trade Union movement. While the Unionists persevere with the Public Order Amendment Bill.

It is no coincidence that at this moment three parallel pieces of repressive legislation have begun to make their way through the three parliaments in these islands.

The attitude of socialists is to oppose all three. Rather than go cap-in-hand to Wilson for help in introducing civil rights in Northern Ireland we should be fighting his attempt to remove Trade Union rights from us. Rather than talk of a united Ireland, republican-minded people should be supporting the fight of the Irish Labour Party and Sinn Féin against the Criminal Justice Bill.

Wilson, Chichester-Clarke and Lynch have their differences. They each operate in different political contexts and are subject to different pressures. Occasionally, for political advantage, they will bluster a bit about the evils of the others. But, in the end, they are united on the essential point - the preservation of an unequal, capitalist society in both Britain and Ireland. The society which can guarantee civil and religious liberty, equal rights and equal opportunity for all, will have to be built on the ruins of the political careers of all three of them.

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CONTACT THE SECRETARY:  
MISS NELL MC CAFFREY,  
8, NEECHWOOD STREET,  
DERRY.



# Segregated education is again a live articles which illustrate

Bishop Farren devoted his Confirmation address to the subject, and launched a bitter attack on "Communists" who, according to him, have ingratiated themselves with the people in many ways in order to undermine Catholic education. The "Communists", he said, had failed to destroy the Church in frontal assault, so now they were trying to destroy it by

subtlety and stealth.

Now to the best of our knowledge there is not a single member of the Communist Party in Derry. So to whom was Dr. Farren referring when he talked of "Communists"?

He was, by inference, referring to all these who have publicly been urging an end to segregated education in recent months. That includes The Derry Labour Party and The Labour Party Young Socialists.

## DISTORTION

We are not unused to hearing ourselves described as "Communists" and worse. We are not unused to hearing our arguments distorted and our politics misrepresented. We are, however, unused to hearing such slander, distortion and misrepresentation from the pulpit.

In campaigning for an end to segregated education we are not trying to undermine the Catholic or any other church. Nor are we asserting that education in Catholic schools is academically inferior, as Mr. Stephen Preston did recently in a bigoted and ill-researched "Daily Telegraph" article. We are saying: that segregated education contributes to the wasteful fragmentation which hallmarks the Northern Ireland system, particularly at post-primary level; that segregation has prevented the inception of comprehensive schools which has conclusively been shown to eliminate much of the class bias inherent in the two-tiered grammar-secondary modern system; that segregated education is one of—if

not necessarily the most important one—of the factors contributing to the religious divide in our society:

We would welcome any effort to refute these arguments and thereby bring about some exchange of views. But we have found that on this subject, as on so many others, our opponents make no attempt to present a coherent case. They simply hurl abuse.

## SPEAKERS

Recently The Labour Party Young Socialists tried to organise a public debate on integrated education. They got speakers in favour of integrated education with no trouble. But they found no-one to come along and defend segregated schools from a public platform. They asked numerous priests, all of whom refused. They asked dozens of Catholic teachers, most of whom not only refused but said that, if they did speak, it would be against and not for separate schools.

There is a case to be made for separate Catholic schools. It rests on two distinct contentions. First that, given the history of official State attitudes to Catholic institutions, the absorption of Catholic schools into the state system would

The Queen's University Of Belfast.

6 College Gardens,  
Belfast, 9.  
3rd June, 1966

Her readiness to discuss, to challenge and to stimulate appeared in her teaching practice in schools. Her quickness led both to success and to failure, but there was always a positive response. Where she prepared her lessons imaginatively and caught and sustained the interest of the class, and dealt tactfully with problems, she achieved success well above the average. She gradually understood the importance of relaxation at the right times and of the need for patience and humility in establishing fruitful relationships with individuals. Her sharpness of response and her disdain for mediocrity when tempered with sensitivity and charity led to unusual animation in a class and to noteworthy activities.

(Extract Only)

(Signed) Alan Price, M.A., PH.D  
Lecturer in Education.

Required for 1st September, 1966, at  
Thornhill College, Oulson Road,  
Derry — Teachers for Irish,  
Mathematics, French, History and  
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Application forms may be  
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CONFIRMED

be fraught with danger. Second, that a "Catholic education" is different in its aims and its objects from any other education, and can only be realized in an all-Catholic environment.

We do not agree with these points. We presented the argument against both in past issues of Rampart. But at least we recognise that they represent some attempt to put forward a rational argument against us.

Dr. Farren did not do that in his Confirmation address. He did not attempt to. He scooped up fistfuls of McCartyite mud and tried to smear it all over his opponents. It was unworthy of himself, and of his position and of the Church he represents.

EAMONN Mc CANN



political issue. Below we present two  
the working of the system

St. Mary's Secondary Intermediate School  
Creggan Estate.  
DERRY.

13th June, 1967

Miss Ellen P. McCafferty was employed in this school from 12th September - 22nd December, 1966. She acted as substitute for Mrs Harvey from 12th September - 16th December, for Mrs Carrigan from 19th - 21st December and for Miss Carroll on 22nd December. During all this time her attendance was excellent.

She was given the post as substitute for Mrs Harvey on the condition that she would undertake to teach Commerce, as well as English. She herself had not studied Commerce. She undertook this work and persevered at it. When Mrs Harvey returned she was very pleased with the work that Miss McCafferty had done.

Miss McCafferty worked hard with all her classes and was very interested in the children and got a good response from them.

At all times, I found Miss McCafferty most co-operative and obliging.

(Signed) Sister Mary Gertrude.  
(Principal)

THORNHILL COLLEGE  
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WOMEN GRADUA-  
to teach Irish, French, M-  
Biology and Domestic  
Appointments Form 8  
The Price

PREJUDICE

The acceptance by voluntary schools of the 4 and 2 committees to administer the affairs of the school - 4 members to be appointed by the Bishop, 2 by the Education Authorities - saw the first hint of lay influence on the hitherto absolute religious control of voluntary education. How has it worked out in practice? All the appointments to the committees are now made by the Bishop, in co-operation with the Education Authorities, who have virtually left control still in his hands. The parents of R.C. voluntary school pupils are allowed now to elect one representative on the 4/2 committee. The committee of the Lone Tower Boys' School consists of at least 3 priests, but Fr. McGaughey, Administrator of the Lone Tower Parish, refused to divulge the composition of the committee to teachers of that school who asked him about it.

## training

The maintenance of the separate voluntary education system is defended on the grounds of protecting the religious training of the pupils. What religious training? The pupils are given on average one lesson per day in Religious Instruction, and anyone who has ever been a pupil or teacher at these classes knows the enthusiasm, dedication and skill with which the subject is taught. Has anyone ever failed a religious knowledge examination at school? Has anyone ever been suspended for the blatant cribbing which goes on during these examinations? What

qualifications do the teachers possess who teach this subject? What diplomas in Religious Knowledge are they required to furnish before being allowed to teach the subject. Some standards are of course maintained. Grammar School teachers who have received their degrees from Trinity College, Dublin (the "Protestant" University) are forbidden to teach R.I. in Roman Catholic schools - they have been exposed to the corruption of the infidel! And University Graduates are encouraged to take their Diplomas in Education at the Catholic Training Schools in Belfast, rather than at Queen's where they have already studied for their degree, presumably so they will learn to teach their subject the Catholic way! These are all unwritten rules of course, but those who have defied them - or as is often the case, were innocently unaware of them, they being unwritten - have felt the subtle penalty for so doing. Such renegades are usually sent to purgatory to wipe out the stains of their heinous sins, i.e. They must teach in schools outside Derry for a few years before being re-admitted to the fold.

Those teachers who in the past have gone to the Bishop in rage and/or despair at not getting teaching posts in Derry are rebuffed by the classic excuse - "Why did you not come and see me?" Another unwritten rule! Those who wish to teach in Derry must, on graduation, seek an audience of the Bishop and offer their services to him. All the degrees in the world will get you no post in Derry until you have kissed the Bishop's ring. Consider the number of qualified teachers who have left Derry in recent years, or are currently unemployed in Derry, and who have not yet been to see the Bishop! Exasperation? Then consider the number of unqualified people presently or during the past year, teaching in the Roman Catholic schools.

Lone Tower Boys - 3 Unqualified teachers  
Lone Tower Girls - 1 Unqualified teacher  
Christian Brothers - 1 Unqualified teacher, substituting for the whole school year.  
Rossmount Boys - 4 Untrained or

Cont. on next page.



# education

Cont. from previous page.

Unqualified teacher employed during the course of this year

Pennyburn Infants' School -

1 Unqualified teacher.

St. Columba's Girls' - 1

Unqualified teacher

(Telephonist) employed for six weeks.

Consider the number of teachers in Derry who come from Eire. It is normal for the ambitious teacher to move around, the country getting experience in different schools in different towns. But there is no reciprocal arrangement with Eire to employ teachers from Northern Ireland, since they do not speak Gaelic as a native language.

So that for every Southern teacher in the North, there is one less post for the Northern Irish teacher, and emigration is the only answer.

It is practically impossible because of the fear felt by teachers of losing their jobs, to give concrete examples of the above. But consider the case of Nell McCafferty, B.A., English, French and Psychology, Q.U.B. and one year spent in France as an assistante d'anglais perfecting her knowledge of the language - residence in France for a limited period of time is obligatory for teachers of French in Britain. I applied to Thornhill in February 1966, while still in France, for a post as French teacher there. My application was refused and the post given to a graduate straight from University, a girl from Dungiven, who had not yet been to France.

Further applications to other schools in Derry were either unsuccessful or completely ignored. The following year, 1967 I applied from Israel for a post in St. Breacan's Intermediate School, Waterside. Application again unsuccessful. Monsignor O'Doherty, when questioned on the unsuccessful applicant wanted to know why Miss McCafferty couldn't stay in Derry like other people and work there - although Miss McCafferty had previously found it impossible to get employment at home. And what was Miss McCafferty doing

in Israel, doing voluntary unpaid work, the Monsignor asked in amazement.

I studied Psychology at Queen's and two years after receiving my degree Fr. A. Mulvey pointed out to me that Psychology was a dangerous subject and had I asked permission from the Church to study it? An unwritten rule again and nobody had told me about it, but the penalty must be paid for breaking it!

Since 1965, I have applied regularly for teaching posts in Derry. Not once has my application been accepted - but I have been allowed a few weeks substitute teaching here and there - the last at St. Cecilia's Int. school, when I was employed to replace a retired teacher who could not handle a difficult class and who left - the retired teacher had been employed to replace a teacher off on Married Leave.

In the three years I have been

available for teaching in this city, I have managed to obtain a total of 19 weeks employment in Roman Catholic Schools. The headmistresses who employed me found my work satisfactory in every respect and furnished references to that effect. But then, I have not yet kissed the Bishop's ring.

Monsignor O'Doherty implied that I was a wanderer and as such could not be trusted with regular employment. How many teachers in the last few years have spent one year in Derry and then moved on? I'm still here and still unemployed!

Telephonist or graduate? Are you satisfied with the standard of teaching your children are receiving?

**nell mc cafferty**

## STUDENT NURSES

Cont. from page 1  
ate away any pay rise granted by the Council.

Further anomalies have occurred in Student grades e.g. to offset hardship encountered by Student nurses, food allowances were granted, but the Council ensured that in Psychiatric hospitals all students over 21yrs. (some of whom are married!) were deprived of ANY allowance. In terms of money or net salary per month the Student nurse under 21yrs. in a Psychiatric hospital has MORE money than his older and more experienced colleague over 21.

The most recent gesture by the Whitley Council (£48 taxable allowance for nursing assistants and student nurses under 21) though acceptable to these few, does not cater for the needs of the entire nursing body; its result will undoubtedly be to magnify murmurs of discontent to roars of anger. As in the past, the Council has neglected (purposely one suspects) to realise that nursing staff are not even remotely satisfied with previous increments and in fact demand as an

absolute necessity the complete revision of the entire wage structure.

At present the various misdemeanours of the Whitley Council have created a dissatisfied and unhealthy frame of mind in the profession. The remedy is for the Council to indicate that they actually appreciate the demands made on nursing staff by long hours and arduous duties. They could surprise and revitalise the profession by being courageous, just for once, and recommending a just wage and reasonable conditions for nurses.





# Dead City Scrolls tell of ancient

## "civil rites" by JD

The now lost town of Londonderry showed in the 20th. century an interesting example of elementary democracy. Primitive though those times were, the lessons they furnish us with are still valuable today.

(1) In the years from 1960 - 80A.D., there appears to have been a pre-occupation with the "gerrymander" - probably a corruption of Gerryfitt, a sort of popular political Robin Hood of the times from whom this would seem to have originated. The purpose of the "Gerry - fitt" - for so it should be written - is obscure; apparently it was a method of achieving harmony by segregating the different sects in the city and by ensuring that the majority was ruled by the minority to avoid the oppression of the latter. Surprisingly enough the majority rankled under this system, and dissatisfaction grew. We do not possess in full details of its overthrow; but we do know that the Gerryfitt was ended by, paradoxically enough, a ruse similar to the Gerryfitt itself. Jivan Hooper, a composite figure held in some reverence at the time, somehow caught the public's imagination, and the rule of the few was ended and reborn in a single stroke.

(11) The political focus of the time was undoubtedly the "Rossvilla" a people's "parliament" - an old 20th. century word meaning to talk endlessly. It was here that the fundamental article of elementary democracy - "alternate policing" was born and this, as far as we can deduce was how it worked.

A peace-keeping force called the "police", to encourage the maintenance of law in that area ruled over by the "Rossvilla", would, before any sign of trouble,

draft in many divisions of policemen, trucks and water cannons (a special favourite of the people, as one of the few extant photographs of the period shows a crowd of people waving at one) On the other hand, when the turn of the "Rossvilla" rulers came around to keep order, they would debar the police from their district, and this arrangement was apparently just as successful. It seems to have been amicably accepted by each side.

### reverence

Although the language of the time remains largely unsolved (only a few words such as "fenian bastard" and "black bastard" surviving) we can deduce that relations between police and people of the "Rossvilla" were friendly. A few photographs show the near reverence shown by some of the populace to the police. One such shows several people still prostrate even after the police have passed by. The normal greeting by the

police seemed to be the raised baton (a wooden instrument awarded on I.O. merit) Convention was that a person so hailed would answer by a raised arm. There is some evidence too that people and police often met on matters of social importance. Suggestions by the police on the allocation of beds in local hospitals and proposals for annual October sports were eagerly discussed.

This brief report will, I hope, convey the interest shown by students in this forgotten period of history. The thousand question marks that surround the subject are irresistible challenges to scholars. Why, for example, did an eminent sociologist of the time S.S. (Simple Simon? the practice of calling children after popular stars of the time was rampant) Craig devote himself so assiduously to the pioneering efforts of the A.A. (a motoring organisation) while at the same time publicly eulogising the R.U.C (a rival motoring organisation?) With bait so alluring, earth knows what we'll land.

## Connolly & other left wing literature

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# ALUMINIUM - SLUM -

Providing houses for the citizens of Derry was a task which proved to be beyond the capabilities of the late Corporation. But it was not their only failing. Failure to ensure adequate maintenance of dwellings they did erect can also be added to their list of inabilities. The Aluminium Bungalows at Creggan are an example of what can

happen to any building left in the care of men who prefer to sit around squabbling over religion and political allegiance rather than shoulder the responsibilities to which they had been elected;— the social and economic welfare of the townspeople.

The Bungalows at Creggan were erected 22yrs. ago. At the time, opinion was that they were 'tempor-

ary' dwellings, meant only to last 20yrs. A few months ago, Corporation stated that they should last another 40yrs. The tenants however, who watch the aluminium deteriorate into a fine residue of powder, think that the chances of them lasting another winter are remote.

Conditions in these bungalows can be compared to the worst slums in the city. Badly fitted doors and windows which allow the rain to enter in torrents; gaps of 2/3" between floors and skirting boards; sinks, taps and toilets which have become almost completely detached from their seatings; electrical fittings which don't work properly and the very dangerous situation where rain, leaking through the roof, causes serious deterioration of electrical wiring systems.

Repeated requests by tenants to have repairs carried out have been ignored by the Housing Department. Complaints that grass is growing through the floors in living rooms and that clothes hanging in wardrobes are mildewed, are met with looks of astonishment but no promise of investigation.

The city architect agrees that the bungalows are in such poor condition that they're not worth repairing.

There are 76 bungalows in Creggan. If they were pulled down, 114 houses could be built on the sites. With foundations, sewerage, water and gas pipes already laid, the cost of erecting the new dwellings would be much cheaper than those erected on a fresh site.

The Area Commission must act at once to ensure the health and safety of these families. The only answer to the problem is to re-house these tenants immediately, and to have the slums, so carefully cultivated by the Corporation, razed to the ground.

**Cathy Harkin**

## first step to better ANN KEENAN education

In a city which has the highest birth rate in the British Isles, lack of nursery schools is a serious social problem. In densely populated housing estates, children under the age of five are exposed to the danger of heavy traffic on narrow streets. In slum areas they are exposed to the dangers of partially demolished buildings, pot-holes filled with rain water, germs and infections which can be picked up playing around piles of decaying rubbish. In multi-storey flats where the child stays indoors all of these dangers are ruled out, only to be replaced by different ones.

An energetic child, cooped up in a flat with no outlet for his energy, will become frustrated. An only child with no playmates will become introverted and find it hard to make friends when he starts school. Shy or slow children have the same problem, lacking the confidence to join in the activities of others.

Nursery schools are the answer to all these problems. They provide properly supervised play areas. They pro-

vide direction for children to channel their energies into positive activities, and encourage and stimulate natural talents. Shy and slow children gain the confidence to make friends and join in games. An only child receives the companionship hitherto lacking in his life.

Nursery schools produce normal, well adjusted children who are confident in the company of others and self-reliant when separated from their mothers. It also gives the mother some badly needed time to herself in which she can get on with the housework, shopping, hobby or part time job.

In the planning of future estates, we suggest that priority be given to the inclusion of a nursery school. In the meantime, vacant property in the town should be purchased by the Commission for the purpose of conversion into nursery schools. The safety of young children should be high on the list of priorities in our community, and we look forward with hope that the new Area Commission

will implement a nursery school programme immediately.



# WELL-MET BY MOONLIGHT

The week-end of May 11th was the turning point in the lives of 29 families in Derry. They had a chance to provide a decent future for their children and they seized that chance with relish.

Desperate for houses these people took the initiative into their own hands. They were informed by members of the Labour Party that a small estate of houses belonging to the Ministry of Defence had been lying vacant for some months; And so began the flight from Rackman rents, slum flats and frustration.

On Friday night the first three families drove up to the empty estate with representatives of the Labour Party. They were met by a reception committee of Naval Police who politely inquired if they could be of any assistance. After a hurried conference the Naval Police were asked what action would be taken if the houses were illegally occupied. The prospective squatters were pleasantly surprised when told that no physical action would be taken to stop the entry, although they were liable to prosecution. As everyone was prepared for this it was decided to go ahead with the squatting. Entry was gained by breaking a back window in the house, climbing in and opening the front door, after a verbal warning by the guard who was on duty.

## furniture moved

The houses were in darkness but with the help of a torch the fuse boxes were located and the mains switched on. (Missing fuses were obtained later on.) This done the furniture was moved into the houses. The families followed when fires were lit with supplies of coal brought in readiness for this purpose. Gas supplies were turned on and tea made for the willing band of helpers. The families then settled down to sleep the remainder of the night on make-shift beds or on the floor, happy with the knowledge that a new life lay ahead for themselves and their children.

Saturday Morning arrived with rain but it didn't dampen the spirits of the pioneers of Clooney Park South. They set about moving the rest of their belongings into their new houses and also arranging the furniture.

The news spread like wild-fire for by lunch time about a dozen reporters had swarmed into the estate taking photographs and interviewing the families. By tea time four more families moved into houses after being warned of the possible consequences by the Naval Police. By nightfall the number of squatting families had reached ten.

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By Sunday no further persuasion was needed and the rest of the hours were occupied by families eager to give their children a decent future. Electricity, gas and water supplies were switched on and made workable by the veterans of the adventure. By the afternoon vans laden with furniture for the houses bustled to and fro under the watchful eyes of the ever present Naval Police. The stillness passed and the happy chatter of the children discovering a new world brought the once empty houses to life again.

By Monday the news had spread to the outside world. T. V. and newspaper people poured in intent on reporting latest developments to the public.

Monday saw the election of the committee to run and look after the interests of the Community. This committee held its first meeting that same night. A list of suggestions were drawn up amongst which were:

1. To have a weekly collection for a communal fund to cover expenses and fines;
2. To keep the estate clean and

tidy and to mow the lawns;

3. To organise refuse disposal;
4. To set up a Community Advisory centre to deal with any problems;
5. To hold a weekly general meeting to discuss the latest developments;

These together with other points were put to a general meeting and resolutions were duly passed.

The rest of the week saw the official turning on of electricity and gas supplies. Also the departure of most of the Naval families and the immediate occupation of their houses by needy families. By the end of the week 29 families had moved in. The estate was filled up with the exception of one Naval family and the four legal Commission tenants.

As this article is being written, everybody is settling down for a long wait, watching for future developments and hoping they will be in their favour.

MIKE KEATING,  
Press Officer,  
Clooney Park South Squatters  
Association.

IF ANYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THE LABOUR PARTY HAS BEEN DOING, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT IN THE PAST MONTH OUR PARTY HAS ALLOCATED MORE HOUSES THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE BODY IN THE CITY. AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOT AN N.P. ....

## QUIPS AND CRANKS

SINCE "RAMPARTS" STARTED TO COME OUT THE EDITOR HAS RECEIVED THIRTY-SIX LETTERS. OF THOSE TWENTY-FIVE WERE IN FAVOUR OF OUR EFFORTS SO, WITH TYPICAL MODESTY, WE WILL SAY NO MORE ABOUT THEM. FOUR WERE OFFENSIVE. THREE ACCUSED US OF BEING AGAINST THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. ONE PERSON SAID THAT "THE REV. PAISLEY WILL SEE TO YOU LOT" (BUTTS). TWO OTHERS IMPLIED THAT WE ARE AGENTS OF THE VATICAN. AN ANONYMOUS "DERBYMAN" SAID WE "SOUNDED LIKE COMMUNISTS". WE ARE (DARE WE SAY IT?) TICKLED.....PINK.



# A socialist programme for the farmers

The Buchanan report on Regional Development in Eire is a promise of a future of a continued poverty - stricken existence and mass emigration to the already depressed and poverty - stricken small farmers in the North West counties of Denegal, Leitrim and Monaghan.

The Buchanan report "predicts" that the population of Denegal will fall by 24% from 104,000 to 79,000 by 1986.

Thousands of small farmers are going to be forced off the land, their cottages pulled down and the land swallowed into bigger farms or afforested.

This is nothing new to Ireland of course.

According to the "Irish Times", the labour force in agriculture has been falling by 9,000 per year for the last ten years.

And the Third Programme for economic and industrial development expects there to be a decrease of 36,000 in the number employed on the land in its period of "operation".

Of these that have remained on the land according to the "Irish Times" the standard of living of the farmers has remained "at about the same state of poverty average" since the beginning of the first programme.

In the North, too, there has been a decrease of 38,000 in the number of people employed on the land in the last ten years and of these remaining more than half earn less than £8 per week.

Why is this? It is because of the need of big business for cheap feed to feed its workers.

The course of both Governments in Ireland is dictated by the big monopolies that dominate the economy North and South, and so both Governments pursue an agricultural policy towards the big farmers who because of the size of their farms and bank balances can run their farms "efficiently" with all the latest mechanical and biological aids.

In the North the subsidy is paid on a per head basis; for instance the big farmer who owns 1,000 cattle will get much more subsidy than a farmer who owns 20 cattle and who needs the money much more urgently.

In the South the Fianna Fail Government in its Third Programme has elaborate plans to accelerate the transfer of land from small farmers to big farmers by means other than economic. The Third Programme says

"efforts will be made to accelerate the transfer of underworked land from elderly owners" - thus an old farmer whose sons have all gone on the emigration boat because there is no future for them at home will himself be kicked off his holding which will be allocated to "young and progressive farmers so that they have the scope to become more efficient".

Also Fianna Fail and Taoiseach promise "an appraisal will be made of existing policies and arrangements for structural reform".

It is no use calling for the Capitalist Fianna Fail or Unionists

to follow a course to the small farmer; as the "Irish Times" remarked "Government persistence in this direction would ultimately lead Irish agriculture into the chronic conditions of E. E. C. agriculture where prices at nearly double Irish level are still inadequate to give a decent living to an inefficient producer".

Nor will Co-operatives really

solve the problem so long as Capitalism remains. Anyone who says the poor farmer can help himself out of the rut without touching the rich, the Banks (which made good profits last year), monopolies and big ranches is either a liar or a fool.

The Irish Labour Movement must show the small farmer that the only solution lies with it, in the fight for a Socialist programme. In particular, The Irish Labour Party at the moment must relate the 1969 Conference decisions of a "Workers Republic" to the concrete needs of the small farmer.

The Labour Parties in such constituencies as Denegal North East and Denegal - Leitrim must show the small farmer that only a planned Socialist economy based on the Nationalisation of the Banks and Monopolies can free him from the fluctuations in the Capitalist market which spell ruin to many a small farmer but from which the big farmer is cushioned.

They must show the small farmers that only by this policy is there any way out of the impasse and ruin which faces them, and hence win them to the Workers Republic.

**PAUL JONES**

Cont. from front page.

significance does it play that it can stand untouched while, all around, its fellows have fallen? Does local legend intertwine its brickwork, that sentimental City Fathers stay the hand of the wrecker? Have kings or wild-geese chieftains hidden in its rafters, so to invest the fabric with ancient, monumental importance? Or has it served as a warm neighbourhood nexus, now housing the collective nostalgia of countless people? Or what?

It is, as it happens, the Go-Go Club. The after-hours boozing joint. Which comes to life when the pubs close. Where music batters against the walls at midnight and smoke stings your eyes while Yankee servicemen fondle half-drunk Derry teenage girls. Where many a cookie crumbled to the music of the money pouring into the till and an Alabama accent in her ear.

Why hasn't it been knocked down yet? Everything else has. Why preserve this particular establishment to the last? Why indeed, build a new wall behind it, to protect it from the demolition in its last months of existence? A curious sense of priorities.

One might speculate. One might speculate that it took a little influence to arrange this piece of planning.

Now who do you know who might, a Have a financial interest in the Go-Go Club and b Have sufficient political influence to ensure that his profits do not suffer overmuch from re-development?

You will less than a million miles away from the truth if you come up with the name of Major Gerald Glover, President of the local Unionist Association, the most faceless of the Faceless Men. Public Enemy No. 1