

the irish people

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FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1973.

REASON

This is the era of the BIG. Amalgamation is the in thing. Countries amalgamate into trading blocs, political and military alliance follows and BIG Powers develop. The development of the multi-national military and political powers is paralleled by the development of the multi-national financial corporations which through their myriad interests control the wealth and the wealth producing elements of our world in the Seventies. The day of the small unit is gone, we are told, bank, business, factory or farm is nothing if it isn't BIG. This pre-requisite of BIGNESS also applies in the communication area — the day of the international newspaper chain and television corporation is upon us and its advent heralds the disappearance of the independent thought and expression.

Increasingly the conflict between the small man and the big corporation is coloured and dictated by the revenue to be obtained from the advertising agency of the corporation. It is to crack this shell of silence that THE IRISH PEOPLE enters the scene. To present the ordinary man with a forum, to examine his problems, to be vigilant in his defence, to report on his efforts towards betterment, to be his communicator, that is our reason for living.

To do so effectively we must not become the prisoner of advertising agencies; our survival therefore depends on our circulation. In our dependence on you, reader, lies your guarantee of a free and independent weekly!

As the Government search for the necessary cash...

Budget tax to go on mining companies?

With the first Coalition Budget being hammered together speculation grows that it will contain a hefty tax on the operations of the mining companies. The lifting of VAT on food and health charges from the rates will cost the Exchequer millions and thoughts in the Finance Department have turned to

the dazzling hoard of wealth uncovered by the mining companies. Apart from a 9 per cent royalty on operating profits mining companies still benefit from a complete tax relief granted in the 1967 Budget by the then Finance Minister, Charles Haughey. This exemption covers all mining operations commenced before April 1968.

With a new Government in power and with mineral wealth estimated in billions (Navan is currently estimated to stand at £1,550,000,000 — one billion, five hundred and fifty million — by the Resources Study Group) thinking is that Mr. Ryan is free to impose taxation on mining profits.

Ireland now possesses the largest zinc and lead mines in the world at Navan, the largest underground zinc mine in Europe at Silvermines, the largest lead mine in production in Europe at Tynagh and the fifth largest mercury mine in the world at Mercurium.

Welcome

Current Labour Party thinking would welcome a Budget tax on mining to assuage demands for full public ownership within the Party. A resolution passed at Annual Conference committed the Party as "an essential feature of any Government in which it participates" to establish "a State board for the exploitation and processing of the country's ore, gas and oil deposits and the nationalisation without compensation of all these enterprises whether Irish or foreign-owned".

In the period 1957 to 1972 the total royalties paid by mining companies came to £1,943,050. A Budget tax could bring in to the Exchequer many times this amount each year.

Finance experts argue that the Budget tax would be almost welcome a tax provided it did not exceed the 10 per cent mark as the present unique situation is the cause of much embarrassment.

And in the Finance Department it is realised that the mining millions could, if taxed, allow for a major break-through in the war against poverty.



SHANNON: the final take-off.
See back page.

More power to them!

By their courage and determination the twenty workers sacked by Manpower of Grafton Street have given the lead to all temporary workers. They have shown what can be achieved by unity of action even in the most difficult circumstances. On the 10th of April last they were faced with summary dismissal and no job prospects. None of them was even a Trade Union member and their employer had the backing of a multi-national organisation. They reacted by placing a picket on the Manpower offices. Since then they have maintained the picket apart from a short interruption when an injunction was obtained against them.

Take-home

Prior to their dismissal the 14 women and six men did clerical work in the Irish National Insurance Co. in Dawson St. Their take-home pay was approximately £12 for a forty-hour week. In contrast, Manpower, which had the contract to supply labour to the Irish National, received an alleged £31.60 a week for each of them. Early in April, Dermot Flynn, General Manager of Manpower, complained about the work rate. He refused to accept that it was due to the difficulty of the work and on April 10th sacked all twenty workers. He indicated his real in-



Picket resumes: Injunction fails. — Irish People pic.

tention, however, when he said that he would consider any individual requests to be taken back. Most of the sacked workers resisted the temptation to apply, believing that the idea was to teach them all a lesson by victimising a select few. Following a short meeting, they placed a picket on the Manpower offices.

When all other methods of removing the picket had failed, Manpower sought and was granted an interim injunction to restrain picketing. When the injunction came up for renewal the workers, with legal assistance from the Free Legal Aid Centre, fought and won the case. Once again the picket went back on.

Most of the sacked workers are now members of the I.T. & G.W.U. The Union is attempting to get all the workers re-instated without loss of pay.

Civil Rights pledge for candidates

A move that could restore minority unity in the North is being made this week by the Civil Rights Association.

Candidates in the forthcoming Local Government and Assembly elections in the North are to be asked to sign a pledge not to participate in the elected bodies until internment has ended.

A "people's pledge" campaign involving both voters and candidates who support civil rights is being launched with the aim of welding together a civil rights moratorium in face of both local and Assembly elections.

The pledge to be signed by each candidate specifies the ending of internment under any guise as a prerequisite to participation in any form of government following election. The emergency provisions and Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act must go and British Army harassment end before seats are taken. Each signatory also promises to campaign hard for an effective Bill of Rights. If successful the Civil Rights move could reconstruct the unity obtaining prior to the Provisional-Whitelaw talks which were taken by the S.D.L.P. as a let out from the original pledge not to talk or cooperate until internment ended.

With the S.D.L.P. making non-participation noises over British Army harassment and the Republican Clubs already pledged to the same policy the Civil Rights initiative could supply the binding for a general unity prior to the election date at the end of this month.

S.D.L.P. election dilemma

With the Six County Local Government Elections less than four weeks away the party line-up on polling looks like reading — Unionist, Alliance, N.I. Labour, Republican Clubs, S.D.L.P., Nationalist, Republican Labour, Irish Labour and Communist. It is not yet clear whether the Frank MacManus/Bernadette Devlin alliance moves will add another party to this list.

With the Proportional Representation system in use for the first time in over forty years and the new Stormont-replacing Assembly elections to follow in four weeks the Local Elections take on major significance. Voting patterns at the Local Poll are almost certain to be repeated on Assembly Election day.

(Continued on page 7)

the Irish people

An Choismhuintir, Friday, May 4, 1973.

RADIO NA GAELTACHTA

Cuireann An Choismhuintir faillte roimh Radio na Gaeltachta ar na h-aerionnta aniar! Os neach nua ar an saol muid fein is mithid duinn faillte a chur roimh ceim stairiúil i gcursai na hEireann — guth ghlan Gaeltacht a bheith le cloisint ar fud na tíre uilig.

Ni luide an fhailte an tuisicint ata againn ar chomh cung agus chomh teoranta an reimse i gcursai eisteachta a bheas ag Radio na Gaeltachta: meastar nach mo na 15 per cent lion lucht eisteachta Radio a bheas in ann cluas a bheith istigh acu ar an gcoras nua. Is ar fhoireann an Radio fein a bheas se an t-eileamh a chothu agus a mheadu: dushlan nach beag nuair a fúgtar idir nosanna eisteachta an phobail, foinsí airgid Radio na Gaeltachta agus an cupla uair a chloig d'am craolta san aireamh.

An t-ochtú la deag de Bhealtaine data sealadach an imeachta uir seo — go n-eirí leis.

TAXING FARMERS

In the coming months of rising food prices both Trade Union and Farming leaderships will have to co-operate on some initiative to prevent a blind outburst of urban-rural malaise. The recent controversy over the modest I.C.T.U. proposal to have a fair and equitable taxation system adds extreme urgency to the need for such an initiative.

In normal times the "culchie" "jackeen" syndrome, for all its banter, carries a certain undertone of seriousness. Ding dong slanging matches between Union and Farming leaderships is all that is needed to compound a very unwholesome and utterly false sense of faction among Irish people.

The futile politics of urban-rural confrontation must be headed off by the respective leaderships.

Ignorance feeds prejudice and the mutual ignorance of farmers and urban workers concerning each other's affairs could feed a monster. We should be trying to reduce the number of the dinosaurs of prejudice abroad in our country, not adding to them.

MAKING HISTORY

"Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold" seems to sum up the history of the Unionist Party since the British Government introduced Direct Rule. Not only has the centre not held for Brian Faulkner but the Mills, Bailie, Caldwell move seems to herald an en masse move into the Alliance Party. The monolithic Unionist Party is breaking up for the last time.

The credit undoubtedly belongs to the Civil Rights Movement. Civil Rights did not attack Unionism — it attacked sectarianism, identifying it as the greatest enemy of all the people Catholic, Protestant and whatever, and, in a brief few years, brought the Unionist Party down to ruins.

By attacking sectarianism the Civil Rights Movement removed the cement from between the bricks of Unionism: the inevitable collapse of the structure was a matter for time and circumstance.

The uniqueness of the late Unionist Party was its bonding of so many diverse and opposing elements rich, middle-class and poor, under its sectarian umbrella. The I.R.A. attacked its military symbols, the Nationalist Party attacked its pro-Union politics: fifty years of attacking Unionism from within and without the North failed to make the slightest impression upon it. The Civil Rights Association then came along, snatched its sectarian umbrella and bared its structure to all the winds that blow in a normal political atmosphere.

While the task of the Civil Rights Movement is as yet incomplete it is due recognition. History-making is a thankless task and too often goes unrecognised.

Credit Unions cannot raise loan interest

Fears that the week-end suggestion of Dr. Lucey, Bishop of Cork, that Credit Unions should raise interest rates on borrowing, might reflect a change in the Credit Union attitude to cheap borrowing are groundless.

Leading Credit Unionists questioned by The Irish People on Monday pointed out that Dr. Lucey was not speaking for the Credit Union Movement and referred us to Rule 36 of the Standard Rules for Credit Unions which specifies: "The rate of interest shall be determined from time to time by the board of directors, and shall not at any time exceed 1 per cent per month on the amount of the loan outstanding . . ."

General meeting

Dr. Lucey who was addressing the Irish League of Credit Unions' Annual General Meeting in Cork also urged the movement to work on commercial lines. This contrasted sharply with the advice of outgoing President, Mr. Der. Cogan, who appealed to the attendance to never cease to emphasise that Credit Unions were not motivated by the profit impulse as were other financial institutions. "To us Credit Unions mean people — not money," said Mr. Cogan.

This is the second time in

recent years that guest speakers at the Credit Union AGM have made statements embarrassing to the movement. It will be remembered that it was from a Credit Union platform in Limerick a few years ago that the then Lord Mayor of the city, Stephen Coughlan, made his anti-semitic outburst.

Dr. Lucey's well-intentioned remarks on

Saturday though widely publicised bear little relationship to Movement attitudes on interest. Most of the current Annual Reports of individual Credit Unions show that an increasing number of Boards are using the option open to them to give a remission of interest.

A typical example is St. Canice's Credit Union in Kilkenny which last year

allowed borrowers a £1,550 rebate on the £30,853 interest paid on loans during 1972.

While the dividend paid on savings by Credit Unions averages a healthy 6 per cent it is the low rate to borrowers allied to the Credit Union insurance coverage which has been responsible for the mushrooming of Credit Unions throughout the country in recent years.



● Fishermen at Howth tend the nets. — Irish People pic.

Fishermen fight nets cut back

Support has continued to grow for the newly formed National Fishermen's Defence Association organised in protest at the arbitrary cut-back in salmon drift-net licences. Secretary of the new Valentia Harbour Fishermen's Association, Des

Lavelle, pledging support to the national body, said that his organisation was a small link in the chain of strong feeling which had built up around the coast because of the Government's Order regarding salmon licences.

From Cape Clear island came further support for the N.F.D.A. Comharmanann Chleire Chairman, An t-Ath. Tomas O Murchu, said that Cleire was now the only Gaeltacht island left in Munster and had received no salmon licences. "The sea is the islanders' farm and they should not be prohibited from using the only natural resource available to them", he said.

TELEGRAM

The Fishing Order at the heart of the dispute was brought in the dying days of the former Fianna Fail Government and a telegram from Liam Cosgrave to a meeting of net-fishermen affected by the Order promised a full investigation and prompt action in the event of a Coalition victory.

On April 18 the Parliamentary Secretary to

the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Pat Murphy, met a delegation from the N.F.D.A. led by the Association's Secretary Mr. Jimmy O'Connor of Waterford. Also on the delegation representing their various areas were Finbar Murphy (Cork), Eamonn O Conghaile (Gallimby) and Frank Gallagher (Donegal).

SALMON ORDER

The main point put to Michael Pat Murphy by the delegation called for the immediate abolition of the Control of Fishing for Salmon Order and the issue of licences to all genuine full and part-time fishermen. A further demand called for change in the laws governing election to the Boards of Conservators and an inquiry into all fishing laws in consultation with the N.F.D.A.

Afterwards a delegation spokesman said that they were hopeful as a result of the meeting that the pre-election pledge would be put into effect. Drift-net fishermen in many coastal areas anxiously await the outcome of the Association's efforts.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

THE IRISH PEOPLE costs 6p on the news stands. For postal subscribers there is a special introductory annual rate, inclusive of postage, as follows:

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● "What do you mean I have no right to offer you my seat?"

PAGE Controversy surrounding the activities of Building Societies has increased with each increase in the rates over the past few years. Now, with the repayment interest at a record 10 per cent, the **m** Prices Commission has decided to investigate this very vexed question. This is a very welcome **N** for the many householders who find the weekly repayments becoming an intolerable burden.

However, while the investigation is scheduled for completion by October 1 this year, there is no commitment as to when a report will be issued. So that even with a report being issued within two months the completion of evidence-taking there is little prospect of any proposed changes being implemented before January 1974.

"Better late than never" will be the reaction to this news but an examination of the Commission's terms of reference raises the question of the scope of the inquiry. The fundamental question — "What is the cheapest and most efficient way to provide money to home purchasers in Ireland?" — is not put. Instead, the question the Commission asks is: "Are the Building Societies engaged in lending money to home-purchasers doing so efficiently and cheaply?". Within the scope of this question the Commission's terms of reference are wide-ranging and include questions like overlapping services, overhead costs, advertising expenditure and comparison with similar bodies in Britain.

Having said that much about the Commission's terms of reference it is time to get on with the job of making submissions.

Building Societies in their advertising often give the impression that most if not all of their money is invested in helping individuals buy houses. This is not so.

In its Annual Report of 1972 the First National Building Society reveals that while loans under £10,000 each totalled approximately £4,170,000, loans over £10,000 amounted to approximately £1,740,000. In other words, if we accept that all loans up to £10,000 are bona fide house-purchase loans, more than 40 per cent of this Society's expenditure went on projects other than home loans to individual house purchasers. The biggest of these loans, in November 1972, amounted to £240,000!

The Irish Permanent, the major presence in the field, reveals that of 1,936 mortgage debts contracted by borrowers 210 top the £10,000 mark. Not many, you might say, but the biggest one of these 210, issued in May 1972, amounts to a cool £700,000!

The criticism here is obvious. If Building Societies look on their function as providing home loan finance then they should do just that.

Henry J. O'Dwyer of the Educational Building Society, in a personal advertisement in the national press attempts to answer this criticism by reference to the fact that only 120 out of 12,148 mortgages with the E.B.S., about 1 per cent, are above the £10,000 mark. But with one of these at £95,000 and another at £80,000 it can be immediately seen that this minute looking 1 per cent statistic covers something short of 20 per cent of the Society's total investment. Our first recommendation to the Prices Commission is to restrict the Building Societies to the provision of loans to bona fide house purchasers. In doing so they will release between 20 and 40 per cent extra cash flow into home loan purchase.

BUILDING SOCIETIES EXAMINED

Part 1 of a three-part series to be submitted to National Prices Commission investigation of Building Societies.



● The Guinan business premises in Dublin.

Land buyer is planning chief

Mr. Jim Guinan of the auctioneering firm Guinan and Partners had a busy day on April 12. In the morning he paid £315,000 for 84½ acres of freehold land at Lucan, Co. Dublin.

Although this £4,000 per acre land which adjoins a golf course and is bisected by a public road is zoned for agriculture, Mr. Guinan told newsmen that it was "a natural" for residential purposes. The land could, on appeal to the Local Government Minister, Mr. Tully, be rezoned for high density housing.

Later in the day Mr. Guinan was elected chairman of the Dublin Co. Council Planning Committee and rejected suggestions that his position as an auctioneer might leave him open to accusations of abuse of the office of planning chairman. "I am only the chairman", he said, "and will still have the whole Council to contend with".



● The Guinan business premises in Dublin.

LICENCE TO PRINT MONEY

"The public must realise that planning permission in the right place is a licence to print money", says the magazine 'Plan' in an article which urges the government to change the system of planning permission.

"Permission for the bedroom over your garage is one thing — it enables you, if you have £2,000 to fork out, to add to the value of your house. But planning permission upon a group of houses in central city location or on a virgin suburban site strategically placed, is a very different matter," the article continues.

"The average value at fifty or a hundred thousand pounds soars to half a million pounds or more before a brick is laid. It leaves plenty of money to pay professional fees, and a bit on the side for the contacts

who smooth the way," it states and asserts that those who make a "killing" should be forced to use some of the profit on neighbourhood amenities.

Land speculation report shelved

There is still no sign of the report of the inquiry team on building land speculation set up in January 1971. The report, which should contain recommendations for legislation on the effective control of building land prices has been drawn up by a committee headed by Mr. Justice Kenny.

Mr. R. Molloy, then Minister for Local Government, who set up the inquiry committee forecast that the report would be available by April, 1972.

Then, however, the committee asked for an extension of three months and September was settled upon as the publication date.

But now, thirteen months after the publication deadline, the report is still 'awaited'. Meanwhile land and house prices continue to soar.

Sugar workers want say on Board

The Council of the Sugar Company's staff association are seeking the implementation of the principle of worker participation on the Board of Comhlucht Siúire Éireann.

They have called for the establishment of procedures for the election of worker representatives without delay in accordance with the pre-election statement of intent from the Coalition parties regarding the introduction of worker participation on the Boards of State enterprises.

viewpoint/ cormac dunne

Truth is the outcast of modern life. In Ireland, as elsewhere, truth is persecuted and imprisoned, bent, bruised and bludgeoned into something that passes as truth, but is more likely to be half-lie, half-propaganda.

Decked in a wrapping of hypocrisy and fine phrases, it is fed to the gullible — and accepted because it pleases and poses no threat to personal beliefs and convictions. The gullible have, over many years and in many ways, been conditioned to accept these sugary offerings. Coming as they do from the manufacturers of substance (they seem to be well-off and drive big cars), the gullible swallow the offerings whole and without question.

Truth itself, of course, is often unpalatable. It displeases many people, for instance, to be told that a mere five per cent of the population control 72 per cent of the wealth of this country; that there are scores of thousands living not only in poverty but on the brink of starvation; that there is gross inequality in areas like justice, education and social welfare; that there is rampant corruption in politics and public life ("low standards in high places", as Mr. George Colley once said); that non-Irish business tycoons, property speculators, financiers and "fly-by-nighters" own most of the business chains, banks, office blocks and valuable properties in this country.

We will not be hampered in our pursuit of truth by the bonds of advertising fealty or the intimidation of Big Business. Commercial daily and Sunday newspapers too often are aware of the power of advertising and business interests. Such newspapers dare not "rock the boat". The Establishment holds the key to the treasure chest of advertising revenue. Thus one cannot expect the whole truth from these papers — or from the State-controlled radio and television.

Censorship widespread

It will not come as a surprise to observers of our newspaper scene to learn that editorial censorship — and self-censorship — are widespread in the Fourth Estate in the 26 Counties. Journalists themselves admit it, editors try unsuccessfully to cloak it, readers are only too aware that, at times, they are getting only half of the story — that half that suits the newspapers, their owners and the Establishment. There are honourable exceptions in this situation — The Irish Times, which at all times tries to be fair; Hibernia, which is a courageous journal, and many of the provincial weeklies which have not, as yet, lost their independence.

"Treason for money"

Even when truth and justice are not bent and bludgeoned, they are often side-stepped and treated with lamentable silence. Consider Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien's apparent opposition to the sentencing of the journalist Peter Niesewand to 12 months in jail at a secret trial in Rhodesia, and then compare Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien's silence at the secret trials of Irishmen in Long Kesh. Compare Mr. Cosgrave's vehement demand for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland following the shooting of 13 people in Derry on Bloody Sunday with his current silence on the murders and brutality of the same British paratroopers in the North today. Compare the concern of the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cooney, for the niceties of "law and order" and his opposition to sections of the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act on its way through Leinster House, with the blatant injustices being inflicted on republicans today — a man found in possession of batteries and wire, for example, gets three years in jail while a man who committed treason for money by selling information to the British gets three months.

Treason, lest my readers forget, is normally punishable by death. Truly "justice" and truth are mocked in this country today.

"Let's co-operate"

In this column I shall be endeavouring to expose the methods being used to twist and bend the truth. Readers can help by writing to tell me of examples of injustice, corruption and jobbery in their areas. Their letters and communications shall be held in strictest confidence. Let's co-operate in the promulgation of the truth.

ACRA opens ground rent campaign

ACRA's campaign for the abolition of ground rent has been met with a "terrific" response says Association P.R.O. Andy Conlon. In the few days following the announcement of the move his phone hardly ever stopped ringing and

letters have come from all parts of Ireland.

ACRA's Executive are already discussing how best to conduct the campaign: most of its affiliated Residents' Associations are affected.

Ground rents in Dublin suburban estates vary from below £10 to as much as £25 per annum. Andy Conlon states that to his knowledge very many tenants are on a spontaneous and unorganised non-payment campaign.

Will ACRA advocate a total strike? The first step, more than likely, will be to educate residents as to what ground rent actually is, its background and legal standing, before deciding on what action to take.

What about compensation in the event of a decision by Government to abolish? "That is a question for the Government and the experts to decide", says Conlon, "the important thing is that ground rent be abolished".

Many residents interested in the ACRA campaign point to the Labour Party policy document which states categorically that "Labour will abolish ground rents..."

Special concern will be given to the small investor according to the Labour policy which criticises the continued refusal by "conservative governments" to abolish the "penal tribute" of a "feudal land owning system".

The IRISH PEOPLE will follow and report upon the ACRA campaign week by week.

Count down

Lack of co-operation from the Local Authority and the Longford Development team could mean the closure of a rapidly expanding industry in Longford.

Longford Engineering Ltd, whose workforce has increased from five to over thirty in the past few years say that problems regarding water and sewerage which must be overcome if they are to continue production have received no attention from the authorities despite a wait of eighteen months.

The company also claim they have been unable to have a second telephone installed despite the fact that 80 per cent of their products, machine parts, etc., are exported. The Longford Postmaster says he is hoping to have departmental approval for the installation of the phone shortly.

Portlaoise

The Irish Worsteds Mills in Portlaoise which was to have closed in early April is still surviving. Most of the 120 workers, members of the ITGWU, have been kept on to complete outstanding orders. Meanwhile the workers are keeping pressure on the Department of Industry and Commerce and the IDA to fulfil a promise that the mills would be taken over by Youghal Carpets.

In a recent statement their Union Branch chairman, Michael Costigan and secretary, John Dunne have called upon all persons with influence to endeavour to have the mills taken over and have appealed especially "to those politicians who in the past made statements that the mills would not close".

Mergers

Many of the big Dublin coal merchants are finalising plans for a giant merger. The merger has been recommended to help the merchants rationalise their operations and help them stand up to foreign competition. Familiar household names like Donnelly's, Tedcastles, Doherty's, etc., are soon to disappear. Perhaps the campaign to bring back the living room has failed.

But one thing should not disappear — the jobs of the workers employed by the various companies. Apparently all employees are to be made redundant with the expectancy of being re-hired under this merger arrangement. This means that some of this workforce will not be re-hired. Meanwhile most, if not all, can live in fear and

hope. Mergers are not a happy occasion for staff. The customer seldom benefits either from arrangements which are supposed to cut costs and increase efficiency.

Tralee

Fears that the recent transfer of 50.28 per cent of the company's shares to Australian Estates Limited might spell danger to the retention of Denny's Bacon Factory have been allayed by an assurance from the company's managing director, Mr. George M. Clarke, who visited the factory with the other directors recently. They were delighted to see the progress being made in the Tralee factory and "as far as I can see everything augurs well for the future," Mr. Clarke said.

The future of Denny's, the largest employers of labour in Tralee, has been uncertain for some years due to rationalisation in the bacon industry.

Clondalkin

Clondalkin caravan dwellers whose association is now affiliated to the local Community Council are resisting attempts by Dublin County Council to remove them from the Nolan and Cowan Sites in Clondalkin.

The Dwellers' association says that the Council moves towards closure result from the refusal of the site owners to provide proper sanitary and other services on the sites.

Trouble is now also brewing in the Smith site in the area where the Association claims the owner threatened to evict caravan dwellers who sought the provision of proper toilets, water and electricity on the site.

Killala

Gardai were on duty as local farmers picketed the recent Land Commission auction of the 65 acre Gillyvay estate. The farmers from the Rathowen district of Killala were protesting at the Land Commission's delay in dividing the land between the fourteen 18-25 acre smallholders farming in the area.

The Commission purchased the land for division four years ago and local National (Land) League Secretary, Mr. J. P. Durean, said that the delay of the division for at least another year sparked off the farmers' protest.

Placards carried by the picketers read "Grabbers keep on" and "We want this land divided not sold".



● Marino Crescent — Irish People pic

ANOTHER BATTLE OF CLONTARF

Already famous for one battle Clontarf is the cockpit of a ground rent battle which could have widespread repercussions throughout the country. The silent sale by the old Vernon Estate of the twenty four ground rent leases on Marino Crescent to a development company has caused the Marino Crescent and District Tenants Association to spring into existence. The new landlord has intimated that he will not renew leases or let the ground rent be bought out.

Claim

The alarm of the Marino dwellers is well founded: by refusing to sell freehold under the 1967 Landlord and Tenant Act (Ground Rent) the new landlord, Mr. Holohan, is laying claim to the ownership of the houses. To this extent the Marino issue parallels the Proby Estate dispute in Sandycove, Co. Dublin, which culminated in a change of the original 1967 Act to allow the justice of the householders claim to ownership of their own houses.

One of the Marino residents affected is Mr. Joseph O'Brien at No. 24. Mr. O'Brien took over the house in a semi-derelict condition and over a twenty year period spent considerable time and money making it habitable in the belief that he owned the house. With his lease expired he has now been offered £1,000 for vacant possession. Initial shock has turned to outrage at the use being made of ground rent to gain possession of houses on the Crescent.

Notice

Despite the fact that the estate had changed hands more than two years ago it was only last month that the O'Briens received notice from Orpen, Franks and Co., Solicitors to the Vernon Estate, informing them that all ground rent due after September, 1971, should be paid to Owen Mulholland and Co., Sandford Rd., Ranelagh, Solicitors for Holohan.

It is the belief locally that the motive behind the move on the houses is to gain possession of the two-acre plot fronting the Crescent to which only residents are allowed access under their lease agreements.

With full support locally the Association has also been assured of full support by ACRA and plans to join the ACRA campaign against ground rent.

Delegation

A delegation from the Association hope to have an early meeting with the Ground Rent Commission to clarify their legal position and to claim the full protection of the 1967 Act.

Another Change?

A successful fight by the Marino tenants could lead to yet another change in the Act and a further weakening of the feudal ground rent structure.

How to buy land and never own it! the ground rent story

the possession of the landlord. English Common Law as practised in Ireland did not recognise a person holding land for a term of years as having or acquiring an interest in the land.

Divine right

So it was that the term 'ground rent' became synonymous with the idea of a person paying the market value of a piece of land over and over again and still never becoming entitled to own it. The person renting or leasing the land (Lessee) was regarded as holding the land as a bailiff for the freeholder. This placed the landlord in a position that could only be claimed by the creator of the soil: hence the origin of the term 'Divine Right of Private Property'.

The ground rent system survived the centuries unscathed right up to the present century. It was in rural Ireland, where the exact same leasehold system held in relation to the agricultural land, that the first agitations began for reform. This was only to be expected as the abuse in agricultural land caused far more oppression than that in urban areas.

Michael Davitt

Agrarian agitation culminated in the great Land League struggle of the 1880's and '90's. This struggle, led by Michael Davitt, convulsed the whole of Ireland and caught the attention of the world! It led to the rise of Parnell, the Home Rule movement and, eventually, the fall of feudalism in rural Ireland. By 1905 the power of the landlord was largely broken in the countryside.

Towns and cities, however, remained untouched by the conflagration that consumed the principle of feudalism in rural areas: the urban house-owner was still subject to the 'Divine Right' of private property. Where the tenant-farmer had won the right to buy and own his land the urban dweller remained a tenant with no right to freehold.

Land annuities

After the War of Independence and establishment of the Free State in 1922 it was again the farmers who took up the fight against landlordism with their opposition to paying the land annuities settlement worked out the time of the Land

League. De Valera used the slogan that "contracts entered into under duress are not binding" and, on gaining office in 1932, ceased the payment of land annuities to the British landlords.

By 1931 the first legislation affecting ground rent in urban areas was passed. The Act accepted completely the prevailing status quo. So it was that while the annuities battle raged during the 'thirties in rural areas against the 'Divine Right' of private property that very same principle was being absorbed as an integral part of the Irish legal system. Urban tenants were to pay for not being vicarious in demand of their rights.

Escaped

Ground rent escaped the zeal of reformers down through Irish history precisely because it was never a general abuse. In rural Ireland uniform high rents created a very serious abuse and hardship. In urban Ireland it was only on the expiry of a lease that trouble began for the tenant. And as this trouble came piecemeal at different times for different tenants there was never widespread organised opposition to it.

Next week:

The history of ground rent legislation in modern Ireland up to the 1967 Landlord and Tenant Act (Ground Rent).

AS PROCESSING JOBS VANISH...

The volume of redundancies in the meat processing industry will accelerate in the months ahead.

The British Government's ban on live sheep exports from Britain has resulted in a switch to Ireland by Continental buyers who operated in that country.

The 131,684 throughput of sheep in Irish meat factories in the first ten weeks of this year showed an increase of 30,000 over the same period in 1971. The almost 50 per cent drop in cattle throughput in the same period has been responsible for the rash of redundancies in the industry.

The pattern of live exports of cattle is certain to be repeated with sheep so a catastrophic reduction in meat industry jobs is expected.

In a hard-hitting speech to the Irish Fresh Meat Exporters' Society at its recent Annual General Meeting, the Society Chairman, Mr. John O'Callaghan called for an immediate ban on live sheep exports and said that thousands of sheep had been exported to Belgium since the British ban, many of them top-class breeding stock.

"It is an appalling situation", said Mr. O'Callaghan, "that we in Ireland should allow the development of a trade concerning which the British Government had sufficient evidence to warrant its complete banning on grounds of cruelty, and which offers no advantage to our economy".

Mr. O'Callaghan also called for the formation and implementation of a detailed, long-term policy on the breeding, rearing and marketing of both cattle and sheep.

"This policy", he said, "should indicate clearly whether the government is in favour of the development and expansion of the Irish meat industry or whether it is intended to continue the export of livestock which helps to build up the meat processing industries of competitor countries at the expense of Irish industry".

The export of calves, which will result in an eventual shortage of cattle for live export as well as for factories, was also criticised by Mr. O'Callaghan.

Our Industrial Correspondent writes: In the absence of a drastic curtailment by the government of live animal exports it is difficult to visualise the survival not to mention the development of the meat processing industry.

The arguments which favour live exports include: EEC tariffs are lower on live cattle, importing countries favour live imports for the sake of their own abattoirs, the risk of loss in the transport of live animals is lower and the amount of capital which would be required for the provision of sufficient temperature-controlled transport and vacuum-packing facilities.

However, the benefit to the economy of a thriving processing industry in which Irish material would be used to give maximum Irish employment while raising the product to its maximum export value would obviously outweigh the arguments of the live export advocates. Mr. O'Callaghan's claim that jobs in a "reasonably encouraged" meat industry can be increased from the present 4,000 to 10,000 by 1980 is the most telling argument of all.

MARATHON RENT WAR TO END?

— By Denis Foley

Though obviously optimistic about the outcome of negotiations on the ending of the Differential Rents 'war', Matt Larkin, Secretary of the National Association of Tenants' Organisations, was adamant that no interim account of the meetings with the Local Government Department would be given to THE IRISH PEOPLE (or to anyone else) when I spoke to him at the weekend.

"Members of our executive will be meeting officers of the department again within the next week", he said, "and I cannot elaborate on our statement issued after the last meeting which expressed our optimism that a new scheme of rents and house purchase schemes would emerge from the discussions".

The NATO set of draft proposals are wide-ranging and while it cannot reasonably be expected that all of them will be agreed to it is difficult to anticipate a basis for settlement unless the Government accedes fully to at least four of their proposals. These are (a) a new graded scale of rent assessment; (b) rent to be assessed only on basic pay after deductions for Tax and Social Welfare contributions etc.; (c) the income of the tenant alone be assessable; and (d) the new scheme be implemented automatically by all local authorities.

NATO's suggested method of assessment would replace the old assessment fraction of one-sixth of gross household income (one-seventh by some Local Authorities) by a graded scale starting at one-twelfth, where the tenant's basic weekly pay or other

income was £12 or less, and rising at £5 income intervals to one-seventh at £28 and over.

Local Government Minister Tully's recognition of NATO as a negotiating body on behalf of the tenants of the 26 Counties represents a major initiative by the Coalition in attempting to settle the dispute raging since the Housing Act passed and imposed through Leinster House in 1966. It also means that in the future NATO will be the recognised 'trade union' for tenants.

Miscalculation

Mr. Tully's predecessor in Local Government, Robert Mulloy and Mr. Kevin Boland, architect of the ACT, steadfastly refused to talk to NATO.

However, a tactical miscalculation by NATO in allowing local branches to negotiate settlements with individual County Managers undoubtedly contributed to the delay in the recognition of the national body. It wasn't until late last year that a National Convention decided to put an end to local negotiations.

By then 'interim settlements' had been made in many areas but the numbers still on strike in Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Limerick, Macroom, Drogheda, Ardee, Dunleer and Wexford meant that NATO had a 54 million withheld-rents muscle to force the recognition concession.

The 'interim settlements' while they could have delayed the concession of the negotiating 'licence' can, however, by the diversity of concessions in them, now be used as aces in the NATO

'BAN LIVE EXPORTS' CALL

"Farmers Silent on Food Plant Closure"

— Carlow Workers.

"Farming organisations have not publicly opposed the closing of the Erin Foods plant in Carlow, yet when the crisis of the sugar quota arose the workers and their unions expressed their opinions

strongly", says a statement from the Carlow Workers' Action Committee.

The statement, issued by the committee secretary, Mr. P. Reddy, continues: "The workers who have lost their

jobs have been let down badly by the county, the last government and the farmers, particularly those in Carlow and the surrounding counties. Carlow was a catchment area for workers from the surrounding counties.

"They have also been let down by the Chamber of Commerce, Co. Council, Urban Council and the Carlow Development Association who were not seen to be active in opposing the loss of these jobs.

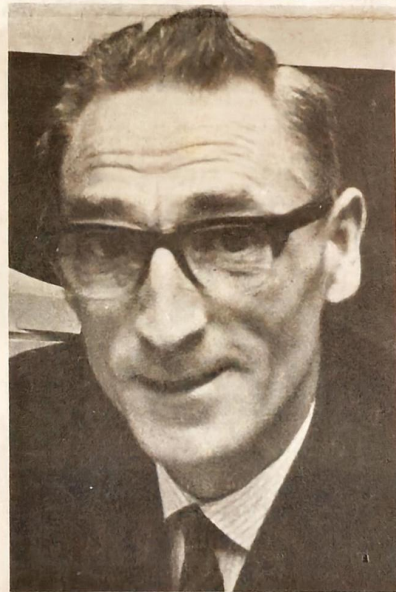
"New industry is definitely needed but we must hold on to what we have worked very successfully for in the past thirteen years, especially as all other plants within the group are still going strong.

"The Carlow plant is the only one that has suffered. Our jobs have headed South and the main reason appears to be because of political pressure — certainly not due to climatic

conditions as suggested before. We have the best tillage land in Ireland here in Carlow and surrounding counties and as a committee we are certainly going to try to get some life back into our plant in Carlow.

"We expect the farming organisations to support us to the hilt but have learned from various farmers that though they individually support us their organisations have fallen down completely and are not reflecting the opinions of their members. It is, after all, the workers and the small farmers who have suffered most over the closure of Carlow.

"As a committee we intend to keep the public fully informed of any future developments so that they can assess for themselves the seriousness of the unemployment situation in Carlow", the statement concludes.



● Matt Larkin, General Secretary, N.A.T.O.

negotiating pack. For example maximum rent, the arbitrary upper level differential rent, set for individual housing schemes by individual County Managers and which can be increased at any time at the whim of the County Manager, is not listed on NATO's set of draft proposals. However, in at least one local 'interim settlement' it has been conceded to strikers that the present maximum be "frozen" to 1978 and thereafter the Manager can only make a minimal annual increase. This eliminates managerial power to parallel income increases

with a spiralling maximum. The negotiators in arguing for the new graded scale of assessment can refer to the special arrangements for lower income groups made in some local agreements as well as to the maximum annual increases in basic rent agreed to in at least one area.

It will be some time yet before the final outcome of the negotiations is known. In the meantime those under the threat of eviction, communal orders, etc., can breathe easily again. Matt Larkin and NATO appear to be on the verge of success in the marathon rents war.

Gear Change Demand in Belfast Streets

Since Britain rushed extra troops into the Six Counties after the anti-Catholic pogroms of 1969, 55 civilians have been killed in road accidents involving military vehicles.

Last year alone, research by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, showed that 31 people had been killed by army vehicles.

Some of these civilians died in straight-forward accidents. Others were killed during riots when army drivers ran them down as they throttled their heavy Saracens through protesters.

In recent weeks both sections of the community have called for the Army either to control their drivers, — or to take their vehicles off the roads altogether.

Tommy Herron, the UDA leader, accused the British military of "ignoring all traffic laws".

Gerry Fitt of the SDLP said there was a hazard to life and limb when they sped through densely populated areas.

And Fred Proctor of the Democratic Unionist Party who represents the working class Woodvale ward in Belfast City Hall accused the British forces of causing

civilian casualties by switching off street lights in his district so that neither vehicles nor pedestrians could see where they were going.

Mr. Leslie Sinfield of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said that travelling without lights at night was an obvious traffic hazard and said that the Army should stop it immediately.

But all the complaints were to no avail. There have been several more accidents and still more civilian deaths as British military vehicles scream down narrow backstreets in the working class ghettos, roar through red lights and ignore zebra crossings and the ordinary rules of the road which all motorists are forced to obey for the safety of society in general.

A spokesman for the British Army HQ in Lisburn said that "our men always obey the rules of the road and are not a danger to the public". He would not comment on the number of deaths.

And an RUC spokesman confirmed that not a single soldier has been charged with dangerous driving involving a military vehicle... despite the 55 deaths.



The North

Is Civil Rights A Lost Cause?

—By Des O'Hagan, Executive Member, N.I.C.R.A.

The rattle of gunfire in Derry on January 30, 1971, seemed to spell the end to the mass demonstrations organised by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association against repression and the denial of basic human rights in the North. The response of the people to the wanton murder of Bloody Sunday was massive: almost 100,000 flocked into Newry to demonstrate their horror and opposition to the Derry Massacre. The Civil Rights Association re-emerged as the organisation around which the Irish people were prepared to gather, enthusiasm for mass action was once again felt throughout the North.

What has happened since? Have people become disillusioned with the organisation which made the streets of the North echo to the tramp of marching feet and resound to the Civil Rights anthem "We Shall Not Be Moved"? Or has the Civil Rights Battle been won?

Bloody period

The British Government has presented a White Paper which initially was well received by most of the political parties in the North. Trade unions, tenants' associations, the churches, all joined in a chorus of welcome. It seemed as if the bloody period of the past three years

was to end in the light of the British proposals.

The proposed legislation contained some gains, an end to the Oath of Allegiance to the British Monarch, Proportional Representation in new elections, an end to gerrymandering and there was also a section dealing with Human Rights. Republican Clubs finally were to be recognised as legal. Many of the Civil Rights demands seemed to have been won. Could the C.R.A. shut shop, call it a day and congratulate themselves on a job well done? Have they now become irrelevant in the new situation?

'A baten docket'

Some people had been saying for some time back that the Civil Rights Association was, in fact, in the Northern phrase, 'a baten docket' since the bombs first began to erupt and the bullets began to whine. The only answer to British Army violence was counter-violence. Get the people off the streets and the guns out against the guns of Britannia.

High points

This point of view obviously failed to see that the high points in the fight for human rights were when thousands of

people poured out on the streets behind the Civil Rights banner, October 1968, January and February 1972 are the dates which the history books will remember when the smoke has cleared.

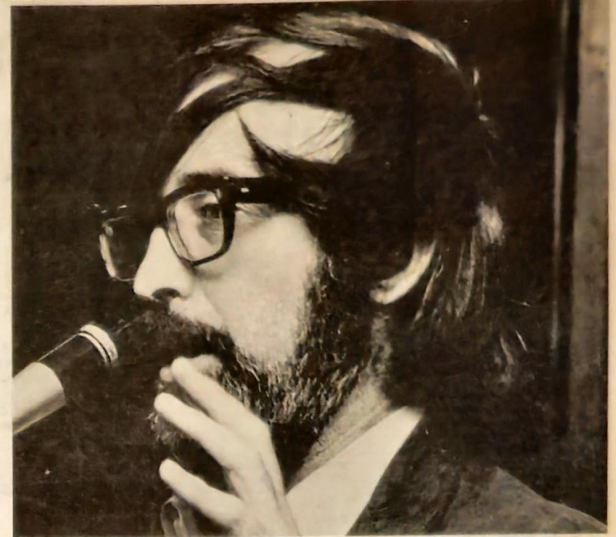
Boot, baton and bullet

What needs to be remembered also is that these mass demos were opposed by the authorities with violence. The peaceful litany of human rights demands was met with the boot, baton and bullet. But were the people driven off the streets? Not likely, they responded by even greater demonstrations until forced off by the counter violence the British Army and the Tory-Unionists wanted.

Guest

Looking back now on 1972, at that time I was a guest in Long Kesh concentration camp. Newry was a tremendous lift to those of us who had marched in the former C.R. demonstrations. Here was proof that the people could not be defeated.

Once again as it becomes clearer to most people in the North that the White Paper will not concede the demand for democracy and civil rights; special courts, arbitrary arrest, the stuff of a police state remain, the CRA



must and will provide the lead. It will be back to the streets if and only if the lessons of '68 and '72 are learned by everyone.

Concessions

The mass of the people will demonstrate peacefully for a change only if the bullets stop and remember it was the people who won these first few concessions. Didn't somebody say something about those who can suffer the most? And isn't that another piece of wisdom about the great being only great because we are on our knees?

Let the people have the opportunity to present their demands in the way that has won great victories from Selma to Derry. The long marches hardened resolve, stiffened determination and made the people realise that they could not be overcome. We need to let them march again.

Outright Victory for Whitelaw in L.G. Elections

The outcome of the Six County Local Government elections on May 30 is in no doubt. The winner will be Mr. William Whitelaw, the man whose consent was necessary for the elections to be held.

Mr. Whitelaw has decided to hold these elections on the framework recommended by the MacRory Report on Local Government (1970) in the Six Counties. Briefly, this report suggested the abolition of the old system of local government and its replacement with 26 District Councils, each one based generally on a town including the surrounding rural area. The elections will be held on the basis of one man one vote, under the Proportional Representation system.

But with the realignment of the local government areas, MacRory suggested the re-allocation of local government powers. The 26 new district councils will be responsible for such things as public conveniences, "abatement of nuisances", "environmental health education", caravan sites, sewerage (other than major systems), the licensing of pleasure boats, cemeteries, and refuse collection and disposal.

Incorporated

The more important functions like education, public libraries, planning, electoral arrangements, welfare and child care, were all transferred to what was then the Stormont parliament, each function to be incorporated into the relevant government ministry. Administration was to be through a number of "area boards" within each ministry and the boards were to be composed of a selected majority of members, the remaining minority to be composed of some of the elected local councillors.

Stormont has gone and its replacement, Mr. Whitelaw, has therefore been bequeathed the power to staff the area boards, i.e. the



● William Whitelaw.

complete power over all major local government functions in the Six Counties. Mr. Whitelaw has now much more power personally than had the whole Stormont parliament, because he controls not only the "national" government of the Six Counties but is also in complete control of local government as well.

So the one-man-one-vote local councils will have the power to clean the streets and bury the dead, while one-man-one-vote Whitelaw will control everything else. Whitelaw has won the elections before they have been held and he is, of course, adhering strictly to that well-known principle of "winner takes all".

But he has left the people of the North the task of cleaning their streets and burying their dead. And under the Whitelaw administration the latter has meant a lot of work recently.

S.D.L.P. Council Boycott?

(Continued from page 1)

The fact that The Democratic Unionist Party, Vanguard and other right-wing unionist groupings are not showing their hand electorally until the Assembly Elections could mean a low poll on the Unionist side. Faulkner followers, where they don't opt for plumpers, are likely to give second preferences to Alliance and third to the N.I.L.P.

The "moderate" vote where it exists in rural areas should go, 1 Alliance, 2 Unionist, and 3 N.I.L.P. while in Belfast the likelihood is that Alliance and N.I.L.P. will share the higher preferences and those standing on the Unionist ticket will get the third.

Attempting to forecast how the more fragmented anti-Unionist vote will break is far more difficult. Here much will depend on whether a unifying issue can be found before polling day.

Internment

To date only the Republican Clubs have indicated clearly

the number of candidates they will be putting forward. Irrespective of how many of their 80 candidates are elected they have decided that seats on the new councils will not be taken until "internment" is ended and the Special Powers Act abolished. This commitment should mean that the Republicans will encourage voters to confine their preferences to candidates adopting a similar anti-internment stand.

Dilemma

This places the S.D.L.P. in a particular dilemma. Having been let off the 'no talks until internment ends' hook by the Provisional-Whitelaw talks last year they will be anxious to avoid commitment to a boycott situation again. However it could be politically suicidal for them to allow the Republicans appear the sole champions of the anti-internment cause which was so massively supported up to the Provisional-Whitelaw talks last summer.

They will be aware that the harassment of Republican election workers and candidates as well as the anti-paratroop storm could give renewed momentum to the anti-internment / Special Powers struggle.

The S.D.L.P. must also recognise that, arguably the Republican Clubs represent the most widely organised unit on the anti-Unionist side and while they lack personalities in the Hume, Cooper, Fitt mould any spectacular gains made by them in the local elections could spell danger for S.D.L.P. Assembly prospects particularly in areas like Armagh, South Down, Tyrone and South Derry.

S.D.L.P. pressure

It was this knowledge which led to the S.D.L.P. pressure on Whitelaw to postpone the Local Elections until after the Assembly Elections were held. Ivan Cooper's awareness of the threat in his own constituency, where the



● Ivan Cooper.

Republicans are particularly strong, was illustrated by his recent statement that the ending of internment was still an absolute pre-requisite to "full" participation in any new institutions.

Since the smaller parties are likely to wait for the S.D.L.P. lead it is upon S.D.L.P. reaction to the Republican electoral initiatives that anti-Unionist interest will centre in the weeks ahead.

NEXT WEEK
commencing
Des O'Hagan's
Letter from Belfast
Regular weekly
column.

SHANNON: THE FINAL TAKE-OFF?

By Peigin Doyle

Does Pan Am want to destroy Shannon Airport? This is the question which must lie uppermost in the minds of the members of the Shannon Region Action Committee, which recently sent a deputation to the Minister of Transport and Power, regarding the still-smouldering dispute over U.S. landing rights in Ireland.

The granting of landing rights in Dublin to U.S. airlines spells disaster for local industry and employment in the Shannon region and for tourism prospects in the whole Western counties. The story is interesting.

£1 million payroll

In 1970, 1,000 workers were employed in the catering and service sector at Shannon with a £1m payroll. A further 600 service jobs, with a £750,000 annual wages bill, will also be eliminated if airlines by-pass Shannon. There will also be severe repercussions amongst all workers dependent on income from North American tourism and the Shannon Region Action Committee has estimated this to be in the region of £11,700 employed, amounting to \$8m. annually, a large percentage of whose jobs will suffer from the drain of tourist revenue as the U.S. jets concentrate on Dublin.

Pan Am operates the largest air transport service in the world with 150 jets serving 122 cities in 82 countries. Its interests also cover the accommodation market controlling 50 hotels through its subsidiary firm, Intercontinental Hotels Ltd and car-hire facilities, an area in which it is currently expanding its operations.

These interests enable Pan Am to engage in an all-in package tours service catering for all the tourists needs from flying to sleeping, which would operate on all its major routes. This grants it effective control of a large sector of a given tourist market, a sector which in Ireland employs 160,000 people.

Unfair

At present, three U.S. airlines have unlimited landing rights at Shannon Airport under the 1943 Air Transport Agreement giving access to 70 per cent of the Irish-American air transport market. Aer Lingus enjoys landing rights in only three of the U.S. states effectively preventing it developing air routes further west of the U.S. market and it has operated this service in the Irish-American passenger market only since 1958.

Fastest growing

The U.S. Ireland tours business is the fastest growing sector of the Irish Tourist Industry and it is estimated

that it will account for 42.2 per cent of Irish Tourist Revenues by 1975. The preferences of Americans taking such tours tend in the direction of seeing a greater number of cities, encouraging a trend covering a number of countries.

Pan Am enjoys landing rights in most major European cities, which, combined with ownership of hotel chains and car-hire firms, gives it almost complete control over a large part of the sector which caters for this particular tourist market.

With these advantages, landing rights at Dublin would give it a clear competitive position over other operators, especially Aer Lingus.

Ireland exhibits clear parallels to Pan Am's growing business diversification elsewhere. In May 1972, Cahills Car Rentals linked up with the rest of Pan Am's world rent-a-car organisation, supplying rented cars to American tourists carried by Pan Am.

Through its interests in Intercontinental Hotels, Pan Am also has a finger in the hotel pie and it is significant that it has dropped its hotels in Cork and Limerick and is concentrating its accommodation interests in Dublin, obviously in anticipation of serving a tourist circuit which will be confined to the Dublin area.

Linked

The Marriott Corporation, closely connected with Pan Am and the U.S. government and J. A. Mulcahy, hotelier and personal friend of Richard Nixon, have been linked in the purchase of a site at Dublin Airport, for a hotel.

The economics and consumer preference of the U.S. tourists market indicate a growing concentration by airlines on providing a package tours service, covering major European capitals including Dublin. This is a service which can be operated from a Shannon landing point with a transit service with Dublin. This two-way service would cost in the region of £2,000 per run and is an arguing point which will doubtlessly arise during negotiations on granting Dublin Landing Rights.

The other side

It will be the task of the Shannon Region Action Committee to present the other side of the coin — to point out the loss of employment, tourist revenue and related industry that this inevitably entails, a loss which in some areas will rise to as much as 15 per cent of non-agricultural income.

Which side will the coin land on? A saving of £2,000 per flight for Pan Am, or a saving of the thousands of jobs dependent on the preservation of Shannon's status and the Western tourist industry?

Confidence

Pan Am's activities to date indicate a degree of confidence that verges on complete certainty of victory — its car rental interests hotel rise-downs and site acquisition all imply that there is nothing in the balance but the actual date of its final victory. This was under the



Joint favourite to take the President's Cup and £11,000 purse, Erskine Childers, has a strong mount in FIANNA FAIL but his stamina over the full distance is suspect. FIANNA FAIL has twice won this valuable prize for its rider but following its recent defeat in the National was to be retired to Stud.

They're off!



By Our Racing Correspondent



Tom O'Higgins starts with the advantage of having been over the course before on FINE GAEL which jumped well and was only beaten by a short head. He must be just a little apprehensive of COALITION (out of FINE GAEL by LABOUR) but is confident that his new mount combines the jumping abilities of the dam with the renowned strength of the sire. If so, he's on the winner.

Excitement grows at the prospect of a thrilling finish to the Presidential Handicap Chase. After the first jump at the nomination fence (pic.) only Childers and O'Higgins remain mounted.

With the punters split down the middle betting to date makes each candidate joint favourite as the field enters the final lap.

The failure of the Corish stables to produce a promising challenger means that most of Labour's money will be going on the new unknown Coalition (owned and trained by Liam Cosgrave).

Inner Enclosure talk is that Childers would be firm favourite were it not that his

mount, the tried and trusted Fianna Fail, found the going heavy in the recent National Election Chase. However, Fianna Fail's poor performance on that occasion is put down to stable troubles and interrupted training by trainer Jack Lynch who is quietly confident of victory in the final straight.

Whoever snatches the purse it is certain to be a neck-and-neck affair right up to the post, with fortunes to be won or lost on the side.

Most interested spectator will undoubtedly be retiring Champion Jockey De Valera who twice won over this course but is debarrd from making the treble by Course Rules.

Farmers oppose new mart

Fianna Fail government, where controversy surrounding the issue was such as to generate charges of corruption within the Dail. The Minister of Transport and Power, Mr. Barry, has promised to consider the case submitted by the Shannon Region Action Committee for the retention of Shannon's status but gave no guarantee to date that Shannon's survival is assured.

In the air

The landing rights coin is in the air and the fate of thousands of Irish jobs linked to Shannon and the tourist industry depends on the coin spinning in their direction. Pan Am seemingly has no doubts as to whose side it will land on. Can the Shannon workers be quite so confident?

NEXT WEEK in

The Irish People

Mines in Ireland (Cut-out series for younger readers).

On the Lump

—Building industry sub-contracting.

Ground Rent

—Series continued.

Building Societies

—Second submission to National Prices Commission.

ORDER YOUR COPY AT YOUR NEWSAGENT NOW.

Despite opposition from organised farming groups in the area a newly registered company, Bunratty Export Marts Ltd. is determined to proceed with its plan to erect a £75,000 livestock mart at Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare.

The farmer opposition spearheaded by the Clare Co. Executive of the I.F.A. stems from the belief that cattle numbers do not justify a mart and that the proposed privately owned mart will militate against co-operative development in the area.

Opposed

Mr Michael O'Donoghue, Chairman Clare I.F.A. says that farmers in the area are not in favour of the new mart and are opposed to its erection. "What we are most concerned about," he says, "is that the new mart is being provided by a private company and that this company is getting investment from outside the country."

A spokesman for Bunratty Exports Marts Ltd. who refused to disclose the identity of the directors of the company claims however that farmers in the area welcome the new project.

GLEANN AN LEASA

Annraoi ó Liatháin

'Ní rabhamar ag déim le elasaicneacht ná le hardlitríocht. An seol a bheith soláite agus inspéise. Ba é sin ár n-ardhm. Deoir a bhaint ó shuí chailín nógáire ó sheandúine, ní raibh uaim ach an méid sin.' Sin a deoir Annraoi ó Liatháin faoi na scríbhneoirí a bhí ag soláthar gearrscéalta saor in aisce do na hiris sna blianta i nliathlín 1942. A rogha dá chuid gearrscéalta foin ón ré sin atá anseo. Ceapaimid go spreagfaidh na scéalta seo an deoir agus an gáire go fóill, cé gur triocha bliain ó shin a scríobhadh cuid diobh. B'fheidir gur bhaineadar amach an chlasaiceacht dá n-ainm-saoin foin.

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