

The Irish People

AN CHOISMHUINTIR

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FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1974

The new Provo violence

• SEE PAGE 7 INSIDE

Lawmen sit on fence while intimidation unchecked



• Paddy Cooney, Minister for Justice: no legislation to protect tenants.

Many Dublin landlords are taking a short-cut through the rights of their tenants in order to make a killing on the property market.

The law is being flouted with impunity as trespass, intimidation, and open assault is used in order to get rid of unwanted tenants.

While legislators sit on the fence, ignoring the need for legal protection for private tenants, there is

every evidence that the use of terror-methods is on the increase in Dublin's flatland. Number 12/13 Gardiner Place, two large houses converted into one, is given over to 28 bedsitters and 5 flats and houses approximately 50 tenants. The house, which is an increasingly attractive area for office development, has seen a growing campaign of intimidation in recent weeks, designed to empty it of its tenants.

The present owners are Jan and Edith Dyll of Serpentine Ave., Ballsbridge. Mr. Dyll also owns the Belvedere Hotel in Great Denmark St.

Three weeks ago all the tenants in the house were told to leave, some of them getting less than a week's notice in which to do so.

One young couple who were on their honeymoon had taken the flat immediately before their marriage. The eviction notice was served on the Wednesday before they returned without the flat even having been occupied.

All the tenants, including the honeymoon couple, paid a deposit, £15 in the case of a single room and £25 for a two-roomed flat, plus £5 for the E.S.B. meter in addition to the normal rent.

The majority of tenants refused to accept the landlord's ultimatum and formed a Residents' Committee to oppose any attempt at unlawful eviction.

Since then the telephone and doorbell wires were cut. Repaired once by the tenants they have now been cut off by the Telephone Exchange on the instructions of Mrs. Dyll.

On Thursday last only the last minute intervention of local Sinn Féin member, Pascal Mac Aodhain, prevented all the E.S.B. meters being disconnected, again on the landlady's instructions. Hall and bathroom lights had already been successfully cut off.

The purpose behind the whole campaign is to acquire

(Continued on Page 3)

NEW VOTE ORDERED ON DUBLIN DOCKS DEAL

Irish People Exclusive

Dublin's 600 deep sea dockers must vote again on the Deensualisation Scheme, Phase 2 proposals. A ballot held last Sunday week, which resulted in the scheme being accepted by a majority of 11 votes, has been declared void by the Executive Council of the Marine Port & General Workers' Union.

The Executive Council's decision followed widespread dissatisfaction among dockers in the manner in which the ballot was conducted. After ballot papers had been distributed and a number of dockers had voted and left the St. Francis Xavier Hall, where the vote was held, it was decided to distribute a new set of ballot papers.

It was votes cast on the second set of papers that counted and these

resulted in the majority of 11 favouring acceptance. However, inspection of the ballot papers used by men who had left the premises and who had not the opportunity to use the second paper showed that the great majority of these were against the proposals. If their votes had been taken into consideration a different result would have emerged. The Union and the Association of Dublin Stevedores Ltd. are not very hopeful that the proposals as they now stand will be accepted by dockers. Negotiations between the two sides have been reopened in an attempt to come up with amendments which will make the package more acceptable.

(A detailed analysis of the proposals appeared in this paper on March 22.)



• Dublin dockers: voting again.



Dublin's Centrepoin'ts

• SEE PAGE 5.

The Irish People

An Choismhuinir, Friday, April 5, 1974.

MARTIAL LAW?

Suggestions that the British Army should be given wider powers have been condemned by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. The Association says that if the British Army were given any wider powers than they have at present, Northern Ireland would be completely under martial law conditions. At present the Emergency Provisions Act guarantees the Army and RUC sweeping powers of search and arrest without providing adequate safeguards for protection from arbitrary actions. Furthermore the immunity which the judicial process seems to offer members of the security forces who kill civilians allows them to be judge and executioner all rolled into one. To increase those powers could only have the effect of further damaging any hope of peace in the community.

Mr. Stanley Orme's re-iteration of the need for a political solution is thus welcome. But unfortunately he seems to be confusing a genuine democratic political solution with the Tory policies of the past year which are firmly based on Special Powers, Internment and martial law and which the Labour Government has so far proved unable to break free from.

At the same time NICRA has condemned all those organisations which have launched the most recent wave of violence. Such violence has proved totally incapable of furthering the interests of any section of the people.

Either intentionally or otherwise as well as causing senseless death and destruction the violence has allowed those elements in the British state machine who are behind the activities of the S.A.S. and other undercover agencies to get off the hook at a time when their activities were causing increasing concern both here and in Britain.

Now those very same elements can sit back and watch while large sections of the British media attempt to prepare public opinion for a lessening of public control over the activities of the armed forces. Such pressure must be resisted both here and in Britain.

DISGRACEFUL

So Mr. Donegan is not going to have an inquiry into the shooting of James Hughes near an Army-Garda checkpoint outside Navan in August last.

The soldier, who shot an unarmed youth who ran away from a car he was driving, acted within regulations according to the Minister. If the British Army has its Corporal Foxford the Irish Army is to have its unknown soldier killer.

Perhaps Mr. Donegan's decision was influenced by his own previous contact with the now semi-paralysed youth. Mr. Hughes was one of those present in the Itinerant encampment at Dunleer when Mr. Donegan fired off his shotgun.

Any other Minister would have disqualified himself from decision-making in a case like this. Not Mr. Donegan, it appears. The decision is disgraceful.

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Coalition does evil — and ends up poor

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

"WOE TO THEM that do evil and are poor afterwards" is an old Irish proverb. Last week the Coalition began to learn the full meaning of the proverb: not from Donegan's vainglorious discovery of arms and ammunition bound for the Irish Army, not from Brendan Corish's becoming a casualty at the hands of the top consultants; not from the damaging revelations of Kenneth Littlejohn on his Mountjoy escape; not even — so far — from the contraceptive muddle in which Mr. Cooney has enmeshed himself.

Most of the foregoing are passing embarrassments to be forgotten under the Public Memory Act. Mr. Cooney can buy time to untangle the bishops' knots on his contraceptive legislation. But what will neither be forgotten nor forgiven is the White Paper on capital taxation.

Within two weeks of its publication the Government

was in full flight with John Kelly going to Galway to back water publicly and Richie Ryan advertising on the 'Late Late' show for proposals and suggestions.

The Coalition have discovered that their White Paper had offended the one group which neither Government nor opposition party can afford to offend in a private enterprise economy — the five per cent rich.

George Colley was in like a flash to capitalise on the Coalition's embarrassment. Anticipating correctly that the Coalition are now going to run a mile from the pressure being brought to bear by the wealthy five per cent George has become the champion of the offended rich.

Of course, George's language is carefully chosen from the vocabulary of the

less-well-off to convince them that he is really fighting for them — that they are to be taxed on their homes. George conveniently ignores the fact that a person is free to make of a house before becoming liable for this tax.

What Colley is really doing is proving the continued value of Flanna Fall support to the wealthy as a watch-dog on a Coalition Government which has a soft underbelly in the form of a Labour Party with trade union connections. By Flanna Fall being the apparent agent by which the Coalition have to backtrack on minimal tax proposals Flanna Fall hopes to gain as much financial support for its party coffers from the wealthy as it did while in Government — thus shortening the route back to power. Flanna Fall's

● George Colley: came flashing in.

populist base leaves it with the ability to drum up popular support in opposition to the very taxes which would lift the tax ceiling for the ordinary worker.

In a week where most attention focussed on the episcopal pressure against the Contraceptive Bill the pressure which has changed the Budget package against many of the reforms proposed by N.I.T.R.O. and the Trade Unions went unrecorded.

The Coalition have done evil in proposing a wealth tax: they have worried the wealthy backers of Fine Gael. Now some of the finance which might have gone to them will be diverted to Flanna Fall party funds.

Woe to them that do evil and are poor afterwards.

Letters

Dear Sir,
I have read the article on the house at 23 Rathvilly Drive, Finglas. The situation here is very serious, and needs investigation at official level. I was asked by a journalist in one of the national daily papers if I would carry out an inspection and give a report on this house as the occupant was very concerned and upset and was getting no satisfaction.

I inspected the site and prepared a report which I submitted to the occupant, Mr. Fitzpatrick. Your report gives the impression that I was commissioned by your paper to prepare the report, and this is an error. I am aware that Mr. Fitzpatrick contacted a lot of people and groups in an effort to get satisfaction. Needless to say, I have no objection to my report being published or quoted from, as I am satisfied with my findings.

A further tiny point, I am described as "Martin Reynolds, well known architect and member of the Fine Gael Housing Committee". I am a member of A Fine Gael Housing Committee, but not of The Fine Gael Housing Committee. This slight difference will not make much impact on readers, but it does on members of the various committees within Fine Gael and its branches, equally concerned with housing.

Yours sincerely, Martin Reynolds, Dip. Arch. Architect, 41 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4.

We regret the confusion arising from our report on Mr. Fitzpatrick's house at Rathvilly Drive, Finglas.

Martin Reynolds has shown considerable courage as a professional architect in putting his name to a report which effectively indicts McInerney and the National Building Agency.

To date, The Irish People is the only newspaper in Ireland to have carried the result of the report commissioned by Mr. Fitzpatrick. It helps clinch the argument which The Irish People has advanced over the past year for a full scale public inquiry into the NBA and some of its contractors. (See Fergus O'Brien story, page 6).

A Eagarthoir,
Scoll Bhride is the oldest all-Irish National School still in existence. Founded in 1917 by Louise Gavan Duffy (daughter of Gavan Duffy of "The Nation" fame — 1848) it presently has 350 pupils. While it is a National School, it is not based on any parish,

and therefore the parents contribute directly towards its upkeep. Cairde Scoll Bhride, a Committee of Parents and others, whose object is to foster and develop the school, also lends its support by buying extra equipment and providing extra facilities for school and other activities.

We are organising a Sale of Work at the school at OAKLEY ROAD, RANELAGH, next Saturday, APRIL 6th at 3.00 p.m.

We will welcome cordially all contributions to this sale of work — and particularly all those who find they can attend.

The collection of all saleable goods can be arranged by phoning 373223 or 932215 (Ranelagh), 985397 or 983215 (Drumcondra) and 942265 (Rathfarnham).

Ni ga tabhacht Scoll Ghaelach a chur ar sülle Ghaeilgeoiri. Beldh faillte roimh each a bheidh i lathair na cabhráirín in aon sil leis na Margadh Saothair i Scoll Bhride an Satharn seo chugainn.

Le bulochas, mise, Liam O'Almhain, (CAIRDE SCOLL BHRIDE). Bothar Fea Cuiteann, Ranallach, B.A.C.

A Chara,
Ba mhaith liom a cur in-iúl do thuisltheoiri i mbileá Cliaith go bhfaill na lorg scoláiochí lan-Ghaelach d'a bpaisti go bhfaill le lathair le faill ins na Scolleanna Gaeilge i Sraid Mhaolbhríde.

May I remind parents who are seeking an education in an all-Irish environment for their children that this is available to them at the Scolleanna Gaeilge, Marlboro Street.

These schools cater for girls and boys between the ages of 4 and 12 years. Teaching is carried out entirely in the Irish language, as are extra-curricular activities, thus affording children an opportunity to work and play in a Gaelic atmosphere. Being National Schools, there are no fees payable. Free transport is available on normal G.L.E. passenger services for children over the age of 10 years who live more than three miles from an all-Irish school (two miles in the case of children under 10 years).

Interested parents may enrol their children at any time during the school year. I shall be glad to supply any additional information on request.

Is mise, le meas, Cait, Bean Mhic Ionnnair, Rual, Coisde Tuisltheoiri; 83 Bothar Moibhi, Glasnallon, Baile Átha Cliath, 9.

COUNTDOWN

Galway

The E.E.C. farm modernisation plan, which forces more farmers out of agriculture and assumes that other jobs would be available to absorb them is "plain lunacy" Dr. Damien Hannan of U.C.C. said at a conference of Macra na Tualthe members last week.

Castlebar

No steps have been taken to enlarge the facilities of Castlebar Vocational School except the provision of 14 pre-fab classrooms, despite the fact that the school was designated a centre for apprenticeship courses in 1967.

Pupils and teachers are now considering strike action if there is not an immediate move to improve cramped conditions.

Sixmilebridge

The majority of workers in the plant of Clare Yarns Ltd., recently taken over by the American firm of Frank Ix and Sons, are on unofficial strike for an increase on the basic salary of £22.50 per week. The workers claim that their pay is far lower than rates in similar firms throughout the country.

Letterkenny

A call for the suspension of all unnecessary development until each family in the town had adequate housing was made at a meeting of the Letterkenny cumann of Sinn Féin. The local Council was urged to build 100 houses within the urban area immediately.

Sligo

A newly housed itinerant family have been threatened with being burnt out or forcibly evicted by their new neighbours in Mail Coast Rd., St. Bridg's Place, St. Joseph's Terrace and Connolly St. The family have lived in the area for six days.

Navan

Tara Mines Ltd. has been granted planning permission by Mr. Tully, Minister for Local Government, for major construction work on the Navan site. Mr. Tully's son is secretary of Tara Mines.

Tory

115 people wish to leave Tory Island and settle on the mainland, Donegal County Council was told last week. Lack of employment on the island, which was the only off-shore island to show a rise in population, was cited as the reason for the move.

Inquiry into Cork sackings

Forty Cork building workers have been sacked without notice, without wages, without insurance cards or without tax certificates. And to add insult to injury they have also been deprived of back money due to them under the terms of the National Wages Agreement.

They had been working for the Cork building contractors, D Bradley and Sons Ltd. Two weeks ago a number of them were approached by two of the firm's directors and told the firm was going out of business. The firm had no wages to pay them and since then the 40 workers, some of whom have been with the company for up to ten years have had to grin and bear it.

Attempts to contact the principals of the firm have been abortive. Union officials have had a frustrating time. "There have been no meetings simply because there has been no one from the company side

to meet with", says one union official.

The sackings are likely to be the subject of an investigation under the new Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Act.

A Tribunal established under the Act may award an employee "Compensation for any loss sustained by him by reason of the default of the employer".

The Act specifies that any compensation awarded by the Tribunal "shall be recoverable by the employee from his employer as a simple contract debt in a court of competent jurisdiction" proceedings for which "may be instituted and maintained on behalf of the employee by the Minister or by the employee's trade union".

In the event of the winding up or bankruptcy of a firm compensation under the Act has to be paid in priority to all other debts.

BULLY BOYS USED

(Continued from page 1)

vacant possession of the house in order that it may be sold. Tenants allege that the house has already been sold privately to property agents, Irish Properties Ltd., of Hawkins St., as having vacant possession. This would explain the urgency to have the house empty as soon as possible.

The residents are now sitting tight awaiting the landlord's next move.

Another set of Dublin tenants, who occupy 9 Killarney Ave., North Strand, have already tasted their landlord's medicine. Their story was reported in this paper three weeks ago.

Verbal abuse

All three couples in the house were told to leave and subjected to extreme verbal abuse by the landlord's agents.

Within two days of having received an oral notice to quit Mrs. Kiernan, the landlord's wife, attempted to take over the flat of tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Cleare, who occupy the ground floor.

Having arrived complete with suitcases while Mrs. Cleare was alone in the flat she told her to "get herself and her children out if she knew what was good for them" and refused point blank to leave.

When removed by local Gardaí she attempted once more to take over the Cleare's flat and a window was smashed in the process.

Mr. Cleare, the other tenant of the house, Mrs. Meehan, who assisted Mrs. Cleare, have now been served with a summons by the landlord, allegedly for assaulting his wife!

All three couples have also been given legal notice to quit.



● Mr. Cleare: resisted eviction.

The Dublin Flatdwellers Association has done trojan work to highlight the abuses which occur in the field of private flat-letting and to attempt to secure greater protection in law for private tenants.

In the words of their pamphlet Flat Broke, which chronicles the many and varied ways in which tenants can be unlawfully pressurised into leaving their flats: "Some landlords, not satisfied with indirect means of intimidation, resort to open strong-arm methods".

The Association sent a deputation to Patrick Conroy, Minister for Justice, last July seeking legislation to protect tenants from illegal eviction, arbitrary rent increases, and discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, occupation or marital status.

Such legislation has yet to be passed.

THE IRISH PEOPLE in future issues will bring to light any flouting of tenant's rights which come to our attention.



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● The advertisement above, reproduced from the Montreal Gazette, is eloquent witness to what is already happening to Ireland's mineral wealth on the International money circuit.

N.B.A. victims organise

Tenants of the N.B.A. estate in Finglas South, which suffers from serious building defects, formed a tenants association at a meeting in Canice's Hall, Finglas, last week.

The Committee of the newly formed association is:

Chairman, Michael Fitzpatrick; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Fitzgerald; Secretary, Mr. McGuinness; Minutes Secretary, Mr. Garbut; P.R.O. Mr. Hennessey and Trustee, Mr. Briscoe. Mr. Michael Beggs was also elected to the Committee.

MOBILISING PROFITS

By Joe McGarry

MOBIL is the third largest American multinational oil company and according to figures released earlier this year, its total capitalisation at October 1st 1973 was 6,600 million dollars.

Like most of the American companies, Mobil has extended its sphere of influence far beyond the boundaries of the United States and it currently has considerable interests in Venezuela, Iran, Libya and Nigeria.

In 1972, its total worldwide production of crude oil generated a net income of \$74 million dollars from an operating income of \$20 million dollars. In terms of production, 21 per cent was derived from the United States, 26 per cent from Saudi Arabia, 15 per cent from Iran, 8 per cent from Nigeria and 6 per cent from Iraq.

As a result of this production, Mobil increased its income by an average of 7.4 per cent between 1968 and 1972, which reflects a better growth record than any other major international oil company.

Mobil's performance in 1973 was even better and in the nine months between January and September net earnings were increased by 38 per cent to \$71 million dollars compared with 413 million dollars in the same period in 1972.

Total revenues increased by 18 per cent to 8,960 million dollars and though this rate was slightly less than that of the other multinationals, it follows a better than average performance in 1972.

Nevertheless, earnings over the first nine months of 1973 were 45 per cent better than in 1971, a fact attributable to an overall improvement in trading conditions and a growth in the volume of sales.

Even allowing for the adverse effects of the Arab oil cut-backs on Mobil's operations

(40 per cent of its crude oil production is derived in Arab states) brokers estimate that between October and December last year, the company earned around 235 million dollars compared with 231 million dollars in the previous quarter.

Accepting this as an accurate figure, then Mobil's net increase for 1973 as a whole was about 806 million dollars, which represents an increase over 1972 of 40.3 per cent.

Arab bogey

Mobil's directors, of course, are quick to defend such profits and use the bogey of the Arab boycott of the United States and Holland as a reason why its profit margins should be maintained by even higher prices than Arab price increases warrant.

They confidently point out that their own best estimate of net income for 1974 will be "only 780 million dollars", a fall of 3 per cent over 1973. Significantly they do not compare this figure with the net income for 1972 which was \$74 million dollars, nor are they prepared to confirm the brokers' predictions of income growth for the next six years.

These increases will be achieved at the expense of the paying public.

The brokers on Wall Street say that the future earnings of all the major international oil companies will depend to a large extent on O.P.E.C. price increases and the ability of the majors to pass on these increases to the public through higher prices for oil products.

The relatively firm position of Mobil in the developing oil areas of Africa and the Far East will also generate increased profits for the company and in fact by 1980, net earnings will have risen to 1,240 million dollars.

Strike success impetus for union

Following the successful prosecution of a strike at the 'Her Hair and Take 5' hair-dressing salon, a major drive to organise salon workers throughout Cork is being made by the Cork No. 4 Branch of the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union.

"Exploitation of Hairdressers Must Cease" is the slogan being used by the Union and Branch Secretary, Tadgh Philpott, says that it is

not an exaggeration to say that exploitation is rife within many salons.

Mr. Philpott says his branch is processing a number of claims for workers in salons already organised but his hope is that union organisation will soon be so strong that the proprietors will be unable to resist a union campaign for standard wages and conditions to apply in all concerns.

VIEWPOINT

Another kite is being flown to test public reaction to a plan to set up what is called "a common operational zone" on both sides of the border in which units of both British and Irish armies would co-operate against guerrillas. This column was the first to disclose that such a plan was under consideration by the British and Irish Governments away back last July.

I revealed that a plan had been submitted to the two Governments under which a joint "security force" composed of elements of police and troops from both sides of the border, under the aegis of the Council of Ireland, would operate in such a common law-enforcement area to mop up dissidents.

Some months later, the "Sunday Independent" (November 11, 1973) gave front-page prominence to a similar report. "The plan", said the paper, "also provides for a common operational zone of considerable depth on both sides of the border.

Here units of both forces would operate together, Irish troops having the authority to penetrate to a depth of say, 10 miles north of the border and the U.D.R. men having authority to come south for a similar distance".

Senator Fox

The only difference between that report and the latest is that the penetration depth has now been narrowed down to three miles. It has followed the killing of Senator Billy Fox, the shootings of British troops in South Armagh and the late calls by Faulkner and his minions for further "security" measures by the 26-County Government. The pattern repeats itself — the plan becomes clearer and even Dublin Government spokesmen talk in as yet vague terms of such a "common law enforcement area".

They know that their original plan of a law en-

forcement area comprised of the entire island is just not on, for very sound legal reasons. They know they must placate the tiresome politicians in the North whose existence depends on Dublin support — so once again they have come up with this "security zone" plan.

I will hazard a guess that we shall hear much more about this plan in the near future. Already the basics for it are there — Gardaí and Irish Army units are co-operating with R.U.C. and British Army. Radio contact between their patrols is constant. Helicopter surveillance reports are shared.

All we need is the legal formula to be worked out to enable "security forces" from the North to come south and 26-County forces to penetrate north. This, of course, will be hailed as a great step towards a unified "security force" for all Ireland — and indeed as further progress towards a united Ireland!

CORMAC DUNNE

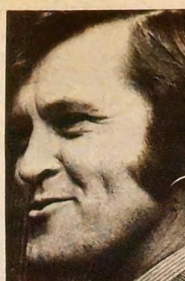


● The residents of Murphy's Terrace, Tralee, turn out for our photographer.

Dundalk bacon closure

The ever increasing ranks of ex-bacon factory workers was further swollen last week when fifty Dundalk workers became redundant. Dundalk Bacon Company is the latest casualty in the rush to rationalise the Bacon Industry in this country so that it will conform to EEC conditions. Many more bacon factories can be expected to close in the next year after which production for the whole country will be concentrated in two or three large factories. The Minister for Labour, Mr. O'Leary, will have a busy time arranging re-training for redundant workers in the unlucky areas.

Further acceleration in the rundown of the industry is being caused by the large reduction in sow numbers. Producers are reluctant to produce further supplies for the bacon factories because their profit margins have been cut drastically by spiralling feedstuff prices.



● Michael O'Leary, Minister for Labour.

Were S.D.L.P. trained by Gardai?

Who are the best prepared gunmen in the North? They are those members of the S.D.L.P. who hold office in the new Executive. Not content with their bodyguards and their British Army weapon training they are reported to have received some extra tuition from members of the Gardai.

The training is reported to have taken place immediately after the murder of Senator Billy Fox and at regular intervals afterwards. Anyone wishing to enlist in these classes should contact Paddy Devlin.

ZETOR PLOUGHS THROUGH PEACE OF COMMUNITY

Zetor tractors are making a mark in Ireland. Their sales slogan "make a friend for life" is flashed regularly on our television screens. It is a slogan which, however, has a hollow ring for one small community in Tralee who have had their environment, rights and tranquillity shattered by Zetor's local agents, Buckley Agro Services.

Murphy's Terrace is in the Ballymullen area of the town. The residents there own their houses and, according to their leases, also own "the passage and right of way thereto". They did until Zetor arrived last year. Now they know otherwise. Leases and law are of no avail unless you are sufficiently well heeled.

This was the most tranquil area of Tralee until early last summer. The first indication of what was in store came in the form of a mobile office and a number of tractors to a vacant site adjacent to the terrace. The mobile office was then replaced with an ugly looking, four tier, oval shaped, haybarn type structure. Zetor, through their agents, Buckley's Agro Services, had found a home for themselves in the capital of the Kingdom.

The residents were surprised at the arrival of their new neighbour. The site was thought to have been a commonage. One could not find a place more unsuitable for commercial development in the town. But not to worry the Urban District Council would take care of it.

Worse was to follow. The tractor people required a sewerage service for their premises. Their idea of economy was to break the sewer pipe for Murphy's Terrace and feed their sewerage into the broken pipe.

Shout stop

It was time to shout stop, the residents felt. They approached the developer. They got no law. They appointed a spokesman to go and see the Town Engineer. They got no law here either. The tractor people filled in the trench but the Buckley sewerage still flowed into the broken pipe.

And this sewerage flowed into the bathrooms, bedrooms and living rooms of the Murphy Terrace houses when the nearby river overflowed and the waters found their way into the broken sewer pipe. In December. So the residents who in the previous few months had tractors and juggernauts planked on their doorsteps, their passage and right of way ruined and the safe playing area of their children made hazardous now had to put up with the Buckley sewerage on their floors and their furniture.

Worse still is to come. Buckley's and Zetor expect their business to expand. To cope with it they are extending their site. Marshland at the



● Buckley's premises at Murphy's Terrace.

Irish People pic.

rear of their present premises is being trunked, a wall is being built.

The natural course of any future overflow from the river is being impeded. When the capacity of the river is overtaxed in the future the water as well as finding its way through the broken sewer pipe will also be forced

through the back doors of the houses in Murphy's Terrace.

Approaches to the local Urban District Council, the Minister for Local Government and local solicitors have all been to no avail. The U.D.C.'s attitude is that planning permission has been granted and that is that. The Minister for Local Govern-

ment has the same story. Residents of the houses, redolent with sewerage, received a letter from him on December 14 last. The "planning authority made a decision on the relevant application on 12th July 1973", wrote the Minister, and he could do nothing about it.

Decision

And the planning authority had made the decision. But the residents knew nothing of it. Like many other applicant for planning permission Buckley's had fulfilled their statutory obligation by advertising notice of their application in a publication which has but a minute circulation in Tralee.

Armed with their leases the residents felt confident that recourse to legal means would protect their right of way and other rights. But they found various solicitors interested at first but then decidedly reluctant to force the issue. The only explanation for this reluctance appears to be that a number of fingers from different legal hands are stuck in the pie which has appeared at Murphy's Terrace — ground rent collectors, site sale middlemen and members of the planning authority.

The residents of Murphy's Terrace are naturally perplexed. In political terms there are too few of them to have any influence — this could be responsible for the lack of interest displayed in them by the local politicians.

But it could also happen that the local handball alley is not the only place in Tralee where backhanders are being thrown around.

Agricultural credit and farming

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

One of the most difficult problems faced by the small farmer is the inability to raise finance to inject into his operation.

Farming is not a good business risk for the banks, and the problem is made more complex for the small farmer, in that he is generally not articulate, and lives away from banks and is unlikely to do most of his transactions through them. Further, fairs and cattle markets have traditionally dealt in cash.

While the banking system is not favourable to financing the small farmer, the farmer cannot really go to other sources either. Community based Credit Unions, which have greatly helped industrial workers, cannot similarly serve small farmers in that they do not have regular incomes, depending instead on autumn crops and some winter harvests such as beet, and springtime animal births. They do not have regular cash, as would a small businessman, or worker, to pay back a H.P. company, or a Credit Union.

One would imagine then, that the State sponsored Agricultural Credit Corporation would be specifically sympathetic to the needs of the small farmer. A.C.C. is big business, turning over £20 million annually, and it now has local control on the lately announced World Bank loan scheme.

However, A.C.C. works very like the banks as far as granting loans is concerned. They look for

security, which the small man does not have.

For instance, few small farmers bother to have their holdings transferred over to their names, after the death of their parents. The process is both long and expensive, and most do not really grasp the significance, in terms of future securing of finance.

Companies involved in farming are particularly welcome to A.C.C. in that their accounts can be readily explored, and that security can be offered.

For instance A.C.C. backed the Rexi Milk Company, in north County Dublin, though their concern is hardly farming in the usual sense, but Rexi could offer security with potential building land, and equipment.

A.C.C. also help to bolster up monopolies, such as the one operated by Mitchelstown Creameries, in that Mitchelstown for many years stopped Wexford Creameries by a Government order, from selling cheese they manufactured in Wexford, from being sold in this country and made it to be exported only.

A.C.C. claim they give the small man unsecured loans under £1,000. This they do, but they base it on increasing stock numbers over a number of years. The small man cannot afford to build up stock stock. (Some however, herd in the neighbour's stock for the afternoon of the A.C.C.'s inspectors visit and fulfil the full letter of the law to A.C.C.'s satisfaction.)

T.D.'s in rural Ireland have made A.C.C.

something of their own property, and a considerable number of small farmers, on hearing the news, State owned imagine that it is something akin to the Land Commission, and go straight to their T.D. Flanna Fail made good use of this patronage, and always saw to it that a strong party man was on the Board.

The party man was on a political understanding, as it gave him something of a power base, and was thus easily elected. An example was the late Jimmy Kennedy T.D. an A.C.C. Board member, before being elected for Wexford. He is now replaced, by no small coincidence, by another Wexford Flanna Fail Board member.

The higher realms are generously paid. During a Government wage freeze some years ago, rises of up to £800 per year were granted to executives there, despite the official stop to rises. However these executives responded well, by reversing some of their decisions to refuse loans, and instead, granted them. A.C.C. even goes further, and says that "... further to representations by your T.D. Mr. X — you have got the loan! And so the patronage system is carried on.

A.C.C. meanwhile operates a £20 million loan business, injecting further capital into middle and large farms, and rubbing their hands at better and better "security", for their then deadly "safe", loans. As for the smaller man — he can wait for his larger neighbours to buy him out.

Vacant offices mean profit

● Rates remission applies to these premises in Grafton Street, Hume Street, St. Stephen's Green and Harcourt Street while their value to the developer multiplies.

Property speculators have the implicit and actual financial encouragement to carry on their operations in Dublin city. The very large number of vacant office blocks in this city may be a result of overbuilding, but they are certainly a substantial investment, occupied or not. As the law stands vacant premises are not liable to a full local taxation levy — i.e. annual rates. Because of this facility, property developers may easily register an annual saving of 150,000-200,000 in addition to the increase of the capital appreciation of the property.

The Local Government Act, 1930 provides for the refund of 50% of the rates paid on a property if the premises are vacant. This refund exists even though the property benefits from local services such as fire protection, drainage, public lighting, and highway access. The list of potential sites that can benefit from the rates refund is widespread and indicates the chronic state of the property market in Dublin city. New office blocks that are still vacant long after completion are:

56/58 Lower Leeson Street	17,000 sq. ft.
6/8 Harcourt Road	27,000 sq. ft.
South William Street	12,000 sq. ft.
Finglas Centre	22,000 sq. ft.
Portobello House	10,000 sq. ft.
Ardee Road	32,000 sq. ft.
Astral House	13,000 sq. ft.
Adelaide Road	11,000 sq. ft.
Fenian Street	11,000 sq. ft.
Pearse Street	42,000 sq. ft.
Harcourt Street	10,000 sq. ft.
Grafton Street	12,000 sq. ft.
Little Ship Street	23,000 sq. ft.
Grand Parade	20,000 sq. ft.
Total	271,000 sq. ft.

This list is by no means complete, but is rather a general account of the scale of the overbuilding in the Dublin office market; the total amount of office accommodation completed in 1973 was in the region of 800,000 sq. ft. The amount that is still empty is about one-third of that total.

If we are to appreciate the seriousness of the local government incentive to property owners and speculators to leave their premises vacant we must attempt to quantify the value of the refunds. The premises of P. J. Carroll & Co. are similar in many ways to the new developments that have been completed and to those still under construction. Their office block at Grand Parade on the Grand Canal has a rateable valuation of £2,200. If the rate struck is approximately £8 in the £1, the owners of the block would have an annual rates bill of about £13,000. However if and when the premises are ever vacant, a refund of up to £6,500 can be claimed. When this is repeated in well over a dozen cases, then the City of Dublin stands to lose a very substantial amount of money, money which shall have to be collected from the rate-paying public in general.

Core

The speculative core of Irish businessmen have demonstrated their remarkable ability to imitate their British counterparts once again. London property development has a poor record to date. Buildings such as the Centrepoint and Space House have revealed to the general public the style of new inflation — aware property speculators.

The fact that perfectly good buildings are torn down to make way for new offices is bad enough, but when the ratepayers of Dublin are in effect left to subsidize the developers of these projects, sanity ceases to exist. All property over a certain value, which would place it in the highly speculative range, should be charged the full rate, occupied or vacant. The existence of incentives to property speculators in Dublin city is a crime in a period of stagflation, which concentrates on those less able to endure it. Local government reform is needed in many areas — it appears that this is one of the more urgent cases.

EXPLANATION WANTED

James Tully, Minister for Local Government, will have to do some explaining following an exclusive interview granted to the "Sunday Press" last week.

In the course of the interview he claimed that regulations made by him last year in relation to building Societies were effective. The regulations were listed as a

"cut-down in advertising, no loans to be granted over £7,500 and the loans must be for house purchase". "They can't loan it for pubs, or land or speculation, which was happening", he said.

The Minister should examine the figures issued by the leading Building Societies in respect of the "no loans over £7,500" ruling and he'll get a shock. In the final four months of last year the Irish Permanent issued no fewer than 18 loans in excess of the £10,000 mark. Three of these exceeded the £30,000 figure, four exceeded £20,000 and one was for £35,000!

The First National held the line a little better with a £20,000 loan in July and one of £11,625 in August. What the Permanent loan of £35,000 into a massive vote of no-confidence in the Government while the Government, in turn, are bent on legislating everything possible to engineer a Coalition victory.

PARTIES WITH NO POLICIES BETTER BEWARE!

But while the parties make up their election addresses the Association of Combined Residents Associations have been making up some election issues. Mortgage rates, rates and ground rent will be

In the same period up to the end of last year the Department of Local Government shelved out an estimated £384,000 subvention to the Irish Permanent and £170,077 to the First National. So while Mr. Tully is keeping his side of the bargain it would appear that the Societies are not.

As to the cut-down in advertising, even allowing for rising costs, Mr. Tully was speaking tongue in cheek. The Permanent's bill for public relations advertising, commission and agency fees rose from the 1972 figure of £138,500 to the 1973 figure of £413,391 — a rise of almost £100,000 in a year. For the First National the relative figures are £83,604 (1972), £91,962 (1973) — a much more creditable performance.

Mr. Tully should check the Building Societies' squandering before he gives his next exclusive interview. (See story on back page also.)

the major issues in the Dublin and in many rural areas.

Veering away now from the idea of supporting community candidates A.C.R.A. is expected to draw up an election "shopping list" for individual householders to put to canvassing politicians. Ground rents and mortgages attract most attention now and it is A.C.R.A.'s policy of inviting every local politician to their meetings which has made this so. Statements are extracted at these meetings and remembered by the attendances. Before Christmas in Clontarf Luke Belton T.D. and Cella Lynch T.D. were reported as describing ground rent as "immoral". Since it was discovered that Luke's T.D. cousin Paddy Belton collects £3,000

plus in Glenageary, Luke has been running around saying he was misreported. Poor Luke!

In Swords last week Raphael Burke T.D. said that while as a T.D. he could not advocate a mortgage strike nevertheless (off the record) it had his full support.

A.C.R.A.'s presence in the community has given a sophistication and edge to political thinking never before present. Parties (like Labour, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail) with no satisfactory policies on mortgages and ground rents had better beware the coming elections.

Pay deal stall used by employers

The protracted delay in negotiating and accepting a National Wage agreement has meant a bonanza to a number of unscrupulous employers throughout the country. The victims are workers whose old Pay Agreement expired on December 31 and who were sacked by their employers before the New Agreement was accepted on March 7.

By sacking workers before that date the employers have defrauded them of weekly pay increases under the new Agreement which should have been backdated to January 1. Workers have also been defrauded of the special lump sum payments allowed for in the new Agreement to compensate for "longer-than-normal" agreements — i.e. agreements which apply for more than twelve months.

The practice has been widespread in the building industry particularly in smaller concerns where Union organisation is weak or non-existent. Amounts "stolen" from individual workers varies with their wage scale but in some cases sums of up to £80 are involved.

Take a tradesman sacked on March 1 whose weekly wage was £35. Under the Wages Agreement accepted a week later he became entitled to a weekly increase of £3.65 retrospective to January 1, a total of £12.55. He would be entitled to part of the special lump sum payment of £65. Extra cash for overtime worked during the period

would be due to the worker as well as enhanced holiday pay.

The Trade Unions are aware of the racket. Mr. Paddy Duffy, of the Bricklayers' Union, says that no Union Branches throughout the country have been alerted. A number of cases have been dealt with by the Union and

the result, in all cases, has been that workers have been paid their entitlements. What Mr. Duffy and other Union leaders fear is that many workers might not yet realise that they have been fiddled and consequently have not been in touch with their Unions.

BY DENIS FOLEY

The message is clear. If your old Wage Agreement ended before March 7 and if you were laid off before that date your ex-employer must pay you the retrospective increases granted under the New National Wage Agreement. Go to him and demand it. If he refuses to pay, go to your Union. And report any cases which you become aware of to your Union.



John Slisk, Sisk Construction, is involved in the N.B.A. Flasco at Mayfield, Cork.

T.D. takes up Irish People campaign

BY PEIGIN DOYLE

Dail Deputy and Dublin City Commissioner Fergus O'Brien of Fine Gael has taken up THE IRISH PEOPLE'S call for a public inquiry into the National Building Agency.

In a statement last week Mr. O'Brien said that "it was now essential that the N.B.A. come under close scrutiny following complaints in houses in Cork, Galway and in the city and county of Dublin".

This is the first indication on the part of a public representative that something is amiss in the N.B.A. camp.

Defects on N.B.A. estates have received frequent coverage in the columns of this paper.

We chronicled the complaints of Cork tenants in the Mayfield, Glen and Togh areas which were built for the N.B.A. by Sisk Construction Systems (Cork) Ltd.

The houses are now in a shambles with black fungus on walls and ceilings testifying to serious dampness and leaking while a number of explosions, with subsequent injury to tenants, have been recorded due to faulty heating systems.

Anger is mounting among tenants of N.B.A. estates in Finglas and Tallaght who are in a similar predicament.

Tallaght

The Avonbeg estate in Tallaght, built for the N.B.A. by O'Connell of Clane, is riddled with dampness and fungus as we showed last week.

On the Rathvilly estate in South Finglas, built by McInerney Ltd., a survey of 191 houses revealed a total of 593 complaints ranging from inadequate ventilation, bad drainage, faulty wiring, warped woodwork and the ever-present damp.

The verdict of a qualified architect, Mr. Martin Reynolds, on 23 Rathvilly Drive, home of Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, was that only major reconstruction of the walls with a complete additional thickness of rendering to the exterior could make the house habitable.

Angry tenants on the Finglas estate last week formed a Tenants' Association to spearhead a campaign to have the houses put right.

BUREAUCRACY NUA GAELTACHTA

Tá sé de cháil ar Tom O'Donnell, Aire na Gaeltachta, gur fear bocht macánta é. Ní bhianann sin is a rá nach amadán é chom maith.

Tur dás bliana dó i mbun oibre tá toradh a chuid macnaimh ar an nGaeltacht againn.

In ionad rialtas áitiúil daonfhaitheach a chur ar fáil, tá bureaucracy mór nua ceaptha trí chomhnaicteach idir na Gaeltarra Éireann agus a Roinn féin.

Ní dochar ar bith é a Roinn féin a bhá mar seo, mar ní raibh ann riamh ach gléas chun airgead a dhéanamh amach le bhagaidh scéimeanna a bhí á reachtáil ag dreamanna eile.

Is mó go mór anáil Bhord Iascaigh Mhara ar thionscal iascaireachta na Gaeltachta ná anáil Roinn na Gaeltachta. Is ar sin faoi go leor Boird ar Ranna Rialtais eile chomh maith.

Ach is measa fós an scéal i gcás na gComhairlí Condae, go mór mór i nGaillimh agus i Uíffir. Chonail D'Uir sind leatrom i gcónaí ar mhuintir na Gaeltachta; cheil siad a gcearta orthu agus phléigh siad go suarach leo.

Ba é príomh-éileamh mhuintir na Gaeltachta i gcónaí le blianta beaga anuas ná córas rialtais áitiúil a bheadh neamh-spleách ar na Comhairlí Condae. Ní sin faighte acu. Agus ní fé Tom O'Donnell a shocrúigh nach mbeadh sé le fáil acu ach Jim Tully agus Bobby Molloy.

Ní dhearna Molloy ina Aire Rialtais Áitiúil do tada chun na Gaeltachta a scaoideadh nó a chosaint ar na Comhairlí Condae. Ach cuireadh plean forbartha ar aghaidh a dhéanadh fo-bhailte de chuid Chathair Shléib na Gaillimhe de chuid de shráidbhailte na Gaeltachta.

Agus anois tá Gaillimh roinnte i gcúig ceannair toghchánachta ag Tully agus in ionad an Ghaeltacht a aontú in aon cheantar amháin tá sé briste suas aige. Beidh Oileáin Arainn mar chuid de cheantar Chathair na Gaillimhe agus iad deighilt amach ó Chois Pharraige.

Tá sé in am do O'Donnell éirí as. Is Aire gan Airacht é nuair is féidir le leithéidí Tully gearradh glan trasa air gan chuireadh gan iarraidh.

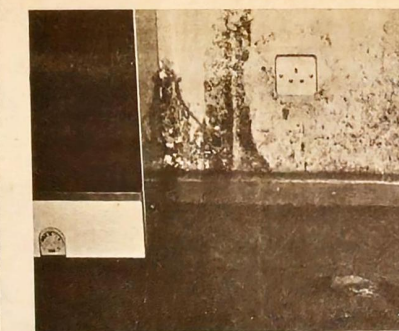
Gné eile den díospóireacht ar an ghnó seo a tharraing go

leor magaidh ná óráidí Fhianna Fáil, go h-áirithe ó Tunney agus Faulkner.

A leithéid seo ó Tunney: "Má thréigear cuspóir Fhianna Fáil chun an teanga a athbheochan, imeoidh mise agus tá mé cinnte go n-imeoidh gach ball eile d'Fhianna Fáil atá sa Dáil freisin". Ráiteas a chuirfeadh cathú ar dhúine...

Agus an cindal seo nua ó Faulkner: "Ní aon easpa gealltintín ón Rialtas ach 'sé theastaíonn uaim a fheicéil ná gníomhartha agus is beag rian díobh sin atá ann. Ní muintir na Gaeltachta ag éirí tuirseach..." Nach gearr é a chuimhne ar ghníomhartha éachtach Fhianna Fáil.

Ní raibh le mídeamh ag Tom O'Donnell ach go bhfuil beagnach 50 per cent níos mó airgid le caitheamh ag a Roinn siúd ar scéimeanna dhaoine eile, Airgead siat tomhaís ar dul chun cinn ag airí Gaeltachta le blianta fada. Bhfuil plean ar bith eile aige seachas airgead?



The effects of dampness in a N.B.A. house — it could be in Mayfield, Cork, or in Finglas or Tallaght in Dublin.

N.B.A. angers Kilkenny

The activities of the National Building Agency, which commissioned the Cork, Finglas and Tallaght housing estates, have come in for strong criticism from a number of Local Authorities recently.

So annoyed was Kilkenny County Council at the condition in which the N.B.A. had left a recently completed scheme at Newpark that there was a proposal that only in an emergency should the Agency be ever asked to build houses in Kilkenny again.

The proposer of the motion, Alderman M. McGinness, remarked that the Agency's approach to building showed a certain "haphazardness".

A member of Westport Urban Council some time ago compared the level of planning in a proposed N.B.A. scheme to that found in a hen-house.

The Council was discussing the Agency's plans to build a 26 house scheme on a one and a half acre plot of ground, at the Quay.

The plan was rejected by the Council which asked the N.B.A. to draw up plans for 16 houses on the site instead of 26.



Headquarters of the National Building Agency in Dublin.

The North



● Republican Club members issuing leaflets during their protest on Belfast buses.

Determined to smash U.V.F.

The British Army is making a determined effort to smash the U.V.F. As Robert Fisk writes in the London Times, "that Mr. Merlyn Rees is considering legalizing the U.V.F., the Paratroopers on the Shankill Road are trying to write their obituary. Meanwhile, the internment of Loyalists is accelerating weekly."

The moves against the U.V.F. are the result of that organization's shift towards a political policy which is socialist and even revolutionary. Since they announced their ceasefire last year the U.V.F. have maintained their policy of defence and retaliation and concentrated on the need for a political policy.

Study

Months of study led them to the conclusion that the only way to prevent a sell-out of the Protestant people by the politicians was to become politically active themselves. The politics they chose were those of the Left and that put them in direct conflict with the British Government.

Shortly before the election Edward Heath sanctioned the return of the Paratroopers to the North — one battalion to deal with the Provisionals in Crossmaglen, the other to deal with the U.V.F. on the Shankill.

Last weekend the Paras had their most significant success to date against the Loyalists. In an early morning raid in Mansfield Street, in the Shankill Road area, troops found arms, ammunition and explosives. One of the men on the premises was forced at gunpoint to carry a 30 lb. cylinder bomb to nearby



● Merlyn Rees: promising more repression.

wasteground, an action condemned by a spokesman for the Republican Clubs as "a deliberate attempt on the man's life".

There are also continuing reports on harassment of Loyalists in this area and the 35 Loyalist internees can expect some more company in the coming weeks. Loyalist thinking on this activity is that the Army are trying to goad the U.V.F. into some form of premature military activity which the Paras would be competent to smash.

Strain

There is also reported to be some strain within the U.V.F. itself as to whether military action should be recommenced or whether the emphasis should be on political activity. Informed sources in Belfast indicate that British intelligence is actively engaged in fostering a split between the two groups on an "Official-Provisional" basis. But perhaps their efforts may end in failure as the violence by the Paras may have a unifying effect. In the meantime the U.V.F. fight on — in political terms. And that is the one form of war that the Paras can never combat.

Belfast bus fares campaign

Belfast Republican Clubs are waging a campaign against the recent increase in city bus fares. Two days before the new prices came into operation they boarded buses on the Falls Road and appealed to the passengers not to pay the new fares and asked the conductors not to collect them.

No fares were collected and the Republicans explained that the increases were the result of financial bungling by Belfast Corporation and the head of Citybus, Werner Heubeck. They also pointed out that conductors and drivers employed by Citybus received the lowest pay awards under the Phase Three Wage Agreement.

Increases

The fare increases mean that the minimum fare in Belfast is now seven pence (cash) or five pence (travel token). The Republican protest was therefore popular and many passengers shouted encouragement.

Meanwhile, Councillor Jim Sullivan has complained about the present running of the alternative to the city bus service — the People's Taxis. Councillor Sullivan points out that many taxi drivers are now accepting only a ten pence minimum fare, and this, he says, proves a hardship to those people who do not wish to travel the full length of the Falls Road.

He specifically instanced the people who travel into town from the Springfield Road-Falls Road junction and said that the taxis, originally designed for the benefit of the people, were not now acting in the interests of the people.

A show

The present violence began as the polls closed on February 28. While many pundits in Britain were unsure of the election outcome until the last seat had been decided, the Provos seemed sure that Harold Wilson was to be the new Prime Minister and acted accordingly. He was the man who had met them and they believed he would do it again.

At that time their campaign was in a lull period and they felt they had to put on a show for the new Government before negotiations began. But the success, by their standards, of their violence has now been their undoing as many young Provos now think that to stop at this point would be defeat.

The most successful actions have been the two explosions outside the Grand Central Hotel which now houses the Horse Artillery. The explosion rocked the building the second rocked the Sunningdale Agreement.

Do Provos know when to call a halt?

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The impact reached into every political headquarters in Belfast and onlookers were nearly trampled in the rush by politicians to reach the scene and give press interviews against a background of violence. It was this parade of politicians which forced Merlyn Rees into saying that he would "review the security situation".

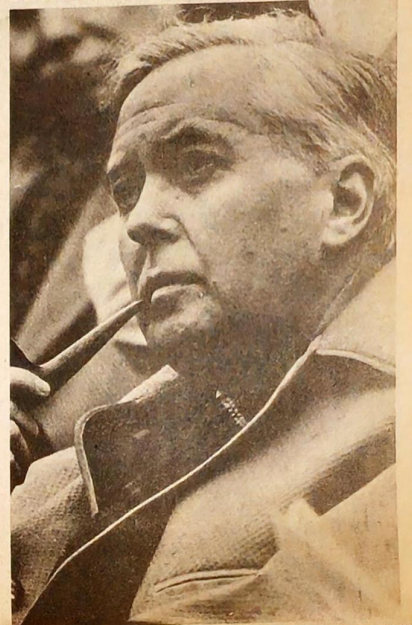
Promise

Only weeks before the British Government were due to begin troop withdrawals he was forced to promise that these would not happen. And Harold Wilson, somewhat kindly disposed towards the Provos, was forced to adopt a hardline attitude.

The result has been a call from many quarters for "an all out push against the terrorists". All out pushes often push against everyone regardless of their views on violence and it is expected that the restraining influence of Trade Union and other groups in Britain will act as a brake on Wilson in this direction.

New security measures like the sealing off of town centres and even more frequent road blocks cannot prevent the violence from continuing. The Provo campaign will go on. What began four weeks ago as a fight for a cease-fire has become a fight just for the sake of it.

Their mistake is that they are unable to see when they are winning. And they are not sure what they are fighting for.



● Harold Wilson: "somewhat kindly disposed towards Provisionals".

THE MAKING OF A BISHOP — IN DERRY

LADBROKES, the British betting firm which is currently running a book on the succession race to the bishopric of Canterbury, made no killing on the election of Father Edward Daly as Bishop of Derry. The firm would probably have taken a beating from the people of Derry who made Fr. Daly their popular choice on the first station in the history of the diocese when an outsider actually got the bishop's hat.

Firm favourite for the bishopric was Fr. Coulter, President of St. Columba's College. The predecessor to Bishop Daly, the Rev. Nell Farren, who was present at the ordination, had been head of St. Columba's in his time.

The reason why Bishop Daly was elected was not entirely due to the respect and love generated by the heroism shown by him on Bloody Sunday in January 1972. His opponent, Fr. Coulter, is anything but popular with a large section of the Derry people. The son of an R.U.C. Sergeant, Fr. Coulter last year stopped the teaching of the Irish language to first year students at St. Columba's preparatory to phasing out the language entirely from the school curriculum.

Proud record

St. Columba's College had a proud record in Irish language teaching and have several times won the Gael Linn national debating competitions.

But if Ladbrokes didn't make a killing, others did. The People's Co-Op, which has connections with the Republican Movement, printed off almost 2,000 souvenir badges with "God Bless Our Bishop" inscribed on them and were completely sold out at 50p each. The Provisionals in turn printed

off an unknown number of football-type lapel badges and sold them at a more popular price of 15p each. They added to their income by producing bannerettes portraying the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: these sold for 50p each.

Another source of revenue were the admission tickets to the ordination ceremony at St. Eugene's Cathedral. The new Bishop ordered that the tickets be distributed by lot among the parish

congregations to give the ordinary people an opportunity of attending and so restricted the numbers available for the business and professional communities. As the big day approached tickets were in short supply. One enterprising young man is reported to have forged a ticket before selling it to the local butcher for 10p.

The badges and banners added to the colour and excitement accompanying the celebration of a popular win.



● Father Coulter, runner-up in Derry's Bishopric stakes.

BACKPAGE

BACKPAGE

District Court No. 3.

In District Court No. 3 yesterday a young woman was charged with being Neil McCafferty. "Are you not ashamed of yourself?" asked District Justice Right. "Ask her if she's not ashamed of herself, guard".

When asked if she had anything to say the young woman asked for a medical report on the judge and was immediately sentenced to twenty years with Keith Littlejohn. Defence liar pleaded eloquently for her release on bail and eventually the judge agreed, sentencing the nearest itinerant instead.

The next case involved a young man, who was charged with not recognising the North. "Do you not recognise it de facto, de jure or de Valera?" asked the justice. "He doesn't know, Justice", said the guard.

"Well what do you recognise", asked the Justice angrily. "do you recognise me?" "Yes, daddy", said the defendant. "Not guilty", said the judge.

Mr. Liam Cosgrave then appeared on a charge of being drunk while in charge of the country. "He was swerving from side to side and he nearly collided with Britain", said the guard giving evidence. In an unsworn statement from the dock Mr. Cosgrave said that he was trying to bring Ireland closer to Europe at the time of the offence.

Star witness for the defence was Cardinal Conway who pointed out to the court "Judge not and you shall not be judged".

In the centre court there was a large attendance at the final of the indoor tennis championship for judges. The final match, Jones V. the State, was called off when Gardai arrested Jones for fighting against the State. The next court, Court An Mhean-Oiche, was also packed but the public galleries were cleared by the Censorship Board.

The Justice rose at four o'clock. His wife pointed out that he was rising rather late these days because he has been having a few late nights.



Donegan caught on the hop

An illegal shipment of Gardai arrived in Greenore, Co. Louth yesterday aboard a West German freighter. The vessel was immediately placed under arrest by the Irish Army and arrangements were being made last night to transfer it to the Bridewell.

As soon as the ship arrived, the Minister for Self Defence, Sir Francis Donegan, rushed immediately to the dockside. He then rushed immediately back to Dublin where he was rushed to the nearest asylum when it was discovered that the Gardai were part of a perfectly legal consignment of police from Britain.

In a strongly worded statement last night Mr. Donegan's superior officer, Mrs. Donegan, revealed that

the Gardai were disguised as a regular shipment of British spies. An alert dockworker spotted that something was wrong when he noticed all were of uniform size.

She said that the drama began when a radio ham in Cork picked up Radio Eireann broadcasting in Irish. He immediately realised that something was wrong and he contacted the Army.

They said that by the time they travelled back from Sinal it would be too late, so he contacted the Gardai. They arrived immediately the following day and discovered the illegal cargo.

It was pointed out in Government circles last night that the illegal Gardai were all blanks and therefore harmless, but a spokesman for "Garda Review" pointed out that all Gardai were blank.

Meanwhile there are rumours of a shipboard of illegal Cabinet Ministers arriving in Cork. The theory that they were all plastic replicas of the real men was discounted immediately and it was pointed out that these already run the country.

MAURICE MASTER STROKE



● Pictured at the Press Luncheon of the Irish Building Societies Association at the Shelbourne Hotel are Maurice Dockrell, T.D. (Fine Gael) incoming chairman of the Association, Mr. James Tully, Minister for Local Government, and John Sheehan of the Educational Building Society.

Foreign Cos. in Ireland

This county by county series is intended to illustrate the degree to which Ireland is dependent on foreign-owned industry.

Name of Company Parent company in brackets ()	Location	Product	Date production
Castlecomer Mills Ltd. (Clyde & Tinker Ltd. Huntingdon, Quebec, Canada)	Castlecomer	Spinning of wool/polyester yarn	1968 expanded 1970
Avongate Milk Products Ltd. (Messrs. Cow & Gate, Guildford, Surrey, England) Federation of Irish Co-ops.	Ballyragget	Skim milk powder	1968

NO. 30 KILKENNY

The Irish Building Societies Association have one big advantage over the Association of Combined Residents' Associations in their dispute over mortgage rates. Last week the Building Societies gave a big dinner for the Editors of the National Press and invited along the Minister for Local Government as guest of honour.

To date A.C.R.A. leaders have not given a dinner or even a drink to any of the Editors of the national press. Nor have they given a bite to eat to James Tully as Minister for Local Government. Nor have they been in a position to hire a top public relations firm. Michael O'Reilly Associates, to ensure that the whole affair was a success.

Mr. Tully has refused to negotiate directly with the leaders of A.C.R.A. on the current mortgage strike organised by that body. In his remarks to the Editors and the Building Society Directors present he spoke of the "great pleasure" it gave him to attend the dinner "to maintain continuing contact with building societies".

If the A.C.R.A. leadership wanted to play spoilsport they could point out quite truthfully that while they cannot afford big dinners and public

relations firms every penny paid on last week's dinner came out of the pockets of people they represent. So it did.

Last year the Irish Permanent, the 'big one', spent £413,391 on advertising, commission and public relations. How much of it went on the dinners which give it ready access to Editors and the Minister for Local Government is anybody's guess. The First National spent £91,962 in the same area.

Michael O'Reilly Associates were hired to do P.R. work for the Building Societies Association in January last when it became apparent that the A.C.R.A. campaign for a radical reform of Building Societies and the elimination of gross abuses was gaining ground.

The masterstroke by the Building Societies was their election of Maurice Dockrell T.D., Fine Gael, as Chairman of the Association for the coming year. Maurice can be counted upon to see that the societies' demands for tax relief — which would eventually be made up from the paypackets of workers — will be sold in Government circles. He will also act as a defence shield against allegations of abuse of funds.