

the irish people

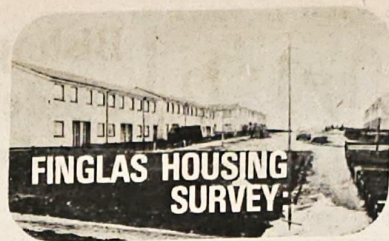
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An Choismhuintir

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FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1974

PAGE 4.



Will Ireland's oil belong to the people of Ireland? Or will the Irish people be paupers in...

Ireland is sitting on top of one of the world's greatest oil bonanzas — but the Irish people may never benefit from it. As the experts bring in confirmation of the tremendous oil deposits near the Continental Shelf, get-rich-quick speculators tumble over each other in their eagerness to grab the booty.

They are encouraged in their avarice by the vacillation of the Government on the question of whether to keep Ireland's mineral wealth where it lies under the constitution — in the hands of the Irish People.

The story is complex with world wide ramifications but the issue is clear and simple. Will the Irish democracy decide how Irish mineral resources will be developed? At the moment the answer is being worked out in boardrooms, banks and in the corridors of power at Leinster House. To pierce the veil of mystery which both speculators and politicians agree should exist on this question the Irish People publish the facts.

The Irish Government has recently extended its jurisdiction, for the purposes of mineral exploitation, to the whole Continental Shelf surrounding Ireland and licences to exploit the new "designated areas" are expected to be allocated shortly.

'Snuff at a wake'

Applications for prospecting licences are being thrown around like snuff at a wake. Applicant companies are other blatantly foreign multi-nationals or the same but masquerading under a coy veneer of Irish surnames; the wolf in colleen's clothing.

In either case the greed for an exclusive prospecting licence, up for grabs in the near future, does not represent an overwhelming urge to provide for the heat, lighting or energy needs of the Irish people but a far more urgent desire to provide for the caviar champagne and cigar requirements of the would-be prospector.

Applicants for exclusive petroleum prospecting licences, which are granted by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, must satisfy the Minister of their technical expertise and more importantly their financial standing.

This raises two immediate questions in relation to Government policy, if any, on the extraction of our oil and gas deposits.

As regards the technical competence of prospecting companies the Government presumably wishes to satisfy itself that, having given a company the right to extract the oil, it will be competent to go ahead and do so. There is, however, no indication that the Government has given any great thought as to how the company should exercise its technical know-how, once having satisfied the primary condition of ability to extract oil.

It is not a minor consideration, as the Government of Canada realises. The manner in which the resources are extracted will determine to a great extent the degree to which the Irish economy will benefit from its own wealth.

(Continued on Page 7)



OIL RICH IRELAND!



● In the week commencing February 18, the Department of Agriculture bought up \$55 tons of meat to keep consumer prices high.

Get a load of this!

Loyalists to take seats off power-sharing partners

By Our Political Correspondent

The announcement by Brian Faulkner that no further progress will take place with the formation of a Council of Ireland reveals only some of the damage done to Sunningdale by last week's Westminster election.

In the weeks and months ahead the victorious Loyalists will press their attacks home on the composition of the power-sharing Executive. They will demand a certain number of Executive positions from both the S.D.L.P. and Faulkner's Assembly Unionist Party — and they will encourage defections to them from Faulkner's depleted party. Their wishes can only be met by the

present Executive partners — Alliance, S.D.L.P. and Faulknerites — shedding some of their positions or by an enlargement of the Executive itself.

Following their General Election triumph, where they took eleven of the twelve Westminster seats, and the massive 51 per cent plus vote against Sunningdale, they can fairly claim that their present representation of almost 30 seats in the Assembly is not the full measure of their support.

In Dublin the news comes as a big reverse to the Coalition Government, members of which, like Conor Cruise O'Brien and the Taoiseach, Liam

Cosgrave, have stressed Sunningdale as a package which must be taken in its entirety.

Now that Faulkner has rejected an important part of the package there will be little public enthusiasm for what are seen as "concessions" on the southern side of the Border — like amending Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

But the incoming British Labour Government is unlikely to want any radical changes in the North. Hence the gain admittance to the Executive rather than seeking its abolition.

Worried about meat prices? Do you know that a huge meat "mountain" is growing steadily in cold stores here and abroad as the Department of Agriculture, acting on orders from the E.E.C. Commission, buys it by the hundred tons?

Here are the figures:

Week Commencing	Tons bought up
January 21	608
January 28	648
February 4	688
February 11	779
February 18 (latest figures)	855

Thousands of tons of meat have been bought in ever-increasing quantities at an intervention price of 27p per lb. It is stored away from housewives to ensure they

pay up to 80p per lb. for meat.

But if you cannot afford to buy meat, take heart. All is not lost.

Some of this cheap meat is stored away at Barnhill, Lelshill, Co. Kildare, and at Midleton, Co. Cork, and anyone is free to go along and inspect it. You can submit a tender for up to 1,000 tons of this meat at a low price.

We wish you happy eating.

There is one snag, however. You will have to load up your meat and travel OUTSIDE the E.E.C. countries before you can eat the tiniest morsel of your bargain.

Meanwhile, within the E.E.C., we must continue to pay 80p per lb. while we watch the meat mountain grow up and up like Jack's Beanstalk.

For the reason why, turn to the back page.

the Irish people

An Choimhuintir, Friday, March 8, 1974.

MARKET ISSUE

SEVERAL developments suggest that the issue of Ireland's membership of the Common Market is to get another airing.

In Britain a new Prime Minister has taken over pledged to re-negotiating entry terms and putting the result to the public in the form of a referendum.

In Europe the squabble over the Regional Fund goes on endlessly and so poor is the prospect of anything worthwhile emerging that our Minister for Foreign Affairs has fallen silent on the issue.

Of course, we have had the imaginary benefit of the £30,000,000 expected from the Fund during the E.E.C. Referendum campaign and the General Election last year when the cash bonanza was spent over and over again to win votes for policies that have led to crisis.

Norway, safely outside the Common Market, and trading with it on her own terms, enjoys a period of boom. Ireland faces rising prices well beyond the worst predictions made during the entry debate.

Prices would not rise above 6 per cent we were told by pro-E.E.C. propagandists. Food prices have risen by more than 20 per cent in a single year.

If Ireland does not enter the E.E.C. the hoof of an Irish cow will never set foot on the mainland of Europe, we were told.

In the first year of Irish membership not only were trade barriers not erected but a record 900,000 tons of beef was allowed in from countries outside the E.E.C. The result is slump prices for farmers, high-cost feeding compounds and, on the other hand, soaring consumer prices.

The least the Government and opposition party might do is a little stocktaking and a lot of explaining.

POWER SHEDDING

BY SPLITTING Bernadette McAlissey and Frank McManus out of their Westminster seats the S.D.L.P. have cut a rod to beat themselves.

With their impressive looking eleven seats (two of them courtesy of the S.D.L.P.) the Loyalists are now hammering on the door of the power-sharing Executive room. They have a right to admission.

But when the Loyalists get their Executive portfolios the existing Executive partners, S.D.L.P., Faulkner Unionists and Alliance must shed some of theirs.

Harry West as Minister for Commerce or as Deputy Chief Executive would be a fine irony. Or would you believe Ian Paisley as Minister for Community Relations?

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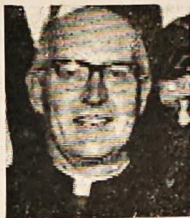
Bishop condemns secular ideas

"LONG AGO they used to burn heretics at the stake. Nowadays, we give them a willing, even a docile ear and seeing that many of us have no strong views of our own, it comes to pass that we swallow those of the heretics and hand them influence. If not power on a plate," said Rev. Brother G. A. Murphy, Superior, Rice College, Ennis, in an attack on the advocates of secular education.

He was supported by the Bishop of Killaloe, Dr. Michael Harty, who said that a small but influential group of people, with ready access to the media in Dublin, were advancing all sorts of ideas on education with secularist tendencies and pretending that these ideas had widespread acceptance. "I do not believe that Irish parents want anything of this kind," said Dr. Harty.

The Bishop and Brother Murphy were speaking at the annual dinner of the Ennis CBS Past Pupils' Union.

Another Bishop also joined the attack. Dr. McDonnell,



● Dr. Michael Harty, Bishop of Killaloe.

Bishop of Killaloe, speaking at the Convent of Mercy school in Ballina said that "as an instrument of faith" secular schools could not compare with Church schools.

"It has been well said that Faith is 'caught', not taught", said Dr. McDonnell.

Dr. McDonnell continued: "In the past hundred years the faith and the practice of religion reached its highest point in our history. Now, it is no coincidence that it was one hundred years ago that the religious school took root and spread in this country. From it came the boys and girls who gave us so many good priests and religious and so many staunch middle-class Catholic families. The great faith and practice of religion of the past century is due in good measure to the Church secondary school."

Sligo lands Tom in trouble

One of the quiet men of the Coalition Cabinet, Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick, can expect a noisy reception should he decide to visit the Sligo area in the next few months.

And the reception will be laid on by a branch of the Minister's partners in coalition. The Tír na nÓg (West Sligo) Branch of the Labour Party has decided that unless satisfactory action is taken by the Minister on the division of a farm near Enniscorney function to be attended by Mr. Fitzpatrick will be the target for a party picket.

The Branch, in a press release, claims that the Minister has not adhered to a promise of a thorough investigation into the whole affair which he made a year ago.

"Coalition arrangements or not, we haven't the slightest intention of letting the matter rest and should such be warranted, we will make it an extremely heated subject in the coming local elections", says branch chairman Mr. Vincent Maloney.



● Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick, Minister for Lands.

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letters

A Chara,

As a former secretary of the Glen Tenants' Association, I can vouch for the accuracy of most of your article (February 15, 1974). However, from now on I would like to see people concentrating on the really important issues rather than the irritating but trivial ones (the attitude of the local "clergy", etc.).

Excluding the matter of the Glen ravine, which is very important, the other matters dealt with in your article are trivial in comparison with the whole question of differential rent.

The trouble is that most tenants' organisations are bound up with arguments as to how differential rent schemes should be applied, who is responsible for this or that estate, who is going to pay for excesses over the budget figures and so on.

These matters, though important, are being allowed to obscure very fundamental questions facing working-class people. It seems to me that many tenant leaders have accepted the principle of differential rents and believe this to be totally wrong.

Because under differential rent schemes we have rents but a new tax on workers' earnings. Hitherto a rent was levied on the property; now a rent is levied on the worker.

If this state of affairs is allowed to continue then workers in local authority housing will find it almost impossible to defend their standard of living. This is because the differential rent scheme tends to individualise the response of workers to economic pressures. It divides their activities and thus weakens them.

Rents are outside the sphere of immediate trade union activity and therefore workers are prevented from responding in the traditional way to attacks on their living standards. One could say that the differential rent scheme is a method devised by the ruling class to bypass the strength of organised labour.

In the past when the question of rents was

discussed, tenants — through their associations and political representatives — talked about such things as condition of the houses, age of the houses, maintenance costs, etc.

Now each individual tenant is required to discuss not the house he is living in, but his basic rate of pay, bonus, income of other members of the family, etc. — matters which fall within the province of taxation rather than of rents.

These points should be brought to the attention of working-class people as a matter of urgency and a campaign against the whole principle of differential rents should be started.

I recognise that tenants are concerned with other matters which are important but are being diverted from the most important by all — the principle of differential rent.

I believe that the authorities are reasonably happy to be involved in court battles and

so on for the very reason that time is passing by and as time passes people will come to accept the principle of differential rents as a natural and unalterable thing.

This is precisely what the authorities want.

Yours,
BRIAN ABBOTT,
The Glen, Cork.

A Chara,

Our attention has been drawn to an article on page 4 of your issue of the 22nd February, 1974 under the heading "Challenge".

An erroneous impression has been created by your article in that you infer that the Dublin District Council is challenging the National Executive Council of the Union on the matter of the Offences Against the State Act and the Special Criminal Courts. This is not so. The last paragraph of your article is factually correct and sums up the situation quite adequately. Sinne le meas.

Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, T. O'Brien, P.C., Secretary — Dublin District Council.

COUNTDOWN

Trim

Meath County Medical Officer, Dr. Eustace, refused to attend a meeting of Trim women called recently to discuss the health services available in the town.

He stated that he objected to the content of posters advertising the meeting which were displayed around the town.

The posters called for a free welfare service for all children under five, a group practise of three doctors, a gynaecologist and eye specialist for all and an ambulance service. They are the demands of the convenors of the meeting, a group called Women of Trim.

Armagh

A memorial to Tony Hughes and Jim McGerrigan, erected by Armagh Republican Clubs, will be unveiled in Armagh on Sunday, 7th April. The two men, who were members of the Republican Clubs, were shot dead by British troops in Armagh last April.

Newport

"The whole fabric of society as we know it in the west is in danger of collapse" if the E.C. farm subsidy decision is implemented without some form of aid for underprivileged areas, according to Mr. Willie Sammon, Chairman of Newport Community Council.

Fermanagh

Additional housing schemes, involving the construction of 65 houses, are on the cards for Fermanagh. It was announced last week. It is proposed to build the houses in Maguirebridge, Brookeborough and Belleek.

Carrick-on-Shannon

A claim for malicious damages was brought against Leitrim County Council in respect of damages caused by the British Army while clearing a road on the Fermanagh-Leitrim border. Mr. Joseph Gilbride, of Rosslinver, Co. Leitrim, was awarded £756 by the Circuit Court for damages to his home resulting from the British Army explosions.

Cappoquin

Leasehold tenants of Cappoquin Estate Company are to withhold half-year rents from the company and the money will be held in trust instead by Cappoquin Owners, Leaseholders and Tenants Association.

Ballina

The Vice-Chairman of Ballina Board of Conservators, who is a director of the local fishery company, has objected to the levying of the local fishery rate which has increased by 50p. Mr. C. D. Fitzgerald of the Moy Fishery Company said that the higher rate would increase the company's rates bill by £1,200 and that to "stick on a rate like this is inequitable".

Shannon

Redundant employees of Pan American Airways, which has withdrawn its service from Shannon Airport, have accepted the final terms for redundancy payments offered by the company. The terms are: Maximum pensions of £124 per month for all over 60 years, one week's severance pay for every year of service for those who qualify for the full pension and a week and a half's pay per year of service for those not qualifying. Employees will also get 6 weeks holiday pay.



● George Colley: 'appalled' at tax proposal.

Come off it, George!

By Our Financial Correspondent

MR. RICHIE RYAN'S White Paper on capital taxation gained an unexpected bonus of votes from the quick attack mounted on it by Flanna Fail's George Colley. For many of the tax-paying public the White Paper publication came as a long overdue reform, the full effect of which they know will take years to actually measure. They suspect, rightly, that the new taxes will hardly worry the wealthy while providing a slight increase of existing tax revenues from this source.

Then George Colley attacked it in words that must make people wonder just how far from reality George has been living these past inflationary years.

The White Paper refers to six capital taxes: Wealth tax, Capital Gains (A. J. O'Reilly type) Tax; death duties, gift taxes and capital levies. Most European countries operate all these taxes while until now only death duties have been levied in this country.

Capital gains tax will operate at a flat rate of 35 per cent which is the norm in European countries.

Example

The wealth tax starts at £40,000 for the individual and £60,000 for the married couple. The example given for the Acquisitions Tax which is to replace death duties is as follows: Assets transferred by inheritance from father to son: Farm £200,000. Other assets £50,000. Total: £250,000. Less abatement in value of farm (£50 p.c.). Total now equals £125,000. Value for application of Capital Acquisitions Tax equals £150,000. Tax payable: nil. So that, despite grumblings and complaints, farmers fare very well under the proposal. In fact, as Ned Gilligan of the National Land League pointed out, "the proposals

will help to curb the huge influx of speculators in agricultural land who are largely responsible for the inflated land values at the present time". George Colley picked on the example of a Capital Gain given to unleash his attack on the Government proposal. That example, on the profit made in a house transaction, is quoted from the White Paper:

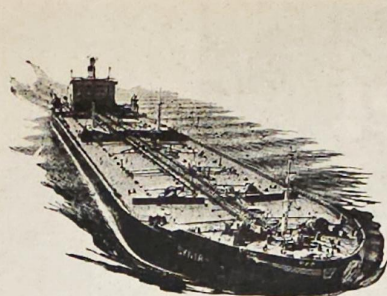
Attacked

"An individual buys a house for use as his private residence on 6 June 1974, for £3,500 (including expenses) and after occupying it for fifteen years sells it for a net sum of £28,000 (after expenses)."

The amount of the capital gain is as follows:
Proceeds of sale £28,000
Less: Cost of the property £3,500
Capital Gain £18,500
Less: Amount not chargeable on sale of private residence £15,000
Net capital gain chargeable £3,500
Tax at the rate of 35% £1,225

Without consulting his party Mr. Colley came right out and attacked a tax which first allowed a profit of £15,000 clear on a single transaction before lowering the boom. "I do not believe that it should be directed against the ordinary householder and I am appalled to find that the Government propose to do this," said George.

The populist language should not disguise the concern for people who regularly make profits far in excess of this figure. George Colley has added tremendous emphasis to the homely language of Joe Brennan's "We are a private enterprise party". And how. Is George hiding something from the public?



Oil companies tank up profits

By Joe McGarry

LAST September 130 tankers laden with crude oil, sailed from the Saudi Arabian port of Ras Tanura, while 104 tankers left the Kuwait oil port of Men Al Ahmadi. This was the last month before the outbreak of the Middle East War which triggered off the Arab cut-backs in oil production. In January, this year, sailings from both these ports were 128 and 101 respectively.

According to monitoring by the Japanese Ministry of Transport, over half the 58 tankers leaving the Gulf states for Japan in the first 20 days of January had a full load and all had a load of at least 80 per cent.

Even the Shah of Persia, hardly the most radical leader in the oil-producing world, insists that there is no shortage and he even went so far as to assert that the United States in particular is now importing more oil from the Middle East than at any time in the past. Asked by a reporter who is being enriched by the present situation, he replied: "The oil companies".

Cut-backs

Yet in recent submissions to the Congressional Committee of energy resources in the United States the oil companies have insisted that the Arab cut-backs have so seriously curtailed supplies that shortages have been inevitable and are beyond the control of the companies.

The revelations about current tanker sailings and the evidence of the Japanese Government about the supply situation come as a serious embarrassment to these same companies who must now explain why there are still alleged shortages when all the facts indicate that the contrary is the real case.

The companies have attempted to explain the discrepancies by alleging that an increasing number of tankers are leaving the Gulf ports only part-loaded and have to call at one or more other ports in order to get a full load. This is at variance with the report by the Japanese, whose experience can hardly be a unique one. The oil companies have received substantial backing from the Nixon Administration in that the latter is still adopting the line that the Arab cut-backs are responsible for the shortages. Yet even its figures indicate that production last month was only 10 per cent less than it was in September 1973 and that this did not apply to all the Arab producers.

Auction

Moreover, even the Nixon camp is being forced to admit that oil prices are beginning to fall from the peaks reached in December and January.

Evidence of this comes from the auction held last week in Kuwait for 85 million tons of crude oil, when the asking price of 12 dollars a barrel was not met. Both political pressures and economic realities have been forcing oil prices down and within the next month or two a price of 7 dollars a barrel is likely.

Nevertheless, the oil companies themselves have been making the most of the present situation and have aggravated the shortages by deliberately curtailing supplies. They are now coming under increasing pressure and in Venezuela demands are mounting for nationalisation of the oil companies. This will affect Exxon, Shell, Mobil, Texaco and Sun Oil which control about 95 per cent of Venezuela's production.

Abolish call in Sligo

The suspension of the Pigs and Bacon Commission is being demanded by a Sligo Pig Production Group. The group has accused the Commission of proclaiming a rosy future for the pig industry "in an endeavour to get farmers to expand production when it is obvious that many will have gone bankrupt before profitability returns to the producer".

The group consisting of producers in the Ballymote/Riverstown area predicts that the pig crisis will effect more than producers. They forecast that the huge reduction in sow numbers now occurring will result in a shortage of bacon pigs for the factories within the next six months and account for the loss of many jobs among factory and mill workers.

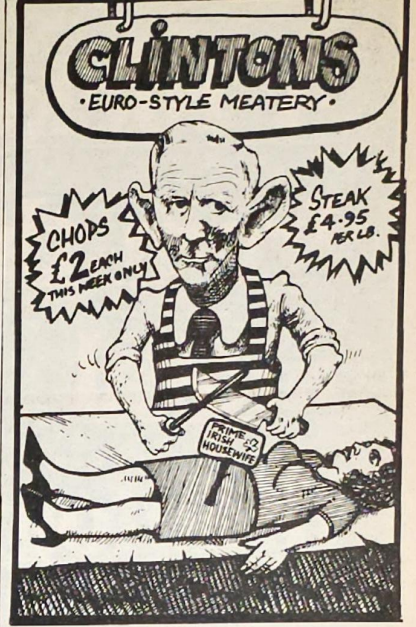
In a resolution which has been forwarded to both the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Mark Clinton and Industry &

Commerce Minister, Mr. Justin Keating, the group claims that pig producers are being "sold into economic slavery to the advantage of big business".

They say this is obvious "in the fact that bacon factories report huge increases in profits, and compounders show substantial profits after paying high interest rates on money borrowed to finance higher input costs at a time when the producer is showing a loss on every pig sold".

Only solution

The Ministers have been told that "The only solution to the present situation is a fair division of profits between the three branches of the industry with the profits of each sector being controlled". The group stresses the importance of controlling the profits of the grain merchant-miller.



Elite nach dtuigeann a gas fein

Bhí léirsithe ag na míle-téinn ar fud na tíre le déanaí. Bhí na mílte acu ar na stráideanna i mílhaile Átha Cliath lasmuigh den Dáil agus den Roinn Oideachais. Bhí siad ag lorg deontais níos airde mar nach féidir leo maireachtáil ar an meid a gheibhann siad, nuair atá tailli, costais leabhar agus maireachtála etc. ag dul i meid as cadán.

Tá cás málth acu, ainneoin go bhfuil a lán den phobal anseo, mar atá i n-gach tír, ar bheagan bá le míleclín i gcoitinne. Agus tá fear labhartha cumasach acu i Par Rabbittie.

Mar sin féin, tá deacrachtaí móra le sárú acu sul m'chorraíonn an pobal chun taobh leo. 'Sé an fhadhb is mó ná an bhearna idir na smaoineáir nachaíonn Par Rabbittie agus dearcadh na míleclín féin. D'aontódh ann dúile nach féidir maireachtáil ar na deontais atá ann; gur lochtach é an córas deontais nuair bhfuil deontas ag duine as gach cúigeir sna bhíntistidí den trí leibhéal.

D'aontódh siad leis go mór-mhór go bhfuil sé nairéach nach bhfuil ann fháil ag an aicme is lionmháire den phobal ar dheontas ar bith. Pó ainm a thugann tú orthu, lucht oibre, an gnáth-phobal, nó eile, ní seans ar bith ag a gelann siad dul ar aghaidh lena gcuil oideachais ag an leibhéal seo.

leor

D'aontódh Pat Rabbittie le seo. Deir sé go geathfear na deiseanna seo a chur ar fáil do chuide dhúine. Ach ar leor deontais níos mó chun é seo a dheanaim.

Go dtí go mbeid feabhas curtha ar stadas eacnamaíochta an gnáth-phobail ní bheid siad in ann smaoineamh ar oideachas den chineál seo a fháil dá gcuid paisti. Ní hachnainn leo é cuma cén deontas a bheidh le fáil.

Fadhb é atá pramáinte sa chóras eacnamaíochta, agus ní leigheas airt laistigh den chóir oideachais amháin. Feictear é ag gach leibhéal den oideachas. Tá roinnt macanálín deanta ag Pat Rabbittie arís, arís seo. Tá tuairimí aige atá daonlaithreach agus raidiceil i gcomhthéacs an oideachais in Éirinn. Bheadh glacadh leis go ionnmhar na Lucht



● Pat Rabbittie: an feldir leis a chuid tuairimí a dhíol?

Oibre agus tuairimí mar seo aige. Is ainmhi polaitíochta é agus tá gach seans gur mar bhall den Lucht Oibre a sheafaidh sé sa chéad toghchán eile. A chéad san aige.

an cheist

Agus 'sí an cheist ná seo: an bhfuil sé ag baint leis as ardin seo an oideachais chun airt a bhaint amach do féin sa pholaitíocht? Nó an bhfuil sé chun rud níos deacra ná sin a dheanaim - a chuid tuairimí a "dhíol" leis na míleclín a leanann é?

Mar is anseo atá an bhearna idir na míleclín agus an pobal. Creideann an pobal gur elite iad na míleclín. Agus folaíthar is elite iad cinnte. Tá's ag Pat Rabbittie nach mar sin is eóir don seacal a bheith. Bhfuil sé chun an tuairim sin a bhrú siar orthu sul m'fhágann sé slán leo? Mar is é fírinne an scéal nach dtuigeann a bhfuirmhór fós gur elite iad. Tá sé in ann iad a dhóil.

Nuair a labhróidh siad uilig le guth Rabbittie, glacfaidh an pobal leo.

In this month's IRISH SOCIALIST

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A rocket from the moral theologians

Archbishop's House, Dublin 9, 27th February, 1974.

Dear Sir,

I wish to acknowledge two copies of "The Irish People" received here on 15/2/1974, of the issue of the same date.

I regret that my letter to Mr. James Smith, 19 Merville Avenue, Stillorgan, dated 14th September, 1973, a reply to a private enquiry, was published without my knowledge or consent.

In view of the misinterpretation of the opinion given by the moral theologians in page 5 of the Irish People, they do not wish to engage in further discussion on the issue of ground rents.

In the interests of truth, however, they have asked me to advert to two obvious errors in your comments:—

1) You state "their conclusion is that the present set-up is moral when all the circumstances are taken into account". The theologians did not state this conclusion nor can the conclusion be drawn from their statements. To say that something is not, in itself, immoral leaves open the question as to whether, taking all the circumstances into account, it might be

immoral in particular instances. (The possession of gelignite is not, in itself, immoral. It is immoral if possessed to blow up the lives or property of others).

2) You state "But the moral theologians have put their feet in it! Right up to their necks! Their whole reply is based on a false assumption... that ground rent is really a form of hire purchase deal...". The theologian neither stated nor assumed the analogy of hire-purchase. Ground rent is not a form of hire-purchase: it is a form of rent. A person may buy an article, whether by instalment or otherwise, or he may rent it. The two, as everybody knows, are quite distinct.

As a final comment, the theologians wish to state that to say there is a right of private property (whether of landlord or tenant) is not to say that this right is absolute and unconditional, nor is it to say that it cannot be abused. It is the right of society to intervene if the good of society makes that desirable and, as already stated, it is the right of individuals and groups to campaign democratically for that purpose and, therefore, in this country to campaign for a change in the present legislation on ground rents. —James Ardie MacMahon, Secretary.

AND OUR REPLY...

We welcome this reply from the Moral Theologians to our original article. We reply in order to the points made.

We would point out that the only stricture contained in the letter to Mr. Smith was that, in case of use, it be fully quoted. We reproduced the letter in its entirety to meet this advice. As the letter is entirely concerned with a matter of public interest and copies of the article communicated to Fr. Mac Mahon the only outstanding question is that of consent.

The letter speaks of "misinterpretations" of the previous letter. We did not misinterpret: we did comment upon the letter and will justify our comments once again in reply to points 1 and 2 of the above.

Instead of the double negative used by your theologians — "it does not seem that a ground rent system at a reasonable rate is, in itself, immoral" — we took it to mean that "not immoral" can mean "is moral".

This is the sense in which we commented upon the letter and observations and we hold that it is the obvious sense to make from it.

2. You say that the Moral Theologians neither stated nor assumed the analogy of hire purchase.

We claim that the analogy is implicit in the sentence: "In view of the fact that a very large proportion of urban dwellers are unable to purchase outright sites for houses, it does not seem that a

ground rent system at a reasonable rate is, in itself, immoral."

This we take to allude to the general justification trotted out for ground rent — that the site fine is relatively small in consideration of the ground rent levied in the lease.

If the moral theologians are not alluding to this excuse in the sentence above, just what are they alluding to? They very definitely link the purchase of a house site with ground rent in that sentence. And, as we pointed out in our original reply, landlords like P. V. Doyle have made a handsome profit out of the site fines before going on to charge ground rent.

We are delighted that the Moral Theologians agree with us that hire-purchase and

ground rent are separate and distinct things.

We agree with the final paragraph and we've read *Rerum Novarum* as well. But there is one thing which puzzles us still. Why will they not engage in further discussions?

We have published their views in full and while they may claim misinterpretation of same, we can point out that our comments have been clearly identified as our own and are honestly made.

So why be afraid of further dialogue on the matter? Is there forgiveness for our sins but not for our opinions?

We look forward, caritas in omnibus, to a straight answer to the question: "Is the present ground rent system moral or immoral?"

The full Story of Ground Rent in Ireland.

Price 25p. (incl. post)

(Cash with Orders)

from the Irish People

Box 666, Dublin 9.

GROUND RENT IS ROBBERY



● Finglas houses: a total of 593 complaints from 191 houses.

Finglas survey reveals multiple housing faults



BY PEIGIN DOYLE

If the houses of Finglas South are still standing, albeit some of them barely, it is no thanks to the efforts of either the builders, McInerney Ltd., or the National Building Agency. The combined efforts of both have managed to produce an estate in which there are a total of 593 complaints made between 191 houses.

The defects reported in a previous issue of the Irish People, in which we showed the predicament of Mr. Fitzpatrick of 23 Rathvilly Drive, are now known to be merely the tip of an enormous iceberg.

The Fitzpatrick house was shown to be damp, badly built and insufficiently ventilated. Green mould had appeared on many of the walls and had caused much of the plasterboard, which is the sole covering on the bare building blocks, to fall away. None of

the windows were properly sealed and water flowed under the window sills into the rooms.

A survey of the estate conducted by the local Dick McKee Cumann of Sinn Féin has unearthed hundreds of similar complaints.

The results of the survey read like a charge-sheet for jerry-building.

Of the 191 residents interviewed, in Glenties, Rathvilly and Virginia Park and Glenties and Rathvilly Drive, a staggering 47 reported faults in the drainage systems.

The sewage pipe from the upstairs toilet runs down inside of the house although Dublin Corporation Bye-Laws for the Construction of Houses states that a drain, i.e. a sewage drain, shall not be constructed so as to be within any building except where any other situation is impracticable.

However little tenants may like an estate in which there is no playground, no telephone and little street lighting at least that is not a health hazard but who wants to pay £8 for the prospect of typhoid?

An even higher figure of 70 reported faulty woodwork, ranging from warped doors, insecure windows to large gaps between floorboards and even beading and stairs moving away from the walls!

As in the case of Mr. Fitzpatrick much of the dampness can be explained by the fact that windows are set in so badly as to allow for water to seep in underneath.

"The list goes on and on. Thirty complaints about plasterwork, 39 for dampness, 21 for faulty wiring.

Year old

The houses are less than a year old. How many more complaints will there be after two or three years?

600 odd complaints in less than 200 houses is conclusive proof that a major mess has been made of the scheme.

Tenants in The Glen, Togher and Mayfield housing estates in Cork, also built for the N.B.A., have called for a public inquiry into their construction, a reduction in the maximum rent and rateable valuation of their houses and a crash repair programme to make good some of their defects, so angry are they at the condition of their homes.

Here also there are numerous complaints of dampness, fungus, inadequate ventilation, bad drainage and woodwork.

From Cork to Finglas the N.B.A. has spawned housing estates which have become nightmarish for their tenants.

Cork tenant association leaders now face jail sentences for their fight to have their members' complaints dealt with.

A hard fight may also be ahead for the tenants of Finglas.

ACRA GROUND RENT CENSUS

- (1) Name and address of the landlord.
- (2) Number of house sites liable for ground rent.
- (3) Annual amount paid on each such site.
- (4) The number of years over which ground rent has been paid.
- (5) (a) The number of ground rents (if any) bought out.
(b) Amount paid per house on such sites.
- (6) Any other action taken, e.g., attempts to buy out ground rents; refusals to pay ground rents, etc.

MILLBROOK LAWNS, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN.

- (1) McKone Estates.
- (2) & (3) 638 houses paying £20 ground rent each. Approximate annual total collected = £12,760.
- (4) Being collected over a three year period. Approximate total collected to date = £25,000.
- (5) No ground rent bought out.

THE FISHMARKET FIDDLE

Just who is making money out of the Dublin Fish Market? Certainly it is neither Dublin Corporation nor Bord Iascaigh Mhara. Bord Iascaigh Mhara's function is purely to record and provide information on the daily catch and prices in the market. The Bord has no control over the actual sale process and no policy as to how it wishes to see the sales conducted. Beyond its informative function anything which goes on in the market is a matter between buyer and seller and of no further concern to B.I.M. There is no financial levy on the market's users payable to B.I.M. for their service. Pontius Pilate sits in City Hall also. According to Dublin Corporation's public relations officer, Noel Carroll, the Corporation "just provides space for the sellers as a public service" and has no further hand, act or part in the business.

Mr. Carroll, in fact, admitted that up until the Irish People's inquiries he had not realised that the market was even under Corporation administration! The revenue which the Corporation derives from the denizens of the market is so insignificant that the fish market is not treated as a separate item of account but is lumped in with the fruit markets, under the composite heading of wholesale food markets, for accounting purposes.

Revenue under this heading last year was enough only to balance with the outgoings on the market and a break-even figure was returned. If examined separately this might even show that an overall loss was suffered on the fish market itself.

The main revenue which the Corporation derives in respect of usage of the market is a toll of 8p on every box of fish brought in.

This, however, is paid ultimately by the fishermen who is lucky to receive one quarter of the price which the larger retailers charge customers for his catch.

For example, last Friday fishermen got from 10-11p per pound for cod. A well known fish and poultry merchant, who deals in the market, was charging 44-50p for cod in his Moore St. shop, not one hour after the market had closed.

Whoever caught the place which the same shop was selling for 56p per pound would have got no more than one quarter that amount in the market, even if he had received the maximum price paid that day.

It is on these suppliers that the Corporation levies its 8p toll and not the auctioneer. Auctioneers are not charged for space in the market but merely pay a rent for their office buildings inside.

There is no fixed scale of rent for these but it varies according to vendors' length of time in the market, office size and cost at the time of building i.e. a built-in bias in favour of the longer established firms.

Although reluctant to quote any figure as the average amount of rent charged a spokesman for the Corporation emphasised that there is no policy of charging rent in proportion to the amount of profits made during the year, that is, of taking from those in the market best equipped to pay in a particular accounting period.

The overall picture which emerges is that the large auctioneering firms, under whose aegis the fish doubles, trebles and often quadruples in price, are responsible

nobody for the manner in which they conduct their sales or the prices which they charge, nor do they pay much for the facilities they enjoy.

The absence of any such institutional or Government controls must go a long way towards explaining how a journey of less than a mile, from Market to Moore St. can cause such a fantastic transformation in prices.

God knows, petrol is not yet that dear.

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● Fish selling at exorbitant price in Hanlon's fish shop.

Last year, a quiet spoken member of the staff of U.C.D.'s Veterinary College mentioned in a public lecture in Cork that over 26 per cent of Irish pig and beef carcasses, and a higher percentage of broiler carcasses, carry antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria.

Dr. J. D. Collins was stressing that loopholes in our legislation allowed farmers to add antibiotics at will to their livestock, thus growing them faster and heavier.

Unfortunately this antibiotic resistance is transmitted to humans, so that at the very moment antibiotic therapy may be vital to you as you suffer from some infection, the greedy policy of the Irish farming lobby may come against you, in that your body may have "become used" to antibiotics, and vital medicines may be of no avail.

In his lecture, Dr. Collins went on to say that between 1970 and 1973 the number of organisms resistant to bacteria had increased 50 per cent.

What then has been done about this since then? Nothing! One would imagine that out of self interest some meat exporting organisation, for instance, would have acted on the threat to their livelihood?

The medical profession too, choose to ignore the issue, though Dr. Collin's findings were reported in the national press.

The veterinary profession are a relatively small and inarticulate group, with about 870 in active practice, working in about 430 practices. They have their hands full at present, trying to fight off the attacks of the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Mark Clinton, who knows that the vets are easy and relatively defenceless game in rural Ireland.

The Irish Veterinary Union, alarmed at the popularity of Clinton's attacks, hired a public relations firm — Larry Sheedy & Associates Ltd., — to recoup the vets' image.

Accusation

The odd accusation that Mark Clinton has delivered, to the effect that some of the vets fiddled on eradication schemes, produced a safe response from farmers. Clinton could be reassured too, in the knowledge that the 870 votes of the vets could not count for much compared to the farming lobby.

Talking of that farming lobby, and to get back to Dr. Collins's revelations on anti-

Are you eating resistance to disease?

biotics resistance: it took the farming lobby some months to make a reply.

This was delivered in

November at the opening — not insignificantly of Co-operative Animal Health Ltd., in Tullow, County Carlow — a

farmer owned firm that sells drugs direct to farmers. Here, Mr. T. J. Maher, President of the I.F.A. made it clear that the I.F.A. would oppose any attempt to "prevent free farmer access to antibiotics".

Mark Clinton, Minister for Agriculture, was present.

Since then the matter was dropped. The Irish Veterinary Times, a privately owned publication, voiced some criticism, but the vets, probably because of their small numerical strength, took no further action, even though they are acutely aware of the health risk to humans, and in the full knowledge that Irish meat exports may be blacked abroad because of this. The vets are aware of the consequences, since this was spelled out in the Swan Report, published in Britain some years ago.

Almost a lone voice is that of Professor Ellen Moorehouse, of the Royal College of Surgeons, in Dublin, who has carried out research on the matter, and has warned of the consequences.

The overall feeling though is that once T. J. Maher and the I.F.A. speak, the Coalition, or for that matter any other Government, would not dare go against a block of such vote getting capacity.

Yeats' estate battle

Opposition to the system of ground rent is mounting daily, according to a spokesman for Ard-na-Veigh Residents' Association, Sligo, whose members are attempting to buy out their ground rents from the Yeats Estate.

Many tenants had accepted an early offer from the ground rent landlord to buy out their rents for £144 but on making further inquiries they were informed that the deal was off and that they would have to continue their payments, as no agreement had been made between the landlords and the residents. Many residents had borrowed money on the strength of the offer and were then disappointed.

The matter is now in the hands of a solicitor, according to Mr. Lionel Gallagher, Chairman of Ard-na-Veigh Association.

Limerick closure

Another clothing firm bites the dust! Holly Park of Limerick Ltd. has announced its imminent closure, the fourth clothing manufacturing firm to do so within the space of two months.

The other firms, are Leethems, Moore Clothing and Fine Wool Fabrics of Wexford.

The decision to terminate production, which was made last week, was put down to the effects of E.E.C. membership on overall production costs.

The cost of raw materials has risen by 150 per cent since 1969 according to Mr. John Cohane, a member of the board of directors, forcing the factory to close despite the fact that sales had reached their highest level ever.

45 girls are employed in Fine Wool Fabrics, Wexford, who had been given to understand that the factory would survive for 13 weeks will now become redundant before that time. If a new buyer for the factory is not found within weeks.

A Workers' Action Group which has been formed to safeguard jobs had hoped that the Government would extend the 13 week period of grace in order to allow more time in which to attract a buyer.

They have now been informed by Mr. Justin Keating, who visited the factory recently, that the Government would not go on supporting the factory out of public money forever.

Falling an almost immediate sale of the factory redundancies will begin on April 19 when approximately half of the workforce will be let go. Production will then be phased out until there is complete redundancy on May 17.

COURT INJUNCTION

An injunction against members of the Automobile General Engineering and Mechanical Operatives' Union was granted in the High Court last week.

The action was brought by proprietors of Ever Ready Garage Ltd., Donnybrook where the Union members were on strike because of the dismissal of a shop steward.

The strikers claim the shop steward's dismissal resulted from the firm's hostility to the idea of union organisation at the garage.



● More than a quarter of Irish pigs carry bacteria which resist anti-biotics.

Sunningdale: No visible alternative

BY CORMAC O'DONNELL

The lack of any acceptable alternative to Sunningdale and the power-sharing Executive in the North was shown in all its clarity following the result of the Westminster election.

Pro-Sunningdale candidates were slaughtered in the greatest rout which Brian Faulkner ever experienced. His only comfort, if comfort it was for him, was that the S.D.L.P. got a big pro-Sunningdale vote on their side of the sectarian divide which the power-sharing Executive so awkwardly straddles.

But while Paisley thundered for an Assembly election which would surely wash Faulkner and Sunningdale and power-sharing Executive completely out of Irish political life the vacuum left by the lack of an alternative course became clearly visible.

On one side there was the Boal plan. Boal's integrity cannot be doubted. What can be doubted is the use which many Loyalists see in it as a vehicle for a return of Protestant supremacy in the North.

What also can be doubted, in view of the heavy S.D.L.P. vote, is any strong acceptance on the nationalist side of the fence for the Boal plan in preference to the imagined gains of the power-sharing Executive position.

Nor does the only other alternative plan—Dall Uladh—have any acceptance worth talking about among Nationalists or Loyalists. Dall Uladh, offering a slim Protestant majority in a nine-county Ulster, has the carrot of a superior birth-rate for the Nationalists which would turn that majority into a minority within a few years. It has been a dead letter from the word go.

So that the Sunningdale compact and the Assembly could very

well survive despite the massive rejection by a majority composed of anti-internment Republicans and disgruntled Loyalists.

And the Incoming Government at Westminster will have enough 'domestic' problems on its hands for the period of its term without trying to dismantle the existing structure.

The only possible short-term way in which the triumphant Loyalists might bring down Faulkner is by encouraging defections from his Assembly Party.

Following the election result even the stoutest Faulkner hearts are quailing and Faulkner's majority in the pro-Executive party is already dependant on the S.D.L.P. because of death and defections.

Increasingly, association with the S.D.L.P. is becoming a mark of Cain for Faulkner while the S.D.L.P., for their part, endure the embarrassment of propping up the political corpse who is such a figure of hatred in nationalist Ireland.

Can it go on?

It probably can because of the lack of an immediate alternative and the possibility of worst sectarian strife than that currently obtaining if it breaks down.

The real crisis in the North is much more deadly and dangerous than any obtaining at Westminster.



● Brian Faulkner: nothing left now but his Executive suit.

FAULKNER IN DEEP TROUBLE

In the wake of the British General Election Brian Faulkner has not got a shred of political clothing left him except his Executive suit of clothes.

Defeated heavily at the polls by the Loyalist Coalition, with no party left him, he now must try to face Harold Wilson once again.

In the three years and nine months since he last stood face to face with Harold Wilson as Prime Minister, Faulkner precipitated the greatest holocaust in over fifty years by convincing Heath to introduce internment for his political enemies.

Faulkner helped organise the massacre of Derry and suffered the humiliation of presiding over the dissolution of Stormont.

Each day that passes thousands of pounds are paid out by the courts in compensation to people illegally interned or brutally tortured. The out-of-court award of £15,000 to Pat Chivers of Toomebridge recently for torture inflicted on him on foot of an order signed by Brian Faulkner represents a judicial admission that Faulkner has achieved the status of a war criminal.

Faulkner's only asset at the moment is that he is cemented in position as Chief Executive in the power-sharing arrangement in the North. His keystone position could possibly see him through the troubles that will now beset him on all sides.



● Gerry Fitt.

REPUBLICANS CANNOT BE HAPPY

SAYS
DES
O'HAGAN



Gerry Fitt must now be a worried man. A narrow victory in a seat which he viewed as his private property, almost like a feudal baron must have surely upset his usual complacency. Particularly when the boundaries of the seat were redrawn to provide him with a majority of between nine and ten thousand.

In spite of massive expenditure on advertising both by Fitt and Price, the Independent candidate, they both put up a poor show. This is not to say that Republicans can be satisfied by the performance of veteran socialist Jack Brady, who just topped the 3,000 mark.

Brady fought a very low key campaign until the wind up on Tuesday and Wednesday. Certainly the lack of finance handicapped his presentation of Republican politics.

It was impossible to compete with the well-heeled S.D.L.P. and the backers of Price.

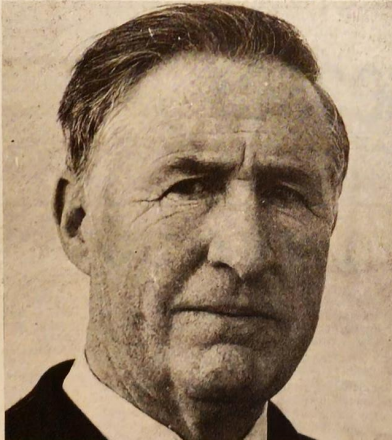
It is reported that Gerry Jones, millionaire and friend of Neil Blaney subscribed £1,000 to

the price fund. Local big business scrap metal dealer Gussie Eastwood is also said to have donated the use of 10 taxis to the Price campaign. Money talks.

Ray McGuigan, Brady's Election agent expressed a degree of satisfaction with the Republican poll: "We are up a clear thousand on the Assembly elections, and the overall vote is a clear rejection of Sunningdale".

Provisionals must be absolutely disappointed. There was only a handful of spoilt votes and the bulk of the abstentions were on the Loyalist side. The failure of Price to present any positive political alternative must be understood as demonstrating the bankruptcy of the Provisional position.

With another election looming within a matter of months it is now up to the Republican Clubs to improve their election machinery and go for the vast number of people who are totally disillusioned with the S.D.L.P. sell-out and the disastrous effects of the Common Market.



● Kevin Boland: playing Cincinnatus on his Rathcoole farm?

The zeal of the convert is a by-word but Kevin Boland's performance at the Aontacht Eireann Ard Fheis brings it to mind. His obsession with Fianna Fail showed throughout his chairman's speech as he hurled republican rhetoric at his former colleagues. But in one essential Boland was careful to underline that there is really no difference between an Aontacht Eireann Ard Fheis and a high-spirited Fianna Fail Ard Fheis. As if subscribing to the simple Joe Brennan "we are a private enterprise party" faith. Kevin Boland very carefully included in the text of his speech his acceptance of "the principles of private property".

One main difference between Aontacht

Eireann's week-end and that of Fianna Fail's was the resolution demanding public ownership of mineral wealth. Fianna Fail only went so far as to demand the "maximum benefit" from such wealth.

Presumably, were Mr. Boland addressing Fianna Fail's four thousand instead of his own two hundred delegates he would be vehemently opposed to public ownership. . . and still in the republican tradition which was such a part of the atmosphere at the Ard Fheis.

Aontacht Eireann remains Kevin Boland's party dedicated to Kevin Boland's aim: the unseating of Jack Lynch as leader of Fianna Fail followed by a Fianna Fail-Boland reconciliation.

Boland subscribes to the Joe Brennan faith

His only success to date with Aontacht Eireann was its part in defeating Lynch's Fianna Fail in the Monaghan by-election. Now he will attempt to repeat the lesson in the June Local Elections.

One other main effect of the Aontacht Ard-Fheis was to paint in the public imagination Boland's last stand on his fifty-acre Colomnes-des-Deux-Eglises at Rathcoole as the Sheriff arrives to collect the costs of his Supreme Court action against Sunningdale.

Whatever the eventual cost to Fianna Fail's Cincinnatus the constitution case was his second most effective intervention in national politics since Monaghan.

The North



● Bernadette Devlin, Michael Farrell, and Frank McManus at a Northern Resistance Movement Press Conference in Belfast, April 1972.

P.D. — Provo alliance comes to an end

LIKE THE Provo military campaign, the political alliance between Sinn Féin (Kevin Street) and the People's Democracy is slowly falling to pieces. The disintegration of this rather strange alliance began some weeks ago in the columns of "Republican News" and "An Phoblacht" and it has now reached the columns of the national press.

It began as a seemingly harmless argument and developed into a political slugging match which has transformed an alliance of convenience into an alliance of embarrassment for both groups. The reason for the disintegration can be found best in the reasons for the formation of the alliance.

It began shortly after internment and it came from one side — the P.D. — and from one man — Michael Farrell. At that time the Provo military campaign was at its peak and the anti-Unionist people in the North were united against the Government. The P.D. mistook street activity for a street politics and rebellion for revolution. As a professed revolutionary socialist group they threw their hat into the Provo ring on the basis that the Provos were the vanguard of the revolution.

Such an idea was sparked off not by any deep thinking group of political ideologists but by Michael Farrell during his brief internment in Crumlin Road prison. In a debate between Provisionals and Officials in the prison about whether or not to hold a mass hunger strike for their release Farrell advocated immediate action.

He was supported by the young Provo braves (despite the warnings of their chiefs) and opposed by the Officials. Farrell lost the argument, lost the debate and lost face and the unlikely alliance between his group and the Provisionals can be dated to this incident.

The alliance was unlikely for many reasons. The P.D. had consistently called the Provos sectarian bigots, fascists, members of the petit-bourgeoisie and other non-complimentary political clichés. The Provisionals, for their part, were in existence primarily to oppose the socialist policies of the Republican Movement, and an alliance with a political group dressed in left wing jargon came as a major political surprise.

Since then the alliance has bloomed forth into a unique entente encompassing the extreme right and extreme left in all Ireland. The revolution

staggered forward fuelled in equal parts by anti-civilian bombs and the teachings of Marx as understood by P.D.

But now the revolution has stopped revolving and the P.D. have realised that perhaps Lenin would not approve of the sectarian killings of the Provisionals. In their publication "Unfree Citizen" they began recently to define what was meant by Irish freedom.

In "Republican News" their new philosophy was expressed by Gerry Ruddy, a schoolteacher from Newry, who has always been well known for his denunciation of Republicanism. Mr. Ruddy claimed that the mistake the Provisionals made was that they were not politically motivated.

In January Mr. Ruddy spoke at a Bloody Sunday commemoration in Derry and said that the armed struggle must go on. By February he was not so sure and by March he thought maybe it should not go on.

The two groups find common ground in their front organisation, the Political Hostage Release Committee. The Committee is still in existence although frayed at the edges.

Its future is unsure but political pundits in Belfast have suggested that it should be preserved and kept in the Ulster museum where it could remain on show as the only organisation ever controlled on a 50-50 basis by God and the Marx of the P.D.

What the future holds for the People's Democracy now is uncertain. Led by Michael Farrell it will go on — about that there is no doubt. Where it will go to is another question. Whereas it was formerly very advantageous to be associated with the Provisionals it is now politically embarrassing and personally dangerous.

For the Provisionals the future in Northern politics is in one direction — downhill. It was because they realised this that the P.D. may have decided to opt out. The split will certainly be welcomed by many Provos who saw the P.D. influence in "An Phoblacht" at one time as alien.

It will also be welcome by some of the P.D. membership. The political contradictions of their position must have been a terrible burden at times.

The future political path of the Provisionals is predictable. For the P.D. the path is most unpredictable. It will be a path worth watching.

● Harold Wilson back again.

Election exposes power-sharing minority

The election in the North was about Sunningdale, and Sunningdale lost. There is now only one way in which it can survive — Faulkner and Fitt will have to share power with the Loyalists. The 80 per cent of the electorate who opposed the plan must now be taken into consideration. On the Unionist side the Anti-Sunningdale movement has 11 M.P.'s. On the nationalist side it is without a parliamentary spokesman.

The election proved that power was being shared by a minority group which commands only a 40 per cent electoral support. That minority group can now survive only with the consent of the majority.

The uncertainty over the future of the Assembly raises a number of problems for the new British Government. The Irish Question still has the question mark and, even worse, the problem has now shifted on to the floor of the House of Commons where the future of the government in office rests on the goodwill of the Loyalists. Not only has Britain failed to make the Irish problem disappear, she has now been landed with the whole muddle on top of the other

dilemmas currently facing the country.

But if the election was a disaster for Edward Heath, it was a catastrophe for Brian Faulkner. No longer the leader of the official Unionist Party he leads a parliament with no popular support. He is in the unique political position of being sans party, sans parliament, sans everything.

Deputy

His deputy, Gerry Fitt, is in a similar position but since his ministerial position has not yet been vested with any power, he could become a parliamentary has been without ever having been. The position of his party, the S.D.L.P., is equally unclear.

Just as they settled in to their new ministerial offices the rug of moral authority has been pulled from under their feet. They are still in office in practical terms, but politically they are back in the melting pot.

The whole election result has led to a confused political situation in the North. Will there be a leader to emerge from the morass to guide the state of a new course. Or perhaps Desmond Boal will return to full-time politics?

Is it the end for Bernie?

Can Bernadette McAlliskey do what Tom Mitchell failed to do? This is what the people of Mid-Ulster are asking since Ivan Cooper's intervention ensured a Unionist representative has again got a stranglehold on this most Republican of the Northern constituencies. The intervention of Mick O'Neill in the mid-fifties ensured the defeat of Tom Mitchell who was twice successful at the polls but twice unelected in the Courts because he was a convicted felon.

And Mitchell in three attempts (unopposed on the third occasion from the Nationalist side) never succeeded in recovering the

five thousand votes which went to O'Neill.

Bernadette succeeded in 1969 and 13 years of Unionist representation ended. Will it be another 13 before their grip is broken again or will Bernadette succeed in finding some way of finally crossing the sectarian divide and succeeding on the next occasion in having the pollsters forecasting not how many Protestant votes Dunlop will get or how many Catholic votes Cooper will get but how many Bernadette can get from both of them.

Bernadette made history before — she could do it again.



● Residents of McClure Street block the Ormeau Road in Belfast in protest against British Army harassment in their area. Councillor Jim O'Sullivan is seen at left of picture.

Who is to profit from Ireland's oil finds?

(Continued from page 1)

Oil and gas deposits are often combined in the same well, the higher-priced oil lying underneath. For a company intent not so much on extracting oil as on extracting the greatest possible profit from each well, the co-existence of gas deposits represent so much chaff impeding its ability to harvest the wheat, which is the higher priced oil.

With each deterioration in the "energy crisis" pushing oil

prices higher, the presence of gas becomes more and more an obstacle to the realisation of not just profit but super-profits. The overriding consideration becomes not what advantages gas can bestow on the owner-country but how quickly one can get rid of it to get at the oil beneath.

Many companies in such a situation burn off the high lying gas deposits and proceed to extract the oil.

The social irresponsibility of

such action is highlighted by Canada's action in forbidding private companies to waste her natural resources in such a manner.

Rather than burn off the gas, companies in the state of Alberta were forced to pipe it to the towns instead and the result is that all the light, heating and hot water requirements of the average household can be satisfied for about £2 weekly and this in a far colder climate than ours.

Burning gas wells in the Celtic Sea will look very spectacular but not nearly as spectacular as our balance of payments deficits when we have to pay the same oil companies an inflated market price to supply our energy needs. Under private exploitation it is quite conceivable that in an oil hungry world Ireland would be forced to pay an exorbitant rate for the privilege of using the oil pumped from our own seas.

BACKPAGE

MR. TONY O'REILLY bought a controlling share in God today. God will now be 40 per cent owned by Mr. O'Reilly's Fitzwilliam Group, 20 per cent by the various churches, 10 per cent by Gay Byrne and 30 per cent by Bunny Carr, who will also replace St. Peter on the board of directors.

News of the takeover led to a sharp drop in prices on the London Stock Exchange and gilt edge cherubim fell sharply.

In an announcement through his paper, the "Irish Independent" last night Mr. O'Reilly stated that the

words "God" and "Heaven" are now copyright. A reporter who exclaimed "Good God" was dismissed on the spot.

The Messenger

In a press release later in the evening God told Mr. O'Reilly that he would keep in touch with him by messenger but Tony replied "The Messenger? I bought that over last week".

It was learned early today that at a management-workers conference in the

O'Reilly buys share in God

"Independent" to discuss wages and holidays Mr. O'Reilly offered the workers an extra £2 per week, with two week's holidays and 100 days' plenary indulgence system.

A spokesman for the "Kerryman", which is also owned by Mr. O'Reilly, said that in their eyes Mr. O'Reilly had been God for some time. Last night's takeover announcement merely confirmed this. Included in the takeover of God are several subsidiary firms like Angels (Ireland) Ltd., Bible Producers Inc., and Sanctifying Grace Ltd.

The devil refused to comment last night but it is known that he is closely involved in the Tara Mines takeover as he is believed to live only a few feet below the main shaft.

Our economics correspondent writes: God is one of the oldest established firms in the country. He has branches everywhere and his well known trading slogan is "God is everywhere".

This is now expected to be amended to "Tony O'Reilly is everywhere". Cardinal Conway has just announced that all catechisms are to be re-written.



● Tony O'Reilly: keeping in touch by messenger.

ANOTHER POLL TAKEN IN NORTH

Another poll was taken in the North yesterday. It was taken from outside the British Army headquarters in Lisburn and the R.U.C. have appealed for its immediate return. This is the 19th poll taken in the North in the past fortnight and police believe that there may be a black market in them.

Last night they interviewed several blacks, including members of the Royal Blacks, but all were later released without being charged. (The normal charge for a member of the Royal Blacks is 7½p.) It was later revealed that the missing poll had previously been used as a telephone pole, although Mr. Heath constantly used it as a flag pole.

An examination of the findings show that the parties in the North are now poles apart.

Men charged

Ten men were charged in Belfast later with taking the pole. Five of them were also accused of stealing a second-hand judge and selling him for scrap. The Lord Chief Justice said that the hearing should be brief as he was in a hurry to go to the Zoo where he had to preside over a kangaroo court.

Before the trial could proceed he was called to the Bar. The barnard sat in his place while he was gone and dismissed two hundred cases

of drunken driving. When he returned the Justice said that it was a serious offence to take a poll but even more serious to steal a judge. He said that he would impose the longest sentence he could get.

He later wrote to Michael McInerney, who is an expert in long sentences and between them they managed a sentence of 200 words with hard labour. Summing up the Justice said "Terrorist offence, terrible, legal rubarb, and what day is it".

Meanwhile the British Government have appealed for the return of the poll, so that polling can begin again soon.

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 started
Athlone Apparel Co. Ltd. (Global Dress Co. Ltd., London)	Athlone	Ladies dresses	1948
Athlone Manufacturing Co. (Plastica Calepio Srt., Milan)	Athlone	Extruded Thermo plastic sheet	1971
Iralco Ltd. (Ernest Delmers K.G. Meinerzhagen/ Westphalia)	Collinstown	Aluminium chromium plated strips for motor cars. Plastic hobbies and plastic articles for motor trade.	1965 1970 expanded
Irish Cable and Wire (Lars Bjørck, Malmoe)	Athlone	Electric cables	1972
Donwue Egberts (Ire.) Ltd. (Donwue Egberts Koninklijke Fabriek N.V., Utrecht)	Mullingar	Pipe tobacco	1967 expanded 1971

NO. 28 WESTMEATH

Meat mountain for sale — to outsiders only!

The 7,000 ton 'meat mountain' being hoarded by the Department of Agriculture at the direction of the Common Market Commission is to be auctioned off to the highest bidder — provided it is not for sale within the Common Market!

This is the latest turn in a saga which leaves meat prices sky high to consumers while cold-storage warehouses bulge to bursting point.

Mounted

Week by week the meat mountain has mounted in Ireland and last week's tonnage of 'intervention' beef exceeded the hundred ton mark. In order to reduce the

amount of beef in cold-storage and to reduce both the costs of cold-storage and the scandal it has been decided to sell it off.

The first 1,000 tons offered carry the proviso that it be sold within the E.E.C. area. In other words people in countries outside the E.E.C. have the prospect of buying Irish beef at knockdown prices while Irish working families have to tighten the belt and do without because of the astronomical prices currently being charged in butchers' shops.

The meat inquiry ordered by Justin Keating might have the effect of reducing prices somewhat but only a reversal of the current intervention and

hoarding policy can significantly reduce the price.

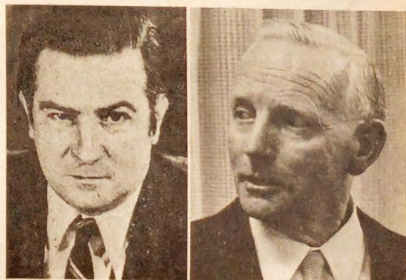
In an editorial in the last issue *The Irish People* called on the Government to ensure that when the meat mountain came to be disposed of that pensioners, the sick and lower income workers get the benefit. This is not now in prospect as the E.E.C. Commission moves to unload the massive surplus building up on markets outside the Common Market area.

The bill for any loss incurred by selling off this meat to outside countries at uneconomic prices will be met by the Irish taxpayer in part while the same Irish taxpayer will be denied a single meal from the meat auctioned off and sold outside the E.E.C.!

The Irish People, first to draw attention to the 'meat mountain', will try to keep track of prices paid for this beef being auctioned off at the expense of the Irish consumer and inform our readers of the outcome.

This week the Irish Farmers' Association hold a public meeting to publicise the other side of the story — low prices for cattle relative to original purchase price, high-cost feedingstuffs and an attempt by the meat factories to pocket retrospective increases to be approved by the E.E.C. Commission.

Any price increases won will lead to a rise in the 'intervention' price paid to farmers who sell their cattle to the meat factories.



● Justin Keating, Minister for Industry and Commerce (left) and Mark Clinton, Minister for Agriculture, share responsibility for the beef crisis.

VIEWPOINT / CORMAC DUNNE

I feel sure that Dublin ratepayers will not be hoodwinked by the current campaign being submitted by the Government and City Hall (aided and abetted by that champion of the working-classes, the Irish Independent) into believing that the rates for the next year are down.

This attempt by the Corporation and the Government to cod the ratepayers by manipulating the figures just will not succeed. When A.C.R.A. rightly pointed out that the new rate is based on estimates for only nine months instead of twelve there was a frantic rush by the Government to "explain" the situation.

Allegations by A.C.R.A. that the ratepayers were being "conned" were hastily denied by "Government spokesmen", and the "Irish Independent"

almost as frantically rushed to the Government's rescue with an editorial headed "An unjust attack".

An examination of the Corporation's own figures, however, reveal the validity of A.C.R.A.'s allegations and the weakness of the defence of the rates stratagem. The effective demand for the next nine months on Dublin city ratepayers will be £4.45 in the £ — as against £5.70 for the current year. However, the City Hall estimates show that the figure for a full 12 months at the new rate would be about £5.92, an increase of 22p in the £.

So A.C.R.A. is justified in its allegations and the "Irish Independent" may have reason to amend its faulty argument in defence of the Government.

At the current rate of inflation and rising costs — and unless the Government either abolished rates

or relieves the rates of health and housing costs — then one can be quite sure that the ratepayer will, over the next 12 months, pay out more than he did for 1973-74, through the nine-month "reduced" rate plus three months of next year's rates. One way or the other the ratepayer will have to cough up and the alleviation for the next nine months is likely to be just that — an alleviation for nine months only.

The "Irish Independent" not content with a shallow attempt at defending the indefensible, added to its own silliness with a gem of a heading on the rates report: "Dublin rate — down but not out".

I have heard of rates coming down but never being "out". With friends like those headline writers in the "Irish Independent", why should the Government need enemies!