

the irish people

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An Choismhuirtir

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Huge profit as mine battle escalates

BY OUR MINING CORRESPONDENT

An indication of what the battle for Ireland's mineral resources is all about came last week from Northgate Exploration. Mr. Pat J. Hughes, president of the company, announced that profits for the first nine months of this year reached a staggering £2¼ million. And this despite operations at Tynagh and Gortmurd being "moderately below forecast".

Although overshadowed in the media by the non-issue Monaghan

by-election the campaign to educate the Irish people on the wealth generating potential of our minerals is gathering momentum.

Spearheading it is the Resources Protection Campaign which is beaming its activities on Trades Unionists. The mining companies are responding and are utilising the Chamber of Commerce circuit to propagate their "No State intervention" attitudes.

It has been officially confirmed that the Government and Tara Exploration are having discussions on the granting a mining lease to Tara for the £2 billion plus ore deposits at Navan, Co. Meath.

The Secretary of the Resources Protection Campaign, Mr. Francis Walsh, has called upon the government "not to rush into any agreement" with Tara. Mr. Walsh who is a lecturer in Geography at Maynooth College said that the discoveries of ore at Navan and of commercial natural gas off the Cork coast had produced a radically changed position to which people should be given ample time to adjust.

"The sheer size of the Navan deposit," said Mr. Walsh, "has made it the single

(Continued on page 3)



● Soldiers of the Irish Army enter Portlaoise Prison following disturbances when political prisoners were transferred from Mountjoy Gaol.

Prison violence plan?

If hostilities occur between members of the Official Republican Movement and Provisionals in the coming weeks then an operation planned by the Department of Justice has succeeded. Tensions between the two organisations centre on happenings in Portlaoise Prison since the transfer there of all political prisoners held in Mountjoy.

Seven members of the Republican Movement and about 100 Provisionals are being held together in the same wing of Portlaoise although they had been segregated in Mountjoy. The Mountjoy segregation arose from the transfer there from the Curragh Concentration Camp of four Republicans following a beating at the hands of Provisional prisoners held in the same compound there during the summer.

The decision by the authorities appeared initially to be merely an unsuitable revenge game for the helicopter escape from Mountjoy. Now it is seen as a more calculated policy designed to create antagonisms beyond the prison walls as Republicans and Provisionals come to blows inside.

No blows have been struck at the time of going to press but in the tension-charged atmosphere currently prevailing in the prison where there is acute frustration at the effects of the change from Mountjoy

(Continued on page 2)

500 delegates for Ard Fheis

More than 500 delegates are expected to attend the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis which is being held in Liberty Hall on Saturday and Sunday.

Although this has been a year of unprecedented electoral activity for Republicans it is not expected that a prolonged debate on their performance in the 26 Co. General Election, and Local and Assembly Elections in the Six Counties will take place. More time is likely to be spent in discussing the structure and constitution of the Party than on electoral strategy.

Mr. Tomas Mac Giolla who has been President of the organisation for the past decade is likely to be returned unopposed to that position. He will deliver his Presidential address at 12.45 on Sunday.

He is likely to review the position of the Left in Irish politics particularly in the wake of the Labour Party's capitulation to Fine Gael. The campaign for the utilisation of the country's mineral resources is almost certain to figure prominently in his speech and he could use this as



● Tomas Mac Giolla, President of Sinn Féin.

an instance of the urgency with which unity of the left is required.

Principal interest will centre on whether Mr. Mac Giolla will recommend a structural formation on which such unity can be based not only on the mineral resources question but also in fighting sectarianism and internment in the North, repressive legislation, unemployment, and a possible Industrial Relations Act in the South.



● Mr. Pat Hughes . . . £2¼ million profit "moderately below forecast".



● Members of the Union of Students in Ireland demonstrate in Belfast last week against the detention of children and students.

SETTLEMENT NOT ENOUGH—N.I.C.R.A.

The major upsurge in Civil Rights marches continued last week with a 3,500 strong march in Lurgan. The Lurgan march follows similar huge marches in Derry, Coalisland and Belfast. The Lurgan demonstration called for the release of all internees both Loyalist and Republican, and attacked what leading Civil Rights speakers described as "party political manoeuvrings".

The resolution agreed to unanimously by the marchers reflected criticism of party political talks about power sharing and the absence of apparent progress on internment, democracy and sectarianism.

It reads: "This demonstration notes that the current talks for the formation of the Assembly Executive have not ended internment and martial law in Northern Ireland. It warns those parties who are at present engaged in these talks that they are being used by the British Government to justify the continuing repression of large sections of their supporters."

The demonstration calls on the people of Northern Ireland, through their political parties, trade unions, voluntary organisations and churches to make clear to the British Government that the present British settlement can never be acceptable to the majority of our people."

Concluding, the statement added: "We are determined that, irrespective of class, party or religious differences, we will continue to organise ourselves around democratic demands because they represent the basic conditions for peace, democracy and community reconciliation in Northern Ireland and we pledge ourselves to unite in mass non-sectarian and non-violent struggle to this end."

Every speaker on the platform rejected the Assembly and coming Executive as a solution to the North's problems. Joe Deighan, an executive member of N.I.C.R.A., stressed that the real power and responsibility lay at Westminster. "Westminster must legislate for democracy and face up to any resulting opposition from Craig's elements if we are to have peace, democracy and community reconciliation", he said. Pointing out that legislation at Westminster had established the Assembly, P. J. McClean of the Tyrone C.R.A. emphasised that matters such as Security, Policing, Internment and detention do not fall within the scope of the Assembly's powers. The Assembly members cannot be criticised for making no progress in an area where they had no power; they must be criticised, however, for giving the impression that they have power in this area, he said.

the irish people

An Choismhuintir, Friday, Nov. 23, 1973.

R.T.E.

Radio Telefís Éireann suppressed and distorted news last week. The funeral of Michael McVerrey, the Provisional killed in the attack on Keady R.U.C. station, was reported by R.T.E. but the attendance figure was not.

An attendance of "more than 2,000" (Irish Times, Nov. 19) is not a normal family funeral and undoubtedly would have been of interest to R.T.E.'s audience.

The attendance at the Lurgan Civil Rights March was estimated at 1,000 by R.T.E. The Irish Times reported the attendance at "more than 3,000", the Irish Independent at "almost 4,000". R.T.E.'s 1,000 was closest to the B.B.C. Northern Ireland figure of "some hundreds".

On Sunday of the same week the "This Week" programme gave a free-wheeling twenty minute interview to the British Army's head of propaganda in the North, Colonel Sillicoe.

The only common denominator between these casually noted instances of suppression, distortion and unbalance is that the sum of their effect fits neatly into current Government policy, and, in particular, into the desires of Conor Cruise O'Brien and Garret FitzGerald.

Of course, neither of these two Ministers are to blame for these examples of suppression, distortion and unbalance. R.T.E. is.

BRAVO, MR. TULLY!

The Government and the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Tully, are to be applauded for stopping work on the new offices being built for Dublin Corporation at Christ Church Cathedral.

The decision to build the municipal offices between Christ Church and the Liffey was wrong in the first case.

The building of a modern office block on the site will not only destroy the breathing space needed to show Christ Church to its full advantage but will prevent the re-birth of one of Dublin's most beautiful views — that from the Liffey to the Cathedral and vice versa.

Archaeological finds of great importance led to the Government decision. Let us hope that the obvious potential of the public park possible at the site will help the Government stick to its decision.

DESPICABLE

What the Department and Minister for Justice are trying to do in Portlaoise Prison by inciting violence among political prisoners is despicable.

It rests with the good sense of political prisoners there to prevent the success of this vicious plan and with public opinion to see the attempt is called off.

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Tension in Portlaoise

(Continued from page 1)
an outbreak is almost inevitable. And the authorities are doing nothing to prevent it.

Three of the seven Republicans now in Portlaoise were among those beaten up in the Curragh by the Provisionals. Since their arrival in Portlaoise all seven have been ostracised by the Provisionals.

The Republicans, whose cells are on the ground floor of the tiered wing complain that dirt, cigarette butts and water are being thrown down on them from the tiers above. When going to showers or recreation the Republicans must pass along the gangway of the second tier and have to be given protection doing so.

Eamonn Mac Thomais, spokesman for the Provisionals, has told them that he cannot prevent incidents occurring. On at least one occasion recently as the Republicans were going to the showers Eamonn Mac Thomais and Gerry O'Hare accompanied them to guarantee the safety.

It appears that the enforced herding together of Republicans and Provisionals is the direct responsibility of the Department of Justice. No Prison Governor would allow for a continuation of a tense situation such as has developed in Portlaoise and not take remedial action. Whether the Government will succeed in its aim will be known in the next week as frustrations at the change from Mountjoy and the many lost privileges involved reaches its peak.

Dear Brother,
Trade Unionists who are members of the Resources Protection Campaign have formed a Support Group to assist in the work of drawing attention to Ireland's great mineral wealth.

The object of the Support Group is also collecting information that would be of particular interest to Trade Unionists. The immediate task is to seek a large-scale development of the mining industry so as to provide the maximum number of jobs. This means that the State must develop the metallurgical and ancillary industries which, at present, are neglected.

The Support Group is also collecting information on the oil and gas resources of Ireland so that Irish workers can be made fully aware of the employment prospects in these fields.

Membership of the Support Group is open to members of any Trade Union representing workers in Ireland. We urge



● The view from the Liffey of the intended site of Dublin Corporation's office block with Christ Church Cathedral in the background. — Irish People pic.

Offices decision storm

Mr. Tully, Minister for Local Government, suffered the wrath of Dublin Corporation officials and Commissioners when he ordered work on the building of the new £3 million municipal offices to cease. The officials are angry because the cessation of work on the site means that the day when they can move into brighter modern office space is postponed definitely.

The Commissioners are angry because it calls in question the decision to build on the site behind Christ Church Cathedral with which most of them were associated. The order to cease operations

was given when finds of major archaeological importance were made on the site which lies between the twelfth century cathedral and the banks of the Liffey. The Government statement said: "The Government has decided that the development of the Winetavern Street site for municipal offices should cease, pending consultation and further investigation". It is believed that the Government decision was taken on the advice of archaeologists.

The Deputy General Secretary of the Local Government Officials

Union, Mr. Phil Flynn, has said that it is possible that prosecutions could now be brought against the Corporation under the Factories Act.

Hopes that the site may now be converted into a park providing a strategically located green lung near the city centre are now reviving following the unexpected Government announcement.

Public meeting

"Torture - Strasbourg - Justice" is the theme of a public meeting organised by the Association for Legal Justice, which is being held in the Gresham Hotel on Saturday.

letters

you to join with us in the work of spreading information on Irish natural resources by joining the Support Group and encouraging your fellow workers to do likewise. As the Group is a voluntary one, collections and contributions from Trade Unionists and sympathisers are badly needed. Further information regarding speakers and information bulletins can be had from the undersigned. JOHN MITCHELL, Hon. Sec. T.U. Support Group, c/o 113 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 (Telephone calls: Dublin (01) 780299 — Wednesdays 6.30-10 p.m.)

Dear Sir,
As active and concerned trade union members, we must view with alarm the statement of Mr. D. J. McAuley of the Federated

Union of Employers, on the 13 inst.

This attempt to encourage anti-union legislation in a free-enterprise economy on behalf of those he represents, would appear to be a step in the direction of corporate statism, so beloved by the F.U.E. and its spokesmen.

It ill behoves Mr. McAuley to attempt to cause division among trade-unions by his cynical remarks, which are based on narrow nationalism, about non-local based unions, while ignoring the activities of the multi-national companies, the mining interests and other speculators, who operate with the support and encouragement of the F.U.E. His nauseating praise for the I.C.T.U. (an organisation whose aims ought to be in direct conflict with the F.U.E.) will not enhance the standing of the leadership of that body

among many of its affiliated members.

The much publicised desire for full employment by the F.U.E. in the face of the constant flood of redundancies in all sectors of the economy can only be regarded as ludicrous.

If Mr. McAuley is seeking reasons for the present industrial relations situation, he ought to examine the last two National Wage Agreements, which curbed wages and salaries, while placing no corresponding limitation on prices, or on the profits and dividends of the firms he represents.

In conclusion let Mr. McAuley and his friends in Government realise that workers in this country will not tolerate the type of anti-union legislation which his statement advocates. (Signed) John Smyth, Tony Cronin, Patrick Cox, Patrick Turner, Charles Mooney, c/o Service Department, Flat (Ireland) Ltd., Kilmore Road, Dublin 10.

COUNTDOWN

Enniscorthy

The newly formed branch of the National Income Tax Relief Organisation (N.I.T.R.O.), which has held two meetings to date, has already recruited many new members from among the wage and salary earners in the town. Officers of the new branch are: Chairman, Sean Redmond, 54 Weaver St., Enniscorthy, Vice-Chairman, Michael Collins, Moran Park, Enniscorthy, Secretary, Dan O'Leary, Slaney Valley Hotel, Enniscorthy, Treasurer, Mrs. Olive Armstrong, Templeshannon.

The success of the organisation in Enniscorthy is reflected throughout the county and branches are expected to be established shortly in Wexford and Gorey.

Pettigo

The Pettigo Development Association, which was established following the bombing of the town six weeks ago, has hit out at the local and central authorities for their failure to provide alternative accommodation for people rendered homeless by the explosions.

With the exception of two families rehoused in County Council caravans, the Association states that the eight remaining families have had to find accommodation for themselves while compensation for damage will not be paid until 1976.

The Development Association has called for the speedy completion of a 12 unit housing scheme which has been under construction for two years.

Galway

Export of ore from Tynagh Mines accounts for the major part of exports through Galway port. Out of the total export figure of 148,000 tons, ore exports made up 138,000 tons.

Drogheda

Drogheda Trades Council unanimously pledged its support to the employees of Cement Ltd. who are faced with redundancy. At a specially convened meeting of the council, it was agreed that the council would back any moves taken by the trade unions representing the threatened workers.

Mr. Donagh Mac Raghailé pointed out that the company had realised a profit of five to six million pounds per year since production started and with such a profit rate it could easily afford to retain 200 men in their jobs.

Armagh

A meeting of the revitalised "Save the Hospital Committee" has decided to take up a petition for the full restoration of Armagh's hospital and an appeal for funds to finance an active campaign will be launched.

The meeting re-elected Mr. Norman Creswell as Chairman and Mr. Malachy Toal was elected Vice-Chairman of the committee.

Drumarg, Longstone, Orangefield and Drumbrada Tenants Associations were represented at the meeting.



● Pickets in support of dismissed teachers in the National College of Art and Design (NCA) were last week placed on offices of members of the college board. The teachers who are members of the Amalgamated Transport & General Workers' Union are being supported by the Students' Union at the Art College and by students from U.C.D., T.C.D., Bolton Street and Kevin Street.

Who did bomb Allen communications?

ALLEN COMMUNICATIONS Ltd., the British security electronics firm which supplies equipment to the British Army in the 6 Counties, is in debt to the tune of £125,000. This was revealed earlier this month at liquidation hearings in London.

The news comes shortly after an alleged bomb attack on the firm's Old Pye Street, London, premises early in October.

The company is said to have got into financial difficulties following the cancellation, last February, of an agency agreement by an American manufacturing company.

Allen Communications was formed in 1970 with an issued capital of £25,000. In 1972, the firm obtained exclusive agency rights in the United Kingdom, France and Iran for a night vision device and image intensifier manufactured by the American company.

Allen sold these night sights in large quantities to the British Army at a cost of £400 each. As a result, both its turnover and profits soared.

However, after the cancellation of the agency agreement, business began to dwindle. By September, Allen Communications was in serious financial difficulties and moves were being made by creditors to close the firm. These moves were resisted by the directors, Mr. Harold Edward Tracey and his wife. At the liquidation hearings, Mr. Tracey admitted that the loss of the agency rights, coupled with credit restrictions imposed by the banks, had severely curtailed his business.

VIEWPOINT/ COPINAC dudde

As far back as July 6, in this column, I outlined the British plan for the subjugation of Ireland. I said the plan envisages a pacified North being accorded de jure recognition by the 26 Counties, with a newly-formed "security force" composed of elements of police and troops from both sides of the border, under the aegis of the British Army, eventually taking over the duties of the British Crown Forces, and being under the control of the Council of Ireland.

Then, I went on, if there are still "disruptive elements", either loyalist or republican, disturbing Her Majesty's Peace, the security force will proceed to mop up the dissidents and everyone will be expected to live happily ever after.

Now read what the "Sunday Independent" considered important enough to give a lead position to, on its front page, on November 11: "The gradual phasing out of the British military presence in the North, the replacement of British troops by a greatly strengthened, better-trained and equipped Ulster Defence Regiment and a reinforced army in the South, all under the control of the Council of Ireland, are among the dramatic proposals for All-Ireland security which have been submitted to the British and Irish government. . . . The plan . . . is that the UDR . . . would be under the command of a British Army man of general officer rank and officered by secondment from British regiments. The South's defence forces would also be built up . . .

There would, of course, be close liaison between the two forces and the overall controlling authority would be the Council of Ireland. . . . The plan also provides for a common operational zone of considerable depth on both sides of the border. Here units of both forces would operate together. . . . This co-operation would arise presumably in the suppression of subversive or guerrilla activities in the 20-mile zone and in aid of the civil authority on either side."

Open secret

Interesting, isn't it? The "Sunday Independent" article was from a Special Correspondent but it is an open secret that the writer is a prominent journalist based in Belfast who is noted for his "inside" information and who, it is understood, got his "plan" from the SDLP. Are the latter the sponsors of the plan?

What is even more relevant is the instant denial of the report that came from the Minister for Finance, Mr. Ryan (why the Minister for Finance?) and later from the Government itself in Dublin. "No such plan was being considered," thundered the Government. Perhaps not at official level — but there is such a plan and it is being mooted by some members of the Government.

Even at this stage, the first steps of the plan have already been taken. The UDR is being strengthened and is already under British officers; the army in the 26 Counties is being built up; new barracks are planned for the border area; there is more and more talk about "a common law enforcement area"; there is more and more discussion about "crimes" common to both parts of the island; there is greater co-operation between the British and Irish Armies along the border. (They "dabble in a little private co-operation", as the London Times recently put it.)

In short, the betrayal of Ireland is in progress.

Raid in house of T.D.

On November 1 last the house of Dr. Hugh Gibbons, Fianna Fail T.D. for Roscommon/Leitrim, was raided by Special Branch men and a party of local Gardai. The raid on the house at Keadev, Boyle, took place during the search for the three Provisionals who escaped from Mountjoy.

Tenant leader in court

Thomas O'Sullivan, chairman of the Toghther Tenant's Association, Cork is to appear in court on Wednesday next, November 28. Cork Corporation will be seeking an order committing him to prison for non-payment of rent.

This will be Mr. O'Sullivan's ninth court appearance. On previous occasions the Corporation has requested adjournments but in view of Mr. James Tully's "get tough" instruction the Corporation is not expected to resort to this procedure on Wednesday.

'Nothing left but holes in the ground'

(Continued from Page 1)

most important issue facing the economy since the foundation of the state". The potential as regards employment and social benefits was truly enormous and "if Tara get their way, the raw ore will be shipped out of the country to smelters elsewhere in Europe, leaving little in Ireland except holes in the ground", said Mr. Walsh. He said it was the duty of the government to fully inform the public as regards issues of major national importance

and then abide by the wishes of the people as formulated by subsequent debate and discussion.

"The resources question has never been an election issue in this country and hence in principle the government has no mandate to take any far-reaching decisions as regards the development of our national resources", said Mr. Walsh.

Dr. Oliver Waldron, Tara's chief executive, and the company secretary Mr. Sean Tully, last week addressed a meeting of the Drogheda Junior chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Waldron anticipating the receipt of a mining lease for the company had a carrot to offer trade unionists. With the development of the mine he forecast a scarcity of labour in the area which would force wages upwards. "We are not going to pay exorbitant rates" he said, "but the days of cheap labour are certainly over".

Labourers at present employed by Tara are paid £24 per week under an agreement between the company and the Federation of Rural Workers. This rate will apply until next July.

Take-over

The South African conglomerate, Anglo-American, will take over Tara as soon as the Government grants the company a mining lease. This is the forecast of Dr. David Neligan, chairman of the Resources Protection Campaign, who says such a take-over would be disastrous. To prevent it the State would have to acquire at least a controlling interest in Tara, said Dr. Neligan.

Northgate Exploration have not yet ceased to bemoan the recently announced ending of the twenty-year tax holiday. On Tuesday, the day P. J. Hughes announced the £2¼ million nine month profit, the company's general manager, Mr. Dave Fitzgerald was addressing the Galway Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Government decision was "a big breach of faith", he told the Chamber, and was "bound to reflect on other foreign industries here", he said.



Twomey faces eviction

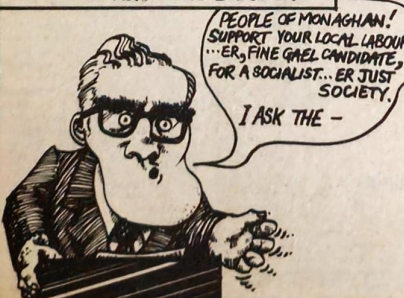
Mr. Con Twomey pictured talking to an Irish People reporter outside the house in Blarney in which he has lived since 1936. He will shortly be evicted as a result of a court order made against him since his plight was first publicised in an August issue of this paper.

Until 1960 Mr. Twomey had been the tenant of his employers under a Caretakers' Agreement. The company then went out of business.

Thirteen years after losing his job Mr. Twomey is losing the roof over his head.

The Dailmations

BRENDAN EXPLAINS LABOURS POSITION IN THE MONAGHAN BYE ELECTION—



..PROTESTANTS OF THIS AREA TO GIVE US THEIR FIRST PREFERENCE - AND WE'LL GIVE YE THE SECOND NATION... WHEN CONOR AND GARRET HAVE IT ALL FIXED UP..



'Pay up or else' letter threats

Two important contributions this week to our ground rent "Threatening Letter" competition. One comes courtesy of Clonmel Securities, ground rent landlord collecting about \$80 ground rents in the Ballymun, Willow Park and Pinewood Estates and the other courtesy of Firhouse Ltd., ground landlords in Woodpark Estate, Ballinteer, Dunderum, Dublin.

Clonmel Securities issue the straightforward no-punches-pulled threat through their solicitors Valentine E. Kirwan & Co., 3, 4 & 5, Suffolk Street, Dublin. The unimaginative prose reads: "We have been instructed by the above named to apply to you for payment of the above stated amount and unless it is paid direct to our clients within four days of this date we shall be obliged to proceed without further notice. It is hoped this necessity will not arise".

In sharp contrast comes the threatening letter from Firhouse Limited. Firhouse's duplicated letter tries the 'sweet reasonableness' approach. Its worth reading in full — right up to the honey coated sting in the tail:

'Disagreeable'

"Your continued lack of co-operation with regard to payment of your Ground Rent has forced us to think of the most disagreeable things — summonses, courts, legal costs, time lost, credit impaired — a most unpleasant picture. It certainly looks as if we shall have no alternative but to transfer your account to our Solicitors and thus cause

you considerable inconvenience and additional expense.

"The remedy, however, is in your hands. "You must agree that we have shown every leniency in the past and we cannot help feeling that you are taking unfair advantage of our forbearance and willfully ignoring our requests.

"However, we must in all fairness give you a warning of the impending action we intend to take against you and thus give you a final opportunity of settling this matter in a friendly manner.

"Please do not fall this time". For its gentle conjuring up of all the horrors and inconvenience of court proceedings the Firhouse letter, signed by a P. Cosgrove, wins first prize to date in the "Threatening Letter" competition. Firhouse display all the style and smoothness of a Mafia enforcing protection payments at knife point. Full marks for imagination, style and approach.

The main directors of Clonmel Securities are Messrs. W. O'Reilly, 59 Alsbury Road, Ballsbridge; M. J. Campbell, Foxrock Park, Foxrock; V. E. Kirwan, Barnhill Road, Dalkey and S. P. McHugh, 35 Kincora Road, Clontarf, Dublin.

The directors of Firhouse Ltd. are Frank and Sara McInerney, 'Kelston', Bray Road, Foxrock, Co. Dublin.

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.

ARDMORE PARK, BRAY, CO. WICKLOW.

- (1) Ardmore Park Ltd., Howth Road, Dublin.
- (2) & (3) 230 ground rents @ £20 each per annum. Approximate total collected each year = £4,600.
- (4) Being paid for a minimum of two years. Approximate minimum total paid to date = £9,200.

PINEWOOD ESTATE, WEXFORD, CO. WEXFORD.

- (1) Noonan Construction Co., Lucan, Co. Dublin.
- (2) & (3) 70 ground rents @ £15 per annum. Approximate annual total collected = £1,050.
- (4) Being paid for a minimum of three years. Approximate total paid to date = £3,150.
- (5) (a) Approximately five ground rents bought out. (b) £130 paid for each one bought out.
- (6) General refusal to pay ground rent until certain defects in the houses rectified by the builder.



● Cella Lynch, T.D.: "Ground rent immoral".

T.D.s TO ASK FOR LEGISLATION

Cella Lynch, T.D., Fianna Fail, and Luke Belton, T.D., Fine Gael, agreed to urge their respective Parliamentary parties to introduce legislation in the Dail within five weeks totally abolishing ground rent as defined in the 1967 Landlord and Tenant Act. Their agreement came following a unanimous vote of the hundred strong attendance at a public meeting organised by the Marino Crescent Association as part of its struggle against takeover by a ground landlord.

Earlier in the evening the Minister for Labour, Michael O'Leary, stated that the Government was waiting on the recommendation of the Commission on Ground Rent, chaired by Judge Conroy, before taking any legislative action on the Marino Crescent or Cappoquin disputes.

Speakers at the meeting included Brian Sheridan and Vincent Manning from ACRA. Brian Sheridan gave an outline history of the background of ground rent in Ireland, describing it as feudal and immoral.

Vincent Manning stated that the Ground Rent Sub-Committee of ACRA had decided, in view of the tremendous activity on the mortgage front, that the launching of an all-out strike against ground rent would be put back for the time being. He intimated that January 1 next could be the commencement date for the strike.

Cella Lynch complimented Brian Sheridan on his speech and said that she has been much enlightened by the meeting. "I think definitely that ground rents are unjust and immoral and should be abolished," she said.

Luke Belton agreed that "ground rents are immoral". Proposing the resolution that the T.D.s present agree to urge their respective parties to introduce legislation within five weeks abolishing ground rents Seamus O Tuathail pointed out that Government commissions fulfill two main functions — providing expert advice and delaying decisions on controversial issues. The Conroy Commission, in existence prior to the 1967 Act, had already more than fulfilled its function in providing expert advice: now it was being used to delay the abolition of ground rents.

"There were no Commissions necessary for the Banks Bill or the coming Bill legalising contraceptives. What was needed now was Government action to carry out the wishes of the people," he said.

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

Have you noticed the number of new Building Society branch offices opening quietly in the Dublin suburbs?

In sharp contrast to the fanfare of publicity accompanying new branch openings in early summer when the ubiquitous Mr. Tully usually appeared to do the honours the Irish Permanent branch in Drumcondra had a sneaky opening some time ago.

Only last week the Permanent opened yet another new branch office at Phibsboro — about half a mile distance from Drumcondra. Once again, the fanfares of silence were deafening!

CHAH NA IDIOGHA -CHUAIDH O'HEAS

Dúráthas in eagar fhocal ar an bpáipéar seo an tsacáin seo caite nach raibh aon larrcháir i 'Munéachán go bhféadfaí volta raidiciúil a thabhairt dó, ós rud é go bhfuil an Lucht Oibre ar shlí na fírinne, i bhflaitheas Fine Gaelach, agus Sinn Féin ag seasamh ar leithaibh.

Más mar fheargas ar an gclámhsín sin a tháinig David Vipond, an tidirnáisiúnaí, chun tosaigh, is cinnte gur truahtáiléalach an fheargas é. Níl ann ach go ndéanann se an folúntas raidiciúil níos sóileire ná riamh. Ní aon chuid dhá ghnó é bheith ag caitheamh anuas ar Vipond — ar a laghad ar bith dá sé de mhíneach an iarracht a dhéanamh ar roshas a thabhairt don phobal; ach i ndáiríre, is rogha idir thrí chomhach den eite dhéir ar fad áit ann i gcónaí, rogha na trí dhíogha.

Níl aon dírfhocht bhunúsach idir cheachtar acu siúd agus an Fine Gaelach iad aon ní mór — faoi chúlra airgeadaí, eicnamaíochta ná sóisialta, faoin EEC, faoin Ghaeilic ná aon ní eile. Troid faoi chumhacht ar mháthair le cumhacht áit ann. Nach beag a d'fheargas an saol, tar éis ar tharla sa tír le blianta beaga anuas?

Tá dhá thoghchán sna Sé Chontae freisin, ceann i gceantar Magherafelt agus ceann i gceantar Cookstown. Beidh rogha raidiciúil ag vóidóirí anseo — don dara uair! Tá beir buail de na Cluabanna Poblachtacha ag seasamh arís do na suíocháin a ghnóthaigh siad sé mhí ó shin ach a baineadh díobh ina dhiaidh sin trí chaimeistín an SDLP i gcás amháin agus na hAontachtóirí sa chás eile.

I Magherafelt mar a raibh Francie Donnelly tofa mar phoblachtóir ar an gComhairle, ach é ag dílúit a suíocháin a ghlacadh go mbeadh deirdeadh le imitheorannú

(geallúint a thug an SDLP tráth chomh maith), briseadh é ar phointe teimhíúil — tháinig litir uaidh, ag glacadh leis an suíochán, cúpla lá ró-dheireannach, tar éis dó bheith beagnach dhá mhí sa phost! Ní fios cé chuir moill dhá mhí ar an litir; deirtear go bhfuil Arm na Breataine an-tógtha le cúlra an phoist, agus bheadh suim ag Conor Cruise ann; ach mhól Príomh-Oifigeach Togchánaíochta an Tuaiscirt go bhféadfaí an suíochán aige.

Ach mhól an SDLP go mbrisfí é, mar dá mbuafadh siad féin an suíochán ansin sa chorr-thoghchán, bheadh tromlach glan acu ar an gComhairle. Is mionlach iad na hAontachtóirí agus níor ghlac siad aon pháirt i míneadh an Phoblachtóirí Briseadh é. Sin tuiscint an SDLP ar dhaoine-flaitheas agus ar thoil an phobail. Anois nuaire a bhí rudai mar sin ar bun ag na hAontachtóirí cúpla bliain ó shin, bhíodh port eile ag Pitt, Hume, etc.

Rinne na hAontachtóirí an rud céanna le Gerry McElhatton i Cookstown, mar is acu siúd áit an tromlach anseo. Sa chás seo áfach dúirt an SDLP gur cheart an suíochán a fhágáil ag an bPoblachtóir, nach raibh sé daonflaitheach é a bhriseadh eile. Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doth.

Kells opposes rent

Kells, Co. Meath, Urban District Council recently adopted a resolution from Cashed U.D.C. calling for support for the campaign for the abolition of ground rent. One of the big ground landlords in Kells is the estate of the Marquess of Headfort.

The resolution was proposed by Mr. P. King and seconded by Mr. P. McKenna.

Companies laugh it off

From A Special EEC Correspondent

FOLLOWING the publication recently of a draft plan to control the activities of multinational corporations operating inside the Common Market, the reaction of the companies has generally been one of arrogant contempt and cynicism.

The Brussels Commission is proposing to strengthen and harmonise existing laws governing the multinationals and has pinpointed seven areas for action.

These are the protection of the public interest, protection of workers' rights with proposals to prevent mass sackings, maintaining competition, takeover methods, equality of conditions for foreign firms setting up in the E.E.C., protection of developing countries and also foreign exchange controls.

A Commission spokesman said they wanted better controls of capital flows from outside of the Community.

"These proposals are not meant as a code of good behaviour for multinational companies but as a constructive approach to problems of international and even world dimensions", he said.

Initial reaction in Brussels has been one that when action is eventually taken it will be too late and too weak to harness the growing power of the multinationals operating in the Common Market.

On average, two thirds of all foreign investment in the E.E.C. comes from outside the Community states and between 50 and 60 per cent of this originates in the United States.

The multinationals themselves regard the Commission's proposals as likely to have only marginal effects on their activities. They gleefully point out at the same time the measures will give the impression that they have at last fallen into line.

Statistics issued by the Commission say that industrial assets under foreign control in the world were estimated at \$240 billion in 1972 and that firms controlling these assets had a turnover of \$320 billion.



The full Story of Ground Rent in Ireland.

Price 25p.
(incl. post)
(Cash with Orders)
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Box 666, Dublin 9.

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The Irish Army

EDUCATION

By a Special Correspondent

What Education?



The army is now engaged in a massive recruiting campaign in which £90,000 is being spent on propaganda alone. Part of it is being used in the production of a glossy pamphlet entitled "Army life is a man's life for you" (a slogan which was prominently displayed outside every R.U.C. and Army barracks in the North until quite recently).

On an inside page of the pamphlet is stated "facilities exist which give men the chance to continue with post primary education".

If such "facilities" exist then someone in the Army should tell the soldiers. All soldiers to whom I have spoken in the compilation of these articles are unaware of any educational system within the army. No such system exists.

Education is not included in the recruits' training course nor is it included in the daily routines of soldiers and N.C.O.'s. Neither is there a programme to prepare soldiers, due for demobilisation, for a civilian job.

In the last five years the Army has expended an enormous amount of time, energy and money on equipment and training. No attention has been given to the provision of a full time Army Education Corps whose job would be to educate soldiers to at least leaving cert standards.

Army officers are encouraged to attend university and are given every incentive to do so. How many soldiers attend university? Do

facilities exist which enable soldiers to be released from military duties to pursue educational courses?

I put a number of questions to the Department of Defence via the Government Information Service. "How much did the Army spend on education of soldiers?", I asked.

The reply was: "The amount paid by this department to other authorities in respect of courses and training provided for personnel of the Permanent Defence Force during the last financial year was approx £31,000. Educational training is, of course, provided at various military establishments in this country but the cost involved could not be quantified readily."

The second part of the answer is, from my information, just not true. The facts are that no educational centre, no qualified teachers and no educational system exists within the army.

I defy the Department of Defence to release statistics of how many soldiers are presently engaged in post-primary or indeed any education at the "various military establishments in this country". And the reason that "the cost involved could not be quantified readily" in these establishments is that they are non-existent.

"The army gives you the opportunity to learn new skills and trades, top qualifications for civilian life", says the recruiting pam-

phlet. This claim is, to say the least, deceptive.

Most young lads who join the army will learn a military skill, i.e., anti-tank gunner, mortar man, machine gunner, rifleman. Only a very few will actually learn a trade such as carpenter, bricklayer, plumber, plasterer, painter.

The majority of tradesmen's duties in the army are carried out by Board of Works personnel. The Board of Works employs 1,500 people and Mr. Donegan recently stated that he was recruiting 500 more civilians so that soldiers could be released for military duties.

The army wants soldiers. It wants to train them to carry out military duties. The whole army system is geared to teaching military and not civilian skills. It is purely coincidental that some tradesmen are required to facilitate the smooth functioning of the army.

No qualifications

Most soldiers leave as they joined — unemployed, unqualified men with no educational qualifications.

Recently a first class soldier with excellent military conduct stamped on his discharge book was looking for employment. His army service covered a period of nine years. The clerk at the Labour Exchange sought details

of his previous employment, his trade and his qualifications.

The ex-soldier had a trade. He had been a professional soldier whose qualifications were marksman on the F.N. rifle, Gustav sub-machine gun and mortar. Needless to say he did not get a job as no vacancies were available for a marksman or mortarmen.

His "top qualifications for civilian life" did not impress prospective employers.

Soldiers themselves felt that the Army should set up a pre-release centre for soldiers. Such a centre would equip the soldier due to be demobilised with at least a basic training in some industrial or commercial skill to enable him to find employment.

Most ex-soldiers I talked to were disillusioned because after giving service to the army for a number of years they felt they were discarded like an old uniform. Perhaps the government and the Army authorities do not realise that after serving in the forces for a number of years most soldiers are disorientated on their return to civilian life. They don't know what to do. They become part of the 80,000 strong unemployment queue.

"Army life is a man's life for you" — it might be while you're in the army but it won't feed your wife and kids or get you a job when you return to civvy street.

LIFE AND DEATH OF A HOUSEWIFE

"Family law is difficult and complicated and its various aspects require thorough and detailed examination. I cannot say when recommendations may be expected from the Committee on Court Practice and Procedure but I am quite certain that there will be no avoidable delay." This is the most recent statement from the Minister for Justice, Mr. Patrick Cooney, on the vexed question of family law, the reform of which is long promised.

No one will argue with the Minister's description of this subject as "difficult and complicated". But if reforms are to be confined merely to curbing desertion the surface of the problem will hardly have been scratched.

The following story may shock. It is true. It is not exceptional. Many similar stories could be told.

Last month a 36 year old woman died in Dublin. In her short life she had given birth to 13 children. Four of the children died. Two others are blind and in hospital, another is suffering from malnutrition.

This was misery enough but added to it she had suffered continual beating and ill-treatment, lack of food and

nourishment for herself and her children. The apparent cause of her death was the effect of an anti-depressant drug. The cause of all her misery was her husband.

The late Mrs. X availed of all the welfare services available to her. The St. Vincent de Paul Society, Legion of Mary, Department of Social Welfare, home assistance officer, the local social worker, clergy and police were aware of her plight.

Despite this knowledge nothing was done. The simple explanation is that nothing could be done. As the law stands, no group or person, governmental or voluntary, could intervene to protect this woman or her children from a tyrannical husband.

Soup-bowl

Material help was of course supplied by some or all of these groups — but charity in the Victorian soup-bowl tradition was no substitute for a law which would guarantee protection to those living in the sacred and hallowed institution known as "the family".



● Mr. Patrick Cooney, Minister for Justice.

The head of the family himself had a problem. He was (and is) an alcoholic, and has had occasional hospital treatment. A plumber by trade, it was his want to work for a month or two and drink all his wages. He would then go on Unemployment Benefit and spend the income from this source in a similar manner. The next source of his drinking money was Home Assistance. The Home Assistance Officer dealing with this particular case on one occasion bought a kit of plumber's tools in an attempt to do something for the family.

The tools were pawned and the proceeds spent on drink. The family head then removed all the copper fittings from the family home.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society tried to help — but this help also found its way to the bar counter.

The children's allowance money suffered a similar fate. In 1971 after two of the children had been hospitalised through malnutrition the family head was charged, on the complaint of a neighbour, with assaulting his wife. He received a six month sentence but appealed against the court decision. His wife refused to testify against him (she told neighbours she was "afraid") and he was released on signing a bond to keep the peace for two years.

Conditions became even worse after his release. At this stage one of the children became blind.

At Christmas the St. V. de Paul society gave the wife £19. The husband forcibly took the money from her and on Christmas Eve the total provisions in the home amounted to one half bottle of milk.

By this stage some of the neighbours had commenced to take care of some of the

children. The beatings for those who remained in the home and the mother continued. The eldest daughter (13 years) now became a target of drunken attempts at incest from the father, the mother was prescribed the contraceptive pill, the local priest recommended separation, the social worker recommended hospital or jail for the husband, but all to no avail. It would have taken evidence from the wife to relieve the family of its head. This she was not prepared to give — physical fear being the cause.

Struggled

She struggled on until last month when a brain haemorrhage put an end to her misery.

The inquest on this unfortunate woman considered the cause of death. Several theories on tablets etc. were put forward.

An inquest on her life might have been much more to the point. Her husband was an alcoholic. He was a sick man, perhaps. Be that as it may a citizen of this country and her children suffered untold

misery because of his sickness. Death brought her relief. How many more are there like her for whom death will be the only succour? Very few of them will ever enter a witness box to give evidence against beloved husbands who are physically stronger than they are and who they sacramentally and sacrificially pledged to love honour and obey.

Priests, neighbours and social workers would have been willing to give their opinions and solid evidence on the plight of this unfortunate woman and her children on any court of law. As the law stands, such evidence would have been worth nothing. The "family" is (according to the Constitution) a basic and sacred institution of this state. As the law stands only evidence from the wife is of any value against the head of the institution. Society attitudes mean that her marital vows can be a licence for him to beat, starve or even to kill.

Let us hope Mr. Cooney will do something urgently to alter the position. Alleged threats to other institutions can be put away for long periods at the moment on the unsubstantiated opinions of a chief superintendent.



The Motor Assembly Industry

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

Over to you, Mr. Keating!

The jobs of workers in the car assembly industry are being extinguished plant by plant — Armstrongs, McCalmns, and now Leyland — all because the Irish Government, and the Minister for Industry and Commerce in particular, will not hold to the special protocol negotiated before this country entered the E.E.C.

True, Mr. Keating was faced with the decision of his predecessor in office, Mr. Lalor, who, for reasons only com-

prehensible in terms of Flanna Fail's true social outlook, allowed General Motors sidestep the special protocol.

The car assembly men marched and demonstrated to gain protection for their jobs and families. They won the special protocol which guarantees the continued existence of motor assembly here until 1983.

All Mr. Keating has to do is announce his intention of enforcing the protocol. Over to you, Mr. Keating!



● Justin Keating, Minister for Industry and Commerce.

First McCalmns, then Armstrongs, now British Leyland. Quicker even than the most pessimistic had expected the march towards extinction of the motor assembly industry in this country is progressing.

And as the life ebbs from the assembly plants here, new ones spring up like mushrooms in Spain.

Within weeks of confirmation from the American multinational General Motors that they were closing the McCalmns and Armstrong plants came an announcement from them that all assembly operations for Europe would be in Spain from 1978.

Spain is not a member of the E.E.C. but has special trading arrangements with the Community. GM's stated reason for terminating assembly in Ireland was rationalisation of their operations within the E.E.C.

Despite Mr. Justin Keating's promise to "tell all" it has not yet been officially revealed how GM were allowed to terminate assembly and receive a licence to import fully built up vehicles. However when the promised revelation is made it can be expected that E.E.C. regulations will be held responsible. Spain will have good reason to be thankful for non-membership of the community.

Rationalisation for the E.E.C. is also the reason for the British Leyland decision to close their Kimmage plant. Doubtless they too will get their import licence on the basis of E.E.C. regulations. Like General Motors, however, their assembly operation will also in future be concentrated on a country outside the E.E.C. A giant assembly plant will be constructed by them in Saragossa, Spain.

Also constructing or extending plants in Spain are Ford (at Valencia), Fiat (at Saragossa), and Chrysler.

"Rationalisation for the E.E.C." also see these companies close their plants here? Time will answer that question for the 10,000 employed in the Irish assembly industry.

And if 10,000 men become jobless here it will be because 10,000 others are more easily exploited in Spain.

Fiat and cheap labour

We have the words of no less a man than the head of the Fiat motor corporation to prove that this is so. As reported in THE IRISH PEOPLE last week Signor Giovanni Agnelli has told a United Nations International panel investigating the activities of multinational corporations that Fiat has gained financial advantage from cheap labour costs at its Spanish factories. "The only people who complain", he said, "are the Italian unions because we are giving work abroad".

Allied to this direct financial advantage is of course the representative attitude of the Spanish authorities to trade union organisation and activity. The motor multinationals would be guaranteed against interruptions in production through trade disputes such as those recently experienced in Britain.

The largest of the multinationals is, of course, General Motors which last year had a sales volume of more than £30 billion. Having overcome any Government opposition to a move from the 26 Counties GM set out to insure that it would suffer the minimum financial losses through compensating the new Irish workless.

General Motors have made it clear to their assembler-distributors, McCalmns and Armstrongs, that trade union claims for redundancy compensation above the statutory levels are to be resisted. The assembler distributors will be compensated for any loss which might arise from industrial action in pursuit of redundancy claims and in addition will be rewarded (£70,000 in the case of Armstrongs) for resisting the unions.



● Patrick J. Hillery, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, promised his way into the E.E.C.

The trick-of-the-loop sleight of hand currently being performed by Dublin Government Ministers and Brussel bureaucrats with regard to the implementation of the long promised EEC Regional Aid Fund is beginning to rival in its cynicism the equally long promised transfer of the Department of lands to Castlebar.

At suitable intervals both subjects of decentralisation and regional development are taken out for a gallop by senior civil servants and politicians, and when the seminar, lecture, or press conference is over the discussion papers are tucked away in their respective cubby-holes in Merrion Square or Brussels.

One of the few points on which all participants in the EEC referendum campaign agreed upon — both those in favour, and those against — was that in an economic union with rigid exchange rates and fiscal policies, the benefits likely to accrue to an underdeveloped peripheral area such as Ireland would be in direct proportion to the degree of imagination and generosity displayed by the central industrialised nations in the formation and administration of a meaningful regional programme.

It was said then by the proponents of the EEC, that monetary union, if it came at all, would not be effective until 1980 or later. At the same time, a regional development programme, talked about since 1958, was promised to be fully outlined and funded by October, 1972.

The critics of the then Flanna Fail Government's terms for accession to the EEC stoutly protested that this was so naive a promise as to be irresponsible.

Events over the past year have made latter-day prophets of the EEC critics. Prices have soared as a result of full membership. Food prices alone have increased some 20 pence in the pound as against the predictions of both

EEC REGIONAL AID PROGRAMME

When the promising stops

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael of a negligible 1 pence in the pound rise.

The small farmer is being made to carry the can for over production of dairy products; the much valued "special protocol" appended to Ireland's application, and which was to win for us a favoured position in development programmes, is being studiously ignored by one and all in Brussels; and the Regional Aid Fund is becoming a fiasco to those areas in need of special assistance and an obvious embarrassment to the bureaucrats, who wish that people would just stop talking about it in hopes that it may soon be forgotten.

Proposals

And if the present proposals being put forward are implemented, the whole concept of a Regional Aid Programme might just as well be

forgotten. For the current proposals spread the inadequate supply of financial jam over so wide an area within the EEC, that it will not make any sweeter the bitter pill of monetary union we are about to swallow.

No less than 52 per cent of the land area in which lives 32 per cent of the 250 million population of the EEC will qualify for assistance from a fund of £440 million to be spent over a three year period. So for the period 1974-1976 some 83 million people will receive an average of £1.75 per year in grants from the Regional Aid Fund.

That is what the EEC Regional Aid Programme amounts to. Our own I.D.A. is currently spending £10 per capita, per year, in its incentive programme to industry — and without any earth shattering effect in creating new employment. (1972 net increase in new I.D.A. grant-assisted jobs was 5,500).

Little as it is, and as slow as it has been in arriving, it is doubtful if even the most hardened critic of the EEC could have been prepared for the shock of the announcement made by Mr. George Thomson, the Common Market Commissioner responsible for regional development, in Bonn on February 27, 1973, that centralised aid to poorer regions within the EEC could be phased out by 1980.

Consider that, the EEC bureaucrats are already planning to phase out a programme of vital importance to the poorer areas which has been talked about for 15 years, and which hasn't yet spent its first penny.

It should be clear then, to all but the most incorrigible dreamer, where the real interest of the industrial barons of the EEC lie. Their aim is to raise the total aggregate production of the EEC trade bloc, not to redistribute it. The funding and implementation of an unimaginable and generous Regional Development Fund for the under-developed areas of the Common Market is being talked and starved to death — with its obituary being written before its birth is recorded.

the North

WILLIE OR WON'T HE?

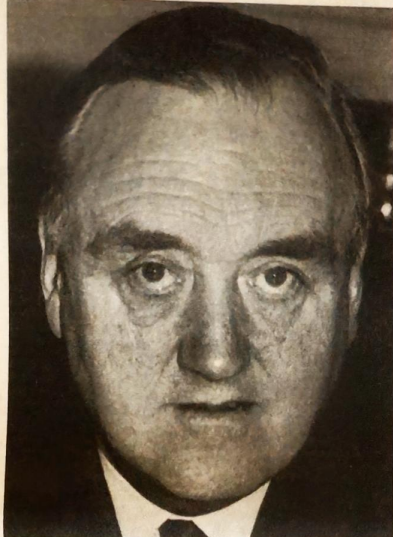
It is now likely that Edward Heath will sacrifice the future political development of the North for the salvation of both the British economy and the Conservative Party at the next General Election. He intends to do this by recalling Mr. William Whitelaw from his tour of duty in the North so that he will be available to help direct the much needed economic revival in Britain. But it still remains to be seen whether in this case England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity.

Although the main pattern of events this week is being played out on the ground in the North, the main pattern of political strategy still remains in Whitehall. Despite the publicity surrounding Brian Faulkner's crucial meeting with the Unionist Council in Belfast, it bears no importance in relation to Edward Heath's weekly Cabinet meeting in Downing Street. And it is not Mr. Whitelaw's meetings with the S.D.L.P. which have been the main political events in the North recently, but Mr. Whitelaw's meetings with Mr. Heath.

Important

The media this week have built events in the North into occasions of major political importance. On one level they are important. Faulkner's usual ploy of political dishonesty in threatening to resign has been important. Mr. Whitelaw's talks with the parties on power sharing have been important. The visit to the North of Defence Secretary, Lord Carrington, has been important. But the most important events of all lie not in the North but in Britain.

In Britain it was a week in which the bank lending rate rose to an unprecedented 13 per cent; a week in which the latest trade figures showed an astounding visible deficit of almost £300 million; a week in which the position of sterling worsened even more.



● William Whitelaw, Secretary of State, Northern Ireland.

An economic crisis is bad at any time, but an economic crisis in a year close to a general election becomes a political crisis. And this is what now faces Mr. Heath — an internal political crisis in Britain.

With a general election almost certain in the new year and with the Liberal Party lapping up the loose parliamentary seats with a remarkable appetite, Mr. Heath is now threatened with a political problem which he did not base in Northern Ireland, but in Northern England — and in Southern England, and every other part of Britain. He

is threatened with economic extinction at a national level and political extinction at a party level.

His only hope is a brain. He now needs someone with proven political ability to get on with the job, someone with an impeccable political record. In a Cabinet devoid of talent he has little choice of personnel. Some of his first choice Ministers have been forced to resign — Reginald Maundling disappeared in a money scandal and Lords Lambton and Jellicoe fell foul of the British public's moral standards. His only surviving hope is none other than

William Whitelaw, a man who fills all the requirements for the job.

Mr. Whitelaw came to the North for what he believed to be a short stay, but he has been here for close on two years now and although his reputation may not be up to much in this country, he is certainly very popular in Conservative circles in England.

Recalled

And so it seems he is to be recalled to the comfortable civilization of Whitehall, away from the frustrating and confusing way of life that is Northern politics.

If Mr. Whitelaw leaves the North the Assembly will fail, and with it will go the concept of a power sharing Executive. A break now in the political continuity on the part of the British administration is likely to bring a break to the political progress of the past months.

Mr. Whitelaw realises this, and he has, no doubt, informed Mr. Heath of his opinion. What the two men have had to decide is whether Northern lives or British economics are more important. And since both men come from a banking background, their choice was not difficult.

The Economy

Thursday's Westminster debate on the North shows that the Northern Ireland problem is now no longer Mr. Heath's number one political nightmare. It has been replaced by something called The Economy and the North may well be relegated to an election catch-cri in Britain in future months.

It is, as the political correspondents tell us, a crucial week for the North. But last week's events in Britain mean that all coming weeks will be crucial weeks for the North.

letter from belfast

DES O'HAGAN

One of the side effects of the Northern situation has been the break down, in some areas, of the collection of debts, payments of bills, trading cheques and the like. And as a result of the repression, internment and harassment by the British thousands of people have been refusing to pay 'government' bills such as rent and electricity.

The Lower Falls which never particularly welcomed the men and the other leeches who feed on working people joined enthusiastically in the no payments campaign. I don't know how many gas meters were altered to suit the just desire of the people to oppose the British plan but certainly they would be counted in hundreds. Naturally the government had to move at some time in defence of their monetary interests. When and how to it must have concerned them as each day of resistance by the people posed a threat to their power.

An informant, as journalists with connections say, told me last week end of the moves which were made to stabilise the situation, from the British point of view. She was an onlooker to the invasion of the maze of streets behind St. Peter's Church by 'hordes of gas-men tiding wee bags'. I would have loved to have seen it. Saracens blocked the streets, hundreds of troops poured in, accompanying the 'enforcers'. In one street there was literally a collector to each house, flanked by two soldiers, as Saracens and Scout Cars roamed up and down menacing the occupants.

All in all evidence of the power of the Gas company and similar to the actions of coal firms in the United States in the thirties. The few pounds collected by the way, are supposed to be subject to rebate, yet as far as I can hear many old people who had maintained payments were combed out of the shillings owed to them. The attitude of the collectors probably was that as the area is under redevelopment and people are unaccustomed to seeking their rights then no one would complain. And hardly in the face of British Army guns.

The rights of the people in the Lower Falls are continually denied. In fact there are plans to frustrate whatever demonstrations the people might care to mount in the future. Originally the new housing scheme for the area between Albert Street and the Grosvenor Road was intended to ensure a complete pedestrian free zone. A new plan has been produced relatively secretly which now shows an internal road scheme splitting the district into three manageable areas. Definitely a response to the Kilstonway strategy of dealing with a troublesome population. The fear of the present regime extend into the eighties when the housing plan will be complete.



● Malachy McGurran, chairman, Executive of Republican Clubs.

Assembly to fail

The new Northern Assembly will fail. This is the prediction of Mr. Malachy McGurran, Chairman of the Six County Executive of Republican Clubs, who says that it will fail on two points — power sharing and the fact that there is no executive to be set up. His comments are contained in a lengthy interview in the latest edition of the "Plough", the monthly journal of the South Down/South Armagh Republican Clubs.

"We are opposed to the concept of this Assembly", he says, "because it does not constitute giving the people more democracy, more freedom, more justice or more equality. Our answer is that if power is to be shared it should be shared out among the workers".

The McGurran interview can be regarded as the most recent policy statement by the Republican Clubs on the situation in the North and in it he comments on sectarianism, the Provisional campaign, the role of the Civil Rights Movement and the future of the R.U.C. About the Provisionals he has this to say: "They (young people)

see the Provisionals with a simple answer and that is to shoot your way out of the present morass. I believe that the leadership of the Provisionals has a lot to answer for, because many of these young people are unfortunately involved in many cases in actions which have led directly to the taking of innocent civilian life". He subsequently blames the Provisionals for the increase in sectarianism in the North.

He points out that as far as reform of the R.U.C. is concerned, it is not enough to simply change the police force without changing many of the laws which that police force implements.

The "Plough" also contains an editorial appealing to the Provisionals to call off their campaign, which is described as "anti-people". The editorial claims that the Provisional campaign now runs not on its own momentum, but on its reputation. "And as that wears thinner, it is only a matter of time before a campaign grinds to a halt. Someone soon is going to lift the bonnet on the Provisional movement and see that the engine is no longer there".

THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC HAS A POLITICAL MOTIVE

The present black magic scare in the North may well be the work of the British Army. As this new terror spreads through an already frightened people it is now regarded as almost certain that Army Headquarters in Lisburn is in some way responsible for it. It appears that their plan is to associate black magic with the Provisional campaign

New pamphlet

The proceeds of a pamphlet "Noel Jenkinson — 30 Years" recently published by the Prisoners Aid Committee will go towards financing Jenkinson's appeal to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

A letter written from Leicester Prison where Mr. Jenkinson, a socialist and native of Co. Meath, is held.

Copies of the pamphlet which costs 10p (plus postage) can be had from PAC, 318 Little Road, London S.W. 6.

and thereby attack the basic Catholic consciousness on which the Provisionals depend for much of their support.

The present scare has long since gone beyond a joke. In Newry, for instance, young children are no longer allowed to travel unaccompanied to and from school. Parents of pupils in some of the primary schools have been in consultation with local teachers to finalise arrangements regarding the movements of children and all parents who are unable to collect their children at school have been asked to make alternative arrangements.

A number of slain animals, including goats and dogs, have been found in the area recently and the local rumour is that the next black magic victim is to be a child.

But this is political black magic. The main believers in the cult are rumoured to be attempting to contact a dead Provisional who blew himself up in an accidental explosion at a

garage in the town last year. The theory is that if there were no dead Provisionals there would be no black magic and since the dead Provisionals cannot be rounded up by the British Army, the live ones will do instead — in the interests of Christianity.

Same story

The same story applies in Belfast. In the Ardoyne area of the city and more recently in Ballymurphy there have been a number of slaughtered animals found, usually in the early morning. The killings have obviously taken place during the night and it is worth remembering that the only people who can be seen in the streets late at night are members of the British Army.

Again the Provisionals are involved. In this case the theory is that black magic is being used in an attempt to contact a high ranking Provisional who was recently shot dead by the

British Army in Ballymurphy.

The Catholic Church has been involved in the scare from an early stage. For some weeks now many parishes have been praying every Sunday for an end to what has been called "this black magic". Young people have been warned from the pulpit not to become involved and parents have been asked to keep their young men and women indoors at night.

The liberal sprinkling of dead animals in selected areas has added weight to these pleas and the Church has reason to be concerned since the black magic cult does not appear to be catching on in Protestant areas.

The political parallels may be more than coincidental. Whether the British Army began the scare or whether they have merely cashed in on the idea is not yet perfectly clear, but it is now beyond doubt that there is a developing struggle between the Republican spirit and British Army spirits.

HEAR NO... SEE NO... SPEAK NO



● Marking time on the way to Westminster Divorce court. Priceless Ann with her mother and the mystery co-respondent.

Nixon—the final tape

President Nixon does not exist, the Whitehouse revealed yesterday. This was later confirmed by the President himself who appeared specially on television to inform the American public that he had never existed. Mr. Nixon revealed that the United States has been governed by a special tape-recorder since the death of Abraham Lincoln.

He announced details of the next tape-recorder election which is due to be held in 1976. Mr. Nixon then said "this is a recording" and disappeared off the screen. At a press conference later the tape recorder (who claimed it was a Democrat) said that there were two tapes still in the White House — red tape and a measuring tape. The recorder said that although it was speaking off the record, it had heard the President tell 498 lies in an hour and then ask "is this a record?"

Meanwhile the President himself announced that he is to appeal to the International Union of Presidents, of which President Childers is President. Speaking about the possibility of an appeal last night, Mr. Childers said, "well, he certainly doesn't appeal to me". He gave this view in an exclusive interview with a passing Irish wolfhound.

Unrest

In the American Senate yesterday there was much unrest among Republicans ("We have men everywhere," said Mr. P. O'Neill, Runai, who has been on the run since he failed to appear before Justice O'Keefe in Dublin last week). A spokesman for the party said that, if impeached, President Nixon, as a Republican, will refuse to



● President Nixon: "This is a recording".

recognise the court until there is a 32 County Republic. Plans were under way last night for the construction of a 32 County Republic in the White House.

The leader of the Republican Party requested last night that the "pub" be removed from "Republican" but the membership was too drunk to reply.

It has just been announced what happened to the missing Watergate tapes. Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien has revealed that R.T.E. mistook them for tapes of Sean O'Riada and destroyed them.

... and now the Divorce of the Year

Priceless Ann is to be divorced. This was the thrilling news revealed yesterday by Buckingham Palace and already preparations are well advanced for what promises to be the Divorce of The Year. The ceremony will be held in the historic Westminster Divorce Court and will be solemnised by the Archbishop of Canterbury who last week called for politics to be divorced from religion.

The Queen, Queen Mother, Queen's Brother, Queen's Uncle, Queen's University and Queen Bridge will all be there, escorted by special selections from the Home Guards, Life Guards, Fire Guards and Civic Guards. The happy couple will be attended by two pages — the first two pages of the bible. A special musical selection for the occasion will be presented by the band of the R.U.C. under the baton of their leader, who has used his baton extensively in the North for the past few years.

The Priceless will be given away by her husband who has been trying to give her away for some time now. Along the route of the Royal procession the First Battalion, the Parachute Regiment will fire a 21 gun salute. They will aim up at any passing Irishmen who happen to be in the area, especially those from Derry. The special coach for the occasion will be horse drawn because of the petrol shortage. It was coach built by C.I.E. in Ringsend last week.

Worse than expected

The reason for the divorce can now be revealed for the first time. Captain Mark Phillips thought that his bride was the Article "An", as referred to by the Christian Brothers Irish Grammar. He was extremely disappointed that she was unable to prefix 't' to certain nouns and when he said "Ann, bhull tu?", she replied "I will not!". He said that this was not ann-mhalt, and insisted "Mark my words".

The Priceless said that he was only worthy of half marks, and that he was probably only marking time until he was rewarded with a peerage. She pointed out that there were far too many bad marks against him. A Mr. Karl Marx said later that he was unable to comment as he has been dead for some years.

Special television coverage of this unique Royal occasion will begin at 5 a.m. and it will show the Priceless getting up, having her breakfast and sitting watching herself on television. The R.T.E. coverage will again be eagerly awaited because it presents the one opportunity each year to watch the station without commercial breaks every two minutes.

In a special last word on the subject yesterday Captain Phillips said that although he took the Priceless for better or for worse, she was much worse than he expected.

BUS STOP ESCAPE DRAMA

The Department of Justice yesterday transferred 200 prisoners from Mountjoy to Portlaoise, 100 from Portlaoise to the Curragh, 70 from the Curragh to Limerick and six from Limerick to Mountjoy. This left 127 prisoners still remaining in a C.I.E. bus travelling around the country with nowhere to go. The men were held overnight in Busaras, but early this morning they were on the road again.

The Department has announced that relatives wishing to visit the men held on the bus should note that next week's visiting hours will be as follows: Monday, Dublin City (Routes 19 and 19A only); Tuesday, Dundalk; Wednesday, early closing; Thursday, Milltown Malbay; Friday, somewhere in West Kerry; Saturday, the weekly traffic jam in Dorset Street, and Sunday, outside last Mass in Donegal Town. Information about the daily whereabouts of the bus will be given daily on RTE's morning airs along with the traffic reports.

If the problem is not solved it is thought that the Department of Justice will be forced to construct a mobile wall around the bus, complete with guard towers and anti-

helicopter wires. In a special press conference yesterday the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cooney, said that the advantage of the bus was that it was escape-proof. He revealed that one prisoner who tried to tunnel out was later discovered covered in tyre marks half way between Killarney and Killybeggin. He tried to escape disguised as a Kerry man but he was captured as he was unable to speak the language.

Mr. Cooney also admitted, however, that the system did have its disadvantages. He explained that when a riot broke out recently in 'D' wing of the bus, troops were rushed to the scene immediately. The bus was then the far side of Ballinastoe and the riot had subsided by the time the Army reached the Shannon. In future, said Mr. Cooney, the prison will be rushed to the army.

He also revealed that while passing through Wexford on Wednesday prisoners in 'A' wing broke out on to the roof. They came down only when the conductor told them that there was no standing on top.

It has just been revealed that one of the prisoners has escaped in a daring manner. He rang the bell and said "next stop, please".

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
Borgs Ltd. (A. Panchley 22 N V Wierden, Holland)	Clara	Sausage meal	1971
Elin Peat Products Ltd. (Kerry Peat Co. Ltd., Waterville, Munster, Irish interests)	Clougha (near Bix)	Horticultural peat pots	1966 1969 1971

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