

The Irish People

AN CHOISMHUINTIR
Vol. 2 No. 20 Price 6p.
FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1974

An Beal Bocht: a poor mouth but a biting one.
SEE Page 7

Politicians who aided the
Northern bombing
campaign now condemn
Dublin, Monaghan murders.

LIFE OR DEATH

The invention of the car bomb which was perfected by the Provisionals in the North killed 30 people in Dublin and Monaghan on Friday last.

The actions were condemned by a wide variety of political leaders, including Mr. Cosgrave, Mr. Lynch and many senior clerics.

There has been considerable speculation as to the criminals involved, including the British Army undercover squad, the notorious S.A.S.

The daily press have dubbed the killings Dublin's Bloody Friday, instinctively comparing the mayhem to the murder of fourteen people in Belfast on a Friday also.

In the deliberately generated hysteria which has led to calls for the use of the mailed fist against those supporting violence, many facts and personalities have gone unnoticed.

The authors of the organisation which first introduced terrorism

on a massive scale in the North have not been asked to what extent they felt guilty. Messrs. Blaney, Boland, Haughey and O Conaill can remain silent.

Then there are the Northern politicians and clerics, of all denominations, who have encouraged or directed bombing activities. They also are permitted the luxury of silence.

Yet there have been outrageous attacks on civilians in Claudy, Coleraine and continuously in Belfast. People will remember the Abercorn Restaurant, McGurk's Bar and Donegall Street. Belfast has more than its share of horror stories.

The relationship between the current general strike in the North and the car bombs cannot also be ignored. At the same time it is now clear that there is massive Loyalist worker opposition to Sunningdale. Surely therefore a rethink on the British plan is desirable.



● Another car bomb shatters a Northern street.



● Skipper Street, Belfast: nine people killed.

Sinn Féin has consistently condemned the civilian bombing campaign in the North.

It has destroyed every progressive political move, it has divided and confused workers, it has released uncontrollable forces of sectarian hatred and above all it has led to the

death and maiming of innocent civilians.

The bombs in Dublin may well be a response to the bombs in Belfast, or indeed they may well be British inspired as they were in December, 1972.

Irrespective of who was responsible there can be no justification for adding

to the death toll of innocent workers and their children.

We are quite sure that the Protestant workers in Belfast are as horrified at to-day's events, as were their southern co-workers on Bloody Friday in July 1972.

Tomas Mac Giolla.

The Irish People

An Choismhuintir, Friday, May 24, 1974

SLAUGHTER

The architects of slaughter by way of the car bomb can now feel that as a weapon it has been developed to its maximum efficiency.

The men, women and children killed on Friday last in Dublin cannot appreciate the qualities of those who perfected the art of death by remote control. Nor can they appreciate their purposes, whether in the North or the South.

That the use of the car bomb was included in the arsenal of those engaged in fighting an "economic" war in the Six Counties cannot be separated from the mayhem of Dublin's Bloody Friday.

Furthermore that those engaged in the Northern attacks claimed to be Republicans must be challenged now in the strongest possible manner.

Republicanism as a political philosophy has been defeated on many occasions; it has never been disgraced. There is a feeling among the Irish people, an uneasiness, that disgrace is imminent as a result of the deaths in Dublin and the North.

This is not to ignore the ultimate responsibility of the British Government for the present condition of our country. At the same time, we are Irishmen and women of our times; what we do, whom we support is ultimately our responsibility.

Solutions are possible. They are to be found in the belief that the working people of Ireland can unite to build a better future for themselves and their children.

It is still not too late to begin on that task of unity. But it requires the singular dedication of the leaders of the people, the trade unionists, those who will fight sectarianism, those who want to see an end to exploitation and those who accept that the common denominator of life in Ireland is that we share this island together.

The bus strike has imposed severe hardship on the population of Dublin. GIE chose to unilaterally change conditions of employment for the busmen; a decision of this nature would mean a danger of strike action being taken in any industry. People responsible for labour relations in GIE have broken the basic rule of good labour relations — no change without prior consultation and possible agreement.

The vote of all busmen, taken union by union showed an overall 2 to 1 majority in favour of a ballot on the five day week.

No member of the Busmen's Union executive has protested against their General Secretary's call for court action against the Congress-affiliated Unions. Most, if not all, of the executive are products of the Jesuits' College of Industrial Relations in Ranelagh. Indeed, some are currently attending courses there. Jesuits are interfering in the trade union movement, the one place in this country where there is some common ground between Protestant and Catholic.

Class-collaboration not militancy is taught at the college — in these circumstances it is not surprising that a member of the Busmen's Union executive was the first man to attempt to cross the picket-line during the strike.

The late Jimmy Dunne, another great supporter of the Jesuits' efforts in trade union matters, had the unique distinction of placing pickets on pickets. He also considered it a good idea for his union to opt out of Congress so that they could poach members from other unions with impunity.

The seamen's part of the "federation" was established on the recommendation of the labour court.

Bus strike Jesuit led?



PADDY DEVLIN

Paddy Devlin, a grave disappointment to Labour voters. See North View, Page 4, a comment on the SDLP.

LETTER

Redundant dockers

Sir,
Your article last week failed to show up the grievances of the ex-dockers who have formed themselves into the Redundant Dockers' Association.

As an honorary member of this Association and as a member of the Branch committee who were not allowed to function at that time, I would like to state the following:

No dockers are getting a pension, all are getting redundancy money on a H.P. system.

We in the Redundant Dockers' Association feel that our union has not acted in the best interests of our members.

It is our opinion that there should be a full scale public enquiry into the whole redundancy scheme and where all the money went. — Danny Gahan. No. 236.

Ed. I.P. — We are anxious to discover the facts behind the redundancy payments and how much was really paid out and how much the Master Stevedores paid in.

COUNTDOWN

Galway

Academic staff in University College Galway, who are members of the W.U.I., are to hold a one-day strike over what they describe as "unacceptably casual treatment of a staff claim" by College authorities.

The claim was for salary parity between lecturers in U.C.D. and U.C.G. and was granted by College authorities in October 1973 but never yet implemented.

While the one-day stoppage is designed to cause the least upset to students facing examinations, more disruptive action is threatened unless claims are speedily met.

Roscommon

Elections at the annual general meeting of Roscommon branch of the Irish Local Government and Public Services Union returned former secretary Seamus McGuire to the post of chairman, while vice-chairman is now Pat Burke.

Outgoing treasurer Maureen Quinn was re-elected for another term, while the post of secretary is now filled by Kathleen Ruane.

Other committee members elected were Billy Halligan, Noel Rowe, Helen Maher, Dorrie Lennon, Colette Coleman, Martin Finnan and Brett McCarthy.

Shannon

Twenty refugees from the fascist regime in Chile have arrived in Shannon where they will live and receive retraining from AnCo. Their resettlement was arranged by the Shannon Chileans Relief Committee.

Belmullet

Galway public representatives on the Western Health Board have complained strongly at the cancellation of a large number of medical cards in County Galway.

While querying the reason for the cancellations many representatives on the Board expressed concern that the move would adversely affect their hopes of being returned in the June local government elections.

Kilkenny

Members of Bishops Meadows Residents' Association have decided to withhold payment of ground rents from the County Council in protest at its failure to improve the entrance to their estate.

The Association was formed in 1972 to campaign for a safer approach road to the 100-house scheme. The present entrance to the estate opens onto a dangerous bend in the main Kilkenny road which carries a heavy volume of traffic.

Donegal

Allegations have been made of discrimination by Donegal County Council against Gaeltacht areas following the failure of the Council to provide Gaeltacht residents with information on the local government elections in Irish.

Colsde Forbatha Cnoc Fola, in a statement, accused the Council of handling responsibility for the Gaeltacht over to Roinn na Gaeltachta and of channeling its resources to non-Gaeltacht areas.

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Fishermen in the West Cork Islands region, who have declared their intention to fish without conventional approved licences and to issue their own fishing licences, have failed to secure the approval of the National Fishermen's Defence Association.

Although it strongly condemned the situation whereby fishermen were forced to resort to such expedients, particularly in view of the fact that they derived their livelihood solely from

fishing, the executive, following a meeting in Dublin, felt that it could not support a decision to fish without approved licences.

Failure to gain the support of the national fishermen's body may have a serious effect on the Cork fishermen's stand.

• • • •

The Association has joined in the demand, first made by the Federation of Fishing Co-Ops and Associations, that the Government allow a substantial subsidy on marine fuel oil.

• • • •

The cost of fuel oil has risen by 75 per cent since January of this year, boosted by the oil crisis, but fish prices have failed to keep pace with this cost of inflation, leaving fishermen in a poorer financial position. To date the Government has refused to accede to the Federation's request.

• • • •

Adverse effects on fish life in the Bandon region have been predicted by the N.F.D.A. executive if Pfizer Corporation proceeds with its plans to extract five million gallons of water per day from the Bandon river. John A. Mulcahy, an American millionaire and strong financial backer of President Nixon, is a major shareholder in the company.

FISH MEN SLAM PFIZER

Market Protest GROWS

Two hundred angry residents of the Markets area, Belfast met on Wednesday last to decide on action following the deaths of four children and a mother in house fires some weeks ago.

They claim in a supplied script that the deaths were not accidental but were due to the unwillingness of the Corporation to make urgent and necessary repairs. At the meeting, tenants agreed to set up a committee to co-ordinate repairs through the employment of men currently out of work.

Tenants agreed to pay 25p weekly to meet the wages of the workforce.

A spokesman from the Markets said that they hoped at some future date to meet representatives from the National Association of Tenants' Organisations to learn from them the best methods of tackling the situation in which "houses are a safety hazard and are unfit for human occupation".

NO RENTS FOR UNFIT HOMES



The Irish People PEOPLE



Matt Larkin

He stands at the telephone in his neat living room cum office trying to get through to Cork. He can't.

"Good old Conor" is Matt Larkin's sole, resigned comment on Ireland's telephone service.

You would need a sense of humour with a job like his.

The man who has spoken at so many meetings and led so many deputations dismisses himself as simply a link-man between N.A.T.O. members in different parts of the country.

He has worked for the best part of ten years to see the day when he can ring Cork, Galway, Drogheda or any other part of the country and know that there is a strong N.A.T.O. organisation at the other end but he rejects out of hand any suggestion that it is Matt Larkin's N.A.T.O., a one-man band.

He dismisses that notion in one short sentence. "It's a vast organisation and one person will never be missed".

The democratic character of N.A.T.O. is the constant theme running through all his conversation.

The National Executive are not calling all the shots. Elected by the members at the annual National Convention, N.A.T.O.'s policy making body, the motto is; "We will never impose a policy on you. The policy we pursue is the policy which you impose on us".

While there is room for people of every shade of political opinion once the tenant cause comes before party allegiance, Matt Larkin is extremely wary of political opportunists using N.A.T.O. for party ends. Partly for this reason N.A.T.O. will not be contesting the local government elections as an

organisation although affiliated branches may do so if their members sanction it.

He reasons that there is no need to do so since N.A.T.O. is now recognised as the negotiating body for tenants at all levels.

There is no need to go cap in hand to the local politician, or even to groom your own, when you can go straight to the powers that be, whether it be minister, principal officer or county manager, which is what N.A.T.O. does.

N.A.T.O.'s concern is to win back control over community affairs from the professional politicians and their system of patronage. Matt Larkin's prime concern is to get across to the members, "for 50 years misled, used and abused to a sickening degree", that what has been achieved by N.A.T.O. has been achieved by them and no one else.

He points out that in the case of last year's rent strike N.A.T.O.'s memorandum on housing policy, to be used as a basis for negotiations, was compiled from contributions from the associations throughout the country.

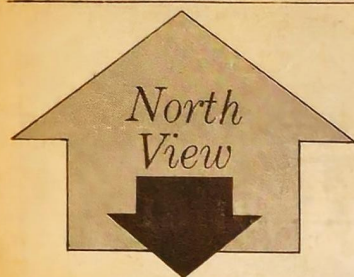
This memorandum was put through every door as part of a referendum in which members were asked, if the Minister for Local Government refused to negotiate on its proposals, to give their support to a rent strike.

He did, they did and it was one out, all out.

It was a long, sometimes bitter fight but N.A.T.O. won.

Matt Larkin now sees it as his job to go back to the members and tell them "This was your victory".

PEIGIN DOYLE



SDLP

play

it too

cool

What an extraordinary situation has developed within the Stormont Assembly — and what odd bedfellows the S.D.L.P.-Faulknerite Unionist power-grabbing members of the Executive have again proved themselves to be.

At Sunningdale the then Chief Minister-designate referred to the leader of the S.D.L.P. as "my friend Gerry" — but Gerry was far from his thoughts and from those of his supporters when the New Unionist Party's policy document — just published — was being drawn up.

For if Faulkner and his New Unionist Party had deliberately set out to disintegrate the power-sharing Coalition, short of pulling out altogether they could not have done a better job. And the real message of the New Unionist Party's policy statement is that the Faulknerites have as their long-term power-sharing objective a partnership with the Paisley-Craig-West Unionist Council to the exclusion of minority representatives. In other words, a return to the old Stormont under the new name of the "Northern Ireland Assembly."

Consider the facts. The Faulknerite Unionist document calls for continuation of internment; a build up in an unreformed R.U.C.'s strength to 7,500, with 10,000 in the Reserve force as the successors to the 'B' Specials; and the ending of political status for prisoners.

Now think back to the pledges given by the S.D.L.P. in advance of Sunningdale.

The Belfast morning newspaper's political correspondent quoted Fitt, John Hume, Paddy Devlin, Austin Currie, Uncle Tom Cobby and all, declaring, hand on hearts, that they would not power-share in the Assembly unless the internees were released, a Council of Ireland "with teeth" was set up forthwith, and the RUC was reformed to make the force acceptable to the minority.

Then, at Sunningdale, when agreement was announced, it was found that the S.D.L.P. had sold the pass for a "phasing out" of internment, with a Council of Ireland and the reformation of the RUC left for future discussion.

Even when the British Government's promise of "substantial releases" before Christmas from the Long Kesh concentration camp was dishonoured, and world-wide propaganda was made of the granting of freedom to a few, Fitt and his colleagues went ahead and took office in the Assembly Executive.

From then on, for the S.D.L.P., it was a case of bamboozle and gobbledegook. Gerry and his mates shared power with Brian and his cohorts, all the while making vague noises about "strong representations" and "vigorous protests" on internment and on the other matters.

At the same time the internees sent home at Christmas were re-arrested and re-incarcerated in Long Kesh after which their numbers were increased from just over 500 at the time of the Sunningdale meeting to more than 800 five months later.

Fitt and Faulkner — the two F's — have a lot in common. They are both power-hungry professional politicians.

On the Fitt side, Austin Currie who earned admiration during the early days of Civil Rights, is long enough in public life also to be considered a "professional".

John Hume came in on the back of the Civil Rights movement but is now regarded as having jettisoned all such foolish fancies.

The real disappointment, especially in the Falls area of Belfast where in the past he had accomplished a lot of good work, was that ex-internee Paddy Devlin, now Minister of Health and Social Services, should hold office despite his oft-repeated assurances that he would not capitulate on the three major demands.

Fitt, Hume, Currie, Devlin and Ivan Cooper have managed to waffle through almost five months of Ministerial office while the internees, in steadily increasing numbers, rot in Long Kesh and Armagh Jail.

— SEAMUS LOGUE

SLAINTE HOW ARE YOU!

WHAT HAVE Thwaites Ltd., Slainte Ltd., Schweppes (Ireland) and John Harvey and Sons (Ireland) all got in common? Answer: they are all dormant companies in the Allied Breweries group of companies.

Allied is yet another British combine which has penetrated the Irish market in a big way and taken over brand names which are well known to Irish people. Slainte, for example, was the brand name for soft drinks but now there is no company called Slainte operating or employing anyone.

Yet Allied has a large workforce in Ireland, through its holdings in Cantrell and Cochrane (Dublin) Ltd., where it has 50.4 per cent of the shares; Irish Ale Breweries Ltd., where it holds 33.3 per cent of the equity; F. Cade and Sons Ltd.; Taylor Keith (Munster) Ltd.; and Ind Coope (Ireland) Ltd.

Multinationals

Among the products Allied markets in Ireland are Double Diamond, Long Life, Skol lager, Cockburns port, Britvic soft drinks, Long John Scotch and Babycham.

Besides its interests in Britain and Ireland, Allied, like all true multinationals, also operates in such places as France, Portugal, Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Kenya and Holland.

Last year the group's fixed assets were valued at £397.1m, together with £2.55m from

associated companies. Its turnover was £525.69m compared with £484.46m in 1972, and as a result pre-tax profits rose from £53.62m to £63m, a rise of £9.4m.

Conservative Party

According to the accounts for 1973, Allied paid out £61.53m in wages to its workforce of 51,781. This represents an average yearly wage of £1,188 per worker.

Yet Allied's directors felt able to give a donation of

£1,339 to the British Conservative Party, £151 more than the average pay and could also see their way to paying the chairman of the group, Sir Gerald Thornley, £38,731, a rise of £2,419 over his salary for 1972 of £36,312.

Salaries

Four other directors received salaries ranging between £15,000 and £17,500 while two others received over £22,000 each. The group also paid out £16,000 in compensation to a former director of the combine.



This picture of the interior of one of the huts in Long Kesh was not taken by the internees but is a hand out from the Press Office, Stormont, Castle. We have been searching for an ex-internee to verify the genuine character of the photograph. As yet we have had no luck. Our only contact from the Camp on seeing the picture collapsed with hysterical laughter.

O'DOHERTY WONT PAY

The large County Clare firm of G. O'Doherty and Sons Ltd, an off-shoot of the Tillings Group, has been struck by an unofficial strike over its refusal to pay out increases under the national wage agreement.

The company, which has branches in Kilrush and Market St., Ennis, employs fifty-five workers, forty of whom are on strike. The

remaining fifteen employees are managerial staff.

The company are extensive timber importers and also operate retail outlets for hardware goods.

Since the strike is unofficial, although caused by the company's refusal to pay out agreed wage increases, striking employees are receiving no income from their union, the I.T.G.W.U.

Another bonanza we gave away

IRELAND is the main producer of barytes in Europe and our principal mine, at Ballymoe, has reserves estimated at about 3.5 million tons of high grade ore.

In recent years, barytes has become an extremely valuable commodity, particularly where oil exploration is concerned. When mixed with industrial blasting powder, it increases the explosive velocity of detonation twenty fold. This is extremely important in the exploration business where huge masses of rock have to be pierced to get through to oil fields.

Because of this, the value of barytes has shot up and is bringing in huge profits for the American companies that control our resources. While ore is exported from Ireland for as low as £7 per ton, the Americans are selling it to the North Sea oil companies, in a highly refined state, for as much as £35 a ton, five times the original price.

According to figures published two years ago by the R.S.G. the operational costs associated with quarrying barytes into a crudely ground form, vary between 95p and

£1.25p per ton. Refining it for drilling purposes adds about 60p per ton to the cost.

The R.S.G. estimated that the selling price of mid grade barytes was then £16 a ton which gives the company an operating profit of £12.30 per ton extracted from Ballymoe.

They estimated that the net profit over the life time of the Ballymoe mine would be in the region of £42.55 million.

Yet since barytes is now being sold at £35 per ton, more than double the R.S.G. figure, it is more likely that the total profitability of Ballymoe is in excess of £80 million.

This profit is not going to the Irish people but to Magnet Cove Barium Corporation of Houston Texas, which has a sub lease from Silvermines to operate the mine until 1998. Magnet Cove Barium operates in Ireland through its wholly owned subsidiary, Magcobar (Ireland) Ltd.

The average weekly wage paid at Ballymoe is just £27.

— JOE MCGARRY

Shankill Loyalists are not amused

Events in the North are no longer humorous, at the same time this cartoon (one of a series of four) underlines working class disenchantment with the British Army.

The other cartoons equally played on the word Para, suggesting that not only were they Parasitae, but that they also were both Paralytic (with fright) and Parasitic (on the community).

It certainly is an unusual quarter from which to find attacks on the British Army.



SHELL OUT!

Last week Shell oil company ordered the biggest off shore oil production platforms in the world at a cost of £65 million. Both are for use in oil exploration in the North Sea.

According to a Shell spokesman the platforms will be capable of handling up to 100,000 barrels of oil a day.

menfolk taken away in the middle of the night to Long Kesh.

On several occasions troops fired on Protestant crowds and much to their amazement Loyalists fell dead shot by British bullets as they protested in favour of the British connection.

Brutality

It was only a matter of time before a subtle change occurred in the Loyalist news-sheets. And sure enough stories began to appear about British Army brutality and harassment of Protestants.

But the change became about as subtle as a petrol bomb through your window when the Paras were moved into the Shankill ghetto.

The cartoons pictured here all appeared on a single page of a recent issue of the 'Loyalist News' and adequately illustrate how Loyalist feeling has changed towards the British troops.

As the cartoons show only too clearly the Loyalists see British soldiers as an Army of Occupation similar to the Germans in France during the last war.

They see them as Nazi-type figures, robbers, cowards and finally as drunken killers.

In other cartoons they have been held up to ridicule as women-beaters and significantly on one occasion at least when one cartoon showed British troops and Republicans fighting in Ballymurphy . . . the British were the baddies.

Virtually the only way of gauging rank and file Loyalist thought at the moment is through reading their semi-underground newspapers.

Most have undergone a radical change from the days when they rivalled the Protestant Telegraph for papist-bashing.

And now the two most prominent Loyalist weekly magazines hit out fiercely at the Unionist-SDLP coalition Government which they see as a perpetuation of the big-house Tory politics which have bedevilled the Six Counties for so long.

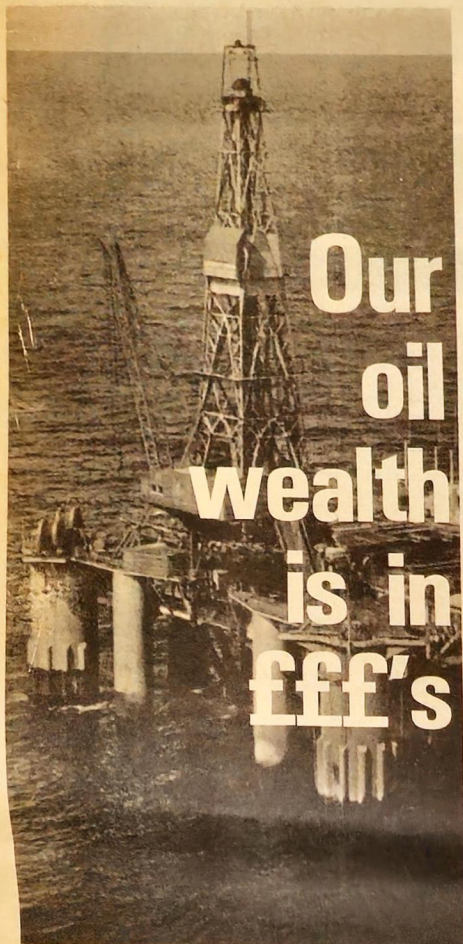
The two most important magazines are 'Combat' run by the Ulster Volunteer Force and 'The Loyalist News' first started by John McKeague and now run by the Red Hand Commandos a group which has apparently come under the wing of the UVF and consequently become much less interested in bigotry and more interested in grass-roots politics.

News sheets

In the beginning all the Loyalist news-sheets were vocal guardians of the British Army protesting bitterly everytime a soldier came under attack.

But as Republicans had warned their time came and Loyalists started to feel the mailed fist of British military might.

Their demonstrations were ruthlessly suppressed, their homes raided and often wrecked and eventually their



Our
oil
wealth
is in
£££'s

Marathon

THE NAME Marathon is commonly associated in Ireland with the huge discoveries of natural gas that the company recently made in the Celtic Sea.

Marathon was granted its Irish lease to explore for offshore oil and gas in May 1970 and by 1972 the company had acquired the rights to prospect and explore for mineral wealth in nearly one third of our entire coast line.

According to the agreement signed between the then Flinnna Fall government and the company, 87% of all the profits of the Marathon operation will go to the company the rest to the Irish exchequer. This compares with agreements made by the Indonesian government with foreign companies, whereby the Indonesians take three fifths of all output.

Not surprisingly, Marathon regards its agreement with Ireland as a very good one and its success in finding gas heralds the beginning of a new era of big profit making for the Ohio based group.

In 1972, Marathon reported a net income of \$80 million (\$33.3m) from sales totalling \$1,284 million (\$527m). In 1972 Marathon paid out in capital spending programmes something like \$159 million (\$68m) a large part of which is in areas like Ireland.

The scope of Marathon's activities has changed quite radically since 1958 when Oasis Oil, in which Marathon has a 33 and one third per cent holding, discovered crude oil in Libya. The company now operates a chemical refinery in West Germany and also has a 27.7 per cent interest in the Petroliber refinery in Spain. In addition, it has a 40 per cent share in Erdol's West German refineries.

Yet Libya remains its main area of profit making, despite the 51 per cent nationalisation of

IN THE final part of his lecture on the oil potential in Ireland's offshore waters, Dr. Sean O'Donnell deals with the economics of the oil industry and the policy alternatives open to Ireland.

"One year ago" Dr. O'Donnell said, "crude oil coming ashore from a tanker at the Dublin docks was £10 a ton, it might have been £9 a ton. Yet even at that stage the British House of Commons thought that the oil companies were profiteering."

"Oil from the Persian Gulf cost 50p a ton at the most and then along came the Arabs and oil is now £30 a ton. That is, oil costs £30 a ton coming off the boat."

Dr. O'Donnell said that if the companies can get oil for as little as £5 a ton and sell it for £30 a ton, it is obvious why everyone is suddenly so interested. No government, he continued, that has any sense at all could let someone else produce it at £5 and sell it at £30.

"I believe there is a campaign to tell Ireland that our oil is too dear to develop and that the oil companies will develop it for us." The oil companies are saying to our Government "Let us do it."

Now Norway is in the same position as Ireland, but is planning, not expecting and not just hoping. Norway is the same size as us but they are planning for 100,000 tons of oil from the North Sea by the end of the decade.

If Ireland were in the North Sea oil game, Dr. O'Donnell said, our total government budget would be £500m for this amount of oil.

"We would get a million tons of oil a week from maybe two or three pipes. Just imagine that spewing out £20 notes, £20 million a week."

On February 15th, the Government published a notice, the significance of which does not seem to be appreciated. This declared that Ireland's interest extended over a considerable area of our Atlantic seaboard and beyond.

In June a second United Nations conference on the Law of the Sea is being held in Caracas and the outcome of this will be that coastal nations such as Ireland will get the biggest areas.

Dr. O'Donnell said Ireland has been unbelievably lax. In 1961 we gave away all our oil rights to one

company, Ambassador. We gave all drilling rights to all lands and all the sea for a return of 10 per cent.

"Now in the North Sea, Britain has something like 1,000 oil blocks and is saying it will release them for sale. The price of these blocks averages about £25,000 each.

"Britain's total income from selling is £120m. and companies paid £22m. just for drilling on the land. Ireland has been handing them away for nothing!

"I have so far counted 103 blocks although I have read of 200 but working that out it would produce a revenue of £25 million. We've handed it away for nothing!"

Dr. O'Donnell then went on to examine the models of other countries in developing their oil. "In Russia, the state puts in all the money and the state takes all. For Ireland, this is out of the question since to develop a field like the Forties Field, which will produce 25 million tons a year, would cost us £500 million.

"This is approximately the size of our total government budget."

The Russia model is too dear but there is the Norwegian model, which is largely ignored in the papers. The first thing they did was to auction blocks just as Britain has done. The second thing they did was to say that the state owns 51 per cent of all the oil found.

"The interesting thing about this is that they are sleeping partners. The oil companies spend all the money and only when they find oil does the state pick up its interest and spend money.

"The next thing they did was to declare that all the companies must be fully owned by Norway and subject to Norwegian taxes. Their latest ruling is that there is a policy of full state ownership.

In Indonesia, on the other hand, the State says to the oil companies, "You drill away there but when you find oil, we are taking three fifths for ourselves."

Dr. O'Donnell said that when anyone says that we cannot develop our own oil reserves, he always quotes to them the Indonesian model. "All you say," he said "is 'Right, give us three fifths.'"

According to Dr. O'Donnell there are now about 14 small national oil companies who are gradually pushing the big ones out.

Britain is likely to tax the oil companies on the number of barrels of oil they extract. This is suitable because the oil companies will not be able to fiddle the books as they do all over the world and also because the tax can be adjusted.

"Coming back to Ireland, we have a quarter of Europe's off shore area.

A conservative estimate of Europe's off shore oil is 8 billion tons, thus Ireland has a potential 2 billion tons, perhaps a lot more.

"To make our sums simple we will say that our side of the Celtic Sea has three billion tons. If we say that the total, North and South, is four billion tons, all this can be sold at £30 a ton.

"If we put the total wealth of this at £2 billion, then total value to Ireland in net revenue is about £10,000 million.

"If the value is £60 billion, then we will get a revenue five times the value of the entire country.

"If Ireland had an oil producing operation we could produce £100 million a year, just as Norway and Indonesia are doing.

A city lost its heart



Smithfield Markets, Belfast. It wasn't like its famous namesake in London, a meat market. It was in fact an Alladin's cave.

We wandered through it for hours as children, along the cobbled interior streets, pushing among jumbled rusty furniture. Entertained by the record shops. "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries", "The Protestant Boys" or "The Bold Fenian Men".

Smithfield was a Catholic sort of place. It catered for everyone. Book stalls, watch makers, tool shops, radio parts, clothes, key makers, in beautiful confusion.

One could certainly buy a needle and I am sure some place there, there was a rusty anchor.

It was burned down some weeks ago. No one lost their life. But Belfast lost its heart.

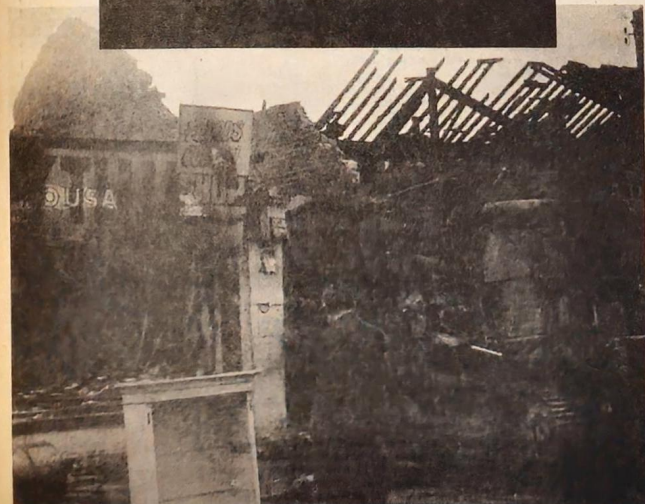
That may seem like a wild sentimental exaggeration, but generations of Belfast citizens had bought and sold in Smithfield. The secondhand book stalls were a record of the school children of the city.

At times the more puritan urged the city fathers to clean up the lurid display of soft back novels. There never was much sympathy for those proposals, as far as I know.

Belfast is a poorer, a sadder place not only for those who strolled aimlessly among the dingy shops of Smithfield Market but because our children can never wander there creating the same fantasies as sustained us in our childhood.

Smithfield was part, a brighter part of working class Belfast, now that it is gone, there is more than just a gap in our streets.

— DES O'HAGAN



AN BEAL BOCHT



LET TRAITORS BEWARE!

The name of Sifra Mac Sifirigh is synonymous with fearless, hardhitting journalism. It is a name feared by the enemies of Ireland, foreign and domestic. It is feared by the foreign domestics in my own house.

For many years in the Sunday Press, I scoured the Masters of the Kremlin. When the rate changed for the job, my pen was put at the disposal of the Senator in the Sunday World.

In the first 40 issues I managed 34 favourable mentions of Charles J. Haughey. A Connolly Socialist myself, I recognised another.

The heroic people of Innishvickillane have thanked me for encouraging this delivery from their misery in the form of the modern Bonnie Prince Charlie, who came across the sea as to the Gael of old.

I have been the Profile in This Week. The drip of my pen has transformed Justin Keating, Michael O'Leary and James Tully into Connolly Socialists.

As Tom Luby in Hibernia I have found a ready market for torture titbits.

I was a Provo before Tim Pat Coogan thought of it. I was an Official on Salutory Saturday, the morning after Bloody Friday. I have been a Coalition man by brain and a Fianna Fail by blood. There is always room in Ireland for the fearless hardhitting journalist who will shout Up The Republic and listen carefully for the echoes.

My only competitors are Gery Gawless and Eamon McCann. Coogan has faded away. These men are amateurs. They have taken to fine writing. This week I make an appeal. That all good Irishmen who are not on the inside, sink their differences. Let us form a great Provisional Confederation of Irish Nationality.

Let Desmond Fennell, Canon Padraig Murphy, David Vipond, Dominic Behan, Criostoir O'Floinn, Frank McManus and Donal O'Lubhlai come together and see who can be done.

Cynics will sneer. Small men have complained that the Irish Civil Rights Association by misspelling Donal O'Lubhlai's name showed that they were not really interested in the National Language. As acting president of the P.C.I.N. I reject this charge.

Donal O'Lubhlai, like myself is a Connolly Socialist.

And let me warn the Masters of the Kremlin. I am no Solzhenitsyn. They need not open their Embassy here and come to me for help with empty hands. I shall require at least a Colonel's rank.

Not that I expect anything from them. And if they don't do better than sending me pictures of machine tractor stations I shall ruthlessly expose their treatment of Irish journalists who on a free trip there out of the charity of their hearts pressed a few pairs of tights on the down-trodden doctors they met, only to be incarcerated and questioned by the ruthless K.G.B. which is an offshoot of the DREADED British Black Propaganda Machine. I have only one thing to add about this disgraceful episode.

Brezhnev is not a Connolly Socialist.

FLYING COLUMN



Hot Air

The decision to call off the Fine Gael Ard Fheis came as a disappointment to all who were expecting a serious clash among the lions over the Wealth Tax. Their expectations would have been misplaced anyway. The money behind Fine Gael, the people who would have been hit by such a tax always maintain a very shadowy presence at the Ard Fheis.

Chief among them is Senator Paddy McGrath, industrial tycoon, frontman for Marathon oil and ticket tout extraordinary. Among the unsavoury sidelines of Senator McGrath is the exploitation of elderly widows. Passing by Ballsbridge at half past five any day you can see the pathetic stream of respectability emerging from the headquarters of the greatest racket in the western world, the Irish Hospitals Sweepstake.

This swindle gives a paltry return to hospitals out of the vast sums collected, (mostly against the law) in the USA and Canada. For years McGrath, despite Labour Court rulings has defied all attempts by the Workers Union of Ireland to organise the elderly widows who do the dreary paper-work for his gambling empire.

Recently Business & Finance carried a gobbledegook item, which translated meant that McGrath's firm, Ergas, having failed to beat off competition from Calor-Kosangas had sold out to a British subsidiary Irish Industrial Gases.

Like all Irish gombeens who sell out McGrath will try to pretend that he is still running an Irish firm. The British don't mind as long as the profits roll in. Recently British Homes Stores opened up in O'Connell St. The name over the door blandly read Irish Home Stores.

Anyone who can send similar examples to me will be rewarded with a free admission ticket to the inaugural meeting of the only association Nuala Fennell forgot to found, The Irish Society for Battered Sweepstakes Widows.

Manure

Hardly a day passes without John Hume an-

nouncing a new foreign subsidiary to open in Northern Ireland. But in case anyone thinks that the native Ulster gombeens are being forgotten I bring reassuring news.

Recently there was great hush hush in the Ministry of Commerce about a grant to a fertiliser firm called Ocean Harvest. Mr. Hume seemed particularly anxious that this firm should be assisted immediately and the matter treated with great delicacy.

One of the reasons for the delicacy and the immediacy was that Mr. Hume in another capacity is a director of Ocean Harvest, to which in his capacity as Minister he happily awarded a substantial grant.

Rye Bread and Rosé

The Women's Liberation movement began in the late '60s in the USA. In Ireland it reached its peak in 1971. There were three main highlights; a packed meeting in the Mansion House, the publication of the pamphlet Chains Or Change and the famous contraceptive train to Belfast in the summer of '71. Even at its best, as in the pamphlet Chains Or Change, it was always more of a loose, amorphous set of attitudes than an organisation with a theory and a plan of action.

By the end of '71 two cherished beliefs of the New Left had been tested and found wanting. The idea that there was some essential solidarity between the matrons of California and the office girls of Dublin proved an unmitigated disaster.

This nonsense persisted, even though back in America one of its results, the trendy Freedom-Riding of the sexually permissive and guilty offspring of the Sunset Strip, had been recognised to have caused nothing but enormous resentment among their black 'sisters'. Similarly ordinary Irish women were suspicious of Women's Lib.

The second belief, encouraged by the sexually frustrated minority which infiltrated every Women's Workshop, was that the sex struggle between a man and a woman transcended the class struggle.

This was another New Left version of the Paris '68

theory that the Generation Gap had replaced the class struggle. In Ireland no such illusions were entertained by the middle class women. From the beginning, Nuala Fennell, Lunia Ryan and their supporters fought the class struggle grimly and with enormous success.

The response of their opponents on the Left was totally inadequate. Professing themselves to be socialists, but lacking any real knowledge of the basics of scientific socialism, they were prey to a pot-pourri of Utopian, anarchist and Freudian clichés. Few had read the Irish socialist William Thompson, still less such essential works as Engels The Family, Private Property And The State.

Even in working class parties groups of women could be found holding 'consciousness raising sessions.' It is fair to say that the subject matter of these sessions tended to be sexuality. The dominance of guilty middle class drop-outs meant that no harsh note of industrial reality was provided.

Worst of all, such serious working women as came into the net were persuaded that their immediate problem was their husbands. There was much talk of the Irish Male who came home drunk, sexually brutish and uncaring. There was little talk about his working day, the frustrations of a life twisted by poor education and premature labour. Few asked why the Irish man behaved like this and what was responsible in the last resort for his behaviour. The message seemed to be that men should behave at home like angels although during their working day they were treated like profit-making machines.

Disgruntled the Left split again and again. Some of the doffy fringes took to macrobiotic foods. The best elements sank into apathy. A little over a year after its inception, the Founder Members left the field. Nuala Fennell found her niche fighting for the property rights of the Irish wife. The idealistic Women's Workshops were taken over by Lunia Ryan to teach jewellery making, taking their guiding principles from the lunatic Lillith.

But the solution was there all the time. James Connolly had described woman as 'the slave of the slave'. He had

emphasised the slavery of both. Not the sex war but the class war was the starting point. Women are oppressed because men are oppressed.

Meanwhile the capitalist system was imposing its own kind of unity. While the Left pondered the mysteries of the female orgasm, the work-study engineers were holding stop watches to the great female organism, the assembly line. American firms like E.I. at Shannon were turning farmers' daughters into an industrial proletariat. While the trendies in Dublin pondered, the women workers in E.I. struck their own blow for Women's Liberation.

Through their successful fight for the right to unionise can be seen the next great strategic issue for women. The struggle for Equal Pay is proving to be as great as the nineteenth century struggle for the Ten Hour Day. Contraception the establishment will grant, but an attack on their profits by women is a different matter. In recent months the battle lines have been drawn and the Left has a second chance. Next week I hope to show one way of grasping this chance.

Things of Beauty

Last week, Tony O'Reilly, Dr. Karl Mullen and other benefactors commissioned a lavish full-page advertisement in the Irish Times headed Keep Ireland Beautiful. Cynics may sneer, but Dr. Karl Mullen's passion for things of beauty is perfectly sincere. Disdaining to invest with the O'Connell Bridge Building Society, he applies the Keep Ireland Beautiful motto to the interior of his home or rather homes.

They are crammed with antiques, bric-a-brac and other objects which are a joy for ever. Many leading consultants of the Irish Medical Association share his passion for such trifles.

Their enthusiasm however is not shared by the Revenue Commissioners, who, tipped off by envious neighbours, have taken to visiting the stately homes of Ballsbridge, armed with warrants to make ruthless inventories of the current market value of these objects. This is followed by a nasty tax demand. Just more bureaucratic interference in people's private affairs.

ANN DEVLIN