

the irish people

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An Choismhuintir

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1974

BIG PUSH NOW?

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A major move against Republican organisations in the South is predicted following the death of U.D.R. man Cormac McCabe. His abduction from a hotel near Monaghan prior to the discovery of his body a few hundred yards on the northern side of the Tyrone-Monaghan border is being taken as a direct challenge to the Government.

The killing of the U.D.R. man followed a week in which Minister for Justice Cooney made two separate and distinct threats against those engaged in violence on the border. In one statement he announced the recruitment of 500 extra Gardaí to help close security loopholes along the border, while in a later one he threatened to close down premises frequented by members of illegal organisations.

Failure by the Minister to appear on the R.T.E. current affairs programme "Tangents" while giving interviews to B.B.C. and I.T.N. was mistakenly interpreted as meaning that the bringing into force of Section 25 of the Offences Against the State Act was aimed at foreign consumption only to bolster up the Sunningdale pact.

Political commentators close to Government circles are agreed that some action is imminent but disagree as to what will actually happen. The previous Minister for Justice, Des O'Malley, at one stage closed the offices of the Provisionals in Kevin Street and Blessington Street in Dublin, and the possibility of a repeat performance by a Government, two of whose Cabinet members once picketed the Provisional offices during their term in opposition, cannot be ruled out.

The continued failure of the Government to make any move to assuage widespread unease at the fate of the forced Price sisters in Brixton prison is interpreted as another sign of a new "get tough" policy by the Government.

Balancing that policy to some extent is the strong minority view in the Dublin Cabinet that the Government has done everything reasonable to show its support for Mr. Faulkner and Sunningdale and that to go any faster at the moment would be inviting political trouble.

The next week will see which attitude prevails or what compromise attitude the Cabinet has worked out.

Tara strike?

The Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union battle for recognition from Tara Exploration Ltd. will come to a head this week-end.

Unless an eleventh hour concession is made by the mining company, pickets will stifle supplies to and from the mines.

Trouble has been brewing on the ground above the largest lead zinc deposit in the world since a highly controversial agreement was made between Tara and the Federation of Rural Workers last summer.

The contract type of agreement made it obligatory on all employees to become members of the Federation of Rural Workers as a condition of employment.

The F.R.W. in return accepted conditions which amounted to the

complete abrogation of collective bargaining and other trade union principles.

Many of the F.R.W. members refused to sign the contract-type agreement and joined the A.T. & G.W.U. Two of them were dismissed without reason last week and a settlement condition of the Union is that as well as conceding recognition the company also reinstate the dismissed workers.

The company has consistently refused to hold discussions with the Union and last week brushed off an approach from Navan Trades Council who offered to mediate in the dispute.

The F.R.W. is almost certain to instruct its members to pass pickets. The F.R.W. Acting General Secretary, Mr. Frank Carolan, has turned down

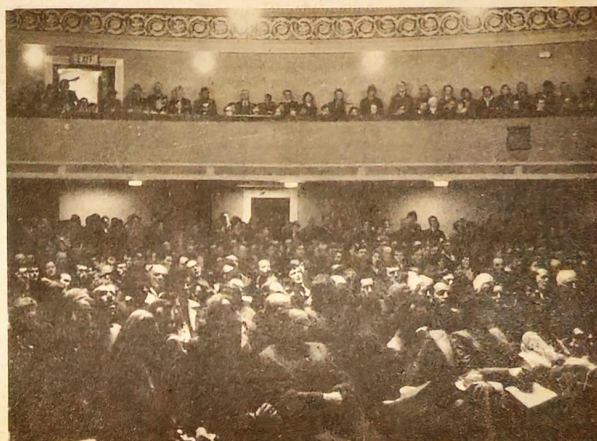
an offer from the company to become its Personnel and Industrial Manager.

His acceptance of the appointment would, it is felt, have greatly embarrassed his father-in-law, the former General Secretary of the F.R.W., Mr. James Tully, Minister.

Mr. Tully's son, Sean, is secretary of Tara Exploration and the acceptance by his son-in-law of a management position at the mines could lead to suggestions that the Minister would not be unbiased in Cabinet discussions on the granting of a lease to Tara.



● The bin lid is one of the most celebrated instruments to have emerged from the recent turmoil in the North. A comic song composed by Joe Mulhern describes how his granny's bin lid, used for warning about the presence of soldiers in the neighbourhood, was kidnapped and replaced with a plastic one. Released only last week, the "Lid of Me Granny's Bin" single has already sold 4,000 copies!



● A section of the crowd at the packed Mansion House protest rally organised by the Association of Combined Residents' Association in Dublin.

Show of strength by ACRA

The biggest boost which our campaign has achieved to date" was how one ACRA spokesman described the overflow rally held in Dublin's Mansion House. More than a thousand home loan householders, turned out in support of the ACRA demands for a solution to the spiralling home-loan interest rates.

The massive turnout and impressive conduct of the meeting is being taken as a severe rebuff to the Building Societies whose public relations men have been claiming that the strike commanded little support. It also proves to the Government that ACRA speaks with authority for the thousands of householders affected by the penal increases in the mortgage rate.

Sating that housing "must be decoupled from the world speculative market" ACRA's P.R.O., Andy Conlon, went on to say that it was not the aim or desire of ACRA to wreck the economy but warned that if the Government continued to turn a deaf ear to their representations then any disruption arising from the strike would be the fault of the Government.

A copy of ACRA's seven point short-term plan for the solution to the home loan crisis was presented to each person attending the meeting. The main point demanded is that all Building Societies amalgamate into one society to rationalise offices and other expenses.

"Failing this, the Government, acting in the public

interest, should take over the societies and use funds invested in the Post Office Savings Bank or the vast profits of the banks to provide low cost loans to house seekers," states the policy document.

Chairman of the Mortgage Strike Committee, Brian Sheridan, outlined the future organisation of the strike and pointed out that an additional increase of up to 12 per cent on loans would have taken place were it not for the campaign to date. People on strike were urged to invest their money at 9½ per cent interest with the Dublin Savings Bank the constitution of which provides that it can only lend money to the community or the Government. Other steps to be taken is the picketing of Building Society branches, protest marches, distribution of literature and the lobbying of elected representatives. Action committees have already been set up in many areas and are in the process of being set up in other areas. £1 per household was being collected and put into a fighting fund to be used to protect those on strike, he said.

The meeting concluded with a question and answer session. ACRA officials declined to give figures of numbers of people on strike. Many of the questions concerned fears of people already threatened by Building Societies. One householder stated that a letter from the Provident Society threatened to charge 42½ per cent interest on arrears.



● T.P. Byrne, new personnel manager at Tara.

the irish people

An Choismhuintir, Friday, Jan. 25, 1974.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Government for deciding not to allow the building of non-municipal offices on the site between Christ Church Cathedral and the Liffey.

The decision will not only rescue a delightful and historic amenity for the citizens of Dublin but it will give a new hope to people long used to witnessing the triumph of the office block mentality in our capital city.

Commissioner Barry Early has described the decision as a "scandal". In our opinion it was a scandal that offices be proposed for the area in the first place. Corporation office workers are right to be concerned at the prospect of another two years in the wilderness of uncomfortable offices they presently inhabit; they are entitled to decent office accommodation and are right to pursue their demand for it. Dublin Corporation is one of the major land dealers in the Dublin area. There are many more sites on the files suitable for the civic buildings.

James Tully, Minister for Local Government, will have the difficult task of explaining this Government decision to the Corporation officials and the various vested interests involved.

We differ from Mr. Tully on some issues. On this issue we fully support his Government. In fact, we go so far as to suggest that the leisure area to be created as a result of the Government decision be called after the Minister in recognition of a far-seeing and courageous stand.

BEST OF LUCK!

The appearance of a team of Continental athletes in last Sunday's Ras na h-Eireann at Dunleer marked a significant advance for the N.A.C.A. Now we can reveal that a N.A.C.A. athletes will this season take part in events on the Continent at the invitation of workers' organisations there.

The N.A.C.A. breakthrough will be welcomed by the vast majority of Irish sportsmen. The Association's stand on non-recognition of Partition has been a vexed question in Irish athletics for some decades and not a few of their top athletes have had the frustrating experience of being banned from international competition because they refused to accept Partition.

Only four years ago the rival 26 county body, B.L.E., balked an N.A.C.A. attempt to get to Europe by notifying the Europeans that the N.A.C.A. was an 'outlawed' body. Perseverance and consistency was rewarded at Dunleer last Sunday with the appearance of Europeans and in the months ahead the N.A.C.A. can realise its highest ambitions in having teams in competition in Europe.

Thanks to those who persevered — thanks also to the workers' associations in Europe — and the best of luck to the N.A.C.A. athletes in the new dimension which is opening up to them.

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The mildew in Fenian street

By Peigín Doyle

Fenian St., Dublin is no stranger to housing demonstrations. For much of last year the street was the scene of agitation, traffic was blocked and a number of young families, evicted from No. 15, lived under canvas by the roadside for lack of a home. No. 15 Fenian St., the house from which they were ejected, is now little more than a mound of rubble but dissatisfaction over housing still remains a talking point in the neighbourhood.

On this occasion the source of complaint is a block of flats, St. Andrew's Court, built for Dublin Corporation by Hugh O'Neill Ltd., The block contains a number of small maisonettes for elderly people and the remainder is made up of two-storey family flats. It is to these elderly tenants that Mr. Hugh O'Neill, in a well publicised gesture, presented food hampers recently.

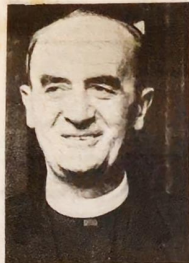
Bishop opens society

Dr. P. Lennon, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, paid tribute to the role of the Building Societies in helping to make homes available for young people "who might otherwise find it impossible to own a home of their own", when he opened a branch of The Provident Building Society in Carlow. The Bishop stressed the social aspect of the Building Societies which, he said, not only helped the community in general, but had contributed over the years to stabilising the building and construction industries.

The new Provident office represented a new inflow of business to the Carlow area, Dr. Lennon said.

The Provident's chairman, Mr. Dan Stephenson, was not present at the ceremony.

Mr. Edmond Byrne thanked Dr. Lennon "for having found time" to perform the opening ceremony and, on behalf of the Provident, presented the Bishop with a cheque which will go towards the Diocesan Charity Fund.



● Dr. Lennon, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

Tenants in the two storey flats expressed regret that Mr. O'Neill did not extend his bounty to their portion of the complex, not so much in anticipation of receiving a free tin of baked beans but rather in the hope that since pleas to his employees to do repairs have failed the personal touch of Mr. O'Neill might produce more tangible results.

Under an agreement with Dublin Corporation the builders remain responsible for repairs and maintenance for a specified period before the Corporation assumes liability. Approaches from both tenants and the local Citizens Advice Bureau of Sinn Féin have met with promises of repairs to be completed before Christmas, but tenants are still waiting.

Agreement

A snippet of conversation between a mother and child, overheard in one flat last week, went like this: "Mammy, there's all green stuff behind your bed." "Yes, we're growing mushrooms" was the cynical reply.

The 'green stuff' in question is a mould or mildew which has attacked many of the flats in the St. Andrew's Court complex and which is the main cause for complaint among tenants.



● Below the window ledge shown here is the black area of mildew which has appeared in many of the flats.

Other defects named include general dampness, cracked ceilings, badly hung doors and faulty plumbing. Pools of water forms on floors and window sills and mildew has appeared on floor carpets. The living room of the Moore family in 13 St. Andrew's Court is constantly smoke filled due to a faulty fireplace, and again promised repairs have not materialised.

Gift

Mr. O'Neill's gift of food to elderly tenants has not eradicated the strong dissatisfaction over conditions in the flats. If nothing is done to remove this dissatisfaction other than distributing free food, Fenian St. may yet again become the scene of protests and demonstrations.

Trade unions back Price sisters call

There are indications the support is growing within the Trade Union movement for the transfer of Marion and Dolours Price and their colleagues to a Northern Ireland jail. The prisoners, who are being forced fed, are on hunger strike in a campaign to be allowed to serve the remainder of their sentence in Ireland.

Last week the woodworkers section of the Union of Construction and Allied Trades and Technicians requested the Executive Council of the union to intervene on humanitarian grounds on behalf of the Price sisters and their fellow prisoners in order that they might be transferred to Northern Ireland.

The monthly meeting of Navan Trades Council was the scene of a similar motion in support of the campaign for the transfer of the prisoners. Mr. Alan Brady of the Electrical Trades Union proposed a resolution calling on a "powers that be" in Westminster to permit the prisoners who so wished to serve their sentences in Ireland. The motion was seconded by Mr. P. Brennan of the Irish National Union of Woodworkers who emphasised the humanitarian motives behind the resolution. The Council passed the resolution without voicing any objections.

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COUNTDOWN

Donegal

Donegal and the west of Ireland has been named as the poorest region in the E.E.C. while Ireland in general has been described as a poor country. Of the ten poorest regions in the community eight are in Ireland and include the North-West, North-East, and Mid-West, among others.

Waterford

A recruiting drive cum regional meeting of the Irish Union of School Students will be held in Waterford in early April and all schools in the South-East will be invited to send representatives.

Drogheda

A threat by Boyne Fishery Board chairman, Mr. Gerry Marry, that salmon licences would not be renewed to men convicted of fishing offences during the past year has been countered by legal action to test the constitutional correctness of the decision. The move comes from Mr. John King, secretary of the Mornington Shell and Salmon Fishermen's Association and vice-treasurer of the National Fishermen's Defence Association, who is one of six men recently convicted of salmon fishing during the closed season last August. The men were fishing in protest at the curtailment of the fishing season under a bye-law and refused to pay fines imposed by Drogheda Court.

Stranorlar

For the second year in succession Stranorlar and Ballyboghla Credit Union has doubled its share holding, the recent annual general meeting was told. Shares figures now stand at £19,400 and a total of £21,367 was paid out on loan, a substantial rise on the £19,492 of last year.

Shannon

A joint meeting of shop stewards in the Limerick/Shannon region has advised their fellow trade unionists to vote against the National Wage Agreement.

Ballymun

Concern at unsanctioned price increases being charged by some local retailers has caused the formation of a Consumer Protection Group in Ballymun. The group will investigate complaints about over-charging and will conduct spot price checks in local shops.

The first public meeting of the group to discuss the issue will be held in St. Pappin's School, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 30. Justin Keating, Minister for Industry and Commerce and TD for Dublin North County constituency, has been invited to attend.

Pay pact rally

Several thousand Dublin workers are expected to demonstrate their opposition to National Wage Agreements on Saturday.

A protest rally, being organised by the Dublin Shop Stewards' Committee against National Agreements, will take the form of a march from the Garden of Remembrance to be followed by a public meeting at the G.P.O. Speakers at the meeting will include Messrs. Ted McKenna, Brittain Motors, John Finlay, Rowntree, Mackintosh and Miss Marilyn Kearney. Chivers. The march is scheduled to commence at 2.30 p.m.

The Committee has no plans to demonstrate at the Conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions which will make a final decision on the new National wage proposals at a conference in Dublin next week.

Although the Stewards' Committee has dropped the idea of organising a one-day protest strike, a spokesman says that they are still determined to fight a new pay deal irrespective of the result of the I.C.T.U. vote.

Feedback received in the various Union headquarters up to last weekend indicate that it is by no means certain that the overwhelming majority expected to favour a new agreement will materialise.

Hurried meetings have been arranged between I.C.T.U. and Government leaders to arrange a tax reform package for to give the appearance that time is likely to come.

Even a 60-40 majority would not be sufficient bearing in mind the number of Unions not affiliated to I.C.T.U. who have said they will not be bound by any I.C.T.U. decisions.

Among these are the National Busmen's Union, the Marine Port and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Seamen each of which controls the work forces in vital areas of the economy.



● Ken Quinn of the Shop Stewards' Committee.



Workers from the Turf Lodge area who left their work to protest against British Army occupation and searching the flats they are repaling. They maintain they could not work under such conditions. It was the fourth time in a week that an occupation and search operation was undertaken at the flats (seen in background). — Irish People pic.

MUIRIS MOVING ON?

By a special correspondent

Rumours have been circulating in political quarters for some weeks about the future of the Head of the Government Information Services, Muiris Mac Conghail.

Muiris has been in disfavour since the Sunningdale talks last month. He blotted his copybook on the first day of the talks, by prematurely releasing the news that a Council of Ireland had been agreed.

Brian Faulkner was furious, since he saw the Council as part of a package, including anti-I.R.A. measures which the conference had not discussed. He accused the Irish delegation of trying to railroad him.



● Muiris Mac Conghail.

Embarrassed

The row was patched up, but Liam Cosgrave was seriously embarrassed. It's believed he wanted to sack Mac Conghail on the spot. Muiris's patron Conor Cruise O'Brien persuaded Cosgrave to let him stay for the moment... but it's understood a decision has now been taken to replace him.

The rumour is that Muiris will now become chairman of Tom O'Donnell's new Gaeltacht Executive, which is to be announced next month. The executive will be taking over direction of Gaeltarra Eireann, and it'll also have a broader responsibility for community development. It may be given partial authority over Radio na Gaeltachta.

This will be something of a comedown for Muiris, who as head of G.I.S. has the right to sit in cabinet meetings. Hobnobbing with the likes of Tom Clarke will be a bit dull after that. Still, it may not be

for too long, and Muiris has always known how to take the long view. There are some interesting possibilities in the air over the next 12 months or so.

One of these is the forthcoming vacancy for a Head of R.T.E. News, now that the Hibernian wing of the R.T.E. Authority has finally given

Jim McGuinness the silver bullet. McGuinness, a Derryman who was briefly involved with the I.R.A. in the early 1940s, has been a dead man politically since the day Conor Cruise O'Brien became Minister for Posts and Telegraphs. There has been a deep-seated antipathy between the two men ever since the time when they worked together on the ill-fated Irish News Agency. After some months of resistance, McGuinness has bowed to the inevitable and has negotiated his severance pay — although he remains in charge until a successor is chosen.

Which brings us back to Muiris Mac Conghail. Sending the Head of the Government Information Service over to run R.T.E. News might seem a bit blatant, maybe... but a few months of good works in the Gaeltacht could make all the difference. Memories are short. We think Muiris is still a man to watch.

There's one sure thing anyway — whoever else may be the new head of the G.I.S., it won't be Jim McGuinness.

Labour branch threat

Unless the Labour Party policy on mining is implemented, the Galway City (West Ward) branch of the party will withdraw support from the present Government and at the next general election will actively oppose a coalition between Labour and Fine Gael.

The Branch, in a statement last week, said that the greatest benefit to the Irish people from our natural resources could only be achieved by nationalisation and the optimal utilisation of

these resources by the development of state-owned smelting and metallurgical industries.

This is the official Labour Party policy as adopted by Annual conference in 1972.

The Galway branch has considered giving full support to the Resources Protection Campaign and will convey the branch's views "in the strongest possible terms" to the Taoiseach, Government Ministers and Labour T.D.'s and Senators.

VIEWPOINT/ copmac dudde

Why does England continue to endeavour to maintain a hold over Ireland? After 800 years of wars and strife between the two nations, one would imagine that England had had enough of the unruly Irish who refused to be conquered and would get out. Yet, not only does she continue to maintain a bridgehead in the Six Counties, but also she continues to wield economic influence over the 26 Counties which remain dependent on British goodwill in the trade and financial worlds.

Why? Hardly because England loves us still. Hardly for OUR benefit, rather than hers. Hardly in the interests of peace and harmony between the two nations, because peace and harmony were never ever in sight while England laid claim to Ireland or part of it. Why, then?

An English journalist, John Whale, writing in The Sunday Times on January 13, came nearest to an answer to those questions when he stated: "If you re-read Anglo-Irish history by the light of recent events, one fact leaps to eye. For eight centuries, England's view of Ireland was a coldly strategic one. The English were in Ireland to keep it from falling to the enemies of the English state, enemies sometimes inside England, but mostly outside. It was not until the middle 1960s that the nature of war had changed enough to make that preoccupation look as old-fashioned as it was unprincipled."

Gradual advance

He went on: "The gradual advance towards Western European unity meant that France and Germany (let alone Spain) — Ireland's historic allies on the Continent — became each year less believable as countries that might attack Britain again. The further development of the ballistic missile meant that even if they did — even if Russia or China did — they would scarcely need to go round by way of Ireland."

Agreed. So, if the strategic reason for England's need to hold on to Ireland has now passed, why, then, does she continue to meddle in and influence Irish affairs? The answer to this was not even touched upon by John Whale but it is self-evident. England still looks upon Ireland as a source of cheap labour and cheap food, and also as a ready-made market for her mass-produced goods.

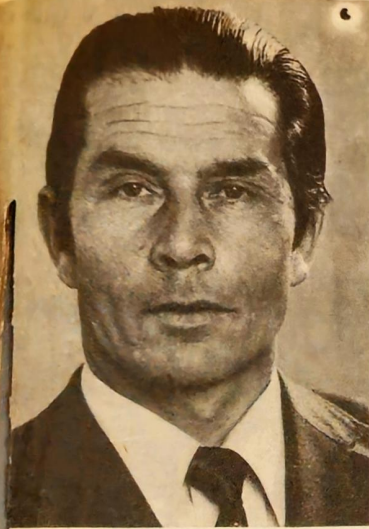
Like France and West Germany, England rents lower-class workers from abroad (the French from Algeria, the Germans from Italy, Greece and Turkey, England from Ireland), as all three countries cannot produce their own lower working classes. And, mark you, they rent the workers, rather than buy them — if the worker breaks down they can always send him back.

Thus it is still imperative for England to control this labour-source and its concomitant consumer-market. Hence the trade pacts, the links with sterling, the tentacles of English finance that grip so greedily through banks, chain-stores, office-block builders and finance companies. Old Mother England rules us still — by cheque-book rather than by sword. But the control is just as stringent and complete — and entirely in England's interest.

It is by no means the end of a long story in Ireland.

The Dailmations





Tom O'Donnell, Aire na Gaeltachta.

Tá beagnach bliain de pholasaí Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta an Chomhairleais feicthe againn. Ma tá a leitheoid ann. Níl ach dha rud suntais faoi go dtí seo: cuireadh deiradh le Gaeilge 'eigantach' agus chaith Tom O'Donnell an bhliain ina gheall ar rásaíocht ar fud Gaeltachtaí agus Gaeltachtaí in Éirinn agus in Albain.

Macanta

Is duine macanta é Tom O'Donnell sa mhéid gur feidir le duine a bheith macanta i rialtas den chineál seo. Tá sé díoraiséach agus fonn millteach chun obire air. Déanfaid sé a dhícheall — sa mhéid go gceadaítear dó é. Is Alreacht gan labhairt. Alreacht na Gaeltachta. Tá oiread anála ar Ryan nó Burke ar an nGaeltacht is atá ag O'Donnell. Ainneoin nár fograíodh aon pholasaí fós agus seo a scríobh — cé go bhfuil a leitheoid geallta go luath — is léir cheana cén treo ina rachaídh sé.

Deighilt

Déanfar deighilt iomlán idir Gaeltacht agus Ghaeltacht ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. Déanfar dul-chunchino caca-míochta sa Ghaeltacht, ach gan aon chur-isteach ar shóisre an mheoin phríobháidigh.

TOM O'DONNELL

Tá brí le seo, mar fíu amháin nuair a bheidh deiradh le pobal na Gaeltachta amach anseo agus pobal nua le Béarla ina áit, is feidir leas a bhaint as an bhforbairt seo. Ní bhaineann sé le teanga.

Siar ar ghealchathair...

Gluin ó shin bhí Gaeilge Chois Fharraige le cloisteach chomh fada beagnach le Bóthar na Trá i cCathair na Gaillimhe. An té a ghlabaíonn siar anois ón ghealchathair, feicfidh sé forbairt — tithe nua galánta ar fíu £20,000 a lán acu. Tá Bearna baite aca. Tá na Forbacha ag imeacht. Tá an rud céanna ag leathadh ar dha thaobh an Spidéil anois.

Pobal nua

Pobal nua atá á chur. Ní bhead muintir na Gaeltachta a bhfíorhor. Ná ní pobal Gaeltach iad a cheanglóidh leis an bpobal dúchasach. Is pobal cathrach Béarlach iad. Ní bheidh aon chead ag Tom O'Donnell siar a chur leis an 'bhforbairt' seo.

Snímh in agaid aise aise a bheith ag iarraidh Gaeltachta a chroith in aiteanna ar nós An Clochar (Clarra) agus an Rinn — (Port Láirne, an chuid de nach Gaeltacht aigéilí é), fíad is atá Gaeltachtaí láidre mar Chois Fharraige lán-oscailte do chuide 'speculator'.

AN tAIRE MACANTA

Is léir ó chás Dhún Chaoin céard tá i gceist. Oscailíodh an scoll go glórach. Ach níor deindeadh rud ar bith chun an pobal dúchasach a bhuamá agus a leathnú. D'oscail Burke an scoll ach dúirt nár bhain aon ní eile lena roimh féin. Tá Conor Cruise ar aon-intinn leis. Déanfar cothú áirithe ar an nGaeltacht fíad a bheidh si ag cúntú agus ag tanú chun bháis.

Ach tá deiradh go h-ionlán le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge

sa Ghaeltacht. Cuireadh deiradh le Gaeilge eigantach agus níl tada ina áit. Tá glúin mínteoirí á chur ar fáil nach bhfuil Gaeilge ag a bhfíorhor. Is fíodán le bhíreann iad na rudaí seo. Ní Gaeltacht go Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht. Ní leor macantacht phéarsanta Tom O'Donnell chuide seo go léir. Is seilbh cosanta é a mhacantacht dúl ar na daoine i Ranna eile stáit a bhfuil fíios aca go málth é bhfuil a dtíall.

Sunningdale problem for Lynch

Paragraph 5 of the agreement is significant to the Constitution in that it acknowledges that a portion of the land described as Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.

"It does nothing of the sort" said Justice Murnaghan. But particular exchange between MacBride (acting for Kevin Lynch) and Justice Murnaghan in the High Court cleared up any doubt about the meaning of the Sunningdale agreement north of the border would be cleared up. More than ever now Sunningdale, as described in a previous issue of The Irish People, is so much an agreement as a agreement.

The result means problems all around: problems for Brian Faulkner who is likely to wear out his new statements in futile trips to the Republic; problems for Liam Cosgrave who agreed in a communiqué with Mr. Faulkner that the North was a part of the United Kingdom; and problems for Jack Lynch who will now find the pressure from party grass roots to close the sovereignty trap on the Coalition virtually irresistible.

Major problem

The major problem rests with Jack Lynch. Faulkner has plenty of time to allow people forget or accept the ambiguous position of the Dublin Government on the question of the North's status. Cosgrave can redefine his attitude in further statements and communiques. Lynch, however, faces a hard-baking Ard Fheis of the Fianna Fáil party inside a month. For him, the uncertainty about Sunningdale, and the possible abrogation of the sovereignty claim is an excruciating dilemma. Will he break the bi-lateral support for the Government on the

national issue to head off the waves of green-flag Republicanism which will lap the platform during the Ard Fheis? Certainly, if the prospect of a General Election were in sight.

No prospect of general election

There is no such prospect so Lynch will fight behind the scenes for the policy which carries more of the appearance of responsibility — support for the Government with reservations. The going away for former Party boss Tommy Mullins seen the dry run of this policy. And now that Mr. De Valera has taken to telephoning his commendations and, presumably, advice, his presence might be invoked at the Ard Fheis to seal the doctrine of party unity first and everything else afterwards.

Haughey might spring a surprise at the Ard Fheis by pledging undying loyalty to Jack Lynch as party leader. Far from inhibiting his chances in the succession race such a shrewd move would enhance them: from being the Rival he would begin to become the Successor.

Colley's prominence in the General Election defeat and his over-concentration on his private law practice has caused the Colley name to slip back in the reckoning. So Charlie can afford the gesture — and Jack can't refuse.



● Jack Lynch, leader of Fianna Fáil: a pledge of undying loyalty from Haughey?

ANOTHER EVICTION IN NEAR FUTURE?

The Johnstown Rd. area in Cabinteely is about to see another eviction in the near future, and this time it will be a local resident who will find himself and his family out on the road. The Johnstown Rd.-Gravelly Rd. area was in the news last week when a group of residents forcibly and illegally evicted two itinerant families from a site near their houses. The itinerants had their possessions dumped in the middle of the road, and their access to the caravan site blocked by a low wall, as a force of Gardai stood nearby lest a breach of the peace should occur.

The itinerants, however, found that they had more friends than enemies in the neighbourhood when a group of residents, led by the local cumann of Seán Fela, knocked down the brick wall and helped to resettle the two Connors families on their old site.

Criticism of the eviction came from the local parish priest, who visited the families when they returned to the site last

Sunday. Mrs. Linda Kavanagh, whose house is closest to the camp-site, said that a group of residents was being organised to prevent any recurrence of the disturbance. A spokesman for the local residents association said that the association had no part in the eviction.

The Association of Combined Residents Associations may be involved in the next eviction which is scheduled for the area, for it is connected with their campaign against ground rents. Mr. John Fitzgibbon has lost his appeal against a decision made in June by Justice Carr, that he must pay ground rent to a Mr. Ohle, of Johnstown Estates Ltd.

No doubt the chairman of the Cabinteely residents' association, who strongly opposed the eviction of the itinerants, can expect the support of all the local residents, including the Connors families, when the Sheriff's party comes to evict Mr. Fitzgibbon.

First two injunctions

H. A. O'Neill Ltd., a member of the Jones Group of companies, which was the first company of 1974 to get a High Court injunction against strikers has just received a huge contract for the installation of mechanical services in the Cork Regional General Hospital.

The installations, at a contract price of about 11 million, will provide a variety of services, including ventilation and air conditioning, heating and water installations. A medical gases system valued at 17,000 will also be installed by O'Neills.

Main contractor for the hospital is John Sisk & Son and Varming Mulcahy Reilly Associates are the consulting engineers.

The second injunction against picketing of 1974 has gone to a contracting firm P. J. Walls (Dublin) Ltd. In the High Court in Dublin last week a temporary injunction restraining 51 of Walls' employees from picketing the firm's building site at Plassey House, Castletroy, Limerick was granted.

The company is building the National Institute of Higher Education at Castletroy and the men, members of the I.T. & G.W.U., were striking in support of a demand for bonus payments.

Walls' decided on seeking the High Court injunction when employees of John Sisk and Co. who are building the National College of Physical Education on the same campus failed to pass the pickets.

Mr. Justice Kenny in granting the injunction commented that the failure of the Sisk workers to pass the pickets indicated that it was not a peaceful one.

In an exclusive article in this paper on December, the building history of one of Oxlanna Iompair Eireann's establishments, the Great Southern Inn, Rosslare, was outlined. This showed that the powers in O.I.E., the hotels subsidiary of C.I.E., had allowed £164,546 to be squandered in payments to the builder, Hugh O'Neill & Co. Ltd., against the advice of the quantity surveyor retained by O.I.E., Mr. Brian O'Baill, the consultant in question, has since confirmed the accuracy of our article and has also confirmed that he resigned from his post with O.I.E. because of the Wexford debacle.

We concluded our December 7 article with three questions — "Have other sums for other projects been squandered in the same way? Can the same thing happen again? How many other contractors have found C.I.E. great people to build for?"

For example one can wonder how O'Neill's fared in the erection of O.I.E.'s Galway Inn which was built without the conscientious surveillance of Mr. O'Baill. No tenders were invited from other competent contractors for the Galway job.

Another building job for which O.I.E. decided not to invite tenders was the Russell Court Hotel (officially known as the Great Southern Hotel (N.I.) Ltd.) in Belfast.

This huge contract went to G. & T. Crampton (N.I.) Ltd.

The original contract price for the 200 bedroom hotel is understood to have been in excess of £1.7 million. But if Crampton made the same type of demands in Belfast as O'Neill's did in Rosslare then the final estimate of £2 million would be a conservative one.

However even if an O'Baill type consultant was employed for the Belfast job and if his advice was adhered to there is evidence of O.I.E. squandering money before the first brick of the new Russell Court was laid.

It was in 1968 that the John J. Byrne led O.I.E. created a Northern subsidiary with a view to extending hotel business to the Six Counties.

Late that year an existing hotel, the Russell Court, on the Lisburn Road, was purchased.

The price paid, according to an O.I.E. spokesman, "was about £150,000". (This figure is justly disputed by people in the hotel and property business who assert the figure to have been £250,000).

The hotel was then closed down and alterations estimated to have cost £25,000 were carried out. Then the plans were changed and O.I.E. decided to demolish the existing building and erect a new hotel on the site.

O.I.E. denies that any alterations were made before demolition. "We bought the Russell Court and a number of houses as a site", says their Chief Accountant, Mr. Casey.

But even accepting their denial that £25,000 was squandered in pre-demolition alterations and their "about

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HOW RUSSELL COURT ADDED TO C.I.E.'s BILL



● Russell Court Hotel, Belfast: would repay investigation.

£150,000" original purchase figure a very simple question requires to be answered. If O.I.E. wanted to build a hotel in Belfast why didn't they buy a vacant site — why was it necessary to buy an existing hotel in a far from ideal centre and then demolish it? A site of similar size would have cost £40,000 by 1968 Belfast property standards. So

even by using O.I.E.'s own figures £110,000 was thrown away.

The £110,000 squandered in the Belfast purchase like the £164,000 squandered in Rosslare, is of course borrowed money. Borrowed money is paid for through interest.

And indeed the most significant figures in the

accounts of O.I.E. are the amounts of interest paid on loan capital.

These have shown an alarming spiral in the past decade. In 1964 when the company returned a profit of £56,000 interest paid on loan capital amounted to £38,000.

In 1971 when operations resulted in a £65,000 loss the interest paid on loan capital reached £253,000.

£293,000 was the figure paid out for interest charges in 1972 when O.I.E.'s loss was £195,000. The pattern of increasing losses and increasing interest payments has firmly established itself.

"A substantial element of the interest charges," according to the most recent O.I.E. Annual Report, "is attributable to further borrowings to complete the Company's acquisition of Shares in the Great Southern Hotel (N.I.) Ltd."

Losses

And the prospects for the future? "In the present commercial and social climate and with its substantial loan interest commitments, this subsidiary is expected to make substantial net losses over the next few years," the report states.

The loss for the financial year in the operations of the Russell Court was £299,132 of which "financial expenses", including interest charges amounted to £165,226.

Business at the Lisburn Road premises has, of course, been disrupted by bomb damage. O.I.E. has already received some compensation and expects that claims for the cost of reinstating the property, contents, stock and loss of profits will be met in full. The British and Six County taxpayer will pay for this compensation.

Squandered

It is the 26 county taxpayer who will foot the bill for the money squandered in the purchase of the "site". It is he who will also pay the interest on the squandered sums.

The Rosslare Inn plus the Russell Court sums in unnecessary expenditure amount to more than £250,000. This £1 million plus (apart



● John J. Byrne, General Manager, C.I.E.

accounts of O.I.E. in a very rosy state.

However bearing in mind that O.I.E. is using money which comes off the very broad back of the taxpayer, we believe that in illustrating these two instances of squandering money we are hardly scratching the surface of the O.I.E. and C.I.E. financial operations.

We end this article as we did our December 7 one asking: Have other sums for other projects been squandered in the same way?

NOTE: In mid-December, with a view to compiling this article, we requested O.I.E. to supply us with their Annual Reports for the past three years. We were supplied with the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 1973, and were promised that the earlier reports would be forwarded in the post. To date we have not received these but a query to their Chief Accountant in amount paid to G. & T. Crampton for the Belfast job brought the reply that "it is all in the annual reports". Mr. Casey has promised to let us have the reports in question as we go to press, we wait and we hope.



● Frank Thomas, C.I.E. director.

Societies and their abuses examined

The monster protest rally organised by the Association of Combined Residents' Associations, the impending publication of the National Prices Commission report on Building Societies, and the possibility of a further rise in interest rates means that the question of home loan finance will not be far from the headlines over the coming months.

In May of last year the Irish People submitted its proposals to the Prices Commission and we will be watching its report closely to see how far along the road to spotlighting obvious abuses the report goes. One of the main points in our criticism of the Societies was their investment policy.

The recent "Seven Days" special agreed totally with our analysis under this heading. In the two years of 1971-2 the Irish Permanent, Educational and First National between them spent a total of £6,000,000 in loans which exceeded the £10,000 mark. This money would have provided 2,000 loans at £6,000 each to bona fide house purchasers.

That £700,000

"Seven Days" picked out the Irish Permanent £700,000 loan spotlighted by the Irish People and added the information about the

recipient of the loan — Frank McInerney and his wife Sara. The money was used to mortgage 39 acres at Tymon, Tallaght, which has since become a housing estate. Edmund Farrell of the Permanent has defended the loan by stating that 360 houses were built on the site. He forgets that the severe mortgage shortage caused by loans of this nature has left far more than 360 houses empty because the potential oc-



● The Permanent's Ed-



● The President's Daniel Stephenson.

cupiers cannot get the necessary loan to buy! But maybe Edmund did not forget his facts. Frank and Sara got a further loan of £450,000 (in April, 1972) for their Parklands Ltd., a company on 140 acres of land at Kingstown and Ballinteer. Before that April was when Frank and Sara got a further £250,000 — again from the Permanent — on the same loans i.e. a total of £1,400,000 in loans to the McInerneys from

the Permanent. How much extra interest would have to be paid on this money if it was raised commercially? And what were the strings attached to the loan to see that the house purchaser eventually benefitted from the deal? None.

Code of ethics

The Irish People investigation also specified a Code of Ethics for Building Society personnel.

"Seven Days" made that point forcibly enough in relation to Edmund Farrell

and Daniel Stephenson (Provident). Not only is Edmund Farrell's son a member of the Permanent Board since 1972 but another member of the Board, Raymond O'Keeffe brother-in-law to Mr. Farrell, runs O'Keeffe's advertising agency which handles the major portion of the Permanent's £300,000 advertising account. Another family connection is with Brian Carr, Auctioneer and Valuer of Anne St. South, nephew to Mr. Farrell, who, until recently, arranged loans with the Permanent for a fee.

Companies

All this coupled with the revelations made last May by the Irish People and repeated in the "Seven Days" programme concerning companies directed by Edmund Farrell which received loans from the Permanent for property deals underscores the need for a Code of Ethics for Building Society personnel. In one of these private companies, Freehold Estates Ltd., Edmund Farrell was joined as Director by another member of the Permanent Board, Mr. P. V. Doran. P. V. resigned from Freehold in 1959 but is still a Director of the Permanent.

Final points of agreement between "Seven Days" and submissions made by the Irish People concerned the high management costs, advertising, and the non-declaration as a separate item of fees paid to Building Society directors.

Monopoly move halted

ATTEMPTS by the E.E.C. Commission in Brussels to tighten controls over the operation of monopolies were halted by the European Parliament in Strasbourg last week.

On a show of hands the Assembly, comprising delegates from the Nine member states' parliaments, rejected a report from a committee backing the Commission's proposals to licence and even forbid mergers between large firms before they happen.

The attack on the Commission's plans was spearheaded by the British Conservatives who, together with the French Gaullists, tabled 30 amendments to the report. They based their attack on the assertion that the Commission was taking too little account of the interests of consumers.

They also alleged that the plan involved too much uncertainty regarding the planning of mergers and would place at risk "useful" mergers by requiring prior discussions.

The Flanna Fail delegation to the European Parliament is affiliated to the Gaullist grouping.

Letter from Belfast

DES O'HAGAN

The North



Paddy Devlin (left), Minister of Health and Social Service, sits opposite to Leslie Morrell, Minister for Agriculture (right) in his photograph of the first meeting of the Executive of Northern Ireland. Will they stand together on the small farmer issue?

The small farmer in the North has recently been faced with a new problem in his fight for economic survival. Whereas he has earned to struggle against the age-old difficulties of poor land, so little land and diminishing profits, he cannot make any headway against this new obstacle which promises to be the nail in his coffin. This new obstacle is the government.

Agriculture in the six-counties is superficially controlled by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture, but this is really a mouthpiece for the real power master, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in London. This was the case even before the old Stormont administration fell.

The London ministry has its policies established on the needs of British agriculture and geared towards the farming structures of the Common Market. This is reflected in the current policy of the Stormont ministry, which, in simple terms, is intended to remove the problems of the small farmers by removing the small farmers themselves. As one informed source in Belfast said recently "The Ministry regard small farmers at best as a nuisance."

This is evident in two recent pieces of government legislation. By an attempt to "improve farm structure" the N.I. Ministry of Agriculture now operate the Farm Amalgamation Scheme (1973) and the Farm Structure (Payments to Outgoers) Scheme (1973).

By "improving farm structure" the government means the gradual decline in the number of small "uneconomic" farm holdings by their amalgamation with larger farms. (An "uneconomic" farm is regarded as one which does not provide enough full-time work all year round for its people).

Under the terms of these two schemes, grants are available to owners (depending on their age and farm acreage) who sell their "uneconomic" holdings. The buyer also receives a grant to enable him to complete the amalgamation of the two holdings into one farm business. There is, however, no government assistance for holders of "uneconomic" holdings to transfer their businesses into "economic" farms.

The inability of small farmers to effect this change in economic status is doubly important because many additional grants are available only to farmers whose holding is regarded as "economic", and this is an increasing trend in government policy.

One of the main obstacles in the path of the small farmer trying to cross the threshold from the uneconomic to the economic, is the steady increase in the price of land. The price increase is due partly to the general inflationary pressures in the economy, and the attractiveness of agricultural land as a medium of speculation and investment, but one of the main con-

tributory factors is government policy itself. Because of their generous grants to large farmers to help them purchase land for farm amalgamation the price of small farm holdings has been pushed to an artificial level, a level which is beyond the reach of the non-grant-aided small farmer.

Commercial

This means that most small farmers who need financial help to obtain land must turn to commercial sources. Interest rates in this sphere are generally prohibitive to the small farmer and although tax relief is available for a loan for agricultural purposes, this benefit is obviously of advantage only to large farmers.

Because they are unable to expand their farms, many small farmers are living at mere subsistence level. It is now estimated that the incidence of social problems and poverty in rural areas is equal to, and possibly greater than, that in urban areas.

There are a number of

The farmer and the ministry

the Irish people
SPECIAL

AGRICULTURE
IN THE
NORTH/3.

contributory factors to this, including the general isolation of the rural community, factors worsened by the increased cost and reduced frequency of the public

transport service and the high average age of small farmers. But the main factor is a deliberate reluctance on the part of the Government to inform farmers of their economic rights in the case of either Old Age Pensions or Family Income Supplements.

The Government department responsible for such services is the Ministry of Health and Social Services, now headed by Paddy Devlin. However, the only Ministry with which farmers are acquainted is the Ministry of Agriculture, now run by the Unionist M.P. Mr. Leslie Morrell and this department has no facilities for advice on social services.

Although the two ministers appear to be on friendly terms with each other, their ministries do not and neither has seen fit to tackle the needless problem of rural poverty. For the benefit of the hundreds of small farmers not claiming their full economic rights we briefly list them:

A farmer may obtain a full old age pension at the age of 65, provided he has a yearly

truth in the news. A fortnight ago I unfortunately wrote the obituary on Murphy's bar in Albert Street. On Friday last the bar was officially reopened, local civil engineers dragged tarpaulins across the burnt roof and cleaned up the inside of the pub. Business is as usual. But at least I have an excuse, it did seem as if the place had been destroyed beyond repair.

What I would like to know is what excuses has a leading Belfast morning newspaper for the report which they published on the recent Civil Rights demonstration in support of the people's Rent and Rates strike and against the sell-out by the SDLP? Leading SDLP members such as Austin Currie and Paddy Devlin were once vicious opponents of the Faulkner Unionist regime, now they are tame colleagues of bitter Brian. Fair enough — that's the way of a certain type of politician. Anyone over the age of reason appreciates that politicians are, as my father once bored me with, concerned mainly with Number One.

But it is a bit much when a reputable daily newspaper deliberately reports a large demonstration against internment as a complete failure. Certainly, everyone is allowed to back the party of their choice. Even entitled to propagandise on its behalf. One is accustomed particularly in the Unionist journals to subtle fabrications in favour of Northern Ireland's ruling class; accusations against the Civil Rights Movement, as Moscow Peking Cuban dominated were once commonplace.

Now that the SDLP are in power screaming for the end of the Rent and Rates strike, certain sections of the press, once former tough opponents of repression and internment, are twisting over backwards to persuade people that to struggle for justice is futile and against their best interests. At the same time one would continue to expect some objectivity in terms of daily reporting, or is one to conclude that the British interest is now so paramount that blatant lies are to be published to win support for the SDLP?

I have been talking to people, not only in Belfast but in Tyrone and Derry, about the current situation. To be sure, the main desire is for peace. But a peace which will ensure that the type of politics practised by the Unionists will no longer dominate the North. Central to this feeling is the demand for the end of internment, an end to the constant harassment by British troops, a peace where the people can feel assured that they have real control over their lives.

Staying alive is still one of the major problems facing people in the ghetto areas and in spite of continuing British Army patrols, murders are still committed. Last week-end in Ardoyne a forty-year-old man was blasted into eternity by a shotgun-carrying killer. Before being slaughtered he was tortured by sadistic, vicious gangsters. Such is the quality of life in Belfast today; the British presence hasn't helped the situation; in fact, it has worsened it. Their withdrawal would at least enable Protestant and Catholic to come together.

average of 50 flat-rate National Insurance Contributions, amounting to a total of not less than 185 and provided that he is earning not more than £499 per year (£9.60 per week). If he earns, for example, £712 per year he will have £2.20 deducted from his pension on the basis of a carefully graduated scale.

A pensioned farmer is allowed an additional 14.15 for his wife — whatever her age — and when he reaches the age of 70 he is entitled to a full pension whatever his earnings. Full details are available at your nearest Post Office.

Farmers are also entitled to Family Income Supplement, provided they are full-time farmers, that they have at least one child and they have a total family income below a certain level.

Farmers who are receiving Family Income Supplement are also entitled to free medical prescriptions, free dental and optical treatment, free welfare milk, free vitamin tablets for expectant mothers and young children, free school meals for the children and a refund of fares for members of the family attending hospital. Again full information and a claims form is available at any Post Office.

It is estimated that one in five families receiving Family Income Supplement is a farming family but it is also estimated that the number of farmers claiming F.I.S. is much lower than the number eligible. Those not claiming are deliberately kept in a state of ignorance of their rights. This is proved by a recent confidential paper produced in the Ministry of Agriculture, which, among other things, says:

"There may be a conflict between the payment of supplementary benefits to farmers with small businesses and the movement of these people out of agriculture. These welfare payments tend to keep farmers on their holdings and reduce the rate at which their land becomes available for integration with larger units and hence reduces the opportunities of others to earn higher incomes."

It is therefore quite clear that through the system of grants for buying and selling land and through their deliberate hiding of farmers' welfare rights, the Northern Government is slowly starving the small farmer off the land. Perhaps Paddy Devlin and Leslie Morrell call it power-sharing.

BOAL'S WORDS TO LEAD TO ACTION?

Desmond Boal's suggestion for an amalgamated Ireland still makes the running in political circles. Its impact on the public mind may be judged from the fact that the Government in Dublin released the news that it was discussing the plan at a Cabinet meeting. This at a time when it strains every nerve to see that the Sunningdale alternative is put into effect!

Apart from the statement of support from the U.V.F. for the Boal plan we had Sammy Smyth's response in the same newspaper which printed the original Boal story — the popular "Sunday News" of Belfast.

This was followed in point of time by a meeting between Boal and Frank McManus, M.P., and Desmond Fennell. Disagreement here came on Boal's rejection of

the nine-county Dall Uladh proposal which, basically, proposes to bring the Catholic vote ratio to the 48 per cent mark and leave the rest to the birth rate.

But Dall Uladh is lucky in having a realist as Chairman. Frank McManus, when pressed to do so, would not leave his Westminster seat to add significance to the Dall Uladh concept. On the other side of the border, though within the Dall Uladh region, Neil Blaney likewise failed to leave the Dail.

The Boal-McManus meeting was first challenged by Lord Brookeborough. His attack was repulsed by Boal in a scathing counter-attack where he pointed out that the dissolution of the link with Britain was more than the result of the "stupidities of the Brookes than the machinations of the McManuses".

A more serious challenge came in the form of the killing of the U.D.R. man abducted from a Monaghan hotel. The sectarian results of these killings will ultimately negative the words and courage of Boal. But then, again, McManus is on record condemning the killing of a U.D.R. man near his Fermanagh home last year.

One question remaining is whether Tomas Mac Giolla, President of Sinn Féin, intends following up any wish to meet with Boal. As yet no public evidence of any follow-through to his expressed wish is visible.

Another, more immediate, question is whether the rioting in East Belfast will lead to a united mass movement against internment as the common bond uniting both the Republican and Loyalist communities.

Minister closes down Ireland

The Minister for Justice, Mr. Cooney, yesterday closed down Ireland for allowing itself to be used by the I.R.A. He is expected to close down the United States and Canada tomorrow for the same reason.

It is reported that he had intended to close down Britain, but he has since discovered that Britain has been closed down for several weeks. The closures follow Mr. Cooney's recent announcement that any place harbouring I.R.A. members is liable to be closed down.

The Minister also announced that he has closed down C.I.E. for carrying two I.R.A. members on a number 34 but last Tuesday morning. The bus conductor appeared at the Special Criminal Court yesterday, and received a one-way ticket to Portlaoise. Passing sentence, Justice "Nameinirish" said, "The going is great and the coming back is even better".

At a press conference last night Gardal gave details of their anti-I.R.A. successes this week. Garda Patrol said that he had arrested 17 pairs

of trousers and charged them with harbouring I.R.A. men's legs at some time in the past. His companion, Garda Slochana, said that he suspected Glasnevin cemetery was harbouring a number of old I.A.A. men and he is still carrying out his investigation.

Aras raided

It was also revealed that Gardal, acting on a tip-off, raided Aras An Uachtaráin early yesterday, after hearing that an I.R.A. man had been harboured there



● Mr. Cooney: ... ban on flying.

for fourteen years. They admitted that he had gone by the time they got there, so they closed down Erskine Children's instead. Meanwhile, the Minister's ban on flying near Portlaoise has resulted in the shooting

down of two flying saucers. Last night there were reports of flying cups, plates, table legs and other strange objects, as news was released that another riot had broken out in the prison.

Exchanges on Claudia affair

Mr. C. Murphy. "Would the Minister agree that no one person is aware of all the circumstances in any particular case?"
Mr. Donegan: "I would not comment on a hypothetical question like that. Perhaps if

God is alive He might be the person."
Mr. Molloy: "Are you doubting it?"
Mr. Donegan: "I am sure God is alive. He would be the person."
—Daily Express, January 1974

TWO DAY WORK YEAR

Britain yesterday began a two-day working year. The two days on which electricity will be available this year are December 25th and 26th. In a special television broadcast last night Mr. Heath said that there was no need to panic, as stocks of lighter fuel can last indefinitely. "It is government policy," he said, "to try to fuel all of the people all of the time".

Conserving Heath

Outlining further measures to conserve energy Mr. Heath requested everybody to remain in bed for the next fortnight. From now on it is an offence to get out of bed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. He said that he intends to give a lead in this respect by staying in bed until the next election. Television programmes are to be curtailed to one hour per night. This will be devoted to a party political broadcast on behalf of the Conservative party.

The Prime Minister said that he was pleased that one of his cabinet had requested people to brush their teeth in the dark to save electricity. He revealed that he has gone further and even sleeps in the dark. Sir Alec Douglas Home said that he was always in the dark about everything.

King coal

Meanwhile on the industrial front the miners' leader, Mr. Joe Gormley, last night denied that he was Old King Coal. He said that there was no truth in the rumours that he would be standing for election as the next King of England. He then stopped speaking at six o'clock sharp, pointing out that he is on an overtime ban.

A number of loud bangs heard throughout England yesterday were caused by the pound falling. The government has asked people not to be alarmed and has promised to bring the culprits to justice.

News is just coming in that Britain is to be towed out into the Atlantic next week and sunk. When asked to comment Mr. Heath was in bed.



● Mr. Heath: ... conserving energy in bed.

Surprise visit by Faulkner

Mr. Brian Faulkner made another surprise visit to Dublin yesterday. The North's Chief Executive arrived unobtrusively on the Enterprise Express and was whisked off immediately by a No. 41 bus to Cafolla's in O'Connell Street.

Following a working lunch of sausage, egg and chips, Mr. Faulkner then went to the G.P.O. to write some postcards home before attending a matinee performance of "The Hunchback of the Morgue" at a nearby cinema.

Emerging from the cinema, Mr. Faulkner paused briefly on his whirlwind visit to chat to newsmen as he had a pee in the public convenience at O'Connell Bridge. "I like Dublin", he smiled as the newsmen pressed about him, "some of my best friends are Free-Staters".

A quick nod and a wave to the ticket collector, who failed to recognise the seemingly nondescript passenger, and Mr. Faulkner was back on the train speeding northwards clutching his briefcase of top secret documents and a stick of souvenir rock for Gerry Fitt.

Mr. Faulkner was unaccompanied by his wife who was reported to be looking radiant.



● Mr. Faulkner: ... at the movies.

BUILDING BOOM IN NORTH

The North's new housing supreme, Captain Austin Curry, held an impromptu news conference today on the site of a new housing scheme near Dungannon.

Speaking from the top of a partially completed wall, Capt. Curry announced a massive building boom throughout the province. As he spoke, a loud boom was heard from a nearby street but the young Minister went on calmly mixing mortar with a wry grin. (A bricklayer pointed out that he would have more success if he used a trowel.)

Six months

"Our plan", said Captain Curry, "is twofold. By building large estates of semi-detached nissen huts, with plenty of recreational space for exercise yards, we hope to solve the housing problem and phase out internment at one and the same time. Just give us six months. The British

Army have agreed to help us with the problem of young people with nowhere to go by providing a adventure playgrounds on the edge of each housing compound — these will consist of firing-ranges manned by armed soldiers with whom the kids' can play hide and seek and other fun games."

squat

Questioned about his first attempt at solving the housing crisis, Captain Curry admitted that Dungannon was the scene of his squatting protest several years ago. "However", he said, "I still do quite a bit of squatting. In fact, I squat for a few minutes every morning before I go to the office. I find it helps clear my head."

As Major Curry returned to his work on the uncompleted wall singing "Let me carry your hod for Ireland, Lord", it was obvious that this exciting new approach has captured the imagination of all the S.D.L.P. stalwarts — no mean feat in itself!

Chief Whip Paddy O'Hanlon was there, his robust frame bobbing up and down rhythmically as he excavated a drainage ditch, singing happily to himself "You'll never find another fool like me".



● Capt. Curry: ... "Let me carry your hod for Ireland".

As the party of journalists left this new site, expected to be named "The Sunningdale Luxury Housing Memorial Complex", the voice of Gerry Fitt could be heard raised in joyful refrain in the Galleries but singing "I did it MY way".

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
Adria Ltd. (Carnos Ltd., Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England)	Sirabane	Seamless nylon stockings	1962
Associated Portland Cement Mfrs. Ltd. (Associated Portland Cement, London)	Cookstown	Cement	1968
Daintifit Ltd. (Daintifit Ltd., London)	Cookstown	Foundation garments, lingerie & beachwear	1960
Dwek & Sons Ltd. (Cahn & Benditt Ltd., London)	Dungannon	Purse frames, turn locks and general press work.	1968
Mid-Ulster Meat Packing Co. Ltd. (Spillers Ltd., U.K.)	Omagh	Meat processing	1963
Nestles Food Products (NI) Ltd. (Nestles AG, Switzerland)	Omagh	Chocolate products	1954
Omagh Shirt and Collar Co. Ltd. (Austin Reed Ltd., London)	Omagh	Shirts and collars	1947
Turner Bros. Asbestos Co. Ltd. (Turner and Newall, Fountain St., Manchester, England)	Dungannon	Spinning glass filament and production of glass fabrics	1947

NO. 23 TYRONE