

# The Irish People

AN CHOISMHUINTIR

Vol. 2 No. 13. Price 6p.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1974

**Dublin Dental Hospital Conditions:**

• SEE PAGE 4 INSIDE

Belfast

tense

after

attacks

on Republicans

by Provisionals

## BIG NEW CLASH?



• Republican prisoners photographed inside Long Kesh.

A very tense situation exists between the Republican and Provisional organisations following last Friday's open violence between prisoners of both persuasions in Long Kesh concentration camp.

With the Easter Commemorations only weeks away the spread of violence outside Long Kesh cannot be ruled out. The transfer of 21 Republican prisoners to Crumlin Road Gaol from Long Kesh might not prevent incidents outside.

Tension is particularly marked in Belfast where the Provisionals still tend to blame the Republicans for the shooting of James Bryson, the Provisional leader who died of gunshot wounds inflicted by the British Army in Ballymurphy some months ago.

The Bryson shooting is the reported cause of the Long Kesh outbreak where 68 Provisionals attacked 19 Official remand prisoners with iron bars, table legs and other makeshift weapons.

One of the Official prisoners in the washroom at Compound 10, where the attack took place, was nearly hanged with a rope thrown over a ceiling heater.

So severely beaten were the Officials that they were forced to break out of their compound—risking British Army gunfire—and into a nearby compound where other members of their Movement are serving sentences.

Compound 10 formerly contained a mixture of Official remand prisoners and Loyalist remands, but the Loyalists have since been moved to another compound. At no time during this

period was there any conflict between the two groups. The Loyalists were replaced by Provisionals and there was still no hint of trouble as the Officials were in a large majority.

But since then many of the Officials have been sentenced and transferred and the Provos slowly became the majority. Then they struck.

The trouble should have come as no surprise to many who have followed the activities of the Provisionals in the camp. For over two years now they have been constantly fighting among each other and even they have lost count of the number of splits and major physical rows that have occurred.

Never noted for their discipline outside prison, the Provisionals have found it very difficult to accept the discipline of their prison leadership and their morale is also believed to have disintegrated.

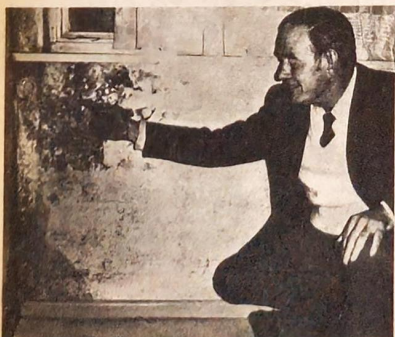
As one leading Republican said in Belfast: "If they attack each other so much it is not surprising that they decided to attack us".

Meanwhile, the Republican Clubs intend to go ahead with legal action against the prison authorities for failing to protect their members. Mr. Malachy McGurran, Chairman of the Six County Executive of Republican Clubs, stated that the authorities had a duty to protect all those in their custody and he believed that they had been criminally negligent on this occasion. "We have contacted our legal advisers and we are waiting on their advice", he said.

It is not thought likely that there will be any consequences to the incident outside Long Kesh, assuming there is no repetition of the trouble. But I.R.A. leaders in Belfast have pointed out that they would not be prepared to tolerate any further activity of this sort by the Provisionals.



## ANOTHER N.B.A. DISASTER!



• Mr. Brendan Dunne points to a wall covered by fungus.

Avonbeg Gardens, Tallaght, Dublin, can this week be added to the list of housing disaster areas for which the Government-sponsored National Building Agency must accept responsibility.

Already the Glen and Togher estates in Cork have received extensive coverage in the columns of this paper. The Cork houses were built by Sisk.

Last week THE IRISH PEOPLE highlighted the Rathvilly estate in Finglas, Dublin. The Finglas houses were built by McInerney. This week it is the turn of Avonbeg Gardens, Tallaght. These houses were built by O'Connell of Clane. In all three cases the houses were commissioned by the National Building Agency.

The Tallaght case cited below adds further weight to the demand for a public inquiry into the N.B.A. and its contractors. Speaking in the Dail recently, Mr. James Tully, Minister for Local Government, said of the N.B.A. houses he had inspected: "I have looked at some of these houses and 'bad' is a mild term to apply to them. Their design was atrocious."

He claimed that these houses were "built

cheaply, because they were to house working-class people, and were of the worst possible materials and designs".

But only a public inquiry can answer the following questions, questions vital to the economic interests of the tenants now occupying these N.B.A. schemes:

Who made fortunes out of estates such as Mayfield, Togher and The Glen in Cork, Rathvilly in Finglas and Avonbeg in Tallaght—housing schemes which started to deteriorate before they were barely finished?

What architect decided that walls which are porous and often constructed of broken blocks and crumbling mortar were of a sufficiently high quality to merit payment? What persuaded the officials of the N.B.A. to accept these houses as properly constructed and fit for occupation?

These questions and many more must be answered publicly. Repair bills amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds must be paid before such houses can be made habitable and tenants on N.B.A. estates will not be satisfied by talk of 'condensation'.

(Continued on page 2)

**Treat  
that's hard  
to swallow**

• SEE PAGE 5



# The Irish People

An Choismhuintir, Friday, March 29, 1974.

## CONTRAST

The public were treated to a fine example of Gross National Product thinking last week. Mr. Clinton returned from Brussels elated at the prospect of a nine per cent increase in the price of beef. This means that Ireland's Gross National Product will increase substantially as 85 per cent of Irish beef is exported each year.

But will this increase in gross national wealth mean that the average Irish person will be significantly better off? The vast bulk of this windfall will go to ranchers-farmers and encourage them in their efforts to gain still higher beef prices and to increase their already considerable acreages of grassland.

Further pressure will come on the smaller farmer to sell out and look for a future in industry. Further pressure will come on consumer prices for meat which is already a luxury commodity for too many families.

Mr. Clinton should be reminded that if 85 per cent of Irish beef is exported 100 per cent of the Irish consumer population look on meat as a desirable part of their diet.

In sharp contrast to Mr. Clinton's actions were the words of Brendan Corish who pointed out that almost one quarter of our population have a personal income inadequate for their needs. He singled out rising prices as the main factor generating this rising tide of poverty.

Mr. Corish should draw the attention of his cabinet colleague to his speech.

A Government which says one thing and does the opposite risks a loss of credibility.

## N.B.A. INDICTMENT

This week the third housing estate has been added to the indictment of uninhabitable dwellings approved by the National Building Agency.

Apart from the immediate inconvenience caused to people living in these houses there is the question of the money being paid out weekly in the form of rent. Togher, Mayfield and The Glen estates in Cork are on rent strike in protest at the state of their housing. They quite rightly point out that they are being asked to pay for something they have not got — habitable accommodation. And the maximum rent in all N.B.A. houses is based on the cost of building and of maintaining each particular estate.

We do not advocate that the people in Finglas and Tallaght go on rent strike. What we do advocate is that the people on all N.B.A. estates affected by bad housing join together in a single organisation to demand a public inquiry into the conditions in which they live with a view to exposing the full facts in each case.

They should demand that their dwellings be made habitable, that a modified rent structure for N.B.A. schemes be introduced, that they be paid compensation for furnishings damaged by dampness and for expenses incurred for medical attention to children whose health has been damaged by their living conditions.

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# An Treacy a d'eirigh tuirseach

Cúpla bliain ó shin bhí sé ina chogadh dhearg ag Ard-Fheis an Lucht Oibre eatarthu tuille a bhí ag iarraidh páirtí sóisialach poblaíoch a dhéanamh ar agus iad siúd a bhí ag iarraidh an bealach a réiteach le haghaidh comhoibriú — nó b'féidir comhionann — le Fine Gael agus a thraidisiún ceannach pro-Breataineach.

Bhí Seán Treacy chun tosaigh i ncaimín an tréimhe úd. Bhí a naimhde agus go mór mór Cruise O'Brien, ag cur ina leith gur Sealadach a bhí ann.

Ag Cruise O'Brien agus an neo-Reamannachas a bhí an bua ar ndóig, mar is léir don dall agus don bhodhar féin. Tá sé i mbun agus i mbarr chuide shórt. 'Sé an Lucht Oibre anois é. Tá Agus Sán Treacy? Tá sé ina Cheann Chomhairle ar an

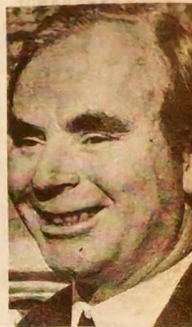
Dáil. Shíl daoine an uair a cheap Cosgrave Treacy ina Cheann Chomhairle go raibh sé imithe as a mbeathair. Mhí bhí ciall agus gléas ag baint le ceapacháin Keating, O'Leary etc. ba chliste fós é ceapacháin Treacy.

Mar ní Treacy Dála é an Ceann Chomhairle níos mó. Ní duine é. Ní post dearfach é. Is ionad neodrach é. Neamh-dhuine a chaithfidh a bheith ann. Ní bhíonn tuairimí, claonta, mianta ná cead cainte ag Ceann Chomhairle. Is falla cosanta é idir an Rialtas agus an pobal. Is é cú laire Cosgrave é.

Is cumasach mar a rinne Treacy a chuid obre mar Cheann Chomhairle. Aon abh'air a bhaineann leis an mBeartaín agus leis na Sé Chondae, dúlaíonn sé cead a phéite go dtí go mbíonn sé

marbh — breathnagh ná b'iarrachtaí a d'eineadh chun díospóireacht phríneachas a dhéanamh faoi na Little-Johns, nó faoi imeachtaí an S.A.S. in Ard Mhacha.

As deisceart Thioberd Arann do Sheán Treacy. Dúthaigh Dan Breen, Séamus Robinson agus go mór mhór dúthaigh an Seán Treacy elle idir dúthaigh a bhí chun tosaigh in aisir na bhFínní agus i gcogadh na Talúin; dúthaigh ina raibh Gaeltacht ar líc a dhórais ag Seán Treacy ina gige, Gaeltacht a fuair bás ar nós Gaeltachtaí elle — ní faoi na Sasanaigh — ach ó bunaidh an Stát é dheas; an dúthaigh inar bunaidh Páirtí an Lucht Oibre; dúthaigh inar thoshaigh Seán Treacy a chuid sóisialachas an bealach cruu, nuair ab éigean dó an scoll



● Seán Treacy: cúl le dachas?

a fhágáil go b-óg agus a chuid a shaothrú. Tá Seán Treacy meán-aosta anois. Is cosúil go bhfuil an fonn troda imithe as. Is mór an chaillínt don tír é. Tá a shuofach Dála sábhaithe. Ní gá don Cheann Chomhairle dul ag lomaíocht i dtoghcháin. Is féidir leis a seith a ligean, a shamhuítear a ghlacadh. Nó an fheidir?

## Tallaght on N.B.A. casualty list

(Continued from page 1)

Tallaght, Co. Dublin is the latest N.B.A. complex to show evidence of gross negligence on the part of builder and Building Agency.

736 houses were built here for the N.B.A. of which Avonbeg Gardens, a complex of 90 flats built by O'Connell Builders of Clane, is the hardest hit.

These flats have been occupied for less than a year yet investigations by THE IRISH PEOPLE revealed room after room made totally uninhabitable by damp. Walls are saturated with moisture seeping in from without and floors are sodden from rising damp.

In many cases all three rooms in a flat are mottled by the same fungus which architect, Martin Reynolds, showed in the case of the Fitzpatrick home in Finglas to be due to a "very serious flow of water coming in through the wall".

The Dunne family, of 61 Avonbeg Gardens, have had to move out of their bedrooms completely so bad has it become. A spongy furry growth, such as appears on a rotten apple, covers all four bedrooms walls. A film of water lies beneath the floor line. The same growth has now appeared in the kitchen and living room where a pile

of toys belonging to their young son had to be thrown out when covered by mould. The same story is repeated in countless other flats on the estate.

What was the reaction of the N.B.A.?

Mrs. Dunne was first told to keep mopping it up. Officials later offered to redecorate the affected areas and treat the walls with a special solution while still maintaining that the root cause was condensation.

The tenant of 42 Avonbeg Gardens, a top floor flat with leaking roof, was told that a side wall and part of her ceiling would have to be taken down to be repaired but she was expected to remain in the flat while this was going on.

Dublin Corporation has refused to take any action on the grounds that sole responsibility lies with the N.B.A. while James Tully, Minister for Local Government, under whose aegis the N.B.A. operates, has also washed his hands of the affair.

In a letter to Mrs. Dunne, dated 13th February, he states: "As regards the dampness in the bedrooms I was informed that the only evidence that the Corporation could find was of condensation due to lack of ventilation. As the best



● Even a child can see the defects in this N.B.A. house at Tallaght. Irish People pic.

administration of their estate is by law a matter for the Corporation. I regret that I cannot act any further on your behalf."

While Dublin Corporation lays responsibility at the door of the N.B.A. according to

Mr. Tully administration of the estate is the concern of the Corporation.

While both Corporation and Minister satisfy themselves that it is none of their concern the health of men, women and children is being put in the balance.

And still the scandal of the N.B.A. goes unnoticed.

## COUNTDOWN

### Listowel

North Kerry Milk Products Ltd. was fined £25 plus £80 costs by Listowel District Court for having polluted the River Feale last year. An analysis of the affected water showed that it contained matter poisonous to fish within 50 yards of it.

### Clare

"Irish landlords of the present day are looking for a 'fast buck'", Mr. Sean O'Connor said at a meeting of Clare County Council when proposing a motion requesting the Government to abolish ground rent.

### Navan

The Meath branch of the Teachers Union of Ireland have decided to affiliate to the Navan Trades Council.

The following officers were elected to the Council at the recent annual general meeting: Chairman, D. Fitzgerald (U.C.A.T.T.); Vice-Chairman, P. Brennan (I.N.U.W.); Secretary, J. O'Brien (I.N.U.W.); Treasurer, G. McGillick (N.E.E.T.U.); Trustees, Messrs. A. Brady (E.T.U.) and John Gavin (U.C.A.T.T.) and Auditors, Messrs. W. Murray (I.T.G.W.U.) and L. Boylan (P.O.W.U.).

### Ballisodare

Officials of the I.T. & G.W.U. are to meet the management of Odiums shortly in an effort to avert the threatened closure of part of Ballisodare Mills. The company intend to close down the flour milling section of the mills which will leave 60 men out of work.

### Bray

Bray Trades Council decided recently to affiliate to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in order to increase its involvement in the mainstream of trade union affairs. Up to now the Council was only registered as a trades council but had no voting rights within the I.C.T.U.

### Enniscorthy

Negotiations are taking place with the management of the Irish Cutlery Company on behalf of 80 employees who are seeking wage parity with other workers in the town.

An offer from the management to implement the 15th round wage agreement at once was rejected by the workers since it would still leave them lagging behind the wage rates enjoyed by other Enniscorthy workers.

### Newcastle West

Two delegates, Messrs. Pat Smith and Barney Keating, were selected to represent Desmond Credit Union at the annual conference of the Credit Union League of Ireland, due to take place on 26 and 27 April. They were appointed at the A.G.M. of the credit union where a shareholding of £12,213 was reported.

### Montpelier

Montpelier, which hit the headlines four years ago when parents resisted Government attempts to close down its National School, is attempting to convert the now empty school into a community centre. Members of the Community Committee are to raise £2,000 to finance the renovation work.



## Clonmel T.U. Move

At a recent meeting held under the auspices of the Clonmel Trades Council an Action Group was formed for the purpose of launching an anti-ground rent campaign in the town. Speakers from Cappoquin and Middleton attended and there was evident enthusiasm for a set-to with local ground rent landlords.

The biggest single owner of leaseholds within the area of the old town, William Russell, is reported to have sniffed the wind and to be anxious to dispose of his rents — at a price, of course. But on the outskirts of the town have mushroomed a number of privately built housing estates, in which the ground rent is held by the building contractor (McInerney's in one case).

Representatives from these were particularly vocal on the necessity of an all-out campaign against every type of ground rent landlord in the area. It is intended to hold another public meeting shortly in order to recruit further support before the drive commences.

## Offer rejected

Members of the twelve unions involved in the Dublin Corporation craftsmen's strike have overwhelmingly rejected the interim offer made by the Corporation. The strikers are seeking a productivity deal which would bring their wages in line with those of similar grades in the E.S.O.

A spokesman for the Corporation Craftsmen's Shop Stewards Committee said the rejected offer was "a long way off" and a much more realistic offer would be required to bring about an interim settlement. He regretted the inconvenience being caused by the absence of services due to the strike but said blame should be placed on the employers who had failed over the years to negotiate in a realistic manner on what are now being recognised as legitimate demands.

## Finglas organises

A tenants association for the N.B.A. housing schemes in South Finglas was formed on Wednesday night.

The new association will be demanding action from Dublin Corporation to have serious structural defects in some of the houses put right, the provision of adequate fencing, playing facilities for children, public lighting, a bus service and a public telephone.

Representatives of the national executive of the National Association of Tenant Associations attended and they heard the results of a Sinn Féin survey of defects in houses in the area as well as an architects report on the matter.



● Residents blocking up garages at Brooke Park, Belfast.

## Garages blocked in bid to prevent trouble

Residents of a Belfast housing estate have taken the law into their own hands and blocked up the garages of unfinished houses in their area. They are members of the Residents Association at Brooke Park, a private housing estate situated between the Catholic Ladybrook and the Protestant Blacks Road estates.

The action is being taken to combat the mounting troubles between Protestant and Catholic youths from the Ladybrook and Blacks Road. Mr. Connor Bradley, vice-chairman of the Brooke Park Residents Association, says that the garages in their present state provide shelter for the youths and hence a flashpoint for trouble.

Recently this has taken on a more sinister form when shooting has broken out between the rival youths. "We have approached everyone to have the garages blocked up but no one will give us satisfaction," says Mr. Bradley.

The builder, J. F. McCall, refuses to either finish the

houses or block the garages and Mr. Bradley says that the trouble and the squatting problems in the nearby Framhill Estates has led to a reduction in the value of the Brooke Park houses.

The Housing Executive refused to block the garages because they say they do not interfere in private property. The British Army also refused to take action and said they were precluded from doing so unless they had been shot at from the garages.

## Full backing

The garage blocking action has the full backing of all the residents of Brooke Park. "We are determined to keep our estate non-sectarian and have been forced into this position because of the negligence of the builder and of the authorities in general," says Mr. Bradley.

The association has suggested the building of a youth club in the area which would undoubtedly alleviate the problem in some way.

## MR. DONEGAN ISN'T THE ONLY MAN TO MAKE MISTAKES!



## Cork corporation votes for hard line

Cork Corporation on Monday night last decided by 25 votes to 2 to take a hard line against N.B.A. tenants on rent strike in the city. This should mean the early imprisonment of tenants who have been sentenced over the past few months.

The two-year-old campaign of repeatedly prosecuting tenants is almost certain to be intensified in an attempt to break the strike and recover the £282,000 which is being withheld from the Corporation.

Only two Corporation members, P. Leahy and G. Carroll, supported a move to allow the Togher tenant leader, Tom O'Sullivan, to address the meeting. Mr. O'Sullivan is one of the tenants due to go to gaol. Messrs Leahy and Carroll had also proposed that all court proceedings against tenants be withdrawn.

The strike in Togher, Mayfield and The Glen has

been the longest in the history of the State. It resulted from the appalling conditions and rent system in houses constructed by Sisk Construction Systems for the N.B.A.

Various expert bodies, including the Institute of Industrial Research and Standards, have condemned the schemes. Sisks have consistently refused to make an I.I.R.S. report available to the Corporation. An expert commissioned by the Minister for Local Government last year confirmed that serious defects existed. A doctor who treated tenants injured by exploding heating units has called for action from the Minister. Another doctor has attributed widespread bronchial complaints among children to conditions in the dwellings.

And a member of the Corporation who alleged that £2 million was overspent on the schemes has been appointed by the Minister to the board of



● Senator Brian Lenihan.

Senator Brian Lenihan intends to make his Dail comeback in the new constituency of Dublin West.

The way is being prepared at the moment for his selection by the Fianna Fail organisation in the Lucan area as a candidate for election to the Dublin County Council in the June local government elections.

Success here will pave the way to a nomination for the next general election when one of the opponents in the new constituency will be Justin Keating, Minister for Industry & Commerce, who represents the North Dublin constituency in the present Dail.

## Jim Callaghan's Barricades

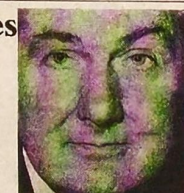
"Sunny Jim" Callaghan, the British Labour Party's answer to Alec Douglas Home, has taken a leaf from the book of Australian P.M. Whitlam. When the Australian Labour Party won the Federal elections, Foreign Affairs appeared to be a barren field.

He launched a campaign against French nuclear tests in the Pacific and generally presented a 'style' which pleased liberal opinion everywhere. At home the original Australians, black, dispossessed, discriminated against, continued and continue to be black,

dispossessed, and discriminated against.

Mr. Callaghan after a few days in office similarly pleased International opinion by stopping British Naval visits to Greece and Chile. In the course of a speech explaining his action he said "at least we can make clear which side of the barricades we are on".

Mr. Callaghan's Government runs the biggest concentration camp in Europe and it is filled to overflowing. At home Mr. Callaghan's Government breaks and bends every Home Office Rule and International



● Jim Callaghan, Britain's Home Secretary.

Law in their maltreatment of hunger-striking Irish prisoners.

Mr. Callaghan ought to ask himself and his colleagues "what side of the Barricades are we on?"

## Dockers accept Agreement

By a majority of 11 votes Dublin's 600 deep sea dockers have accepted the controversial Decasualisation Scheme — Phase I proposals. The proposals emerged from five month's negotiations between the Association of Dublin Stevedores Ltd. and

the Marine Port & General Workers' Union.

The Agreement will come into operation within the next fortnight and no changes can be made in it which do not conform with legislation or a directive such as a National Wage Agreement.

GLUISEACHT NA POBLACHTA  
COISTE FEILE

IOICHE CEOIL AGUS CRAIC

DE DOMHNAIGH 316 LA MARTA

CLUB UI CHADHAIN, 28 PLAS GARDNAR

Táille 30p. — 9 p.m. - 12 p.m.

## VIEWPOINT

It is safe to say that newspaper readers in the 26 Counties are getting no more than a fraction of what is happening in the Six Counties. Part of the reason for this lies in the fact that it is physically impossible for reporters and correspondents to cover every event in that hapless area. It must be conceded, in passing, that newspapermen in the North are doing a fine job under difficult conditions — they are endeavouring to present the facts in an impartial manner and to give as comprehensive a coverage as is practical and possible.

Yet certain limitations are being placed on their efforts and reports, and the newspapermen in the North will be the first to admit this. Serious papers like The Irish Times and The Irish Press devote considerable space to northern news and their

coverage is as nearly complete as possible — particularly so in the case of The Irish Times. Limitations or space sometimes militate against The Irish Press, which has by far the largest circulation of all three Dublin morning papers in the North.

Which brings me to mention of The Irish Independent, which gives the worst Northern coverage of all. If a 26-County reader had to depend on the Independent for his knowledge of what is going on in the North, then he would be very badly informed indeed. According to some journalistic friends in Belfast and Dublin, not merely does this paper cut down all northern news and scatter it indiscriminately throughout the paper, but it also editonises its news, with the result that 26-County

readers see only a minimum about current happenings in the Six Counties.

Furthermore, I'm told its Northern Political Editor, one James Kelly, is widely known as an apologist for the SDLP and rarely has a good word to say about other groups. His biased reports and commentaries have, of course, reduced his credibility as a political journalist and have reportedly resulted in loss of support and circulation for the Independent in the North.

Not that the paper has many readers left in the Six Counties anyway — and it will have fewer if its present policy continues. It is serving its readers, north and south, very badly with its current pussy-foot practices. "Ireland's national newspaper" how are ye!

## CORMAC DUNNE



# What ministers should have seen

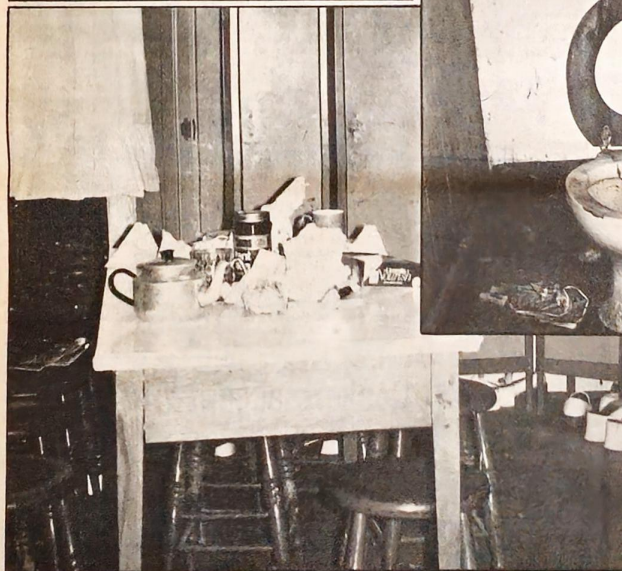
These exclusive pictures will give an idea of what two Ministers, Brendan Corish and Richard Burke, should have seen on their visit to the Dublin Dental Hospital.

Many of our future dentists are being trained at the Hospital. Conditions there are primitive. And no amount of penny pinching botched-up alterations will improve them. A new hospital and dental school is required.

Equipment in the existing hospital is archaic. Two maintenance men and an apprentice try to keep it in working order. They have to do all plumbing, electrical and carpentry repairs in the twelve departments of the hospital. They can have as many as twenty repair jobs to do in each department each week.

Their task is not made easier by some of the principals who see efforts at keeping the equipment in shape as delaying the day of reckoning when the Ministers for Health and for Education will finally be forced to take some action.

The fire extinguishers in one of our pictures were bought 18 months ago. In the event of a fire they would be inaccessible. And should flames ever threaten to engulf the dental "school" at Lincoln Place or its adjunct at the corner of Westland Row it would be in the best interests of public health and of dental education that they should be let burn to the ground.



## Pressure on rent strikers

Several people have contacted THE IRISH PEOPLE during the past few weeks giving details of pressure being applied to them to pay up their ground rent. In some cases there is confusion as to what they should do in response to this pressure.

At the moment there is no overall A.C.R.A. policy in regard to this matter and the question of how to respond to pressure is left to the individual Association, and, very often, to the individual himself. It should not be long, however, before an overall policy is made clear on this issue.

In the interim THE IRISH PEOPLE gives the following advice: In most of the cases coming up at the moment the 'threats' amount to nothing more than solicitor's letters, very often pro forma duplicated letters. They can be safely ignored.

The next process is that of either suing for possession of the person's house on grounds of breach of lease or issuing a Civil Bill for the amount of the arrears. At this point the individual householder must be able to fall back on the solidarity of his local Residents Association.

### Opportunity

The Civil Bill process may be delayed by a variety of legal means but the costs incurred, though minimal, should be shared by everybody likely to benefit from the outcome of the strike. The Civil Bill process also affords an opportunity to make a speech in court which, cumulatively over a period, will give great impetus to a change in the law.

As the June Local Elections approach and ground rent becomes more and more an issue the pressure from ground landlords great and small will increase as they struggle to get their hands on what loot remains in it for them.

When landlords note the Minister for Local Government calling ground rent an 'abomination' in the Dail they know that the writing is on the wall for them. In the coming months, therefore, the landlord pressure will increase.



## Donegan named by itinerants

The proposal that itinerants be compulsorily sterilised and banished to off-shore islands made by John Reilly, of Ballina Urban Council and former member of the Labour Party, is to be reported to the Council of Europe and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights as an 'incident to Genocide'.

The complaint is to be made by the World Romani Congress, representing 12 million travelling people throughout the world, as part of a report on discrimination and ill-treatment of itinerants in Ireland.

The conviction of Mr. Paddy Donegan, Minister for Defence in the Coalition Cabinet, of having shot at camping tinkers in October 1968 will also be mentioned in the report.

The Department of Education is also taken to task for having segregated itinerant children within all itinerant 'ghetto' schools where they cannot mix with non-travelling children of their own age.

Another major cause for complaint is police discrimination against tinkers.

John Connors, Vice-President of the Gypsy Council, the British section of the World Romani Congress, returned to Ireland recently to campaign for better treatment for tinkers.

The Irish Travellers Council composed of Travellers Committees from different areas has been established to further this campaign.

The major reform which the Council will be seeking is the enactment of an Irish Race Relations Act to protect itinerants as an ethnic group from discrimination. Itinerants with complaints of discrimination could bring charges under this act.

The Council will also be seeking an end to segregation in education by the provision of free integrated education for itinerant children, access to all medical services in particular for children on the roads and an end to police discrimination.



The

treat that's  
hard to  
swallow

## BY DENIS FOLEY

Who is the greatest beneficiary from Old Age Pensions in Ireland? The answer is Senator Lord Iveagh and his fellow owners of Guinness.

What group of pensioners will receive no benefit whatsoever from any increase in the Old Age Pension which Richie Ryan might announce in his Budget on Wednesday next? The answer is the group of pensioners who are former employees of Guinness.

Because for every extra penny the former Guinness workers get in their O.A.P. from the State, Guinness will deduct an equivalent amount from the retirement pensions paid by the company. In this way the State and the Old Age Pensioners will be contributing to the Guinness profits for 1974 as they have done in 1973 and in all the previous years.

Guinness has always been one of the plum jobs in Dublin. The company has a history of industrial peace — a solid company, a solid produce and a happy workforce.

Guinness was the first private employer to have a retirement pension in either Great Britain or Ireland. It was this which especially attracted workers to the Guinness plants, a perk which made them want to stay with the company and to serve it loyally. The pension scheme meant as much to workers as extra money in their wage packets — it was a savings scheme for retirement.

Up to 1949 the pension was given at the discretion of the Board of Management. From 1949 onwards, when a Trust Fund was set up by transfer of funds and "out of profits" contributions, the pension became a right of the Guinness employees.

The present rate of pension is two thirds of finishing salary or wage. If you have a high wage or salary on retirement your pension is high, if your wages are small your pension will be correspondingly low.

Workers in Guinness, like other workers in the State, pay weekly contributions to the State as required by the Social Welfare Acts. It is these contributions which entitle workers to social welfare benefits including the State Contributory Old Age Pensions.

So workers in Guinness could consider themselves entitled to the Guinness retirement pension (earned by their service to the company) and, on reaching the age of 69, to the State Old Age Pension (earned by their weekly Social Welfare Contributions).



● Guinness Brewery: "a solid company, a solid produce and a happy workforce". Irish People inc.

They would of course, if the two combined brought them within the income tax bracket, be liable to State deductions.

This should be the position: John Jones works with Guinness. He retires at 65 and receives the Guinness pension — i.e. two-thirds of his wages. On reaching the age of 69 John Jones becomes entitled to Old Age Pension. His income would then be the Guinness pension plus O.A.P. minus any deductions for income tax which might apply. It is the State that should decide whether his income was taxable or otherwise.

But in the case of former brewery employees the State role is taken over by the Guinness Board of Management. It is Senator Lord Iveagh, his colleagues and their predecessors who decide and have decided what is to be an acceptable level of existence for their former employees.

And the company policy is that pensioners like John Jones can receive their Old Age Pensions on reaching the age of 69 but the Company will deduct an equivalent amount from the brewery retirement pension.

There are 2,500 Guinness pensioners. For each of those who has attained the age of 69 Guinness could be said to receive a weekly gift of 17.20 from the State.

Therefore if even 1,000 former employees of Guinness have reached O.A.P. age the weekly state gift to the company comes to hardly 17,200. In a year it would amount to 174,400. And if Richie Ryan decides to increase the Pension or reduce the qualifying age next week it will mean a further increase in the gift to the brewery.

Great stuff, that Guinness.

BOLAND  
COULD  
TELL  
INSIDE  
STORY  
OF IRISH DEMOCRACY

There is much talk these days of "defending our democratic institutions". These institutions are usually "under attack" or in some sort of danger. Most of the talk is negative. Our "democratic institutions" are looked upon as fixed and finished objects requiring little but maintenance to keep them functioning smoothly. There is no positive attitude in the examination, no constructive criticism and, patently, little true understanding of what democracy is or could be.

The fact is that the present democratic set-up in the south of Ireland is the cardboard copy of the British parliamentary system with its 1921 date stamp clearly visible.

The two major conservative parties, which

also date from that time, have survived with the system, because of the system and, therefore, have a vested interest in conserving it and projecting it into all our futures. Not that the system is either wholly or partly bad. Far from it. But to say that Irish democracy has served the people well is not to say that no progress towards a truer democracy is not necessary.

For example, the centrepiece of the whole system, the Dail, cannot guarantee any Irish person the two basic necessities of life — a job and a house. The fact that most Irish people have got through the past fifty years with both, whatever the attendant hardship, is more to the credit or discredit of the private enterprise economy

than to any act by the Dail.

For example, the two greatest pillars of the Dail, the Fianna Fail and Fine Gael parties, have become pensioners of that same private enterprise economy as any examination of party funds will show.

In one of his more penetrating comments since leaving Fianna Fail Kevin Boland pointed out that his former party drew far more from industry and banking sources than from the annual national collection. Boland, as former Honorary Secretary, has one of the great inside stories in the history of Irish democracy to tell — if he ever does.

Democracy, in a private enterprise economy, becomes just another commodity. Any true account of the background wheeling

and dealing with Dail deputies and parties over the decades will represent the Dail more as arbiter between those who control the forces of production in Ireland and the ordinary people than as a sovereign legislative parliament.

The commercial and industrial pressures behind the scenes have more often than not made the Government into a dishonest broker siding with vested interest against the common good.

So that democracy in Ireland not only requires eternal vigilance: it also requires constant critical assessment. There has been so little assessment in the past that it would be difficult to decide where to begin. But a beginning should be made towards a truer and greater democracy.





● Jack Lynch: close friend of the Staffords.

## The N.A.T.O.

The views of Trade Union and Tenant Association leaders on how Ireland's mineral resources should be exploited will be given at a public meeting in the Mansion House, Dublin on April 9.

Among the principal speakers will be Mr. Matt Larkin, general secretary of the National Association of Tenant Organisations, Professor Skeffington (T.C.D.), Francis Walsh (Maynooth College), Dr. Liam de Paor, Senator Noel Browne and a representative of the National Executive Council of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union.

The meeting is being organised by the Resources Protection Campaign and will have "Ireland's Resources — Mines, Oil and Gas" as a discussion theme. It will be chaired by Dr. David Nelligan.

## Strike at Ballina

Vegetations aimed at ending the strike by 250 workers at the Mayco Plastics plant in Ballina began on Tuesday. The workers who are members of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union have been on strike for more than a week.

The dispute arose from the dismissal without notice of a lorry driver. The management claimed that two weeks previously the driver had been "caught" clocking in another worker's card.

The strikers say that if the driver was "caught" then the man should have been informed on the occasion of the offence, that the person who "caught" him should come forward and give evidence against him and that the factory shop steward should, in accordance with standard procedure, have been informed of the case before the worker was dismissed. They are to insist on the driver's reinstatement pending investigation of the affair by a Rights Commissioner from the Labour Court.

Management claim that their obligation towards the Union was fulfilled by their informing the Branch Secretary, Mr. John Reilly and another official from Sligo, of their intention to dismiss the worker.

## view on wealth



● Matt Larkin, General Secretary, N.A.T.O.

The connection of two important Wexford families with Fine Wool Fabrics Ltd. has been overlooked in the hullabaloo over the impending closure of the firm which will add over 300 to Wexford's jobless total from mid-May.

They are the Corish and Stafford families.

Fine Wool Fabrics was until recently owned by the Stafford family. Members of the family constituted a majority of the Board and young Victor Stafford, having returned from an American university, worked there until about five years ago.

The present situation is that the Stafford family have sold the plant but have held on to the valuable land, two miles from Wexford town.

This is no accident and not the first time that the Staffords have moved one ahead of the crowd. In the 1960's they indifferently watched the death of Wexford as a port to the benefit of New Ross where the family owned a wharf and a fertiliser factory. The fact that their initial fortunes, through the importation of coal and timber in the 1930's, were made from Wexford held little weight with them. The move also gave them an advantage over competitors importing coal into Wexford who could not afford to take in equally large quantities to New Ross.

## Gresham

The Staffords have since sold their New Ross fertiliser factory and have moved on to the more lucrative fields of property speculation. They own the Gresham Hotel in Dublin which they see as a property situation and plan on selling or developing it next year. They are also planning major developments in Tara Street and their development at Earlsfort Terrace is under way. Property dealings by the Staffords have extended as far afield as Brussels and Paris. They are also the holders of one of the few E.E.C. road haulage licences granted to Irish firms. And they recently announced that they are joining the offshore oil, speculation race.

Traditionally backers of Fianna Fail, the family has received odd cultural plums. Mrs. J. J. Stafford (senior) was, for instance, a member of the Censorship Board for some years and the senior Mr. and Mrs. Victor Stafford were close friends of Jack and Maureen Lynch. Their

# Wexford jobs saga

courtship of Brendan Corish was designed towards using him as a lever in easing dire industrial relations situations met by the family in their Wexford operations.

Although the Staffords have skipped in opportune fashion out of Wexford Harbour, the New Ross fertiliser factory and, now, Fine Wool Fabrics they can expect State backing again for their new ventures.

Large employers of local labour they wield considerable local pressure. When, for instance, Fine Wool were fined for polluting Wexford Harbour with effluent dyes more than local conservationists were alarmed. Only a nominal fine was imposed. The effluent continued to be discharged and put at risk a unique local industry — that of mussel fishing in the harbour — on which 70 jobs in a local canneries depended. Fortunately, and no thanks to the Staffords, the fishing in the harbour continues.

## Question

The failure of the Tanaiste, Mr. Brendan Corish, to save Fine Wool Fabrics by organising State intervention has come in for much criticism. The question now being sarcastically asked

amongst the workforce is what is to become of Brendan's second son, Philip. Philip is employed as a production manager at Fine Wool.

Eyebrows were raised when he took up the post two years ago. He had previously worked as a clerk in Martins Travel Agency in Stillorgan and his sudden transformation into a production manager in a tweed mill raised some odd jokes.

It was generally accepted that the Fine Wool post was nothing more than an incidental for Philip who is in his mid-twenties. The main reason for bringing him back to Wexford was to help with his father's constituency "confessional" work.

The presence of Philip at Fine Wool did, however, give workers there a sense of security. They felt that Brendan Corish would hardly slot his political understudy into a dying concern. They were mistaken and they are now left to wonder whether Philip will join them in the dole queue or whether another plum will be found for the future T.D.

The Staffords and the Corishes will not starve when Fine Wool closes down. The spectre of unemployment will not hang too heavily upon them.



● Brendan Corish: failure at Fine Wool.

# SIX OTHER NAVANS IN THE MIDLANDS?

Six further mineral deposits as valuable as the ore body at Navan have been discovered by the geo-chemical survey team of the Agricultural Institute. The value of the Navan ore in its unrefined state has been calculated to exceed 12 billion — its presence under the ground was discovered by the Agricultural Institute on a budget of a mere 12,000 according to Dr. Tom Walsh, Director of the Institute.

The new discoveries have brought added significance to the attitude of the Government on who should own, exploit, and benefit from the mineral deposits on land and the offshore and gas deposits. Cabinet thinking on the matter was laid bare in an interview with the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Justin Keating, published in *The Irish Times*.

State ownership and State development of our resources is not on. A licence for the exploitation of the Navan deposit will shortly be granted to Tara Mines Ltd. and a number of exclusive

exploration licences will, within the next year, be granted to companies who will exploit the oil and gas deposits.

The granting of a licence to Tara Mines is being looked upon as a matter of urgency by the Government. "I want to see the whole situation in regard to that ore body in the middle of Co. Monaghan resolved as quickly as possible with the perfectly simple objective that the stuff should be got out of the ground and made some money both for some private individuals and also for the State — indeed, to make as much money as possible," says Mr. Keating.

He feels that total public ownership "does not correspond with the wishes of the people of Ireland as expressed through a number of political parties, on the basis of the programme by which the Government was elected, and on the known opinions of politicians of all shades."

The Minister is correct in stating that the exploitation by the State of our mineral

resources was not among the Coalition's pre-election 14 point programme. Neither did it figure in Fianna Fail's policy. The question of mineral resources was not an issue in the last or any of the previous general elections. The people of the country have in fact never been asked to decide on whether they wanted our mineral resources retained for development by the State or handed over by the Government for the use and benefit of concerns such as Tara, Northgate, Silvermines, Marathon Oil, B.P. Petroleum, etc., etc.

Nor has Mr. Keating or the Government any intention of giving the people a chance to decide. He would view a referendum as a costly thing. "A referendum is time-consuming and expensive if you actually quantified it, not just in what the State spends but in the time of the people involved in doing it. It is a very large undertaking and one doesn't do it lightly," says the Minister.





● Dolours (left) and Marlon Price: a welcome boost from Corporal Foxford.

## THE FOXFORD PRECEDENT

The campaign for the return of the Price sisters received a welcome boost last week from a most unexpected source — the British legal system. By returning Corporal Francis Foxford from the North to a prison in Britain to serve a three-year sentence for killing a 12-year-old Newry boy, the British authorities recognized that there is a precedent for transferring prisoners from one jail to another for certain reasons. Corporal Foxford, of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, was transferred from Belfast to Liverpool prison a matter of hours after the "guilty" verdict was announced by Mr. Justice Kelly. No official reason was given for his transfer but press men were advised that "it is believed that the authorities fear reprisals against Foxford if he remains in Northern Ireland".

The press were also informed that Foxford's wife suffered badly under the strain of the trial and that she gave birth to their second child prematurely. It was, therefore, for "compassionate" grounds that the corporal was moved.

Mrs. Foxford lives at the Royal Hampshire's Regimental Headquarters in Winchester, only a short distance from the court in which the Price sisters were found guilty. But their requests for a transfer to a prison in the North on compassionate grounds have been flatly refused. Compassion is a very selective process in British politics.

In another stroke of compassion two days after his sentence Corporal Foxford was released on bail pending his appeal. There is no precedent for granting bail under the Emergency Provisions Act and it has been suggested that the Corporal's sudden release was to avoid any further embarrassment on the Price sisters issue.

This theory is strengthened by the fact that Foxford's appeal case was heard in secret. It was not announced beforehand and the result was released to the press the day after the appeal was heard. He was already released when the decision was made public.

Bail was granted, it is reported, because Foxford was previously of good character and "the victim of circumstances". Although he admitted shooting dead 12-year-old Kevin Healey in Derrybeg



● Corporal Francis Foxford: 'fired deliberately from the hip', gaoled and bailed.

Park, Newry, in February, 1973, he was not charged with murder — merely with "unlawfully killing" the boy. And now Foxford walks a free man in Winchester. The Winchester Eight remain behind bars in various parts of England. They have not asked to be released, merely to be transferred to prisons in the North.

As one Newry mother said at the week-end: "Perhaps if they had gone armed into a working-class housing estate in England and fired deliberately from the hip at a twelve-year-old boy and killed him, their case could be reviewed on compassionate grounds".

Speeches made in the past fortnight by Northern Ireland's Secretary for State Merlyn Rees seem to presage moves on internment and the recognition of Provisional Sinn Féin. Rees has stressed again and again the need to "allow all to play their part in political action". These speeches probably herald the Labour initiative in the present position in the North.

Rees spent his first few weeks reiterating the solid Tory stands on all issues from the constitutional position of Northern Ireland to the issue of internment. Undoubtedly, the minority Labour Government have one main priority when it comes to Northern Ireland — to keep it as far

The price of all home produced goods in the North will rise by at least an additional 5 per cent from next month. This increase will be extra on all other price rises and it is the result of a little known decision taken recently by the Minister of Commerce, John Hume.

According to Mr. Hume the Government-owned Northern Ireland Electricity Service needs what he calls "an economic price structure". To obtain this he has decided to increase the price of electricity by between 60 per cent and 100 per cent for industry and by 35 per cent for domestic consumers.

### Pass on

A local spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry says that the increased electricity charges for industry will mean at least an additional 5 per cent on the price of all finished goods.

This 5 per cent is the direct responsibility of Mr. Hume because on the same day that the electricity price increases were announced, he said in the Assembly that the only way to solve the financial problems of the N.I.E.S. was to pass their current deficit on to the public.

He did not announce the price increases himself — he left that job to Mr. John Gaston, the Commercial Director of the N.I.E.S.

The question now being asked about Mr. Hume's decision is why did he decide to pass the burden on to the consumer rather than absorb it by Government action?

### Oil price

In the Assembly he rightly pointed out that over 80 per cent of the fuel used to generate electricity in the North is oil, and he also rightly pointed out that the price of oil has risen steeply in the past few months.

But what Mr. Hume did not point out was that on the same day as the electricity price increases were announced, the biggest supplier of oil to the North's power stations, British Petroleum, announced that its profits for last year were over £310 million.

And what the Minister also failed to point out was that the people he works for — the British Government — are major shareholders in BP, owning nearly half the shares.

This means that electricity price increases are now being passed on to the Northern consumer to keep up the profits of a company in which their Government has a major interest. The consumer must pay an immediate 55 per cent increase on his domestic fuel bill with the promise of another rise soon. And then there is the additional 5 per cent on the price of all finished products. All this is to make sure that BP exceed £310 million profit next year.

Mr. Hume has suggested that it would be unreasonable to expect the Government to meet or wipe out these increased electricity charges. But only two weeks ago he announced in Stormont that he will compensate the North's five private gas companies for financial losses in the two years ending 1975.

### Derry

The companies concerned supply gas in Enniskillen, Derry, Dungannon, Portadown and Armagh.

In Britain another precedent was set recently. The newly appointed Secretary for Energy, Mr. Eric Varley, announced that he was writing off the National Coal Board's deficit for the current financial year estimated at about £150 million.

Rather than write off the estimated deficit of £50m. for the N.I.E.S., Mr. Hume has decided to pass it on to the people of the North.

The net result will be a greater financial reward for the British Government. But then Mr. Hume works for the British Government.



● Merlyn Rees: moving on internment?

## Rees to experiment with internment?

By Our Political Correspondent

Speeches made in the past fortnight by Northern Ireland's Secretary for State Merlyn Rees seem to presage moves on internment and the recognition of Provisional Sinn Féin. Rees has stressed again and again the need to "allow all to play their part in political action". These speeches probably herald the Labour initiative in the present position in the North.

Rees spent his first few weeks reiterating the solid Tory stands on all issues from the constitutional position of Northern Ireland to the issue of internment. Undoubtedly, the minority Labour Government have one main priority when it comes to Northern Ireland — to keep it as far

advanced by the Provisionals for continuing their campaign.

The other main justification for the Provisional campaign is internment. Now that the minority population is safely under the leadership of the S.D.L.P. the gradual release of internees would have the effect of releasing even more air from the Provisionals' water-wings.

Rees is tempted to at least experiment in this area as the policy of gradual release can almost imperceptibly be turned into one of gradual increase if circumstances warrant.

The first step will be the legalisation of Provisional Sinn Féin, a policy Rees argued for while in opposition.



● John Hume: left job of announcing price increases to John Gaston.

## S.A.S. CAUSE OF RED FACES

Every time the British-Irish-Unionist establishment seem to be having a good propaganda image and the well laid plans are cooking nicely, something goes wrong. On March 18, the London 'Times' carried a story under the byline of Robert Fisk, Belfast correspondent of the newspaper. The news content of the story was that 40 or 50 S.A.S. men had entered Northern Ireland recently. The British Army rebuttal of the story was not up to Col. Sillitoe's usual black propaganda standard (was he on leave?) and admitted that, in substance, the facts were correct.

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association poured cold water on the rebuttal and reasserted that S.A.S. had been operating in the North since 1971. Possible explanation of the story is that the normal complement of S.A.S. men in the North were due for leave and trained replacements moved in to occupy the vacancies. Nor, in their Ireland posting is unpopular with the normal run of S.A.S. agents and they much prefer the fleshpots of the Arabian Gulf Emirates, the off duty pastimes are much more rewarding there.

### Armagh S.A.S.

On March 19, continuing the run of bad luck, the R.U.C. killed two S.A.S. men in County Armagh. Could the story be killed? Could the story be kept under wraps? The factors inhibiting a full scale cover up, the suspicion that the R.U.C. and the D.U.R. are badly penetrated by disloyal 'loyalists', the failure to silence William Black (former D.U.R. man who arrested an S.A.S. operative), the obvious interest of the press following the 'Times' story, were too many. A cover story was concocted and the news was released at 10 a.m. on the 20th.

The uncovering of Government involvement in illegal activity ranging from murder through wounding to torture and blackmail detracts from the bell, book, and Bishops' candle attacks being mounted against the satanic



● Kitson: 'an informer in every street'.

'terrorists'. Mr. Merlyn Rees advice to all Irishmen to turn informer (fulfilling Kitson's advice 'an informer in every street and village') invites the retort as to who is going to inform on his terrorists.

Ask any citizen in a working class Belfast street 'who was responsible for such and such a killing... or bombing' ten out of ten will qualify their answer with: "well... it could be the Brits".

South Armagh has recently been the scene of some bombing tragedies, including the van bomb which killed several young men near Newry. In the light of past and present undercover British activity some questions arise. Last year a Warronpoint man was killed when he went to recover his hi-jacked car near Crossmaglen. He had checked with the R.U.C. and the British Army and had been assured that the car had been thoroughly examined for bomb or booby trap. Similarly the van which exploded and killed the youths near Newry had been reported to and examined by the Military.

### Paisley fears

There are three parties to the conflict in Northern Ireland and the ruling one has become very adept at provocation. Mr. Paisley has expressed fears for his life... not from the Provos but from the S.A.S.



# BACKPAGE

## Royal

# shock horror!

Priceless Anne had the wind put up her yesterday. The incident happened as the Priceless and her husband were returning from a British Army function at Gosford Park as part of their state visit to County Armagh.

As they were travelling along the Mall in Mowhan they were ambushed by the Provisional wing of the R.U.C. who only last week killed two British soldiers in the same area. In a statement issued in Belfast last night the R.U.C. accepted responsibility and said that the struggle will go on. The statement was signed by P. O. Flanagan, Ruml.

In a speech in the House of Commons last night the leader of the S.A.S., Mr. Harold Wilson, denied that Priceless Anne was on plain clothes duty in the area. She was wearing the British Royalty regulation articles of clothing, he said, and he produced the above photograph as proof.



● It's an ill wind . . .

Explaining how the incident happened the Secretary for Northern Ireland, Mr. Merlyn Rees, said that Mowhan is on the main road from Buckingham Palace to Sandringham and that the royal couple had simply no alternative route. He promised to outlaw the R.U.C. as soon as possible, but he pointed out that there were a lot of dangerous men in their ranks and he named Special Branch man McKinney as an example.

Meanwhile the Priceless herself has issued a special royal statement on the affair. She said "My husband and I" and pointed out that they were both half shot at the time the incident took place. She said that she was glad that they had both emerged with clear rounds but she did wish that as many as twenty clear rounds had not been fired at them.

An unemployed Englishman of no fixed abode will appear in court later today. He was named last night as E. Heath.

## CONTRA O'LEARY

The Government's decision to make contraceptives available only to married people has caused a split in the Cabinet. Mr. Michael O'Leary, a well known single man, has pointed out that he is being discriminated against. He has refused to accept an assurance by the Taoiseach, Mr. Cosgrave, that other members of the Cabinet can always buy them for him.

Mr. O'Leary is to raise the matter in the Dail today and he is expected to ask if the new bill entitles Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien to a double supply of contraceptives. People with two marriage certificates were making small fortunes on the black market last night and it is reported that old age pensions were selling

their marriage certificates at a brisk rate.

In a special message to the Irish people last night Mr. Brendan Corish appealed to the young women of Ireland to rally round behind the Government to select someone to marry Michael O'Leary as soon as possible so that he can enjoy this fine piece of legislation.

The new bill will mean that most bombs and incendiary devices can now be made only by married men. This immediately led the Government to release all single prisoners from Portlaoise prison.

It is now thought likely that the Government is considering banning all those who are single.

The annual general meeting of the Irish Sovereignty Movement takes place in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, on Sunday, April 7, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Formerly the Common Market Defence Campaign, the I.S.M. has remained in existence by broadening its constitution to include all matters of national interest and changing its name to suit its enlarged role.

Since the Common Market referendum in May, 1972, the Sovereignty Movement has concerned itself with the national issue while keeping a watching brief on Ireland's progress in the Common Market.

The two main motions down for discussion at the annual general meeting reflect this dual interest. The primary motion re-affirms the importance of a demand which the Sovereignty Movement first introduced into the national political scene — a declaration of intent from Britain on disengagement from Ireland.

Tabled by the Executive, the motion notes that "the root cause of conflict in the north is the interference in Irish affairs by the British Government, whereby it claims the right to exercise sovereignty over part of Ireland."

A wide ranging motion on the E.E.C. concludes that it is essential for the Government to "concert a policy to defend our national interests and the livelihood of Irish workers and farmers to the utmost and not allow itself to be further misled by the myths of 'Europeanism' which are so rapidly proving illusory to those who have believed in them."

Other resolutions down for discussion deal with civil liberties in the South, mineral resources, the Boal proposals and the force-feeding of the Price sisters.

## IS THAT A FACT?

There was a spate of recognitions last week. The Taoiseach recognised, for the first time, that Britain was part of the United Kingdom although backbenchers in the Dail had expressed grave reservations about Berwick-on-Tweed.

Later more recognitions were forthcoming when it was officially announced that uniformed divisions of the British Army had been operating on a considerable scale in the North for the past four years. Provisional Sinn Féin, who also hope to be officially recognised in the near future, claim that they have been telling us this all along.

Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Labour Secretary of State for the North has also officially recognised the Unionist Party as a legitimate political



● Michael O'Leary, an outlaw in his own cabinet.

organisation. Although it has been rumoured that he intends to officially recognise other political parties he refused to comment at this stage except that his government was prepared to recognise Mr. Gerry Fitt now and then although Mr. Wilson did not know him personally.

Mr. Rees would not comment as to which branch of the Unionist Party he recognised, the Harry West Unionists (U.U.C.) who did not recognise Mr. Brian Faulkner, the Assembly Unionists (U) who did recognise Mr. Faulkner, or the Uncertain Unionists (U.U.) who were not sure who Mr. Faulkner was.

Meanwhile in the House of Commons, Mr. William Whitelaw was recognised by the cleaning lady in the Gents Lavatory, and Mrs. Staggs recognised her husband, George, in an identity parade at Gullybackey RUC station where he was later charged with planting 200 lbs. of potatoes in a nearby field.

Mr. Staggs refused to recognise the court.

## Swords, Santry

## action on ground rent

### RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS

IN SWORDS, affiliated to the Association of Combined Residents' Associations, have got together to hold a public meeting in the town on Wednesday, March 27, at 8.00 p.m. to discuss the mortgage strike currently in progress in the area. Local T.D.s have been invited to attend as well as Vincent Manning, Andy Conlon and Brian Sheridan of A.C.R.A. Since the beginning of the strike the householders of Swords have played an active part in the campaign: people from the area have taken part in pickets on Building Society premises organised by A.C.R.A., a large contingent attended the mass rally held in Dublin's Mansion House, two residents of Swords are members of A.C.R.A.'s mortgage committee and Swords has the distinction of being the first place in which a civil bill has been served on a mortgage striker.

On Friday, March, the GREENFIELD PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION plan to hold a public meeting in the Assembly Hall, Shanlies Avenue, to formally launch its all-out ground rent strike.

Both members and non-members on the 1,300 house estate in the Ballinamun Santry area are invited to attend. About 1,000 households on the estate have been paying between £10 and £12 annual ground rent to the Irish Life Assurance Company.

## 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<br>Parent company in brackets (I)              | Location   | Product   | Date<br>production<br>expanded 1971 |
|--|------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Vasa Mink<br>(Mc, C. E. Hoagland, Vasa, Irish Interests)       | Stradbally | Mink Furs   | 1965                                |
| Harp Textiles Ltd.<br>(Wolsperger) de Phoenix N.V.<br>Tilburg. | Rathdowney | 1) Fancy worsted yarns<br>2) Double knit fabric<br>3) Woven decorative textiles | 1971                                |

## NO. 29 LAOIS

**I.S.M.  
SEEK  
FIRM  
STAND  
ON  
NORTH**

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT