

UNITED IRISHMAN



AN tEIREANNACH AONTAITHE

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Monthly Newspaper of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party

O'Malley fails to declare his interests . . .

Resign call to Minister

Tomas Mac Giolla, President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, speaking at a meeting of the Dublin Ballyfermot Constituency Committee, called for the resignation of Mr. Desmond O'Malley, the recently appointed Minister for Industry and Commerce. He pointed out that O'Malley's share dealings in Tara Exploration were exposed only in May last and were not satisfactorily explained by him.

"I also accuse him", Mr. Mac Giolla said, "of failing to disclose his

personal interest in the major mining companies operating in this country in that his brother-in-law, Peter McAleer, Barrister at Law, is Vice-President of Northgate Exploration, Director of Tara Mines and Director of Anglo United. As the Minister responsible for the granting of all mineral and oil exploration licences and the person responsible for negotiating the terms of the mining leases, I now say that the only honourable course open to Mr. O'Malley is to resign his ministerial post at once.

The appointment of a person with such family vested interests in three mining companies to a post of such trust, responsibility and power without informing the Irish public of these vested interests is an act of hypocrisy and arrogance by the Fianna Fail party. One recalls the venomous attacks by Mr. O'Malley in the Dail during the debate on Bula when he waxed lyrical about the deal that Mr. Justin Keating — the then Minister — had made with Bula", said Mr. Mac Giolla.

He wondered whether Mr. O'Malley's anger at the Keating deal with Bula was caused by the terms of the deal or by Bula's initiative in acquiring a large share of the Navan orebody by the simple expedient of offering the landowner a far better financial deal than that made to the farmer by Mr. McAleer's Tara Mines!

Mr. O'Malley had admitted in the

Dail in May that he had in fact dealt in Tara shares but, although it was suggested to him by Coalition deputies that he had family interests in Tara Mines, he denied this. He did not at any time reveal that his brother-in-law was a director of the Tara Company."

Mr. Mac Giolla went on to say that he understood "that the plans initiated by Mr. Keating to set up a State Mining Company would not now be fulfilled by Mr. O'Malley". He wondered who was giving advice to Mr. O'Malley on mining and oil policies.

"Was it Mr. McAleer, who was so closely linked with O'Malley, Northgate, Tara and Anglo United?", he asked, "or was it Eamonn Grennan, Chief Geologist of Shalee Exploration, who spoke on mining policies at the last two Fianna Fail Ard Fheiseanna? Who had financed Fianna Fail's expensive General Election campaign? Had they received donations from any of the mining groups and had they given certain promises to these groups, including an undertaking not to set up a State Mining Company if Fianna Fail were elected? These are questions that the Irish public are entitled to have answered!"

Mr. Mac Giolla then went on to call for a public sworn enquiry into connections between mining and oil exploration companies and the three major political parties, Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, and Labour.

He pointed out that many of these connections had already been revealed by Sinn Féin The Workers' Party in their book "The Great Irish Oil & Gas Robbery". Senator



● Desmond O'Malley

Patrick McGrath, close friend of Liam Cosgrave, and Alexis Fitzgerald of Fine Gael were directors of Celtic Oil; Senator Eoin Ryan, Fianna Fail Director of Elections, is also a director of Irish Offshore Oil; Senator George Russell of Fine Gael is Chairman of Silvermines; Sam Stephenson, well-known Fianna Fail Taca supporter, has a 13% stake in Forest Oil, while Paddy Belton of Fine Gael and Brian Lenihan, Fianna Fail Minister of Fisheries, are directors of Oil and Gas Exploration Company.

It is also well known, of course, that John Tully, son of James Tully, former Minister for Local Government, is Secretary of Tara Mines Ltd. "I cannot accept", said Mr. Mac Giolla, "that all these appointments were made strictly on the competence and merits of the individuals involved."



● Trevor McNulty, Belfast Education Officer in the Republican Clubs, was murdered by members of the Provisional Alliance on Wednesday, July 27. A political activist, he was an Executive member of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and was deeply involved in the housing and social problems of North Belfast. The Ard Comhairle of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party extend the deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

see page seven:

Enterprise Ulster

has shown its ability in the area of providing public amenities. The Republican Clubs put forward a strong case why the E.U. should be expanded to become a Direct Labour Organisation competing directly with private builders.

How a deck-hand sees the fishing industry and the problem of defending our fishing zones on Page Five. A harsh look at the reality of life in our coastal waters.



see page eleven:

Salvador

a country run by a ruthless dictatorship in South America. The guiding hand of the US Central Intelligence Agency pulled the triggers which slaughtered 700 people recently to maintain another puppet capitalist government.

INSIDE THIS MONTH

Letters

Dear Comrade,

You may have heard that we are trying to follow up the Loughborough reunion of International Brigaders (held in July last) with a programme of research which would lead to the publication of a set of International Brigade 'profiles'. The Job Creation Programme has provided us with funds and equipment for the transcription of tapes made with International Brigaders and this work is now well under way.

The hope is that the profiles would deal both with events in Spain and with the backgrounds from which the International Brigaders emerged; possibly also they would assess more generally the role of the war in the lives of those who fought it. At all events, the aim is to see the war in context from the point of view of the participants.

One difficulty is that of tracking down former I.B.ers; another is finding adequate biographical information on those who did not survive. I would appreciate any leads you could give me from the archives of the Irish Republican Movement, which I feel certain would include biographical data of great importance. Any help you could give would be very much appreciated.

If I can help with material for your archives from any of our taped conversations, I would be very happy to do so.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

G. Lister,
p.p. Bill Williams,
Manchester Polytechnic,
Hilton House, Hilton Street,
Manchester, England.

I am sure we can depend on any of our readers who may have helpful material to pass it on to the above. — Ed.

• • •

Site 10,
Gasanaon Road,
Finglas East, Dublin 11.

Comrade,

I don't understand the reasoning behind the Editor's comments on Col. Harrison's letter (U.I. July). The United Irishman's consistent exposition of the Soviet Government's view of Solzhenitsyn implies taking sides in the present debate

between various Communist parties.

The so-called Euro-Communists advocate a socialism more in tune with Western democratic concepts; plurality of political parties, the freedom to voice unpopular opinions, etc. (These are rights the working class have won after long years of struggle, and which they are not prepared to give up so capriciously.)

It would be hypocritical of Berlinguer and Carrillo to preach one thing in their countries and condone something quite different in another. Most of us know that Solzhenitsyn has rather archaic theocratic ideas, but, should he suffer for them? Freedom of speech should be one of the pillars of our future socialist democracy.

Fraternally,

William McCamley.

• • •

700 Laurel Avenue,
San Mateo,
California, 94401, U.S.A.

Dear Comrades,

This letter is not a criticism of the name of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party. The comrades in Ireland know what is best for the movement in Ireland, so a person 3,000 miles away has no right to criticise.

But I have a suggestion regarding it as now expressed. The greatest and most important ally of the Irish working class are the farmers of Ireland. They are workers and we all know that farm work is hard and requires long hours. But the farmer is an individual who generally owns his own land, has no boss in the common sense of the word, and at times may hire workers.

This privilege creates an ego that the average worker seldom feels. That is the reason that farmers are so hard to organise. So we must encourage the farmer to realise that, although he may think he is a notch or two

Martin O'Leary is honoured in Cork Brent Trades Council

Please reply to: 13 Fitzgibbon Road, London NW6 7EH.

Chairman: Tom Durkin
Secretary: Jack Dromey

Sean B Cionnath,
Director,
International Affairs Bureau,
Sinn Fein - the Workers Party,
30, Gardiner Place,
Dublin,
1.

Saturday, 2nd July, 1977

Dear Sean,

I am writing to you to thank you for your very generous donation of £25 towards the GRUNWICK Strike Fund. We deeply appreciate the gesture of solidarity and we would pay tribute to the profound tradition of internationalism of Sinn Fein and the Irish working people.

We are determined to win this struggle and, in doing so, to strike a blow for all peoples everywhere who are denied their right to organise.

Best wishes and thanking you once again!

Yours fraternally,

Jack Dromey

Jack Dromey,
Secretary.

Affiliated to the Greater London Association of Trades Councils and registered with the Trades Union Congress

above the worker, his only hope of a better standard of living is to join forces with his fellow workers to establish the Socialist Republic of Ireland.

Therefore, I humbly submit the following change in the name of Sinn Fein The

Workers' Party and include the farmer in it; thus making it Sinn Fein The Workers' and Farmers' Party. This simple change will notify the farmer that he is part of the Republican Movement.

Respectfully,

Vernon Healy.

The sixth anniversary of the death of Martin O'Leary of Ballyphehane, Cork, who was killed at Silvermines, Co. Tipperary, on July 6th., 1971, was marked in Cork by a parade and ceremony at St. Finbarr's Cemetery.

The proceedings were chaired by Ted Tynan and wreaths were laid on behalf of the miners of Silvermines, Cork Dockers, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party and the Irish Democratic Youth Movement. The following is part of the address given by Gerry Doherty, a member of the Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party.

"We are gathered once again to honour the memory of Martin O'Leary, who lost his life in the defence of the Irish people's right to own and exploit their resources in their own interest and not in the interests of the shareholders of London and New York. Martin was in the forefront of the struggle for the reconquest of Ireland — a struggle which today is gradually seeping into the minds of the Irish people as the major battle to be fought and won. That is the growing campaign to have all our mineral wealth, our oil and gas, brought fully under the control of the State. It was for such a programme that Martin died."

"We have now a population where the majority are under 26. They have demonstrated that they are finished with the policies of the Civil War. And they will equally demonstrate that they will not put up with a Fianna Fail government that will not provide the jobs and the opportunities they have promised. We must show them that Sinn Fein The Workers' Party is determined to build and become the major left wing party in this country. That is the challenge which faces us now."

"Let us take up that challenge, aware of the fact that, as Martin O'Leary was in a minority six years ago on the question of resources, we are only on the first yards of the road towards our goal. But, as the people are gradually coming to the views of Martin O'Leary on resources, they can also and will be won to the support of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party as the party to lead our country to the Socialist Republic."

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the October Revolution

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Commemoration Dinner and
Social

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Showing of Eisenstein's
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Full Details from
International Affairs Bureau
Sinn Fein The Workers' Party

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Address

..... Age

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Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

Cabhair

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All Contributions Acknowledged

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ADDRESS

"Creation of new jobs could not be left to private enterprise".

ICTU

The greatest scandal in Irish life at present is the intention to export 300,000 tons of ore concentrate per year from the Navan mine. It will make us the fifth largest producer of lead and zinc in the world. The Tynagh mine has been the largest producing lead and zinc mine in Europe since the early 1960s.

The present plan for a smelter is to allow "New Jersey Zinc" to build a smelter capable of handling about one third of the production from the Tara part of the Navan mine. At the earliest this will be in five years time. The produce before the smelter is built and two thirds of the total production after the smelter is built will be exported as concentrate — that is, the ore is crushed and the parts heavy with metal separated for smelting.

It seems that there is an absence of public protest on the whole question but this is not really true. The press and RTE have imposed a blackout on news of protest about what is happening to our resources. This paper and our * industrial publications — especially "The Great Irish Oil and Gas Robbery" — have named Irish newspaper directors who are up to the neck in the work, and the profitable exercise, of helping the giant companies loot our natural resources.

Some Government Ministers, in this Government and the last one, have family links to the giant mining companies; Tully and O'Malley are two well-known examples of such connections.

However, it is impossible to talk seriously about job creation without protesting at what both the outgoing and incoming Governments in the 26 Counties are doing with our lead and zinc minerals which are being exported at the rate of 300,000 tons of ore concentrate per year.

Yet there seems to be a lack of public protest on the whole issue, despite the good work of the Resources Protection Campaign. Perhaps it only requires some concrete action to act as a catalyst for all that public protest to well up into a flood!

However, the people who count most, the organised workers, are now taking the issue of natural resources very seriously indeed. Just three short years ago the Irish Congress of Trade Unions delegate conference gave the matter little attention — the outgoing President mentioned it briefly in his speech. Two years ago several resolutions on resources appeared on the agenda of the annual conference of Congress and all were passed.

At this year's conference in Limerick the discussion on resources was much more solid and practical. The discussion was mainly about what sort of campaign should be mounted in order to draw public attention to the scandal, and in what way Congress itself could support such a campaign.

Many delegates felt that the majority of trade union members need some education on the matter. This is the first time that this need for more information on the question of resources has found expression at conference. The giant mining companies — American, Canadian and South African, who use the common name of 'Tara' in Ireland — have been conducting a vigorous education programme of their own in the schools and the universities as well as a more general promotional campaign in the Press.

Some unions — The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, for example — at their conference encouraged the Resources Protection Campaign to present their exhibition on resources. Several Trades Councils both north and south have invited the RPC to send speakers. Navan Trades

Council had a resolution on their agenda for Congress Conference supporting the RPC. The Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union had a similar sort of resolution.

This means the Trade Union movement is now becoming aware that the country is losing thousands of millions of pounds and thousands of industrial jobs because of the export of our ore — and news of this is being kept from public view.

The debate on natural resources showed that there is no opposition to the idea of State development of our resources within the trade union movement. The discussion on how Congress should support a campaign on the question of resources was on the subject of ways and means rather than any difference of opinion on the main question.



● Ruaidhri Roberts

The General Secretary, Ruaidhri Roberts, felt that unclearly worded resolutions seemed to be directing Congress to follow the line of an outside organisation, namely the Resources Protection Campaign. This difficulty was overcome when it was pointed out that the purpose of the RPC's trade union support group was not to act merely as a pressure group, but to lodge the industrial development of natural resources firmly in the body of the official trade union movement.

The resolutions on the agenda dealing with natural resources and education and campaigning on the question were then overwhelmingly passed.

Ruaidhri Roberts stated in his address to Congress that the creation of new jobs could not be left to private enterprise. "We demand the direct intervention of the State", he said. "In this task we have a base to build on in the great State companies which past governments have found necessary to establish to undertake certain of the tasks which private enterprise did not consider suitably profitable."

Patrick Cardiff, the new General Secretary of the Workers, Union of Ireland, strongly endorsed Ruaidhri Roberts's call, and demanded the expansion of the State sector and a commitment to build a smelter.

UNITED IRISHMAN

An tEireannach Aontaithe

MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF SINN FEIN THE WORKERS' PARTY

INSULT

The appointment of Desmond O'Malley as Minister for Industry and Commerce in the incoming Fianna Fail Cabinet was the focus for many eyes as this man now influences directly the whole future of our use of natural resources. In fact, neither O'Malley himself or the Fianna Fail party in Government augur well for the best use of whatever oil, gas and mineral resources this country possesses.

Jack Lynch gave O'Malley control over the disposal of our natural resources a few months

after his speculation in mining shares had been exposed in the Dail and despite the fact that his brother-in-law, Peter McAleer is a Vice-President of Northgate Exploration.

The only question is whether Lynch has underestimated the work of the Resources Protection Campaign in raising public consciousness as to the true potential of our resources?

We are not attempting to prejudice Fianna Fail's use of resources when we say that Jack Lynch insults the intelligence of thousands of Irish people with his choice of Minister with respon-

sibility for natural resources and their use.

The appointment, whatever its internal political significance within Fianna Fail, is far less than reassuring with relation to natural resources. It was Sean Lemass who sold our potential oil and gas reserves for a pittance of £500 in the mid-sixties. It was Paddy Lalor, during his term in Industry and Commerce, who gave away Tara and bungled the Bula mining takeover Order, whether deliberately or honestly, and so transferred our greatest mine from the hands of the Irish people to a few private individuals and a multi-national co.

Fianna Fail's record has been dismal. O'Malley has already compromised himself personally. Is the ultimate betrayal of Ireland's right to a future of full employment through the national exploitation of our mineral wealth

the price the people must pay for the passing relief of having dumped a tatty Coalition? Only O'Malley's resignation as called for by Tomas MacGiolla, can reassure us on this point.

The only sure answer lies in increasing the consciousness of people on this issue. The Coalition was eventually forced to compromise on the issue of building a Smelter. Fianna Fail must be pressed to ensure that it is a State-owned Smelter and that the downstream industry be located in Ireland. Similarly, a national use of our oil and gas resources must be insisted upon in the interests of full-employment. In this way the continuation of high unemployment can be linked in the public mind with the sale of our natural resources to foreign bidders — and the result will show when the ballot boxes are opened next time round.



Mr. Matt Merrigan

Free health care for all can be a reality



Dr. David Nowlan

In a recent article, Irish Times (18th July '77), the Medical Correspondent for that paper, Dr. David Nowlan, attacks Mr. Matt Merrigan of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union and other Trade Unionists for their attitudes to the Medical Profession. Dr. Nowlan specifically refers to comments made by Mr. Merrigan at the I.C.T.U. Delegate Conference in Limerick last month, when Mr. Merrigan accused hospital consultants of preventing the implementation of a hospital service that would be free to all.

Dr. Nowlan, in a tone of righteous indignation, goes on to say that the Medical Profession has placed no embargo on a free hospital service, but do not wish to see a service extended to the wealthiest 15% of the population which they feel is already inadequately meeting the needs of the poorest 85% of the population. It

is gratifying to hear that the Medical Profession is so concerned about the quality of medical care that they do not want to further burden the service by extending its coverage to the total population. However, on closer examination these seemingly altruistic motives are not so pure as the doctors might have us believe.

Firstly, to take the Medical Profession's claim that extended coverage would lead to further strain on resources and longer waiting lists. A recent report by the National Economic and Social Council, prepared by two health care experts, made the point that it is the doctors themselves who have the power to regulate the waiting lists, not the State. This type of power is more likely to lead to abuse by doctors over-using the system than patients.

In addition, it could also be

argued that in countries like Ireland where doctors have both private and public patients, waiting lists in the public sector are dependent on the number of private patients a doctor may have on his books. If doctors are so concerned about waiting lists then let them forego their private practice and work full-time in the public sector. Apart from Spain and Portugal no other country in Europe has a percentage of private medical practice as high as Ireland.

Secondly, the administrative costs of running a means-tested system whereby 85% of the population are entitled to free hospital care must be substantial. The eligibility criteria are so complex and full of anomalies that needless time and effort must be devoted to them. For example, an income level of £3,000 p.a. is set for non-manual workers whereas no income level is set for manual workers.

The continuation of such an administratively cumbersome system must prove more costly than the cost of extending the service to the whole population, since it is likely that the remaining 15% of the population will prefer to pay privately for their health care.

Dr. John McManus, in his booklet *Health Care — A Case for Socialist Medicine*, shows that in fact we pay more for our restricted health service than Britain does for a free comprehensive scheme. Our health service costs us 6.1% of G.N.P., whereas Britain's costs only 5.8% of their G.N.P.

It would seem, therefore, that the Medical Profession's concern about the quality of services is not the only reason they are currently opposing a State-run hospital care system, and the public could be forgiven for

thinking that the real reason is a little less altruistic and related more to *hosed cash* — the fear of the loss of income from the private sector.

This view would seem to be further substantiated by the consultative report published recently by the Irish Medical Association. This report argues for an insurance funded system of hospital care whereby the State would pay the premium for the poor and the rich would pay their own with the option of increasing it to obtain more luxurious accommodation. It is also envisaged that this premium would be subject to tax relief, the larger the premium the more tax relief obtained. This system (incidentally, it is also favoured by the new Minister for Health, Mr. Charles Haughey) clearly discriminates against the poor by creating two separate systems of care, one for the poor and one for the rich who also have the added benefit of tax relief.

The introduction of a comprehensive health service funded by general taxation is an essential priority. Such a service would offer general medical services as well as hospital care free of charge at the point of delivery to the total population. The proposed insurance-based scheme with its inbuilt bias against the poor is not the answer despite what the Irish Medical Association and Mr. Haughey may think.

Trade Unionists should oppose any move to reform our health services which continues to allow discrimination against the poorer sections of the community and which allows the medical profession the type of unregulated power they have heretofore exercised in the Health Services.

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Union is the only organisation that can speak for Fishermen

We would not have a fishing industry unless the deckhands took the boats to sea and caught the fish. It is only during the past year that the general public became aware that we have a fishing industry; until recently if fishing came into the mind at all it perhaps came with a holiday memory — happy old men in navy-blue jerseys mending nets beside a quay-wall.

Fishing is a dirty, dangerous, cut-throat way of earning a living. It is a skilled job, possibly one of the few skilled jobs which does not attempt to provide some rules and regulations governing apprenticeships.

We took notes during a conversation with a deckhand and it is better to allow that man to give his opinion on what it is like to work in Ireland's hardest industry.

"Fishermen fish for the quick buck — get it in and then ship it out to where the price is highest. A fish processing industry? How can you have a fish processing industry in that sort of set-up?"

"I suppose you could say that deckhands are victims of the system but they should really all be treated by gamblers anonymous. All the time you're waiting for the 'lump' — two or three hundred quid in your arse-pocket — of course, it seldom comes. You hear of this boat or that boat getting it and you say, 'the hungry so-and-so's' and wish that it was you."

"How do you become a deckhand?"

"Well, kids go to school at Greencastle for six months and they learn a bit about skipping, cooking and things like that. I don't want to say anything about Greencastle because they really do their best for the kids but they don't teach practical fishing."

Sea-sick

"For practical fishing the kid has to go on a boat after six months at Greencastle. Some skippers don't like them all that much; talk about college kids being no good, know everything, and that sort of thing, but they know that the kid knows a bit about cooking."

It is possibly the worst thing to be asked to do when you're new at sea — maybe sea-sick, and looking at food, cooking food. There is about 80% drop out of kids; they don't want to go into that kind of industry.

When they leave Greencastle the government pays them £8 per week — wages, grant or whatever it is. It's up to the skipper, and only the skipper, to say when they come on a half-share. An odd time he might ask the crew about it. There are stories going around about the skipper who charged the kid for the food he eats on the boat — I never came across a case of it myself. The lads usually pass around the hat for the kid — not always. The main point is that only the skipper has the right to say when the kid gets a half-share.

Danger

Skippers sometimes like to take on people who come alone and ask for a job — people who were never near the school at Greencastle. These people usually say that they know this or they know that but everyone knows that they were never near a boat and they are a danger to themselves and everyone else on board.

For a full share you need certain basic skills — how to mend a net, splice a rope and a wire wrap. Splicing wire takes a fair bit of skill. You have to be able to gut and pack and handle different sorts of fish, shoot the doors, handle a winch.

To take a trawler watch means being able to read the "Decca" — it is a system based on "radio-fixes". Decca are a multi-national company who rent their equipment to the trawlers — they never sell it outright. If you don't know exactly where you are at sea you might tear the nets to pieces on all sorts of things under the water. There used to be old skills before the "Decca"; you could take fixes from points on land and you'd know where you were. Most people don't know that now and it is no use when you are out a bit.

Worried

The hours worked depend on the weather; you are talking now about a hundred hours a week or more. The EEC are trying to have work on the quay on a Saturday regarded as "work at sea" but it's not in yet.

Fishermen say that they are tough men, pride themselves on being tough men and they are. When the luck is out you have no right to anything — the skipper gives you a "sub" which you have to pay back when the luck is good. Who is a tough man when the luck is bad; you are sitting there saying to yourself — will he give me a £30 sub or £20 — will he even give me a tenner. He doesn't have to give you anything. When you kick up about something the skipper says: "I kept your wife and children for you when you had nothing".

Then you are worried about how much of the "sub" you are going to lose out of a good catch; will he stop the lot out of a good catch and then you are on the old round again. Who is a tough man then?

If the divide is only £15 you probably won't get a "sub" — that is all there is and that is all you get.

Weekends

Boats used not work weekends; did not go to sea at weekends. Monday was always the best fishing day because the shoals would gather again the weekend. Then some wise-guy started going out on Sunday evening to make a killing then an even wiser-guy went out Sunday morning to get in first. Now your wife is saying: "Did God curse you to spend all your days at sea following the fish".

There used to be a saying: "The galley table is for eating and for sharing". You have to pay for the boat first and for the oil and the "Decca" out of the catch. Then what's left is divided 50% for the owner and the rest for the skipper and the crew. If the skipper owns the boat he gets 50% and then he gets his skipper's share as well.

All the oil bills and other expenses used to be put on the galley table and you used to be able to see that there was a fair divide. For the past ten years or so more and more owners don't go to sea and they



keep putting in more and more shares for the boat — to pay for this or that on the boat which we will never own.

About 50% of the boats are bought second-hand — they get BIM grants and loans. Well they borrow safety equipment from new boats for the inspection. A fishing boat is the only sea-going commercial craft with a once-off safety inspection. No one is trained in safety — you don't know if the rafts will work — will even blow up. Who ever gets into a raft in practice? When a trawler is holed she goes down awful fast; everything should work double-quick but if one man panics or falls in some situations all the lives are lost.

BIM comes around some ports and gives a few safety demonstrations; you can look at it if you want to but the "once-off safety inspection system" means that you probably haven't got the gear aboard anyway.

Union

Men are joining the union now — even a few skippers who fear that the owners will sack them. The Irish Fishermen's Organisation hate the union and do everything they can to prevent the union organising the whole fleet. Men are afraid to let the skipper see them pay their union dues. The IFO put out all sorts of rumours against the union. The "Sea-Jay" was a unionised boat and the owner sold it for his own reasons. The IFO went around telling people that the "Sea-Jay" was sold rather than recognise the union and that would happen to all unionised boats.

"The Albcore" is the most modern boat in the Irish fleet and it is a fully unionised boat. The people who own that boat have modern ideas about fishing — not only about catching fish but about treatment of the crew. Every time she comes in two men stay ashore so there is some time with the family. She has a crew of about seven.

The IFO and fish conservation? Well they speak the owners' point-of-view but they don't really represent anyone — there's only four of them really and they go around talking about fishing and being treated like TV stars. There was never more than 13 at any of their meetings until the last one when fishing is so much in the news. There was fifty in the room for that meeting and if you took the pressmen

of out that number you'd have a whole lot less! All the different ports were fighting with each other.

The IFO hates the union because they know that it is the only organisation that can really speak for the fishing industry. They want to give nothing to the men; there's nothing when the skipper ties up the boat to point it — there's no sick pay and no pension. You don't see many men over fifty on their hands and knees over fish on a deck and the sea breaking over them but men do give a lot of the years of their lives to fishing and the industry gives them nothing when they walk away from the boats. Deckhands are not employees they say. What are we?

There has not been enough research done on the seas around Ireland. A fisherman knows how to catch the fish that he has learned how to catch — the traditional catch. He does not know what is in the sea. It is like picking up valuables off the ground — a fisherman plants nothing and he does not look for anything else — only what he knows might be there with a bit of luck.

Black

The IFO and fish conservation? They would fish out every fish in the sea themselves. If I tell you how it is — there was a big mussel bank discovered off Arklow Wicklow not so long ago; it was completely fished out in a few months; it will take twenty years to recover. There were so many Irish boats fishing that bank that a policeman should do something out there to direct the traffic!

Maybe BIM and Erin Foods could do something about the fishing industry — maybe fish-hunting is going out. Fish farming? The only people to think of it seriously are foreigners — there's a Breton doing something in that line on the South-West Coast — and, well, BIM and Erin Foods should do something out there to direct the traffic!

The IFO want more fish there for themselves but they don't know what's happening — did you hear about them wanting to black foreign boats? They can't black anything; only a union has the power to black. Would any union want to black boats for the IFO with the outlook on fishing that they have? We want an Irish fishing industry; we do all the work in it; its out job — but there will have to be a lot of changes."

We CAN protect a fifty mile fishing zone



Can a 50 mile exclusive fishing limit, let alone a 200 mile limit, be effectively policed by this country? Coalition Fisheries Minister Paddy Donegan simply said "No, we cannot protect a 50 mile zone."

The new Minister Brian Lenihan has said nothing about protection but the general Government opinion seems to be that it is prohibitively expensive. At present the figures which are most commonly used in this connection are £10 million in order to protect a catch worth £9 million.

Suggestions have frequently been made by Government sources that "we can get help from N.A.T.O." to protect our fisheries. Surely a most dangerous suggestion!

This country has no reason to be satisfied with either the protection arrangements or the size of the catch. An arresting vessel must, under present Law, board an offending fishing boat and accompany it to port. Some leading members of the crew of the arresting vessel become tied up in court work. Every trawler skipper in the area then knows the exact position of "a large part of our navy" and the fact that it is going to be tied up in port for at least two days — sometimes for weeks.

In the U.S.A. where there is no shortage of

money, ships or planes, they nevertheless intend to reintroduce the power-driven balloon for fisheries patrol work. This type of aircraft was used very successfully for anti-submarine patrol work by the USA during the last war.

If we were to use powered balloons we could also running costs very considerably. A conventional fisheries patrol vessel costs at least £4 million, a powered-balloon of the sort used for anti-submarine patrol by the US navy in the last war costs less than £50,000 at present. It is powered by two 550 horse power engines which can be shut off when it is in position allowing it to drift without burning costly fuel. This sort of aircraft, under power, reach speeds of well over sixty miles per hour — what conventional boat can match that!

These balloons can be based anywhere, all they need is a mooring mast. It is possible to work from mobile mooring masts as well as from fixed masts. It is not necessary to get out-side help to mount an effective fisheries patrol at a reasonable cost. At the moment "Goodyear" manufacture the Balloon envelopes. The rest could easily be built by the engineering works of either CIE, Bord na Mona or the Irish Sugar Co.

Comrades and friends,

It must seem to you, gathered at the grave of our comrade, Trevor McNulty, that all the sad, angry and passionate words have already been poured out this past few years, as we have stood here to mourn the deaths of those who have gone before him.

Our Party has felt the loss of comrades dear to each and everyone of us. Their memory does not fade; their strength and spirit is part of our growing strength. Now we link Trevor with Robbie Elliman, Paul Crawford, Sean Fox, Liam McMillen and Frank McGlade to mention but a few.

It is a roll of honour, not of the lifeless, but of men who in their day to day political activity fought to create a permanent source of revolutionary power for the Irish people. When we remember them with pride it is because they made us what we are. And therefore they can not die.

Trevor McNulty was of the bone and sinew of our Party. He was of the Irish working class; he was a Republican, a Socialist.

We have become accustomed to listen to the great names of our tradition and of the international socialist tradition. They trip easily off our tongues — Tone, Lalor, Marx, Davitt, Connolly, Lenin, Mellowes, and Ryan. But we must remember that they also were but men, and that in Trevor we have a great comrade who followed in their footsteps as truly as any man could. In that way comrades our loss today is greater than ever before. For not only was he a young man marching firmly in the direction of the Socialist Republic but he was a Republican of his time.

Construction

He was of our day, of our class, of our century, of our revolutionary struggle. In this he was truly heroic; not as pictured in some romantic dream of waving flags and clashing armies, of instant revolution and halls of fame.

On the contrary, Trevor engaged in the hard, slow, painstaking construction of our Party — the revolutionary party of the Irish working class.

This was and is the only way and Trevor fully understood that. He worked in the field of Party Education because he had learned by bitter experience what Lenin had taught: "Without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement." And having learned, he acted. His life is a total example of the genuine revolutionary — the unity of theory and practise.

Building the Party was not just a slogan for him nor a mere verbal formula. It was his work, in the noble sense of that word. He not only educated himself he educated others, with a sincerity and humanity which stamped him as a revolutionary of our times.

Peace

He had a justifiable pride in our achievements and a quiet determination to ensure that he would not be diverted into Trotskyist adventurism or fascist militarism. It was such a combination which so brutally murdered him. However many people reading of the vicious events of these past few days will see only the surface — for them it will be simply another random killing, part of the appalling spiral of sectarian murders and bombings which the Provisional Alliance has fuelled and fanned. The people's heartfelt cry is for peace, for an opportunity to build and create decent lives for themselves and their children. As the Northern section of our Party has pointed out yet once again, let the Provisionals take immediate steps to demilitarise the working class ghettos and permanently end their futile, wasteful violence which has plagued these communities these past seven years. That would be at least a



Trevor McNulty (above centre) at the Easter Commemoration 1977.

A true comrade

step away from the abyss into which they seem to be determined to drive the Irish people.

Let us contrast now the malevolent dogma of the Provisional Alliance with the politics of Trevor McNulty.

Provisionalism is a hydra-headed monster. It erupted from a nauseating blood-mythology cesspool spewed up by its mad kin — Hitler, Franco, Mosley and O'Duffy. Trevor, on the other hand, stood for a vibrant humanism; for socialism; for a gentle concern for people; for happy homes; for well-paid jobs; for human rights. He lived to build a world in which the terrors and the terrorism of the paramilitary rat packs and the licensed professional killers would be but a bad dream, an unrepeatable nightmare.

Our party some two years ago declared our objective as "Peace, Work and Class Politics", it is on that basis and that basis alone that Trevor McNulty developed his political existence.

Family

He worked for Peace, as an Executive member of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association; for jobs through his Trade Union Organisation and for class politics through his Party.

This was the legacy of Tone brought in to the present century. In the alleys and streets of the New Lodge Road we can hear the echo of the drums of the men of Antrim and the lilt of the Marsellaise from Belfast's High Street of the 18th Century. Trevor McNulty brought to our day all that was best in the struggle of the Irish people for the freedom of "the men of no property". It is no myth. It is the only reality of our time. He helped to create it. And that is why he was murdered.

We mourn as a Party, as comrades, as friends, because he is not there, physically, in our ranks. He is our comrade, but no matter how close to us we can not appreciate, even in the smallest way, the gap in the life of those nearest and dearest to him — his wife and family. We can not put into words what we felt for them. They are so much a part of us. Trevor would appreciate that difficulty. The gap is then somehow bridged.

We leave here, comrades, with his family and friends not from a graveyard of hopes nor filled with hate, but strong in our determination to continue our march in the direction in which Trevor was heading so courageously.

Those who murdered him came:

"To hide the blueshirts near their breasts

Went, with their John Wayne politics

Their Wild West tactics to subdue

What they could not comprehend

— The existentialist . . . the communist . . .

Thinking that in death they can make an end of you.

They don't know us as we do!

Proud to have known you, friend."

Dominic Behan, Bas, Fas, Blas.

Trevor McNulty is truly our comrade.

The oration was delivered by Des O'Hagan, Director of Education, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party.

The Education Officer

Teacher trained on city streets.

Belfast was your first school.

The pupils were a rough lot.

Slow to take a book down from the shelf.

Most of them preferred booze to sweets.

Some of them swore and some refused to shave.

A few were older than yourself.

And some were shot —

You must have taught them to be brave.

Your last lesson was easily your best.

You had every detail prepared.

Teaching us how to die, but not love death.

Trevor McNulty — you were a teacher to be feared!

The fascists sent inspectors of death.

To burn the books and kill our schoolmaster,

Their bullets travelled fast to cut your breath.

Too late — the ideas you breathed travelled faster.

We always had the best of teachers in our school.

None are paid and the conditions are poor.

That's also the condition of the pupil as a rule.

McMillen and McNulty taught us,

To live and die, but never sell the pass.

How can we fail with teachers like you.

Your pupils are the working class.

Collaborating Provisionals

It is generally assumed that a period of economic crisis in a country is a period of revolutionary growth when the time is ripe for progressive change. But this is only partly true! This is surely the lesson of the '30's even in Ireland — Fascism thrived on depressed living conditions and was organised and encouraged by the ranchers and business men.

'Economic crisis' scares no one in Ireland. We have limped from crisis to crisis as long as anyone can remember. Our booms would be regarded as depression in almost any other country!

But at least we have had relative booms. Now a new and more ominous threat faces us. This is the threat of a continuous downward crisis for the next decade at least — the threat of continually rising unemployment and falling living standards. It is the same both north and south. There is 13% unemployment in the north and if the same basis of computation was used in Dublin the figure in the south would be seen to be almost 16%.

At the same time our people are faced with the most efficient and sophisticated machinery of exploitation that has ever been established to rob them. The wealth which could make us the most prosperous country in Europe is sweet-talked from us by the world's greatest companies — the multinational mining companies, oil companies, food processing companies and above all, the bankers.

The job of every republican and every socialist today is to organise resistance to these new invaders. No one recognises this as well as the Republican Clubs in the North. They see the old, crude, British Army thuggery and know that it is a distraction from the robbery and exploitation which is taking place.

They see the Provisionals falling into the British trap and in fact playing the British game of distracting Irish people from the real struggle.

If these lessons hadn't already been learned by Belfast Republicans the murder of Trevor McNulty on July 27 would have taught it to them. Why was he selected for assassination? In Provisional militarist terms he represented no threat to them. He was a quite easy going, serious, young man who interfered with no one as he went about his political work. But he represented a grave threat to Big Business. He was the new breed of the dedicated soldier of the Republic who was fashioning the most deadly weapon in the war against imperial exploitation — the unity of the Northern working class.

The Provisionals represent no threat to British or American imperialism in Ireland. They are even less of a threat than their Fianna Fail mentors.

Their close association with the C.I.A., controlled Irish National Caucus in Washington gives them a very important role to play in smashing the only progressive revolutionary organisation in Ireland. Like UNITA in Angola they will be kept in business by secret blood transfusions, although publicly both London and Washington will appear to wash their hands of them. In Washington the Provisionals are seen as the front line troops in the war against Communism. In fact, the Provisionals themselves see this as their role as they made clear in their New York paper in November 1975 when explaining why they carried out their last murderous pogrom against the Republican Movement — it was a war against communism on the streets of Belfast.

The seeds of fascism have been planted by the para-militaries in both the Protestant and Catholic working class ghettos in Belfast. The hotbed conditions for their further growth are being provided by the deepening economic crisis. Only united and dedicated work by all democratic organisations of the workers can prevent fascism from spreading throughout the land and smothering every progressive movement.

Seeing what it is really like

Republican Clubs Councillor Seamus Lynch accompanied Lord Melchett on a tour of North Queen St. and New Lodge Road, July 22. Lord Melchett's visit took place at the invitation of Councillor Lynch.

Among the sites visited and problems discussed were, Artillery Flats Complex: Councillor Lynch pointed out that the complex was severely overcrowded due mainly to big families being "housed" in small housing units in the high-rise flats. The physical condition of the flats was but the exterior manifestation of this problem and Cllr Lynch declared that any 'spruce-up' would be wasted unless there was equal determination to decant the flats by providing proper units of housing for families.

The abysmal lack of recreational amenities in the complex was discussed at some length and Cllr Lynch suggested a number of sites to Lord Melchett for recreational purposes, including the possibility of providing an Old Age Pensioners' Club at Victoria Parade, development of the voluntary community

centre at Ashton Street and a swimming pool on the New Lodge Road. Councillor Lynch further proposed that the old Lyceum Picture House be acquired by the Council and converted into a recreational complex on similar lines to the work carried out on the old Stadium Cinema on the Shankill Road.

At Hillman St./Upper Meadow St., Councillor Lynch drew Melchett's attention to the slow progress on the re-habilitation scheme and asked Lord Melchett to urge the Housing Executive to speed up the project.

York St., N. Queen St.: Councillor Lynch confronted Lord Melchett with the reality of the road planners' scheme which had ignored their effect on the community. Councillor Lynch demanded that those residents left sitting in squalor due to "stop and start" clearance schemes be re-housed, at the Hillman St./Upper Meadow St. site, and that the cleared site be then used to create a new community, providing not only housing but light industry.



Councillor Lynch stated after the visit:

"Lord Melchett was most sympathetic to our proposals and undertook to take the various issues raised with relevant departmental

bodies. I impressed upon him the need for action, not sympathetic words, and am confident that some remedial action will be taken to improve the quality of life for the people in this district."

Enterprise Ulster is the nearest N. Ireland comes to having its own Direct Labour Organisation. While it has proven its ability to build replicas of 19th century Ulster cottages and cabins for Ulster emigrants in American Folk Parks, the publicly owned Enterprise Ulster is barred from building real houses in N. Ireland.

The terms under which Enterprise Ulster was set up confine the corporation's activities to environmental improvement schemes and community work programmes. Its very existence is still not definite — it was planned to cease operations in December 1977, but a fresh injection of project capital, £1.5 million, has extended its life span.

Today its workforce is back to near 1,700 and has completed over 130 projects of a general amenity nature such as play areas, walks and paths, parks playing fields, etc.

Many major local government areas in the rest of the U.K. have their own Direct Labour Organisations whose scope of work and method of organisation extends far beyond those of Enterprise Ulster. Operating as publicly owned construction companies, D.L.O.s in Britain competed with the private sector in housing and other public work. Many impressive contracts have been won and permanent employment with good site conditions, training pension schemes, etc. have been introduced into an industry notoriously backward, plagued by the lump and holding the worst safety record of all employment sectors.

Direct Labour Organisations by their very success have become a

major Right-Left issue in Britain with big builders' organisations launching a major campaign to restrict and curtail the development and very existence of these publicly owned building companies. In fact, the so-called Labour-Liberal pact contained an agreement to freeze legislation which would have greatly expanded the role of D.L.O.s in Britain.

Nevertheless, Ray Carter, Secretary of State for the Environment, made it clear at a meeting with a Republican Clubs Housing Delegation that this restriction does not apply to N. Ireland.

Does the basis now exist for an expanded role for Enterprise Ulster as a fully fledged Direct Labour Organisation? Republican Clubs The Workers' Party certainly think so. Their recommendations on the matter are being currently examined by Ray Carter.

Enterprise Ulster

In many areas of N. Ireland, particularly Belfast, Enterprise Ulster as a public sector construction company would transform the building industry. House construction and rehabilitation (home improvement) work in such areas have suffered badly from an inefficient and often corrupt private sector.

In Belfast the building "game", as the industry is called, is plagued by a host of small "fly-by-night" companies and one or two-man operations which appear and disappear in myriads of tax evasion manoeuvres, leaving a legacy of shoddy work and uncompleted contracts in their trail.

Higher up the scale the big operators like Farrans, Unit and Laing exist in a spiralling bonanza in which claims for increased costs, fluctuations and civil unrest, etc. throw an extra 40% on every major housing and public works project.

Enterprise Ulster expanded as a proper Direct Labour Organisation would create:

- A rapid expansion of Trade Union organisation in the building industry.
- A decasualization of employment in the industry.
- Higher real wages and conditions.
- Better safety standards and a full range of site clothing.
- Meaningful training and apprenticeship schemes.
- Pension and holiday schemes.

Is it any wonder the big builders have already stated their opposition to the introduction of a Direct Labour Organisation in N. Ireland? The expansion of Enterprise Ulster into such a role is one of a number of options put by Republican Clubs to Housing Minister Ray Carter. Like the Workers' Party, many in the building industry await his answer with a more than keen interest.

Mason ducks on State industry

The announcement by British Secretary of State of a £1,000 million injection into the Northern Ireland economy has been greeted rapturously from many sides and understandably so. However, the Chairman of the Belfast Executive of Republican Clubs, in a guarded statement had serious criticisms to make of the British proposals.

The Clubs welcomed the promise of State planning but were extremely critical of the fact that £350 million would be used to pay off the Banks to which the Northern Ireland Electricity Service were in debt, i.e. for loan charges.

Mr. Brian Brennan, Belfast Clubs Chairman, said that this was typical of how the public sector was being penetrated by finance capital. "Efficient publicly owned industries were making huge profits for private investors in the financial world", he claimed.

The Clubs called for the expansion of the UK nationalised sector into the North and pointed out that the British Gas Corporation, already successful in the field of offshore gas exploration, should be charged with the investigation of the Larne and Rathlin Basin, known to be an area of much promise.

In view of the fact that there were 70,000 unemployed in the North, 12,000 of whom were young people, and that there were an additional 20,000 in attachment to industry schemes, the Clubs reiterated their demand to Mr. Mason for a tripartite approach to solving the economic crisis. Such an approach, they declared, should include the Trade Union Organisation at all levels. They felt that this was absolutely vital for it recognised the "structural economic linkages" between the North, the South and the UK.

Finally, the Clubs stressed that while they saw clearly the need to attract foreign capital to the petrochemical and plastics industries, this could only be conceived as a short-term solution. In the long term what was required was the strengthening of the dynamic public sector industries.



Children competing in the Belfast Fleadh some years ago — Enterprise Ulster has done little to provide them with better playing facilities.

At the I.C.T.U. summer conference early last month Dr. Kennedy, the petit bourgeois economist launched an attack on the socialist alternative to the unemployment crisis in the form of a paper entitled "Job Creation Since the Foundation of the State".

The main body of Kennedy's lecture was an outline of the history of employment in both the Republic and Northern Ireland over the past fifty years. The real purpose however of Kennedy's trip to this trade union educational conference was to impart some "lessons from past experience".

The essence and basic framework of these "lessons" however, was, (as with all petit bourgeois and social democratic "solutions" to our employment crisis), that the exploitative capitalist system will always be with us, that it is eternal.

This assumption having been made, Kennedy proceeded to offer as solutions no more than a couple of thin gimmicky options which would do nothing to solve the problem but which had one essential feature in common, i.e. that they offered no threat whatsoever to the rule of capital in our society.

Shortfall

The sum total of Kennedy's recommendations, which presumably trade unionists were meant to take seriously, as the answer to the crisis, was,

(1) That the trade union movement "rather than leaving the task solely to the government and private industry" should set up workers' enterprises, along the lines of cooperatives which have been set up in Israel. In other words that the trade union movement should top up the shortfall in job creation on the part of the private sector and become capitalists themselves.

No doubt this would help greatly to prolong and support private enterprise if the working class through the trade union movement would develop a vested interest in the maintenance of the system.

(2) That we might "look again" at the possibility of producing certain (unspecified) goods which are at present imported.

Control

As can be expected Kennedy's solutions in common with all the other social democratic and petit bourgeois "solutions" (such as Halligan's) fall flat on their face in being no more than cynical gimmicks served up to obscure the real possibilities that exist for full employment and democratic control of the resources and human potentials of this country. These solutions which fail to question the very essence of the capitalist system itself necessarily must fall flat on their faces because it is of the very nature of capitalism to deny these possibilities.

The socialist alternative, which is that put forward by Sinn Fein The Workers' Party is that the socialist aim of full employment can only be accomplished by a qualitative break with capitalism so that our economy is planned (as are most well managed firms today on an internal basis) to achieve its full potential.

It is consequently the position of socialists to counterpose the socialist alternative to all quasi capitalist solutions such as those Kennedy treated his audience to.

The main concern of Kennedy in addressing this I.C.T.U. gathering was the fact that, as he put it, "In recent years, several major influences have intervened so as to make it very difficult to convince trade unionists of the trade off between wages and jobs". Put another way this simply reaches the familiar whine of such "pro-worker" organisations as the F.U.E., the C.I.I., the I.F.A., the Construction Industry Federation, and most recently, the Irish



'The Socialist aim is for full employment'

Fishermen's Organisation, who distinguish themselves in common as all putting forward the line that for jobs to be created the workers must suffer ever dwindling wage packets. For them the line is: depress wages low enough, and full employment will follow.

The fact that individuals such as Kennedy can address the trade union movement at a T.U. financed and organise seminar and get away with it indicates the success to date they have had in misrepresenting the desires of working people as being that for jobs (in a

A fully planned economy the only solution to the crisis in jobs & wages

spending, as the dismal recent trends in investment indicate.

Even if we ignore recent developments in Ireland the scientific truth for workers is that full employment can never be attained under capitalism because capitalism needs unemployment on a permanent basis to keep the working class down.

The choice for workers, in the capitalist system as Kennedy correctly presents it is for either a relatively plentiful supply of bad, low paying, labour intensive type jobs, or a scarce supply of relatively good jobs. This is indeed the dilemma presented by capitalism.

Plan

The dishonesty of Kennedy however was revealed when he tried to present this dilemma as being eternal, like capitalism, and that the socialist option doesn't exist. He indeed was so anxious to create this false impression by even attributing to the imprimatur of Marx to it! when he said "I know of no established school of thought in economics — classical, neo-classical, Keynesian or Marxist — that does not admit the possibility, at least, of there being a conflict between increased employment and higher living standards for those with jobs".

Dr. Kennedy should be aware that the Marxist school of economic thought is not in the business of speculating on the possibility of achieving higher or lower levels of employment under capitalism under different (bourgeois) policy assumptions. It is indeed a major distinguishing feature of Marxian political economy that it alone shows that Capitalism is not historically an eternal system. It is the objective of Marxian political economy to scientifically examine in an objective manner the capitalist economy system so as to provide socialists with a weapon in the struggle for socialism.

In capitalist society Marxists do indeed hold that the dilemma described by Kennedy always will face workers. However, in socialist society it is resolvable. Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, in the economic plan contained in the "Irish Industrial Revolution" has shown how, given certain assumptions, both higher living standards and full employment are compatible. Not alone this but that, under socialism, they are necessary to each other. This is not of course to say that it is not necessary for savings to occur in a socialist society. This is obvious, but Kennedy has attempted to confuse this fact with his anti-worker proposition that full employment and higher living standards are not legitimate aspirations for workers to have.

capitalist framework) and for this alone. The ridiculous nature of this contention is that the logical conclusion of this argument is that if the workers are paid nothing, or near to it, and at the same time a high level of productivity is extracted for them then we shall have full employment!

Standards

It might be said that, after two years of steadily declining working class living standards (a fact that Kennedy was careful to ignore), we are further away from full employment than we were during the years in the early 1970s when working class living standards were actually increasing as a direct result of the militancy of the trade union movement. It has further been the case that, in these years, as the table below (courtesy of the Central Bank) indicates, Irish workers' living standards has rapidly declined relative to those of workers in other major capitalist economies.

The propaganda line of the Kennedys of this world is that workers must sacrifice wages so that capitalists can invest and create jobs. The truth of the matter is that the decline in workers' living standards have been for the benefit of capitalists and farmers who have pocketed the profits in an orgy of consumption

INDEX OF (Adjusted	MANUFACTURING for	UNIT Exchange	WAGE	COSTS	(1970	100)
				Rate	Changes)	
	W. GERMANY	FRANCE	U.S.	ITALY	U.K.	IRELAND
1971	112	108	101	111	111	113
1972	125	120	103	119	121	128
1973	155	145	107	136	125	139
1974	172	155	113	153	145	153
1975	189	214	121	193	182	184
1976(e)	184	196	124	170	166	157
1977(f)	119	204	129	186	155	141

(e) estimate

(f) forecast

Source: Central Bank Quarterly Bulletin, Summer 1977.

Ceachtanna difhostaíochta

aitheacha nach bhfuil aon tradisiún difhostaíochta acu le caoga bliain anuas ar a laighead.

Ta na mílte ar an dole anois nar cheap riamh go bhfeadhaidh a leithéid a tharlú do bhith. Da bharr taid ag chur ceisteanna orthu féin agus ar a dtaoisigh poitilúla nar chuireadar roimhe seo. Ta siad ag éirigh níos míleata ins na ceard-chumainn agus ag ceistiú na chomhluchtaí mora nuair a labhraínn siad faoi rationalisation, cut backs agus a leithéid.

Is cinnte nach dtagann tairbhe eacnamaíochta on di-fhostaíocht ach amháin dosna hUnaerí, ach ba choir duinn breathnú i gcomhnaí ar pe tairbhe polaitiúil gur feidir linn a bhaint as. Sa tuaisceart ta athraighthe mora polaitiúla ag teacht da bharr. Ta na hOibrí anois ag tosú ag smaoineamh mar oibrí don chéad uair le bhiantaí. Chionn siad iad fein mar oibrí ar dtús agus ina dhiaidh sin mar Aondachtóirí agus Poblachtóirí agus sa deire mar Protastúnai agus Caitlicigh. De reir mar a theigheann an smoineamh sin níos treise ina luighe ortha tíocheadh dha toradh as.

Sa chéad tús beidh tionschar níos mo ag na hOibrí ar chursai polaitiúla. Beidh ar na Páirtí polaitiúla uilig labhairt ar chursai a bhaineann le gna shaothgal na



● Roy Mason, Aire Stáit

ndaoiné — fostaíocht, praghasanna, tithíocht, ardu tuarastal agus eile. Ni leor an Lambeg a thuille, no Union Jack no Tricolour no Faith of Our Fathers. Agus as sin leanainn an tarra d'ús — deire an seichteachais. Ta rudai beaga ag tabhairt le fios cheana fein go bhfuil deire ag teacht le re an tseichteachais d'aindeoin na bProvos agus an UDA. Ta se le feiceail ins ma monarchain, ta se le feiceail ins na ceard cumainn agus le deanaí ta se le feiceail ins na sraideanna.

Nil aon tacaíocht a thuille dos na dumharbhóirí seichteacha agus ta ar na Provos eirighe as an feachtas sin.

Ta ag eiri sa deire le feachtas frith-seiteachas na Clubanna Poblachta. Ta rian an fheachtas le feiceail go soleir fos ar ballaí ar fauid Beal Feirse — "Kill sectarianism not workers". Anois an t-am chun leanúint ar aghaidh leis an fheachtas níos díograsaí na riamh. Anois ta an meon agus an claonadh ceart ag na h-Oibrí chun glacadh le na leithéid de fheachtas.

Ach cad a tharla do fheachtas na gceard cumainn fhein. An cuimhinn leat an "Better Life For All Campaign" a thosaigh blian go leith o shoin? An bhfuil an coiste beo fos agus ma ta cen fath nach bhfuil siad go obair?

Ni feidir leo an milleán a caitheamh ar an h-Oibrí. Dhein siad san pe rud a hiarradh ortha. An e go bhfuil daoine eigin in mbun cursaí nar mhaith leo deire an tseiteachais d'fheiscint? Sin mar a shamhlainn se.

Pe ar domhan e ta athraighthe mora ag teacht i dTuaisceart Éireann agus taid ag teacht sa slighe ar thuig Marx go dtíofadh siad. Se sin ta na h-Oibrí ag foghlam os na fírí eacnamaíochta agus ag gníomhu da reir.

Luachanna, luachanna!

Nach iontach an doigh a dtig leis na rialtaí theacht ar doigheanna le chuidiú le muinntir gan toighthe? Gheall Fianna Fail go gcuirfeadh siad £1,000 ar fail do gach ceannalhoir toigh uir; anois ta Ray Carter Aire Toighíochta sa Tuaisceart tar eis iasachta mhóraigeiste 100% a gheallstaint do bhith siad ata a' cuairtiú toighthe sna Se Connadae.

Dar ndóighe níor dhúirt ceachtar den bheirt acu gur ar mhaithe leis na coluchtaí toglala agus na bancanna is mo a rachas na mofaí nua.

Cerd díreach ata ar intinn Carter? Go follusach is mian leis chur i n-uil go dtuigeann se, agus mar sin de Rialtas

Westminster, gur faidhb eacnamaíochta agus soisialta os comhair coismhuintir na Se gConnadae. Ag an am ceanna is iad na coluchtaí toglala a thiofais i dtír ar an t-áirgid ata i n-ainm dhul chuig na ceannthoirí.

Cheana fein ta raic puib faoi lan tseol gur ardaigh cuid dena toglala a chuid praghasanna díreach tar eis gealltanas Fhianna Fail. Ni doiche go go gcluinfidh muid an agóid o Jack faoi o tharla go bhfaigheann Fianna Fail neart deontaisí on mhuintir eadha.

Nil an Rialtas ar ach roinnt seachtmhain i Tigh Laighean agus ta ardu praghasanna fograighthe. An mhi seo

beidh aran, siucra, moin, plur agus roinnt earrái eile nois daoire.

D'reir an tuairisc is deainní on ILO mheadaí luachanna in Éireann níos mo na 20% taobh istoigh de bhliain. Agus deirtear nach mbeidh anois biseach sa bhliain ata romhainn. Taobh istoigh den Comharghadh ta bolgadh luacha in Éireann saraithe ag an Sasain agus an Iodail amháin.

Se an rud is measa fa dtaobh den bolgadh luacha na gurab iad na príomh-earraí toglala, araon, im, feoil agus eile a mheadaíonn go rialta. Agus sin i dtír talmhaíochta! Nidh nach ionadh go bhfuil mna toi na h-Éireann an screadaí

amach le tabhairt ar an rialtas fas earrái eigeantach a bhru ar na feirmeoirí.

San Olltoghchan mhól Sinn Féin Páirtí na h-Oibrí gur choir do Bord na Mona agus Coluchtu Siucra Éireann theacht le chéile chun na 4,000 acra gearrtha portach a phlandáil le glasraí. Bhi oibrí Bord na Mona taobh thiar den sceim sin.

Ar nos cursaí toighíochta is eigin a thaispeaint go bhfuil an Stát sasta ghníomhu laithbreacht chun fáltsacht agus mí-éagair an coras príomhaideacht i gcurais toglala agus feirmeoireachta a chiorú. Ni dheantar sin go dtí go gcuirtear ionadaí o Sinn Féin Páirtí na n-Oibrí sa Dail.

Cursai reatha

● Ta raic a thogail faoi droch chas na bpríonusach sa tír seo le tamall anuas. N'fheadair an ndeanfaidh Gerry Collins, an t-aire nua dli agus cirt, rud ar bith chun feabhas a chur ar an sceal. Ar a laghad ta se sasta breathnu ar an gceist. Ta cuairt tugtha aige ar Phríosúin Portlaoise agus ta se raithe aige go bhfuil chuile gne de chursai na bpríonusach agus de chas na bpríonusach faoi mhíon scrudu faoi lathair. Beifear ag suil le gníomh fiuntach uaidh gan mhoill.

chun an cheist a reiteach.

● Cuireadh "Going, Going, Gone", an scannan nua ata deanta ag Sinn Féin Páirtí na n-Oibrí, os chomhair an phobail don chéad uair i Halla na Saoirse ar an Aoine, 29/7/77. Leiríonn an scannan an creachadh ata deanta agus ata dha dheanamh fos ag comhluchtaí mora idirnáisiunta ar acmhainn nadurtha na hÉireann. Leirítear sa scannan an bhealach ina bhfuil maoin na tíre dha onmhúiriú no i gcasainn airithe dha dhíol ar ais chughainn ag na comhluchtaí seo agus brabach mhór dha dheanamh acu as. Ma ligtear leo is léir nach mbeidh faghtha sa tír i gceann roinnt bhlianta ach poill mora sa talamh. Nil ach bealach amháin as de reir an scannan seo agus 'se sin go ndeanfaidh an Stát forbairt ar acmhainn nadurtha uileag na tíre

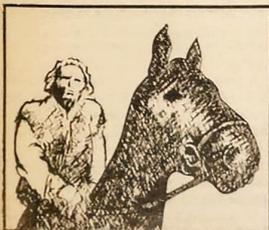
chun tionscail a bhnu a bhfuil gear ga leo sa tír faoi lathair.

● Ceard ta chun tarlu dhos na Scoileanna Phobail? De reir chosulacht is foai lamh na gcleir a bheas siad agus ni faoi stiúiriú an phobail mar ba cheart. I Tallaght mar shampla chuireann acht na scoile aiteanna in airtíre ar an mbord bhainistriúchain dho ionadaí on gcleir ach nil ait ar bith ar an mbord dho ionadaí na muinteoirí.

● Ta muintear an Spideil fos ag troid chun bac a chur le comhlucht toglala ate le fiche títhe sothula a thogail os chomhair an tra. Ta ceard faighte ag an gcomhlucht on mbord Phleanála in ainneoin gur chuir Bord na Gaeilge agus Roinn na Gaeilge ina choinne. Ta fajtíos ar mhuintear na haite go dtarlóidh an rud cheanna sa Spideil is a tharla i

mBearnna, sraibdhaile nach bhfuil ach se mhíle uaidh. Nil Gaeilge ar bith le chloisteail sa reigiún sin anois de dheasca an meid daoine a chuir futhu ann on nGalltacht gan suim da laghad agus i gcurais na Gaeilge na na Gaeltachta. Ta suil ag muintear an Spideil go mbeidh siad in ann cur ina lú ar aire nua na Gaeltachta ceard ta in ann dhon reigiún ma ligtear dhon chomhlucht seo na títhe a thogail.

● B'fhia breathnu ar thorthaí an suirbhe a rinne an t-athair Micheal Mac Greill ar dhearcadh shóisialta mhuintear Bhleá Cliath. Rinne se an suirbhe seo sa bhliain 1973 agus cuireadh na torthaí i gcló le gairid i 'leabhair d'arb ainm dho "Prejudice and Intolerance in Ireland". Leiríonn an leabhair go bhfuil na treithe seo go laidir i measc muintear Bhleá Cliath.



Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoire

Scannán déanta ag Cine Gael ar son Sinn Féin

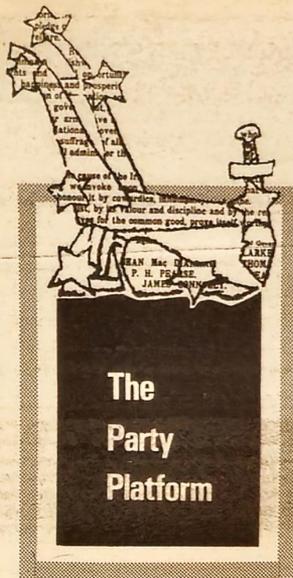
Gach eolas ó Eamon Smullen c/o 30 Plás Gardnar Baile Atha Cliath 1

CORK

Membership increase

Following the growth in membership in recent months, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party is being re-organised in East Cork. A new cumann named after Martin O'Leary has been established in Cobh. Officers elected were: Chairperson, Leo Owens; Vice-Chairperson, Cormac O'Brien; Secretary, Christy Griffin; Treasurer, Michael O'Brien; Education Officer, Eamonn Doyle.

A new cumann, named after Liam Mellows, has also been established in Youghal. The officers are: Chairperson, Mario Kenefick; Vice-Chairperson, Pat McCarthy; Secretary, Pat White; Treasurer, Michael Stack; Education Officer, Sean White.



DUBLIN

Fishing Industry must be State run

Extract from speech by Eamonn Smullen, Director of Economic Affairs, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, to members of Martin O'Leary Cumann in Howth.

"The argument between the Irish Government and the E.E.C. still revolves around the question of conserving stocks. If the present argument for conservation was won along the lines proposed by the Government would we be any nearer to a greatly enlarged fishing industry? Less than 10% of the fish caught off the Irish coast are caught by Irish boats.

"Working conditions in the industry are so bad that few will be attracted to the in-

dustry even if more jobs were created under present conditions.

"Those who own the boats want 'their' fish stocks conserved. Will they if this does happen, provide modern boats with the same sort of working conditions that countries with modern fishing fleets provide? Will they land all catches for processing in Ireland rather than in Scotland or Denmark as often happens at present?"

"When fish is landed in Ireland the only processing a large part of it receives is to put it into a box of ice.

"The conclusion is inescapable. The Irish State is the only body which can establish the modern fishing industry this country so badly needs".

Courts used as Landlords' Agents

Proinsias De Rossa, Chairman, Finglas Constituency Council of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, addressing a meeting in Finglas, said:

"Before the new Government has had time to even begin implementing its election promises in the area of ground rent landlords have begun to shower Civil Bill Ejection Orders like confetti on many housing estates where householders have been on ground rent strike over the past three years.

"Already, since the election on June 16, over twenty Civil Bills have been served in my Constituency of Finglas. Ground landlords, many of them the original builders of the houses involved, seem determined to frustrate the Fianna Fail promise to abolish ground rent on residential houses by availing of the Courts to enforce payment of their mediaeval rents.

"Before the election the Fianna Fail spokesman on Justice, Mr. Gerry Collins, T.D., gave an undertaking to ACRA to introduce legislation abolishing existing ground rents within six months of the formation of Government. In view of the concerted attack by ground landlords on many Dublin estates I call on him to act now to prevent the use of the Courts as landlords' agents by making it impossible for a ground landlord to secure an Ejection Order before the new legislation is brought in.

"In many areas in Dublin householders who courageously

fought this feudal rent over the past three years in the face of Coalition indifference are afraid to go on their annual holidays because they fear the enforcement of Ejection Orders obtained in Court. There is need for rapid action to prevent rapacious landlords having their way and to reassure the householders to whom abolition of ground rent has been promised by the present Government."

New cumann for Dublin

Due to increased membership in existing cumainn in Dublin north-west it was recently decided to form a branch of the Party in the Phibsboro/Drumcondra area.

Members from this area have been active for many years in other cumainn and now their first priority is to obtain a proper meeting place which will be suitable for holding a Citizens' Advice Bureau.

At present the Bureau meets each Friday evening, 7-9 p.m., at 28 Dargle Road, Drumcondra and the new branch is busy following up the many problems they were confronted with during the canvass for the recent elections.

The following members were elected to the Officer Board — Chairperson: Tom Breen; Secretary: Margaret O'Leary; Treasurer: Derbhil Stapleton; Education: Jim Jordan.

BELFAST

Major restructuring of industry needed to solve N. I. jobs crisis

Republican Clubs Councillor Seamus Lynch has called for a three-pronged attack on the jobs crisis involving:

1. A major shift to State Enterprise in manufacturing industry;
 2. An overhaul and upgrading of the powers of the NIDA to attract growth industries.
 3. The establishment of economic planning structures which recognise the inextricable links between the N. Ireland economy and the economies of Britain and the Irish Republic.
- With unemployment and underemployment in the various Attachment to Industry Schemes involving over 80,000 of our workforce and with a virtual explosion in our young worker population, an immediate restructuring of industrial development policy in the face of the failure of private industry is needed to meet the unemployment needs of the people of N. Ireland.

The Quigley Report predicts a further 25,000 job losses in private industry in the next few years. Trade Union Research has confirmed these predictions and underlines the fact that State Enterprise in manufacturing industry has clearly emerged as the main driving force capable of getting the economy moving towards full employment.

The Irish Democratic Youth Movement, Belfast Executive, has condemned the Department of Manpower for allowing the 3,200 school leavers to be thrown on the dole without any hope of leaving it.

The Government, rather than start a development programme which would provide jobs for school leavers, seems content to commission surveys and reports on how bad the unemployed situation is. The school leavers are certain to number around 10,000 at the end of July. Still there is no sign of Government action to secure them employment other than another survey.

In one school alone in West Belfast, where youth unemployment is particularly bad, out of 400 school

In N. Ireland a comprehensive development plan for the expansion of the existing State industries combined with the expansion into N. Ireland of the successful U.K. nationalised industries would introduce a new and stable dynamic into jobs-creation.

On top of this the N. Ireland Development Agency needs a commitment to integrated State Planning from the Government at both Westminster and Stormont. The N. Ireland Trade Union Movement needs direct formal links with the National Economic Development apparatus in Britain, allowing Trade Unionists in N. Ireland to bring strong pressure to bear for the development of State Enterprise in the local economy.

At the same time, because of the unique position of N.I. in its economic links with Britain and the South of Ireland similar formal access for Trade Unionists is needed on State planning bodies in the Irish Republic. To facilitate this the Republican Clubs are urging Mr. Mason and Mr. Concanon to consider the establishment of a tri-partite Economic Council reflecting the inextricable links of N. Ireland with G.B. and the Irish Republic. This will allow the maximum effort to be put into the task of meeting the employment crisis and putting the population of N. Ireland back to work.

leavers, 350 are destined for the dole. Training for jobs that do not exist is only one feeble attempt by the Department of Manpower to bring down the unemployment figures. Even then training for jobs only lasts, in many cases, six months. The trainees return from such courses without a job to go to.

Youth unemployment can only be solved in one way — with job provision. The Government must introduce a programme of development which would create permanent employment for every school leaver. This demand can be made a reality if the Department of Commerce looks closely at implementation of the Quigley Report to create public sector industries.

Changes in Party Officer Board

The Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party has approved a number of changes in the Officer Board of the Party presented to it by the President.

Des O'Hagan has resigned from the position of Editor of the party newspaper, The United Irishman. He will continue in his position as the Party's Director of Education and in addition has been given the new post of Director of Elections.

Tomas MacGiolla who has been working full time for the Party since May of this year will now, as President, be performing a much greater administrative role in the Party. He will also be replacing Des O'Hagan as Editor of The United Irishman.

Tony Heffernan will, for personal reasons, be resigning his position as General Secretary at the end of August and will be replaced by Sean Garland who is at present Director of Organisation.

The Ard Comhairle also accepted with regret the resignation for personal reasons of Mairin de Burca from membership of the Party. The Ard Comhairle unanimously passed a resolution expressing appreciation for her commitment to, and work for the Party over the past 22 years.

Sean O Cionnath, Director International Affairs Bureau, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, has sent the following letter to Santiago Carrillo, General Secretary of the Spanish Communist Party (P.C.E.).

"Dear Friends,

Sinn Fein The Workers' Party sends its congratulations to the Communist Party in Spain for winning 20 seats in the recent elections. We know that this victory was won in the face of formidable odds like the Army resignations and threats in protest at the recent legalisation of your Party and against the background of many years of Francoist persecution and propaganda.

In particular, we salute the success of Dolores Ibarurri in her victory in the election. She is living proof that democratic determination and courage outlives the most brutal persecution and dictatorial usurpation.

In Ireland we recently fought an election as well and succeeded in making important electoral gains while just failing to take two seats in our Parliament.

We follow with sympathy and admiration your struggle for a peaceful, democratic-Spain and your re-assertion of the Republican spirit in the Spain of today.

We wish you success in the struggle before you."



The United WORLD

Massive repression in El Salvador

The brutal oppression of freedom and human rights in Central and South America never seems to reach the Irish news media until a bishop or priest is killed, arrested or threatened. The news services are, of course, controlled by the US and all of these countries are satellites of the US. These are the countries behind the silver curtain—hidden from view by the almighty silver dollar.

The recent threat to kill all fifty members of the Jesuit Order in El Salvador has focussed attention on the brutal nature of the military regime which has ruled that country continuously since 1932.

Father Hijinio Alas was in Dublin in July to explain the position to the Jesuit Order here, and to anyone else prepared to listen. He met the president of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, Tomas Mac Giolla and the secretary of the International Affairs Department to whom he gave the following account of recent events in El Salvador.

"The root problem in El Salvador (population four million) is land ownership—61% of the population are engaged in agriculture. For the second half of the last century the landlords controlled the country and enacted laws destroying communal land 'Ejidotes'. These laws paved the way for large scale commercial coffee production. The land was given to settlers from Spain and some Colombians and other colonists

"In the early 1930s unrest grew considerably after the Communist Party was founded in 1930. As a result the military took over the government at the invitation of the ruling landed oligarchy—about two per cent of the population and controlled by

about 14 families.

"In 1960 a limited amount of political activity was permitted but this quickly got out of hand. By 1972 a united opposition group to the military came into existence called UNO.

"UNO fought the 1972 election as a united force. The Government Party was the PCN (National Conciliation Party) and some of the landed interests backed an extreme right-wing candidate and former head of the National Guard who was too reactionary even for the military to stomach! The election was held on February 20, 1972. The radio and TV stations gave early results showing UNO to be well ahead. Then all news coverage of results ceased and a few days later the military announced PCN had won. About a fortnight later the more progressive elements in the military attempted a coup but were defeated, and large numbers were exiled.

"At this stage the ERP came on the scene—the People's Revolutionary Army—widely believed to be funded by the Government, ANEP and FARO as well as the CIA. In 1977 there were further elections, again UNO contested them against PCN. They ran a military candidate, Colonel Claremount, a progressive officer backed by younger elements in the army, several individual units and practically the whole air force.

"A couple of weeks before the election the Presidential candidate for the PCN persuaded the government to change all the key posts where Claremount had support. The government then produced 610,000 late entries on to the electoral register; 450,000 of these names already existed on the register in other ways; for example, 371 soldiers' names

were listed at a polling station who were already registered to vote at their barracks.

"The elections were followed by victory celebrations of the PCN which were attended by less than a thousand people. On the same night over 80,000 people attended a rally called by UNO. The following Thursday, Claremount called a meeting at which he declared he would not leave until the elections were declared invalid. There was a massive response and many people joined Claremount in his vigil which lasted until the following Sunday night. At times as many as 150,000 attended.

"The vigil developed spontaneously into a general strike. By the weekend the country was paralysed. On the Sunday, February 27, 1977, the military surrounded the square where Claremount had his vigil and cleared it, killing 700 people. Thousands were injured and arrested and a state of siege was declared. Union leaders and political activists were rounded up.

"The only organisation left capable of organising public opposition to the military now was the Catholic Church. This happened in March and has continued but, as a result, several priests associated with the opposition, and particularly with land reform movements, have been killed or beaten up.

"There has been a fresh resurgence of guerilla groups, especially the FPL (Front for Popular Liberation). The politics of the FPL are still vague in many respects but it is a serious organisation, not like the ERP.

"The present situation is that the only organised resistance to the government is coming from the Church and the Front for Popular Liberation."

I.D.Y.M.

for Cuba



The Irish Democratic Youth Movement is helping to organise a major outing by Irish youth to Cuba in July and August next year. Represented on the Preparatory Committee by Philip Moran and Anthony Whelan, the I.D.Y.M. hopes to have a youth party twenty-five strong among the estimated 120 strong party from Ireland expected to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students.

At home the I.D.Y.M. holds its second National Conference in Dublin in mid-November next. This Conference will review the progress of the first year's organisational drive and selection of activities.

In the Dublin area a main I.D.Y.M. project is the drawing up of a report on one of the largest working-class areas in Ireland—Dublin South West—for presentation to all local bodies, Government Departments and the media. This Report will spotlight all the drawbacks, advantages and opportunities for improving life and the environment for the people living in the area. The position of young people will be of particular concern to the authors of the Report. A similar project is being conducted in Cork with the emphasis on young people's problems and attitudes towards major issues confronting the country.

Both North and South the I.D.Y.M. branches are taking a well-earned rest from their heavy involvement in Local and National Elections. In Belfast, however, I.D.Y.M. members, working through the Irish Union of School Students and the National Union of School Students, are helping organise school students there on a non-sectarian basis. This involvement extends the involvement of the Republican Clubs at other levels in their anti-sectarian campaign.

Good response to S.W.A.P.O. aid appeal

The appeal in aid of S.W.A.P.O. to supply medical kits for units in the field has met with considerable success since its inauguration. One of the first subscriptions, of £25, came from Clann na hEireann in Birmingham and already the fund has topped the £150 mark, which is the price of purchasing one and a half medical kits.

Cumainn of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party and branches of the Irish Democratic Youth Movement have undertaken to run a fund-raising event in parts of Ireland and we await the full result before publishing all the returns. Cards sent out are being returned at a healthy rate and we hope that this effort in international solidarity will prove successful. The South West Africa People's Organisation,

despite being recognised by the United Nations, is a hunched organisation in its homeland of Namibia and needs the medical supplies to continue the unrelenting struggle with South African fascism. As this appeal is initiated at the request of S.W.A.P.O. it is encouraging to see the prompt response. This S.W.A.P.O. appeal follows on the very successful Angola appeal by the International Affairs Bureau of Sinn Fein The Workers' Party which helped us provide an Electrocardiograph machine for the regional hospital of Dalantando. That machine is already at work there saving bed space and Doctor's time, two valuable health services in a country where such was totally unknown and unimaginable under Portuguese colonial rule.

Hopefully, our help to S.W.A.P.O. will hasten the dawn of freedom in that country and forge another solid link in our chain of international solidarity.



Sue Clark and Patsy Colgan from International Affairs Bureau, Sinn Fein The Workers' Party, being presented with a cheque for the S.W.A.P.O. Medical Kits appeal from Philip Moran, National Chairman, Irish Democratic Youth Movement and Brian Lynch, I.D.Y.M., Cork.

EOLAS

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PEOPLE IN POLITICS

BITER BITTEN

In a hearing at the Belfast High Court, July 17, 1977, the SDLP petition against Councillor Jim Sullivan, alleging corrupt practices in the recent Local Government Elections was dismissed and Councillor Sullivan was awarded costs.

Speaking after the court hearing Councillor Sullivan declared:— "I have never been in any doubt that this action would be dismissed and this morning's decision puts in true perspective the unfounded allegations made by the SDLP against me. I am delighted to be now able to give my undivided attention to my constituents, unhindered by any legal threats to my position.

The sole effect of this action has been to disrupt my work as a Councillor in one of the most socially deprived areas of Belfast. I will continue to pursue, at Council level, the closest possible cooperation with all individuals and parties, on matters of serious public concern where the interests of working people can best be served by tactical alliances irrespective of party level".

FRONT BENCH

In spite of the fact that Donncha Mac Raghnaill polled the largest number of votes of any Drogheda candidate in the last general election, he failed to gain the nomination for Mayor. The defunct coalition nominated one of the two Labour Party defeated by Mac Raghnaill, Cllr. Fergus O'Dowd.

Subsequently the new Mayor announced an all Party "front-bench" in which Sinn Fein The Workers' Party Cllr. Mac Raghnaill will have responsibility for both trade union and tenant affairs. Mac Raghnaill is National Treasurer of the National Association of Tenant Organisations.

And down in Gorey at the meeting of the Town Commissioners Tom Murphy expressed his disgust with the continued domination by the Coalition of the position of Chairman and vice-chairman. Murphy left the meeting in protest, asking, "Was the new chairman going to be told by the Fine Gael crowd what to do?"

CRAC 77

Clann na h-Eireann, the Party's British support group have garnered an impressive array of names for their CRAC 77 week in Birmingham from August 14 to 21.

They include playwright and folk-singer Dominic Behan, well known ballad singer, Galway man Sean Cannon and two all-Ireland champions, Pascal Dwyer on the bodhran and Sean McLaughlin on the fiddle.

The Lagan Folk, one of Scotland's outstanding groups have promised to be there. A real festival of music.

A coup for the organisers is the Banner Theatre Group which presented the premier of their play *The Great Divide* at the recent People's Jubilee in Alexandra Palace, London. The drama deals with racism and should be of interest to the large Irish audience expected.

NEW MAG

Irish Business this month has strong rumours of a new political magazine to be launched in Dublin shortly. Interesting names have been linked with the idea; the publisher is to be Vincent Brown and Kevin Myers, ex-RTE and Mary Holland. Observer is reported to be on his team.

Exactly what political stance this would give the journal, seeing also that one of the financial backers named is Oliver Barry, manager of the Provisional orientated folk-group the Wolf Tones, is not difficult to guess. Left of centre but bending back to the right somehow? One wonders also what shadowy figures may be waiting in the wings.

TORTURE

Nothing has really changed in the R.U.C. A lot of money has been spent on a public relations campaign to give them a new image — but beneath the friendly facade lies the same brute force.

Councillor Jim Sullivan of Belfast Corporation drew attention to another case of R.U.C. torture in July. On the morning of Thursday, 14 July, Mr. Eamonn Kerr was arrested at his home in Leeson St. He was brought to the notorious Castlereagh Barracks, where he was held for three days.

No charges were brought against him and when he was released on Saturday afternoon he was in "severe physical pain and his body was severely marked, bruised and burned." Mr. Kerr said that he had been continually assaulted, kicked, punched, beaten and burned with cigarettes in an attempt to force him to sign a statement implicating himself in various crimes.

When these methods failed Mr. Kerr was told that they would continue to harass both him and his family until such time as he signed a statement. "We will not arrest you again," they said, "but we will arrest your wife, your children, your brothers and even your mother and we will do the same to them as we did to you".

These are the despicable methods still used by the so-called reformed R.U.C. to obtain convictions. They are not the slightest bit interested in their guilt or innocence of the victim, only in a conviction!

Violence the prime block to political progress in N.I.

"No matter how one views the present Irish political scene, one must conclude that the Irish people's greatest wish and need at the present time is the cessation of violence but with so many vested interests in its continuance one must hasten to add that there is little likelihood of that wish being granted" said Mr. P. J. McClean P.T., Chairman of NICRA speaking at a Wolfe Tone Society Symposium in Dublin on "Violence and Irish Politics".

Mr. McClean is one of those who received the notorious 'hooded treatment' at Hollywood barracks and is one of the Irish Government witnesses in their case against the British Government at Strasbourg. He has never been a member of any illegal organisation but has been an outspoken critic of British Government malpractices and has been a member of the NICRA since its formation.

Stating that many reasons were advanced for the occurrence of violence in Irish Society ranging from a re-action to the violence of injustice, no other visible means of redress, an explosion of pent-up frustrations, the failure of parliamentary democracy to achieve change, to the romantic tradition of violence in our history, Mr. McClean pointed out that the position now pertaining was such that emotionalism had completely replaced logic and reason and the only conclusion left to be drawn was that the present proponents of violence must view violence as an end in itself rather than as a weapon to any victory. With this mentality defeat is therefore accepted as inevitable but another glorious failure must be recorded. This type of emotional thinking leads people to encourage the young to participate in violent campaigns under such emotive slogans as 'the year of victory', 'the year of freedom', 'one more push lads' etc. when any normal reasoning human being can see at a glance that violence and violent campaigns must always fail to achieve political aims in the sectarian situation which is N. Ireland. The false promises of 'Victory, Freedom and Hope are now being replaced by defeat, repression and despair. Thus violence has laid the hand of death on Irish politics.

Good work

Dealing with the promising political developments which were encouraged by the Civil Rights Movement, Mr. McClean went on to point out that over the past ten years much of the good work done by those early marchers for justice had now been undone as a result of violence. Then you had a cross-section of ordinary Irish people, Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter' recognising, as the United Irishmen of Tone's day recognised, that fair play was not being extended to all Irish people and you saw their collective efforts to achieve redress. In spite of the violence which the state inflicted on these marchers for justice tremendous gains were made. One man, One vote was achieved. A Points system for housing was introduced. The B Specials were disbanded. Political progress was being achieved.

But the Violence inflicted and the violent re-action to it ensured that these gains could not be built upon. Worse, violence ensured the continuation of Repressive Laws, the detention of political suspects, the torture of detainees, and greatest disaster of all, it clouded the Civil Rights issues so that seekers after justice began to forget that

Peace could only be achieved by political action removing the causes of violence and false hopes of a Peace from heaven were built up by well intentioned but politically naive Peace people. Violence finally ensured that Britain's world image was saved and it is with this thought uppermost in mind that one must view the early explosions at the pipelines of Dunadry and the sectarian shootings of Malvern Street. For thus did violence come to N. Ireland later to be exploited with greater venom by the sectarian hordes. The re-action to this violence, the birth of the Provisionals soon followed.

Divert

The continuation of violence has had two devastating effects on the politics of our times. It has diverted attention, not only from the early Civil Rights issues but also it continues to divert attention from the all-important issues of inflation, economic injustices such as unemployment, housing conditions and wages and it has left the ordinary people who showed by their marching that they were willing to participate — it has left them in the role of passive spectators having no say in the formation of their own destiny whilst the most ill-equipped amongst them are left to battle it out in the sectarian gun battles of the ghettos. On the political front it seems that institutionalised sectarianism is less dangerous to Britain than democratic, non-sectarian politics.

Pearse and the Easter Week leaders faced a comparatively simple task in calling, as they did, for an end to violence to save the lives of civilians when at the end of that week they saw that no victory was being achieved. Today the voice of a Pearse or a Connolly would fall on deaf ears for the clamour of vested interests in violence would deaden their call marginally sooner than they would be dead themselves. For suppose that by some magic, violence were to end to-morrow, how the ranks of the unemployed would swell.

Think of the numbers of UDR personnel (male and female), the numbers of reserves, of traffic wardens, of office security staff, of prison officers, of secret service men, of civil servants dealing with the whole field of security, the numbers of prisoners thrown on to the present unemployed labour force of the North. Violence pays their wages and in the past even regular members of the forces have been known to keep violence going. Think of the army generals, the strategists and technicians, the regular troops, the unof-

ficial census takers at road-blocks, the search parties.

What would become of their training ground in N. Ireland should violence cease? Even in para-military camps there would be murmurs of unrest, purges and changes of leadership should violence cease for vested interests in lucrative enterprises must surely suffer in times of calm. With so many vested interests in the continuance of violence what should ordinary people do?

Logical argument should always be used to point out to all and sundry the failure of violence to achieve political aims in the sectarian situation in N. Ireland. Democrats, reformers, moderates and genuine believers in peaceful political progress should combine to exert their influence on Liberal thinkers in Britain and elsewhere to promote a humane approach to the N. Ireland problem, emphasising the inevitable long term failure of 'Law and Order' policies and exposing successive British Governments responsibility for creating the conditions from which violence grows.

Guarantees

If belonging to political parties, Government departments or the security forces or ordinary reasoning men and women should oppose and counter-act as much as possible reactionary hardline policies.

Legislation guaranteeing basic human rights should be constantly sought as a basis for peaceful, political progress for in the violent situation which prevails in Ireland today the exchange of a political tweedledee for a political tweedledee as a governing party in the south can hardly be regarded as real progressive politics. Nor can the institutionalising of sectarianism as a means of furthering Britain's plans of power-sharing between politico religious groupings in the North contribute much to life there other than to shorten it by future sectarian massacres similar to Ballinacorney or Droemore in the twenties or the now familiar massacres in South Armagh or the murder triangle in the 70's.

Real political progress can only be made in Ireland when the dead hand of violence is removed from the body politic of Irish life and when Irish politics are re-visited, as they were in the North in the late 1960's by a concerned people moving non-violently against injustice, thus seeking and achieving a real peace.



PEACE, WORK & CLASS POLITICS

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