

11 October 1974

11 lá Deire Fómhair

DOIRE NUA

A newsletter published by the Bogside and Brandywell Sinn Féin Cumainn

FOR THE FIFTH TIME IN NINETEEN MONTHS...

Now that the election is over, and (as we predicted) William Ross is representing you at Westminster, do you notice all the wonderful changes coming your way by having representatives at Westminster? As the candidates babbled on, nonstop, on television this week, did any of it affect your life? The British government, SDLP and others have been trying to tell us that an old era is past, that now justice and prosperity are coming our way through their efforts. 'Just look and see how much better things are now', they've been trying to tell us.

Well, we've looked and looked, but saw nothing. Our backs aren't broken nor our hands full carrying away all these riches that are supposed to be coming to us.

Better housing? Do the Housing Executive repair your flat any faster? Did the dampness in your walls get put right yet?

Are we all able to work in Derry now? More of us can — if we want to accept wages that are far, far lower than in England. We may be able to — if we can swallow our pride and accept being part of a pool of cheap labour for English, Danish, and other wealthy bosses. Or, are lots of people you know still leaving to work for the better money abroad? For those of us that stay — do we need to feel grateful for working an 8-shift week for £30, in conditions that will make us old and sick before our time?

Do you notice on thing about the industries the SDLP, etc., have bribed to come here (bribed with your money, too) are the big dirty ones like Courtaulds — who are famous for their pollution that no city in England would let them anywhere near their rivers? (One of the reasons Courtaulds gave for choosing Derry as a site was "The unlimited supply of clean, fresh water" provided by the Foyle. Ask the salmon about that when you see them floating dead on top of a polluted River Foyle, and be ready to explain it to the wain who asks you why the river stinks so much, and why he can't bathe or fish in it anymore...)

What about your benefits? Are you getting more? Does what you get cover the cost of living — or does it just cover up the insane runaway inflation we are forced to share with Britain and other EEC member countries?

Does the wealth you produce by working long hours at a boring job belong to you any more than it ever did?

Has this "new era" really come? Do the politicians even know what they are babbling on about? People aren't stupid; we know what they mean.

John Hume's election posters called for "one strong voice". Right, John — but we know you mean one strong voice for the well-off and already-powerful. Prosperity — in SDLP-land, this means: so that those who've got, keep it. Are you getting more now than you got before, really? Or are you getting just enough to do you? They got their prosperity by robbing it from us (and interning anyone who is a threat to their system of doing it). (That's what "profit" means in industry: we ourselves produce things every day — shirts, cigarette machine parts, flexes, yarns — valued at many, many times what the boss can get away with paying us for that day's work.)

And of course, the final twist of truth the SDLP and their British masters expect us to believe is that elections — the supposed sign of democracy — could possibly have any real meaning in a place where over 2,000 men and women are held as political prisoners in Irish and English jails and concentration camps. Their "crime" is their desire to see their country free, and their courage in resisting a foreign oppressor. They aren't accused of any civil crime — the majority of them — but the Government thinks it has the right to hold them forever because they suspect they might have something to do with a crime... What cheek to speak of "democratic" processes as these men and women lie rotting in the jails and concentration camps!!

Provisional Sinn Féin in Derry asked the people who opposed internment and the present excuse for a government to vote against these injustices by SPOILING their votes. Sinn Féin thanks those who spoiled their votes for their honesty, and hope those who didn't spoil their votes now realise the utter absurdity of participating in these farcical elections. What have you or I ever gained by participating in a British election? Even if we had by some miracle won a seat at Westminster — what could I represent among over six hundred do for you?

No solution proposed by the British power-holders will ever fit the needs of Derry and the rest of this country.

There may be another election in a few months. (Judging from the past rate of elections, you can expect the same fuss in about another four months...) The delegates elected may never take their seats. If they do, they will have no power to change anything in our community.

Bernadette McAliskey once said the biggest shock she got when she became an MP at Westminster was realising in fact she had no power to do anything more significant for her constituents than get a new letter box or telephone kiosk installed. Things haven't changed much.

Sinn Féin is facing reality: Our community has more serious problems and needs than getting new letter boxes. And what under God are the Westminster politicians able to do about them? What were they ever able to do about them?

Free The People — NOW!

THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH WESTMINSTER IS TO DUMP WESTMINSTER!

SINCE WHEN IS LAUGHING "RITIOUS BEHAVIOUR"?

When the B.A. feels its face getting red? That's a question one family in Creggan are trying to answer. One night last week, their 15 yr. old boy was sitting peacefully in a breadserver's van outside his home, waiting for a lift up the road. As he sat waiting, a pack of Brits puffed past, chasing a lad of about 13 up the road. The sight of the slow Brits and the quick wee fellow was too much — and the boy sitting in the van laughed.

Far quicker than they could run, the Brits figured out who they could catch. "What are you laughing at? You want your face smashed in?" was the gentle message the soldier shouted as he grabbed at the fellow in the van.

The usual story followed. Since the original person escaped, the Brits lifted the handiest person. The boy and one of his family were piled into the back of a Saracen and whisked off to Piggery Ridge. Once there, the boy was questioned and photographed. When one of his family objected to the photographs being taken, — remember, this is within your rights to object — the B.A. threatened to take him to Victoria Barracks and have it done. So to save a couple of hours, and hoping to avoid further bother — and especially knowing that the Brits have the legal power to do just about anything they please — they allowed the photographs.

Despite their cooperation, this young boy and his family were informed that charges may well be pressed! For what? It seems "Insulting a member of Her Majesty's Forces"!!! They have been told that the RUC will serve the summons to their home — so if your see about 20 Saracens and Army Landrovers escorting one terrified wee grey RUC Rover up to Creggan, you'll know what it's about...

As the young fellow said in his statement, "Can you not even laugh any more?"



QUESTIONS WE'D LIKE ANSWERED:

** If the Government have made Sinn Féin "legal" why have they consistently harassed Sinn Féin members, by lifting and interning ones who are most successful at political organisation, like Barney McFadden and Jim Kyle? By raiding the homes of others so everyone involved feels in a constant state of tension? By interning relatives and friends, so that members' time and energy is diverted from political action and is taken up instead by visits to the Kesh, organising parcels for prisoners, etc. The SDLP, for example, don't get this treatment — or are some political parties "more legal" than others?

*** If, as the SDLP and other British government sources keep trying to tell us, religious discrimination and harassment is a thing of the past, WHY does the B.A. force you to tell them your religion? Why do they spread-eagle young fellows against walls, and kick and thump them when they refuse this information?

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LETTERS, NEWS, COMMENTS??? Send them to the Editor, DOIRE NUA at 15 Cable St.

WEDNESDAY'S DEMONSTRATION

The Derry Friends and Relatives of Internees Society, which is a completely non-political organisation, attached to no group but themselves, organised Wednesday's highly successful strike and demonstration through the town. Estimates of the crowd of workers participating ran generally from 2,000 to 6,000. The exact figures aren't that important — EVERYONE agrees that it was the biggest crowd of people out on the streets for a long time. RELEASE ALL POLITICAL HOSTAGES was the thought that brought people out for this silent protest. The Friends and Relatives of Derry Internees Society is circulating a letter, which we are also printing in its entirety here:

"People of Derry,

On behalf of our political prisoners, we should like to thank you all, housewives, factory workers, shop owners, indeed everyone for the magnificent support in our peaceful-anti-interment march on Wednesday.

It is good to see that the flame of freedom still burns strong in the hearts of decent, Irish people. That we are prepared to come on the streets in a peaceful manner and make our voices heard to the English forces of occupation.

We are telling them now that we, the parents, have had enough. We are no longer willing to stand by while they lock our sons and daughters in their foul concentration camps, lashing out their brutality and harassment and starving them almost to the death.

Remember, people of Derry, it could be your husband, your son, your daughter here today and gone tomorrow behind the wire. If you stop and think about it these people are going through hell and for months now they have been criticised and condemned. They have been branded as terrorist while the real terrorist in our midst are given a medal and sent home to England to rest and then it's back to Ireland for another term of Brutality and harassment.

The reason why our people are in these foul concentration camps is simple. For 50 years, we have let ourselves be used as doormats for England. Our children have the God-given right to live in freedom and they will not be used as doormats. They have the courage to fight for what is rightfully theirs: A free peaceful Irish country without the hand of English tyranny.

Do you deny your children their country? No! After your support on Wednesday, we don't think you do. All we ask is that you pledge your support to them and that you keep up this support until each one of them is free, and we can all walk with pride in a free and peaceful Nation once again."

END INTERMENT

LONG KESH MUST GO!

The ONLY way to deal with Internment
is to END IT!

SUPPORT THE

DEMONSTRATIONS

While they are interned —

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