



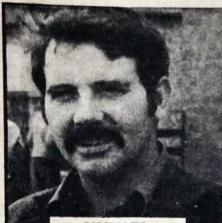
THE STARRY PLOUGH

Price -- 5p

No. 3

Derry's Own Republican Newspaper

REPUBLICANS TO FIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



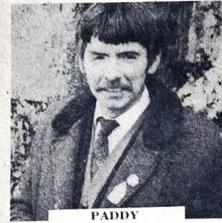
MICHAEL MONTGOMERY, CREGGAN



SEAN McCOOL, BOGSIDE



PIUS GALLAGHER, SHANTALLOW



PADDY QUINN, CREGGAN

REPUBLICAN CLUBS, after much deliberation, have decided to put forward candidates in the forthcoming Local Government elections. The District Council based on Derry will consist of 27 Councillors elected by Proportional Representation — single transferable vote. From the word go it must be made clear, that if elected, Republican candidates will not take seats as long as concentration camps and repressive legislation continues.

In contesting these elections it is not, by any stretch of the imagination, approval of this new and anti-democratic system of Local Government, foisted on the people by the Whitelaw Regime. The new District Councils will have little power, and what there is has been summed up by some political commentators as no more than cleaning the streets and burying the dead.

The main functions, such as education, health and welfare formerly under the control of Local Government have been transferred to the control of Area Boards. 70% of the membership of these Area Boards are appointed by Whitelaw and only 30% from the District Councils elected by the people. Housing has been taken over by the Housing Executive and completely outside the control of the District Councils.

It is the intention of the Republican Clubs therefore to expose the anti-democratic nature of the new Local Government system. In addition, however, by contesting these elections a Republican Socialist alternative can be offered to the people. The working class people have nothing to gain by electing the usual concoction of politicians, who, as they have done in the past, will continue

to play the sectarian power game while ignoring the real bread and butter issues confronting the people.

WHAT ARE THE REAL ISSUES?

The real issues centre around the ability to supply the needs of people to enable them to live a full and happy life. What do the people need and want? They want a decent home and to live in a friendly community, where they can rear their children and prepare them for a good future. At the moment, the best one can expect is to be stuck into a badly designed house, one of many in a concrete jungle, which does not cater for the needs of a family but is just a place to sleep and eat. The Community spirit cannot grow because estates are too large, badly laid out with few or no facilities. Housing estates should be smaller and built around a Community and Health Centre with adult recreational and educational facilities, a youth club and swimming pool. Playgroups and facilities for pre-primary school education should also be provided. Instead of building houses we must build homes to cater for the needs of the individuals who live in them, for those that want to study in privacy and for those who wish to indulge in recreational

pursuits.

Employment or the lack of it is the other big issue. The system at the moment produces jobs only in the field where the Capitalist can make the quickest and largest profit. With the large level of unemployment in Derry and with all the talents of individuals in the area, a programme of co-operative industry could be established and much of what is produced could be consumed at a local level or in the surrounding hinterland. We believe these issues along with education, health and welfare are the main issues confronting working-class people. These areas, however, are outside the control of the District Councils, which makes them, therefore, ineffective as instruments of local control. On this basis Republicans oppose the new system of local government because it is anti-democratic. As Republican-Socialists we can put forward an alternative based on the needs of the working-class not on the desires of unscrupulous politicians.

To produce solutions like these, however, require imagination and the recognition that the community must be served and not exploited for the profit of a few greedy individuals.

We call therefore on all working-class people and workers' organisations to support Republican Club Candidates on polling day, May 30th.



MICHAEL DOHERTY, BOGSIDE



JIM LOUGHREY, GREYSTEEL



DEREK SHATTOE, WATERSIDE



SEAN GALLAGHER, ROSEMOUNT



JOE SWEENEY, ROSEMOUNT



MOLLY MOURNE, WATERSIDE



LIAM GALLAGHER, CREGGAN



HARRY LYNCH, BOGSIDE

BARRICADE JOE INTERVIEWS CATHAL GOULDING

INSIDE BEN SHERMAN — A REPORT

SPECIAL 4 PAGE EASTER SUPPLEMENT

NOT A BRICK UPON A BRICK



REASONABLE

THE WHITE Paper has come at last. Mr. Whitelaw assures that it contains reasonable proposals for reasonable people and yet very few reasonable people are happy with its contents. The leader of the Unionist Party says that this is exactly what the Unionists wanted; but what else could foxy Faulkner say anyway?

The S.D.L.P. say that this is a step forward. The middle-class minority parties of the N.I.L.P. and Alliance see it as their chance to jump on the "peace and reconciliation" bandwagon and catch votes.

The working-class Protestants led by Craig, Paisley, Tommy Herron and co. are decidedly unhappy about the whole thing and threaten to make the proposals unworkable through the ballot box and considering their past successes they will probably be able to do this.

The C.R.A. say that the proposals don't go far enough towards granting basic civil rights. The Provisional Alliance dismiss them out of hand. Yet, these viewpoints, to the parties concerned are reasonable points but, most of the views put forward are not the views Whitelaw wishes from so-called reasonable people.

We in the Republican Movement are also reasonable people.

All we want is the wealth of Ireland for the people of Ireland. We want an end to exploitation of mankind by mankind. But realising that maybe this is asking too much at present, in the meantime we will settle for the withdrawal of troops from all working-class areas, pending their total withdrawal from the six counties, the release of all internees, detainees and political prisoners, a general amnesty for all those who took part in the civil disobedience campaign, an immediate amnesty for all men on the run, a declaration of intent by the British Government to end partition once and for all.

Now we ask you. What could be more reasonable than this.

Derry's Working Class Who Don't Want To Be Working Class

Over the past few years, we in Derry have seen many changes in our city. Most of the famous old streets and buildings are just memories for us now. Housing estates have sprung up which before 1968 the Unionists and the British ignored the need for. It is good to see Derry people getting out of the hovels and slums they were forced to live in and moving Carnhill and Shantallow, Killeman and Clooney. But what makes us sad as Republicans and Socialists is the attitude of a small minority of people who have moved into these new estates.

These people seem to have acquired an air of snobbery because of their new environment. Within a few months, they seem to have forgotten that they are working class people. All, it seems, that is on their small minds is to have a better carpet or T.V. than their neighbours. All of a sudden, instead of the Derry slang of "Aye and Naw" these people love to be saying "Yes" and "No."

We are sorry to see that people like these are destroying the true image that Derry folk have always had, renowned as they are for friendliness and kindness. These types of people conveniently seem to forget where they came from. To their everlasting shame, they came from poor families like ourselves. But being Derry folk we have our pride and dignity and we say that anyone who is ashamed of being born into a poor family is a traitor to the working class people of this city. A human being can go no lower than to deny his own. It is common to see this type of individual pass old friends in the street without a word of recognition. We appeal to these people to stop and think. They are working class and now try to be

something they are not. They are destroying themselves and as false persons destroy all around them. A false attitude to life is embedded in their children's minds by their actions. They lose all their working class friends by their snobbish attitudes and they aren't nearly enough to be accepted by the middle and upper classes. If they really think they are middle class they should go and live on the Northland Road. Let us always remember, as Marx said, "Nothing is too good for the working class," and always be proud to be a part of that class.

READ THE UNITED IRISHMAN

THE OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT (Derry City)

Offers deepest sympathy to friends and relatives of:

Volunteer JAMES McGERRIGAN

Quartermaster JOHN ANTHONY HUGHES

Armagh Command I.R.A.

IN A statement before handing over responsibility for housing to the new Housing Executive, the chairman of the Derry Development Commission, Mr. Brian Morton, claimed that Derry's housing problem is solved. Anyone who cares to walk through the Brandywell or better still the people who are forced through no fault of their own to live there, know that Morton's statement is ridiculous.

In the Brandywell at the moment there are people paying rent for houses which were condemned at least 16 years ago. In 1968 when a section of the area (Hamilton Street, Ann Street, and part of Bishop Street) were vested for redevelopment under the old and infamous Derry Corporation residents thought that they might be getting decent houses.

Since then they have been under the authority of the N.I. Housing Trust, the Development Commission, and now the Housing Executive. To date, not a single stage of redevelopment has started. In the words of one member of the tenants' association: "not a brick upon a brick" instead a dump was opened on the old railway grounds in 1970. A picket was organised by the tenants' association in 1971, but far from gaining any satisfaction they have seen the whole area continuously deteriorate. Another sore point with the tenants is the fact that the R.U.C. and B.O.C. building in Bishop Street have still not been demolished, part of Anne St. since the pre-fabs have gone has become an unofficial dumping ground which is a serious risk to the children who live in the area and have few playing facilities. Due to the overall conditions and in particular, the rat infested B.O.C. and R.U.C.

buildings, the tenants' association asked the sanitary department for some form of Rodent Control to be implemented.

The sanitary department's answer was to send a man to place rat poison in the old

The attitude of the local authorities in the past seems to have been that as the area was for redevelopment anyway, anything will do in the meantime, but the MEANTIME HAS LASTED SINCE 1968 and nothing has been done. The Tenants' Association has fought every housing body for firm proposals and firm starting date for redevelopment, but as of yet all they have received are vague statements of intent but no concrete proposals.

A recent statement from the

Children on Brandywell's only playground — the Dump.



R.U.C. building. When questioned by local tenants a Mr. McPherson (Rodent Control) said that the area surrounding the dump was too big for adequate control. The irony of this is that the dump itself is due for redevelopment as a riverside walk. Who ever heard of a rat infested riverside walk!

Tenants' Association shows that their patience is wearing thin, as well it might. They have threatened to take the people onto the streets to gain their just demands.

In this the Official Republican movement offers all the support that they require and will throw the full weight of our organisation behind the tenants' struggle.

Night Life in Creggan

WE SELDOM pick up the local newspapers nowadays without reading something about rioting in the Creggan Estate. But anyone passing the local shops at night will almost always notice gangs of young people hanging around waiting for any foot patrol which is unfortunate enough to pass that way. A substantial number of residents in the area are very quick to point out that it's the hooligan element on the Estate. These people never ask themselves why we have these so-called hooligans.

I, as a young teenager, would like to give a couple of reasons.

Most young men who hang around the shops are unemployed and spend their days walking the streets or inside the bookies shop, so by the time night comes they are bored out of their minds.

Night-time holds nothing new for them; most of them cannot afford to go to the pictures and no wonder. 40p is about the average entrance fee nowadays, and even when they can raise the money, which is not often, they have to put up with the many cases of army harassment which they have to go past on their way to town.

Is it any wonder that they stay in Creggan instead? These are some of the reasons why so many young people hang about the shops. If we ask ourselves who is to blame we would get many different answers. Some of us realise that the corrupt system under which we live is to blame. Others say that it is the lack of help we get from older people in the Estate. The people of Creggan (through their church) have a new Community Centre which has done nothing to bring the young people off the streets. The centre's agenda is as follows: Sundays — Concerts, entrance fee 50p; Monday — Bingo? Not much use to the younger

generation; Tuesday — Old time dancing; Wednesday — Women only night; Thursday — Men only (if not married must be over 21); Friday — Dance 50p (not exactly cheap); Saturday — Bingo once again.

So as you can see there is not much of an outlet for the energies of the young people, I personally believe that the Centre should be open one night a week for indoor football, boxing, or any indoor sport that facilities are provided for, and one other night a free disco could be run, which doesn't need much finance to set up. If the Committee of the Centre don't like this idea, perhaps the Tenants' Association could bring pressure to get it implemented again with little

expenditure in one of the many schools in the area. This would ensure that the schools would be fulfilling a useful function in the Community.

One thing I think I should mention is the Creggan Welfare Committee who instead of issuing their veiled threats about people being shot in the leg, could arrange a meeting with the unemployed youth of Creggan and ask them to help the old people of the area? By doing odd jobs around their homes I am sure if approached the right way the so-called (Hoods) would be very co-operative. Lastly, I would like to appeal to all those who say they have an interest in helping the young people of Creggan not just to talk but try to do something constructive about it, even if they only arrange a meeting in their own street with the young people living there. They will find no shortage of ideas and a better understanding between the two generations could be built up.

FROM A YOUNG HOOLIGAN.



New Community Centre. Is it wasted?

BARRICADE JOE FACE TO FACE WITH CATHAL GOULDING

What about you comrades—Barricade Joe here.

ONCE MORE Easter is upon us and Republicans lend their thoughts and memories to Dublin and what was then Sackville Street, now O'Connell Street, and the G.P.O., and the stand taken by the Irish men of that period to break the connection with England. The fight fought by the men of 1916 doesn't need a scribe like me to expound on. Easter and what it represents to Republicans and the Irish people is a very important time. I thought for this, the Easter edition of the "Starry Plough," I should talk to someone who has given his whole life and continues to commit most of his time to the Republican Movement.

It was away in the Gaeltacht area of Donegal that I came face to face with Cathal Goulding, life long member of the Republican Movement and Republican Socialist extraordinaire.

Companing Cathal — Barricade Joseph an. An labhairaidh dom i gcomhair an "Starry Plough"?

"Labhairaidh me Joseph." Ta go mait.

Cathal Goulding is a very shy unassuming person. He is not very tall, but has a mature and very experienced appearance. I was anxious to ask him some questions which were on my mind for sometime. He answered smillingly when I asked him his age; that he admits to be fifty years old. Like many Dublin people before and after him, he was born in a Dublin tenement house in East End Street in the Markets area of Dublin and his first school was the National School in Strand Street for about four years, then his family moved to Ballybogh in the North Strand district, which is another working class area. Here he went to St. Joseph's Christian Brothers School, where he remained until he left school at the age of thirteen.

He shares the memories of many Dublin working class people of his own age and he recalls that most of his mates ran around in their bare feet, their parents not being able to afford to buy the children shoes. His own circumstances were the same. His father was a painter and decorator and he remembers his father only finding work for three months in the year, with no Social Benefits like we enjoy today. Childhood in the Dublin slums could amount to a living hell and the mortality rate among children

was the highest in Western Europe. He says his father and people like Stephen Behan, Brendan Behan's father, who was also a painter and fellow Republican, were discriminated against because they took the Republican side in the Civil War. Unable to find work from Free State bosses, his father and men in the same plight in the building trade became jobbing contractors, finding small amounts of work on their own in a constant battle to keep the wolf away from the front door. The jobbing contractors were in a sense the Co-ops of the building trade, as any money earned on these small contracts was shared amongst those doing the work, who in many cases made up entire families. Goulding says that it was only years later, when he started working as a painter himself, that he realised the situation his father and thousands of others had endured. You accepted that if your father worked you ate more and got more clothes; when he was on the dole you were lucky to have anything to eat, and these are the things instinctively more than ideologically which made people like himself, Behan and O'Casey all socialists. It made him understand what the struggle for freedom in Ireland was about and made him class conscious.

I asked him when he joined the Republican Movement and he answered in these terms:—He said he was born into the Republican Movement, his grandfather was an Invincible and his father and all his uncles were in the I.R.A. His mother was in the Republican Movement and went to prison. He grew up in a Republican household, he went through his Republican baptism as an infant. He joined the Fianna at the age of

five and from then on the Republican Movement was part of his life. It was more than a political thing, it was a social thing; all his relatives were in the Movement. In fact for a long time he thought that everyone was in the Movement because the only people he met as a child were people in the Republican Movement and it wasn't until he was about fifteen years old that he discovered that not everybody prescribed to the Republican ideals.

Out of his fifty years on this earth Cathal has spent sixteen years in prison in Ireland and England, and sixteen years in prison is a lot to give to any cause but he has given it ungrudgingly and would go to prison again for his principles and beliefs.

He first went to prison when he was seventeen years old. He was arrested for the possession of documents and a Military Uniform; he got twelve months in Mountjoy in Dublin. He also served time in the Curragh and to the people in Derry City they will remember he was caught after the arms raid in Felstead Army Barracks with the well-known Derry Republican Manus Canning. The third person caught in the incident was John Stevenson, now known as Sean MacStiochain.

Prison life affected Cathal, his political development matured when given time to think but, a more personal and terrifying experience in the late thirties and early forties, when he was in prison, was to stand out in his mind. It was the unusual activities in the early mornings, while lying alone in your cell. People whom you had known all your life, some whom you had gone to dances went out for a drink and generally paint the town red with others being led out and put up against the wall and their life smashed out of them with the shot of a rifle. It was this sort of thing that helped to reinforce his attitude to the situation in Ireland and the Government in the Twenty-six Counties and, in later years, particularly '60, he wasn't one of the people who let themselves be lured by the very people who slaughtered Republicans when the Republican Movement wasn't a very popular thing.

Brendan Behan, Dublin tenement dweller, painter and decorator, Republican I.R.A. man, novelist and dramatist, was one of Cathal's closest friends and in Cathal's own words: "We were in a sense like brothers". Stephen Behan and Goulding's father worked together and when the Gouldings moved to Ballybogh it was just across the street from Russell Street where the Behans lived. Cathal and Brendan developed a friendship at such an early age that he cannot recall not knowing Brendan. They slept in each other's homes which really meant the Behans had a room in Russell Street and Gouldings had a room in Ballybogh. They went to school together, they joined the Fianna together, they worked together, they started to drink at about the age of fifteen together and again like their fathers before them they joined the I.R.A. together.

He did not go to England with Brendan in the forties to take part in the bombing campaign, he was at other work for the Movement in Dublin. When Brendan came home from England Cathal was in prison and it wasn't very long before Brendan joined his old pal in a Dublin prison for other Republican activities.

I asked Cathal did he know when Behan began writing and he said "He was always writing ever since

he could remember". As a small boy of twelve Goulding remembers Behan writing for a magazine called "Na Flanna" and other Republican magazines. They often discussed between themselves some of the things that Brendan had written. It was while Cathal was serving his time in prison in England for his part in the Felstead Arms raid that Brendan became famous as a novelist. Later Behan often gave his unpublished manuscripts to Goulding for comment before sending them to the publisher, which showed how close their friendship endured until Brendan's tragic death from alcoholism. No discussion with Cathal could be of any significance without covering his relationship with Brendan Behan.

Cathal, a question that Barricade Joe always asks is—Who above all other people you have met since joining the Republican Movement influenced and impressed you more than anyone else? Without any hesitation he answered "George Plant". He never met a more

BARRICADE JOE

now. Do you see yourself stepping down in the near future? He said that he would be delighted to vacate certain positions he holds within the Movement. He feels that in the past he has made whatever contributions he could to the political development of the Movement and towards the revolutionary development of the movement. He says that there are younger people now in the Movement who are more energetic, better ideas and more militant revolutionaries than him. He doesn't see any problem in himself or anyone else vacating these positions. The policy of the movement has been established.



CATHAL GOULDING

dedicated revolutionary than him and he had a conception of people like Goulding himself has tried to emulate all his life. Plant maintained that everyone in the country had a contribution to make no matter how little or how mean, it should not be scorned. Plant would explain it like this, "It is a noble thing to die for your country, it's a useful thing to kill your country's enemies. If you can't be noble you can at least be useful" and he went on to expand it this way you will get men who will fight for Ireland and you will get men who will die for Ireland and you will get people who will want to be associated with the Republican Movement and the Revolutionary Movement and have not the guts to go to jail or die but they will give you something. The smallest thing possible a man could give is his boot laces. Take those bootlaces and make that man feel he is as important as the man who dies or goes to jail; go back next week and he will give you his boots.

Cathal, you have held very responsible positions in the Movement for quite sometime

the revolutionary consciousness is accepted, it doesn't matter who sits in the job of President of Sinn Fein, Chief of Staff of the I.R.A. or any other responsible position because the only people who will be accepted for these positions by the movement are committed socialists, because the Republican Movement is a committed socialist movement.

The Republican traditions are living on in the Goulding family because at this moment and time, twenty-one year old Cathal O'Goulding is serving time in Mountjoy Prison for Republican activities.

The Republican Movement is sure of victory with people like Cathal Goulding. His dedication and commitment is something that everyone throughout the entire movement recognises and respects and this man more than anyone else has steered us on the right revolutionary course.

See you comrades.
BARRICADE JOE



BRENDAN BEHAN



REPUBLICANS OPEN

REPUBLICAN PLANS FOR FUTURE

WITH THE explosive situation introduced into the six counties by Heath's 'hatched man' Brian Faulkner, internment produced an effect which few crises have succeeded in doing. The Republican Movement increased in size by 20 to 1.

We suddenly found ourselves with an almost uncontrollable rise in membership. Hundreds applied to join. The queues lengthened and the headaches became more acute. 'What' we asked ourselves, 'are we going to do with them?' 'Build the barricades' said one. 'Organise street committees' said another. Almost all of them wanted to 'have a go' at the British army.

One quite obvious and glaring problem which faced all of us was how best we could deploy our newly acquired vast membership and at the same time advance our political and socialist ideas.

We reacted. When one person was killed by the British army, we reacted and organised a picket. When houses were raided and wrecked we reacted and organised a march. Rarely did we sit down and carefully consider what protest as such was going to contribute to the struggle of the Irish people. More importantly we haven't given enough consideration to the question of providing real and lasting alternatives which would provide constructive answers.

Internment gave us a situation, which, in class terms, brought the Catholic workers into direct conflict with British Imperialism. The profits from rent and in some cases electricity and gas provided the Unionist Government with its biggest headache to date and clearly a reaction which the Unionists hadn't anticipated. The civil disobedience campaign instantly drew the required response - immediate and spontaneous support. Needless to say this was instantly followed by a reaction from the Tories. They introduced the Recovery of Debts Act ('Temporary Provisions') 1972. Described by one Labour member of Parliament as the 'most appalling' piece of legislation he had ever experienced.

Clearly the way forward was becoming obvious. The rent and rate strike worried the Tory bosses and coupled with the Provisionals bombing campaign, the Unionists conceded defeat and withdrew to safer and greener pastures. They ran all the way to 10 Downing Street with their tails between their legs.

William Whitelaw, landlord and Tory Chief Whip, with tears in one eye and the other firmly fixed on Ted Heath's job, joyfully accepted the position of Secretary of State. 'Here at last' wailed the middle-class 'someone who can draw us back from the brink.' Whereupon the Tory government immediately abolished Stormont and introduced a virtual government by decree - A dictatorship!

During this traumatic period, the Republican Movement was gradually recovering from the setbacks of internment. The six counties were a battlefield littered with the scars of internment, sectarianism and the cancerous growth of fascism in the form of the U.D.A. and C.E.S.A.

The middle-class politicians fought and bickered amongst themselves. All wanted a piece of the power-sharing pie. The S.D.L.P. wanted to maintain its vested interests amongst the Catholic working-class and the Unionist Party, conscious now of a class awareness amongst Protestant workers, attempted to sidetrack by renewing the demands for the defeat of the

Recent demands by them for the lifting of the ban on Republican Clubs fooled absolutely no one; especially when Westminster introduced legislation based on the Ullock recommendations a few days afterwards. The information of the S.D.L.P. must have been good and after all, they have never been short of friends at Whitehall.

Without question, the working-class of the six counties are faced with enormous problems. Their traditional political leaders abandoned them at every turn and the Trade Union leaders refused emphatically to consider possible alternatives. Leaderless and weak from varying forms of repression, the Protestant and Catholic workers will begin to grab at any straw. No one knows this better than William Whitelaw and Ted Heath. Hence the White Paper.

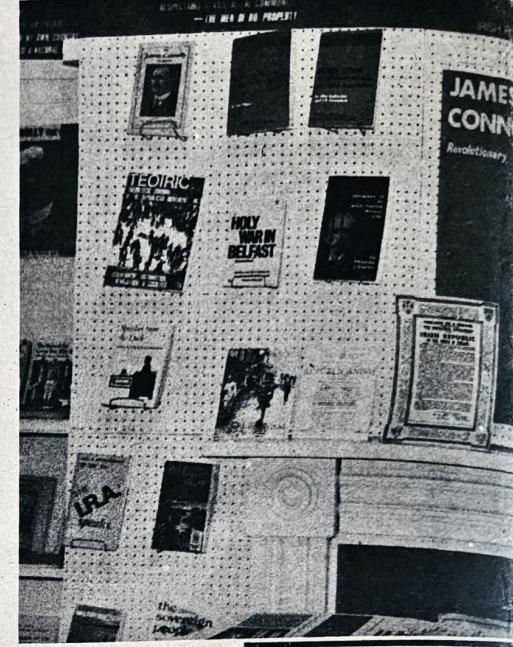
Recognising, as they do, that a divided working-class is conducive and indeed necessary to ensure the long term economic interests of British Imperialism, the Tory Government introduced proposals in the White Paper which would guarantee the antagonism of one section of the community or the other. The Protestants were sold out. The loyalists merged and now speak with a single if incoherent voice. Sectarian tensions are at an all-time high.

The Republican Movement now declares its position. Demands which include the withdrawal of British Troops from all working-class areas and an immediate amnesty for men on the run, internees and rent strikers, are considered fundamental to solving the immediate problems.

The economic and social problems cannot be divorced from the above demands because the increase in sectarianism and terrorism is directly due to the severe lack of work and the chronic shortage of housing. The sectarian ghettos created the U.D.A. and the Provisionals, and the ghettos were created by the deliberate policy of Imperialism.

It cannot be denied, therefore, that Britain's Capitalist Government is directly responsible for the dreadful problems of the Irish people. The way forward is now clear. Capitalism's greed for profit leaves the working-class with no other choice than to create the conditions which will remove British Imperialism and help build the Socialist Republic.

The Trade Union Movement, traditional organisation of the working-class, still provides the basis for unity and agreement. The



Protestant workers do recognise the common problem of low wages and bad working conditions. The Catholic workers are equally aware of the growing need for massive house building programmes. Agitation on these problems can and will win the workers away from the drift to fascism and sectarian civil war.

These are the means which will provide the conditions for lasting social change. The building of the Republican Movement - the Revolutionary Party, must centre its agitation and demands towards these ends. First the Revolutionary Party. Second the 're-conquest of Ireland for the people of Ireland.'

ADVICE CENTRE

OPEN
9.30 to 5.30

MONDAY TO SATURDAY



Voluntary worker manning Advice Centre

'STARRY P GETS NEW

WE HAD talked about it. We had spent long last, however, the Republican ambition. On Friday, March 30, a advice centre was opened to the public

We didn't hold any opening ceremonies nor did we ask for a prominent personality to say a few words to mark an occasion which for some of us was a significant one. Deep down, however, we all experienced an inner satisfaction in achieving something which would have been unheard of a few years ago. We now have a three storey headquarters next door to the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union. That was ceremony enough for some of us and deeply indicative of the way forward for the Republican Movement in Derry. Is it any wonder then that people were heard to remark of the grimacing Republicans all last week. We have good reason to grin. We are advancing and cannot be stopped.

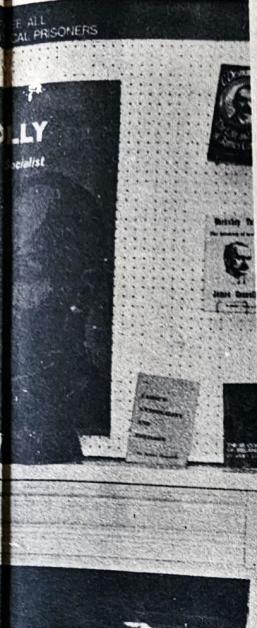
I remember the appeals in the United Irishman, over two years ago for help in building a hall for the Republican Movement. Some of us didn't really think that it would ever come about. I also remember the time when you could count the members of the Movement on two hands. Not any more!

THE PRIORITY

The bookshop and advice centre seemed to us to be the priority. We felt that we must show the public our face. All the talk from Whitelaw and company about the 'faceless men' was nonsense. So we decided to show the people that we were far from faceless. We did it, and after the hordes of volunteers and Republican craftsmen disappeared from the ground floor we laid open the doors and showed the people of Derry that the Republican Movement was alive and still kicking harder than anyone else.

The bookshop is probably our most ambitious step forward. What kind of books? That was a difficult question we had to face. Irish Literature? naturally; but what is to be the function of the bookshop? Are we simply selling books to make money, because if we were, then socialist literature was not the

NEW HEADQUARTERS



LOUGH HOME

years and days dreaming of it. At last it has finally realised an Starry Plough bookshop and

nothing to sell. Playboy maybe, but not Connolly or Lenin. No, our purpose is to provide the workers of Derry with a service they have never experienced before. A bookshop which will provide literature aimed at offering an alternative society. 'Labour in Irish History', 'The Workers' Republic', and 'The Communist Manifesto'. These are the books you will find in our shop; controversial maybe? But important and vital to a struggling working-class who have nowhere to turn and no one to turn to.

ACTION

For that reason we also decided to open an office for administering a growing Republican Movement and an advice centre to cater for a growing number of people who were manifestly dissatisfied with the pitiful handouts they received from the Social Security. Action! That's what people are demanding and that is the slogan we shall adopt in the new advice centre. We demand action for the oppressed on the Social Security. We demand action for the underpaid workers.

The renovations to the premises are by no means complete but time and tide stops for no man and with this uppermost in our mind we moved on to the next floor. Next thing on the agenda is the lecture room and sitting-room. We felt that what the members needed was a room where they could sit down in comparative comfort with a cup of tea or coffee and talk about the problems facing the workers and the situation we are all in at the moment. This room will probably come to be known as the 'Think Tank.'

Throughout the period of the 'troubles' we have been adding to a growing number of books on socialist theory. The natural conclusion to this was to set up a library which could be used by members of the movement. This room which will be on the top floor will probably also house a research centre (Capitalists and exploiters will come under close scrutiny in

FIANNA FAIL - THE I.R.A. CONNECTION

A Book Review

THE ONLY weakness of the book under review in the opinion of this reviewer is that the title is vague. In an age in which the presentation of literature is an important factor in its sale a more applicable title could have been found. For it is of vital importance that the truth contained in this book reaches the firesides of every working-class family throughout the length and breadth of Ireland.

As a participant in many of the events chronicled within its 68 pages I can vouch for the authenticity of its contents. From its first sentence referring to the resignation of Sean Lemass in 1966 as leader of Fianna Fail, to its last paragraph making reference to the goings-on after the death of Garda Fallon, the book exposes the power struggle within the Fianna Fail party. But of more importance, it lays bare the master plan of the Fianna Fail ruling Cabinet, to buy over with the help of T.A.C.A. big business, the Republican Movement. When this failed the book shows another attempt to win over the Northern Command of the IRA. And when the envisaged split between the Northern Command and the rest of the country did not materialise the political vultures of Leinster House supplied the cash to set up the Provisonal. And they found many ex-Republicans who had hibernated for years as willing lap dogs. Parallel with the attempted take-over of the Republican Movement the contents reveals the attempt by Fianna Fail and Northern Roman Catholic middle-class elements to infiltrate and use the Civil

Rights Association. There is also recorded for posterity an account of the collusion between the Donegal mafia and persons who became leaders of the Provisonal in the vain attempt to take over the Defence Committees.

The book is an eye-opener. It mentions names, dates and places and events. Throughout its pages one can perceive the struggle of those who were preparing a people for revolution and the ownership of their own country on one side. And on the other side the imperial lapdogs led by Union Jack Lynch with the support of the Provisonal alliance.

"Disciples of the quisling band
Who drink at England's
monied well."

Of course it could be that the actions of the Provisonal, blueprinted by Fianna Fail, have set back the struggle of the Irish working-class for years. However it is important to acknowledge this and be on our guard against a repeat of such anti-working-class activity. That's why this book is important. So buy it, read it, and distribute it.

BOOKS FOR SALE

THE REVOLUTIONARIES, S. Cronin	35p
FIANNA FAIL: THE I.R.A. CONNECTION	30p
THE SECRET ARMY, J. Boleroy Bell	60p
THE U.V.F., David Boulton	50p
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF J.C., C. Desmond Greaves	£1.00
ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY, F. Engels	95p
THE PARIS COMMUNE, L. Trotsky	40p
SOCIALISM AND MARX, Che Guevara	20p
THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE, K. Marx	20p
I.R.A. JAILBREAKS	50p
THE BEST OF TONE, Prolissias Mac Aonghusa	70p
RED STAR OVER CHINA, Edgar Snow	£1.00
LABOUR AND EASTER WEEK, J. Connolly	£1.00
UNITED IRISHMAN	5p
STARRY PLOUGH	5p
ROSS CATHA	5p

this room) and study. Next door will be the Editor of the 'Starry Plough'. He rates the smallest room in the house but needless to say has the most difficult job of all.

FIRST STEP

All in all we have good reason indeed for walking around Derry feeling smug. The Republican Movement hasn't simply walked onto the political stage; we have actually taken it over. The Tory parties in Derry, whether it be green SDLP/Nationalist or true blue Alliance/Unionist, will now finally realise that we are here to stay. The workers now have a permanent voice in Derry. The 'Starry Plough' was the first step in the ladder. The Offices have helped us up the next four or five. Remember the front page of the first 'Starry Plough'? It said, 'Stay free, brothers and sisters, there'll be another day.' That day is coming and the Republican Movement at the head of the Irish working-class will see that it does.



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2 Creggan Heights, Derry.

I.R.A. AND THE WHITE PAPER

The Irish Republican Army has called for a complete rejection of the White Paper. A statement issued by the publication of the White Paper and signed by J. J. McGarrity states that the only solution which will be in the interests of the Irish working class is the establishment of a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic. "Clearly," the statement continues "as with the British imposed arrangements of 1920, any solution which advocates the continuation of a Six or Nine County Ulster state, whether it has constitutional links with Britain or not, must be rejected."

"On that account the Irish Republican Army demands that the British Government publicly commit themselves to a total withdrawal from the Six County area at an early specified date and Britain renounce all claims to sovereignty over any part of Ireland. The White Paper gives no indication whatsoever of Britain's intention to end her occupation of the Six County area and includes on the contrary provisions for a British supported veto on the right of the Irish People to self determination. This is totally unacceptable to Republicans."

PRISONERS

Neither is there any sign within the terms of the White Paper that the British Government intends to cease their repression and harassment of the people. With typical British deceit, gestures are made towards ending the Special Powers Act, while more sophisticated draconian measures are contemplated in the shape of the Diplock report. The Irish Republican Army demands an end to all repressive and anti-democratic legislation and the release of all internees and political prisoners. These prisoners are in fact deprived of their just freedom through the violent policies pursued by the British Army, since the Spring of 1970 in its attempts to impose the interests of British Imperialism on the Irish people. There have been many calls to end the violence, to take the gun out of Irish political life. These British guns must first be removed.

COLONY

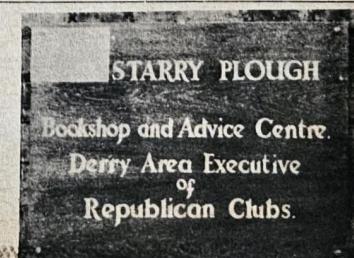
Many people in the Six County area will see in the White Paper a possible way out

DIRECT RULE

The Irish Republican Army will continue with its policy of defence of working class areas and will retaliate for any action taken by the British Army against the people. The Army Council is acutely conscious of the tremendous hardships which have been borne so bravely by the working class people over the past few years. We are aware that the frightful sectarian killings, anti-civilian bombings, and increased harassments and murder by the British Army during the past year have created conditions of almost unbearable fear among workers' families. Furthermore, people on all sides have become totally confused by the apparently senseless course of events during the time. We recognise that since the introduction of direct rule the British Government has implemented a policy of creating such fear and such confusion. It is understandable that in the present situation many will clutch at the White Paper as a solution.

CONFERENCE

But the only real solution to the Irish problem will be found in Ireland by the Irish people. The Irish Republican Army therefore would support a conference of all Irish parties to seek to establish a way forward which would be in the interests of the Irish people and not in the interests of British Imperialism and European monopoly capitalism. We will continue to mobilise, behind carefully thought out programmes, all people opposed to this English imposition.



IRISHMAN'S FIGHT

For S. African Workers' Rights

IN RECENT years the names South Africa and Northern Ireland have become synonymous with each other. The reason for this is common knowledge to all freedom loving people throughout the entire world. The terrible repressive laws of the Racist regime in South Africa are the most abominous and inhumane in the whole world, and when one thinks of places like Spain, Portugal and the Military Regime in Greece one wonders what it must be really like in that country for the coloured people living there.

To Irish people, South Africa is very definitely nine thousand miles away; that is to say it seems not to concern us. Maybe we have been preoccupied with our own struggle to get very hot or bothered about the shocking plight of the black people of South Africa.

Nevertheless, it is reassuring to find, in reading the "Irish Times," that all Irishmen have not forsaken the international struggle for justice. John William Hosey, born in Dublin, has appeared in a court in Pretoria charged with five others, four Africans and one white, of conspiring to incite violent revolution. They are alleged to have planned to bring arms, ammunition and explosives secretly into South Africa.

The charges against Hosey are chiefly concerning the illegal distribution of propaganda pamphlets. If there is one place outside Ireland that an Irishman should be engaged in the struggle it is South Africa, to free the black people from the most degrading and humiliating exploitation by whites that has not been matched since the slave traffic to America. This Dublin man's involvement to help the poor down-trodden black South African is more than a stark reminder of the other roll that many Irishmen play in that country under the guise of spreading the gospel and Christianity. The many priests from this island who find themselves administering out in the Transvaal spreading the Catholic faith is considerable, but it is of very great embarrassment to see how little they speak out and oppose this, the most un-Christian Government in the world. This can be gauged by the very few Catholic priests who find themselves setting up in that country. I wonder how long Father Paul would last in South Africa? History will always repeat itself when it comes to the Catholic Church keeping quiet to save her own selfish position in any country, and the history of Ireland is full of it.

Just what are the conditions like in South Africa? Well, it had its Bloody Sunday (remember Sharpeville) on March 21st, 1960, when black South Africans were butchered while peacefully demonstrating. Prisoners in South Africa could tell stories that would make Long Kesh seem bearable. Many prisoners tell of maltreatment while being detained by security

forces. That word detained seems familiar to us in the Six Counties and many never came to trial, dying whilst in detention. The many stories of ill-treatment and torture serve to remind us that injustice in Ireland, Spain or South Africa must be opposed and exposed for all the world to see. Apartheid must be smashed; it is one of the more ugly aspects of capitalism, and no matter how engrossed we are in our own struggles we must never tire of trying to exterminate the racist of South Africa. It's the spectacle of capitalism and imperialism, using a hated system to fill the pockets of the few rich, but they use ordinary white workers to carry out their dirty work by bribing them with a much higher standard of living than the black man, aided and abetted by most of the Christian Churches.

The Trade Union Movement stands indicted on the South African affair as well. Workers and trade unionists should be made aware of the evils of apartheid and nothing should be done which would help in perpetrating the regime one day more than is necessary. Only recently we are told that seventeen Zulu seafarers walked off a British ship in Sweden in protest at their very low wages, 40 a month, and it turns out that the Zulus were the highest paid foreign crewmen in the merchant navy. So once again Britain and her capitalists cash in on the cheap labour camp which is the dungeon of black South Africans.

We must always continue to bring before the eyes of the people what is happening in South Africa, especially to the people of Northern Ireland. What is the difference between religious sectarianism and white racism? Both are totally objectionable. Trade with South Africa should be frowned upon, no sporting links with the white South Africans should be tolerated. Irish capitalists with investment in South Africa should be exposed to all the people of this country and Irish men and women in religious orders should only go to South Africa with the intention of destroying the apartheid system by physically campaigning in South Africa to destroy it. And their main job would be to get expelled from South Africa as soon as possible, thus proving to themselves and the rest of us how active they have been in opposing this



THE MANY FACES OF WILLIE

WHITEHAW LIFTED the ban on Republican Clubs and within days harassment by the British army against members of these clubs was stepped up. Examples of army harassment are many, but a few examples should suffice to make the point.

On Sunday, the 8th April, the election agent for Derry and a prospective candidate in the forthcoming Local Government elections, along with another Republican Club member, were detained for 2½ hours at the Newry Border check-point. They were returning from a meeting in Dublin, where a number of candidates had been ratified by the Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein, and were driving to an election meeting in Coalisland scheduled to start at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The three were forced to stand and face a wall for 2½ hours without being allowed to turn round or talk, except when soldiers asked questions such as "are you a candidate? how many candidates were being put forward? who was providing financial backing, etc.?" These questions were not answered and when the three men were released Socialist and Republican literature which can be bought in any bookshop, such as Labour Nationality and Religion, by James Connolly, was confiscated.

On the same evening Terry Robinson, the Republican Club's election agent, was this time arrested under Section 11 of the Special Powers Act, and was bundled into the back of a jeep. Women who gathered around the jeep to protest at Terry's arrest were verbally abused and when the jeep drove off one woman had jumped on the bonnet to prevent it leaving. The vehicle drove at high speed about 60 m.p.h., round the Creggan Estate with the woman still hanging on to the jeep. The jeep eventually stopped at Bligh's Lane and the woman jumped off and Terry was told that he could go.

A third incident was when two members of the James Connolly Club, Creggan, and two members of the Martin O'Leary Club, Shantallow, were returning from Newry in a van after purchasing a quantity of shoes for the people's co-operative in Creggan and Shantallow. All four were arrested under the Special Powers Act and brought to Armagh police barracks, where they were stripped naked and detained for four hours. They were asked many questions of a personal nature. When finally released they did a count of their stock and found eight pairs of shoes to be missing.

The most serious case of harassment by Whitelaw's tools of law and order was in Armagh City,

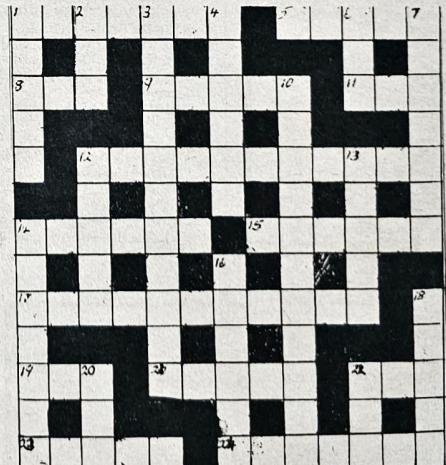
where three members of the local Republican Clubs were shot — two fatally and the third critically. The British Army Public Relations men went into action very quickly in an attempt to cover up these atrocities. The people of Armagh, however, know the truth, that these young men were Republican Socialists and were gunned down for that reason and that reason only. We in Derry, who have experienced Bloody Sunday and other incidents, certainly stand by the word of the Armagh people and the Armagh Republicans.

Harassment such as this comes as no surprise. British diplomacy is at work. Britain has decided upon a plan for Ireland which does not include the participation of militant working-class organisations, especially those that are attempting to cross the sectarian divide. Whitelaw, wearing his moderate and reasonable cap, legalised Republican Clubs while his hired thugs wreck the homes of Republican Club members, hinder their election work and gun them down in the streets. To the world the bourgeois Press and media publicise Whitelaw as being a very reasonable and well mannered man. They do not publicise the madness of his soldiers and the attempt by the British Government to wreck the Republican Clubs' organisation.

STICKY CROSSWORD

most un-Christian system.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement in Dublin has appealed to people to put pressure on the Dublin Government to take action on behalf of Mr. Hosey. Write to the South African Government demanding the release of the six men, write to the U.N. and other organisations and bring pressure on the South African Government, because whilst there is apartheid in South Africa we, the people, black, brown, yellow or white, can never be free.



The Ghosts of Kilmainham BLACK '47

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.

IN 1847 — "Black '47" it was called — blight destroyed almost the entire potato crop in Ireland, and, as the vast majority of the Irish people had been reduced, by oppression, to living on potatoes, famine ravaged the land. Corn crops flourished, but were exported to England, while the Irish people starved. During the famine Ireland lost by disease, starvation and emigration two million of her people.

Thomas Davis, the poet, with some others, had established "The Nation" newspaper in 1842. Its object was to rouse the Irish people from their slavery. Davis and his friends were later joined by John Mitchel and James Fintan Lalor. They urged the people to arm themselves and fight.

Rising of 1867 — "We may have great men, but we'll never have better."

Police barracks were attacked, and there were skirmishes with the police and military in Dublin and Louth and all over Munster, but arms and ammunition expected from America did not come and the Fenians, who were not equipped for a long campaign, were forced to give up the fight, though at least one flying column, in Cork, continued in action until the end of the year. The procession of Irish patriots through the grim gates of Kilmainham continued — John O'Leary, Charles J. Kickham, John Devoy, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa.

MICHAEL DAVITT AND THE LAND LEAGUE

The writings of the "Young Irelanders," as these men and their followers were called, inspired the Rising of 1848 in County Tipperary led by William Smith O'Brien and Thomas Francis Meagher. It failed, as did the '98 Rising and Emmet's Rising — if these can be called failures — but the Young Irelanders did keep the torch of freedom alight in their generation.

After 1848 the jailers in Kilmainham were once again busy with Irish "felons." Among the prisoners on that occasion were William Smith O'Brien, Thomas Francis Meagher, Terence Bellew McManus and Patrick O'Donoghue.

In 1858 was founded the Irish Republican Brotherhood (the I.R.B.), the Irish section of the Fenian organisation established in America the same year by Irishmen who had been forced to go into exile after the '48 Rising. It was a secret military organisation. Its aims were Tone's aim — to break the connection with England. Soon came the Fenian



117 Land League meeting at Kildare, 3 January 1881; Michael J. Boyton burning leases of the duke of Leinster on a '98 pike (Illustrated London News, 8 January 1881)



SONG SPOT

REVOLUTION
by TONY O'DOHERTY
(Air: 'Gates of Eden', Bob Dylan)

The workers of the Shankill Road they live in hovels too.
The workers of the Falls they curse the Red the White and Blue.
But don't seem to understand they are both the same class:
So let's get together and work for Revolution.

II

When I was young the people said I was a communist,
I only want equality, I don't want second best,
But I don't care just what they say, your better Red than dead.
That's why that I'm involved in Revolution.

III

The Orange Order, Catholic Church, they both exploit our minds.
They talk of coming visions and of saints they claim divine.
The only thing they wish to do, is to divide the working class.
So let's join hands and pray for Revolution.

IV

The workers of the Shankill Road they live in hovels too.
The workers of the Falls they curse the Red, the White and Blue.
But they don't seem to understand they are both working class,
So let's get together now for Revolution.
Revolution is the only solution.
Yes Revolution is the only solution.

HOW NOT TO GET A JOB

Youth tells his story

I AM seventeen years old and I live in Derry. I have been trying since I left school to get a trade, but apprenticeships are hard to come by.

I would say that my situation is not unlike thousands of other young people in Derry and future to us represents a life sentence of poverty and unemployment with the obvious social side effects like frustration, despair and bitterness. After a while even searching for a decent job becomes so fruitless that few carry on indefinitely. The Youth Employment Service is supposed to help, but for myself and countless others that I know it has failed miserably. I record below a true meeting with my Youth Employment Officer, which took place recently.

Boy: 17 years of age: "Good morning, I wonder if I could talk to you."

Y.E.O.: "Yes, come into my office and sit down."

Boy: "As you know, I have been trying since I left school to get a trade..."

Y.E.O. sits back in his chair clasping his hands and smiling a sickly grin, and when the boy finishes he tells him what jobs he has available.

Boy: "But sir, this is not the type of work I want, they are all dead-end jobs. The wages are too low and they will give me the push rather than pay the full rate when I am of age."

Y.E.O. (Hming and Hawing): "Well, we have a course starting in Maydown next week in general labouring prospects not very high, though. When you finish the course you would be a fully qualified labourer."

Boy: "But sir, don't forget this could be a job for the rest of my life. I have been coming here for two years and every job you have given me is one with no future but slavery. You have been all talk and no action, and you have not attempted to place me in a trade. You have been content to waste my time."

He sits back, this time clasping his hands together and smiling, hoping that I will return the smile and relieve the tension which has built up in the room.

Boy: "I haven't much time left to get a trade, and you have done me more harm than good."

With a smug look on his face Y.E.O. he says

Y.E.O.: "I honestly don't think you will get a trade."

Boy: "Then why have I been coming here this last two years. You are admitting to having pulled the wool over my eyes — well not any more."

Y.E.O.: "Now! Now! I never pulled the wool over your eyes, or anyone else's."

At this stage the boy leaves the office of the Y.E.O. never to return, after two frustrating years. The boy sums up all that was said in the conversation. "If you come from a middle-class family background the Youth Employment Officers will stand on their heads to fix you up in a half decent job; the sons of professional men, business people, etc. If you come from the Pogues or Creggan all they can offer you is a lifetime of uncertainty and slavery, sweating your life blood away, digging ditches or some other menial task producing profit for those that exploit us."

"If you meet your Youth Employment Officer state what you want to do and don't let him side-track you. If you are unemployed, like me, then let's form a Claimants' Union. (The union for the unemployed)"

A branch of the Claimants' Union is in the process of being formed and regular meetings will take place in the Starry Plough offices in Gl. James Street.

Angry but truthful youth.

The Official Republican Movement (Derry City) offer deepest sympathy to friends and relatives of Robert Millen, assassinated while on vigilante duty on Sunday, 15th April, 1973. — R.I.P.

THE INDUSTRIAL SCENE... THE INDUSTRIAL SCENE...

A Report on the Exploits of the Ben Sherman Group

IT IS RELEVANT to point out at the beginning of this article that Ben Sherman Ltd. no longer exists as such. It is also important to note that when Ben Sherman was operating 75 per cent of the company was owned by an American firm called Trubenis (Great Britain) Ltd. When Ben Sherman was set up between 1966 and 1967, it was a joint concern between Ben Sherman and Trubenis. Until 1968, nothing extraordinary happened in the companies. Then they suffered a loss in profits for that year. It was at this stage that the directors of the companies decided to find a new method of securing sizeable profits, and what better place to make their profit than good old Derry where the working-class in the shirt factories can be exploited to the fullest extent and then left redundant when the directors have made their easy profit?

With this intention the directors moved one of their subsidiaries to Derry. However, with the acquisitions of September, company was Cerdic Ltd. In 1969, the way was open for the and it was set up at 91 Foyle making of easy profits at the Street in 1969. Here is an extract from the directors' of the Derry shirt factories. The report for 1969: "There was paid by comparison with their fixed assets of the company English counterparts and they during the period, i.e., the sale had to work under relatively of the property at Magdalen inferior conditions. The Road, Gloucester. The company's favourite scheme to company was moved to Derry provides a higher profit margin in Northern Ireland, an area is to increase the amount of low labour cost, with the work, which each individual view to reducing overheads." has to complete while, at the The company, i.e., Cerdic Ltd., static. They then believe that 1968, and after moving to they cannot be accused of not Derry in 1969, they made a course every factory has a profit of over £16,000.

The directors of Trubenis the unions are not doing as evidently thought that they because the union were on to a good thing with their factory making such a representatives are not willing to force the hand of the Company for fear of redundancies in the factories if

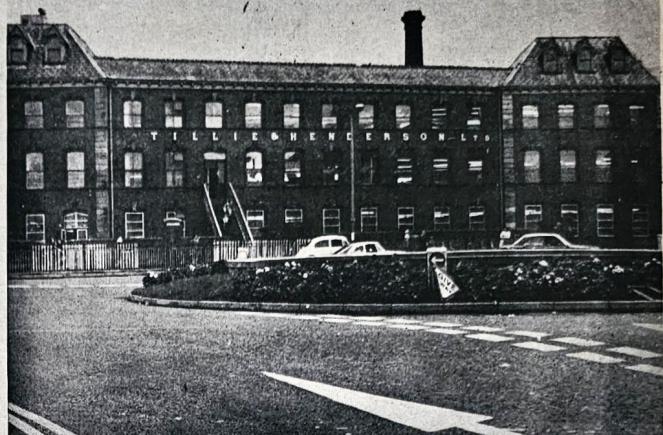
They started to buy up more Derry factories. In September, the directors are annoyed by their demands.



1969, Lindsay and Wilkinson Ltd., the Londonderry Clothing Co., and then M. Wilkinson Ltd., were taken over. Trubenis apparently could be confident that their operations would not be investigated. Since 1969, their accounts have been completely out of date and in some cases their Northern Ireland factories were not even recorded as being owned by them. Trubenis are, therefore, in breach of the 1967 Companies Act, which requires that a company must have up to date accounts available for public inspection. As yet no action has been taken against Trubenis Ltd. for this failure.

Highly satisfactory profits were made; for the year 1969, Trubenis have recorded a profit of £33,270 from shirt manufacturing while, on the evidence of the Company's own statement, the average wage of its employees was £608. But on the 19th of December, 1972, came a mysterious development. Cerdic Ltd., Lindsay and Wilkinson and the Londonderry Clothing Co. moved out of their factories. Why the mass evictions? Readers may see some relevance in the following facts: 1. When a subsidiary company ceases to function the parent company is not legally liable for any debts that the subsidiary may have incurred; 2. Substitute companies have replaced each of the subsidiaries to which we have referred.

Although Ben Sherman has not been referred to except for a few words at the beginning of the article, the manoeuvres that we have outlined were within the Ben Sherman group. The factories mentioned have made Ben Sherman shirts under the brand name of Ben Sherman and even now some of them continue to do so. So it's not Ben Sherman that should be investigated but Trubenis Ltd. who owned Ben Sherman. In fact Ben Sherman sold out as well on 19th December, 1972, and transferred its assets to a



Tillies closed down and moved to Maydown with smaller workforce (How many more?).

company called Woodmanton Ltd., which had been set up just a month previously. Woodmanton Ltd. is owned by Trubenis, naturally.

At the end of December (according to an issue of Ben Sherman News), the Northern Ireland Finance Company took financial control of the Ben Sherman Group, then Woodmanton Ltd. The Northern Ireland Finance Company was set up with government assistance to sponsor lame ducks, and to ensure that stability was maintained among the workers in Derry so as to disourage them from further militancy, at a time when further redundancies risked bringing people out on the streets again in protest. Such protests that could have united both Protestants and Catholics in Derry's working-class could not be tolerated by the Whitelaw regime. Whatever deals were made by the directors of Woodmanton and the government will probably never come to light. But in the words of Dr. John Whatt, managing director of Northern Ireland Finance Company: "This new financially sound backing will ensure all our futures" (ed. note: including his own).

What seems to have happened is that in return for certain guarantees, the British Government through the Northern Ireland Finance Company has put a substantial sum of money into the Ben Sherman Group — or Woodmanton Ltd., to ensure expansion for the present period, when it is necessary to keep jobs in Derry so that workers will not take to the streets.

What has been written has been based upon facts collected from reliable sources, but, as the reader can imagine, facts are not easy to come by when dealing with a company like Trubenis.

The Capitalists who have set up these factories in Derry and have exploited the working class are typical of the system which is gradually taking a firmer grip on our society. The Capitalists don't have any concern for the working-classes. To them they are just something to use and throw aside when they have made their profit from them.

So far the workers have received no lead whatsoever from their Branch Secretary, Mr. Seamus Quinn. The only advice that he has given his workers is that they should "attain the highest possible operational efficiency consistent, of course, with worker's rights." (Ben Sherman News).

Our advice to the Ben Sherman workers, advice that we give to all workers, is that they should:

1 — Get a strong shop floor organisation going, with shop stewards who put the interests

of the workers first, and who cannot be brushed aside by the compromising attitude of trade union leaders.

2 — Start fighting for a good basic living wage now and look upon all Productivity Deals with caution, remembering that these deals are usually geared in the bosses' favour. Only then will workers be able to protect their interests. In the future, and ensure that when the slump does come, as it most certainly will, they will be in a position to control their jobs, the factories and their lives.

COME BACK CHARLIE WALKER

"Come Back, Charlie Walker." That's what all the workers are saying in Essex International at the moment. Why? Well it seems that our Charlie has been offered another job by no other than Essex itself. Rumour has it that he claims in the factory that he is only going over for a short time. But, rumour has an awful way of flying back in its originator's face. We have also heard of another rumour which seems too good to be coincidence. Charlie has decided to sell his house down in Danesfort Park.

We pointed out in the last edition of the "Starry Plough" that according to a reliable source the factory was facing imminent closure and two hundred workers were in danger of being made redundant.

In our last issue the Trade-Union official we talked to spelled out in one sentence what seemed to be happening to the Bligh's Lane factory. "We were supposed to have an extension built to the factory" he said. "But you can bet your last dollar that our extension has been extended to Scotland." So, it seems, has Charlie Walker for, with all the rumours flying around, one thing is becoming clear: Charlie's new job is taking him to Scotland.

Amidst all the speculation and the uncertainty the Essex workers are aware of one thing; they are worried about the security of their jobs. There is no longer any need to exhume the body of Dr. MacDonald. All the horrors and exploitation of his miserable little factory are being surpassed by the industrial acrobatics of Mr. Welshart and his American bosses.

Clearly the Essex workers cannot stand for such a situation.

No longer can there be talk of factories closing in a City which is already suffering under the hammer blows of 4,000 unemployed. The direction which is given to the Essex workers must be clear and decisive. There must be no attempt to close the factory and take the machinery out. The first action the workers in Essex must take is to provide pickets on the factory and then occupy the premises; thereby guaranteeing that there are no attempts to move the machinery.

The Republican Movement pledges its solidarity and absolute support for the Essex workers. We call on the leadership of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to support any action taken in defence of the Essex workers' jobs. Workers in such industries as Ford's of Dagenham, which have been supplied by Essex, must block all goods from other electrical component suppliers. Only by the concerted and combined active support of other workers can we finally avert another BSR-type disaster.

Alternatively, we call on the Government to nationalise Essex International under workers' control as being the only long term solution to the disastrous problem of high unemployment in Derry.