

# FREE CITIZEN

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NEWSPAPER OF THE  
PEOPLES DEMOCRACY

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## PUBLIC ORDER ACT

# BREAK THIS BLOODY LAW

THE PUBLIC ORDER BILL IS NOW LAW. IT IS A BAD LAW. UNDER THE GUISE OF OF BANNING COUNTER-DEMONSTRATIONS AND OFFENSIVE WEAPONS IT INCREASES THE NOTICE NECESSARY FOR MARCHES, AND BANS SIT-DOWNS AND OCCUPATION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS. THE POLICE DON'T NEED EXTRA LAWS TO DEAL WITH WEAPONS AND COUNTER-DEMONSTRATIONS; THE LAWS ARE THERE BUT THEY'VE NEVER BEEN PREPARED TO USE. THE AIM OF THIS BILL IS TO ADD ANOTHER PIECE OF COERCION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ARMOURY OF REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION.

The Public Order Bill will hit at trade unionists, small farmers, tenants, and any other group who have grievances in Northern Ireland. A couple of weeks ago, the Public Order Act was used to stop workers at the Lines factory in Castlereagh from protesting about pay-offs, it is no accident that the Public Order Bill is coming into law at a time when more pay-offs are threatened, and when small farmers and tenants are talking of militant action. The Unionist Party represents a small clique of landlords, speculators and profiteers. They have squeezed the workers and small farmers of this area dry in their own interest for 50 years. They have created massive unemployment, miserable slums and sectarian hatred. Having done their dirty work now they want to stop us protesting about it. We mustn't let them get away with it. Faulkner, Bradford and the Newsletter have been complaining about irresponsible demonstrations and the Belfast Telegraph whose fake Liberalism is weakening ever thinner slobbers on about the rule of law. It is ironical to hear the Unionists talk about upholding the law. This state was built by defiance of the law. Sir Edward Carson urging the formation of the U.V.F. said in Newry in 1913 "I am told it will be illegal, of course it will, drilling is illegal. . . . Don't be afraid of illegalities." Once in power the Unionists made their own repressive laws. It's time we took a leaf out of Carson's book and broke their bloody laws. The final decision on this Bill rested with the Government of Northern Ireland. The Governor himself is only a puppet so the decision was taken by Callaghan and Wilson. Westminster has decided to support the cut-throat clique at Stormont. What else could we expect? When we defy Stormont's laws on Saturday we'll be defying Westminster as well. We'll be in a long and glorious tradition.

## ONE MORE NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF DEMOCRACY

The Public Order Bill, which by the time you read this may be an Act, is intended to repress protest against the Unionists.

There have been many Public Order Bills in Irish history. This latest one only represents the continuation of a policy of coercion that goes back long before the Unionist State existed, when their Masters in England ruled this country directly. The English always pursued their interests in Ireland with a combination of the carrot and the whip. They coerced the natives while they conciliated their leaders, or those of them who were spineless enough to be bought off.

Their Unionist puppets can teach the British Imperialists nothing, it is not commonly known that most of the provisions of the dreaded Special Powers Act 1922, were copied from an Act already in existence in Ireland and passed by the British Parliament, The Restoration of Order in Ireland Act 1920. That infamous law was passed in the same year that the British Parliament was supposed to be granting "Home Rule" and "Freedom" to the Irish.

The Opposition M.Ps. have asked the Governor to refuse the royal assent to this Bill. It is not this quaint figure who decides but Jim Callaghan. He is the one who promised change, who proclaimed he stood for peace with justice. But his first concern is to have peace with profits; stability for the factory owners and profiteers come first. If this bill will help to end protest and dissent, then justice can go by the board.

We are told that the I.G. Sir Arthur Young has okayed the Bill. No one is very impressed with his judgement after his refusal to impose "law and order" on the 16 policemen who terrorised the Bogside. He says the Bill will prevent "Burntolllets". The only thing that will prevent Burntolllet is an honest police force. We are not opposed to counter demonstrations which do not obstruct protest. Counter demonstrations in the past would have been no problem if the WILL had been there to do anything about them. An example will make the point. Under the law at the moment anyone who interferes with a public meeting by way of shouting, waving flags etc. can be prosecuted. There has rarely been a civil rights meeting that has not been interrupted in this way, and yet nothing was ever done. Not that people minded the antics of the unionist extremists, but it is one more example of how the R.U.C. have lacked the will to use their powers against the Unionists own supporters when they have ample opportunity in the law.

We are told that the law is the same in Britain. This is just Unionist lies and trickery. It is no offence to sit peacefully in the road or to protest in a public building in England. It will be in Northern Ireland from last Thursday.

No System of law in the world need to put people in prison who sit down in their town hall or town centre to make public their protest. Only the Unionists would attempt it and we are determined that they will not get away with it.

# john bull's other party

# ATROCITY UNCOVERED

Last Saturday the Northern Ireland Labour Party accepted the principle of joining the British Labour Party. With it went the last hope of the NILP ever emerging as a viable or relevant organisation with a real contribution to make to the Socialist movement in this country.

The whole tone of the conference was set at the very beginning when the executive made an attempt to bar some of the delegates from the Carrick and Newtownabbey parties - two parties which in the past have displayed real militancy and commitment and which had voted decisively against the merger.

After this particularly clumsy attempt to stifle the voice of the militant rank-and-file had failed, the whole bureaucratic jamboree swung into action. The trade-union leaders, who had never put the issue to their members, spoke in glowing terms for the merger and roundly denounced opposition to it as 'Republican, or worse.'

## FLAG WAVERS

The debate (from which the press were excluded by an executive who have never shown any reluctance before to get publicity in the capitalist press) followed depressingly predictable lines. Although Erskine Holmes a member of the executive argued that the NILP were taking a purely logical step forward and that the merger was not proposed in order to bury the 'constitutional position' delegates who followed him joyfully pointed to the advantages that future NILP parliamentary candidates would have in proving their constitutional purity.

## pamphlet

Copies of the PD pamphlet, *The Struggle in the North*, by Michael Farrell may be bought from:  
8 Strandview Street, Belfast.  
Cost 2/6 which covers postage.

## MEETINGS

BELFAST PD MEETING  
EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT 8pm

34, BERRY STREET  
(off Royal Avenue)

ARMAGH PD MEETING  
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT  
Pipers' Club (Ogle St.)

NEWRY PD MEETING  
EVERY THURSDAY 8.30pm

Old St. Colmans Hall  
(The Bucket) NEWRY.

So although some of the more subtle advocates had denied that the merger was raised in any flag-waving spirit nevertheless some of their more enthusiastic supporters declared their undying allegiance to the "World's leading Social Democracy" i. e. Britain. Other equally obtuse delegates explained that the Labour Government had not introduced Socialism in Britain, because of the defects in the character of Harold Wilson and George Brown, and that therefore it was the duty of the NILP to join the British Labour Party to ensure that such personality disorders did not manifest themselves in the leadership again.

On a more serious level, the delegates who spoke against the merger - and they came mainly from Derry and Newtownabbey with a delegate from DATA - pointed out that talk of a "merger for Socialism" was sheer nonsense when the whole record of the Labour Government was examined. To any socialist it was patently obvious that the Labour Govt was as intrinsic a part of the capitalist order as any Conservative Govt. Their coming to power every now and then only served to delude British workers that they had got control of their society.

## SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM

There are more serious objections to the Labour merger. The fact is that both parts of Ireland are in a position of subjugation to British capitalist interests. Therefore the demand for socialism in this country will inevitably bring the workers up against the reality of British Imperialism. Viewed in this light the demand for the Labour movement in Ireland to unite with the British Labour Party is like asking the lamb to form an alliance with the wolf. Harold Wilson - no matter what he calls himself - is Prime Minister of one of the most powerful imperialist nations. As Eamonn McCann put it the choice for the NILP was between James Callaghan and James Connolly.

The constituency parties which opposed the merger were the only parties which had ever shown any militancy or desire to work in their local areas. The debate was finally wound up by Vivian Simpson whose main reason for proposing the merger seemed to be that the leading members of the NILP would be able to join delegations of the British Labour Party on excursions to the Continent for discussions on the Common Market, and so "a greater vision and perspective would be added to N. Ireland politics!

In such a welter of confusion and platitudes did the Northern Ireland Labour Party dig its own political grave.

After 21 years, at last the truth has come out about one of the crimes of British imperialism in Malaya. A platoon of British soldiers shot 25 Malayan-Chinese plantation workers in cold blood. They were suspected of being "terrorists". This was during the so-called emergency in Malaya when the British ruthlessly suppressed any attempt to throw out the corrupt kings who were nothing but British stooges.

The massacre at Batang Kali in Malaya was only one of many throughout the British colonies. Now that the myth that the British army never committed atrocities has been challenged, perhaps we will hear more about the killings on Hola Camp in Kenya and the slaughter of the Kikuyu in the campaign against the Mau Mau. Perhaps we'll hear more about British atrocities in Cyprus and about the behaviour of the British-trained police during the Greek civil war - where the British police advisor was a former head of the RUC. With 7,000 British troops in N. Ireland it is as well to know what they have been capable of in the past. It is also well to remember that General Freeland served some time in Cyprus and that Sir Arthur Young re-organised the police in Malaya.

## SATISFIED

A P.D. seller of "Free Citizen", had one unlikely customer who came back for more. The customer was a high-ranking military "red-cap" who bought one "Free Citizen" and returned ten minutes later saying, "Lets have four more of those, please. They all want to read about British Imperialism now". — Small beginnings raising the consciousness of the occupying army?

## FACTS

### GIFTS

Gifts to the P.D. should be sent to the Treasurer:  
88 Ladybrook Park,  
Belfast 11.

or paid into the P.D. account, Belfast Banking Co., Shaftesbury Square, Belfast.

### HELP

We are always in need of secretarial help. If you can type please contact us.

### GIRO

Pay for your FREE CITIZEN by Post Office Giro Our No. is 68 101 2005.

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Belfast 12.

# LOUGH NEAGH: STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

Next week at Toome another three Lough Neagh fishermen are to appear in court. The three men are charged with various crimes including trespassing on Lough Neagh, illegal possession of eels, obstruction and assault. The charges are being brought against the men by Toome Eel Fisheries (N.I.) Ltd., the company that controls the eel fishing rights of the Lough.

Francis and Anthony Mc Veigh were fishing off the shore near Antrim when they were approached by the bailiffs who are the Company's hired thugs. The bailiffs accused the men of illegal fishing and threatened them with physical violence. The two men protested at this treatment and in reply to their protests the bailiffs rammed their fishing boat smashing the stern and caused a hole 3ft. long in the boat. The result of this action was that the boat sank.

These men are charged with assaulting the bailiffs and obstructing the bailiffs in the execution of their duty.

## TRESPASS

Another fisherman James Coney is charged with trespassing on Lough Neagh. In a previous court case he had had a charge of trawling against him dismissed. The Company has the law so rigged that if one is fishing illegally on the lough one is automatically trespassing. In the case of James Coney the charge of trawling has been dropped yet the trespassing charge still stands. This clearly illustrates the Company intends to intimidate the fishermen using every possible means.

In the past fishing season the Company's would-be assassins have sunk three boats and have brought charges against about 30 fishermen. The result of these prosecutions usually means that the fishing licence is taken from the fishermen thus depriving men of the right to earn a living.

This intimidation is all part of the Company's plan to drive the fishermen off the Lough altogether. The Company makes the laws, issues the

licences, hires the bailiffs, prosecutes the fishermen, takes the licences from the fishermen, and by the time this vicious circle is completed some fishermen are so disgusted that they stop fishing altogether. The arch-capitalists (i.e. thieves) who control the company also have the backing of corrupt courts that care nothing for the rights of men who cannot afford to buy a judge's favour.

The Company employs £200-a-day Desmond Boal, a man whose connivency knows no bounds, to persuade the magistrate Fox, his name suits his nature, to make sure that the fishermen receive nothing but jail sentences and heavy fines.

## PARASITES

This scandalous situation cannot be allowed to continue. Lough Neagh and all the fish in it should belong to its natural owners, the fishermen. These people controlled the Lough for three thousand years until Arthur Chichester (the ancestor of a notorious breed of Chichesters that still plague Ulster) in order to quench his insatiable lust for power and wealth stole vast areas of land including Lough Neagh from the Irish people. Since then, and that was 360 years ago, the richest fishing ground in Western Europe has been in the hands of rack-renting landlords and thieving capitalists, even to the present day.

Only in this century have these Parasites tried to remove the fishermen from the Lough, and in the past 10 years the alliance of capitalists and courts has started to put more and more pressure on the fishermen.

The fishermen, however, are not going to be easily driven from what is rightfully theirs. They realise that the entire Lough must be expropriated from these foreign parasites and fished and farmed by them, the natural owners of Lough Neagh. With this in mind they intend to fight tooth and nail against the Company, courts and bailiffs in order to obtain this end.

## Daddy's Boy makes good

There's a rumour going round.

One day last year Captain John Brooke was sitting, in his daddy's big house in Colebrooke, down in Co. Fermanagh, when he heard a rumour. The rumour said that the people were on the streets, demanding votes and jobs and houses. "One man one vote will come over my dead body" said the gallant Captain, and daddy, who used to be Prime Minister, clapped him on the back and said "Bravo, my Boy! You're a true blue aristocrat after all."

Now daddy's best friend, Major Chichester-Clarke, has decided to give the blue-eyed boy of Fermanagh a job in the government, as a reward for his loyalty to the old cause. Captain John has been appointed junior minister in charge of 'information' - with the special job of denying nasty rumours that might embarrass the Unionists. "If you hear a rumour, deny it my boy" said the Major, and he clapped him on the back too.

Captain John has got off to a good start. "I wish to deny everything", he babbled. "There is no truth in the rumour that for fifty years we the landowners and big business men have cynically exploited this little province for our own ends. There is no truth in the rumour that we have whipped up sectarianism and run off to London to spend the profits. No truth at all in the rumour that we denied people basic rights, or that we have a special Powers Act to back them up if we don't like what they're thinking. I want to deny the rumour that my daddy Lord Brookeborough started up the B-men as his private fascist militia - and that all the big capitalists copied him because it was such a good idea.



Captain John Brooke  
"Will 'kill' rumours"

# strike breakers

Belfast Corporation Tenants are on rent-strike. They are refusing to pay a rent-increase. Some tenants are on the dole and receive rent-allowances from the Supplementary Benefits Office. Since the strike got under way, people who go for their dole have been asked whether they are taking part in the strike. If they say yes, the Office refuse to give them the rent money that is theirs by right, and instead pays it direct to the Corporation.

This is scandalous. A person in

receipt of Supplementary Benefit; is entitled to his money. He is only on the dole because the wretched system can't provide him with a job. He is entitled to spend his money how he likes and if he is withholding it from the Corporation, then that's his business, and not the petty clerks' on the dole. The Supplementary Benefit Commission is run by Stormont, which in turn is run by the Unionists. The Corporation is also run by the Unionists. We say end this Unionist conspiracy to break the rent strikes.

"Speaking for myself I deny any rumours which that I am unsuited for this or any other job, and that I was only given it to please the Unionist backwoodsmen. I want to deny the rumour that I don't even know where or what my own constituency is. And finally there is no truth in the rumour that was given a seat in parliament because I was so incompetent in business that I kept going bankrupt, and that even silly old Harry West can wiper my eye every time it comes to stealing public money for private business deals."

# UNIONIST HACK REVEALS ALL

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE NEW, DYNAMIC, "MODERATE" UNIONIST PARTY HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO CARRY OUT A MASSIVE PROPAGANDA EXERCISE IN ABSOLVING ITSELF FROM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDERS, ARSONS AND ATTACKS OF LAST YEAR AND PUTTING THE BLAME ON "TWO SETS OF EXTREMISTS". ONE OF THE P. R. O. HACKS IT ENGAGED TO PUT OVER THIS CON. TRICK WAS TREVOR HANNA. BECAUSE OF THE REFUSAL ON THE PART OF THE UNIONISTS TO GIVE INTERVIEWS TO ANYONE WHO IS LIKELY TO ASK AWKWARD QUESTIONS, A MEMBER OF THE P. D. LAST WEEK POSED AS A RIGHT-WING FRENCH WRITER, AND WAS GIVEN THE FULL UNIONIST TREATMENT OF LIES, DISTORTIONS, AND HALF-TRUTHS.

During the coming weeks "Free Citizen" will expose the cynical attitude of the Unionists, even towards their own supporters, and the open and casual manner in which they are prepared to express these attitudes whenever they thing they are in the presence of another middle-minded, middle-class "moderate" like themselves.

Trevor Hanna is one of these manipulators. He is the Press Officer for the Unionist Party, and so talked long and boringly on official policy. But he did much more in this interview. He openly acknowledged the extent of Unionist duplicity on many matters ranging from the Public Order Act to the encouragement of sectarianism.

He began the interview by attempting to show how moderate both he and the new, re-vamped Unionist Party really are—"The policies of O'Neill are still the policies of the Unionist Party—but then went on to deny the existence of a split in the U. P. "The differences (between moderates and hard-liners) are of methods or ways of going about things than about basic political philosophy. But the reforms have added to the fears of the hard-liners. The other side got all the benefits, we get none".

Realising that even an ignorant Frenchman would not swallow this he went on to speak of the make-up of the U. P., and the fact that it was common to find a managing director and a labourer in the same constituency or branch.

This was really what caused the split, since middle-class and professional people were moderates and working-class people were hard-liners. Thus you have a split in Clifton (which is mixed), but none in Shankill (which is all working-class and therefore hardliners).

## "MALONE FIDDLES"

Apart from the fact that this simplistic analysis ignores the role played by middle-class "moderates" working class sectarianism, it unconsciously reveals an attitude which P. D. has constantly pointed out among Unionist politicians, namely the exploitation of workers for political motives while at the same time despising them.

This attitude is even more strongly underlined by the following quote of Hanna's:—"When one moves out of the troubled areas to the suburbs where I live, where you have pleasant housing and a pleasant way of life, it doesn't

matter what religion people are". Precisely Trevor, except P. D. said it much better last August on a wall-poster—"The Falls burns, Malone Road fiddles".

Perhaps the most astounding revelation which unwittingly fell from Hanna's lips was the following gem:—"Using political logic, there should not be a Conservative Party in power in N. I. above all parts of the British Isles because it is largely a working-class, agricultural country. But because the border is the vital question, most working class people support the Unionist Party and unwittingly the Conservative Party. Without the border we would have normal politics, but because of the border ordinary working class people would never support the N. I. L. P".

## WOOL - PULLER

Except for the fact that Hanna must have shown some ability to pull the wool over people's eyes when the Unionists hired him, the above statement is enough to make one believe he is either very naive or very stupid. Because the implications of Hanna's remarks are very clear.

It means that the Tory leaders of the Unionist Party are aware that N. Ireland should be socialist. They are aware it is not because in the past they have created an all-class class alliance of exploiters and exploited using the border as the only thing which they have in common. Therefore it is in the interests of the Unionists to avoid the Normalisation of the situation because it would inevitably lead to a weakening of their position, a loss of power, and the growth of a radical, working-class socialist organisation as advocated by P. D. In this context normalisation for the Unionists is nothing but a fantasy to keep Westminster from the door, and moderation is a joke in very poor taste.

## Application Form

I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN PEOPLES DEMOCRACY

Name

Address

I enclose a donation of £ : : for P. D.

Give this to your local P. D. group or  
send to 105 Plevna Street, Belfast BT12 4FL

## MAN OF THE PEOPLE

This month we have seen many frantic attempts by insignificant would-be politicians to get their names in the headlines. First Loony McRoberts, then Austin Curryfavour and now out John McQuade. His latest opinion is that those living in Unity Flats should be evicted and the flats used as offices. Well, we never did expect any smart thinking from Johnnie boy, but this latest example of stupidity excelled even his previous efforts. As an "economist" (well, what else could you call someone who has only spoken two thousand words in five years at the white shitehouse on the hill - which works out at £2 10. 0. a word) McQuade has not found fame. Moreover, his rejection as candidate in the Woodvale Corporation election last week is an indication that the people of the area feel their M. P. should do more than just fill milk bottles at times of "trouble". It helps if he can string two words together (mind you, the inability to open your mouth never stopped some M. Ps. - e.g. out John Carron.) Hence McQuade's attempts to get his name and lovable photograph in the columns of the gutterpress (believed to be a reference to the Newsletter: Editor).

## BOAL'S PUPPET

But let us not be deceived about the "man of the people". He is just a harmless old fool. In his own way he has his own kind of honesty - he at least lives in a slum house in the Shankill area unlike the men who use the people of the Shankill for their own ends - the Boals, McKeagues and Paisleys. For just as Looney McRoberts is John Taylor's puppet so McQuade is Boal's. (It is noticeable that in certain circumstances Paisley can exhibit true Christian charity - thus Boal's adulterous affairs and sordid court cases are forgiven him; while a child who swings on Sunday is damned).

If Unity Flats is evacuated we suggest that instead of using it for offices it be turned into an asylum - thus giving Johnny McQuade a better home and saving others the troublesome car journey from the Beersbridge Road out to Purdysburn.

NEXT WEEK — READ MORE OF TREVOR'S INDISCRETIONS FOLLOWED UP BY THOSE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE CABINET, AND THE IMPARTIAL ARMY P. R. O.