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## CRIMINAL "JUSTICE" ACT

by mike farrell

THE PRESENT MONTH OF JULY HAS SEEN THE GOVERNMENT MAKE MASSIVE USE OF TROOPS IN AN EFFORT TO PRETEND THAT THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH IS "NORMAL". IN THIS SAME MONTH THE GOVERNMENT BROUGHT IN - WITH A HASTE INDICENT EVEN FOR STORMONT - A WHOLE SERIES OF NEW OPPRESSIVE MEASURES.

Two days after the shooting in East Belfast at the end of June the Stormont government brought in a new Bill - the Criminal Justice (Temporary Provisions) Act. It rushed through Parliament in a single day and became law on 1st July.

The effect of this Act is to impose compulsory jail sentences for certain offences. There are compulsory 6-month sentences for disorderly behaviour, taking part in a riot or unlawful assembly, sitting down on the road or in a public building, and taking part in a banned demonstration. There is an automatic 12-month sentence for making, having, or using petrol bombs. And increased penalties for firearms and explosives charges. The new penalties will apply until the government decides the present 'state of emergency' is over. The Special Powers Act was first introduced as a temporary measure as well and it has lasted 48 years.

Under the act judges can't fine people or give suspended sentences; they must jail defendants for at least 6 months. They can't take into account different circumstances in different cases and the Act applies even to offences that have nothing to do with politics or riots.

The Criminal Justice (Temporary Provisions) Act is the most repressive piece of law passed in N. Ireland since the Special Powers Act. It drastically increases the penalties under the Public Order Act which was fought so hard and for a host of other minor political offences. Perhaps worst of all is the compulsory 6 months for disorderly behaviour which is what the R. U. C. charge people with when they can't think of anything else. Now if the police want someone out of the way all they have to do is swear they saw him shouting and waving his arms and he gets

6 months automatically. And all this lasts indefinitely - until the government decides to end the emergency.

Two days after the new law was rushed through the British army attacked the Falls Road. They ran down and killed one man and shot dead two others. Then they imposed a curfew on the area confining the people to their tiny houses for 36 hours. Nearly 300 people were arrested and held in custody for breaking this curfew. Yet when the cases came to court it was suddenly announced that there was no curfew and the people were charged with obstructing a policeman - when there wasn't one in sight.

Another piece of repression had been introduced. And thousands of people penned in in a virtual concentration camp for a day-and-a-half - and all without any legal authority whatsoever. Anyone who didn't conform to this illegal detention was arrested and charged in court.

There have been other indications of the government's intention of stepping up their oppression. The military imported special water cannon from Germany for the 12th, much more powerful than the R. U. C. one used in Derry on October 5th - and now they are issuing their troops with 6 inch long hard rubber bullets designed to break the bones of demonstrators. Meanwhile Stormont have announced the building of a new jail to take overflow from the Crumlin and Armagh. They obviously intend to keep up their current spate of arrests and keep the compulsory sentence law in operation for some time.

If the Stormont government and the military authorities get away with the imposition of the Falls Road curfew and the Criminal Just-



troops now armed  
with:

- illegal curfew
- water cannon
- mandatory sentences
- rubber bullets

ice Act no-one will be safe anymore. Already we have the Public Order Act giving the authorities the power to stamp out protest. Now they will be able to curfew any area and arrest people for breaking the curfew - without any legal authority at all. They will also be able to put their opponents behind bars for 6 months on trumped-up trivial charges. And they have always the Special Powers Act to fall back upon.

The Opposition M. P.'s at Stormont let the Bill pass without any serious opposition - Gerry Fitt even welcomed it - and didn't put up even the resistance they offered to the Public Order Bill. If they had the Bill couldn't have become law until the end of the year. But the struggle is not over because the Opposition M. P.'s have given up the ghost. The curfew cases have not been decided yet. Pickets and protests can get the charges dismissed or dropped. Then the military will have to seek legal power to impose a curfew or use the politically embarrassing alternatives of the Special Powers Act or Martial Law. The Criminal Justice Act is only effective while the Emergency lasts. A vigorous campaign of protest, here and in England, could force Stormont to declare it over. If we don't act fast it will soon be impossible to act at all.

# Great British Mutinies

(Our Military Correspondent)

It has come to the ears of Free Citizen that some of our customers who have to stuff their copy down the front of their flak jackets are complaining about our attitude to the British Army. These worthy gentlemen, who are taking a great risk in disobeying their commanding officers orders not to read Free Citizen and stick to the 'Beano' in case their minds become contaminated with anything resembling the truth in the six counties, have said to us that everything that the Army has done cannot be totally bad as we have seemed to present it. This is true - the British Army has done a number of great and glorious deeds. In order to correct our distorted version of the military we would like to remember here some of these deeds and hope that they will not be forgotten and that their lessons will be remembered.

Probably one of the greatest deeds was the mutiny of the Connaught Rangers in 1921 for which 4 mutineers were shot in India. This regiment realised that they were being used for the same purpose in India as other British regiments were in the Dublin streets batoning their fellow country men. Four ringleaders were shot, the regiment was disbanded, and the men sent home (which is where they wanted to be).

Another great saga of the intelligent bravery of the British soldier was in Cairo in 1946 when the demobilisation was taking place at its usual snails pace (generals love

big armies - even when the war is over). Here, the entire Egyptian garrison numbering 50,000 troops went on general strike over demobilisation and bad conditions. The camps were run by a soldiers' and airmens' committee for the entire garrison which conducted negotiations with the general staff. (The privates on it were made up to lance jacks otherwise they wouldn't speak to them).

This strike was completely peaceful except for the shooting of a few M.P.'s who thought they might get a V.C. or something for arresting the Cairo committee. They didn't manage it and the guard on the Citadel shot them.

The H.L.I. was often villified by its enemies - however in Tel a Kebir in 1952 they redeemed themselves by hanging the R.S.M. from the N.C.O.'s mess door and forcing their officers to run round the barrack square naked in the mid-day sun firing at their heels as a reprisal for drilling them during the heat of a tropical day and also cutting down the beef ration. This act of justice was put down by two blackleg tank squadrons and Durham Light Infantry after two days. The 4 'ring leaders' were selected by lot as the entire regiment refused to talk. This earned them a four year posting in Aden.

We hope in the future to regale our readers with a few more reminders of the greatness of the Tommy in action.

## Where is Frankie!

While Arthur Latham, M.P. for Paddington (London), pays visits to Armagh jail and asks questions in Westminster about the imprisonment of Bernadette Devlin, very little has been heard from Bernie's next-door-neighbour, Frankie McManus, M.P. for Fermanagh-South Tyrone.

The Unionists have chosen to "make an example" of Bernadette for what she did in Bogside last August. Everyone should make demands for her release and pester the home affairs and prison authorities to wangle the greatest number of concessions for her. Before he was elected McManus did a lot of shouting about "justice" and "fair treatment". Here is a case in which he should be involved. Come on Frankie - let's see the colour of your placard!

## STICKERS



Self-adhesive stickers are now on sale to raise money for the P.D. Legal Defence Fund. There are three different designs, shown above. They are sold in sheets of 12 at 1/- per sheet (4 of each design). The stickers measure 1" x 2" each, and may be obtained from 88 Ladybrook Park, Belfast. Payment up to 3/- can be in the form of 4d. stamps.

## the mad major



New water cannon that can



knock a man down at 100 yards ...



with dye for later identifications



A new launcher for C.S. grenades



Invented at our Antrim factory;



Rubber bullets for breaking legs:



Now we'll stop these



curfew-breaking women!

# The Dock Strike

## NO BLACKLEGS!

The 50,000 British dockers have been under constant attack by press and television since the dock strike started last week. They have been accused of holding the country to ransom, ruining the British economy etc and the black-legs at Donaghadee and Portpatrick in Scotland who are strike-breaking have been applauded as heroes both by the British press and the Belfast Telegraph.

The dockers haven't been well served by their union either. Jack Jones the General Secretary had to be forced to call the strike by a delegate conference and even now he is calling on dockers to move perishable cargoes and not to oppose the troops if they are used. But this is nothing new from the Transport and General Workers Union which has always opposed militant action by its members.

Despite all the talk about £35-a-week pay-packets, very few dockers earn anything like this and they have a basic wage of £16-17 per week. This is what they have to fall back on when work is scarce in an overcrowded trade. The strike is over a months-old claim for a higher basic wage. The employers can well afford it: productivity has gone up enormously in the docks since the basic wage was fixed 4 years ago and very few port employers are content with the £35-a-week they claim the dockers get. But the bosses dug their heels in when the Tory government came to power hoping that Heath would use the troops to break this strike as the first instalment of the Tories plan to curb the trade unions.

The main importance of the strike in Britain lies in the possible use of troops. If Heath sends them in he will be proving clearly that in the last resort the army - and the police - are the tools of the ruling class. If the workers accept the challenge and black everything the troops unload it could be the first major clash between workers and the state in Britain since the 30's. The union leaders are desperately playing down the significance of the army since they want at all costs to avoid that clash.

In the long term the building of a workers' republic in Ireland will need the help of the British working class and every issue which heightens the struggle between exploiter and exploited in Britain is to our advantage. In the short term the more British troops involved in the dock strike in Britain the less there are in N. Ireland.

Here in the North 1,000 dockers are on strike. At the cross-channel docks in Belfast. They are members of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers

Union. The deep-sea docks in Belfast and the docks in Newry and Derry are organised by the Irish Transport and General Workers Union and are not on strike. The cargoes being shipped from Donaghadee and Portavogie would normally go through Belfast and thus the fishing boat owners and the local gommeen-men involved in this wretched trade are scabs and black-legs. The Glasgow dockers have already called on their Belfast comrades to stop this scabbing but the union has so far done nothing but issue vague warnings of what will happen after the strike.

The principle of working-class solidarity is vital. Already it has been broken during the cement strike. Now another set of get-rich-quick merchants have moved in to make a killing out of men on strike and working-men, lorry drivers and fishermen are stabbing their fellow-workers in the back for the benefit of these gommeen-men. If this scabbing is allowed to continue every strike will be broken and the working-class will lose the most powerful weapon it has to

better its own conditions.

For that reason the P.D. has supported this strike and condemned the black-legging. We have offered the dockers any support and help we can give and if the union does not act against the scabs quickly we will have to ourselves.

Of one thing there should be no doubt. If the British army enter the Belfast docks every article they touch should be blacked throughout the North. That's one thing workers can unite on regardless of religion.

by mike farrell

## CRAIGAVON... FIRM QUILTS

Jersey Capwood, one of the largest factories in Lurgan employing 300 has closed. The factory, built by the government is owned by the large cross-channel Carrington Dewhurst group. The closure once again indicates the insecurity of Lurgan's, and indeed Craigavon's, industrial lease. Most industry in the area consists of small unrelated branches of large foreign and British firms. Come a slight international recession, and bang goes Lurgan's industry. Even Goodyear, the Unionist Government's pride and joy, is complaining. More workers are leaving the factory than the firm can recruit -

## BERNADETTE

Nowhere has the sheer bad-mindedness of the Unionist clique shown itself more clearly than in the imprisonment of Bernadette Devlin. While the Tynan Murder Squad go free, and the R.U.C. rioters who murdered Devenney are amnestied, Bernadette is prosecuted and imprisoned.

The reason for the timing of her arrest is now clear. It was designed to prevent her taking the oath at Westminster. The Unionists wanted to punish her, more important they wanted to silence her politically. The miserable concessions that have been made to enable her to carry out her duties as an M.P. specifically exclude any opportunity to indulge in political controversy. This merely confirms the blatantly political use of the judiciary to imprison her in the first place.

Most M.P.'s at Westminster were upset when Bernadette was imprisoned mainly because they thought it would 'look bad' in the foreign newspapers. African and Asian politicians are less impressed by talk about 'British Democracy' etc when they hear about the imprisonment of radical M.P.'s. For that reason British M.P.'s were very keen that Bernadette should be paroled to allow her to 'take the oath' so that she could have questions asked in her name at Westminster. Reggie Maudling came to N. Ireland and declared to the press that efforts would be made to see that Bernadette could carry out some of her tasks as an M.P. This was a clear hint from Maudling to Porter that Bernadette should be allowed to receive letters and be paroled to 'take the oath' in Westminster. When, however, one of Bernadette's agents telephoned Stormont, Porter declared he had received "no official communication" from Westminster. The agent at once telephoned Maudling's office in Whitehall, where an exasperated official conceded that no formal letter had been sent to Stormont, but referred to what Maudling had said to the press, adding "Can those blighters at Stormont not take a hint?"

Needless to say no. Porter has now confirmed that Bernadette is not just to be imprisoned. She is to be politically silenced, her constituents are to be denied any political representation. **BY C TOMAN**

fair comment on wages and working conditions there.

Take warning from Jersey Capwood. When these firms go they get out fast. In March this year Mr. C. Baxter, manager of Jersey Capwood, told the press that new machinery was "currently being installed" - if it was ever installed no-one saw it. Mr. Baxter went on, "It was a clear indication that there had been no thoughts of closure and it was envisaged that the labour force would be increased during the year".

Move on Jersey Capwood in coming weeks!

# UNIONISTS' NEW BOGEYMAN

The new bogeyman for Ulster's troubles is 'anarchism' and - or 'International Communism'. Forget about unemployment, low wages repression and all the rest, if you want a scapegoat and are just too nice to put it 'down' to 'Papists' or 'Prods', there is nothing better than a red witch-hunt.

So thinks the aptly named Rev. Mock, chairman of P.A.C.E.,

He explains how anarchists and communists work - "it seems so easy to cause some trouble here, some trouble there, to carefully whisper about the rumour that 'the other side' is to blame, and then wait for the inevitable reaction - and then by inflaming the reaction itself to escalate the whole thing until it reaches madness. How can we be so blind to allow evil people to use us so?"

Fortunately few people are so blind or just so stupid as to pay any heed to such rubbish. Socialists as in the P.D., Communists and Anarchists - all do have this in common, they believe in the unity of the working-class, they stand against the division of workers on sectarian lines, they see no possible advantage in sectarian warfare.

Workers may be divided in Ulster. They do however know that they have nothing to gain from P.A.C.E.'s or N.U.M.'s organisations of the frightened well-to-do, who talk peace and moderation - ignore what is rotten in our society, and if there is trouble show all their christianity and moderation by calling for curfew's, the use of the Special Powers Act, and shooting where necessary by the military.

by  
John  
Gray

Turn now to that newly discovered hot-bed of Communism/Anarchism - Lurgan. During the week-end the Thomas Harte Republican memorial was blown up. With enormous rapidity Lurgan police force investigated the dastardly crime and discovered that "an anarchistic group" was responsible. What better way to solve a crime than to announce that you are searching for an organisation which any sane person knows does not exist (there was surely at least one other organisation which was a more likely candidate for

suspicion). This triumph for police investigation offers promise. Can we expect an early announcement that the police are seeking unknown anarchists for the murder of John Gallagher or Sam Devaney?

There are idiots outside the police force in Lurgan. Take the Rev. David McKee who announced in Hong Kong that "Communists were stirring up the explosive conflict in Ulster - and were working through the P.D.". The P.D. had also sent agitators to Lurgan and "incited a riot". True the P.D. has held protest meetings in Lurgan, none of our members have ever been charged with incitement in Lurgan.

There is in fact plenty of reason for people to agitate in Lurgan. The Rev. McKee and many of his fellow clerics would willingly deny the P.D. the right to point out that Craigavon is a failure, a total disaster for the Unionist Party. He would rather have it that workers remain silent when factories close, or when they receive low wages while bosses make great profits, he has nothing to say about the inhuman effects of the shift system on family life. Well we have much to say on these things, and will return to Lurgan to say them - and if the Rev. McKee is there to meet us, or the Rev. Mock so much the better. If they can persuade those who join our meetings that they are forced there by 'foreign agitators' rather than real discontents more power to them.

They would do better to stick to vicarage tea parties.

## BRITISH SUBSIDIES Businessmen Change Their Tune

by our Industrial Correspondent

Ulster is exploited - this is the verdict of Dr. Hugh Shearman writing in 'Ulster Commentary', the glossy P.R. sheet produced by the Ulster Chamber of Commerce.

What a surprise! Why should Ulster's smooth businessmen wish to give publicity to a point which we have often made, that is, that Britain makes large profits out of Ulster. It is all part of Unionist schizophrenia, on the one hand they have always said, "Look at us, we do well out of the connection with Britain, if you go down South you'll not get any social security". On the other hand, now that British governments have shown that they consider the Stormont government to be embarrassingly reactionary, Stormont has had to play a new line, "Britain does very well out of Ulster, what has she got to complain about, she can keep her hands off, not an inch etc."

What then has Dr. Shearman to say? He points out that much income made in Northern Ireland and exported simply does not appear in official statistics. For example a firm with a branch in Northern Ireland may be paying its corporation tax as from its head office in Britain. And many categories of rent, dividends and other profits may not be taxed in the area where

the income is earned or where the recipient resides."

Describing Britain's secret profiteering in Ulster (more accurately one should say the profiteering of British businessmen) Shearman writes, "a very large proportion of the capital invested in Northern Ireland has come from outside the province, much of it from British or British-based sources. Much of this has been invested in industry and much in property development. There has also been some investment in land. Investment of capital is intended to stimulate the flow in the other direction in the form of profit over the subsequent years. From all this outside investment in the province there is a very big return which goes out from Northern Ireland to absentee shareholders or other recipients of profits or rents, most of whom live in Britain".

Yes Ulster's businessmen, the stalwarts of the Chamber of Commerce, can be proud that so much of our resources are exploited like this. We pledge ourselves to continue the struggle against a system which allows foreign investors to bleed Ireland, north and south. A final point, Shearman's article exposes the nonsense which the Northern Ireland Labour Party spouts, about British governments subsidising the North.

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