

SINN Féin

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANVASSERS, SPEAKERS AND ORGANISERS

Canvassers should have with them a copy of the electoral register. At each house they should note (a) what voters are absent, (b) what voters are still resident there, (c) what voters will need transport to the polling booth. These particulars should be written down. Later the personation agents should be given the particulars re. the voters who are absent and those still present. Arrangements should be made with the Director of Transport to have voters who need transport brought to the polls at whatever time is convenient.



In answer to questions as to why Sinn Féin representatives will not enter Leinster House as a minority group, the following points should be made:

The onus of responsibility for "refusing to sit" belongs of right with the party politicians and rests entirely on their shoulders. *They* refuse to assemble an All-Ireland Parliament, along the lines of the first Dail. *They* are the abstentionists from a National Parliament. They have refused to allow the "Nationalist" M.P.s of Stormont the meagre crumb of right of audience.

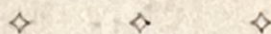


The 26-County assembly is prevented from functioning as a National Parliament (for all 32 Counties) by the British laws which established it: namely, the Government of Ireland Act, 1920; the Irish Free State Act ("Treaty") 1922; and the Boundary Agreement, 1925. This legislation of the British Parliament was

incorporated in the 1937 Constitution, either in toto or in some amended form.



By remaining clear of the entanglements which are inseparable from Leinster House or Stormont, the Sinn Fein representatives *alone* among those chosen at Parliamentary elections, North or South, are *free* to work for and lead the entire Irish people towards an All-Ireland Parliament.



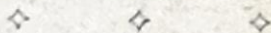
With a few honourable exceptions, the public press is hostile to the Republican Movement and its objectives. Little or no benefit would therefore accrue from the use of Leinster House as a forum for gaining publicity.



Partition government was imposed on this country by Britain. The evils which flow from this system can be stopped only by abolishing the partition institutions of government and setting-up an All-Ireland Dail. Sinn Fein is pledged to do this.



In canvassing, Number One votes should of course be asked for always. When a voter declines the request, but offers a Number Two or some other vote this should be accepted gratefully. Canvassers and speakers should not tell the electorate to "Vote Sinn Fein Only." They should tell them to "Vote Number One Sinn Fein" and leave it at that.



Speakers should point out that all the talk from the politicians about "foreign policy" and "international co-operation" is a sham, and a deliberate attempt to cover up the fact that they have no domestic policy. No amount of talk about an improved balance of payments, or an increase in exports can get over the fact that people are still our greatest export. The politicians have no answer to the census figures.



Points should be made as briefly as possible and in a cool and respectful manner. No matter what provocation is given, political arguments of a heated or other nature must be avoided.

Do not indulge in personalities, and do not make personal attacks on leaders of political parties.

Stress the point that the existence of political parties and

groups serves only to create confusion and dissension among our people, both North and South of the border, that as a consequence the energies of the nationally minded among the people are dissipated in futile political strife and bickering and that as a further consequence progress towards achieving the measure of united effort essential to success is retarded.



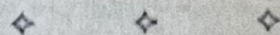
Stress the point that leaders of political parties in the 26 Counties are not prepared to force the issue of partition to the extent of a "showdown" with Britain, that in the main, their concern with partition is to emphasise that they have no solution to offer and that apart from election campaigns little is heard from them about the problem.

Draw attention to the ever present danger of political leaders accepting, as a final solution of the partition problem, some compromise solution, e.g., transfer of reserved services to a Dublin Parliament leaving Stormont regime with its present powers, Federal Solution on this or some other basis.



Stress as a main point that, an aim of Sinn Fein is to restore to active being a National Movement similar to that which existed from 1918 until it was disrupted in 1922 and further weakened in subsequent defections; that such a movement is regarded as essential to a resumption of the onward march to freedom; that through such a movement the confidence of our people in their own ability to end British domination will be restored, that such a movement provides the only logical and worthwhile alternative to existing political factions and that it further provides an opportunity of welding together the nationally minded among our people into one invincible and cohesive movement similar to that which brought the country to the verge of freedom in 1922.

Explain that the Republican Movement is broad enough in its scope to accommodate and cater for all those who genuinely seek the full freedom of Ireland and the welfare of all Irish citizens, that the movement is not sectarian, is not political and is not circumscribed in its aims and objects, in its policy, nor in its Constitution by considerations appertaining to the interests of party, class or creed.



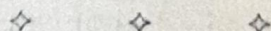
Each canvasser, speaker or organiser should familiarise himself (herself) with the policy and programme of Sinn Fein in (a) The National Unity and Independence Programme, (b) The Social and

Economic Programme, and (c) the Constitution of Sinn Fein. As an aid to making a canvass effective canvassers should have in their possession a copy of each of the above, so that documentary proof can be tendered in corroboration of verbal explanations of the points covered by these documents.

If questioned on the attitude of Sinn Fein towards physical force methods, it should be emphasised in replies (a) that Sinn Fein is essentially an organisation of civilians confining themselves to constitutional methods, (b) that its constitution permits Sinn Fein to assist other organisations working for achievement of its aims and objects and that so long as Britain maintains an army of occupation within our national territory, Sinn Fein will not deny the right of Irishmen to use every honourable means to liberate the nation from the British forces of aggression.

Canvassers and speakers working in couples should arrange between themselves as to what particular points each one will deal with. In this way a certain degree of specialisation can be more easily attained and overlapping can be avoided.

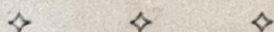
The fact that Sinn Fein does not seek, and has no intention of promoting civil war between Irishmen should be emphasised. Its main purpose is to free Ireland from the grip of foreign occupation and domination and in the conditions which freedom will make possible, to so organise the national and economic affairs of the Nation that equal rights and equal opportunities will, to the maximum possible extent, be available to all citizens, irrespective of class or creed.



Emphasis should be placed on the fact that, in the 26 Counties, in seeking support for its policy to establish a National Government exercising full and effective jurisdiction over the 32 Counties, the Sinn Fein line of approach is strictly constitutional. This line of approach does not indicate, nor may it be construed therefrom that Sinn Fein recognises the Free State Constitution and Government as other than what they basically are—instruments of partition Government in Ireland. It is of the very essence of Party politics and typical of the camouflaging tactics of the Party politicians to stake a claim to jurisdiction over all Ireland and her territorial waters whilst they make no attempt to enforce the claim, nor make any effort to exercise or extend the writ of the jurisdiction to which claim is laid.

It should be stressed that the existing machinery of Government in Ireland was fashioned by Britain to prevent the Irish people

exercising their just right to the free and unfettered control of the internal affairs of the Nation. Since its inception this machinery of Government has functioned in accord with the interests of Britain by whose rulers it was designed. Constitutional tinkering with its basic blueprint has not, in any way fundamental to the interests of the Irish Nation, hampered or hindered its smooth functioning in conformity with the purpose for which it was created. Designed, as it was, to maintain the partition of the nation's territory, and to secure to Britain a military bridgehead to be used in her own selfish and Imperial interests, its maintenance cannot serve the cause of Ireland's sovereign independence, and full freedom for the Irish people will remain unaccomplished until the machinery of Partition Government in Ireland has been abolished.



The attendance at Leinster House of Representatives elected by the votes and through the support of Irish citizens who are opposed to foreign rule in Ireland, and who stand by Ireland's right to full Nationhood is quite useless, and from a National viewpoint eminently undesirable.

As a forum for airing grievances, Leinster House has no particular or worthwhile advantage over the platform that any public meeting or other public function provides. Providing, as it does, a machined majority opposed to the National ideal and to achievement of Ireland's freedom, it cannot be successfully used to secure legislation favourable to the interests of the Irish people. It is a partition institution subject to British control, and calculated to maintain partition and British occupation of Irish territory.



Sinn Fein should not be described, nor referred to as "a Party." This point should be diligently observed. Sinn Fein is not just another political party. It is a National organisation and an integral part of the Republican Movement. Its policy and Programme are determined on a basis that includes the entire territory of the Nation, and they are designed to serve the interests of all Irish citizens. Sinn Fein does not challenge, and it does not aim at restricting or jeopardising, on account of religious beliefs, those rights to which any Irish citizen is justly entitled. Because of this and other factors, it provides the basis for a genuine and worthwhile unity among Irish men and women—a unity that is essential to progress, harmony and happiness within the shores of Ireland.

Draw attention to the constant flow of objectionable literature which is allowed almost unrestricted circulation in Ireland. Together with objectionable films, T.V. and radio programmes, this type of literature has a demoralising effect on those who are brought into contact with it, and in the moral, in the national and in the patriotic spheres our Nation suffers untold injury.



In dealing with the economy of the Nation, attention should be drawn to the following points:—

The exorbitant cost of present-day Government in Ireland. Central and Local Government administration, for the years 1959/60, approximate to six and a quarter million pounds per week.



Irish capital leaving the country, to be invested in foreign enterprise and in the development of foreign industries, at low bearing interest rates, whilst native enterprise and the development of native industries are starved for want of capital resources. In addition, foreign capital is sought to set up, or develop industries from which the foreign investors will reap a rich harvest, either by way of high interest rates or by profits earned, or quite possibly by both.



Foreign Insurance and Assurance companies net a premium income within Ireland in excess of that netted by all Irish companies combined. In the main, the profits earned are invested outside Ireland.



The tendency to develop industries manufacturing articles from imported raw materials, whilst leaving undeveloped industries employing native raw materials, that are already available or that could be made available.



Provision of Capital and Credit facilities is left in the hands of private concerns that manipulate our currency mainly for private gain, and by whom credit accommodation is expanded and contracted to suit their own interests. Generally speaking, the powers they possess and exercise are used without much regard to development or the establishment of prosperity within the Nation.

The voluntary maintenance of the link with Sterling, regardless of inflationary and deflationary movements and the impact of such movements on the national economic structure.

◇ ◇ ◇

Ireland has become a happy hunting ground for foreigners desirous of availing themselves of the opportunities that exist to establish or develop concerns capable of earning fat profits for transfer abroad. Once these concerns cease to earn dividends on a scale suitable to the foreign interests that control them they can and will be abandoned, without any thought for the consequences on those who lose their employment, or on the overall economy of the country. In addition, foreign speculators have almost unlimited freedom and facilities to invest in Irish house, land and other properties. This economic penetration jeopardises the sovereignty of the Nation, and in cold hard practice adds up to a new subtle plantation of Ireland.

◇ ◇ ◇

In the Six Counties Britain collects roughly 85% of the total tax revenue. After deducting the cost of "Reserved Services" which she directly administers within the area, Britain annexes for her own Imperial Exchequer an annual sum, that since 1922 has averaged approximately Ten Million Pounds per year. Tax-payers in the Six-Counties are thus mulcted for the cost of British administration within the area, and they are further mulcted to pay the maintenance costs of the occupation forces that are employed to keep them in subjection. These forces occupy the area not for the protection of the territory, or the people who reside within it from potential or real enemies, but for the sole purpose of maintaining, on Irish soil, a bastion in Britain's chain of Imperial outposts. If this bastion became unnecessary to her, or if Britain's interest ceased to be served by its maintenance, her occupation forces would be rapidly withdrawn and the natives left to the tender mercies of any mythical antagonist their imagination might conjure up.

◇ ◇ ◇

No attempt has been made to guide industrial development along lines adaptable or suitable to an overall national economy. Obviously, the main object has been to direct industrial development on the basis of partition remaining for all time. (See Industrial Development in the Social and Economic Programme.)

NOTE.—The foregoing points are intended as a guide to Speakers, Canvassers and Organisers. Each point can be developed and elaborated as the necessity arises. Such elaboration should, however, conform to the main point, and should be in line with the policy and programme of Sinn Fein. Where necessary elaboration should be preceded by a study of the available data relevant to the point under consideration.



FUNCTIONS OF CHAIRMAN AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

1. He should announce under whose auspices the meeting is being held and what is the purpose of the meeting.
2. He should make some short introductory remarks—not to exceed five minutes.
3. He should clearly and briefly announce each Speaker.
4. He should briefly thank the speakers and listeners.
5. He should make whatever announcements are necessary such as other meetings, collections etc.
6. Announce “Amhran na bhFiann.”

The above rules are for the guidance of Chairmen at public meetings, who are not themselves on the panel of speakers.

Chairmen who are on the panel of speakers may make a somewhat longer introductory address and may sum up at the end.

No Chairman should at any time make speeches between speakers.

*Issued by Sinn Fein Election Headquarters 30 Gardiner Place,
Dublin, 1961.*

Marian Printing Co. Ltd., Portland Place, N.C.R., Dublin.