An unmarried mother with two young children is being threatened with eviction by Dun Laoghaire Borough Council because she owes them just over £1 in arrears in rent.

Mary Connick of St. Anne’s Square, Blackrock, has received a Notice to Quit and been told she’ll be evicted if she doesn’t pay up the outstanding arrears on her 26p a week rent.

Rent strike
In fact Mary is on rent strike over the appalling condition of her flat.

"Even on a single parent’s allowance of £3 a week I can only pay the arrears," says Mary, "but I don’t see any other way of getting them to carry out repairs except by going on rent strike."

There is, unfortunately, disturbing evidence to suggest that Mary is not simply being hounded over a couple of weeks’ arrears of rent but is actually suffering from a policy of deliberate discrimination by the Borough Council.

On the Dun Laoghaire housing list five years (and suffering from a serious TB condition that requires constant attention) Mary was allocated her flat just under a year ago, in April 1980. Since moving into the flat she and her five year old daughter Anne and son Joseph, four, have fought a losing battle with Dun Laoghaire’s housing department to have the flat repaired. "There are plenty of inspections and repairs," says Mary, "and promises to carry the work out, but nothing ever happens.

Among the most serious defects are:

- A hole in the back of the fireplace which the chimney sweep has been asked to fix twice in the past year.
- A crack in the chimney breast which overhangs when the fire is lit all day. As a gas pipe runs across the crack the Fire Brigade officers said it was urgent that these repairs were carried out immediately.
- Missing and damaged floorboards in the main bedroom.
- A defective Citizen’s alarm in the outside toilet.
- Faulty electric wiring in the bathroom.

Bulbs flaring from front and back doors which are obviously as old as the flats themselves.

There is no bathroom and no indoor toilet facility either.

No surprise

It’s hardly surprising therefore that Mary has a recurring TB condition, that her daughter Anne has a kidney infection and that son Joseph is chronically suffering from colds and chest infections. Hardly surprising either is that Mary has now gone on rent strike over these living conditions.

This is actually her second rent protest. Earlier this year she withheld rent for ten weeks but agreed to pay when threatened with eviction. This time she says she is determined to fight the eviction order — even if it means losing her home.

At the Town Clerk’s office in Dun

Earlier this year the local Sunshide newspaper exposed a policy of apparent discrimination against single parent families. A policy defended by Fianna Fail councillors on the Corporation who maintain that "We should look after those who are rightly married."

Mary obviously doesn’t come into the "rightly married" category and is now suffering the consequences.

**NATO’s target Ireland**

BRITAIN and the US are stepping up the pressure to force Ireland to join their military alliance, with two major behind-the-scenes moves this week.

- A shock report to the EEC Parliament urges military and arms cooperation between all EEC countries. The report is drawn up by a "Centre for Defence Studies" in Aberdeen, a known front organisation for British military intelligence.
- Senior officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs are putting pressure on the Government to join the Western European Union, a military alliance supposedly independent of NATO, but secretly committed to the US-dominated pact by a concealed clause added to its treaty.

The IRISH PEOPLE has obtained copies of both documents.

Arms spending

The EEC arms report, drawn up by top British military intelligence agent David Greenwood, points out that military spending by EEC countries is as big as that of America.

"Combined, they should support a considerably more efficient arms industry," Greenwood argues.

"This would provide significant military equipment, operating on equal terms with the Americans, and getting all the industrial and technological spin-off that the US extraction of it conceals.

What Greenwood doesn’t say is that the US economy is in this, with endemic unemployment and massive cut-backs in health, education and all the public services. In fact the only spending the new Reagan cowboy administration is boosting is on weapons of war and mass destruction.

Even more serious for this country is the sustained pressure put on successive Dublin Governments by top Foreign Affairs officials for Ireland to join the Western European Union, the effective military alliance of the EEC. These officials push the line that the WEU is independent of NATO, and that Ireland should "play its part" in the EEC’s military pact.

But a concealed clause added to the Brussels Treaty effectively hands over the WEU’s military functions to NATO. And joining would put Ireland right in the front line of the growing threat of world nuclear war.

The WEU countries "shall work in close cooperation with NATO," the treaty says.

"Recognising the undeniability of duplicating military staff of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the WEU will rely on appropriate military authorities of NATO for information and advice on military matters," it concludes.

In plain words — when it comes to war preparations for war, the WEU takes its orders straight from NATO.

Continued on Page 6
Free Education

Education Minister John Wilson is probably the most articulate and intelligent of the present Fianna Fáil Cabinet, but even he was unable to justify the present state of our educational system when he addressed the Late Late Show at the weekend. As a recent Union of Students in Ireland study shows (see article opposite) third level education is once more becoming the exclusive preserve of the well-off while, juggle as Wilson might with statistics like what the pupil-teacher ratio is now compared to Coalition days, conditions are rapidly deteriorating in our "free" primary and secondary schools.

Indeed as one member of the Late Late audience asked - What's free about schools where parents not alone have to buy books and stationery (provided by the State in more European countries) but also have to contribute to heating bills, run rafters to have badly needed extensions built or collect money so the buildings can get a fresh coat of paint?

There are many more schools like it and many principals must be thanking heaven that they didn't have a bad valuation year, or parents would have had to delve even deeper into their pockets for fuel bills - either that or the children would have been sent home. Even more shocking is the judgement that in the lack of adequate third level facilities. Many children have no hope of going on to further education while those who do find themselves trying to study in overcrowded and under-equipped classrooms.

Lack of resources bedevils education at all levels and the imbalances only aggravate those shortcomings.

Money is available for education. Just as there's money available for better housing, social welfare and health services. The trouble is the Government doesn't have it but the banks, the companies, the self-employed, professionals, publicans and all the other taxdodgers who sit on our backs.

Ironically, these are also the people able to afford to have a home where they can buy for their own children. We say it's about time all our kids travelled first class and had an equal opportunity in life.

New law puts family homes at risk--warns SFWP lawyer

A new law currently going through the Oireachtas will mean that any finance company could seize your home for failure to pay bills for amounts as small as £250 - a leading civil rights lawyer told the IRISH PEOPLE this week.

Sollicitor Pat MacCartan, a spokesperson on civil liberties and consumer affairs for Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, pointed out that under the new law the District Court will be able to make an execution of mortgage for any amount over £250. The new law also gives the District Court jurisdiction in cases of up to £2,000.

Companies believe the courts of finance companies and loan sharks the law is being charged of Fianna Fáil so that people who fall into debt for quite small amounts can be threatened with the loss of their house if they "don't pay up," says Pat.

"These types of companies have never been removed for showing concern for their clients in the law," he says, and adds that the District Court has been told to see new and dangerous avenues for pressuring these borrowers. These companies, he says, "forces the clients of the finance and hire-purchase industry to accept a comprehensible free legal aid scheme which is urgently needed."

Corpo was overcharged by £80,000

Trading Services, the company at the centre of Dublin Corporation's probe into financial irregularities on the City's public building sites, is being sued for £70,000 in overpayments. Councillors were told at a meeting of the Finance Public Accounts Committee that:

The investigation into Trading Services' relations with the housing development section of the Corporation has been going on for months and the report have been returned in the IRISH PEOPLE in January 1991.

Complied

Five weeks ago we received information which showed that Trading Services had been overcharged for materials-which might or might not have been delivered. Now the records were only the tip of the iceberg.

Books were added for the first time the Council for the first time the Council has been overcharged for materials which might or might not have been delivered. Now the public are aware whether there has been those who have been cheats of the public but have been left in the dark.

Examples

The Corporation produced photographs originally published in the IRISH PEOPLE showing large buildings with concrete slabs on them. These photographs were taken in Whitemount, Tallaght, a year after their delivery as land building materials as an example of what he meant.

This public will not have any information. The Corporation's expense as the land has been taken away by a Japanese manufacturer who wanted it cleared for industrial use.

Corpo was overcharged by £80,000

Tomas also cited the fact that a year ago the City's contracts had been regularly booked into the Whitemount site while a new adjoining site of similar size was now only using its permanent plant hire vehicles to do the same work.

These sort of issues should be taken up by the City's engineers and the Corporation's Committee has been accused of not doing enough. After the investigation began and he would be calling the matter again.

One of the reports was taken at the Finance Public Accounts Committee however, that the procedure for a new plant hire section in the Corporation was approved.

They incorporated many of the suggestions for tighter checks proposed by Councillor Mac Giolla, including registering of engines and chassis numbers on hired vehicles, as well as details of their insurance cover on Corporation files to reduce the opportunities for overcharging in future.

Where there's Life there's another IL eviction

"It was the 10 March I was evicted. They arrived about 10.30 am while I was feeding the baby. That's how young mother of two of Caroline Nalty bitterly and calmly described her eviction by the Irish Life Assurance Co., her mother as she rocked the pram with her youngest baby in it outside of her house at 37 Townsend Street, Dublin, this week.

Since the eviction Caroline has been living in the street outside, her eldest daughter Alison, aged 21 months, and seven week old baby Sinéad. Her husband Patrick is at sea, working for Irish Shipping.

Water cut off

"Life on the pavement isn't that much worse than living inside No. 37 for the Naltys. The ESB supply was cut off some time ago because the winning of the fines and it has been for over a year now Caroline has had to get water for her two boys from the street gutter on the corner of Townsend Street and Main Street because she has no running water supply. Young babies are obviously legitimate targets in the property situation which Irish Life has so expertly waged in Dublin city centre over the past decade.

Told she may be offered accommodation in a low demand area by Dublin Corporation, Caroline insists that she wants to stay in the City Quays, Victoria Street or Regent Street area. "I'd never take a roomed floor like that", she stressed. But thrown into adult life at the deep end. The Naltys have nobody outside their own district and, with her husband constantly at sea, is afraid of moving out to new areas on the City's edge, miles away from her family and friends.

Help

At the eviction scene with Caroline was local Sinn Féin The Workers' Party representative Andy Smith. He was trying to organise a test for the family in the Tribunal. He has written to the Minister for Justice.

Five weeks before Andy had been at a meeting of the local City Quays Community where he had broken the bad news that the Government freeze on local authority housing meant that Phase Two of the local building programme containing 80 new houses, was due to be deferred.

"Andy feels particularly bitter about the fact that Caroline has been evicted outside her former home with eldest daughter Alison, 21 months, and Sinéad in the pram. A heavy canvas cover shelters her four feet of furniture but a suitcase containing most of her family mementos and other valuables was stolen by Irish Life, a company in which the Government has a 50% shareholding. "Irish Life belongs to the Government and it was Fiona Friel who effectively evicted this family," odered Andy. "Instead of evicting young families the Government should be assisting them to keep Irish Life profits received in housing, off the public block.

"Caroline's case shows that the basic facts of Dublin working people hasn't changed since the days of Stenham City, and we will not until we have a system that pays profits before people."
DRUGS have been available to treat mastitis in cattle for years but the infection rate today in the national herd is almost as high as it was 20 years ago. Have farmers been taken for a ride about the effectiveness of drugs available to combat the disease by a sophisticated multi-million pound advertising campaign mounted by the pharmaceutical companies themselves? That is the disturbing question raised by a recent little-noticed professional scientific paper based on cattle tests in Cork.

"Orbetalin In Mastitis Out - Without Doubt claimes the NIAD. But results of recent tests on drugs like Orbetalin at Moorepark Research Station, Henry, suggests there are nothing but doubts about their effectiveness.

The last time Dr Bill Meehan of the Centre gave a paper on the effectiveness of various drugs used in mastitis control treatment and showed they ranged in effectiveness from 100% to 10%. Several well-known brands names, including Orbetalin, came well down the list of effective treatments.

Not surprisingly, Dr Meehan's paper has caused a major controversy in the farm drug industry with many companies criticizing his methods and declaring that their products were as effective and didn't comparing like with like.

However, the views from the agrochemical industry board and that of one of the better-known products used in fighting the disease food and milk losses have not changed. Their work has not been abandoned and many of the problems that farmers face are of their making.

In the recent test 13 heifers were put on a dietary intake of the drug Orbetalin and the milk was tested for the presence of the drug. The heifers were divided into three groups. In the first group, Orbetalin was used in addition to a normal diet. In the second group, Orbetalin was added to the milk and in the third group, the milk was given to the heifers with no medication.

The results showed a marked reduction in the rate of mastitis in the heifers treated with Orbetalin. The milk production in the heifers treated with Orbetalin was also significantly higher than in the control group. The results indicate that Orbetalin is effective in treating mastitis in cattle and that it can significantly reduce the incidence of the disease.

Dr Meehan said that the dairy industry cannot afford to ignore the results of this study. He said that the farmer must be aware of the problems and take appropriate action to prevent them. He also advised farmers to use the results of this study to make informed decisions about the use of drugs in their farms.

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Mastitis
Mastitis is a disease affecting cows' udders that hits milk output from the animals and also makes it unfit for human consumption. In 1963, 47% of the dairy cows population, was affected by it. When a further survey was carried out in 1978, 64% of the cows examined had mastitis, although the infection rate varied from as low as 7% to as much as 30%, on others.

Bechams Animal Health, who market Orbetalin, are worried about the figures and are trying so hard to deter them.

"It's no wonder, they think that mastitis is still such a scourge for the Irish dairy industry. Clearly it's not just the cows who are being milked."

Working class youth squeezed out of colleges
FEWER and fewer working class students are getting a chance of third level education because pressures from Government cutbacks on grants are pushing the opportunities for advanced studies and better career prospects out of reach.

Now the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) is complaining that the "tough action" if the present policy of making higher education more of a privilege of the rich isn't reversed.

Grants freeze
While grants for third level students have remained frozen at £600 for the last two years, fee and other costs are soaring. This summer a further 25% increase in fees is expected, squeezing further into the pockets of those from lower income families out of the higher education market.

A recent survey by USI education officer and former student union president, Martin Smith, showed that grants constitute less than 30% of the average student's £8,000 a year, or nearly three times the value of the grant. These USI calculations don't allow for any allowances for the children of the rich.

"Journal" like entertainment, cigarettes and alcohol.
By far the biggest single element in the student's income is the sugar tax at the rate of 600p a week. The average student gets £45 a week, compared with the average increase in the cost of living of 25%.

The huge drop in grants for students is a matter of concern to many students, but the problem is even more dramatic. During the last 5 years, grants have been reduced by £30 on average, making it very difficult for students to pay their living costs.

"More dramatic still is the effect on the proportion of grant aided students to the universities, where the drop-off is even more dramatic. During the last 5 years, grants have been reduced by £30 on average, making it very difficult for students to pay their living costs.

Teacher training colleges have also suffered the proportion of grant aided students. The teachers unions have been heavily involved in the matter, and the rest of the country have been more dramatic.

During the last 5 years, grants have been reduced by £30 on average, making it very difficult for students to pay their living costs.

"Financing higher education is the responsibility of the Government, not the students," said USI president, Gerry Greener. "Yet students are being asked to bear the brunt of the financial crisis for the Government.

"This is a situation that is impossible to sustain," he added.

- No through road to university exists for thousands of our school leavers.

N.I. report shows little equal opportunity
WHEN Peggy Seeger came to Belfast for International Women's Day she entertained audiences with the song, 'I want to be an engineer' describing the tribulations of a woman trying to get into a traditionally male profession.

Recent findings from the Equal Opportunities Commission show that the heroine of Peggy's song women's fight has not become much easier in Northern Ireland today. In the EOC 'Report of a Forma Investigation into Further Education in Northern Ireland', one conclusion is quoted as saying: "It would be failing in our responsibility not to recognise prejudice in employment. Returns from 33 of the province's 27 colleges of further education show a pattern of inequality between the sexes. Despite widespread lip service to the notion of equality (NI) Order 1976 the lines of segregation in many areas of employment and education are drawn firmly, and none the less firmly.

In general the investigation notes that the overall diversity in the women's entry to further education cannot be attributed to any lack of qualifications on the part of the women. Although educational qualifications of girls leaving school are equal to those of boys, 15% of boys, 9% of girls are in further education.

Having reached the colleges girls were also faced with the restrictive choice of courses. This is shown by the course principal and is one course on science and maths.

Interestingly the Fair Employment Agency had previously suggested that a similar bias was present outside and that there was a discrimination in legislation and encouraged to make children aware of all opportunities to that students do not unnecessarily limit their future careers.

One area in which women were at an absolute disadvantage was day release. Of 11,000 students on day release courses from work in 1977-1978, only 1,000 were women. Of the two main categories the males were in more secure jobs such as health, welfare or social services. Only 46 were in engineering and 51 in the building trades although these two categories between them account for 8,000 of the 10,000 men on day release. The picture emerging from these figures is that girls are virtually excluded from the very jobs in which the majority could day release opportunities exist.

Taking the report as a whole it is clear that the exclusion of females at one level of education leads to their exclusion both from other levels and from a whole range of career opportunities.

In order to break through this deadlock the EOC has to change both attitudes and practical reality. It proposes a number of measures designed to ensure that women are made aware of career possibilities and, even more importantly, are enabled to train for them by time-tableting which takes account of the needs of housewives and by a more even handedness of career guidance and receiving staff.

One encouraging point to emerge from the investigation was that, serious as the situation is, there were, however, some sign of improvement. Even the 15 women on building industry day release courses is an advance. By comparison we are at present teaching these subjects and only one teaching engineering.

With at least some girls and women now working in these industries and attending courses which should bring them promotion they are certainly to be praised. At the same time, however, we have to guard against complacency and to ensure that we don't put them on the same terms and conditions as the men.
PICKET LINE

**Milking the Board?**

**QUOTES OF THE WEEK**

Farmers, with their hard scalps, are not the sort of Board they are used to finding. Formerly the Board, which is Ireland’s equivalent of Britain’s milk marketing board, was a semi-independent company. Under EC rules however it has had to become a co-operative served by milk producers — the farmers. Since the changeover Board members have found themselves fighting, at times with their own constituents, for better wages and working conditions.

Now their new farm bosses also want them to take a 15% cut in staff in order to cut the marketing overhead during the current recession — and promise farmers profit margins.

El Salvador

**"A STEP in the right direction."** is how the Irish El Salvador Garrett FitzGerald's belated agreement to sever Gnaa links with the vicious El Salvador military junta, but opponents of the junta are disappointed. He won't go so far as the Social Christian Popular movement, part of the anti-junta coalition.

The call to Free Gnaa to break its links with the junta, came from a former member of the junta and the Christian Democratic party, Aurelio Arene, in Dublin this week. He described the Social Christian Popular movement which has joined socialists, workers and peasants, as the only authentic group in the Democratic Revolutionary Front and the authentic voice of Christian Democracy in El Salvador.

**Reignation**

Albano Arene, who resigned last March as President of the Salvadoran Institute of Cooperative Development because of the campaign of physical violence by the military junta after his call to Free Gnaa. Arene called for the social Christian Popular movement to back support for Free Gnaa against the junta.

Reignation is a political decision that can be made by the people, said Arene.

**Blackening**

The union in Britain is also blackening vision work as part of the effort to save jobs in Ireland. Besides UNJ members nearly 30 other workers are believed to be dependent on vision, although, as most of them aren’t unionised, definitive figures are hard to get.

Formerly owned by Vickers director, John O’Neill, and his private sector management, Vickers has been bought by O’Neill and Kevin Kelly (publishers of ‘Image’ magazine). The company was bought by O’Neill and Kevin Kelly, who have managed to win the support of the workers.

**SUICIDE**

The Irish PEOPLE believe this country has no business in super-power confrontations on either side.

No Irish Government has any right or mandate to burden our neutrality — and put at risk the future of our women and children.

Ireland’s place is in the world Non-aligned Movement, in the struggle to oppose the super-power confrontation and the repressive arms race.

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