

THE STARRY PLOUGH

Derry's own Republican newspaper

ARMY COUNCIL SEES GROWING DANGER OF CIVIL WAR

WHY OFFICIALS CALLED

A HALT

The decision by the Official IRA to suspend offensive military activity was taken after weeks of consultation with the Executive of the Republican Clubs. It was not influenced in any way by the hypocrites on the "peace at any price" bandwagon. It was clear to us that the violence in the North, if it continued as it had been doing, could lead only to a sectarian war, a war between Catholics and Protestants which would be of no benefit whatever to the working-class. That was the single most important reason for the decision.

Moreover, a continued military campaign would have meant a struggle in which, by its nature, the majority of the people could not physically participate. This would have separated the IRA from the people, a situation totally unacceptable to Republicans.

What began in 1968 and proceeded through 1969 and 1970 was a struggle of the people — a struggle which escalated until August 1971 when many thousands began the Rent and Rates strike and the Civil Disobedience Campaign, demanding an end to internment, the release of political prisoners and the repeal of the Special Powers Act. These demands are still relevant and we will continue to agitate until they are met.

Issues clouded

We demand also the right to work in Derry, the right to a decent home at a reasonable rent, the right to a decent future for ourselves and for our children. These issues were being clouded by the smoke from the bombs, drowned out by the crack of the rifles. It was for these reasons — so that we could get back to class politics — that the IRA at the request of the Republican Clubs, suspended the campaign.

The suspension could change the present situation from one of elitist military activity into one of mass political action, in which the Official Republican Movement must be the vanguard, must give leadership so as to develop the struggle for basic civil rights — still to be won — into a

UDA on the march as sectarianism reaches a crescendo

struggle for the ownership of this country by the people of this country.

The men of no property of whom Tone spoke, the landless for whom Lalor fought, the worker in the factory, the unemployed, the emigrant, the homeless, the tiller of the land, these constitute the common people of this country; they have never owned this country. They are as mere tenants in it. For hundreds of years they have been a source of cheap labour and profit for British Imperialism and capitalism. The task of the Official Republican Movement is to bring the people to a realization that they must organize themselves to fight and defeat the small groups who claim and control 80% of the wealth of Ireland, North and South.

Only by the establishment of a Socialist Workers Republic can we achieve lasting peace, justice and freedom. On these principles we will continue to push forward, motivated by the teachings and writings and actions of those who have gone before us.



6 The Governor came to the fence just outside the cage. He had a sheaf of papers in his hand. A couple of the men went over and then began to shout the names back to us at the hut. That's how I found out I was to be released. When you get out it's great but then you begin to think of the lads left inside and you are sorry to be leaving them there. Being inside gives you plenty of time to think, plenty of time to work out what you are politically. There was a great deal of political debate inside, some of it organised by the clubs we formed, some of it informal. A lot of the men will come out changed. It effects different people in different ways. I suppose Goulding and Mac Stiophan were much the same when they went into prison. It changed them both but not in the same way. Mac Stiophan came out embittered and more nationalistic, which is maybe understandable. Goulding came out seeing some of the errors which the movement had been making, the need to involve the ordinary people. I gave no undertaking not to involve myself in the movement. Politically I'll be more involved than ever before. I'm more committed now and I see the need for changes including changes in the movement itself. That's the best thing about being out, the fact that you can start doing things again.

Peter Collins, on his release after ten months in Long Kesh, Wednesday 7 June.

This is soldier F.....



The man arrowed is a member of the 1st Batt the Parachute Regiment. He was identified in the Widery Report as 'Soldier F'. He fired 13 shots in and around Glenfada Park, where James Wray, Gerald McKinney, Gerald Donaghy and William McKinney were killed. (Widery says that he fired them 'without justification' [Para 85].) He fired from Kells Walk towards Josepi Place where Pat Doherty and Bernard McGuigan were killed. We know his name. So does William Whitelaw. Whitelaw, if he wishes could do something about it. But he won't. Soldier F is not denigrated as a thug. He is praised as a peacekeeper. Think about that next time someone tells you Mr Whitelaw means well.

CENSORED!

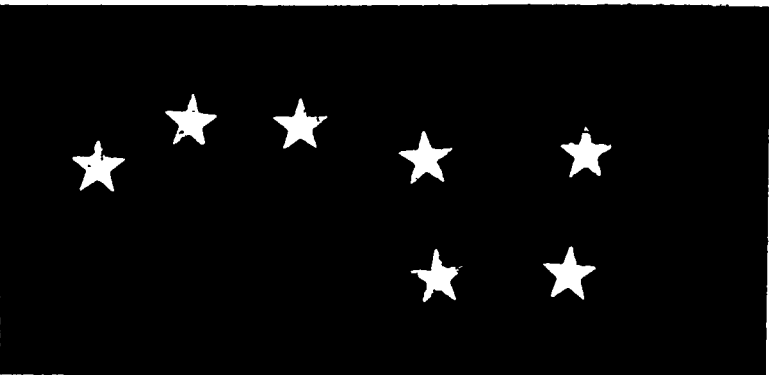
The 'Derry Journal Ltd.' has refused to print any further issues of the "Starry Plough." We have been told that this is because of the killing of Ranger Best. The management of the Derry Journal Ltd. is free to disagree with any of the actions of our military wing. But it is something else again when they use such disagreement as an excuse for blatant censorship of the movement's paper.

The 'Journal' is the only local firm capable of printing our paper. Their refusal to handle the work has made it tremendously difficult for us to continue publication, although we will try to manage somehow. We call on the Journal workers to use their strength to see to it that this censorship is ended.

OFFICIALS SELL OUT!

(see back page)

Editorial



No end to repression

The introduction of Direct Rule was the beginning of the end of repression of the Catholic working-class. So the SDLP would have us believe.

These grovelling individuals conveniently ignore the fact that Whitelaw has, since his arrival, signed numerous detention orders. Republican Clubs are still banned. There are still over five hundred men either detained or interned in concentration camps. The Special Powers Act is still in the statute book. Republicans cannot sell their paper without fear of harassment and arrest by the Special Branch.

Derry Republicans refuse to be driven underground any longer. This week there will be a public sale of the Starry Plough in the City centre. We will see now how Whitelaw's "new democracy" operates.

Meanwhile in the 26 Counties, Jack Lynch, the self-styled saviour of the Northern minority, the man who was so loud in his condemnation of internment last August, has begun to introduce his own repressive measures. He has done this under Clause 31 of the "Offences Against the State Act", a piece of legislation which is every bit as repressive as the Special Powers Act.

Lynch, after the EEC referendum, feels strong enough to move against Republicans. He has introduced military-type courts to ensure that he gets convictions on evidence which would be thrown out by any jury. By moving political prisoners from Mountjoy to the Curragh, where they are under armed military guard, he has instituted an "unofficial" form of internment.

We will fight repression whether it is in the north or the south, and, in the short term, we must make it clear to both Lynch and Whitelaw that the people of Derry will not accept repression of working-class people by the State. In the long term we must organize to end the system which is responsible for repression, to end Toryism, Orange and Green, in this island. This means fighting to a finish against British Imperialism, against the domination of Ireland by foreign big business and against all the agents of big business, whether they call themselves Fianna Fail, Ulster Unionist or William Whitelaw. Ultimately we must fight for the ownership of the wealth and resources of Ireland by the working people of Ireland. Only then will repression be ended for ever.

The making of a 'Hooligan'

Over the past few years we have seen many political changes in N. Ireland and most people have been absorbed in the ever changing political scene here. But while politicians have been fighting for their own slice of the cake, the needs of youth have been ignored. Long before the riots, facilities for young people in Derry were atrocious. They still are. But what political gains can be made in trying to cater for the needs of youth. After all, most of them have not got a vote and why should John Hume etc. do anything for them when they violently oppose him and the S.D.L.P.? And so the needs of the so-called hooligans, thugs and layabouts, names used by the British Press and many politicians, have been ignored over the years.

The needs of young people are the same everywhere. Youth needs recreation and entertainment. If you look around Derry you'll see the problem immediately — no facilities. I, as do most people, enjoy at least one good night out in the week. Again, as in most cases, where I go is governed by how much money is in my pocket. If you're on the dole your choice is limited. After giving your parents some money to help pay your way you have to try and make the rest stretch until next week and that leaves you little for the weekend's entertainment. If you're still at school you have to rely on the charity of your parents who usually can ill afford it. It makes you feel like leaving school while the boy or girl beside you can stay on without a worry because his or her parents are rich. If you're working it's not so bad (depending on the pay, of course) as the others but it's hard enough considering the work you put in during the week.

Grim prospect

Once the money is in your pocket, the next problem is, where to go? There's Borderland and the Stardust (both owned by the same profiteer). The Stardust is 50p and Borderland is extra expensive because of the price of the bus down. Is it fair that we should have to pay that for a dance? There's the pictures of course but their prices are rising to almost the prices of dances nowadays. Things are grim but only because no one has tried to change the situation. If the politicians refuse then the people themselves must do something about the problem.

A number of street committees are being formed in Free Derry, why can not they help the youth of the area? Of those already formed, I don't think one has a representative of the young people of the street on it. If they could organise the youth in their street then young people and the committees together could organise functions and acquire facilities. For example, dance



Rioting—The only pastime some can afford

owners sit back and watch the profits roll in after every dance which we are silly enough to pay for. Why cannot the profit be slashed and the prices brought down? The street committees could organise their own dances for young people in the area in competition with the big businessmen. The committees could also organise sports functions and keep youth occupied. Every young

person in the area should approach their committee and ask them to help and if there is no committee operating in your area, then try and get one formed. Because as those people know, who have been absorbed in the ever changing political scene here, only by DIRECT ACTION has anything radical been achieved here or anywhere else in the world.

REPUBLICAN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

BODENSTOWN

Sunday

June 18

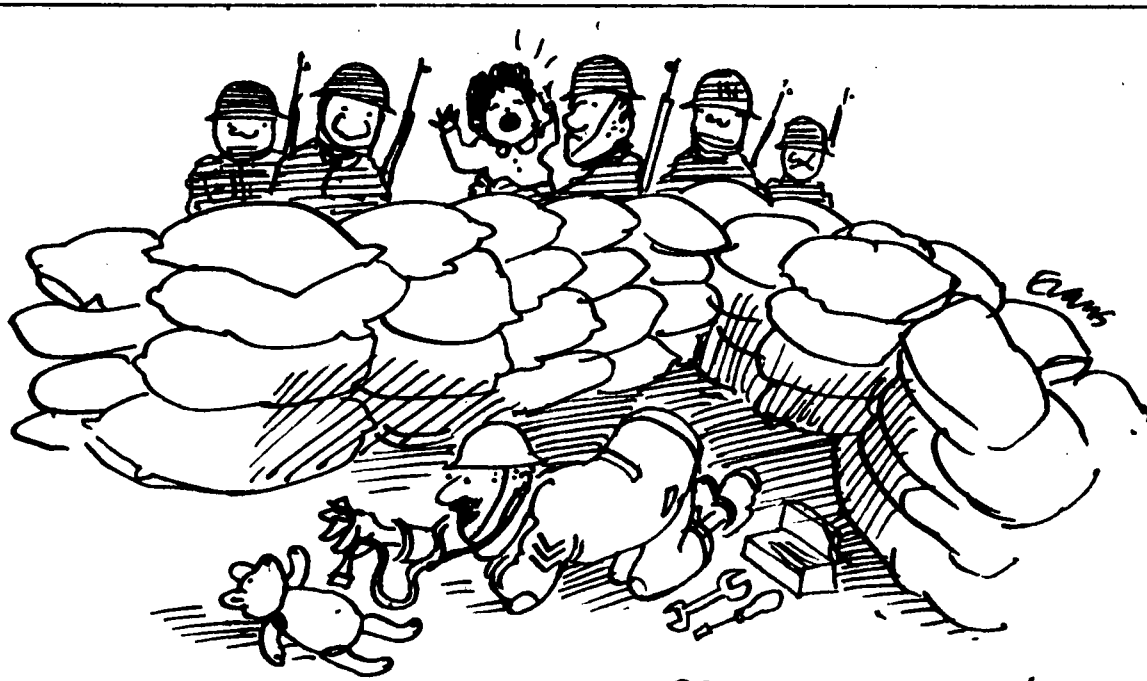


SPEAKER - SEAN GARLAND
CHAIRMAN - GERRY DOHERTY
ASSEMBLE SALLINS (FIELD)
2.30 pm SHARP

Derry buses will leave Creggan shops and Bogside Inn 8.30 am. Returning 12 midnight

Names of those intending to travel should be given in advance to:

Sean Shiels, 8a Columbcille Court or
Teresa Moore, 1A Iniscarn Crescent.
All republicans and sympathisers welcome.



ALL RIGHT CHAPS - FALSE ALARM!

DOLE:

How to fight for the right

to work

MR WHITELAW says that he is worried about the unemployment problem in Derry, and that he will try hard to do something about it. Whitelaw will fail. There is no possibility of the Tories ending unemployment. No amount of pressure or pleading from "elected representatives", no imaginative plans, no scheme for bigger and better subsidies will enable any Tory government, British or Irish, to solve the unemployment problem.

Why is there such unemployment in Derry? It is sometimes said that Derry is depressed because for years the Unionist government discriminated against it by directing industries elsewhere. There is truth in this, but it is not the whole story.

The western part of Northern Ireland has much higher unemployment than the eastern part, true. However the same applies to the 26 Counties. Donegal, Limerick, all of Connaught and down to Kerry show much higher unemployment figures than the eastern seaboard. It cannot be said that this results from religious discrimination. It results from the fact that it is simply more profitable to invest in the eastern half of this island, and as long as we live in an economy based on profit the situation will not change.

INVEST

To put it in a slightly over-simplified form: a man who wants to make a profit will invest his money as close as possible to his markets and his raw materials. The main market for Irish goods, North and South, is across the Irish sea. So industry tends to be in the east. Once this happens a vicious circle is set up, because the more money is invested in a particular area the more attractive that area becomes for further investment. Good roads, an adequate power supply, modern port facilities, a trained work force, these things are more likely to exist in an area with a high level of manufacturing activity. And because they exist that area is, relatively speaking, likely to attract further manufacturing activity.

CLEARER

As a general rule there is nothing which can be done to alter this. This is not an Irish phenomenon. It becomes clearer if we study the pattern of unemployment through the years in Great Britain: During the thirties the areas in Britain hardest hit by mass unemployment were the north-east, Lancashire and Scotland. Since then both Labour and Conservative governments have, with differing degrees of determination, tried to reverse the trend. There was a "Highlands and Islands Development Board" set up for parts of Scotland, a "North-East Development Council" was established for Tyneside and Teesside. Lancashire was designated a "development area". All these schemes set out to attract industry to the unemployment black spots by offering special subsidies, special training allowances, tax "holidays", rate relief



For thousands of Derrymen the idea of a day's work in their own town is either a dim memory from the past or a distant hope for the future. As long as we merely stand in the dole queue (above) this will not change.

etc. to industrialists willing to invest there. Now in the seventies what is the result? It is precisely these areas which show the highest unemployment figures in Britain. Scotland has twice the national jobless percentage. The mayor of Jarrow in the north-east, led a famous hunger march to London in the thirties. The present mayor was in London again on May the 10th, pleading for work for his town.

ACCURATE

A map showing the areas of high unemployment in Britain in the thirties could be produced today and it would still be accurate. The overall level of unemployment changes but the pattern does not. In other words, when the British unemployment rate stands at 10% the rate in Jarrow will tend to be 25%, when the national rate is 4% the

Jarrow figure will be 10%.

The same is true of Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland as a whole is a depressed area, and has been since it was set up. As unemployment rises in Britain the Northern Ireland figure rises further and within Northern Ireland, Derry is worse off again. Politicians can try to influence these trends, and sometimes succeed, but they cannot control them. They cannot control them because in our society investment decisions are not made by any elected body but by the tiny minority of people who own the money available for investment, i.e., by the capitalist class.

As long as this situation persists there will be recurring unemployment throughout these islands. And there will be no change in the way that unemployment is distributed between different areas. As long as decisions as

to how much is going to be invested, and where it is going to be invested, are made according to the profits which will result, there will be mass unemployment in Derry. What we need is a society where such decisions are made according to how many jobs are needed and where they are needed. That can only come when the profit motive and the profit makers are eliminated.

This side of socialism there will be no salvation for the unemployed. We have had half a century of their subsidy schemes, their advance factories, their glowing promises, their prattle of "jobs in the pipeline". Fifty years of protest, petitions and pressure. They haven't solved the problem. They won't and they can't.

For the real solution, and the only one, join the Republican movement and help build a working class party which will end unemployment by ending the system which creates it.

DERRY IS the second largest urban centre in the Six Counties. It is sited strategically and has a deep water port. The City is surrounded by a large natural hinterland, and is only two hours by road from Belfast. Despite this, Derry suffers from a chronic unemployment problem, its housing situation is acute and the standard of all her public services are among the worst in the country. This is in no way an indictment on the working class people of Derry, rather it is a justification of the popular uprising against the establishment which created these conditions.

Now Ireland, North and South is being hi-jacked into the Common Market. Derry's problems, bad at the best of times, will be greatly exacerbated. The politicians talk vaguely of larger markets and the rising of our standard of living, conjuring up in our mind visions of European philanthropists just dying to play Daddy Christmas to the Irish, but this is all a lot of nonsense. The Unionist Government thought Derry to be too off centre. How much more so is this going to be the case under the Common Market when Ireland, as a whole, is going to be far removed from the Industrial and commercial centres of the Rhine and Ruhr valleys, from the administrative centres like Brussels and from the large population centres of London, Rome etc.

CHEAP

Where is Derry going to fit into all this? The answer is simple. Derry's position will be much the same as the rest of Ireland. She will provide cheap labour for the factories in Germany and France. That's what they mean when they talk impersonally about the mobility of labour. It's just another way of saying emigration — men and boys in particular will spend the greater part of their lives as immigrant workers. Small farmers will virtually disappear to be replaced by large ranches which will function to provide fresh meat and dairy produce for the large urban areas. Ireland will also become a place where high-powered business executives can escape for a few weeks to relax hunting and fishing, waited upon by Irish colleens dressed in green. This is going to be our lot — Derry's lot.

TREATY

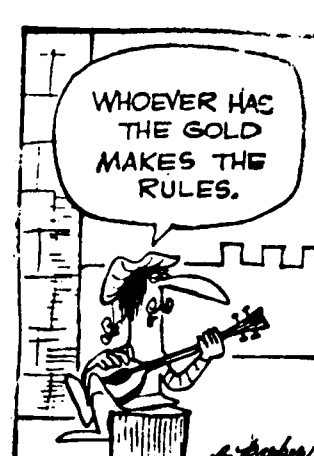
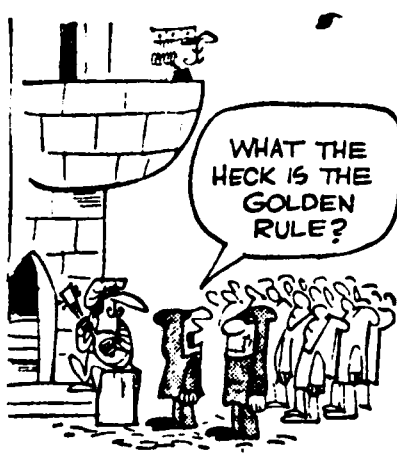
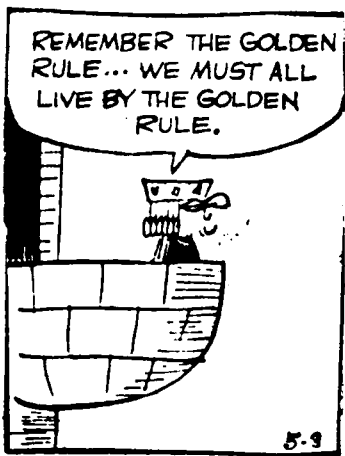
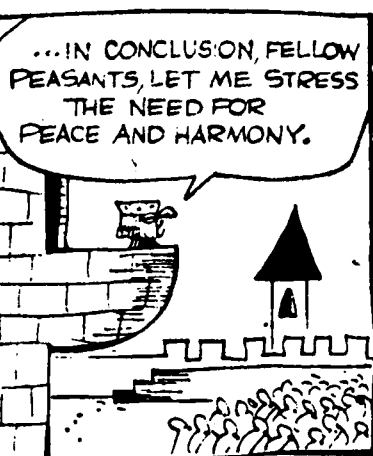
However, these are not reasons for the working class people to despair. Treaties were made for breaking and the Treaty of Rome is no exception. An Irish Socialist Republic could have no truck with a capitalist Europe. A Socialist Republic, however, will not come of its own accord, it must be worked for. We can do much to alleviate some of our own problems in Derry and at the same time to instil the spirit of Socialism into the people by practising Socialism on the streets. How do we do this? We can start by showing people through the Co-ops that they have the ability to control and organise their own lives without the businessmen. Already a number of co-ops have been established.

FACTORIES

Factories, too, could be set up within Free Derry to provide employment. They could be built by Derry men, employ Derry men and be managed by workers' Factory committees to produce manufactured goods for Derry people. This concept is not pie in the sky. In Belfast's Ballymurphy, an area with 40 per cent male unemployment, the people are producing knitted woollens and work is well advanced in a factory building in the area.

It is possible to put Socialism into practice and with popular participation through street committees we could build a model in Derry which would be an example to the rest of Ireland.

The Wizard of ID



COMMUNISM THE CHURCH AND THE IRA

The Catholic Hierarchy denounced the United Irishmen in 1798. Dr. Tracy, Archbishop of Dublin, instructed priests that "if in confession any plot against the existing government was disclosed to the priest he would be bound to give information to the government that such plot was in agitation."

In 1803 when Robert Emmet was on trial for his life, the Archbishops of Dublin and Armagh presented to the Lord Lieutenant an address pledging loyalty to the British Government and denouncing Emmet.

On September 14th 1808 the Catholic Bishops of Ireland meeting in Synod passed a resolution urging the Pope to appoint as Bishops "only such persons as are of unimpeachable loyalty".

In 1847 the annual assembly of Bishops met in Tuam and declared that the Young Irishlanders were "infidels."

The attitude of the hierarchy to the Fenian movement was best summed up by Bishop Moriarty of Kerry in his notorious statement in 1867 that "Hell is not hot enough nor eternity long enough to punish such miscreants."

DEATH PENALTY

The Land League which, led by Michael Davitt, broke the back of landlordism in Ireland was denounced by Archbishop McCabe in pastoral statements in Sept. 1879, October 1880 and October 1881.

On May 11th 1883 the Pope issued a rescript "condemning disaffection to the English Government in Ireland".

In 1916 the "Irish Catholic" demanded the death penalty for the leaders of the Easter Rising.

Since then Republicans have been derided, denounced and in many cases excommunicated by the church authorities.

In recent years there were those who thought that times had changed and that the church no longer lined up its battalions alongside those of British Imperialism to oppose a Radical movement of the Irish people. But times have not changed, as statements in the last few weeks have shown.

SLANDERED

One thing, though, has certainly changed. This time we are going to fight back. In the past it has always been considered inadvisable for an organization hoping for the support of the people to answer the Church back or engage in open dispute with its representatives. Many people have advised us to ignore the current hullabaloo and not to mention any priest by name. We will not take this advice. We have been slandered, misrepresented and vilified in every newspaper in this country and from every pulpit in this city and it is not in our nature to take it lying down.

The most vociferous of our clerical critics has been Father Hugh O'Neill of St. Eugene's Cathedral. Three quotes convey the full flavour of his pronouncements.

"Let the faction that calls itself

Official know that they need not try to con the people that they are not communists." (Fr. O'Neill to the Rosemount Tenants and Ratepayers Association 21 May.)

"The Official IRA are not really the IRA at all. They are just communists putting themselves forward as the IRA" (Fr. O'Neill on BBC Radio 25 May.)

"Every word that Cathal Goulding utters is communist" (Fr. O'Neill, "Sunday Press" 28 May.)

Father O'Neill has not, of course, been alone. Father Rooney and Fr. Mulvey have been equally forthright, if less publicized. And on Sunday June 4th every pulpit in the town was turned into a political platform for a co-ordinated series of anti-republican diatribes.

Let us first of all get one thing very clear. We are not a Catholic organization. We never said we were. Our brand of republicanism is secular. There are Catholics in our organization. There are Protestants in it, though not nearly as many as we would like. And there are people in it who are neither Catholic nor Protestant. We are perfectly happy to have them all as members. We do not ask people what religion they profess or whether they profess any religion at all when they apply to join. One of the curses of this area for ages past has been the identification of religion with politics. We are not part of that set-up. We are fighting to destroy it. We are

Tom Doherty, building contractor and resigned nationalist councillor; Frank P. McCauley, who hides behind the pseudonym "Onlooker" in his M'Carthyite "Derry Journal" column; John Mautsald, who has now declared himself "eligible" again for membership of the Police committee; men of such stamp sat on the platform at the set-up meeting in the Creggon school



Fr Mulvey addressing the Pennyburn meeting

On the far right Cathal Goulding on a visit to Free Derry. Is every word he utters 'communist'?



out for a socialist Ireland in which, among other things, religion will be a matter for a man's private conscience.

We know — we know now better than ever before — that in the struggle for that socialist Ireland we will have to fight against more than the "traditional" British enemy. For, flanking our clerical opponents, we now have a whole crop of resurrected anti-republican ideologues. They are the chairmen of men's peace committees.

The chairwomen of women's peace committees, members of this, that and the other committee, commission and campaign. They have erupted onto the local scene after a lifetime of silent anonymity and seeming unconcern about the evils which have blighted this area. Immediately to become the darlings of the Tory press as they vie with one another in their denunciations of Official Republicanism. Where have they been up to now? They talk of the problems of the area, of "peace", of "justice". They have a cool nerve.

SNEERED

Anyone from Whitelaw down, or up, who is banking on that happening can forget it. This is not the final struggle. We have no illusions about that. It will take many differing forms and these will be reflected in our movement, but we will keep at it. We are here to stay. Mrs. Hipsley, Mr. Doherty, Father O'Neill, Mrs. Barr, Mr. Mautsald, Father Mulvey and all other members of the local William Whitelaw fan-club can put that in their collective pipe and smoke it and we hope it chokes them.

and refused Johnnie White, O.C. of the Official IRA in Derry, the right to speak. He was told that he was "alien to the people". An alien? From Leenan Gardens!

Johnnie White, with many other Officials, was on the streets of this city when the street was not a very fashionable place to be, when activists were being sneered and laughed at from behind half the curtains in Bogside, when the "peacemakers" who now, at the tail-end of their lives, have found a voice, were sitting at home sipping their cocoa and watching the action on telly. And they tell us now that they are taking over! Some chance friends, some chance.

Now we would not bother to answer since then we have managed to get a few more committees off the ground in different parts of the area. As far as we know there are no James Bonds or Mata Haris involved. So rest in peace, Sean and Martin, and if you hear strange noises in the night it's not the local neighbourhood spy going about his business; it's the faulty plumbing.

Marxists?

There is, of course, a much more serious side to all this. The Provos cannot really have hoped to convince the majority if people that we were trying to set up a network of spies.

What they, like the others, hope to do is simply to spread a bit of mud about, to pin the label "Commies" on the Official Movement and thus make people distrust us. The latest Provo statement to try to do this was published in the "Journal" on May 9th. They accuse us of trying to set up "a Marxist State ... a one-party State". They refer to the Officials and their Red Counterparts. They end with a quotation from James Connolly.

We have no intention of running away from these allegations. There are Marxists in the Official Republican Movement. We DO want to overthrow capitalism. If, because of that, people want to call us "Reds", then so be it. As an Irish Socialist put it some years ago "I'd rather be called a Red by a rat, than a rat by a Red". Connolly was a Marxist. He said so. He proclaimed it in print and from platforms and was, as a result, denounced from every pulpit and right-wing platform in Dublin. Those who sprinkle their statements so liberally with quotations from Connolly and simultaneously attack Marxism distort his beliefs and defile the memory of the man. He deserves better.

No illusions

We explained what we mean by Street Committees in the last issue of "Starry Plough" and in Pess statements. They were local committees for people, elected street by street, who would look after the affairs of that street and which, we hoped, would eventually come together to form a co-ordinating body for the whole area. We explained that we had no illusions about this being a final answer to our problems, but that we thought it could play an important and useful role.

Red scares—the last refuge of the political bankrupt

WHEN REACTIONARIES run out of arguments they start to shout "Red". We are seeing this in Derry at the moment. The "Red scare", the last refuge of the political bankrupt, is being used in an attempt to discredit the Official Republican Movement. Street Committees are a Russian idea, howled the Provos in a recent press Statement. The Officials want neighbour to spy on neighbour, and so on and so on.

Since then we have managed to get a few more committees off the ground in different parts of the area. As far as we know there are no James Bonds or Mata Haris involved. So rest in peace, Sean and Martin, and if you hear strange noises in the night it's not the local neighbourhood spy going about his business; it's the faulty plumbing.



The first entry of British troops into a no-go area. General Dyball with Fr. Pdraig Murphy in the Falls, September 1969

"under the bed" and "under the table" and people get frightened and run for the cover of a major counter-revolutionary ideology.

Our opponents don't argue against our politics. They can't. They just shout scare words and hope that they will do the trick. When have you ever heard a Provisional or a member of the S.D.L.P., or the Nationalist Party actually try to prove in straightforward terms that we are wrong when we say that capitalism cannot solve the unemployment problem. That under capitalism rents inevitably increase, small farmers are inevitably forced off the land, wages are inevitably devalued by rising prices. That, while capitalism exists, there cannot be an end to sectarianism? Never. Because they cannot answer our politics.

Ideals

We stand for the defence of the area and for the immediate interests of the people within it. We see this as a step on the way to the overthrow of both Irish States and the creation of a united socialist Ireland. By a "Socialist Ireland" we do not mean a state modelled on Russia. Breznev and Kosygin have as much relation to the ideals of the 1917 revolution as Jack Lynch and Des O'Malley have to the ideals of the 1916 Rising. We mean an Ireland in which the wealth of the country would not pour out to bulge the bank accounts of Canadian mining firms, in which the rents of houses would not be determined by the inflated interest rates which local authorities, North and South, pay to foreign banks, in which people would not be unemployed because it is unprofitable to invest in particular areas (like Derry), in which the wealth created by human labour would be controlled by those who do the labour. And we will achieve this, as sure as the sun rises tomorrow. There will some day be a socialist Ireland, not because it is written in the stars but because there will always be those who will see through the fog of distortion, lies and scare-words and recognize where the real interest of the mass of the people lie. That is what we are working towards. That, ultimately, is why we involved ourselves in the military struggle against the British Army, why we wish to see the people organized as Connolly's ideas are applied, as co-ops., and in trade unions. And we are going to win. Watch us. Or, better still, join now and help us.

Spy scares

If the case for revolutionary, socialist Republicanism, as expounded by Connolly in "Labour in Irish History", "Socialism made Easy" and other works, was examined honestly and objectively by the working class people of this area, then few, we believe, would see any reason to reject it. But it rarely is examined honestly and objectively. Right-wingers won't allow that. As soon as Connolly's ideas are applied, as opposed to insulting semi-mystical incantations of his name, the right-wing hullabaloo about "Commies", "Reds

The (S)ocial (S)ecurity are at it again

There is up to 30 per cent unemployment inside the Free Derry area, and most of the people involved get cheated. Take those who are on rent strike — the S.S. not only deducts the rent from their payments — it also deducts money for payment of rent arrears — so that you get less than the amount you are entitled to.

Since Free Derry became a No-Go area, the Social Security have said they'll not send any visitors into the area to assess people's applications for a special needs grant — so people in Free Derry are being refused Clothing Grants etc. The Social Security knows that there are general clerks working in their offices who live in the No-Go area. They know that the only outsiders coming into Free Derry that have ever been hurt are the British Army.

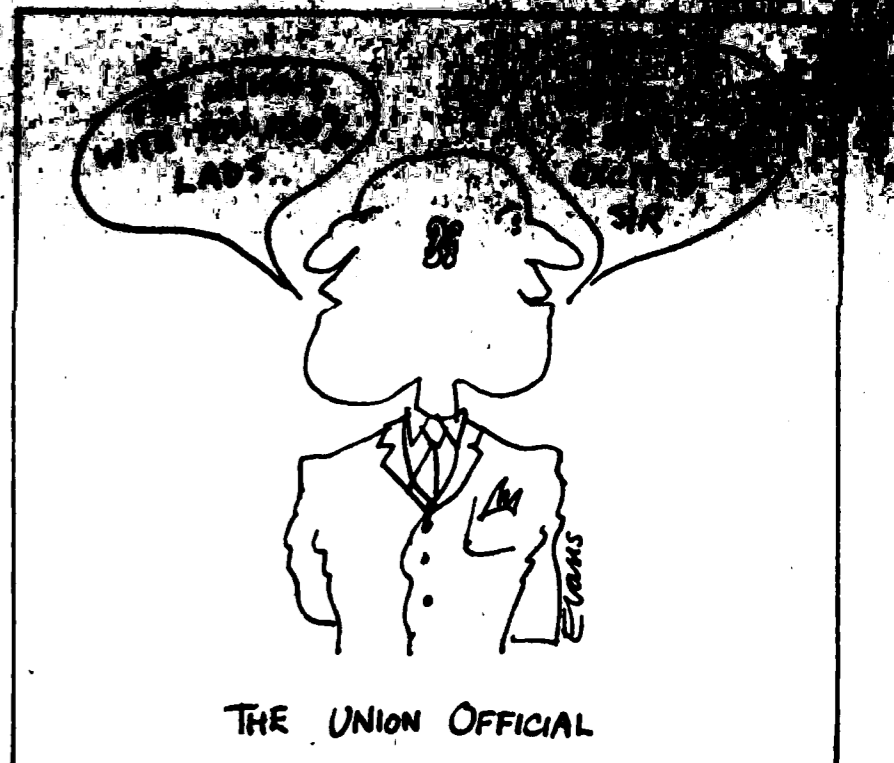
Apparently the S.S. in Derry recently received an order from the Belfast Regional Office to send visitors into the

No-Go area again. Take advantage of this and put in a claim for everything you need you are entitled to grants for clothes, fires, shoes, beds, bed-clothes, pram pushchair, babyclothes, furniture, cooker, saucepans, crockery, cutlery, curtains, lino, carpets.

The people of Derry are being kept in poverty by the ruling class. The British Government wants to keep a hold on Northern Ireland simply to bleed as much profit as it can out of its resources and its people.

The most economical way they've found to do this is to employ a section of the labour force on low wages and keep the rest of us on Social Security — with barely enough to exist on.

Those on Social Security need to organize themselves to screw as much as they can out of the Social Security system. We need to know our rights and to fight for them.



NEW CLUB IN THE VILLAGE

A new Republican Club has been formed in the Rosemount area.

The new Club will give support to the Official Republican Movement in its aim of establishing a Socialist Republic in all of Ireland, by organising with the people of Derry and the people of Rosemount in particular, on every issue which affects the lives of the working class people of that area. Like the running of the Co-op and generally bringing the revolutionary policies and tactics of the Official Republican Movement to the notice of the people of Rosemount and in particular, clearly demonstrating the non-sectarian policies of the Republican Clubs. To this end the Rosemount Club has been named the Rev. Steele Dixon Republican Club after one of the great Northern Presbyterian leaders of the United Irishmen, who led the revolutionary forces in the rebellion of 1798 in the County Antrim area against the British Forces and who after being captured, was executed by the British Army for his part in that rising to free the people.

Anyone interested in joining the new Club should contact any of the officers.

FOR A FREE SOCIALIST IRELAND—JOIN THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

All comments and letters about the 'Starry Plough' to: 47 Leenan Gardens, Creggan

Round and about with barricade joe

Since the last issue of the STARRY PLOUGH a great deal has happened inside the barricaded area. 5,000 people marched to show their support for the I.R.A. while at the same time in a very quiet, suburban part of Penrynburn people met to pray for peace, led by their local priest Fr. Mulvey. I suppose one could say there was great contradiction in that one might be accused of supporting the whole idea of violence by marching in support of the I.R.A., while one could suppose that the people who went along to hear Fr. Mulvey were totally against the I.R.A.

So with this confusion in the peoples' minds I went along with my tape recorder to find out for myself just what the people were thinking.

The first person I talked to was an old age pensioner, Mrs McCallion from Osborne St. born and reared in the Rosemount area. I asked her what she thought of the Official I.R.A. suspension of military operations. She said she was very glad that they had decided to do this for she was an old woman and the shooting and bombing frightened her very much. She longed for it all to stop. The internees, she said, should be allowed to come home and live together in peace. Mrs McCallion said that when she was a young girl the I.R.A. she knew, only attacked military targets, she could not understand the bombing of shops. Mrs McCallion mentioned the Rosemount Co-op. and said it was very cheap to buy in, so I left her reminding her that the Co-op. would be open again, next Saturday.

STRAIGHT

My next visit was to Mrs Devine a grand big red-headed woman with the appearance of having big strong relations in the County Kerry. She was very straight and forth-coming when I asked her opinion of the Official I.R.A. ceasefire. She said it was very wrong at this time because it seemed that five women in Creggan were able to force the I.R.A. to stop. The people of Creggan should be ashamed of themselves after getting protection for so long from the I.R.A. against the attack of the British Army or any other source. They (the people of Creggan) were far too quick to turn their backs on the I.R.A. no matter what incident caused it. I asked Mrs. Devine what she thought of all the bombing and shooting and she said she did not like violence for the sake of violence but as the state continues to use violence against the people the only thing the people can do is to defend themselves in whatever way they can and if it means the I.R.A. then she supports the I.R.A. Mrs. Devine thought that the appearance of the Ulster Defence Association marching on television may have scared a few people but she was of the opinion that it was all bluff. I enjoyed my chat with Mrs. Devine and found her very able to express her sincerely-held views which I found to be very extreme at times. After having a laugh and swapping a yarn or two I left Mrs. Devine in good spirit.

IN FAVOUR

Mrs. Wilson was the name of the next lady I talked to, and she was very much in favour of the Official I.R.A. calling a halt to their activities. She of course said all the internees should get out immediately and that the men on the run should be able to go back to their homes, and political prisoners should have some arrangements made for them, as it was a state of war since August 9th and must be recognised as such. I talked to Mrs. Wilson about the Rosemount Co-op. She thought that



the idea was good but she did not like the structure and method of running it at the moment. She would like to see some type of dividend being paid out once or twice a year. Mrs. Wilson made it very clear that Fr. O'Neill did not influence her. I asked Mrs. Wilson did she agree with Fr. O'Neill attacking the Official Republican movement, she said no one objected to the priest talking out on Bloody Sunday, why should people object to Fr. O'Neill talking now? When it was suggested to Mrs. Wilson that this meant that people had the right to answer priests politically when they (the clergy) insist on giving political advice she certainly agreed with that.

SURPRISE

After saying cheerio to Mrs. Wilson I got a great surprise to find the person coming to the door of the next house I went to was no other than Sean Gallagher a veteran Republican from the forties. I told Sean the reason for my visit so we got down to a friendly chat about everything. I was greatly surprised to hear Sean describe himself as an Official Republican. He said he continued to support the unbroken line of the Official Republican movement



although he has many very old friends in the Provisionals. He was glad to see the move to the left in the movement as it was the only way forward for the Irish Nation, and in talking about the Irish Nation he was more involved in the cultural revolution as it must go hand in hand with the socialist revolution. This did not mean denying the existence of God which would be completely foreign to the Irish people. I left Sean promising to have a longer

talk with him in the very near future.

I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A DERRY EXILE, CHARLIE KYLE, Charlie Kyle wrote to me to ask me to send him four dozen copies of the STARRY PLOUGH each issue. Charlie is very impressed by the Starry Plough and thinks it's the best thing that has come out of Derry for a long time. Charlie is working with a small group of people in the Coventry area for the Derry Internees' families. One can easily forget the very important role played by people like Charlie and all the exiles spread all over the world, victims of the chronic unemployment which has crippled Derry for far, far too long, and forced people like Charlie Kyle to leave their homeland and loved ones to seek a living abroad. Still, no matter how far away they are and no matter how long they are separated from us they always remain loyal to Derry and its people. To the Charlie Kyles and all the exiles from Derry we say a very sincere thanks for your enduring support. (By the way, Charlie, Doris Montgomery sends her regards.)

NEW CLUB

Rosemount is in the news again. This week a Republican Club was formed in the village, the Rev. Steel Dickinson Republican Club in memory of the Presbyterian Minister executed in 1798. He led the North Antrim Militia. In the long tradition of Republicanism it is very fine to see in these times the Official Republican Movement continue to break down the religious divide by naming one of the Republican Clubs after a Presbyterian Minister. I hope the Rosemount Club is successful in attracting some of the Protestant working class to join the class struggle with them in the Republican movement.

Keep up the struggle until the next time.

THE FIFTH COLUMN

Dr. G. B. Newe is a sad figure. He was the token "Taig" brought into the government when Faulkner was trying to demonstrate what a liberal non-sectarian guy he was.

"G.B.", as his friend calls him, had a few months of glory, if that is the proper word, before the Stormont Government was suspended. However Faulkner told his cheering supporters outside Stormont that "the cabinet will continue to meet to give expression to the democratic voice of the people".

"G.B." must have been pleased when he heard that the weekly meetings of the cabinet were to continue. He would still be able to sit in council with Brian and John and Harry and Willie and the rest of them and feel, if not as important as he felt before direct rule, still pretty important anyway. A cabinet minister, a suspended cabinet minister, granted, but a cabinet minister none-the-less.

Something, alas, has gone wrong.

No invite

The cabinet continues to meet all right, every week. But "G.B." is not allowed in now. They don't invite him along. He had served his purpose. No need for a pet Papish to give the thing credibility when it's been abolished anyway for lack of credibility.

Rumour has it that G.B., tenacious old fellow that he is, has not given up hope. He is known to have been lobbying Robin Bailie, arguing that he should be taken back into the fold. He might yet go down in history as one of the few rats ever to drown while swimming towards a sinking ship...

* * *

There were some strange sights around Dublin on the day of the Common Market referendum. In the Shelbourne Hotel many famous people had gathered. There was Paddy Devlin, Ivan Cooper, Paddy O'Hanlon, and John Hume M.P., to name but a few. Mr. Devlin, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. O'Hanlon had gone down south to campaign against the E.E.C. But why was Mr. Hume there? He is for the Common Market. Perhaps he had gone down to help his colleagues write another of those statements telling us how united the SDLP is on every single issue, how there's never an argument between them etc, etc. They can tell that to the Marines, as the Vietnamese peasant remarked after Nixon's last speech about democracy...

* * *

Mind you, there were even stranger scenes the day after the referendum, when the result became known. Members of the Fianna Fail and Fine Gael front benches linked arms outside McDaid's pub in Grafton St. at closing time and gave out with a few rousing choruses of "Deutschland uber alles" the "Marsellaise" and other Republican songs before repairing to a late-night caff for a tasty dish of sauerkraut and snails. "Tis a great day for the nation" one of them remarked

to a fellow reveller. "At last, after 800 years, we are not going to be exploited by the English; now we can be exploited by the Germans, the Dutch, the French, the Norwegians" (The Norwegians?) "Aye", said his friend, "isn't progress a wonderful thing?"

The high spot of a special late night cabaret was Sicco "Legs" Mansholt, the international pop star, doing his hit number, "That silver-haired mother of mine", not to mention "That silvery Navan I'll mine". This is getting ridiculous. So is the Free State.

Canning's men not conned by Clerk

A few weeks ago a dispute arose at Canning's Building site in Bogside. The matter in question was quite simple — the Clerk of Works who is employed by the Housing Executive (Trust) was the centre of a small fracas that developed after he had criticised some brickwork. He then proceeded to sack the three men involved. The workers on the site — tradesmen, labourers, scaffolders and steelmen decided on a spontaneous work stoppage. Their demand was: no work until the three men were reinstated. The workers on the site felt that the three men were being victimised. The foreman on the site had already inspected the work and he certainly could find no fault in it.

Discussed

Representatives of the official Republican Movement went to the site, and discussed the situation with the workers. They suggested that there be no resumption of work until the reinstatement of the three sacked workmates — that there be no loss of pay for the few hours strike. If these demands were not met then the Official Republican Movement decided to back up any action taken by the site workers. It was suggested that the site could be blacked and the Gerry Doherty Republican Club said that they, with the co-operation of the workers, would stop any men or materials being brought on the site in the event of a lock-out by either the Contractor or the Housing Trust. A notice blacking the site was placed outside. While the workers were discussing the situation, the contractors contacted the site foreman. He immediately conceded the workers' demands — the reinstatement of the three sacked workers and no loss of pay for the period of the work stoppage.



'We couldn't hit a barn door' - Amazing army confession



Some 'average riflemen' hoping for the best

It shouldn't come as any great surprise to the inhabitants of the Bogside and several other spots in Northern Ireland to learn that the well-trained professional British soldier is a lousy shot with a gun. But even hardened Bogside mightn't expect a damaging admission like this to come from the Army itself.

That, though, is the case with the Royal Marines, whose Commando Group 42 has just returned hot foot from a tour of duty in Northern Ireland. A sharp-eyed 'Plough' scout thumbing through a copy of the March issue of 'Globe and Laurel' (the Royal Marines journal) in Manchester came across a fascinating piece by Capt. M. McLeod, Secretary of the Royal Marines Rifle Association.

Capt. McLeod complains that the standards of accurate rifle shooting in the Marines have declined abysmally. And it seems his colleagues agree. In the current issue of the journal, there's another article on the same topic — this time by a former Marines shooting range instructor.

Admirably refraining from beating about the bush, as it were, the instructor gets straight to the point. The average rifleman, he says, "sticks his rifle forward, pulls the trigger and hoses for the best."

The instructor lays the blame for this state of affairs on the SLR rifle, which was introduced as a panic measure during the Korean War when British servicemen could not shoot fast enough against the Chinese. With touching naivete, he adds: 'If the reputation for extremely accurate shooting by soldiers of today was without question, it would be of some help in the present troubled circumstances in Northern Ireland.'

Never mind, they do have Lord Widgery if they miss.

CO-OP SUCCESS

The Official Republican Movement is well pleased by the initial success of the 3 Co-op Shops in the Rosemount, Creggan and Brandywell. The success has proven to us that, despite complaints by individuals that in some way the co-ops are sinister or devious, they are accepted by the people.

The Official Republican Movement

believes that Co-op shops and Co-op buying and selling is an indication that the people are prepared to run their own lives. What may not be known is the fact that as well as the Co-op shops, each Friday morning a Co-op Fish Van has been touring the Bogside, Creggan and Rosemount Areas selling fresh fish which has been delivered to us from one of the Donegal Fishing Ports. This has meant that fresh fish like Smoked Cod (Red), Whiting, Herring, Mackerel, etc. can be sold at prices like 20p per lb. while most city centre fish shops are charging 30p per lb. And the same applies to butter, tea, sugar, beans, peas, margarine, etc., which are sold in the shops at Central Drive, Creggan Shopping Arcade, Meenan Park and Rosemount.

Profit

The Official Republican Movement initially began the Co-ops to show people how much profit is being made from plain foodstuffs like tea, sugar and butter, from the very necessities of life and how massive profits are being made.

The fact that 2 hours before the

shops open there have been large queues has meant that each Saturday all the items have been sold out, and many people have asked: Why were there not more foodstuffs available? The answer to this is very simple: the Official Republican Movement has only limited financial resources and it is now up to people of each area who wish to continue the co-ops to come together and take over the running of them.



We believe that it is through the Street Committee that organisation of the area is most effective; and we believe that if these Street Committees are each represented on a Co-op Committee then the people themselves can take over the Co-op, can organise the Co-op, can do the buying, selling, staffing. And who better in any area than the people to know what type of food items are most needed by the people?

Co-ops can and will only be a success if the majority of the people in the area see them as one of the ways of lessening the hardships of unemployment, bad housing, dole queues and years of industrial stagnation, discrimination etc. We say that the co-ops are a step in that direction; of making the people, as Pearce said, Lords and Masters in their own country.

We say to you THESE ARE YOUR CO-OPERATIVES, but you must actively involve yourselves in running them. If you do this, we believe that you are helping yourselves, your neighbours, your friends, and that this is a tremendous effort.

The motto of the Official Republican Movement — Organise, Agitate and Educate — is self-evident in the Co-operative Movement. So organise yourselves together to agitate for better conditions for yourselves, your children and the future; and in so doing, and from learning from the experience, you educate yourselves and your children, so you — and they — will know what type of society you want, what type of future you are working towards.

Songs and verse of the working class

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

(by Tony Doherty)

They talk about it here, they talk about it there,
They talk of revolution everywhere,
So working class unite,
And come and join our fight,
Let's fight for a Socialist Republic now.

"Verse 2"

You've heard of Fianna Fail, from Cork to Donegal,
They still claim to be Republican,
But there is no doubt,
That they have sold us out,
Let's fight for a Socialist Republic now.

"Verse 3"

You workers must unite, the Capitalist we must fight,
Exploitation we must end,
Stand by your demands,
The powers in your hands,
Let's fight for a Socialist Republic now,

"Verse 4"

Listen to what I say, come join the I.R.A.
Stand by the ideals of Connolly,
Let us agitate,
Organize and smash the state,
Let's fight for a Socialist Republic now.

"Verse 5"

We talk of Liberty, Ireland one and Ireland free,
That day we will have Equality.
So stand together now,
Let's raise our Starry Plough,
It's the flag of our Socialist Republic now.

THE OLLY AND GERRY SHOW

In which Olly makes a great geographical discovery

Mr Oliver Napier, described as the "joint political chairman" of the Alliance party (does this mean that they also have an unpolitical chairman) was in Strabane recently drumming up support for his group in that area. According to the local press he remarked that "This western fringe of Europe has existed for centuries".

Dazzling

Now there is a dazzling observation for you. You can see that the man had a college education. Bet you thought the western fringe was only added on after the war. Not so. It's been there "for centuries" according to Mr Napier, all announced. We can't wait for Mr Napier's next speech. What will we discover? "Africa has been around for a long time?" "Mount Everest is as old as the hills". "The Aran Islands weren't born yesterday?". The mind boggles.

...and Gerry rides to the rescue

Mr Whitelaw came under a bit of attack at Westminster on May 11th, for not 're-establishing law and order' as

quickly as some Tories would wish. One M.P. leapt to Whitelaw's defence, saying that he deprecated "attempts by some members to turn the occasion into a thinly-veiled attack on the Secretary of State".

Who was the Whitelaw fan so outraged by hostility to his hero? Another member of the Conservative front bench? A right-wing Labourite? No. It was Mr Gerry Fitt, the Galahad of West Belfast.

No chance

During the same exchange Willieboy told a hushed house that "I know I have not the slightest chance of pleasing all the people all the time".

The next day three British national newspapers said that this was a very courageous thing for Willieboy to say. Presumably if he ever admits that he is not actually pleasing very many people any of the time — except Mr Fitt, of course, who is more easily pleased than most — he will be awarded the V.C. Or the George Cross. Or a pension.

Read
the
United
Irisman

EEC The struggle continues

The Republican Movement campaigned against the E.E.C. We believe that the people of the Twenty-Six Counties will live to regret their decision. At the same time it is possible to understand why they voted the way they did, why, Mr. Lynch got his thumping majority.

Throughout the campaign Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, all three Irish National papers and R.T.E., hammered away at the point that there was no alternative to going in. This had a big effect on the people.

At our Meetings very few people said: "We want to go into the Common Market". A great number said: "We have no choice but to go in. We can't stay outside, isolated".

There is little doubt that this is the reason for the big majority. It is not the case that five out of every six people in the South are enthusiastically committed to the E.E.C. It is the case that five out of every six do not see what alternative is open to them.

This is understandable because there is a certain degree of truth in it. In a sense there is no alternative.

Complicated

The Common Market is a fairly complicated affair. It involves a series of Trade Agreements, an effort to co-ordinate different legal systems, a change in the international monetary practice, and other equally bewildering things. But the reason for the Common Market is very simple.

The Common Market was set up because modern industries need very big investments and very big markets. No single European Country is big enough to provide such investment and markets.

The best example of this at the moment is the Concorde Aircraft. It has taken over One Thousand Million Pounds to develop this Aircraft. No single European Country could have provided that kind of money.

Having spent One Thousand Million Pounds to develop the Plane, clearly it is necessary to sell at least One Thousand Million pounds worth to justify the investment.

No single European Country could afford to spend that amount on a plane. Therefore, the only way to make production of the Concorde Aircraft possible was to have an international set-up to build it, and an international market to buy it.

The Concorde is a glaring example. The same is true for car-manufacture, chemicals, ship-building, heavy

engineering etc. All these industries have reached a stage where initial investment is so high that it can only be justified by the end product rolling off the production line day in, day out, week after week, in numbers so great that no single European Country can absorb them. So there had to be an economic Union in Western Europe.

In that context the relatively tiny industries in the South of Ireland don't make sense. Had it remained outside the E.E.C., they would have been swamped. In 1972, there is no point having fifty men manufacturing furniture in a small factory in Navan, when large factories in Britain or Germany can do the job more efficiently and more cheaply, even allowing for transport costs. The same is true for the Irish Textile Industry, for Irish brewing, for light engineering etc.

So Lynch was being quite honest when he said that the Irish economy had no alternative but to get in, and that is what swung the Referendum so decisively towards him.

Lynch says that inside the E.E.C. a vast market will be open to Irish products and that Irish industries will be able to rationalize and concentrate and compete for this market. But even Lynch admits that the present Irish industry could not do this, for exactly the same reasons that the Twenty-Six Counties could not stay outside — that it is too small, not efficient enough etc. What the pro-marketeters are banking on is an influx of European capital, the closure of small Irish industries and their replacement by bigger European concerns.

Already

In fact this is very unlikely to happen. Small Irish industries will close all right — this is happening already — but the chances of Messrs Krupps of Dusseldorf or Messrs Phillips of Rotterdam setting up shop in the Finglass Industrial Estate are, to put it as gently as possible, not high. If they want Irish workers it is much more likely that they will take the workers to the plant rather than the plant to the workers.

Even if they did start manufacturing in the Twenty-Six Counties their in-

attention would be, naturally, to make a respectable profit and take it out of the country and in the long term the Twenty-Six Counties would not benefit.

The fact is that in or out of the Common Market the Free State economy is in dire trouble. On balance, entry will make the problem worse not better.

Strategy

There is no point any more fighting against the fact of entry. What must be done is to prepare a strategy for fighting the effects of entry. Factory closures should be resisted. Recent events at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders and other places indicate some of the ways this could be done. All productivity deals, which reduce the number of workers in the interests of efficiency should be rejected. The inevitable rise in prices should be countered by a militant assault on the wages front.

If the Twenty-Six Counties Trade Union Movement pursue this course they will be fighting alongside their counterparts in Britain, France, Germany, Italy etc., where the same struggle is going on and becoming sharper and sharper, as the Liverpool Dock owners or the Directors of the Renault Car factory would testify. In this way the alternative to the E.E.C., would begin to become clear.

Automation

Because if the truth be told, industry in Europe will come together, there will be more and more automation, more and more co-ordination of economies. The question is not whether this will happen. The question is under whose auspices, in whose interest, will it happen?

In the Common Market it will happen in the interests of the capitalist class. Only in a Socialist Europe could it happen in the interests of workers. A Socialist Europe? Is that an unrealistic idea? Romantic? Perhaps so, but then, we have it on the word of Mr. Lynch that there is no other alternative.

There is an alternative to the E.E.C. It is not an isolated Ireland. The alternative to the E.E.C. is to continue to fight North and South against repression, unemployment, low wages, high rents. The alternative, as always, is to keep fighting capitalism.

STICKY SOAPBOX



Michael Montgomery
Hut 26, Cage 5,
Long Kesh Concentration Camp,
Lisburn Co. Antrim, N.I.

destinies to be sovereign and infeasible." (1916 Proclamation).

"Under the Republic all industries will be controlled by the State for the workers' and farmers' benefit. All transport, railways, canals etc. will be operated by the State — the Republican State — for the benefit of the workers and farmers. All banks will be operated by the State for the benefit of industry and agriculture, not for the purposes of profitmaking by loans, mortgages etc." (Liam Mellows 1922).

The Republican Movement of today is fighting for the same objective as the Republicans of the past. Like all the Irish revolutionaries and Irish revolutionary organisations of the past we are now being attacked by the Catholic Hierarchy and the Establishment. But this will not deter the Republican Movement from carrying on the struggle for the traditional goal of Republicanism through the centuries — the ownership of Ireland for the people of Ireland — nor will it interfere with my religious beliefs and duties, which I see as personal and divorced from politics.

Yours in Socialism
Michael J. Montgomery.

FISHY STORY

11 St. Columbas Ave.,
Buncrana,
Co. Donegal,
1st May, 1972.

Dear Sir,

I write re an article which appeared in a recent edition of your paper claiming to give the true facts regarding on the river Crana.

You prefaced your article by stating that the facts quoted would be of interest to the people of Derry; but would go further than that and say that the people of Derry who are members of the Buncrana Anglers' Association (47 members and 4 of these are on the committee) would not only be interested but would be absolutely amazed if they read your article. Every single 'fact' quoted by you is totally incorrect.

(1) The wealthy businessmen who according to you control angling on the Crana, are in fact more working class than even middle class, myself included.

(2) You quote a figure of £500 per annum for angling rights when the correct sum is in fact £200.

(3) A local cannot be refused a permit to fish unless he is a known poacher or has been trafficking in illegally captured fish.

(4) Your allegation of exploitation by absentee landlords aided by their 'local counterparts' is laughable. Please note the following:— For an annual subscription of £2.50 a member may fish for salmon and sea trout on our river from source to mouth and retain his total catch. Can any salmon river in Western Europe better these conditions? Could you offer better conditions if you had control?

(5) You will see from paragraph 4 that your statement 'that you have to be in the money to fish on the Crana' is so stupid and inaccurate that it doesn't merit further comment.

In conclusion I would say that your marks for accuracy in reporting on this subject, which is simple and straightforward are so poor that I shudder to think what your accuracy rating must be when you report on a complex matter.

I hope you have the moral courage to admit your mistakes and I therefore look forward to seeing the true facts on this matter printed in a future edition together with an apology to the committee of our club.

Signed N. Keany, Hon. Treas.



The Sell-out: Last week the Creggan Co-op sold out in two hours. So come next time and support YOUR shop

The Derry Official Republican Movement regrets the deaths of Vol John Starrs and young Manus Deery, murdered by the forces of British repression. We tender our sincerest sympathy to their family and friends

"We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of its