

Superspi

UNEMPLOYMENT



SOLUTION FOUND



SUPERSPI SAYS



The BBC "Panorama" opinion poll which researched attitudes of the people in the Republic to the situation in Northern Ireland provided some interesting results. While such polls must be treated with caution as not giving definite information on the peoples' will, such as is provided by a ballot or referendum, the figures produced show a significant development in attitudes to Northern Ireland. A majority of those polled were in favour of the Northern Ireland people deciding for themselves by referendum whether they should accept a "United Ireland" or not. This result was glossed over by the "Irish Press" newspaper group which tried to present the poll as having proven majority support for the Fianna Fail government policy of demanding a British withdrawal from Northern Ireland.

The poll also revealed a core of about 25% of people who were not interested in the achievement of a "United Ireland".

DOCTORING ECONOMICS

In their first twelve months of office the Fianna Fail government have produced no improvements in the economic situation. Apart from the fact that they have no control over the floundering state of world capitalism, their dogmatic commitment to "private enterprise" has ensured that no changes in the economy have

This, despite the revival of Fianna Fail nationalism, and Lynch and FitzGerald engaging in a spot of Brit-bashing. The days of the "overwhelming majority" of the Irish people demanding an end to Northern Ireland's existence are over. If the will of the Northern Ireland majority, as expressed in the 1972 referendum, is included with these figures it can be said, in direct contradiction to those who loudly claim to be spokesmen for the "majority of the Irish people in the whole island" that there is not a majority in favour of a "United Ireland".

The announcement therefore, of a joint Socialist campaign against Nationalism by

the Socialist Party, B&ICO and the Limerick Socialist Organisation is quite timely. There is now a focus on the political left for all those who want to see nationalism ousted from the labour movement and class politics, which expresses the real interests of the workers, given precedence.

The objectives of this campaign; organising public support for the recognition of the constitutional position of Northern Ireland and abolition of Articles 2 & 3 of the Republic of Ireland's constitution, leave no room for ambiguity. It will be interesting to see how many calling themselves socialists can take courage and break with bourgeois nationalism once and for all.

occurred to benefit working people.

Dail debates have revealed the facts that emigration has begun again in the past year with up to 10,000 people leaving the country and that the total number at work fell by 2,400 in the same period. So much for the promised 20,000 increase in jobs.

Government ministers, particularly Dr. Martin O'Donoghue, are now trying to blame workers for the dismal failures of the capitalist system. O'Donoghue tries to deceive by suggesting that increases in wages lead to a decrease in employment. In a situation, over the past five years, of steadily increasing output with a continuing decrease in total numbers employed, O'Donoghue's thesis is a total falsehood. Less workers have produced more output than previously and due to restrictive wage agreements have received a smaller share of the value of this output. Ignoring this basic fact O'Donoghue also tries to conceal the real nature of wages by representing it as a cost to capitalists borne out of some fixed fund which must be shared by all who are employed. In exact terms, wages are a deduction out of value added by workers when they apply labour to raw materials and produce commodities for sale. Wages are not, therefore, supplied from a fund limited by some unknown economic "law" as Dr. O'Donoghue would have us believe.

O'Donoghue's propaganda attacks herald a further attempt by the Government to restrict wages by combining employer resistance and the weak-willed Irish Congress of Trade Unions leadership's preference for class collaboration in National Wage Agreements. Facing up to the challenge presented by this most boss-oriented government in the history of the state means that trade union struggle must be brought to new levels of militancy and class-consciousness so that the living standards and economic gains of workers can be preserved.



Is this the scheme of things to come with the cutbacks in housing



HEART FAILURE

THE PRIVATELY owned heart ambulance service is closing down. The "business" was not making enough profit for owner Noel Gleeson. Wages paid to drivers were £46 for a 45-hour week and the decision to close down came when the drivers decided to join a union.

For 10 years the scandal of this private service has been allowed to continue. It is time the Eastern Health Board took it over for the good of the patients, the good of the workers and the good of society.

"THE DUBLIN" all weather begging bowl. Comes in five attractive colours with specially designed small handle for the under fives. £1.50 Postage extra. Write to Fianna Fail Mount Street, Dublin 2 (sole distributors).

HOLY SHOW

AS THE May-Day parade assembled at the GPO for the public meeting (8,000 according to the "Irish Independent") a group of counter-demonstrators began to broadcast prayers over a public address system. The chief steward of the march approached a Garda Sergeant and complained. The Sergeant jumped into his van, drove around to the counter-demonstrators, jumped from the van and pulled the leads from their loudspeakers. As the Hail Mary died away he shouted: "I warned yis already." Times are fast changing.

DO AS I SAY; NOT AS I DO

THE ANNUAL Conference of the ITGWU was held at the Baymount Hotel, Sligo. Delegates attending were advised to book into unionised hotels only. A circular letter from General Secretary Michael Mullen, advised delegates as to what hotels in the area were union houses. The Baymount isn't. Mullen is a former Branch Secretary of the Hotels and Catering Branch, Movement.

REV. BRANCH OFFICIAL

The Galway Branch of the ITGWU begins its branch meetings with a 'Hail Mary'.

THE MAGRAFIA

THE RTE programme on the Mafia-Sweepstakes connection is still being sat on by the station authorities. The 'Politics Programme' made the film report last year and uncovered corruption of a magnitude that is going to take the lid off a very lucrative 'business'. If it does get to be screened, don't miss it.

UNOFFICIAL GAS GEYSER

A Walkinstown resident called the Dublin Gas Company to remove a gas geyser. The local inspector called, priced the job and informed the customer that it would be very expensive to get the gas works to remove it but that he would be willing to do the job as a mixer for half the price. Sure enough, he arrived the next Saturday and did the job. His parting remark was: "If you have any friends or relatives that want any gas jobs done, just give me a ring ... at the gas company."



CONTROLLED ANARCHY

A LEAFLET being distributed in Trinity College reads: "The Anarchist Movement is starting to build a real organisation" The organised anarchists have an office in Rathmines free of charge by kind permission of the dubious Student Christian Movement.

TWO FACED

The Northern Bank in O'Connell Street is faced with what the owners imagine is Wicklow grey granite. What the bank and architect who did the restructuring don't know is that their 'Wicklow' granite came from Sweden.

The job was done several years ago by Ballybrew Quarries Ltd, of Enniskerry, a subsidiary of Sisk the builders and a well known Fianna Fail supporter. The man in charge at Ballybrew, a Mr. Cotter, found it more profitable to import through Dublin port Swedish granite, transport it to Enniskerry, cut it and polish it and then deliver it to unsuspecting customers like the Northern Bank as Ballybrew No. 2. Any stone man can spot the difference between 'Swedish' and 'Wicklow'. Sisk's Fianna Fail - style patriotism for 'Buy Irish' was set aside when there was a fast Kroner to be made.

START THE REVO NOW, MUMMY COLLECTS ME AT HALF PAST FOUR.

A group of students at UCD and TCD who are members of the Socialist Labour Party (Noel Browne), have formed an organisation called 'Students for Action' whose express aim is to oppose the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). In their paper they say: "We must start now to build a campaign of opposition on a planned basis". Other articles include an attack on the "supposed gains" announced at the USI Congress.

USI, with its democratic procedures and progressive leadership has nothing to fear from this latest group of 'Nescafe revolutionaries'.



THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE

The lady, looking so 'come hitheringly' in this picture is Lady Miranda Iveagh, (Mrs. Guinness). For some unexplainable reason, the Guinness press office circulate her picture to all the newspapers. Incidentally, Lord Iveagh is also Senator Iveagh, which means he draws a salary from the Irish taxpayers.

WORLD VIEW



● Facism going to war

THE GREATEST IRONY OF THE CENTURY



● Zionism at war.

The State of Israel recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary without being able to say that its future was any more secure than at the time of its proclamation in 1948.

What is unique about Israel that it is still surrounded by hostile neighbours and its existence still under question? It is the fact that the political basis of the state is founded on Zionism, a political movement founded on the principle that people of the Jewish religion cannot be assimilated into any of the nations of the world but must live in an exclusively Jewish state on their own.

Zionism, first organised as a movement by Theodor Herzl 1897, was always a reactionary movement which found its greatest supporters in the ranks of European conservatives. The British government, the German Kaiser and the Russian Czar were greatly interested in Herzl's movement and he received support from them in his efforts to detach Jewish people from the nations of their birth and pressure them into joining this campaign for a separate state for Jews.

Herzel did not mind where this state would be established but, when after the First World War the British became rulers of Palestine, the land where once

existed the Hebrew tribal states of ancient Israel and Judah, the Zionists fixed their sights on establishing a state on this territory.

After World War 11, when the Western powers at the United Nations agreed to allow the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, hundreds of thousands of Jewish people from Eastern Europe were helped by the Zionist movement to emigrate to Palestine and give the necessary muscle for establishing the State of Israel in 1948.

The wishes of the Arab people of Palestine were totally ignored in all these developments and almost their entire number were forced, by terrorism and open warfare, to flee from their ancestral homeland into neighbouring Arab states.

Since 1948, Zionist Israel, with its apartheid system of exclusive rights for people of the Jewish faith, has continually used brute force to maintain its existence and to expand its territory by aggression against its neighbours. It is indeed ironic that the Jewish people, oppressed by Hitler's Germany should have adopted the Nazi tactic of "Blitzkrieg" which they use against the Palestine Arabs and the people of Egypt, Syria and just lately, Lebanon.

Nevertheless, it is almost inevitable that a political movement the likes of Zionism, which is, no more no less, a Jewish apartheid system, should find itself more and more resorting to fascist tactics in order to preserve its existence.

Is it any wonder also, that the Israeli Government has always had the closest links with the only other apartheid regime in the world; the vicious Vorster regime in South Africa.



CONFESSIONS OF A SHOP STEWARD

A rare case of a union representative using his position for personal gain has come to light in Semperit tyre manufacturers, Ballyfermot. In a letter to a shop-steward, Arthur Kinsella the former chief shop-steward, admits to receiving £20 a week in exchange for curtailing stoppages. He describes how he was approached by three directors of the company, Theuer, Solarik, and Joseph Leonard (personnel director and Fianna Fail activist).

In 1977 Kinsella opted for voluntary redundancy with 50 others. Meetings were organised in private hotels between Kinsella and company directors to discuss 'special payments', which he claimed were due to him.

The letter was written earlier this year and since then the company has paid Kinsella £749 for "bonus discrepancies".

Following the revelation of these events, a general meeting of the members of the No. 12 Branch of the ITGWU called for an independent inquiry into the whole affair.

HOME AT LAST

Tom Hayes, the Branch Secretary of the No. 16 branch, Workers Union of Ireland has been given a job as a personnel manager. There will be no great adjustment problem for Tom as he has been on the management side all along. Once when instructed to contact a company with a grievance he was heard to say: "I'm only ringing you because I told them I would."

LABOUR NEWS

UNION CLIQUES

An attempt was recently made at Dublin No. 2 Branch ITGWU to break the anti-democratic vote-swooping syndicates, known as "cartels". What appears to be an annual election for the National Executive Council is in fact a fraud. All votes are now committed through a system of exchange before the election. The voters don't know the candidates and the candidates don't bother to express opinions. The result is an NEC composed of wheeler-dealers without an original thought among the lot except looking after themselves.

The system began with the "chat group", a cartel of three branches

who swap votes on a rota. The "hat group" as its name implies brought the system to its logical conclusion, the candidate's name which comes out of the hat gets the cartel's backing and the "perk" of the NEC. The system has expanded so much that the later cartels were formed to resist the more powerful ones. There is hardly a branch in the union not tied to some vote dealing.

The attempt at Dublin No. 2 to break up the system and introduce free elections with candidates being elected on their expressed policies and past records failed on a tied vote. The chairman voting a second time as a casting vote saved the cartels.

WHERE IS THE BOX FOR THE SECRET BALLOTS

OVER THERE, VINGE



I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, VINGE!

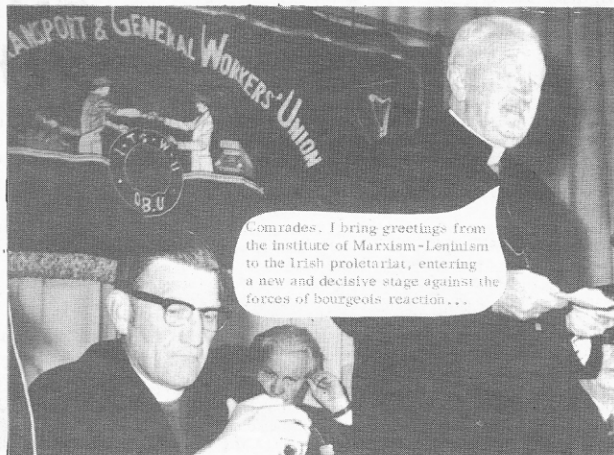


FLYING PICKET

JAMES KELLY and his brother Luke, (of Dubliners fame) were among those flying out from Dublin Airport during the recent strike and passing the WUI picket. James is assistant branch secretary, No. 2 branch, WUI. He is now on suspension pending a hearing we are happy to report.

BRANCH SECRETARY RULE OK

Rory MacEoghain, Secretary of the No. 13 Branch of the ITGWU wrote to the union General Secretary outlining 'demerits' of one of his branch assistants and so causing the assistant to lose his annual increment. What Rory, neglected to do was to consult his branch committee who actively participate in the affairs of the branch. The No 13 branch committee is so active that MacEoghain is regarded by his fellow time-servers as having "lost control" of the branch. This shows the thinking of some full-time officials to union democracy.



Comrades. I bring greetings from the Institute of Marxism-Leninism to the Irish proletariat, entering a new and decisive stage against the forces of bourgeois reaction...

'CREATING JOBS'

Any person seated at this desk can do the work of three people.

Yes, one person to handle all customer accounts. Calculate and complete invoices. Prepare statements. Process payroll. Control the ledgers. Control stock flow. All these procedures completed at electronic speeds with electronic accuracy. The same person is able, at the touch of a button to print out at computer speed all credit control figures and management on/off line data. One person—not three—making a single input, triggers four routines simultaneously. The desk is one of Olivetti's 'A' series electronic accounting systems. The same desk that last year alone was chosen by over 300 Irish firms to streamline their accounting. For today, tomorrow and the future. Do as they did.

Consider Olivetti first.

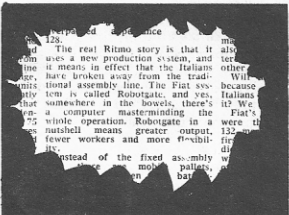


technology into a great benefit for all.

The other approach therefore is to look at this technological development in a positive light recognising its benefits. It has the ability to liberate people from repetitive, unfulfilling, boring work and yet maintain and increase overall material standards of living. However, there is a snag with supporting the latter, more positive approach to technology. That is for every member of the population to collectively enjoy the fruits of this progress, this technology would need to be in collective ownership, that is, socialist society.

One of the most consistent arguments put forward by employers and the Government in favour of wage restraint has been that excessive wage claims (and that of course means every wage claim) do not permit companies to accumulate capital. This in turn, it is argued, does not permit them to build factories, buy plant and machinery and therefore employ more people.

Two cuttings taken from the 'Irish Times' during last May show the fallacies of this argument. One is an add for 'Olivetti Electronic Accounting Systems'. The headline is self explanatory and the interesting point is that 300 of these were purchased by Irish firms last year. Result - 603 people out of work. The other example refers to a new motor car being produced by Fiat, called the 'Ritmo'.



The punch line being that through a combination of electronics and mechanics each 128 people employed on a production line can now be replaced by 28.

The conclusions which can be drawn from these examples and hundreds more could be produced are -

1. As capital is allowed to accumulate in the hands of the owners of the means of production it is just as likely to be invested in equipment which will throw people out of work as in creating jobs.
2. Automation affects office workers just as much as it affects factory workers.
3. The phenomenon exists worldwide though its effects in states of differing social and political systems may be grossly different.

One approach to the development of technology and capital-intensive industry is to oppose it. In England, at the beginning of the last century the movement known as the 'Luddites' flourished. This arose in reaction to the development of the industrial revolution and the machines which could do the work of many craftsmen contributing to widespread unemployment. Weavers and those in the cloth trade who were the first to be affected struck back by wrecking the machines. They were eventually put down but since then there has always been some movement espousing that trend. Today this trend manifests itself in the 'small is beautiful' and 'back to the land' philosophy many of whose proponents would claim to be left wing. Basically, the ideas emanate from a fear of the future or the inability to envisage new political structures which could turn this oppressing

BUY IRISH!

BUT WHERE?

Buy Irish! Once again the slogan is being forced upon the Irish consumer. Buy Irish and Irish jobs will be saved and Irish industry will be created, or so we are told by the 'Junior Chamber' and the 'Irish Goods Council'. Perhaps these two bodies are right. Perhaps Irish jobs will be saved if when shopping a round the Irish consumer buys only Irish, regardless of price or quality. Perhaps these two bodies would be good enough to tell the consumer where to go in order to buy Irish. The supermarket? - well, let's see.

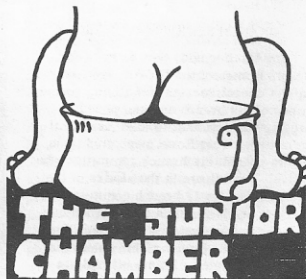
A large supermarket would carry about 5,000 individual items, of these about 150 would have been produced in Ireland. These would be meat, some dairy products, some cereals, vegetables, sugar, some packet soaps and some canned foods, jam, sauces and some biscuits, bread and the odd hardware product. The rest of the products on the shelves being imported. Again if we visit the hardware store we will be very lucky indeed to find any item manufactured here. In the department store we find that most clothes (ready made) come

from as far abroad as Israel or Hong Kong. Likewise with footwear, and the list can go on and on; toys, cheap furniture, electrical goods.

If we look at this list we can logically deduce that it's not lack of support for Irish goods that is at fault, but lack of Irish goods. The Junior Chamber is regarded by a very serious economist as a laugh but when they ask us to purchase non-existent goods, they become hilarious.

Indeed to buy Irish, we must produce Irish goods and this can be done by further state control and expansion in the food processing industry, state control of shoe, furniture and textile industries. Nationalisation of our national resources. But then such proposals if implemented would

upset private enterprise and of course this would not suit the Junior Chamber.



BATTLE ON THE BRIDGE

"I saw a uniformed officer with a baton, shove a demonstrator against a lampost. A detective officer came over and said 'I know you' and gave him two savage boxes in the groin".

No it wasn't Chicago, or Derry, or Paris. It was O'Connell Bridge, Dublin, on the afternoon of Saturday, 18th January 1969, and the son of a former Garda Superintendent was giving an account of the events he had just witnessed, to a reporter from the 'Sunday Independent'. The occasion was a sit-down protest by over 1,000 supporters of the Dublin Housing Action Committee (DHAC).

Earlier in the afternoon, about 2,000 people had attended a meeting at the GPO called by the DHAC in protest against the jailing of its treasurer, Dennis Dennehy. He had been jailed for failing to vacate a flat in Mount Joy Square, owned by a Mr. Ivor B. Underwood, Dennehy, who was homeless, had been squatting there for some weeks with his wife and two children.

From the time of his arrest he had been on hunger strike, and the DHAC - which was a very militant pressure group, demanding the declaration of a housing emergency - had organised meetings, sit-ins, pickets and demonstrations on a scale never before seen in the city.

That Saturday afternoon they had organised their biggest rally. It was addressed by trade unionists, civil rights workers, left-wing activists and student leaders. The Rev. Michael Sweetman, addressing the rally, said "Therefore it seems to me that he is in prison precisely because, being homeless, he took shelter in extreme necessity. This may be strictly illegal, but it is not immoral. It is now up to us, to someone or somebody, to solve this problem otherwise than by imprisonment."

All police leave was cancelled and there were 800 men on duty. Of these there were 300 on duty at the GPO and the rest were divided up among the various places where the police felt the demonstrators might march after the meeting - the Department of Justice, the Custom House, Dail Eireann etc. Unknown to the police, the DHAC had decided on a plan which involved the blocking of O'Connell Bridge and the Quays to traffic for 15 minutes.

As the head of the demonstration crossed the bridge and went towards D'Olier Street, it suddenly swung to the right in a wide arc



Rough stuff at a demonstration.

and headed back up the opposite side of the bridge and came to a halt level with the O'Connell Monument. At this point the end of the march was just approaching the bridge, and also stopped level with the monument, so that the bridge and the four quays were effectively blocked. Then the chairman of the DHAC, Bernard Browne, using a loud hailer called on the marchers to sit down and hold their positions by passive resistance.

The police were surprised at the sudden turn back across the bridge and left their position at the side of the demonstration and rushed about in confusion. Bernard Browne announced over a loudhailer that it was their intention to block traffic for 15 minutes as a protest against the imprisonment of Denis Dennehy. He had no sooner finished speaking when the police at the Westmoreland Street side of the bridge moved in with baton drawn.

The Irish Press reported: "A few burly Gardai sent young men reeling onto the pavement. As the wave of violence would die down the bulk of the crowd would move out again onto the road but at no time did they attempt to charge the Gardai, even when the Gardai carried away struggling demonstrators, who were punched and generally man-

handled, there was not, as far as I could see, any retaliation by the crowd."

The Sunday Independent reported: "Afterwards, O'Connell Bridge was littered with placards, sticks, shoes and articles of clothing of all descriptions. Many of the victims were carried or dragged to safety by their supporters and friends while the more seriously injured were taken from the scene by ambulance."

What had been planned as a peaceful protest, with the objective of drawing attention to the plight not only of the homeless man on hunger strike, but also that of the 10,000 homeless families in the city, had turned into the biggest confrontation between civilians and the police, since the foundation of the state.

It had taken the police nearly 40 minutes to clear the bridge, resulting in 10 arrests, and about 30 people requiring hospital treatment.

But apart from the obvious fact that the police behaved incorrectly and had no idea of how to deal with a socially motivated crowd, what was the importance of that day nine years ago? It was the events of that day that convinced certain Ministers in Fianna Fail that a way must be found to divert the Republican Movement away from its path of radical action on social and economic issues. This was achieved a short time later when they founded the Provisional IRA.

That demonstration also convinced others that given the correct leadership and policies large numbers of people were willing to take direct action on the issues affecting their everyday lives.

¹⁰ Eamonn O'Farrell was the Secretary of the DHAC and is a member of the Socialist Party.



A DHAC meeting of the time at the GPO.

CHEAP SECURITY

Some businesses flourish in a depression. The higher the unemployment the easier it is to employ labour at a cheap rate and force workers to endure long hours and bad conditions.

Security firms are at the top of the list. They do not need any licence to prove that they are legitimate, responsible or even capable of doing their job, nor are they required to give their staff the obvious training which such a job would require.

Eagle Security Ltd, owned by John Lynam and run from his home in Clonsilla, is a typical example. I spoke to some security guards with this firm and they told me of the conditions they were forced to endure. A static guard with this firm is paid £1.00 per hour. This rate applies to day, night and weekend work. The normal shift worked in Eagle Security, if one could call it normal, is fourteen hours - 6.00p.m. to 8.00a.m.

There is also a twenty-one hour shift, 11.00a.m. Sunday to 8.00a.m. Monday, but the pride of the company is the "Ghostr". This is a twenty-four hour shift, or as one security guard was told by his supervisor "about twenty-four hours, it might be twenty-six".

There are laws governing the hours and conditions worked in almost every job in Ireland. Security firms, however, are free from all such rules and regulations.

Tall tales

This tall man is 142 years old. His name is Mejid Agayev and he comes from the mountain hamlet of Lerik-Azerbaijan in the Soviet Union. This area is world famous for its people living to ripe old ages. In fact in his village he might be regarded as a lad, as some of his neighbours are enjoying ages of 156 and 167 years. His secret? No smoking, no drinking and plenty of hard work. One wonders will Ireland's young kids coming onto the dole be lucky enough to reach fifty.



Time was in the Roman Catholic Church when the rites were in Latin and the Bishops were silent but firmly in control. However, the church in its attempt to maintain its relevance in a fast changing world is now moving away from its traditional devotionism and becoming more involved in the affairs of the real world. This, as was ably pointed out by that staunch supporter of the old order and fascism, Archbishop Lefebvre, leads to a whole heap of trouble. For since the veil of mysticism which was helped by latin and authoritative public silence has begun to fall away, the arguments of the faith have to be carried out in the cold light

THEOLOGICAL GOBBLEDEGOOK

of day under the gaze of the press and people. To put it mildly, things ain't going too well for the church.

Take the issue of contraception as dealt with by Dr. Newman, Bishop of Limerick at a meeting of the Catholic Young Mens' Society in Kilkenny on May 13th and in a radio interview the following day. He reaffirmed the church's position that artificial contraception for family planning was morally wrong and therefore sinful. However to achieve the same object through using natural methods is not only OK, it is to quote Dr. Newman "a most worthy objective". On the natural methods themselves he quotes the recent Bishop's statement on the matter urging "the promotion of these methods, the efficiency and general acceptability of which could not be seriously questioned. Legislation for family planning should take note of this and endeavour to support it." Another statement in Dr. Newman's address was:

"There are countries today whose demographic future is jeopardised by legalised contraception to say nothing of the moral cancer which afflicts them by reason of its widespread practice."

Now if the practice of contraception leads to a moral cancer in society and the so-called natural methods are efficient and are to be promoted then the Bishops are by their own reasoning and definitions promoting the growth of moral cancer. If on the other hand the argument is to revolve around the morality of the method used to achieve similar objectives, in this case the planning of

one's family, then things really are in a theological fix. Perhaps a thesis on the moral differences between murder by suffocation (the natural method) and murder by gun (the artificial method) will emerge. Then debates on what is "natural" and what is "unnatural"? Is not a thermometer as used in natural contraception not unnatural, therefore artificial? Is what is natural, naturally good? If so is not the wearing of clothes unnatural in which case they are naturally artificial. Lefebvre, you are so right, back to latin chants and blessed silence.

Another issue which is getting the church into trouble and indeed will be likely to be its most scismful problem for the future is women. Womens' role in the church to date can be accurately summed up by looking at the only times they were allowed behind the altar rails, that is as scrubbers, flower arrangers or to be married. In which institution they were to be like any decent female Roman Catholic saint, passive, submissive, and obedient. While development is as to be expected strongest among the least superstitious of the female population, the movement is having repercussions within the church. Looked at in the light of the Pope's recent statements confirming the church's opposition to even the concept of women priests and backed up by the most prejudiced, insulting and banal arguments. This leaves one with a certain feeling of glee at the prospect of the furor which will emerge when the unstoppable force meets its unmoveable object head on.

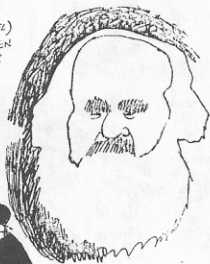


REVIEWS

MARX for beginners



JUST AS EVERYONE WAS SETTLING DOWN HAPPILY WITH CAPITALISM (AND LIKE HE GEL) THINKING THAT SOCIETY HAD FINALLY TAKEN THE RIGHT ROAD, ALONG COMES MARK AND SPOILS THE PARTY...



'Ere! Who the 'ell invited you hippie??



MARX'S THEORY OF CLASS STRUGGLE—INEVITABLE AND HISTORICAL—REALLY HIT CAPITALISM BELOW THE BELT. SOONER OR LATER, SAYS MARX, CAPITALISM IS GOING TO HAVE TO RETREAT BEFORE A NEWER AND FAIRER SYSTEM...

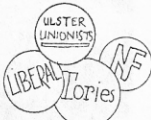
Socialism

GULP!



"Marx for Beginners" by Ruis. Published by Writers and Readers Co-operative, London. Available from all commercial bookshops, price £1. "Marx for Beginners" is an attempt to portray the development of Marx's thoughts in an illustrated form. Not an easy task. The writer claims it is digestible, illustrated and funny and he is right. The real test of the book will be whether it leads the reader to seek out further material. Well worth getting.

"IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE UNITED POWER OF THE RULING CLASS, ONLY THE WORKING CLASS—AS AN ORGANISED CLASS—CAN ACTIVATE A PARTY OF ITS OWN TO OPPOSE ALL OTHER OLD, REACTIONARY PARTIES..."



But a mass party isn't built overnight!

(OR PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATION...)



COMMUNIST MANIFESTO



"A spectre is haunting Europe—the spectre of Communism. All the powers of old Europe have entered into a holy alliance to exorcise the spectre: Pope and Czar, Metternich and Guizot, French Radicals and German police-spies. Where is the party in opposition that has not been declared as communistic by its opponents in power? Where is the Opposition that has not hurled back the branding reproach..."

AT FIRST IT DIDN'T CAUSE ANY ANXIETY. BUT LATER, BIT BY BIT, IT BEGAN TO CREATE REAL WORLD-WIDE ANXIETY. THE MANIFESTO'S PUBLICATION TURNS OUT TO BE ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT EVENTS IN HUMAN HISTORY...

MARX SAYS... THE MESSAGE IN THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO...

ORGANISE

POLITICALLY TO ACHIEVE YOUR RIGHTS

Tell me more about Socialism.

Send to:
The Socialist Party,
23 Essex Quay
Dublin 2
PO Box 806.

Name _____

Address _____



Build a better future
Join the Socialist Party



PHOENIX PARK GLEE CLUB

THE USE of supposedly charitable acts, with full media coverage has long been a technique of US politics. The soup kitchen and the bread line were often visited by big-hearted politicians accompanied by media hacks and public relations men, who guaranteed a splash of publicity of the great men giving a dollar to a down-and-out.

In Ireland, we have been mercifully spared from this kind of electioneering to date. The only exception being Senator Lady Valerie Goulding (he robs - she sobs).

The new US ambassador, William Shannon staged a particularly nauseating display with the full support of the press, last February. A coach load of itinerant girls were brought from Galway to Dublin to be photographed receiving tea from the Ambassador's wife, who, like all female relatives of US politicians suffers from permanent smile.

The journalists fell over each other to get pictures of this friendly get-together, which were prominently displayed the next day. Let's hope this doesn't encourage our native politicians to stage similar events, they're sickening enough as it is.



● The section of the photograph at the top left corner was the bit the hacks splashed all over the front pages of the papers the full picture is much more revealing

LET THE BUYER BEWARE

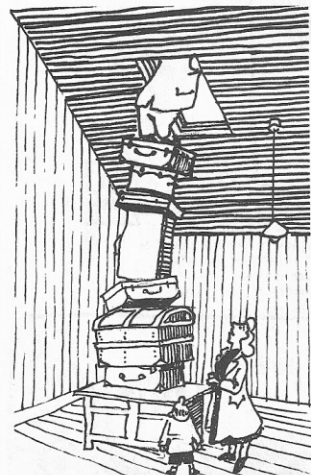
In an era where one is constantly bombarded with advertisements at every time, place and angle, be it the humble billboard or the elaborate TV ad one develops a half believing attitude towards some of the outlandish claims of advertising. Honesty is something that advertising agencies believe in bending for whatever suits their purpose, but there is one unique area where this bending turns into outright distortion and that is - property ads.

For those of us unlucky or lucky enough (depending on one's opinion of building societies) to afford a house, we are confronted with the following double-talk. Apart from such basics as "immac. two b/r. hse. - must be viewed" to the splendour of "maisonette w. fld. kts." we get near little qualifications like "in need of modernisation". This term would lead one to believe that a few rolls of wallpaper and tins of paint would turn it into a bright warm home. In fact the description means that the said property needs re-wiring, re-roofing, re-flooring plumbing, decorating and just about everything else.

But it goes further. There is no doubt an endless list of such promising descriptions. The following is a brief list for the would-be house buyers.

"Affords scope for stamping one's own character on the property" - see "in need of modernisation."
 "Open-plan kitchen" - the cooker is in the front room or quite possibly on the landing.
 "Open-plan garden" - Overgrown with no fences.
 "Cash offers only" - No chance of getting a mortgage. (also see "in need of modernisation" and "affords scope for stamping one's own character, etc.")
 "Conveniently placed for Airport" - beware low flying aircraft.
 "Unbelievable, close to amenities" - at least a railway line at the bottom of the garden, or slap bang in the middle of a shopping complex.
 "Interesting" - This term covers a multitude of design faults in fact, this is the most dangerous one for house buyers because it can be used to cover everything and is a favourite among estate agents, private sellers etc.

This is of course a very short list and does not cover the more devious aesthetic terms. If readers have come across any of these type of ads we would be glad to add them to our published list.



WELL, DO WE HAVE A FINE VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS?

COMMUNITY NEWS

CORPO NEGLECTS RESPONSIBILITIES

When the original tenants moved into Ballymun they were issued with a leaflet by Dublin Corporation which outlined their responsibilities as tenants to the cleaning of the landings and rubbish chutes. In a tower block there are six flats to a landing. The leaflet stated that each tenant was expected to clean the landing and chutes once a week.

For some years now, the Corporation has not been issuing these leaflets, leaving it to the neighbours to inform new tenants of their responsibilities. This leads to embarrassing situations, and doubts as to who is responsible for the cleanliness of various areas.

The caretaker's responsibilities are the cleaning of the rubbish chutes, the lifts, the basements, lobbies, stairs and landings on the ground floor, as well as the immediate area surrounding the block. He should also report complaints regarding the exterior of the flats and report abandoned cars. It is

also his job to inform new tenants of their responsibilities in regard to cleaning the landing and chutes one day a week.

There are approximately 28 caretakers in the whole of Ballymun. When a caretaker makes a complaint he does not get enough back-up from the department. It can be months, if not years before a complaint is dealt with. As a result caretakers become disillusioned and tenants frustrated.

Repairs to the exterior of the flats are supposed to be carried out immediately but the caretaker could be blue in the face before his report is acted on. The interior of the flats are painted about every 5 years.

Dublin Corporation would seem to have neglected its responsibilities regarding the general appearance of Ballymun estate. If something is not done soon Ballymun could fall into the same category as other areas which are now regarded as the slums of Dublin.

THEY'D BETTER
STEP UP THE-----



MAINTAINANCE
HERE SOON

CLEANER SHOPS PLEASE!

On Saturday 6th May, a number of people took part in a demonstration in Ballymun shopping centre. The demonstration, organised by the local branch of the Socialist Party, was in protest against the low standard of hygiene in most of the food shops. Over 2,000 leaflets were distributed naming shops which were dirty and advising shoppers to complain to the Department of Health.

A spokesman for the Socialist Party, Des Hughes, said "this action was due to a number of complaints made by tenants to the local branch. The lack of hygiene in the shops was typical of the lack of hygiene throughout the estate. The Socialist Party would be pressing the Minister for Health on these issues and would hope that the minister would be willing to put his money where his mouth was" He pointed out that if the Department of Health took their job seriously they would move into Ballymun immediately and start a big cleanup. To do this properly would mean employing more people.

The protest was a start to the Socialist Party's campaign to "Build a better Ballymun".

DARNDALE HAS NEW ADVISORY SERVICE

A new service is now available to the people of Darndale in the shape of the Darndale Advisory Service - DAS. This service is being provided by the local branch of the Socialist Party.

The DAS will operate on similar lines to the very successful Ballymun Advisory Service and will provide information and advice on the problems facing the people of Darndale. The service will offer advice only, and is in no way intended to be a replacement for the Tenants Association. In fact we encourage all residents to join the association. The service will be completely free of charge and in the strictest confidence will offer advice on :-

- Hire-Purchase agreements
- Free Legal Aid Service

- ESB and Gas bills
- Rent, maintenance, housing allocations as well as other problems.

Initially the service will operate from the Darndale Tenant's Association office and will be open on Sunday mornings from 11.30 to 1.30.

FOR THE TRUTH IN THE LOCAL NEWS

READ

DARNDALE NEWS

contains TENANT NEWS
LETTERS
LOCAL SPORTS

Price 10p.

SOCIALIST PARTY

BOOKSTALL

PARTY PUBLICATIONS. BOOKS, PAPERS AND PERIODICALS
FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

SATURDAY MORNINGS BALLYMUN SHOPPING CENTRE
SATURDAY EVENINGS 2.30 TO 4.30 AT THE GPO.

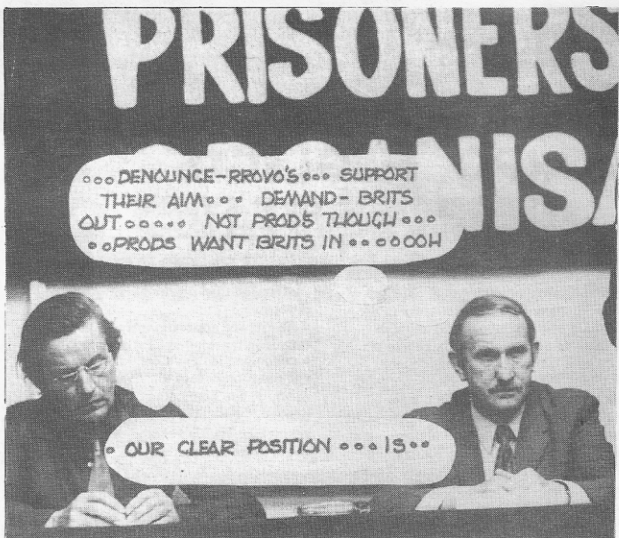


"So long, pãrtner!"

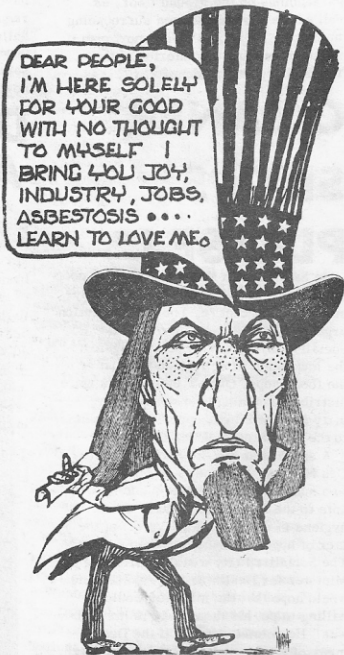
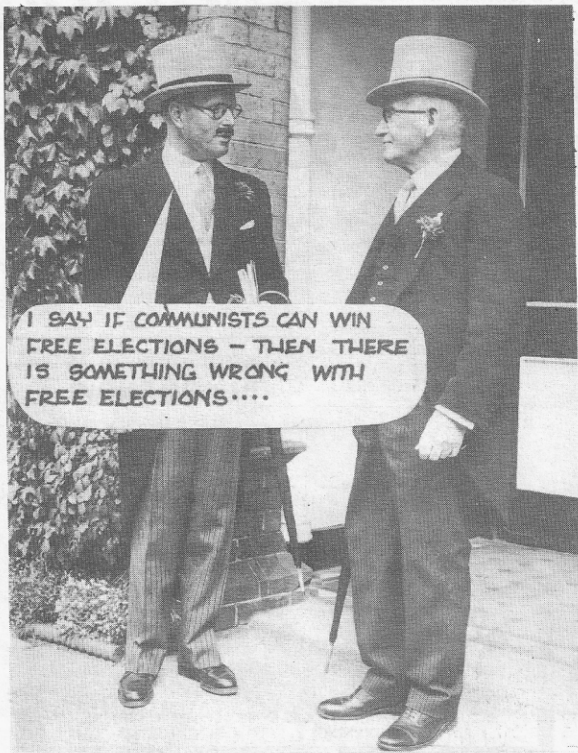
DO YOU HAVE ANY STORIES, ARTICLES PHOTOGRAPHS OR CARTOONS WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE US TO CONSIDER FOR PUBLICATION ON TRADE UNION, TENENT OR ANY LOCAL OR POLITICAL ISSUE. SEND TO-
Advance Publications. PO box 806. Dublin.

WHO ARE WE ?

"SUPERSPI" is an independent magazine, concerned with political, economic, social, national and international issues. It is a firm opponent of racism, nationalism and the class system. It advocates solidarity among working people, peace, progress, and socialism.



SLP.. you can't catch me



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