

The Irish People

EVICION OVER £1 ARREARS

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

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

Rent strike

In fact Mary is on rent strike over the appalling condition of her flat. "Even on a single parent's allowance of £35 a week I can easily pay the arrears," says Mary, "but I don't see any other way of getting them to carry out repairs except by going on rent strike."

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

On the Dun Laoghaire housing list five years (and suffering from a serious TB condition that requires constant attention) Mary was allocated her flat just under a year ago, in April 1980.

Since moving into the flat with her five year old daughter Anne and son Joseph, four, Mary has fought a losing battle with Dun Laoghaire's housing department to have the flat repaired. "There are plenty of inspectors alright," stresses Mary, "and promises to carry the work out, but nothing ever happens."

Amongst the most serious defects are:-

- A hole in the back of the fireplace which set the chimney on fire twice in the past year.
- A crack in the chimney breast which overheats when the fire is on all day. As a gas pipe runs across the crack the Fire Brigade officers said it was urgent that these repairs were carried out immediately.
- Missing and damaged floorboards in the main bedroom.
- A defective cistern in the outside toilet.
- Faulty electric wiring in the bedroom.
- Badly fitting front and back doors which are obviously as old as the flats themselves.

There is no bathroom and no indoor toilet facility either.

No surprise

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

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

At the Town Clerk's office in Dun



● Mary Connick with son Joseph and daughter Anne.

Laoghaire a senior executive officer told us it was "impossible" that they would be evicting a tenant over £1 arrears.

However, when we gave him details of the Council's own Notice to Quit he came back to us and said "It seems to be rent alright. Have a word with our rent department."

At the rent assessment and collection department a seemingly sympathetic official stated that if

Jail house rock

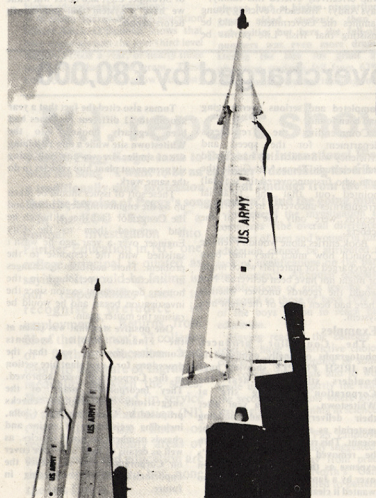
MOUNTJOY's prisoners made a special contribution to the farewell dinner dance given for Governor Kelly last Friday night. They gave up the use of their recreation hall for the evening — they had no choice.

The function was held in the training unit inside the prison walls (were prison officers worried about gate crashers?) As a result the inmates were tucked away early but they didn't get any sleep.

The band played into the early hours of Saturday morning (the furthest cells from the music were only 45 yards away), and several female guests were "shown around" the vacant "aliens cell" used for deportees. The prisoners finally got to sleep about 4am.

The finishing touch came on Saturday when leftover food was offered to the prisoners at tea time. Many refused. Many are also wondering who authorised the use of the prison for a "do" and who footed the bill.

● US missiles for Ireland?



Mary Connick "clears her rent and keeps clear she'll be alright. She has nothing to worry about if she pays."

And if she doesn't pay would she be evicted? "Yes."

What about the repairs? "We'll have a word with the maintenance about the repairs."

St. Anne's flats is one of a number of complexes in Dun Laoghaire which is apparently used as a dumping ground for single parent families.

Earlier this year the local *Southside* newspaper exposed a policy of apparent discrimination against single parent families. A policy defended by Fine Gael Councillors on the Corporation who maintain that "We should look after those who are rightly married."

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

NATO's target — Ireland

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

● A shock report to the EEC Parliament urges military and arms co-operation between all EEC countries. The report is drawn up by the "Centre for Defence Studies" in Aberdeen — a known front organisation for British military intelligence.

● Senior officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs are putting pressure on the Government to join the Western European Union, a military alliance supposedly independent of NATO — but secretly committed to the US-dominated pact by a concealed clause added to its treaty.

THE IRISH PEOPLE has obtained copies of both documents.

Arms spending

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

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

"This would provide standardised military equipment, operating on equal terms with the Americans, and getting all the industrial and technological spin-off that the US obtains," he concludes.

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

Even more serious for this country is the sustained pressure put on successive Dublin Governments by top Foreign Affairs officials for Ireland to join the Western European Union, the effective military alliance of the EEC.

These officials push the line that the

WEU is independent of NATO, and say Ireland should "play its part" in the EEC's military pact.

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

The WEU countries "shall work in close co-operation with NATO," the clause says.

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

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

(Continued on Page 4)

The Irish People

FREE EDUCATION

EDUCATION Minister John Wilson is probably the most articulate and intelligent of the present Fianna Fáil Cabinet but even he was unable to justify the present state of our educational system when he appeared on the Late Late Show at the weekend.

As a recent Union of Students in Ireland study shows (see article opposite) third level education is once more becoming the exclusive preserve of the well-off while, juggle as Wilson might with statistics like what the pupil-teacher ratio is now compared with Coalition days, conditions are rapidly deteriorating in our "free" primary and secondary schools.

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

There are many more schools like it and many principals must be thanking heaven that they didn't have a bad winter this year, or parents would have had to delve even deeper into their pockets for fuel bills — either that or the children would have been sent home.

Even more shocking is the lack of adequate third level facilities. Many children have no hope of going on to further education while those who do find themselves trying to study in overcrowded and under-equipped campuses.

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

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

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

New law puts family homes at risk warns SFWP lawyer

A NEW law currently going through the Oireachtas which means that debt collection agencies could seize your home for failure to pay bills for amounts as small as £250 a leading civil rights lawyer told the IRISH PEOPLE this week.

Solicitor Pat MacCartan, spokesperson on civil liberties and consumer affairs for Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, points out that under the Courts Bill now before the Dáil, the District Courts will be able to make judgement mortgages for any amount over £250. The new law also gives the District Courts jurisdiction in claims of up to £2,000.

Companies behave
"At the behest of finance companies and loan sharks the law is being changed by Fianna Fáil so that people who fall behind for quite small amounts can be threatened with the loss of their house if they don't pay up," says Pat.

"These type of companies have never been renowned for showing concern for their victims in the past and it is disturbing to see new and dangerous avenues for pursuing their borrowers opened to them."

"It's the clients of the finance and hire purchase firms who need added legal protection not the companies.



Pat MacCartan warns that homes could be seized for quite small bills.

"This is especially true in a time of recession when people may find themselves suddenly unable to honour debts due to redundancy or some other factor beyond their control."

"Other aspects of the Bill are very worthwhile, such as extending the jurisdiction of the District Courts in areas like family law," stresses Pat. "This will make legal remedies considerably easier and cheaper to obtain for the general public."

"Nevertheless serious defects also exist and the Bill is in no way a substitute for the demand of our Party for a comprehensive free legal aid scheme which is urgently needed."

Where there's Life there's blight — another IL eviction

"IT was the 10 March I was evicted. They arrived about 10.30 am while I was feeding the baby. The Sheriff put out one chair on the street for me to sit on and the men from Irish Life did the rest." That's how young mother of two Caroline Nalty bitterly but calmly described her eviction by the Irish Life Assurance Co. to our reporter as she rocked the pram with her youngest baby in it outside her former home at 37 Townsend Street, Dublin, this week.

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

Life on the pavement isn't that much worse than living inside No. 37 for the Naltys. The ESB supply was cut off some time ago because the wiring was too dangerous, and for over a year now Caroline has had to get water for her top floor flat from the Jet garage on the corner of Townsend Street and Moss Street because Irish Life cut off the water supply. Young babies are obviously legitimate targets in the property speculation war which Irish Life has so expertly waged in Dublin city centre over the past decade.

Told she may be offered accommodation in a low demand area by Dublin Corporation, Caroline insists that she wants to stay in the City Quay, Pearse Street or Ringsend area. "I'd even take a one roomed flat here if I could get it," she stresses.

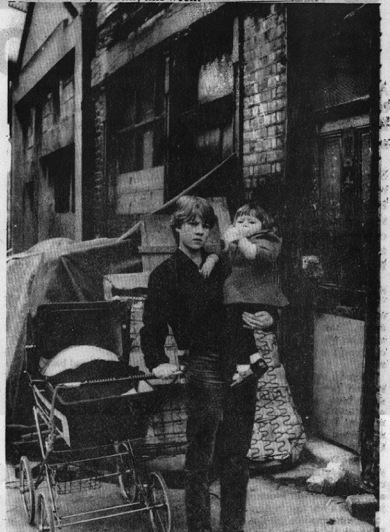
But thrown into adult life at the deep end Caroline knows nobody outside her own district and, with her husband constantly at sea, is afraid of moving out to new estates on the City's edge, miles away from her family and friends.

Help

At the eviction scene with Caroline was local Sinn Féin The Workers' Party representative Andy Smith. He was trying to organise a tent for the family so that they'd at least have shelter from the rain.

Five weeks before Andy had been at a meeting of the local City Quay Committee where he had broken the bad news that the Government freeze on local authority housing meant that Phase Two of the local building programme containing 80 new houses, had been postponed.

Andy feels particularly bitter about the fact that Caroline has been evicted



Caroline Nalty outside her former home with eldest daughter Alison, 21 months, and Sinead in the pram. A heavy canvas cover shelters her few bits of furniture but a suitcase containing most of her family mementos and other valuables was stolen.

by Irish Life, a company in which the Government has a 90% shareholding.

"Irish Life belongs to the Government and it was Fianna Fáil who effectively evicted this family," says Andy. "Instead of evicting young families the Government should be insisting that Irish Life profits be

invested in housing, not office blocks."

"Caroline's case shows that the bastards of life for Dublin working people haven't changed since the days of Strumpet City, and never will while we have a system that puts profit before people."

Corpo was overcharged by £80,000

Trading Services, the company at the centre of Dublin Corporation's probe into financial irregularities at the City's public building sites, is being sued for £79,000 in overpayments. Councillors were told at a meeting of the Finance Public Accounts Committee this week.

The investigation into Trading Services' relations with the housing development section of the Corporation has been going on for well over a year and was first reported in the IRISH PEOPLE in January 1980.

Completed

Five weeks ago we received information that the investigation was practically complete and it was generally expected by Councillors that a full report would be given to the Committee on Thursday.

However nothing was listed on the agenda and it was only when Councillor Tomas Mac Giolla of Sinn Féin The Workers Party raised the matter that the City Treasurer confirmed that the financial probe was

completed and serious overcharging had been found.

Commenting the Treasurer's department for the speed and efficiency with which they had carried out their audit Tomas Mac Giolla (the man who first uncovered the scandal) pointed out that the financial irregularities uncovered in the official records were only the tip of the iceberg.

Book entries alone wouldn't tell the Council how much they had been overcharged for materials which might or might not have been delivered. Nor would the records uncover whether there had been abuse of the plant hire system.

Examples

The Councillor produced photographs originally published in the IRISH PEOPLE showing huge boulders still lying near the Corporation's housing site at Whitestown, Tallaght, a year after their delivery as road building materials as an example of what he meant. This rubble would now have to be removed at the Corporation's expense as the land had been taken over by a Japanese manufacturer who wanted it cleared for industrial use.

Tomas also cited the fact that a year ago up to 21 different machines had been regularly booked into the Whitestown site while a new adjoining site of similar size was now only using six permanent plant hire vehicles to do the same work.

These sort of issues should be taken up by the engineering department and the Councillor said that although he had reported them to the City Engineer over a year ago he wasn't satisfied with the response to the problem. There had been no changes in structures or personnel in the housing development section since the investigation began and he would be raising the matter again.

One positive step that was taken at the Finance Public Accounts Committee however, was that the procedures for a new plant hire section in the Corporation were approved. They incorporated many of the suggestions for tighter checks proposed by Councillor Mac Giolla, including registration of engine and chassis numbers on hired vehicles, as well as details of their insurance cover on Corporation files to reduce the opportunities for overcharging in future.

Drugs in mastitis farmers

DRUGS have been available to treat mastitis in cattle for years but the infection rate today in the national herd is almost as high as it was 20 years ago. Have farmers been taken for a ride about the effectiveness of drugs available to combat the disease by a sophisticated multi-million pound advertising campaign mounted by the pharmaceutical companies themselves? That is the disturbing question raised by a recent little-publicised scientific paper based on cattle tests in Cork.

"Orbenin In Mastitis OUI" Without Doubt" proclaims the TV advert. But the results of recent tests on drugs like Orbenin at Moorepark Research Centre in Fermoy, suggests there are nothing but doubts about their effectiveness.

Tests
Late last month Dr Bill Meaney of the Centre gave a paper on the effectiveness of various drugs used in mastitis control treatment and showed they ranged in effectiveness from 100% to 18%. Several well-known brand names, including Orbenin, came well down the list of effective treatment.

Not surprisingly, Dr Meaney's paper has caused a major controversy in the farm drugs industry, with many companies criticising his methods and claiming the tests were too selective and didn't compare like with like.

However, the waves from the agri-business pond where Meaney's bombshell landed haven't caused many

ripples outside. The farming magazines spend heavily on advertising from the drug companies for revenue and other media either haven't been aware of the issue or have ignored it.

Lifetime job

A bewildered Bill Meaney told our reporter he never set out to create a controversy or a league table of drugs for combating mastitis. "We would have to test all the products on the market to do that," he stressed. "There are so many that it would be a lifetime job."

The purpose of the tests, he insists, was simply to provide extra research information for farmers and help reduce the gigantic milk losses our dairy industry suffers every year as a result of the disease which afflicts nearly half the national cow herd.

Bill Meaney is the first to admit that some previously tested drugs with good responses from cattle weren't included in this batch of tests because the results were already known.

"I wasn't out to hammer the companies but to state the effectiveness of many products during

lactation (the milking period is not great," explains Meaney. "We applied the products according to the manufacturers own recommendations except for tetradella, where we used three tubes on each animal instead of one tube every 24 hours." This could only enhance the results he pointed out from the manufacturers point of view.

Results

So what were the results that made the drug companies so angry and fearful for their profits? How do their products perform when cows are affected during the milking period by the two main causes of infection, staphylococcal and streptococcal bacteria?

● Sepsis (or cure) rates for staphylococcal infections during the milking period were: Orbenin LA 38%; Natpenzal 18%; Albacillin 27%; Tetradella 53% and Neofuramast P 27%.

● The cure rates for streptococcal infections from the same drugs were 42%; 100%; 64%; 93% and 66% respectively.

It's no wonder that companies like

Bechmans Animal Health, who produce Orbenin, are worried about the figures and are trying so hard to discredit them.

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

MASTITIS

Mastitis is a disease affecting cows' udders which hits milk output from the animals and also makes it unfit for human consumption. A survey of mastitis in 1963 showed that 47% of the dairy cow population, was affected by it. When a further survey was carried out in Cork during 1978 44% of the cows examined had mastitis, although the infection rate varied from as low as 7% on some farms to as much as 90% on others.



There's never been a Teat Dip like Hibitex

Hibitex is one of the latest drugs onto the mastitis market but will it prove any more effective than its predecessors?

Working class youth squeezed out of colleges

FEWER and fewer working class youngsters are getting a chance of third level education because repeated Government cutbacks on grants are pushing the opportunities for advanced studies and better career prospects out of reach.

Now the Union of Students in Ireland is threatening "tough action" if the present policy of making higher education once more a preserve of the rich isn't reversed.

Grants freeze

While grants for third level students have remained frozen at £600 for the past two years, fees and other costs are soaring. This causes a further 25% increase in fees is expected, squeezing further thousands of students from lower income families out of the higher educational institutions.

A recent survey by USI education officer Mick O'Donnell shows that bare essentials cost the aver third level student £1,608 a year, or nearly three times the value of the grant. These USI costings don't allow for any

"extras" like entertainment, cigarettes or drink.

By far the biggest single element in the rising cost of higher education is the rate of fee increases. Over the past couple of years have risen by 39% compared with the average increase in the cost of living of 28.2%.

Significantly the number of grant aided students from working class homes at colleges and universities has also been falling over the same period. In 1973 27.5% of university students were grant aided. By 1979 the figure had shrunk to 22.3%.

More dramatic

Teacher training colleges have always had a higher proportion of grant aided students, than the universities but here the fall-off in numbers was even more dramatic. During the late 70s grant aided education students fell from 63% to 45%, making teacher training colleges

accessible only to the children of the rich.

At the same time as living costs are rising and more fee increases are planned, the Government are also cutting back on the facilities available to those lucky enough to gain places.

Irish universities are now £7 million in debt thanks to Government cutbacks. So the only way they can remain solvent is to sanction further savage fee increases of up to 25% this summer. As a result students and their families are now being asked to pay more for a poorer service.

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

"This is a situation no responsible student body could tolerate indefinitely," he added.



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

N.I. report shows little equal opportunity

WHEN Peggy Seeger came to Belfast for International Women's Day she entertained audiences with the song "I want to be an engineer" describing the tribulations of a woman trying to get into a traditionally male profession. Recent findings from the Equal Opportunities Commission show that the heroine of Peggy's song wouldn't find the going much easier in Northern Ireland today.

In the EOC "Report of a Formal Investigation into Further Education in NI" one college principal is quoted as saying "It would be failing in our responsibility not to recognise prejudice in employment". Returns from 25 of the province's 27 colleges of further education lend depth to a picture of ingrained inequality between the sexes. Despite widespread lip service to the Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976 the lines of segregation in many areas of employment and education are drawn informally, but none the less firmly.

In general the investigation team comments "the overall differences in numbers of men and women in further education cannot be attributed to a lack of qualifications on the part of the women". Although educational qualifications of girls leaving school are equal to those of boys 11% more of the boys go on to reach higher education.

Wherever reached the colleges girls tend to have a restrictive choice of courses. This, according to some of the college principals and to women educationists is partly the fault of the secondary schools where girls are less likely to get training in science and maths.

Interestingly the Fair Employment Agency had previously suggested that a similar bias away from practical subjects in the North's Catholic schools has contributed to patterns of

encouraged to make children aware of all opportunities "so that students do not unnecessarily limit their future careers".

One area in which women were at an amazing disadvantage was their account for 8,826 of the 10,000 men on day release courses in 1977-78 only 1,000 were women. Of these the vast majority were from public sector jobs such as health, welfare or social services. Only 45 were in engineering and 15 in the building trades although these two categories between them account for 8,826 of the 10,000 men on day release. The picture emerging from such figures is that girls are virtually excluded from the very jobs in which the majority of day release opportunities exist.

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

In order to break through this deadlock the EOC has to change both

attitudes and practical reality. It proposes a gamut of measures to ensure that women are made aware of career possibilities and, even more importantly, are enabled to train for them by time-tabling which takes account of the needs of housewives and by a more open minded attitude from careers guidance and teaching staff.

One encouraging point to emerge from the investigation was that, serious as the situation is, things show some sign of improvement. Even the 15 women on building industry day release courses is an advance. By comparison no women are at present teaching these subjects and just one teaches engineering.

With at least some girls and women now working in these industries and attending courses which should bring them promotion there are certain to be changes as time elapses. However only public pressure for action along the lines suggested by the EOC can make that change dramatic rather than just gradual.

PICKET LINE

Talbot plant is occupied



Defiant Talbot workers at the plant on Monday.

TALBOT workers are sitting-in at the Chrysler-Peugeot owned car plant in Santry, Dublin, following the issue of 90 redundancy notices to assembly line workers there.

The lay-offs are in clear violation of EEC agreements protecting Irish car assembly jobs until 1984, and Talbot are the second major motor manufacturers to violate the guarantees. The first company was British Leyland after the bitter six months long strike in 1979.

Now the Amalgamated Transport Union which represents the Talbot workers is seeking a united front of all unions involved in Irish car assembly in order to resist these and other threatened

redundancies. They certainly have a fight on their hands. Other factories facing similar lay-offs at the moment include Leyland and O'Shea's (the Daihatsu agents).

The Leyland workers, who are also ATGWU members, are taking a test case to the High Court to test the legality of their management's actions in breaking the EEC agreements. The parent union in Britain, the Transport and General Workers Union, are fully backing the High Court

action and have agreed to foot any legal expenses that result.

Meanwhile in an attempt to buy off the Department of Industry and Commerce, Talbot have agreed to place a £1.5 million tyre order with Dunlop's Cork plant if they are allowed to break the EEC job guarantees to their own workers. Amazingly, the Department have agreed to bend the rules but then their jobs aren't on the line.

As the full impact of EEC membership makes itself felt in the car industry, the action taken by the Talbot and Leyland workers could be a forerunner of things to come — for the employers.

Milking the Board

FARMERS make hard taxmasters, at the staff of Bord Baine are rapidly finding out.

Formerly the Bord, which is Ireland's equivalent of Britain's milk marketing board, was a semi-state company. Under EEC rules however it had to become a co-operative body controlled by milk producers — the farmers.

Since the changeover Bord Baine members have found themselves falling behind their counterparts in semi-state bodies as regards wages and working conditions.

Now their new farm bosses also want them to take a 10% cut in staff in order to cut the marketing overheads during the current recession — and preserve farmers' profit margins.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

*FROM Auctioneer Alexis Fitzgerald, chairing a Fine Gael convention which nominated a Byrne, Berningham and Belton as candidates for Dublin North Central in the next general election.
"We have all the Bs. A real stroke."

Anne Ross

THE IRISH PEOPLE would like to record its sympathy with the family of Princess de Rosas on the tragic death of his sister Anne. Anne was one of our most tireless sellers and was also a very active member of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party. A vote of sympathy was passed by the Coiste Seasta of the Party with Anne's family.

El Salvador

"A STEP in the right direction," is how the Irish El Salvador Support Committee describe Garret Fitzgerald's belated agreement to sever Fine Gael links with the vicious El Salvador military junta, but opponents of the junta are disappointed he won't go so far as backing movement, part of the anti-junta coalition.

The call to Fine Gael to break its links with the Christian Democrats came from a former member of the junta and ex-Christian Democrat, Alberto Arene, in Dublin this week. He described the Social Christian Popular movement which has joined socialists, workers and peasant unions, students and professional groups in the Democratic Revolutionary Front as "the authentic voice of Christian Democracy in El Salvador".

Resignation

Alberto Arene, who resigned last March as president of the Salvadorean Institute of Co-operative Development because of the campaign of genocide by the military met Garret Fitzgerald after issuing his call to Fine Gael. He asked Fitzgerald to break his links publicly with the junta and to bring pressure on other European Christian Democrats to halt support

and funds for the Salvadorean Christian Democrats. German and Dutch Christian Democrats in particular are aiding the Salvadorean dictatorship by massive financial backing to the Government Christian Democratic Party.

Arene has specific praise for Bishop Casey's call to the Irish Government to break off diplomatic relations with the US until they ceased all military involvement in El Salvador. He has described their involvement in the country "immoral and calculated to justify a military invasion".

• Campaign of protest against the bloody rule of El Salvador's military dictators; and US backing for their regime began this week — the first anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Romero. A vigil was held at the US embassy in Ballsbridge on Tuesday night. Earlier in the evening there was a memorial Mass for Archbishop Romero.

On Monday evening, 30th March at 8pm there is a protest picket and wreath laying ceremony at the embassy sponsored by Sinn Féin The Workers' Party and the Irish Democratic Youth Movement.

O'Neill only to find that the first item on the management's agenda was redundancies.

"It was following this meeting and repeated postponements of future talks by management that the union finally decided that industrial action was necessary." They were clearly playing for time until they could shift bag and baggage to London and we told them bluntly we weren't going to stand by and watch our members' jobs disappear," stressed the Branch Secretary.

Blacking

The union in Britain is also blacking Vision bus as part of the effort to save jobs in Ireland. Besides NUJ members nearly 50 other workers are believed to be dependent on Union although, as most of them aren't unionised, definite figures are hard to get.

Formerly owned by Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, Vision was bought by O'Neill and Kevin Kelly (publisher of Image, Irish Business and Checkout magazines) some two years ago. At the time the Vision bus was hailed as a great publishing coup but it now looks as if Somoza unloaded a failing publication on the unsuspecting duo.

Lacklustre management since then has posed a serious question mark over the magazine's future, and the need to move to London isn't solely governed by the company's reluctance to recognise trade unions but serious organisational and financial problems as well.

DUBLIN South Central Constituency Committee of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party invite all members and supporters to attend a special meeting on Thursday 2 April in Broggy's Fountain Bar at 8pm.

The Malahide Tyre Centre, New Street opposite Gibney's. We cater for all types of vehicles.

NATO pressure

(Continued from Page 1)

Suicidal

THE IRISH PEOPLE believes this country has no business in super-power confrontation on any side.

No Irish Government has any right or mandate to barter our neutrality — and put at risk the lives of every man, woman and child on this island.

To hell with their military pacts, their nuclear missile bases and their suicidal armies.

Ireland's place is with the world non-aligned Movement, in the struggle for peace, progress and an end to super-power confrontation and the weapons of war.

Fight to save Vision jobs

IT'S not every day you get a union president on a picket line but last week Francis Beckett of the National Union of Journalists took time off from his tour of Irish branches to support members on a picket at Vision magazine in Dun Laoghaire.

Three members of the union working on the multi-language

European business publication as translator writers have been told that they are being made redundant because the publication is moving to London. Management claim the move has nothing to do with the fact that they have been forced to recognise the union on the premises and also deny that they are in serious financial difficulties here in Ireland.

Different story

Union representatives have a different story to tell. Branch

Secretary Padraig Yeates says the NUJ has been trying to represent members at Vision since last September.

"It was only when the Labour Court was asked to intervene that management agreed to talk." "Even then Vision editor-in-chief John O'Neill said that while he recognised the NUJ he didn't recognise our right to represent these members," explained Padraig Yeates.

"Eventually, last month, we managed to get our first meeting with

NUJ President Francis Beckett (right) gives some words of encouragement to striker Helga Reynolds. Also in the picture are Branch Secretary Padraig Yeates (left), Eddie O'Gorman (FOC Gemma Publications) and Irish NEC delegate Eddie Barrett (RTE).



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