

THE

Friday Aug 6th
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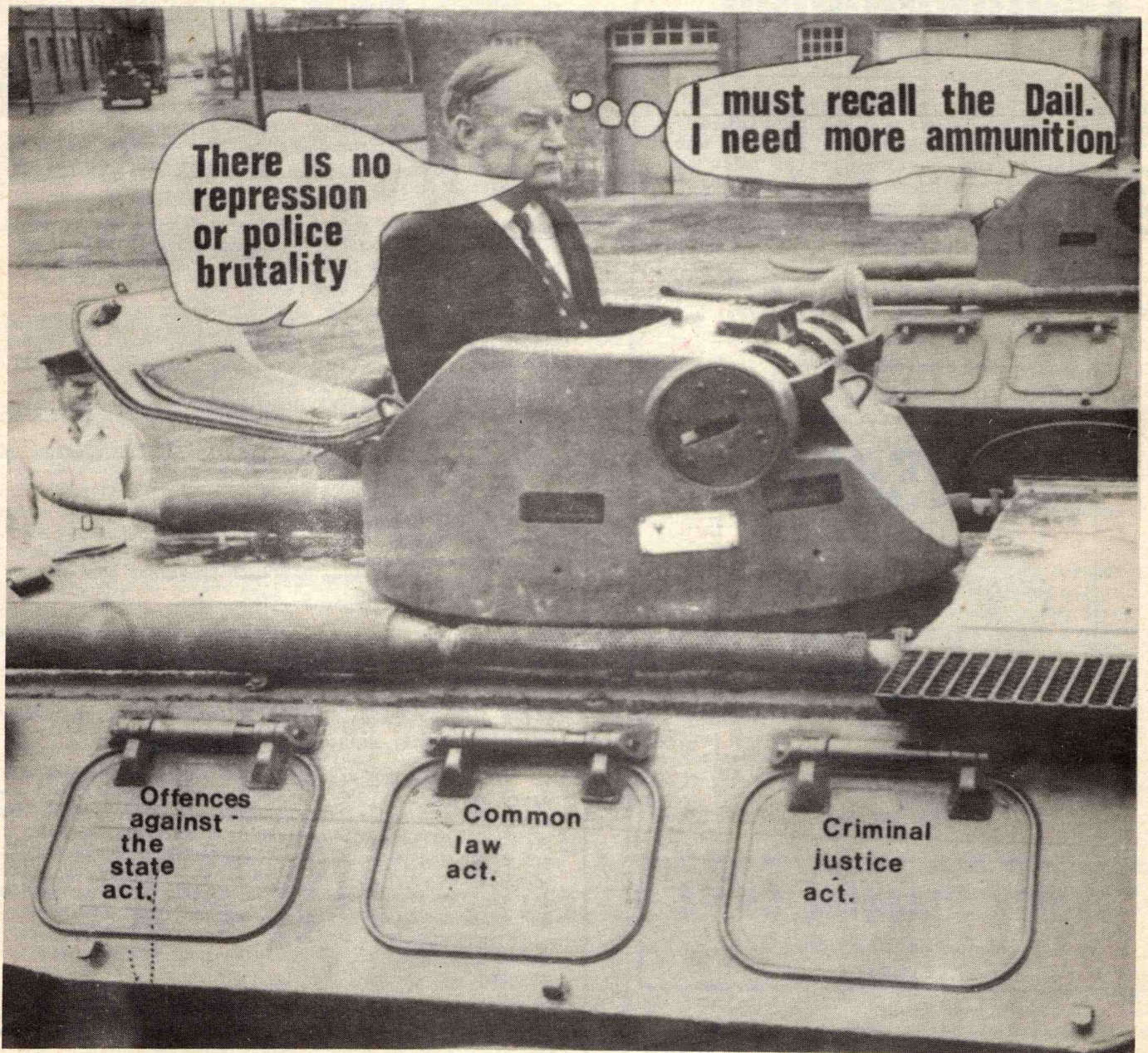
5p

BOTTOM

DOG

"FOR OUR DEMANDS MOST MODERATE ARE ---
WE ONLY WANT THE EARTH" (JAMES CONNOLLY)

THE WORKING CLASS PAPER OF NORTH MUNSTER



ADVERTISEMENTS

In this space we carry advertisements for events and publications within the labour movement. We would encourage our readers to make use of this column. The fee charged is small but will help the Bottom Dog to continue publication at its present size and regularity.

redundancies

Why they happen
How to fight them
A Bottom Dog pamphlet

This pamphlet explores the background to these attacks on workers with particular reference to Ireland and puts forward the perspective in which redundancies must be fought and a strategy with which workers can inflict defeat on the bosses, whether they be native capitalists or the tycoons of foreign multi-nationals.

It is available from any of the addresses given in the Bottom Dog at 10p each.

BANSHEE

Journal of
Irishwomen United

Available from-
39 Elm Place,
Rathbane
Limerick

Family Planning Clinic

6 Cornmarket Row
LIMERICK

Tuesday	6.30 - 8.30pm
Thursday	10am - 12noon
Friday	7.00 - 9.00pm
Saturday	10am - 12noon

More

WHO WILL INVESTIGATE THE POLICE

The middle of August. The best part of the year gone and its been troublesome enough for Bottom Dogs. But let's face it the Top Dogs are getting their furry coats a little ruffled too. Their cosy wage agreement thrown out the window, for the moment at least, the 'troubles' in the North boiling away, two heads awaiting the rope in Dublin and thousands of unemployed beginning to bang at the door. Nothing else for it they say, "we'll have to recall the Dail". How these people can grant themselves £6,000 a year, that's £120 a week plus expenses, take three months holidays and still claim to represent us is a bit of a mystery. But let's not forget we're talking about T.D's. More importantly what are they going to do when recalled.

Is it to declare a national minimum wage? To pass an emergency housing bill? Some new bill to help the struggling people in the North? A plan to take over the country's natural resources and develop them here to provide jobs for the unemployed? Not so lucky. Instead what they have in mind is to give more power to the police and courts. It is important then to look at some of the alleged happenings in police barracks here in recent times.

DECEMBER 1974: James Healey of Cappamore, on his way to work at Shannon, was picked up by the Special Branch, held for two days without contact with his family or solicitor, beaten, threatened with castration, released and re-arrested. It took a High Court order to secure his release finally.

July 1975: Michael Murphy of Limerick city was arrested, interrogated for fifteen hours by relays of Branch men, beaten with a block of wood on the chest and arms and punched all over the body.

FEBRUARY 1976: Jim Nolan of Nenagh, Kevin Walsh of Limerick and John Carroll from Offaly were severely beaten in Tralee barracks. They were then taken to the Bride-well, in Dublin where two of them were tortured. Aspects of the torture included stretching of the limbs,

THE BOTTOM DOG

The Bottom Dog, a Limerick workers' paper was originally published in 1917 and 48 issues rolled off the presses. In October 1975 it was revived and is now a workers' paper covering not just Limerick, but the entirety of North Munster as well.

During this recent period it has appeared on Friday mornings at two week intervals. This deadline has been met on every occasion so far and this will continue to be the case. However, on account of the holiday period which is now with us the next issue will not be published until Friday, 27th August.

The Bottom Dog is not a platform for any political party or faction. It is rather a forum open to all workers who wish to contribute articles or ideas etc. The paper covers issues where the working class is under attack or on the advance e.g. redundancies, unemployment, wage freezes and attacks on workers' rights, repression, sex discrimination and womens' rights, strikes, sit-ins and trade unionisation etc. International issues are also taken up, especially when they relate to, affect, teach lessons or show the way forward for workers in this country.

Readers are welcome to submit articles, letters etc. for publication and can do so by contacting any of those listed below:

Joe Harrington,
109 O'Malley Pk.
Southill.

Jim Curtin,
11 Tradaree Court,
Shannon,

State Repression

burning of hair and beatings with batons fists and boots.

APRIL 1976: Thirty four members and sympathisers of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, four from Co. Limerick were arrested in what has been described as the largest torture operation in recent times. It included denial of sleep, food and water for a period of forty three hours in some cases, beatings with chairs and batons, being stripped naked and threatened with castration, electric shock treatment. As a result six people had to receive medical treatment.

MAY 1976: Unemployed workers organising at the Navan Labour Exchange were approached by Special Branch men, one of whom produced a gun and said "get in the car or I'll blow your head off". They were held in Navan police barracks for nine and a half hours, had some of their clothes forcibly removed and their note-books confiscated.

After all of these cases and several others as well, and in spite of widespread protests, there has never been a single independent inquiry, or prosecution of a policeman for brutality. In fact when these events are brought to the notice of the courts and a defendant who has been brutalised complains that he was forced to confess under torture, he is told by the judge to make his complaint to the police. Some consolation!

The conditions inside the jails in this country are another story and are of great concern to Stevie Coughlan, see elsewhere in the Bottom Dog. In Portlaoise allegations of beatings of prisoners and harassment of relatives are regular events. At present, Jim Daly, Robert McNamara, Kevin Walsh, Barry Doyle, Aidan Cahill and John Carroll are just some of the people from this region who are denied all privileges, such as they are, for the next month. The minimum one might now expect is an independent sworn enquiry into conditions in police barracks and jails. Well you are going to be disappointed. For in case you haven't noticed, there is of late a direct policy of taking newspapers to court e.g. Irish Times, Sunday World and Hibernia for criticising the courts. So instead of a public enquiry and exposure of the sadistic brute squad, which according to black eye and body bruising evidence exists in the Special Branch, we have the very opposite, prosecution of newspapers and inevitably the hiding of these events from public view.

When we consider this record of the police, the existing battery of repressive laws i.e. Forcible Entry Act, Offences Against the State Act, Criminal Law Jur-

isdiction Act and the death penalty awaiting Noel and Marie Murray, it should occur to us that although we didn't win a medal at the Olympics, we have the distinction of having one of the most brutal and repressive states in Europe.

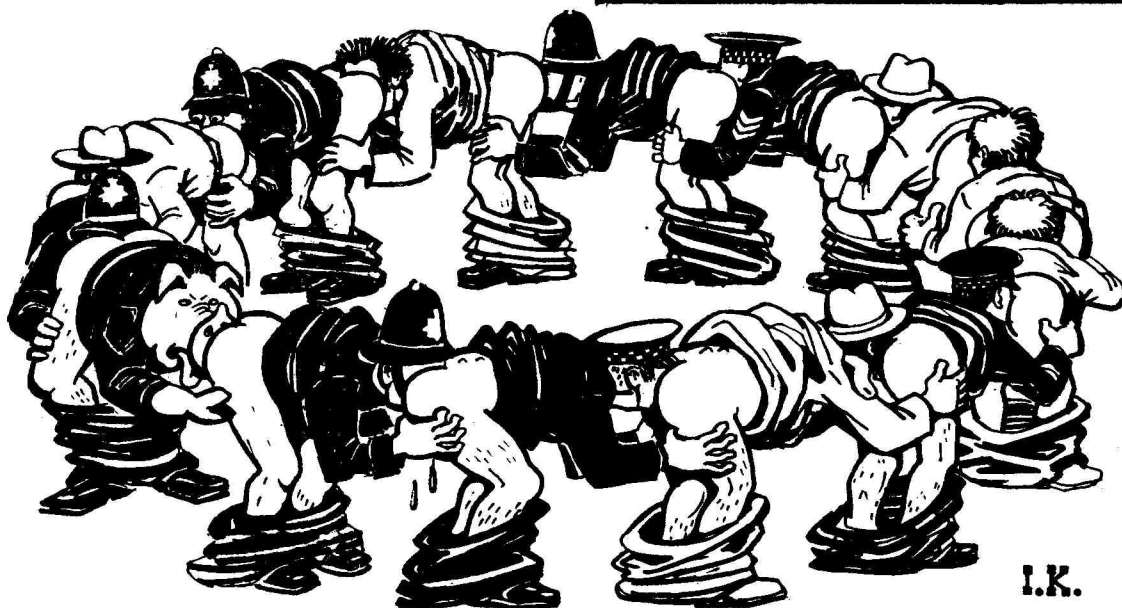
Whatever new laws are concocted during this interruption of the T.D.'s holidays, the naked thinking behind them is that you can beat, kick, jail and hang away the problems of this society is inevitably wrong. This cruel treatment by the representatives of the wealthy of society's law breakers and suspected law breakers is treating only the symptoms. While they ignore fundamental inequality, prejudice and poverty and their exploitation of us, the workers, unemployed and bottom dogs, they will never reach a solution. Their desperate pleas in the name of "democracy" are cutting less ice than ever.

Looking For Work ?

Despite the efforts of all "law abiding" people Mr Cooney has decided that South-ill will not be getting a police station. But it appears that the police themselves seem to think that the city needs another cop-shop . . . At least, that is the impression anyone of the many Limerick people-attending the local Labour Exchange would get. They have practically moved into the place

First came the Gardai. Lying in wait outside the Exchange to take away the pittance of some unfortunate who had failed to pay a fine, they became a familiar sight. Then came the detectives and Special Branch. At first they lazed outside in their Mimfiori but now they pass a few hours leaning on the counter inside watching the creative ability of thousands being reduced to placing their signature on a piece of paper.

Why these detectives crawl out of their hole in William St every Thursday and Friday morning, to make the unemployed of Limerick feel like criminals, no one knows but what workforce would tolerate the presence of these leeches at their workplace week after week.



I.K.

THE SPECIAL BRANCH INVESTIGATING A CASE OF POLICE BRUTALITY

At the Irish Congress of Trade Unions special delegate conference several months ago the 1976 National Wage Agreement was rejected. It appeared that at long last the trade unions had thrown off the shackles of wage agreements which tied the working class down with restrictive clauses and prevented workers from achieving better living and working conditions through militant action.

Now it seems that after taking the handcuffs off the trade union leadership want to snap them on again.

The employers interim pay settlement of £3-£5 could very likely be accepted by a ICTU delegate conference on September 11th, especially since the ITGWU Executive have come out in support of the settlement.

This in spite of the fact that the money terms will not make up wage losses due to inflation and even though many firms will plead inability to pay.

Verily this offer from the employers can be likened to a mouldy crumb off the rich man's table.

The Clontarf Spirit

It is possible that many trade unionists may be happy with this interim pay deal as at least it will provide a wage increase without the need for any effort on the part of the rank and file.

But in this world something is not given away for nothing. This 'gift' from the bosses is conditional upon the trade unions entering into discussions with the Government and employers with the object of trying to formulate a social and economic plan for '77 and '78. As well as being concerned with wages these talks will also cover such matters as unemployment, taxation, social welfare, investment and industrial development.

The aim of the exercise is to attempt to develop a joint strategy to reduce inflation and cut back on unemployment.

Dave Lee

REJECT THE BOSSES NATIONAL PLAN

It all seems a jolly good idea. Everyone getting together to steer the storm tossed national economy away from the rocks of financial disaster. The spirit of Clontarf being revived so as to drive back the inflationary hordes. The whole nation stoking up the fire box to enable the engine of economic recovery to get to the light at the end of the tunnel. Harnessing the productive.....

What a pity that the whole thing is a con trick.

The Grand Plan

The Bottom Dog has constantly made the point that workers should accept no responsibility whatsoever for the present crisis in the private enterprise system. The current balls-up is not of our making. If the capitalists who own and control the economy can't run their businesses efficiently then that's tough bananas on them. But there's no reason why we should make sacrifices for their gross incompetence in running a rotten system.

We consider that employment for all is a right not a privilege. We don't want cut backs in social welfare and wage reductions but a better standard of living for the working class. And if the bosses and their government won't give us the jobs and decent wages then the trade union movement should use militant action to fight for these rights. That requires a trade union movement that is totally independent of the government and the bosses and able to pursue independent policies in the interests of working people.

ent policies in the interests of working people.

However if the trade unions become a partner with the employers in a Two Year Plan for 1977 and '78 it will not lead to such an independent position. The union leaders will be participating at the highest levels in planning the economy and this will result in the trade union movement being suckered into carrying the can for the economic crisis.

Two Nations

The sole reason why the employers want the involvement of the ICTU in a national plan is to get the trade unions to accept the need for wage restraint over the next two years and to get them to lead their membership to the sacrificial altar.

Our leaders are being constantly bombarded with a number of reports from bodies like the I.D.A., the Central Bank, 'eminent' economists etc. All say basically the same thing. If unemployment is to be reduced there is a need for wage restraint. If inflation is to be slowed down there is a need for wage restraint. If industrial development is to go ahead there is a need for wage restraint. And so on and so forth.

Being reasonable men with little imagination and no policy there is a very real danger that the trade union bureaucracy will accept the logic of all this and agree, with much regret etc, that the working class will have to accept a lower living standard for the sake of the nation.

The fact that there are two nations in Ireland - the working class and the capitalist class will not be taken into account. The only nation that will benefit from a two year social and economic plan will be the employers. The working class will be the losers.

For the cost of a tennis ball.....

HELL IS NOT HOT ENOUGH..... COUGHLAN

It is sometimes said that the measure of any society is its police and prison system. There has been plenty of evidence of the true nature of both in recent times, not the least being the high rate of suicides in prisons. Even Fine Gael politicians are embarrassed by this and apologetically talk of reforms. What then of Labour Faker Stevie Coughlan TD.

The Limerick Leader recently reported that Coughlan is to ask the Minister for Justice to "put a stop to the tennis playing activities of women prisoners in Limerick Jail."

So for Steve, the inside of a jail is not miserable enough nor the sentence long enough nor are there enough jails for the young (he called for more only a few weeks ago). Why is Coughlan so worried about all this? Is he simply a sadistic and primitive type man? Or does the spirit of resistance even from people behind bars or youths begging in the street present a threat to greedy power-hungry plans he holds for himself and his son? Perhaps both.

J McNamara.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP US BEAT INFLATION YOU MUST DO EXACTLY AS WE SAY.



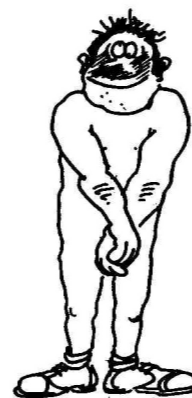
GIVE YOUR PAY BACK TO YOUR EMPLOYER.



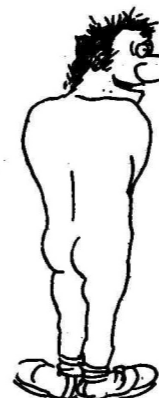
ACCEPT CUTS IN YOUR SOCIAL SERVICES.



GO ON THE DOLE.



HAVE WE BEATEN INFLATION NOW?



NO! YOU MUST MAKE MORE SACRIFICES



TEN MINUTES LATE

Paddy had just received his final warning about being late for work in the mornings. He couldn't understand why the boss kicked up such a fuss about being late. "After all", said Paddy to his mate, "when I'm late for work the time is stopped out of my wages. So the boss is not really losing anything. So why the big deal?"

"What the big deal is", said his mate, "and what lot's of workers don't understand is this. You get paid £1 an hour and £1 is stopped out of your wages when you're an hour late. Right? But your production for an hour is worth many times the £1 that is stopped. If every worker received the full value for each hour's work, there'd be no profits". So that's what the big deal is.

I.D.A. REPORT

First the good news. The I.D.A., in a report just out says it created 14,500 new jobs last year. Now the bad news. The report goes on to say that 28,600 people either lost their jobs or were not replaced on retirement last year. This means 14,600 jobs were in fact lost year.

It has been calculated that to reduce unemployment to the German level of 4% by 1986 (ten years from now), 40,000 new jobs are needed every year as well as keeping the existing ones. However, since there has been virtually no increase in employment in the past 15 years and a fall in employment for the past 3 years the planners say that it may be 1996 before this target is reached. Hope you don't mind waiting 20 years.

THE OLYMPICS AND THE STRUGGLE

The Olympic Games were the high point of entertainment over the last three weeks. People whose interest in sport is minimal were bleary eyed from watching the wonder of it all. The Games began amid a rumpus as to whether New Zealand should take part. Their "All Blacks" Rugby team, (black jerseys), are currently touring South Africa. The Black African nations boycotted the Games because New Zealand was allowed to take part while playing racially selected teams in South Africa at the same time. Many people have condemned this action of the African countries and their allies saying, "Politics and sport are separate", "Rugby is not an Olympic sport" etc.

There are however, excellent reasons for the boycott and the following are only some of them. Firstly one must look at South Africa and her laws in relation to the working class. It is without question that 82% of the population of South Africa are slaves, they have no vote, they are not consulted about the kind of Government they want and they have no say in the making of the laws under which they live. They cannot live and work where they wish, they have no right to skilled jobs, (these are reserved for the white minority), they can neither negotiate or strike for a decent wage, nor form recognised Trade Unions. Black workers are not entitled to live with their families. They must travel away from the 13% of the land allocated to them by the white racist regime as their "homelands", to the mine-camps or white farms, or to industry in the white cities. Their families cannot go with them.

Black men and women found in South Africa's white cities without passes are arrested and forced into police vans - more than 1,600 are prosecuted for such offences every day. Many black prisoners are made to work on white-owned farms where starvation and shootings lead to frequent deaths. South African courts still sentence people to be flogged. They carry out almost half of the world's hangings. The police can detain people indefinitely without charge and without having to inform relatives, friends or the courts.

Political organisations representing black people have long been banned, but thousands have marched, demonstrated and defied the unjust laws of apartheid. Hundreds have been banned and banished to remote areas and many have been jailed for long terms of imprisonment. At Sharpeville in 1960 a peaceful crowd demonstrating against the pass laws was shot at by police and 69 people were killed. This is not an isolated tragedy - in 1973 the police shot 25 miners of whom 11 died. Workers on strike are forced back to work by police with batons and are threatened and intimidated.

In June of this year, just before the New Zealand Rugby team travelled to South Africa, over 100 people were killed and 2,000 were wounded in Soweto, a black suburb of Johannesburg when black students and parents staged a peaceful protest against the compulsory introduction of Afrikaans, (the Dutch-based language of the Boer settlers) into the segregated schools. Soweto is a cheap-labour ghetto, populated by nearly a million semi-transient workers. In their native land, they live without any rights. Legally "belonging" to one or another far-off and non-industrialised Bantu "homeland", they are denied the right to remain in Soweto permanently. Pariahs in their own country, they are treated as immigrant workers; they are landless, denied any political rights, denied the right to farm and forced to carry a pass at all times.

With such an incredibly vicious system of Government ruling by terror, a Government which draws its strength not from the will of the people, but from the guns of the police, the armed cars and aircraft of the army and the shackles of the courts. This is the terror of South Africa, the force and violence which is the only way that 3½ million whites can exploit and oppress 17¼ million blacks.

Can we, knowing that the foregoing are facts, seriously condemn the black nations of Africa for boycotting a country that engages in sport with white minority teams from South Africa. Remember that the people of Kenya,

I AM WOMAN

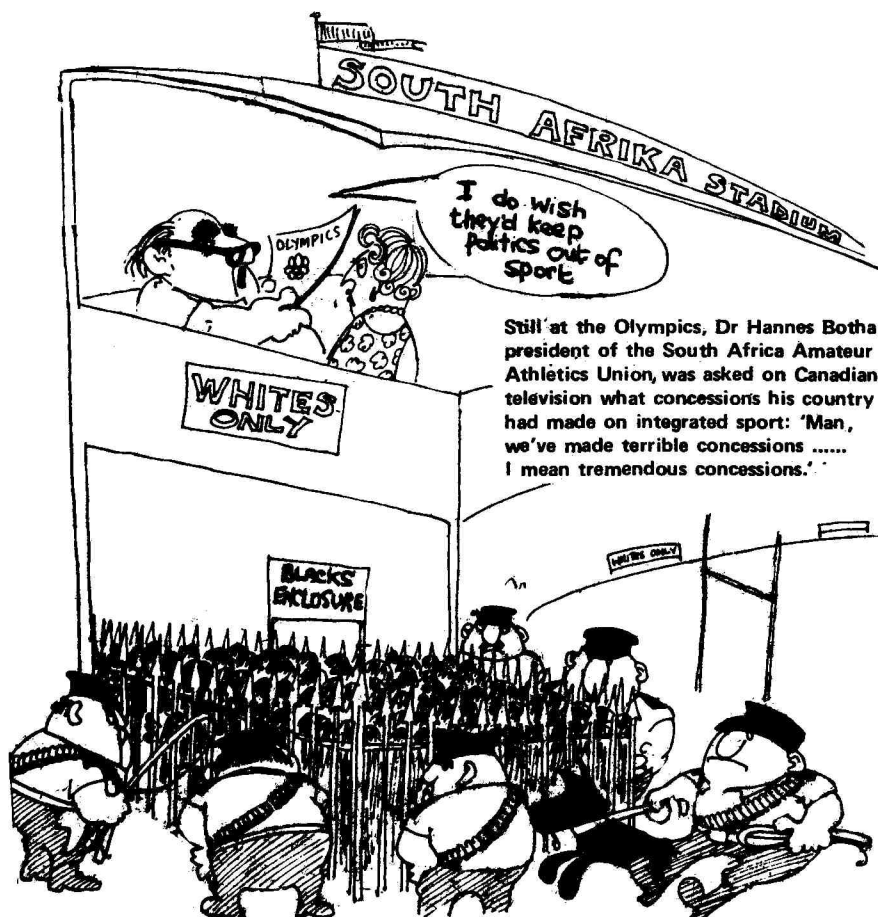
Helen Reddy 1973

I am woman, hear me roar,
In numbers too big to ignore
And I know too much
To go back and pretend.
Cause I've heard it all before
And I've been down there on the floor
No one's ever gonna keep me down again.

Yes, I am wise
But it's wisdom born of pain
Yes, I've paid the price,
But look how much I've gained,
If I have to, I can do anything,
I am strong, I am invincible, I am woman.

You can bend but never break me
'Cause it only serves to make me
More determined to achieve my final goal
And I come back even stronger
Not a novice any longer
'Cause you've deepened the conviction in my soul.

I am woman watch me grow,
See me standing toe to toe,
As I spread my loving arms across the land
But I'm still an embryo
With a long, long way to go
Until I make my brother understand.



AGAINST APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

Tanzania, Nigeria, Zaire etc are the blood brothers and sisters of the oppressed of South Africa. They reject a terrorist society which makes political prisoners of sincere, serious and courageous men and women who find intolerable this unique system of racist exploitation.

Let us turn then to sport in South Africa and what happens when visiting teams play rugby there. Matches are played against "Coloureds-only", "Africans-only" and "Whites-only" teams. But only matches against the "Whites only" team are considered as internationals - even though the Springbok team is quite unrepresentative of South Africa as a whole.

What of such statements as "We're not interested in politics, we're only going to play sport"? Well apartheid is a wholly political policy. So apartheid sport is political sport. In fact it is anti-sport, because true sport demands 'may the best competitor win'. But South African sport insists, where internationals are concerned 'only a white person may even be selected'. That is not sport, it is racism by definition. In fact the first principle of Nazi sport was that only racially pure whites could represent Germany. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister said in 1972 "only a white man can be a Springbok

This is the background to a boycott, which, from our armchairs or bar-stools we reject as selfish, "bringing politics into sport" etc without really seeing further than our noses. The struggle of the black working class of South Africa is not totally removed from the struggle of the Irish working class, actually fights for wages, democratic rights and the campaign against State repression are paralleled in this country. Also when we call for a boycott of Rhodesian and Chilean goods as well as the produce of South Africa we must at every occasion reject any contact with these countries which would gloss over or give credibility to the regimes in power.

Thus, the action of the nations of Black Africa in relation to the Olympic Games must not be seen as merely a petulant act. Though not a mighty weapon in itself, the boycott is part of the arsenal of tactics which must be used on all possible occasions to ostracise South Africa and discredit what it stands for. The boycott served a useful purpose if it brings further attention to the inequities of the apartheid system.

JOHN EGAN
ASTMS

CHILE 3 years of terror

The Bottom Dog has regularly informed its readers of the activities of the Chile Solidarity Committees in Limerick and Shannon and has canvassed support among workers for two objectives:

- (i) to personally boycott any goods or materials that they suspect are of Chilean origin and to propose this action among relations, friends and workmates.
- (ii) to work within the Trade Union movement for the adoption of political prisoners currently locked up in the concentration camps of Chile, (see last issue of the Bottom Dog).

WHY TRADE UNIONS SHOULD SUPPORT CHILE SOLIDARITY

On September 11th next, it will be three years since the Coup that overthrew the Popular Unity Government of Salvador Allende in Chile. Along with the political parties of the working class and the student movement, the Trade Unions were one of the prime targets of the junta's repression and violence in the early days of the Coup and suffered the consequences of the economic disaster that was to follow as the military Government of General Pinochet, supported by the C.I.A. sought to restore "law and order" to Chile.

The first news of the impending coup came with the bombing of Radio Corporacion at about 8.30 in the morning. Then came Allende's broadcast on Radio Magallanes, calling on workers to resist the military with arms. But the arms that were available were few and when compared to the massive strength of the Army, it came as no surprise that all but a few pockets of resistance were overcome within 24 hours.

Then came the arrests in thousands and the summary executions. All those that had been active in Trade Unions were rounded up and taken to one of a number of places that had been converted into prisons, such as the National Stadium in Santiago or an old copper mine situated in the desert in northern Chile. Those workers that were captured by the military in active resistance or in occupation of factories were executed on the spot. Others were lucky enough to escape the military by going into hiding and from there managed to flee the country, but only after running the perilous gauntlet of army marksmen as they scaled the walls of foreign embassies.

In the weeks that followed, the neighbourhoods of the shanty towns were constantly terrorised by the army

with no let up in the rate of arrests and in the resultant physical and mental tortures, as the junta strove to smash the "Marxist conspiracy", which had the support of over 70% of the population. It was necessary for the junta at this stage, to carry out such wide-scale massacres and arrests so that it could inflict a complete defeat on the working class in order to prevent renewed resistance within a short period, when the workers' movement had reorganised. This it succeeded in doing, and so began the "economic revival", when it had got rid of "the cause of the trouble".

Within 12 months, unemployment had increased from 3.1% during 1973 to 8.4% according to official figures, while the Chilean business organisations estimated it at 760,000, (the total population of Chile is about 9 million). Current figures put the unemployment rate at 30%. The highest number of redundancies occurred in the state sector as the junta returned nationalised industries to the former owners - mainly North-American multinationals. The real value of wages in 1974 dropped to 36% of their 1970 level. Inflation increased in hundreds of percentage points and in 1974 the price of coffee had gone up by 1500% while wages increased by only 450%.

These then are the conditions of Chilean workers as we approach the end of the third full year of illegal government by the junta. Throughout the world, there have been massive displays of solidarity from workers' organisations. These have ranged from the popular boycott of Chilean goods to the adoption of political prisoners, and to the refusal of British dockers in the immediate aftermath of the coup, to handle Chilean goods. These actions have succeeded in isolating the junta internationally and securing the release of many prisoners. However, these tactics need to be re-intensified and sustained. For example, Britain still continues to supply the Chilean navy with warships.

In Ireland, the response from trade unionists has been weak. It is said that we have sufficient problems of our own and that we must regard issues such as Chile Solidarity as secondary. However, the dreams of Richie Ryan for stiff measures of wage control are a stark reality in Chile, where one has to work six hours to earn enough money to buy a loaf of bread. Ryan himself has contributed to the upkeep of the junta by casting the only E.F.C. vote in favour of supplying aid to Chile at a World Bank meeting. Trade unionists in this area can show their opposition to this and the failure of the Irish Government to honour its United Nations Agreement to take in 100 Chilean families, by attending the meeting called by the Limerick Chile Solidarity Committee on SEPTEMBER 11th.

PAT O'CONNOR

-----THE BISHOPS DO THEIR PARTY PIECE-----

THE BISHOPS AND THEIR DEFENCE OF CAPITALISM

Throughout Irish history the Hierarchy has exerted a strong hold on the Irish people and has never been shy to use this influence in defence of capitalism and imperialism. The Fenians, the Young Irelanders, the United Irishmen and the I.R.A. of the twenties have all been condemned from the pulpit. In a pastoral letter in 1920, Dr. Colohan, Bishop of Cork launched the sentence of excommunication against the killers of R.I.C. members and British soldiers. During the Civil War, the Hierarchy backed the Free State and again used the threat of excommunication against members of the Republican forces.

O'Duffy's Blueshirts went to Spain with the backing and blessing of the Hierarchy. Church gate collections brought in thousands of pounds to make sure that the Blueshirts lacked nothing for their 'Holy War' against the 'Reds'. The fact that the vast majority of this money went into the pockets of a certain fat-faced Fine Gael family, but of course this wasn't really important. What was important, was that 600 Irishmen went off to 'Kill the Reds', knowing they were not committing a mortal sin, they were "killing a Commie for Christ". For years the Bishops had tried to protect their people from the 'Red Menace'.

During the 1913 strike when thousands of Dublin workers who were living in sub-human conditions were fighting a life and death struggle with employers, the Catholic Hierarchy took the side of the employers. Archbishop Walsh of Dublin criticised the workers' cause. In the early fifties the Hierarchy used its influence in getting Noel Browne's 'Mother and Child Scheme' dropped. The Bishops have always served the interests of the British forces in the North. Bishop Philbin left the safety of his episcopal palace in 1969 and ventured into one of the ghettos in his diocese in a British army landrover. He appealed to "his people" to take down the barricades, which they had erected to protect the area. The people took them down but the good bishop was not in the area during the resultant Orange pogrom.

Dr. Otto Simms of the Church of Ireland publicly justified the internment procedure when it was introduced. The British Army's press office in the North, which plays a very important role in the maintenance of imperialism, has never failed to utilise the numerous statements from the various Bishops supporting the security forces there. After the murder in Derry of thirteen civilians on Bloody Sunday, British propaganda suffered a major set-back but the position was soon rectified with the help of the Catholic Church. At a press conference in Belfast, the chief Catholic chaplain to the British forces justified the murder of the thirteen civilians, he did this with the complete agreement of

his superiors.

More recent statements from the Bishops are in line with Government and employers' policy on forcing workers to accept a wage freeze. Dr. Buchanan, the Protestant Arch-bishop of Dublin, in a statement on television asked the Bank Officials to return to work, and deplored the strike because of the inconvenience that it was causing. On July 25th, the Most Rev Dr. Cathal Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, in an address at Knock, the pilgrimage centre in Co. Mayo said that "Workers should think of the rest of the community when they provoked or launched strikes". The Bishop went on to say that there were thousands of people without jobs and that those who had jobs were in a privileged class. He added that if those at work produced less there would be fewer jobs and the recession would get worse.

Therefore workers should moderate their wage claims and think of the community interest. No mention of the fantastic profits of the Banks was made by Dr. Daly, nor did he mention the Companies like Waterford Glass, who having made millions of pounds in profits, pleaded inability to pay the meagre terms of the National Wage Agreement. But then Dr. Daly, who has already published a book titled "Violence in Ireland" which gives general support to the role of the British forces in the North, was following the same pattern of the other Bishops with their spirited defence of capitalism and imperialism.

On July 18th Dr. Daly and fourteen other Bishops dined together after the opening of the new f1m church at Knock Co. Mayo. The menu included grapefruit, cocktail, vegetable soup, beef, trifle, ice cream, coffee and an impressive assortment of beverages. If workers could sit down to this nosh-up maybe they would not be forced to take strike action to secure a living wage. There is no truth in the rumour that after the meal, Eamonn Casey, the new Bishop of Galway challenged the rest of his colleagues to a race to Dublin and that he was prepared to give them an hour's start.

Like its counterparts in Italy, France, Portugal, Spain and South America and anywhere the working class is on the march to improve its social conditions, the Catholic Church will line up with the employer class to resist it. When Cardinal Cushing of Boston justified the war in Vietnam, where daily young children were being roasted alive by napalm bombing, he was also expressing this worldwide role of the Church. So, brothers and sisters, the next time that you see a well fed Bishop on the television, preaching about excessive wage demands, remember that he is only doing his party piece.

GREG DUFF

For The Attention Of Central Bank.

A report just published shows that this country has borrowed £1000 million abroad. By a simple calculation they tell us that this amounts to £350 for every man, woman and child in the country.

The Bottom Dog wishes to inform the

Governer of the Central Bank who has responsibility for these matters and the Post Office that the money has not yet arrived. Contact any of the addresses on the paper with the cash (no cheques due to bank strike).

Our readers in the Ennis area can get in touch with the Bottom Dog at the following address - Pat Kennelley, 26 Corravonne Green Ennis Clare

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