

LABOUR NEWS BULLETIN ★★★★★

Vol. 1 No. 5 July, 1971

A Head Office Monthly for Party Members

Free Issue

NORTH. CRISIS WORSENS

THE POLITICAL CRISIS in the North worsened steadily over the last month. It reached its high point in the Derry killings, the withdrawal of the S.D.L.P. from Stormont and the threats of Taylor and Bradford to unleash all out war. Ahead lies the Apprentice Boys' Parade in Derry with all its attendant dangers.

The Labour Party has maintained constant contact with its Northern counterparts and with the party organisation in South Down. Party delegations travelled to Warrenpoint, Derry and London. The S.D.L.P. visited Head Office in Dublin for major consultations. The N.I.L.P. met the Party in Warrenpoint after the 12th July parades. Conor Cruise O'Brien conferred with James Callaghan in Westminster. The Chairman of the British Labour Party, Ian Mikardo, was briefed in Dublin. Deputy Michael O'Leary was on the spot in Derry when the S.D.L.P. took its fateful decision to withdraw from Stormont.

SOUTH DOWN

New emphasis has been placed on the importance of the Party organisation in the South Down Constituency. Party Chairman, Roddy Connolly, has visited the branches three times in the last eight weeks.

On 14th July he was accompanied by Niall Greene, Brendan Halligan and Dr. Maire Walsh, the Chairman of the Administrative Council Political Committee and a Belfastwoman. A top level strategy session was held with the seven Labour Councillors from Warrenpoint and seven from Newry following a meeting of all branch members in the Warrenpoint Labour Club.

As a result of this meeting the involvement of the Labour Party in the consultations now being organised by the S.D.L.P. on its alternative assembly proposal has been secured. The Labour Party will be represented at such talks because it has more local Councillors in the North than either the S.D.L.P. or N.I.L.P.

The South Down Constituency Council has agreed to await the outcome of these consultations before taking any action in conjunction with the Administrative Council.

The Party Officers at its meeting with the N.I.L.P. on 14th June indicated that they wished to see the Council of Labour completely reformed by making it more democratic and by admitting the S.D.L.P. as a member.

LONDON TALKS

Conor Cruise O'Brien met James Callaghan, former British Home Secretary, for an hour's discussion on 13th July in Westminster. He

stressed the necessity of having a sworn inquiry into the Derry shootings in accordance with the S.D.L.P. demand and warned of the imminent danger in Derry arising from the Apprentice Boys parade.

He later met George Thompson, former E.E.C. negotiator in the Wilson cabinet. Dr. O'Brien came away convinced that the Tory Government were against any inquiry and that British public opinion is hardening against the anti-minorist cause.

S.D.L.P. IN DUBLIN

The S.D.L.P. in their discussions with a joint Administrative Council and Parliamentary Party delegation in Head Office on 1 July forcibly stressed the necessity of having the Apprentice Boys' parade cancelled. They emphasised that if it goes ahead it will lead to major violence.

The S.D.L.P. indicated that its membership of the Council of Labour would come before its first Party Conference scheduled for the Autumn. There was little doubt, they said, but that Council membership would be agreed.

The Administrative and Political Committees, the two key Administrative Council Committees, meanwhile keep the crisis under examination on a day to day basis in the light of information received from South Down and the Northern parties.

As the dreaded August parade draws nearer one can only conclude the Northern crisis is rapidly reaching breaking point.



S.D.L.P. members at the press conference announcing their withdrawal from Stormont. Seated left to right: Paddy Devlin, M.P., John Hume, M.P., Austin Currie, M.P., Gerry Fitt, M.P., Ivan Cooper, M.P., and Paddy O'Hanlon, M.P.

Special Conference

A SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE conference will discuss the new draft Party Constitution in Liberty Hall, Dublin, on September 25. The draft will be published following the Administrative Council meeting on July 30 and will be available to the organisation in plenty of time for delegates to be briefed.

The special conference is the last step but one in the process of framing a new constitution begun in 1967. The final consideration of the proposals for improved structures and procedures of the Party will take place at the 1972 Annual Conference in Westport next February, (unless there is need for a special conference prior to that constitution). The discussion in September will enable the Administrative Council and delegates from that which reflects the views of the Party as a whole.

Four years of hard work and a share of controversy have gone into the exercise which was initiated by a special committee brought together by Niall Greene at the request of the Party Leader, Brendan Corish. Over a period of three years some 30 people, including Roddy Connolly, the late Jimarkin, Peg Brophy, Jim Quinn, John Goodwillie, Rex Coughlan and Betty Dowling, contributed to the work.

The main factors to be taken into account in the new constitution are set out in a Discussion Document presented to the 1969 Annual Conference. Since then most of the discussion and work has gone into the translation into concrete terms of the general principles set out in that paper.

The make up of the Consultative Conference anticipates, in some respects, that of the main proposals in the new constitution. Since the present Party Constitution makes no provision for consultative conferences (there has only been one

NEW ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

The Administrative Council has appointed Seamus Scally as Assistant General Secretary (Services). He will take up his appointment in head office on August 1st.

Seamus Scally is 37 years of age and is employed in a management post with a semi-State company. He was born and educated in Roscommon.

In 1957 he emigrated to England and worked for two years as a bus conductor. He then entered London University and after two years gained a diploma in social science. He later worked in industry as a cost controller.

He returned to Ireland in 1963 as office manager of an industrial firm. He became an administrator in a semi-State company in 1969.

Seamus Scally is formerly the chairman of the Harold's Cross Branch of the party and is currently a member of the Sean Heuston Branch. He is a member of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association.

Mr. Scally has been chairman of the Forum Discussion Group since 1964. Last year he was elected

EDITORIAL

The Forcible Entry Bill is an abomination. It is an unnecessary, dangerous, ill-intentioned and malevolent proposal. Unnecessary, because changes in court procedures would be sufficient to deal with the present legal problems arising from squatting. Dangerous, because it creates new crimes, threatens press freedom, introduces guilt by association and permits arrest without warrant. Ill-intentioned, because it tackles the symptom and not the disease. People won't squat if they have homes to live in. And malevolent, because it uses power against those without protection and the might of the law against those abandoned by the law makers.

Mr. O'Malley has shown himself to be an over-bearing Minister for Law but a disaster as a Minister for Justice. In face of an unrelenting attack from the Labour benches he has shown himself to be a mean and spiteful defender of a hated Bill.

As announced in the April 'Bulletin' the Labour Party did not table any amendments on the Committee Stage of the Bill so as to emphasise its total opposition when it tabled amendments on the Report Stage—a brilliantly executed tactic—the Minister tried to intimidate the Party by threatening to keep the Daill sitting all summer. As Labour Deputy after Deputy spoke on each amendment the Minister lost his temper and shouted about filibustering. Never has the Labour Party been seen to better effect in the Daill than in these last two weeks. And never have Fianna Fail been shown up for what they are—arrogant and insinuating hypocrites.



SEAMUS SCALLY

CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE ON NEW PARTY CONSTITUTION

Saturday, 25th September
11.30 a.m. — 6.00 p.m.
Liberty Hall, Dublin
Make sure your constituency is represented

PUBLICATION DATE

There will be no issue of 'News Bulletin' in August. The next issue will be published on the second Tuesday in September.

Branch secretaries should note that the monthly publication date will be the second Tuesday.

Labour Mayors in Cork Waterford and Galway

LABOUR HAS WON THE Mayoralties in three of the country's main cities, Cork, Galway and Waterford. Councillor Tim O'Sullivan is the new Labour Lord Mayor of Cork in Galway. Councillor Mick Smyth became the second Labour mayor in the history of the City to become Mayor. Waterford Corporation elected Labour veteran Tim Galvin to the post of first citizen.

He was elected to the Corporation in 1967. Now in retirement, he was Branch Secretary of the I.T.G.W.U. from 1957-'71 having previously been Assistant Secretary from 1951-'57.

Clr. Galvin is Chairman of the Tommy Dunne Branch and Vice-Chairman of the Waterford Divisional Council.

He joined the Fianna boys at the age of 12 years in 1917 and took part in the War of Independence. During the Civil War he was on the Republican side and was interned for two years.

GALWAY

Councillor Mick Smyth was first co-opted to the Galway Corporation in place of Jim Cox, now the President of I.C.T.U. He was re-elected in 1967.

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Commemoration

Sean Dunne Commemoration: Commemoration ceremonies for the late Sean Dunne, T.D., were held in Bray on Sunday, 27 June. The Commemoration was organised by the Bray, Trades Council and North Wicklow Divisional Council, Labour Party Liaison Committee.

Following Mass in the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, a parade led by St. Kevin's Pipe Band, took place to his grave in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Addressed by Mr. Roddy Connolly, Vice President, Trades Council and by Deputy Liam Kavanagh, on behalf of the Co. Wicklow Constituency Council.

In the oration at the graveside, the Party Chairman, Mr. Roddy Connolly, said "Sean Dunne's courage was a byword, his probity unquestioned, his charm a delight to associates, his courtesy won encomiums from his opponents, his wit devastating, his honesty of purpose an example to all". Mr. Connolly said: "If the Irish people were to remain true to Sean Dunne's spirit, they must attempt the task of alerting public opinion, before it was too late to the callous, projected betrayal of national liberty and sovereignty and to the dangers of a calamitous decline in livelihoods, by rousing the country into the Common Market."

Deputies Barry Desmond and Justin Keating also attended the ceremonies.

Labour wins power Foreign News

THE MALTESE GENERAL ELECTION on June 13/14th returned Labour to power for the first time since independence in the 55-member parliament. Prime Minister Dom Mintoff has already made his Government's presence felt both at home and abroad.

Mintoff, who was previously Prime Minister in 1953-62, paved his way to power with an alliance with the Roman Catholic Church which has previously instructed his followers not to vote socialist. The new found radicalism of the ageing Archbishop Sir Michael Gonzi, which has already caused a deep rift within the Maltese Church establishment, also led to a more co-operative attitude to the Left. The truce between the two most powerful figures on the island brought the corrupt National Party's rule to an end.

The task facing Mintoff is basically that of reusing a neo-colonial type economy from its lethargy and its dominance by Britain. At the same time he needs Britain's financial support to maintain present living standards. Thus he has embarked on the apparently contradictory courses of both trying to get the U.K. to raise its annual subvention from £5m. to £15m., and telling them they must vacate the strategically important dry docks.

Labour's position on the dockyards owes more to hard-nosed business sense than doctrinaire non-alignment. At the moment it is leased to the British Navy who not only look after their Mediterranean fleet but do contract work for other NATO countries including the U.S.

IMPORTANT ASSET

An important asset for the new Prime Minister is his cordial relations with Arab countries and particularly with oil-rich Libya only 180 miles to the south. The instability of the regimes in many of these countries, however, means that they ceptible to British pressures. But would by no means be a reliable life line to rescue Malta from British dependence.

How dangerous this dependence and West Germany's has more is was illustrated in the first part—



DOM MINTOFF, Malta Prime Minister

night of the new government's reign when a mass exodus of the British community had to be halted by assurances from Mintoff himself for their safety. The island simply could not survive economically their departure and the loss of valuable foreign exchange. Such an event could also seriously affect the important tourist industry at the moment largely controlled by British travel agencies, hotel and transport interests. Until he changes this foreign control and broadens the base of the Maltese tourist industry, Mintoff will always be susceptible to British pressures. But would by no means be a reliable life line to rescue Malta from British dependence.

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NEW ZEALAND VISITOR

A visitor to Party Head Office on 19th July was Mike Moore, a member of the National Executive of the Administrative Council of New Zealand. He represents the youth organisation on the Executive and has been on a fact finding mission in Europe for the past six weeks.

Jobs in Danger

THE PLIGHT of the footwear industry has been constantly brought to the attention of the Government by Labour since the introduction of the Free Trade Agreement with Britain. July brought news of further redundancies in Cork, Ireland.

Fianna Fail has done little to protect the industry from the full effects of free trade. It has not sought to make a special case for the industry, nor has it encouraged the A.N.C.O. to restrain workers in factories facing imminent close-downs. It has arranged the urgent injection of new industrial capital into areas where factories are at stake.

Clearly the impact of free trade is crippling the footwear industry. In the first three months of 1969 were valued at £1,451,000 and exports at £3,764,000. In 1970 imports were valued at £2,537,000 (of which the second half of the year accounted for £1,466,000) and exports at £2,962,000.

Employment rose in the 1960s until the middle of the decade (when the Free Trade Agreement was signed) then it levelled off and began to fall.

The number of persons engaged in the footwear industry were 5,790 (2,822 men) in October, 1960; 6,195 (2,824 men) in October, 1965; and 5,700 (2,500 men) in December, 1970. So there were less at work in the trade in 1970 than in 1960.

The evil effects of this cannot be overstated. Jobs have been lost in towns who have grown to depend on such employment and with little alternative job opportunities.

In terms of jobs alone the statistics reveal the bankruptcy of Fianna Fail policy. In the first three years of 1965 to 1967, seven footwear factories closed down with the loss of approximately 250 jobs.

In the year 1970 three factories closed with a loss of 150 jobs and in the first quarter of 1971 two factories closed with a loss of 85 jobs. And the prospect for the rest of the year looks more cheerful. In the first two months of 1971 production of women's fashion shoes—the major product of the Irish shoe industry—has fallen to 265,899 pairs of shoes. The pattern is of increasing redundancies and of more and more cases of slow-downs in production and consequent short-time for workers. If the pattern of early 1971 holds throughout the year there will be a 15% fall in the shoe industry.

Prices gone mad

IN 1969 the cost of living rose by 7.4%. In 1970 it went up by a further 8.2%. So far there has been little sign of a significant decrease in the rate at which the cost of living is mounting. In this vital sphere the present government has been a complete flop.

Between February 1970 and last February almost everything escalated in price. The greatest increase came from Gerys Collins, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs because he increased the price of stamps and postage by 42%.

Almost every ordinary consumer product and many foodstuffs, which are most vital to the working class, rose disproportionately.

Steak rose by 16%, beef by 14%, cod by 10%, fish fingers by 18%, carrots by 19%, turnips by 19% and tinned peas by 12%, which probably explains why the rise in the cost of living felt like more than 8.2% for families in the lower income groups. For them it rose by much more.

Many other foodstuffs increased alarmingly in price as well. Again many of the foodstuffs which rose the highest are most vital for lower income groups—milk rose by almost 18%, eggs by 9%, and margarine by 24%.

Increases were not limited to food. Coal rose by 14% and there was another exorbitant price rise in the cost of transport—24% for trains and 35% for buses. Country shops topped the list with 20% and haircuts went up by 18%.

Finally, to round off the cycle, doctors' fees went up by almost 10% and telephone charges by over 10%.

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John Foster, General President

Denis Larkin, General Secretary

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POVERTY: POWER AND THE PENSIONERS

Introducing
the
Spotlight
Column

are in the greatest need have had their political awareness frozen by the continuous, demeaning need to depend on Fianna handouts.

Fianna Fail not merely extracts full credit from its miserly social welfare benefits but it successfully manages to make many indigent people feel grateful to them. Their level of expectancy has been kept low by Fianna Fail so it can be said that it is in the Government's benefit not to raise dramatically social welfare benefits. If they do, the recipients might realise how they had been neglected.

LABOUR'S COMMITMENT

THERE EXISTS a great deal of poverty and injustice in the Republic. It is not mere dramatic sort of the underdeveloped countries of the Third World but rather the complete neglect of peripheral social groups, such as pensioners, who have not the organised power to make their voice heard.

A future theme in articles in *Labour News Bulletin* will be the existence and the extent of poverty in this country. Underlying this theme will be the obvious necessity for Labour in a government dedicated to shifting the emphasis of State expenditure to the forgotten, deprived minorities in our society. Allied to this underlying theme is an associated theme, the urgent need for people who are applied by Fianna Fail neglect of such groups to work for Labour. Obviously the present party in power will not introduce sufficiently radical reforms. The one way to rid the country of these evils is to work for the Labour Party.

From such a social policy Labour cannot expect great electoral benefit. Most of those who

IN 1966 the Dublin Health Authority estimated that old people living alone needed £3,421p per week, not including rent, to stay above the poverty line.

Without this amount it was estimated that an old person could not purchase the necessary 1,600 calories of food per day, as clothing and would in all probability suffer from malnutrition. If one adjusts this figure to the cost of living which has risen by over 35% since then, it can be estimated that nowadays only pensioners would require at least £4,600 to stay above the poverty line. The amount would have to exceed for reasonable "luxuries" such as cigarettes, a bottle of Scotch, person's life. It would merely make people for an old person to survive in reasonably good health.

In March/April 1971 age, blind and widows' pensions were receiving the following amounts:

Amounts Received in Pensions	Number of People in the State receiving the pension
Under £3-00 a week	8,950
£3-00—£4-00 a week	25,750
£4-00—£5-00 a week	131,950
£5-00—£7-00 a week	34,550
Over £7-00 a week	18,200
Over £10-00	500

It can be seen that on the basis of the Dublin Health Authority figures that 447,780 people on pensions live in poverty, and

that another 131,950 live on the verge of poverty. Under Fianna Fail 576,650 people in the Republic are on the starvation line.

The full import of these figures can be further appreciated if one remembers the late age at which the old age pension is granted here. The pension is only given at the age of 70, the oldest in Europe with the sole exception of Norway.

"WORSENING PROBLEM"

The problem of old people will get worse in the next decade. There are almost 350,000 old age pensioners at the moment and by the end of the decade the

number is expected to increase by 15%. For those under 70 who do not in receipt of any State aid the only recourse is to Home Assistance, which varies from local authority to local authority, and is rarely adequate due to the paucity of local authority funds. In 1969, 35,000 people — most of them old — were in receipt of such assistance. A large percentage of these can be safely added to the large number in poverty.

The disgracefully low and late benefits available to old people under Fianna Fail can be added to some other shameful statistics.

One person in forty over the

age of 65 is incarcerated in a mental hospital. This is five times as many as in the population under the age of 65. Another 71% of our old people are in institutions of one sort or another.

The effects of prolonged isolation and a constant need to cope with an extremely tight budget inevitably leads to a tragic end to the lives of many people who spend their active working lives in the service of the community. One of the most urgent needs and tasks of Labour in government must be the re-direction of State expenditure to remove this blot on Irish society—Fianna Fail's treatment of old people.

When the category 1-30 acre is broken down further the picture looks worse. On farms between 1-10 acres 41.7% of the family's income comes from social welfare and another 7.4% from pensions.

The but callousness of the Government's decision to remove the rural code can be seen in the light of this survey. The decision, in effect, cut off up to 25% of the small farmer's income. It was a decision which inevitably has forced families to seek alternative finance from their second source of income. The result? The dole cut will not mean an improvement in congestion and praction on farms with small farms and poor land. It will merely mean an intensification in the hardship which many men have to leave their families to work in Britain for most of the year to keep them from poverty.

John Fennell

RURAL POVERTY

A RECENT SURVEY from the Economic and Social Research Institute on the "Rural Household Budget" details the widespread presence of marginal poverty on small farms in Ireland. The average income for a farm under 30 acres is £177 which obviously is insufficient even to implement a minimum consumption of home produced foodstuffs. On these farms only one-third of the land is used because of the concentration of small holdings poor land.

The inequity system of land apportionment in Ireland means that the bulk of small farms are concentrated in areas with poor

It means that whole areas of the nation are dependent even on the State subsidy. This sug-

On farms under 30 acres less than one-third (31.1%) of the family's income comes from agriculture and another third (32.3%) comes from jobs obtained by members of the family at different times in the year. The remaining third is made up of gifts—6.2% comes from interest, dividends and pensions; 5.1% from social welfare (dole, family allowance, etc.) and the rest from emigrants' remittances.

It is less than the amount derived from farming in less than the amount derived from welfare benefits.

BRITISH DECISION Brussels Conference on the EEC

THE BRITISH Labour Party, the largest social democratic party in the world, is now virtually certain to oppose the U.K.'s entry to the Common Market on the terms negotiated by the Heath Government.

No vote was taken at their Special E.E.C. Conference in Central Hall, Westminster on 17th July, but there is no doubt what the outcome will be. The 1,230 delegates would have been in this sense Harold Wilson's closing speech was the clearest statement yet of opposition to the present terms.

"ANTI" MAJORITY

Although Chairman Ian Mikardo alternated speakers from both sides the balance of the debate lay clearly with the "anti" majority. The re-iteration of Peter Shore's ruthless dissection of the Heath Government Paper and the position of the Labour Market; of Michael Foot's emotional defence of the party for the preservation of national development policies; of the constantly raised issue of the abandonment of British aid to the world's cheap food policy; of the effects of free capital movement and so on.

In the face of the opposition George Thomson's assertion that he would have recommended the present terms to a Labour cabinet "no what," as one heckler called; (John Mackintosh's claim that only within the E.E.C. could Britain gain some immunity from recurring sterling crises; of the possibility of winning in more than one election raised by Michael Stewart; and the case for a uniquely European competence by an doubting E.E.C. had very little effect.

There was no denying the sincerity of the calls for Britain to play her part in the building of a socialist Europe with the first step, but the case put forward, among others, by front bench Member, Eric Heffer, that they could not compromise the fight for socialism at home in the cause of socialism abroad caught the mood of the delegates. On both

THE EIGHTH Congress of the Socialist Parties of the E.E.C. was held in Brussels from June 28th to 30th. The Labour Party attended as an observer party and was represented by O'Brien, T.D., Niall Greene and Brendan Halligan, with Tony Browne as technical adviser.

The socialist parties of the E.E.C. are a socialist group within the European Parliament and not as national representatives. The Parliament does not, as yet, have any real power in the E.E.C. affairs but it could have in the future, and in any event, is a useful testing ground for socialist co-operation between parties from six different countries.

The Brussels Congress was their eight get together as well as they discussed the future of Euro-

pean integration and more effort for a joint concerted action in the Parliament.

For the first time at such a Congress the parties from four applicant countries were invited to attend as observers with the right to speak but to vote parties of Finland, Austria, Switzerland, New Zealand, and in the European Trade Union Movement was officially represented.

Executive members of the European Parliament attended, led by the president of the Parliament, Walter Ulbricht, a member of the German Social Democratic Party.

The three socialist members of the E.E.C. Commission were present as observers, Wilhelm Haferkamp of Germany, Niels Mansholt of the Netherlands and Alessandro Spinelli of Italy.

NO SECRET

The Congress made little secret of its desire to see the four applicant countries full members of the E.E.C. This was particularly true in the case of Britain and New Zealand. The Labour Party to support U.K. entry on the grounds "their country has the same democratic institutions of the E.E.C. and also strengthen the Labour Movement at European level."

At the same time the Congress did not attempt to force its views upon the throats of the four parties from the applicant countries. There was no doubt that each party had special problems which would have to be taken into account in a general programme of resolution on the Enlargement of the European Community, which was adopted.

The general resolution "strongly reaffirmed their conviction that integration proceeds best when the E.E.C. must be continued to its ultimate completion in the United States of Europe,"

But they said the European Community can only develop if all the activities of its executives are directed to the interests of the European Parliament directly elected by the people.

The prospects of such developments were not regarded as being in the closed sessions and in private conversations. The text of the general resolution should therefore be taken with a grain of salt. It is important in the long term but of no immediate relevance to politics as practiced in the E.E.C.

DIFFERENCES

Different outlooks became very evident during the Congress. The Dutch are the most "European Labour Party. Their Party Conference has in fact produced a resolution. They are realistic enough to know it is a long way off but they are clear on such an eventuality.

The party with the most critical analysis of the E.E.C. was the Italian Socialist Party. It proposed an amendment to the

General Resolution which was done by the Irish delegation in Dr. O'Brien's speech.

The Italian socialists were strongly critical of the E.E.C. because it had "provided the great capitalist companies with an intensive process of industrial concentration and has also favoured emigration on a massive scale from the economically depressed areas."

They also said that the E.E.C. agricultural policy had not solved the problems of agriculture and that the present E.E.C. wealth had grown worse, not better, under the E.E.C.

The demanded the creation of completely democratic political power in the community.

The Congress provided a valuable insight into the political attitudes of those at work within the E.E.C. It showed that there must be disagreement between socialists as to what they want for Europe, a disappointing failure to agree on joint action and little real prospect for a United States of Europe in the next decade at least.

EEC ROUND-UP

Of the socialist parties in the four applicant countries only that of Denmark now remains fully committed in its support of the E.E.C. The Norwegians are being pressed by public opinion and widening divisions within their ranks to adopt an increasingly favourable stance than that which Prime Minister Bratteli and his Cabinet took in their return to power some months ago. And the great mass of this opposition membership. The E.E.C. is being generated by the terms which are emerging from the negotiations.

Among the socialists within the E.E.C. they were well represented at the Special Congress. At times have despaired at the level at which some of the contributions were pitched and the content of

the debate on both sides. In conversation they expressed surprise at the facts of the anti-Marketees pointing out that they themselves had held similar views. A few of which had been raised. But what many of them fail to realise is that the less each of the original 6 countries were careful to take into account the circumstances have been developed in accordance with their needs.

More than a little unrealistic to expect the four applicants each with their own special characteristics to accept the present Community framework virtually into despite the fact that few of them have any say in its development. As German Social Democrat Minister Frau Focke said in response to Conor Cruise O'Brien's speech in Brussels the time has come for people inside the Community to accept the demands and proposals more in the light of what they have done heretofore.

One would hope then this might be one of the by-products of the British position.

Views of Irish delegation

At a working party on cooperation between the socialist parties, Brendan Halligan expressed disappointment at the lack of agreed socialist objectives and action plans at the present E.E.C. While the Labour Party was opposed to Irish entry into the E.E.C. on the basis of cooperation with its sister parties on the basis of a socialist programme.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, T.D., spoke at the final congress session and outlined the stand of the Labour Party against the Irish Government's application for membership. He stressed the Irish unemployment and emigration problems and the dangers of an economy and the dangers of unemployment and emigration in the Government's terms of entry.

He criticised the general resolution for "disparaging" national

sovereignty. A fast rate of integration towards a United States of Europe was not attractive to the Irish people. He said "Sovereignty, so dearly bought, is being given away to the 'people'."

He warned against any insistence on joint action for European foreign and defence policies at a time when European politics were in a state of flux and conservative governments.

Concluding, Dr. O'Brien stated that the Government's form of collaboration with fascist regimes in Greece, Portugal or Spain.

Dr. O'Brien's speech was received with great attention by the Irish people. It was a national sovereignty was made an impact and was commented on favourably by subsequent speakers.

New Party Policies

IN ACCORDANCE with a decision of the 1971 Conference in Galway, steps are being taken to bring our Outline Policy documents up to date and expand them. Initially education, justice and local government are being covered but the programme will be gradually extended to cover all issues which would confront Labour in government.

"The exercise, as was the case in 1967/1968 has two complementary objectives," the General Secretary, Brendan Halligan, told the Bulletin. "A lot of things have happened in the short period since January 1969 when the present policies were adopted. We have had the developments in Northern Ireland, the resurrection of Ireland's application for E.E.C. membership, the crumbling of many of our traditional industries under free trade and the threat to our already shaky democratic institutions. These factors must be taken into account in our policies as well as the possibilities of new developments in political thought and technology."

"For a socialist party policy formation should be carried out on a continuing basis and should not be a sporadic process geared only to keeping an up-to-date election manifesto in being. It should be a dynamic dialectical process involving the entire Party membership in an examination of the current problems in our society and the causes of the causes which give rise to social and political inequalities and the formulation of socialist answers to these problems. Policy formation should be an exercise into the future, the development of socialism and the creation of practical programmes for changing our capitalist society."

"In this way our membership can gain a unique insight and understanding of the issues which are being raised which would be impossible in a party relying on civil servants or the party bosses for their political education."

"Remember," he concluded, "the 1969 policies are only Outline Policies. They were never intended to be the last word. There is a great need to expand and deepen them. We want every party member to participate in this democratic exercise."

The policy formation exercise is to be carried out to involve all those Party members who wish to make their contribution. The coordination of this series of discussions will be the responsibility of special committees set up by the A.C.'s Education Committee, Constituency and regional meetings will be held and written submissions invited from those interested in each subject.

Party members who wish to participate in the formulation of policy should write to the Party Headquarters, Government school complete and return the form below. If you are interested in some other subject, you can write it on the form. Members can contribute to as many policy groups as they wish.

Branches are asked to arrange special meetings on party policy to deal patiently with their suggestions to the Party Secretary. All of Labour's policies are available in booklet or pamphlet form. Branches should purchase copies for their members. The price list appears on a special advertisement on this page.

The 1972 Annual Conference will be held in Westford on 25, 26 and 27 July. It has already been decided by the A.C. at its June meeting. Finally, this was a happy occasion. The conference just finished his twenty fifth year of service as a Westford man. He has just completed his tenth year as Party Leader.

The A.C. also considered that bringing the Conference to Westford was an appropriate way of honouring both occasions.

POLICY COMMITTEES

To: General Secretary, The Labour Party, 20 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.

NAME
ADDRESS
BRANCH Constituency

I wish to participate in the policy making programme for the subject(s) indicated

Education Local Government Justice
 I am interested in policy formation in the following areas not included above

Please return to Head Office not later than 31st August, 1971

Present at the A.C. meeting held from 11.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, 26th June, in Head Office were: Roddy Connolly (in the Chair), Niall Greene, Donald Sullivan, John O'Donovan, T.D., David Thornley, T.D., Annie Whelan, Tony Curran, Des Bosses, Norman Morgan, Joe Birmingham, Pat Carroll, Erik Boyer, Paddy Warrigan, Claran McAleer, Paddy Kerrigan, Seamus Mac Fitzgerald and Brendan Halligan (General Secretary).
Those excused were Brendan Corish, T.D., Sean Treacy, T.D., Justin Keating, T.D., Fian Hoan, Mick Smyth, Bill Conroy and Paddy Kavanagh.

British Visitor

IAN MIKARDO, M.P., the Chairman of the British Labour Party, paid an official visit to party Head Office on 14th July. He is in Ireland as President of the Union, the A.S.T.M.S.
He was received by Roddy Connolly, Niall Greene and Brendan Halligan. Discussions covered the E.E.C., the North, international socialist co-operation and liaison between the two parties. He was entertained to lunch by the Party Leader, Brendan Corish.

Happy Anniversary!



MRS. D.V.M.P.N.A. TANNAM has just completed her tenth year of employment in the Party Head Office. She joined the Head Office staff in 1961 at the age of sixteen and is now personal secretary to Brendan Halligan, the General Secretary.

She is known to many Party members as the pleasant voice that invariably answers the phone to deal patiently with queries about affiliation or some other political problem.

Apart from working in the Party office she has been active in working for the Labour Movement and was the first Vice-Chairman of the James Connolly Club.

ICTU Meeting

MEMBERS of the Parliamentary and Administrative Council met officers of the I.C.T.U. on two occasions recently. A further meeting is planned for the 20th June. The annual conference in Galway was held for the establishment of a permanent liaison between the party and the I.C.T.U., particularly on E.E.C. matters. These meetings have been held as a result of the A.C. acting on the Conference resolution.

The first meeting took place in Congress Headquarters on 30th June and was exclusively concerned with the E.E.C. question. The second meeting was held in Leinster House on 14th July and covered trade union legislation in the North, in addition to the E.E.C.

At its Annual Conference in July the I.C.T.U. urged an increase in membership of the E.E.C. on the basis of the information currently available from the government. It decided to hold a special conference to take a definitive stand on the final terms of entry to be made known.

The I.C.T.U. also called for a Government examination of the alternatives to full entry.

The Party Leader, Brendan Corish, T.D., a delegate to the Conference from the I.T.G.W.U., outlined Labour's attitude in a fight against the Government's proposals with the delegates.

BRANCH DISSOLVED

THE FINTAN LALOR BRANCH (Dublin North Central) was dissolved by the Administrative Council at its meeting on June 26th for failing to comply with article 3.6 of the Constitution.

This article states that "a branch shall not continue the membership of a person who after the Administrative Council decides is ineligible for membership." The AC had decided that Mr. Paddy Healy, a member of the branch, had disqualified himself from membership of the Party because of his membership of the Socialist Labour Alliance. The Fintan Lalor branch officers reported back to the AC its decision but had refused to abide by the AC resolution.

The Administrative Council took place between the party officers and the branch officers. At this meeting the letter to Head Office, which was drawn to the terms of article 3.6 of the Party Constitution and to the possible consequences of refusal to comply with it. At a special meeting of the branch officers, the meeting then took place with the party officers. As their secretary later wrote in the letter to Head Office, approving their decision to keep Paddy Healy in membership, they were well aware of "the implication of their

Constituency Reports

Typical of the fears shared by many workers about E.E.C. entry was the statement by Joe O'Callaghan, Blarney Branch Secretary, during the Constituency Council meeting on Constituency Council membership organised by the branch. He pointed out that the local economy was totally dependent on a single factory which in turn was dependent on the textile industry. The factory was producing mainly for the home market, and for that reason they had every cause to fear E.E.C. entry, as increased imports could cause wholesale redundancies.

He said the branch would organise a local campaign against the destruction of local industry and employment.

The James Connolly Branch in Cork City South East organised a very successful singing pub competition. Local publicans donated a prize to the winner of the heat in his own pub. Branch Secretary, Frank Kerrigan, was the judge, and experienced adjudicators acted as judges. A silver plaque was presented to the winner, Mr. P. Remington, by branch Chairman P. Hogan. The Vice-Chairman E. Keating, ably assisted by the organiser, The branch also organised an under 13 soccer competition in which twenty teams played against those from other parts of the city. The mini festival week was held under the credit of the branch in its community.

OBITUARY

THOMAS GALLAGHER

The Labour and Republican veteran, Thomas Gallagher, died at his home in Westford, Co. Wick, was Mayor of the city from 1955 to 1957.

Member of the Labour Party since 1926, he was a former chairman and treasurer of the constituency council at Westford. A member of D Company, 3rd Waterford Brigade of the IRA, he was twice jailed in Ballybricken Jail.

IS THIS A RECORD?

Miss Ann Peppers of the Rathfriland Branch (Dublin South Central) holds the record for the most money contributed by an individual party member to the National Collection.

Up to mid-July she had collected 452 pounds and 10 shillings, a record for a woman in one of the most conservative areas of the country.

"The answer to my first query is a resounding Yes. The money is there if only we go out and perform the primary obligation of an arduous task turned out to be a very pleasant—and profitable—experience. It was lovely to see many homes for a chat and a cup of tea. So I not only collected but made an evening of it."

Ann Peppers is putting in five nights each week on her collection. She stands at 7.30 each evening and finishes near 10 p.m.

She claims she had little time for a similar collection. "If one has fine lungs and a good memory and can trot out some of Connolly's feelings at the appropriate time one is embraced by a section of the party as being a true socialist."

She had this final comment to make. "I have always been proud

AC Resignation

PAT CARROLL, who had been appointed to the Administrative Council to fill the vacancy caused by the disqualification of Paddy Healy, resigned on 30th June. He is a member of the Administrative Council for three months and was Secretary of the party for the Dublin South-East Constituency.

He resigned, according to his letter of resignation, in protest at the creation of areas of conflict within the organisation unrelated to the political needs of the

Dail Inquiry

DEPUTY JUSTIN KEATING resigned from the Committee on Public Accounts on 24th July. The Committee which is composed of twelve T.D.'s (six and two Labour) is investigating the expenditure of £100,000 voted by the Dail for Northern Relief.

"I believe that the Government and the Committee on Public Accounts are acting in collusion," said Deputy Keating to "News Bulletin" with the purpose of resigning is to give myself the freedom to say this. My intention is to strengthen the Committee in its investigation and not to weaken it. I can do this by focusing public attention on Fianna Fáil's conspiracy to hide the fact that the Taoiseach and Mr. Gibbons knew of Captain Kelly's activities before the Government crisis of May, 1970."

Deputy Frank Cluskey was appointed by the Parliamentary Party to fill the vacancy. Labour's other representative on the Committee is Deputy Sean Treacy, a long serving member. The Committee's normal role is to investigate all Government expenditure and to ensure that monies spent by Dail Eireann are not misapplied. Traditionally a member of the Opposition chairs the Committee. Frank Hogan, Fine Gael deputy from Tipperary, holds the post. Deputy Treacy had built up an established reputation with this Committee for his diligent vigilance over the expenditure of the taxpayer's money.

Deputy Keating's letter of resignation brought the following points to light:

The Fianna Fáil members of the Committee twice voted against the restoration of its powers to question witnesses after the Supreme Court ruling that the Act giving such powers was unconstitutional.

The Minister for Justice refused to make available to the Committee all the relevant information in his possession.

The Minister for Finance refused to give the Committee continuing legal advice.

Dail Questions

ON JUNE 15th Dr. John O'Connell, T.D., asked the Minister for Health about the number of medical card holders in each county. Mr. Childers' reply revealed interesting disparities between different counties, which shows the arbitrary method of dispensing such cards in some areas. Cork has 42,572 cards, which is only slightly less than Dublin, which has 45,297 for a far larger population. Galway has almost as many with 30,482.

Kerry comes next with 18,470 card holders, followed by Donegal with 17,236 and Mayo with 16,654. At the other end of the scale some counties had far fewer card holders. Leitrim had 4,555 and Carlow 4,955 card holders.

Such statistics give weight to the constant demand of Labour Deputies that the Government lay down clear criteria for the award of medical cards.

CIGARETTE SMOKING

On June 23rd Dr. Noel Browne asked the Minister for Health to detail the Department's expenditure on health education about the link between cigarettes and lung cancer, heart disease and bronchitis. Mr. Childers' answer revealed the tiny budgets allocated for such purposes by our Government, which lags far behind even the British Tory Government. The Minister's literature in its attempts to curb smoking among youth.

Indeed the Government had to wait for a Labour-sponsored Bill in July to agree tentatively to any realistic action.

Mr. Childers revealed that in the year ended March 31st the Government had spent £394 on radio, 22,177 in the press, 669 in magazines and £13,944 on television to counteract advertising inducing young people to smoke. Each week the Government spends as much advertising in other areas as it spends in a year for anti-smoking advertisements. The Minister revealed the hypocrisy of the Government's claim to be taking effective action on the matter.

RATES

On June 2nd Jimmy Tully asked the Minister for Health to detail the Government about the average rates levied in each area. The Minister revealed extraordinary differences in the amount levied in different counties, which is usually proportional to the amount of support offered by central Government. At the upper level of the scale 18p per head in Tipperary was levied on a head of the population in counties Dublin and Waterford. They are closely followed by Wick and Wicklow with £17.37p per head and Leitrim with £17.26p. At the other end £7.37p per head was levied in Mayo and £7.19p in Leitrim.

LABOUR PARTY PUBLICATIONS

James Connolly Poster	25p (30p by post)
1969 Policy Document — Complete Set	30p (40p by post)
Housing and Local Government Policies	5p (9p by post)
Agriculture Policy	2p
Industrial Development Policy	5p
Worker Democracy Policy	5p
Health Policy	5p
Education Policy	5p
Banking and Taxation Policies	5p
E.E.C. Policy	2p (6p by post)
Western Development and Fisheries Policies	5p (9p by post)
1969 Annual Report	10p (14p by post)
1970 Annual Report	10p (14p by post)
"The New Republic"	10p (14p by post)
By Brendan Corish, T.D.	
Party Constitution	5p (9p by post)
Membership Cards (Sold in Tens)	15p (19p by post)

Call or Write to Publications Department, Labour Party, 20 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.

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