

# THE FREE PRESS

Newspaper of the Dublin North Central Branch Democratic Left

Issue No. 20

April/May 1995

## Road/Rail plan: VICIOUS INSULT TO NORTHSIDE

### No sex please, we're Northsiders

A survey among teenagers in Coláiste Dhúlaigh has exposed a frightening ignorance of sex. And this goes hand in hand with one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Ireland.

But a popular and successful health education project in the school is already changing attitudes. With the support of parents, the school has appointed a full-time health teacher and started the new-style course for 1st. to 4th. year pupils.

Meanwhile a bitter row over a proposed Well Woman



Ivor Callely TD: Health Board stalls Women's Clinic

Clinic in Coolock is still deadlocked. Local GPs object to it, saying they provide all services needed (except IUDs). A health board plan for two projects involving both GPs and an "outside agency" has "still not been ratified by the Board", a spokes-person told the *Free Press*.

**Helen Lahert** of DL welcomed the idea of a Clinic in Coolock: "Young women need a professional and confidential service, and self-interest should not stop it". She called on Health Board chairman, **Ivor Callely TD**, to "end the stalling by the Board on this one" ■

The plans in place since last year for rail and road in Dublin have been lashed. Local DL Rep. **Helen Lahert** has denounced the last government's botched implementation of the Dublin Transport Initiative plan for Dublin: "It's full of light rail, DART stations and other improvements on the Southside of Dublin. They even talk about a tram track in Grafton Street! But the government turned its back on the



Helen Lahert with urban environment minister Liz McManus in Fairview recently. Photo: Pat Baker

Northside. It appears that the DTI proposals for DART stations at Barrow Road, Fairview and Clontarf have all been dumped, as is the Airport Light Rail link. What does the Northside get? - A tunnel from Whitehall to East Wall so that Southsiders can get from the airport to the Southside without even having to see a Northsider! This plan is a vicious insult to the Northside and we will fight it", she said, indicating future action on the issue ■



Mairéad Berry Photo: Brendan Higgins

### GOLD FOR COOLOCK

Swimmer **Mairéad Berry** from SCromcastle with the Gold Medal she won for Ireland at the recent paralympics. And this is not her first win. In 1992 she took Silver at Barcelona for the 50 m backstroke and in 1993 gold and silver in Malta as she broke two world records. She has now set her sights on the European Championships later this year and on Atlantic City next year.

**Mairéad** called for decent facilities for swimmers. Not only olympic-standard pools are needed, but simple access to pools. Her local pool at Northside for example, only has steps which means she can't go there on her own ■

### A NOTE FROM HELEN LAHERT:

Democratic Left is Ireland's socialist party. We have an active branch in Dublin North Central. Why not join us? You can contact me on any issue at my Advice Centres listed below:

#### ADVICE CENTRES

Every Monday:  
6.00-6.30 pm, The Fairview Inn  
7.00-7.30 pm, The Kilmardinny Inn  
Or phone me at home any time:  
Telephone: 847 2348



Helen Lahert



HELEN LAHERT.  
Your DL representative

**Getting things done!**

## Equality pay

One of the successes DL secured in government has been the back-payment of social welfare entitlements to thousands of women. This follows a campaign led by **Kathleen Lynch** of DL over the years and culminating in test cases before the courts. Denied justice by successive governments since 1984, these women will now begin to receive their back-payments from August 1995 ■

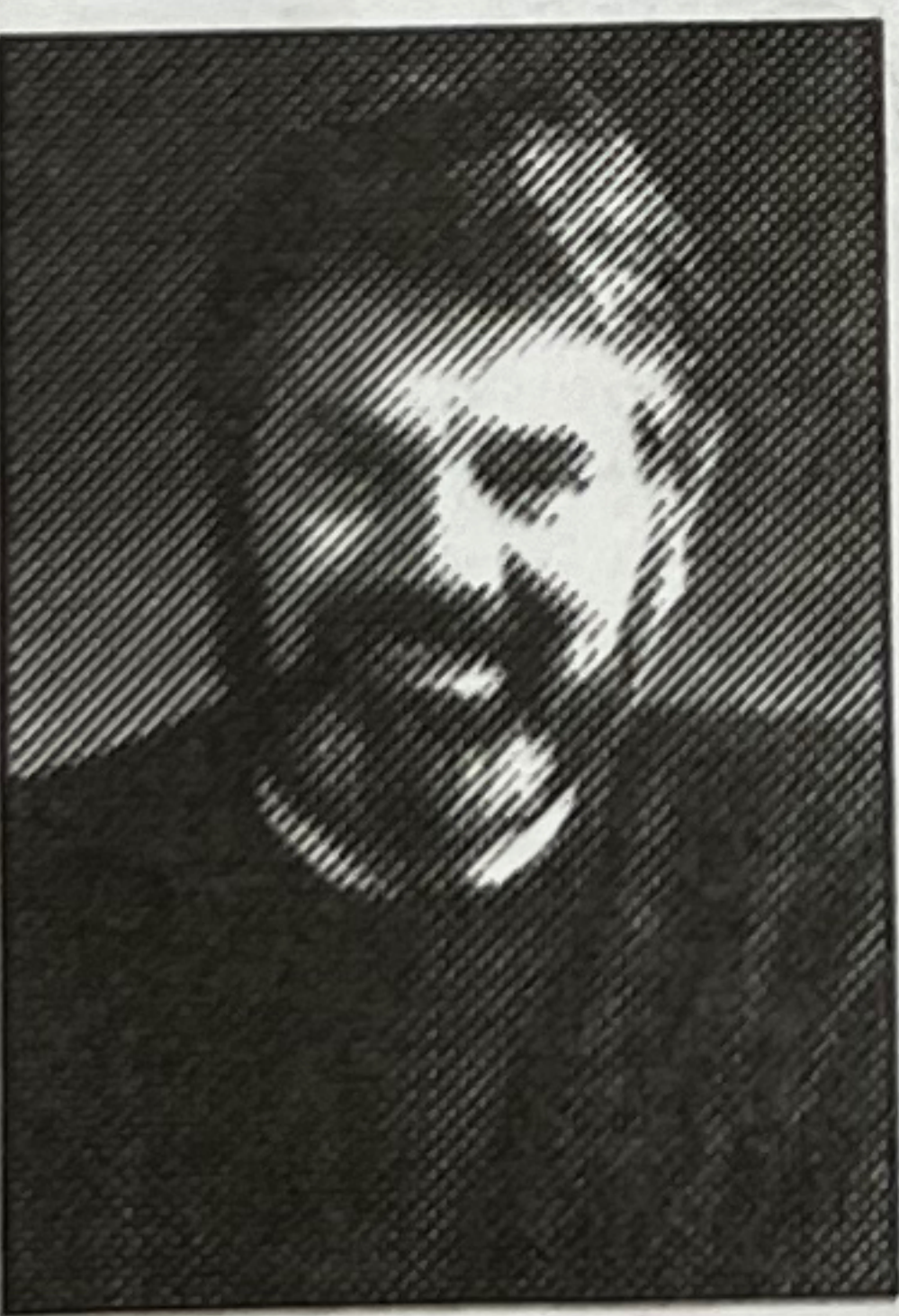


## DL takes on the banks

By making it tax-deductible, the last government had whittled away the bank levy to nothing. Since joining the government, DL Minister **Pat Rabbitte** has begun a series of moves to make the banks accountable to the people for their actions. His first move has been to bring in a £25,000 fee on any bank for introducing or raising charges to the customer. This will ensure that they think twice about any such move in the future ■

## De Rossa targets loan sharks

A loan system through Credit Unions which does away with the need for loan sharks is to be set up, DL Minister **Proinsias de Rossa** has announced. It will benefit people who can't get normal loans. There will also be a scheme to help pay bills and a clamp-down on loan sharks. £1.25 m will go towards the new system this year ■



## SEVILLE MOTORS CRASH REPAIR SPECIALISTS

Private and Commercial - Welding - Panel Beating  
Spray Painting - Colour Matching



**Tel: 874 4400**



Seville Terrace, North Strand, Five Lamps, Nth Strand Road.  
A Member of S.I.M.I. Group

## TOP QUALITY AUTOS

All makes of Japanese pre-owned cars

John Garry - Sales Director  
**ARDNAREE CAR SALES LTD.**

3 Poplar Row, Ballybough, Dublin 3.  
Tel: 836 4944/836 5082 Fax: 836 4929

# HEALTH ALERT IN BEAUMONT



Beaumont Hospital peers out over Kilmore West

Some years ago, a report by the *Free Press* on industrial chemical pollution in Coolock caused major ructions. The next threat to public health on the northside was posed by dioxin emissions from Beaumont Hospital's waste incinerator. The *Free Press* discovered an internal Health Board report that Coolock-Artane had one of the highest adult mortality rates in the country. At the time, action by **Pat McCartan** of Democratic Left had the incinerator closed down.

Now a new controversy is brewing over plans to build a radio-active store at Beaumont Hospital. A spokesman for the Hospital, **Liam Duffy**, has said that this will benefit the community by providing "safe" storage for these materials and was "certainly no cause for alarm". **Helen Lahert** is determined to pursue the issue. "Hospitals", she stated, "cannot play with people's lives" ■

## CASH FOR KILMORE

An action committee of local groups and agencies in Kilmore West has been working hard on your behalf over the last number of years. The Kilmore West Joint Care Committee is now drafting a local development plan and will be getting government to target funds to the area to develop community facilities. Already the Corpo and the Northside Partnership are involved. Kilmore also has a new fighting voice on the Partnership - **Tommy Russell**, supervisor of the Recreation Centre ■

## NEW HOUSES

40 new Corporation houses and flats are planned for the site of the old pre-fabs beside the national schools in Kilmore West. This move comes after the controversial sale by the Church of the land. A new law means that the Corpo must first get planning permission. The plans will be going on public view in about 2 months, according to a spokesman for the Planning Department ■

## NORTHSIDE CAR PAINTS LTD.

(Noel Fitzsimons)

Suppliers to the Automotive and Refinishing Trade  
29b Tolka Road, Dublin 3. Phone: 837 0710 / 836 0061

# STARDUST PARK BULLYING MUST END

The Stardust Park must be made safe for our children. Lately there has been a number of beatings, with children being bullied and old people sitting on the benches being hassled. The park is a wonderful local amenity, dedicated to the victims of the Stardust disaster. Again, it is only a small number of trouble-makers who are making it a no-go area for kids and old people.

**Helen Lahert** has called on the Corporation to provide simple supervision of the park to deal with this problem ■

Photo: Hotshots Photography



## NORTHSIDE COLLEGE HOPES

**D**ubliners are under-represented in third level education, and Northsiders even more so. This is now official, according to a new report from the

### Higher Education Authority.

But change could be on the way. To tackle discrimination in third level education, the report calls for a Regional Technical College to be situated in Finglas. Such a college would not only benefit school leavers, but also local part-time and evening students of all ages. **Helen Lahert** of Democratic Left has taken up this issue: "Having a college nearby means easier access for people here on the Northside. The abolition of third level fees by this government is a first step towards providing proper financial support for students from lower and middle income groups. We now need proper maintenance support and to get this college in Finglas up and running" ■

## New Radio station

Following the success of Beaumont Radio, another station is about to start up in the area. **Jack Byrne**, long a champion of local radio, has finally secured a government licence to start up a Community Radio Station in Coolock. The *Free Press* wishes Jack and his colleagues every success in the future and welcomes this new media resource for the people of the area ■

## THUGS OUT!

**W**e all know who they are. But we have not been able to do anything about it. These are the bad apples in our estates who can cause misery and make life a nightmare for everybody else. But now something is being done.

The Corpo recently won test cases against two families. This, according to a spokesman of the Corpo legal department, sets a "precedent" giving them the right to evict trouble families. The crackdown is aimed at about 50 estates where isolated tenants are continually involved in crime and drugs.

Some councillors attack the "harshness" of the plan, and the court decision is being appealed by the families affected. But **Helen Lahert** of DL said: "There are no crime areas in Dublin, only criminal families terrorising the majority. The community should not have to tolerate this. That's why we support this change going through" ■

## WIND-SURFING IN FAIRVIEW PARK!

If plans put by the Environment Committee of ICON - a network of North Inner City Organisations - go ahead, we could have an artificial lake with wind-surfing and other amenities behind the railway line in Fairview Park in Dublin! This plan, proposed by an engineer in Trinity College, is being examined by the group, and would be easy to implement. The group is closely monitoring other developments in Fairview Park, including the planned motorway running under it. Two members of the committee, **Bernie Walsh** of the Sunflower Project and **Maura Butterly** of Croke Park Residents, have already met new junior minister **Liz McManus** of DL to discuss environmental developments in the area ■

## ARCH MOTORS

Five Lamps Seville Tce, North Strand, Dublin 1  
Service and Repairs to Private & Commercial Vehicles

**Tel: 836 4673**



We care for all your Car Needs at prices you can afford

## B+S CATERING

Having a **21ST BIRTHDAY PARTY** or **25TH ANNIVERSARY** (or any **SPECIAL OCCASION**)?

B&S cater for all tastes, including **Vegetarian**.  
We cater for your every need.

Just call us now at 867 1012 or 847 6470

## ALEXANDRA SCHOOL OF MOTORING

76 Amiens St. Dublin 1.

**Tel: 836 3344 878 6141**

Private and Commercial Tuition in Modern Dual Controlled Cars and Trucks by Qualified Instructors

## MAHON MOTOR FACTORS WHOLESALE MOTOR FACTORS

Suppliers to the Automotive and Refinishing Trade  
558 North Circular Road, Dublin.

**Tel: 874 1302/878 8633/872 6260**

## Artane water - Enough to make you cry!

"Some days there wasn't even enough for a wash after work", a resident of the Ardmore/Montrorse estate complained to the *Free Press*. But, after 20 years of chronically bad water pressure in the area, Corpo Waterworks spokesman **Thomas Kavanagh** says things are set to improve.

Until now, general water pressure was reduced by the Corpo at night and weekends

As the estate is situated on a height, this meant there wasn't enough pressure to pump water up into the estate especially during these times.

Since late January, Ardmore/Montrorse has been switched from the Drumcondra main to the Whitehall main. Water will now be pumped into the estate at a greatly increased rate and there will no longer be any reduction at night or at weekends.

Just as everything appeared solved, another problem arose. Work on the new Swords Road main has again reduced pressure. **Helen Lahert** rejected the latest excuse and demanded that the Corpo finally get their act together on this one ■

## FACELIFT FOR DONNYCARNEY 'BACKERS'

A small park in Donnycarney known as the "Backers" has survived over the years but is now a dark and dangerous place.

Working with local people from Collins Avenue, DL representative **Helen Lahert** is taking action to ensure the park is kept clean, maintained and kept safe. Discussions have started with local community Garda, **Peter Connolly**, and the Corpo Parks Department ■

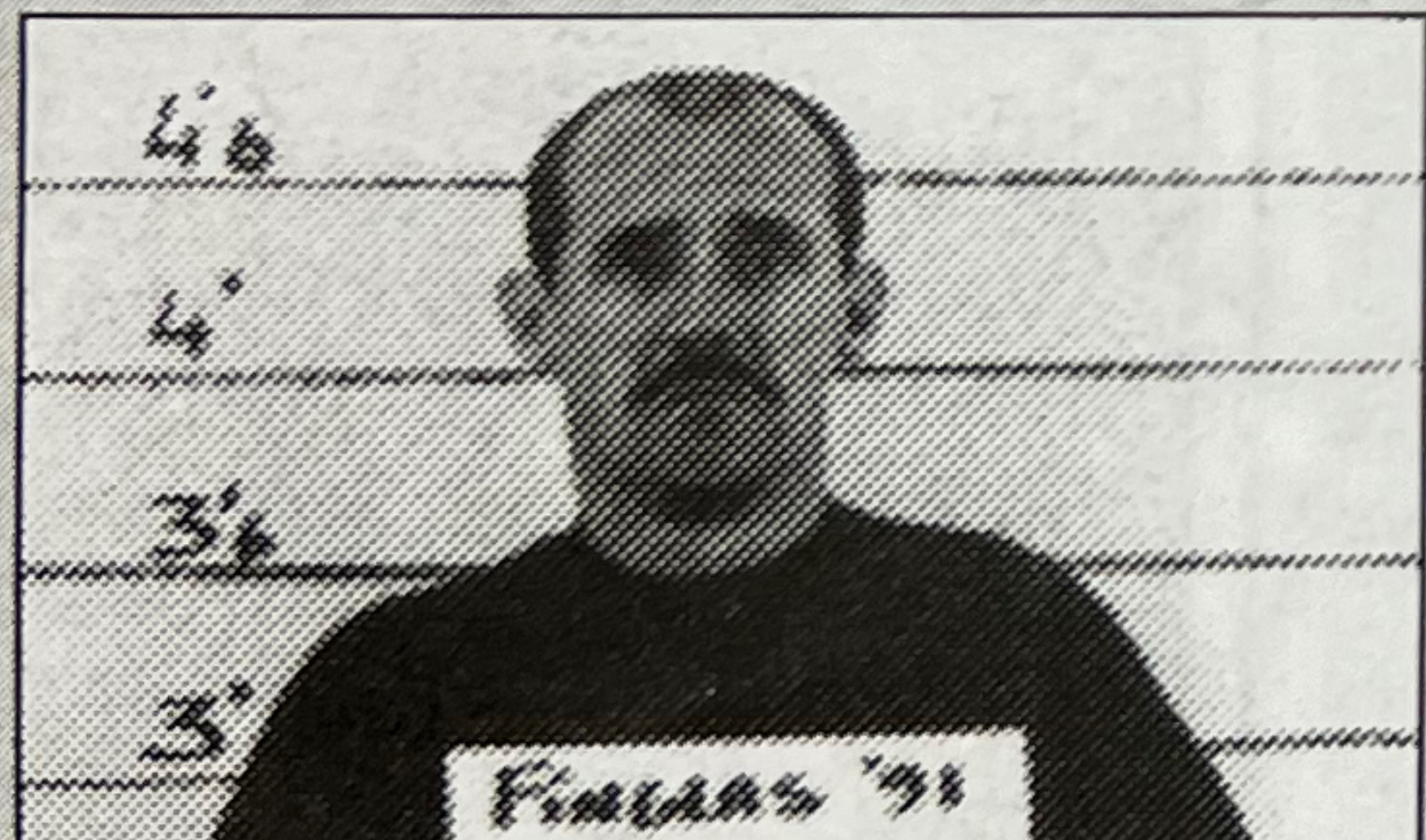
# WOODVILLE HOUSE DREAM COMING TRUE

It now seems that the dream of a major Arts Centre for the Northside could go ahead. With major support committed by the Eastern Health Board, the Northside Partnership, the Corporation and FÁS, a huge investment is about to be made in Coolock. The people who have long fought for this were over the moon. One of these, **Dave McKane** of Coolock Village, stated that: "The Centre will be based in the old mansion, Woodville House, and local arts groups are now being asked to come forward to discuss their needs" ■



Some of the Coolock Art House workers

Photo: Brendan Higgins



Brendan O'Carroll

Photo: Pat Baker

## Brendan O'Carroll cuts your ribbon!

The Northside's favourite comedian, **Brendan O'Carroll** and *Snapper* author **Roddy Doyle** will cut the ribbon on the Coolock Arts Festival. Between 8 and 10 September next, Coolock will enjoy a major festival of fun and art: Parades, theatre, readings, concerts and pub events. A major talent competition will be judged by **Brendan O'Carroll** and a panel of RTE personalities. The festival is being organised by the Coolock Art House and a weekend of fun and entertainment is promised for all ■

## OLD COOLOCK CHURCH TO BE GUTTED

Coolock Village residents have overwhelmingly backed parish plans to revamp the old local church hall. Buildings are for use by people, but they also link us with our history and traditions. Any changes must not destroy the historic quality of the building. Last year, the *Free Press* congratulated Coolock Village's success in the tidy towns competition. The village's future as a centre of community identity must maintain the historic character of the village as well as developing its potential. In this context, ideas for pedestrianising the centre of the village should be discussed ■

St. Brendans Church, Coolock Village with (inset) its beautiful vaulted wooden roof.

Main Photo: Brendan Higgins



**Title:** The Free Press, No. 20

**Organisation:** Democratic Left

**Date:** 1995

Downloaded from the Irish Left Archive.

Visit [www.leftarchive.ie](http://www.leftarchive.ie)

*The Irish Left Archive is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to the Irish Left Archive, in addition to the original creators. For re-publication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to the Irish Left Archive have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.*