

Dr. Browne and H-Block

AS a pro-hunger striker candidate in the Dublin North Central constituency I would like to make some points about Dr. Noel Browne's letter which appeared in your columns.

1 — the constituency Dr. Browne fought is Dublin North Central not Dublin Artane.

2—! ran as a candidate of Peoples Democracy, not as Provisional Sinn Fein.

3.—Peoples Democracy is a socialist party with links with socialist and antifascist parties throughout the world and part of a tradition reaching back to the Russian Revolution.

4.—In trying to brand the Provos in particular and all supporters of the hunger strikers in general as "fascists," Dr. Browne is making a common but all too definite error in identifying fascism with an opposition to the forms of bourgeois democracy. In fact fascism is in opposition to the institutions of the working class. Lenin, whom Dr. Browne is fond of quoting in other moods, dissolved the Russian Parliament. Neither Mussolini nor Hitler did anything as immediately drastic with the assemblies of their countries.

5.—In trying to link support for the hunger strikers (and opposition to Britain) to fascism, Dr. Browne imputes fascism to: (a) Matt Merrigan, president of the Socialist Labour Party, of which Dr. Browne is an irregular member; (b) All who supported Dr. Browne in 1977 but who were repelled by his proimperialism in 1981; (c) The 765 Doherty voters who gave Dr. Browne their second preferences and enabled him to be elected second in Dublin North Central; (d) Those of Dr. Browne's election workers who fraternised with my helpers during the campaign.

6.—Having said this I feel that if Noel Browne wants to discuss the Irish national question, as distinct from pontificating on it, I challenge him to debate the matter openly and publicly in North Central Dublin at any time and place he chooses. Not being fascists, of course, we will not give him the castor oil treatment.

VINCENT DOHERTY
People Democracy

Title: Dr. Browne and H-Block [Letter]

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