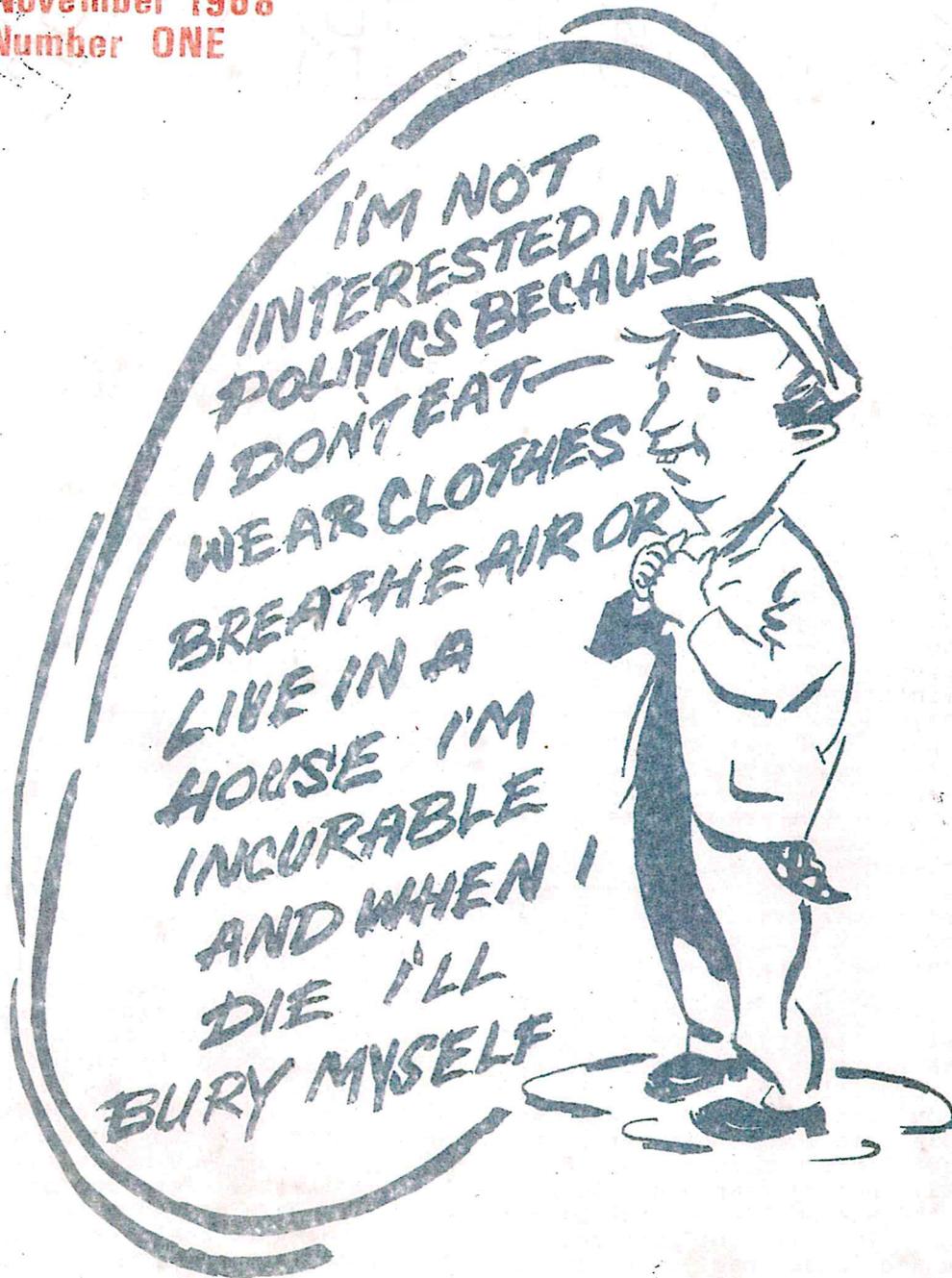


# PEOPLE'S VOICE



November 1968  
Number ONE



**WORKERS!** Awaken To  
Your Power

THE UNPROVOKED, and rather stupid brutality of the RUC in Derry, against the Civil Rights protest march of October 5th, has already received enough coverage. And nearly everyone -- other than the Unionists -- has also voiced an appropriate horror at that "undemocratic" turn of events. It is not the intention to cover the same old ground again, but rather to give our views on certain developments arising from the confrontation.

OBVIOUSLY, it is purely hypothetical to speculate on what may have occurred had the ruling class decided on a course other than that adopted. Perhaps the occasion would have been uneventful; perhaps not. In any event one thing is becoming quite clear; that is, irrespective of the immediate reactions of those prominent in the organization of the protest, their subsequent actions demonstrate that had they even dreamt of its outcome, they would never have gone ahead with it in the first place.

# DERRY

IT IS ALL VERY WELL WHEN THE damage on such occasions is limited to the ordinary JOE suffering a smashed head or ruptured testicles. But when property, that middle class holy of holies is involved, then "civil rights" take on an entirely different meaning to your parliamentary agitator. As the man said: We must press on with the struggle; BUT! Ah yes; "But" for Christ sake men don't break the man's windows; we're all civilized Christians here.

THE FIRST SKIRMISH IN DUKE STREET made great emotional stuff for your humbug agitator, who is always ready to turn such events to tactical advantage in the everyday shadow boxing of parliamentary politics. But the subsequent battle waged by an aroused people had its sobering effects. Isn't it amazing how, on such occasions, the working people direct a great portion of their anger towards middle class property? The old instinct seems always to induce them to hit the enemy where it hurts most. Yes indeed; but the reaction to such "thoughtlessness" is equally predictable -- the diversity of elements having vested interests in the perpetuation of the ruling class emerge to close ranks with the bourgeoisie.

THE HUMBUG REVOLUTIONARY, WHO HAD previously intimated an "approaching" readiness to mount even the barricades, now pontificates on the virtues of "reason" and "dignity". And the inevitable cliché of "Don't let us be like them" finds its use again. This is exactly what has happened in the case of the spark lit by the Derry Protest. The militant postures of Saturday and Sunday had disappeared by Thursday, when the Chairman of the Protest Committee, Eamonn McGann, said flatly that the committee had become "middle class, middle-aged and middle of the road, and it could give the kiss of death to the development of the radical movement in Derry." As if the businessmen of Derry had any other object in mind!

OF COURSE, ONE COULD HARDLY EXPECT the middle class to act otherwise. But what about the Trade Union bureaucrats; and those communist bastards who, according to Craig, are hell's bent on disrupting the sanctity of the State?

BETTY SINCLAIR, THAT OLD RELIABLE "Red", dragged her ass half across Ulster in her efforts to stabilize the situation. And how she moaned: if only the minister had consulted them, "they would have changed the day." But the sonofabitch went ahead without taking the "party" into his confidence; "he had banned it without enabling the organizers to change their plans." The poor old C.P.; they are ready to bend over backwards to kiss the arses of the bourgeoisie, and they won't even get a little co-operation! And this is the party which Craig likes to depict as operating with a Machiavellian cunning to murder all good Unionists in their beds -- with the help of the IRA, of course.

THEN YOU HAVE THE TRADE UNION bureaucrats. They weren't prepared to sanction a general strike to protest the butchery in Derry. Hell no! As they said: "That's political action;" and who in his right mind would expect a trade union bureaucrat to initiate political action, when it entails fighting the State?

BUT WE MUST TAKE OUR HATS OFF to those workers who did stage a strike all the same. They vindicated their own integrity; they were men proud of their class origins and allegiances. With the enemy to their front, and a more treacherous enemy to their back, they stood defiant and firm. It is such men who shape history, as it will be shaped in this country before too very long.

THE PEOPLE, WHOSE INTERESTS WERE allegedly being pressed by the protest march, have by now been sold down the drain: while the parliament-

arians, forever glib when it comes to talk, are frantically seeking ways whereby they can get as much mileage as possible from the event without, at the same time, contributing to a repetition of the Derry explosion.

YOU HAVE THE TALK ABOUT THE NATIONAL-ists -- God bless the mark! -- withdrawing as official opposition in Stormont. But you can bet your bloody life they will continue to draw their salaries just the same. Mr. McAteer admitted on television that his party didn't do any good in Stormont anyway, other than provide the Unionist dictatorship with the semblance of democratic respectability--for which they draw their thirty pieces of silver! But if the exploited populace cannot expect redress via the vote, as Mr. McAteer alleges, and he should know; then, hadn't they better start looking elsewhere and on other means? As was to be expected, Mr. McAteer did not extend his analysis to this, its logical conclusion.

IT WOULD BE NAIVE FOR THE PEOPLE to go on thinking their disabilities under the Unionist regime would be mitigated should they receive the so-called "democratic rights" the present fake leadership aspire to secure. They HAVE "democracy" at present, as it is interpreted by the middle class; and any changes introduced or secured within the context of the present order of things will never alter the fundamental relationships which are the root cause of the trouble.

WHAT THE PEOPLE NEED ARE NOT THE "privileges" accorded by middle class democracy, but the "RIGHTS" inherent in "PEOPLE'S POWER." By all means avail of protests such as that in Derry as an avenue for agitation. But let such protests follow a hard and uncompromising line; and let them at all times keep the real object in view -- PEOPLE'S POWER. This is the lesson which must be driven home again and again. When the People have power, the People shall be free.

\* \* \* \* \*



# AS WE SEE IT

## BLUESHIRT OR GREENSHIRT ?

JOKE OF THE MONTH MUST SURELY BE the advertisements of Fine Gael depicting the Nazi salute and jackboot, intimating their future use by Fianna Fail should the straight vote become a reality.

TALK ABOUT THE KETTLE CALLING THE pot black-ass -- Christ, this is doing it with a vengeance. Oh, if only O'Duffy could see this, sure it would warm the cockles of his heart to know that the "Long Fella" in the park could well be wearing a blue shirt in the near future.

\* \* \* \* \*

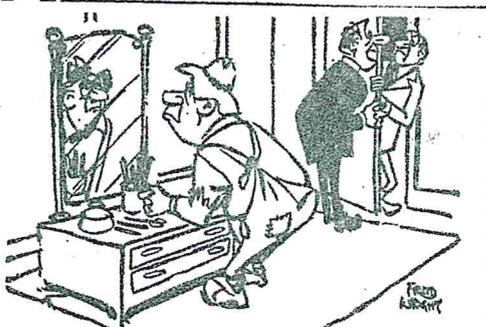
## BONUS FOR TACA MEN !

TACA MAN DERMOT RYAN GOT A BONUS recently when Aer Lingus decided to purchase a 20% interest in Ryan's chain of hotels. Aer Lingus, as we all know, is supposed to be owned by the people of Ireland. But like all state nationalized industries, it serves only the interests of capitalists.

IN THIS CASE A 20% CUT IN RYAN'S tourist holdings means that Aer Lingus will channel the lion's share of its business into the TACA man's hotels. This and similar deals in favour of Fianna Fail's fund raisers -- TACA -- has begun to undermine the confidence of many supporters of the party; especially amongst its petty-bourgeois adherents.

FIANNA FAIL CERTAINLY CAN NO longer claim (if it ever could) "to symbolize a banding together of the people for national service, with a standard of personal honour and a spirit of devotion equal to that of the Irish Volunteers from 1913 to 1921". (De Valera speaking in 1926)

\* \* \* \* \*



"HE'S PRACTICING HIS BANKRUPT EXPRESSION FOR THE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS TOMORROW"

## HYPOCRISY

FOLLOWING ON THE INVASION OF Czechoslovakia by Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces, it was more than amusing to read in "Our" Irish papers, the long lists of protests and threatened boycotts that emanated from political and various other groups, whilst these same groups forever remain silent about the occupation of our own Six North-eastern counties by British Imperialist Forces.

WHAT HYPOCRISY IT WAS FOR THE CORK Film Festival Committee to bar Russian films, and at the same time invite representatives of a country that still holds part of Ireland in open subjection.

CORK HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS NOT TO be outdone, tried to pass a motion "that the Commissioners do not cooperate with vessels of the Soviet Union while that country's armies are in occupation of Czechoslovakia." However, on the advice of the legal boys they dropped this grandiose gesture, when they learned that it might cause them more trouble than they had bargained for.

OF COURSE, BRITISH WARSHIPS CAN call to Cork Harbour for a "courtesy" visit any time they tire of Derry. Need we remind the Commissioners THAT DERRY IS IN BRITISH OCCUPIED IRELAND.

\* \* \* \* \*

## JOBS FOR THE BOYS !

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8th, SAW THE introduction of Dublin's new traffic wardens; 20 were on duty, ex-police-men all! More are to be employed shortly, bringing the total to 200. Although the first 20 were Garda pensioners, we are told that of the remaining 180, some civilians MAY be employed.

WHAT A GRACIOUS CONCESSION THIS! Some unfortunate civilians may be employed! Of course traffic warden is such a highly "technical" job, issuing parking tickets and all that, men from Dublin's Labour Exchanges could hardly be expected to handle it. No indeed, only the ex-policeman, with his pension in his ass pocket, would be skilled enough for this demanding task; or so it appears anyway.

THIS PATRONIZING OF EX-POLICEMEN must stop. Because of their pensions they are usually prepared to work for low wages. This militates against the ordinary workers, depriving them

of work and lowering wage standards. Whilst it is near impossible at times, to effectively protest when this happens in private concerns, workers should, through their trade unions, make a strong protest where government and local authorities are concerned.

\* \* \* \* \*

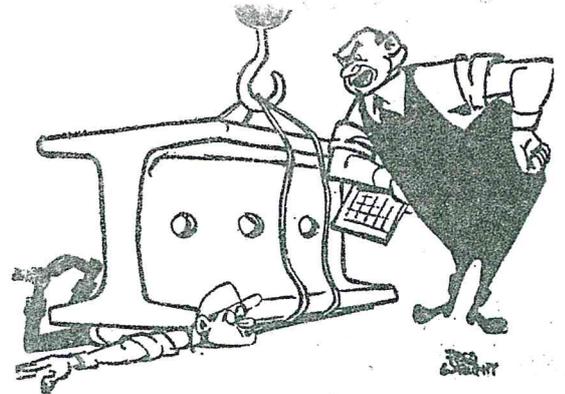
#### ARMED STRUGGLE

IN ITS RECENTLY PUBLISHED revised programme, the Communist Party of Great Britain calls for "revolutionary" change, but this, apparently, is to be brought about "by peaceful means and without armed struggle." The old bogey of a nuclear war, should the people resort to armed struggle, is also conjured up by these refugees from a Texan spittoon. British capitalism will never be without a friend for so long as the old CPGB is around, and that's for sure.

WE ARE NOT OVERLY INTERESTED IN the British C.P. as such, having problems enough in our own country to engage our time. However, in light of the undeniable fact that the communist sections which function both in the Free State and in the Six Counties are but part of a federation over which the British C.P. lords, it is obvious that the ramifications of this programme will inevitably extend in some measure to these shores.

CLEARLY, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE Workers' Party and the Communist Party of N.I. to state unequivocally their position vis-a-vis that laid down by the CPGB on this question of force. This question is basic to any serious approach to social and political change of a fundamental nature; and any party which categorically denies its applicability must be automatically suspect, irrespective of how high-sounding their professed aims may be. To hold this view cannot be construed as making a fetish of physical force; but simply of maintaining a clear-cut position with regards to the realities of political struggle which entails an irreconcilable conflict between such opposing interests as those of capital and labour.

THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION OFFERS an admirable opportunity to the Irish communist groups "to break the connection" with British parliamentary communism. Their spokesmen were quick enough in making known their opposition to the recent imperialist actions of the Soviet Union. But then one could be cynical enough to see this as just a mere echo from King Street; and a popular echo at that in the capitalist world. Let us see now if they can be equally "independent" when it comes to a basic question which may not be so popular with the ruling class if voiced on R.T.E.



*"Quit trying to hide, Grimsby, and get back to work!"*

# THE SCAB

AFTER GOD HAD FINISHED THE RATTLE-snake, the toad and the vampire, He had some awful substance left with which He made a SCAB. A SCAB is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a waterlogged brain, and a combination backbone made of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts he carries a tumour of rotten principles.

WHEN A SCAB COMES DOWN THE STREET men turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of hell to keep him out. No man has a right to SCAB as long as there is a pool of water deep enough to drown his body in, or a rope long enough to hang his carcass with, Judas Iscariot was a gentleman compared with a SCAB. For betraying his Master, he had character enough to hang himself. A SCAB HASN'T.

ESAU SOLD HIS BIRTHRIGHT FOR A MESS of pottage. Judas Iscariot sold his Saviour for thirty pieces of silver. Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British Army. The modern strikebreaker sells his birthright, his country, his wife, his children, and his fellow men for an unfulfilled promise from his boss.

ESAU WAS A TRAITOR TO HIMSELF, JUDAS Iscariot was a traitor to his God, Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country.

A STRIKEBREAKER IS A TRAITOR TO HIS GOD, HIS COUNTRY, HIS FAMILY, AND HIS CLASS.

Jack London.



# SAOR

WITH THIS, THE FIRST ISSUE OF OUR monthly paper, SAOR EIRE announces its appearance on the political scene. Our aim is to rejuvenate the age-old struggle in Ireland, and to give it a new vitality and purpose by re-defining it in terms of Socialist goals.

THE HISTORIC ERA IN WHICH WE LIVE is dominated by a gigantic conflict between the forces of Labour and Capital. In every corner of the earth where middle class rule reaps its ill-gotten gains, the hitherto down-trodden people have awakened, and are awakening to a sense of their own invincible strength, and their own inalienable rights as producers of the world's wealth. We are witnessing the birth-struggles of a new and exciting social order, which proposes to elevate man's social status and personal dignity, by setting them upon their natural foundations of communal identity and responsibility. The rallying-cry for this great and momentous struggle is SOCIALISM!

IT IS OUR UNSHAKABLE BELIEF THAT the Working People of Ireland will join in this world-wide assault upon the bastions of capitalism and imperialism, when Socialist aims are presented in a manner that is meaningful to them. Certainly, our centuries old liberation struggle, as yet unconsumed, will never find a successful conclusion other than in the context of a renewed effort, which is motivated by those social, political and economic principles that are fundamental to Socialism. It is our avowed purpose, then, to apply the essential principles of Socialism to conditions in Ireland, and through practice develop new methods of action which will rekindle the People's will to extend the traditional struggle to its next and logical stage, and which will equip them to advance progressively to their goals.

IN ESSENCE, OUR MINIMUM PROGRAMME is to mobilize the Working People under the banner of Socialism; to mobilize PEOPLE'S POWER for the purpose of unleashing it for the attainment of a PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, embracing all of the national territory and committed unreservedly to the People's interests.

IN OTHER WORDS, OUR OBJECTS ARE to awaken the Working People to a new-found sense of purpose and strength, by propagating the relevance of Socialist solutions both to their present problems and disabilities, and to their future security and happiness. Secondly, to organize the People, and to commit their organized power in a manner most advantageous to the realization of State Power. And Thirdly, to set up a PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, whose foundations are of the People; whose power is used for the People; and whose direction is controlled by the People.

IT MAY BE HELD THAT ORGANIZATIONS pursuing similar objects are already in existence, and that the emergence of a new movement such as ours only militates against the development of the People's progress. We have given much serious thought to this particular question, and are now convinced from objective analysis that this is not the case.

THERE CERTAINLY ARE ORGANIZATIONS in existence which profess to forward the interests of the People in this era of Socialist endeavour. And towards those which are grouped within the REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT we, as Irishmen, could be expected to have none but a sentimental leaning in view of their real service to the Cause of the People in former times. Indeed, this in many respects accounts for the selection of the title SAOR EIRE which, we think symbolizes that period when the REPUBLICAN ARMY showed an awareness on the need to adopt the principles of Socialism to the national struggle. But other than that, sentiment cannot override or obscure the demands of the new historic era which we are now entering. No movement exists which has shown itself capable of arousing the People to its banner. No movement has shown itself capable of harnessing the awakening social awareness of the People, and of developing it in the cause of national liberation today. This is the undeniable truth, and it is the determining fact which legitimizes the emergence of a new movement.

SAOR EIRE IS OPEN TO ALL IRISHMEN and women who subscribe to the prin-

# PEOPLE'S POWER

# ÉIRE



principles of Socialism, and who are willing to labour unreservedly in the promotion of a unity of action between the working class, the working farmer and the rural proletariat in common struggle against capitalist exploitation, and for the establishment of a PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. Under prevailing conditions in Ireland, we view the establishment of such a Republic, which would embrace the interests of all these groups, as the first essential step in the transition from capitalism to Socialism.

IT IS OUR INTENTION TO APPEAL TO the youth of the nation; to those in the factory, the shop, the lecture hall and on the farm, not merely through words, but also through action. The nation's youth represents its greatest hope, its greatest potential for change, and any movement which aims to succeed in its purpose must attract their allegiance, so as to harness and productively integrate their vast resources of energy and enthusiasm with the momentous struggle to build a new land in which all will find a meaningful existence. Being fully conscious of the importance of the emerging generation, and of the decisive contributions only they can make to the task of national reconstruction, we will endeavour to present to the youth a real alternative to all that presently prevails; a movement with which they can readily identify their aspirations, and within which they will find an atmosphere conducive to their development as the vanguard of the nation's future.

WHILE AT ALL TIMES RETAINING THE main objective in clear view, we are also aware of the need for involvement in the everyday struggles of the workers. Hence, Saor Eire stands vigilant on the side of the workers, ever ready to champion all efforts for better conditions. When the workers fight, the workers are RIGHT; and they can rest assured of a voice to propagate their views, and of an organization which will never consent to say "they have enough", until they have ALL!

WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO MISLEAD THE People, by giving them to believe that a PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, which must

deal resolutely with such pressing problems as the re-distribution of land and the workerization of industry -- to name but a few, can be realized by mere parliamentary agitation. It cannot! This is an unavoidable fact of life, and it is incumbent upon us to determine and present alternative courses of action. As the movement develops, and as it learns from the experiences of the past, its own experiences and the experiences of other peoples, new strategies and tactics shall emerge which will meet the requirements of the time. We are not prophets who can foretell the future, and, consequently, the related manner in which unknown conditions can best be exploited. But we say this: once a movement such as ours is guided by the laws of scientific Socialism, and for so long as it abides by these laws, it is in the position to cope with any developing situation with an ability not available to any other type of organization.

IN CONCLUSION, WE WOULD LIKE TO say that this is but the briefest of outlines on our objects, and of the ideology which motivates our efforts. In future issues of the paper, fuller and more explicit explanations shall be undertaken, which will enable all to evaluate more readily the relevance of our claims, and see more clearly the need for our existence.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THERE HAS been much talk on the need for a new movement. We have now given concrete reality to this talk, by creating an alternative which is resolute in purpose, clear in its aims and determined on victory. Saor Eire stands as a rallying point for all those who want to transform the nation. LET US NOW PROCEED WITH THAT TASK!

Arise, ye prisoners of starvation!  
Arise ye wretched of the earth,  
For justice thunders condemnation,  
A better world's in birth.  
No more tradition's chains shall bind us,  
Arise, ye slaves; no more in thrall!  
The earth shall rise on new foundations,  
We have been naught, we shall be all.

\* \* \* \* \*

# A PEOPLES' REPUBLIC

# NO MORE HUMBUG

## VOICE OF THE FENIANS

The following article first appeared in the IRISH PEOPLE of January 30, 1864. One could well call it one of the suppressed writings of our revolutionary heritage.

\* \* \* \* \*

WE HAVE MORE THAN ONCE EXPRESSED OUR belief, that the vast majority of the Irish people are heartily sick of agitations and all movements in which public meetings and platform spoutings are had recourse to as a means of national regeneration.

YET, IT WOULD SEEM THAT A FEW KNAVES and fools still hug the delusion, that they can revive this worn-out blatant system, which, more than any other cause, has brought calamity and ridicule upon Ireland.

PERHAPS 'TWERE OUR WISEST COURSE TO treat these would-be political revivalists with silent contempt. Our countrymen in general are no longer so "green" as to listen to palaver of the agitational school. Yet, as here and there some well-meaning persons might, through want of sufficient reflection, be induced to waste their time in co-operating in this vicious attempt to resuscitate a strangled system of humbug, we shall endeavour as briefly as possible to show how fraudulent any Irish movement, based on a plan at all akin to the agitation system, must necessarily be.

WE BELIEVE ALL TRUE IRISHMEN, WHO think justly, will agree that, in order to save and elevate Ireland, her sons must, before all things, make her an independent nation. Now, an agitation or platform movement, we maintain, is utterly powerless as a means whereby to win Irish independence.

IT IS TRUE THAT PARLIAMENTARY agitation, by inspiring a terror that arms would be resorted to if concession were too long delayed, helped to win emancipation and the Reform Bill. But the wealthy and influential Catholics of England joined the Irish in demanding Emancipation. Besides, it in no way interfered with England's domination over Ireland; it merely increased the number of British citizens. But Repeal, or any such international question could never be achieved by parliamentary agitation. Power is never yielded by nations or large bodies of men, save to visibly superior force; and only victory in the field could make Ireland's force visibly o'ertop England's.

SOME PEOPLE, INDEED, WILL ADMIT THE inefficacy of parliamentary agitat -

ion, but still would argue that it is good to have it as a blind to cover ulterior designs. All such deception we believe to be demoralising. We believe that if you mystify the people, by inducing them to give their adhesion to what you know to be a false method of action, you will fail at the crisis to make them seize with faith and manly energy the true means. When the day of action comes, they will be sure to prove waverers.

THE DEGRADING, SWINDLING TRICKERY of parliamentary agitation can only then be a benefit and a joy to those who find their "highest good" in political corruption -- to patriotic bar-risters, who want to become, at any price Q.C.'s and M.P.'s, and eventually judges; and to patriotic editors who want to become aldermen!

MOREOVER, IN PLATFORM MOVEMENTS, the wrong men are always sure to be brought to the surface and placed at the head of affairs. It is not the men of intrinsic worth who get the direction of such movements; but those who have handles to their names, the respectabilities in short, without consideration as to whether they have any share of brains or not.

BESIDES, PLATFORM MOVEMENTS ARE SURE to develop in our young men undue vanity and a love of hearing themselves talk on councils and committees. In the club movement of '48 conceit and empty-headedness reigned. Platform movements are necessarily unmilitary, and consequently bad for a nation that wants to free herself from a foreign yoke. As a general rule, too, divided councils are the result of a platform movement; whereas unity of direction is now absolutely essential to Ireland.

IN SHORT, NO MORE INSANE AND WICKED idea could enter the brain of fools and knaves, than the notion of reviving the system of agitation. It brought shame and discomfiture to the men of '48 and, for a time, ruin and ridicule to the country. That men should be now found so silly or criminal as to attempt the revival of it, is a new and deplorable instance of human fatuity.

WE WOULD FAIN, THEN, RECALL THOSE misguided men from the wrong path upon which they are entering. Let them take views more honest and sounder of the position in which Ireland stands. At all events we expect, we know, that the overwhelming majority of our countrymen will give them no countenance. It would just sell newspapers and sell the country: "Only this and nothing more."

\* \* \* \* \*

# P. R. FACT and MYTH

"The chief house of the legislature, Dail Eireann, is filled with men who do almost nothing else but cooing their constituents."

Irish Times, Sept.

THE REFERENDUM HAS PASSED INTO history, and with it the antics of the various species of "kangaroo radical" who voiced such a vehement defence of P.R. No doubt, these characters feel extremely satisfied with their "victory". The system of P.R. has triumphed over the straight vote and single seat constituency concept of parliamentarianism. Democracy has been saved! The dictatorship of big business has been thwarted! What bull; what pure and unadulterated BULL!

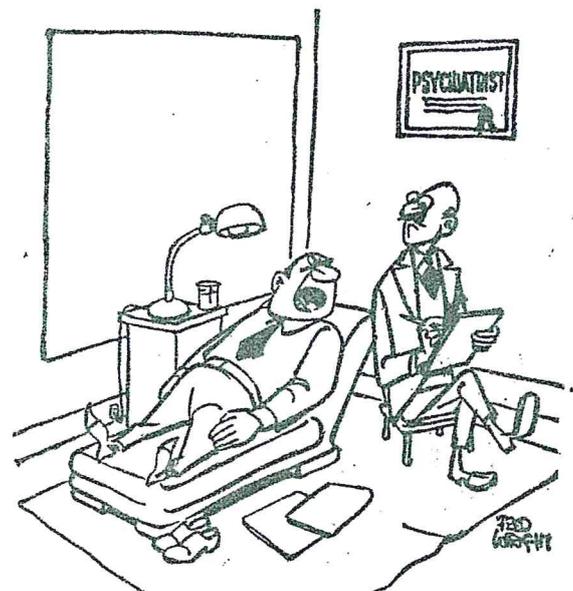
UNLIKE YOUR "KANGAROO RADICAL", we found it very difficult to get all worked up on the issue. Admittedly, our views on politics as managed in a capitalist state determined this attitude. With the best will in the world, we cannot see that the question of voting systems makes any essential difference in a capitalist state, since the machinery of such a state will never allow itself to be used to destroy capitalism. The method of voting employed in a parliamentary system of government is but incidental to the continuation of a middle class dictatorship; and any so-called radical who agitates for the retention of one system as against the introduction of another, and who alleges that one is better than the other for the purpose of securing control of the state in the interests of the People, is not a true friend of the People, but a lackey of the ruling class.

WE WILL CERTAINLY AGREE THAT ALL means should be availed of to agitate against the government of big business, so as to expose the hypocrisy of its alleged "democracy", and awaken the people to the necessity for concerted action against its ramifications. Radicals can legitimately avail of an occasion such as the recent referendum to propagate these truths. However, it is an entirely different matter when soap-box radicals take to the platform, and by their actions lend credence to the myth of universal democracy within a bourgeois state. This is nothing short of treason to the working People, because it constitutes an alliance with the ruling class for the propagation of middle class ideology.

AS WE SEE IT, THESE SELF-STYLED radicals who championed P.R. during the recent parliamentary campaign, are motivated not alone by their covert subservience to middle class ideology, but also by a basic "minority complex". It is not merely that they are small; they are small-time; and as small-time bourgeois lap-dogs, their abilities and vision find a natural level within a parliamentary system which affords a harmless recognition to their existence. Hence, the outcry against the proposal to eliminate P.R. It did not arise from a concern for the People, but from a concern for themselves. If P.R. had gone, so would at least one facet of the mythology of salvation via the capitalist ballot box; and these politicians of the twilight zone would no longer get any mileage from their little ditty.

Give us one member more,  
Give us three, Oh, give us four,  
And we'll open the door to salvation!

IF A PARTY OR MOVEMENT SUBSCRIBES to the myth that the dictatorship of big business can be defeated within the context of parliamentary action, and if it alleges its object to be the mobilization of a mass popular support for such a victory via the ballot box; then, the straight vote



"I SAID MY EMPLOYEES DON'T LIKE ME FOR SOME REASON  
WASH OUT YOUR EARS, YA STUPID JERK!"

system more readily meets its objects, since, according to recent statements, it offers greater facilities to a strong party than to those with minority interests. For a party to agitate for "minority interests", while at the same time alleging its own base to rest with the majority of the population, constitutes a glaring contradiction. And yet, this is precisely the nature of the contradiction inherent in the recent stand taken by our parliamentary revolutionaries. Now, if we believed as they claim: that the People can secure their just rights by dropping pieces of paper into a capitalist ballot box, we would certainly advocate the straight vote, because irrespective of any short-term disadvantages it may incur, they would be outweighed by its long-term advantages. However, we do not so believe. Hence, we have no intention of leading the People astray by confusing the main issues with such non-consequential ones as those arising from a preference for one mode of voting over another.

THE STRAIGHT VOTE, WITH ITS attendant single seat constituency, was championed by the party in power; a party which, in recent years, has also emerged as the principle representative of big business in the Free State. No doubt, Fianna Fail pressed the issue with a view to entrenching its own position as a party, but this also has wider ramifications; Fianna Fail and big business are now synonymous, and that which would be good for Fianna Fail as a party, would also be good for big business as a class. A change in the system of voting was, apparently, viewed as a means to more easily facilitate the future plans of big business in the state; and by implementing such a change through "the voice of the people", these ulterior motives would have received that fig leaf of respectability which Capitalist rule likes to sport if at all possible. However, the mere fact that the constitutional changes desired were not ratified by the people, does not mean big business -- or Fianna Fail -- is now thwarted in its designs. Far from it; this so-called defeat is but a triviality which shall by no stretch of the imagination impede the course already decided on by the capitalists. The essential fact remains: for so long as capitalism rules the Free State, capitalist interests shall be pursued therein; and to hell with the People!

P.R. IS STILL WITH US--BIG DEAL! But the same ruling class is also with us, and will continue to use the power of the state according to their own special needs. They may resort to the carrot today in their treatment of the working People; but they



"I HAD A SWELL DAY TODAY.... I WAS NEVER MEANER!"

will as surely fall back on the stick tomorrow if it is called for, and the fact that we still have P.R. will not make a damned bit of difference.

THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF ANY POLITICAL action in the country today, is middle class power versus People's Power. When the working People hear this fact hammered home again and again, they can rest assured that the speaker can lay at least some claim to their trust. To sidetrack this basic fact by obscure, irrelevant, self-contradictory and hypocritical arguments on this or that aspect of parliamentarianism, while at the same time studiously avoiding discussion on its essential class content, is to labour not for the working People, but against them. And so-called radicals who engage in this sort of thing -- and they are many, are by far more of a danger than the ruling class themselves: the latter at least fly their flag openly.

LET THE PEOPLE BE WARY OF THOSE WHO talk about their "democratic rights" under the parliamentary system. There are no such rights. What the People enjoy are privileges, which are granted at the discretion of the ruling class; and the greatest of these is the privilege of serving the state. The method of electing representatives to a middle class parliament does not alter this fact. Nor does it matter which party is elected, because irrespective of their nominal differences, all are equally committed to upholding the status quo. Any agitation which does not emphasize this fact serves, not the People, but the ruling class; and it is in this light that we must evaluate all the double-talk that ensued during the recent campaign for the retention of P.R.

# LAND For The PEOPLE

DONERAILE CASTLE, with its adjoining 600 acres, is to be turned into a hunting spa for the world's jet set if the new owner, Richard St. Leger gets his way. To allay local objections, he has promised more than 150 jobs, wealthy visitors and even light industry.

IT is a sad state when, after nearly 50 years of what passes for self-government, the Land Commission is still negotiating as to the future use of this land, while the best of Doneraile's youth are forced to emigrate for want of land to work. As far back as 1926, the Fianna Fail party promised to break up the ranches and distribute them; but Lord Doneraile and his acres were clearly not intended to be included in this scheme of things.

ELSEWHERE THROUGHOUT IRELAND, though the British have long gone-- or so we are told, we have similar problems as that in Doneraile. Large estates are still in the hands of the conqueror, who continues undisturbed to enjoy the fruits of Irish soil and the labour of Irish workers. Of course, you also have the big Irish rancher, who is equally obnoxious and quite often a greater exploiter of the farm workers.

TO successfully settle this land problem in Doneraile --and elsewhere-- the landless and small farmers must organize. And in so doing they should avoid the mistakes of the past, and not employ gombeen T.D.'s and county councilors to fight their cause. NO! They must stand on their own feet and organize as

generations of Land Leaguers did before, and as organized farmers do today: and to hell with parliamentarians who cringe for self and place.

THEY MUST, AND BEFORE IT'S TOO late, demand of the Land Commission this land which is rightfully theirs. If refused, they must act in the tradition of the Land League. At all costs, they must ensure for their families and future generations that this land is returned to its true owners, and not handed over to a foreigner for the use of international wasters.

THIS 600 ACRES WILL SURELY provide a good living for at least 16 to 12 families, who would be of more benefit to Doneraile and Ireland than will a hunting spa -- which is all "pie in the sky" anyway.

THE DECISION RESTS WITH THE people of Doneraile. Do they want land, or promises? Do they want their sons to work the land, or would they rather they emigrate, or at best clean the boots of some obnoxious waster?

LIKE ALL SONS OF THE SOIL, WE are confident that the people of Doneraile will decide to fight for their rights. When they do, they can count on our support, and on the support of that large body of people in both town and country -- THE PEOPLE OF NO PROPERTY. Remember, you are not demanding much, only your rightful inheritance. We do not ask for very much; as James Connolly said: "WE ONLY WANT THE EARTH."

11.

## Saor Éire

THE PROGRESSIVE  
PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

membership enquiries:  
9 St. Nicholas Church Place,  
CORK.

## People's Voice

The Official Journal Of

## saor éire

Subscription:

12 Issues 9/-

Published & Printed at

9 St. Nicholas Church Place,  
CORK.

FOR  
PEOPLES  
POWER

THE GUERRILLA FIGHTER

\*

All that he has he must forbear;  
Woman's soft touch, the sheen of her hair,  
The love in the eyes that looked into his own,  
The seed of the son that he might have sown.

He must give up his rude bed by the firelight lit,  
The place by the table where he used to sit,  
His mother's dear face, and his father's kind way,  
His sister's sweet smile, and his small brother's play.

Give them all up to live in the wood,  
And on his back pack his bed and his food;  
As he silently stalks over mountain and vale,  
Courting danger and death at the end of each trail.

He must be quick, and brave, and cunning and sly,  
'Gainst weapons the best that money can buy.  
He must come to grips with great numbers and might,  
Surprise and outwit them, and put them to flight.

Each day he must put his life on the line,  
For something more precious than life or wine:  
So that others may reap from his pain and his blood  
A world that will glisten with sweet brotherhood;

A world where justice and truth have kissed,  
Come into the sunshine and out of the mist;  
Where money and meanness no longer shall rule,  
With the workman their chattel, their dupe and their tool;

Where no man must fight for another man's gold,  
While for money and power his own life is sold,  
While they tell him he's fighting to make men free;  
As though exploitation were liberty.

But the guerrilla fights for a world truly free,  
Where cruel want and war can nevermore be,  
And where each man will enjoy the good of his labor,  
And know true fellowship each with his neighbour;

Where the people will own all their forests and mills,  
Their cattle upon a thousand hills,  
Their trucks, and their trains, their fuel and their oil,  
Their factories, and mines, and the fruit of their toil;

Where each man's work will benefit all,  
And no man's effort be counted as small.  
Where no more will the old in attics stay,  
Nor sick folks die who cannot pay.

These are the things the guerrilla sees,  
As he crouches there among the trees,  
And like David with sling, comes out to fight,  
'Gainst error's chains, and wrong's great might.

-----  
The above poem is published by courtesy of the PROGRESS-  
IVE WORKER, Canada.  
-----

JOIN SAOR ÉIRE

**Title:** People's Voice, No. 1  
**Organisation:** Saor Éire [Cork]  
**Date:** 1968

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.*