



THE STARRY PLOUGH

An Camchéachta

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UNITE NOW!

"Here is the 8 o'clock news. A catholic was machine-gunned from a passing car in Belfast last night. The man in his thirties was making his way home from work. He . . ." But we hardly listen. We are so used to hearing about sectarian assassinations that it goes in one ear and out the other. As the sectarian attacks initially took place in dribs and drabs, coupled with our acceptance of such attacks as part of Belfast life, we do not see that the Loyalists have escalated their war against the Nationalist population. It is part of the strategy for the Loyalist take-over which is not too far away. In this article we show how the British Army collaborate with Loyalist murder gangs, and actually participated in them themselves, and that they will, for political reasons, accept the imminent takeover. The programs which would follow such a take-over would make the battle of the Bogside and the '69 Belfast pogrom look like a picnic.

The murder of a man whom the killer does not even know is nothing new to the Nationalist population of the 6 Counties. They have suffered continuous killings and burnings now since 1921. After the most recent program, 1969, the Nationalist population reacted by barricading their own districts and policing them. While they were still part of the Northern state they acted as a sort of autonomous group within the state. This meant that the British Government could not control them and so they were determined to bring down the barricades. This they did. The British Army claimed that they would "keep the communities apart".

However, the population in these areas soon found out what British Army protection meant - beatings, tortures, raids, searches, internment and killings. The population saw people being gunned down and the killers escaping through British Army checkpoints. On occasions the killers would be escorted out of the areas by the British Army, who would later admit that they were an undercover squad and refuse to comment on them being in possession of guns, which would normally be attributed to the I.R.A. The population heard of the Four Square Laundry scandal, the bribes, the blackmailing of young teenagers to act as spies, the involvement of the S.A.S. They gave up any ideas they might have had in the beginning that the British Army were in Northern Ireland to "keep the two communities apart", in a protective sense.

Church used by British

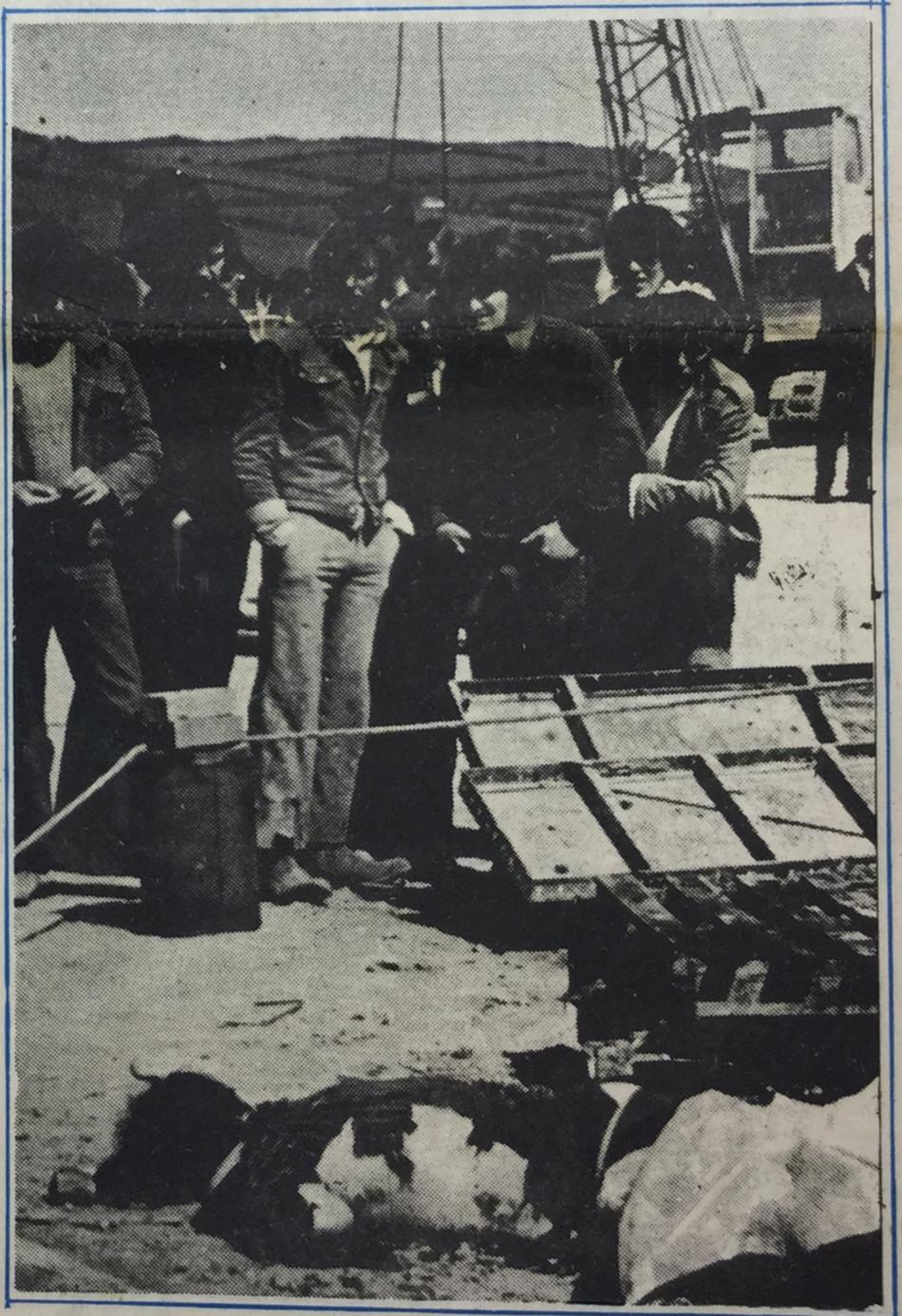
Just before the Churches launched their "Peace Campaign" the number of sectarian attacks suddenly increased. Around this time the Provo's military campaign was in full swing. Any kind of

violence was lumped together as violence. It made no difference that there was a fundamental difference between the Provos campaign and sectarian assassinations, a difference that was later admitted by the British Government. At that time, they were training all their propaganda against the Provos. Naturally they gave a helping hand to ensure that the sectarianism continued its sickening toll by sending out their assassination squads and assisting Loyalist murder gangs.

A great many people believed that the Provos were responsible and that if they declared a ceasefire that all the violence would end. They had forgotten the searches, the tortures of Hollywood barracks and internment. They had forgotten about August '69 the killings and the burning of Bombay Street. The Provos called their ceasefire but the deaths continue. In fact they have increased to such an extent that it is clear that the Loyalists have stepped up their offensive against the Nationalist population.

Six years of British Army brutality

The British Army has spent 6 years in trying to dismantle the will of the Nationalist population to run itself. They wooed the S.D.L.P. away from its abstentionist policy with the bribe of high salaries and positions. They beat the people into the ground with tortures, jails and murders. The British Army continues its role of trying to bring about a situation whereby the Nationalist population will agree to stay with Britain, mentally as well as physically. **Continued in page 4**



● A building worker, murdered by sectarian assassins.

**against
british imperialism
and loyalist fascism**

UNITY NOW!

IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME FOR UNITY of all radical and anti-imperialist forces it is now. The continuous waves of sectarian bombings and shootings in the 6 Counties are proof that a campaign is well under way to smash and subdue the nationalistic population into accepting 'majority rule' and maintaining the 'link' with Britain. The recent revelations by the media of collusion between the 'Security' forces and the Loyalists show once and for all whose security Britain is maintaining in Ireland — her own. Indeed, in her determination to defend her economic interests Britain could make a full scale Civil War a reality before the end of this Summer.

As the Northern middle class leaders (S.D.L.P., Unionists, Alliance) play their games of monopoly and chess with the living conditions and very lives of the Northern workers, Britain keeps a watchful eye to ensure that no matter who wins between them, her interests will be safeguarded. Sometimes she orders a secret bombing or a sectarian shooting, a factory closure here, a bribe here, a bribe there, a prison sentence, tortures, releases from jail, beatings . . . Britain plays her own game, always keeping her options open. Today a Convention, tomorrow a civil war. If it suits Britain, make no mistake, she'll do it.

The 26 County workers is under as much pressure although the circumstances are different. The ruling class leaders (Fianna Fail, Labour, Fine Gael) are basically the same as their Northern counterparts. The monopoly and chess games continue between them, with Britain keeping a watchful eye.

The worker is faced with an ever increasing cost of living, 6.1% in only three months. His last £20 is useless with inflation. He needs a £4 rise to get to where he was at the last pay rise. Even then it wouldn't be enough. Then again, tomorrow he might have even less.

The Government and the bosses scream at him not to ask for a rise. "The country can't afford it" they say, when they mean they cannot afford it. He is fooled into making an annual Wage Agreement. Now he can't demand wage increases to cover the increased cost of living, because of that same Wage Agreement, even though the cost of living is shooting past his Wage Agreement rises. Then comes the crunch. A few firms, *some* firms, *many* firms

Eagarfhocal

cannot afford to honour the Wage Agreement even though it was heavily weighed in their favour! No strikes allowed but no wage increases coming . . . and the cost of living is still going up and up.

But he could be worse off. He might be made redundant tomorrow-103,000 are unemployed already. Summertime always meant a drop in the unemployment figures but they are actually increasing this summer. Even the Government admits a serious crisis before the end of the year. Both sides of the Border, there is chaos and the worker is being made the scapegoat.

Obviously, Britain and her Irish slave managers don't see any border but one big factory and one workforce to exploit. So too therefore, must we see one Ireland and one working class exploited and organise accordingly. A strong united working class that links the National question to the Class question is the only answer. With the North about to burst into a go ry civil war in the 6 Counties, engineered by Britain, and an economic crisis of gigantic proportions developing in the 26 Cos. (enough to make the 'War Years' look like a picnic) the time for unity of all genuine radical forces is now. We must prepare for the crisis and organise to ensure that the working class does not become the cannon fodder and the scapegoat for British imperial rule in Ireland.

Let us unite and create a broad front on the following demands:

The immediate and total withdrawal of British military, political, economic and cultural presence from Ireland, ending internment and releasing all political prisoners from Irish and English jails. Britain must also give an amnesty to all those involved in the rent and rates strike and those involved in resistance to British Occupation forces, end all repressive legislation, North and South and disarm and disband the R.U.C., U.D.R. and R.U.C.-Reserve. It is up to us to form local committees to co-ordinate defence against the Loyalist murder gangs.

Now is the time for unity. Not when hundreds of workers' bloodied bodies are crumpled on the streets of Belfast or when we can no longer bear the cry of wailing children in workers homes in the 26 Counties. We must unit and organise *now*, for the mass repression and suffering which is only months away.

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Dear Sir,

I am writing this account of the appalling conditions the staff at Butlins Holiday Camp, Co. Meath are working under, in the hope that you will investigate and so prevent other people having to endure what I and my sister did and improve conditions for those already there.

I arrived on Friday the 30th of May to begin work on Saturday the 31st. I was handed a rule book and the key to a chalet and left to myself.



BUTLINS — FAR FROM FREE !

The chalet consisted of a small room with a window no bigger than a small bathroom window. There was no heating of any kind, no sockets, a bare bulb, and no floor covering. The walls were painted a dark green. There was a very small built-in wardrobe, a tiny cupboard and two single beds. There were no utensils for cleaning the chalet and I had to use a piece of my own clothing to wash it out. The toilets were filthy and the bath had no stoppers. On my first day there was no water at all, the second day just hot water and the third day only cold water.

The only day the launderette could be used was Tuesday and if you were working it meant you could not do any washing, except by hand and could dry them in the chalet or on the bannisters of the stairs. The only day you could do ironing was Tuesdays but again if you were working you couldn't.

The minimum hours worked was 8 hours. One day I worked from 9 a.m. to 1.30 a.m. the next morning and started again at 9 a.m. They allocated any job at all to you. If they needed a cashier you were to do it.

No one showed you how, you just got on with it. One day I was wrongly accused of being £10 short and when the mistake was discovered the apology was given but I was informed that those working there were always suspect. One day I worked 16½ hours and had only a ½ hour break all day. The manager arrived and told me I had no right to smoke when working. When I informed him that I only had a ½ hour break all he said was that he didn't have enough staff to relieve me. Depending on which job you were on your pay varied. Mine was £14 a week, before stamp and tax. Some girls who started the week before I did worked Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, received some 2p and others 28p as wages. This is fact.

There were three meals supplied, anything else you paid for yourself. Those with no money went hungry or thirsty, if they could not borrow some money. Were were not called in the morning and were not informed that Breakfast was between 8.30 and 9.00 a.m. As we were not there we got no breakfast.

There was no choice of meals. If we did not like what was served we did without any food. It was all powdered potatoes and the vegetables were not cleaned. When I informed the manager of this, he said there wasn't enough staff. It was his answer to everything. If we were working during meal time we were given no meals.

Most of us there hadn't got much money when we arrived but we were refused an advancement on our wages. The wages we got were not enough and a lot of girls who would have left couldn't because of lack of funds. One of the girls couldn't even afford a stamp to write home for money.

It must be pointed out the majority of the staff in a supervising capacity were helpful and kind but the governor, Mr. Dixon, whose own chalet was luxurious in comparison to ours, did not care about properly managing the place or about the fact that slave labour existed in Butlins.

All phones available to us were out of order, so the possibility of calling outside was even denied to us.

After one week some of us had had enough and we informed the governor that we were leaving. He refused to give us our wages. I don't know yet whether he will give them to us. We were lucky. We had someone to pay our way home. There are others in Butlins who are not so lucky.

Delia Joyce,
Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick.

BITS & PIECES

The Bray Branch are re-activating the committee of unemployed in the area. Following representations made by the branch to the Urban District Council the Housing Scheme at Fassaroo has been re-commenced. Members have been active among the residents of the various housing schemes in an effort to get a C.I.E. bus service to facilitate the people who live on the outskirts of the town who have been neglected. Members report a good response to the Starry Plough in the area. Efforts by Councillor Seamus Costello to get the Wicklow Urban Council to condemn the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill failed due to opposition from Labour Party and Fine Gael Cllrs.

The Arklow Branch are deeply involved in a committee that was formed recently to campaign for a hospital in the area. Numerous meetings have been held with various state Officials. The committee is opposing the centralisation of medical facilities to the detriment of the Arklow people. The nearest hospital is 40 miles away in Loughlinstown.

Since the formation of the party the Ard Comhairle has been deeply involved in all aspects of organisational work associated with the formation of the party. They have managed to open a head office in Dublin which is now staffed by full-time personnel and is open six days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They have also appointed a full-time editor for the party newspaper.

A Cumann of the Irish Republican Socialist Party has been formed in Monaghan Town during the month and has named itself the Wolfe Tone Cumann.

Peter Pringle, a member of the Ard Comhairle of the I.R.S.P. is participating in a European tour to inform the many Irish support groups what the I.R.S.P.'s policy is. The I.R.S.P. is also hoping to unite all these groups around the following demands: immediate British withdrawal, declaration that Britain has no sovereignty over any part of Ireland or her territorial waters. The tour is going extremely well to date and is covering Belgium, Switzerland, France, Holland and Germany. Full report next month.

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dole for ringsend workers

This is reality for Ringsend. There is continuing demand for glass products, yet workers are being made redundant in the industry in Irish Glass Bottles Ltd. Even last November in the Annual Report of the Irish Glass Bottle company, Senator McGrath, Chairman, said that the Company was considering expansion possibilities for a plant which was to provide additional capacity to "meet the ever-increasing demand for glass containers". But yet, he complained of "the inadequate level of profit".

In the 6 months to December 1974, group sales rose to £4.8 million compared to £3.5 million in the corresponding period, the previous year. Pre-tax profits stood at a healthy £355,000. Estimated profits for the year ended June 1975, are £650,000. Irish Glass Bottle is owned 33% by the McGrath family, through Dodder Investment. A French firm Societe de Participation Verriers S.A. owns a further 20.4% while the directors personally own 4% of the capital.

90% OF WORKERS LOCAL

The Ringsend area depends completely on this industry. The work situation is a family concern. It's the sort of place where it's difficult to criticise one worker to another, because he is apt to be a brother, an uncle, a cousin or even a father or son. Last April there were 752 employed there; 90% of these have lived in the area. So a blow to the bottle industry is a blow to the community.

372 STAFF TO GO

The smallest plant closed in April (evidence that McGrath is interested in nothing but a big money-spinner). Then one of the large plants was closed down for "repairs". Recently the workers were presented with a list stating that substantial reductions in the workforce would have to be made if the plant was to re-open. Overall, it is planned to reduce the staff from the April level of 752 to 380. There was an agreement for the re-organisation of the old structures but this drastic cut is completely ridiculous. What about the potential expansion of the Company? Does McGrath expect half the amount of workers to do twice the amount of work? At the present rate of profits, we can surely expect profits next year to be in the £1 million region, if this is what he wants. "The management says that present levels of stocks are too high, but last year permission was given to Cantrell and Cochrane to import bottles

from Germany!", one shop steward said: "They are in a virtual monopoly in this country, as no one else produces glass bottles in Ireland. This seems to be just a method of intimidating workers by saying if you don't do it our way, we'll close the gates". There is rumoured to be someone at present working on a contemporary version of the song about "Ten glass bottles standing on the wall" . . .

Irish Glass Bottle is quoted as the 19th top company in the country. Senator Paddy McGrath is Chairman of I.G.B. He is director of 31 other companies; head of Irish Hospitals Sweeps is another of his pastimes. The latter refused to recognise the Workers Union of Ireland until recently.

Workers in Irish Hospital Sweepstakes have been working on a 3 day week for the past few months. "Each sweep is taken as one unit and as the 30% of income required wasn't reached the workers were put on short time, said Mr. Stanley, Workers Union of Ireland, when contacted by the Starry Plough. "A good sweep would cover the losses of a bad sweep and so workers wouldn't have to be put on short-time. But as extras go into prize money we can't win either way. Until the legislation is changed there is little we can do" he continued. The Sweeps workers pay for ensuring McGraths' profits are stable.

collaboration behind closed door



The head office of the Labour Party was picketed by members of the Dublin Comhairle Ceantair, IRSP during the month as part of their campaign of opposition to the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill. In a Press Release it pointed out that this Bill would extend British "Justice" to the whole of Ireland. It was originally part of the now defunct Sunningdale Agreement and shows the government is prepared to further collaborate with British imperialism.

"There is provision in the Bill", continues the statement, "to allow the

R.U.C. to give evidence in Southern Courts. This is particularly abnoxious at a time when the Irish Government is prosecuting the British Government in Strasbourg for obtaining statements by torture."

The I.R.S.P. is totally opposed to this and any repressive legislation. We see the Bill as a direct threat to the Northern minority and their ability to defend themselves at a time when they are under intensive Loyalist attacks. This is a further reason why rank and file trade unionists should re-examine their financial and political support for the Labour Party.



S.A.S. KILLER GUN



pub (bucket) and garage (can). It also had names, addresses and photographs of top Provos. A Japanese-made Asahi camera base was also found in the car.

The machine pistol is clearly marked "Par/military Armament Corp., Powder Springs, Ga., U.S.A. Ingram M10 Cal 9mm". 9mm is a calibre used frequently in the North. The machine pistol is by no means a defensive weapon. The mere fact that the driver was in civilian clothing, driving an unmarked car carrying a weapon which is not standard issue to the British Army coupled with the finding of a radio in the car proves conclusively that the S.A.S. is at work in the North stirring up sectarian warfare by assassinating Protestants and Nationalists.

The call by the Official IRA for a meeting of all paramilitary groups in the North cannot be taken seriously when it is a known fact that Loyalist Para military groups (assisted by the British Army) are unleashing a murder campaign against nationalist areas and are determined to accomplish their Loyalist takeover - assisted by the British government and its S.A.S. undercover agents. Our call is for local committees to be established for defence purposes against British imperialism, and her agents in Ireland - be they Loyalist psychopathic murder squads or undercover British agents.

The Irish Times and the Sunday World backed up the previous claims of the I.R.S.P. in Dublin during the month when they produced evidence that the British Army was prepared to "switch on" sectarian conflict by assassinations.

They reported the Official IRA had produced photographs of high-ranking Provisionals, found in a car that had been involved in a crash in the Lower Falls. The owner ran away after his gun had been unintentionally discovered. A taperecording was also produced by the Official IRA of exchanges between a Saracen armoured car sent to collect the crashed car and British Army H.Q.

The suspect list contained car registration numbers and codes: house (box),

Soldier and R.U.C. men cleared of assault

WILLIAM DUNCAN HAINING, the last of four members of the security forces charged with the assault of a Cookstown, Tyrone, man was acquitted at Belfast City Comr

WE REPORTED THE ABOVE CASE OF BRITISH ARMY BRUTALITY IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE "STARRY PLOUGH" AND POINTED OUT THAT KNOWING BRITISH IMPERIALIST "JUSTICE" THAT THE RUC-MAN AND BRITISH SOLDIER WOULD BE ACQUITTED. HOW RIGHT WE WERE. THIS MEANS, ONCE AGAIN, THAT THE

BRITISH ARMY OF OCCUPATION IS BEING GIVEN THE GO AHEAD TO TERRORISE THE NATIONALIST POPULATION INTO ACCEPTING WHATEVER "SOLUTION" THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DECIDES UPON. AT THE MOMENT THAT "SOLUTION" IS A LOYALIST TAKEOVER IN THE NORTH.

new belfast cumann

AIM TO CREATE UNITY

A new Cumann of the IRSP has been formed in the Twinbrook Estate, Dunmurray, Belfast. Twinbrook was planned to accommodate the people of the Markets, Sandy Row, Falls and Shankill, as these areas were being demolished to make way for the now deceased Ring Road. However, during the end of 1971 and all of 1972, as thousands of Catholics were intimidated and forced to leave their homes, Twinbrook soon found its population quadrupled inside a few short months. Since then Twinbrook has expanded and is still growing rapidly, with a population of almost a thousand families. When the project is finished, the planners foresee an estate of almost twenty-thousand inhabitants.

The estate is now four years old and still it

has no doctor, still no dentist, still no proper secondary school, no health clinic, no public telephones, a very poor bus service, practically no recreational facilities, and a high unemployment rate. As Twinbrook expands and more and more people move into the estates, these and other local problems will intensify, especially since very little industrial expansion is planned for the area.

The aim of the Twinbrook Cumann is to create unity and present a really strong front of ALL radical and progressive groups and individuals in the estate. "This is imperative, if we are to prevent Twinbrook from becoming another Catholic slum ghetto estate, where people merely exist, not live", claim the Cumann.

END BRITISH IMPERIALISM

'put off equal pay' say bosses

Employers organisations are insisting on a postponement of equal pay for women as one of the conditions for the recognition of the national pay agreement. From the end of the year it will be illegal to pay a female worker less than a male colleague if she is doing the same work or work of equal value.

This represents yet another move by employers to continue to employ slave labour. Even if women were receiving equal pay they would be underpaid just as their male workmates would be. The employers wish to keep their profits soaring at the expense of workers. They intend to use the national wage agreement to cement this policy of profit.

Trade union members must be wondering by now what they allowed themselves to be talked into. Perhaps now they will understand that such agreements as the national wage agreement benefits the employers. They always have and always will. Otherwise the employers would not agree to them.

THE REFUSAL OF SO MANY INDUSTRIALISTS TO PAY WORKERS THE 16th ROUND OF THE NATIONAL WAGE AGREEMENT, SHOULD BE A WARNING TO ALL WORKERS IN THIS COUNTRY OF THE ATTACKS ON THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING WHICH THE BOSSES INTEND TO MAKE AS THE SOLUTION TO THEIR ECONOMIC CRISIS

National Wage Agreements in themselves are an attempt by the bosses, to curtail wage increases for workers in the interest of protecting their profit margins. This, of course, is not the reason workers are given by the government for introducing wage agreements. What we are told is that the country is facing a crisis which affects every one of us and that we all must pull together in order to avert economic anarchy and disaster.

ONE SIDED DEAL

On one particular facet of national wage agreements, we can see the one-sidedness of it. The bosses have a completely free hand to opt out when they want, as with the refusal by many bosses to implement the 16th round of the present agreement.

The acceptance by so many workers of National Wage Agreements is a reflection of their misunderstanding of the nature of the present economic crisis. This, of course being mainly due to the distorted propaganda consistently pumped out by the bosses' government through the news media. As the main trend of this propaganda is to lay blame for the present economic crisis on workers, it is the unquestionable responsibility of workers' organisations, especially the trade union movement to present to workers the facts and to fight all attempts to make the workers pay.

The cause of the present economic crisis is the very principle on which the present economic system (capitalism and imperialism) is based i.e. production for profit. Capitalism, which developed during the industrial revolution represented in its initial stages a progression in development of all forms of productive forces, breaking as it did with feudalism.

THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT MUST BE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF THE PRESENT STATES AND MUST OPPOSE ALL ANTI-UNION LAWS, INCOMES AND NATIONAL WAGE AGREEMENTS (I.R.S.P. ARD FHEIS 1975)

FULFILLING SOCIETY'S NEEDS

The present crisis is evidence of the inability of the capitalist system to fulfill the needs of society. Our attitude, as workers, should therefore be obvious. Get out of the way and we will take control of the means of production, distribution and exchange and organise this in the interests of the real producers of wealth, the working class, ending the corruption and profiteering which is the hallmark of capitalism.



why should the worker pay?

Why the hell should we pay for your economic crisis, we have never benefitted anyway. This should be our attitude to all attempts to make us pay, to all attempts to get us to accept low wages in the face of the steadily rising cost of living.

As capitalism has expanded however, so also have the inherent contradictions of the economic and social nature of capitalist production.

production and as a market for excess nationally produced and imported products.

IRELAND - BRITAIN'S DUMPING GROUND

The best example of this, is of course the imperialist exploitation of our own country by Britain. British firms pay workers in this country much less and in some cases half the wages which workers in the same firm in Britain get for exactly the same job. Ireland is also used as a dumping ground for excess British products and imported commodities. The effect of this has become obvious especially over the past four years. The closures of shoe factories and shirt factories and the pending closure of even more, are a direct result of this particular facet of imperialism, which has led to the flooding of the Irish home market of these particular commodities, by British imports and Japanese.

These points are only a reflection of the crisis in International capitalism which has resulted as a consequence of the unplanned nature of the capitalist system, geared as it is for profit and not need.

a Tale of Two Towns

More unemployment has hit the town of Derry. The city's only container service to and from Preston, which has been in operation for 14 years, has closed down. Even though the Department of Commerce was approached to save the jobs involved and the service itself, there was no response.

According to Mr. Luke Hasson, vice-President of Derry Chamber of Trade, the blame lay with "the decline of the textile industry in the North-West and because of the free importation of cheaply-produced shirts in the U.K." He also said that the British government had refused to ban the importation of foreign shirts.

This is yet another example of how one redundancy effects all workers. In this case workers in a container service suffer from the spin-off effects of the destruction of the Irish textile industry. The use of Ireland

as a dumping ground for foreign, especially EEC, surplus means massive unemployment for Irish workers.

No attempt is made by the British or Irish government to save the workers jobs. To do so would put them in the position of being the workers protector and capitalism's enemy. That would be a contradiction. The British Government, and its puppet Irish government, have no intention of providing the full employment that could exist in both Ireland and England.

Workers must resist all redundancies,

demand a weeks work or a weeks pay. They must resist being made to pay for the economic crisis of capitalism.

Unemployment has hit Dun Laoghaire once again. John Hinde's printing firm in Cabinteely has begun making workers redundant, although the firm has had record profits in the last few years. It was recently bought by Senator McGrath, who is also responsible for laying off workers in Ringsend, in the Irish Glass Bottle Company and in the reduced working week introduced in the Irish Sweepstakes in Ballsbridge.

Here we see how the bosses attempt to make the workers pay for their crisis. While the workers have been told that the reason for the layoffs is the loss of an important order from Kodak's it has long been pointed out that EEC entry coupled with the Free

Trade Agreement would cause massive unemployment in the printing industry. McGrath spun some hairy story to the Ringsend workers he made redundant but the fact was that bottles were actually being imported while workers were being laid off for lack of work. John Hinde's workers can see now that capitalism gives them no guarantee of employment. Which one of them is next for the dole queue?

Dun Laoghaire has approximately 2,500 unemployed, double the figure of two years ago. In that period more than eight local firms have closed.

At exactly 4.30 were kicked down men were dragged front of screaming children, beaten armoured cars. brought to secret put into concent was four years ag Northern Ireland

The introduction of in attempt to save a crum by Brian Faulkner and interests in Ireland. Wi 2,357 people were arre far from being IRA me opponents of Unionism political groups and the Civil Rights Associatio public speakers, milita and in many cases peo identity. Instead of cov Nationalist population it had the opposite effe thousands onto the stre end to internment and attention on Ireland as

Internment escalated anti-imperialist conflic Official and Provo I.R. recruitment. In the fou internment only four B four civilians died but i after internment 31 sol Ulster Defence Retimer civilians died. Before in 281 explosions. In the followed the 9th of Aug

After internment 20 households refused to p The antagonism of the population was aroused that all catholic politici do something by public withdrew from all publi not to return until inter 5 years later thousands are still refusing to pay t but the politicians have the extent of taking pos Assembly where the SDI people for not paying th



IMPERIALISM NOW!

At exactly 4.30 in the morning doors were kicked down and half dressed men were dragged from their beds in front of screaming wives and hysterical children, beaten and put into armoured cars. From there they were brought to secret rooms, tortured and put into concentration camps. That was four years ago. The place was Northern Ireland and the date was the

9th of August 1971. And so began what was to become notoriously known throughout the world as INTERNMENT. This is the 4th year of internment and the concentration camps are still open. Regardless of Merlyn Ree's political games and his trickle of releases there are well over 250 people still incarcerated.

The introduction of internment was a last attempt to save a crumbling Unionism led by Brian Faulkner and so safeguard British interests in Ireland. Within six months 2,357 people were arrested. Most of these, far from being IRA men, were political opponents of Unionism - members of political groups and the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, ex-internees, public speakers, militant trade unionists and in many cases people held by mistaken identity. Instead of cowering the Nationalist population into submission it had the opposite effect. It brought thousands onto the streets to demand an end to internment and focused world attention on Ireland as a whole.

Internment escalated into the whole anti-imperialist conflict. It gave both the Official and Provo I.R.A. massive recruitment. In the four months prior to internment only four British soldiers and four civilians died but in the four months after internment 31 soldiers, 11 RUC and Ulster Defence Regiment men and 73 civilians died. Before internment there were 281 explosions. In the four months that followed the 9th of August there were 516.

After internment 20,000 nationalist households refused to pay any rent or rates. The antagonism of the nationalist population was aroused to such an extent that all catholic politicians were forced to do something by public opinion - they withdrew from all public life with a promise not to return until internment was ended. 5 years later thousands of householders are still refusing to pay their rent and rates but the politicians have gone back even to the extent of taking positions in the Assembly where the SDLP were prosecuting people for not paying their rent and rates.

Before being sent to the concentration camps (Long Kesh and the Maidstone) internees were subjected to what is standard pre-interrogation treatments. They were forced to undergo lengthy and exhausting series of 'exercises' (later claimed to be in order to keep them warm!) were threatened with dogs; were dropped blindfolded from helicopters (which were only a few feet off the ground); were forced to run between two rows of policemen who beat them with batons. They had little sleep or food.

Other internees got worse. They were taken to an interrogation centre, whose location is not known to this day, and thrown into what the interrogators called "the black hole". There they were forced to stand with their hands spreadeagled against the wall with their legs apart. If they fell from exhaustion or moved they were beaten with batons. The room was filled with a continuous loud monotonous sound. They were dressed in loosely fitting boiler suits. The temperature was normally too hot, occasionally too cold. They were not allowed to go to sleep for the first two or three days. They were given nothing but bread and water. At all times their heads were hooded.

All this was meant to break the internees, to get those that knew anything to talk and to ensure that those who didn't would never contemplate opposing Unionism again. It was also meant to frighten the whole nationalist population as the British Army of Occupation knew it would eventually leak out. The methods used in these tortures had never been used in Ireland before. The internees were being used as guinea pigs.



As soon as the news of the TORTURES leaked out, the British Government set up an investigation under Sir Edward Crompton to buy time for itself. It was to examine what happened to internees before they were interned. In other words it wasn't to investigate any torture, which all took place after the prisoners had been interned. However on October 7th the 'Sunday Times' gave details of the tortures and after a public outcry the Crompton report was to include a section on the techniques. When the report came out it said that there had been "physical illtreatment" but no brutality.

effects of tortures

What were the effects of these psychological tortures? Since the internee could not see anything (because of the hoods) nor hear anything (as the continuous noise of 85-87 decibels had as much effect as total silence) and could not feel anything (the loose boiler suit and being at the wall) he suffered what is known as sensory deprivation. This had the effect of hallucinations, nightmares, inability to think, fears of madness, body image distortions (e.g. "my body is like a spinning cone going away from my body") and delusions of paranoia. Hardly anyone can stand at a wall for more than 10 hours without moving. But the official British Crompton Report admits to durations "at the wall" of up to 16 hours and of up to 43 hours (if "breaks" for interrogation are ignored).

Within 24 hours of being at the wall the internee had a psychotic breakdown. They had no idea of time, suffered visual and auditory hallucinations, profound fear, depression and delusional beliefs. For instance one man heard voices singing evangelical hymns and then saw it was a choir conducted by Paisley. He believed Paisley was about to launch a general slaughter of Catholics. In his thoughts he tried to kill himself.

It is now known that the long term effects of all this is akin to shell shock. On the 13th of February 1974 £15,000 damages was given to an internee in the Belfast High Court for the personality change and depression he had suffered as a result of the torture. Clear evidence of how damaging the torture techniques were.

In war time the treatment the Internees got would be considered "war crimes" under the Geneva Convention and as such is banned. However, in "peace" time it is not considered a crime as Britain has not done it to the inhabitants of another country but to its "own" citizens!

"The hood was put on my head again and I was put against the wall. For a short time they beat my head on the wall. I was then taken into a copter; taken on a journey of 1 hour, put in the lorry and back into the room with the noise. I was put against the wall again and left. I was beaten when I could not stand any longer, taken away for questioning, taken back to the wall, back for questioning, back to the wall, back for questions 'God when will it stop'. Time meant nothing I was only a sore aching body and confused mind. After a time I was only a mind. Think about my wife, think about the babies, think about the martyred dead, think about my friends. I prayed for God to take my life. I can remember being handcuffed to the heating pipes. I remember singing Four Green Fields. I remember thinking that Martial Law had been declared and that they were going to shoot me. I had given up all hope. I think then I asked for a priest. I would have liked to have seen my wife and children before I died".

Even the British Press did not accept the cover up. The British Government then set up another Commission under ex Lord Chief Parker to review interrogation methods. When his report was issued it stated that there was no long term effects from the use of the ill treatment. However, the minority Report of Lord Gardiner denounced the techniques as only immoral and harmful but also as clear violations of English law. Edward Heath Prime Minister of England, stated that these techniques would no longer be used in Northern Ireland but that "interrogation in depth" would continue! To this day many similar techniques continue to be used in Northern Ireland.

One other point that should be mentioned is that according to the Parker Report it states that the hooded techniques were taught to the RUC by the English Intelligence Centre of Maresfield, Sussex in April 1971, four months before internment. Therefore all the tortures were pre-planned in advance and in detail and were part of British policy to force the Irish people to accept a British solution.

'71 INTERNMENT '75



Support Irish Republican Socialist Party political prisoners and internees by supporting their families.

There is an urgent need for funds. Organise a fund raising function, hold a collection. Buy wallets, purses etc. from Long Kesh. Send your orders and donations to The Starry Plough, 1a Essex Gate, Dublin 8.





Michael O'Leary

new bill a sham

The Minister for Unemployment, Mr. Mick O'Leary, announced last month that he hopes to introduce a Bill during the next Dail session which would provide for worker participation at directorship level in seven State companies. The companies involved are Aer Lingus, Bord na Mona, B & I, the Sugar Co., the E.S.B. and Nitrogen Eireann.

At first sight these proposals seem to indicate a giant step forward for workers. Not so, however! While O'Leary's proposals would allow the workforce the right to elect one third of each of the seven boards, the powers of the "worker directors" will be severely curtailed.

These "worker directors" will be precluded from participating in or assisting in collective bargaining and from voting but not from speaking, at board level, on certain issues such as employees remuneration and conditions of employment in which they might have an interest.

In other words, decisions made concerning the welfare of the workers will not be made by the workers of their representatives on the board. REAL POWER will lie with the remaining 2/3rds on the board. All the "worker directors" will be entitled to do is TALK, whenever a decision is being made affecting the workers interests.

Already many trade unionists have criticised the proposals. Some trade unionists have correctly described it as an attempt to buy off the workers.

JULY 1975

(With apologies to W. B. Yeats 'September 1913')

Romantic Ireland's dead and gone
A minute's silence if you please
They rewrote History and threw it out,
Done by Government decrees;
Stamped Official - High Priority
For Ireland now is free, you see!

Connolly, Pearse and Tone are dead
Mythologized out of existence,
A single vote, one year in four
Rewards a people's persistence
In cultivating apathy
For Ireland now is free, you see!

And should one seek to overthrow
Those fumbling at their greasy tills,
Suburban hearted Ministers
Will guarantee dissent is stilled;
Law and Order is their plea
For Ireland now is free, you see!

Enough of this - the Starry Plough
Must turn a soil too long left fallow
The crop to reap is man's awareness
Of fifty-odd years - wasted, shallow
Of people lacking equality
Then Ireland will be free, you see!

Mara

Pól O'Foighil

D'eirigh Pól O'Foighil as a phost mar bhainisteoir ar Chomharchumann Chois Fharráige ceann des na comharchumainn is tabhachtaí sa tír, le deireannas. Oibrí maith ab ea O'Foighil ach b'fhiú do e - deirtear go raibh isteach is amach le £7,000 sa bhliain a fhail aige ar an bpost. An chuis a thug se agus e ag eiri as na gur dhiultaigh scairshealbhoiri an chomharchumainn a gclollann a dhiol le Jefferson Smurfit. Is de mhórambh mor a deineadh an cinneadh seo freisin. Ni fheadair an mbeadh ru eigin pearsanta le gnothu ag O'Foighil as an uineireacht nua seo? Muna mbeadh rud eigin pearsanta le gnothu ag O'Foighil as an uineireacht nua seo? Muna mbeadh is aisteach gur thaobhaigh se leis an smaoineamh ar chor ar bith. Is cinnte nach beartas ar mhaithe le leas mhuintir na h-aite a bheadh ann. Ni fheadair an raibh cuis ar bith eile ag O'Foighil eiri as a phost - cuis pholaitiúil b'fheidir? Sheas se mar iarrthoir Gaeltachta sa bhfo-thoghachan deireannach i nGaillimh thiar agus chuir se beim an-mhor ina fheachtas ar an bpointe gur mar iarrthoir Gaeltachta a bhi se ag seosamh. Seans maith gur ar phost ard in Udaras na Gaeltachta ata a aird dirithe anois.

INTERNMENT PROTESTS

Numerous protests are being organised by the I.R.S.P. throughout the 32 Counties. As we go to press details are only available for the following:

FRIDAY AUG. 8th:
Dublin: Torchlight procession from Parnell Sq. 10 p.m.
SATURDAY AUGUST 10th:
Dublin: Public Meeting 2 p.m. G.P.O.

Co. Carlow: (Tullow, Market Sq.) Public Meeting 8.30 p.m.

SUNDAY: August 10th:
Co. Carlow: (Market Sq., Muine Bheag) Public Meeting 12 a.m.

The I.R.S.P. in Belfast in conjunction with other groups are organising a march to Long Kesh, protesting at 4 years of internment and demanding its immediate end.

NO TO NATO

ONE of the main arguments used by those opposed to Ireland's entry into the EEC was that entry would mean a loss of the limited sovereignty that existed. They claimed that Ireland would have to join N.A.T.O. and lose her neutrality. "Not so!" said the gombeen men and after a massive publicity campaign Ireland entered the EEC.

The question of whether we would or would not have to join NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) has cropped up from time to time over the past few years. Dr. Hillary's statement that "if we are members of the EEC then we shall have to play our part in its defence" was played down by the Irish government, mindful of the fact that the mass of the Irish people are opposed to N.A.T.O. membership and the conscription that goes with it. The government's low profile on its statements on N.A.T.O. is, however changing recently.

Already Eurocontrol, the huge system of controlling the flights of aircraft - is now firmly established in Shannon. It is also responsible for NATO military flights as well as civilian flights. Our neutrality is slowly but surely being compromised. Ireland is the only member state of the EEC which does not belong to NATO but there is growing pressure on us to join. A recent EEC report states that the union of EEC countries will have to take over some of the tasks that the individual member states can no longer "fulfill effectively". As one of these tasks is defence it is an obvious move to pressure Ireland into abandoning its neutrality altogether.

LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER

The Free State government is allowing Irish people to be led like lambs to the slaughter. While it is rumoured that armchair generals like Paddy Donegan want Ireland to join NATO (they might be given some more tanks and guns to play with) it is the Irish people who would be expected to fight and die and suffer in any future war that European big business men decide they need to spread their markets. No Irish government minister is going to be in any front line trenches.

Membership of NATO would mean loss of neutrality, conscription and the use of Irish troops to defend British and European interests in any part of Europe - even the 6 counties.

In a country that has witnessed the use of British troops to defend British interests North and South and has seen the murder and brutality that British troops are encouraged to commit can have but one answer to any talk of Irish men being asked to do the same in any part of Europe. That answer is no to NATO. Furthermore it is no to the EEC and immediate withdrawal and the establishment of a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic.



difhostaíocht i mbláirne

Tá muileann cáiliúil "Mahony's" i mBláirne, Co. Chorcaí tar éis dúnadh. Bhí an muileann seo ag cur olann, éadach agus earraí olna agus fite ar fáil don tír seo agus do mhargadh an domhain on mbliain 1750 ar aghaidh. Breis is 320 duine a bhí fostaithe anseo i Mí Aibreán seo chaite, gearradh síos ar líon na n-oibríthe ansin agus scaoileadh an fuíollach chun siúil i lar Mí Iúil. Léiríú breise é seo ar an geruachas atá i dtionscal na fíodóireachta sa tír seo le deich mbliana anuas.

Is ar éigean a bhfuil rud ar bith á

dhéanamh ag an rialtas leis an scéal seo a leigheas agus tá níos mó agus níos mó oibríthe i dtionscal na fíodóireachta ag cailliúint a gcuid postanna in aghaidh an lae. An rud is mó atá déanta ag an rialtas ná dleacht 40% a ghearradh ar léinte agus blusanna a allmharaítear ó Korea Theas. Is cinnte gur tugadh líon an-mhór acu seo ar mhargadh na h-Éireann le bliain anuas ach níl i gcéim seo an rialtais ach cur i gcéill. Tá gá le beartas i bhfad níos láidre le go dtiocfadh biseach ar bith ar an droch staid atá i dtionscal na fíodóireachta i láthair na h-uaire.

hunger strike

John Dogherty a Co. Derry member of the IRSP is on hunger strike since Monday 21st July in protest against the present method of release of internees and against internment itself. John is from Swatragh, Co. Derry and was interned in December 1974 in Long Kesh, without charge or trial. He was previously interned in 1971. John has four children, the youngest of whom he hasn't yet seen.

The I.R.S.P. fully supports his hunger strike and demands both his immediate release and immediate end to internment.



May 1975, Bilbao. A young worker walks back home from a pub. Joyfully but unconsciously — unconsciously because Basque culture is part of his daily life — he sings a ballad in Euskarra, the Basque language. Submachine-gun fire. An 18 year-old victim of the dictatorship lies in a pool of blood. The next morning, the authorities issue the usual statement: "An ETA terrorist has been executed by the Guardia Civil!"

Such is the daily reality of the state of siege which has been imposed on Southern Euskadi — the "Spanish part" of the Basque country. Intensive screening, witchhunt against the Basque resistance, mass arrests, repression against any symbol of nationalism: this is the new policy decided upon by the Franco regime.

J. Antonio GARMENDIA, a militant of ETA is waiting to be sentenced to death, to be strangled in a 15th-century torture — like the Catalan activist, Antig PUICH, garroted last year — if national and international solidarity do not prevent Franco to commit yet another crime . . .

With this new offensive, Franco has a double aim: to smash once and for all the Basque resistance in Spain and to force the French government to take action against the ETA-banned since 1972 in France — which can organise a 'border campaign' from Northern Euskadi, the 'French' part of the Basque country.

ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE BASQUES

Added to state repression, murder gangs "The Guerrillas of Christ King" — have engaged in terror actions against the Basque. In France, after the assassination of a Basque refugee, two of those thugs were arrested by the French police: they have been politely brought back to the border, they were both inspectors of the Spanish Special Branch!

"As far as we are concerned" said an ETA spokesman "the actions of these murder gangs in Euskadi have for sole purpose to distort the sense of our activities. Indeed, when attacking directly the repressive apparatus, we aim at proving that repression in Euskadi is a state repression; by using extreme right-wing gangs the government hopes to give the impression that the whole struggle is nothing but a struggle between two extremist factions".

To be sure, a tactic which has not been unheard of in Northern Ireland . . .

The evolution of the Basque resistance has been, in many ways, similar to the one in Ireland. From a split in the Bourgeois Basque National Party in the 50s, the young wolves of the movement created the organisation which has led the struggle since then, ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna-Basque Motherland and Freedom).

In 1961, ETA launched its first military operations against Franco's regime and was able to gain massive support rapidly. However, their political perspective was not fully worked-out and the ETA went through a period of debates without ceasing its activities.

The Basque resistance

It is a fact that the execution by ETA of the fascist prime minister, Carrero Blanco, a year ago, has encouraged the Basque, the Catalan and Spanish peoples to increase their activities against the dictatorship; but the cockpit of the resistance is Basque.

Strikes, factory occupations, sit-ins, student turmoil, armed actions have become a daily occurrence. December last saw half-a-million Basque people actively support the general strike called by ETA in support of political prisoners; that is 1/4 of the population!



SPANISH BUSINESSMAN HUARTE KIDNAPPED BY BASQUE GUERRILLAS OF "ETA" IN '73

Basque country STATE OF SIEGE

Euskadi, a colony of Spain and France

The Basque people, all through their history have always been conscious of their own identity, primarily thanks to their language, Euskarra, different from all other languages in Europe.

In the 7th century, the mountain people of the Duchy of Vasconia defeated the mightiest army in Europe, emperor Charlemagne's legions.

By the year 1000 they had an independent kingdom, the kingdom of Navarre which was on the decline by the 12th century. In 1515, Spain took over. Resistance went on.

With Napoleon's invasion, Basque nationalists, knowing that he favoured Ireland's and Poland's independence, approached him to set up a free republic, but in vain.

Nationalism was weak then, seeking mainly to return to past traditions, without political perspective.

In 1885, a right-wing nationalist, the Basque Arthur Griffith, Sabino Arranda, founded the PNV — the Basque National

Party. Progressive as it sought independence, being a bourgeois party it was socially conservative.

The opportunity to free Euskadi occurred during the Spanish Civil War. But the Republican government was essentially centralist and if it allowed the formation of a Basque government, led by Socialists, it was just in order to avoid a split within the Republican forces. Until 1937, the Basque forces defended their country against Franco. The Fascists concentrated then on Guernica, the centre of Basque resistance. It was there that Hitler used for the first time his 'Stuka' bombers, causing more than 2,000 deaths. With August 1937, the Basque Republic yielded.

The Basque people had to wait 30 years before arising again.

However Spanish colonisation was contradictory. While French colonisation in the North meant impoverishment of the region, with mass exodus of the small farmers, the "Spanish" part of Euskadi is extremely rich.

would be a reflection on its own political backwardness in their male chauvinist position which was inherent particularly in the Republican Movement for years. This being that "everything is O.K. Sister, we the men will see that you get a fair deal". I would like to believe that this attitude no longer exists but I fear that to suggest that it does not would be very short of the truth.

Another aspect of the struggle which I would like to speak on, which on the surface may, and is, seen by some organisations to be a less violent form of oppression and therefore less immediate, is the economic attacks on the living standards of workers by the imperialists and capitalist governments. These are the ever increasing price of food, rent increases, for those who are lucky to have a house and all the other essential necessities for simply existing, coupled with the stagnation of wages and mass unemployment.

Needless to say the effects of these attacks are directly related to the women's struggle as it is they who in the main, bear the brunt because of their subservient social position, with relation to the present family structure and their treatment by the state and employers as second class citizens with regards to wages and employment in general.

Women in the Irish struggle

"OUR STRUGGLE is for women's emancipation against the backwardness of the present social structure which maintains that the sole function of women is procreation and the total responsibility of caring for the children of the nation" said Stella Makowski, a member of the National Executive of the I.R.S.P. She was speaking to a well attended meeting in Dublin

nature of the involvement of women in the National Liberation struggle women have traditionally been given a secondary role to play. This is one of the reasons why women tend to be forgotten when in jail and all the publicity seems to go to the male internees and political prisoners. We as socialists must ensure that we understand the real nature of imperialism particularly in the context of women who are doubly discriminated against.

EVERYTHING IS O.K. SISTERS

Principled socialist organisations and trade unionists must accept as part of their programme the importance of women's involvement in the struggle against this repression and the society that maintains it. For any organisation to accept otherwise



Rita O'Hare and women like her who are involved in the anti-Imperialist struggle in Ireland must receive from all of us an extra respect.

In the initial stages of the present conflict in the North, Rita O'Hare was active in the struggle for Civil Rights and when that struggle developed, so also did her involvement. Because of her direct involvement in the fight against the British occupation Army she was forced to leave her home. Since moving South, she continued her opposition to Imperialism, and it was this opposition that resulted in her being jailed. At this point it is worth remembering that Rita O'Hare is not the only woman imprisoned at the present time, indeed there are many women incarcerated in jails throughout Ireland and Britain. Due to the

Leathanach 7

As well, the worsening of the international economic crisis and the revolutionary situation in Portugal have considerably helped this development.

This, the Fascists cannot tolerate, especially at the time of an internal power-struggle to prepare the aftermath of Franco's death.

In 1970, ETA broadened its support, at the time of the trial of the Burgos 16, when Isko and his comrades were sentenced to death. Thanks to massive international campaigns, Franco had to reprieve them, the Basque revolutionaries broke their isolation vis-a-vis the other revolutionary groups operating in Spain.

A leader of ETA explained their position last months:

"When Franco dies, we will possibly witness a democratic opening up in Spain; we are conscious of this. In a situation of "opening up" we shall "loosen" our armed struggle to concentrate on mass struggle; but mass struggle will inevitably reach a ceiling. I mean that class struggle will necessarily go through a phase of armed struggle to further our final objective, socialism and independence of Euskadi."

So, the resistance groups are numerous, besides the 3 ETAs there are several all-Spanish groups operating in Euskadi, but all receive an equally enthusiastic support of the people, and this essentially because they are able to put tactical differences aside to collaborate in a broad front of action.

This front is based on the following demands:

— self-determination of Euskadi and all other nationalities oppressed by the Spanish state,

- freedom of the Basque language,
- bilingualism in Basque education,
- freedom for Basque popular culture,
- state subsidies for the popular "Ikastolas" (Basque schools founded by the resistance.)

This ability to work united in a front should inspire our struggle in Ireland, at the time when the people's resistance against British imperialism has been so much threatened by sectarianism.

Industry was powerfully developed: to give an example, around 1960, steel production per head of population was 10 times more important in Euskadi than in Spain and Catalonia put together.

This is why as the Basque country was an industrial asset for Spain, a backward agricultural country, Franco's strategy was twofold: to eradicate every aspect of Basque identity (language, culture, traditions, etc.) and attempt to integrate the nation within the Spanish framework, as he did of its market.

This explosive contradiction, which has always dominated Spanish colonialist strategy, could not fill, with the tide of world revolution in the 60s, to lead to a strengthening of nationalism and the launching of a revolutionary people's war which has unfolded for nearly 15 years in the heart of Europe.

Fr. Wilson. Continued from page 8.

This whole affair should not be seen as a Fr. Wilson vs Bishop Philbin feud. It goes much deeper than that. Cardinal Conway knows of this sectarian church control attitude and supports it. The opposition of the clerical hierarchy to contraception, community schools etc., is clear proof of this. The Clergy want to control as much as possible for as long as possible. The Wilson/Philbin saga has only highlighted this.

Millions of pounds wasted

"Many millions of pounds" were lost in the Stock Exchange by the Church, instead of being put to use to help the homeless and unemployed in Belfast, was another claim made by Fr. Wilson. At no time were the public told where their contributions went. When Mother Teresa visited the North from India amid much publicity and went to do social work in Ballymurphy with some Irish nuns, they were all ordered to leave by Bishop Philbin, who wanted no interference in his kingdom.

In the context of a 32 County Socialist Republic the I.R.S.P. believe in a completely secular education system with the active participation of teachers, parents, and students in the running of the schools.

However, owing to the artificial nature of the Northern state, integrated education is not the answer. We recognise that there is sectarian control of education. Removing Catholic control would only ensure Unionist control, resulting in the educational system remaining sectarian. Secularisation without integration would be a step in the right direction.

Justin Keating's recent decision to grant a further 23 exclusive licences for off-shore oil and gas is one that must be opposed by all those who are interested in the welfare of the Irish people. While such a sell-out would be unwelcome at any time, coming at a time of high unemployment and in the midst of an economic depression it is even more unwelcome.

This time several Irish companies have been given a slice of the cake. It is to be noted however that these companies are very strong supporters of Fine Gael. The remainder of the "cake" has been sliced up among the State Oil companies of Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy as well as the giant multi-national companies which are at present exploiting the Irish people.

OIL THEFT

What is needed is the immediate establishment of an Irish State Oil company which would exploit these resources for the benefit of all the Irish people and not just for the benefit of a few native capitalists. At the present time many sectors of the Irish economy are under-financed. We have a situation where unemployment is rising, where people have to live in houses that are not fit for animals, where essential programmes for health, education, social welfare etc., are starved for lack of adequate financing.

The logical extension of Mr. Keating's decision is that vitally important decisions regarding the control and development of these resources - decisions which will affect the daily lives of the Irish people - will be taken, not by the Irish people or an Irish Cabinet but in various board rooms in New York, London, Paris and Toronto. The gnomes of Zurich will have a greater say in Irish economic affairs than even the Free State Government.

The establishment of an Irish State Oil Company and the nationalisation of our oil and gas resources would mean the establishment of a thriving petro-chemical industry - one which would lead to a drop in unemployment and would provide the capital required for various State programmes (e.g. housing, health, education, social welfare, etc.)

church split?

THE RECENT RESIGNATION of Fr. Des Wilson, Belfast, highlights disagreements within the Northern Clergy on the role of British troops in Northern Ireland and especially the attitudes of the Catholic Clergy towards Church control of education.

Fr. Des Wilson resigned from the Diocese of Down & Connor in June over disagreements with his Bishop, Der. Philbin. He still remains a priest however. His disagreements relate not to theological questions, nor to "schools and money" (as reported in the Press), but to much more social and political issues such as church control, dictatorship and sectarianism concerning education and the churches dogmatic acceptances of British Troops.

The Northern Clergy up to 1969 was quite content to have its pastures undisturbed under its direct control. When the Nationalists population erupted in 1969 bringing themselves onto the streets demanding Civil Rights, Unionism and the Loyalists responded with wholesale pogroms and burnings. Some young priests had little or no hesitation in joining rioting youths and in condemning Unionism. When the Brits arrived and unleashed their terror of searches, raids, beatings, tortures and shootings, some young priests were still prepared to oppose them.

Church losing control

However higher up the ladder the Northern church leaders realised that the new community spirit in the Nationalist areas meant a threat to their previous control. Would these same people who policed their own areas, put up barricades, demanded houses, jobs and a vote off Stormont, be prepared to have their schools and community organisations controlled by the Church? The answer was of course "No". The church leaders realised this and so Fr. P. Murphy drove through Nationalist areas in a British Army jeep demanding that the barricades be taken down, much to the delight of the British army. And so they were. This is but one example of the collusion between the Occupation forces and the Church.

As the Provo campaign began in earnest in 1970-71 the Church began to attack the gunmen of the IRA and by their silence accepted the 'right' and 'necessity' of the presence of British troops. There were the exceptions to the rule. Some priests such as Fr. Wilson and Fr. Faul of Dungannon etc. openly attacked the way in which the British troops acted and often helped publicise and expose many atrocities they committed. But when Fr. Wilson condemned the British Army for using Army Chaplains, as spies, he was practically condemned by Bishop Philbin.

film show

Approximately 150 attended a free film show organised and sponsored by the Walkinstown Cumann of the I.R.S.P., Dublin. This is the film which was banned by R.T.E. and B.B.C. A staff member of the 7-Days programme was removed from his post for showing six minutes of this film. Other staff members were severely reprimanded.

During the intermission an informative and lively discussion followed an account given of the day to day life in the North by Tommy McCourt, a member of the Ard Comhairle I.R.S.P.

SPECIAL BRANCH INTIMIDATION

On the same afternoon the caretaker of the library rooms in which the film was to be shown was approached by the Special Branch, and told that it was an illegal film and that it was being shown by an illegal organisation. The caretaker didn't respond to the intimidation and pointed out that the I.R.S.P. was a registered political party and that as far as he was concerned the I.R.S.P. had the same rights to carry out their work as any other political party. He also refused to submit the name and address of the organiser of the film. Furthermore, the Superintendent of Crumlin Garda Station phoned the library committee and complained about the showing of the film. He said that in future a month's notice must be given for anything of that description. This is a typical example of the forces of 'law and order' interfering in the affairs of the I.R.S.P.

The film itself gives an account of the 1969 Civil Rights marches and the riots which followed. It goes on to outline the introduction of Internment, the arrests and subsequent torture of internees. There are also scenes of the Bloody Sunday murders by the paratroopers. It ends with the protest marches that followed in Dublin and London. It is a film well worth seeing if you want to understand what is going on in the North. It clearly shows "normal" life under the jackboot of British troops. No wonder it was banned, as it tells the truth. The Walkinstown Cumann wish to thank all those who contributed generously towards the cost of the film and the I.T.G.W.U. for the use of the film.



Being "lifted" in Belfast.

BRÚIDIÚLACHT

TÁ BRÚIDIÚLACHT AN R.U.C. AGUS SAIGĀDIÚIRÍ NA BREATAINE IN ÉIRINN SOILÉIR DÚINN LE FADA CÉ GO BHFULIMID BODHRAITHE AG LUCHT AIREACHT "COSANTA" NA BREATAINE AG SÉANADH A LEITHÉID.

Bhí daoine ann, áfach, nár chreid go raibh a leithéid de bhrúidiúlacht ag tarlú nó a bhí amhrasach faoi. Ní gá dóibh siúd anois ach breathnú ar na cúiseanna ar fad a togadh agus ar éirigh leo i gcúirteanna Thuaisceart Éireann le tamall anuas in aghaidh Aireacht "Cosanta" na Breataine agus in aghaidh an Phríomh Chonstábla.

Séanann siad go dtí an nóiméad deireannach i gconaí gur tharla rud ar bith nár chóir a tharlú ach mar sin féin bíonn orthu airgead a íoc amach i mbeagnach gach cás. Is cruthú an t-airgead seo ar a gciontach, fiú muna mbíonn siad féin sásta é sin a admháil. Bí cinnte de nach n-íocfadh rialtas na Breataine a oiread agus pingin le h-Éireannach nar ghá dóibh a íoc.

Costasáí Cúirte

De thoradh ar an mbrúidiúlacht a tharla ón

imtheorannú i 1975 go dtí an t-am i láthair meastar anois go mbeidh ar rialtas na Breataine breis is £2 mhilliún a íoc idir cúiteamh le daoine éagsúla agus costasáí cúirte. San tréimhse suas go dtí 31ú Eanáir '75 (an figiúr is deireanaí atá ar fáil) íocadh amach £302,043 mar chúiteamh le timpeall 500 géibheannach no iar ghéibheannaigh. Ar an dáta céanna bhí 1,193 cás eile den chineál céanna fós le teacht ós comhair na cúirte. Ag an ráta seo beidh orthu ar a laghad £800,000 eile a íoc amach. Mar bharr ar sin, beidh orthu costasáí cúirte de bhreis is £½ mhilliún a íoc. Tá go leor cásanna eile fós i gceist a bhaineann le príosúnaigh nach géibheannaigh iad.

Is pingin maith airgid an méid sin uile, agus bí cinnte nach bhfuiltear ag íoc amach pingin thar mar is gá. Féadfar gladh leis gur a mhalairt ar fad atá i gceist i.e. nach bhfuiltear ag íoc leath an méid atá dlite. Nil dabht ar bith faoi, mar sin féin, ach gur admháil ar chiontach ó thaobh na Breataine é agus gur cruthúas don domhan uile é ar bhrúidiúlacht fórsaí na Breataine i leith pobal Thuaisceart Éireann.



Fr. Desmond Wilson

The peace campaign

It was only in 1974 that the Church began to react in an organised way to the threat a resurgent people were to their power. It was then that their Peace Campaign began - peace at any price - peace with the continual threats of unemployment, murders and repression in general, from the State. It is also likely that they engineered the Feakle talks in conjunction with the Protestant-Methodist Clergy. The whole peace campaign delighted the British Army as it called on the nationalist population primarily to lay down their weapons and to talk peace: guns they had only picked up in self defence against marauding troops and fascist Loyalist hordes. At no time were the occupation forces asked to lay down their guns. The peace campaign gave the impression that the British Army were the legitimate authority and that the 'senseless violent men' were the Nationalist population. This of course, although rubbish, showed clearly how the church aligned itself with the imperialist forces, as they always had, throughout history. The few young liberal priests also joined this campaign wholeheartedly, abandoning their previous role, however small, of opposing Loyalism and aspects of British Imperialism.

Fr. Wilson resigned because he knew the dictatorial attitudes of the Church were harmful to education. In the 60's when the Northern Government introduced its plans for management of voluntary schools, Bishop Philbin condemned the new structure as it would mean less church control over the schools. Under pressure, Philbin pretended to accept the plan but then set about appointing all the chairmen, secretaries etc., to as many committees as he could. He also refused to confirm children from State schools!

Continued in page 7.

INTERNEES FUND

SUPPORT I.R.S.P. INTERNEES BY SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES
SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO: THE STARRY PLOUGH,
1a ESSEX GATE, DUBLIN 8.

JOIN THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY, PÁIRTÍ POBLACHTACH SÓISIALACH NA h-ÉIREANN

The aim of the I.R.S.P. is "to end Imperialist Rule in Ireland and establish a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic with the working class in control of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

- I want to join
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Write or contact:
An Runaí,
I.R.S.P.
1a Essex Gate (off Parliament St.)
Dublin 8.

Aim
Name
Seoladh
Address

Title: The Starry Plough, Vol. 1, No. 4

Organisation: Irish Republican Socialist Party

Date: 1975

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