



THE STARRY PLOUGH

An Camchéachta

8p.

Volume 1 No.3

MEITHEAMH 1975



OFFICIAL IRA TERROR TO END?

IS THE CAMPAIGN of torture, intimidation and murder, that the Official I.R.A. have carried out against the I.R.S.P., over? To date it has claimed five deaths and countless injuries.

SECRET intermediaries have been accepted by the Official I.R.A. and the I.R.S.P. The Official I.R.A. have agreed that there will be no more shooting at I.R.S.P. members. There has been relative quiet in Belfast in the last week, scene of most of the kidnappings and shootings. The secret intermediary has met separately with both the I.R.S.P. and the Official I.R.A. and will continue to do so until a direct joint meeting can be arranged.

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY since its inception as a Party, in December 1974, has demanded that the Official I.R.A. allow them to organise as a political party. Two of their members have been murdered and scores kidnapped, tortured and shot. An assassination attempt was made on the I.R.S.P. Chairman, Seamus Costello, in Wexford recently (see story page 3). The I.R.S.P. accepted 9 different intermediaries in the past but the Official I.R.A. only accepted one of these, Senator Michael Mullen. However his efforts failed when the Official I.R.A. refused to talk to the I.R.S.P.

THE DECISION by the Official I.R.A. to accept a mediator must be seen as a result of the call made by Tomás Mac Giolla recently for an end to the conflict. This call by Mac Giolla came with the full consent of the national leadership of the Republican Movement. Why was this call not made last December? Five lives could have been saved and the whole working class movement would not have been damaged by the conflict, as it undoubtedly has. However the statement by Tomás Mac Giolla in Newry recently that the I.R.S.P. is engaged in, or supports sectarian assassinations should be either substantiated or withdrawn. The I.R.S.P. is on record as condemning such murders. Such unfounded allegations are inconsistent with Mac Giolla's claim to be seeking reconciliation.

**INSIDE : EXCLUSIVE
LONG KESH PHOTOS**

north must oppose EEC

ON JUNE 5th the people of Northern Ireland will be going to the ballot box to decide whether or not they and Britain will stay in the E.E.C.

With an unemployment figure of 40,000 in Northern Ireland alone, with rising food prices and small farmers being forced off the land wholesale, the people of Northern Ireland are in an enviable position in so far as they have concrete examples of what E.E.C. membership means. They should have no difficulty in realising that membership means not only a continuation, but an escalation, of these crises.

Across the border they saw the Free State vote to enter the EEC. At that time unemployment stood at about 50,000 in the 26 Counties. The leather and textile industries were already in difficulties from the Anglo Irish Free Trade Agreement signed in 1966. Small farmers were in difficulties as was the car assembly industry. Promises were made that these 'sensitive areas' would be especially safeguarded. But three years later unemployment stands at over 104,000. The textile and leather industry have been practically annihilated. The car industry is in such difficulties that assembly workers are taking militant action and have put an embargo on all fully assembled cars being imported, in a bid to safeguard the remaining jobs.

According to the EEC's Common Agricultural Plan (previously known as the Mansholt Plan) 110,000 small farms will be eliminated in the 26 counties alone. The EEC in 1972 had an unemployment figure of 2 million, now it stands at 4 million. We hear of protesting farmers and fishermen in Europe and how their demands are met — at the end of a baton. On one occasion one farmer was shot dead.

Eagarfhocal

The Northern Ireland Community has had ample opportunity to view the EEC at work at first hand. Not only have they suffered from the EEC's agricultural policy, its unemployment but also its high food prices. Even though Northern Ireland has a welfare state cheap-food policy the escalation of food prices has continued and hit the purse of the Northern housewife at the rate of 20% per annum.

Last but not least they have seen all the committees and Commissions in Brussels in action and should understand their bureaucratic "answer-to-nobody" nature.

The EEC is a rich man's club where the European working class will be the victims. They will produce the wealth, as before, but never share it. Europe's rich want to safeguard their businesses from American competition and control. That is why they have united, to hold onto their wealth. They are not, then, going to share it with workers.

Staying out of the EEC does not mean economic isolation as trade agreements have and can be made with the EEC. However, unemployment, high food prices etc., will always occur under a system where the rich control production and distribution. They will only produce what makes a profit and distribute it when and where they can gain the highest possible profit.

The EEC is a threat to the sovereignty of the Irish people as a whole. We see opposition to the EEC as part and parcel of the National Liberation struggle. At the moment, in that struggle, we are under direct pressure by 20,000 British Troops who are defending British interests. As time progresses, if we are in the EEC are we to see 20,000 French or Dutch troops in Ireland defending their interests?

There is only one answer to more unemployment, higher food prices etc., and that is for workers to control the means of production, distribution and exchange. In the short term there is the answer of 'EEC NO'. Let it be heard on June 5th.

THE HUGH FERGUSON I.R.S.P. Cumann, Long Kesh, would like to thank the working class people all over the North of Ireland for their firm support in boycotting the recent Convention. Their strong support will strike an effective blow at the lackies and opportunists in that they can no longer live like well-fed parasites on the backs of the working class. It will also show that the working class are no longer prepared to accept glossy tongued speeches of these social criminals.

The U.U.U.C. has gained a victory by duping the Protestant worker with systematic shots of sectarianism, with dreams of reviving the old fascist junta of the past. Reality has been deliberately concealed over by illusions fed to the protestant worker in order that he cannot see who his real enemy is — the capitalist minority.

The people who firmly supported our recent boycott are facing up to the reality of this grim situation. They are in effect saying to Craig & Co. that they have rid themselves of the second class status. Dreaming time is over. No longer will they be crushed or forced back into the old fascist regime.

Once again we congratulate the people who have boycotted this farcial convention by not giving it any remnants of legality. Their determination, their awarness, spells out one thing clearly — that there is strong opposition to any sell out of their long bitter struggle which has claimed so many lives in working class areas.

P. O.
HUGH FERGUSON CUMANN I.R.S.P.
14, Long Kesh

letters

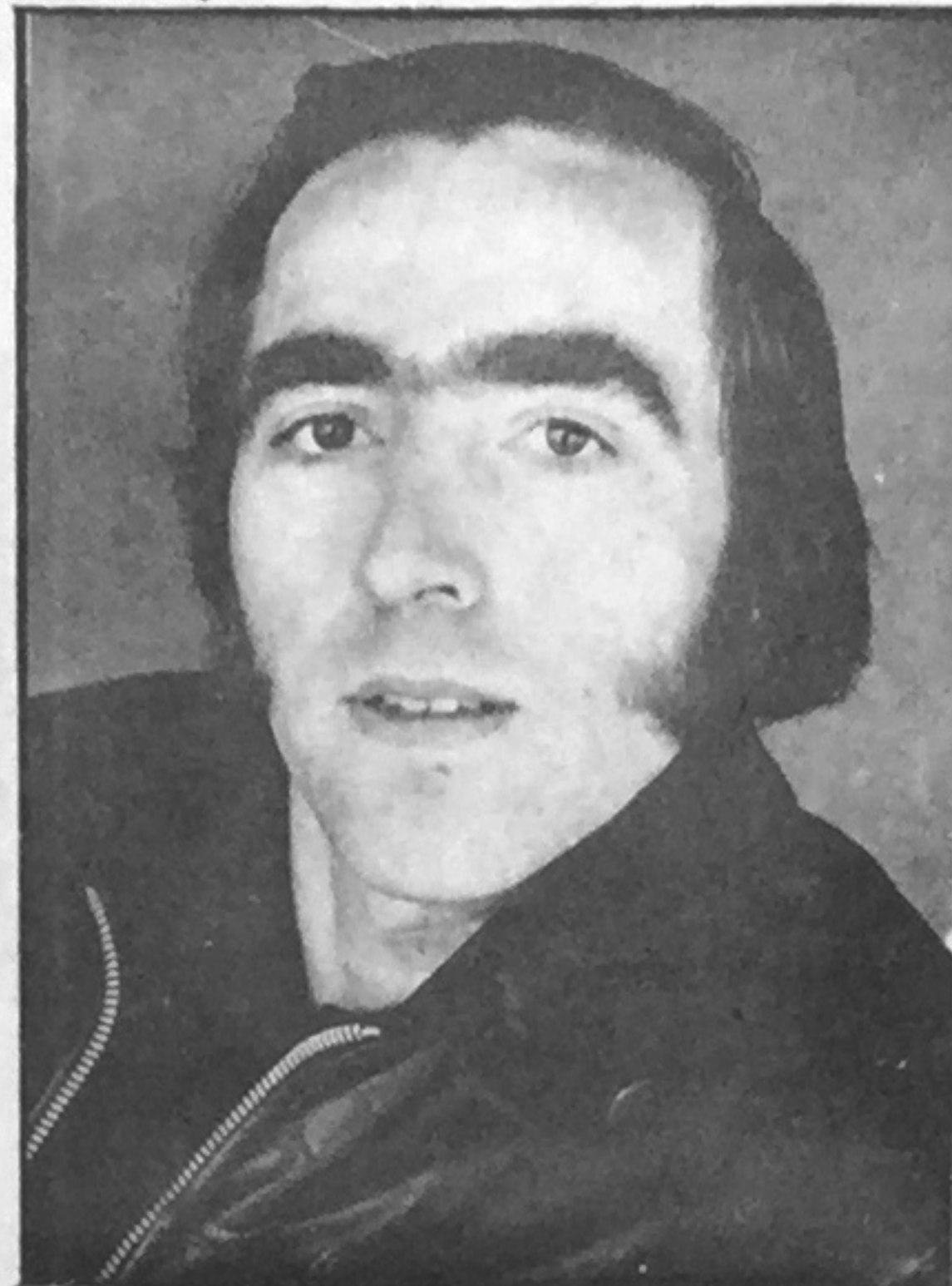
TO THE EDITOR

THE Editor
STARRY PL
I.A.E.

BALLYMUN housewives have been able to buy food — fresh food — potatoes, vegetables and fish at less than half price, due to the work of the Ballymun Consumers-Producers Co-op who have eliminated the middlemen by getting the food directly from small farmers.

In January 1974 the Ballymun Consumers Protection Group was formed. However they had little success in their boycott campaigns, shopping expeditions and complains on high food prices, unhygienic conditions in local shops, etc. There was such racketeering in Ballymun that food items were up to 6p dearer than in nearby Finglas.

selling fresh meat as the meat is not refrigerated. Yet it could be delivered by a refrigerated truck and they are hoping to hear from some farmers' co-op who would undertake to do this. Initially they had trouble from middlemen who tried to buy the cheap food in bulk to sell it at much higher prices. But the Group chased them away.



The Ballymun Consumers-Producers Co-op was formed in November 1974 out of the Consumer Protection Group by local trade unionists and housewives led by Tommy Fay an I.R.S.P. member, with the intention of eliminating the middlemen who caused astronomical increases in food prices. They contacted small fishermen and farmers who sold their produce from their vans in Ballymun, reducing all prices by at least half of that being charged by local shops. Examples of these reductions would be lettuce at 5p per head (18p in the shops) and fresh Cod for as low as 22p per lb. (56p in the shops).

The Co-op is based in a basement room in Ballymun allocated to the Consumers-Protection

Group by Dublin Corporation after constant agitation last year. The Basement No. 1 Block, Sillogue Road, Ballymun is the address. However they have their problems. At this time of year the foodstuffs are not yet harvested by the farmers. Also they are prohibited by law from

Tenants fight prices

The Group is run on a totally voluntary basis by up to 50 local tenants. It receives no financial aid from the government. They believe that grants to large farmers should be withdrawn as they see themselves in opposition to large farmers. While they accept that they have not evolved to their maximum potential, they visualise a limit to their work. Middlemen have monopolised parts of the food industry such as canned foods etc. Until capitalist control of food production and distribution is in the hands of the working class the whole question of food prices cannot be solved.

The tenants and small farmers have proven that they are prepared to work for their own needs. They have taken power into their own hands by eliminating some middlemen and have reduced prices considerably. They are hindered in their development by the control the men of profit hold on the food industry. The I.R.S.P. applauds their efforts. We stand for the means of production, distribution and exchange to be in the hands of the working class. That can only occur in a Democratic 32 county Socialist Republic. Only then will the tenants of Ballymun and elsewhere have cheap food and small farmers have a decent living standard on the land.

10 yr. old shot at

A chara,

Despite the recent attempts by our Regional Executive to end the present conflict, acts of terror and persecution against our members and their families continue. The latest acts of insanity almost resulted in the death of innocent people.

A gunman who was positively identified as a member of the Official I.R.A. fired six high velocity shots at a house in Norglen Pde. Turf Lodge, last night. These shots entered two adjoining houses, narrowly missing the occupants. Mrs. Clark, Norglen Pde. gave this account. "Myself and my son and ten year old grandson were finishing a meal, when we heard a knock at the door. As I rose to answer it, I heard a number of shots, which I thought sounded quite near. It was only when I opened the door did I learn the truth. A young boy who was near hysterical told me a man with a rifle had fired at my house, and almost killed him, and that shots had entered the living room. I ran in to my grandson and son, miraculously they were unharmed. I discovered a bullet embedded in the wall a few inches above my sons head." Mrs. Clarke's neighbour had a similar experience, and a lucky escape. "I was sitting with my wife and sister-in-law when we heard shots. It all happened so quickly we couldn't take cover, we later found a bullet hole in our front door. My wife has been ill for a number of years now, and was showing signs of improvement, but this has set her back two years. What the terror tactics of the British Army have failed to do in five years, was achieved by irresponsible in five minutes". Both families have expressed the hope that common sense will prevail and hostilities will end soon.

We in Turf Lodge are witnessing a new type of persecution, which is reminiscent of Nazi Germany. In our opinion it opens a new chapter in the current edition of a 'Persecute the People' handbook. It takes the form of a leaflet printed and circulated by the Official Republican Movement. This rag has published the names and addresses of the mothers of two of our members (one of whom is in Long Kesh) and accuses them of touting and collaborating with the British Army. One can imagine the immense stress and strain this has placed on the families concerned, however, both Mrs. McKay and Mrs. Johnston have been assured by the residents of Turf Lodge that the authors of these leaflets will be treated with the contempt they deserve. We would normally ignore this nauseating nonsense from the Officials, but we are extremely concerned by a warning in the leaflet, that touts will be punished severely. We believe the authors are granting themselves a blank cheque to justify any future actions against I.R.S.P. and sympathisers.

The typical disregard for human life, and blatant persecution, will in our opinion permanently damage Republican Socialist Movements in Ireland, unless constructive dialogue takes place immediately. We believe that while the present conflict continues, important working class issues are being neglected. All we can do is to try and explain our position, and in the face of murderous attacks, become actively involved with an already frightened people. We commend our leadership for their unfailing sincere and genuine efforts to secure peaceful co-existence. We applaud our comrades throughout Belfast for their dedication and restraint. Once again, to those genuine Republican Socialists within the Officials ranks we appeal for unity to fight the enemy British Imperialism.

Is mise, le meas,

(name and address withheld) I.R.S.P. Turf Lodge Cumann, Belfast

'con'vention doomed

Prior to the Convention Election in the 6 Counties the I.R.S.P. issued a manifesto outlining their attitude to the elections and what they believed would be its aftermath.

The election should be boycotted was the message of the manifesto, mainly because it was yet another attempt by the British government to impose a political solution on the people of the 6 Cos. in order to protect their selfish economic interests. The propaganda machine of the British government pumped out the usual slogans to fool the working class into believing that their interests would be better served by their support for an assembly. The Convention is unable to even discuss the main problems facing the working class, namely unemployment, lack of housing, rising prices and the attempts to stagnate wages.



UNHOLY ALLIANCE

The Convention election has seen the political class alignment of the SDLP, Alliance and U.P.N.I. all of whom support the British plan for power sharing. This of course is an inevitable development as all of these parties represent the middleclass interest in the 6 Cos., both Catholic and Protestant. Their economic position would be best served by this unholy alliance, regardless of who imposed it. Such an alliance would be capable of conning the working class, both catholic and protestant, politically, enabling the alliance to get down to the nitty gritty of their common exploitation of all workers.

Equally inevitable was the position adopted by the parties represented in the U.U.U.C. who have taken up the old rallying call of 'not an inch' but adding to the call 'not an inch forward but two backwards'.

The elections have created, as we predicted, a political bastard. The U.U.U.C.'s support reflects an inherent fear of Loyalist workers, who have been subjected by successive British governments and their unionist hacks to a myth that so long as they maintained the British connection they would be guaranteed economic and political domination. This of course was the position in the creation of partition in 1922 up until 1969. When the Catholic community reacted, pressuring the British government and forcing them to grant concessions (end of discrimination re jobs and houses) the Loyalists saw this as a betrayal of the pledge of economic supremacy. The same contradiction also existed with relation to the British government's so-called political concession i.e. power sharing.



U.U.U.C. 'BETRAYED'

Presented with this "betrayal" by the British Government, due to the lack of working class alternative, the Loyalists had little alternative but to attempt to re-establish their point of view, - one party rule.

The extreme right wing (UUUC) has made it very clear that they do not intend to accept power sharing either political or economic with the Arch Angels of the S.D.L.P. and the latter day Saints of Alliance and U.P.N.I.

Over the next few months we will witness political sumersaulting by all parties concerned compromising, retracting, apologising and all the rest of a farce, a farce which has become the political norm as Britain attempts to subvert the determination of the working class to end her imperialist role and all the corruption which stems from it. The Convention is doomed to failure.

attempted murder



AN ASSASSINATION attempt was made on the life of Seamus Costello, chairman of the I.R.S.P., during the first of a planned series of speaking tours organised by the Ard Comhairle of the I.R.S.P.

The tour was held in the Munster area in the beginning of May and took in Wexford, Kilkenny, Waterford, Cork, Tralee, Killarney, and Limerick. Overall about a thousand people attended the meetings, with a genuine interest being expressed by lively discussion. The purpose of the tour was to outline the policies and programme of the I.R.S.P. and an attempt to establish more branches in the Munster area. This has been very successful due to the number of applications for membership received.

MACHINEGUN ATTACK

The National Executive see the most recent attempt on the life of Seamus Costello as the most blatant example, so far, of the Official IRA's determination to attempt to stop the I.R.S.P. organising politically and expanding. The attempt occurred after Seamus Costello had addressed a meeting in the Granville Hotel, Waterford. He was on his way to the home of a friend when

he noticed a motor bike following the car. As it drew alongside the car he noticed the pillion passenger bring a machine gun into firing position and he accelerated. The car was raked by machinegun fire and miraculously no one in the car was injured. In the car at the time was Seamus O'Kane, a member of the National Executive and two Waterford men who were helping to organise the meeting.

IRSP ARD FHEIS

The first I.R.S.P. Ard Fheis re-convened in Dublin on the weekend of May 3rd & 4th. in order that every Cumann be given the opportunity to participate in the debate on party policy - instead of passing on all the unfinished business to the incoming Ard Comhairle.



One of the main problems that a person buying a house has to contend with is the problem of land speculation. This adds considerably to the price of the house. The Ard Fheis considered various ways and means to combat this speculation. After a lively and informative debate the Ard Fheis decided to demand the nationalisation of building land except in cases where families are making a living solely through working the land. The Ard Fheis also demanded that the building industry be nationalised without compensation except in cases where families are making a living solely through working in the industry. These steps were to be taken as a means of providing adequate housing at a reasonable cost.

The Ard Fheis also decided and demanded that a housing emergency be declared in the 6 and 26 County area.

Just as the conquest of Ireland was political, social, economic and cultural, so also must be the Re-Conquest. The Ard-Fheis decided to adapt a comprehensive policy on all aspects of the cultural question. The Ard Fheis demanded that Civil Rights be given to the Irish speakers whether they

be living in the Gaeltacht of Gaeltacht. Perhaps the most important aspect of the debate on culture, was the realisation that the Irish culture should not be the exclusive property of the Gaeltacht but rather it is something which belongs to all the people of Ireland - whether they be from the Falls or the Shankill, or from the Liberties or Ros Muc.

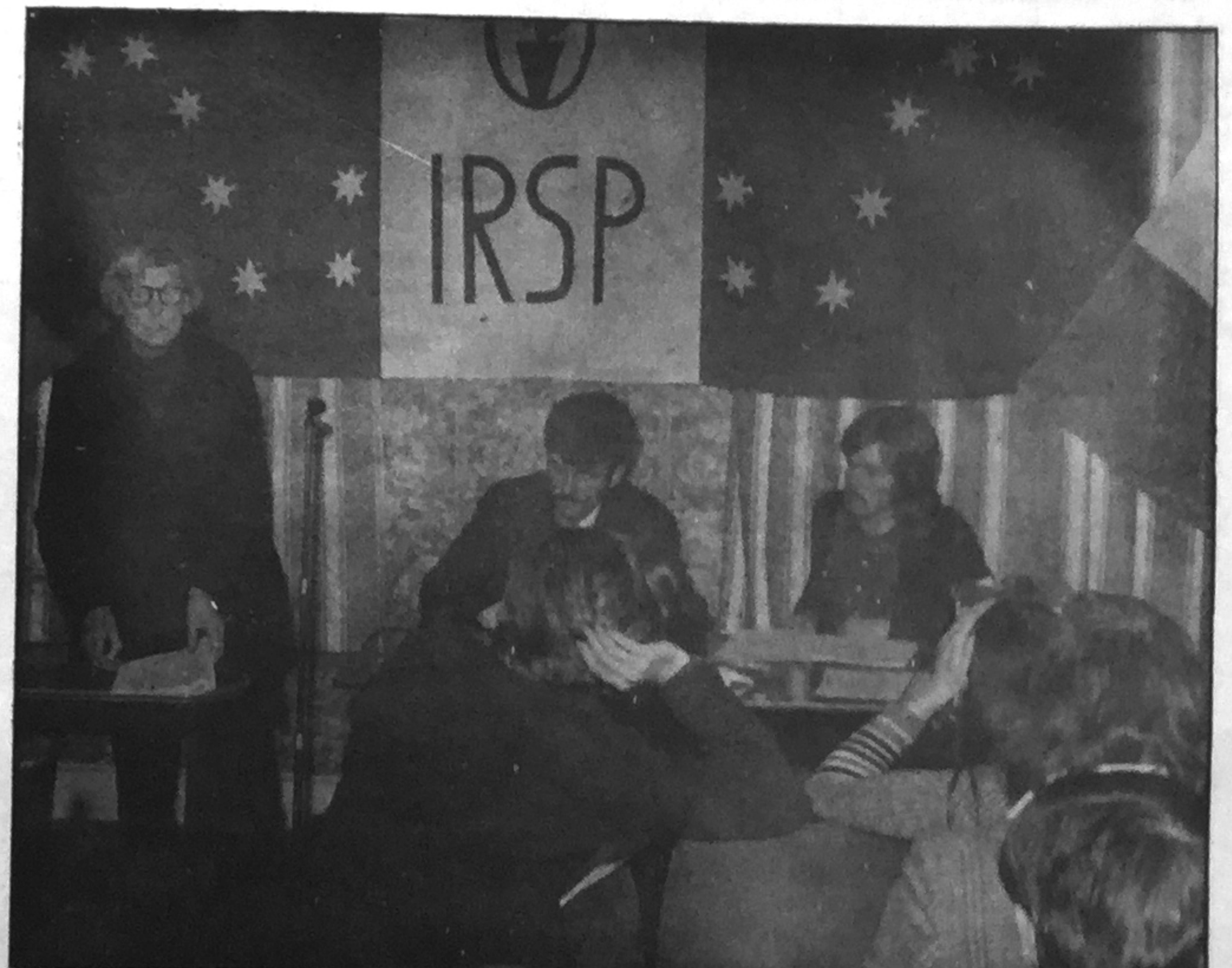
After a very lively debate on repression the Ard Fheis passed the following resolution:

1. We condemn all violence against the Irish people by Imperialism, from the violence of evictions, unemployment, emigration, lack of educational facilities, low wages, high cost of living etc., to the violence of imprisonment, torture, murder of Irish people, whose only crime is opposition to the same imperialism. While condemning imperialist violence, we accept the right of the Irish people to defend themselves from Imperialism and its native hacks.
2. We demand that an amnesty be granted for all political prisoners.

3. We call for immediate prison reform, with working committees set up from working class organisations. To this end, we will open discussions with the Prisoners Rights Organisations and all other organisations involved.

The Ard Fheis then moved on to discuss education. The following are two of the many demands made:

- a) In the context of our demand for a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic, the I.R.S.P. calls for secular, integrated, co-educational comprehensive type schools.
- b) The end of all private education and the abolition of the artificial distinction between universities and other forms of higher education.





mouthed opposition to imperialism refused to partake in any form of opposition to its armed presence.

The leadership of the Officials were perhaps most guilty of this. Because their belief that the first stage to the revolution was democracy in Northern Ireland, combined with their expounding of reformist politics and over reaction against the gun, they found themselves in opposition to the Provos on almost all issues. From this standpoint, it was impossible to try to impart socialism to the Provos and in most cases any attempt to do so was rejected as intellectual "crap". The unfortunate thing about this was that many Provos began to equate socialism with a refusal to fight the Brits.

belonged to the businessmen who had had it their own way for far too long. However as the bombing campaign continued, the original magic of the big bang died out and there was no sign of it achieving its goal. Profits from industries continued to rise and the only ones to suffer were the working class who found it harder and more dangerous to do their weekly shopping. Even the businessmen in the city centre didn't suffer. They got their compensation and the workers paid for it. If the Provos had adopted bombing as a tactic to be used in specific circumstances, such as retaliation for Bloody Sunday, then there is little doubt that they could have achieved the same amount of credibility as an organisation while maintaining widespread support. As it was, the mounting civilian casualties, combined with the failure of achieving anything, ensured a gradual decline in their support.

INSIDE THE NO-GO AREAS

They began to set up vigilante groups, groups for collecting funds. They found people coming to them with social problems such as squatting. Through involvement in these issues, accompanied by the hostility of the middle class catholics which seemed to reflect a swing to the left. However because of the structure of their organisation with absolute power remaining at the top, the swing to the left was only nominal. The main elements of the leadership were in no doubt as to their class position. They were prepared to accept a certain amount of socialism to placate the left wing elements in their organisation and to allow their involvement in community politics but they were not prepared to let the organisation develop any real revolutionary perspective. They justified this stand by phrases such as "we'll lose support in America" and "the Irish are afraid of Communism".

CEASEFIRE

And so the Provo campaign continued unabated. Undoubtedly they have proved themselves to be one of the most efficient guerrilla armies in Western Europe. But because of the lack of understanding and their rejection of revolutionary politics they can hope for no more than a compromise. This is what has led to the present ceasefire. The Provos have proved that they cannot be beaten but they have also proved that they cannot win. The ceasefire and its behind the scenes negotiations show that they still see the situation being resolved at a round table conference with the Brits. They should see that the Brits will never agree to the only real solution for the Irish people, one which the Provos themselves purport to believe in - a democratic socialist Republic.

NEEDS MORE THAN BOMBS AND BULLETS

WHAT IS TO BE DONE? Some argue that their campaign is just the first stage and that the ceasefire is just a tactic; that the Provos understand the pitfalls and will in fact carry the struggle forward to its ultimate conclusion. If this were the true thinking of the Provos it still leaves many questions unanswered and displays their sad lack of understanding. If for example the ceasefire did break down what would it achieve? Our criticism of the Provos campaign is not that they killed Brits but that their military

campaign was isolated from any socialist perspective.

What for example are the Provos doing on redundancies? There are 102,000 unemployed in the 26 counties alone and this will undoubtedly rise. Are these people not the victims of British imperialism and native capitalism?

The Provos fail to see this and have adopted a Labour Must Wait attitude. We have all seen the result of this type of thinking.

THE WAY FORWARD is to show the working class that when you are fighting against the presence of British troops you are also fighting for the right to work, for better housing, for equality for all. To do this you require more than bombs and clichés. It requires more than bombs and bullets. It requires active involvement in the present day-to-day struggles of the working class. If the Provisionals can adopt these tactics then the time is now. Not sometime in the future. Capitalism is in a crisis. It must not be given the opportunity to consolidate. The only organisation which accepts the necessity to link the national struggle with the class struggle, and which has the potential to do anything about it, is the IRSP. We will build our party and participate in all aspects of the workers struggles to ensure the successful birth of the Irish Socialist Republic.

THE PROVOS

background to the truce

How did the Provos come into being?

There are those who claim that the Provos were fostered by elements in Fianna Fail in an attempt to lead the working class away from the true nature of the struggle. Undoubtedly there was some encouragement and financial backing from government sources to the elements who split the republican movement, to just how much we shall have to wait for history for enlightenment. However, to suggest that without this help the Provos would not have arisen is to make nonsense of the lessons of history.

While some elements of the Republican Movement were dissatisfied with the move towards politics and away from the gun, which that movement was making since 1962, it must also be obvious that these people could not have split and built the Provos without the widespread support of substantial sections of the Northern minority (no matter what backing came from F.F.)

TAKING TO THE STREETS

TO understand that support, we must look briefly at the events leading to the split in 1969.

After October 5th in Derry, the minority finally got off their knees and were forcefully making their demands on the streets. Although the demands themselves were reformist and were made within the context of the N.I. state, the mood of the people was in fact for much more radical change. At that time, however, no organisation had either the courage or the revolutionary consciousness to raise these demands. Therefore, while the masses marched ostensibly for reform, their instinct was to smash the R.U.C. as symbols of the state. This instinct, considering the make-up of Northern Ireland, meant in effect the destruction of the State of Northern Ireland.

AS EVENTS led up to August '69 it became obvious that the situation was approaching crisis point. The desire among the minority to smash the R.U.C. was not accompanied by any political understanding of its consequences. Hence, we had massive "peaceful" Civil Rights demonstrations followed inevitably by 3 or 4 days of large scale rioting.

AUGUST '69 brought British Troops on to the streets in the North and the people, unsure in the new situation, stopped fighting and a relative peace returned. However, the hate generated against the R.U.C. simmered beneath the surface and gradually directed itself against the new guardians of law and order - the British Army. Because of the lack of class politics the instinct to destroy the R.U.C. now received a rather narrow political direction. The British government was seen directly as the new master. Hence the National Question came to the fore and from this the support and need for the Provos was born in the minority.

ONCE necessary the support was there, it was only a matter of time until the Provos grew into an organisation capable of a concerted attack against the British Army. The majority of its members had no opportunity to develop class politics because many of its leaders were reactionary. Some of their policies were either naive or non-revolutionary. Any attempt to raise the consciousness of the rank and file by other organisations was met with contempt, in many cases justifiable. Many organisations who



THE BIG BANG

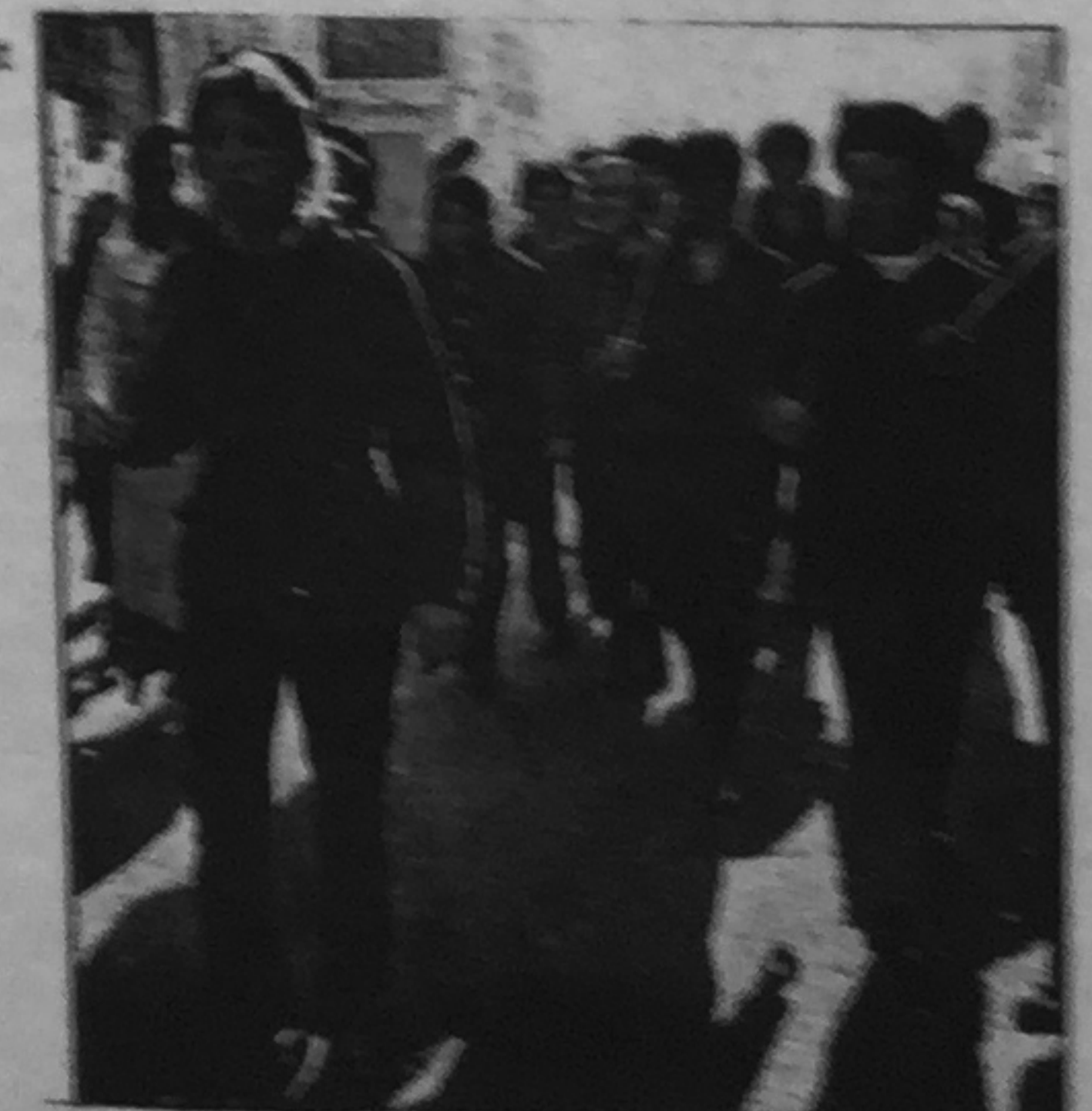
THE MAIN occupation of the Provos was to acquire arms, organise and attack the Brits. The bombing campaign clearly illustrated the lack of understanding of the nature of capitalism by

the Provos. The Provos became expert at the planting of bombs and used many ingenious and dangerous methods to achieve their aim. First of all it must be pointed out that no tears are shed over the destruction of capitalist property. However, what was basically wrong with the campaign was that it set out to wreck the capitalist economy. This could not be done by any bombing short of flattening the entire north. No matter how capable the Provos were they could not hope to achieve this. If England during the war survived the successive German blitz it can be seen that bombing was counterproductive in the long run. It added fuel to the flames of sectarianism and gradually eroded the support for the Provos within the Catholic ghettos. Once again the people's instincts were ignored. At the start people in general privately admired the Provos ability to penetrate the British Army's defences and the property being destroyed wasn't theirs. It

INTERNMENT - RECRUITMENT FOR THE PROVOS

PERHAPS the most single important incident which affected the growth of the Provos both organisationally and politically took place on August 9th 1971 - internment. Prior to internment the Provos operated as a fairly small organisation with the passive support of the catholic working class. After internment and particularly after the details of the torture chambers became known, the Provos found themselves with more recruits than they could handle. The passive support of the people became active participation. The barricades went up and the people involved themselves through the rents and rates strike, providing safe houses for wanted men and forming vigilante groups and donating money towards republican organisations.

THE NEW SITUATION had an effect on the policies and activities of the Provos. They found themselves in a situation of no-go areas with all the accompanying community problems, law and order, who settles disputes etc. It required from the Provos something they had practically disregarded before i.e. involvement in community politics.



MAY DAY IN LONG KESH

THE IMPRISONED MEMBERS OF THE I.R.S.P. both sentenced and interned, held a rally to honour the International Workers Day in Long Kesh on May 1st last. The following is a brief extract from their speeches:

"We see the Convention Elections as a complete farce and the only ones who will gain from this will be the capitalist minority.

In the race for the blood stained high salaries of the Convention the opportunists have trampled on the dead bodies of catholic and protestant workers who died in the sectarian war in Northern Ireland, a sectarian war that was initiated, maintained and escalated by British imperialism. They have also kicked aside the mangled bodies of those who died opposing British imperialism and have forgotten the internees in their race for power.

We pledge our support to all oppressed countries in their fight against imperialism. We commend the determination of working class revolutionaries, in Ireland and internationally, in their spirit, that can never be broken, and the latest victory of the oppressed people of Indo China.

We pledge ourselves to the class struggle and to the National Liberation struggle in Ireland from this concentration camp on May 1st, 1975."



A FUND has been opened for the dependents of I.R.S.P. internees and supporters, who would also be grateful for any reading material they can get. Donations should be sent to Prisoners & Dependents Funds c/o I.R.S.P. 1a Essex Gate, Dublin 8.



THE DERRY CITY Comhairle Ceanntair of the I.R.S.P. held a successful May Day Rally in Derry. In Dublin the I.R.S.P. were refused participation on the Dublin May Day Committee. Members of the I.R.S.P. did not participate in the rally in Dublin as they did not wish to participate in a confrontation with the Officials which they feared might occur. This decision was correct in view of subsequent events at the rally.

Members of the U.C.D. Womens Liberation Group asked to be allowed to have a speaker on the platform when they were invited to attend by the Dublin May Day Committee. When they received no reply they rang 30 Gardiner Place but the phone was slammed down on the other end. At the rally they attempted to have a speaker on the platform and were attacked by stewards, quite viciously and one woman necessitated hospital treatment.

rising prices

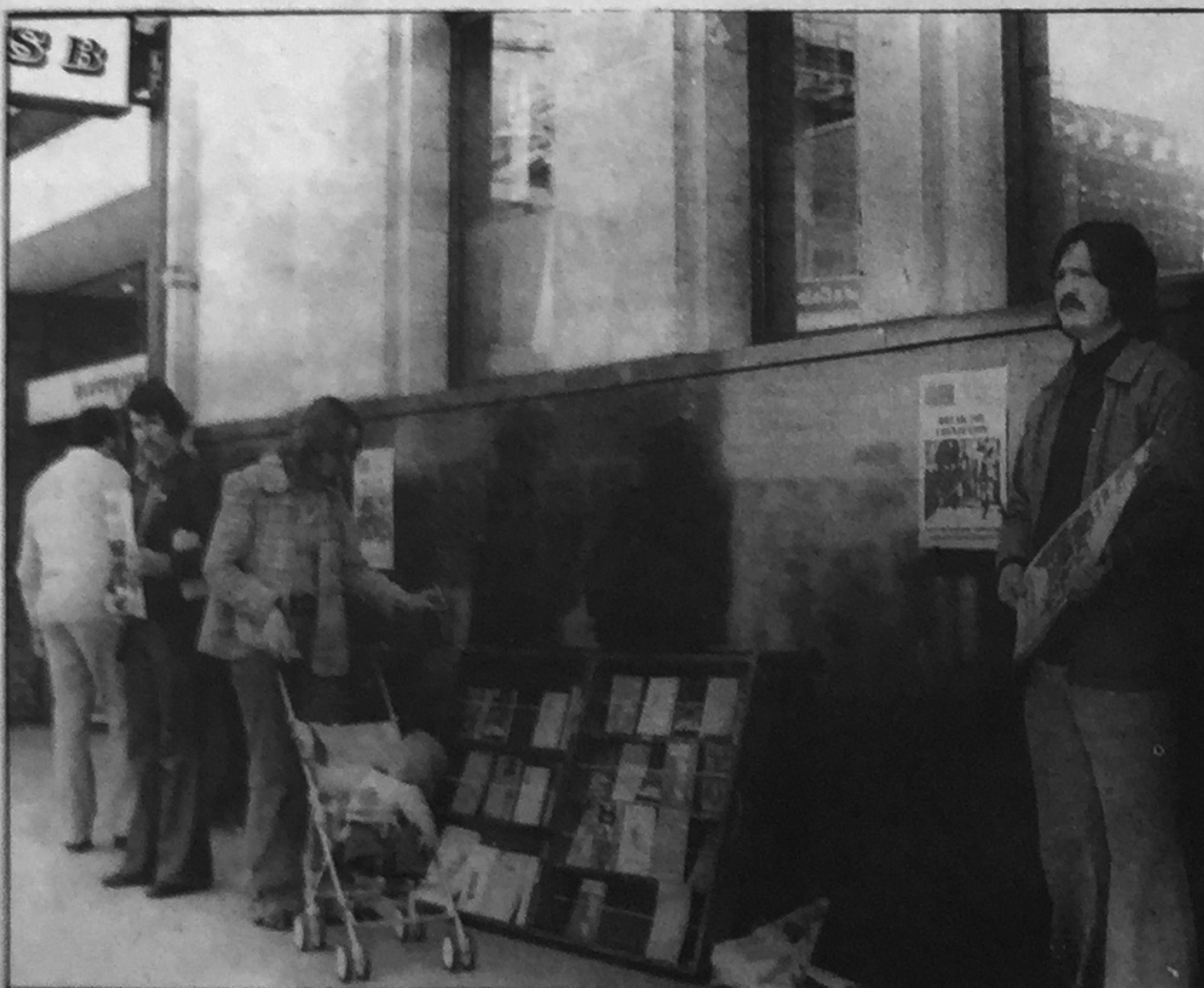
THE RECENT RISES in C.I.E. fares and E.S.B. charges show clearly the Government's attitude to services for the people. While on the one hand it is admitted that semi-State and State bodies (such as C.I.E. and the E.S.B.) are not supposed to make profits as they are services, every effort is made to make them at least break even. Hence the increases.

There are few who would not find fault with the services provided by both groups. They are understaffed and badly managed. They cannot compete with private enterprise in the same field according to the rules of their existence. Therefore in a society where profit is the motive they are of secondary importance. They are not treated, managed nor utilised as services.

There is plenty of wealth in this country for the development of our economy and for financial injections into the service industries. However, this wealth is not in the hands of people who would use it for the benefit of the Irish people, the Irish working class. It is in the hands of Irish and foreign financial sharks whose only interest is personal.

The E.S.B. increases of 18.3% (plus V.A.T.) alone, means an extra 1% increase in the overall cost of living. The busfares have risen by 33% in Dublin City and 25% in rural areas. Will workers, as a short term answer to the problem, get a wages increase of 3%? In the long term the only answer to a run down public service that has no hope of ever being treated with the importance it deserves, under capitalism, is for a change in the system. Only a Socialist government sees industries in terms of service and necessity, rather than profit.

growth of IRSP in dún laoire



The I.R.S.P. is slowly but surely establishing itself in Dun Laoghaire. The Markievicz Cumann initially held an organisational meeting of all its immediate supporters. Over 50 attended the meeting. One sign of their enthusiasm was their production of the "Local Voice" which they sold for 3p, previously it was distributed free. While they expected to make a loss they reported a 75% profit. They have set up a bookstand in the centre of Dun Laoghaire and were sold out of all copies earlier than expected.

The Dun Laoghaire Housing Action Group has been successful in forcing the Corporation to house local families from Bayswater Terrace in Sandycove and from Corrig Ave., part of a shopping cum office block site owned by Gallen Weston, the Canadian multi millionaire. The Markievicz Cumann have been involved in the Group since its inception. The Housing Group has held up the Weston development for four years now. The Corporation have now reversed their original stand of "we don't hous squatters" as up to 17 families have been housed from the Weston site alone.

On the question of unemployment the Cumann is hoping to see the emergence of an association for the unemployed in the immediate future following discussions with local trade unions.

A successful meeting was held recently by the Committee for the Defence of Women Political Prisoners in Dun Laoghaire which the Cumann is also involved in.

No surprise therefore that the Markievicz cumann have doubled its membership since December last.



Last month Mick Phunkett dealt with the economic conditions in Ireland since the two states were set up by Britain in 1922. This month he concludes with an examination of the role the Trade Unions are playing in the fight against unemployment and the need for organised unemployed workers associations.

TO ILLUSTRATE the divisions that exist in the trade union leadership we must examine the positions adopted by the different 'sections' in the Union Movement. There are three basic bodies in the Unions and the first is that section which was completely in favour of our E.E.C. entry and who give support to Labour in Coalition.

Secondly we have the 'lefties', a numerous number of shop stewards and rank and filers, who belong to small political parties and whose sole political means to their end apparently is to gain positions in the Unions, and if their activities on class politics and the National Question are used as a barometre they will not present a positive policy on unemployment.

The third and most important section are the large amount of non-political shop stewards and rank and filers who numerically are stronger, but because of their lack of politics, and organisation, are waiting to be given leadership. These people and indeed the actual employed are confused because they know that their comrades are redundant and unemployed because their Union Leaders accepted redundancy agreements. There is no automatic reason to believe that these people (unemployed/redundant) should seek a Socialist solution to their problems, and we must accept that their cynicism of so called leaders is justified and could possibly rebound onto the genuine people attempting to organise them.

This would be robbing Peter to pay Paul because if public funds are to be used to pay the workers the increase in wages, it is the same money that has been taken off them through income tax, duty on cigarettes, beer etc.

FIGHTING FOR RIGHT TO WORK

He continued "in turn the government could recover the money by taking shares in the Companies concerned". This is ludicrous because he wants workers' own money to be used to pay them their increase in wages, and the workers own money to re-invest in their own exploitation.

True Socialists must understand that unemployment, redundancies etc. are not caused by the workers, they have no say on how their shop is managed, they have no control of investment policy, and its ludicrous to expect the workers to willingly pay for their bosses mistakes. Their sole problem is to protect their own class interests. As can be seen from these few examples the Trade Union Movement and Labour Party is confused on the issue.

At the time of writing there is not any unemployed workers organisation set up, which could cater solely for the needs of the unemployed.

If they are not organised, it will have a disastrous effect on the working class as a whole. Large numbers of workers outside factories strengthen the bosses' hand when dealing with redundancies and even general work conditions. It could also result in them turning to right wing extreme parties or groups (as in Germany in the 30's) particularly in the Six Counties and England.



THE GROUND RENT WAR is hotting up. During the month the McGarry family in Cabinteely, Co. Dublin, were threatened with eviction from their home for non-payment of £15 ground rent.

While dozens of neighbours and members of nearby residents associations paraded outside the house in protest against the threatened eviction and the paying of ground rents, the ground rent landlord, Mr. Thomas Ohle of Johnstown Estates, gave the family a months respite to reconsider their position.

The family are determined not to pay the ground rent. Mr. Noel Nutley, vice chairman of A.C.R.A. said his organisation felt that the Department of Justice was at fault for continuing to allow ground rent landlords the right to have people removed from their homes for non payment of ground rents.

The local branch of the I.R.S.P. the Markievicz Cumann, offered full assistance to the family in their stand, in a letter sent to the newspapers which was not published. They claimed the ground rent landlord was attempting to live off 'archaic and fraudulent earnings'. 'Ground Rent is robbery', they concluded.

On the ground we must encourage the formation of unemployed workers associations, the leadership of which must be from their own ranks. We must emphasise that unemployment can only be defeated by political action which in turn means that we must not only explain the causes of unemployment but we must get involved in the struggle.

UNEMPLOYED GROUPS

The demands of an unemployed workers association should be:

1. That there be massive injection of Public money to create employment, using the native resources and skills of the people.
 - a) to raise the money we demand the nationalisation of our Mineral Resources North and South (ground & sea).
2. That the government implement the I.C.T.U.'s plan for £200m government investment in housing and public works.
3. That the Fishing, fish meal and canning industry is developed by the government to ensure the wealth of the Irish Sea, rivers, lakes, are exploited for the common good.

4. A weeks work or a weeks pay.
 - If these demands are pushed in the Trade Unions and an Unemployed Workers Association or Groups are formed - the class consciousness of the workers can be raised. If the trade union bodies refuse to organise and establish such Groups then they must be organised through Local Action Committees.
 - An Unemployed Group must ensure that their members retain their union membership. They must set up a Claimants Union.

MUST BE LINKED TO ANTI IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE

Our role as Republican Socialists inside and outside the Workers Organisations is to see that the demands of the working class and small farmer are successfully linked to the anti-imperialist struggle to ensure that we can as a party adhere to the mass of the Irish people. On this point and in conclusion, the words of James Connolly are as relevant today as they were 62 years ago when he wrote them: "It is only when socialism is brought down from the clouds and is shown to have a direct bearing upon the political life of each country as a reflex of the economic history of the country, and to have a message bearing down upon the Political problems of the day, it is only then that Socialism has an opportunity of developing from being the cult of the few to the faith of the many!"

capital in crisis

Now we must look at the demands the Trade Union Leaders are calling for. At a meeting of the Dublin Trades Council held on 10.2.75 a resolution was passed which called on the Council to:

1. Support workers who were resisting redundancies, and fighting for the right to work.
2. Demand that the government create suitable alternative work.
3. Protest at the dumping of foreign goods on the Irish market, particularly by EEC countries.
4. Demand the re-imposition of tariff barriers.
5. Call a meeting to co-ordinate a campaign to resist redundancies and to organise protests and demonstrations.

The resolutions were passed but the delegates were shown the realities of the situation that prevails in the trade union movement, when a letter read out from the Secretary of the W.U.I. reminded the Council that they were not in a position to organise strike action, as a tactic, and the Council should not "assume the responsibilities of individual Unions".

They were bluntly told that they had no control over the various unions and particularly his 'own' the Workers Union of Ireland. He also pointed out that 'evidence has not so far been produced to show that there has been any massive dumping of goods in Ireland from E.E.C. countries'. He said - that "part of the result of investigations have shown that problems relate mainly to goods exported from Britain to the Republic".

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL

It remains to be seen if the majority of dumped goods come from the E.E.C. countries or from Britain, but certainly the bad state of our textile industries is directly to blame on dumping from Britain. An example of this is the vast amount of cheap clothes that come from Korea through a British controlled firm. Whether we blame dumpint on the Free Trade Agreement, the E.E.C., the Oil Crisis, it is of no objective importance to the Irish shopper who is forced to buy the cheapest.

Another valid point made in his efforts to confuse and stifle any action on unemployment was when he said "if import restrictions were imposed here it would effect Ireland's Exports".

On the same day the Bray Trades Council had a meeting also on unemployment. A leading member of Congress who addressed the meeting said "That the government should pay wage increases due under the 1974 Wage Agreement where firms were unable to do so through financial hardship".

These groups will be delighted to tell them that they are unemployed because of the Unions, the Republicans, Blacks etc.

What must be done in the present situation? Firstly the workers must understand that capitalism and imperialism cannot promise full employment and the right to work. The E.E.C. is not the prime cause of unemployment, the seeds of today's crop were sown in the 1959/66 period with Free Trade Agreements. The blame must be with who-ever controls our economy. It is Britain who controls it.

Therefore, when we demand a withdrawal from the EEC we must also demand that Britain withdraw her Imperialist interest from Ireland North and South.



R.T.?

Tá go leor daoine i mBaile Átha Cliath agus in áiteanna eile faoin tír tar éis diúltú ceadúnas teilifíse a íoc le roinnt míosa anuas. Tá sé seo á dhéanamh mar chuid d'fheachtas le h-aird a tharraingt ar an laghad cláracha Gaeilge a bhíonn ar Theilifís Éireann - timpeall 2.2% den iomlán. Táthar ag gearán freisin faoin oiread cláracha de dheántús Mhericeá nó Shasana a bhíonn ar Theilifís Éireann agus faoi dhroch staid an staisiúin go ginearálta.

Alan Heusaff, Briotanach atá ina chonaí in Éirinn le breis is scór bliain agus ata ag tógail clainne le Gaeilge, an chéad duine a tháinig ós comhair na cúirte faoin ngnó seo. Tar éis achomharc le deireannas, deimhníodh an fineáil £12 a gearradh air roinnt míosa o shoin. Tá mí aige leis an bhfineáil seo a íoc, muna n-íocann sé é, beidh seacht lá príosúntachta air. Lean go leor eile sampla Alan ach nach droch theist ar phobal na h-Éireann é go raibh ar eachtránach tús a chur leis an bhfeachtas seo?

CLARACHA

Faoi láthair is ar éigin is féidir Teilifís Éireann a aithint ó Theilifís an B.B.C. mar is beag iarracht a deineadh ariamh chun staisiún neamhspleach teilifíse Éireannach a bhunú sa tír seo - staisiún a bheadh ag freagairt do chultúr, do stair, do mheon agus d'fhadhbanna mhuintir na h-Éireann.

Is mó de mheon Mhericeá nó Shasana ná de mheon Éireannach a léiríonn na cláracha Béarla agus go h-ionduil 'sé dearcadh Shasana a thagann chugainn ó sheomra na nuachta freisin. Is iomaí oíche ná bíonn de Ghaeilge ar an teilifís ach cúig nóiméad nuachta. Tá cinnsireacht an-dian i bhfeidhm freisin ar ndoigh.

SEIRBHIS GAEILGE

Cé go bhfuil staid na teilifíse go ginearálta sa tír seo go dona is ar phobal na Gaeilge is mó a ghoileanna sé seo mar is ar éigin a bhfuil rud ar bith dóibh sin ar an dteilifís ina dteanga féin. Ba chóir seirbhís iomlán teilifíse trí Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil láithreach. Is ró fhada atá an tseirbhís riachtanach seo á cheilt ar Ghaeilgeoirí agus ar phobal uile na tíre seo.

Tá sé thar am ag pobal na Gaeilge feachtas easumhláochta a thosnú lena gcearta a bhaint amach. B'fhéidir gurb iad feachtas seo na gceadúnas teilifíse agus feachtas na geomharthaí bóthar ná céad céimeanna i bhfeachtas iomlán easumhláochta ag Gaeilgeoirí.

Caithfear tróid chun cearta a bhaint amach. Tá a gcearta sibhialta á seánadh ar na Gaeilgeoirí le fada. Ní féidir bheith ag súil go mbronnfar saor in aisce iad.

Árdú Táillí

Ardaíodh táillí C.I.E. agus táillí Bhord Soláthar an Leictreachais arís le deireannas. Tá árdú 33% ar na tailli bus i mBaile Átha Cliath maraon le h-árdú 25% ar na busanna tuaithe, na traenacha agus na seirbhísí jompar.

Tá na h-árdaithe seo scannalach. Tá C.I.E. in ainm is a bheith ag cur seirbhíse ar fáil don pobal — seirbhís riachtanach — ach níl ag éirí leis an gcomhlucht é sin a dhéanamh mar 'sé ceann des na comhluchtaí is mí-éifeachtaí sa tír é. Tá na táillí ró árd, ní thagann na busanna ná na traenacha rialta go leor, stopann na busanna ró luath san oíche, níl lacáiste á thabhairt dóibh siúd gur chóir lacáiste a bheith ar fáil dóibh m. sh. mic léinn, baintreacha, teaghlaigh mhóra agus aroile. Níl anso ach cuid den iliomad lochtanna go bhféadfaí a fháil ar an seirbhís.

Mar sheirbhís riachtanach don pobal ba chóir go bhféadfaí chuige go reachtáilí C.I.E. ar bhealach níos éifeachtaí agus go dtabharfaí deontas mór go leor dóibh siúd nó do dhream éicint eile le go bhféadfaí seirbhís a chur ar fáil don pobal ar phraghas reasúnta.

SMACHT AR MAOIN

Seirbhís riachtanach eile go bhfuil árdú an-mhór tagtha air le tamall anuas agus atá ag cur cruatan an-mhór ar go leor daoine ná an leictreachas. Árdú 18.3% atá i gceist an uair seo. Cuirfidh an dá árdú seo amháin 1% breise leis an gcostas maireachtála sa taoibh seo tíre.

Tá airgead go leor sa tír seo le go bhféadfaí na seirbhísí riachtanacha ar fad a chur ar fáil ar phraghas reasúnta, íseal. Níl le déanamh ach an saibhreas a chur i lamha na ndaoine, smacht a thabhairt do s na h-oibrithe ar na monarchain, siopaí agus araile, agus seilbh a ghlacadh ar an maoin aiceanta — iascaireacht, mianadóireacht agus ola.

Níor chóir go mbeadh dul amú ar dhaoine. Níl an tír seo bocht. Tá go leor airgid ann ach smaecht a fháil air agus é a roinnt to cothrom.

Portugal — another chile

The continuation of Portugal's colonial policy, by the end of 1973, meant committing political suicide. Especially with the liberation struggles being waged in Africa; Guine Bissae, Mosambique and Angola, all Portuguese colonies.

The Portuguese ruling class saw the necessity of throwing off the political straightjacket they had worn for decades, the fascism of the Salazar and Caetano regimes.

But in a predominantly agrarian and backward economy, in a country where trade unions and political opposition parties have been banned, the slightest concession of democratic rights takes on a very explosive dimension — as we have witnessed in Ireland when an apparently inoffensive campaign for civil rights in 1969 triggered off an all-out national liberation war against British imperialism.

This is why, when one year ago, the Armed Force Movement (MFA) led the overthrow of the Caetano regime, it could not fail to spark off much deeper social conflicts.

TRIPLE POWER SITUATION

The most original characteristic of the Portuguese "Spring" is the situation of 'triple power'; that is, three different trends in turn confront and combine with each other in their attempt to change radically Portuguese society.

Firstly, the MFA, which includes revolutionary elements (based on 'red regiments' such as the 1st Ligh Artillery Regiment, which has been instrumental in distributing arms to the workers to oppose Spínola's right-wing coup on March 11th) and bourgeois officers divided into support for left-wing moderate groups (or straight counter-revolutionary elements who attempt to check the radical course from the top).

Soares's Socialist party is no revolutionary party, in fact it does represent vested interests of the bourgeoisie (as shown by their stand to remain in NATO) while understanding the need to operate under a leftwing cover. Also the mass votes for the S.P. in the countryside reflect the fears of the small farmers that the Moscow orientated CP would collectivise their small plots of

lands. Predominantly, it is therefore a politically backward support that the S.P. has gathered.



PARATROOPERS GUARD NEWSPAPER OFFICE

This results in the mixed attitude of the MFA which at the same time sees fit to nationalise banks and insurance companies while banning revolutionary groups as a concession to its right-wing. But for the people the MFA has great prestige for it has let a "red rose bloom in Portugal" . . .

The second element of this jigsaw is the moderate or reformist left-wing parties which have just fought each other during the May election. The Socialist Party has obtained 42% of the votes which technically gives it political supremacy in the new assembly. This score — as against 12% for the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) or 4% for the far-left is the result of distinct trends.

RESENT CP CONTROL

However, there is a different kind of support as well, coming from militant sectors of the urban working-class (in Lisbon,

Oporto, etc.) Those workers who, committed to a socialist transformation of Portugal, resent a bureaucratic take-over by the Communist Party which, in their opinion, would halt their rank-and-file initiatives; the forming of single Trade Union movement under control of the PCP could point to that direction . . .

The Portuguese Communist Party, in many respects, is different from its European counterparts, including the Irish. With only 300 militants at the overthrow of Caetano, last year, it has developed importantly and created numerous fronts (youth movement, electoral front, etc.). The reason for this is that it has been associated with the underground resistance against fascism during the previous decades. It has an armed wing (Armed Revolutionary Action) which has collaborated with smaller socialist groups (Maoists, Trotskyists) in the mass self-defence actions to foil Spínola's coup on March 11th last. It has pushed for the banning of the right-wing Christian Democrat party — a fact criticised by its sister organisations, notably the Italian C.P. which on the other hand did not criticise the ban on left-wing groups.

Having strengthened its influence on the MFA, since the attempted coup, the PCP finds it necessary to build up its credibility as a government party by putting brakes on shopfloor occupations in Lisbon and opposing strike waves on the grounds that they endanger the new regime!

THE THIRD ELEMENT is the growing militancy of independent working class sectors, and the growing influence of revolutionary groups in urban and countryside areas. The most important illustration of this fact, has been the convening of a Congress of Workers Councils (which the Portuguese workers call 'soviets') last month including workers, agricultural labourers, sailors and soldiers. It sees its role as co-ordinating workers' offensive on the shopfloor, and raised the question of arming the working class independently of the MFA, the S.P. and P.C.P. of which they are growing sceptical.

Moreover, this new course has been highlighted by the regrouping of left-wing revolutionary groups in an attempt to create a pole of attraction on the left of the major parties. In spite of the 4% votes it has gathered at the recent election there is no doubt that the influence of the far-left in daily life is much more important.

A week ago, Brigadier Otelo de Cavalo of the MFA, announced the need for collaboration between the different armed groups, "THE LUAR, The Revolutionary Brigades, the Armed Revolutionary Action (CP which have fought fascism. All have a history of resistance and struggle, and constitute without any doubt potential allies."

FOREIGN INTERVENTION

But as this turn takes place, it will further alienate right-wing elements in the MFA and push them to organise yet another coup, with the help of Franco's Spain and the USA. An intervention similar to the 'blitzkrieg' in the Dominican Republic in 1965, when the U.S. marines crushed all socialist and democratic groups, is possible.

Indications are that they will wait for a split within the MFA. Lately such a split has been speeded up by the attacks of the Socialist Party which realises that, having won the election in the new assembly, this assembly will have little or no power.

As a result, the MFA colonels consider the banning of all political parties so as to have a single 'salvation junta'. This course illustrates the failure of socialists to understand the real strength on which to base the transformation of Portugal.

It is merely a lull before the storm. The only chance for Portugal not to become another Chilean-type tragedy, lies in the ability, during this lull, of the workers and their revolutionary allies to carry on their socialist offensive and prepare their armed self-defence independently from political manoeuvres at the top. International solidarity can help speed up such a process.

Two Northern Ireland Special Branch Detectives and a Military Policeman are to be tried on the 27th May for inflicting grievous bodily harm on 38 year old Peter McKenna of Lissen Drive, Cookstown, in January last.

On examining Mr. McKenna in Cookstown Police station he appeared "flushed and was holding his neck with both hands and appeared to have difficulty in breathing" said Dr. Knox Henry who visited him on the day of his arrest. Mr. McKenna had to have treatment in South Tyrone Hospital. A doctor from the hospital gave evidence of finding blood in his urine samples.

Superintendent T. Hood of R.U.C. H.Q. claimed that he found "a dark hair stuck to the wall at a lower level" and a clothes brush behind a venetian blind in the room. This same brush was described by Mr. McKenna who claimed he was beaten with the brush. He also claimed he was severely punched, kicked, threatened with a revolver and abused and insulted, in treatment reminiscent of the first days of internment. The life of his wife was also threatened.

The detectives, Hugh O'Donnell and James Wilson denied the charges, as did Corporal William Haming, who is a Military Policeman.

Recently the murderer of Patrick McAlhane, who was shot in cold blood in a field in Tyrone by a British soldier, was acquitted.

TORTURES GO ON



British troops arresting a youth in Coalisland, County Tyrone.

MURDER

THE DEATH of Mr. John McCarthy in St. Patrick's Institution brings to three the number of deaths in the last two years in Irish jails. If you drive four men to suicide is it not more than suicide? Is it not murder?

Even in this corrupt system a man is presumed innocent until proven guilty. When, therefore, four men, innocent people, commit suicide while awaiting trial, something is wrong — Even to a blind horse.

As republicans and socialists, we accept that the system under which we live creates criminals on a large scale and often brands people as criminals when in fact they are not. A family seeking shelter can be jailed. Yet the speculator who ensures the family has to be homeless grows rich on the proceeds and suns himself abroad annually. A worker who pilfers from his employers' stocks can also be jailed. Yet, again, his employer robs daily from that same worker the wealth he creates and gives him in return as little as possible. A man who fights this corrupt system as best he knows can be jailed on the word of a garda superintendent. No evidence. No jury. There is, in fact, one law for the rich and another for the poor. There is no equality.

When organisations are formed to reform this aspect of the system and have proof of their arguments — four murders — they must be taken seriously. Mr. Cooney tries to divert our attention from the issue, our penal system, by discrediting the Prisoners Rights Organisation who he claims are subversives. The last subversives we heard of around the issue of campaigns was the anti-EEC lobby who forecast vast price increases, massive unemployment etc. Other 'subversives' were the homeless and those who organised them and small farmers and . . .

Again we have an example of bourgeois middle class democracy in action. One democracy for the rich. Another for the poor. People are entitled to expose and campaign for better conditions, be they penal or otherwise. Because they disagree with the wishes of the rich, whom Mr. Cooney represents, doesn't take that right away from them.

Accepting that many of our prisoners should never be in prison we still demand that while prisoners are incarcerated that they be treated as human beings. Ensuring adequate medical facilities, psychiatric and otherwise, is part of this demand. Cooney's attitude to the problem is to blame the Prisoners Rights Organisation for highlighting these evils! He cares nothing for solving the issue *its* self.

The past demands of Republicans for political status and better conditions must now be seen as more than just a "Republican issue" to the general public. They were exposing an aspect of our corrupt penal system. It is unfortunate that many of them did not see their struggle as part of the struggle of prisoners generally. If, organised as they were, they fought so hard to win, how much harder will the John McCarthy's of Irish prisons have to fight?

The I.R.S.P. needed no emotional examples to convince itself of the medieval barbarity of our penal system. Now after four murders, the public should not need any more examples either.



ITGWU ROW

A row has erupted in Limerick between a Labour Party Cllr. and the I.T.G.W.U. over a meeting held in their hall by the I.R.S.P. Cllr. Thady Coughlan made his criticisms at a recent County Council meeting. The North Munster I.R.S.P. issued the following statement.

"In the course of a City Council discussion on the recent planting of bombs in city hotels, Councillor Thady Coughlan is reported as having criticised the I.T.G.W.U. in Limerick for giving the use of their hall to the I.R.S.P. for a meeting on Sunday, 11th of May and as having described the members of the I.R.S.P. as "persons who are associated with acts of violence".

"We feel that Councillor Thady Coughlan owed an explanation to the working people of Limerick on the grounds on which he seems to feel entitled to criticise the I.T.G.W.U. for its lawful business with the I.R.S.P. or with any other person or body; indeed we note with some satisfaction that our right as a political party to organise and promote our policy, was not lost on Councillor Frank Prendergast, himself an Official of the I.T.G.W.U. or on Councillor Jim Kemy, whose trade union activities are well known.

"The I.R.S.P. are not, as Mr. Coughlan would appear to insinuate, "persons who are associated with acts of violence". On the contrary and unlike Mr. Coughlan, all members of the I.R.S.P. have been involved in working class politics over many years in this city.

"Readers might like to note that, at the public meeting which seemed to cause so much concern to Mr. Coughlan, the Chairman of the National Executive of the I.R.S.P. Mr. Seamus Costello, stated that the I.R.S.P. did not plant the Limerick bombs and that he is opposed to this form of action.

"The statement is signed by the chairman, Thomas Hayes and Secretary, Stella Makowski.

The STARRY PLOUGH is published by
Starry Plough Publications
1A Essex Gate, Dublin 8, Eire. No
telephone yet.

FISH-IN

TWO very successful fish-ins were held recently by the Carlow Comhairle Cheanntair of the I.R.S.P. Over 40 anglers participated.

The fish-ins were held at Browns Bog, Muine Bheag, where a local riverlord, J. Brown and his loyal followers, the Killanane Anglers Association, claim fishing "rights".

The anglers were watched by members of the Gardai and were warned by Brown that they would be prosecuted as he "owned" the fishing rights. It is rumoured in the town that Brown is being closely watched by the Gardai. Already an attempt has been made to set fire to a private bridge adjoining the river.

At a recent meeting of the Muine Bheag Craobh of the I.R.S.P. the runai Michael Ahern denounced Brown and his lackeys.

"Brown returned from East Africa some years ago. No doubt he was accustomed to obedience from the exploited natives. He should realise that the people of Muine Bheag are not his slaves. The rights that Brown claims are the rights of conquest — something that we do not recognise."

At the same meeting a motion, calling for the nationalisation of all inland fisheries without compensation, was passed unanimously.

A BELFAST TAXIMAN had a gun pulled on him by one of his three drunken passengers. He had brought them to Highfield North Belfast, scene of many recent murders. The three drunks ran off after an argument and forgot their gun. When they returned the taximan at first refused to hand the gun back but eventually did. The reason? He had been shown an R.U.C. Identity Card by one of the drunken men, the one who had first pulled the gun!

ANNUAL WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION SUNDAY JUNE 8th



ASSEMBLE AT SALLINS 2 p.m.

SPEAKER: Seamus Costello
CHAIRWOMAN: Ite Ni Chonnaith
CHIEF STEWARD: Johnny White

The I.R.S.P. is now a registered political party.

This should convince all that we are a genuine political party and will refute the allegations made in the past that we were a mere "splinter" group from the Official Republican movement. The main factor in the granting of our application was the fact that the Registrar recognised that we had a sufficient number of branches and members throughout the country to contest a Dail or local election, and reflects the strength of our party, despite the attempts by the Official Republican Movement and the forces of the state to smash our organisations and portray our members as "gunmen" and "gangsters".

Over 20 Gardai accompanied by the Galway County Registrar recently evicted a young Galway woman, Brid Fahey, from her home in Oughterard, ending a seven year battle over the cottage.

The eviction was similar to those evictions that took place during the last century when Irish tenants were evicted by British landlords. The Fahey family had been living in the house for over 100 years and claimed squatters rights.

In 1954 Brid's father had been conned into signing a caretaker's agreement while intoxicated, by the landlord, Commander Beresford. Beresford, a retired British Navy Commander when asked to give his view of the affair said:

"The whole thing is most unfortunate . . . but my hand was forced. This all went through the courts. The house was sold by her grandfather to my granduncle. God knows, Ireland has suffered enough from the eviction of tenants, but this is not an eviction of a tenant — it is the eviction of a caretaker" (Big difference!).

Since the eviction Beresford has been receiving around the clock protection from Gardai at his nearby holiday home, on 'millionaire's row' as it is known locally.

There seems to be little difference between today and the 1850's. We are told that we are free, but while a British commander can evict an Irish woman from her home, we are not. The people who evicted Brid Fahey wore the uniform of the free state but the work they did was the work of British Imperialism.

EVICTED



Breege Fahy

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
Tá ballraíocht uaim
- I want associate membership
Teastaíonn ballraíocht taca uaim
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Write or contact:
An Runaí,
I.R.S.P.
1a Essex Gate (off Parliament St.)
Dublin 8.

Ainm _____
Name _____
Seoladh _____
Address _____

Title: The Starry Plough, Vol. 1, No. 3

Organisation: Irish Republican Socialist Party

Date: 1975

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