

THE STARRY PLOUGH

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Derry's Own Republican Newspaper

REPRESSION NORTH

AS WHITELAW INTRODUCES SPECIAL COURTS

THE SPECIAL COURTS have been set up because Whitelaw wants to keep the two hundred most innocent men in Ireland in jail for years. The courts will, in the first instance, be used against the men in Long Kesh. These are possibly the only men in Ireland who have a cast-iron alibi for every "crime" committed in Ireland in the past year. If there was real evidence against them it would have been produced long ago.

Whitelaw says that men will be given an opportunity to "clear themselves." In other words they will be asked to PROVE their innocence. Guilty until proven innocent - that is the new Whitelaw version of "British justice." Under the new system some of the men in Long Kesh can look forward to years, rather than months of imprisonment - unless, that is, the people sustain the fight until ALL repressive laws are defeated.

The Civil Resistance Campaign must go on until these men are RELEASED. Bringing them before a special "court" to give their detention a veneer of

legal respectability is internment under a different name. All groups claiming to be against internment must make it clear NOW that they will not participate in any new government structure until ALL internees are released. These will not be the first special courts in Ireland. Lynch already has had his versions in operation for four months. North and south the right to trial by jury has been abolished. Once again Lynch has acted as trail-blazer for the British. In the long-term the only way to rid ourselves of repressive laws is, north and south, to get rid of the class and parties which need and use them to maintain themselves in power.



TENANTS CALL A HALT

A PETITION, organised by the Wolfe Tone Republican Club, Waterside, was handed into the Derry Development Commission offices last week. The petition called for the introduction of a 10 m.p.h. speed limit and the banning of all heavy traffic, except essential services, through the Gobnascale Estate. The safety officer of the Derry Development Commission, commenting on the petition, which was signed by about 90% of the residents, said that his offices could not introduce a speed limit less than 30 m.p.h. but he would see what could be done about the ban on heavy traffic. He said that he would also see about the erection of warning signs at the approaches to the estate. The spokesmen for the club and residents then said that if the Derry Development Commission did not do something very soon about this matter the people would take it onto themselves to do something.

REPRESSION SOUTH

AS LYNCH CONTINUES TO HOUND REPUBLICANS

DERRYMEN ARE rotting in the Curragh Concentration Camp. The detention of Republicans in the Curragh comes as no surprise to those who have watched De Valera's descendants continue his sell-out of the Irish people.

The Curragh Camp as ruthless as the British. But there is a period of the Curragh Camp's history which is not well-known, and has seldom been written about, and that is the period during the last war, when Fianna Fail under the leadership of Eamon De Valera, imprisoned hundreds of Republicans, without charge or trial, for many years, in an attempt to destroy the I.R.A. Many of the

bravest and best gave their lives in the struggle to free the Irish people - through hunger strike (Sean McCaughey, Tony D'arcy), firing squads (George Plant, Tommy Harte, Paddy McGrath) and general ill treatment. To top all, the British hangman was brought over to Dublin to carry out his bloody work on Republicans like Charley Kerrins, Maurice O'Neill and others.

Again in 1957, Fianna Fail, under De Valera, opened the Curragh Camp and interned many Republicans from all parts of Ireland, on orders from their masters in London. So in keeping with his teacher, Union Jack Lynch has not stood idly by; he has in fact been very active, rounding up Republicans and dragging them before his Special

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SOCIALIST ANALYSIS OF S.D.L.P. PROPOSALS FOR A "NEW IRELAND"
BARRICADE JOE ON "SKID ROW"
TILLIE AND HENDERSON PAY-OFFS ————— WHAT IS TO BE DONE?



THE WAY FORWARD

THE RECENT SHOOTING, by the British Army, of a number of working-class Protestants has led some of the more class conscious elements within that community to question the whole role of that force in Ireland. They are at last beginning to realise that the British Army are not here as protectors of the people, but simply to protect property and to bolster the now crumbling Tory administration.

This does not mean that we are about to see the overnight formation of an alliance of working-class organisations, Protestant and Catholic. It is important however, that there are sections of the Protestant working-class who now see the necessity for socialist politics. These workers now see that we are fighting the same enemy — the privileged few who control the means of production and the wealth of our country. This, at least, is a sign of hope for the future.

We, for our part, must take every opportunity to bridge the gap which divides the two communities. This we can do by co-operating on issues which affect all of us — high rents, low wages and the lack of any real prospects for our children. This is the only way forward for workers regardless of their creed.

It is unfortunate, however, that while some Protestant workers are becoming more politically aware, others are falling into the trap of sectarianism. This is shown only too clearly by the bombing of the Catholic social club in the Unity Flats.

This is a reaction by non-political, extreme, militant elements among the Protestant workers to the Provisional bombing campaign. These people have stood back and watched while their friends were blown to pieces in sectarian bombings. They unfortunately answer sectarian violence with sectarian violence, and so the vicious circle continues. We cannot excuse these bombings but we must understand why these people carry out acts such as this.

These militant Protestants, like the Provisionals and many other militant nationalists, believe that the problems of this country will be solved when the "Irish Question" is finally settled in their favour.

We have always pointed out and will continue to do so, that the problems of this country are a direct result of the type of Tory governments that we have here. North and South. The political, social and economic issues will only be solved when the wealth of the country is in the hands of the people who own it — the working-class people of Ireland.

To achieve this we must build a Revolutionary Socialist organisation of workers, Protestant and Catholic, committed to fighting in their own interests. This is a long term task and many obstacles stand in our way, not least being the sectarian attitudes of many workers. This is the only constructive way forward for the working-class. We are building such an organisation. We appeal to all workers to turn their backs on sectarianism and join us in the real fight.

A COLOURFUL PROBLEM

THE SIGHT of a coloured soldier is a very common thing in Creggan and the Bogside these days. Now, don't be getting alarmed, we haven't turned Racialist or anything like that far from it, in fact, we would like to point out to the coloured soldiers that they are being used by the British to do their Dirty Work, that they came thousands of miles to good old England, where they were told everything is rosy, where they would be accepted as British Subjects and as such would get good jobs and good housing and settle down to a jolly good old English life. It seems that the English haven't kept their word as usual.

These coloured boys we see totting English Guns, on our streets, had no alternative outside unemployment but to join the British Army. It is amazing that these people, who have been kicked about by the English as much as they have, can shame their own race by fighting England's wars for her. We would say to the coloured soldiers — you are oppressed as much as we are. England has done nothing for the coloured peoples of this world but rape their countries of their riches

and use the people and when they can use the people no more they dispose of them.

The British Army is a tool of the capitalists. Have discussions with other coloured soldiers and ask yourselves: "What exactly are you doing here?" Are you really fooled into thinking that you are here to keep the Irish from fighting each other or are you here to deny the mass of the Irish people their Civil Rights? We ask you to think about it. Can you deny us our Civil Rights when you haven't got your own Civil Rights?

Even the children here in Derry notice the way all the other soldiers treat the coloureds. On a foot patrol, if they have to turn a street corner, they send the coloured fella around first, but if they are on the straight they put the coloured fella to the back. Now we know and you know that this is coincidence — foot patrols have even been seen with coloured soldiers leading and at the rear of the patrol with all the English safe in between.

In conclusion we say to the coloured soldiers: "Stand up for your rights in the British Army, better still desert, because you have nothing to gain in it, in fact when it comes time for you to leave it, you will just be another WOG to the British."

IT'S COLDSTREAM CRUELTY

COLONEL MITCHELL, 'Mad Mitch' of Aden, suggested a few months back that it was time to lean on the civilian population. Since Operation Motorman this policy of leaning on the civilian population has been carried out by the B.A., not least in Creggan and the Bogside. We decided it was time to look into some of the incidents of harassment and intimidation that have been taking place recently, particularly in Creggan Heights, where the policy of the B.A. seems to be to single out certain families for continual harassment.

Take the case of Mrs. Ramsey of Creggan Heights, for instance, whose household consists of herself, her young daughter, and her thirteen-year-old boy. While talking to a neighbour, Mrs. Ramsey was told that soldiers were at her house. On arriving there she found two Saracens at the corner of the house and soldiers in her garden. They were men of the Coldstream Guards, led by a Patrol Sergeant, who is notorious among the women of Creggan Heights for his nastiness and coarseness. Mrs. Ramsey's daughter, Marian, started banging on a binlid as soon as the raid began in the best Creggan tradition, only to be impeded by a soldier who kicked her twice on the hand, swearing at her all the time in the usual, foul, unprintable fashion of the military. Not content, he drew his baton and pushed Marian round to the back of the house where he made to enter the back door. Finding his way barred by the person of Marian, this soldier went berserk, pushed Marian to the ground, and with assistance from his comrades, courageously broke down hedges and wire netting in the garden.

A complaint was put in that the soldiers were drunk. The Staff Sergeant who came to take the complaint did not deny that they were drunk. He did say that each soldier got two bottles per day. Mrs. Ramsey and Marian say that from their red faces and the way they were laughing and giggling, there is no doubt that they were loaded up with a lot more than two bottles. This is not the first time that Mrs. Ramsey and Marian, who has a brace on her back and a bad leg because of a car injury, have been on the receiving end of British Army violence. Ever since Operation Motorman, it's been a tale of

constant harassment. During Motorman, a patrol of Royal Scots when told to get out of Mrs. Ramsey's garden, broke down the hedges. One of them gave her a thumping on the back and grabbed her by the neck saying, "Thirteen f—g, nil, I'll make you the fourteenth." Some of his colleagues had to restrain him.

Let's turn now to the case of Mrs. O'Hagan. Thirty soldiers — talk about sledgehammers to crack nuts — appeared in her garden last Thursday evening. Mrs. O'Hagan asked them five times what they were doing there but got no answer. Finally when her son, Charles, told them his mother was in a bad state on their account and would they mind stating their business, he was informed that their house was going to be searched. When asked by Charles if they had a warrant, one soldier kicked the door in, and was heard to say, "That's my f—g warrant." Eight soldiers entered the house, one of whom grabbed Charles by the neck and ran him up against the wall. After the search in which nothing was found, a soft-soaper (there's always a soft-soaper) offered the usual insincere apologies, while Mrs. O'Hagan pointed out to him: "There are ways and means of doing things. Why thirty soldiers? Why kick the door in? Why hit my son? you'll find nothing here but a lot of wains and poverty."

The soldiers were back again on Friday morning to get her to sign a paper saying no damage had been done. They told her in their typical cheeky fashion that the paper should have been signed the previous night by her son Charles. Charles, in fact, had refused to sign, maintaining quite rightly that his mother suffered psychological damage due to the stress the search had

caused her. Advised by her children not to sign, Mrs. O'Hagan however fearing her "mind was going to snap" did sign the paper. She now regrets what she has done: "God knows what I was signing... I was too shook to read it." Mrs. O'Hagan's house was raided illegally; no warrant was produced and no section of the Special Powers Act was read out to her. On Friday afternoon she made a complaint at the Bligh's Lane Army Post, demanding compensation for losing a day's pay since she was too upset to go to work. Nobody else in the house is working — she is the sole supporter. At Bligh's Lane, she received the usual put-off treatment. They said that it wasn't their lot and that she should go to the post at Creggan with her complaint. She intends to keep pressing her demand for compensation.

Numerous other incidents of intimidation and harassment have taken place. Mrs. Deery, who was shot on Bloody Sunday and whose son's eye was put out by a rubber bullet, has had her house raided. A twelve-year-old boy has been apprehended by the army for throwing stones and his parents threatened with criminal proceedings "for failure to exert adequate parental control," an obvious attempt to intimidate parents into doing something the army itself has failed to do. Soldiers have been keeping residents at the top of Westway awake at night by banging on Saracens and on the walls of the Bungalows, and have been observed drinking outside their Saracens. Throughout all this a constant recurring pattern is the harassment of women in particular. The army obviously believes that if the spirit of our women is broken, the people of Creggan and Bogside can be cowed. We think that they underestimate the strength and courage of our womenfolk. Help to take the pressure off the women by publicising and exposing every incident of intimidation by the army that you see and hear of. Write letters to the papers and to John Hume because he isn't going to bother unless he's made to bother. We will continue in future issues to highlight all instances of intimidation that come to our notice. And keep your eye out for Sergeant Sean, the nastiest Coldstream of them all.



Women argue fiercely with soldiers about their new policy of searching everyone going into the city centre. This is purely an extension of the army's harassment of ordinary working-class people.

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NO SOLUTION

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But this is happening. struggle Republican been involv

S.D.L.P.'s "Eire Nua" or John Hume's Other Ireland

THE S.D.L.P. PROPOSALS for a "New Ireland" are totally unacceptable to Republicans and Socialists. They would do nothing to end sectarianism. They would do nothing to end British Imperialist domination of Ireland. They would in no way improve the lot of the working class.

Basically, what the S.D.L.P. is proposing is that Britain and the Free State should jointly run Northern Ireland; that instead of Ted Heath being in control, Heath and Jack Lynch should share control. Anyone who believes that the Tory twosome could or would act in the interest of the ordinary people of this area has learned nothing from the last three years.

Heath presides over rampant unemployment, growing poverty and repressive legislation in the "United" Kingdom. Lynch has produced even higher unemployment, rural depopulation and repressive laws in the "Free" State. Put the two together and what do you get? A double dose of the same thing.

CHAOS

The S.D.L.P. wants both British and Free State soldiers to have final control over security matters. If there was a serious situation in Belfast we would, presumably, have Free State soldiers in the Falls and the British soldiers in the Shankill—and Catholics trying to get through to shoot the British soldiers and Protestants trying to get through to shoot the Free State soldiers. As a recipe for total bloody chaos it would be hard to beat.

Then the S.D.L.P. suggest that there should be not one but two governors, that the irrelevant Lord Grey should be joined at his Hillsborough residence by some pensioned-off politician from Dublin. In what way exactly is that supposed to help the situation?

They want the final Court of Appeal to have on it judges appointed by both the Free State and Britain. This would mean that the bewigged gentlemen who have been jailing Republicans in the South would sit on the same bench and jointly jail Republicans. Is that supposed to be a big advance or something?

NO SOLUTION

The S.D.L.P. don't get the right answers because they don't ask the right questions. Throughout their document they seem to assume that what has been happening here for the past few years is a fight between one group who want Free State control of the Six Counties and another who want British control. The S.D.L.P. "solution" is to declare the fight a draw and give each side equal share of control.

But this is not what has been happening. At least it is not the struggle the Official Republican Movement has been involved in. We have been

— and still are — fighting against British Imperialism and its native Irish collaborators, Green as well as Orange, and our fight will continue until we have won.

Viewed in that light the solution to the problem of sectarianism lies not in allowing each side to wave its "Own" flag freely but in bringing people to understand that they have a Common interest as Irish Workers, an interest which is only served by fighting to throw off the Imperialist Yoke which has created sectarianism. That means building a movement which will be active among the unemployed, among tenants and small farmers and most important of all which will be active in the Trade Union Movement. Only then will sectarianism be ended.

REAL ISSUES

The S.D.L.P. says **nothing** about unemployment and how to solve it; **nothing** about rising rents and prices; **nothing** about the necessity to get British Imperialism and its armed forces and its influence out of this country. This whole document is designed to freeze the status quo, to freeze current sectarian attitudes to share out power and position among the middle classes, to prevent any possibility of the working class of this country winning real power or even a real improvement in their standards.

Those who have supported the S.D.L.P. up to now should read their document carefully and ask themselves whether the "Solution" is an acceptable or worthwhile one. Did the people really come through this last few years in order to win 50% of control of the North for the cabal of political chancers in Leinster House?

The answer, surely, is No. The answer is to join the Republican Movement and help us to create a Revolutionary Socialist Movement which will lead on towards a Free and Socialist Ireland.



AS LYNCH CONTINUES TO HOUND REPUBLICANS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Criminal Courts. And after many Republicans have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, they are transported to the Curragh Camp, to rot away in Lynch's LONG KESH.

The men incarcerated in the Curragh have been active in the defence of the oppressed people of the Six Counties, especially the Derrymen who have witnessed the horrors of Bloody Sunday and who now find themselves behind bars in the Curragh Camp.

But what is more alarming, is the treatment being meted out to these men. From information received direct from the prisoners themselves, it appears that they are (1) having to eat their food from cardboard boxes; (2) they have been refused the use of knives, forks or spoons for eating; (3) they are kept in their cells 22 hours a day; (4) there is no proper facilities for recreation; (5) they are subject to vile abuse and threats

from their jailers; (6) their visits have been cut short when they began to inform their relatives of conditions inside the Camp.

And it now appears that some of them have gone on Hunger Strike to highlight and expose the conditions in the Camp. What is the Irish Red Cross doing about these facts? As usual they are hiding their Fianna Fail faces, and pretending that all is well, rather than embarrass their friends in Government. Remember this when their collectors come calling in the future.

But there is one among us who is standing idly by. Who is he? He is none other than our high-flying, helicopter travelling, M.P., Mr. John Hume. Has he raised the question of conditions in the Curragh Camp with his friend Jack? Has he discussed the treatment of Republican prisoners in Lynch's Long Kesh, when he and his cronies sneaked down to Dublin to confer with their masters? Has our famous M.P. EVEN SAID ONE WORD IN PUBLIC about what is happening in the Curragh? The answer is NO! The relatives and friends of the prisoners should ensure that the general public know of these facts when Hume and his cronies come creeping around looking for support.

We in the Official Republican Movement support the political prisoners in the Curragh, in their demands, and call on all organisations to raise their voices, and say loud and clear, WE STAND BY THE MEN IN THE CURRAGH.

WANTED BACK ISSUES

There is a great demand, for Back issues of of the Starry Plough. Many groups and organisations have written to us asking for previous issues, and the National Library in Dublin have also requested us to send them back copies. We ourselves need to have some back copies for record purposes. We had some back copies, but when the British army raided a number of homes at the time of the Invasion, they seized some of the papers we were keeping for records. So we are requesting that if any one of our readers have any previous issues of the Starry Plough, especially the first and second issues, to send them to the Editor, 27 Dunree Gardens, Creggan, or give them to any of the sellers of the paper, or to any member of the Republican Clubs in your area.

ARMY MAKE USE OF THE CHILDREN

It has become very obvious that the British army are using the children of Derry as a means of cover against attacks on themselves. They are doing this by giving "lifts" to the children, in their armoured cars, and gathering the children round them when they are on foot patrol. The bribes of sweets and money are naturally attractive to innocent kids, who do not realise the dangers of such contact with the occupation army. As well as protecting themselves, the Soldiers are showing the children photos of wanted men, and asking them if they have ever seen the people in the photos, or where the people live? The British army are attempting to turn our children into informers. It is only the parents and teachers who can point out to the children the dangers of the type of sneaking activity by the same army who butchered our people on Bloody Sunday. We repeat again. Don't Faternise. British Army OUT.



THE PLIGHT OF THE FO

BARRICADE JOE VISITS "SKID ROW"

THE SOCIAL problems created by alcohol are very difficult to gauge exactly. Still the every day appearance of the people with a very serious alcohol problem, on the streets of Derry, serve to remind us of the plight of the alcoholic. What makes an alcoholic is not for me to try and analyse here, but, the social conditions that contribute to the making of an alcoholic are varied and many.

In a place like Derry unemployment surely must play a very big part. Men who find it almost impossible to get work and are unemployed for very long periods of time seek refuge in alcohol. They find themselves with a lot of time on their hands and end up spending too much time in pubs. Another factor, I think, is the strain on men who have jobs, working most times at a job that, in many cases, bores them. The conditions usually are bad and the fear of the sack keeps them from doing anything to change it. Hence we find all the complaints, all the fears, all the objections, being discussed over pints of beer. These are some of the factors that I consider causes alcoholism in a place like Derry.

I remember not very long ago when every other house in Rossville Street was a public house. Drinking has always been the only outlet for the oppressed working class, but, worse still the seemingly only source of social habit of the unemployed. In pointing out the social conditions which I think contribute to this problem it is only right to stop and think of some of the people whom you and I know have a very serious drink problem

TIPPERARY

The first person I want to talk about is a very well-known alcoholic, some people may call him a Wineo. I know he wouldn't have any objections to that name himself, because that was one of the first questions I put to Tipperary, when I talked to him in Larch Villa in Gransha Hospital. Tipp was sober, the very first time I had ever known him to be. He looked well, a nice new suit and collar and tie and I could not help noticing the youthful appearance of him in the pleasant surroundings of Gransha Hospital.

I told Tipp the reason for my visit and he agreed to have a chat and anything he said I would have permission to print. Tipp is forty eight years old and has been drinking since he was eighteen. At the beginning beer but now mostly, in his own words, Mundies Wine, 22/- a bottle, and he usually tries to get two bottles a day. I asked him how he got the name Tipperary and he told me that his father came from Carrick-on-Suir in Co. Tipperary and since he was very young he has been called Tipperary. Some people now call him (Captain). I asked

Tipp did he get the Nash (Supplementary Benefits). He said he was getting the sick now and it was £6 a week. He only gets £3.2 shillings in the Nash. He commenced to tell me a story about going to the Nash. "The fellow behind the desk asked him if he had any property or had he any savings and Tipp said to him "Do you think for one moment if I had property or savings I would be down here looking for £3.2s." and the clerk said "its only a

mind, and without any hesitation he answered "My Mother" and began to tell me how when he and his mother lived a flat in Cromore Gardens, that no matter what hour of the night he would come home at, she would be waiting up for him. At this point I could see the tears coming to Tipp's eyes so I quickly changed the conversation.

Talking to Tipp was a revelation because I was now talking to the real person, far removed from his old plight of lying near dead on the bankin' or in some lane way. And talking about the Bankin', he told me a story. One very cold

out to see you again soon. Cheerio." During my visit to Tipp, whose real name is Eddie Canavan, I discussed some of his fears and hopes. The fear sadly enough is that the shelter in Bond Street in the Waterside might some time be blown up by some militant Protestant organisation and it's a real genuine fear. Yet he goes on to relate how one day up the Fountain he started to sing a Fenian song and two Protestant lads just took him down the street and sent him home. No one I suppose could take offence at the actions of Tipp and the people up the Fountain are just as understanding towards Alcoholics and the Destitutes as anyone else. One of Tipp's hopes is that Ozanam House in Bridge Street could one day be turned into a shelter for Alcoholics and Wineos. (St. Vincent De Paul please note).

ANDY

ANDY HEGARTY is an old friend of mine and so it was with great pleasure I went along to talk to him in St. Columb's Hospital. It was good to see him looking so well, far removed from the dreadful appearance that I had often previously seen him in standing around William Street. Hello Andy! I've just come for a chat OK Joe, fire away.

The first thing I learned was that Andy took his first drink after a snooker match in the Pat's Hall in the Waterside, a good many years ago now. He is fortytwo-years-old and when I asked him, did he go with many girls, he said, he did when he was younger. "but boy weren't they lucky." I asked him did he ever think of getting married and he said "no" because the way he looked at it was - it is bad enough spoiling one life instead of two.

He has found himself in jail forty-one times. When asked if he resented being called a Wineo, he replied: "It's the truth isn't it." He said he needed two bottles of Mundies every day. Again I asked him a question that I had asked his fellow alcoholic: Who in the whole world stood out in his mind more than anyone else and without any hesitation he too, said his mother. I suppose in the world of alcoholics the only real person left in their lives is their mothers or is the great love of mothers particular to all Irishmen?

He has great praise for the nuns in Pump Street and insisted that there was no-one better to the alcoholics. The sisters invite them up to Pump Street for their Christmas Dinner every year. The sister in the ward announced that tea was ready and as he left me to the door of the ward he told me code names used by the Wineos for streets in Derry - China Town is in and around William Street - The Golden Mile is the Strand Road - The Mad Mile is Bishop Street and Skid Row is Foyle Street.

I left him wishing him all the best and hoping to see him out of hospital soon.



Eddie Canavan (Tipperary) and Andy Hegarty

formality, so Tipp said back to him "if its only a formality what about a rise."

YARNS

At this point he was beginning to enjoy our chat and he continues to tell me a yarn about this fellow who worked in Ballintines. He went to confession and told the priest he stole some wood and the priest asked him how much wood, and the fellow told the priest, a lot of wood. In fact he told the priest he was stealing wood every day for the past twenty years. So the priest told him he would have to make a novena for his penance, but, the fellow said to the priest "He could not make a novena but if the priest could, he would get him the wood."

Listening to Tipp tell these yarns, in his sober senses, made me realise how the old drink can destroy a very fine character. The conversation got more serious again and I said to Tipp what person above anyone else stood out in his

night after drinking a few bottles of wine, he found himself up the Bankin' so he just lay down to sleep. The frost was very heavy and in the morning when he woke up he found himself stuck to the ground and he could not get up. Just as he was trying to get up an old woman came along, startled she threw her arm in the air "O Jesus! it's you Tipp," and fell to his feet and fainted.

The conversation got round to problems and the great load on his mind is that he owes a publican £6, but the moment he gets out of Gransha he will pay this debt because drink is given to him on the Strap and its important to Tipp to pay his debt. So the publican needn't worry, his £6 is in the bank.

SHELTER

"Where is Andy Hegarty, Tipp? He is in St. Columb's Hospital." "Tell him I was asking for him, if you go to see Andy-O.K. Captain." "I'll be



The beautiful child in this photograph is seen offering her only prize possession to our photographer. Unless we do something now, all of us, she will spend another Christmas in miserable conditions such as these? What are you prepared to do for her?

OUR SOLUTION TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING PROBLEM IS THE SAME AS MOTHER HUBBARD'S - WITH MINOR ADAPTATIONS...



THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE



A beautiful child in this photograph is seen offering her prize possession to our photographer. Unless we do nothing now, all of us, she will spend another Christmas in miserable conditions such as these? What are you prepared to do for her?

IRELAND'S TRAVELLING PEOPLE

OVER THE PAST four years many battles have been fought, and many lives lost in a bid to obtain a decent standard of living. The fight has gone on against overwhelming odds to secure, for ourselves and our children, a standard of living compatible with the latter half of the 20th century. We demand and expect to be provided with a house and sufficient weekly allowance in the form of a wage or unemployment benefit for food and clothing. Without these basic necessities we cannot develop our higher intellect. Our very existence would be taken up from hour to hour, day to day, grovelling to exist, begging, and maybe even stealing.

It is the clear duty of the government with any claim to morality to provide for the welfare and comfort of the poor. When the government obstinately and deliberately refuses to do so, it violates the natural law of justice. The politicians who are members of or give support to such a government are worthy only of contempt. If we have any honesty then we must make up our minds to eradicate the politicians and the rotten system that produces these deprived individuals. What you may ask is happening to provoke such strong sentiments?

GRINDING POVERTY

About a mile out the Racecourse Road, five families—young parents and very young children—are living under canvas by the roadside in conditions that shouldn't be tolerated by civilised man. These are some of Ireland's "Travelling People,"—driven out of home and off the land by Cromwell's murderers or forced to take to the road as a result of Ireland's "Famine."

Life for them is cruel and unrelenting. Abject poverty has left an indelible mark on these poor but good people. What they have had to suffer is criminal—complete and utter deprivation—for them life and living is a heartless limbo of grinding poverty and demoralising

degradation. Is it any wonder that they despair; take to excessive drinking and put their children on the streets to beg.

The needs of the Travelling People have been forgotten about and there is no hint that any government, national or local, is prepared to consider any solution to their problems. The reason for this callous indifference is that these people are a very small minority who lack political power. Yet in the name of decency something must be done, because infant children are living in cruel, oppressive, squalour.

When I think of those children, I curse the political system that forces suffering on babies; I curse the politicians who control it; I curse you for supporting them, and I curse my own inability to end it. If this barbaric treatment is allowed to continue then these children will be abandoned to a life of despair and misery.

SOLUTION

The Development Commission must assume full responsibility for housing all of those families that have been in the camps for one year or more. This is the only way that the problem can be successfully tackled. A special team drawn from different



The 7-month-old baby in this photograph with her mother is condemned to live under canvas during the coming Winter. What has she done to merit this treatment? Will you ignore her plight?

departments—Housing, Finance, Welfare—should be given what ever finance is needed to get these families settled as soon as possible. Had the child welfare people shown a compassionate interest in the well-being of the children, their suffering and misery would only be a painful memory instead of bitter reality. Tonight as you sit in the relative comfort of your well lit and heated living room, think what it must be like out the Racecourse Road.

Think of the babies you can see in the photographs; would you tolerate such conditions for your children? I think not!

The sight of young children - build a better society.

living in squalor, in makeshift canvas tents is not a very edifying sight. It shocks the senses to reality, to the utter necessity for change from the present system of oppression to something infinitely better. Only then can we end the nightmare and torture of destitution, frustration and social humiliation. The only way in which we can bring about this change is by building a revolutionary organisation committee to the overthrow of the system responsible for this kind of oppression. We in the Official Republican Movement are attempting to build such a movement. Join us and help us in the fight to end oppression and build a better society.

CHILDREN PLAY FACILITIES DENIED

Play facilities for young children are non-existent in Derry. Many mothers with large families have to bring them up in impossible conditions—small, cramped flats or houses, no gardens, no parks or open spaces nearby, and the streets filled with armed British lunatics.

This is what one young mother living in the Rossville flats has to say about the problems:—

"No-one can imagine what it is like living in multi-story flats with children under five. When you have fourteen stairs leading into your apartment and only two bedrooms, there is little space for children to play. On the verandah there is about 4' by 6' floor space. Leaving this, your children can venture out into the lifts, where there is the danger of the lift being vacant and a child's hand being caught by closing doors. Then there are the exit stairs—about forty in all—this is only from the second floor—and they are solid concrete.

"The so-called playground really only caters for children from about nine upwards, where they play football. The car park, which caters for the entire flats is next to this playground: so you can see the safety hazard it involves.

"There is a real need for play-schools in the Bogside area, where there are so many young children living in homes that are not

suitable for their needs, or the needs of harassed young housewives and mothers."

Every Derry mother will recognise similar problems.

Quite apart from the needs of the mothers, who cannot get away to do things of their own, and are often tied down in the house all day with their children, cooped up in small spaces, there are the needs of the children themselves.

Everyone knows that the first five years of a child's life are crucial for its physical, mental and emotional development. A child of this age must have space, freedom and safety to explore and learn, a calm and stable environment. It is obvious that under present conditions the children's growth is stunted. As well as this, their mothers, harassed and tense, are not able to give their children the

attention and care they need.

Playschools and day nurseries would benefit the children and the mother, both for her own and for their sake.

The Play Centre at the Bogside shops was a small start, but not nearly enough. We must demand an extensive State programme of play centres and nursery schools, fully subsidised, in the area; mothers and children have the right to the best possible conditions to bring up families.



With "Starry Plough" flying, these children set about building a barricade. If the proper facilities are provided perhaps they will find more constructive ways of enjoying themselves.

SOLUTION TO THE NORTHERN AND HOUSING PROBLEM IS THE AS MOTHER HUBBARD'S — WITH MINOR ADAPTATIONS...



EVANS

PADDY EXTENDS HIS KINGDOM

JUST WHAT IS the Bogside Community Association up to? It is about time the people were told. When this organisation was set up a few months ago, it said that its' aim was "to improve the social and cultural amenities of the area." Now we see Paddy Doherty, Eugene O'Hare and the rest of them on television shaking hands with William Whitelaw and discussing with him a multi-million pound scheme to develop the whole North-West of Ireland. Is the B.C.A. a community organisation, or is it some sort of semi-official planning group? From where did it get its mandate to offer the British Authorities such detailed advice on over-all planning?

AUTHORITIES

When this organisation was elected, its founders did not tell the people that this would be one of its functions. Indeed, at a meeting in the Lone Moor Area, Fr. D. Bradley denied vehemently that the B.C.A. would ever enter into discussions with the authorities. The people were never told that an extra six members—from outside the Bogside—would be co-opted. We were told that only the Brandywell and Bogside Districts were involved, and that the B.C.A. would at all times consult the people.

FANTASY

Let us, for a moment, look at their plan in more detail. On television, Professor Copcutt told us that if the plan was put into effect, Derry would become the "Regional Capital" of the North-West; that it would have a population of over 100,000; that it might be possible to attract manufacturing industry and end unemployment. This is nonsense. Professor Copcutt's plan is a town-planner's fantasy. The B.C.A. document shows not the slightest understanding of the economic problems of the area. Derry's depression was not caused by a lack of imaginative planning, and it cannot now be solved by the introduction of imaginative planning. As we have pointed out over and over again, the economic problems of this area have two basic causes. Firstly, the Unionist Government did not want Derry to be prosperous. And secondly, and more important, the "fringe" areas of any capitalist society will always be economically weak. In other words, as long as Capitalism exists in Ireland, the western half of this island will be depressed. Copcutt and the B.C.A. can dream to their heart's content about new hotels at Madam's Bank and Marinas along the Foyle, and Whitelaw will be only too willing to shake them by the hand and pat them on the head and tell them to keep up the good work. But the Dole Queues will remain. We need a political fight to end the system which creates depression. If you are not involved in that political fight, you are not involved in the real fight for a better Derry, no matter how many trendy Professors you get to draw up grandiose schemes.

COMMISSION

We are not saying that all the members and supporters of the B.C.A. are phonies. We know that some of them wish only to

help the community. But the road to political disaster is paved with good intentions. We ask them to ask themselves: How did it come about that an organisation which set out only to cover the Brandywell and Bogside is now dealing with Donegal, Tyrone and Co. Derry? Whatever happened to the commitment to consult the people? How did it happen that the trip down South to "study community government" became a publicity jamboree for the private developer who employs Professor Copcutt? Why is it that Copcutt is now, for all intents and purposes, the B.C.A.'s main spokesman and what do B.C.A. members think of his statement that the end of the Commission is a "disaster" is that B.C.A. Policy?

NONNEUTRALITY

We say that Copcutt should be sent back to Ashbourne to continue planning his new-style community of £8,000 homes for the Free State middle-classes. The members of the B.C.A. should recognise that if you set out to do good, but reject revolutionary politics, you inevitably end up as just one more ineffectual group trying to coax minor concessions from the Tories. You cannot be neutral between British Toryism and the Irish working people. You cannot represent the people of Bogside one day and shake William Whitelaw's hand the next.

The B.C.A. will have to decide very quickly just which side it is on. The people who elected them, and whom they claim to represent, should demand an answer now.

SYMPATHY

The Derry Official Republican Movement extends its sincerest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Michael Quigley, who was brutally murdered by the British army on 17th September, 1972.

Yet another innocent civilian murdered by British forces. Yet another injustice by our oppressors.



The only people who suffer from acts such as these are the ordinary working class.



Geoffrey Copcutt and members of the B.C.A. "talk" to William Whitelaw.

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

BARRICADE JOE GOES TO LISTOWEL

WHAT ABOUT YOU COMRADES—PERE I AM BARRICADE JOE

THE REVOLUTION WHICH everyone in the Republican Movement is committed to bring about is not just around the corner, and it has many aspects—the Social, Political and Economic are the most easy recognised. Yet silently and determinedly the Cultural Revolution continues. The Cultural Revolution to me is the revival of the Irish Language and the preservation of our Irish Music and Song. It was with this in mind that I took myself away to the All-Ireland Fleadh Ceoil this year being held in Listowel in North County Kerry.

It was at the Ulster Fleadh in Ballyshannon that the idea came about whilst talking to Veronica McLaughlin of running a bus to the fleadh in Kerry. Veronica is secretary of the Inishowen Ceoltas Ceoltoiri Eireann and we both agreed that a bus to the fleadh would be a good idea. Veronica was given the job of organising the bus with a promise from me of helping to fill it. We had no bother at all in filling the bus and on the morning of August 25th we set off from Bridgend with a bus load of 44. Ten of the



DECLAN MCGUIGAN

people were from Gweedore, all traditional musicians and of course native Irish speakers. The Brollys from Dungiven were there too, Francie and



ANN BROLLY

Ann Mary K. Brolly, a sister of Francie and Seanead McNichol. A young fellow called Declan McGuigan and his father, and, of course, Dinney McLaughlin the fiddler from Bunrana were there as well. Jim Barr of the Saoirse Folk was on the bus and about nine members of the Official Republican Movement whose only talents seemed to be in consuming a considerable quantity of beer. Sean Gallagher, the Veteran Republican, Irish speaker and traditional music lover was also there.

FLEADH CEOL AN BUS

We picked up two men in Ballybofey, John O'Kane from Strabane, a youthful 77-year-old, and Peter Huston, from Clady, who having qualified in the men's ballad singing at the Ulster Fleadh, entitled him to compete for the All-Ireland title at Listowel. Ann Brolly and young Declan were also qualifiers from Ballyshannon, both singers as well. With all this great talent on the bus and almost three hundred miles ahead of us I settled down to the most fantastic enjoyable journey of my life. When I say that it took us fifteen hours getting to Listowel you will

understand why we were in no hurry. I often listen to Fleadh Ceol an Radio, here we had Fleadh Ceol an Bus all the way to Kerry. The youngest person was a small girl of nine, a very talented tin whistle player, and though John O'Kane from Strabane was no musician he kept everyone going with song and story, so we had no age barriers on this bus. The weather could not have been better. The sun shone continuously from Friday morning to Monday night when we returned. The fleadh in Listowel was a great success in every way. The sessions on the streets were plentiful, the music great, the sessions in the bars and hotels were great too and the competitions in the halls were well attended. The greatest thing from our point of view came when young Declan won an All-Ireland title in the Ballad Singing (boys). Then the most popular victory in Listowel was Ann Brolly winning the Ladies (English) Traditional singing and second in the Irish singing competition. So we came back with two All-Ireland title holders on the bus. (Not bad, eh?) Anyone who has heard Ann Brolly singing will understand there could be no-one better to hold the All-Ireland title and Ann was just as much at home sitting on the street in Listowel with Sean Gallagher and myself having a good session than in any TV or Radio studio. With traditional singing in the hands of the Brollys it will never die. Mickey McCarron was unsuccessful in the two-row button accordion competition but enjoyed the fleadh nevertheless.

SHANTALLOW FLEADH

I see the Martin O'Leary Republican Club has organised a Fleadh Ceoil for October the 7th and October 8th at Shantallow. It is hoped that this fleadh will be strictly for traditional musicians and no pop music will be allowed. Any musicians or singers coming to Shantallow for the fleadh will be given accommodation.

Support the Shantallow Fleadh.

READ THE UNITED IRISHMAN

THE REAL TROUBLEMAKERS

EVERY DAY IN the streets of the Creggan Estate army patrols get stoned by the younger ones of the area. Of course, they are called hooligans, trouble makers and some names I wouldn't repeat by some of so called Irish people of Creggan.

Do these people ever stop to think why the youngsters do it? Is it a new game for them to play, or could it be they saw the older people do it, or is it their way of showing their resentment to these armed forces in our streets?

Pick which one you think it is, but, for me it's the last one. Their way of protest against these armed invaders on our streets.

"LAW AND ORDER"

How do the people react to their protest? I'll tell you - by running them down, telling them, "You don't live in this street get out of it or I'll break your neck." "Let the good wee soldiers do their job." What is their job?

Oh! yes their job, I forgot, they are here to protect us from the I.R.A. and bad people like that, to keep the peace and to bring back "law and order."

Of course, it doesn't matter how they do it. Like taking over our schools, digging up our fields with their armoured cars and Saracens, driving on and off footpaths where children play, using filthy language to young girls. I've seen it myself - some small children, boys and girls not more than eight years of age, play house together on some waste ground and an army landrover coming past and a soldier hurling a stone at them by means of a slingshot and the rest laughing at this heroic bully.

OBJECTIONS

I could give you a thousand examples like that but what good would it do? We mustn't prevent the soldier doing his duty.

Some people in Creggan take great pride in their gardens. I'm sure you've seen it happen many times, young lads playing football, the ball is kicked accidentally into a garden, the next thing you know there is a holy war on by the owner

about the young lads ruining his beautiful garden with their ball. But how many of these people object when a patrol of soldiers walk all over their garden - How many?

Then again you get the old war cry, the soldiers didn't ask to be sent here. This may be true. So the question is - "Why are they here?" for it is they who are keeping the working classes apart.

So all you good Irish people of Creggan and the rest of Derry, when it comes to chasing the trouble maker off your street, think twice before you open your mouths and ask yourselves - who are the REAL trouble-makers?

My answer - THE TORIES' CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT.

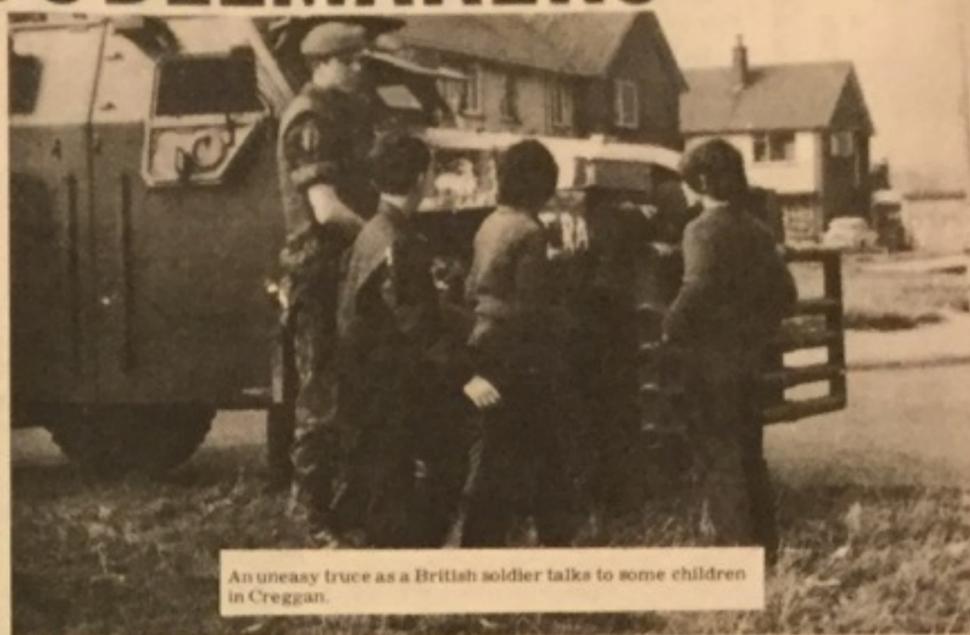
UNITED WORKING CLASS

The reason they are here, my good people of Creggan, is to oppress the working class. Oh! yes laugh, but ask any soldier on the street why is he here. His answer, and I quote at least twenty I've asked, "I don't really know, mate," unquote.

The so-called protectors of our estate don't even know they are protecting us or why they are here. I'll tell you who they are protecting - the Capitalist Government of the Tories - because the Tory Government realised the Irish working class, Catholic and Protestant, had come to the stage where they couldn't take any more of this struggling for an existence to live.

The first Civil Rights march marked the turning point in Irish history when the Catholic and Protestant working class marched together.

If we did it before, we can do it again, and we will, but not until we get these Tories' armed forces off our streets and out of our country.



An uneasy truce as a British soldier talks to some children in Creggan.

FIFTH COLUMN

There was this member of the Gerry Doherty Republican Club walking down Royal Avenue in Belfast one day when who should he see coming towards him but Brian Faulkner with a white duck on a lead.



"Hullo," said our man in the friendly, nonsectarian tones for which members of the Gerry Doherty Republican Club are known and loved throughout the land, "That's a very nice little monkey you've got there."

these men permanently, and we call on the Tory Government for more factories for our young men in the WHOLE of Northern Ireland.

Part of our present trouble is due to the lack of jobs in this city. So, Mr. Whitelaw stop talking, and get something done to settle our unemployment problem NOW.

"That's not a monkey," said Brian, "That's a duck." many times this small group of Trotskyites has been noticed in various places.

"I know," said the member of the Gerry Doherty Republican Club. "It was the duck I was talking to." Some keen eyed individuals saw them leading the London dockers. "Daily Telegraph" correspondent saw them lurking around in Munich.

The Rev. Martin Smyth, the well-known man of God, has produced yet another pamphlet in an attempt to gild the Orange Lily. The Reverend has discovered that a tightly-knit group of Trotskyites "are responsible for all this bother." It's amazing, you know, how

Any day now they will no doubt be discovered in a back street in Kampala manipulating the weirdo Amin. How on earth do they get around so quickly? Who pays their air fares? Our advice to the Rev. Martin and all other Trotsky-spotters is: Trot off and have a tiff.

This is the modern version of a popular Derry street song, Battle of Foxes Corner. The original song recalled a battle fought or battles fought on Saturday night after the pubs had closed in and around the Bogside. Most of the then famous characters are named in the song. Foxes Corner was a street which ran from Fahan Street down to the junction of Rossville Street and Lecky Road and the original Bogside. Foxes Corner was always recognised as the vocal point of militant nationalist feelings and its gable walls always carried republican and nationalist slogans. The Tricolour was always painted on the gable walls, Foxes Corner being the corner of defiance long before Free Derry Corner.

BATTLE OF FOXES CORNER

Up at the top of Walkers' square 25,000 had gathered there, And down the Bankin' they did tear At the Battle of Foxes Corner.

Chorus:

Holy Moses, what a car-oo Some of them black and some of them blue Some of them fought and some of them flew At the Battle of Foxes Corner.

Chorus.

Out in the front was Vinny Coyle He told the cops to take their oil And if they couldn't to jump in the Foyle At the Battle of Foxes Corner.

Chorus

All the Unionists started to cheer When Captain O'Neill hit McAteer Right in the 'bake' wi' a bottle o' beer At the Battle of Foxes Corner.

Chorus

Down the street came 'Eddie Tip' Across his head was a powerful rip Because he wouldn't button his lip At the Battle of Foxes Corner.

Chorus

McGimpsey was there, the big hard lick, Got hit in the head wi' a half-red brick An' the boys they told him, 'shove you stick' At the Battle of Foxes Corner.

Chorus

But Foxes Corner's been knocked down In the 'Flats' in the 'Market,' the people are found They put up a fight to the very last round Farewell to Foxes Corner.

slowly

TEMPORARY JOBS ARE NO SOLUTION

RECENTLY THE Derry Development Commission started a new "Relief Scheme" in the city. This relief scheme is designed to shorten the dole queues for a while. It consisted of sweeping the streets, laying new sewerage pipes and various other jobs. Considering it's a forty hour week the money is reasonable. Let's face it, anything is better than being on the dole and only getting £6 a week or £4.50. Fair play to the lads who are employed on the jobs, it is always a few bob extra at the weekend.

But remember this, it is only a relief scheme, which means that as soon as the money given by the Government runs out, so too do the jobs of all the men on the scheme; and it is back to £6 a week on the dole.

Yes workers, it is back to the very low money again.

We say to the Commission, and the British Government, that this kind of stuff just won't do. If they are going to give work, give it full time to all the people on the dole. As we said before, fair play to the men who are on the relief scheme, but remember unless you yourselves speak out, you will be back to square one. Just tell the Government that we want full

employment now. It is time that work came to this city. For too long now we have been on the dole.

We demand, from the British Government, more jobs to eradicate the unemployment problem in Northern Ireland, let alone Derry. We call on the Commission to start employing



Some of the young Commission workers in a sticky hole in Fanad Drive.

SOLUTION

and why we were in no often listen to Fleadh Radio, here we had Ceol an Bus all the way. The youngest person small girl of nine, a very tin whistle player, and John O'Kane from he was no musician he everyone going with song try, so we had no age s on this bus. The r could not have been The sun shone ously from Friday g to Monday night when urned. The fleadh in el was a great success in ay. The sessions on the were plentiful, the great, the sessions in the d hotels were great too e competitions in the ere well attended. The t thing from our point of me when young Declan All-Ireland title in the Singing (boys). Then st popular victory in el was Ann Brolly y the Ladies (English) onal singing and second e Irish singing ification. So we came back wo All-Ireland title on the bus. (Not bad, nyone who has heard bly singing will under- here could be no-one o hold the All-Ireland l Ann was just as much sitting on the street in with Sean Gallagher yself having a good than in any TV or studio. With traditional in the hands of the it will never die. McCarron was ssful in the two-row accordion competition ayed the fleadh never-

SHANTALLOW FLEADH

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port the Shantallow

LEAD THE UNITED IRISHMAN

THE INDUSTRIAL SCENE

TILLIES. . THE FIGHT ON THE FACTORY FLOOR

"THE FACTORY FLOOR must be declared a Battlefield," said a headline in last month's "Plough." Within a few days the management at one local factory, Tillie and Hendersons, had declared war on the workers, fifteen paid off a fortnight ago, another ten last week. How many this week?

As always happens in Derry when workers are being kicked onto the dole, the union scurries around telling everyone that they are doing their best and maybe things will get better after a while, but nothing seems to change. Politicians who on other occasions can make patronising speeches about "the factory girls being the back bone of Derry" are strangely silent. The workers in Tillies, like the workers in all other local factories, are going to have to learn that the fight for employment and for decent wages and conditions will have to be fought by themselves.

The slogan which should have been raised in Tillies—and it is not too late yet—is "No Redundancies, Work Sharing on Full Pay." In other words, if the management says that there is not enough work to go around, then let the available work be shared among everybody. Let everyone's working week be cut, without loss of pay, so that no-one is paid off.

OPEN THE BOOKS

If the management says that they could not afford this, the workers should then demand to see the firm's books. Let the management prove that they could not afford it. Because Tillies is not a bankrupt concern. It has been making steady profit for years out of the labour of Derry women and girls. By raising the slogan we suggest all that the workers would be demanding is that some of this profit now be used to keep them in employment. There is nothing extreme about that.

Recent events in Britain have suggested new tactics which could be used in the fight for these demands. In Fakenham in East Anglia, for example, women working in a leather-goods factory, refused to accept redundancy notices issued four months ago. They locked the management out of the factory and commenced a sit-in strike. After ten weeks they had won. No-one lost her job. The Clyde Shipbuilders saved four thousand jobs and with more aggressive leadership, might have saved all the jobs, as a result of their work-in.

We must learn from these experiences and adapt these tactics to local situation. We must see to it that no job in Derry is lost without a fight. We must end the situation where Derry people are like

lions when it comes to fighting for their rights on the street, like lambs once they walk into work.

UNION OFFICIALS

One of the drawbacks, as we see it, is that neither the Transport and General Workers nor the Tailor and Garment Workers Union can be expected to back any real struggle such as is outlined above. The workers will have to change the unions. Officials are paid by the members. They should be made to do what the members tell them. We could start by demanding a change in union rules so that all officials are elected by the members, not appointed from the top. If local officials had to present themselves annually for re-election, they would be a great deal more energetic in seeking to solve the workers problems.

SOLIDARITY

In the end, of course, this battle will not be won or lost in a single factory. We need masses of workers, determined to defend their jobs and conditions, and determined that their union will lead the fight to do that. This means organising politically inside the unions; linking the struggle in one factory to the struggle in another, ready to take solidarity action when necessary.

The Republican Movement is attempting to build such a movement. We appeal to the workers, now feeling the brunt of unemployment to join in and help us. When we have built that movement we will never again see work moved to London—as Ben Sherman did—or redundancy notices handed out—as happened at Tillies, or factory moved with a smaller workforce—as is happening at Hogg and Mitchells—without the workers fighting back.

JOIN THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

All comments and letters about the "Starry Plough" 27 DUNREE GARDENS, CREGGAN.



MOLINS DIRECTORS ARGUE OVER BEER MONEY

Rickman on T.V. while he watches his racehorses run at Ascot.

MOLINS ARE now in the process of negotiating a new wage agreement. This bi-annual non-event will once again be thrashed out over a period of months. The management again will debate and argue every point raised by the unions.

Should the union's ten-man negotiating committee be reduced to six or eight? For months the union fought tooth and nail to keep it at ten. The management insisted on six.

The union delegates want a shorter working week — "Impossible," argues Roberts.

The arguments flow thick and fast on the size of the rise on the basic rate, how long the agreement shall run, how much the cost of living has risen since the last agreement, etc., etc.

Every last penny is fought for in this ding-dong battle, and eventually when it is over and the agreement has been reached everybody is satisfied that they have got the best agreement possible—and they are probably right.

FARCE

Months before the negotiations started, as usual, the management had already decided on exactly how much they were going to give the workers.

The only function that this bi-annual farce plays is in deciding just how this is going to be shared out to the different departments in the factory, and whether or not grade one should get a bigger slice than grade two or three. Should the jig-borers get more than the Milling 48" operators, etc., etc.?

This farce, the game played every second year, has no useful function — from the workers' point of view.

But for the management it certainly has.

It cons the union delegates and the shop stewards into believing they are doing a good job, that they are carrying out the duties they were elected to do.

In fact they are not.

It is the shop stewards' responsibility, and the union's, to get the best possible deal, the best possible standard of living for their members and their families.

The best possible deal for the workers is for them to get all the profits of the goods that they make, not just whatever slice of the cake the management decides to give them.

They do all of the work — they are entitled to all of the profits.

BAD TIMES

Below is a list of where your money went last year.

Desmond Molins' chairman for five months, was given £20,000. His only function, it appears, is to chat to John

Although Dessie sold most of his shares in Molins to British American Tobacco Co., and Imperial Tobacco Co., he still has a few hundred thousand. They come in handy for the beer money. Molins' total profit last year was £4,470,000; After tax and other deductions such as directors' pay, etc., this was reduced to £2,003,000.

As Molins' total number of employees is 7,055, this means that every Molins' employee earned £618, (or £11.88 a week), trading profit for Molins' shareholders.

Of course, some people will tell you that what we are advocating is socialism.

They are right. We are.

Maybe those workers in Molins who still have to be convinced that socialism works will think about the evils of it next time they are slogging on night shift.

Maybe, too, they will think about those poor devils, the shareholders, who are sweating it out on the Riviera, on our £618.

This time demand the best deal possible, demand what you are entitled to, demand the lot.

Published by Derry Official Republican Movement and printed by The Derry Journal Ltd.

FLEADH CEOL SHANTALLOW

7th and 8th OCTOBER

ALL TRADITIONAL MUSICIANS WELCOME

Starting Saturday at 2.30 p.m.

Title: The Starry Plough, No. 7

Organisation: Sinn Féin [Official]

Date: 1972

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