

FREE CITIZEN

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PAPER OF THE P.D.

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CRAIG HESITATES denies role in riot

FOR WEEKS NOW THE SHANKILL ROAD HAS BEEN COURTED BY EVERY RIGHT-WING UNIONIST POLITICIAN ON THE MAKE. ON MONDAY NONE OF THEM, NOT EVEN MR. CRAIG, WERE TO BE SEEN. THESE GUILTY MEN WHIPPED UP THE FEARS OF WHAT THEY CHOOSE TO CALL THEIR OWN PEOPLE, AND THEN WHEN THE RIOTING BROKE OUT WERE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN THAT IS UNTIL THE RACE TO CONDEMN THE EVENTS OF THE WEEKEND BEGAN.

True Mr. Craig made an extraordinary appearance on Sunday evening. Riots threatened -- he contacted police headquarters and asked if he could be of any service. No doubt he was remembered as an old friend there. He was picked up in a police armoured car and whisked to the scene by Assistant Commissioner Bradley, the police had got advice from higher up on whether this move was wise. Higher up is rumoured to be not a million miles away from John D. Taylor.

So the man who had provoked the Coates Street riot with his Ulster Hall rally was whisked by the police to the Shankill to make the peace.

On Monday the Belfast Newsletter account of this dramatic bid ran as follows. Mr. William Bradley had told a deputation from the crowd "this is now a military operation, there will be no further withdrawal from this point." Mr. William Craig former Minister of Home Affairs, appeared from the direction of the crowd and said, "You realise this will mean more violence" Mr. Bradley replied "I do". Then as Mr. Paisley returned to the crowd there were loud cheers. The report stated that Mr. Craig's main demand to the police had been for "an assurance before midnight that the army would be out and the U.S.C. in with guns."

It is extremely unlikely that all this account is untrue. Mr. Craig denied it on Monday afternoon, but by Tuesday evening he was back in the fray with his statement "This country is on the brink of civil war." The police should clarify the events of Sunday night, as it is Mr. Craig has the benefit of both accounts. He can claim that he was acting as a peacemaker and yet still count on the support of the Shankill thanks to the report in the Newsletter.

BBC BOOB

Who would have thought that the B.B.C. could be so tactless. Fancy showing a Detective Thriller last Sunday, of all days, with the title "Hunt the Peacock".

SPECIAL POWERS ACT SOUTH AFRICA SUPPORTS IT

Last week we quoted Mussolini, a man who had much favourable to say about northern Ireland. This week we quote the South African Department of Foreign Affairs on the virtues of the Special Powers Act. As we said last week "Ulster has friends everywhere." The following appeared in a pamphlet "South Africa and the Rule of Law" published by the Foreign Affairs department in 1968:-

"Preventive detention provisions are found in many modern legal systems. Security legislation of a similar and even more severe kind (than in South Africa) is encountered in many states in Africa but also in other countries of the world. The best example is the Civil Authorities Special Powers Act 1922 of Northern Ireland.

Section I. gives power of an unlimited sort to make orders to preserve the peace and maintain public order.

Regulation II. provides that any authorised person may arrest anyone without warrant who is acting contrary to peace or who is carrying any article or book which gives ground for suspicion. Any person arrested may be detained indefinitely.

Regulation I2. Provides that a person acting against peace and the maintenance of order may be required either to remain in or proceed to, or reside in such a place as may be specified, or may be interned as directed.

It must be mentioned that these powers are very much wider than those given to the South African Minister of Justice under the Suppression of Communism Act 1950.



OUR ADDRESS

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SHANKILL BACKLASH

Last weekend the people of the Shankill Road fought the British military and the R.U.C. At least three men died, 66 were wounded, hundreds were injured by batons, bricks and C.S. gas. The forces of "law and order" won the battle. The military now occupy the Shankill Road.

Reactions vary; on the one hand there is the green tory, delighted at the efficiency of his new found ally the British Army. On the other, the Orange Tories watch in bemused horror as "loyalists" attack British troops in streets bedecked with Union Jacks.

Chichester-Clark when it came to the crunch, could merely stagger badly shaken to the television to offer his support to the military.

Why do protestant working people find themselves so frustrated that they attack the policeforce which they always called their own. The answer is they have been betrayed and abandoned by their own traditional leaders. They were led to the brink by Craig and Paisley, and the M.P's of the Portadown Parliament. Paisley now says that they took too much to drink. Mr. Craig more ambitious perhaps went to the Shankill on Sunday night but denied everything he said there the following day.

The Unionist Party has traditionally been led by landowners (Craigavon, Brookeborough, O'Neill, Chichester-Clarke). The leadership has included, if at times uneasily, representatives of big business -- Faulkner, and Bradford. The mass support of the party has however come from the small farmers and the workers.

It is hardly surprising that the interests of the two groups are not similar. How then did they form their strange alliance? Protestant employers gave their protestant employees a semi-privileged status at the expense of the catholic community.

The Unionist politicians continually stirred up hate between catholic and protestant workers. The Protestant worker was taught amongst other things that catholics were dirty, priest-ridden, superstitious, and disloyal. He was told that catholics wanted to overthrow the Unionist State and replace it with a 32-County Republic, a republic which would throw him out of his job and forbid the practice of his religion. These views were trotted out in some form or other every election time, or every "twelfth". Even this year Chichester-Clarke devoted much of

his speech to the subject of I.R.A. murderers.

Today the alliance of protestant worker and big business has been broken. It has been broken by the pressure of the Catholic minority in the Civil Rights movement. Since October 5th., '68 the viciousness and hate within our society has been exposed to the world. The Cameron Report, and the Hunt Committee have said, however tamely that this society is rotten.

Chichester-Clarke and the government have been forced to admit that they have discriminated against the minority.

They have been forced to do this by pressure from the streets, and the fact that the overseas business interests which control our economy are embarrassed by the antics of the Unionists, and angered by the costs of disturbance here. Big business (mostly British) acts through its agent, the Westminster government, to force the Unionists to reform.

Clarke and the Unionist Party have been forced to accept the Civil Rights demands. One man, one vote and fair electoral boundaries have been promised along with an end to discrimination in the allocation of houses and jobs.

Nine months ago the Unionist Government refused point-blank to grant any of these demands. Its leaders said that those who made these demands were "troublemakers, anarchists, I.R.A., revolutionaries etc. etc." Protestant workers accepted this. Today their leaders have made a complete volte-face. At one stroke they have disowned the lying propaganda on which they fed their grass roots supporters over the years. Chichester-Clarke knows that his future lies as a prosperous servant of the Westminster government.

A second factor is that this is a shortage society. Previously protestant workers have to some extent been privileged. They are bound to be hurt in a levelling up process. For example in County Fermanagh nearly all County Council jobs go to protestants, if no new jobs are created and there is an end to discrimination this means fewer jobs for protestants.

It is now wonder that the protestant workers and small farmers strike out blindly at their fellow catholic workers. Years of cynical hate-making by men like Chichester-Clark have made this inevitable. The "backlash" was born in the bigoted rantings of Craigavon and Brookeborough.

What can be done? As socialists



TROOPS LIE ON ROAD
OPPOSITE UNITY FLATS
TO ESCAPE BULLETS.

we do not relish the sight of protestant workers turning on their fellow workers. We do not rejoice when any section of the working class is beaten off the streets by the army. True, for the moment the army is protecting Catholic areas, and that on Saturday soldiers were injured protecting Unity Walk, but in the final analysis the role of the army is imperialist, it is here to protect the business and political interests of the British ruling elite, an elite which has as little interest in the fate of the people on the Shankill as it has in the people on the Falls.

There are many in this City to-day, who see that the working people have a common interest. In the days to come Catholic and Protestant businesspeople may well unite to form the "New Unionism" favoured by Westminster. Then the common interest of working people, protestant and catholic, will become clearer for all to see. The united working class of Belfast can play a leading role in the building of the socialist republic.

R.U.C BACK ON FALLS

STILL SOME DOUBTS

ON THE EVE OF THE RETURN OF THE R.U.C. TO BOGSIDE AND FALLS THE NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL, SIR ARTHUR YOUNG, HAS ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION OF CONSIDERING AN AMNESTY FOR THE 16 POLICEMEN DUE TO FACE DISCIPLINARY CHARGES AS A RESULT OF MISCONDUCT IN BOGSIDE

Sir Arthur Young has echoed Major Chichester-Clark's calls for a return to law and order. If he now fails to ensure discipline in the ranks of the R.U.C., the ability of that force to implement any form of law and order will once again be in question.



SIR ARTHUR YOUNG, FATHER PATRICK MURPHY, AND JIM SULLIVAN TOUR THE LOWER FALLS AREA.

The C.D.C. have agreed to police patrols. There are risks involved, but the decision may be necessary in the face of the right wing backlash. It is a good thing that Sir. Arthur could see for himself that the Long Bar was just a pleasant bar, not an arms dump as Orange Lil would have had us believe. But there is no need to overdo the praise. There is no reason why Sir Arthur should earn his "vote of confidence" yet. The time for that may indeed come. At the moment those on the Falls should accept the police cautiously, and do their utmost to ensure that no incidents develop over their return

Looking to the future, it is worth remembering Sir. Arthur's background. He advised or led colonial police in the Gold Coast, Kenya, and Malaya. He is in short an expert at snuffing out popular protest and radical movements.

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RIGHT WING TAKE OVER

The take-over of the Unionist grass-roots by the right-wing continues. North Down Unionist Association have selected Jim Kilfedder ex-M.P. for West Belfast as their new candidate to replace cretin George Currie, their M.P. for the last 14 years. Kilfedder won West Belfast in 1964, and publicly thanked the Rev. Ian Paisley for the assistance he had given during the campaign. Kilfedder comes from Donegal and is a card carrying member of Fine Gael.

In Maghera in Chichester-Clark's own constituency the local branch of the Unionist party is reported to have "disintegrated". The use of the Orange Hall has also been denied to Clark's followers. An interesting historical note is that this hall was used as a base for preparation of an ambush on the P.D. march to Derry in January. The ambush which was by-passed at Maghera later materialised at Burnt-ollet. The caretaker of the hall is a J.P., called McKee, when interviewed about the ambush preparations made in his hall, he said that there was no-one in it armed, just men with cudgels. Chichester-Clark only got the South Derry seat by succession from a relative, and with a little skulduggery thrown in. Now it appears to have blown up under him.

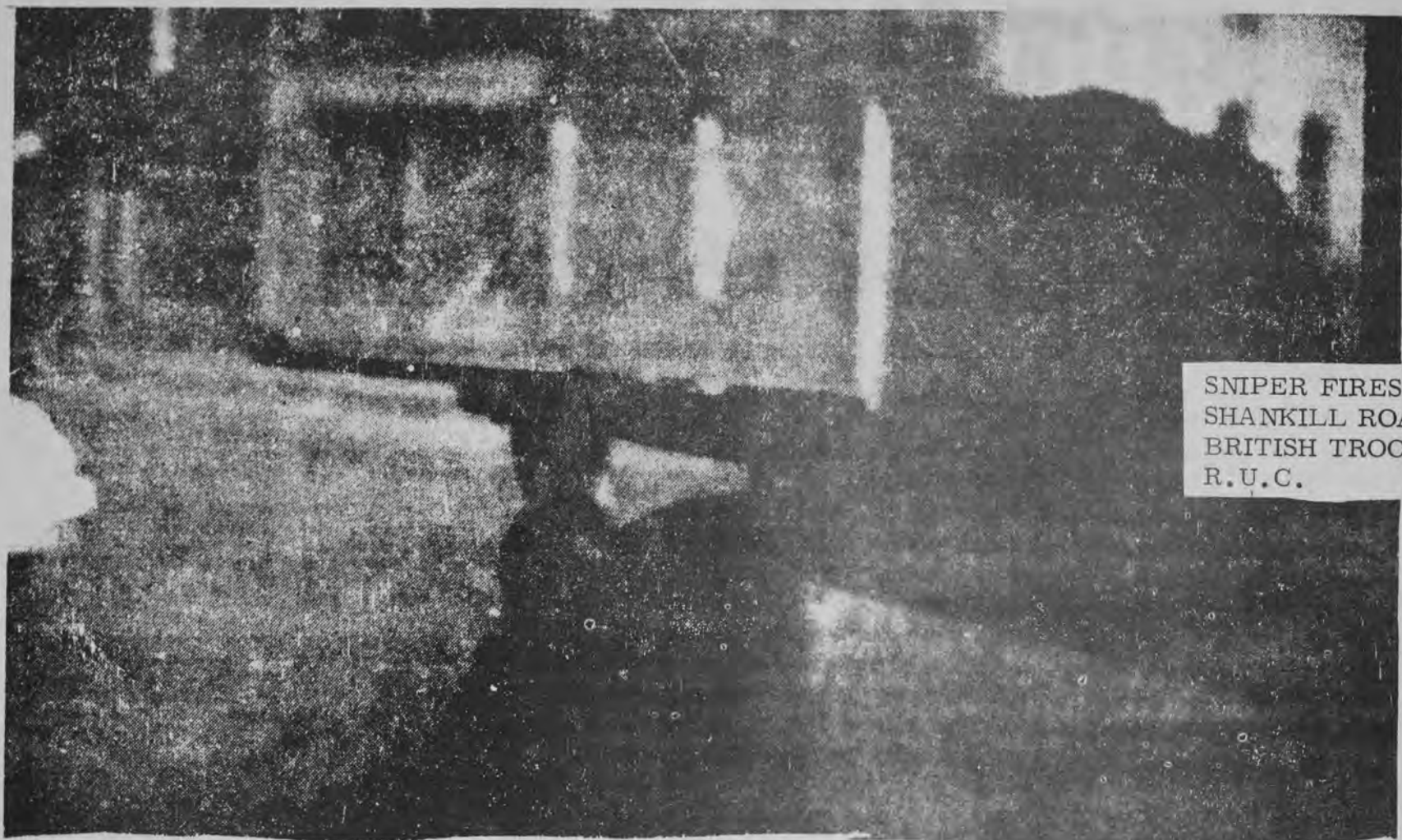
SEE THE STARS INA HOUSING TRUST SLUM

The new Central Housing Authority will put an end to discrimination on religious grounds, but if the Housing Trust is anything to go by will instead discriminate against the poor.

Take the situation in Armagh -- there the Housing Trust has become a Rachman style landlord. They have bought slums in Callan Street, Upper Irish Street, Primrose Hill and Navan Street. Many of these houses, formerly owned by the Church of Ireland, have been occupied by squatters for a considerable period of time. People who saw no reason to pay rent for hovels to which they had been driven by the housing shortage in Armagh.

First act of the Housing Trust was to send round a rent assessor. Rents were fixed at between 10/- and 15/- per house, and then the Trust had the nerve to try and charge 10 weeks back rent. In many cases tenants were faced with bills up to £5..15..0. Most tenants refused to pay, but the oldest a lady of 85 fearful of the consequences gave in. Before she gave in she pointed out that her roof was open to the sky" The rent collector cheerfully pointed out "then you can see the stars." The lady was collecting £3..3..0 per week pension. The first week the housing Trust took £2..10..0 from her, they expected the rest from her the following week. By the then other P.D. supporters had heard of her plight and no more money will be paid to these sharks. WE HAVE NO TRUCK WITH SLUM LANDLORDS --- THE HOUSING TRUST IS A SLUM LANDLORD.





SNIPER FIRES DOWN THE SHANKILL ROAD AT BRITISH TROOPS AND THE R.U.C.

MODERATE PANIC

There is no doubt about it, this has been a bad week for hypocrites, a very bad week. All those moderate people (we're really very progressive in private) who have talked about the need for law and order, and really felt sure in their heart of hearts that it was the I.R.A. or the Communists who were the troublemakers woke up on Sunday Morning to find a horrible tale, "loyalists" shooting policemen, at least the Fenians had only thrown stones or the odd petrol bomb at the guardians of law and property. Worse was to follow, Chichester-Clarkes * stuttering broadcast sowed terror all the way up the Malone Road. The iron man, the Mad Major at a loss for words, indeed society was threatened. Moderates lay wide awake, racked with mental anguish on Sunday night, not quite the anguish of the people on the Shankill, but nonetheless the searing anxiety of those who have much to lose. In the morning hundreds flocked to join the New Ulster Movement, only to discover that it wasn't interested in politics and was quietly trying to eager beaver its way into the Unionist Party through the back door, others rushed to sign the United Ulster Covenant but discovered that they had signed it before, and had already sent their full quota of coupons to the Telegraph assuring the world that they were peaceful property loving people.

Already however there is a new solution to it all. The trouble is all caused by the underlying social problems. People agree on that now, true it was communism to say so nine months ago, but in times like these even moderates have to face the facts. Even the Belfast Telegraph

Unionist Foreign Policy

Young Unionists are clearly fully not aware of Ulster's Constitutional position. In fact there is no Ulster Constitution but the actions of any Ulster government are subject to various restricting Acts passed by the Westminster Govt. Foreign policy is strictly a matter for the Westminster government. None the less John Laird speaking as a representative of the Young Unionists at the Q.U.B. New Ireland Society felt able to announce a Young Unionist Foreign Policy. Yes - You've guessed the policy is "to win back the three lost counties."

ROUGH JUSTICE

Army justice on the Shankill appears to have been decidedly rough and ready. Proceedings in the magistrates courts are described as hilariously irregular by at least one lawyer involved. Major Hitchcock has a rough and ready guide for justice "Anyone smelling of c.s. gas is being arrested because he had no business to be in an area where it was fired." Surely the canisters were fired in densely populated slum areas? In this sort of grim struggle there are always innocent passers-by who suddenly walk into trouble

mentions the social causes of the troubles. They ought to know with their long experience of employing van boys when they leave school paying them a pittance, and then sacking them at 18 when the cost of their stamp goes up too much.

That's why a lot of moderates are still very nervous. Maybe there are economic causes behind the troubles. But let's not talk TOO loudly about them, after all labour is cheap in Belfast.

QUEENS VICTORY

Queen's students have shown their good-sense, have refused to give in to a deluge of reactionary propaganda, and have in short rejected all the University administration's proposals for excluding visiting speakers from meetings.

Local Government New Plans

Faulkener's plan for 17 councils, under the local government re-organisation has been scrapped as a result of new measures to establish a Central Housing Authority. The scheme for the 17 Councils had been severely criticised as a gerrymander by the Civil Rights Association. New arrangements might mean a reduction in the number of authorities, which might shift the balance of control still further into the hands of the Unionists, alternatively there may be as many as thirty parish style councils.

However with the new central measures control of local authorities will be of far less significance. Will green Tories seize control of the local drains, with the same enthusiasm with which they sought to control housing and job allocations.

The new Central administrative authorities go a long way to explain the Unionist rank and file revolt. A whole race of Unionist manipulators are threatened with extinction. They do have power, influence and patronage at local level. Even in Belfast "a by-word for corruption" the scope for fiddling will be drastically reduced, especially now it is proposed to take housing out of the corporation's hands.