

# FREE CITIZEN

NUMBER 6

PAPER OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRACY

PRICE 3D

## Housing Crisis TOO MUCH COMPLACENCY

## SMOOTH as BUTTER

AS HOMELESS FAMILIES STRUGGLE FOR HALF COMPLETED FLATS. AND SLUM DWELLINGS RUNNING WITH WATER AND WITHOUT AMENITIES THE MONUMENTAL COMPLACENCY OF ULSTER'S POLITICIANS CONTINUES. JOHN D. TAYLOR TELLS US "THE REAL FACTS OF OF THE SUCCESS OF ULSTER'S HOUSING PROGRAMME HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN IN THE MIDST OF THE PUBLICITY SEEKING RECRIMINATIONS." WE MAY FAIRLY ASK HOW MANY "REAL FACTS" DOES MR. TAYLOR KNOW ABOUT THE DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MANY ON BOTH THE SHANKILL AND THE FALLS, BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE MADE HOMELESS DURING THE TROUBLES?

Meanwhile Gerry Fitt helps to create the illusion that all is well by singing the praises of the corporation housing department. "He would fight as tenaciously as any Unionist to preserve control over those functions which the corporation was at present administering efficiently. And one of those functions would be housing. He said that there was not a great deal of ground for criticism of the housing department of the corporation."

Perhaps it is true that the corporation officials do their best. If they simply do not have enough houses, they of necessity have to be cruel to some of those in desperate need. The officials are governed by the decisions of the corporation itself. The verdict on the corporation must be guilty. Guilty of brutal neglect of thousands of families in this City. Guilty of the destruction of the lives of tens of thousands of families in this City. The verdict on that corporation must be death whether Mr. Gerry Fitt is a Councillor or not. The sentence of death is already being carried out by the people themselves. Neglected by their elected representatives they have taken the law into their own hands. They have seized empty property. They have found homes for themselves when the council could find them none.

The message in the coming weeks must be that if the council do not requisition empty property for the homeless the property will be requisitioned anyway. If the corporation and indeed the government do not meet the needs of the housing emergency they will meet a mounting wave of civil disobedience, disobedience born of necessity.

### P.D. HOUSING ACTION

We need money to finance squats.  
Typists to help do secretarial work.  
Interviewers to see squatters, landlords estate agents etc. etc.  
Cars and car drivers to provide transport.  
Electricians and plumbers to do repairs.

### HOUSING TRUST PROSECUTE

The war against the squatters has now spread to council and Housing Trust property with a vengeance. Last week Mr. Daniel Morgan became the first squatter in Housing Trust property to be prosecuted. At a Corporation meeting Councillor William Kennedy smeared squatters as people who were delaying the housing programme. But consider the case of Mr. Morgan. He used to live in Alloa Street but was put out during the disturbances in 1966. He moved to a Housing Trust house in Greenisland but during the present troubles was threatened, he left his house and moved in with his father in Andersonstown. Eventually four families were living in this one house. It is little wonder that he squatted in his present house in Culmore Gardens. Now he has been fined £5 with 6 guineas costs, and been granted a three months stay of execution on his eviction order. William Kennedy Chairman of the Housing Committee of the Corporation described the squatting situation during last weeks debate. There were "140 known cases of whom 90 were proper emergency cases and were granted tenancies". Does Councillor Kennedy suggest that the case of Mr. Morgan was not an emergency? What were the housing authorities playing at if no less than 90 families in legitimate need had to resort to squatting? The truth is that the housing authorities are providing an inadequate housing supply to deal with the crisis. So they make an artificial distinction between the desperately needy and the very needy in order to make it appear that they are making adequate provision for the crisis.

Social security experts to help provide welfare advice.  
CONTACT US AT 84 ALBERT ST.  
NOW

Civil Rights salesmanship has been on the up and up since the meteoric appearance of Hugh Kennedy on the scene. One day he was singing the virtues of Kerrygold butter as Northern P.R.O. for An Bord Baine, the next he was P.R.O. for the Citizens Defence Committee in Belfast. His promotion to this crucial post which was rapid to say the least soon proved its worth. He could sell a pat of butter well, now he explained to the C.D.C. "I am not a politician it is just my job to sell your product well." More radical members of the C.D.C's soon noticed his tendency to sell them right down the river. Kennedy was enough of a politician always to back right-wingers on the C.D.C. intent on emphasising catholic unity, and support for Mr. Lynch, while cutting out emphasis on social issues in Belfast. From here it was just a small step for Kennedy to his new role as manager of the openly sectarian paper "Voice of the North".

### ARMAGH PROTEST

Four streets of condemned houses were bought in Armagh recently by the N.I. Housing Trust, who at once tried to make all the tenants pay rents of up to 15/- a week. Under the slogan: NO RENT ON SLUM PROPERTY, many of the tenants refused to pay. The Housing Trust has now offered to carry out "first-aid" repairs within two months if the tenants will pay their rents as a gesture of "good faith". Tenants wonder where is the good faith of the Housing Trust in demanding rent on houses which it now admits were - and are - unfit to live in.

### PORTER BACKS TOUR

Mr. Porter has made it clear that he intends to use the Special Powers Act against those who demonstrate against the Springboks visit to Northern Ireland. As we explain within it is particularly appropriate that Mr. Porter should use the S.P.A. to protect the ambassadors of racialism after all Mr. Voster is on record singing the praises of the Special Powers Act.

Despite attempts by the Irish Rugby Union to dismiss all suggestions of protest Jack Kyle, one of Ulster's most famous rugby players, has admitted the moral case for demonstrations against the Springboks. The Irish Rugby Union can boast few players with the skill of Kyle and fewer with the principles.



## SQUATTERS RIGHTS

Many of Belfast's squatters have been visited by estate agents, landlords, and corporation officials, and have been told in one way or another "you must get out". These men are tricksters, they cannot legally throw you out without first going through the complicated procedure of obtaining an eviction order. The law clearly protects the squatter against any other form of eviction.

In London homeless families banded together in the London Squatters Campaign and earlier this year embarked on a widescale squatting campaign in Ilford. They wrote to the Home Secretary asking for legal clarification of their position. The Home Office replied "the occupation of private property without the permission of the owner is not of itself a criminal offence and the Police have no special powers to deal with trespass." Trespass is not a criminal offence, this means that the police cannot be used to move you from an empty house which you have occupied. The owner has to take civil action against you and attempt to get damages or an eviction order in court to remove you. Only if you defy an eviction order can you be arrested.

Squatters are in a very strong position against landlords who try to remove them without going through the proper legal procedures. An old law designed to stop barons seizing each others land still holds good. The Statute of Forcible Entry of 1381 says "None from henceforth may make any entry into any land and tenements but in case where entry is given by law; and such case not with strong hand or multitude of people but only in peaceable and easy manner. And if any man from henceforth do to the contrary and thereof be duly convict, he shall be punished by imprisonment."

In March '69 Lord Denning confirmed this in the High Court when he said "Ever since the time of Richard II it has been forbidden by law that a person shall take possession 'with strong hand or with multitude of people'."

Lord Justice Salmon speaking in the reign of George III put things more picturesquely when he said "the poorest man may in his cottage beat defiance to all the forces of the crown. The storm may enter, the rain may enter, but the King of England may not enter. All his forces dare not cross the threshold of a ruined tenement."

Miss Bernadette Devlin has been served with 13 summonses for her part in the defence of the Bogside. Last week she told the Scarman tribunal that she had organised the throwing of petrol bombs. Scarman asked in shocked tones if she was prepared to use force for the achievement of political ends. She said yes, in certain circumstances.

When Miss Devlin comes up for trial we will hear a load of hypocritical cant from the Belfast Telegraph, the New Ulster Movement and all the other spineless "moderates", about the use of violence etc. We will also see the greatest hand-washing exercise since Pontius Pilate by the Opposition M.P.'s and the right-wing of the Civil Rights movement.

Before we hear too much of the "we agree about Civil Rights, but attacking the police is just hooliganism" kind of talk lets get a few things clear. In a normal democracy the police, like the Civil Service, are supposed to be politically neutral and support no particular party, though in practice they always support the Establishment.

The R.U.C. are armed with armoured cars, machine guns and grenades and serve to operate Stormont's dictatorial Special Powers Act, they are closely linked with the B-Specials who are a Unionist private army. Even the Cameron Report admitted the R.U.C.'s clear bias in dealing with rival crowds of "loyalists" and anti-Unionists.

This force of Unionist henchmen had invaded the Bogside 4 times in 12 months wrecking homes and beating the inhabitants. They killed Samuel Devenny by one of their attacks. When they came again in August, this time with huge supplies of gas and backed up by Paisleyite civilians throwing petrol bombs the Bogsiders were determined to resist.

What would the whining "moderates" have advised them to do? The Belfast Telegraph - which called the barricades on the Falls in August a provocation - would have assured them that the R.U.C. meant no harm. The Opposition M.P.'s would have wrung their hands and promised to raise it in Parliament afterwards. Bernadette Devlin and a group of Young Socialists, Republicans, and P.D. members helped the Bogsiders to defend themselves. They were right!

So if you are a squatter, and someone calls to tell you to get out, or threaten a solicitors letter, say to them "lets see the court eviction order first". Remember this an eviction order means publicity, Your case will be discussed in court. The Housing Trust and private landlords will have their dirty linen washed in public. Many of the landlords at least would rather avoid the publicity and let you stay

# In Defence of Bernadette

Now Bernadette has been singled out for revenge. The Courts which sentenced Malachy Grogan to 2 years in jail for defending his home against attack will give her short shift. It is time to expose the hypocrisy of it all.

To talk of law and order in N. Ireland is only cant. The law here takes away the rights of the individual and some of the greatest criminals are in the police. The attack on the Bogside was not an attempt to preserve peace but to crush any opposition to an arrogant and dictatorial regime. Every man has the right to defend himself against oppression by an unjust regime. History will absolve Bernadette Devlin and the Bogsiders who did just that.

In the meantime is the new Inspector-General of the R.U.C. any improvement on Peacocke. If Bernadette is to be charged for defending the Bogside what about the B-men who shot John Gallagher, the R.U.C. men who killed Devenny and the murderers of the 14th and 15th August in Belfast. Let's see the colour of your summonses, Mr. Young.

## STOP SPRINGBOKS

The Springbok Rugby team, now touring Britain, despite protests from all quarters, is due to visit Belfast on the 29th. of this month and Dublin on January 10th.

In Britain Harold Wilson has intervened to bar the Springboks from playing on all grounds owned by the services. In Ulster Mr. Porter has made it clear that he intends to use his armed forces under the Special Powers Act to ensure that the Springboks can play on any grounds.

So the Springboks will find safe sanctuary in Ulster after their unfriendly welcome in Britain. It will be a homely little touch to use the Special Powers Act to defend them. Didn't Mr. Voster say he admired the Special Powers Act.

We in the People's Democracy will not stand idly by if this tour is allowed to take place. The Springboks are an all white rugby team. They are proud ambassadors for the vile system of oppression and apartheid operated in South Africa.

The struggling people of Ireland have a common cause with the oppressed peoples of South Africa. We in Northern Ireland are exploited by a state machine riddled with corruption, bigotry and malice. South Africa is - a hundred times worse! There the system of exploitation is also brutally efficient.

The Springbok Tour in Ireland must be disrupted, we will organise actively to ensure that it is.



# LOUSY LAWYERS AT STORMONT

Traditionally barristers in Stormont have been those too incompetent to make a living elsewhere. A perfect example is Mr. Robert Poeter the Minister of Home Affairs. Over his last five years in private practise his income averaged less than £870 a year and only once exceeded £1,000. It was well worth his while to play the liberal card, grab a university seat and seek the road to fortune under Captain Terence O'Neill.

Contrary to popular newspaper reports Robert Porter is not a liberal, an Apprentice Boy from the age of 12 he was particularly well equipped to decide whether the procession on 12th. August this year should proceed.

Porter frequently sneered at the only half competent lawyer in the government Basil Kelly. Kelly had joined the Orange Order only months before getting the nomination for his seat, unlike Porter who had joined out of conviction.

Kelly in turn was ready to stab Porter in the back and when the University Seats were abolished and

Porter had to seek a new seat in North Down Kelly ran a candidate called Rodgers against Porter. A series of telling questions were set up for Porter at the nomination meeting. It was suggested that Porter had been seen drinking too often with well-to-do Catholics. Since then there has been a continuing feud between the attorney-general and the Minister of Home Affairs.

Basil Kelly is an ambitious man and has always longed to become a judge. He backed Faulkener in return for a written promise that he could become the next Lord-Chief Justice after McDermott. Since then he sponsored Richard Ferguson for the South Antrim seat, in the hope that Ferguson could become Attorney-General while he achieved his aim and became a judge. But Ferguson went off his head and left the Orange Order, so poor old Basil stays stuck at Attorney-General, because the two other Unionist barristers, Babington, and Amnesty International McIvor are just not competent.

# DOLLAR MAGIC

Last week-end the Irish papers reported that a number of Irish-American organisations were boycotting the National Association for Irish Justice in New York (N.A.I.J.) because it had connections with the Black Panther Party and the Students for a Democratic Society (S.D.S.). S.D.S. is a mildly radical break-away from the American Democratic Party, the Black Panthers are a militant black socialist group who co-operate with white left-wing organisations. Supporters of the N.A.I.J. have connections with both groups since most of them believe that someone who supports Civil Rights in N. Ireland is a hypocrite if he doesn't support the black people in America. Many Irish Americans are very right-wing however and support white racists like George Wallace of Alabama. It is these ultra-right organisations such as the A.O.U. which have broken with N.A.I.J..

On Monday Dr. Conn McCluskey of the Dungannon C.R.A. had a press statement attacking C.R.A.'s link with N.A.I.J. and quoting from photostats of a poster for the N.A.I.J. Conference in New York. Why did McCluskey's statement appear so soon after the announcement by the right-wing Irish-American groups and how did McCluskey get the photostat copies of the poster?

McCluskey and his Dungannon group have close links with James C. Heaney of the American Congress for Irish Freedom. This group have often embarrassed the C.R. movement over here by their ridiculous lies about the North of Ireland. They refuse to support the C.R. movement in America and are hysterically opposed to the P.D. This summer Heaney visited N. Ireland and announced that he had sent \$5000 to groups here other than the C.R.A. He refused to say what these groups were.

Did McCluskey get his photostats from Heaney? Did he raise this issue because Heaney hates the N.A.I.J. - as well as niggers and Commies -? Did McCluskey's group get any of Heaney's \$5000?

McCluskey also attacked the C.R.A. Executive Committee and said he was raising this so that there would be a more "representative" Executive elected at the A.G.M. in February. Aidan Corrigan the Chairman of the Dungannon C.R.A. recently called for a new structure for the C.R.A. which would give more say to local groups. Recently Dungannon C.R.A. has been ordering large quantities of N.I.C.R.A. membership cards. Is the Dungannon group trying to take over the C.R.A.? If so how much are right-wing racist Irish-American organisation involved? How much is the Southern Fianna Fail government involved.

## RENT STRIKE PLAN

Plans are afoot for a total rent strike in the chalets put up for the housing emergency. The first cold spell of winter has given a foretaste of what is to come. The chalets are "ice-boxes" with heating in only one room. They have no lavatories, no running water, no waste-pipes, and there are no lamps in surrounding roads. This at least is true of the Andersonstown chalets.

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

## EDINBURGH MEETING

At a meeting last Thursday the Edinburgh Civil Rights Committee of the People's Democracy outlined their programme until Christmas. The meeting was addressed by Eddie Toman who spoke about events during the summer, and the expanding role of P.D. in the future. The Edinburgh group have an adventurous programme of meetings, teach-ins, and direct action. As well as distributing our newspaper and their own broadsheets they draw wide and active support from both the university and the town.

## SLUM OF WEEK

Slum of the week is No. 27 Roumania Street. Mrs Theresa Martin lives there with her three young children, and she is expecting another child. Two months ago the electricity was switched off because the house was in such a damp and dangerous condition. The electricity people proved right for just a month ago the ceiling of the living room collapsed, one of the children in the room at the time only escaped injury because he was standing beside an armchair and the falling plaster balanced on the chair. The frame to the inner door is so rotten that the glass fell out. The outer door is also collapsing. So Mrs Martin and her three children face winter in the dim flicker of candle-light, and perhaps it is as well that the light is dim for above them the rotten plaths to the ceiling sag ominously, and every now and then there is another fall of plaster. Mrs Martin's lot is worse than that of most squatters, and yet because she did not lose her home during the troubles she has lost ground on the housing list. Meanwhile Housing Trust Officials are already saying "the Housing emergency is over." Not for Mrs Martin.

## LANDLORDS LOGIC

Why is it that homeless families are being encouraged to buy slum property, often due for demolition in a very few years. These families will put themselves in debt buying the houses, the mortgage repayments will be greater than the low rents usually charged on poor property. These families will be responsible for their own repairs not the landlords as in the case of rented property.

The truth is sale of slum property is a blessing to a landlord. The crisis means that many a landlord has profitably disposed of a slum house which he thought would be a continuing burden -- all this at the expense of the homeless.

## JOIN THE P.D NOW



Fianna - Soldiers, Warriors.  
Fail - destiny, CHANCE, FORTUNE.

# SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE

Last week Mr. Jack Lynch, leader of Fianna Fail said that F.F. has not tried to take over the Civil Rights Movement. This was a lie. In fact Fianna Fail is still trying to get control of the C.R.M.

The current edition of the "United Irishman" exposes a plot called the "Monaghan Civil Rights Committee". This body was set up with Fianna Fail cash. The "U.I." names a number of Fianna Fail agents e.g. Seamus Brady and stooges e.g. Aidan "Count the Catholics" Corrigan. The U.I. is quite right about the Monaghan Civil Rights Committee.

Fianna Fail also publishes a "Civil Rights" newspaper - the Voice of the North. Until recently the editor of this sectarian rag was Seamus Brady.

Brady is an ex-employee of the "Irish Press" - the F.F. daily newspaper. He is now a P.R.O. man for the Lynch Government. In this capacity he was chased out of Free Belfast.

## COCK OF THE NORTH

The "Voice of the North" recently published De Valera's views on the 6 Counties. It has also praised Mr. Neil Blaney - the Free State's answer to Enoch Powell. Perhaps the most significant thing about "the Voice of the North" is its silence about the defects of the "Free State" government.

This is surprising in a "civil rights" newspaper. One would have thought that it might have mentioned the "Offences against the State Act" or Article 44 of the "Free State" constitution. The reason it doesn't is that such material would embarrass the owners of the paper - Fianna Fail.

## BRIBERY

The "Soldiers of Fortune" have also involved themselves in other little ways. Paddy Doherty, self-appointed leader of "Free Bogside" boasts that the "Free State" government paid his wages until he managed to get the barricades down. The "Free State" Special Branch have also visited the 6 Counties - to keep an eye on socialists and republicans. The "Chancers Army" also want to see Austin Currie M.P. for Mid Ulster and Aidan (Count'em) Corrigan installed in Fermanagh/S. Tyrone. Fianna Fail P.R.O. men also wine and dine the most reactionary "leaders" of the C.R.M.

Why does the Fianna Fail go to this trouble and expense? The stooges say that F.F. believes in a "United Ireland". It is whispered over the whiskies that there is division in the Cabinet. Soon, we are told, the

"Real Republicans" will take control. This is another lie. Fianna Fail may be split but if it is this is a thieves quarrel. They are fighting over their loot.

### ORIGINS.

What is Fianna Fail? It was founded in 1927 by Eamonn De Valera who had left the Republican movement the previous year. The policy of the new party had a radical flavour. In 1932 Fianna Fail formed a government. The "economic War" followed. This was an attempt to develop an independent "Free State" economy.

In the '50's F.F. abandoned its original policy. Under Lemass a determined attempt to attract foreign investment started. F.F. is very proud of the "success" of this policy. In fact the new policy means that foreign business interests now exploit the "Free State".

There were political changes too. "Dev." had always pretended to be a Republican - i.e. he claimed to believe in a 32 county Green Tory Ireland. This did not stop him hanging and jailing members of the Republican Movement.

## LEMASS & LYNCH

Lemass and Lynch, however, sold out completely to foreign investors. So they did not even pretend to Republicans.

Lemass met O'Neill, "Free Trade" became a popular slogan. "Hands Across the Border" was the new F.F. policy. On taking office Lynch even said that discrimination had practically disappeared in N. Ireland.

Meanwhile the Free State has not really prospered under either Dev. or Lemass/Lynch. 17,000 emigrate from it every year, approximately 55,000 are unemployed; Dublin alone has 10,000 homeless people: the fly-by-night foreign firms pay low wages.

Politicians do well - Haughey made a small fortune from land recently - and the Free State is a property speculators paradise. In fact the Free State is almost as rotten and corrupt a state as our own 6 Counties.

The Civil Rights movement in the Unionist State has mobilized thousands of people for civil rights AND for social justice. In the Free State many people are beginning to realize that their own state is corrupt and that the demands "One Family, One House" apply equally in Derry and Dublin.

This worries the "Soldiers of Fortune". They see their own positions threatened. Desperately they try to prevent the spreading of the Civil

Rights movement to the South. One way of doing this is to pretend to support our demands in the North. Another tactic is to bribe the "Green Tories" in our movement and swing them behind their fellow chancers in Dublin. This is one of the main reasons for Fianna Fail's attempts to control and then kill our movement - "The Chancers Army" sees the writing on the wall for themselves.

We must be vigilant against Fianna Fail bribery. Every movement has a few Judases who would sell their souls for a few hundred quid and a drink.

## TORIES OUT!

We must support those who fight for civil rights in the Free State. We should continually point out that the Fianna Fail chancers jail the homeless in Dublin; that the Offences Against the State Act is the same as the Special Powers Act. Our slogan should be "Tories Out, North and South" and we must work towards a movement which will be capable of tackling both of Ireland's Tory States.

## FREE CITIZEN

**LETTERS** ---- Please send us letters and articles, we want to encourage the free flow of discussion in the paper.

**P.D. GROUPS** ---- P.D. groups should discuss the paper and send their comments and news to us regularly. This is the paper of the movement, and we can only serve it effectively if groups keep in touch.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Individual subscriptions available at £2 for one year and £1 for six months post paid.

**HELP NEEDED** We are always in need of secretarial help. If you can Type well please contact us.

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