

Defence Force JOBS FOR THE SPECIALS

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT AND THE R.U.C. RESERVE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN THE B-SPECIALS UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME. THAT IS AS CLEAR AS DAY FROM THE STORMONT AND WESTMINSTER WHITE PAPERS PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY. IN SPITE OF THE HUNT COMMISSION, IN SPITE OF THE CHORUS OF APPROVAL FOR THE NEW FORCES FROM OPPOSITION M.P'S, THE MESSAGE AT THE END OF THE DAY IS "NO CHANGE".

Consider the question of numbers. There are at present over 8,000 B-Specials. Hunt recommended that the new force should have only 4,000 men. Mysteriously this number has been increased -- there are to be 6,000 in the armed U.D.R., and another 1,500 in the R.U.C. Reserve, a total of 7,500. Since about 500 of the present B-Specials are over the normal police retirement age anyway, it would be safe to say that the new forces with a combined strength of 7,500, will be large enough to accomodate all the specials.

Consider the question of command. True the new U.D.R. will be under the command of a British Army officer, but the local battalions will remain under the command of the present County Commandants of the B-Specials, who, the white paper says "have had much experience in dealing with the tasks for which the new force is designed." It is not suprising that the opportunist Currie should last week deplore the fact that roads in County Armagh are patrolled by the Tynan (murder) squad under their Armagh County Commandant, while this week he declares that the B-Specials are no more, and urges his followers to join the new force (where they will be able to serve alongside the Tynan squad and under the same County Commandant).

Members of the new squad will still be allowed to keep guns at home. "In order that the force may react effectively to 'guerilla type attacks' it may be necessary to authorise some members ... to draw arms and ammunition and keep them at home."

We are told that the "new" force will not be used against crowds, that their function will be security. At present the British Army is being used for security purposes on the streets. There seems to be no logical reason why the "new" U.D.R. could not also be used against civilians.

So what has changed? The uniforms, yes: the U.D.R. will wear battle dress instead of their present police tunics. Their numbers and their officers' right to bear arms all remain. So too does the old trap about "guerilla type attacks."

The only thing that has changed are the cries of the opposition M.P's.

They pretend that the B-Specials are finished or at least transformed. We say that nothing has changed but the name.

The function of the old force and the new force will ultimately be the same. Remember the B-Men were originally mobilised to protect the factories and property of the big Unionist businessmen and landowners. The function of the new force will still be to protect the ruling class (even if John Hume manages to join it), and above all to protect British investment in the six-counties.

Strikers Arrested

The people of Derry remember B.S.R. The firm that exploited them and then closed owing the government £298,128. Now in East Kilbride the same firm has refused to recognise the Unions. On Wednesday the police moved in to back the corrupt management and arrested 47 picketers.

SLUM OF THE WEEK

All who have tears to shed, prepare to do so now. While the people of Belfast were enjoying themselves being shot or being burnt out of their home, or just being unemployed, or living in slums, STARK TRAGEDY HAS STRUCK!!!! R.H. Prince Philip has revealed that the Queen has not had a proper 18 years and that, horrors, only nine palaces left, and more that he, the Duke, might have to give up polo.

So come all you polo players of the Falls, Shankill and the Bogside, rally round to this great cause. The Queen herself has only £8 million and only gets £475,000 a year to keep house with. Prince Charles struggles on the breadline with £2,000 a week. This simply will not do! Free Citizen intends to launch a fund to help these destitute citizens. Sell your jewellery, polo ponies, mansions green stamp collections and send the proceeds to:-

'The Unemployed Greek idler'
Buckingham Palace,
London.

Remember it could be your turn to lose a palace next.

ARDOYNE SUMMONSES

Within the last few days police have summonsed 6 people in the Ardoyne area. It is clear that if the police are now prevented from rioting in certain areas of Belfast, they intend to transfer their butchery to the local courts, where they can rely on the support of a reactionary clique of magistrates appointed by the Unionist government.

Belfast P.D. will support the people of Ardoyne in their efforts to keep the police out if further summonses are issued or threatened.

We will help to ensure that these cases are fought tooth and nail in the courts.

We will demonstrate against the judiciary if trumped up police evidence is accepted in the courts and innocent people are convicted.

STOP SPRINGBOKS

The Springboks, the South African Rugby team, are due to play a match in Belfast on November 29th. We are opposed to the Springboks being allowed to play in Belfast because they are ambassadors of the political system known as Apartheid and the Springboks themselves practise racism in the selection of their team,

* There are 14½ million non-whites in South Africa and 3½ million whites, yet apartheid means that the white minority lords it over the non-white majority.

* Only whites have the vote in South Africa. Only whites can represent South Africa abroad.

* Whites and non-whites cannot eat together, drink together, or swim together. They are forbidden by law to use the same park bench, the same counter at the post-office, the same railway carriage. They may not even use the same toilet.

* Skilled jobs are reserved for whites.

* Non-White workers earn ¼ of a white man's pay for the same work.

* Non-Whites are allowed to work in white areas but they have no right to live in them.

* Non-white workers, if they become sick or redundant, are expelled from the white areas to "Bantu reservations" where they live in extreme poverty.

* South Africa is the most economically advanced country in Africa. Its wealth belongs only to the whites.

* Here in Northern Ireland the Unionists have used religious discrimination as a weapon to maintain themselves in power. In S. Africa the ruling clique use racial discrimination for the same purpose.

* Demonstrations against the Springboks are planned for Dunlin, Cork and Belfast.

JOIN IN --- SHOW THAT YOU REJECT APARTHEID.

ARE YOU A SQUATTER? DO YOU NEED HELP -- CONTACT US
AT 84 ALBERT STREET

IN ARMAGH, JAIL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER: AMNESTY FOR TYNAN MURDERERS.

In Armagh on Monday, Nial Vallely, a prominent P.D. member and chairman of the Civil Rights Association was sentenced to four months in jail. He was supposed to have assaulted a policeman. Witness after witness said that the police had assaulted him. At the same court Sean Hart was given 6 months for throwing a bottle at a police car. His parents proved he was in bed at the time - but R.M. Ritchie Wilson wanted blood and the police perjurers won the day.

Hart's "offence" was on the night of August 14th. On the same night, in the same town, a group of "B" Specials from Tynan murdered John Gallaher. Scores of people witnessed the shooting. On Tuesday, however, Mr. Basil Kelly, the Attorney General, announced that no charge would be made against the murderers.

Does the law not stretch to Tynan?

The people have lost all faith in the legal system. On Monday they picketed outside the courthouse, they shouted inside the courthouse, they blocked the

magistrate's car. They are right. The law is part of the state machine. It is the way in which the Unionists keep down all opposition. Magistrates and judges are appointed by the Unionists, usually for service rendered to Unionism.

In Armagh all pretence at impartiality has broken down. Today the Tynan murder squad still patrol the roads with their weapons - while the full pomposity of the legal system is used to crush, to intimidate and to frame civil right supporters.

STORMONT "HORROR"

The incidents in Armagh have led to a debate at Stormont. All the M.P.s, Government and opposition alike, tut-tutted. They said the law was above politics. But we have found out the hard way - we know it is not.

There can be no peace in Armagh until Gallagher's murderers are brought to justice, and until perjury and intimidation are stamped out of the police force.

Sack corrupt magistrates.

Justice - not kangaroo courts.

LETTER

Dear Comrades,

Birmingham Claimants Union Is a militant association of National Assistance claimants: unsupported mothers, the unemployed, pensioners, long-term sick, low-paid workers etc. Our policy at present has two main planks - adequate income as of right, without a means test and a Welfare state controlled by users and employees, not by private or state bosses.

* * *

Now over nine months old, we have scored repeated victories over the N.A.B. (in terms of hard cash, lots of it, and in terms of justice). We should like to hear from any activists..... we are now in a position to give considerable help to new Unions in their organization.

Roger Clipsham,
2/9 Trafalgar Rd.,
Birmingham, 13.

Civil Rights in United States; the case of Bobby Seale

We who have been engaged in the struggle for Civil Rights here in N. Ireland should pause to remember that there are many similar struggles going on throughout the world. Only last week in Chicago, Bobby Seale, a black man and a member of the Black Panthers, appeared on a charge of conspiring to incite the riots that occurred in Chicago last year when American police showed just how brutal they could be against blacks and young radical whites.

The judge refused to adjourn the case although Seale's lawyer was recovering from an operation and could not attend. Seale protested at a portrait of George Washington which was hanging in the courtroom. (Washington, who framed the American Constitution, was also a slave-dealer). When Seale continued to protest that he was not being given a fair trial because he was black, he was ordered to be tied to a chair and gagged. This farce continued for three days, until the judge sentenced Seale to four years in jail for contempt of court. How could anyone have anything but contempt for such a court?

Similarly how can we have anything but contempt for the way the courts here allow themselves to be used as the pawns of the Unionist government? We, who

have seen these courts in action must reject their idea of "law and order" which imprisons a man for defending his home and family against petrol-bombers or for possessing a particular book.

Bobby Seale was charged with conspiracy. The police prosecuting him are trying to prove that the C.R. movement in the United States is dominated by "extremists". In the same way the Unionist government is prosecuting those who defended themselves in Belfast, Bogside and elsewhere. They are also trying to prove that the C.R. movement here has been a subversive and violent one. By doing this they attempt to divert people's attention from the activities of their own uniformed and civilian murder-gangs during August. But their efforts are doomed to failure. People do not easily forget police riots, whether they happen in Bogside, Belfast or Chicago.

And the people have time - and right - on their side.

QUEENS FRAUD

The W.E.A., a voluntary body which runs adult-education classes, has had to reduce the number of its classes this year from 40 to 16. The reason - Queen's University, which always gave the WEA free use of lecture rooms, now wants to charge them £80 a week.

FREE CITIZEN

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

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.

CORRESPONDENCE TO:-

84 ALBERT STREET,
BELFAST 12.

SEND PAYMENTS BY GIRO
Pay for your Free Citizen by Post Office Giro through your local Post Office. Our Number is 68 101 2005.

JOIN THE P.D.

Contact your local group or write to 84 Albert St, Belfast.

GIFTS TO P.D.

All gifts should be sent to the Treasurer, 84 Albert St, Belfast; or paid directly into the P.D. account, **BELFAST BANKING Co.** Shaftesbury Square, Belfast.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
People of Aberdeen £22.

American Conference

About 40 Irish-American groups were brought together at a conference in New York last week-end organised by the National Association for Irish Justice (N.A.I.J.) As an attempt at transplanting NICRA into the United States it failed. It failed because each group insisted on advancing its own line on the border, and naturally, with partition an issue, the conference failed to produce the sort of loose unity that exists in NICRA around the issue of civil rights. Instead, the normal spread of politics from left to right emerged.

The right wing, dominated by the American Congress for Irish Freedom argued that civil rights meant "Catholic Emancipation" in the North, and that unity meant "Green" ascendancy. They have control of the Irish-American press, which has been hostile to NALJ, and have close ties with Dr. Conn McCloskey who is on the executive of the NICRA. Dr McCloskey's main concern with NALJ is that it is destroying his exclusive and private monopoly of money and support for the North in America, which he has been exercising through the right-wing ACIF. They asked McCloskey to try and raise a stink about who was being sent to the conference from N.Ireland

In addition, Mrs McCloskey wrote a letter in which she refers to the PD as "left-wing extremists" and alleges that people like herself suspect that Bernadette's money is not being used for relief. Copies of the letter were sent to all Irish-American groups many of whom were suspicious of PD as a result.

Over the past few months the right-wing ACIF have been tussling with the Republicans who, with their allies, the Communist Party, have been supporting the demand for a "progressive front" against British Imperialism. Especially in New York, the organisation and contacts of the Republicans among the Irish were not

as good as those of the conservative groups. But they had one trump card they had the official backing of the NICRA for their efforts in building the movement in the U.S. and particularly during Bernadette's tour they were able - through the help which they gave her - to undercut the right-wing and establish links with many Irish organisations old and new.

The left is the third group of importance. They consist of individuals, and some groups who became involved specifically over the situation in the North last year.

These people are mostly young, many have recently emigrated to the U.S.A., or second generation American Irish, and many again are at university and are involved already in the student left-groups.

They are sympathetic to the P.D. -- apparently the P.D. is highly regarded by the "New Left" of the United States. They agreed wholeheartedly with us about the need for Civil Rights "North and South" and applauded how we had developed from there to the need for a Socialist Workers Republic.

They agreed with us that "unity" should be based on socialist beliefs. They vehemently opposed both the Green Tories, "unity" first and politics" afterwards policy, and the Republicans' ambiguous stand on democratic socialism.

The "left" have decided to work with the N.A.I.J. but also intend to act as a loose support group for P.D. They will also pass on much information on the U.S. Civil Rights struggle. More about that in later issues.

In summary then the National Association for Irish Justice is Republican controlled, with a useful presence of P.D. sympathisers. Meanwhile the reactionary rump of Irish American politics, groups like Heaney's A.C.I.F. refuse to join.

Reactionaries on Education

County Down Education Authority have shown by their insistence on noting the religion of applicants for posts, that Unionist dominated Education authorities cannot be trusted. Many teachers in the state system are the first to admit this.

Meanwhile we are told that Cardinal Conway is all in favour of greater contact between catholic and protestant children, at least at sixth form level and above. This is very much belied by the following two accounts which we have received from pupils in the Belfast area; -

"I received an application form for T.C.D. (Trinity College, Dublin) I took it to the headmistress who refused to give me a reference until I obtained permission to apply there from the Bishop. This was early September I wrote to the Bishop and received a pleasant letter by return

post which informed me that my "case" was to be taken up by my diocesan authorities. I waited six weeks before my "diocesan authorities" i.e. my parish priest asked me if I had 'O' level Irish and why I didn't want to go to Queens. After that I heard nothing so I presented my form to the headmistress, who made it quite clear that she did not want me or anyone else to go to T.C.D. Those girls who did have 'O' level Irish were presented with entry forms for University College Dublin."

"One girl brought an application form to the headmistress for Coleraine Training College. The headmistress refused to give her a reference. When we asked for an explanation one nun told us that the bishop had written to say that Coleraine Training College did not

LANDLORDS BENEFIT

Landlords are making a small fortune selling slums to the homeless. Mary O'Maher of the Irish Times gave two typical cases in her articles on the Belfast homeless last week.

A Mr. Quinn told how in his house on Conway Street "he paid 8s. a week rent. In the house he has just bought a turn off the Falls Rd., he pays 30s. a week in repayments." Mr. Quinn said "a lot of people think I'm well off, able to buy a house. But I had no choice. And the man that owned the house, the first time I went to ask he said it would be £150 of deposit. But when I went back three days later he said it was £300 I had to pay it. I had no choice."

A family called the Kelly's explained "we're paying 25s. for repayments and we were paying only 7/10 before. And the house is no better at all -- we'll be paying off forever."

Landlords are thankfully selling off unfit slums like this all round Belfast. They take advantage of the homeless to make a fat capital gain, to avoid their previous responsibility for repairs to these houses, and all under the cloak of going out of their way to help the homeless WE SAY STOP THE SALE OF SLUM PROPERTY.

Belfast and District C.R.A. will be holding a meeting in St. Mary's Hall on Sunday at 3p.m.

GRANT'S CRISIS

Workers who wish to do full-time further education may receive grants of less than £3 a week. Teenagers who wish to return to full-time study at the three further education colleges in Belfast may not be entitled to grants at all. We revealed all this in Free Citizen No. 5.

Now more than 100 students from the Belfast colleges have lobbied Stormont over their plight. Most M.P.'s were ignorant of the situation and several have promised active help to the students. They have arranged an interview with Captain Long.

We support them in their fight for justice. We believe that any worker who wishes to make up for educational opportunities denied him in youth should receive full state support.

cater for Catholic religious instruction and that if a catholic graduated from there she would not be given a place in any catholic school. The main reason given was that there is a "perfectly good" training college on the Falls Road and that we would all be accepted there with open arms."

To win an effective integrated educational system we will have to destroy Unionist control of the Education authorities, but there is no doubt that the "ghetto mentality" of some Catholic teachers will be a serious obstacle even to the minimal amount of integration that Cardinal Conway supports.

TEA for TWO!

John McKeague did more than blow up a pipe-line when he lit that fuse in Dunadry last April - he exploded a few convenient Unionist myths as well. Successive Unionist regimes have blamed all acts of sabotage on I.R.A. terrorists - even when facts to the contrary were staring them in the face. It has also become second nature to the Unionist Regimes to call up The "B" men on these occasions - even though everyone knows that these are the very men who are responsible. This latest saga of the I.R.A. bogey makes startling reading - and must have caused a few red faces in government circles. Just look at these "co-incidences":

On Monday March 31st. the Prime Minister (then Terence O'Neill) mobilized 1000 "B" men after an Electricity Board sub-station at Castlereagh had been blown up and half a million pounds worth of damage done.

On Sunday April 20th a Water Supply pipe line was blown up at The Silent Valley, as was also an Electricity Pylon at Kilmore, Loughgall. On the same day the police said "It can now be taken that the incidents were caused by people working to an I.R.A. plan". Porter, Minister of Home Affairs, quickly jumped on the I.R.A. bogey bandwagon. On the 23rd. April he had this to say about the sabotage: "Undoubtedly this was the work of a subversive organization and information in possession of the police indicates clearly that they were carried out by the I.R.A. I say this in spite of denials".

Possibly the most bizarre episode in the whole McKeague saga occurred on August 7th. On that day, McKeague, accompanied by Bunting, was met privately by Chichester-Clarke. They chatted, amicably, for forty-five minutes in the comfort of Stormont. After the tea and buns a smiling McKeague reiterated his "complete confidence in the Ulster Special Constabulary" and suggested that the problems of Ulster could be solved by making more use of the "B" Specials.

McKeague had obviously little to fear from the "B" men, especially as his good friends Ian Paisley and Billy Craig were busy calling on all loyalists to join the "B" men in defence of the Constitution.

And then someone burst McKeague's bubble and gave the Prime Minister a few sleepless nights too. Last week McKeague, along with several of his mates, was charged with the Dunadry explosion.

Poor John McKeague won't be taking tea in such high circles for another ten years. Unless, of course Chichester-Clarke is sent down to the Crumlin to keep him company. And with a record like his, and with friends like his, it's surprising it hasn't happened years ago.

SIX COUNTY WAGES LOWEST

Unemployment in N. Ireland is five times as high as in Britain. But what about the man who is lucky enough to have a job in N. Ireland? How do his wages compare with those in Great Britain? According to a Government survey produced on Monday, the average wage for a man in N. Ireland is £6.17.0. a week lower than the average wage in S.E. England. The average family income in N. Ireland is £8.16.0. a week lower than the family income in S.E. England. Even in the poorest areas of Great Britain, a working man takes home £2.7.0. more than his counterpart in N. Ireland, and a family earns £3.13.0. more per week.

Most shameful of all are the wages of women in N. Ireland. The average women's wage is £11.5.0. a week. This compares with £25.5.0. a week for a man in S.E. England, a difference of £14 a week! Yet many families, especially in Derry are dependant on a woman's wage.

Why are wages so much lower?

Unemployment is so high in N. Ireland that the workers are in a weak position. Bosses can afford to sack trade-union militants - as they did at Courtalds, Carrickfergus, in July. There are always plenty of men on the dole to fill the vacancies. Or, if all the workers insist on their demands, the bosses can

WHITEWASH....

In yet another pathetic attempt to whitewash the criminal neglect practised by the tory politicians in the 26 counties, Voice of the North (the Green Tory Paper) in its most recent edition to reach us, prints totally misleading figures of the amount spent on new housing in Belfast and Dublin. They naturally refuse to print the figures for those in need of homes in Belfast and Dublin: 8,000 in Belfast; 10,000 in Dublin.

simply close the factory down, as happened at B.S.R. in Derry.

The N. Ireland Government makes great play of the industries which it is "bringing" to N. Ireland. What is the truth? Unemployment has remained at about 10% since the war. Not only are wages lower than in Britain, but the gap is widening. The N. Ireland Government does not give a damn about the workers. They have made the North into a Speculator's paradise. When times are good British firms set up here with the aid of grants, and make extra profits from the low wages. When these firms suffer a setback, or if Irish workers become too demanding, the factories close down. They can "buy off" a section of the workers by discrimination in hiring and promotion. If there is widespread dissatisfaction the employers can stir up sectarian feelings using the local Orange lodges (as they did in the new Goodyear factory in Craigavon last June).

The N. Ireland Government have no intention of ending unemployment, or of ensuring that workers receive a decent wage. They are the servants of British big-business whose only concern is how best to exploit the working people of Ireland.

Take it down from the mast....



What?? What's this? Barricades, Bren guns, and British tommies? Is it Belfast? or Derry?

Not quite! Take another look at the demonstrator with the tricolour and the grin. You see he's really a soldier himself, dressed up as an Irishman. It's all happening over in Colchester, East Anglia. There The 1st. Regiment Royal Horse Artillery are "practising" for a forthcoming spell of duty on the streets of Belfast. Here we see them dealing with some "troublesome civilians" in a mock exercise in the Barrack Square. And the tricolour? Oh well, he's supposed to be an Irish demonstrator - see - and, I mean, they're always waving green flags about aren't they?

The soldiers have also set up barbed wire barricades on the main roads in Mersea Island, near their barracks. For several days they forced the locals to weave in and out of these barricades in their cars. The locals protested. Oh yes, they knew the lads had a tough job ahead of them. All those Irish over there. But, my God, man, you can't treat us like that - I mean, we're British!

The army took the point. Oh well, back to the barrack square - and that troublesome tommy with the tricolour.