

THE STORMONT FOLLIES

yet another episode in the sorry saga of a lost and bewildered opposition...

"IF YOU DON'T LIKE OUR PRINCIPLES --- WE'LL CHANGE THEM". THAT WAS THE MESSAGE FROM THE STORMONT OPPOSITION M.P.'S LAST WEEK-END. WHEN THE GOVERNMENTS AT STORMONT AND WESTMINSTER ANNOUNCED THE "NEW" ULSTER DEFENCE FORCE AND R.U.C. RESERVE, STORMONT'S RAFTERS RANG AS OPPOSITION M.P.'S SANG OUT THEIR PRAISE FOR THE NEW FORCES. "IT MEANS THE START OF A NEW ERA," WHOOPED JAMES O'REILLY, NATIONALIST M.P. FOR MOURNE, "I FEEL THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS ARE VERY SATISFACTORY."

All opposition M.P.'s were quite certain that the B-Specials were gone: "the opposition welcomes the death of the B-Specials" said John Hume, relieved at last that he could now hope for a spell of "real" politics in co-operation with the Unionists. "Not only dead but damned" quipped Austin Currie, not to be outdone in his enthusiasm. But John Hume wanted the last word: "I will encourage all sections of the community to join this new force," he enthused.

tory hacks

This behaviour from Opposition M.P.'s is not at all surprising.

Ever since the defeat of Eddie (Half-a-loaf) McAteer, the Nationalist Party has been anxious to drop the Civil Rights Movement. The longer people discuss politics and make radical demands, the more the Nationalists are shown up as charlatans and Green Tory Hacks. They hope to persuade the Civil Rights campaign that the major demands have been granted and that further reforms are best got through Stormont (with the help of the Opposition M.P.'s of Course). As O'Hanlon put it, 'By removing the B-Specials the Government had removed one of the greatest sources of discontent in the community.'

concessions

The Civil Rights movement has gone as far as the opposition want it to. Hume and Cooper have been elected to Parliament and now want the era of "responsible" politics to begin, i.e. the period when they can wrangle "concessions" from the Unionist party, hoping that Westminster will back them up now and again. Ivan Cooper even went so far as to say: "The formation of the 'new' UDR and RUC Reserve was what the Civil Rights Movement had fought for on the streets."

The P.D. were not in such a hurry to welcome the new force. In last week's Free Citizen we warned that

the "new" forces were merely the specials under a new name:

"the B-men were originally mobilised to protect the property of 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 them)"

Redmond

There were a lot of red faces on Saturday morning when Bernadette Devlin (Independent M.P. for Mid Ulster) correctly described John Hume as Britain's recruiting sergeant fulfilling the same role as John Redmond.

Linings were ripped as the Stormont opportunists desperately tried to turn their coats. All of a sudden, Hume was "lashing" the new force. A traffic jam developed in Donegall St as M.P.'s rushed to get their denials into the Irish News.

"The wishes of Lord Hunt are no longer being carried out" cried Paddy O'Hanlon (Nationalist M.P. S. Armagh).

Hume suddenly discovered that the B-specials were being recruited - "behind the backs of Westminster". It is not that Hume was going to oppose the new force: "This is being done behind the backs of the British Government and military authorities. We will fight it every inch of the way, but we will not allow ourselves to fall into the trap of opting out, as the Unionists want us to."

twisters

Currie was even more guarded in his "lashing" of the Government. "There are certain members of the Government who do not wish the 'minority' to join the forces.... The opposition will continue to urge the 'minority' to join."

So opposition M.P.'s twist and turn in an effort to drag politics back into the old parliamentary path. Our position remains the same: any force of armed civilians maintained by the state in N. Ireland can only be there to protect the ruling class.



WILL THE STORMONT GOVERNMENT USE COLOURED BRITISH SOLDIERS TO PROTECT THE RACIALIST SPRINGBOKS, WILL THEY DO IT UNDER THE SPECIAL POWERS ACT WHICH MR. VORWOERD SO ADMIRERED?????

NATURALLY!

The disintegration of a lorry near Unity Walk Flats the other night "was caused naturally" an army spokesman explained. Looking into the crater he went on "it was almost certainly something to do with the heater".

Our motoring correspondent warns Few motorists realise how potentially explosive a heater is. With this cold spell vans and lorries can be expected to disintegrate almost anywhere. To be on the safe side report to your nearest army unit for re-assurance - They are skilled at it.

SLUM OF THE WEEK

Slum of the week this week is large, very large, it is West Belfast.

In the 57 acres of the lower Falls Redevelopment area more than 10,000 people are crammed in conditions which constitute an appalling indictment of Unionist neglect.

At the public enquiry, held this week, the Corporation medical officer revealed that only 40 of the 2,514 houses in the Lower Falls Development area are fit for human habitation. Only 55 houses have baths. 1,788 have no hot water,

Conditions are equally bad on the Shankill Road, meanwhile Mr. Faulkner was boasting about the Unionist housing record at the annual dinner of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers - Valuers, Auctioneers, Estate Agents and their ilk have more reason to jump with joy over the housing record of the Unionists than the people of West Belfast.

NUM skullduggery

or how brian walker won friends and influenced people in ten easy steps....

N.U.M. truly represents one part of the war of interests in the Unionist Party. It is no accident that N.U.M. came into existence to back Captain Terence O'Neill. For O'Neill albeit unwittingly sparked off the internal divisions which have torn the party for the last year. These in turn gave rise to N.U.M.

O'Neill, attempted to put a liberal gloss on the activities of the Unionist ruling order. Foreign and British investors saw bigotry as outdated. It made negotiations with the South more difficult, and cross-border trade was now appearing attractive to Northern Southern and British capitalists alike. If sectarianism was bad for business then O'Neill had to take it out of the shop window and serve it under the counter.

gestures

The Civil Rights Movement owed much of its impetus to the glaring contradictions between O'Neill's liberal talk, with community - relations gestures, and the continuing vicious sectarianism of his government

The Civil Rights movement in turn threatened the traditional Unionist leadership at local level. These political bosses depended on discrimination and patronage for their power. As well, many working class Unionists saw the C.R. movement as a threat to their livelihood. More jobs and houses for Catholics meant fewer for Protestants they felt. These two groups, forming the bulk of the Unionist Party, were the loudest opposition both to Civil Rights, and to any Unionists who threatened to grant concessions to the Civil Rights movement. N.U.M. members are not particularly interested in Civil Rights. Why should they be? They do very nicely thank you very much. They are the solicitors, the professional people, the businessmen -- the risen middle classes, angry that their peace has been disturbed. They may have no interest in Civil Rights, but they do not have much in common with the Unionist right-wingers. The average N.U.M. member does business with Protestants and Catholics. He does not believe, like the party stalwart West of the Bann that his livelihood depends on the principle, "A Protestant Parliament for a Protestant People". So the N.U.M. member will not fight alongside the right-winger.

naieve

The New Ulster Movement wants peace before all else. That is why its so-called "political aims" are of secondary importance, and are basically a naive irrelevance. N.U.M. was founded as a support organisation for O'Neill. One of their favourite ploys is to attack the continued membership by Unionist M.P.'s of the Orange Order, yet O'Neill remains an Orangeman and Apprentice-boy. N.U.M. aims are:-

- 1) To take steps to promote a "United Community" based on "equality and justice" for all.
- 2) To oppose "extremism" and establish "U.K. standards of democracy".

N.U.M. leaders clearly believe that they can accurately interpret these somewhat wide terms of reference. Yet do they protest over the continued use of the Special Powers Act surely a question of justice. Do they protest about the visit of the Springboks (surely a question of equality).

evil

Beyond this N.U.M. do have a British middle class view of how to run society. Sectarianism and bigotry keep the workers divided and keep down wages, all right, but when sectarian strife breaks out it is bad for business. That is what they mean by "evil". That is why they have suddenly discovered the "evils" of sectarianism.

For them the most important thing is to invest more in machinery, and give slightly higher wages, so that at the end of the day they make higher profits anyway

N.U.M. members share this preference for efficient exploitation with an important section of the Unionist Party leadership.

class war

Brian Faulkner was alarmed at the growing class rifts in the Unionist Party during the election campaign he said "I have seen in my own constituency for the first time in 20 years a class war developing. It is the most regrettable and tragic development I have seen in my political life, and I will do everything in my power to see that it does not go any further."

Faulkner, Roy Bradford and others have weighed up the situation. Their future lies with British Capital. They will be the agents for a new more sophisticated era of exploitation in Ulster.

N.U.M. is well aware of the potential such an alliance would hold. With Faulkner and Bradford the N.U.M. could form the basis of a new-look Unionist Party, which, purged of its sectarian "extremists" could join with Fianna Fail and really get down to helping British and other imperialists to exploit Ireland "more efficiently".

louis boyle

When Louis Boyle, about the only Catholic Young Unionist finally resigned in early July he said he "would probably join the New Ulster Movement, but would try to get in contact with people inside and outside the Unionist Party to strive towards a new movement".

The following day Brian Walker the panic-stricken Chairman of N.U.M. replied "Mr. Boyle is quite mistaken if he imagines our ultimate purpose is to form a branch of the Conservative Party in N.I. " - " Many N.U.M. members who oppose extremism belong to and are active in the Unionist and other parties." Recently Mr. Tony Cinnamond, a Catholic member of the N.U.M. executive, said in Rostrevor that there were many good things about the Unionist Party.

N.U.M. members may deny political affiliation, but who can doubt that Mr. Walker and Mr. Cinnamond are leaving the back door open, and would willingly take power in a New Unionist Movement

bogey

Ordinary Unionist M.P.'s will move more slowly. They have their working class constituents to placate Roy Bradford won Victoria with N.U.M. support against Labour, raising the traditional bogey of the border when he suggested that the N.I.L.P. favoured a United Ireland. N.U.M. itself has a special study group examining why so few working class people are attracted to it. The answer is simple N.U.M.'s facile propaganda has nothing to offer the working man. Protestant or Catholic.

Finally N.U.M. claims it has done more to establish "good-will" in Ulster than any other group. What it has consistently achieved is in fact to give the Unionist Government of the day the undeserved aura of respectability. They backed O'Neill and his inadequate reform proposals. Now they are backing Chichester-Clark. Under the slogan "anything for a quiet (prosperous) life" they will no doubt back Mr. Craig as another in a long line of "moderate" Unionist P.M.'s when the time comes.

WE NOW HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF LEFT WING LITERATURE ON SALE AT OUR HEADQUARTERS AT 84 ALBERT STREET. CALL IN AND SEE US ANY TIME BETWEEN 11A.M. AND 6P.M.

TORY PARADISE IN FERMANAGH

Fermanagh Civil Rights Association held a General Meeting in Enniskillen on Monday. Over 300 people attended. Mr. Aidan Corrigan was the guest speaker. A new committee was elected. A biased and inaccurate Secretary's Report was adopted by a majority of 2 votes.

The meeting lasted four hours. There was one thing missing at it. No analysis of the problems facing the people of the country was made. There was a bit of muttering about discrimination. It was said that the County Council should be abolished - and indeed it should. Aidan Corrigan said that the legal system in N. Ireland is corrupt - and so it is. The Green Tory councillors were urged to resign from the Council and lead the people against it - a ludicrous motion when we think of the stupidity and spinelessness of the average "nationalist" Councillor.

slum

What is Fermanagh? It is a rural slum. According to the last census (1961) 54% of Fermanagh houses have no cold water tap; 70% have no hot water tap; 74% have no bath; 64% do not have water-borne sanitation; 28% have no cooking range or stove. These are scandalous housing conditions. There may have been some improvement since 1961 but even if the above figures were halved the position would still be intolerable. In spite of this state of affairs the representatives of Fermanagh Civil Rights Assn. have constantly opposed the demand "One Family One House" at Regional Council meetings of N.I.C.R.A. We hope that the new committee will have more wit.

dole

There are always 1500-2000 people unemployed in Fermanagh. One man in every five is on the dole. Yet the Fermanagh C.R.A. used to oppose "One Man - One Job". Again we wish more sense to the new committee.

emigration

Between 1951 and 1961 6,133 persons left Fermanagh. If anything more have gone since the last census. It is the young people of the country who leave. In the 20-24 age group there was a decline of 17.8% between 1951 and 1961. In the same period there was a decline of 31% in the numbers of the 25-34 age group.

brooke's council

Fermanagh County Council is one of the most notorious gerrymanders in the 6 Counties. The Council is the largest employer of labour in Fermanagh. It consistently discriminates against Catholics in appointments of jobs. The infamous case of the school bus-drivers is well known. The Chairman of this body is John Brooke, landowner, company-director and a member of the Unionist Government.

There are two gangs of politicians in Fermanagh. The ruling gang, the Unionists - are led by the Brooks, the Wests, The Coopers and the Duke of Westminster. The Duke has fallen out with the others and has formed a little faction of his own. The Duke is the richest of them, Harry West the poorest, and John Brooke the most stupid. It is claimed that the Coopers are the brains of the outfit - although little evidence of this has been produced

partners

The junior partners of the Unionists are the "Nationalists" or Green Tories. They are led by Paddy O'Hare, a member of the Senate and editor of the Fermanagh Herald. Paddy's boys include John Carron M.P., Noel Maguire Gerry Magee and assorted followers. The brains of the outfit are believed to be owned by the author of a "political column" published in the Fermanagh Herald. "Erne-Sense" supported the "Liberal Unionists" in the last election. He usually puts in a lie about the P.D. every week.

One of the tricks of the "Nationalists" is to claim that they are "republicans" - particularly at election time. In fact they are a motley collection of Hibs (A.O.H.) ex-blueshirts or supporters of Fianna Fail. There are factions among them - connected chiefly with who will be our next "M.P.

why?

Why do the people of Fermanagh put up with the state of their county - and with their self appointed "leaders"? Loyal Unionists get jobs since the party's powers of patronage are very great. At least there is a certain method in their madness. Even so wages are low in Fermanagh. Increasingly Protestant workers and small farmers will leave the Unionist Party - especially if the Civil Rights demands are enforced.

What do "Loyal Nationalists" get? Almost nothing. Sometimes Paddy O'Hare or John Carron can get the Unionists to do them a favour. This does not often happen for two reasons. Paddy O'Hare's boys don't try very hard and the Unionists despise them for the lackeys that they are.

stop!

Stop accepting it all! Things can be changed. The Council can be smashed. The deliberate failure of the Unionist system to provide work in Fermanagh can be exposed. Some people have already tried to do these things. Join them in picketing the Council! Forget about the Green Tory Councillors. They are useless. They parrot about "Unity" and "P.D." splinter groups. It is only an excuse for doing nothing. Let us get off our backsides. In ten years it will be too late.
DOWN WITH ORANGE AND GREEN
TORIES!

FREE SPEECH

Father Desmond Wilson on Conway's Criticism of Father Faul "One could only view with the greatest alarm the possibility that the efforts that had been made to establish freedom of opinion and of discussion within the state were to be paralleled by similar efforts having to be made within the church."

LOYALIST

Alderman Samuel Walker - chairman of Coleraine and District Loyalist Covenant Association - "there are things going on around this town which I would not tell you about tonight. But we have to be prepared. And let me tell you we are prepared. When the time comes we will have the manpower."

deaths

Too late for Classification

The Nationalist Party - obituary next week.

bits

letters

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

subs.

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

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We are always in need of secretarial help. If you can type well please contact us.

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

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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.

correspondence to

84 Albert St., BELFAST 12.

STRANGE JUSTICE

Ronald Haslett, 'B' man and Burntollet attacker was fined £40 and given a suspended sentence of two months in Dungiven court on Tuesday November 17. Haslett was convicted of having a 7.65 automatic pistol and three rounds of ammunition without a firearms certificate. Haslett admitted firing 3 shots into the air in Feeney on August 5.

Recently it has been pointed out that the Judiciary in N. Ireland is biased. Now here we have clear evidence of bias.

A thug who fires an unlicensed gun gets off with a warning and a fine. Malachy Grogan who fired a few shots to defend his home got 2 years in jail. Frank Card is currently in jail - charged with having an unlicensed firearm. The police admit that Frank Card had not fired his gun. Card is charged under the Special Powers Act. Why was Haslett not charged under the Act? Simply because Haslett supports the Unionist Party; Card is a political opponent of the Unionists.

In Haslett's defence Mr. D. Boal said that Haslett was entitled to carry a Stirling submachine gun as a member of the B-Specials. This is typical Unionist effrontery. We should be grateful that Haslett did not fire his Stirling - like his fellow B-men did on the Falls Road in August!

The Northern Ireland legal system is rotten and this case is another example of it. Paddy Maxwell, the R.M. in the case is a former Nationalist M.P. The unity of the Orange and Green Tories was never more clearly shown.

Happy Family

The most astounding evidence was given in a Dublin court-case last Monday. On trial was an IRA man charged with shooting a self-confessed British Government agent. The agent was a Mr. J. Brady and in evidence he stated:

*That he at present is an intelligence officer in the British Army.

*That he had come to Ireland to gather information on the Republican Movement.

*That he had been advised by the Free State Special Branch to join the IRA.

*That while in the IRA he travelled to the North to pass on information to a senior R.U.C. officers.

This is the best example to date of "cross-border cooperation", R.U.C. British Army Intelligence and Gardai Special Branch all working together like one happy family.

HAVE TEA WITH A SPRINGBOK

In a letter to Thursday's 'Telegraph' Mr. Brian Walker, head of N.U.M. declares himself to be against apartheid. Of course he was forced into this position. The self-styled "moderate" wing of Unionism has been rather embarrassed by the whole Springbok affair. Forced, by popular demand, to make some comment, Walker has nervously twittered that apartheid is not very British.

This is surely on "issue" that will "split" the NUM - after all the only thing that keeps them together is the fact that a) they are mindless and b) they are the very people who stand to make the most out of the continuation of Unionist rule (provided of course we dress it up a bit to keep English public opinion quiet).

Mr. Walker will be carrying a placard at Ravenhill on the 29th, then? He'll be sitting down in protest against South African racialism?? He'll be shouting from the rooftops about injustice and hatred in S. Africa and thundering against the persecution of the black man and the exploitation of the great coloured majority by a small cliques of whites???

Well, actually, he won't. It's not that he's a racist or anything, mind you, but the Springboks are white gentlemen, after all. Kith and Kin and all that.

So what will wiley Walker be up to then? He tells us:

"To invite into one's home a Springbok player, to discuss the issue of apartheid would, I believe, carry more influence at this time than a mass demonstration." In other words, a few glasses of sherry in the drawing-room and a man-to-man chat, and maybe these chaps will see the light and not upset our moderate complacency.

Only one snag of course. Possibly if the homeless families of the north, if the burned-out people of Belfast, the squatters, the people living in caravans or in the slums throughout the Province were all to invite a Springbok home to tea, they might have a different point to put to them. They know, after all, what exploitation is all about - and it isn't all tea and buns.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY
Weekend School and Conference
22/23 NOVEMBER
Information and venue - enquire
84 ALBERT STREET.

they say NOMINAL RENT we say NO RENT

The Corporation have reduced rents in the chalets to what the Belfast Telegraph calls "a nominal sum". The homeless will now pay 5/6 a week or 12/6 a week. We say that they should be housed free. 12/6 is hardly a nominal rent for people burned out of houses where they paid 7/6 a week.

Three months too late the Telegraph, the Community Conference, all the politicians have realised that there is a housing crisis. We put the following demands. If carried out they could substantially improve the situation.

Requisition all empty property If the army can have the Kings Hall why can the homeless not have homes. (Use the Special Powers Act to help the homeless. A good use for once.)

Ban Luxury Hotel and Office Development The equipment of builders and contractors is tied up at sites all over Belfast building for the rich, for example a huge new hotel is going up at Great Victoria Street Station. We say switch these resources to house building.

We have three houses on our books without electricity or gas. Any help with wiring, plumbing and piping would be most welcome.

nonenties

Readers of the Belfast Telegraph have been held open mouthed and in suspense over the last few weeks as they followed the series "99 Men Who Left Their Mark On Ulster". Day after day the readership shared in the aura of the great and the supposed great - obscure civil servants cheek by jowl with clapped out actors, laid-off footballers and best-forgotten Unionist M.P.s of a bygone age. The Telegraph are currently running a competition in which readers are asked to name the 100th "great" man in Ulster's history. "Free Citizen" would like to enter into the spirit of the thing. We are offering in prizes yes! ten thousand unsold copies of last week's Telegraph FREE!! All you have to do is name ONE of the great men that the Telegraph wrote glowingly about. Yes, if you can remember even one, don't hesitate to join in the fun. If you can't remember any (which we imagine most likely) just make one up. Give him a double-barrelled name and a few military sounding letters after it - throw in a good dash of bigotry, reaction and the bulldog spirit, mouth a bit about our heritage, cloak it all in complete obscurity and send your results on a postcard to

Rogues Gallery,
Belfast Telegraph.
Who knows - someone might even read it this time.