

FREE CITIZEN

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CURRIE'S FUSILIERS

'SERGEANT' AUSTEN CURRIE HAS BEEN OUT RECRUITING AGAIN. THIS TIME HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION TO JOIN THE 'NEW' ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT. HE TOLD LAST SUNDAY'S SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CRA: 'A VERY DANGEROUS GAME OF BLUFF AND DOUBLE BLUFF IS BEING PLAYED BY BOTH THE STORMONT AND WESTMINSTER GOVERNMENTS. THE NOTORIOUS APPLICATION FORMS, SENT TO THE B-SPECIALS, THE UNDUE EMPHASIS ON THE OATH OF LOYALTY, THE TONE OF RECRUITING ADVERTISEMENTS, THE IMPORTANT ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE B-SPECIALS, ILLUSTRATE A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO KEEP NON-UNIONISTS FROM JOINING THE NEW FORCE'.

But Austen and his "non-Unionist" pals in the Green and Not-so-Green Tory parties will not be put off: "The Unionist Government will not have any control over who will or who will not be enlisted in the new force", Currie told the members of C.R.A. "Only Westminster can decide whether those who believe in a United Ireland will be admitted to the new force, and James Callaghan has already stated," he went on hopefully, "that it is no crime to believe in this ideal to be achieved by peaceful means".

charlatan

At times Currie's recruiting-sergeant oration rose to the level of low farce: looking around "to see that there were no Special Branch agents in the hall" Currie declared: "What better way than joining the U.D.R. for good Republicans to get the training, the arms and ammunition"

This charlatan ended his oration with a plea to all C.R.A. members not to be 'fooled' by the Unionists' bluff: "If the 'minority' do not join U.D.R. the Unionists will condemn us for our failure to participate in community affairs".

How terrible to be blamed by Chichester-Clarke for not joining his new militia!

Redmond

The P.D. position had earlier been put to Sunday's meeting by Mike Farrell. He stated that any armed force in N. Ireland could only be used to protect the property of British investors and their puppet ruling class in N. Ireland.

The U.D.R. will be organised under overall military control: Currie's petty, Machievellian plot to take it over is as foolish as John Redmond's advice to Irishmen at the beginning of the First World War: "Join the British Army and learn how to use their guns". Most of those who took this treacherous advice were butchered on the fields of Flanders.

Any armed force, organised on military lines, is geared to carrying out only whatever tasks the officers (who represent the ruling class) want it to do. Britain has always used the natives of colonial countries (with British Officers, of course) to oppress their fellow countrymen. The rank-and-file of the British Army, which held India for the Empire were Indians.

In 1836 the British Government set up the R.I.C. and specifically encouraged Irish Catholics to join it. Despite the fact that the majority of its members were the sons of peasants, the R.I.C. was the force which carried out evictions at the command of Irish Landlords; Although the majority of R.I.C. members were Irishmen, they were, from 1840, the principal force of British Imperialism in Ireland until the formation on the Black-and-Tans in 1920.

hacks

Who are to be the Officers of the "new" Ulster Defence Regiment? "For the meantime, we are told by the British Home Secretary, "the Officer Officers will be the present county commandants of the B-Specials".

The reason why Curry would like to recruit members of the civil rights movement into such a force is very simple: since the beginning of the civil rights movement, parliamentary politics have been superseded. People have begun to agitate for themselves and had exposed the opposition M.P.'s as the paid hacks of Green Toryism. Already the Nationalist Party has ceased to be. It is desperately important for Curry that all agitation should stop at once. Supporters of civil rights had to be told that everything was going to be put right. The Hunt Report was welcomed, praise was lavished on the unprincipled Labour Government. ANYTHING so long as it killed the civil rights movement.

EVEN RECRUITING THEM INTO THE NEW B-SPECIALS.

From Punch in 1870



"WHERE'S THE (IRISH) POLICE?"
CHIEF CONSTABLE: "H'm!— shooting landlords!— wrecking private property!— burning stores!— seizing arms!— breaking heads!— murder and intimidation!— 'Pon my word, if they go much farther I must really— DO SOMETHING!!!"

nothing changes

Switched on Corporation

The corporation electricity department claim that it takes several days, even in emergency to switch on someone's electricity.

But when it comes to ripping all the wiring out. Well that's another matter. Those sturdy lads from the "electric" are as keen as mustard. Straining at the leash to do an honest days work.

Just look what happened at 55, Willow Street. It is a perfectly good house, well a perfectly good slum compared to the average. Peter Glennan who had nowhere else to live squatted there. So just to show how worried they are about the housing problem, along came the corporation men and ripped the wiring out.

PICKETS

P.D. members have been to the fore in pickets over the continued detention of Malachy McGouran and Frank Card under the Special Powers Act.

On Thursday nearly 60 people took part in a picket on Crumlin Jail. As we go to press further pickets are planned for Friday and at 12a.m. on Saturday.

Walker rides again!

The sad case of the Northern Ireland Labour Party

In the past few weeks there has been a lot of talk about the N.I.L.P. merging with the British Labour Party. Harry Nicholas, General Secretary of the British Party, has visited Belfast and made no secret of his plan for the total absorption of the local party. The N.I.L.P. officials support the scheme and a special conference is to be held in the new year to ratify the decision.

It is not the first time that the local Labour Party has talked of merging with Transport House. The last time was in 1949 in the heated atmosphere created by the discussion of the Ireland Act at Westminster and by the activities of the militant green Tories of the Anti-Partition League. Psychiatrists talk of emotionally insecure children who, when life gets too difficult for them, want to crawl back into their mother's womb. Every time there is a crisis in N. Ireland the N.I.L.P. tries to return to the womb of the British Labour Party.

FOOLISH

The reasoning behind the move is simple and stupid. The activities of Paddy Devlin M.P. and a few other members of the N.I.L.P. have associated it with the struggle for civil rights. At the present time that doesn't make the party very popular with Protestant workers. The N.I.L.P. can hardly repudiate the Civil Rights struggle now, especially when Wilson pretends to agree with its demands. They have to find some other way of pandering to Unionist prejudice proving their 'loyalty'. Already they are pledged to 'maintain and strengthen' the link with Britain and even that hasn't worked. What better plan than to outdo even the Unionists by completely merging with a British party? Besides the scheme holds out the prospect of subsidies from London. There has always been a section of the N.I.L.P. which believed that the only reason they didn't win more seats was because they had not enough money. It never occurred to them that perhaps the electorate didn't want them.

It is easy to dismiss the blatant opportunism of the supporters of the plan. The Protestant workers are not fools. They can not be tricked into thinking that the N.I.L.P. is more Unionist than the Unionists if it is not. Discrimination, gerrymandering and repressive legislation are essential to the survival of the 6 County State. The Protestant workers know this - that's why they are so hostile to civil rights. They also know that any party

which doesn't actually support these injustices is not really a unionist party - it cannot be trusted on the constitution. If people in the

N.I.L.P. want to get Unionist voters - without converting the voters to socialist policies - there is only one way they can do it and that's by forming a Unionist Party.

WALKER v CONNOLLY

This cheap little manoeuvre raises more fundamental issues however. In the N.I.L.P. rooms in Waring St. a portrait of William Walker frowns gloomily on all who pass. The dead hand of William Walker has lain across 60 years of Labour Party history in the North. Walker was a member of the independent Labour Party and the dominant figure in the Belfast Labour movement before the 1st. World War. He twice contested the North Belfast seat for Westminster and nearly won. The second time his election agent was James Ramsay McDonald. In 1911 Walker conducted a lengthy controversy with James Connolly in the columns of the Glasgow Socialist paper 'Forward'.

The Connolly-Walker debate was about the future of the working class movement in Ireland and it raised the very issue which is being debated today. Walker was a member of a British party, the I.L.P., and even became Vice-Chairman of the British Labour Party in 1912. He argued that the Irish working class should submerge itself in the British socialist movement and struggle for socialism in the British Isles as a whole. Connolly argued that this ignored the fact that the relations between Ireland and Britain were not equal, that Ireland was exploited by an Imperialist Britain. It would be part of any socialist revolution in Ireland to end that exploitation and only a separate Irish socialist movement could carry out the anti-imperialist struggle. For the Irish working class to submerge itself in the British movement would be to capitulate to a kind of working class imperialism which was all too prevalent in the British Labour Party.

MUNICIPAL SOCIALISM

Connolly of course was right. He quoted Marx and Engels to prove the correctness of his position but it was self-evident that the establishment of socialism involved the destruction of imperialism. Walker soon revealed the reason for his apparent illogicality.

He dismissed the views of foreign theoreticians like Marx and rejected the notion that socialism involved the overthrow of capitalism or even imperialism. Socialism to him was the establishment of municipal bath-houses and gas-works Belfast Corporation had done far

more for socialism in Ireland than Connolly and his supporters.

In fact Walker was not a socialist at all. He was a sort of left wing liberal who would probably be very satisfied with the welfare state in Northern Ireland today. He was also a complete opportunist. He had never seen any conflict between being a socialist and an Orangeman and under pressure from the Belfast Protestant Association during an election campaign he agreed that he would defend the laws prohibiting Catholics from the succession to the crown of England and that he would put his protestantism before his socialism if they conflicted in any way. In 1912 he got a good job under the National Insurance Acts and left the labour movement for good.

Walker typified the N.I. Labour Party. It has never been a socialist party. Its leaders have always been the mildest of reformers whose demands for a slightly better health service or higher unemployment benefit could easily be satisfied within the existing system. Because their demands are so modest that they have never had to face the economic facts of life in Northern Ireland; that full employment and houses for all cannot be implemented here because the lion's share of capital and profit is drained off by Britain, and what little remains is used in the interests of bosses and shareholders, not of the people.

IMPERIALISM

Since the N.I.L.P. has never faced the issues and recognised the necessity for a working class based movement to oppose imperialism and stand for a socialist republic, they have been able to forge a purely superficial unity of the working-class based on ignoring the border and discrimination and concentrating solely on economic issues. That they have had some success in this is shown by the fact that they won four seats in the Stormont elections of 1958 and 1962 and collected 100,000 votes in the Westminster General Election of 1964. But the unity has been very fragile and caved in under stress. A pointer came in 1966 when Rocky Burns, a former active member of Woodvale branch was jailed for his part in the Malvern Street murder murders. Membership of the Labour Party had not had much success in rooting out sectarianism in Rocky Burns. The recent crisis exposed the shallowness of the Labour Party's non-sectarian working-class consciousness. Relations between the Labour Party branches on the

LAW FOR LANDLORDS

There can be no doubt that the courts are conducting a campaign of judicial persecution against civil rights supporters. There should be no surprise at this. The courts are not the impartial instruments of justice which Unionist propagandists like us to believe they are part of the machinery of British Imperialism and always have been. They act against Irish workers, protestant or catholic, and always have done.

It was a county court judge who granted £ $\frac{1}{4}$ million to Bairnsweat's British shareholders a few weeks ago to make good the reduced profits on their investments. No court has made good the wages lost to Irish workers as a result of the August riots. The highest court in the land is the British House of Lords, who represent the hereditary property owners. Not suprisingly they decided recently that the Lough Neagh fishermen did not own the fish that they caught (see story on back page) because King James 1st had "granted" them to Sir Arthur Chichester in the 17th. century. And so when the Toome Eel Fisheries employ armed bandits to rob the Lough Neagh fishermen of their catch, it does so with the full backing of the judicial system.

When the Unionist government denies Republicans the right to form political associations the House of Lords again agrees.

When it is a case between British property owners and Irish workers, the courts will always support the rights of the property owners. When the puppets of British imperialism -- the Unionist junta of landlords and businessmen -- are threatened, the courts will help to crush the threat however much the people's liberties have to be taken away to achieve that end.

Yet to talk, as some do, of "more catholic jurymen" or "more catholic magistrates" is as fatuous as a call for "more catholic hangmen". The Unionist government appoint their trusty lackeys to the bench to make sure that judgements are in line with government policy, what church the lackey goes to is not important. The first Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland was a catholic. The President of the Incorporated Law Society at the moment is a catholic and has issued a statement

supporting the judiciary.

As long as Ireland, North and South, is exploited by imperialism and its local agents, the Green and Orange Tories, so long will "justice" be on the side of property. Not all the Catholic policemen, judges and hangmen will change that inexorable law one jot. Capitalist injustice will be ousted only by people's justice in the workers republic.

Sad Case of the N.I.L.P. (contd. from Page 2)

Falls and Shankill were non-existent. Woodvale branch tried to have Paddy Devlin expelled for his part in the defence of the Falls. Branches which had an integrated membership took no action lest they might alienate one or other section of their members members.

Walkerite opportunism has had a long line of successors in the N.I.L.P. Harry Midgley who dominated the party in the 1930's left it in 1943 to form a Commonwealth Labour Party which upheld not only the link with Britain but the link with the Empire as well. Midgley ended up as a Unionist Cabinet Minister. Harry Holmes Chairman of the Party in 1946, became Unionist M.P. for St. Annes, and more recently Billy Boyd, Labour M.P. for Woodvale fell into the same trap as Walker in a minor way, when, under clerical pressure he voted against opening swings on a Sunday. Currently Boyd and David Bleakley, another ex M.P. are personally associated with the New Ulster Movement. The new move is just another chapter of the same story.

This dispute is of interest to P.D. members because the N.I.L.P. still contains many genuine working-class militants. To win these people to a real socialist analysis it is necessary not just to oppose the proposed merger with the British Labour Party, but to take this opportunity to pose the alternative of a socialist republic. Nothing will be gained by sticking to the status quo but, though the opportunists will carry the day against the socialist republic, the best militants will then leave the N.I.L.P. and may take part in forming a genuine socialist party.

A word of warning is necessary however. Just as there is a long tradition of Walkerite opportunism in the N.I.L.P. so there has been a long tradition of those who leave the party, ostensibly over the issue of imperialism, going over to the green Tories. The worst example was Frank Hanna, ex M.P. for Central and prominent Knight of Columbanus.

bits

letters

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

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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.

gifts

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.

A new East Belfast P.D. is being formed. Contact John Curley through H.Q.

Remember the shop and the enquiry service now run from Diamonds at the corner of Plevna and Cyprus Street

William McMullan, a friend of Connolly's and an ex-M.P. ended up by supporting a Nationalist candidate in S. Down in 1938. Even Jack Beattie, a presbyterian and a genuine, though confused radical refused to attack the Nationalists. Today Paddy Devlin M.P., a former militant in the N.I.L.P. is indistinguishable from McAteer, Currie and Company. There is no point in swapping pale pink opportunism for the emerald green variety. A real socialist party should have no more truck with green than orange Tories.

APPLICATION FORM

I would like to enroll as a member of Peoples Democracy

NAME

ADDRESS

ALL DONATIONS VERY WELCOME.

Give this to your local group, or send direct to:
P.D., 84 Albert St, Belfast. 12.

FISHERMEN PERSECUTED

Already this year three Lough Neagh fishermen have been sent to jail, one has been heavily fined, and twenty have lost their fishing licences in a continuing battle against exploitation by Toome Eel Fisheries.

On Monday a further three men come up in court in Toomebridge. James Coney, Francis and Tony McVey are variously charged with trespassing, illegal possession of eels and obstructing bailiffs.

What is the background to this bitter struggle? Lough Neagh is the richest eel fishery in Europe. At the time of the plantations these fishing rights were granted to London companies. Ever since local fishermen have had to scratch for a living while foreign businessmen reap in the profits.

originally the rights were granted to Sir Arthur Chichester, an ancestor of Major James Chichester-Clarke. Sir Arthur even renamed the Lough, Lake Chichester. More recently Sir Arthur's descendant Lord Donegall sold the fishing rights on the lough to a Dutch Company for £150,000.

Now the men are exploited more effectively than ever before. Ten armed bailiffs patrol the Lough in hydrofoils, they do this with the full backing of the law, indeed recently the company was able to draft in the army to search the fishermen's boats for arms. In a recent judgement Judge Fox said "bailiffs should use all means possible to stop this illegal fishing" Bailiffs have taken the judge at his word and ram boats which are far out in the Lough.

There are 24 separate laws regulating the activities of the fishermen. They are for example compelled to fish by line, in order the company says to prevent over fishing. Yet on one night this year the company using trawls netted 72 tons of eels worth approximately £23,000. The Company makes an average profit of £500,000 a year

We believe that the courts are merely attempting to legalise theft when they back the Toome Eel Fisheries against the men on the lough We will be there on Monday in Toomebridge to show our solidarity against such exploitation. N.B. for Jack Lynch. The Free State Government allows foreign interests to continue their exploitation of Irish waters in a similar fashion. The River Boyne is a case in point. The struggle of the fishermen must go on North and South.

P.D. IN NEWRY

P.D. will be holding a meeting on the topic "Civil Rights North and South in Newry Town Hall on Friday 12th. December at 8p.m. P.D. supporters from both North and South will take part.

FERMANAGH MEETING

In Newtownbutler, on Monday, a large crowd were addressed by Austin Currie M.P., John Carron M.P., Paddy Kennedy M.P., and Aidan Corrigan. The meeting was billed as a "Civil Rights" meeting although neither Fermanagh Civil Rights Association nor Fermanagh P.D. were invited to attend.

Mr. Austin Currie M.P. made his usual speech in favour of joining the U.D.R.; Mr. John Carron praised the men who fought the police in Newtownbutler in 1949; Mr. Aidan Corrigan condemned the judiciary; Mr. Paddy Kennedy M.P. said he was a member of the Republican Movement and condemned P.D. for advocating a socialist republic.

Mr. Kennedy told a Republican who attempted to interrupt him that he had forgotten more about Republicanism than the heckler had ever known. He also challenged Peoples Democracy to debate the issue with him.

Afterwards a spokesman for Fermanagh P.D. said - "We will arrange the debate as soon as possible. The "Republican Labour Party" is neither republican, socialist or a party".

here now

The P.D. bookshop and enquiry centre is changing its address this Monday. The new location is in Diamonds shop, at the corner of Cyprus and Plevna Street. Belfast P.D. meetings will still be held at 84 Albert Street.

The new shop will be open regularly from 11a.m. till 6p.m.

WAKE UP LENNON!

Senator Gerry Lennon, after a significant silence of twenty-five years has at last put the record straight. Speaking at The Ardmore Hotel, Newry at the weekend, to a hushed and tense audience of ten of his closest buddies, Gerry has revealed all. Why has he been silent these last 25 years? He's been thinking up something to say - "twenty-five years of beating my head against a stone wall; twenty-five years of frustration". But now he's come up with the answer. Yes! believe it or not, Gerry has been carrying on the traditions of the Irish Party over the last few decades, in his own unobstrusive way - blissfully oblivious of changed times in Ireland since The Irish Parliamentary Party, after making ineffectual fools of themselves for a century in Westminster, were unanimously kicked out by Sinn Fein in 1918.

FASCIST WRECKED OWN MEETING AS PUBLICITY STUNT

Tonight (Thursday) Brian Cathcart of the Queen's "Look at Biafra Group" admitted that the disturbance at the inaugural meeting of the right-wing Monday Club last Monday was a result of collusion between himself and Chris Kingston, Director of the Monday Club.

Anyone who bothered to make even the most cursory examination of the facts could see this. The evidence was as follows:-

1) A written schedule for the disturbances at the meeting was prepared by Cathcart and Kingston, there are numerous witnesses to this.

2) On the day of the meeting Kingston issued a block of tickets for the meeting to Cathcart.

3) One hour before the meeting the "Look at Biafra Group" held a meeting at which final arrangements were made for the disturbances, this meeting was held in the club room at the Students Union. Monday Club members attended this meeting, and so must have been aware of what was going to happen.

4) Kingston invited the press and television, informing them that he expected trouble at the meeting (he could rely on the Telegraph and Newsletter to fall for this trick)

5) Kingston, Director of the Monday Club, is publicity officer for the "Look at Biafra" group.

6) Cathcart and Kingston share the same digs.

The Belfast Telegraph and the Newsletter wrote editorials condemning radical students at Queens. They made no effort to find out the true facts. The only enquiry the whole affair merits is one into the role of the press -- and their squalid enthusiasm for jumping on an ill constructed fascist bandwagon.

Gerry is proud to be the last surviving member of that illustrious collection of opportunists, green-tories, and sellers-out. He's also proud of being a green orangeman - sorry a Hibernian. He has some fine words to say about that Institution; "The A.O.H. was the fighting machine behind the old Irish Party, which had laid the foundation on which the present States existed in both parts of Ireland and for the Welfare State now enjoyed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. But for the Irish Party votes in the British Commons there might not have been the present National Insurance Act or Old Age Pensions".

It seems that the noise of the people on the streets during the last year has disturbed the slumber of this Rip Van Winkle of the party of Redmond and Wee Joe Devlin. Sorry, Gerry, go back to sleep. We'll wake you when it's all over!