

NOT FOR SALE

Civil Rights take-over by Right-wing resisted

SOME WEEKS AGO WE POINTED OUT THAT FIANNA FAIL WANTED TO GET CONTROL OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION. WE HAD HOPED THAT FIANNA FAIL COULD TAKE A HINT AND UNDERSTAND THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT HAVE NO TIME FOR THEM. APPARENTLY NOT! THE "SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE" CLING TO THE BELIEF THAT THEY CAN BUY THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

The December issue of "The United Irishman" raises the question again. A whole page of the newspaper is devoted to the subject. ("The United Irishman" is the monthly paper of the Republican Movement. It is banned under the Special Powers Act). The article makes the following charges:-

that Hugh Kennedy, managing director of "Voice of the North" is an agent of Fianna Fail.

that Aidan Corrigan of Dungannon is involved in the Fianna Fail plot.

HOUSES PLAN

The government has bowed to pressure and has now offered Belfast Corporation 7/6 in the pound towards the cost of purchasing suitable houses for homeless families. The government will only do this if one eighth of the cost is met out of the rates.

The other night there were more than 280 advertisement s for empty houses in the City. If the corporation really attempted to purchase all empty property for the homeless, all those without homes at the moment, or in the squalor of huts and caravans could have a decent roof over their head by Christmas. Mr. Faulkener did say "suitable housing". If this means that people burnt out of slums must go back to slums then the agony of homelessness and cramped quarters will continue. The corporation must purchase good housing as well as bad.

We advise all those who are at present squatting. Those who have no rent books, or who cannot afford to buy the house in which they are squatting to go and see the corporation and ask them to purchase the house. If the corporation does this hundreds of squatters could get security of tenure, rights to various benefits which were disallowed because they are at present squatting, and also the corporation would assume responsibility for repairs. If you go report the reaction of the corporation to us.

that "Voice of the North" is subsidised by Fianna Fail to the tune of £400 per week.

that Fianna Fail money has been used to buy up membership cards of N.I.C.R.A.

that Seamus Brady, a Fianna Fail, agent, writes in "Voice of the North" under the name "Sean Mitchel".

that Messrs. Blaney, Boland and Haughey are the Fianna Fail ministers chiefly involved.

true or false

These are serious charges. We do not think that the "United Irishman" has made them lightly. It is time that "Voice of the North" made a detailed reply to them.

SHOP AND ADVICE CENTRE

The P.D. Bookshop and Advice Centre has now moved to:-
105 Plevna Street,
Belfast 12.

Opening Hours 11.30 a.m.
to 6.30 p.m.

GIRO ACCOUNT

Distributors outside Belfast should pay all money through our Post Office Giro Account

Giro 68 101 2005

We know that there are a number of groups who would like to dominate N.I.C.R.A. Recently one of these groups, led by Dr. McCloskey of Dungannon, criticized the People's Democracy. He said that we published a 'Scandal Sheet'. Some people are afraid of the truth. McCloskey is annoyed because we revealed that his in-clique is subsidised by the American fascist, Heaney.

It is said that the man who pays the piper calls the tune. We are not going to dance to any tune called by American fascists. Neither are we impressed by Fianna Fail tricks. The Civil Rights Movement is not for sale, and the sooner every would-be leader understands this the better.



REMEMBER SERGEANT CURRIE, I'M YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A NON-SECTARIAN FORCE - SO SHOOT EVERYTHING THAT MOVES!

ARMAGH CELEBRATES ITINERANTS' WEEK

P.D. members will be glad to know that the loudly proclaimed Itinerants settlement week has not been forgotten in Armagh.

With typical mealy-mouthedness the usual platitudes were urged from pulpit and boardroom and the cynical prelates drew the usual parallels with the Christmas story. However in Armagh it was still "no room at the Inn" for the itinerant Maugham family of 9 children.

Their story illustrates:-

The lengths to which the R.U.C. will go to carry out the prejudiced wishes of local bigoted elements.

The tardiness and neglect of recognised Catholic Relief Agencies, again acting in accord with local prejudice.

The trickery and double talk which Local Authorities use to hide their shameful prejudice against itinerants.

How local businessmen will use every means and every scrap of influence which their money can command to ensure that gypsies are "moved on".

Some P.D. members in Armagh have interested themselves specifically in the plight of Itinerants. Since the summer they have had conversations with various itinerant families and the question that they have always asked has been whether the Itinerants would prefer to live in a house. The answer was always the same - they wanted houses.

Itinerant mother after mother listed the numerous ailments which their children suffered and which could be directly attributed to their exposure to the awful Irish winter. Why then wouldn't they just squat in a vacant house? After all thousands of other families have been faced by the harsh housing shortage and vicious rents demanded for new houses to do just this. The travelling people smiled at the naïveté.

But the P.D. men were not discouraged and when the father of the Maugham family told them at the beginning of November that his young son was soon to be discharged from hospital after an ear operation and that he couldn't possibly recover if he had to sleep in the tent which was the only accommodation of the Maughams and their nine children, the P.D. decided that a house had to be found.

intimidated

A suitable house was found in Abbey Lane and that night the Maugham family and members of the P.D. celebrated the moving in of the family with a few tunes and a bottle of stout (Mr. Maugham is a native Irish speaker and told stories about the late Johnny Doran -- the great travelling piper who was so tragically killed by a passing car --

his loss to traditional music is irreplaceable).

But the bigots and reactionaries were not at peace. The next day a local business man whose shop happens to be near where the Maughams squatted threatened Niall Vallely that he personally would move a family of itinerants into Mr. Vallely's brother's house as a reprisal for the terrible thing that had been done. How could he possibly ask decent people to enter his shop while contemptible itinerants lived only a few doors away? This man's role in ensuring the eventual eviction of the gypsies and the unwillingness of the St. Vincent de Paul to provide some badly needed furniture for the family is the most despicable tale in an intrigue which meant that the local support and encouragement necessary for an itinerant family to settle would not be forthcoming.

As mentioned above P.D. members approached the St. Vincent de Paul to see if help could be given in this case. No help was given.

Then in rapid succession the local R.U.C. managed to pin two charges of theft of scrap metal on two members of the Maugham family. The Maughams learnt that they could expect the R.U.C. to badger and intimidate them as long as they remained in one spot.

Then the local council referred to the case at their meeting. Could the itinerants be evicted queried one councillor? Not unless all the other squatters in the town were evicted came the reply of Don Ryan, Armagh's Town Clerk (and wouldn't you just love to do that Don!) Then the bogey of the dangerous condition of the building was raised. Anxious councillors, hypocrites to a man, shed crocodile tears about the danger of the building collapsing; -- and all the time the pressure to get out mounted against the Maughams.

ordered out

What finally broke their resolve to settle was a police threat that the Maughams would be associated with serious charges soon to be pressed against members of the Armagh P.D. Had the police themselves not seen leading members of Armagh P.D. constantly going in and out of their house? Was it not well known, the police thugs suggested, that every evil communist plot in Armagh was hatched at their very hearth? Better get out now or God knows how long they would get in jail.

Incredible as it may seem the police fed this mumbo-jumbo to the Maughams and it worked. Well acquainted with the summary justice of N.I. courts, any such threat had to be seriously weighed.

And so the Maugham family are

again on the side of the road. Their children who had started at the local school no longer turned up for lessons. The sick boy sleeps now in a wet tent beside the Keady-Armagh road.

Orange and Green Tory reaction had beaten them. Non-cooperation from religious relief agencies had made their stay that little but more difficult. Police threats had finally convinced them.

remember

Readers should ponder the following

- 1) 6,129 itinerant children were born in 1960.
- 2) 363(7%) died before the age of one month.
- 3) 782(15%) died before the age of one year.
- 4) There are few old itinerants,

- LETTERS -

A reader from Hollywood would like further articles on people's rights, to help stop people being intimidated by the authorities: "We cannot expect any change in the Unionist Government. But I fear if someone does not spell things out to the people before the general election, the Orange Order will be in for another term of office, and it's been there already fifty years too long".

Joe Finnegan in Lancashire sees the Unionist Government as encouraging sectarian employment ----- for, as he points out, "Too much work in N. Ireland would undermine the Government's ability to play the workers off against each other. This would mean Protestant and Catholic uniting in trade unions to strive for just wages, better living conditions etc., not as two sectarian bodies, but as people. The more work introduced into N. Ireland the sooner sectarianism will disappear, and one would hope the true necessity - the setting up of a true people's Government - would be effected by the power of a strong united trade-union movement."

A reader in Armagh points to the inability and unwillingness of the Stormont regime to make any real changes: Even after the appointment of Sir Arthur Young (to whitewash the R.U.C.'s reputation), many months have passed and nothing has changed. When Sir Arthur visited Armagh, the local P.D. told him that action was expected over the Gallagher murder. Four months later and the "suspected" B-men are still on duty.

And an Anderstown reader comments "I was fascinated by your article last week on the Lough Neagh fishermen. Could we have a further article on this topic. It seems to me that the whole farce of the Toome Eel Fisheries has gone on long enough.

SPECIAL! holiday supplement

'We should be proud that we have been trailblazers in so many fields'. (The Right Honourable Major J.D. Chichester-Clark). This statement did not, as many first thought, refer to the fields around Burntollet Bridge, rather, it was supposed to refer to the field of tourism. Bouncy Bradford, that cuddly bundle of fun has told our hoteliers that our recent 'troubles' may have a positive effect upon tourism. And so for the morbid sight/site seers and our wonderful Government FREE CITIZEN is proud to donate this page of holiday advertising completely free of charge.

COME TO NORTHERN IRELAND THE PLACE WHERE ITS ALL BEEN HAPPENING! THRILL TO STAND ON THE VERY SPOT WHERE BOMBAY STREET USED TO BE. VISIT THE ROMANTIC BOGSIDE!

Take a Trip

Why not take a trip to the exotic caravans where squatters will be only too proud to tell you their stories, full of gratitude for all that the Government has done for them. Maybe you'll even get a glimpse of a mysterious squatter being 'helped to move' by the wonderful British Army. Perhaps a visit to the fair countryside for a sight of a patrolling B-Special - the world famous defenders of 'law and order'. Alternatively, a journey up to Stormont to see the appalling

poverty of our governors, labouring day and night on our behalf, and at our expense.

Her Majesty's Hotel

Accommodation is no problem. Within a stone's throw of the legendary Falls and Shankill stands one of Her Majesty's very own hotels. Admissions is no problem either. Merely get a colourful poster, (obtainable free from the exciting and subversive PEOPLES DEMOCRACY) stick it on any wall and show it to a helpful soldier or a new revised blue pig, and he'll see that you stay at the big hotel for anything up to two months. But for those who feel in need of a real rest the Government in their boundless generosity have passed a SPECIAL law giving them the powers to give unlimited holidays to especially deserving cases. This offer is extraordinarily generous because you don't even have to do anything to qualify. (In warning we should say that you had better hurry to avail yourself of this offer, since two men have already been granted this privilege and the Government seems to discriminate in favour of non-Unionists - not one loyalist has yet been granted these holiday benefits).

So come to glorious N.Ireland and keep that great patriot Jonny Brooke in a job. Why should this man be sacked just because he's incompetent and corrupt? Fair play for fools!

Teachers' Strike

The teachers have called off their token strike, which was to have taken place on December 18th. Instead, there are likely to be prolonged strikes in the new year. The very fact that teachers, usually a very conservative group in Ireland, are talking about strike-action must shatter a few illusions.

Their employers have always relied on moral blackmail - that strikes would damage the educational chances of the children. The teachers in the past have meekly accepted the blackmail and have failed to point out that any strike action by a group of workers undertaken seriously has a disruptive effect on society. Indeed if it had not, the strike as a weapon would be non-existent.

The other illusion is that held by some teachers themselves. They have been fond of describing themselves as a 'profession' hoping that in this way they will be clearly differentiated from mere 'workers'. But mere bleatings about 'professional status' will not force the government to concede wage demands - these can only be won by concerted action of militant teachers organized into trade unions.

Because of the many teachers who have become convinced that their real interest lie in solidarity with other workers, white-collar or otherwise, in the trade-union movement the true worth of a teacher can never be accorded to him in our type of society, as it can never be accorded to any worker since capitalism by its very nature distorts and destroys any real values. The increasing militancy of teachers is a recognition their interests along with the miners, dustmen and car-workers are at the whim of a system they do not control. The alternative is plain-control of society by workers themselves as a step towards the destruction of capitalism and the creation of a socialist society.

THUGGERY!

Last Monday Neil Blaney, pseudo republican and Fianna Fail minister made a speech in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Blaney's speech was delivered in the "Golden Grill" restaurant. The "Golden Grill" is owned by Blaney's fellow-chancer, Senator McGlinchey. Blaney's speech received a great deal of attention. Not so much attention was paid to an incident outside the "Golden Grill".

A picket was mounted on the restaurant by Letterkenny Republicans. The picketers carried placards calling attention to emigration from Donegal and unemployment in the county. It is well-known that after 50 years of the "Free State" Donegal's chief export is its people. Meanwhile thugs like Blaney and gombeen men like McGlinchey grow rich from politics.

Before the arrival of Blaney at the restaurant Senator McGlinchey led a party of Fianna Fail thugs in an attack on the picketers. This attack was not prevented by the Gardai. No charge has been brought against Senator McGlinchey.

This is how peaceful protest is treated in the gombeen "republic". In the 6 Counties we have experienced Unionist "Justice". It seems that things are no better South of the Border. Blaney has a nerve to speak about "the Republic"! Did Connolly and Mellows die so that Fianna Fail hacks could attack peaceful picketers?

arrogance

The Unionist Party has always been arrogant. Protest against it has been treated as impertinence. Protestors have been kicked and beaten by both police and Unionist supporters. Fianna Fail is also arrogant. If you scratch a gombeen politician, if you confront him with the fact of emigration in the "Free State" his first reaction is to attack you.

During the past year the arrogant 6-County Unionists have reaped the whirlwind of revolt against injustice. It will not be long before their 26 Counties allies are confronted by a similar revolt.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LETTERKENNY PICKETERS!

You have got the gombeen men worried! Now is the time to keep at them.

APPLICATION FORM

I would like to enroll as a member of Peoples Democracy.

NAME

ADDRESS

ALL DONATIONS VERY WELCOME.

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105, Plevna St., BELFAST, 12.

british tory chief in dublin. urges federalism

In Dublin, last weekend, Quintin Hogg added his contribution to the discussion among British and Irish politicians about possible changes in the Government of Ireland Act. Hogg suggested an Anglo-Hibernian Council with representatives from Westminster, Stormont and Leinster House

The idea is not new. Jack Lynch recently spoke of a "Federal" solution to the Irish question. Jack will be grateful to find one of his political bosses giving him a bit of encouragement.

It is, however, no accident that Q. Hogg should raise this particular idea now. Hogg is an intelligent and articulate spokesman of the British ruling class. He does not, unlike some of our own politicians, make speeches just to hear the sound of his voice. As Shadow Minister of Home Affairs and the leading Tory Party spokesman on Irish affairs Hogg recently addressed the Tory Party Conference on the subject of the North.

This speech was widely acclaimed. In it Hogg admitted the lack of Civil Rights in the 6 Cos., said that this would have to be remedied, condemned "extremists on both sides" and emphasized that change in the Unionist state would have to come with the minimum disruption of economic life.

The British Tory Party has never been on the side of the people of this country. It was the Tory Party which encouraged Carson and Craig to oppose Home Rule. The Unionist Party has been for 50 years a section of the Tory Party. Why do the Tories now chide their Unionist friends?

INTERESTS

It is not because the Tories have suddenly had a change of heart and decided to promote freedom and justice in Ireland. The Tory Party and Mr. Hogg have always known the situation in the 6 Counties. If they now decide to encourage "reform" in the Unionist state it is not for sentimental reasons. It is because the interests of the system which they represent have changed.

How have these interests changed? At the beginning of this century the North East of Ireland had most of the country's industry. The Orange capitalists who owned this industry needed to sell their goods on the British market. Loss of free access to this market would have affected their profits.

Sinn Fein which controlled the politics of the National Liberation Movement at that time had a definite policy for the economic development of the country. Arthur Griffith - the chief theoretician of Sinn Fein - advocated an independent Ireland in which Irish capitalists could set up manufacturing industry in competition with British capitalists.

To give the Irish capitalists a chance, Sinn Fein proposed to put heavy import duties on foreign manufactured goods: This policy would have meant that the N. Eastern Orange capitalists would have been cut off from the British market. For this reason they fiercely and successfully opposed a Sinn Fein united Ireland.

The Orange capitalists were supported by the British ruling class which owned property all over Ireland. It was afraid that an independent Ireland might decide to nationalize foreign owned businesses.

In the 1920's, then, Quintin Hogg's party supported Partition. Today it is not so concerned with the issue. What has changed?

The attempt to set up an independent Irish capitalism in the 'Free State' has failed. Increasingly both parts of Ireland are dominated by foreign business interests. Both Lynch and Clarke are keen to attract foreign capital. Both Leinster House and Stormont today act as policemen of these interests in Ireland. At present Ireland is the second biggest market for British exports in the world. As far as the British ruling class is concerned they no longer fear a united capitalist Ireland.

So we find Hogg advocating co-operation between Stormont, Leinster and Westminster. The British ruling class want to "solve the Irish question". They want to have peace in Ireland because agitation, riots, strikes, burning of property interferes with their profits.

Hogg cares no more for the Irish people than Churchill or Lloyd George did. He is merely looking for a smoother way to cheat us. In this he will have the co-operation of both Lynch and Chichester-Clarke.

«OPPOSITION»

Not only that - he will also get the support of alleged opponents of Unionism like e.g. the new Opposition Coalition.

Austin Currie, already committed to support of the new 'B' Specials commented on Hogg's speech: "His emphasis on bridge building will be welcomed except for a few extremists". Eddie McAteer - "nationalist" leader said: "I urge both the Belfast and Dublin governments to take Mr. Hogg's hint - without waiting for London to force the initiative. Nothing but good can come from such a get-together." Gerry Fitt - "Republican Labour" - "sensible sentiments".

Brian Walker - Numbskull chief - "it could rebound to the obvious economic and social benefit of ourselves and our friends in the south."

What about these gentlemen then? Walker is, of course, a spokesman for the northern middle class. He knows what he wants - "peaceful" exploitation which will keep the profits rolling in.

Currie, McAteer and Fitt claim to represent the interests of the people. If they do why do they not explain what Hogg means?

Are they too stupid? Probably not. It is more likely that they know which side their bread is buttered on. They continually conceal information from "their people". Hogg is no friend of the Irish people. Neither are the politicians who agree with him.

bits

letters

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

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