

P.D. VOICE

newspaper of the people's democracy

NUMBER TWO

August
1969

PRICE SIXPENCE

monthly

PEOPLE FIGHT OPPRESSORS

Derry, Dungiven, Lurgan Hooker Street — The Twelfth week-end saw an explosion of violence throughout the North. Widely condemned, it is more important to understand them.

In Derry the backbone of the Civil Rights movement has always been the huge rotting slum of the Bogside. The people there revolted against the slums, the unemployment, and the fact that their city was run by a hostile privileged junta whom they could never influence. Ten months, many marches, and an election later, they still live in slums, they're still out of work, and the Unionist Corporation has been replaced by an equally remote and un-representative Commission.

Meanwhile the police have 3 times terrorised their area and have never been brought to justice. The Civil Rights movement seems to them to have failed. It is little wonder these people despair and turn to rioting.

Key Installations

"Last night members of the 'B' Specials and the RUC were guarding two Union Jacks in Newry.

The USC members were on duty at Sharp's Corner on the Belfast-Newry road, where earlier a flag-pole had been ripped down and the flag ripped off it."

Belfast Telegraph, July 5th 1969

At last we know what those vital installations are that have been so heavily guarded for the last 2 months. Strange too that such precautions are taken in Newry when in Dungiven Orangemen were permitted to rip down Civil Rights banners while the police stood by

TORIES OUT!

"The Strabane branch of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers has sent a letter to the Strabane Civil Rights Association asking for the resignation of any member who dissociates himself from the points put forward in the interests of the workers and the unemployed by Miss Bernadette Devlin M.P. at the meeting after the Strabane march. The letter adds that the A.S.W. had covered the same points in a press release three weeks ago." Irish Times, July 11th, 1969.

Elsewhere the pattern is the same, In Dungiven and Lurgan

the people have seen at first hand the partisan behaviour of the Unionist Government. In Lurgan Civil Rights marches have been forced into the Catholic ghetto. In Dungiven the Orangemen have marched up and down with complete impunity. Hooker Street too is a neglected run-down, working-class area which progress and re-development have passed by.

Responsibility

The Civil Rights movement cannot disclaim all responsibility for these events. These people are the oppressed for whom the movement has been fighting. It raised their hopes but their condition has not changed. Now they are beginning to despair. It is no use C.R. organisations washing their hands of the situation. They have got to solve it.

The 12th saw this outburst because a year of protest and contemptuous government reaction culminated in the Unionist hierarchy brashly indentifying themselves and their government with the sectarian Orange Order. Chichester-Clark reverted right back to the Brookeborough tradition with his bitter and bigoted speech in Moneymore. This was the concrete evidence that nothing had really changed since October 5th.

The explosion had a sectarian taint because without an alternative outlet people vented their frustration in the traditional manner against flags and bands. That they did so was also a reflection of the failure of the Civil Rights movement to instil into its supporters an immunity to sectarian provocation.

Jamboree

After the 12th-week the C.R. movement should know itself a little better. It should know that it is useless to just condemn and disclaim responsibility.

This type of explosion will continue every time there is a sectarian jamboree until the people can feel that the underlying causes are being remedied. Civil Rights supporters should also recognise that, just as many working-class Protestants live in slums and are out of work, so the Protestant ghettos like the Fountain will also continue to erupt until they are re-housed.

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Police flee Bogside

TRAVELLING ON...

A group of itinerants who had camped on vacant ground between Old Lodge Road and the Shankill were moved on by Belfast Corporation after protests and threats by the thuggish Shankill Road Defence Association. Some years ago Belfast Corporation spent more on erecting a fence at the Shore Road to keep the itinerants out than would have provided a decent well-equipped camping site for them. The Corporation has still provided no sites.

On this occasion the hapless itinerants settled at Beechmount, off the Falls Road, and members of the P.D. tried to give them some assistance. They didn't get much chance as the outraged local residents and the energetic Republican Labour Councillor for the area — and member of the Belfast C.R.A. Committee — got the Corporation to move them out of Beechmount as well.

A typical comment: "The People's Democracy are very

worried about the itinerants being shifted from Beechmount, but the people of Beechmount will be glad to see the last of them.

The P.D. also accuse Belfast Corporation of apartheid, which is absolute nonsense. Let them come here and see the shocking state of this place, and talk to the residents, then maybe they'll stop talking nonsense.

Hygiene, Beechmount".
Belfast Telegraph, June 25, '69

Bedfellows

The itinerant issue makes strange bed-fellows. Not only did the respectable Catholic re-themselves agreeing with the Shankill Defence Association, but with Joe Burns, extremist M.P. for North Derry. "Mr. Burns said it was time that these itinerants from another country should be sent back. After all it was much further South where the sun always shone. These

people should be kept moving, South instead of being allowed to come North."

Newsletter, June 11, 1969.

Ignored

A final word. *SOME* of the Beechmount residents were well-disposed to the itinerants and protested at their forcible removal.

It is understandable that people get annoyed at itinerants camping on vacant ground near their houses and causing a mess because of the lack of facilities. But their anger should be directed against Belfast Corporation and other local authorities who have cynically ignored this problem for years. It is a simple matter to provide a camping site. Several local authorities have done it successfully in the 26 counties. It could save a lot of hardship, misery, disease... and death.

A READER SAYS...

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as one very much interested in the cause of Civil Rights. I am a convinced believer in P.D. and have taken part in many pickets and protests.

Let me congratulate you on the publication of P.D. Voice which I found witty, informative, intelligent and revealing. I see you are inviting articles so I just started to think what you could do to get the paper on its feet. Being a convinced Connolly socialist — one who believes in political freedom through economic freedom I suggest the following.

In each edition, starting as soon as possible you could educate the people in James Connolly's socialism. In this way the people who read your paper would know where they stand in relation to (1) a United Ireland (2) Paisleyism (3) Green Toryism (worst of all) (4) Marches, pickets, sit-downs etc.

When all's said and done it will only be through political activity that all Civil Rights will be granted and I think that, since the NILP stands for the unity of Protestant and Catholic worker in their economic and social fight for a decent living, the hope for the future of this part of Ireland lies in a Labour Party, socialists, democratic, non-sectarian, strong in belief and hope, and totally opposed to Paisleyism, Green Toryism, and political hypocrisy.

There are too many of the wrong type of people leading (?) the C.R. movement. Only to-day I hear Chichester-Clark saying how he welcomed the fact that some Opposition M.P.s were satisfied with his time-table of reforms! Is the C.R. movement

going to be betrayed and killed by "half-a-loaves" in the same way all the struggles for Irish freedom in the past were betrayed?

It's important that those who can see through the bluff, the promises, the bribes, the cat and mouse acts, of the Unionists and their landed gentry who will do everything to maintain that status quo — that those people should warn and educate the unfortunate people who once again are being betrayed and exploited.

The issues involved in this struggle for Civil Rights are, at root, social and economic and since most of the people denied civil rights — including those who don't realise they're denied any — are working class, nobody will be able to say the fight is over, because the freedom of a country can only be assessed by finding out how free are the working class. Free from what? Free from exploitation, corruption, lack of industrial rights and privileges, and divisions which have always been deliberately fostered to maintain the status quo.

The C.R. movement has achieved one great feat in my view. It has succeeded in bringing the Orange money-eyed Tory and the Green money-eyed Tory closer together and in some cases had achieved a complete union. It now faces a bigger and more difficult task: to bring together the Orange workers and the Green worker and that will only be done when both — especially the Orange — can see that it is in their economic interest to come together.

Socialist, Armagh.

(Name and address supplied)



SPOT THE COP

The man in this photograph and a companion mingled with the crowd in Dungiven on June 28th when the Orangemen marched through. Were they just ordinary "loyalists" cheering their brethren on? People had their suspicions.

Mrs. Mills, wife of the well-known local sergeant appeared. Immediately the men rushed forward to shake her hand and greet her as an old friend. Then came a shower and they dashed into the police barracks to collect their overcoats.

After the march they repaired to the Finnvale Arms hotel where they joined newsmen and Civil Rights supporters who had been observing the proceedings. Well after mid-night and by now suffering from the effects of their own lavish hospitality they regaled delighted listeners with garbled and improbable an account of the Special Branch activities. Eventually they took their leave a little sheepishly, requesting all present not to mention the evening's frivolity.

This little incident was obviously part of the new RUC public relations campaign designed to prove that the police are really human after all. The RUC are concerned about their public image. We would urge all who have had similar experience of the new policy of "Convivial cops" to write to Inspector General Peacock to express their gratitude.

Some Advice

"We have heard a lot about the marvellous discipline of the Civil Rights movement. Is it not high time that the moderates in that movement — and there are such people, inside and outside Parliament, men whom I can respect even if I cannot agree with them — is it not, I say, high time they asserted themselves and parted company from the

rabble-rousers who are a dead weight round Ulster's neck?"

Major J.D. Chichester-Clark, Prime Minister, Newsletter, July 5th, 1969.

Will the real friends of Major Chichester-Clark please stand up?

'SINISTER UNIONIST TREND'

"A dangerous and sinister trend has been evident in the Unionist party recently..... Control of influential positions within the party had been gained by liberal and radical elements.....this problem is now being overcome and control

is now returning to men and women who are Unionists before anything else." Mr. John Taylor M.P. also warned loyalists to ensure that such a threat of a radical take-over of the Unionist party should not be possible again. He was pleased to see that

loyalists were joining constituency associations in larger numbers than for some time and expressed the hope that they would select truly representative Unionists as their delegates to the annual meetings of the constituency associations later this year." Irish Times, July 1st, '69

STATE OF THE NATION

The glitter of the Lemass economic miracle is growing rather dull. 17,000 people emigrate from the 26 Counties every year. 250,000 have emigrated in the last 12 years.

60,000 people are out of work and 9,000 farmers are forced to leave the land every year.

20,000 houses are needed every year. Only 12,000 are built while office blocks mushroom in Dublin, Cork and Limerick.

Fianna Fail have been returned to power, largely because the other parties weren't much better. Fianna Fail have tolerated the situation in the South for 37 years and aren't likely to make radical changes now. The struggle against poverty and exploitation in the 26 Counties will have to come from the people themselves. Real Civil Rights supporters in the North will back them to the hilt.

There has been a lot of talk about a split in the Civil Rights movement. A bit of plain speaking at Strabane has frightened the wits out of those who are afraid of open discussion and led to demands for the expulsion of the radicals. We think the Strabane controversy livened up a boring meeting, gave the C.R. movement a healthy shaking, and forced into the open an important discussion about where we go from here.

M.P.'s

There are two issues. One is that the Opposition M.P.s accepted the government's time-table of "reforms". They may quibble and say they didn't accept the reforms themselves but the effect was to undermine the demonstration already planned for Strabane. Behind the scenes some of them tried to have it called off.

Most of the Opposition M.P.s were elected on the strength of the Civil Rights movement. Now they're in Parliament they seem anxious to get the movement off

the streets. What success the C.R. movements has had has been won on the streets. We believe it should stay there. We also believe that extra-Parliamentary action is a fundamental right of all aggrieved groups and the M.P.s should learn to live with this.

The second point is that some people want to arbitrarily limit "Civil Rights demands" to only certain injustices. Northern Ireland is a rotten state, riddled with corruption, bigotry, discrimination and exploitation. We say you cannot separate one injustice from another, or either from the system which creates them. You cannot be against poverty and exploitation. You cannot march in Newry or Strabane and ignore unemployment.

Unemployment

Right from the start the backbone of the Civil Rights movement have been the unemployed, the badly-housed, the poorly-paid, the exploited. Northern Ireland is full of these people. Catholics bear the brunt

of the burden perhaps but that's because in a society of shortages there has to be a scapegoat. Protestants in Northern Ireland are not privileged unless you think an insecure, badly-paid job and an inadequate house at an exorbitant rent are privileges.

To end discrimination alone is to share out the shortages, not to end them. Some day you will have to tackle the problem of the system which creates the shortages. We are not prepared to postpone the evil day. We want work for Strabane, Newry, Enniskillen, Derry, now. We want a five-year plan to end bad housing now. If to demand this means to destroy the Unionist party then we want to do that NOW, too.

The P.D. is an independent organisation with its own police-policies which go a bit further than the C.R.A.'s. We have co-operated fully with the C.R.A. in the past and when they have faltered we have carried on the struggle. We will continue to co-operate but we will not sacrifice our independence. We will take independent action where the C.R.A. hesitates to join us.

Orangism

Those who have watched the steady slide of so-called "liberal Unionists" like Robert Porter, Minister of Home Affairs, into the old sectarian positions, and the spectacle of Chichester-Clark and his Cabinet Ministers stumping every Orange Hall in the province, would have thought Mr. John D. Taylor had no cause to fear a 'radical take-over'. In fact a recent series of biased decisions showed pretty clearly whose side the government is on. A Connolly march through Belfast was re-routed to the Catholic ghetto while hundreds of police were on hand in Dungiven and Coalisland to force a way through for the Orangemen if necessary.

But just in case there might be any back-sliding away from the ultra-Orange position of Mr. Taylor he is now openly encouraging the Paisleyite takeover of the constituency associations. It is no secret that this is going on all over the place and Mrs. Anne Dickson, M.P. for Carrick, has revealed the details of infiltration in her constituency.

So much for those who fondly imagine that it's just a question of winning over a few more "Moderate" Unionists and all our demands will be granted.

THE MAJOR

A Profile

Chichester — Clark was elected M.P. for South Derry in July 1960 and Prime Minister in May 1969. From retired soldier to Prime Minister in under 9 years is a rapid rise to fame. Even in as talentless a body as the Ulster Unionist Party one would expect the new Prime Minister to be something of an intellectual Whizz-kid. In fact Major Chichester-Clark is a man of few words and those not very sparkling ones. He was elected in July 1960 and did not make his maiden speech until February 1961. After that he spoke occasionally until 1963 when he became Chief Whip and from then till May 1967 his contributions to Stormont were limited to one-line interjections. In 1967 he became Minister for Agriculture and had to speak in agricultural debates.

Why the rapid promotion and swift rise to the top of this undistinguished back-bencher? Major Chichester-Clark was born in 1923 and educated at Eton, like Terence O'Neill, and most of the English ruling class. In 1942 he joined the Irish Guards and retired in 1960. In 1955 his brother Robert had become M.P. for Derry City and County at Westminster — a seat held by their grandfather in the 1920's. The Major's grandmother, Dame Dehra Parker, was M.P. for South Derry at Stormont and Minister for Health. She had held the seat since 1921 except for a short break from 1929-33 when she let her son-in-law, the Major's father, take over. In April 1960 Major James retired from the army. In June Dame Dehra suddenly resigned. In July the Major was

elected. Asked by a journalist if she had resigned in order to hand over to her grandson, Dame Dehra said: "Well I wanted to give him a chance." It was all very convenient for Mr. R.A. Brown, Chairman of Magherafelt Rural Council, who was defeated for the Unionist nomination by the young Major just 3 months home from his travels:

The South Derry seat was kept in the family, as it had been since 1921, and an even older family tradition was maintained. On the Dawson side there had been an M.P. in every generation of the Major's family since 1695. Asked why he had decided to go into politics the Major said. "I was a man with a bit of spare time and I hoped I could do something useful." The spare time was after he had looked after his 570 acre estate at Castledawson. Still, his constituents didn't seem to mind a spare-time M.P.

The new M.P. was well connected. On the Clark side he was related to Henry Clark, M.P. for North Antrim at Westminster. On the Chichester side to Phelim O'Neill, now Minister for Education, and Capt. Terence who was soon to become Prime Minister. A Chichester relative of the Major's was even married to Capt. John Warden Brooke, foolish son of a famous father. For what little it was worth his estate agent was an M.P. — Joe Burns from North Derry.

It was hardly surprising that the new M.P. advanced rapidly especially when Capt. Terence became Prime Minister, and, as Chief Whip for 3 years, the

Major stood loyally by his aristocratic relation. But as things got worse for Terence the Major began to get ambitions of his own and in April 1969 when O'Neill won the last and narrowest of his votes of confidence Chichester-Clark stabbed him vigorously in the back by resigning from the Cabinet. Inside a week O'Neill had resigned and Chichester-Clark was Prime Minister.

In the frantic attempt to preserve Unionist unity Chichester-Clark has tried to appear, simultaneously a liberal and a reactionary. Where do his sympathies really lie?

As the P.D. march from Belfast to Derry left Toome for Hillhead it was stopped at the junction of the Hillhead and Bellaghy roads. The marchers "were informed by the police that they could not proceed by way of Hillhead and Knockloughtim to Maghera as there was likely to be trouble with Loyalists."

On the Hillhead side of the junction about 50 Loyalists were drawn up across the road. The local M.P.s, Major J.D. Chichester-Clark and his brother Mr. Robin Chichester-Clark M.P. for County Derry at Westminster, spoke to the Loyalists. While this was going on an Ulster Television camera team, who moved in to take shots of the loyalists and the police, were attacked by the loyalists."

Mid-Ulster Mail, Jan. 4th 1969

What did the Prime Minister and his brother say to the "loyalists"? Why did they not



ensure that the police did their duty and cleared a passage for the marchers?

That night in Maghera an armed mob wrecked the town. Meanwhile "followers of Major R. Bunting met Mr. J.D. Chichester-Clark at his Moyola Park home. They asked him to contact HOME Affairs Minister Mr. W.J. Long to have the rest of the march banned. Mr. Chichester-Clark phoned Mr. Long and later told the crowd outside his home that the Minister could do nothing without first consulting his advisers. Some consolation to the crowd for this fobbing-off was a promise by Mr. Chichester-Clark to be with them when they meet at Beagh cross-roads at 9.00 a.m. this morning." Irish News, January 3rd 1969.

Why did the Major not tell these people to leave the marchers alone? Why did he agree to join them next morning where they intended to block the march? IS it true that he was there with a stout walking stick?

We can only judge the Major's views by his own words. Though the Major's words in the House of Commons have been few and far between, the summer sunshine makes him wax more eloquent. Speaking at Garvagh on July 12th 1966 he said: "I can assure you that, as far as the government is concerned, there

is no weakness towards our enemies and there will be none. We have not forgotten the Boyne, we have not forgotten the 13 Apprentice Boys, we have not forgotten the Ulster Covenant, and we intend to preserve our heritage and our Protestant faith. There will be no surrender on any of these scores to-day or at any other time."

Major Chichester-Clark is of course a member of Castle-dawson LOL No. 97 and Bellaghy Scarlet Line R.B.P. No. 573. In the 1969 election he was seconded by the Rev. H.C. Conn, Deputy County Grand Chaplain of the Orange Order for County Derry. In an election circular which unaccountably reached only sections of the electorate he pledged himself to uphold the position of the Orange Order in public life.

Aristocrat, landlord, old Etonian, Orangeman — this is N. Ireland's New Prime Minister. He became an M.P. because it ran in the family. He was rapidly promoted because he was well-connected. He was in the running for Prime Minister because he stabbed O'Neill in the back at the right time. He won the election because he'd said so little at Stormont that he'd antagonised nobody. What can the Civil Rights movement expect from him... nothing!

Support Your Local Sheriff

Of late there has been a spate of hysterical eulogies praising the police indiscriminately in the press. Typical of these are the sob articles about how hard it is to be on the riot squad, how every policeman is doing a thankless job in an exemplary manner and the anguish of a copper's wife. Most civil rights marchers, fresh from witnessing or being on the receiving end of some act of brutality tend to over-react against this slobber and fall into the trap of useless generalization. Thus at the next demonstration every policeman encountered is greeted with the Nazi salute and cries of 'siege heil'. At present however this seems to me to be counter-productive and unrealistic and we should attempt to examine the policeman's lot objectively.

Firstly, we should accept that by and large the average copper who will be at the demonstration or on the riot squad is not very intelligent. The entrance qualifications show that the force are more concerned with the candidate's physique than his brains. Moreover the force and the society he has lived in have conditioned him to believe certain myths implicitly and it will take more than slogan shouting and rock hurling to

convince the 90% of the force who are Protestant that Civil Rights is not an IRA plot. In this belief they are encouraged (and duped) by the sectarian orange politicians who see the police as a necessary prop to keep them in power. Therefore no allegations against the police can be accepted, the Baillie report cannot be published and the police riots in Derry must be consigned to oblivion.

His lack of education means that once embarked on his career he is frequently stuck with it. He has to do a boring job, with long hours and only average pay. In the recent disturbances many police were ordered to lay into the crowd in a brutal manner. Some needed no encouragement but others who acted half-heartedly were immediately marked down as 'unreliable' by their superiors. Protest often means being posted to the wilds of Fermanagh, the loss of a house and an end to prospects of promotion. Because the crowd are unable to distinguish between vicious and 'reasonable' coppers means that hostility and hatred after a police riot tends to be directed against the local policeman while the guilty copper has been a member of the imported riot squad and so the police are forced into



solidarity with each other.

It is the corrupt state that is the real enemy, and the police are mere tools. It is doubtful however if this 'tolerance' can be extended to the blatantly sectarian 'B' Specials, who in their blind bigotry are prepared to fight to the last reactionary ditch and this article should not be taken as in any way criticising for example the people of the Bogside who have of late been engaged in fights with the police, for there it was purely and simply a matter of justifiable self-defence. Moreover, we must accept that when the revolution comes the government will be unlikely to relinquish its oppressive powers without a struggle and that they will use the police as their agents in this struggle which may well entail more battles against them, but rather than inflame the police (a tactic of provocation which has much point in other struggles — eg in the USA) we should attempt to understand them and work at the root causes for their behaviour — not by fraternization but by propaganda — it's almost 50 years since the last police strike and it was James Larkin who encouraged it, we should be trying to emulate him.

DIRTY WORK AT ENNISKILLEN

The Chichester-Clark regime showed its true face in Enniskillen. First Porter banned a peaceful march on the now familiar grounds that it would cause disorder, i.e. extreme Unionists would attack it. Then 52 people were arrested, hauled before a special court and remanded in gaol for 10 days. All they had done was to carry placards — one placard was blank — or sit down on the road. Counter-demonstrators who threw stones and attacked P.D. members escaped scot-free.

The whole episode was no accident. Enniskillen was crawling with police and the R.U.C. officials blustered and bullied, looking for an excuse to arrest people. The sudden appearance of the magistrate and the speed with which the kangaroo court was arranged all point to obvious preparation.

In fact it was all planned. Chichester-Clark had attacked P.D. in a bigoted speech on July 12th. He has held several private

meetings with Paisley. A squalid little deal has been made. Paisley has been persuaded to keep quiet by the promise that his supporters will get well-paid jobs as mobilised 'B'-men, and the government will crack down on the Civil Rights Movement, especially on P.D.

Clark and his cronies decided to pounce on Enniskillen because attacks on the P.D. by the Nationalists and the right-wing of the Fermanagh Civil Rights Association gave them the excuse. It just shows how completely the green Tories are puppets of the Orange-men.

Three people were held in gaol to save the Unionists' face but the plan backfired and their sordid attempts to reintroduce internment without trial under another name has failed. Still, we have seen the true base of Chichester-Clark exposed. It is back to Brookeborough with a vengeance.

Slum of the Month !

Newferry is a tiny village on the shores of Lough Beg about 5 miles from Toomebridge, and 4 miles from Ahoghill, the home of Capt. Terence O'Neill, the M.P. for the area. Seven families live there though two are moving out shortly.

There is no running water in the village and no electricity. The only water supply is from a pump 150 yards up the road and it has to be boiled before drinking. Until recently there was no road through the village but then a water-skiing club was established on Lough Beg and a road was built to the Club's premises. A prominent member

of the club is Mr. Millar Cameron, Chairman of the Antrim County Council. There is an electricity transformer behind the large house of Mrs. Kerr, who owns the village and lines run past the Newferry houses but Mrs. Kerr has refused to have the electricity installed.

Sylvester Craig, his wife, and three children aged 5, 3 and 7 months respectively live in a house with a kitchen and 4 bedrooms, 2 in an attic, and two downstairs. They don't use the attic because the roof leaks, the rafters are rotten and the roof might collapse, and the floor is rotten. The last time they slept there the leg of the bed went through the floor. After that incident Sylvester pushed the rotting ladder into the rotting attic and they never used the attic again.

Downstairs the walls are so damp that the wallpaper falls off. The back wall is held in place by an iron stay that runs through the house and without it the whole hovel would probably collapse. The damp is so bad that the doctor says it has given the children chest trouble. The only light comes from a Tilly lamp and the family have to use a very insanitary dry toilet. To complete their misery the house is infested with rats which are so self-confident that

they sit and look at the Craigs.

The other houses are much the same. One, occupied by an old-age pensioner, has no toilet at all and the rats have eaten a hole in the back door. The worst of all houses Mary Mawhinney and her three children aged 11, 8 and 5. The attic is unusable and the family live in the kitchen and a tiny room where they all sleep. The house is below road-level and is flooded every time it rains. It used to have a stove but because it smoked too much Miss Mawhinney had it taken out. Half the fireplace came with it and now the cooking is done on an open fire or in a neighbour's house.

Miss Mawhinney once took an overdose of sleeping tablets. Her doctor stated that this was partly caused by her shocking living conditions. She now attends regularly at Holywell hospital in Antrim for psychiatric treatment.

This collection of miserable hovels is owned by a Mrs. Kerr who lives in a large house on the main road. Mrs. Kerr has the audacity to demand rent from the unfortunate people of Newferry. When one old lady died Mrs. Kerr even took the opportunity to raise the rent from 7/6d to 10/-d. for her surviving brother. This landlady refused to repair or improve the

houses and the tenants have to make what improvements they can at their own expense. When one family approached a workman to repair their roof he refused on the grounds that he'd be risking his life by climbing on it.

Recently the villagers went on a rent strike at which Mrs. Kerr complained that she could not live without their rent. Mrs. Kerr owns a large and fertile farm and the income from dairy cattle alone is estimated at £100 per week. Finding complaints of no avail she went to Miss Mawhinney and threatened to throw her and her children onto the road. To this she added the advice that Miss Mawhinney, who is a Protestant, should go to Moneyglass chapel with the Catholics since she had accepted the help of Civil Rights workers. Miss Mawhinney was reduced to tears and was near a nervous breakdown.

Newferry comes under the Ballymena Rural District Council and most of the families have been offered houses by the Council though Ballymena R.D.C. has several times allocated houses to people who owned their own houses. The Council does not use a points system and houses are allocated by each Councillor in his own area. The Councillor for the

Newferry area is a Mr. McNeilly who appears more concerned with his duties as a Special Constable than with the needs of the people of Newferry. He has never visited the villagers houses to see their living conditions for himself.

Local Civil Rights and P.D. workers have been assisting the Newferry people and they have had several pickets and sit-ins at the Ballymena R.D.C. offices. A few families have been rehoused but 5 remain living in sub-human conditions. The M.P. for the area, Capt. O'Neill has never shown any interest in their case. The Newferry families, like so many throughout N.Ireland, are at the mercy of the callous little Hitlers of their local rural Council.

INTEREST RATES

"Plans for a 400-house estate in Ballyclare have been shelved indefinitely because of crippling interest rates on Ministry of Finance loans. The Housing Society (Ballyclare) Ltd. — an organisation of Roman Catholic clergy and laity — had hoped to build a non-denominational estate on Housing Trust lines on 40 acres of Church land.

But a spokesman said that if the society borrowed money to finance the scheme at the current 10% interest rate, rents would be £4.10.0d. per week excluding rates, instead of the £2.10.0d. first envisaged. Chairman of the society, Fr. Kelly, said it was not possible to build low-rent homes on a Ministry loan." Belfast Telegraph, 3rd July 1969

Scandalously high interest rates are putting up rents completely stopping building by public authorities and co-operative societies. The Housing Trust spends more of its revenue in paying loan charges. People buying their homes pay 3 or 4 times the value of the house in mortgage rates.

To solve the housing problem the government must cancel the debts of house building authorities and take control of interest rates on loans. Eventually they will have to nationalise the banks and building societies.

contd from PAGE ONE

Some demands are obvious. The Unionists should get out of the Orange order and no M.P., especially no Cabinet Minister, should appear at Orange, Black or Apprentice Boys demonstrations. Equally no Nationalists should appear at AOH rallies. To mobilise the B-Specuals is madness. They are an undisciplined, discredited, and sectarian force. To put them on the roads at night or on duty during demonstrations is an invitation to open war. They should be scrapped and with them all the government's gruesome apparatus of emergency powers. The

Unionists must be made to realise that force will only breed force. They are reaping the harvest of 50 years of bigoted misrule in the interests of a privileged clique. Now the game is up. Either they remedy the grievances of the people of the Bogside — and the Fountain — or it will be beyond the power of anyone to prevent violence. But the Civil Rights movement must try. Local groups must give out leaflets and canvass from door to door when trouble seems likely. The example of Dungiven on the 28th June should be emulated. People should be urged to ignore even

the most insulting provocation.

Even this is only a stop-gap though. The C.R. movement must admit that it is its failure to end the people's grievances and its failure to unite all the underprivileged that has led to the current frustration. The Unionist government is totally incapable of solving the housing and unemployment problems. The C.R. movement must show it can be done and then force the government to do it. On the local level they must take immediate action. In Derry the Civil Rights bodies should take over every vacant house that's habitable and give it to the homeless of the Fountain as well as the Bogside.

Only by concrete action to help the needy will the Civil Rights movement win the support of the Protestant under-privileged. Only by winning that support will we avoid an escalating cycle of riots. Two men have already died. The situation is urgent.



Protestin' Folk

Belfast Castle is situated 200 acres of its own ground on the side of the Cavehill, a bus ride and a short walk from the city centre. It was presented by the people of Belfast in 1934, and with its wooded walks and well kept lawns is a pleasant place in which to spend an afternoon. The castle itself is quite imposing seen from the road, appearing to be perched among the trees. Hamilton Hastings Ltd. have the concession to supply confectionery and light refreshments to visitors to the park. A cup of tea and a few cakes cost 4/6d. a small bottle of lemonade, to drink in the grounds, cost 1/5d. This same firm wants to take over the castle and run it as a hotel, they also want to close off the land immediately surrounding the buildings. This is the only lawn area within the estate. The Corporation have already granted permission for this to be done.

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Letters, Contributions and information for P.D. Voice are always welcome at 8 Strandview Street, Belfast 9. Phone 669685 or 43 Sandhurst Drive, Belfast 9. Phone 660861.

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There are P.D. Groups in Armagh, Belfast, Fermanagh, Lurgan.

P.D. Voice is published by the People's Democracy and printed by Botanic House Printers Ltd., 48 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JR.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

The People's Democracy always needs money — to print leaflets and pay organising costs, to cover possible fines. We also need contacts to distribute and sell P.D. Voice. Contributions and help will be gratefully received by John Murphy, Business Manager, at 48 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JR, phone 21193.