

the irish people

Vol. 1. No. 11. An Choismhuintir Price 6p.

- ★ Cormac Duane's column Page 3.
- ★ Ground rent campaign Page 4.
- ★ D-Rent facts Page 5.
- ★ Cormac O'Donnell writes on Page 6.
- ★ Road Des O'Hagan on Page 7.
- ★ L.C.T.U. report Back page.

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1973

CORK HOUSING FIASCO INQUIRY

Cork has a building scandal of Watergate-type proportions and the tenants on the City's two newest housing estates are not going to foot the bill. This is the message spelled out to THE IRISH PEOPLE in an exclusive interview with Messrs. Noel Bannon and Tom O'Sullivan, Chairmen respectively of the Mayfield and Togher Tenants' Associations.

Involved in the allegations are the National Building Agency, who undertook to provide over 800 dwellings at Mayfield, Sisk Construction Systems, who did the building, Cork Corporation and the tenants who subsequently moved into the completed dwellings.

City Hall documents in the possession of the tenants show that the cost of the original contract, £6,272,569, was exceeded by almost £2 million while the contract was still only at the half-way stage! What the final cost was the Tenants' Associations are not aware but the theory of "economic rent" practised by all local authorities, including Cork Corporation, means that whatever the bill the tenants must pay. The Associations now intend calling for a Public Inquiry into the contract fiasco and expect that full exposure of all the facts will lead to a significant reduction in maximum rent and on the rates paid by tenants.

Mystery survey

Mystery surrounds an independent survey being carried out at Mayfield by the Institute of Industrial Research and Standards. The Institute are not free to disclose who commissioned the survey and enquiries to the Corporation and the N.B.A. have not brought confirmation that it is being conducted for either. The tenants are confident that the survey, which has been going on for the past five weeks, will confirm their complaints on the substandard quality of the houses, though they would prefer if it had been conducted in wintertime when flaws would have been more apparent.

Councillor Sean O'Leary, in a memorandum to Cork Corporation in August 1970, sought an investigation from the Minister for Local Government into the performance of the N.B.A. and the contractors. "An increase of £2 million, one-third of the total cost, is totally unacceptable to me. This represents nearly 50p in the £ on the rates for the next fifty years", he said.

The tenants claim they are paying for this two million as well as for any millions that might have been added before the contract was completed. These millions have been included in the calculation of the Maximum (or Economic) rent which they are liable to pay. The high valuation on what they claim are substandard dwellings also means that they have an exorbitant weekly rates bill to meet.

Apart from figures relating to the construction cost of the Mayfield and Togher housing estates, Tenants also have in their possession documentation which proves that the Engineering Department of the Corporation were highly dissatisfied with the "completed" Togher scheme in 1971/72.

For example, a report drawn up by Corporation Engineers on the sewerage system at Togher has a list of defects which runs to several closely-typed foolscap pages.

Tenants say that a total list of other defects in the scheme would reach telephone directory proportions.

Noel Bannon and Tom O'Sullivan are convinced that a Public Inquiry will confirm their Associations' claims and will result in (1) a reduction in the Maximum Rent of the houses, (2) a reduction in the valuation of the houses with a consequent drop on the weekly rates bill, and (3) a crash programme by the Corporation to correct defects in the houses.

The campaign for the Public Inquiry will continue irrespective of the outcome of the referendum on the Rent Strike settlement proposals. The alleged two million pounds-plus fiddle is a separate issue, say the Tenant leaders.



Workers reject Hospital Trust pension plan proposal

As the clamour for a Public Enquiry into the operations of the Hospitals Trust gains momentum around the country a clamour for immediate unionisation is beginning at the Sweepstakes headquarters in Ballsbridge. Reason for the demand for union recognition there is a Pension Scheme which the Trust attempted to impose on the staff in the past fortnight. A letter to all employees headed with an underlined "Confidential" and signed by the Trust Chairman, Senator Patrick McGrath, was circulated on THURSDAY, JUNE 28.

The letter stated that "for quite some time the Company have been considering the introduction of improved retirement arrangements for Staff and we are now pleased to advise you that in lieu of existing retirement arrangements a new Non-Contributory Pension Plan is

being implemented FROM 1st JULY 1973." (our emphasis). An outline of the Plan was attached.

Also attached was a form which employees were urged to sign and return. A footnote in heavy type spelled out the urgency "Since you are not officially a member of the Plan until this form is completed, please fill in the form and return it TODAY."

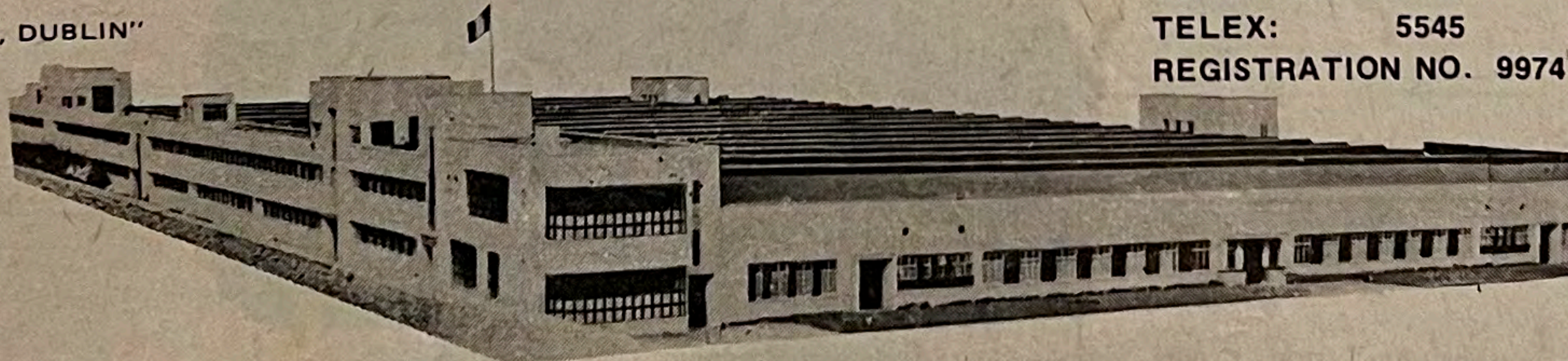
Friday morning brought no rush of completed forms to the Trust offices. The House Association which has been used by the Trust Company as an excuse for refusing to recognise a Trade Union unexpectedly advised workers not to sign the form. Apparently the House Association was not involved at any stage in the preparation of the plan and an overnight study of the four-page document led to some reservations. The

(Continued on page 2)

HOSPITALS' TRUST (1940) LIMITED

Telegrams: "AIDSIC, DUBLIN"

Directors:
P. W. MCGRATH
CHAIRMAN & MANAGING
SPENCER FREEMAN, C.B.E.
P. A. DUGGAN, F.C.A.
R. G. DUGGAN
S. MCGRATH
DR. B. S. FREEMAN, M.A.
J. MCGRATH
M. MACAVIN



20, MERRION ROAD - DUBLIN 4 - IRELAND

June 1973

TELEPHONE: 772951
TELEX: 5545
REGISTRATION NO. 9974

Confidential

Non-Contributory Pension Plan

Housing in Limerick



Tenants in many a housing estate throughout the country will find a familiar ring to the story on page 6) of Corporation neglect in Limerick. It is a tale that could be repeated about the frustration regarding house repairs experienced in all the main urban centres throughout the country.

The solution suggested by Alderman Stephen

Coughlan, T.D., in Limerick, "purchase the house and then the Corporation will do the repairs", seems increasingly to be the policy of many local authorities. Tenants unable to purchase are unlikely to be satisfied by this "purchase or put up with it" attitude. Unless it is changed, further major tenant/local authority disputes are inevitable.

the irish people

An Choismhuinir, Friday, July 13, 1973.

Deoch uisce

A dying child in a hospital asked repeatedly for "deoch uisce". The staff didn't know what he wanted. A patient was in intensive care unit for four days before the staff understood important information which the patient was trying to tell them. Skilled staff couldn't communicate adequately with a patient in order to rehabilitate her.

These are some of the cases mentioned by Dr. Phelim Donnelly of U.C.G. in the 'Irish Medical Times'. These things happened in Ireland and have always happened in Ireland. The people involved have the first official language of the state as their mother tongue. Not only is Irish not an advantage to them in matters of life and death, it is a great disadvantage.

There are two possible solutions to this terrible situation. We can, as some people would wish, hasten the final destruction of Irish and turn the whole island into a monoglot English-speaking area, indistinguishable from England. Or we, the people, can see to it that all official and essential services are available on a bi-lingual basis. In theory, this has been so. In practice, the reverse has been the case, as anyone who has tried to deal with Church and State through Irish can verify.

In talking of language, we are talking of people. In spite of the big lie propagated over the years by the L.F.M. and people of a similar outlook, it is the Irish speaking people of this island who are, and always have been, the disadvantaged section of the population. All the trends of the past few years have greatly weakened the position of the Irish speaking people. For example, half the National Teachers who qualified this year cannot speak Irish even moderately. Almost all Government services in the Gaeltacht operate through English. Who is coddling who, Messrs. Cosgrave, Lynch and Corish?

Time, gentlemen, . . .

Incidents multiply in a sea and inland fishery war that is too dispersed to attract national interest or black headlines. Fishermen complain that the Boards of Conservators have deprived them of licences to which they are entitled. Incidents of poaching and attacks on bailliffs are reported. Boats and nets belonging to owners are damaged. "Fish-ins" take place week after week. Pollution is reported on the increase and whole lakes are given up as lost.

The whole problem relates to the question of ownership of Ireland's rivers and lakes. Since the balmy days of colonialism Irish rivers and lakes have been at the disposal of private individuals. That many of these owners belong to the families which provided the Captains, Colonels and Knights-in-Arms of the Conquest is of no account today. Private ownership has made it impossible to adopt a rational overall development programme for our waters. One owner neglects his stretch of a river; another over-exploits; yet another allows, or fails to prevent, pollution. The fishery owners gang together on the Boards of Conservators to control fishing policy in their own interests and to attack the interests of the netmen.

The Inland Fisheries Commission, appointed in 1970 with the brief of examining the issue of ownership of our rivers, has yet to bring in its report. The long delay cannot be attributed to its energetic Chairman, Con Murphy. It is understandable that the owners on the Commission should fight a strong rearguard action against the historic right of the Irish people to come into their own.

But when the resulting delay holds up the development of our rivers and increases the effects of pollution it is surely proper to call "Time, gentlemen, please."

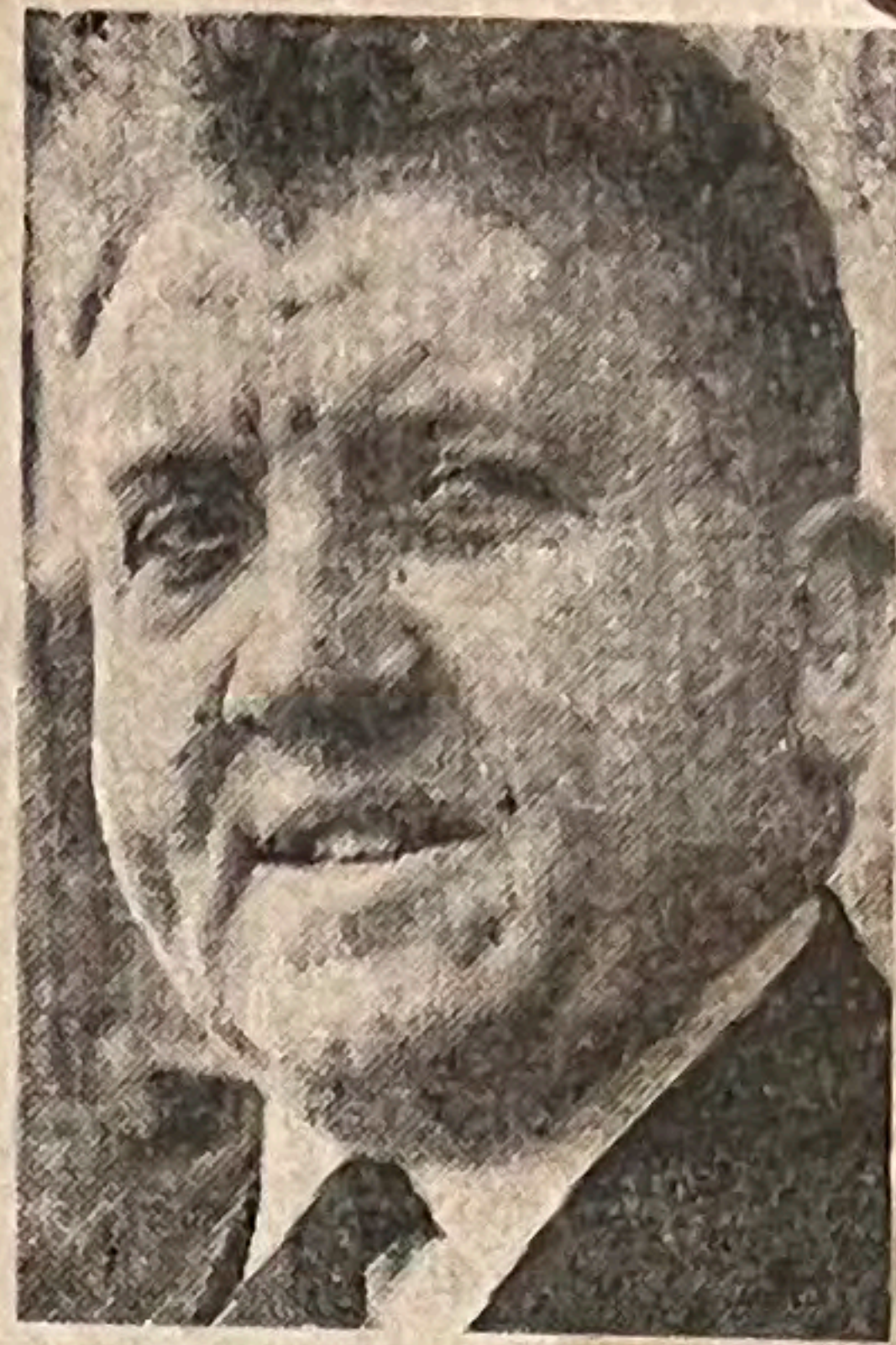
Fisheries report in 'a few months'

In an off-the-cuff remark at the opening of the one day conference on the Fishing Industry in Tralee, Saturday, July 7, Michael Pat Murphy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, said he expected the report on the Inland Fisheries Commission "within a few months". Not included in the official press release of the Secretary's speech this announcement is the first news that the long awaited report is nearing completion. Mr. Murphy also referred to the Salmon Fishing Order of July 19 which has the effect of cutting one week off the salmon fishing season for drift nets in most fishery areas.

Describing the Order as a "conservancy measure", he said it was introduced "in the long term interests of salmon fishing and of the people depending on it for a living".

Scrap order

Later in the Conference a resolution proposed by the fishermen in attendance called on the Parliamentary Secretary to scrap the July 19 Order. It was pointed out that in the Kerry area alone the delay this year in granting licences and the tardiness of the Board of Conservators in vetting applications had led to a 30 per cent reduction in the season for netmen. The



● Michael Pat Murphy, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

resolution was passed. By then, however, the Parliamentary Secretary had left. The one day Conference was organised by the Kerry County Development Team.

Cork dockers win benefits

The Cork Dockers who staged a sit-in at the Labour Exchange in the city two weeks ago have been paid their unemployment benefit. After negotiations between the head office of the I.T. & G.W.U. and the Department last week the merit of the claim was conceded.

The mystery of the source of money which the dockers were paid in Connolly Hall on Saturday week last has also been solved. A union official has told THE IRISH PEOPLE that the dock employers supplied the cash as an advance until the unemployment benefit had been paid.

Thirty-four of the dockers who staged the sit-in at the Exchange are at present on remand, having been charged under Section 3 of the Prohibition of Forcible Entry and Occupation Act (1971).

Pension plan rejected

(Continued from page 1)

Association's advice was welcomed by the staff, some of whom believe that they would actually lose money by the Plan. The existing Benevolent Fund, which would mean something in the region of £25 per year of service for retiring employees, was to be terminated and the fund transferred to the new Pension Fund.

By Friday afternoon the employers could see no hope of having the scheme, due to come into effect 48 hours later, accepted. As a last resort, the Trust chief, Senator McGrath, had the workers assembled and made an impassioned plea to them to accept the scheme there and then. The reception he received was hostile and it was decided to shelve the matter until August or September.

By then the workers will have had an opportunity to study the scheme more fully. They will also have the opportunity in that period of forcing the Hospitals Trust to recognise their right to belong to a Trade Union and also have a Trade Union to negotiate on their behalf. The Labour Court some time ago decided that workers in the Trust were entitled to Union representation. So far the Trust has ignored the Court's findings.

Cleaning up on student labour?

The annual employment of students in various firms has begun throughout the country and it has been closely followed by the annual list of complaints about the way in which many of these students are treated. Already the North Dublin fruit-picking companies have reached the number one spot in the lists of firms renowned for their annual abuse of student labour, but this year they are closely followed by the Dublin-based Contract Cleaning Company.

The reason for this company's recent rating is that it is currently in dispute with five students, four of whom were not collected for work as usual one morning last week, and who have lost pay and bonuses as a result. The reason they were not collected was that the van which normally picks them up was full and a subsequent van was also unable to bring them to their destination. Despite their waiting at the appointed place from 7.30 a.m. to nine o'clock, they were still not collected and for their efforts they were informed that they had lost the

morning's pay and all bonuses.

Negotiations with one of the supervisors resulted in payment being offered to one student only, but both he and the others rejected this and further negotiations with a "higher supervisor" resulted in their being offered the bonus but refused their pay for the morning they spent

standing on the footpath at Portobello Bridge waiting to be picked up. They finally left the building and are currently without work.

The stand taken by these students is symptomatic of the fight which many of their colleagues have to make every summer to secure what other workers would regard as normal working conditions.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

THE IRISH PEOPLE costs 6p on the news stands. For postal subscribers there is a special introductory annual rate, inclusive of postage, as follows:

Ireland/ Britain	£4.00
Europe	£5.00
U.S.A., Canada, and Australia	15 dollars

To: THE IRISH PEOPLE, P.O. Box 666, Dublin 9. Phone: 786052. Please send 50 consecutive issues of THE IRISH PEOPLE to:

Name

Address

I enclose P.O. Cheque to the value of

Dunmanway 'fish-in'

Dunmanway, Co. Cork, is the location for a "fish-in" on Sunday, July 22, commencing at 3.00 p.m. The meeting point is Manch Bridge and a parade of spectators and anglers will march from there to the Fosset-O'Connor's stretch of the River Bandon.

Delegates from Credit Unions in Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballinamore, Mohill, Annaduff, Drumboylan/Keadue, Manorhamilton and Sligo town were present at the area chapter meeting held in Carrick-on-Shannon last week. Representatives of Study Groups who will shortly set up Credit Unions in Drumkeeran and Carrigallen were also present. Savings of the 2,000 members in the chapter area have now reached £100,000.

Donegal

A promise made by Gaeltarra Elreann to redundant workers in the Ambler yarn spinning factory in Gweedore that they would be re-employed by Comer Yarns operating from the same factory has not been honoured.

Their case has been taken up by Gweedore Parish Council who have listed the grievances of the workers as follows. (1) A very small proportion of ex-Ambler staff are being taken on by Comer Yarns, (2) certain former Ambler workers are being blacklisted because on a few previous occasions they had stood up for their rights, (3) one man who insisted on having his interview in Irish was refused, (4) an undertaking to give first preference to former Ambler workers is not being honoured, (5) a recently employed secretary has no knowledge of Irish, and, (6) recruitment is taking place in England and Scotland when there are unemployed workers at home.

The Council is seeking a meeting with Gaeltarra Elreann to discuss the problem.

Meath

Meath County Committee of Agriculture, perturbed at the big number of farms in the county being purchased by persons with no genuine interest in farming, have passed a resolution calling on the Government to introduce legislation to prevent speculation by non-farming interests in agricultural land.

The motion was proposed by Senator J. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. T. Keane. Mr. E. Daly, who presided, said he was aware of a group of speculators who bought seven Meath farms.

Wexford

Wexford Corporation last week by six votes to five refused to strike a rate of £7.60 in the £. If a special meeting to which it was decided to refer the matter falls to reverse this vote the Minister for Local Government, Mr. James Tully, may have to do a Kevin Boland and dissolve the Council. This would be an embarrassing decision for Mr. Tully because the Mayor of Wexford is Councillor Des Corish brother of Brendan Corish, Labour Party Leader and Tanalste.

Killarney

Dr. Eamonn Casey, R.C. Bishop of Kerry, joined the ranks of Building Society Branch Openers when he performed the official opening of a branch of the Irish Permanent in Killarney last week. Bishop Casey predictably referred to his own record on the housing front and invoked God's grace on the staff and the work of the new Irish Permanent office as well as on all who would use its services.

The new premises placed so strategically in Killarney would, said Dr. Casey, be a constant incentive to all, but particularly to the young, to save and to save wisely.

Although the opening of the premises was featured in a two-page advertising insert in THE KERRYMAN no picture of Dr. Casey appeared. Surprisingly, no report or pictures of Dr. Casey's performance appeared on the main news bulletins or on An Nuacht from R.T.E.

Carrickmacross

Carrickmacross is to have a Citizens Advice Bureau. This was decided by the local Sinn Féin Cumann at a meeting last week. Other organisations in the town are to be asked for assistance in setting up the Bureau which the Cumann says will be of great benefit to people who cannot afford legal advice in pursuit of their rights.



● Ritchie
HEA
JUR
Sir Pet
torney Ge
Administ
startling a
committee
British Sp
Northern
said that
would not
extremists
the reason
abolish Jur
Bill, The
(Emergen
Civil Rig
North had
Unionist
reformed
behind
Provisions
Government
the matter
plane.
Spoil
The Judi
Ireland re
but the app
and magist
Chairmen
has been
minister
Generally,
Judiciary h
spoils syste
fifty years
Unionist
Former Uni
litter the Jud
in the past
attempt to h
prejudices.
pointments
Lord Hails
changed the
implied thre
removal will
that verdicts
under the no
conform to
requirements.

ACRA launches major publicity drive

This week ACRA's seventy two affiliated Associations have received copies of the report and policy statement drawn up by the ground rent sub-committee. Appointed by the special general meeting of May 7 the sub-committee sets the target of total abolition of ground rent with compensation for ground rent already paid by tenants.

The document states that "an intensive publicity campaign is planned to highlight the immorality and uniqueness of this feudal practise which is availed of by speculators who have already exploited the building land situation to place yet another, and totally unnecessary, burden on those who seek nothing more than to provide the basic necessity of shelter".

Commenting on a recent court case involving refusal to pay ground rent on grounds that it is immoral and should therefore be illegal the sub-committee document states: "We find it particularly encouraging at this stage of the campaign to record that the Justice advised those who disagree with this rent to support the campaign to change social thinking on the subject".

Conroy quoted

The document quotes the Report of the Conroy Commission on ground rent in reply to the theory that ground rent is levied to help defray the initial cost of a house site to the purchaser. "A theory generally advanced is that ground rents are used by the builder to cover site and development costs. However, many people contend that this is not correct; the fine charged for the house includes a site fine, and the aggregate of such site fines on a reasonably sized building site frequently is double the price paid by the builder for the site. Therefore, there is a substantial margin to cover the development costs, without taking into account the ground rent".

Members of the ACRA Ground Rent Committee include Vincent Manning (Sutton Park), Chairman; Paddy Leahy (North Circular, West); Brendan Leeson, (Meadowbrook), Secretary; Paddy Murrhly (Pinewood); Brian Sheridan (Pinewood) and Jim Walsh (Baggot Estate).



● The new agitators against American landing rights in Dublin appeared for a while after the change of Government . . . and then silently disappeared. Dessie O'Malley and Gerry Collins, Shannon Region Action Committee, on a delegation to the Department of Industry and Commerce.

Conus a fuarthas cead tuirlingte?

Tugann ceann de na mion-scéalta is déanaí a tháinig ó Watergate an cas uilig seo níos cóngaraí do mhuintir na hÉireann agus go mór-mhór do mhuintir na Sionna. D'admhaigh American Airlines gur thug siad airgead faoi rún, go midhleathach, do fheachtas toghchánaíochta Nixon.

Tá cogadh cathrú ar siúl le blianta idir na hAirlínte éagsúla i Meiriceá chun seilbh a fháil ar na bealaigh is fearr. Tuigimid anois ón scéal seo thuas céard iad na modhanna atá in úsáid. Ní foláir an cheist a chur anois — c'éen brú agus céard iad na modhanna a úsáideadh.

a) chun cead tuirlingte a fháil d'Aerlíne Meiriceanach i mBaile Atha Cliath agus, b) conus a roghnaíodh Pan Am thar aon cheann eile?

D'fhéadfadh, muintir na Sionna agus muintir Luimnigh leis an cheangal atá idir Pan-Am agus Nixon féin agus Gaeil - Mheiriceánaigh cumhachtacht saibre áirithe. Ach cé thosóidh? Tom O'Donnell? Gerry Collins? Stevie Coughlan? Des O'Malley? Bishop Casey? Na 'pressure-groups' uilig a bhí chomh glórach sin sin faoin Sionna agus faoin Iarthair ar feadh blianta, níl focal uathu anois. Má tá fuinneamh ar bith fanta sa phobal thiar caithfidh siad na fáidh-

eanna bréagacha seo, a bhí ag crónán ar mhaithe leo féin, a chur ar leataobh agus cur chun oibre iad féin. Nó an bhfanfaidh siad go dtí go dtosóidh an chuid deiridh d'fheachtas na Meiriceánach i gceinn trí nó cheithre bhliain eile, sé sin, chun cead a fháil eitiht thar Aerfort na Sionna ar fad?

Nod eile

Agus nod eile do mhuintir na Sionna: Tá Brendan O'Regan éirithe as beich ina chathaoirleach ar Bhord Fáilte; coinneigh súil ar a chomharba, P. V. Doyle, óstóir agus tógálaí mór as Baile Atha Cliath. Fágann a roghnú siúd go mbeidh níos mó cumhachta ná riamh ag Baile Atha Cliath i bpleanáil na Turasoireachta agus nach mbeidh san Iarthair ach ceantar imeallach. Tá 'lobby' cumhachtach i mBaile Atha Cliath le blianta, laistigh de Bhord Fáilte agus lasmuigh de, a bhí ag iarraidh ionad an Iarthair sa turasoireacht a laghdú ar mhaithe leis an chósta thoir.

Go dtí seo, tá muintir an Iarthair saonta simplí faoin ghnó seo. Is cogadh gránna é nach mbaineann rialacha leis. Tá sé deireannach sa lá anois, ach is tús troda é an fhírinne

a aimsiú agus aghaidh a thabhairt urthí. Cuid den fhírinne sin ná cáirde a aithint ó na naimhde. Agus sa chás seo, ní h-ionann Éireannach agus cara.

Adoption law change sought

The Association of Combined Residents Associations (ACRA) is pressing for a change in the laws governing adoption in Ireland. These laws prevent couples of a mixed marriage adopting children and Mr. Quinten Crivon, Chairman of ACRA, has said that the officer board of his association feel that the present laws are unjust. They intend to contact the Inter-Church Families' Group which is already running a campaign to have the present laws changed.

ACRA have also given their support to a campaign of a different sort. After meeting a delegation from the Walkinstown Social and Athletic Federation, they have decided to press for the abolition of rates on social centres and community halls.

VJECUPOUN/ COPMAC DUDE

When I wrote about a projected joint "security force" from North and South in the planned Federated State of Ireland little did I think that my prognostications would be so soon confirmed.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald, went on BBC television a few days after I wrote my piece for this column and said the Irish Government was prepared to discuss joint law enforcement with the Northern authorities if they formed a working executive.

"Joint law enforcement" is merely another way of saying "mopping up disruptive elements" who do not agree with the sell-out of national aspirations or their own particular brand of political allegiance, e.g. republicans and loyalists.

As I said the progress of Britain's plan for the final solution of the Irish problem is speeding up and becoming daily clearer — and all the time the Irish people wait with apparent apathy. Are we yet aware of the monstrous betrayal that is being perpetrated in our name?

Donegan again

Dr. Fitzgerald, in his BBC television broadcast, may have let the cat out of the bag in some ways in talking about joint law enforcement. His colleague in Defence, Mr. Paddy "Kick-up-the-transom" Donegan, was a bit more subtle (or should I say obtuse?) on RTE radio recently. When asked if there was room for co-operation between the Irish Army and "security forces" in the North, Mr. Donegan replied that no Defence Minister in Europe would answer a question like that.

Asked why not he said he did not intend to give advantage to anybody who had subversive ideas.

Not, mind you, because someone might suggest that he was acting traitorously in collaborating with the British Army in the North — but merely because he did not intend to give advantage to anybody with subversive ideas. I have heard various excuses for withholding information such as the Minister might have — but never have I heard a more fatuous one before.

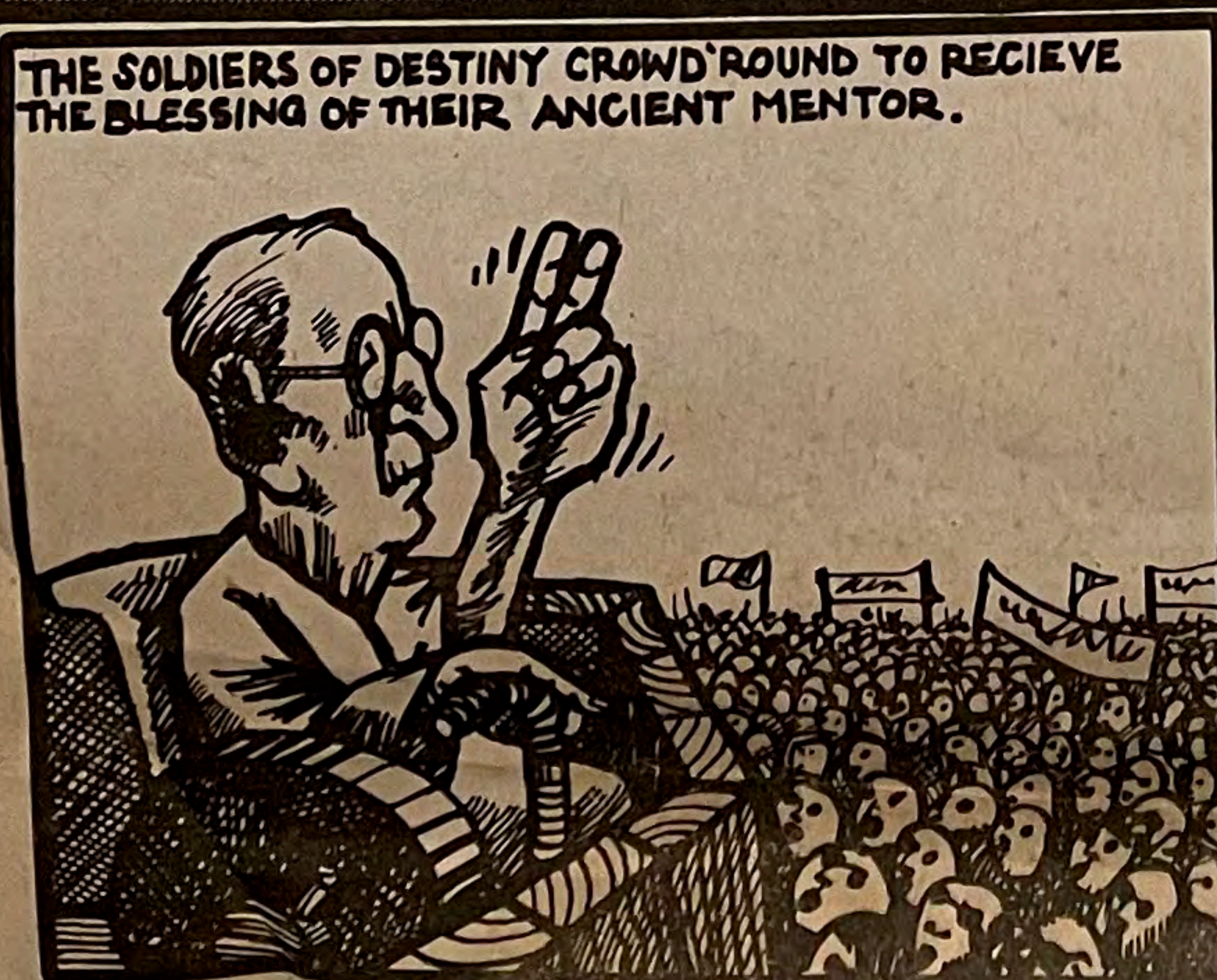
No Defence Minister in Europe would act as Mr. Donegan has been acting lately, in giving aid and assistance to a foreign army based illegally on his national territory. And I do not mean just the Six Counties. Mr. Donegan also admitted that he gave a British Army helicopter permission to circle over a point in the Republic where it was thought a landmine had been planted.

Invasion of air space

Surely this was an invasion of national air space by a foreign power with the express permission of the Minister for Defence? If the Government, and particularly Dr. Garret Fitzgerald, protests to the British Government in London over the over-flying by British planes and helicopters on other occasions of Republic territory, what makes it so different when Paddy Donegan gives the same British Army permission to over-fly the same territory? What does Garret Fitzgerald think of his colleague's action?

And how far can Ministers such as Paddy Donegan go in collaborating with the British before they commit treason. In any other European country, Mr. Donegan would by now be standing trial for such a crime against his country.

★ THE DAILMATIONS ★★★★★★



NEXT WEEK - THE BATTLE RAGES!

THESE ARE THE BRITISH



... now who are the Irish?

One of the main support groups in Ireland for ground rent is the Irish Landowners Convention. In reply to a query from the Conroy Commission as to the number of ground rents collected by their members they gave a figure of "between £2 and £5 million".

The Convention boasts a membership of 117.

Its current Directors include the Earl of Meath, Kilruddery, Bray, Co. Wicklow; C. S. Gaisford St. Lawrence, Howth Castle, Howth, Co. Dublin; C. Proby, Garden House, Carton, Maynooth; Sir Cecil Stafford-King-Harmon, St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip; Earl of Rosse, Birr Castle, Birr, Offaly; R. R. Stewart, St. Adrian's, Sutton, Co. Dublin; M. H. Vernon, 71 Nutley Lane, Dublin 4; Lord Talbot de Malahide (deceased); Major J. W. R. Madden, Hilton Park, Clones, Monaghan; Lt. Colonel J. E. D. Silcock, Newtown Anner, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; R. B. Walpole, Mt. Usher, Ashford, Co. Wicklow; Viscount de Vesci, Abbeyleix, Leix; Group Capt. C. H. Tighe, Ballina Park, Ashford, Co. Wicklow; Sir Richard Keane, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford.

Among the membership are found Lord Fingall, Corballis, Dunsany, Co. Meath; Lord Inchiquin, Thomond House, Dromoland, Co. Clare; Lord Pembroke, 7a Wilton Terrace, Dublin; Lord Powerscourt, Tona Beg, Dunsany, Co. Meath.

Asked to comment on the public attitude towards ground rent by a Sunday Press reporter (April 5, 1970) Mr. Dudley Woodworth, Secretary to the Convention, replied: "I would prefer not to comment on ground rents at all because of what the average Irishman may think about them".

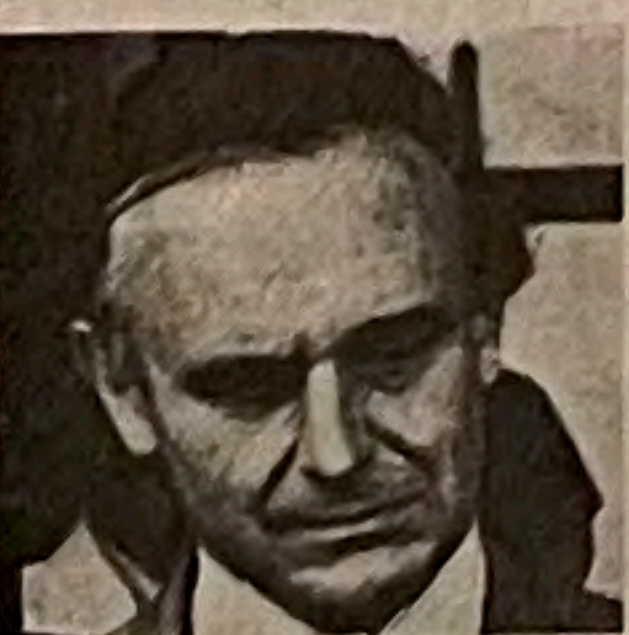


Below are listed some of the main landowners of England. Pictured at the Country Landowners' Conference held at York University.

They are 1 Capt. R. C. Petre, Basingstoke, Hants., 2,500 acres; 2 Viscount Ingilby, Boston Spa, Yorkshire, 12,000 acres; 3 Mr. Nigel Strutt, Essex, interest in 22,000 acres; 4 Mr. J. E. Taboe, Braintree, Essex, 700 acres; 5 Hon. Robin Neville, Saffron Waldon, 8,000 acres; 6 Earl of Bathurst, Cirencester, 15,000 acres; 7 Hon. George Howard, Castle Howard, Yorkshire, 12,000 acres; 8 Major J. C. Walker, Warmminster, Wiltshire, 1,600 acres; 9 Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, 8,500 acres; 10 Major M. A. Pitt-Rivers, 10,000 acres; 11 Earl of Castle Stewart, East Pennard, Somerset, interest in 2,500 acres; 12 John Chichester-Constable, East Yorkshire, 5,000 acres; 13 Lt.-Col. S. A. F. Egerton, Sallsbury, Wiltshire, 700 acres; 14 Cdr. A. F. Burnell-Nugent, Sutton Manor, Ipswich, 1,200 acres; 15 Major A. T. C. Blinny, Colchester, 500 acres; 16 Cmdr. A. S. Mortensen, Oxtot, Nottinghamshire, 5,000 acres; 17 Major W. H. Gibson Fleming, Blandford, Dorset, 2,000 acres; 18 Hon. Andrew Davidson, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, interest in 22,000 acres; 19 Mr. R. G. L. Taylor, Harleston, Norfolk, 700 acres; 20 Mr. John Lloyd, Sandringham.



Earl of Meath, Chairman, Irish Landowners' Convention.



Captain C. S. Gaisford St. Lawrence, Vice-Chairman, Irish Landowners' Convention.

ACRA GROUND RENT CENSUS

Want to help?

You can help by contacting the ACRA officers responsible for the census in your area.

NORTH SIDE: East of Malahide Rd. to the sea. ACRA official in charge: Vincent Manning, 11 Sutton Park, Sutton. Tel. 323725.

Area between Malahide and Swords Rd. ACRA official in charge: Andy Conlon, 65 Kylesmore Avenue, Coolock. Tel. 311323.

Area between Swords Rd., Drumcondra Rd., and Liffey. ACRA officials in charge: Paddy Murrilly, 28 Pinewood Avenue, Tel. 376950; Jim Walsh, 67 Conor Clune Road, Tel. 306610; Paddy Leahy, 41 Glenbeigh Rd. Tel. 304992.

SOUTH SIDE: Brendan Leeson, 33 Beechlawn, Meadowbank, Dublin 14. Tel. 982207; John Fitzgibbon, 46 Woodlands Avenue, Tel. 853387.

Walkinstown Estate:

- (1) Irish Assurance.
- (2) & (3) 1,600 ground rents @ £10 = £16,000.
- (4) Being paid for 24 years. Approx. total paid = £384,000.
- (5) No action taken.
- (6) Taking no action.

Elmpark, Beaumont:

- (1) Irish Life Assurance Ltd. and Mr. A. J. Smith, Elm Park House, Beaumont.
- (2) & (3) 250 ground rents. Approx. @ £13.15 = £3,271.25.
- (4) Being paid for 20 years. Approx. total paid = £65,425.
- (5) No action taken.
- (6) Action being taken now.

Ratoath, Cabra West:

- (1) Ratoath Estates Ltd., 22 Sutton Park, Sutton.
- (2) & (3) 142 ground rents @ £17.50 = £2,485.00.
- (4) Being paid for 4 years. Approx. total paid = £9,940.00.
- (5) No action taken.
- (6) Ground rent being withheld as protest against non-development of estate.

ANJON LTD.

Brookville Residents Association in Drogheda is withholding ground rent in protest at the failure of the builders to complete the estate. Anjon Drogheda Ltd. is the company which collects much of the ground rent.

The main Directors listed in the Companies Office are Ian D. Wilson, Sandy Lane, Guilford, Surrey, J. S. Broad, 12 Guildford Rise, Maidenhead, Surrey and Clement M. C. Roys, Aydon Grange, Corbridge, Northumberland. J. S. Broad is listed as Chairman of Anjon Drogheda Ltd., with Wilson and Roys as Directors.

Registered in September 1965 by Kennedy and McGonagle, Solicitors, 34 Upper O'Connell St., Dublin, Anjon Drogheda Ltd. has had various mortgages created over the years and charged on lands in the Drogheda area on a 36 acre site at Moneymore and Yellowbatter. The Lombard Bank, 30 Nassau St., Dublin gave the mortgage.

In September 1971 sites numbered 47, 51, 54, 56, 62, 67, 75, 77, 78, 83, 316, 247, 249, 269 and 280, Brookville Park, Drogheda, ceased to be part of the Company's property in respect of a charge creating a sum of £45,000. The transaction was witnessed by J. D. Broad and I. D. Wilson on behalf of Anjon Drogheda Ltd.

Ground rent body formed in Drogheda

A public meeting in the Parochial Centre, Drogheda, last week led to the establishment of an anti-ground rent co-ordinating committee for the area. One hundred people attended the meeting which was chaired by Mr. Donnchadh Mac Raghnaill of the Drogheda Trades Council. Speaking at the meeting was Mr. Matt Larkin, General Secretary, National Association of Tenants Organisations and Seamus O Tuathail, Editor, Irish People.

Mr. Larkin commented on the differential rent victory gained by NATO and emphasised that it was the solidarity of the membership more than anything else which contributed to their success. Thanking the Drogheda Tenants and Residents Association (D.T.R.O.) and the tenants of St. Finian's Park for their steadfast support for the rent strike Mr. Larkin went on to appeal to both tenant and resident bodies to identify in ground rent a common bond which could link them together in a struggle for its abolition. "Let us forget the unfortunate differentiations which are actively fostered to divide us

from each other", he said. "We are all tenants, whether purchasing houses or renting them, when it comes to ground rent. This is an issue which NATO and ACRA can fight together for the good of all".

Basic Question

Seamus O Tuathail outlined the history of ground rent. He said the basic question being raised in the campaign was whether it was not long overdue that the Irish democracy exercise its right

on an issue last settled by the sword of conquest. "Dublin pays an annual tribute of £250,000 to the Pembroke Estate, successors of Strongbow. This rent has been paid in one form or another since 1171 and must qualify for inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records as one of the biggest prize funds paid out in the history of conquest in Ireland. Today the old aristocracy have been joined by the speculators, insurance companies and nouveau riche who ply their trade in the shadow of conquest law", he said.

N
W
G
F
W
it o
for
you

This exam
proposed
weekly w
children.
BASIC IN
DEDUCTI
Principal
Allowance
Social Wel
15p Hea
(Tax paid
be dedu
Total Ded
Remainder
is to be
RENT ...

There is only
for the succes
Union and that
be a need for it.
many people in
Hire Purchase C
Moneylenders
scarcely be an
country where a
is not needed.
Most Credit
with one p
recognises this
interested eno
community to
something abou
not have to be a
priest, teacher o
interest in the c
the basic c
required. Lack o
of accountancy a
inability to under
matters should
anyone off. M
existing Credit U
how easily this kn
be acquired.
The first step
group of interest
form a Study Gro
should then be m
Irish League of C

NATO WINS GRADED SCALE FOR TENANTS

The message that overtime, shift allowances and bonus payments were no longer to be assessable has tended to overshadow a number of other very important amendments to be made to the Differential Rent Scheme.

Most important of all is the new graded scale, for those whose basic income is £25 and under, details of which are set out in the accompanying panel. The lower one goes down this scale the closer one comes to the most severely affected victims of the old scheme. These were the ones in the dead end jobs or who were recipients of social welfare to whom bonus and overtime were foreign words. If the one sixth fraction was a burden on the tenant

by Denis Foley

The Irish People, Friday, July 13, 1973 PAGE 5 with a fair income it was absolutely backbreaking for the one whose income from Unemployment Benefit was £12 or less.

The National Association of Tenant Organisations had the proposals for a graded scale on top of their list of demands. That these proposals have been accepted almost in toto by the Minister is recognition of the justice of NATO's assertion that thousands had suffered hardship since the scheme was first introduced seven years ago.

That NATO has insisted and the Government has accepted that the level of incomes on this graded scale is to be regularly reviewed to keep pace with inflationary trends has insured that human needs and not bureaucratic arithmetic will in future be the dominant feature of rent assessment.

While it will be some weeks before the tenants' organisation, NATO, will have complied with its constitutional requirements, that members vote by referendum on the proposals, it is certain that they will plump massively for acceptance.

A number of matters have still to be cleared up. It is confidently expected that a much improved House Purchase Scheme will emerge from discussions to be held this week between NATO and the Minister for Local Government. The NATO representatives will also be discussing an important omission from the Minister's rent proposals — that on subsidiary earners.

The clause on subsidiary earners in the old scheme meant that a tenant had to pay rent on the income of any child or children who took up employment on leaving school. The Minister is unlikely to risk putting the whole new scheme in jeopardy by not making some concession on this point.

The following are other important points from the Minister's statement on the new scheme.

MAXIMUM RENTS: These will be frozen for a period of three years and increases thereafter to cover increased costs of maintenance, repairs, insurance, etc. may be made at three yearly intervals.

MINIMUM RENTS: Where the application of the graded scale results in a rent lower than the existing minimum the graded scale rent will apply.

OTHER DEDUCTIONS: In addition to the allowances set out in the graded scale the following sources will be disregarded for rent purposes, Children's Allowances, Scholarships, Allowances under the Boarding Out of Children Regulations (1954), disabled persons maintenance allowances, home assistance, payments under the Redundancy Payments Act, 1967, and a proportion of other social assistance payments not exceeding a half.

SUCCESSION OF TENANCY: A member of the household who has been paying rent for the tenant for at least one year before the tenant dies and who succeeds to the tenancy may do so without change in the differential rent scheme applicable to the dwelling.

SCOPE: The scheme will apply uniformly throughout the country from a current date and will supercede all existing differential rent schemes.

**Work
it out
for
yourself**



Members of the Executive of the National Association of Tenants' Organisations who met Mr. Tully, Minister for Local Government at the Custom House last week to discuss rents and rates. From left are: Donnacha Mac Raghnaill, Pat Byrne, Matt Larkin, Liam Nolan, Tom Byrne, Alfred Croker and Charles Keenan.

This example of how to calculate the rent under the proposed scheme is based on a tenant whose BASIC weekly wage is £20 and who has three schoolgoing children.

BASIC INCOME	£20.00
DEDUCTIONS	
Principal Earner's Allowance	£3.00
Allowance for Children 3 x 75p	2.25
Social Welfare Stamp and 15p Health Contribution (Tax paid on BASIC pay can also be deducted if applicable)	1.36
Total Deductions	6.61
Remainder on which fraction of 1/6 is to be paid	13.39
RENT	£1.67 plus rates

Congratulations Matt!

Among the messages of congratulations received by NATO last week were several from tenant bodies in British cities. The Conservative Government's Fair Rents Act (similar in many ways to the Differential Scheme which NATO opposed here) has aroused much opposition in Britain.

However the message which gave NATO most satisfaction, according to Matt Larkin, was one from Billy Ritchie of the Amalgamated Organisation of Corporation Tenants and Community Associations in Belfast.



Matt Larkin, Gen. Sec., N.A.T.O.

THE NEW GRADED SCALE FOR D. RENT

BASIC INCOME	Principal Earner's Allowance	Allowance For Children	Rent Fraction
Up to £12	£6	75p per child	1/12
Over £12 up to £15	£5	75p per child	1/10
Over £15 up to £18	£4	75p per child	1/9
Over £18 up to £25	£3	75p per child	1/8
Over £25	£2	75p per child	1/7

Credit Union: Why, How:

There is only one essential for the success of a Credit Union and that is there should be a need for it. Today with so many people in the clutches of Hire Purchase Companies and Moneylenders there can scarcely be an area in this country where a Credit Union is not needed.

Most Credit Unions start with one person who recognises this need and is interested enough in his community to want to do something about it. He does not have to be an accountant, priest, teacher or whatever — interest in the community is the basic qualification required. Lack of knowledge of accountancy and a fear of inability to understand money matters should never put anyone off. Members of existing Credit Unions know how easily this knowledge can be acquired.

The first step is to find a group of interested people to form a Study Group. Contact should then be made with the Irish League of Credit Unions,

9 Appian Way, Dublin 6 who will supply the necessary literature for study. It is essential to understand fully the Standard Rules for Credit Unions and also important is a study of the Credit Union Act (1966) for people in the 26 Counties, and the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (1969) for people in the 6 Counties.

Field Officers who are expert on all facets of Credit Unionism are available from the League to advise and lecture Study Groups in any part of the country. In studying the Standard Rules the group will become aware of the conditions regarding common bond, membership qualifications and the legal requirements that have to be complied with in forming and operating a Credit Union.

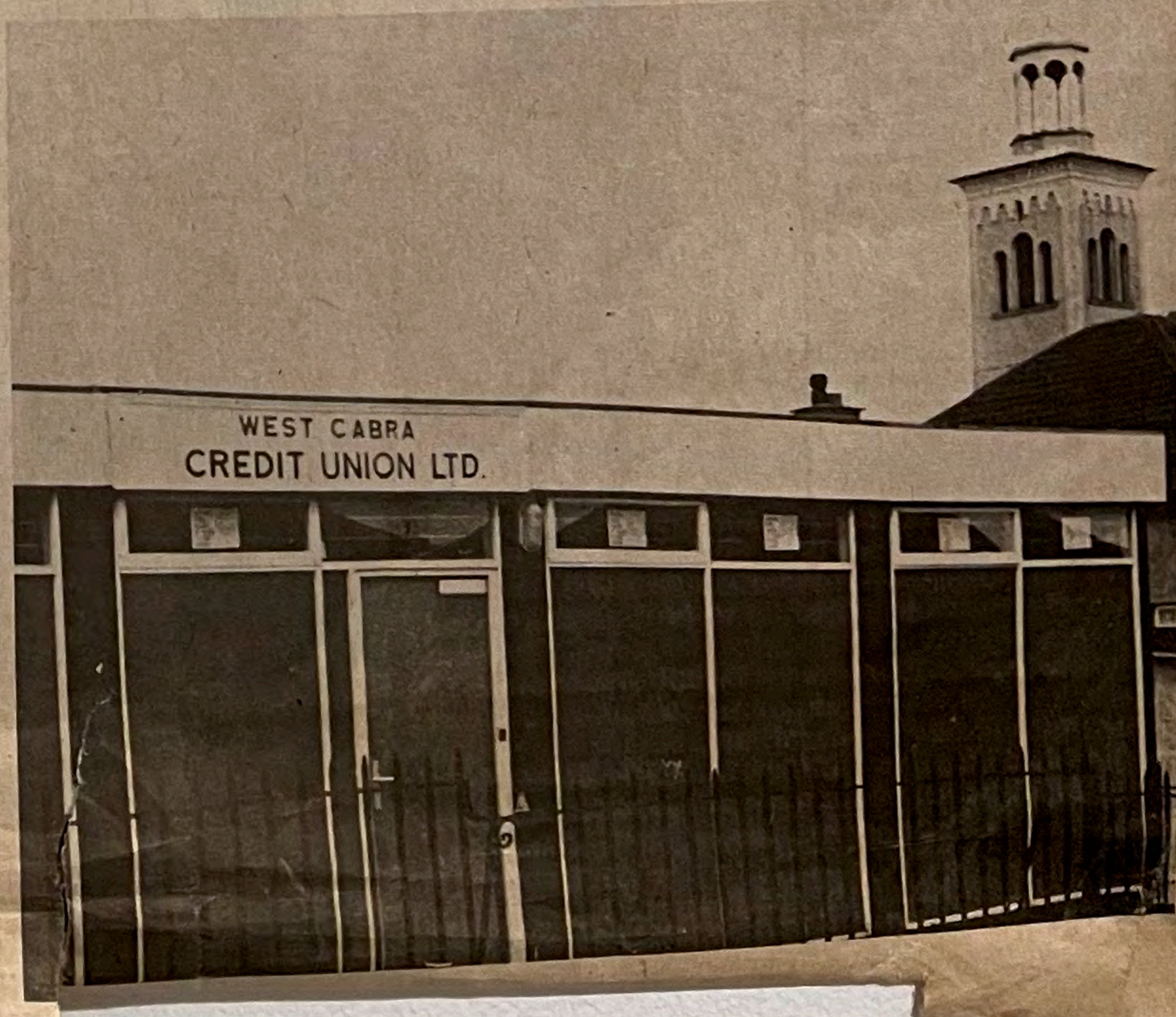
A visit to an existing Credit Union should be arranged through the League. Seeing how an established Union works is the greatest education of all — here the

problems which confront all new Unions will have been met and surmounted and invaluable lessons can be learned.

All that remains then is the calling of a public meeting which the whole community should be encouraged to attend.

In organising this the temptation to invite "prominent" people to the platform should be resisted. It is the "ordinary" people who will make or break the Credit Union and if any inviting or enticing is to be done it is this category which should be concentrated.

Special attention should be devoted to ensuring that workers from local factories are present. Experience has shown that one or two people in a factory can in a matter of days educate the whole factory on Credit Union philosophy. And if from the beginning a regular Friday night flow of small savings comes from the factories the Credit Union will go a bomb.





● Mick O'Leary, Minister for Labour; Landed with problem of applying Fine Gael policy to a section of the Trade Union movement.

COALITION'S FIRST REAL TEST

BY CORMAC O'DONNELL

No Irish policy on the cod war

Ireland has no attitude on the cod war between Britain and Iceland. This was stated in the Dail last week in reply to a question from Mr. C. J. Haughey.

The lack of a Government attitude on the matter comes as a surprise in view of the many statements of support from several Irish groups for Iceland's case. In a recent message to the Government of Iceland, the National Fishermen's Defence Association said, "being a small isolated nation ourselves, experiencing mass plunder and exploitation of our fishing grounds by highly sophisticated foreign owned fishing fleets, we wish you success and trust you will emerge victorious from this David and Goliath struggle".

The failure of the Irish Government to support Iceland on this issue — indeed its failure to even form an opinion on the matter — means that in the event of a fishing dispute between Ireland and some foreign power, we can expect little support from other small countries like Iceland. The latest edition of the "Irish Skipper", journal of the Irish fishing industry, points out that in the event of Ireland introducing a 50 mile limit, we would be unable to prevent foreign trawlers entering our waters.

Ireland weakest

In an editorial, the magazine states: "When Irish fishermen passed a resolution last month calling for a 50 mile limit, their decision was taken without due assessment of the disadvantages for Ireland if several adjacent countries were to adopt the same". Only those countries with naval power could implement their decision, but Ireland, "weakest of all in protection vessels" would take the brunt of marauding fleets, says the journal.

As Europe's largest fishing fleet, the Norwegian one, begins to leave its own waters and search for new fishing grounds, would the Irish Government care to form an attitude on our own impending fishing war?



Residents of St. Mary's Park in Limerick are waiting anxiously to see whether the changed attitude to rents at Department level will seep through to change the attitude of Limerick Corporation regarding house repairs.

St. Mary's Park housing estate was built in the 1930s but an examination of the houses today would lead one to believe that the scheme was a relic of the 19th century. Rotting doors, window frames, and leaking roofs abound. It is almost impossible to get the Corporation to have repairs carried out. And there are no bathrooms.

Although the Corporation Rent Book contains a set of 14 rules governing conditions with which tenants must comply, including one which specifies that tenants are forbidden to make alterations to houses, there is absolutely no mention of any rights for the tenant.

Complaints and requests for repairs are invariably ignored. One woman, Mrs. Mary Boyce, who has been a tenant for 37 years, has for four years been looking for a back door. The Corporation, instead of supplying the door, offered Mrs. Boyce a swap.

Mrs. Ellen Stokes, mother of eleven children, has also been

The Coalition's first real exercise in labour relations is going to be very interesting to watch. An apparent head on collision with the bank employees is on if one is to take the Regulation of Banks (Temporary Provisions) Bill as introduced by Mick O'Leary on its face value.

The Bill is to give legislative effect to the Government's bid to maintain the National Wage Agreement in view of increases negotiated with bank staffs which are stated to be in breach of the agreement. Both the Minister's and the Government's bark are worse than their collective bite, however.

The control of wages and prices are essential to the success of any Government in power. The Coalition is determined to be successful on this vital issue and realise that this area of prices and wages is the make and break ground of its survival chances. And so a well worked out pragmatic piece of Labour-Fine Gael grafting went into the Bill which O'Leary introduced with such élan. Shock value is the big value with the Bill and is expected to prevent the necessity of giving it a second reading.

Like the Hail Mary the Banks Bill is composed by two parties... not the Angel Gabriel and Holy Mother Church, it should be noted, but Fine Gael and Labour. Fine Gael undoubtedly made the proposition that the Fianna Fail Bill on the Banks be dusted down and brought into use. Fianna Fail had prepared such a Bill in January in relation to the same bank dispute when negotiations had broken down.

Labour then responded with the idea that the penalties in the Bill be directed against the Banks themselves instead of the employees (as in the original Fianna Fail draft of the Bill). This would make the idea of Labour supporting such a Bill more acceptable to their followers and, anyway, bank officials it was reasoned, because of the lingering tradition of snobbery attaching to their position, are fairly isolated from the mainstream of Trade Union sentiment.

O'Leary would take the bull by the horns and look for maximum shock effect in his introduction on the condition that the very last thing the Government will do is actually go ahead with trying to get the Bill on the statute books.

But if hardy comes to hardy on the issue the bank officials — only the top 1,500 out of 7,000 will be actually affected by the legislation — represent the best section of Trade Union labour for the Labour Party to inflict Fine Gael policy upon.

Jack Lynch, quick to spot the smooth patina being applied to the piece of Coalition cobbling, determined to exploit the vein. He spoke angrily and accused the Government of "abandoning the free, collective bargaining principle in industrial relations". The tremble of indignation in his voice would almost convince one that this was the principle 1916 was fought over.

Lynch sharply reminded Labour of its bitter opposition to the E.S.B. Bill. Mr. O'Leary replied that he was defending the voluntary agreement reached after collective bargaining. And it was pointed out from the Government side that only a week previously George Colley had lashed the Government for failure to enforce the National Wage Agreement. Fianna Fail could not have it both ways.

But the opposition can have it both ways. Undoubtedly Lynch's criticisms of the Bill will deal with its timing and detail more than its substance. We can expect references to "hasty legislation", "discriminatory penalties", etc. Fianna Fail will be trying to exploit the ideological differences between Labour and Fine Gael supporters even if there is little hope of creating any difference inside the hallowed precincts of the Dail. The Coalition, for its part, will exert every collective muscle to present an absolutely united front and, on this issue, will succeed.

Behind this small wave, however, lies a sea of economic trouble. Fianna Fail are willing to wait until the economic tides sweep the Coalition towards the rocks.

Limerick's housing shame

trying without success to have her front door repaired (see picture). After four years of trying, and worried about the health of her children, she decided to write to the Minister for Health. The Minister acknowledged her letter and told her she should again get in contact with Limerick Corporation. She did and she still has a rotten front door.

Mrs. A. Young is luckier than most other tenants. She had been seeking repairs to her window frames (see picture) for over three years. Tired of waiting, she threatened to dump the frames into the City Hall and this seemed to spur the City Manager into action. Her windows now have new frames.

Tenants in St. Mary's Park feel they are the poor relations as far as Limerick Corporation is concerned. The Park is in an area which is to be redeveloped, because of its historical significance, to make it more attractive to tourists. The Corporation have plans to make houses in the Park less of an eyesore for visitors. A spokesman has said that the Corporation intends to brighten up the house fronts by the erection of porches. They have no plans for the provision of bathrooms or interior improvements. Nor do they intend to improve the water supply. Tenants believe that the Corporation, having dealt with the outside facade for the tourists, intend to leave

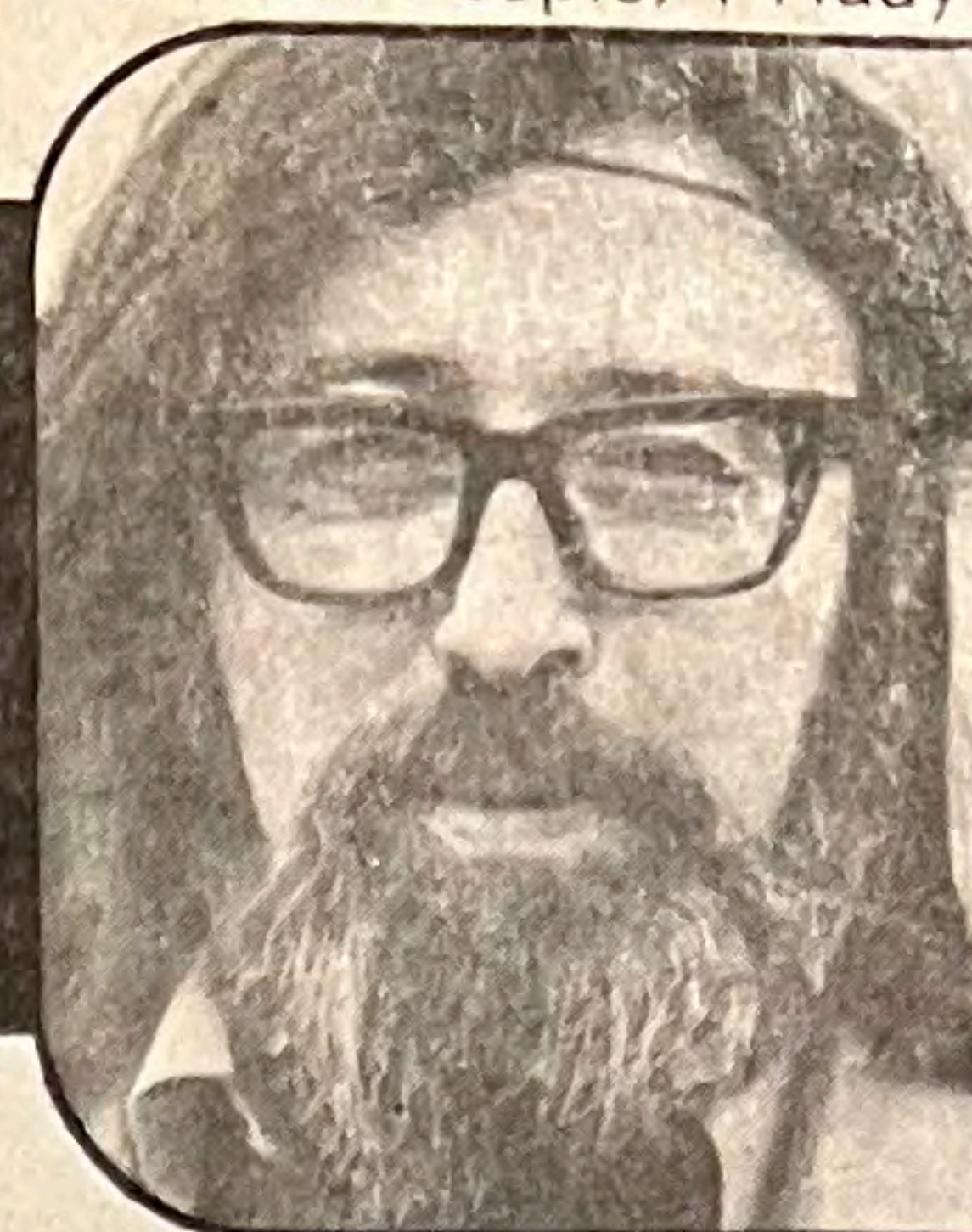
them to make the best of the appalling living conditions inside.

The approach of the Corporation is perhaps understandable when one considers the attitude of some of the public representatives to the plight of the residents. One of them, Alderman Stephen Coughlan, the Labour T.D., toured the estate recently. The former Mayor of Limerick, Alderman Kiely, calls there once a week collecting insurance. Alderman Kiely has made no suggestions on how the problems there could be tackled. Alderman Coughlan, on the other hand, issued a publicity pamphlet on his visit. His suggestion for St. Mary's Park is a novel one. "I advise people to purchase the houses and then the Corporation would do the repairs", he says.

Despite the increased allowance that the recent Budget has allowed Mrs. Stokes for her 11 children, the chances of her being able to afford to purchase her house are remote. Like many more of the tenants in St. Mary's Park, she will have to go on being the poor relation as far as the Corporation is concerned — that is if they don't decide to make things awkward for the City Manager. The Differential Rents success has proven the old saying that 'a dumb priest never got a parish'. The St. Mary's Park tenants might prove the same thing about attention from the Limerick Corporation.

● Above: Mrs. A. Young: City Hall threat got her new window frames. At Left: Mrs. Mary Boyce: Four years looking for a back door.

The North



letter
from
belfast
DES O'HAGAN

"Damn the miserable politicians"—Ritchie Ryan



● Ritchie Ryan.

The Irish Government's case against Britain's use of torture during interrogation and internment in the North, which was to have begun on Wednesday, has been postponed until October at Britain's request. A statement from the Commission pointed out that the Dublin Government offered no objection to the postponement.

Ireland's agreement to the postponement will come as a welcome relief to the British Government who are currently winning the propaganda war about the North. Adverse publicity at this time would damage their "anti-terrorist" image and it would also draw attention to their present policy of torture which continues unabated in Castlereagh R.U.C. station and in Long Kesh. The postponement has also meant that the British Foreign Secretary, Alec Douglas Home, attending the recent Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation, could call for a "code of conduct" on military matters, without having to look over his shoulder at the Six Counties.

For the people in the North, however, the Irish Government's acquiescence on the matter comes as a major disappointment. As many of the men originally interned in August 1971 still suffer in Long Kesh and hundreds of others are sent to join them under the British Army's policy of creeping internment, news that the charges are to be postponed was greeted with

stunned disbelief. The Civil Rights Association said that they were "shocked almost beyond words" at the news.

The hearing of the case at Strasbourg this week would most likely have meant a temporary easing off of the continual British Army harassment of minority areas in the North, and it would also have led to a lull in the present torture policy, thereby giving a well deserved holiday to Rev. Fr. Dennis Faul of Dungannon, who spends much time documenting cases of ill treatment and torture as soon as they happen.

The reluctance of the Fine Gael Government to press for the case to be heard comes as a surprise in view of their policy while in opposition to have the charges brought.

Mr. Ritchie Ryan said at that time: "... and damn, too, the miserable politicians in all three supposedly concerned governments who lack the decency and courage to bring this infamy to an end". Mr. Ryan and his colleagues in the Coalition Cabinet had the opportunity to bring this infamy to an end this week. They failed to accept it.

The Assembly elections are over and the only question now facing the bucolic Mr. Whitelaw is the problem of constructing a puppet Executive. The design for such a cabinet is easy, a Protestant, a Catholic, a Protestant, a Catholic, with possibly a tame Atheist to satisfy the Don't Knows. This will be described as Real Power Sharing with no one prepared to be like the boy in the folk tale of the Emperor's new clothes. Were there such an innocent child he would be well to keep his mouth shut as any attempt to explain that the Assembly is naked of all real power would have him in Long Kesh before he could say 'altogether'.

There seemed to be less enthusiasm for this recent round of vote-gathering than for the local government elections, at least in West Belfast. Republican Club workers appeared to be somewhat apathetic, while the SDLP, who were expected to take three seats, managed only two, Paddy Devlin and Des Gillespie.

Devlin is a famous name in that constituency. Nationalist M.P. at Westminster was the mill girls' hero, Wee Joe, and the children, even twenty years after, sang "Joe Devlin won the West". Joe, who at one time managed the oldest pub in Belfast, Kelly's Cellars, where the United Irishmen met, was either adored or hated. It is unlikely that any of the present candidates will provoke such extremes of feeling.

Still, there could be surprises yet for the Tories in Westminster. A very shrewd judge of politics was telling me last week that the Alliance Party, anxious not to be considered pale Englishmen, will be pressing for full control of the economy and demanding state industry to deal with the inhuman level of unemployment. Somewhere under the pin-striped suits beats the red heart of a Joe Stalin. I can't really see Bob Cooper as the reincarnation of Uncle Joe, or Oliver Napier as an Irish Lenin, but there have been stranger things in Irish politics. Isn't Basil Brooke in the same camp as the Republicans in his rejection of the White Paper? The mind boggles.

I was talking to a man of Brooke's generation but who was very much on the opposite side. Many of his comrades of the twenties went over to the Free State in the Civil War, rising high in the ranks of the "National Army". He stayed on in West Belfast to protect the people during the pogroms of the time. His memory of those days, the personalities, the engagements, is still sharp. In particular he recalled Joe McKelvey who lived for a time at 26 Cyprus Street, immediately behind Leeson Street.

There isn't as much as a plaque on the wall to mark McKelvey's home which is a great pity. Not just because he was one of the Falls' more famous sons, but I understand that he had a genuine Republican attitude to sectarianism. My friend, over a bottle of stout, reminisced about McKelvey with whom he had many disagreements. "It was a tragedy he didn't stay in Belfast. Joe was bitter about religion. He hated to hear anyone cursing the people of the Shankill and there were many like that. He used to say that three-quarters of the battle was to win the workers over there to see the real enemy. Had he lived, the thirties here could have been different."

We have many commemorations, Easter, Bodenstown, on May Day further up the Falls to where Connolly once lived, and to propose another may seem inadvisable. But with the continued sectarian killings and the spread of the cancerous intercommunal hatred surely an anti-sectarian rally in the back streets of the Lower Falls at McKelvey's old home would be welcomed by all who feel the same as Joe did.

There have been demonstrations against the British Army, for Civil Rights, for Peace, against Repression. It is high time that those of us who believe in the secular philosophy of Tone, who want the unity of Irishmen and not the abyss fostered in the name of religion, came unto the streets in the knowledge that to win the war against the religious bigots and fanatics we must show where we stand.

HEATH ABOLISHES JURY SYSTEM . . .

Sir Peter Rawlinson, Attorney General in the Heath Administration, made a startling admission before the committee processing the new British Special Powers Act for Northern Ireland. Sir Peter said that Juries in the North would not convict Unionist extremists and gave this as the reason for the proposal to abolish Juries contained in the Bill, The Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill.

Civil Rights observers in the North had surmised that the Unionist bias in the unreformed Jury System lay behind the Emergency Provisions but the British Government admission brings the matter on to a higher plane.

Spoils system

The Judiciary in Northern Ireland remains unreformed but the appointment of Judges and magistrates and even the Chairmen of lowly Tribunals has been reserved to Westminster for the future. Generally, the Northern Judiciary has been part of the spoils system operated for fifty years by the Orange-Unionist Administration. Former Unionist Party hacks litter the Judicial benches and in the past have made no attempt to hide their political prejudices. British appointments made by the Tory Lord Hailsham have not changed the pattern but the implied threat of possible removal will probably ensure that verdicts and sentencing under the no Jury system will conform to Westminster requirements.

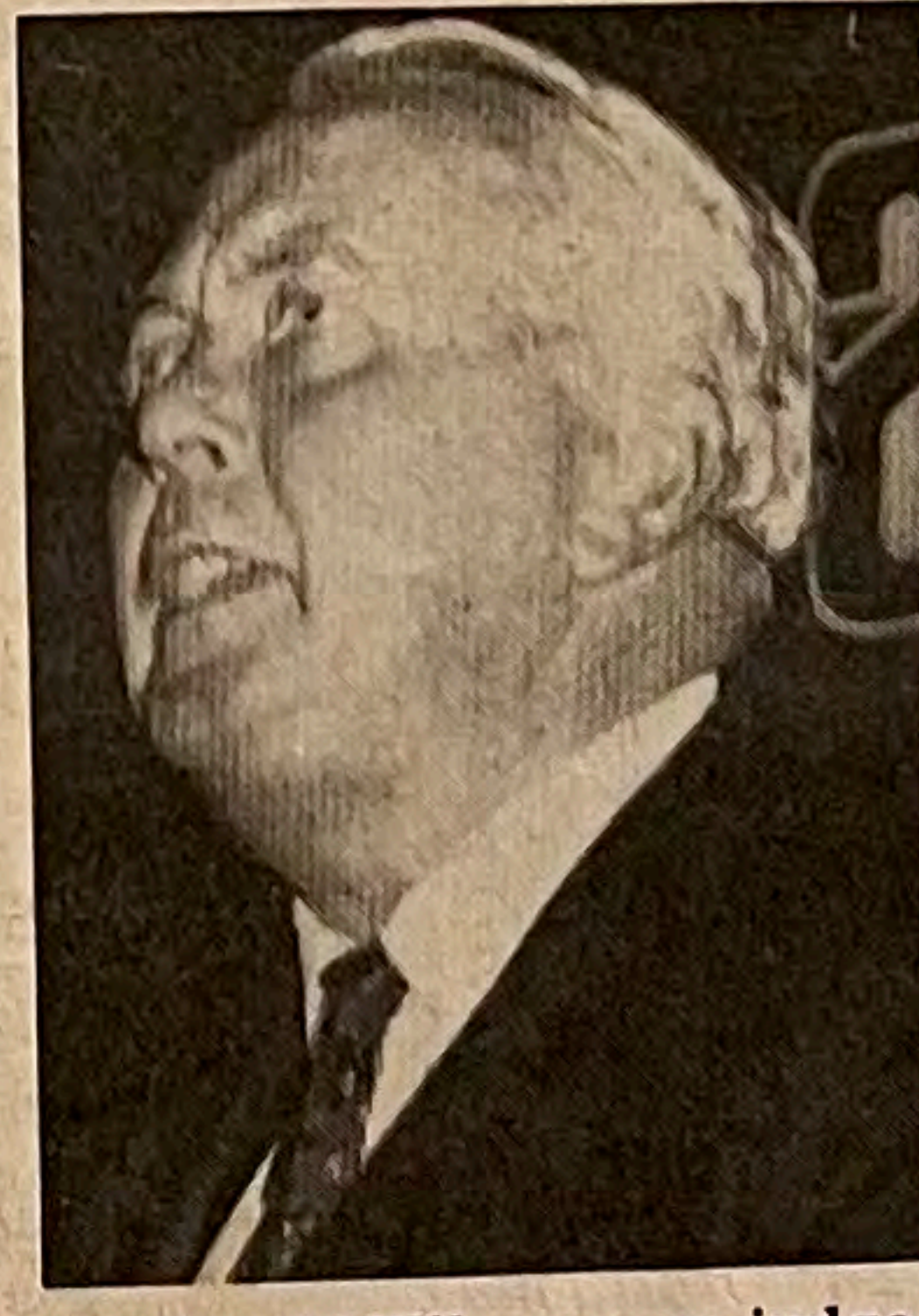
Britain has accepted the Civil Rights Association proposal that the Jury System be reformed by the extension of the list to include all persons appearing on the Electoral Registers but legislation may be long in coming. The Administration of the current system of Jury Service reveals the danger to a reformed Jury list if the North ever returns to normality and the Emergency Powers are rescinded.

Poll

A poll carried out by the C.R.A. on the Dermot Hill Estate in Belfast reveals that of 400 persons available for Jury service not one has been called on to serve despite the record number of trials before the Higher Courts. The local Civil Rights group in a Straw poll of similar Anti-Unionist areas alleges that this pattern extends to large areas of the Six-Counties. More damaging to the British Administration is the allegation that Unionist Areas have been canvassed asking for people to serve on Juries or inquiring if they want to serve on Juries. Britain's 'subversion' expert Frank Kitson advocates the use of the legal system simply as a back up force to Military requirements but in this example of Administrative skulduggery the suspicion must be that some Unionists will find a way to discriminate no matter what the Law may require. In canvassing such areas as the Black's Road near Belfast the legal eagles may have sounded their own reformist Death Knell.



● Edward Heath — no juries.



● Harold Wilson — no judge.

... WITHOUT OPPOSITION

The Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill was amended shortly before it passed its final stage in the House of Commons last week. The Conservative government amended the Bill to the effect that only one judge, sitting without a jury, should try persons charged with "terrorist-type" offences. This was the original aim of the Bill, but the Government accepted a Labour Party amendment in the committee stage some weeks ago which allowed for three judges to sit. However, as the hour of the final vote on the matter drew near, the Government reversed their earlier decision and the passing of the Bill into law will mean that people charged with arms and explosive offences in the North will be tried by one judge and no jury.

The last minute amendment was important on two fronts. In the North itself it will mean yet another strengthening of the British Army's case against impartiality in the legal system and British Army's case against impartiality in the legal system. Mr. It represents a serious erosion of the democratic process. Mr. Whitelaw's excuse in the Commons for his amendment was that there were "very real practical difficulties" in setting up a three-judge court, including the scarcity of judges. Mr. Whitelaw is not the first British politician to quantify the law. In British political circles the last minute ambush of the Labour Party has dealt a serious blow to their political credibility because of their failure to fight back on the issue. After they had succeeded in having their three-judge clause included in the Bill their failure to insist on its retention indicates how seriously they regarded the issue in the first place. Their attitude on the matter was summed up by Mr. Merlyn Rees, shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, who commended the Labour M.P.s on their support for the Bill.

Only six Labour members voted against the Bill and if this represents the Labour Party conscience on the North, their policy on the matter can be expected to differ little from that of their Conservative colleagues.

Sweden caters for deserters

"If British soldiers don't want to kill Irish people they can come to Sweden", according to Mr. Barry Fockler a leading member of the Swedish-based British Deserters' Support Group. Despite British Government denials, there are at least twelve British Army deserters in Sweden, four of whom arrived there last week following publication in the "Daily Mirror" of facilities available to soldiers seeking political asylum in the country.

Deserters who go to Sweden will be provided with free accommodation, and free language courses are available. Full Swedish welfare benefits — comparable with those in Britain — are paid to deserters, and wives and families arriving in Sweden after their husbands will also be given political asylum. Job training opportunities are much superior to those in Britain, particularly those in the British Army.



In view of the lowering morale of the British Army in the North Mr. Fockler is not popular with either the British Government or the British press, and the "Daily Mirror" has painted a vividly coloured picture of him as a notorious deserter. Mr. X, intent only on enticing poor British boys away from the comfort of life in Belfast and other areas in the North.



HOW TYRONE WERE DOWNED

Battle at Ballina

Following a heated discussion between a delegation from the National Fishermen's Defence Association, headed by its Chairman, Frank Gallagher, and the Ballina Board of Conservators, two out of five disputed salmon licences were issued. The main influence on the Ballina Board of Conservators, the Moy Fishery Company, were well represented at the meeting. Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, one of the main shareholders, Mr. J. G. Thornton, Manager, and Mr. Hastings, Assistant Manager, Moy Fishery, were all present. Present also was Dr. B. M. Clarke, owner of the Easkey Fishery.

The heat in the discussion arose from a claim by the Conservators that the Department of Agriculture, and not the Board, had the power to issue the licences. Seamus Mac Rlocaird, Howth, one of the N.F.D.A. delegation, then produced a letter from the Department which indicated clearly that the power to issue licences belonged to the Board. "We've another letter here contradicting it", said Dr. Clarke. Two licences were issued.

Also in the Ballina Board's area twelve fishermen from Beal a' Mhuilrthid are considering what action to take because of licences denied them by the owner-dominated Board.

Despite the presence of the British Army in Casement Park, Belfast, the General Secretary of the G.A.A. Sean O'Sit-down, insisted that the Ulster senior football final between Down and Tyrone be played there. Although Mr. O'Sit-down was not there himself, the match was played yesterday and our G.A.A. correspondent sent us this report.

This was a match to remember. Played in brilliant sunshine before a record attendance it was a fine exhibition of all that is good in Gaelic football. Referee E. Heath threw in the ball and it broke down to Tyrone mid-field man who beat three members of the Royal Hampshires to score a beautiful goal.

On the kick out a coloured Colour Sergeant of the 2nd Battalion, the Light Infantry, was struck on the head by a beautifully lobbed bottle. (In a statement issued in Dungannon last night the Tyrone Supporters Association claimed responsibility).

A free kick from where the gallant sergeant fell was taken with full military honours and the last post was sounded by the referee, who forced the Tyrone backs fourteen yards away from the body. The free was blocked down by a Saracen armoured car which was well positioned on the edge of the square. Early in the match Goalkeeper General Tuzo was injured by a low hard shot — believed to have been from an Armalite rifle. As he lay injured on the goal line a rubber bullet from one of his own men rebounded off his back and into the net for one of the finest own-goals of the season.

Umpire H. Wilson then disallowed a goal at the other end and he suffered two broken legs after being

involved in a goal-mouth incident with the 1st Battalion, the Parachute Regiment. The Royal Anglians missed several chances at goal and their aim could only be described as pathetic. This was later confirmed by a local I.R.A. man who said that the Anglians' aim had always been pathetic. Sporadic shooting continued throughout the match and the ball had to be replaced several times.

A British Army road block on the 21 yard line halted the Tyrone forward line for a time, but they soon learned to play the ball high and take their points from far out. A change in tactics by the British Army after half time almost swung the game for them. They placed sand bags and an anti-rocket net in front of their goals and this completely baffled both Down and Tyrone for some time. Only a land-mine explosion on the left wing ten minutes before full time sufficiently reduced the British Army strength to allow Down to score three good goals.

Tyrone then introduced their secret weapon — a fully automatic belt fed goal-scorer, complete with telescopic and night sights. They soon drew level and their left corner forward lobbed a mortar over the bar from a very difficult angle. General Tuzo tried to catch it and had to be carried off permanently.

The final result was: Down 3-13, Tyrone 4-10, British Army 200 dead and the rest injured.

Down and Tyrone played as selected. Replay next week.

Major find near Dundalk

Another major copper find was reported last week, this time in the townland of Rath-duff, about four miles north-west of Dundalk. The find was made by the Hibernian International Development Corporation which has been prospecting in the area for some time.

Valuable deposits of lead

and zinc have also been discovered and already there is speculation that it may be the most valuable mineral discovery to date in Ireland. The area where the find was made is very close to the border and it lies close to both Forkhill and Crossmaglen where prospecting is taking place under licence from the British Government.

mines in ireland

CUT-OUT SERIES undersea

Ireland is surrounded not only by water but by oil fields. Due to a continuation of her underlying sedimentary rocks beneath the sea, Ireland's offshore waters conceal unknown quantities of oil and natural gas. The extent of mining in Ireland is slowly dawning on the Irish public because of the sight of the mines and the fact that a handful of people are employed by the mining companies, but the extent of offshore oil exploitation is hidden by the distance the oil fields are from land and by the fact that the companies employ only imported specialist labour.

The main oil exploiters off our coasts are the Marathon Oil Company of Ohio. Under the terms of Lease WO1 granted to them by the Irish Government in May, 1970, Marathon acquired the exclusive petroleum rights to prospect and exploit the mineral wealth of nearly one third of the entire Irish

coastline. The main area covered by the lease stretches from a point off Arklow round the south coast to a point due south of Waterville, Co. Kerry. They also have the rights of the sea bed from the mouth of the Shannon North to Galway Bay — a total of over 20 million acres. Under the terms of the lease the Irish Government will receive 12½ per cent of the profits made and Marathon will pocket the remaining 87½ per cent.

Marathon have drilled six wells to date, but although they announced the results of the findings in the first four, they have not published any information about wells five and six. The first four holes revealed that there was oil and gas but not in commercially viable quantities. Their reluctance to publish their findings in the last two wells indicates that they may have literally struck oil. Their agreement to allow Esso to drill other wells in the area

for them would add support to this belief.

A recently formed investment company, Petroleum Royalties of Ireland Ltd., intends to buy a £1m. share in Marathon, which is the only oil company to hold an exclusive lease. This gives them the right to explore, drill and exploit, but other oil companies have been given non-exclusive leases, which entitles them only to explore. It is expected, however, that the Minister of Industry and Commerce will grant all such companies exclusive leases in the autumn. There are at least 50 companies waiting for exclusive leases, although there are no more than about 16 of these actually exploring off the coasts — the rest simply buy seismic information about the sea bed geology off Ireland which is available on the international market.

More about all these companies next week.

SILENT MAJORITY SWINGS I.C.T.U. WAGE DECISION

As expected the I.C.T.U. conference in Killarney decided to convene a special delegate conference in September to review the operation of the two recent National five resolutions opposing another National Wage Agreement automatically fell.

The debate, which promised to be the liveliest of the conference, proved something of an anti-climax. The two main supporters of the September conference, the I.T. & G.W.U. and the W.U.I. did not even participate.

As speaker after speaker went to the platform calling for no further National Wage Agreements an air of total unreality developed. An uninformed observer might well have believed that the

death knell for National Wage Agreements was being sounded. As the vote was taken and the silent majority asserted its power all doubt was removed.

The debate left some understandable bitterness on the part of those opposing the executive motion, not because the way the vote went, but because their main protagonists in the I.T. & G.W.U. and the W.U.I. did not even attempt to answer their arguments. This may have been due to a reluctance on the part of the leadership of those

Wage Agreements and to decide whether further negotiations for a new Agreement should take place. The decision which was carried by a three to one majority meant that two unions to risk antagonising a membership which is becoming increasingly sick of the present agreement.

Speaking against National Wage Agreements and the executive motion Matt Merrigan, A.T.G.W.U. said that such agreements did not make economic sense for workers and that we were in danger of moving along the road to the corporate state.

Noel Harris of the A.S.T.M.-S. pointed out that only 45 per cent of the gross national product is consumed by those who create it, the workers. He accused the Trade Union Movement of castrating itself under the threat of having its throat cut by Jack Lynch with his wage freeze. Paddy Duffy of the Building Workers Union took up this theme when he suggested that under national wage agreements the unions had become eunuchs protecting the harem of capitalism.

One thing which emerged clearly from the conference was that it is not sufficient just to oppose a new national wage agreement. The alternative presented must have something to offer the low paid, the weak and the badly organised. A pointer in this direction was provided by B. Anderson of the A.U.E.W. who suggested (1) A National Minimum Wage of £25; (2) A national minimum increase for everyone and (3) Those in a position to do so to be allowed to fight for more.

pro new Thi PE Noe resp Ass In who Cons and dwell C that alm way are n what inter expe redu My M at M dard the s not l The on f subs had mor C pora Mini N.B of th near T as f cont the are subs wee

Tele Dire P. W. CHAI SPEN P. A. R. G. S. MC DR. E. J. MC M. M.

Title: The Irish People, Vol. 1, No. 11

Organisation: Official Sinn Féin

Date: 1973

Downloaded from the Irish Left Archive.

Visit www.leftarchive.ie

The Irish Left Archive is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to us, in addition to the original creators. For re-publication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to The Irish Left Archive have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.