

the irish people

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Takeover by secret negotiations

IRISH PEOPLE EXCLUSIVE

Secret negotiations for the complete takeover by the American General Motors Overseas Distribution Corporation of two leading motor assembly and distribution concerns have reached an advanced stage.

A meeting scheduled to take place in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin at 3 p.m. on Wednesday of this week could see the completion of the deal in the case of one of the companies, Reg Armstrong Motors Limited.

In the case of the other firm involved, McCairns Motors Limited, disagreement with General Motors on the winding up of the McCairns distribution interests could delay completion of the takeover.

Serious negotiations in the case of McCairns have been going on for some time. General Motors' initial proposals were put at a meeting held on December 4 last and it appears that only the distribution problem remains after a meeting held on April 9.

The first meeting between the Armstrong concern and General Motors was held on April 10 when outline proposals were made. A further meeting on April 17 saw agreement reached on all major matters.

Under the proposals the Armstrong assembly and distribution operations are to be wound up by the end of next year.

Of the 150 assembly workers employed at the Armstrong Opel plant General Motors will retain selected, qualified persons for their new component manufacturing plant. General Motors have told Armstrongs that personnel requirements at their new plant will not allow for the re-employing of all the workers. The American company will also be interested in employing some of the Armstrong management pool depending on their qualifications.

The Government will make a grant towards the cost of any retraining and, if necessary, General Motors will absorb any cost over and above the Government grant.

General Motors will, because of a commitment which they have made to the Government, share in the payment of any compensation which Armstrongs make in connection with redundancies. This commitment does not apply in the case of redundancies which occur between now and

the terminal date of the Armstrong operations at the end of 1974.

In the case of personnel, other than assembly workers, General Motors have no commitment to the Government. They will however participate in compensating distribution personnel who become redundant. It has been made clear to Armstrongs that General Motors must be represented at (Continued on back page)

Berry secrets to be used against Childers?



• NATO on the march

Tenants who purchase their houses before negotiations between the National Association of Tenants Organisations and the Minister for Local Government are completed may lose a considerable amount of money.

Among the matters under discussion in the NATO-Minister negotiations is the question of an improved purchase scheme and a spokesman for the NATO executive has told me that he is confident of a satisfactory outcome. He has warned however that though NATO are seeking that any benefits from an improved scheme be made retrospective there is no certainty that this will happen.

The NATO spokesman claims that some County Managers, dissatisfied with the Government concession of negotiating rights to NATO, are attempting to pressurise tenants to purchase before negotiations are completed. The method used, it is suggested, is the pretence by managers that the closing date for the scheme is imminent.

The Minister, has however extended the closing date for the purchase scheme to September 2 and tenants being pressurised towards quick purchase should point this out to local managers, the NATO spokesman advises. NATO want the purchase price of houses to be based on building cost. Under the present system the price, no matter how old the house, is based on the current cost of replacement.

'Don't buy yet' advice

Whatever the intention of Peter Berry in writing his shock letter to the press concerning controversial matters during his last years in office as Secretary in the Department of Justice the effects are certain to be felt by Flanna Fail Presidential candidate ERSKINE CHILDERS.

Apparently motivated by the Watergate affair and its uncovering of political scandals the content of Mr. Berry's letter will fill the vacuum in the Presidential Election race with a re-raking of the arms trial embers. The whole question of the integrity of Flanna Fail in Government is being dragged once again before the public at a time when it can only do damage to Childers' run for President.

By a remarkable coincidence Cruise O'Brien's much publicised jibe about Childers knowing "no more about the inner workings of his party than he knew about the Irish language" appeared in print on the same day.

The Childers' campaign, already damaged by news that the adhesive backing on the "Childers for President" stickers was made in the Sterling Works at Dunkinfield, Cheshire, could be completely destroyed by the political exploitation of Berry.

O'Brien's attack seems to prelude another period of Government by innuendo. What a pity that matters like those referred to in the Berry letter cannot be dealt with by public inquiry.

Flare-up in wake of salmon order

The success of the National Fishermen's Defence Association in winning a new Salmon Order has been met with jubilation among coastal fishing communities. But its reception among inland fishery owners has been exactly the opposite and battle lines are being drawn for a long slog-out between both parties.

The new Salmon Order considerably eases the situation created by an Order made in the dying days of the Fianna Fail Government which had the effect of excluding many traditional full-time fishermen from fishing. What its full effect will be is not yet clear. The new Order provides for the issue of salmon net fishing licences for public fisheries in tidal waters "to persons who derive their livelihood mainly from fishing and who were so licensed in any of the years from 1968 to 1972".

One of the immediate results of this Order will be that the volume of salmon caught by sea-fishermen will remain constant or even increase. This could lead to a fall in the number of salmon caught by private fishery owners.

The 1972 Salmon Order, based on the recommendations of the Inland Fisheries Commission, represented a triumph for the owners as the restrictions resulting from it all fell on the sea fishermen. The owners secured the Order by representing their proposals for a cut-back in drift-netting at sea as a very necessary conservation action.

In a comment in the Irish Times, George Burrows, a member of the Commission, stated that the Order "moved the whole notion of Conservation back to square one". Fishermen the Irish People has spoken to regard Mr. Burrows' attitude as that of a well-intentioned outsider. "He's been conned by the owners into thinking that every salmon not caught by us escapes. The owners don't want us to catch salmon at sea so that they can catch them in their own river traps", he said. He agreed there had been a big increase in drift-net licences in 1972 before the original Order had been introduced but said that one-sided action against sea-fishermen would not help conservation.

Other fishermen claimed that most of the damage done to salmon stocks happened off the coast of Iceland where heavy fishing took place and that the main question in Ireland was the carve-up between owners and fishermen.

Paddy Callaghan, an Executive member of the National Fishermen's Defence Association pointed out that in the total memorandum submitted by the Inland Fisheries Commission to the Minister for Agriculture "not one single word" was said about the position of river owners.

He instanced the fact that at least four members of the Commission represent private river ownership while the body responsible for the existence of the Commission, the National Waters Restoration League, were refused representation when the Commission was formed.



"When costs of advertising and paying commission by the Irish Societies are considered on their own, they range from about 230 per cent to 300 per cent above the British level".

— Andrew Whittaker, Irish Times.

For the facts and figures of Building Society advertising read page 5 inside.

the irish people

An Choismhuintir, Friday, May 11, 1973.

Really, Mr. Leonard!

So its mythology to say that old age pensioners have lost out because of inflation — according to Mr. Nicholas Leonard that is! His speech to the Irish Management Institute conference in Killarney must prove an eye-opener to trade unionists and social workers throughout Ireland.

To quote Mr. Leonard's words "unless they happened to be drink and tobacco addicts" old age pensioners are doing all right, thank you. So old age pensioners are expected to give up drink and tobacco as well as meat, cheese, bread and butter to fit into the economic vision of Ireland envisaged by the rich five per cent club of which Mr. Leonard is a member.

How well would Mr. Leonard's social habits fit into the £5.65 allowed to pensioners over eighty years, or into the £5.15 weekly allowance given to the over seventies? In these two categories alone there are a total of 110,000 persons trying to exist in a situation where the price of essentials creep higher with every visit to the shop.

But there is much to welcome in Mr. Leonard's speech apart from the eye-opening and audacious rationalisation of ever-increasing prices. His definition of inflation, for instance: "Inflation is caused by our choice, as a society, of the kind of social and economic structure that we wish to live within. This is not, or has not been to date, a conscious choice. It is the compound of many private and public decisions". This we agree with entirely.

And given Mr. Leonard's attitude towards the struggle of old age pensioners and his singling out of the Civil Service and Social Welfare recipients as areas in which to use the axe we can have little doubt as to the nature of his choice of economic structure.

Last month, in a single business deal involving the take-over of the Independent Group by Tony O'Reilly, Mr. Leonard made a cool £118,000 profit. There's a lot of eating and drinking in that if you belong to the poverty line population.

NO DISCRIMINATION

The Manpower Strike is over. As a result of negotiations between the Irish Transport and General Workers' the twenty temporary workers who were sacked on April 10 are back on the Manpower books with a 'no discrimination' guarantee. Positions were found for four of them on Monday.

The 'victory' of the Manpower strikers lies not so much in their reinstatement as in the notice served by them that operators of the part-time worker agencies will no longer have it all their own way. It must be recognised however that proper treatment can only be guaranteed if regular workers in concerns where the temporary workers are engaged see to it that there is no discrimination against the part-timer.

AGAINST GROUND RENT

A.C.R.A. is to be commended on opening its campaign for the total abolition of ground rent.

The very announcement of the campaign will have the effect of strengthening the natural repugnance of people to this immoral rent. It will have the further immediate effect of taking ground rent out of the gilt-edged market by lowering the bulk sale value. Companies don't buy trouble.

The collection of information from each of A.C.R.A.'s seventy-two affiliates on how much is paid in each area and to whom is a good initial step.

Now is the time for those opposed to this obnoxious rent to do the bit of work which will end it for all time. Winning the battle means changing the present law behind which are massed the serried ranks of Irish nobility and vested interest.

I.C.T.U. budget demands...

Prices:

● Removal of Value Added Tax from foodstuffs by the beginning of June at the latest.

Tax:

● Reduction in income tax payable by wage and salary earners.
Introduction of tax on Capital Gains.
Introduction of Tax on Farmers with holdings the Valuations of which are £50 or more.
Introduction of a Wealth Tax to replace Estate Duties.

Tax evasion:

● Imposition of strict measures to tackle tax evasion by some Business and professional people; tighter control of business expenses; discontinuation of allowing bank interest to be offset against income for tax assessment purposes; tax relief on mortgage interest to be confined only to one house and then only to a prescribed limit.

Rates:

● Reimposition on the rates of Office Blocks, Business Premises, Factories and Large Farms of the Health Service and Housing Subsidy costs recently removed from the categories.

Social security:

● An Exchequer contribution of £40 million for Social Insurance. New Benefits to be paid from an early date and not delayed until August or October as has been the practice.

Social insurance stamp:

● Reduction in contribution of workers by increase in charge of the employer.

Insurance ceiling:

● Raise the Social Insurance income ceiling and thus bring all employees within the scope of the scheme.



● Donal Nevin, main architect of I.C.T.U. demands.

.....and that farmers' tax plan

There are two aspects of the tax system which can only be described as a scandal demanding immediate remedy. We refer to the absence of a capital gains tax and the exclusion of all farmers from any liability to pay tax on farm profits. We insist that the Government in the forthcoming budget should declare its intention to introduce a capital gains tax and to have farmers assessed for tax on their profits from farming.

These may be regarded in some quarters as controversial proposals, but the Government has an obligation to face up to its responsibility

to ensure that the taxation system is reasonably equitable as between one section of the community and another. There can be no justification for a situation where huge profits can be made from speculative activities in land or property, in Stock Exchange transactions, take-over deals and financial manipulations of various kinds and yet not a single penny of tax is payable on such profits.

On the other hand, wage and salary earners must pay tax in respect of every penny that they earn. This glaring inequity must be remedied. Capital gains taxes are in

operation in most countries and there should be no delay in introducing such a tax here. To fail to do so would be tantamount to the rejection of any concept of equity in our taxation system. The present position must not be tolerated any longer. To do so would make a mockery of any appeal to workers to exercise moderation in this approach to income increases.

Many not liable

Regarding the taxation of farmers, Congress recognises that even if farmers were brought within the income tax system, many of them might not at present be liable to tax. However farm incomes have risen sharply over the past year and seem likely to continue to increase substantially for some years to come both because of rising prices and increased production. There can be no doubt that, taking into account all farm expenses and payments, the net income of the great majority of farmers is above the tax exemption limits which at present are as low as £8.60 a week for a single person, £14.30 for a married person and £17.30 for a married person with one child.

Whatever may have been the position in the past, it is

clear that large numbers of farmers now have incomes that should attract tax. In this connection we would point out that as long ago as 1960 (when farm incomes generally were quite low) a majority of the members of the Commission on Income Taxation, including its chairman, the then Chief Justice, Cearbhall O Dalaigh, recommended that farmers should be made liable for income tax on their actual profits.

It might not be administratively feasible to bring all farmers within the income tax system immediately. We propose that initially farmers with holdings of £50 PLV or over should be obliged to keep accounts and that they should be made liable for income tax on their profits assessed on an appropriate basis. The return in tax to the Exchequer would be significant and as farm incomes rise would be a growing source of revenue and permit the burden of taxation to be shared more equitably among the community.

Wage and salary earners paid about £120 million in income tax in 1972-73. (They contributed too, of course, their share of indirect taxation, rates, etc.) Farmers paid no income tax whatever on profits from farming.

Save city hospital campaign in Armagh

The belief that proper facilities could have saved the life of Tony Hughes, the young IRA officer, has brought the question of the rundown of Armagh City Hospital to the forefront again.

Local people claim that Hughes who had been shot by British Troops was still alive one hour after being brought to the hospital and blood transfusions in that period could have saved his life.

Such facilities however are not available in Armagh. In the past twelve months there has been a gradual rundown in services and, according to local people, the hospital is now little better than a convalescent home.

The deaths of several people in transit to Craigavon which is the nearest centre where emergency equipment is available earlier this year led to a campaign to have these services restored to Armagh.

A deputation which included the mother of Mr. John Taylor, Jim King of the Vanguard organisation, Malachy Toal of the Republican Club and Norman Creswell of the Unionist Party put the Armagh case to British Minister for State, Mr. Von Staubenzeck, last March.

The Minister promised to review the case and to visit Armagh to see the hospital for himself. He has not visited the hospital and in the absence of an indication of his intentions allied to what is believed to be the unnecessary death of

another Armagh man attempts are now being made to raise the pitch of the Save the City Hospital Campaign.

HAS CARLOW LOST 1,700 JOBS?

While the Industrial Development Authority says no firm decision has yet been taken workers' representatives in Carlow last week claimed that a £4m factory which would employ 1,700 people is not now to be sited in the town.

"I have information that the Agfa Gevaert camera factory has gone to Portugal, and that in fact, the decision to do so was taken months ago. Events will prove that this is so", Mr. Brian Kennedy, I.T. & G.W.U. organiser for the area, said.

Mr. Tom Fitzgibbon, chairman of the Carlow Workers' Action Committee, said that they also had heard that the Agfa Gevaert decision favouring Portugal had been made two months ago.

The IDA claims however that Agfa have yet to make a final decision. Mr. Pdraig White, of the IDA Information Department, says "We are not saying what the odds are of it coming here but Ireland still has a chance".

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Consortium to axe 300 jobs

At least three hundred redundancies will result from the drastic rationalisation plan for the coal trade in Dublin. The plan being put into effect by the new Dublin based coal consortium, Coal Distributors Ltd., will mean the closure of the miscellaneous coal yards scattered throughout the city dock area. Future operations will be centred in a new 'concentration yard' at Ringsend.

The new consortium resulting from a merger involving the Tedcastle, Heiton, Donnelly, Doherty and McKenzie coal concerns was announced last November. At that time demands for a written guarantee that no compulsory redundancies would occur were conceded to the workers who were represented by the I.T. & G.W.U., M.P.G.W.U., the W.U.I. and the A.G.E. & M.O.U.

Consequently all rationalisation proposals are to be based on the principle of voluntary option for lump sum severance payments, early pensions and natural wastage through normal staff turnover.

The detailed proposals prepared by a British Consultancy firm will abolish the daily casual and seasonal employment. Staff will be reduced to one third of the present force and the most modern loading, weighing and screening machinery will be put into operation. The introduction of the small quantity handy type sale pack

is likely. It remains to be seen if the customer can expect cheaper fuel — an unlikely prospect but essential if the trade is to survive at all. The 'living room' will not be brought back if the cost of the 'life' is prohibitive.

The casual employment system operated by the Dublin coal employers was considered one of the most degrading and inhuman casual employment systems in the country. The groups of 'coalies' gathered outside the coal yard gates has always been part of the early morning Dublin scene. Whether the early morning wait was rewarded by a days work depended on the extent of absenteeism among regular workers or a sharp turn in the weather.

Spring dole

Foul weather meant work and wages for Dublin's pool of 'coalies' but an early spring welcomed by everyone else provided the coal trade casual with the prospect of the dole queue at Gardiner Street employment exchange.

Generations of Dublin families followed the trade since it provided one of the few outlets for unskilled manual labour in the port area. Growth in consumer preference for oil, electricity and bottled gas has meant decreasing pay days for the 'coalies'. Now with the rationalisation they will no longer feature as a seasonable variation in the employment statistics. They will join the

permanent squad and eventually the 'unemployables'.

Private enterprise created Dublin's 'coalies', once the backbone of Larkin's militant Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, and now private enterprise has no use for them. Consigned to the scrapheap they must now become the responsibility of the state or of the community.

No one to weep

The companies, however, have adjusted better to this brave new world which has seen the demise of the 'coalie'. Tedcastles have expanded from Travel Agency to oil and petrol distribution through their subsidiary McDonald's Oil, their Dublin General Warehousing as well as the various properties and investments of the Reihill family. Heitons figure near the top of Ireland's 50 largest public companies showing a very high return on capital invested. Donnelly's interests include fertiliser, fuel oil, shipping, mosaic and tiling along with the other Stafford enterprises. McKenzies are shipbrokers, fuel oil suppliers and large property owners — a new office complex will replace their Pearse Street premises recently destroyed by fire.

Progress has dictated the departure of the filthy and grimy coal slack and the wet sludgy coal yard. No one will weep for their departure. But the full price for progress will once again be paid by more redundant workers.



The end of the line for Dublin's "coalies"? — Irish People pic.



WEEKEND/ COPINAC DUDDY

The civil rights movement in the Six Counties, apart from its major achievements in that area, has been responsible for a remarkable psychological change among the people in the 26 Counties. The movement has demonstrated, in no uncertain fashion, that it is possible for Irish men and women to cast aside religious and class distinctions, to unite in peaceful protest, and to achieve victories in the long struggle for civil rights. In short the people of the North have got up off their knees and given an example to their fellow-countrymen in the 26 Counties.

The lesson has not been lost on people in this part of the country. We have seen a new upsurge of "do-it-yourself" organisations in recent times. We have witnessed the militant stand of the National Association of Tenant Organisations in their campaign for just rents; we have seen the emergence of the Association of Combined Residents' Associations as a force fighting for an equitable rating system and the abolition of ground rents; we have observed the determined struggle of rural organisations like the Farmers' Defence Association and the National Land League in defence of the small landowners of Ireland. We have also seen, more recently, the setting-up of the National Fishermen's Defence Association which is carrying the fight for fishermen's rights to what looks like victory.

It is vastly encouraging to see all this happening — even if some of the efforts are probably too little and too late to be totally effective. But the mere fact that the small man is now standing up for himself and insisting on his basic rights is a major development.

It is particularly noteworthy and commendable when one contrasts the milieu in which the quiet revolution is taking place — an environment of selfish commercialism, political patronage and enervating materialism. It is a wholesome sign and augurs well for the survival of individualism and patriotic endeavour.

The struggle being waged — successfully to date — by the fishermen is especially heartening. The drift-net salmon fishermen have had their livelihoods eroded for years by increasing numbers of wealthy river-owners (many of them foreign), titled rod-anglers and their alien guests. The fishermen have been fighting particularly against the Fishing for Salmon Order 1972, introduced by Fianna Fail, and generally against outdated and unjust fishery laws. The Order resulted in a 40 per cent reduction in salmon-fishing licences among native fishermen. The river-barons, titled rod-anglers and their guests can apparently fish away to their hearts' content in season and no one reduces their licence numbers.

Consider the Order's effect on Oilean Cleire, for instance, where only one licence was left among 450 people; or Baltimore

where there was an 80 per cent cut in licences. True to tradition the fishermen of these areas are fighting back, in association with the men of almost every maritime county in Ireland. The Connemara men, for example, showed their feelings by throwing their few licences back at the local Board of Conservators and repudiating all the Board's regulations.

Seven hundred families throughout the country were hit by the cut-back in licences — families who have been engaged in salmon fishing for hundreds of years. Against this basic democratic right the Boards of Conservators, comprised in the main of rich riparian owners and wealthy rodmen with double-barrelled names and military titles, exercising only a dubious right by conquest or alien charter which would be upheld in no other country in the world save this craven state.

This outrageous situation is at last being remedied. Following the fine example set by the National Waters Restoration League, the united fishermen of the 26 Counties will not be content with anything less than a new charter — the abolition of the present Board of Conservators system and its replacement with a number of Development Boards on which the fishermen will be represented, and of course, the total review of the Iniquitous Order which caused all the trouble.

"The rivers of Ireland must be handed back to their rightful owners — the People of Ireland" says the Fishermen's Association. We wish them total success in their struggle.

Red faces

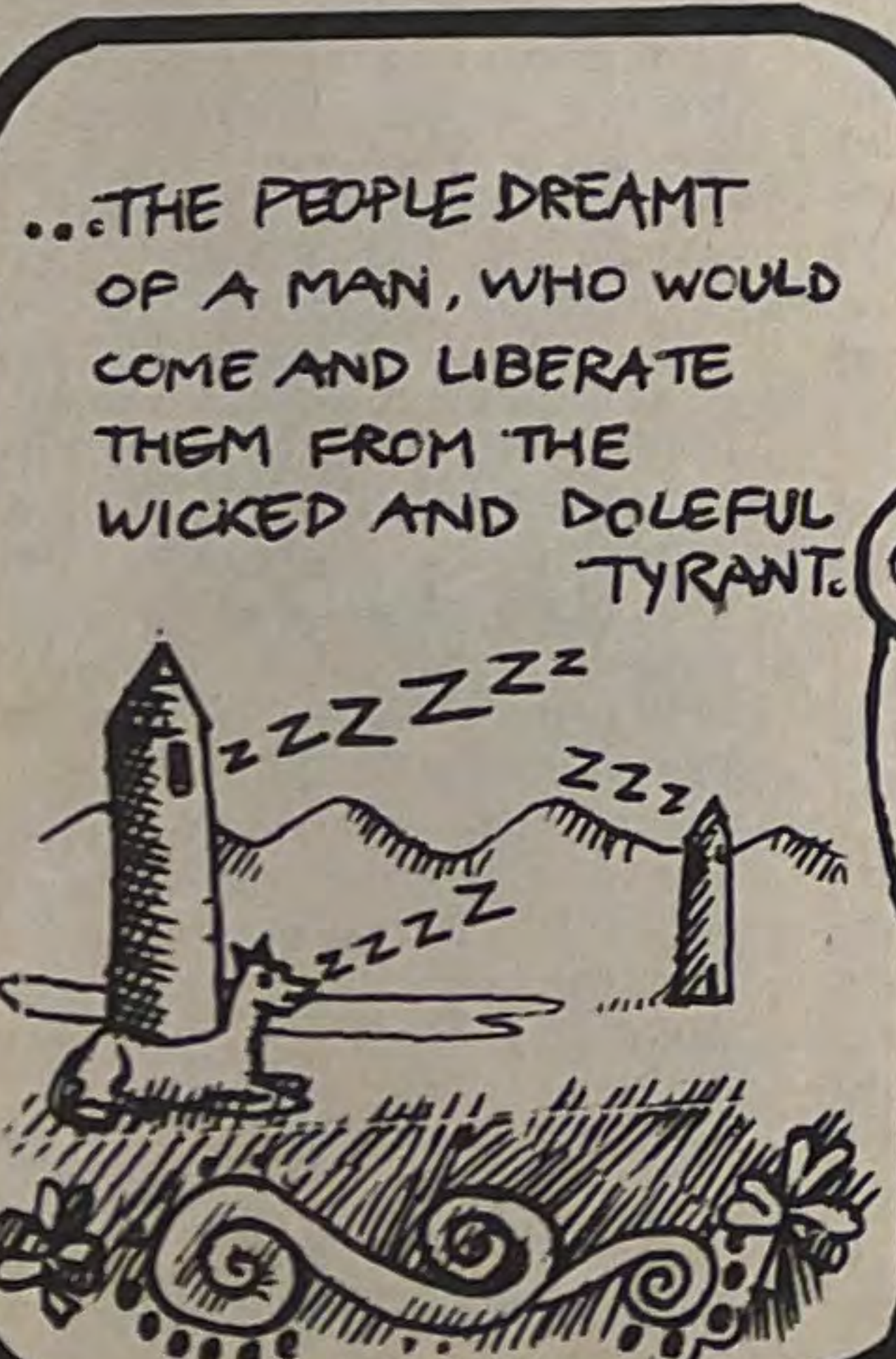
There are red faces in the Department of Defence these days. Let me reveal the cause. Some time ago an official in the Dept. heard that the U.S. Army was selling some surplus flak-jackets. Just the thing, thought the official, for our boys in the Defence Forces in case of trouble. So 15,000 U.S. Army surplus flak-jackets were bought — as yet I cannot name the price. They looked very efficient and were just the right colour too — green.

But when ballistics tests were carried out on the jackets, the looks of joy and pride on the faces of the Dept. of Defence officials and Army officers faded. The jackets could hardly stop a .22 bullet at 25 yards, not to mention anything worse.

The supposed protective padding of the jackets was found to be made of PLASTIC — not only extremely penetrable by bullets but highly inflammable as well. Hardly the best possible protection in these trying times!

A far from charitable member of the Defence Forces has been heard to suggest that the jackets could, perhaps, be sent North for the protection of the minority there — like those rifles and gas-masks that were sent to Dundalk once upon a time. Remember? It would be in line with official thinking on the question of protecting the minority in the Six Counties!

★ THE DAILMATIONS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



NOW IT SO HAPPENED THAT A WEALTHY MERCHANT FROM DÚN LAOIRE/RATHDOWN ENVIED THE DOLEFUL TYRANT'S POSITION OF POWER. — HE TOO WANTED TO BE THE CHIEF TAX COLLECTOR! BUT LITTLE LIAM WOULD HAVE TO WAIT... — HIS TIME HAD NOT YET COME!



How R.S.G. projections fell £505m. short

The gross metal value of the Navan ore body is not £1,045,000,000 (one billion and forty five million) as calculated by the Resources Study Group in a study published a year ago.

It is in fact £505 million greater than the Group's figure.

The RSG figure, at the time

condemned by the Northgate-Tara mining axis as a "gross exaggeration", was calculated on a triple projection. They projected (1) an ore body size of 100 million tons averaging (2) a mineral content of 10 per cent combined lead/zinc (zinc to lead in the ratio of 5:1), with (3) a selling price on the international

market of Lead at £100 per ton and Zinc at £135 per ton.

However the latest figures available for percentage mineralisation, supplied by the mining company itself, is 13.5 per cent for the first 52 million tons. A report on Navan in the London Financial Times recently stated that the 'confirmed' ore body at Navan had reached 77,000,000 tons. Assuming the additional 25 million tons had a mineralisation content similar to the first 52 million the tonnage of metal content at Navan is about four per cent higher than that projected by the Resources Study Group.

On the international commodity markets the current price of Lead is £155 per ton (RSG Projection was £100) and Zinc £265 per ton (RSG Projection was £135). The price of Navan's lead is therefore approximately 55 per cent above the RSG figures and that of Zinc at about 51.5 per cent higher.

a compromise solution within the Cabinet could see mining royalties increased from the present 9 per cent to 20 per cent. This would represent only a marginal improvement in the situation — 97 per cent of the wealth generating resources would continue to leave the country.

The Big Spenders

(Continued from cols. 2 & 3)

Comparisons based on the top twenty in advertising are arbitrary and not totally reliable but they do reveal the tremendous amount spent on advertising by the Societies. This information when coupled with the Irish Times revelations that Building Societies in Ireland spend 230-300 per cent above their British counterparts in attracting investment raises very serious questions for the Commission to probe.

The Commission must ask itself if the present borrowers from the "Big Four" and other Societies are not unduly burdened by the massive £670,000 plus spent on Advertising, Commission and Agency Fees in 1972.

Would rationalisation of management and advertising costs not have kept the doors of Societies open throughout the year? Rationalisation in this area as well as restricting Societies to giving home loans to bona fide house seekers by ending their investment in commercial properties would seem to be a good part of the answer.

Commitment

This latest news on Navan has given added credence to the Resources Study Group findings and Mr. Justin Keating, Minister for Industry and Commerce and his Labour colleagues in the cabinet should be under particular pressure to have the Labour Party commitment to nationalisation implemented by the Coalition Government.

With the imminence of the Budget speculation is rife that

The first Connacht branch of the income tax reform organisation, NITRO, has been formed in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

The organisation, whose tactics include the lobbying of both the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Federated Union of Employers as well as the picketing of Government Buildings, want a change in the method of tax assessment for wage and salary earners.

They are demanding the increase of the personal tax free allowance to £600 for a single person, £1,200 for married people with an allowance of £200 for each child. They also want tax relief on income from overtime and bonuses.

NITRO (The National Income Tax Relief Organisation) claims that revenue lost by conceding their demands can be recouped from a tax on farmers, capital gains taxes, a more realistic assessment of the income of professional people and an adjusted system of mining royalties.

N.I.T.R.O. branch in Connacht

The rough ratio arising as between expenditure on Staff, etc. and Advertising, etc., among the respective Societies reads: £4 on Staff to £1 on Advertising (Irish Civil Service); £2 on Staff to £1 on Advertising (First National); 75p on Staff to £1 on Advertising (Irish Permanent); £1.33 on Staff to £1 on Advertising (E.B.S.).

In other words, if a cost ratio involving the respective amounts spent on staff as against that spent on advertising is an admissible criterion for judging efficiency of Building Societies then a crazy up and down pattern emerges. "Why", a borrower in one Society may ask, "does my Society have to spend a quarter more on advertising than on staff while another one spends four times less on advertising than on staff?" A very valid question since both compete in the same field for the same money.

Yet another valid question immediately arises. The necessity for advertising is acknowledged but how much does Building Society advertising reflect the competition for available funds with the Banks, etc., and how much does it reflect wasteful competition with each other?

A glance at the table above reveals that between them the "Big Four" spent more than half a million pounds in a single year on advertising. How much of this half million pounds could have been saved by rationalisation among the Societies?

1972 SPENDING ON ...	DIRECTORS, STAFF, AUDITORS	ADVERTISING, COMMISSION, AGENCY FEES
Irish Permanent	£249,150	£318,500
Irish Civil Service	£64,996	£15,161
First National	£163,582	£83,604
Educational (E.B.S.)	£203,611	£157,715

An examination of the "top twenty" advertisers for 1972 reveals some startling facts. The total spent by the three Societies which qualify for inclusion in the top twenty bracket, the Irish Permanent, Educational (E.B.S.) and First National makes a staggering £385,520. Of this total the Irish Permanent spent £243,539 — or 58 per cent of the total spent on advertising by the three. A further £74,961 was spent by the Permanent on "Public Relations, Commission and Agency Fees" in the same year to make the total set out in the table above.

When the placings of the main Societies in the 1972 advertising leagues of Radio, Press and T.V. are examined the moral question of whether such an important social necessity should be left entirely in the private enterprise area arises.

In the T.V. league the Permanent came fifth after firms like Unilever, Guinness, Cadbury and Irish Biscuits with an expenditure of £103,098. In the Radio league it came third after Unilever and Quinns with a spending of £22,575, leaving Guinness in fourth place. In the Press league it came fourth with a spending of £117,866 leaving Guinness trailing in seventh position.

The Educational Building Society came fourteenth in the T.V. league with an expenditure of £55,962, scraped into twentieth position in the Radio league with £8,426 expenses and came twelfth in the Press league with a figure of £57,252. Subtracting this total on advertising from the amount set out in the table above leaves £36,075 for "Commission and Agency Fees".

The First National does not appear in the top twenty in the T.V. or Press league but shows in seventeenth position in the Radio league with a sum of £9,614 on advertising. Nevertheless, its total figures for Advertising, Commission and Agency Fees stand at £83,604 much of which would lie in Press or television advertising while below the figures needed to qualify for a position in the top twenty.

(Continued on col. 6)

Part 2 of a three-part series to be submitted to National Prices Commission investigation of Building Societies.

THE BIG SPENDERS

A welcome aspect of the terms of reference of the National Prices Commission is its total freedom to investigate the costs incurred by Building Societies in their operations.

This week, in our second submission to the Commission, we concentrate almost entirely on one of the sorest points of criticism of the Societies — Advertising.

Advertising is a must for Building Societies as presently constituted. They compete with Banks and other financial institutions for the available money. Advertising not only attracts new investment; it reassures existing investors and keeps their money with the particular Society.

Nevertheless it is difficult to the point of impossibility to judge the effectiveness of advertising in attracting investment from scrutinising the annual accounts as published by the Societies. Perhaps annual accounts are not supposed to serve such a function. But the cost ratios that can be examined provide food for thought.

Compare the total spent on Directors, Staff and Auditors in any one year with spending on Advertising, Commission and Agency fees:



● James Tully.

Minister and the Building Societies

The Minister for Local Government, Mr. James Tully, was named as the person to open a new branch of the Irish Permanent Building Society at Market Street, Kells, Co. Meath on Wednesday, May 9.

Replying to questions in Leinster House last week, Mr. Tully said the Government was not considering proposals to nationalise building societies.

He defended the recent mortgage rates interest increase saying that the societies had no option but to offer rates of interest to investors which would compete successfully for the intake of funds with banks and other commercial agencies.

A disservice was being done to the country by people who sought to give the impression that building societies were not trustworthy organisations, Mr. Tully told the House. They were doing a good job and should receive every support, he said.



...eist

ar fud an domhain, on ni eile, le Sasana Caitliceach aris. chuis go bhfuil an 'liobarálach'. Tá sé foiréigin an mhion-uaidh ach ní raibh in aghaidh foiréigin nó Westminster. éin agus a leitheidín den chumhacht airigh i gconai le Stormont agus

dh sé ionad na tír, géillfidh sé tíre seo ar shaoirse agus eacnamaíochta, éileamh an phobail as na tíre, géillfidh má chuidíonn sé cumhachta na shábháil.

go n-éireoidh leis. rraich a bhéas aige. heana o ghettonna rsde go mean-Átha Cliath. Níl nois ach 'fothrach aird' an phobail.

...inne

Commission was existence, called Commission after n, Judge Conroy, of examining the the 1931 Act.

recomendations ndlord and Tenant ry Leases) Act of most important is Act was that it maximum rent a ord could charge a lease from one e "gross rent" the 1931 Act to lowly but surely were inching

was possible to records of Dail find that in the ty years no Bill introduced giving ight to buy their interest. Not that nd for such d not exist. On ns during that 46 and again in to allow a Bill of ere defeated.

er, 1961. Deputy moved for leave Bill dealing with ts. This Bill t: (1) After the ssing of the Bill it gical to create a ent; (2) After the e Bill a tenant he right to pur- and rent from his ord at a sum not 15 times the nd rent; (3) Any by the tenant as e prior to the e Bill would be account in the ce of the ground

ring in this Bill

How do lumpers operate? What conditions have workers on the lump? Does the practice militate against building standards? Have the trade unions a remedy?

An attempt to answer these questions is made by a Special Building Correspondent. This is the first article of the series.

By A Special Correspondent

The majority of firms engaged in the building industry operate the "Labour Only" Sub-Contractor system in one form or another. To the vast majority of building workers however the term "labour only sub-contractor" is an attempt to afford a degree of respectability to an evil and pernicious system. The workers know this system as the lump and those who operate it as lumpers.

Excluded from this category are of course a number of recognised sub-contractors who provide a complete service to the industry. These operate generally in specialised areas such as plumbing, electrical, heating, and painting and supply plant, materials and labour to the main contractor. They negotiate wages and conditions with the Trade Unions through the Construction Industry Federation and in some cases negotiate domestic agreements with the Unions directly.

The lump (or "labour only" sub-contractor) is on the other hand a law unto himself. He provides no useful service, his sole function is to procure, sell and exploit labour. He enters the scene when the builder, instead of paying operatives on an hourly rate, supplies the materials and, having set a price for brickwork, blockwork, plastering, painting, joinery, sewerage, paths and roofs, sublets each section to the specialist lump.

Once the price is agreed the builder's responsibility ends. The lump employs the work force for his particular section. It can happen that the initial lump will again sublet his section, at a lower price of course, to his employees.

Since lumpers tend to pay a rate in excess of minimum Union wages it is said that from the workers' viewpoint nothing is wrong with the lump system. This is to overlook many major factors.

The first question one must ask is why, if the lump while paying an enhanced rate can profit from having the work done, cannot the main contractor employ his own work force and also pay the enhanced wage? From the answer to this emerges the first major factor.

Physical limits

The main contractor in employing his own work force would be bound by the terms of a registered agreement. He would be impelled to (1) provide holiday pay, 3 weeks pay for a full year or 10 1/4 hours per 30 days consecutive employment; (2) pay full wages for all public holidays; (3) contribute the employer's 37 1/2 p per week per employee rate to the Industry Pension Scheme; (4) operate a Sick Pay Scheme; (5) pay his share per employee of Social Welfare Insurance; (6) ensure that wet-time insurance is paid and in the event of inclement weather guarantee each worker at least 32 hours pay weekly and he could also be liable to pay travelling or subsistence allowances. It is worth noting that under the Industry Pension Scheme widows of building workers qualify for a mortality benefit of £1,000.

The main contractor therefore by subletting to the lump avoids all the obligations listed above, cuts his overheads, knows in advance and without expense the unit costs of each operation, and saves a great deal on supervision since this becomes the lump's problem and responsibility.

The lump, for his part, ignores National Pay Agreements, his employees are not covered for Pension, Sick Pay, Mortality Benefit, Social Welfare or Wet-Time Insurance, nor do they receive holiday pay. The lump's enhanced rate is indeed an inclusive one!

Having agreed on price with the main contractor it is upon the speed with which the job is completed and the utilisation of his workers that the lump's profit margin depends. Standards of safety can be ignored and standards of workmanship are often deplorable, the measure is quantity and not quality.

This is often accentuated by the failure of a lump to bargain for a high enough price from the main contractors. Most lumpers are themselves either tradesmen or specialists in some other physical area of the industry. They are not equipped for job costing and insolvency is a fairly common occurrence. While the general run of lump employees operate under many handicaps it is those who work for the ones who underestimate job prices that are most vulnerable.

It is obvious that the lump who is getting it tight will push his workers to their physical limits and it quite often happens that those working for the lump insolvent through the overdraw find that there are just no wages for them on a particular Friday night.

It is in this latter situation, where the lump has drawn his money before a job is completed and absconds with it, that workers attracted by the 'enhanced' lumping wage rates turn to the Trade Unions.

I will deal with the lump workers attitude to Trade Unionism and the Union attitude to lumping in next week's article.

The Lumpers - a law unto himself

With Budget Day fast approaching Richie Ryan, Minister for Finance, will be putting the finishing touches to his taxation package for '73-'74. We can feel confident that there is one form of taxation which will not appear in his revenue raising measures — a capital gains tax.

Why can we be so confident of this? Because, in terms of the Minister's political ideology, a tax on capital gains would be an undue interference with "economic freedom" i.e. the freedom to milk the effects of inflation and economic change in the Irish economy for private gain.

Capital gains tax is levied on the gain which a shareholder makes when he sells his shares in a company at a higher price than at which he bought them. This rise in market price can take place for many reasons. For example, instead of distributing its profits a company can retain them in the business. It therefore has more funds with which to expand and this causes the share price to rise.

Another cause of capital gains is the increase in share prices which results from the rising value of the company's property and equipment, etc. i.e. its assets. In terms of the national economy it is important to note that in times of inflation the value of assets tend to rise while the value of money falls — to the advantage of shareholders as against wage-earners.

Incredible rise

The average Irish shareholder has benefitted very much from these influences. In the last year share prices on the Irish Stock Exchange have risen by an incredible 60 per cent — without any provision for taxation. For example, examine what has happened to the shares of several

Challenge to Ryan on Gains Tax

By our Financial Correspondent

companies floated on the market in the last two years. Ryan's (Dermot) Traders issued 175,000 shares at 100p each on 10/9/71. The value of each share now stands at 146p — i.e. a gain of 46p on each 100p of the original investment. This gain in the share price is not taxable.

Almost double

Readymix issued 875,000 shares at 75p each on 17/5/72. These now stand at 140p — almost double the original share price. Again, this gain will never come under the eye of the taxman. But try doing

some overtime on the job and see what happens tax-wise! Hence the ICTU demand for a Capital Gains Tax.

As far as the economic effects of this process are concerned we can turn to the words of none other than Dr. T. K. Whitaker, Governor of the Central Bank and architect of modern Irish economic policy, when he spoke to an investment conference held in October '72. "It surely cannot be desirable socially or economically that financial transactions or speculation should yield bigger gains than production", he said. Many takeovers and other financial operations "look predominantly towards tax-free capital gains" and created a vested interest in continued inflation. This is surely sufficient reason for imposing a capital gains tax if the Coalition Government is sincere in its stated objective of bringing inflation under control.

Job prospects dim

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

The recent OECD review of the Irish economy contained some interesting figures on the pattern of redundancies and loss of jobs in the Irish economy in 1972. So many jobs were lost last year that the uninterrupted growth in non-agricultural employment since 1959 came to a halt.

The number of qualified redundancies notified to the Department of Labour under the Redundancy Payment Scheme in manufacturing alone rose from 3,895 in 1971 to 5,142 in 1972, while total redundancies rose from 8,556 to 10,159. Part of the increase is due to the more generous conditions governing redundancy payments with effect from September 1971 whereby the length of time an employee must be with a firm to qualify was lowered from four years to two years. Even so, these figures understate the loss of jobs to the economy. Workers made redundant with less than two years employment are not counted. Neither is the effect of not replacing workers who retire included. A truer figure for the total loss of jobs last year is around 12,000.

Though the total number of new jobs created was roughly the same, the continued fall in the number of people working in agriculture meant that total employment last year fell by between 7,000-8,000.

What are the chances that this year will see an improvement in the position? The Industrial Development Authority (IDA) in their plans for industrial expansion 1973-77 have a target of 9,400

(Continued on page 8)

Hard at work on a Dublin site. No lumping here.



The men... May... Whit... the p... vari... in wh... dem... With... votes... syste... the r... vote... that... 'But... Def... point...
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The North



letter from belfast

Questions on Local Government carve-up

The Local Government elections in the Six Counties will be held on May 30 and Mr. Whitelaw has welcomed the participation of the various political groups in what he called "The democratic process". With the introduction of votes at 18, the P.R. system of election, and the right of one man one vote, it would appear that this will indeed be a "democratic process". But there are other points to consider.

The 26 new local government areas were suggested as an alternative to the old 73 councils by the Review Body on Local Government (1970) set up by Mr. Faulkner, then Minister of Development. The report by this body — usually known as the MacRory Report — has not been questioned to any great extent by most of the political groups currently seeking election to the new councils. The obvious question is why 26 Councils? Why not more, or less?

MacRory recognised the need for a streamlined two tier efficient system of local government, but no mention was made of the criteria necessary for the setting up of the new councils. To conform to Mr. Whitelaw's "democratic process" the size and shape of these new areas

should be based on the area covered by the movements of the local people in their daily lives, i.e., their journey to work, to school, to shops, and to recreational facilities. Such movements could be established by the use of simple survey techniques, and if the survey reveals a pattern in which the people of the North fit into 26 areas, then the basis of local government there is democratic. If not, then the foundations of the Whitelaw edifice are not democratically sound, and changes must be made.

Area boards

Another necessary change is that concerning the composition of the area boards — the bodies responsible for such matters as education, planning, welfare and electoral arrangements, which were recommended by MacRory to replace the old county council system. At the moment the majority of these boards are appointed from above, with a

minority to be elected from local councillors. If local government is to be democratic the reverse should be the case — a majority of local councillors with a minority of specialists and experienced people selected from above.

Finally, another stain on Mr. Whitelaw's democratic process. The new council areas have each been subdivided into a number of smaller areas — usually 5 or 6 — for election purposes. No indication of what basis has been used to make this subdivision has been forthcoming, and because it has been made public only recently, no study has been made to determine exactly what effect it will have on election results.

So Mr. Whitelaw's democratic process may not be completely democratic after all. The people of the North have been told to abide by the rules of democracy, but in local government Britannia waives the rules.

NO SPLIT IN UNIONIST CAMP

— Faulkner

I doubt if there is anyone in Ireland who has not heard or read of the Lower Falls, Belfast. Local people actually never refer to the Lower Falls; it is all, every little jumbled street right up the road to the more spacious Andersonstown, known as the Falls. And while there are many other areas of Belfast such as Ardoyne, the Markets, Ballymacarret, the New Lodge which have their own wonderful history I don't think that I can be regarded as being too much of a Fall's Road patriot when I say that there is something special about the huddled streets, the people, the air — even at this time — which makes the Falls, well, unique.

When I was young the Falls was dominated by Barney Hughes' Mill which loomed menacingly over the gateway to the Falls, at the bottom of Divis Street, beside the Presbyterian Church of Berthie Place. Churchgoers came from the Shankill Road, down Dover Street. We noted the broad flowered hats of the girls and the well dressed boys, envious of the fact that the boys and girls seemed to share the same pews. (A spy had recorded this exciting information).

One of the things we found hard to understand then was the fact that some of 'them' shunted off up the Falls to Albert Street where another Church was situated. As Teagues we knew that we all went to St. Peters and never to St. Marys down at Chapel Lane, almost in the City Centre. Strange people, indeed, the wrong ones.

Alcoholic heaven

Berthie Place, Hughes' Mill have gone, replaced by blocks of vertical slum flats. Albert Street Church has been converted into a Citizens' Advice Bureau and this isn't Russia, mind you. The Falls is beginning to alter and not all for the better.

Where there were little side streets, home of many an international football match, there is now desolation. It is not only the speeding British Army Saracens which prevent the children from kicking ball, the streets are going and the goalposts (lamp-posts) have been uprooted. It must be almost impossible now to learn how to dribble with a tennis ball. Gone are the days when ambitious, sweating Stanley Matthews' hurtled up the footpath to the imaginary roar of thousands.

There have been other changes. Disastrous alterations in the life of the Falls. From where I was born I could see three pubs. To the left was The Gladstone, almost opposite at Derby Street the Wooden Floor, and at the top of Albert Street stood Paddy Brennan's. If I strained the Sign of The Zodiac was visible at the bottom of Dover Street. A hundred yards walk as far as Brennan's and vistas of an alcoholic heaven were opened up. Six bars could be seen within the next one hundred yards finishing at the Centre Half Bar owned at one time by the famous Mickey Hamill of Belfast Celtic and Ireland glory. Soccer by the way.

At one time some friends and I tried to visit the lot. It was a St. Patrick's Day. We hadn't a hope of ever reaching the point from where we started but it was a brilliant attempt. We managed twelve, seven down to Kelly's Cellars and five back the other way. Only five of these houses are still standing, the others bombed, demolished and almost forgotten.

The Falls isn't easily defeated though. Alternatives have been forged. A new era has started — the shebeens. Of which more next week.

Importance of internees in North's local elections

The internees in Long Kesh look like becoming the most important element in the struggle to win the anti-unionist vote in the forthcoming local government elections in the six-counties. With the alliance party felt by most of the nationalist-minded people to be a type of unionism in another form, it looks like a straight fight between the Social Democratic Labour Party and the Republican Clubs, with both groups putting forward diverse opinions on the status and importance of the internees.

Earlier this week, the S.D.L.P. decided that they were no longer bound by the pledge taken by all anti-unionist groups in August 1971 of "no participation until internment ends", and stated that it was "a scurrilous accusation" to claim this step was a betrayal of the internees.

Issue no longer

Their intention not to enter into an election pact with any other grouping or political party in any constituency indicates a confident belief that internment is no longer an issue amongst the northern voters. This belief is underlined by their anticipation of winning control of at least six local councils; Derry, Limavady, Magherafelt, Mourne and Newry, Down and Strabane — areas in which many constituents will register their electoral choice by postal vote from Long Kesh.

Meanwhile the Republican Clubs' candidates are ex-

pected to sign the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association pledge, not to participate in the elected bodies until internment ends. Presumably this means that there will be little transfer of Republican votes to the other parties, and a pattern of party political "plumpers" can be anticipated among the nationalist groupings. This lack of second and third preference transfers will mean a much easier election passage for the other main parties, particularly the Unionist and Alliance parties.

Transfers

The result of this could be to deny the S.D.L.P. control of as many councils as they expect, but because of the carve-up of local government areas for electoral procedures, this cannot be stated with certainty. In the Assembly elections however, lack of transfers between S.D.L.P. and Republican Club can-

didates could mean an extra Unionist (or Alliance) seat in areas like Fermanagh/South Tyrone, Armagh, and South Down.

In South Down, for example, proper use of the P.R. system could ensure the return of three anti-unionist candidates, a poor use of the system would still guarantee two anti-unionists, but a failure to use the system at all could mean the return of only one such candidate, and this would appear to be the most likely outcome at the moment. Lack of familiarity with the P.R. system in the north will, of course, add to this electoral pattern of party political rigidity.

The result of a lack of unity on the question of the internees can benefit only the Unionist and Alliance parties and it will have the result of denying adequate representation to the minority population in the North — as well as the continuation of internment.

DONNELLY FOR SDLP

A prediction that the Alliance Party will win no Assembly seat in Fermanagh, Derry or Tyrone has been made by Mr. Ivan Cooper of the S.D.L.P. The failure of Alliance to speak out clearly on harassment, Diplock and issues like internment has been noted by voters in these counties according to Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Cooper's criticism of the Alliance which he described as "a whitewash Glengall Street" was made when he addressed an S.D.L.P. meeting at which candidates were selected to contest the Local Government elections in Fermanagh.

Among the S.D.L.P. candidates selected is Mr. James J. Donnelly, a member of the old Enniskillen Council. Mr. Donnelly has been the object of much criticism since 1971 when he continued to attend council meetings despite the anti-internment boycott.

Our Northern Political Correspondent in Ballynahinch:

"There is no split in the Unionist Party", said Mr. Brian Faulkner last night addressing two election workers in Ballynahinch. "Party membership has increased over this past week", he claimed, waving the membership cards of six itinerants, his two year old son and his uncle Edgar who died last year.

"The talk of the Faulkner 'rump' is absolute nonsense", he shouted, much to the disappointment of Miss E. J. Fink (98) who had come to the meeting for the sole purpose of seeing Mr. Faulkner's rump. "There is no Faulkner rump", cried Mr. Faulkner, whereupon Dr. J. H. Doityourself phoned the British Medical Council to send a photographer immediately. The news that there is no Faulkner rump will come as a major blow to many opposition politicians in the old Stormont, who were very close to Mr. Faulkner's rump on several major issues. The political significance of Mr. Faulkner's having no rump is that whereas he will be able to stand for the New Assembly he will be unable to sit there.

Messages of sympathy have been coming in to the Faulkner home from leading figures at home and abroad. "Offers of rumps have been flowing in all day", said a tear-stained Mrs. Faulkner, "and we will consider them all carefully, but we must inform Mr. Paddy Mulligan of Falls Road that the rump he has offered is of the wrong colour, and Brian just couldn't wear it".

Prayers are to be offered in all churches on Sunday for a suitable rump for Mr. Faulkner.



Armstrong, McCairns Deal

(Continued from page 1)

discussions with the Unions; that demands from the Unions for amounts in excess of statutory redundancy payments are to be resisted; and, that approval from General Motors is conditional before any final agreement is made.

In the case of any strike or trade dispute arising from the takeover Armstrongs will be paid compensation provided the strike is not caused by 'unreasonable' provocation on the part of Armstrongs.

On termination of operations Armstrongs are to be compensated for assembly equipment, inventories of current model vehicles, parts, accessories, new vehicles in stock whether assembled at the Ringsend Road plant or imported, spare parts, component production parts etc.

6 ITGWU men die in Belfast

Six members of the Belfast Branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union have been killed in the past twelve months. Over 50 members have been imprisoned in the same period.

Despite this Branch Secretary, Joseph Meehan, told the recent Annual General Meeting the branch enrolment figures for the year showed an increase of 8 per cent.

Mr. Meehan complained that many of the Branch members were unable to attend their places of employment because of harassment by what he termed "the so-called security forces".

Dealing with the docks section of the Branch he said that the decasualisation introduced in January 1972, represented a landmark in the history of the union and although there had been interim difficulties these were gradually being ironed out through weekly union-employer meetings. Dock members who retired on severance pay during the year totalled 106.

Boycott butter call

In the event of a further price increase the Irish Housewives Association are to call on consumers all over the country to boycott butter.

The Association says that their anti-inflationary food price campaign will be concentrated on cheese and butter for the immediate future.

Reaping wild oats!

Mr. Mark Clinton, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, will shortly launch a campaign for the eradication of wild oats. The oats have been rapidly increasing in some of the more intensive grain growing areas.

Colours row mars president chase

BY OUR RACING CORRESPONDENT

With only three laps to go in the Presidential Handicap Chase a furious row has erupted between the rival jockeys and their respective stables. FIANNA FAIL and COALITION were neck and neck at the approach to the important Advertising fence when COALITION's rider Tom O'Higgins stole the advantage from his rival by appearing in green, white and orange colours — traditionally the tunic donned by Jack Lynch's jockeys at race time.

This move caused much confusion in the stands among FIANNA FAIL's backers who joined in the huge roar that went up when COALITION passed in the first lap. "You'd expect O'Higgins to be wearing a blue shirt with a pale pink sash" remarked one outraged punter. Confusion was compounded a few seconds later when FIANNA FAIL flashed by with its rider wearing blue crossed with a gold sash. "We'll have to get used to it now", reasoned one backer of FIANNA FAIL, "anyhow them's the colours he'll be wearing in the winner's enclosure — Presidential blue".

Rumours from the Inner Enclosure, however, have it that the O'Higgins coup was not accepted as philosophically in that quarter. There was an exchange of words among some senior members and a bout of fisticuffs between angry stable-lads.

Meanwhile, out on the course, both horses are sticking the pace well. Prevailing conditions, affected as they are by the strong northerly wind blowing diagonally across the course, could provide a lot of excitement for spectators at the tricky Law and Order fence.

Neither trainer is giving anything away or expressing any fears but O'Higgins may find his mount labouring somewhat at the approach to the jump while FIANNA FAIL, bearing in mind her performance in the famous Arms Steeplechase, may have to be blinkered while negotiating the hazard.



The Stewards Enquiry held into allegations of bumping and boring in the first two laps has decided that there was more boring than bumping and that both pockeys are equally to blame.

TRAINERS COMMENT



"A healthy diet of grass-roots will see Childers and FIANNA FAIL in the winner's enclosure."



"We're front running with COALITION at the moment and we intend to stay that way to the finishing post."

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS DIM THIS YEAR

(Continued from page 6)

new jobs to be created this year in manufacturing. Eighty per cent of these are expected to come from foreign industrial projects.

Due to the lag between grant approvals and the actual appearance of new jobs, the likelihood of these jobs materialising depends on the rate at which grants were approved for new industrial projects in the previous year or two. The IDA Annual Report for 1972 says that the estimated number of jobs at full production for which grants were approved in 1971-72 was only 7,700 compared with 12,000 in 1970-71 and compared with their target of 13,000. The Report continues: "Because of the low rate of job creation grant approvals last year it is unlikely the target will be reached in 1973".

The IDA industrial development drive looks to be at a critical impasse. Despite an intensive and expensive advertising

campaign in Europe, North America, Japan and South Africa, it is clear that the queue of applicants for IDA handouts consequent on Ireland's joining the Common Market has not come up to IDA expectations. British investors have been put off by the troubles in the Six Counties. The recent announcement by President Nixon on the taxation of American companies operating abroad will, if implemented, erode the value of the tax concessions and other inducements offered by the IDA and would be a further setback.

On the other hand it is clear that despite the intensive warnings and the availability of generous grants and aids Irish industry is in no fit state to stand up to the rigours of free trade and that the rate of redundancies is far exceeding the rate forecast by the government committees set up to advise them. The need for an Industrial Development Corporation as proposed at the 1972 Conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions is more than ever evident.

mines in ireland

CUT-OUT SERIES

no. 1. silvermines

Six miles south of Nenagh in County Tipperary lies Mount Silvermines. This picturesque area has many roots in history. Here Eamonn an Chnoic led the risky life of a Raparee. Not far from here William's siege train on its way to beleaguered Limerick was surprised and blown up by Patrick Sarsfield and "Galloping" Hogan. Now Silvermines is making history of another sort — mining history.

Local tradition always held that at the base of Mount Silvermines lay great wealth. Recorded references to its existence go back as far as 1861. But it was not until 1964 that fact was separated from fiction and substance from legend with the discovery of lead and zinc deposits at Silvermines. True, Silvermines has been in sporadic production since 1949 but only as an open pit mine, i.e., mining of surface deposits as distinct from much more costly underground tunnels.

Mogul Mines of Canada had discovered the deeper deposits and arranged for the capital to finance tunnelling and plant.

Preparations were completed by April 1968. Mining began the

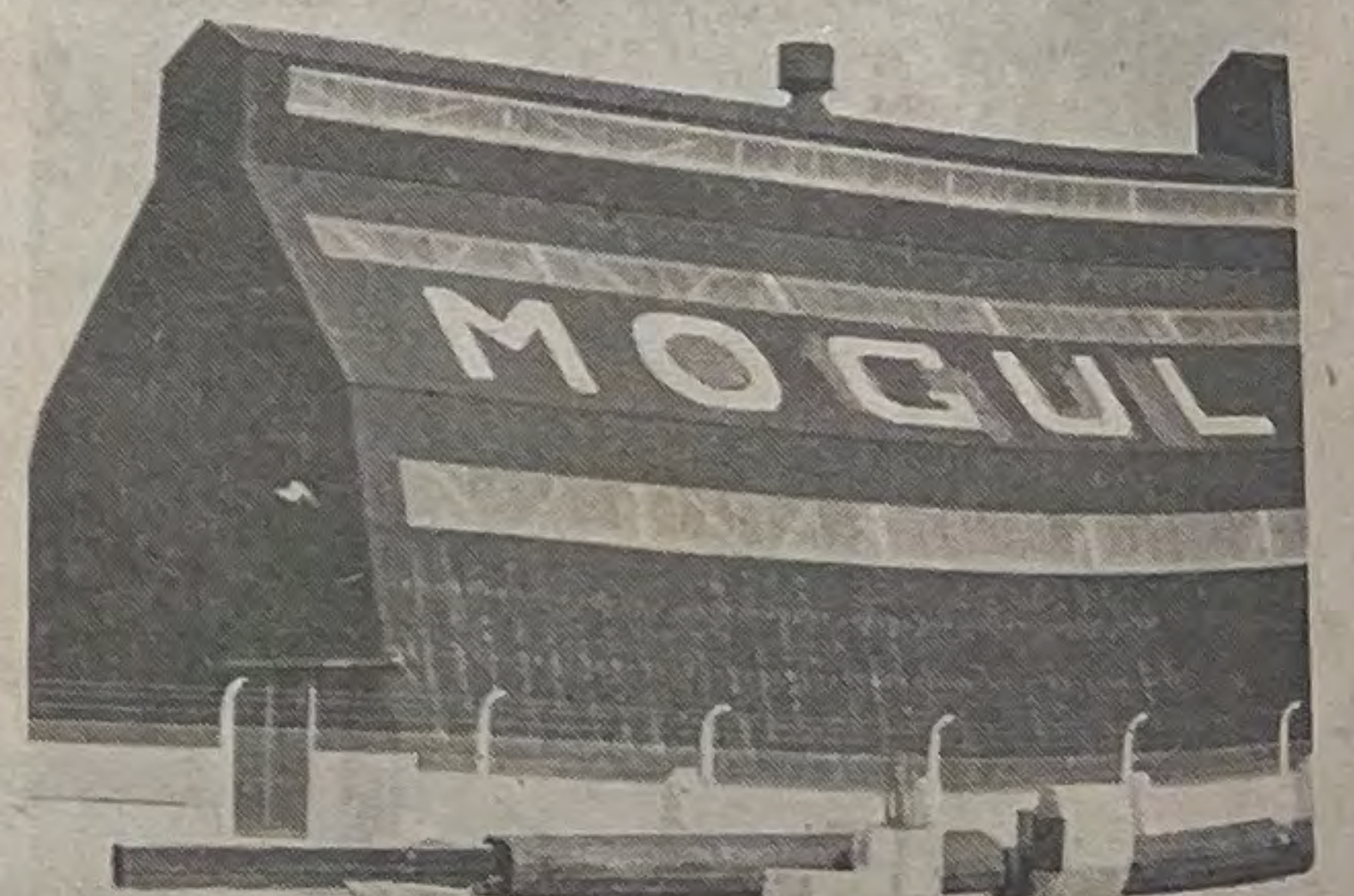
following month and the first shipment of concentrates left Foynes for smelters in Germany and France in July.

By the end of 1971 some three and a half million tons of ore had been extracted. In January, 1972, it was estimated that nearly 12 million tons of ore still remained in the ground. This estimate might not represent the full potential but on that ore-body projection and with the present extraction rate of 3,000 tons per day the mine has a life of eleven years more before final exhaustion.

By 1972 profits on the mining totalled £4 millions. One estimate of the total value of the mineral wealth stands at £160 millions.

One big advantage of the mining operation at Silvermines is the employment it provides locally. And there's the rake-off for the State in the form of taxation of wages earned at the mines. Of course, the profits on the mining itself is not taxed.

NEXT WEEK
No. 2 in the series,
Gortdrum, Co. Tipperary.



Title: The Irish People, Vol. 1, No. 2

Organisation: Sinn Féin [Official]

Date: 1973

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