



UNITED IRELAND

NEWSLETTER

IRISH REPUBLICAN CLUBS

243 MT. HOPE DR., ALBANY, N.Y. 12202

October 1977

The wage worker is oppressed under this system in the interest of a class of capitalist investors who may be living thousands of miles away and whose very names are unknown to him. He is, therefore, interested in every revolt of labor all over the world.

- James Connolly -

NEWS OF IRELAND:

LONDON - A commitment to bring about power sharing slowly in Northern Ireland emerged from London summit talks in late September. Irish Prime Minister Jack Lynch and British Prime Minister James Callaghan decided as a first step to try to help set up elected bodies to take charge of housing, health and education. Implicit in this decision is the recognition that direct Westminster rule will continue into the foreseeable future. The Taoiseach indicated that after five hours of talks with the British that "there was not a scintilla of movement by the British government towards integration of the North into the U.K., and there would not be any devolved government for the North unless it was a power-sharing one."

CORK - Ireland has lost the £175 million engine plant which the Ford Motor Company intends to set up in Europe. As anticipated, the giant industrial project will go to south Wales. [Ed. Britain and Ireland had been bidding feverishly for the project offering cash as well as tax holidays to the multi-national motor car company.]

NEW YORK - Magnified close-ups of the exquisite detail of some of Ireland's greatest art treasures will be seen during an hour-long TV special Sunday, October 30 from 10-11 AM on WCBS. The works span some 3000 years of Irish history.

STRAUSBOURG, FRANCE - The European Court of Human Rights has notified the Irish and British governments that a decision in the Northern Ireland torture trial will not be delivered until some time next year, rather than in October or November as had originally been expected. The Irish government has charged Britain with the use of torture in the treatment of Northern Ireland prisoners. This charge has previously been upheld by the European Human Rights Commission.

CASTLEBLANEY, CO. MONAGHAN Gardai (police) are investigating an incursion of the British Army into the South near Castleblaney, close to the south Armagh border. According to reports, a British Army patrol was operating well inside the border when it was intercepted by gardai.

NEW YORK - 80 Irish art treasures have gone on display at the Museum of Art where they will be for a while before going on to San Francisco (Jan) Pittsburgh (June) Boston (Oct) and Philadelphia (Feb 69)

BELFAST - Bernie MacDonagh, an elected member of the Belfast City Council and a leader of Republican Clubs, the Northern branch of Sinn Fein The Worker's Party, has been arrested and charged with possession of explosive devices. The Republican Clubs immediately denounced the arrest as a "put up job" designed to silence MacDonagh, a vocal and highly visible critic of the British presence in Northern Ireland. Only a week before MacDonagh's arrest a Security Service officer was reported to have said of MacDonagh, "He's a bastard and we'll get him someday and his councillorship won't save him." MacDonagh was roused from his bed in the early hours of the morning by British soldiers who said they wanted to conduct a search of the Citizen's Advice Center which MacDonagh occupies several hours a day as an office within his constituency. Councillor MacDonagh accompanied the soldiers to the Center where they found that the Royal Marine Commandos had already forcibly entered the building and begun the search. MacDonagh was then arrested and kept incommunicado for more than twelve hours while the British Army and the Northern Ireland police issued conflicting reports about what had happened and even about the Councillor's physical whereabouts. Two days later he was arraigned and then denied bail despite the fact that he was an elected public official and a long-time permanent resident of Belfast where he lives with his wife and small children. Councillor MacDonagh, a bricklayer by profession, was first elected to the Belfast City Council in 1974 and was reelected in May of this year. During his tenure he has been identified with efforts to rehabilitate his sector of Belfast, badly damaged by the Provisional I.R.A. bombing campaign of the last several years. He has also been very vocal in calling for independent inquiries into the activities of the British Army, particularly in the cases of Peter Hand and Leo Norney which have just been taken up by the World Peace Council. [The Republican Clubs are now mobilizing a campaign in support of MacDonagh. Messages of Support and contributions to help cover the cost of fighting the arrest in court should be sent to: Bernie MacDonagh Defense Fund, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1, Ireland.]

P L E A S E H E L P ! ! ! Last month we put some 50-50 Club chances in with your newsletter. The proceeds from this club support this newsletter and our other educational activities. Please send your returns in now; the draw will be November 15. 50% of total income will be returned as prizes. Send returns to Connolly-McNulty IRC, 243 Mt. Hope Dr., Albany, N.Y. 12202

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STUDENTS START PEACE DRIVE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Union of Students in Ireland and the National Union of students of the United Kingdom have joined in a campaign to mobilize all students in Ireland and Britain in support of peace and fundamental social progress in Northern Ireland. The two groups represent between them all college students in Northern Ireland. Their campaign - "Students for Peace and Social Progress in Northern Ireland" - has called for an end to all violence in Northern Ireland, both by the paramilitary private armies and by the British Army. The campaign also calls for a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and a positive program of social reconstruction by the British Government to provide jobs, housing, education and social welfare services.

The students have linked their campaign directly to the "Better Life for All" campaign launched some time ago by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The Trade Union campaign, which has gained widespread support throughout the British Isles, makes the same demands for peace, civil liberties and social reconstruction.

The manifesto of the student campaign looks for its roots in the failure of the political initiatives of the British Government which still rules Northern Ireland directly from London. According to the students the British are unable or unwilling to deal with the still rising level of violence, the continuing denial of civil liberties, the high unemployment and deteriorating housing conditions in the North of Ireland.

NICRA AND IRISH PEACE GROUP SUPPORT RUC TORTURE VICTIM

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) and The Irish Peace Group have taken up the case of torture victim Peter Hands, which they believe is opening up a new dimension of vindictiveness on the part of the British Forces in Northern Ireland.

Peter Hands was first arrested on June 9, 1976 and held for seven days during which time noone was informed of his whereabouts. While in police (RUC) custody for this period he was constantly beaten, threatened with shooting, handcuffed and punched, shown pictures of dead people, hooded and wire placed around his fingers with threats of electrocution, had guns cocked at his head, threatened with knifing, and hung from the ceiling by a rope around his neck. Because of this treatment Peter Hands attempted suicide while he was in police custody. To stop the torture he eventually agreed to sign a statement admitting to the murder of a policeman, but he was released without any charges being preferred against him.

In May of this year Peter Hands was invited to attend the World Assembly of Builders of Peace in Warsaw, Poland to give evidence in support of NICRA's allegation of British violation of human rights in Northern Ireland. Shortly before Hands left for the conference, Belfast police arrested a man and charged him with giving the police false information about two murders. A Belfast court heard evidence that this man had been paid £5 by the police for giving them the information which led to Hand's arrest and subsequent torture in 1976. The information provided by the informer was, of course, false, and the authorities, by now arresting and charging their informant of false evidence, have declared Peter Hands innocent.

Nevertheless, Peter Hands will not be going anywhere else to tell of his torture experience for quite some time if the British Government has its way. He has again been arrested and held for two days under the Emergency Laws. He has been charged with being in possession of a revolver and with IRA membership.. These charges are obviously trumped up to ensure that Peter Hands is locked up for a long time to stop his effective work in exposing that torture still continues in Ireland. Peter is again being subjected to brutality and threats similar to those made to him during his seven days detention last year.

Under the present laws Peter Hands could be remanded for up to 18 months before he comes to trial where his charges could well be dismissed.

PARTY PROGRAM - PART 9: EDUCATION

Education has been the subject of resolutions and debates at various Sinn Féin Annual Conventions and the Republican outlook on the issue may be summarized as follows:

- Education should be provided by the State as a basic human right, from nursery to adult level on the basis of the individual's aptitudes, ability to benefit from education and capacity to contribute in a meaningful way to society. It must be public and accessible to all, be subject to popular and democratic control, and be comprehensive and responsive to the needs of the working class.

- Education must strive to develop the capacity of the individual in the context of an increasingly industrial society; the educational system has the responsibility to equip citizens with the skills and knowledge to participate actively and democratically at all levels of society.

- Investment in education at all levels must be accepted as a major national priority; particular attention must be paid to the development of new schools and the expansion of facilities in existing schools; such development and reorganization should be on the basis of a form of comprehensive, non-streamed community schools; access to all forms of higher education must be determined solely on the basis of merit; positive support for schools in rural and urban working class areas must be immediately implemented; the development of a full scale nursery school program must be undertaken forthwith.

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Sinn Féin
The Workers

- Secondary and Higher Education is, because of economic factors, inaccessible to many from working class backgrounds irrespective of ability. The remedy, in the short term, is to treat all who use educational facilities beyond the minimum school leaving age as unemployed workers and pay them State aid on a weekly basis.

- Adults should have the right to return to education on a full or part time basis without material or financial loss. The implementation of a national program of adult/continuing education should be a normal part of school activity. This would ensure that schools would become community schools in the full sense and that resources would be fully utilized.

- The educational system should be democratically structured to involve staff and students in decision making and representatives of Trade Unions and other popular organizations should be involved to ensure its continuing responsiveness to the needs of society.

- There must be positive and ongoing recognition of the fact that the overall ethos of the educational program and its fundamental ethic should stress the separate national identity of the Irish people, historically, culturally and politically.

- The inculcation of the 3 Rs and the imposition or rote learning to meet examinations should be totally rejected. The institutions of higher education and especially the colleges of education should seek to emphasize the importance of a human understanding of the human world and to promote democratic values and anti-authoritarian attitudes.

- Technical subjects must be taught in every school of second level education. The development of technical and artistic skills and the use of the hand and eye is an essential part of primary level education.

- Schools and school grounds should be fully utilized for the community - i.e. when not in use for educational purposes they should be used for community halls, meeting places, etc.

- Integrated planning and award structures should ensure parity of esteem and bring an end to the snob value of academic education as opposed to vocational education or practical work. Educational and economic planning should be coordinated to ensure that jobs are available for everyone coming out of school.

- Schools must be made co-educational immediately and courses that were always reserved for male or female be abolished and new courses introduced.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

"UNEMPLOYMENT - WE CAN END IT" Manifesto of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions Right to Work Campaign

How much unemployment do you think there is now? The government statistics on unemployment don't include new entrants to the labor market or unemployed mothers, neither of which are entitled to unemployment insurance. The total unemployed North and South is nearly 200,000. Nearly every household is affected by now, with a breadwinner out of work or threatened and no future for the kids.

Last year's budget did nothing at all to get people back to work. The latest is little better, with £56 million to be spent providing only 7000 jobs. That's not nearly enough. Richie Ryan says the recession is ended. All that means is production and profits are going up; but unemployment isn't coming down. If you think that 200,000 is bad, be prepared for much worse. There's nowhere to emigrate to, so our population is growing. We need 400,000 new jobs by 1986. We need new industry more than ever before, but it's not coming in fast enough. In spite of its protestations, the government wants us to tolerate a higher average level of unemployment. Instead of doing something positive, the government follows slavish dependence on exports for economic growth, and slavish dependence on private industry and foreign companies for new investment. It has thrown open the home market to imports from our foreign "partners" and takes orders from the E.E.C. These policies guarantee that unemployment will grow instead of being wiped out, as private industry keeps on squeezing more profits out of fewer workers. Wherever industry is privately owned there'll be unemployment. This army of unemployed is part of the system. But workers in their thousands are beginning to move in protest, because now it has become too much to bear.

Employer groups keep on telling four lies to stop workers acting together, to stop us organizing to improve things:

HIGH WAGES: The first lie is that high wages cause unemployment. Stable wages provide a stable market. Employers only want more profit, which is the cause of inflation. If low wages solved everything, India would be a worker's paradise.

STATE COMPANIES: The second lie is that State Industry doesn't work. But State Companies like Bord na Mona and the Sugar Company have proved they can produce efficiently, provide secure jobs and make a profit. But private industry wants all profits for itself, and urges curbs on the state sector. This is a selfish greed that workers have to pay for.

SPONGERS: The third lie is that the unemployed are lazy spongers, living an easy life on the tax-payers back. This is rubbish. Look at the facts:

(a) Many don't claim what they are entitled to; (b) 14,000 registered unemployed don't get any money at all; (c) 72,000 get benefits amounting to less than £25 (\$55) a week for a family of four, and less than £35 (\$77) for a family of eight; (d) 22,000 get pay-related benefit, but none can get more than £50 (\$110) a week.

As for fraud, more employers get caught for not stamping cards than unemployed get caught for cheating on the dole. The real spongers are the owners and managers on £200 (\$25,000 p.a.) a week or over. Those on social welfare don't get enough. The government should guarantee decent treatment to all those who get caught in the economic crisis.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN LAST: The fourth lie is that married women who work are taking away men's jobs. The truth is that women can get only particular jobs; like typing, cleaning and making clothes. They can't get "men's jobs" and women with even one child are refused benefit money at the labor exchanges, when they want to work. It's a case of women and children come last.

WORKERS PAY FOR THE CRISIS: Not only do workers get blamed for the economic crisis, they have to pay for it too. Unemployment is only part of the story. Falling real wages is another part. As long as unemployment is high, trade unions will lack strength to keep wage packets going up as fast as prices. Living standards are also depressed by government spending cutbacks. To save on borrowed money all departments had to control spending, so they provide less service this year than last. When services get worse in schools and hospitals it'll be the average workers and their families who suffer. There is also pressure on productive workers in the State Companies because the Irish Transport Co. and the Electric Supply Board are forced to reduce their work force by not replacing retired workers.

WE CAN END UNEMPLOYMENT: What is needed is a planned economy, run in the public interest. We can end unemployment with policies already backed by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The government only has to give up its blind commitment to private profit, and get started on providing jobs now.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

BUILDING INDUSTRY: The government should make it easier for the average worker to get a cheap home loan and should raise the limit on local authority loans which would create a demand for housing. Local authorities should set up and expand Direct Labor Building iniys which could build better houses at lower prices and eliminate lumping. Local Authority Direct Labor schemes with trade union backing would be the first step towards a State Construction Company. As a first step, £100 million should be spent now, to get people working, and set out on the road to industrial development. Job premiums should be extended to the building industry.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Ireland doesn't have to be a poor country. After years of lies, we now know that we have natural gas, hugh mines, and some oil too. But if the government doesn't change direction soon this abundant wealth will be stolen, and we'll stay poor. Take Navan for example, the biggest zinc and lead mine in Europe, worth hundreds of millions of pounds. If developed for industry, it would be worth even more, and would provide permanent jobs in industry. But the government, who owned the mines, has sold it off! The private mining companies will dig the metal out of the ground and export it as quickly as they can. We support Navan Trades Council in its demand for Stae development of the mine with all the ore smelted and processed to provide jobs for Irish workers. It's the same story with all our wealth. Foreign oil companies will get the oil off our coasts. Already we've had to buy back the gas found south of Kinsale. This is robbery.

THE BANKS: More jobs depend on industrial development, and that needs capital for investment. The banks lent out over £2,000 million last year. The banking system is the key to a planned economy; but the banks are privately owned. Last year, the two biggest Banks made over £41 million for their share-holders. This dominant force in the economy must be harnessed for industrial development not unproductive speculation and private profit. The banks should be nationalized and put to work to build up industry in the worker's interest.

WHAT CAN BE DONE: We can end unemployment, if only the government will take the action needed. Direct State involvement in industry is the only sure way to do it. We need jobs and that includes jobs in private industry, but the effort needed now is huge, and only a big expansion by the State companies can build up a modern and independent economy, with jobs for all willing hands. Only public con-

trol will develop our mines, oil, land, forests and fisheries in workers' interests. Only a planned economy will develop production for the people's needs, for the home market as well as exports. The job of planning a healthy development of the Irish economy must be given to a National Development Corporation as proposed by the Irish Congress of Trades Unions. The State companies must be given the green light to provide steady jobs, instead of being shackled by private industry.

Workers have started to resist the lies about the economy. Trades Councils are taking the lead in organizing demonstrations. Workers must unite to resist the loss of jobs. We must force the government to take real steps to create jobs and improve our job security and standard of life.

Unite and work for an end to unemployment:

OUR DEMANDS:

ECONOMIC PLANNING TO END UNEMPLOYMENT!

EXPAND STATE INDUSTRY!

STATE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL NATIONAL RESOURCES!

NO CUTS IN PUBLIC SERVICES!

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER???

The newsletter is sent free to anyone who wants it or can use it. If there is anyone you know who might like to receive the newsletter, just jot their name, address and zip code on a sheet of paper and send to;

Connolly - McNulty Irish Republican Club

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Please remember that it costs us about 20¢ for each newsletter we send out, so if you can send along a donation, it would be appreciated. HOWEVER, DON'T LET THE LACK OF A DONATION STOP YOU FROM CONTACTING US AND/OR ADDING NAMES TO THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST.

JAMES CONNOLLY I.R.C.
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Irish Republican Prisoners Defence and Aid Fund

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Republican Prisoners Welfare Legal Aid
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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED



PLEASE HAVE COMPLETED AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE CONNOLLY-McNULTY IRC,
243 MT. HOPE DR., ALBANY, N.Y. 12202. WE WILL SEND THEM IN A BATCH TO THE BRITISH
AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

We, the undersigned, condemn the Gestapo-like arrest of Bernie McDonagh
an elected representative of the people of Belfast. We demand an
immediate open inquiry into the following:

- the public statement by a British soldier the previous week
that they would "get" McDonagh and that "his councilorship would
not save him"
- the forceable entry of the Royal Marine Commandoes into the
advice centre before the arrival of McDonagh and the soldiers
- the keeping of McDonagh incommunicado for 12 hours after his
arrest
- the refusal to grant bail to McDonagh, an elected official who
is a permanent resident of the city where he lives with his wife
and small children.

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