

Law and Order in Ireland - Okinawa  
Murder in Fleet St. - Aberdeen Trawler Strike  
All Power to the People—Cornwall Anarchists

# The Revolt of the Poor

THE PIOUS PLATITUDE makers have been having a field day here in Ulster. The week's rioting in Derry, Dungiven, Lurgan and Belfast in the wake of the 12th celebrations have been condemned by all responsible and respectable 'leaders' as 'unpardonable hooliganism', and surprise is evinced that they occurred. To be surprised is to show either complete dishonesty or incredible naïvete.

The Unionist Government with their 50 years of sectarian rule, their sordid nepotism and their callous disregard for the large minority, have sown the seeds of the Derry troubles. By deliberately ignoring the area west of the Bann they have forced working men to take the boat to England every year. By encouraging foreign capitalists to come and exploit 'our large pool of labour' they have ensured that in a place like Derry, where 20% are out of

work, those who do work get an average of £4 a week less than their English counterparts. Youths leaving school at 15 with no jobs, no prospects but a meagre dole, can hardly be blamed for venting their pent-up anger and frustration on the brutal police and the complacent shop-owner. No one has done anything to help them.

The flagrant gerrymandering ensured that not even the palliative of a Green Council could be theirs. The Orange Order has for years behaved provocatively, with all the braggartliness of the small town bully who runs the roost. The

actions on the night of the 12th of some drunken Orangemen returning home after celebrating the glorious victory of the homosexual Dutch dwarf 289 years ago were enough to spark off the 'riots', but soon it became clear that as usual the police were the main enemies.

### CHURCH'S TEACHING

Their church too had deluded them for too long. For years the priests had ordered them about, preached the virtues of servile obedience to authority, put them in a mental straitjacket—with the result that most young RCs in Derry

who escaped to England or even Belfast soon 'lapsed'. But last week, when the crowds of youths roamed the Bogside, hurling petrol bombs or burning paint at the riot squad, their priests tried to remonstrate with their flock and were told, in no uncertain way, to 'piss off'.

The police too are harvesting the results of their callous and biased behaviour. Last week saw the first two deaths caused by the police since the inception of the Civil Rights Campaign. Francis McCloskey (66) was batoned to death by the police in Dungiven at the height of the riots. If you hit old men on the head often enough you'll eventually kill one.

Two days later came the news that Samuel Devenny, of William Street, Derry, had died as a result of the injuries incurred when a gang of police broke into his house and assaulted him, and his family. They had been suing the police for £35,000, but now money alone won't be able to buy off the people of Derry.

During the last week the police in some areas have taken a beating, but calling up more armed 'B' Specials, sending troops to Derry and giving them training in the use of tear gas, is no answer. Anyone who saw the police violence when they smashed up the Shankill estate in Lurgan, using totally unnecessary force, and assaulting young and old, or who witnessed the police traps set in Hooker Street in Belfast, can

have little sympathy for them.

### POLITICIAN ACCUSED

The CRAs, too, have got their comeuppance. Hume, trying to 'mediate' in the Bogside was told to 'fuck off'. 'You've betrayed us, you've done nothing,' the youths shouted. And they were right. Now he self-righteously denounces as 'hooligans' those who marched behind the Citizens' Action Committee.

Civil Rights agitation was an outlet for the frustrated. But now their policy of inaction—as typically typified by the Derry CAC or the Green Tory CRAs of Armagh and Fermanagh—has rebounded upon them.

If you raise people's expectations, and then do nothing about implementing the promises, the people will sweep you away—and quite rightly so. For the bourgeois CR leadership to deplore violence is pure hypocrisy—in the slums of Derry you are forced to live a violent life, totally alienated from the effete, clean ease of the politicians and the bourgeoisie. The state and their tools are violent, and consequently so are the people in the slums.

Because they are unable to control and channel this violence, the 'leaders' are worried—as well they might be—for gradually they are learning that looting a supermarket can be a political act—and there's a long hot summer ahead for Ulster.

REV. AUGUSTUS BERKES.

## SQUATTING ACTIVITIES

### Mytchett Farm Caravan Site

THE SITE is in Mytchett, Hampshire, and the number of evictions (about one per month) is suspicious. The last was a family of seven and the father decided to fight. He contacted local activists, who contacted Reading Squatters Group. Fourteen of us were at the site to meet the gaffer on Tuesday but he was 'out of the country', 'have no idea where he is' and 'at his home' (in that order, from the site warden!).

The system seems to work this way. The families are relieved of £150-£200 deposit with impossible repayments. The cost of services seems to get doubled now and again and the ground rent has just been increased because of 'new amenities' including a 'laundry' (two kitchen sinks!) and a 'children's playground' (a climbing pole!). Soon the families fall behind with their repayments. The caravans are 'evicted' (ground rent) and the caravans repossessed. They are then quickly resold and the original buyers are minus deposit and caravan. The whole cycle then starts again.

A public meeting was held on Thursday at which 40 of the 200 site tenants came to discuss action. A company spy was spotted in the audience and was followed by two comrades when he left. They lost him when he went over a fence and into a garden. Half an hour later he was back with a cop with tales of us preventing him getting into his car. Under this cover the company bod did a Speedy Gonzales down the road!

Another meeting soon. Details and offers of help: Farnborough (Hants) 43811.

READING SQUATTERS.

### Manchester Squatters

AFTER THE ACTION of Manchester Squatters on the Moston Colliery Estate, the Corporation stated that families would be moved into the 110 empty houses on the estate within a week. However, three weeks after this announcement, the Tenants' Association contacted the Squatters and told us that not one house had been filled.

To draw attention to these houses still being empty, the Tenants' Association and the Squatters staged a token squat for a few days in an empty maisonette. This event did not receive very much publicity and neither police nor bailiffs even bothered to visit us.

After this squat, the Tenants' Association called a meeting, inviting officials from the Coal Board and the Manchester Council. They did not consider this meeting important enough to attend, however.

Another issue which the tenants wanted to discuss with the Council was the reason why these houses were supposed to have been refused by families who were offered them. Perhaps it had something to do with the rent which the Corporation were asking, which was well over £5. This is more than families on Council estates in Manchester pay and is also more than most families can afford. At the moment, the tenants on the estate all pay a different rent. The method by which a person's rent is determined is believed to be related to whether a person works or has worked for the Coal Board, but the actual working of this system is rather devious, to say the least.

However, even the highest rent is nothing like £5, so the tenants are worried in case all the rents are to be increased to this amount when Manchester Corporation takes over.

The tenants are very bitter, both at the lack of publicity and the absence of any explanation regarding the question of rent. They intend to take further action on this matter in the near future. A protest march is being planned and there is some talk of various forms of direct action.

MANCHESTER SQUATTERS.

### No Eviction!

THERE IS STRENGTH in unity! United stand Farnborough Council, Housing Manager John Eaton, Aldershot magistrates and the local bailiffs. And what do they fearlessly face in their unity? Caroline Coburn, a 21-year-old mother and her three-year-old kid who's got the measles!

Caroline has been separated from her husband for nearly three years and lives in a Farnborough Council flat. She has had letters complaining of irregular and non-payment of rent. Finally they got an eviction order from Aldershot magistrates on the grounds of *one week's rent overdue*. In fact the only rent she then 'owed' was for the week in which the order was obtained.

Later she was told that she would not be evicted if she promised to pay regularly in future. This was then reconsidered by the Housing Committee who said she would be evicted whether she paid or not.

She received a letter signed by Kilby, the Assistant Housing Manager, who said that she would definitely be evicted between July 24 and August 2. There is

a Council meeting on July 29 and they have the power to cancel the order. Eaton may not risk this happening and order the eviction before the council meet.

Caroline has decided to resist. She has many friends and if the bailiffs come they will more than meet their match.

Those wishing to join the defence rota or help in other ways ring: Reading 65645 or Farnborough (Hants) 43811.

LARRY.

### East London

THERE HAS BEEN another lull in the fight for the homeless in Ilford. The squatters have taken one more building in Lockwood Road, which is 'adopted' by Ford shop stewards and workers, who have spent yesterday repairing it. The squatters have also taken over a large shop, in Ilford High Road, with ample living accommodation above. They are using the shop as an information centre. Tonight there is a television confrontation between the squatters and the council.

The squatters have also decided to repair 6 Woodlands Road from the inside and to take down the barricades at the last moment when a homeless family arrives to claim the house. They also intend to continue with repair work in a house at Albert Road which they occupied recently.

The struggle in Ilford continues and help is wanted from comrades who can spare the time.

J.R.

### Brighton Squatters Occupy Houses

MEMBERS OF THE Brighton Rent Project and of Ilford Squatters, who had specially journeyed to Brighton for the occasion, successfully occupied seven terraced houses for the homeless in an early morning raid. The houses in Wykeham Terrace, off Dyke Road, belonged to the Army and have been used as married quarters. The lot was to be auctioned off on July 23 'for speculative building'. The squatting families have been in empty Council houses and court orders for evicting them had been granted to Brighton Council. The occupation of these buildings, three stories high and in perfect condition with all mod cons, was an excellent move on the part of the squatters and the organisers deserve all praise for their brilliant work.

There were no hitches (although some confusion was caused when two police-

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## EARTH IS OUR SPACESHIP

ALTHOUGH THE ARRIVAL of men upon the surface of the Moon is a great scientific achievement, the insistence of the press and other organs of publicity upon its greatness only makes one want to belittle it. Certainly the history of exploration since 1500, mostly carried on by Europeans, has been a grisly record of cruelty, greed and intolerance. So one is not inspired with joy to learn that the Americans have been able to put men on the Earth's satellite.

The enthusiasm of the mass media is intended to distract your attention from the problems around you on your own planet. It is rather like the investiture of Prince Charles—a 'squares' demonstration.

In fact this is a pity, because, whatever the motives behind it, it is a remarkable achievement. Exploration itself is not an authoritarian activity. The baby begins by exploring his immediate environment, and as he grows older he extends his range. It is usually authority which tries to restrict exploration and research.

Authority only encourages it when it feels there is an immediate and substantial gain to be made. In the case of space exploration there can be no doubt that the search for minerals and the

desire for military bases are the main motives. Added to these is the desire for prestige. And of course the contractors and the manufacturers of equipment are making fortunes.

An anarchist society would explore space for reasons of scientific curiosity. No doubt there would also be the need for minerals, but not as part of competitive capitalism. It would be exploration for need, not greed, and it would probably be carried on without the frantic hysteria which is so evident in the papers today. The Moon is to be 'stripped of its secrets', we are told. What a revealing phrase! It suggests rape, and this is just exactly what it will be, if what has been done on our own planet is anything to go by. Although it looks as if there will be no aborigines to be exploited or massacred, man's attitude to the natural environment is as barbaric as it is to his fellow men and women.

It would be very regrettable if, as result of space exploration, a new breed of ruthless, enterprising (in a limited way) and totally unscrupulous men should come to the fore, devoted to their calling of looting the planets, and ready to sacrifice anybody or anything to their

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### NOTICE!

Information has been received concerning a 17-year-old comrade who has been placed in a mental institution in order 'to cure him of his anarchism'. We are investigating this curious and disturbing matter.

'Freedom' Editors.



THE STATE OF N. IRELAND was created in an atmosphere of religious fanaticism and para-military extremism. The right-wing Tory politicians of Ulster, demonstrating their loyalty to the crown by preparing armed rebellion against it, succeeded in gaining political autonomy in this area. The working-class Protestants, deluded by their aristocratic leaders and saved from the fate of 'Rome Rule', were launched on a path of bigotry and discrimination against the Catholic population of Ulster. The Catholics, denied their Utopia of an Irish Free State, retreated into their ghettos to lick their wounds and mutter about the injustices perpetrated against them by the Protestants. This situation was exploited, of course, by those who had gained advantage from it, by those who had vested interests in maintaining the status quo—the politicians on both sides of the political and religious fence. And so the situation remained until October 5, 1968, in Derry.

Derry is an interesting case because it is in fact a microcosm of the malaise which besets Northern Irish society. Famous for having undergone the longest siege in British history in 1689 when the walled city held out for 15 weeks against the forces of the Papist James II, the city became the jewel in Ulster's crown, the symbol of the Protestant revolution, the 'Maiden City' pure and unravished.

This explains the importance of Derry in the Unionist canon and why they regarded it as vital that it should remain unsullied, that is, controlled in perpetuum by a Unionist-dominated council.

There was only one snag—two-thirds of the population were anti-Unionist. This led to the development of an ambivalent attitude on the part of the Unionist Government. Because of the historical importance of Derry it was necessary to retain control of it at all costs, and because of the antipathy of the people of Derry to Unionism it was

(and incidentally had made millionaires of the McDonald family, the majority shareholders!), was not enough. But not so!

The following week, the company was interviewing its sacked workers—this time under the name of 'Monarch Electric', a new company—and within a month was back in operation. There were differences, however. The new name meant that the company was able to con another few hundred thousand

quiring new homes comes to more than 70% of the population! Realising the futility of appealing to the corrupt local politicians, where even a bribe was of no use unless you were of the right political persuasion, the people took matters into their own hands. Eleven homeless families squatted in the Guildhall for five weeks last November. Of course the politicians screamed about blackmail,

was his denunciation of the October 5 march. When no one paid any attention to him, he took part in the march hoping to salvage something, but it was too late.

Notable by his absence on October 5 was another politician—John Hume, director of a salmon canning firm. Several days after the marchers had been batoned into the ground at Duke Street, Hume had a meeting in the City Hotel

Derry in January on the orders of Neil Farren, Bishop of Derry).

The elections came in February and the people of Derry rejected the blatant sectarianism of McAteer. Hume, having used the CR movement as a springboard, achieved his political ambition and was elected to Parliament where all his 'activities' (i.e. talking) now take place. Anyone who attempts to institute action outside Parliament is denounced by Hume as a trouble-maker 'who is using the CR movement for political purposes'. Mr. Hume being an ex-clerical student should scarcely need reminding of the parable of the mote and the beam.

Since his election he has begun to show himself in his true colours. When the people in Hooker Street were being intimidated by baton-happy RUC men Hume said: 'They are only hooligans, let the police handle it.' When the Unionist Government announced its 'reforms', Hume said they were 'reasonable'. Hume believes that because the Unionist MPs listen to him at Stormont, instead of making their usual exodus to the members' bar, he has achieved something.

#### ACTION BY THE PEOPLE

The people of Derry know what he has achieved—nothing! The people of Derry know that any changes that have come about have been as a result of action taken by the people themselves. It is too much to expect that in the short period of time since October 5 the people of Derry should have developed their political consciousness to the extent of being able to see Parliament as it really is—a sham and a farce. But having disposed of one hack politician they find that they have merely replaced Tweedledum by Tweedledee. Hume's policy of inaction has not endeared him to the people of Derry and the most commonly-heard complaint there is 'politicians are all the same'.

The people of Derry can react to this in one of two ways. Either they can sink back into the apathy which allows the politicians to live off the backs of the people, or they can reject the duplicity of the politicians and decide to control their own lives.

Having seen the workers become aware of being exploited, having seen the homeless successfully challenging the authorities, having seen the people realise that they do have power, I believe they will choose the latter course. In doing so, in rejecting political chicanery, in rejecting centralised bureaucracy, Derry can act as a catalyst for revolution, demonstrating that power does lie in the hands of the people, and it is to themselves that they must look for their freedom.

COLUMBANUS.

\*Dr. Farren, Bishop of Derry and ex-blueshirt, has subsequently endeared himself to his loyal flock by touring the ghettos by Rolls Royce, accompanied by Protestant clerics.

# DERRY: Springboard of the Struggle



necessary to maintain the city in a depressed condition of high unemployment and bad housing, since to do otherwise would be to give aid and succour to the 'disloyal' elements in the community.

Yet, in spite of the obvious economic and social difficulties which such policies imposed on the people, the result has been worthwhile in that the people of Derry have had their eyes opened to the sham that is Parliament and, by taking to the streets, have come to realise that power lies in the hands of the people, not the wheeling and dealing politicians.

The overall effect has been revolutionary in the true sense of the word, and the following examples, showing the developing consciousness of the people, demonstrate clearly the importance of Derry in the development of the Revolution, that it is from Derry, in fact, that initial revolutionary activity will occur, spreading to other centres later.

#### LOW WAGES

In 1954 a Government-advance factory was taken over in Derry by Birmingham Sound Reproducers on the usual terms—rent-free and rate-free for 10 years, 45% grant towards new machinery, as well as wages £3-£5 p.w. lower than in Britain. Workers, needless to say, were not well treated. Union activity was discouraged by none-too-subtle intimidation and activists were sacked, usually for bad time-keeping or time-wasting in the toilet!

In October 1964, ten years after it opened (surprise, surprise!) the workers were given thirty minutes' notice that the factory was to close and were paid a week's wages in lieu of notice. It would appear that the quality and output of the Derry worker which had made the name BSR well-known in the electronic world

from the Government, by closing down for a week or so they were able to get rid of 'trouble-makers' who were not rehired, and on re-opening they began to employ women at a wage 35%-50% lower than the men's—this in a city where 18%-22% of the men (and only 4% of the women) are habitually unemployed.

Naturally the workers' conditions became much worse, and when the company began to replace men on the assembly-line with 15-year-old boys (who were paid 1/10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> an hour!), the workers revolted. They went on strike several times, were sold out by their unions, and began to sabotage the factory by taking away pockets full of screws, small parts, etc., which they threw away once outside. The management decided to teach the workers a lesson and in January 1966 did a repeat of their 1964 trick of closing the factory. But they made the mistake of giving the workers half an hour's notice. The workers wrecked the factory.

It is a sign of the developing consciousness of the Derry worker that now he knows he is being exploited and is not prepared to accept it. The industrial workers and trainees marching from Maydown to the city centre in November to defy Adolf Craig's ban were calling for one man one job and for the workers to be given the right to control their own lives. Having realised their power in the streets, the people are beginning to become aware of the power of workers' control in the factories.

#### HOUSING

Housing in Derry is a scandal. There are over 2,200 families on the waiting list and when taken together with those families living in substandard or downright inhuman conditions the number re-

disruption of corporation business and so on. But the families were given houses.

Since then squatting has continued on a greater scale as more and more families saw it as the answer to years in a hovel. At present thirty families have moved into houses owned by the Ministry of Defence and empty since January because of the inability of the Ministry and the Corporation to agree on a price. The squatters have organised themselves into a defence committee, set a fair rent (50/- a week) and have had the minions from the local council scurrying around to inform them that they were responsible for the rates (although empty property is unrateable).

The main instigators of the squatting activity are the Derry Labour Party, a group of militants whose attitudes and policies bear no relation whatsoever to the tired and ineffectual ramblings of the NILP; they are more concerned with the plight of the homeless and dispossessed, showing how they are exploited by the system and pointing out ways of hitting back. So far they have been eminently successful.

#### THE POLITICIANS

Politically, Derry used to be a typical example of the Orange-Green polarisation. McAteer, the local MP, would appear every five years on a platform draped with a tricolour, mouth a few platitudes about Irish freedom and the corruption of Unionism, and having secured the Catholic vote, would disappear until the next election. His business interests in accountancy and a travel agency meant he had no time to spare for the people who had been duped by him, but the final nail in his coffin

with a few other businessmen and jumped on the bandwagon by announcing that they (the businessmen) had formed a Citizens' Action Committee to act on behalf of the oppressed people of Derry and that he, Hume, was the spokesman.

From then on the tragi-comedy developed at full tilt, with politicians like Hume talking about 'the rights of the people' and so on, yet as soon as the people began to take matters into their own hands, he would immediately back down and sell out (as he sold out Free

## EVERYMAN'S GUIDE TO TYRANNY

TYRANNY, a study in the abuse of power, by Maurice Lately. Macmillan, 50/-.

THIS IS A survey of tyranny through the ages, from the ancient Greeks to the twentieth century, with a study of the lives and deeds of many tyrants, how they came to power, how they held it and sometimes lost it. The point of view of the author is liberal-conservative-Christian. It is a study in the abuse of power. The need for power is not seriously questioned. To Mr. Lately a tyrant is a ruler whose authoritarianism exceeds the limit permitted by law and custom in his particular society.

To an anarchist this is a very milk-and-water sort of approach, nevertheless if you want an easy-to-read survey of tyranny in all its aspects, without sociological jargon, this is the book for you.

It does not analyse the matter deeply, as Wilhelm Reich did in his *Mass*

*Psychology of Fascism*, now regrettably out of print. The author does occasionally enter the realm of psychology. The fathers of some tyrants, Napoleon, Franco, were unsatisfactory. Rousseau, predictably, is blamed for modern totalitarianism. (Oddly enough Napoleon himself began the fashion of blaming Rousseau, which was a pretty piece of cheek.)

I find Mr. Lately's conservative point of view hard to take, but he is right I feel when he warns against conspiracy theories. Conspiracies happen, but it is safer to disbelieve rumours of them, even on the off-chance of occasionally missing one that really exists, than to live in constant dread of them. This state of anxiety favours the development of tyranny.

As an introduction to the subject this book may serve well enough, but the problem deserves a much more analytic treatment. A.W.U.

# Law and Order in Ireland

**THE STRENGTH** of the Royal Ulster Constabulary is 2,993 men and 61 women. To 'help' them they have 10,000 B-Specials, part-time auxiliaries. Although the police have stated that they would like 'to have a third of the force RC', at present 90.2% are Protestant and 100% of the B-Specials. Both bodies are armed. The specials are not even required to have licences for their own private arsenals. The specials have no identification and at present most of the police don't bother to wear numbers—the Minister of Home Affairs having stated that he sees no real need for them to—they cost the Ulster taxpayer £7 million a year, what does he get for his money? Qualifications to become a member of this illustrious force are not noticeably very high. 'Well it helps if they can read and write and we do give them a sort of written test'. 809 of the police are ex B-Specials whose training for regular police work consisted of one month's training at Enniskillen.

Well, he firstly has the pride of living under some of the most repressive pieces of legislation in the world, the envy of South Africa. Most must be aware by now of the incredible Special Powers Acts, which allow the police to arrest on 'suspicion' that a crime might be committed, detain incommunicado, without recourse to a lawyer, a trial or even being charged. It is for the 'suspect' to prove his innocence, no easy matter if you don't even know what you've been charged with. You can be flogged, and if by any chance you die, an inquest can be refused if the police so desire. Under the powers vested in him the Minister can prohibit newspapers, gramophone records and even strikes. Meetings, marches, demonstrations are of course liable to be banned, while your premises can be searched without a warrant and anything confiscated. The new Public Order Amendment Act will make those who occupy public buildings or hold sit-downs liable for between six months and two years in prison. Not surprisingly the International Commission of Jurists have condemned it as 'shocking'.

What is not so well realized is that in the south this repressive legislation is very closely paralleled. The Offences Against the State Act of 1939 allows internment indefinitely without trial, while the ESB bill is an incredible piece of anti-trade union legislation. Moreover,

the proposed Criminal Justice Bill soon to go through the Dail, despite desperate opposition, will mirror Ulster's Public Order Bill. But the forces of 'law and order' do not stop at merely aping each other's legislation, for in a true spirit of camaraderie they stretch their hands across the border for some truly remarkable co-operation. There are many instances of people being bundled over the border by one force to 'oblige' the other, although this has been declared 'unconstitutional' in 1965, and at present both the gardai and the RUC are attending courses on riot control and having jolly film shows of how fellow 'riot controllers', such as Mayor Daly's gallant band, work. New 'equipment' has been

bought by both forces, including the well-loved water cannons, trendy new visored helmets and cuddly doggies. It won't be long before we will see the gas and mace used to 'control over-exuberant crowds'!

Both bodies too have a reluctance to push themselves into the limelight. After the police riot in Derry on January 5 when a large band of police, many drunk, beat up the Leckie Road Inspector Baillie (of surprise, surprise) the RUC conducted an investigation which now makes up 96 volumes and reluctantly indicts the police. The Minister of Home Affairs has declined to make it public and says at the same time that the recent 'amnesty' applies to the police also. Like-

wise, there has been no trace of the police 'investigation' into the police brutality outside the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin when Sein Feiners were arrested and smashed up. In the south however the forces of law and disorder do excel at some things. By and large their guardai are more brutal than the RUC (hard though it may be for some to believe it) and their special branch are certainly far more efficient than their northern counterparts, who mainly rely on amateurish mail opening, telephone tapping and petty bribery to obtain their 'information'. Their political sophistication is none too great either—a senior officer on being informed that one of those arrested was a 'trotskyite' (sic) said

knowingly, 'Ah, that's one of them anarchists, isn't it?' Their attempts to 'penetrate' the councils of PD are often pathetically funny, although they have their more sinister overtones. Since all PD meetings are open to everyone and we are well used to seeing gentlemen in smart new macs sitting quietly at the back; one would have thought that there was no need to put the frighteners on young attenders and to bribe them to 'report' on the meetings, this they generally do by threatening to 'do' a member of the would-be informant's family or a close friend unless information is forthcoming, old charges are raked up and a derisory sum of money usually offered. Up to date their 'results' have been to say the least negligible, since there are no secrets to be 'discovered'.

The B-Specials are a much more serious problem. An armed, totally sectarian force, they have been heavily implicated in the infamous Burntollet ambush (see book of same name by Egan & McCormick) where over seventy of them took part; in the Paisley 'capture' of Armagh, where five were accidentally arrested for carrying guns and are in grave danger of being involved in the recent acts of sabotage on the reservoirs and pylons. Yet the government is unwilling and perhaps unable to do anything about disbanding them. This might prove dangerous, for as in any other banana republic the junta is always in danger of a coup by the armed forces. Mainly Paisleyite by inclination, they represent a very real threat to the more patrician unionist clique. Certainly while they are in existence and the police continue to show such partiality in 'riot control' the government can expect no confidence from the RC minority. In the past the unionists knew this and didn't give a damn, for has not Ulster 'a Protestant Parliament for a Protestant people'. The higher RC birthrate has always been countered by ensuring a continually high annual emigration rate. Now the 'welfare state' means that fewer go, and so the 'minority' gets bigger and bigger. To many a diehard Orangeman this is a terrible Trojan horse. The smarter ones are attempting some entente and the activities of the police are a real hindrance to this. Only time can tell whether 'law and order' will be tamed here, but for many time is running out.

EDWARD JONES.



## THE IRISH GENERAL ELECTION

**DESPITE THE DISAPPOINTING** results of the Irish General Election, a number of promising new trends emerge quite clearly. The results are nevertheless a great disappointment to all those who have fought against the attempts of Fianna Fail to throttle freedom of dissent through the Criminal Justice Bill and to put a halter around the freedom of trade union organisation with the Trade Union Bill and Industrial Relations Bill. The final results were Fianna Fail 75, Fine Gael 50, Labour 18, Independents 1, compared to the position at dissolution—Fianna Fail 74, Fine Gael 46, Labour 18, Independents 3 and vacant 3. The results of the 1965 General Election—Fianna Fail 72, Fine Gael 47, Labour 22 and Independents 3. Thus the election would appear to be a setback for the Labour Party and a victory for the two conservative parties.

The breakdown of the Labour results shows the development of a new trend in Dublin. Labour Party results in the Dublin area since 1961 show:

1961 General Election—3 MPs  
1965 General Election—6 MPs  
1969 General Election—10 MPs

Thus in less than 10 years the Labour Party has trebled its number of MPs in the Dublin area. Taken together while the Labour Party obtained 27.27% of its parliamentary support from Dublin after the 1965 Election, following the recent election it obtained 55% of its parliamentary support from Dublin. This is nothing short of a phenomenal change when considered against proportional representation which militates against dramatic upswings and downswings. Nationally the Labour vote increased from 17% to 19%.

The reasons for this dramatic change in support from rural to Dublin lies in (a) the gerrymandering of constituencies which took place recently, and (b) a filthy 'red smear' campaign launched against the policies of the Labour Party by

Fianna Fail and acquiesced in if not supported by Fine Gael. This was because of the left swing in Labour policies following the conference in January which set itself firmly against another coalition with Fine Gael. The reaction from both of the conservative parties succeeded in frightening some of the rural Labour voters. The last-minute intervention on behalf of the Labour Party by a number of leading figures in Irish agriculture obviously was too late to have any counter effect.

While the 'red smear' was successful in rural areas, it rebounded in Dublin where Dr. Noel Browne was returned after a spell of absence, coming second in a 3-seat constituency and Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien was elected on the first count. The trend in Dublin is consistent and indicates a polarisation of class forces. Immigration of young workers from the rural areas who are not prey to Fianna Fail's smear campaign is also evident, while depopulation of rural areas leaves a population behind who are prey to Fianna Fail's propaganda. This swing behind Labour in Dublin is for these reasons likely to harden in the future. The polarisation of class forces is summed up in the People's Democracy slogan: 'Tories out—north and south'.

The final death of civil war politics is a third visible trend. Up to 1948 the civil war issues of 1921 dominated Irish politics. Since then they have been slowly dying, this election they were not visible at all. Economic issues dominated the election from the first leaflet to the last exhortation.

Finally it is important to note the change of calibre in the Labour MPs elected. In the past the Labour MPs representing rural areas had a large personal vote. This vote deserted them on this occasion because for the first time the Labour Party was putting forward the comparatively advanced policies of its programme 'New Republic'. Instead

of men like Dr. Noel Browne being in a small minority in the parliamentary Labour Party, he has been joined by Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, David Thornley, Justin Keating and Barry Desmond. While the Labour Party has lost worthwhile men like Tom Kyne, these new faces that have come into the Dail can be said to represent the Irish New Left of recent years.

This is a brief analysis of the results and some readers will be wondering what is it for Anarchists? Does it matter whether Fianna Fail, Fine Gael or Labour is elected? They are all political parties, all believe in the master-slave wages system. None of them will tackle the class hierarchical structure of society. Very true indeed, but it would be shortsighted in the extreme to ignore the General Election results. As I have said, there is a polarisation of class forces taking place in Ireland, north and south. Like a thermometer in warming water the Election results reflect the depth of social struggle taking place. And Fianna Fail prepares its repressive legislation, they had a setback in the massive defeat of their proposal to abolish Proportional Representation last October. Now, however, they have been given a regrettable new lease of life and I use the regrettable quite intentionally. The best organised reactionary forces in Ireland are in Fianna Fail, this should not be overlooked. This is the importance of the election of Bernadette Devlin and Conor Cruise O'Brien. I would not pretend that they do any more than that. The class struggle will continue, the struggle for civil rights will continue. In the west of Ireland civil rights associations have grown up around the slogan 'One man, one job'. To which the Anarchist adds 'One man, one man in society, one membership card in the decision-making process of society'.

The trend towards amalgamation of the conservative forces is indicated by

the post-election editorial in the Fine Gael paper *Irish Independent*. This joined in the Fianna Fail hurrah in lambasting the 'new' socialist policies of the Labour Party. The calibre of the new Labour MPs will speed the process.

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, the Home Rulers, driven first to separatism then to

Republicanism by a shortsighted British class. These people, the Home Rulers and the Unionist Party, have much more in common with each other than either of them have with the rising civil rights movement for housing, for jobs, for votes, for a stake in the society to which they are born in the West, in Dublin, Derry, Cork and Belfast.

The various Civil Rights associations should hold a National Civil Rights Congress to emphasize their unity of purpose against the Tories—Orange and Green.

DAVID PICKETT.

## Palermo Fascists Throw Bombs

**RECENTLY** the political squad from Police HQ and the local Carabinieri have been very 'concerned' about young comrades, imprisoning some and then releasing them after the customary day of interrogation and the usual house search.

Don't be too ready to connect these occurrences with the recent explosions of bombs and thunder-flashes which have disturbed this Sicilian city. From the way the investigations were carried out and the nature of the imprisonments we believe that this is a definite campaign of intimidation, against which we should act.

As everybody knows (since the press and TV have been full of it), a few squalid little fascists have been caught red-handed, and, reluctantly, the police were forced to prosecute them.

Long before their arrest, however, the CID knew very well that these delinquents kept in their den that arsenal which has now, in fact, been 'discovered'. For, to judge from the 'courteous attention' which has been focussed on our group, nothing could escape the eye of

the political squad, and besides, the young members of MSI and similar organizations have made frequent public appearances armed with chains, iron clubs, various weapons, and Molotov cocktails. So one doesn't need to give the police credit for particular acumen to believe that they have known for a long time who were the originators of the violence carried out against things and people by these worthy emulators of the fascist old guard, and their arrest was inevitable.

We have a theory, backed up by the nature of the interrogations which our comrades have undergone that, initially, the police—on the one hand alarmed at the size to which our group has grown, and on the other completely ignorant of the nature of anarchism and anarchists—hoped that some young comrade would allow himself to be influenced by the 'explosions' and would try the same thing himself. Then they could have blamed the whole group for this one act, and also made us out to be responsible for all the previous explosions too.

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