

# NORTHERN INFORMER 3.

Monday; - Irish Times reporter "Mr. Chichester-Shark are you likely to be P.M."  
Chichester-Clark "Good Heavens no"

Thursday; - Chichester-Shark becomes P.M.

Why Major James Chichester-Shark (known to his civil servants as Woodentop) entered the big fighting world of politics;-

"I was a man with a bit of spare time and hoped I could do something useful. That was essentially all I had in mind. So maybe that's why I am a bit suprised by what I do now"

## THE LIBERAL FACADE WEARS THIN

We have a new Prime Minister. The family is the same, so is the school, so is the religion, so is the regiment, so is the class, so is the party, as that of the last P.M. Yet as John Hume points out the old P.M. had a majority of six, the new P.M. has a majority of one. Ulster has taken one more step backwards.

Chichester-Clark made three attempts to get Brian Faulkener into the cabinet. He knows that his ministry simply is not viable without the support of the nominee of Craig and the backwoodsmen.

Chichester-Shark resigned on Friday because the granting of one man one vote might provoke militant protestants to violence "even to bloodshed". He is now pledged to bring in one man one vote.

He considered Captain John Brooke, a man on record as saying one man one vote would only come over his dead body, for cabinet office.

He has pacified the right by making it clear that he is opposed to those reforms which would make one man vote effective, he says;-

"Once we have one man one vote we will have the same franchise as in Britain. I don't see any need to go any further".

The final blow to O'Neill was the threat by the leaders of the Orange Order to withdraw support from the Unionist leadership unless troublemakers were dealt with.

The new tune is clear, Bernadette Devlin has been summonsed. The October 5th. trials are scheduled for next week.

Chichester-Shark has one virtue, it is easier to see what lies behind his rambling inconsistencies, than it was to see through O'Neill's ecumenical platitudes.

## Apology

In Northern Informer No. I we suggested that James Chichester-Clark was present at Burntollet. In fact we meant Robin Chichester-Clark.

As a matter of interest and to complete the record, James was seen at Beragh cross-roads the day before armed with a blackthorn walking stick.

At the time he was talking to Major Bunting.

## Liberal Education Policy on the Way

Last Thursday Phelim O'Neill the new "progressive" Minister of Education entertained a visiting Moral-Rearmament delegation to tea at Stormont.

PRICE 1/-

New-style protest in Strabane and Dungannon

Strabane, whose sense of timing for demonstration has been quite appalling - all three marches have been cancelled found itself a winner last Saturday. If the people weren't going to march then the streets should be totally empty. All shops on the main streets were closed that afternoon. Only journalists stirred. With its 22% unemployment Strabane desperately needs recognition as about the blackest spot in the North.

Dungannon C.R.A. in their three-point plan of action, have a programme which may hit the Unionists hard.

## 1. Boycott Market Square

"For the moment we will forget about the Square, since we are not allowed to use it for meetings. We will avoid going up to the Square unless our work takes us there or unless we are visiting friends".

## 2. Boycott the R.U.C.

In view of the brutality shown by the police over the past few months, Dungannon and Coalisland committees called for no further fraternisation with the R.U.C.

and most significant of all

## 3. Withdraw Savings from the P.O. Savings Bank

Withdraw savings from the P.O. Savings Bank and the local office of the Belfast Savings Bank. The Savings Bank is also government controlled and the money should be invested with the CREDIT UNION.

Newry C.R. Executive Trowned

Democracy made a partial comeback in Newry last week when contrary to wish of the C.R.A. committee, amendments may now be put to public meetings. Previously the C.R.A. had decided only to accept suggestions from meetings, mull them over in private and pronounce upon them at a later date. Though their attempt to obtain total executive power has failed dismally they are continuing in office. The forces behind this antidemocratic move become apparent on reading this statement from the Newry Nationalist Party: -

"We urge all members of the Party to take the fullest part possible in the activities of the movement, particularly in view of the fears at present being expressed of militant influences infiltrating the C.R."

Blood Sacrifice

Excerpt from letter written by Paisley from Crumlin Jail printed in the Protestant Telegraph on April 5th.

"Thirdly to strengthen us in future conflicts

The soldier is not made dressed up in fine uniform lounging at the barrack gates. He is made with knapsack and battle, rifle in hand, climbing out of the trenches with garments soaked in blood".

Benevolent Ulster Protestant Volunteers Show their Hand

The South Derry Division of the Ulster Protestant Volunteers have offered the R.U.C. 1000 "responsible able-bodied men".

They have also made it clear that if the police do not carry out the wishes they will take action themselves.

Speaking of the proposed Burntollet march, now abandoned, they said "if allowed to take place this march may well have fatal consequences". Needless to say the police would have banned the march.

Belfast's Homeless Menaced

Taking their cue from Armagh City Council, Belfast Corporation Estates Committee have magnanimously rehoused Mrs. Rosaleen Campbell and her family of six who were squatting in a Housing Trust flat at Divis Street whilst stating unanimously:-

"Anyone who squats In Housing Trust or Belfast Corporation property will, under no circumstances EVER be rehoused by the corporation. It is of vital importance that the public is aware of our decision."

Bally Castle

The Urban District Council decided in common with many other local authorities not to operate a points system for housing.

Shankill C.R.A.

Thinly disguised under the name of Shankill Defence Association, this totally sectarian group is dedicated both to defend Protestant lives and property against intrusion from rioters and to fight for better conditions for those whose homes are to be demolished under re-development plans for the Shankill area. Notwithstanding its sectarian nature, its very formation is a pointer to the influence radical action groups do have upon deprived Protestants.

Coal Island

The two squatter families who have occupied council houses at Mourne Crescent have been served summonses alleging wrongly taking possession and wilfully entering houses. Local support for their action has been mobilised. At a public meeting last Wednesday in Coal Island attended by 200 people, a resolution enclosing their action and that of the Action Committee squatting on behalf of a 74 year old disabled ex-serviceman was passed unanimously.

The meeting also decided that in the event of eviction a mass protest would take place. A resolution of no confidence in Dungannon rural council was passed and a just housing policy from the council was demanded.

Army Bases Put to good Use

At a meeting on Thursday night, Ivan Cooper backed proposals for squatting in 38 empty houses near the Eglinton and Campsie Military bases.

Speaking at Tamnaherim, he said:-

"If these houses remain unoccupied, I will encourage families in need to squat in them and I will assist them to do so."

He added the houses could not be permitted to become white elephants when so many people were in need of housing.

Vacancies arose because of the reduction in servicemen in Ballykelly and Derry. The houses should be handed over immediately to the Derry Development Commission.

Straws in the Wind?

The tenants of four Catholic housing estates in Armagh have joined forces with at least one Protestant estate in a campaign against the iniquitous rent increases. A tenants association has been formed at Orangefield, the Protestants estate and they hope to spread the idea to two co-religionist estates.

Comment: Statements of intent by several councils never again to rehouse squatters could destroy the effectiveness of this form of direct action.

The solution is, make squatting so widespread that councils are unable to victimise.

Derry Labour Leads:

"Socialists within the Civil Rights Movement should not stay united with the ill named "moderate" leadership one moment longer" - McCann.

Derry Labour accuses the moderate leadership of John Hume, Ivan Cooper & Co., of direct responsibility for the recent outbreaks of sectarian rioting. This because, since October 5th, they have consistently denied that there is any political meaning or motivation within the Civil Rights Movement; that unity of the working class is not an issue for the Civil Rights Movement and have stressed only the need for a united Opposition to Unionism. This liberal attitude has led to the description "anti-Unionist" being in common parlance a synonym for a Roman Catholic.

"Liberalism has nothing to offer the people living in Protestant slums. It is the fake liberalism of the present regime that they are reacting against when they accept the anti-O'Neill ideology of Ian Paisley".

Derry Labour believes that it is time that hard politics were rammed straight down the Civil Rights Movement. Politics to unite the workers both Protestant and Roman Catholic, Politics to show how one family one house - one man one job can be achieved and Politics that would make the slogan "One person one vote mean something". Derry Labour, demands, in fact, Politics that mean action and they have the programme prepared.

On yet another front they are to be congratulated. Due mainly to the initiative of Kathy Harkin - an inveterate socialist feminist - a Socialist Women's Committee has been set up in Derry to investigate and act against a different sort of sectarianism: to fight sexual discrimination. Their slogan is "Come back Mrs. Pankhurst - we have not yet overcome".

We hope that the people of Derry will sit up, take note of and join this Party of sense and ignore the present so-called moderate leaders who are only serving to confuse the real issues behind the need for the Civil Rights Movement.

New Civil Rights Movement for Derry

As predicted in Northern Informer last week the left in Derry have formed their own Civil Rights Movement to act independently of the Citizens Action Committee.

The first meeting, addressed by Mr. Eamonn McCann amongst others, took place in Guildhall Square on Thursday night.

Heart Attacks

Dr. Tyndall has had a mild heart attack after seeing poor people in Derry. Mr. Devenney has had a severe heart attack after being batoned to hell by the R.U.C.

Turn Right

The Irish News account of the ecumenical tour of Derry last week included a significant passage:-

"At one stage of the Fountain Street tour Dr. Farren pointed to a traffic sign, "Turn Right; One way Only" and said to the people: "There is good advice for all to heed."

Before the war when he was involved with the Blueshirts, it must have been particularly applicable.

New Centralised C.R.A. for Belfast

A Belfast Civil Rights Association has been formed. Previously there has not been one as such. It has been formed as a reaction to disturbances in Belfast after the Derry riots.

The temporary chairman, Mr. Derek Peters argued that the association "is non-political and non-sectarian and should not be used as a vehicle to promote any political ideal".

The Irish News commented "the formation of the Belfast and District C.R. branch arose out of the feeling that the absence of any C.R. branch in the area left the situation open to the formation of small C.R. branches over which the central C.R.A. has little control or discipline.

Mr. Drerek Peters emphasised the need for "a firm disciplined and non-sectarian C.R. organisation to combat batonings and brutal beatings".

Mr. Joe Sherry, a member of the C.R.A. executive also referred to the need for "a disciplined and united organisation".

Mr. Paddy Devlin M.P. said that what was needed to combat the new Public Order Bill was an organisation that would work "at the press of a button". Mass sit-downs in the streets were the weapon to use.

A member of the audience commented "at the moment the whole organisation simply did not have the ability to arrange simultaneous demonstrations at the press of a button".

Mr. Fergus Woods (P.D. candidate in S. Down at the General Election) pointed out that tactics of march and demonstrations which had proved successful elsewhere might not be so applicable in Belfast. Marches could build barriers with the working class Protestant community.

Fermanagh Fight for Houses

Members of Fermanagh C.R.A. staged a sit-in at a meeting of Fermanagh Housing Committee on Wednesday in protest over the allocation of a council cottage at Skea, Arney near Enniskillen. Mr. Elliott, the Chairman closed the meeting after Frank McManus vice-chairman of the C.R.A. and others walked into the council chamber. People with placards took up positions at the entrance to the townhall.

Since then over 100 demonstrated at Arney, and forced Captain John Brooke M.P. to appear and give the promise that the allocation may be reconsidered.

No doubt P.D. in Fermanagh will take active steps to insure that this pledge is upheld.

"Jaw-Jaw" contd. from page 7

why O'Neill went out of his way to join the Apprentice Boys of Derry - the inner circle of Ulster's Mafia).

The boldness of the New Statesman is nothing compared to the radicalism of the Guardian in consistently refusing to accord Ulster politicians their much needed ego-boostered military titles. Naughty Egalitarian Guardian. But in this hour of crisis only the miracle of "a new spirit" (N.S.), "an act of faith (Times) and "a change of heart" (Guardian) can save Ulster (i.e. bring back O'Neill).

Anyone shocked or surprised at the trivialisation of Ulster affairs by the British Press (especially its "Liberal" and "Left" wings) has been a long time losing their naivete.

Authoritarian Derry Schools under attack

Three students at St. Columb's College in Derry have been suspended because of their attempt to form a Students Representative Council.

Five attempts had been made to have the President receive a deputation and to discuss the formation of the Council. This had the support of 350 of the 500 senior pupils. They wanted to discuss the formation of the Council so that they could confer about grievances including a ban on smoking; a request for a common room where senior pupils could smoke, and to protest about forced work in the kitchen during meal times.

40 pupils walked out of the College and about 20 carrying placards picketed the entrance in Bishop Street. Later about 60 pupils, some carrying placards walked to the Guildhall.

They are going to call a mass meeting for all grammar school pupils in the City in Brooke Park on Monday to protest against the suspensions.

No official comment was forthcoming from the College.

The Derry Labour Party Young Socialists in a statement have expressed their solidarity with the pupils of St. Columb's College who are fighting against the suspension of three students. The education of the students has been put in jeopardy by the action of the school authorities against this liberal demand says the statement.

The statement called on every student in grammar and technical schools in Derry to rally to the support of the meeting in Brooke Park at 4 p.m. on Monday.

Fight for Non-Sectarian Education

Where does the debate on non-sectarian education in the Civil Rights Movement stand. If one were to take the advice of Southern columnists like Claud Gordon, one could be forgiven for treating the subject as unimportant, he writes:-

"A grand subject to have a good argument about, indeed but now generally recognised as largely irrelevant to the higher political problems of the Irish scene."

Yet Anne Forrest saw in it a potential weapon against Bernadette Devlin in mid-Ulster, she said:-

"Miss Devlin opposes the policy of the Roman Catholic Church in having separate education for its children and wants voluntary schemes grouped into a comprehensive system, yet she looks to the Catholic voters of the constituency for support."

Bernadette Devlin got the votes, and in fact many Catholic voters favour non-sectarian education provided that state schools are administered fairly.

A recent letter in the Irish News from a group of Catholic parents calling themselves the "'68 group" is worth quoting on this.

They are "largely at variance with the opinions expressed by the Most Rev. Dr. Philbin, Bishop of Down and Connor".

They say "it has never been claimed that separate education is the sole or even the major factor in producing the scandalous communal divisions which exist in the christian community in Northern Ireland.

However, they continue, "it is a most potent factor in producing these divisions by reason of giving rise at a very early stage to an 'us' and 'them' mentality in the young which is carried through into every facet of the child's life, even on the sports field where Catholic and Protestant children don't even play the same games".

36,794 People Unemployed in Northern Ireland

There were 36,794 people on Northern Ireland's unemployment register on April 14 last. This is 7.1 per cent of insured employees.

Male unemployed was 28,898 (nine per cent) and females 7,896 (4.1 per cent).

Last month's improvement was repeated, with a drop in the register since March of 2,266. But unemployment increased by 157 compared with April a year ago.

Of the 28 local office areas in Northern Ireland only two showed slight unemployment increases this month. The main decreases, in proportionate terms, occurred in Antrim, Kilkeel, Ballymoney, Magherafelt, Lurgan, Ballymena and Armagh,

Derry jobless total, which fell last month by almost 200, is again slightly down. Statistics issued by the Ministry yesterday show that the number of unemployed in the city is 3,542, compared with 3,560 in March.

The total is made up of 2,976 men, 201 boys, 351 women and 14 girls and it represents an unemployment rate of 12.8 per cent, Male unemployment is 18.2 and female 3.6 per cent.

In Limavady the total out of work has dropped from 668 last month to 614 (446 men, 22 boys, 125 women and 3 girls). This gives an overall rate of 11.8 per cent, with 14.2 per cent for men and 7.2 per cent for women.

In Strabane last month's total of 1,619 dropped to 1,454, but with 1,213 men and 57 boys out of work the town has a massive unemployment rate of 22.5 amongst its male inhabitants. There are 160 women and 19 girls out of work, a female rate of 5.4. The overall figure for the town is 16.2 per cent.

The figure for Magherafelt is 593, made up of 402 men, 13 boys, 175 women and 3 girls. The overall unemployment rate is 6.8 per cent, with 7.6 per cent amongst men and 5.3 per cent female.

"Jaw-jaw"-from the English Press

Ulster has really hit the big time headlines. In this week's New Statesman it merits a special leader by the editor and self-confessed arch-social democrat Paul Johnson. Johnson's solution - a round table conference at which the Stormont government, the minority, Britain and the Irish Republic would be represented. "The Agenda could be flexible, the procedure informal and neither of the protagonists need undertake any commitments in advance; Britain and the Republic would be present purely as mediators and conciliators" (!).

Johnson ruefully admits "It might come to nothing but no harm would be done. It would have been a useful exercise in Jaw-jaw rather than war-war". This unbecile suggestion is put forward to counter Miss Devlin's "negative pessimism."

Johnson's insight into Ulster politics stems from the occasional tete-a-tete with Captain Terence. Before the election he pontificated on the socialist duty to vote for the best right-winger on the market. Now he claims that O'Neill secretly welcomes the rise of the Civil Rights Movement (remember the "We have heard enough of civil rights" speech), not to mention Bernadette Devlin's victory in Mid-Ulster, and that "he did not care for the dark soul of Ulster Unionism" (which is presumably

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"Frightening & Shameful Attack" by Police, says Judge

A baton charge by police during a disturbance in Armagh on November 30 last, the day of the Civil Rights march, and in which three men were injured was described by Judge Rory Conaghan at Armagh County Court yesterday as "a frightening and shameful attack."

In a reserve judgement the Judge awarded £250 damages each to Civil Rights steward James Mone, (57), Tirgarve, Alistragh, Armagh, to his son, Charles Mone (27), who had taken part in the march and Patrick J. Mallon, (45) of Kilmore, Moy, Co. Tyrone. Each had claimed £300 damages.

An award of £35 was made to James Mallon, a shopkeeper of Lower English Street, Armagh, for damages to a door in his premises during a baton charge on the same occasion.

In this case, Judge Conaghan said that not the slightest evidence had been given to show that the police needed force to break down the door, to make their arrests. He added that the police had neither asked, knocked nor made application to get into the house.

Bernadette Devlin M.P., Summoned - Amnesty Over

Bernadette Devlin M.P., has received four summonses arising out of the disturbances in the Bogside area of Derry on Saturday 26th April. These summonses relate to her allegedly insulting a Policeman (a Derry Policeman) to incitement to riot - this after over 1,000 Policemen had relentlessly invaded the area without invitation and without provocation.

Also in Derry next Monday, 12th May, the famous O'Neill Amnesty ends and over 50 people will again be charged in connection with incidents that occurred on October 5th.

These moves are not unconnected with the threat by the Orange order last Friday to withdraw support from the Unionist Party unless the full weight of the law was used against Ulster's troublemakers.

Comment

Proceeding to Court with any of these cases in the present situation - and before a full and searching enquiry has been publicly made into the brutal behaviour of the very Policemen by whom the accusations on which these cases depend are made - is tantamount to open incitement. These Actions are fool-hardy and show the innate inanity of this Fascist State which is hell-bent for disaster.

Raw Deal for Police Rank and File

Discontent amongst police drafted into Derry during the riots reached fever-pitch. Mary Holland of the Observer has reported how men had to be literally forced to go into Bogside by their senior officers.

Ordinary ranks in many cases had to sleep in their tenders and catering arrangements were so haphazard that relays of policemen had to have breakfast in the City Hotel.

The Derry Journal reports that:- Reserve police were stationed at the British naval base at "Sea Eagle" and some were also accommodated for a brief time in the British naval supply ship "Stalker."

Police unrest sprang out of dissatisfaction with the accommodation provided for them at "Sea Eagle," coupled with the long continuous stretch of duty they had to undertake. One detachment at "Sea Eagle" complained bitterly about the temporary bedding accommodation which was provided for them in a gymnasium and about the lack of food. At one stage they threatened to leave the City if their complaints were not remedied.