

# ANIRIAL

Six Counties 15p  
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A Belfast Anarchist Monthly

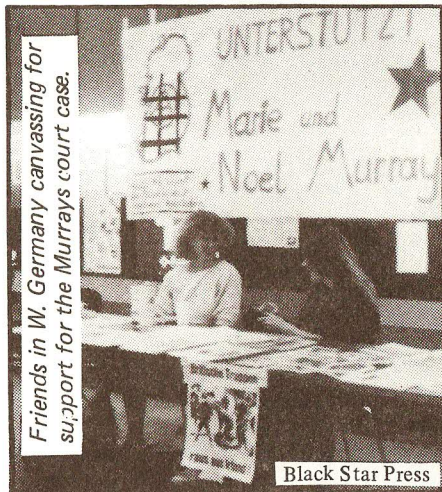
## 'SUPERGRASSES'



## KIRKPATRICK, BLACK APPEAL.

Also —  
Irish Steel, Asbestos,  
Men, Video Review.

## AINRIAIL - NOTES



### AINRIAIL

Ainriail No.1 is still available. It contains articles on Plastic Bullets, Asbestos, the Murrays, and our 'Aims and Principles'.

Subscription rate; £2.10 for six issues. If you wish to take five or more copies of each issue, we will give you one third discount, and send it post free, payments and returns due each month.

We welcome articles, letters, photos, etc but reserve the right to edit.

Write to:  
AINRIAIL,  
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### ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS

Other publications which have come out in recent years, include:

WORKERS SOLIDARITY 20p  
(Dublin and Cork) monthly;

TROUBLED TIMES 10p  
(Belfast) monthly

ANTRIM ALTERNATIVE 10p  
(Antrim and Ballymena) monthly.

These are available from Just Books. Add to the price of the paper(s), 15p per single copy, and 20p per two or more, for p. & p.

### GOSSIP BUT TRUE!

At a recent meeting on censorship in the Peoples (very own) College, during which the 'Real Lives' banned programme was shown, a bookstall was offering publications on censorship.

What, no publication on British censorship on Ireland? Surely they could have at least stocked Liz Curtis' excellent 'The propaganda War'. Why not? 'Too dogmatic', came the bookstall-tender's reply!

### MURRAY'S' APPEAL

Marie and Noel Murrays' solicitors recently lodged an appeal against July's High Court judgement, which refused them conjugal rights (see AINRIAIL No.1).

The solicitors expect the Appeal to be heard in late Autumn. The normal six month wait will probably be shortened, because Marie's age is an important factor in the case.

One interesting aspect of the Appeal will be that in the three judges majority judgement, there will also be room for a minority decision.

Next month sees a relaunching of the campaign fund, so donations and ideas will be most welcome.

### ILLUSTRATIONS

The 'Plastic Bullet' illustration on the front cover of AINRIAIL No.1, was drawn by Gemma Donnelly.

On this issue's cover, the graphic is taken from the video 'One Man's Word'. A comprehensive look at the 'supergrass' issue, by those affected, it is available for hire from Just Books, £1 per day.

## CORK STEELS ITSELF

On August 22nd the workers at the Irish Steel plant in Cork had to vote on whether or not to accept a Labour Court Recommendation. This urged the workers (members of nine various unions) to agree to a redundancy plan by Irish Steel management looking for 115 redundancies. The Government had negotiated a £24 million rescue plan which they refused to implement until the 115 redundancies were secured. The whole matter was referred to the Labour Court (whose findings are not legally binding, their role being to make recommendations) for 'arbitration'.

Needless to say the Court came down heavily in favour of the Irish Steel Management in proposing the unions accept the 115 redundancies and eliminate restrictive practices. These practices are one of the few ways workers can fight against the 'restrictive lives' in the workplace and force management to grant various reforms which to some extent ease the workers lot. To prove its 'fairness' the Labour Court also recommended that the State should guarantee additional payments from the EEC which might become available and that analogue payments (in line with other named companies in Cork) of 4.5% be paid by Irish Steel.

That Thursday the workers voted to reject the Labour Court recommendation - they refused to accept 115 workers being made redundant. Before Irish Steel had even given their reaction to the Labour Court recommendation the Government weighed in saying they were going to close down the plant completely . . . unless of course the workers would care to have a second ballot - and not on the Labour Court's recommendation but on the Government's version of it!! Their changes included analogue payments of 1.7% instead of 4.5%, and included a statement that the Government would not guarantee payments from the Steelworkers Fund (EEC). The Govt.

was, as one of the Union officials put it, holding a gun to the workers heads. On Monday August 24th the workers held a second ballot - they accepted the Govt. package.

All this while Peter Barry, a local businessman of Teabag fame, Fine Gael T.D. for Cork, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, was making statements to the Press like how the workers in Irish Steel should be grateful to the taxpayers (who are now being laid off just like themselves) and to accept redundancies on offer as a way of repaying the taxpayers' kindness! That for the Govt. to guarantee funds from the European Steelworkers Fund would produce a 'knock on' effect throughout the public sector - sounds rough, whatever it is! But best of all from 'tea bags' himself was his comment that part of the problem at Irish Steel was that the Fords Company, when it closed down its Cork factory last year, gave redundancy payments which were much too high and which had therefore unsettled workers like those in Irish Steel! As a result of his displeasure at Fords over this he is now beginning to wonder if maybe they were 'coddling us last May' when they said they would come again this year with another factory. What a thought! Poor naive 'tea bags'.

But lest we become disillusioned with Barry he brought us some good news to bolster his diminishing image of himself as a caring T.D. - he tells us that two new multimillion pound industries for Cork Harbour will be announced before the end of the year. No contracts signed, no dates or details, no proof - nothing - except (and remember this at the next election!) that Barry brought us some 'good news'. Only thing is that these industries are rumoured to be pharmaceutical companies. How many more Eli Lilies and Merck Sharpe Domes can we handle?

# ASBESTOS.....

This interview is the second part of a three-part series of the hazards of asbestos. Here a member of Divis Residents' Association reveals how it was used in the construction of Divis flats, and how their part-demolition has not been carried out safely, to the detriment of both the community and the workers involved.

**Q.** When did people in Divis first become aware of the dangers of asbestos

**A.** Well the first time it came to light was during the demolition of the Whitehall and Farcet blocks last year and it was coincidence. Around that time a few members of the residents association had read some stuff on asbestos. Suddenly they realised that what was being removed from those two blocks was fairly large quantities of asbestos. We knew from what we read it was highly dangerous, but we didn't know what precautions were necessary in its removal and we didn't know how to protect ourselves. All we knew was that to remove the asbestos, a specific licensed contractor was needed. Up until then the housing executive didn't even bother to find a licensed contractor; they were just using normal demolition contractors. The residents association, having what information we had, decided the first thing we would demand would be a licensed removal firm. It wasn't until after demolition and at the end of the process that we became aware that there should have been other precautions. The community needed to be protected from it. The fibres can be carried on the air - that meant the whole estate was in danger, the whole area should have been sealed off in an air tight vacuum. No such precautions were taken.

**Q.** Where in the flats is the asbestos?

**A.** Basically its everywhere. In the individual flats themselves, it's in the bathrooms, in the heating press, in the bedroom panelling and underneath the windows. Sometimes its found in the hallways, on the stairs of each flat and outside on the balconies.

**Q.** Last summer two blocks were demolished; what precautions did the Housing Executive and its workers take?

**A.** As I've said before there was absolutely no health and safety regulations adhered to during demolition. The only precaution that was visible was the two workers that were responsible for removing it wore these space suits. Since then, photographs which were taken have been looked at by the London Hazard Centre, which specializes in Asbestos problems. They have said that the protective clothing was not the right kind and the workers were actually at risk. As well as that the Housing Executive had promised that as soon as the asbestos was removed from the blocks it would then be taken away in sealed containers and deposited somewhere safe. In fact it lay in open skips for anything upwards of five days on the site and in the estate. Kids were playing with it and throwing at each other. It was scattered over the entire estate. These were major contraventions of the health and safety regulations.

**Q.** Have there been any cases of asbestos diseases?

**A.** We can't be positive about that. The problem with asbestos-related diseases is that doctors don't look for asbestos-related diseases, unless they have good grounds to look for it. So a lot of asbestos diseases get passed off as lung cancers from smoking, stomach cancers, severe chest ailments and unless they are actually looking for some connection to asbestos, they can't tell. What the residents association is trying to do now is a comprehensive health profile on the community to see if there is any relation between some of the local health problems and asbestos.

**Q.** Has any help come from the trade unions or others?

**A.** There has been some movement. When we first started the campaign we realised that the only sources of information and access to resources was the trade union movement. They have been involved in campaigns before against asbestos - particularly unions like the Confederation of Shipyard Workers, and NUPE. They gave financial help to our environmental health project and also supplied us with all the publicity and printing resources that we needed. The Belfast Trades Council co-sponsored the project with us and they too have been trying to help us financially. In the future we'll be using the unions again, because people like the T.&G.W.U. and the Confederation have got asbestos monitoring equipment which we're going to need because with some skilled help we're going to do our own independent testing.

**Q.** To date has there been any help from the Housing Executive.

**A.** ABSOLUTELY NONE. They refuse to even recognise there is a problem with asbestos. They say that asbestos is safe, unless it is disturbed! First of all, asbestos should not be used any longer. There are enough suitable materials to replace it. Secondly, that if its not dangerous then don't disturb it. But what has happened here is that because people didn't know that asbestos was used in the construction of the flats, they have been drilling holes in it and sawing it, oblivious to the fact that this disturbs it. The Housing Executive workers themselves have been doing this - even they didn't seem to know. We have been trying to get the workers, the residents and tenants in the community to support us and not to touch the materials because they are putting themselves at risk. Also you've got demolition which obviously disturbs it, as well as security raids, by the RUC, and the Brits which is another major hazard. They knock down panels, especially in the heating press and in the bathroom to look behind.

*(In our next issue we will examine successful campaigns to remove asbestos, and draw lessons from these).*

# ..... IN DIVIS.

# "SUPERGRASSES" . . . . .

During the month of September, two important developments in the 'supergrass' system are due to take place. The latest, and longest trial involving the 'evidence' of Harry Kirkpatrick will resume; and the appeal will be heard of those convicted on the word of the first major 'supergrass' Christopher Black. Here we will examine in detail the Kirkpatrick trial so far; consider bail application in one case; and look at the upcoming Black appeal.

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The Kirkpatrick trial was adjourned at the end of June under contentious circumstances. It had already proved impossible for the defence counsel to prevent the various adjournments which had characterised this trial. These had interfered with the defence's main tactic, which is necessarily common to all 'supergrass' trials, that of attempting to break down Kirkpatrick's credibility.

But when it was proposed to stop such an important trial again, and for nine weeks, Desmond Boal, on behalf of the other barristers, objected on several grounds. Judge Carswell, though, informed him that during the summer, construction work on the tunnel between Crumlin Rd. Jail and Courthouse, would pose a security risk, and adjourned the trial till September. It is interesting to note that other trials, bail applications, etc. have continued during this period, despite the 'security' risk.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

But Carswell's accommodation to the prosecution was nothing new. The best example came earlier, after an application to adjourn for one week, because both senior counsel were ill. They were Malachy Higgins, who was only recently appointed, and Ronnie Appleton, the chief crown prosecutor. The two counsel were not confined to their beds, however, as it later was admitted by Kirkpatrick, in court, that they had both visited him in Castlereagh RUC station. When asked by defence counsel about the contents of their discussion, he openly admitted that they had once again gone through his evidence. It is rare for a

'supergrass' to require a refresher course in his (illegal) schooling.

## HARRY'S GAME

In cross examination, Kirkpatrick (who has admitted 5 murders, and perjury in a previous trial) has given evidence concerning certain incidents which contradicts evidence about the same incidents given in previous trials. The best example concerns the shooting dead of an RUC man and the wounding of another, in Great Victoria St., on January 14th '81.

Sean McConkey is serving a life sentence for this shooting. His statement, which was accepted as evidence against him in his own trial, is at variance with Kirkpatrick's.

The first contradiction is that McConkey said the planning meeting for the attack was held in the Markets area. Kirkpatrick claims it was in Agincourt Avenue.

They also have different sets of people attending this meeting. Sean McConkey for example, did not include Jimmy Brown the Belfast chairperson of IRSP at the time, Kirkpatrick however does name him.

And thirdly, Kirkpatrick gives a totally different make of car used in the attack, to the one described by McConkey.

## McGRADY SAYS

This blatant type of contradiction will not necessarily be thrown out. It was accepted in the McGrady case. Two courts accepted two completely different versions of the one shooting.

Sean McGrady had been convicted in '76 on a statement forced out of him. Later, his brother, Kevin, turned 'supergrass' and

gave a different version which was successfully used to convict others. When Sean appealed, based on Kevin's evidence, this latter was thrown out!

## JOHNSON'S MOTOR CAR

There are occasions when you doubt if Kirkpatrick was present at all in the incident he describes. One such occasion was the taking over of a house, by the INLA, prior to a robbery of Twinbrook Post Office. That house belonged to the Johnson family.

Originally prosecution witnesses, they were later to be called by defence counsel, because Mr. Johnson's version of what happened that night, differs considerably from Kirkpatrick's.

Firstly, two men left the house to take the car. The two men described by Mr. Johnson are not the same two men named by Kirkpatrick.

When these two were unable to start the car because of an immobilisation switch one of them returned to the house. Mr. Johnson was forced to go out and start the car. Kirkpatrick had no knowledge of this.

Thirdly, Mr. Johnson said that there were two guns used that night. Kirkpatrick claims there was only one.

## HEY PRESTO

Perhaps the most glaring contradiction in his evidence concerns his testimony which has one man in two places at the same time.

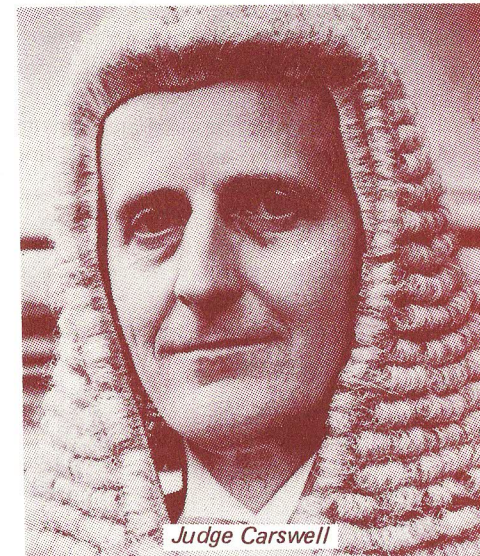
One of the defendants was accused by Kirkpatrick of attempted murder of a man called Dessie MBride, who worked for Bass Charrington. It was only during cross-examination, that the court discovered that Henry McNamee was in fact in RUC custody at the time of the attack.

To avoid any further embarrassment, the prosecution effectively dropped the charges, by 'offering no further evidence'. Yet Kirkpatrick persists in maintaining that McNamee was present at the time of the attack.

## POCKETS IN MEMORY

As we have seen, Kirkpatrick's bouts of

imagination are only matched by his sudden losses in memory. We must remember that he described himself as having been a



Judge Carswell

member of the Belfast Brigade staff of the INLA. Yet during some operations, events occurred which he claims he was unaware of.

An example happened during the taking over of a factory for a planned ambush on British forces. The factory's safe was robbed, but despite Kirkpatrick being there, and in charge, he claims not to have known about this. One possible explanation for this, is that the money did not go into INLA funds, but was pocketed. This of course, would discredit him, so he denies it.

## PIGGY BANK

On the subject of money, it appears that Kirkpatrick either was incapable of operating a personal bank account, or he just didn't trust himself.

When asked what bank branch he kept his money in, he knew it was the Allied Irish, but didn't know which branch. It transpired that his bank book was kept by his mother, who did all transactions. Again the question arises, did he make any private income from his position in the INLA.

