

The Irish People

AN CHOISMHUINTIR
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BELFAST PLAY DUMP
SEE PAGE 3.

Cork dockers consider
militant action against

BEEF FLEET



**British
spies
still
at work**

The Samoan Reefer which is currently loading, 180 tons of intervention meat daily at Foynes cannot at present be blacked as diverted cargo. The quick moves by the Department of Agriculture and the Meat Exporters blocked the militant decision of the ITGWU, Limerick to have the Tunisian Reefer blacked if she were transferred from Dublin. Her replacement by the Samoan Reefer has made this impossible.

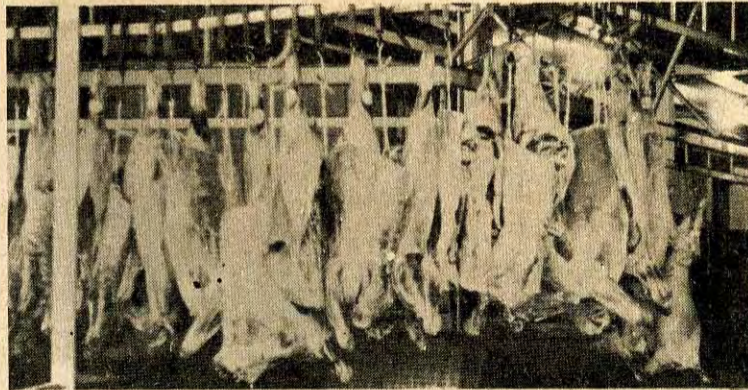
But it is understood that Cork dockers are anxious to raise the whole question of the floating ware-houses as being work which should not be undertaken by dockers. Such a decision would place the Department of Agriculture and Irish Shipping in a serious position, as there are three gangs of PGWU members presently loading at Foynes.

Argosea Services which employ the men can expect to collect approximately £6,000 for loading the 4,500 tons of bone in carcase beef. A major employer at Foynes, they generally have had no industrial trouble from the local dockers who are not renowned, as one ITGWU official put it, for their militancy.

On the other hand the Cork dockers who have for example come out in support of Tenants' Associations on rent strike are probably the most militant in the country. A picket led by the Leaside workers would certainly lead to an all out stoppage.

Mr. Mark Clinton, Minister for Agriculture, has managed to annoy industrial workers, housewives and farmers with his apparently total disregard for popular feeling on the question of intervention meat by his blunt announcement that he was prepared to hire a fleet of warehouse ships until such time as the price was right.

Small farmers are becoming more and more irate as they discover that the Department's sole concern is payments to the major meat producers. Sources close to the Minister say that more time is spent discussing ways and means of extracting 3p boning allowance and methods of speeding up payments to the ranchers than looking at the growing problems of the small farmer.



Kenneth Littlejohn is alive and active. And the man who has replaced him as the British Government's chief provocateur in the 26 Counties is on lunching terms with a 26 County Cabinet Minister.

The Littlejohn replacement is Mr. Leslie Allen Aspin who has a Norwich address but who travels at will on British and Irish passports. His passport numbers are H316874 and P812059.

But Aspin is not without his bothers.

Aspin's main worry is a Libyan task force who are on his trail since he scuttled the Libyan-Provo attempt to land arms on the Claudia more than 18 months ago. Since then two Libyan agents have died mysteriously and the Libyan authorities blame Aspin for both deaths.

The British agent's most recent excursion to this country occurred three weeks ago. Reason for it was a meeting with a 26-County Cabinet Minister. The British spy and the Minister met at Dublin's Skylon Hotel. The receptionist at the Drumcondra Road premises con-

firmed on Monday last that Aspin was at the hotel 3 weeks ago but when an Irish People reporter enquired as to whether he had left a forwarding address, the receptionist, after a delay, disclosed that Mr. Aspin had never been there. Her earlier confirmation of his presence was as a result of his name "ringing a bell".

Enquiries to the British Embassy in Dublin as to whether Mr. Leslie Allen Aspin was on their staff met with evasive replies. An Irish People reporter who telephoned 695211 was, after some time, advised to ring 984911 and from there was advised that a telephone call to 62334 (without the essential 7) might be helpful.

It is the Libyan European Office in Brussels, however, which has the most up-to-date information on the movements of Mr. Aspin. Although the office is officially silent on the existence of the British spy, reliable sources are in possession of highly significant dates on his movements.

The Libyan office dossier shows that Aspin was in Libya over Christmas 1972 when final arrangements for the Claudia shipment were being made. He left

Libya on the departure of the arms ship and the dossier next records his presence in Malta while the ill fated successor to the Aud was in transit.

A gap then occurs until an insertion notes that he was in Dublin, again at the Skylon Hotel, in late February of this year. His whereabouts on March 10, when Kenneth Littlejohn escaped from Mountjoy jail, are not recorded but the dossier does name a hotel in Amsterdam where he was seen with Littlejohn on March 22.

The Aspin trail returns to Dublin where it is recorded that on 22 June he met a leading opposition politician just six weeks before he was sighted there conversing with the National Coalition Minister.

No indication is given in the dossier of why Aspin had the Skylon rendezvous first with the Fianna Fail man and then with the Minister. What is certain however is that Libyan intelligence was not far behind him. His dangerous double game as British agent and provisional-Libyan sympathiser could have ended dramatically on either occasion.

The Irish People

An Choismhuintir, Friday, September 6, 1974

RACISM

Mr. Enoch Powell has been accepted into the Unionist fold. He will represent South Down at Westminster after the next elections. The huge Unionist majority which returned Mr. Orr since the end of the war will have the former Wolverhampton MP back in London where he can pursue both his racist policies and support the sectarian demands of his new Six County colleagues.

It should surprise no one that the courtship of the Unionists by Mr. Powell has concluded with a nuptial ceremony. For it must be remembered that the full title of the Tories is the Conservative and Unionist Association. There has always been a strong fraternal link between the reactionary Northern politicians and the golden circles of the British ruling elite.

And it should be apparent by now that the racism preached by the former professor of Greek in the slums of Wolverhampton is the same vicious doctrine as the sectarianism which has maintained the Northern state for fifty years. Mr. Powell will sleep cosily with the hate mongers of South Down.

There certainly will be one voice raised against his brand of fascist politics. The Republican Clubs are known to be determined to enter the contest on an anti-sectarian, socialist ticket. They have no chance but they represent the voice of sanity in an extremely ugly political situation.

Ireland once exported an equally dangerous demagogue, William Joyce, who later earned the name as Lord Haw-Haw when broadcasting for the Nazis during World War 2. There are many similarities in the two men. Both felt rejected by the ruling Tories, both had Hitlerian dreams. It is not too early to speculate that their ends could be identical.

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"We don't hint—we print"

The recently formed Irish Truck Owners Association cut its first tooth last week in a dispute with Roadstone. Truckowners dissatisfied with the rate being paid by the company called in officers of the association and work was halted for several hours before the better terms were conceded.

The Truck Owners Association, which is affiliated to the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union, has been formed by men, most of them owners of tipper lorries, who are hired on a casual basis by local government bodies and contractors.

The absence of an organisation to represent them previously has meant that by and large the firm hiring them could dictate terms. They have also been at the mercy of middlemen acting as hiring agents for Corporations and contractors. These "sub-contractors" have been making handsome profits while the man who supplied both the labour and the lorry had to accept what was offered him.

The new Association hopes by united action to be able to control the influence of the middleman and ensure that fair play will apply to men who "go to work with a lorry rather than a shovel". The Association also hopes to ensure that trucks are maintained in a proper manner and that owners will comply with regulations concerning insurance, tax and safety.

It is also planned that Association members who employ drivers must insure that these are members of a Trade Union and are paid full Union rates.

Chairman of the new Association is Peter McCann, 625 North Circular Road, Dublin (Telephone 786657). Other committee members are Michael Price, Dermot McDonogh and Noel Brady (378840). Membership is open to truck owners throughout the country. Among those who have already joined are truck owners from Dublin, Dundalk, Kildare, Mayo and Meath. In larger areas such as Cork and Limerick it is possible that branches of the association will be formed depending on the numbers applying for membership.

Truck owners' Union first win

More jobs!

The Dublin Branch of the Amalgamated Transport & General Workers' Union has called on the government to vest the assets of Tara Mines in the State mining company (Mianraí Teoranta) and to create a smelting and metal fabrication industry under public ownership. This, the A.T.G.W.U. branch says, would provide national wealth and employment far in excess of the 200 jobs offered by Tara after the initial construction and development work is undertaken.

COUNTDOWN

Letterkenny

Senator Bernard McGlinchey, chairman of Letterkenny Urban Council, was not at home when fifteen ex-employees of Donegal Co-operative Creameries Ltd. marched to his house to hand in a letter of protest at their enforced redundancy. The men had been paid off because of lack of an adequate water supply to their factory had caused a fall in production and profits. The factory is receiving only half the amount necessary to remain in production and unless the situation improves in the immediate future there is a possibility that it may have to close down completely.

Elphin

A demarcation dispute between linesmen and electricians in the E.S.B. left large parts of the north west without electricity last week. Electricians, who claimed that linesmen had been doing work which rightfully should be done by electricians, blacked a line upon which a fuse had blown and prevented its repair. Also 'blacked' out were more than ninety families in the Elphin/Croghan area who were left without their usual supply. The linesmen/electricians dispute has arisen over negotiations for a comprehensive agreement with the E.S.B.'s engineers, following the conclusion of similar agreements with clerical and supervisory staff.

Newbridge

The I.D.A., Foil Teo and the Department of Industry and Commerce have agreed in principle to provide sufficient finance to continue the threatened Euroglas factory, if necessary under new management. Despite this, however, no definite arrangements for the takeover of the factory have been made with interested industrialists and difficulty in adapting the plant to new lines of production is envisaged.

Notice of redundancy for the majority of the factory's workers will be up within a week.

Athy

A special meeting of Athy UDC is to be called shortly to discuss the abolition of ground rents. A call for the complete abolition of the ground rent system, without compensation, is expected to be made at the meeting.

Ballina

Sunday, 8 September, is the date set by Ballina Urban Council for a protest meeting over official failure to appoint a medical consultant to Ballina District Hospital. With over one hundred beds, it is the largest district hospital in the country.

The meeting, which will be held in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Urban Council, is expected to be the first in a series of protests.

Wicklow

The Veba factory, at The Murrough, has given notice to twenty-two of its employees, who are to be laid off within a week. The management has blamed recession in some sectors of the building industry, causing slow sales and stock accumulation, for the redundancies.

Wexford

Munster Base Metals Ltd., a mining company with an address at Clontarf Rd., Dublin, has been granted a mineral prospecting licence for a large part of Wexford. Soil surveys and exploration work is expected to be undertaken in the near future.

Meanwhile another Wexford industry is faced with decline.

Trade unionists in Smiths Engineering Ltd. which produces Renault cars, fear that the factory has a future life span of no more than six years and will collapse before 1985 the end date of the Irish motor industry within the E.E.C. Management have reassured worker representatives that no redundancies are expected in the near future but it is the company's policy not to replace any workers who leave at present.

Lord Louis Mountbatten has just ended a holiday at his castle in Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo. On his arrival security was provided by an Irish army helicopter and units of the Army from Finner Camp, Donegal. He was provided with a personal bodyguard and Classiebawn Castle was guarded by members of the Special Branch. The Department of Justice refuses to say exactly how much Irish taxpayers' money was spent on protecting this particular holiday-maker.



CATTLE PRICES

FALL, EEC FLAW

The Irish Sovereignty Movement, successor to the Common Market Defence Campaign which opposed Common Market membership, challenges Mr. T. J. Maher to a public debate on the current farming crisis before he demagogically leads the ordinary member of the IFA on to the streets in the interests of the big farmers, as he is currently threatening to do, in a statement issued last week.

Mr. Maher and his colleagues are themselves largely responsible for the present plight of thousands of Irish farmers, for it is they who oversold the EEC to Irish farmers, leading them to over-expand their cattle stocks and go deeply into debt, a process which the Banks and Government irresponsibly encouraged.

The resulting collapse in young cattle and calf prices is ruining farmers all over the South and West, but is of little consequence to the larger farmers who produce most of our beef and store cattle. The reason is that the latter can now buy their young stock at knockdown prices and sell on the market or into EEC intervention at prices which maintain their high profit margins of recent years. The housewife does not gain because of the EEC's system of deliberately keeping up consumer prices, irrespective of what happens on the producer side.

Before Mr. Maher and his colleagues take to the streets it is important for the public to realise what they are up to. Having misled the mass of Irish farmers into supporting the EEC in the interests primarily of a minority of fat cattle producers, Mr. Maher and his colleagues in the IFA leadership are now seeking to channel farm discontent to obtain concessions from the Government which will again benefit only a minority of big farmers. Mr. Maher's demands for a Green Pound and for

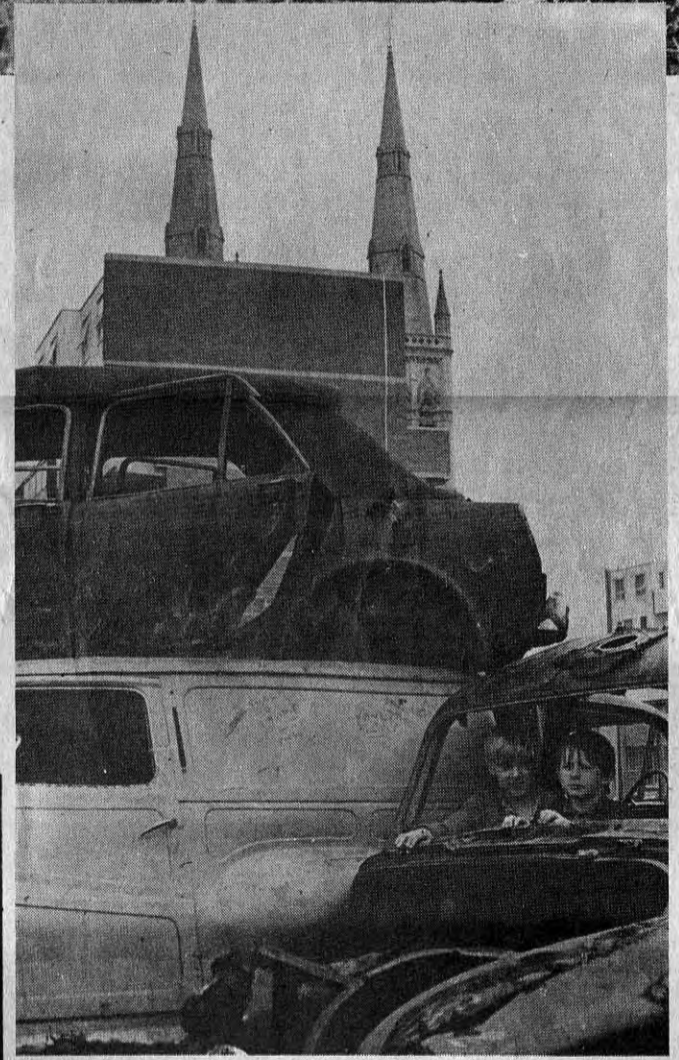
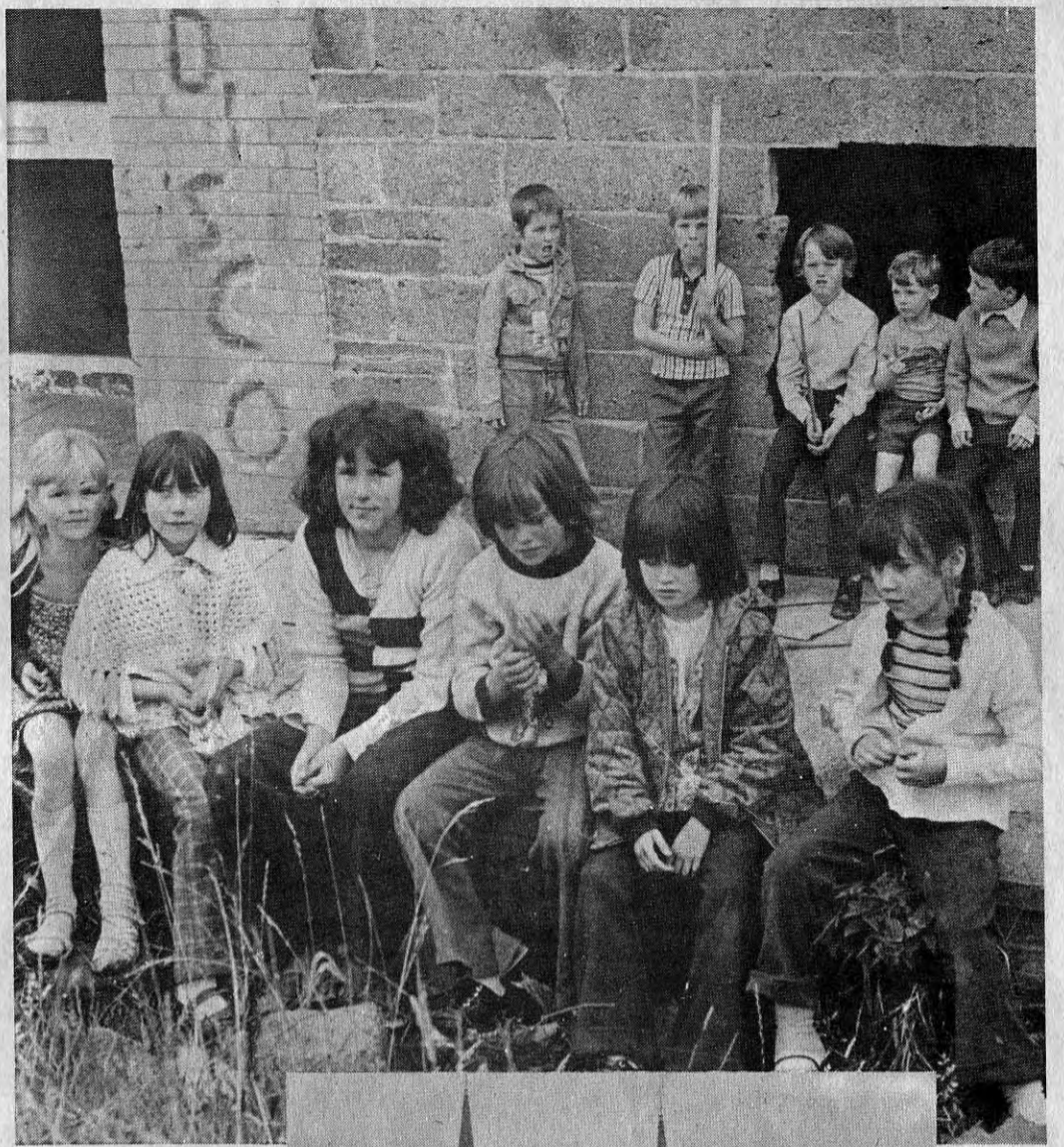
no income tax on high valuation farms will bring no improvement to the mass of Irish farmers. Rather they will do the reverse, by raising the incomes of those members of the farming community who need help least at the expense of the majority of farmers and of the wider community who will have to foot the bill.

The Irish Sovereignty Movement calls on Irish farmers not to allow themselves to be once again misled by Mr. Maher and the IFA leaders. The Government should be urged to adopt policies which discriminate in favour of smaller farmers and the producers of young cattle who are being really hit just now and who will

suffer much more in the months ahead. The Government should do this even if it means ignoring the rules of the EEC system, which are designed to benefit a small number of farmers at the expense of the majority and of the consuming public as a whole.



● Mr. Maher will be even more startled.



Pictures by Brendan Murphy.

PLAY TIME

NORTH STYLE

Children in the redevelopment areas of Belfast such as the Lower Falls make the local car graveyard their playground. Multi story flats have left no room for play space of the type found in the more affluent parts of the city.

In Moyard, pictured at top, sectarian trouble has left this block of flats unoccupied, the former disco has been closed by the British Army and now the children have only the ruins in which to imitate the violence of the past few years.



New R.P.C. branch in Cork

With the formation last week of a new branch in Cork the Resources Protection Campaign is now organised in each of the four provinces.

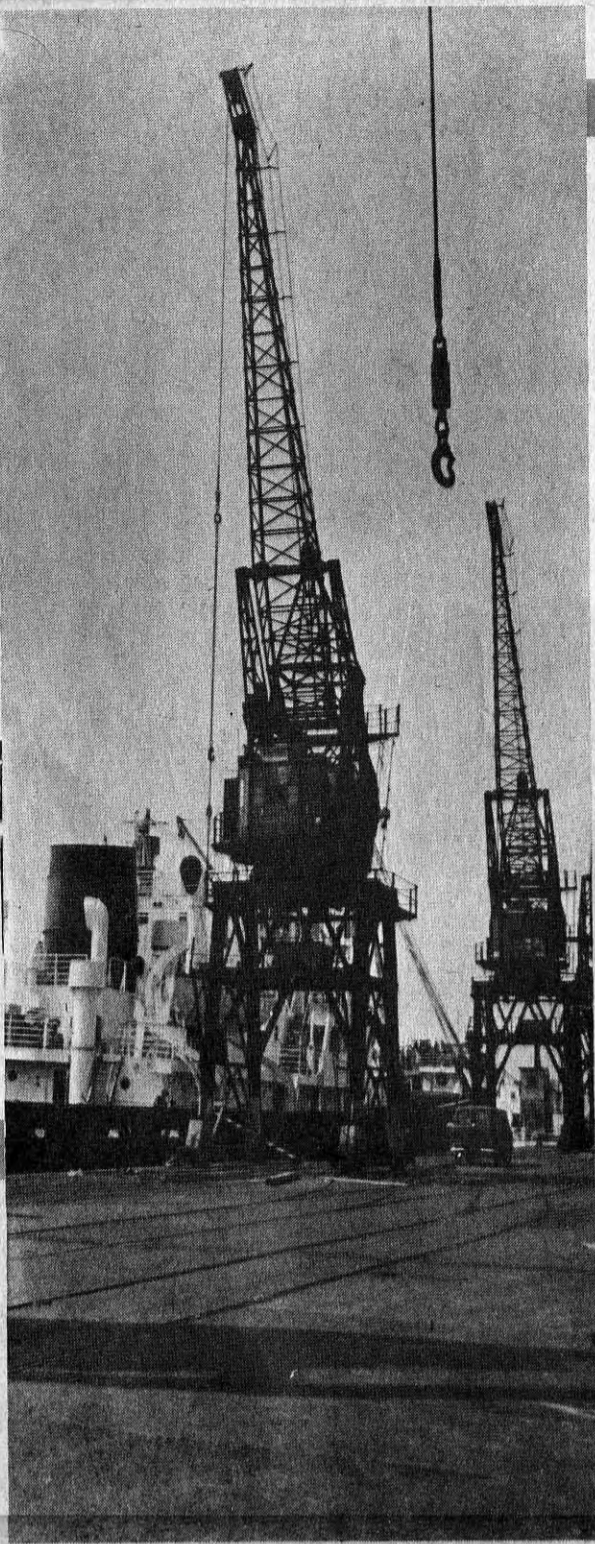
The committee selected at the Cork meeting are Dr. Batty O'Shea (Chairman), Denis Buckley (Vice-chairman), Brian Coyle (Secretary), Jim Regan (Treasurer), Tom Dineen (Organiser) and Mick Murphy (PRO).

Representatives of local Trade Union branches,

tenant associations, Sinn Fein, the Wolfe Tone Society, the Communist Party and student organisations attended the Cork meeting which was addressed by Francis Walsh, RPC Secretary and Eamon Smullen (pictured above) a member of the executive committee.

A resolution passed at the meeting called upon the Trade Unions to act on the decision, to campaign for the retention by the State of exclusive ownership of our mineral resources.





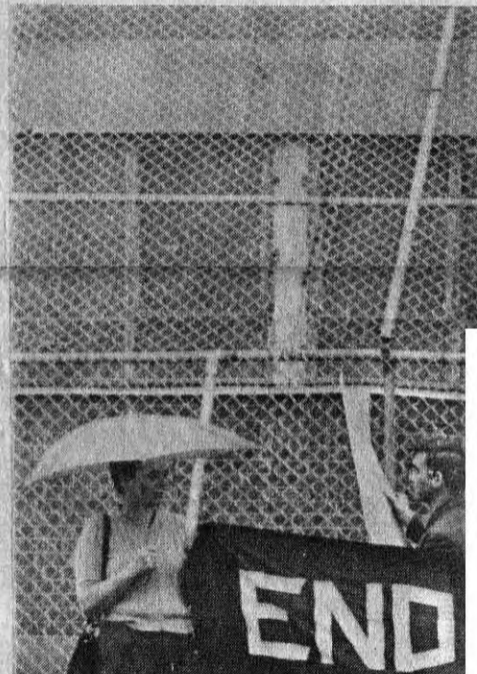
Dockland's 'T

Mr. John (Slim) Brown, Secretary of the No. 2 Branch of the Marine Port & General Workers' Union and one of the chief architects of the decasualisation scheme for Dublin's Deep Sea Dock has resigned. Although no official reason has been given for the resignation it is strongly believed that Mr. Brown has become a casualty of his own scheme. Since Phase II of the scheme came into operation recently relations between Union and docker and between docker and Stevedore have been extremely strained. Dockers have stopped work on a number of occasions and experienced observers are forecasting more serious trouble in the months ahead. It is one of these outbreaks of trouble which is believed to have

led to Mr. Brown's decision to retire. In an altercation with one docker a number of serious allegations were made against the Union branch secretary. The docker was, by registered post, summoned to a meeting of the Branch Committee where it was expected that disciplinary measures would be taken against him. The docker, however, when he appeared before the Branch Committee repeated his allegations, said he would substantiate them, whereupon the committee had no option but to refer the matter for investigation to the National Executive of the M.P. & G.W.U. Mr. Brown's resignation would appear to have removed the need for the investigation.

SCREWS CAUSE

PRISON UNREST

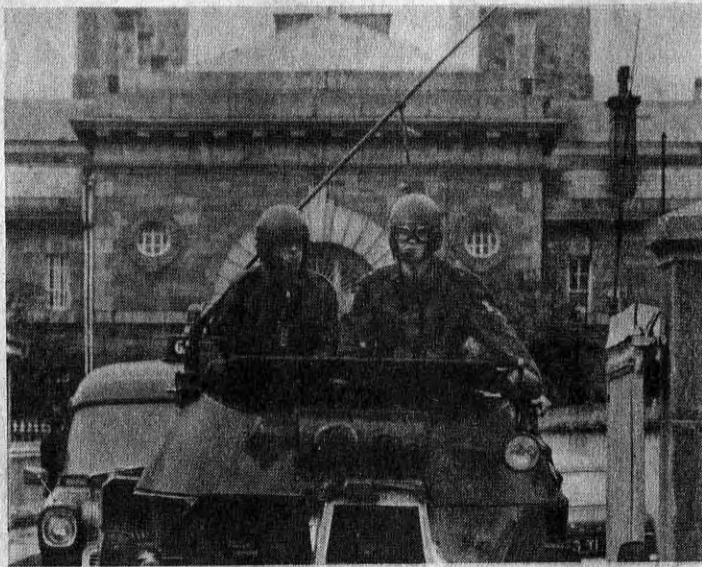


In a move to prevent the recurrence of prisoner discontent in Mountjoy Jail, six of what are termed 'ringleaders' of prisoner protest were transferred to the Curragh Camp two weeks ago. But while the move may isolate potential leaders from prisoners within the jail the authorities have left behind a situation of simmering discontent. Over twenty prisoners are being kept under punishment within the prison basement at present, while a further contingent are being kept in solitary confinement in their cells, twenty-three hours out of every twenty-four.

Trouble in Mountjoy boiled over two weeks ago over a seemingly routine procedure of body searching of two prisoners, following the Portlaoise outbreak. The skin search, or 'dry bath' as it is referred to by seasoned inmates, is governed by regulations laid down by the 1947 Prisons Act and should have been undertaken in the presence of a medical officer. However, on the occasion in question warders refused to comply with the prisoners' request that the search take place with medical personnel present in a supervisory capacity. When the warders attempted to forcibly search the two men, one of whom is fifty-one, the other middle-aged, the majority of prisoners in the jail staged a sit-down protest in the exercise yard, threatening a major confrontation with prison authorities.

Over twenty prisoners, designated as 'ringleaders' of the protest, were confined to basement cells, while a number of other prisoners were confined to their usual cells. Punishment of this nature usually involves the loss of exercise and sometimes dietary restriction to bread and water, although this was not reported to have been used in this instance.

It is now nearly a fortnight since the



punishment was instigated and in that time prisoners have not been permitted exercise or contact with their families, while food parcels are now also out of bounds, following the Portlaoise prison break.

However, one relative, who managed to see another prison inmate, not under discipline, alleged that batoning of prisoners took place on the Wednesday and Thursday following the protest while prisoners have now been deprived of exercise for over seven days.

Protest at the Governor's action was made by members of the Prisoners' Rights Organisation, which mounted a 75-strong picket on the jail on the 22 and 24 August. The picket, which was called to draw public attention to the fate of the isolated prisoners, also objected to the decision of the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cooney, to withdraw permission to send food parcels to sentenced prisoners, as distinct from political offenders, throughout the country's jail system.

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association have begun a series of demonstrations outside Army Barracks throughout the Six Counties. Last week saw the first protest at the Springfield Road RUC and Army headquarters. This station has often been the centre of accusations about torture and it was also from here that passing motorist Harry Thornton was murdered by a sentry, shortly before the introduction of internment, in August 1971.

Pictured at the demonstration are Mrs. Edwina Stewart, secretary of the Association, Mr. Brian Brennan of the Executive and a visiting member of the USA support group of the Civil Rights Association.

Mr. Kevin McCorry, NICRA Organiser said in a statement this week that the Civil Rights Association were disgusted with the efforts of the British government on internment and repression generally. "NICRA", he continued, "would be encouraging all local branches to imitate the efforts of Belfast CRA. There are numerous barracks where our people will be staging protests at regular intervals over the next few months."

"We have also planned a series of lightning public meetings in every county in the North. We do not intend to let internment and repression be played down by the British Army and those who support their anti-democratic tactics," he said.

**More
C.R.A.
protests
planned
against
Army
tactics**

tribute to a 'Badman'

Many dockers believe that Mr. Brown's resignation will not mean the severing of his links with the M.P. & G.W.U. They expect that he will be appointed to the vacant post of Branch Secretary which exists in the No. 3 Branch of the Union. The move will see the ending of a long association with Dublin port of one of the most controversial figures in modern dockland.

Mr. Brown was a button man himself before leaving the docks to work for a period with the Bristol Line. He then returned to the docks and was appointed Branch Secretary of the Union a post which he held until leaving to conduct family business in the U.S.A. After a short stay in America he returned to the docks and was employed for some time

as a foreman by the stevedoring section of Brittain's before taking up the post of Branch Secretary again.

With the late James Dunne he succeeded in having Phase I of the Decasualisation Scheme accepted in the Port. Although this scheme resulted from marathon negotiations and years of discussion it continues, after 4 years' operation to be a most contentious issue amongst dockers and ex-dockers alike. Ex-dockers maintain that one of the most attractive features in it was the provision of a pension for retiring dockers. They have since discovered that the pension was not a pension at all.

The scheme has entered dockland folklore as a "Tribute to a Badman". This is because of the only

cancellation ever of RTE's Late Late Show. It occurred when dockers from all over the country had been brought to the RTE studios in Dublin to appear in the LATE LATE and give what the programme producers expected to be a rapturous but colourful and entertaining reception to the modernisation plan for the docks. To the consternation of all those present it was announced that the programme was cancelled because of the illness of compere Gay Byrne. The assembled dockers were invited instead to remain in the studios to view a film called "Tribute to a Badman". Few of those who had gathered to have a public "go" at their Union representatives and their employers accepted the invitation.



Mr. Desmond Moran is the sheriff for the County of Dublin. It is he who will carry out any court orders made against participants in the ACRA ground rent strike. He has a job to do, he is paid for doing it, indeed there are some people who would sympathise with him because of the unpleasantness of his task. But Mr. Moran's rake from the ground rent is not confided to his employment after court orders have been made.

Because operating from 35 Arran Quay, the premises which houses the office of the County Sheriff, is a firm of solicitors known as Moran & Ryan. Desmond Moran, County Sheriff, is one of the principals in this firm of solicitors. And this firm acts for ground rent landlords and their agents seeking court orders against people who want an end to this feudal tax.

The telephone number of the County Sheriff's office is 773739. But any ground rent tenant who might feel like interceding for a stay of execution with Sheriff Moran will find him just as easily by ringing 787177, the telephone number of Moran & Ryan, solicitors.

An Irish People reporter rang the solicitors last week and was speedily put in contact with Desmond Moran. The County Sheriff was quite frank. He was of course one of the principals in Moran & Ryan. Yes he was aware that the firm acted in court recently on behalf of Arthur F. Bennett the Irish agent for Kinkead Estates who were prosecuting a Mr. David Foley from 211 Foxfield Grove, Raheny for non-payment of ground rent. He agreed that it would be his duty as County Sheriff to see that the decision of the court be executed.

Was it not a rather peculiar situation that the man who would carry out the decisions of the court without fear or favour and be paid for it could also beforehand benefit monetarily from the prosecution of the victim? "Not at all", said Sheriff Desmond Moran, "there is nothing peculiar about it".

SHERIFF MORAN'S DOUBLE RAKE

What legal right?



David Foley of 211 Foxfield Grove, Raheny has for 6 years been attempting to buy out the ground rent on his house. He is entitled to do so according to the 1967 Landlord and Tenant Act enacted as a result of the deliberations of the Commission chaired by Judge Conroy (left).

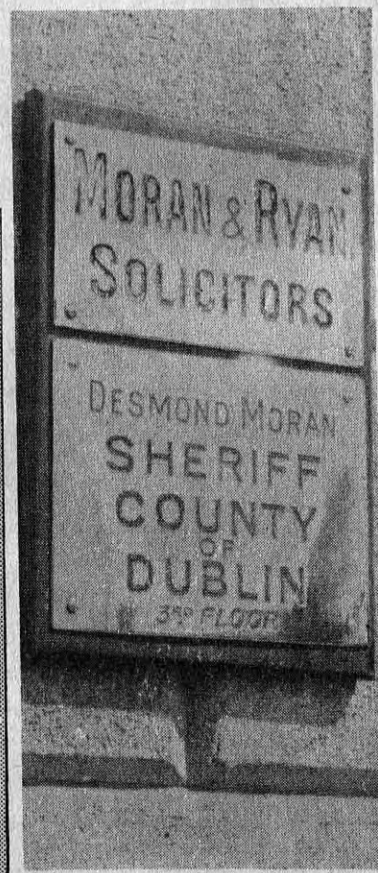
The ground rent landlords in Mr. Foley's case are Kinkead Estates whose Irish agents are Arthur F. Bennett, estate agents.

However, Mr. Foley's efforts were frustrated by the fact that the estate agents insisted that the purchase could not go through because the Kinkead will had not been probated.

Mr. Foley refused to pay his ground rent in protest and was brought to court for non-

payment. Moran & Ryan, solicitors, appeared in court for the ground landlords but justice insisted that evidence that the Kinkead will had been probated must be produced in court. Only this evidence would satisfy the court that Bennetts were entitled to collect the ground rent.

After a number of adjournments, Moran & Ryan produced evidence that the Kinkead will had been probated in 1968. Although the justice did not refer to the fact that Mr. Foley had been, from 1968, prevented from exercising his legal rights because "the will had not been probated", he ruled that the ground landlords pay the cost of the legal proceedings. He allowed Mr. Foley six months in which to pay the ground rent arrears.



NEWRY UNIONS LIGHT MARCH

Newry Trade Unionists in conjunction with the town's Republican clubs are not satisfied with the British Army's answers to their recent deputation on the continued denial of street lighting. The control of the town's electricity supply threatens to cause even greater unemployment than that experienced under the worst years of the Unionist administration.

Last Friday August 30, more than 5,000 people marched in a demonstration to Newry UDR Headquarters led by Republican Councillor Collins, Paddy Markey, Chairman of the Newry Trades Council and ITGWU organiser John McAleavey. Attempts by the British Army to frustrate the march by blocking roads from the town were sidetracked by the organisers. Republican Club spokesman Tom Moore said, "We put out the story that we were going all the way to Bessbrook Barracks and then switched at the last moment, to the local UDR Headquarters."

Both trade union and Republican Club sources stressed that this was a demonstration, the first of its kind, by Newry citizens to demand that electricity supply should cease to be a point of conflict between the British Army and Provisionals.

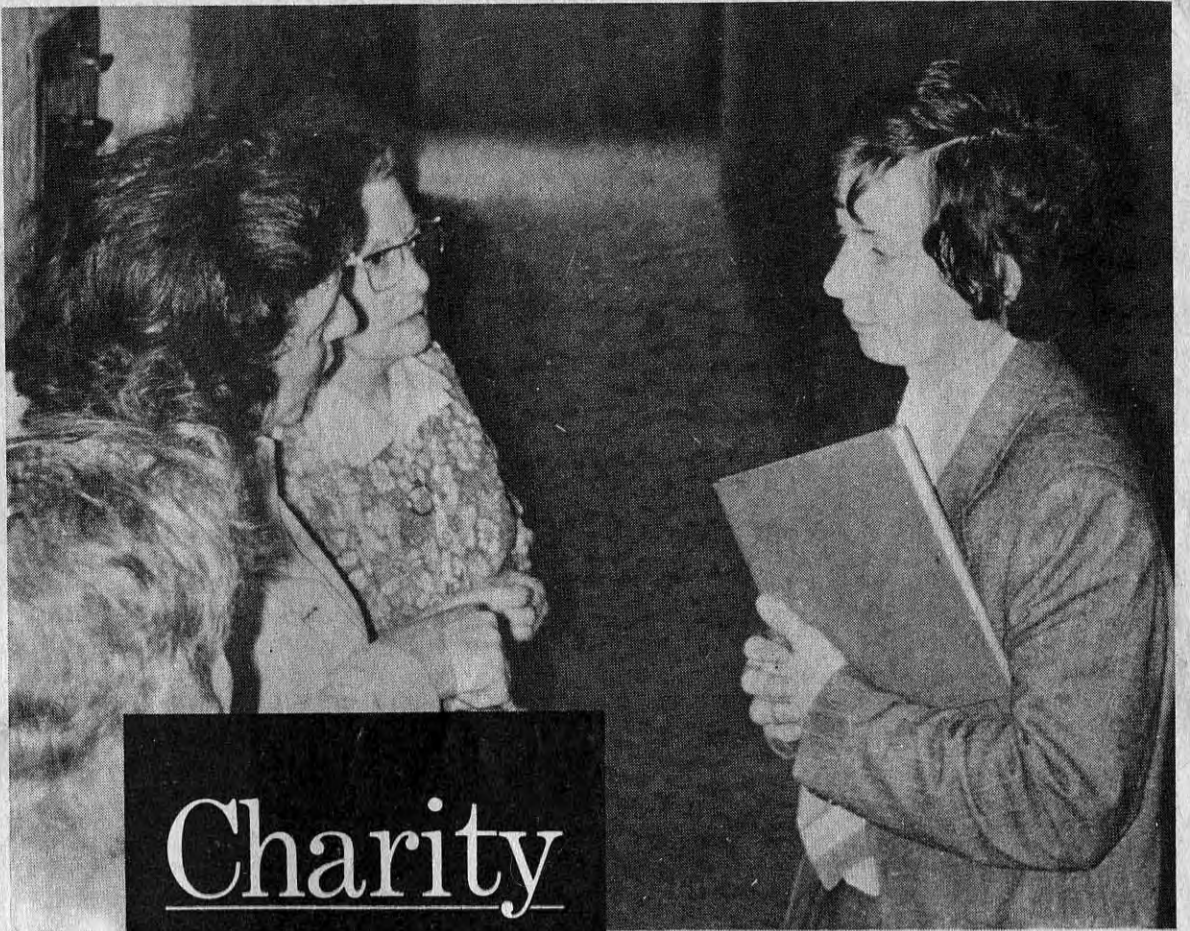
The history of the town's dark zones stems from the decision of the British Army to black out entire neighbourhoods "to safeguard" duck patrols. An attack by Provisionals on a transformer was followed by the burning of two repair vans and a statement threatening electricity workers not to undertake repairs while the British Army retained the power to black out districts.

This has effected the town's entire supply and is threatening hundreds of workers. It is on this account that senior trades unionists accepted the invitation from the Republican clubs to engage in a joint demonstration and march. Newry's experience of 20 per cent plus unemployment means that whatever jobs are arriving in the town are going to be defended by union activists.

The presence of the ITGWU and representatives from the ATGWU at the demonstration has impressed the British Army Public Relations Officers of the determination of organised workers in the besieged area to defend their jobs and oppose the black-out tactics. A leaflet campaign called the Newry Solution has been rushed out under the direction of the British Army GHQ, Lisburn to offset the growing determination of Newry citizens to have their electric power returned to civilian control.

There are also rumours circulating in the Newry area that the presence of Enoch Powell in the South Down election has created strong interest in the British Labour Party's headquarters, London's Transport House, in the no lights' town. Trade unionists have been in touch with their British counterparts who control a large slice of the Labour Party's M.P.s and fill the election cash boxes to seek their support for pressure on Mr. Merlyn Rees, Northern Secretary of State, to ensure that the oppressive tactics cease.

They believe that Mr. Powell will use the situation to press his policy of the effectiveness of tough action to hammer down dissenting workers. Newry's no lights is giving the red light signal to British Labour.



Charity flats threat to aged tenants

A rent collector from Darby C. Howard, auctioneers, North Frederick St., Dublin, ran a gauntlet line of angry tenants in St. Ultan's Flats, Charlemont St., last week. The collector, whose firms acts on behalf of the landlords, Boston Manor Properties Limited, had been instructed to inspect the flats of all tenants for signs of broken windows or general disrepair. The inspection had been ordered by the landlords in what tenants claim is part of a campaign to force them into leaving without going through the legal process of eviction.

The flats, which consist of thirty-three dwelling units and five lock-up shops, are highly suitable for redevelopment into luxury flat accommodation.

According to Darby Howard's rent collector (pictured with tenants above), any broken window panes or general defects will be reported to his employers, who will forward details to the landlords. What action would then be taken he could not say, but Boston Manor Properties Ltd have threatened to take steps against any tenant failing to do repairs within a specified period. The inspection followed a standard letter to all tenants on behalf of the landlords.

A different letter was received last month by a number of tenants, some invalid, all elderly, from Vincent and Beatty, solicitors of Fitzwilliam Square, who act on behalf of the landlords.

It ran: "We act for Boston Manor Properties Limited, your landlords. We are instructed that you have neglected to keep your flat in a clean and proper manner as stipulated by your tenancy agreement. We are to request you to wallpaper all the walls or distemper, paint the ceilings, skirting boards and the doors and clean up the flat within twenty-eight days from the date of this letter. In the event of your failure to do so our clients will only have to take such steps as they may be advised in the matter."

While the action threatened remains unspecified, tenants fear that their new landlords will use any failure to do repairs as a pretext for ejecting them.

For most, repairs of such magnitude are either a financial or physical impossibility. The recipient of one such letter, Mrs. O'Reilly, of 26 St. Ultan's Flats, is crippled and cannot leave her chair without assistance, while her sole income is her pension. Fearing eviction if she did not comply with the solicitor's demands, she contrived to distemper part of the walls but anything further is beyond her.

Two-thirds of the thirty-three tenants are living on pensions, while over half of them are over seventy. Any major expense for redecoration is out of the question for them.

Angry at what they regard as the use of threatening letters and an invasion of their privacy, tenants are refusing to undertake the redecoration demanded. They regard the landlord's insistence on replacing even the most slightly cracked window as a ploy to induce them to leave, and point out that last year Boston Manor Properties Limited offered to redecorate the flats themselves. This would have removed rent control on the flats, enabling the landlords to increase the rents, and the offer was therefore turned down.

Dublin Corporation has also come in for censure. The Corporation was notified of the impending sale when the flats came on the market last year but failed to buy the property, letting it pass into private hands instead. The flats were originally built, by public charity, in 1934 for the poor of the area. The project was organised by Dr. Kathleen Lynn, of St. Ultan's Hospital. And one of the first demands made by the tenants, when, with the aid of Andy Smith (pictured left), they formed a tenants' association, was that the Corporation should recapture their lost opportunity and take the flats under municipal ownership. In the words of one tenant, "The flats were bought on charity, now they should be returned to the people".



PEIGIN DOYLE



RALLY-O TO FALL'S FLEADH!

Local residents in Belfast's Falls Road have decided to combat the blues of redevelopment and the constant harassment of the British Army by organising a festival. It will be an annual event.

The Falls Fleadh, a Mayday get together lapsed after two years but according to the new committee this festival will continue for as long as the residents desire. So if you want to see rally-o, piggy on a stick and peeries then make your way North at the end of September.

FEUDAL STATE ENSURES NO OIL EXPLOIT

— *How does Irish democracy compare*

RISING income from oil sales is resulting in a boom for the economy of the Persian Gulf state of Qatar. Last year, Qatar, one of the smallest oil producers in the world, achieved a 37 p.c. rise in G.N.P. and only a part of this can be directly attributed to the post October oil price rises.

Nevertheless, according to a recent I.M.F. Survey, the immediate outlook for Qatar, based both on anticipated oil income and on increases in public expenditure by the Government there, is for even faster expansion in its overall economic activity.

Almost all Qatar's oil production is exported, mainly to Western Europe. However, in the first three months of this year, production was cut back by 11 p.c. compared with the same period in 1973. It is the intention of the Qataris to stabilise output at this level in order to reduce the rate of depletion of their proven oil reserves. These are estimated at 6 billion barrels.

Qatar expects to be none the worse off as a result of these cuts since higher prices fixed after the October War in the Middle East will ensure a greater share of the wealth generated by the oil industry being pumped back into the country.

In recent years, the I.M.F. estimated that more than 90 p.c. of Qatar's budget revenues have been derived from oil receipts, which in the ten years up to 1970 were growing at an annual rate of 10.2 p.c. This was due primarily to increased output at a time when oil prices were relatively stable.

In the last three years, however, as a result of the Teheran and Geneva agreements, the posted prices for crude oil have tripled. These agreements were designed to compensate the oil producer states for the continuous depreciation of the U.S. dollar and geared prices upwards according to foreign exchange movements.

This means that the multinational oil companies, who had been increasing their profits at a faster rate than oil prices warranted, were faced with either increasing basic petrol prices to Western consumers or cutting back on their profit margins.

They chose to raise prices. Consequent to the agreements and the O.P.E.C. price rises last winter, Qatar can expect its revenue for 1974 to be five times greater than the 1973 level and more than the country's total oil revenue in the last decade.

Qatar has also been revising its relationships with the oil companies and in February of this year concluded a new participation agreement with the oil companies by which it will increase its equity share in these companies' Qatar operation to 60 p.c. This compares with a 51 p.c. share under a 1973 agreement.

Although Qatar is ruled by a feudalistic system, during the last 25 years the Government has taken steps to modernise what was a backward economy based mainly on its

Economy boom in Qatar



Sheik Yaman, Oil Minister in Saudi Arabia where the bulk of the revenue goes to the armed forces and the feudal chiefs. Ireland will soon have sufficient oil revenue to transform the entire country. But will our Oil Minister simply be a tool of big business?

coastal trade and pearl fishing. The principal area of development has been in establishing the infrastructure for industrialisation, e.g. new roads and port facilities. A significant development has been the construction of an oil refinery which when completed will produce 6,200 barrels of refined products per day at an estimated cost of £3.5 million.

In addition, a natural gas liquids plant is almost ready to begin production and this will be allied to a modern fertiliser plant.

Parallel to these developments, the Qatari government has been stepping up its expenditure on welfare. In the last two years this has accounted for one third of total government expenditure and in the current fiscal year it is planned to increase spending by two thirds.

It has been the oil industry that has made all this possible and the growing determination of the local leaders to ensure that the oil companies do not exploit them as they have done in the past. Qatar is a feudal state. Ireland is a so-called democracy. How do we compare?

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NOW WE HAVE FOUR

CASUALTIES

The shooting by a detective of young Ballyfermot man, John Doran, brings to four the number of civilians known to have been killed or maimed by members of the 26 County police force and army in just over twelve months.

In no case to date have the circumstances have taken no action to ensure the safety of the public when confronted by the forces of law and order.

EAMONN HEENEY was killed at Coolock on July 10, 1973. His body was found under a garda car which had chased 17-year-old Heeneey and a companion through a field. The reason for the car chase has never been ascertained but it has been established that neither the dead boy nor his companion had been involved in anything illegal.

The driver of the car, Garda Noel Kelly, was subsequently charged under Section 35 of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861 but on examining the book of evidence the District Justice found that he had no case to answer. Why it was thought prudent by the authorities to utilise legislation enacted in 1861 to charge the car driver has never been explained.

JAMES HUGHES (20) was shot and seriously injured by a soldier at a road block near Navan on August 3, 1973. Mr. Hughes was not armed at the time and no suggestion that he had committed an offence of any description has ever been made. It took the Minister for Defence, Mr. Patrick Donegan, until April last to announce that no inquiry would be held into the shooting.

Mr. Donegan, on an RTE Radio programme, said: "I am glad of the opportunity to explain the exact up to the minute position there. What happened there was that the boy Hughes was running away and he was called upon to halt three times and the soldier who was nearest him was a better runner than he was and he was approaching him and at that point in time there was the belief that Hughes was going to attack the soldier and the soldier opened fire.

"Now," continued the Minister, "that matter was with the Attorney General's office, in the ordinary way as an incident in which you as a citizen would be involved in, would go to the Attorney General's office and eventually after all the law had been applied to it, it was found that the soldier had acted properly. Then the soldier came to be examined by me under army regulations and of course all the evidence had been collected on the spot at the time, by the Army.

"I got a full report, I studied it as seriously as I possibly could and I found that the private had acted very properly and that there was no case to answer. There the matter lies."

The Minister's explanation of the Hughes shooting has never been questioned in the Dail. Neither has Mr. Donegan's suitability to deal with the case in an unbiased way been queried. It was thought at one stage that the Minister might have been asked to disqualify himself from dealing with the case. This speculation arose from the fact that Mr. Donegan had been convicted of discharging a shotgun at an itinerant camp in Monasterboice, Co. Louth, four years ago. Among those at whom the Donegan shotgun blast had been directed was James Hughes.

ENDA MAGEE (33) was seriously injured on Sunday, August 18, outside Monaghan by bullets fired by a 26 County army corporal. The corporal was on duty at a checkpoint manned only by soldiers. No garda was present. No suggestion has been made that Mr. Magee was involved in anything illegal at the time. The army claims that Magee, who had alighted from a car, was called upon to halt and when he failed to do so fire was opened upon him. Magee denies that he was called upon to halt, he was walking towards his mother's house when he was shot down. An internal



Eamonn Heeneey (bottom left) is one of the victims of over re-action by 26 County military and police. Mr. Patrick Donegan, Minister for Defence (above) has refused a public enquiry, although Major General Carroll may be called to explain soldiers' orders.

inquiry has, predictably, been announced by the military authorities. This report will, in time, be presented to the Minister for Defence.

JOHN DORAN was shot by a detective near Chapelizod on Monday, August 26. The gardai have admitted the shooting of Mr. Doran and have said that an internal inquiry is being held as "a routine matter". According to the Garda Press Office, "as the man is appearing before the courts, the matter is regarded as sub judice and there will be no further comment".

It is worth noting that the killing and injuring of civilians by police and military was one of the major factors leading up to the present holocaust in the North. The authorities in the South by not thoroughly investigating the culpability of army and police in the incidents that have occurred over the past 14 months could be sowing the seeds for a similar holocaust in the 26 Counties. People get sick of being maimed without reason.

