

# outta control

## BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1983

ISSUE NO. 35.

15p

(Southern Ireland 20p, Elsewhere 25p)

### police place

- EX-POLICEMEN EMPLOYED BY THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE AS INTERNAL INVESTIGATORS. WE NAME ONE OF THEM.
- BRITISH ARMY STILL VETTING HOUSING PLANS.
- SECRET HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETS AT STORMONT CASTLE.

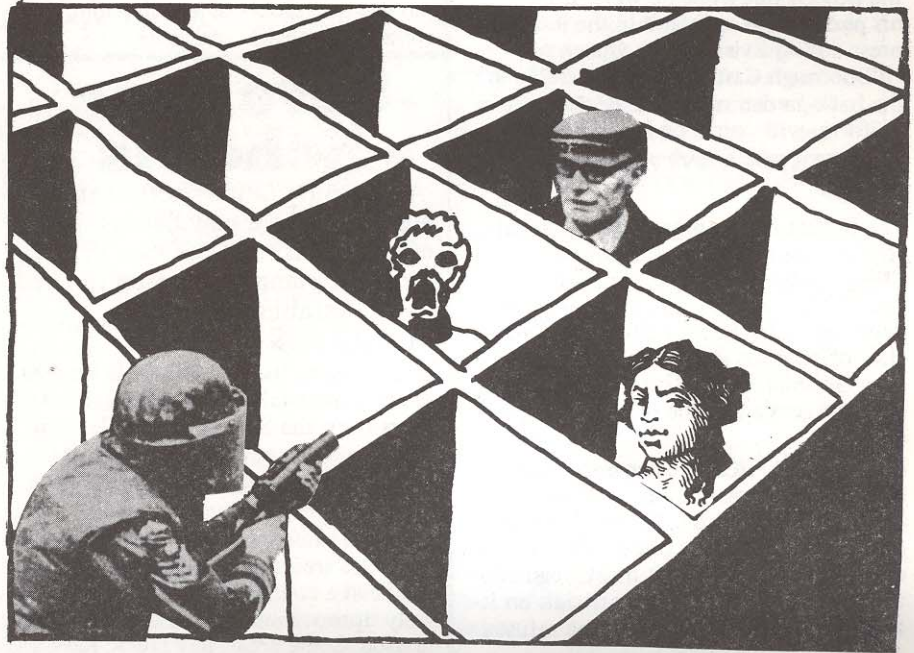
The Housing Executive employs a team of internal investigators, whose background is with the London Metropolitan Police. It is thought that Chief Executive, John Gorman, himself an ex-RUC District Inspector, made the appointments.

Many employees know of them, but few have actually met them, and even less know their names. Most Grants Officers will be aware of their activities. Their bank managers will have been approached about their personal accounts.

The team report direct to Gorman, and operate by dealing with senior management. They work usually after-hours, when the staff have gone home, and have access to all the files.

If an individual has to be questioned, it is done by the department manager in the presence of the investigator, who will have done all the ground-work and prepared the questions.

The name of one of these ex-policemen has been revealed to us. *Mr. Bob Malcolmson* is currently employed in the Maintenance Department. This position gives him access to any area in the city as an employee of the Housing Executive.



After the revelations last year by *Scope* magazine about the British Army involvement in housing planning, this team was responsible for carrying out investigations as to who or what might have been their source. This article should also provide them with extra work.

#### ARMY PLANNING

The well-known counter-insurgency manual "Low Intensity Operations" by Commander Frank Kitson, advises the British Army to "enter civil powers..." Kitson later served in the North, where his ideas were put into practice and which gained him promotion.

The hardest evidence, to date, of Army influence was in the planning of cul-de-sacs to facilitate hot pursuit. The Markets, Lower Ormeau and Ardoyne are re-development areas whose new streets show this characteristic.

Whenever there is a conflict of ideas, the Army usually wins out. There were plans to build houses on the Crumlin Road in the Ardoyne area. The H.E., the Community Association, and Belfast Planning Office (part of the DOE) all agreed. But the Army vetoed these plans, and the houses were never built.

Charles Brett, of the H.E., tried to explain away the reinforced paths at Pole-

glass (also built in a cul-de-sac formation) by claiming they were for fire engines. But the fire engines have more than enough room to turn in the cul-de-sacs. There are small concrete planting beds at the top and bottom ends of the paths. These would act as an obstacle to a smaller car, but would be little impediment for a landrover, and certainly not for a saracen.

The current policy of the Army is to have the present corrugated tin peace-lines replaced with permanent walls. The H.E. are reluctant to pay for these walls and want the Army to finance them.

#### HOW THE ARMY INFLUENCE THE H.E.

Although the Army got their fingers burnt by the *Scope* revelations, and retreated a bit, they are still very much involved.

It is thought that their influence stems mainly from the sterility Direct Rule. There is no public accountability by the H.E. There are no direct pressures from Councillors, community groups, etc, and those to whom they are answerable to, i.e., the Northern Ireland Office, are also responsible for security by the Army.

It is the middle management of the H.E. who deal with the Army, either through

cont'd page 2.

**FREE POSTER INSIDE: PLUS CALENDER.**

'Police Place' cont'd.

naivete, the adventure of meeting with the Army, or because of their political persuasion.

The Belfast Development Office in Adelaide Street (part of the DOE) is the usual venue. The civil servants there are responsible for bringing the Army and H.E. together.

John Steel used to be the Belfast Development Officer. Last year he was promoted within the Civil Service outside the B.D.O. But while he worked there, his photograph appeared in the local press during a visit by the Queen to Hillsborough Castle. He was standing in the back-garden of the Castle, in military uniform, with 'pips' on his shoulders.

#### SECRET STORMONT HOUSING GROUP

The Belfast Development Officer regularly attends meetings at Stormont. These constitute the Housing Security Committee, which is made up of senior Army and Civil Service personnel. No H.E. official has ever attended - not even Gorman. One discussion recently on the Agenda was the permanent security walls.

Mitchell, the NIO Minister responsible for the environment, was confronted about this Committee. He tried to play down its significance, but wasn't convincing. He admitted that it meets regularly and that there are no H.E. officials on it and that it has a title, though he refused to divulge it.

## ROCK ON!

There's no business like show business and nowhere more so than the bull-shit and rip-offs we have to suffer at live gigs.

But to cut the crap, CRASS occupied & squatted, during the Christmas period, the Rainbow Theatre. It was a disused rock venue. CRASS set up a telephone 'hot-line' to let people know about the forthcoming days' rock event. However, the police and the Rainbow security staff smashed down the doors of the premises and evicted everyone.

But all was not lost; for a short time later the Zig-Zag Club, another vacant rock club, was occupied. The police once again tried to evict the 50 or so squatters, but were successfully repelled.

Through the 'hot-line' the change in venue was announced, and on Sat 19th December the event started. It included 20 bands, 6 films, free food, with books and information stalls.

The concert was free, with 1500 people joining in and having a great time, without the need of bouncers etc.

Although it was a practical problem permanently to occupy the building, it has inspired a group of people in Sheffield to occupy disused Council premises and turn them into a Peace Centre.

## Shoot to Kill : Nothing New

**In just under an eight week period, seven young men have been shot dead by the RUC and British army. They were all unarmed.**

Secretary of State, Prior, denied suggestions that there was a new change in 'security' towards a 'Shoot-to-kill' policy.

He was right. The development has been an intensification of a policy long practised by the RUC and Brits.

## Save Our Schools

As the Save Our Schools campaign launches a new defense initiative, the context of overall government planning is often ignored by the established media.

### POPULATION UPROOTED

According to the Shankill Bulletin 400 streets have vanished over the last 10 years from the Shankill area. The population movement, to places such as Antrim, Newtownabbey, etc. has been enormous.

Only the middle Shankill reminds us of what the area once looked like. There has been a consistent attempt to effectively uproot much of the inner city population. Some areas, like Dock, have been completely destroyed, and others, like the New Lodge, have been moved to make way for the link road.

Consultations between the DOE, H.E. and local groups in the Shankill led to an agreed plan of 70% rehabilitation. The old houses were to be stripped and re-plastered. Then recently it was announced that the plan was for an 80% redevelopment scheme, with the targeted houses to be demolished and new houses, and streets, to be built.

### CAMPAIGN MEETING

At the SOS public meeting early in Jan., there was a recognition of the hand in glove approach by the H.E. and the Dept. of Education to smother the area. The spiral of reduced population, reduced places in school, school closures, and community destruction, demands combined resistance.

The arrogance and ill-information of British ministers at the NIO was frequently referred to at the meeting. On these occasions opportunist local politicians were quick to step in. They attempted to divert energy into making the Assembly work, and their parties more credible. "We all stand together despite our political differences" said one councillor.

Teachers and union speakers were conspicuous by their absence. This may be no great loss, as when the campaign got a stay of execution late last year, the unions seemed only interested in their jobs.

The RUC's claim that most were shot as they drove through their checkpoints doesn't tally with the facts.

30 bullet holes were found in the passenger door of the car which Jervais McKerr, Sean Burns and Eugene Toman were travelling in. They were members of the Provisional IRA.

In similar circumstances, 13 holes were found in the passenger door of Seamus Grew and Roderick Carroll's car. They were MEMBERS OF THE INLA and from Armagh.

Both cases point to a deliberate ambush by a specially trained RUC squad.

Micheal Tighe was killed when seen holding a rifle dating from the 20's. No ammunition was found.

Patrick Elliot was shot 5 times after stealing from a chip shop in Andersonstown.

More recently, where the RUC claim to have found a gun, Frank McColgan was shot dead, after a robbery and police car chase in Belfast. They shot, not at the tyres to stop the car, but at the occupants.

## Plastic Bullet Inquest

The inquest in mid-December into the death of 15 year old Derry boy, Paul Whitters, was described by his father as "a cosmetic exercise". The jury had to retire for a second time after failing to reach a unanimous decision. After four hours they reached findings which Belfast coroner James Elliot described as "satisfactory".

Four eye-witnesses contradicted RUC evidence. Mrs. O'Kane said "It was not necessary to use the riot gun to overpower him. They could have grabbed him. He was on his own."

Peter McKenzie countered the RUC's claim that Paul was about to hijack a lorry. "The lorry had already been moved. (He) seemed to be bending down to pick up a stone when three policemen ran out of the bakery and one of them opened fire with a baton round. They were only five yards away when they shot him. They could easily have arrested the boy".

Joseph Mulheron repeated the claim. Contrary to RUC claims that Paul was 20 yards away, "He was standing just five yards from the police when they shot him. He could have been overpowered. He was absolutely on his own".

And Mrs. Rose Rooney said she saw the policeman who killed Paul being clapped on the back by colleagues afterwards.

# BRITS 'N PIECES ⊕ BRITS 'N PIECES ⊕

## SECTARIAN ASSASSIN:1

James Crutchley, RUC division commander in West Belfast, and commanding officer in the landrover from which Nora McCabe was shot dead by a plastic bullet during the hunger strike, has been promoted. From Chief Superintendent he becomes one of the 10 assistant Chief Constables.

## SECTARIAN ASSASSIN:2

UDR soldier Brian Roberts, from Ballysillan, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of 19 year old Liam Canning. Liam, from Glengormley was shot dead as he left the Ardoyne along Alliance Ave. on August 9th '81.

Roberts joined the UDR on Jan. 6th and was given a .22 Walther on July 10th. Two days later he celebrated the 12th by shooting 2 men in the stomach, also in Ardoyne, and one month later he shot dead Liam. He left the UDR on Oct.25th.

## SEAN TOMELTY

The harrassment of Sean Tomelty continues. Sean, who was paralysed on one side by a plastic bullet, is constantly being stopped by the RUC and British army. The RUC have warned him that he would never see his claim for compensation "as he would end up like the men shot in Armagh".

## MOYARD DEMOLITION

The DOE have approved the demolition of 90 out of the 204 maisonettes in Moyard estate. The local Housing Action Committee, after years of campaigning have won a small victory, but they still demand the demolition of all maisonettes and pledged to keep up the fight.

## ARMAGH WOMEN ATTACKED

Strip-searching in Armagh jail reached a pitch in mid-January when three republican prisoners were physically assaulted by 7 screws.

They were forced to the ground, held down and say on, and one of them was blindfolded during the searches. Their clothes were forcibly taken off them and one woman had her sanitary towel removed.

As a result the women received bruising to the ribs, arms, back, and ankles. There is no let up in the repressive policies of the new governor, Murtagh.

## UVF TRIAL

UVF 'commander' Joseph Bennett has been granted immunity after admitting the murder of 65 year old Killinchy post mistress last May. He is giving evidence against 16 Loyalists accused of 73 charges.

He claims they went to Antwerp where they met a contact for the neo-nazi group "Vlemish Militant Order". The VMO promised to supply arms if the UVF attacked Jewish targets in Britain, but they declined the offer. The VMO later sent over people to be trained in explosives.

## GET ALONG, MOVE ALONG. . .

An attempt to set up a permanent site for travellers by Craigavon Borough Council, was defeated at the instigation of the DUP. Councillors David Calvert and Ian Williams claimed most travellers "came from the south and to make life easier for them would be the height of folly".

## "Quotes"

"Since the Police Authority was formed in 1970, the Province has been subject to a ruthless campaign of murder and destruction."

Sir Myles Humphreys, Chairperson, Police Authority.

"The demand for the operation of the security forces to be within the law, and in that sense normal, in a situation in which terrorist organisations of all sorts are operating to kill, maim and destroy is to put the lives of the security forces at deadly, unreasonable and unjust risk".

Church of Ireland Archbishop of Arma Armagh, Dr. John Armstrong.

"There is no so-called 'shoot on sight' policy being operated by police. Our policy is acting always within the law. Its as simple as that. Any actions taken are always within the law".

RUC Spokesperson.

"Workers from Britain employed by Michelin in the north, should be transferred home to leave jobs for the native Ulstermen."

James Molyneux, Official Unionist leader.

"It is a totally undemocratic suggestion that simply because there is a group of people who are inconveniently part of the UK they should be expelled from the UK because of that inconvenience".

John Patten, Under Secretary of State.

"They were heavily armed with sten guns, sawn-off shotguns, and pumpguns. They wore masks and military style uniforms. I thought at first it was the Army, but when I saw no Landrovers I thought it was a film they were making".

Eye-witness to the robbery of £20,000 from 3 banks in Carndonagh, Co. Donegal by 14 men.

"There are two mutually exclusive communities (in the north). ... Even if the majority of people here voted for a united Ireland, Protestants would not accept it. We would have to redraw the border, if need be."

Harold McCusker, Official Unionist MP.

"There are sound military reasons for withholding the whole truth from the public domain (and) for using the media to put out misinformation".

British Select Committee on Defence- Report on the Falklands 'information war'.

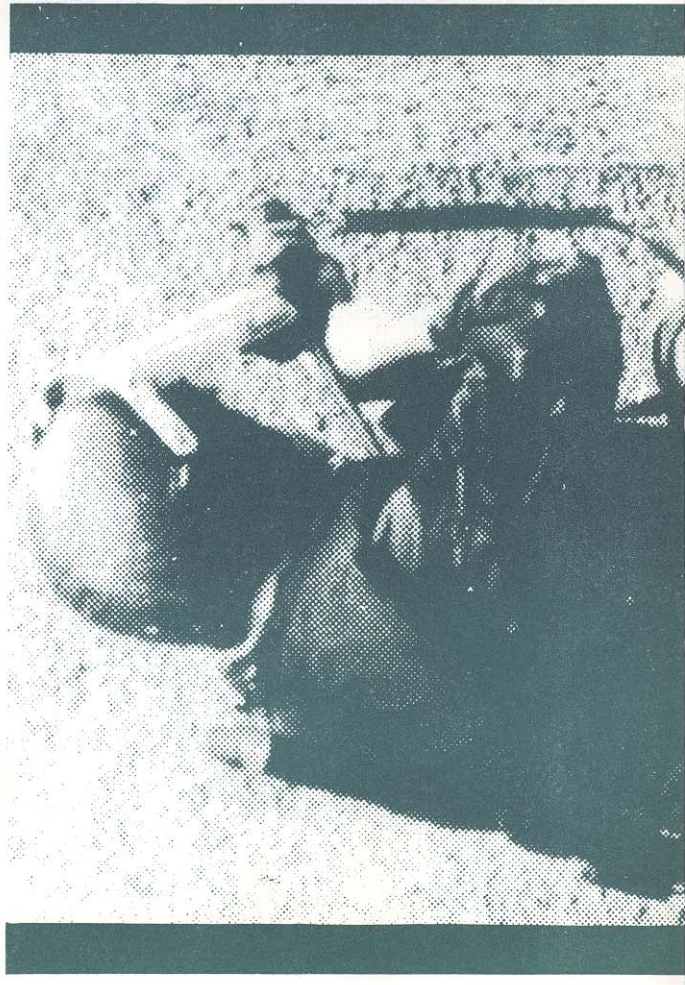
## JOBS IN:0 JOBS OUT:878000

Not one single job came to the north during 1982 from outside, including Britain and the south, although existing companies created 2,796 jobs, and new local companies created 150.

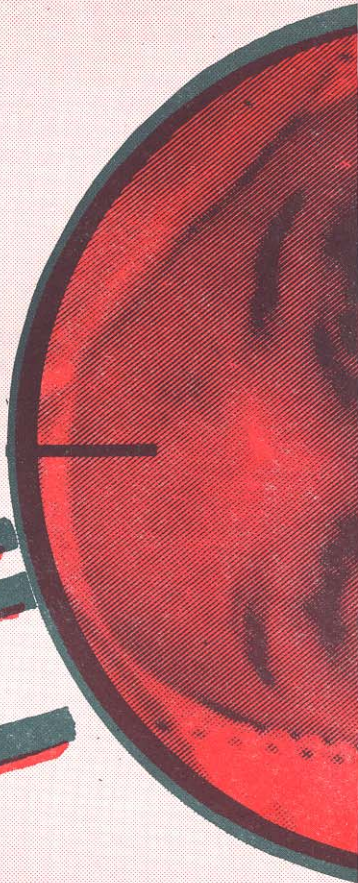
This contrasts with the number of jobs lost last year. Here is a breakdown of the figures where the losses number over 100 jobs.

DeLorean Motors	DUNMURRY	Sportscars	USA	2,650
British Enkalon	ANTRIM	Synthetic fibres	NL-GB	2,210
Michelin	NEWTOWNABBEY	Motor Tyres	France	2,100
S.T.C.	ENNISKILLEN	Telephone equip.	USA	350
Norton Abrasives	BELFAST	Abrasives	USA	200
V.F. Corporation	DUNDONALD	Clothing	USA	200
British Petroleum	BELFAST	Oil Refining	GB	180
Crepe Weavers	NEWTOWNARDS	Clothing	GB	280
Dunlop Textiles	DERRY	Rubber Products	GB	140
Steegean	BELFAST	Clothing	GB	140
Brown and Adam	MOYGASHEL	Printed Textiles	GB	480
William Hollins	DERRY	Shirts	GB	320
Grayson-Woodburn	CARRICKFERGUS	Textiles	GB	100
Hugh Scott	BELFAST	Electrical motors	N.I.	420

# LOYALIST BRITISH CIVIL ORDER ORDER ORDER

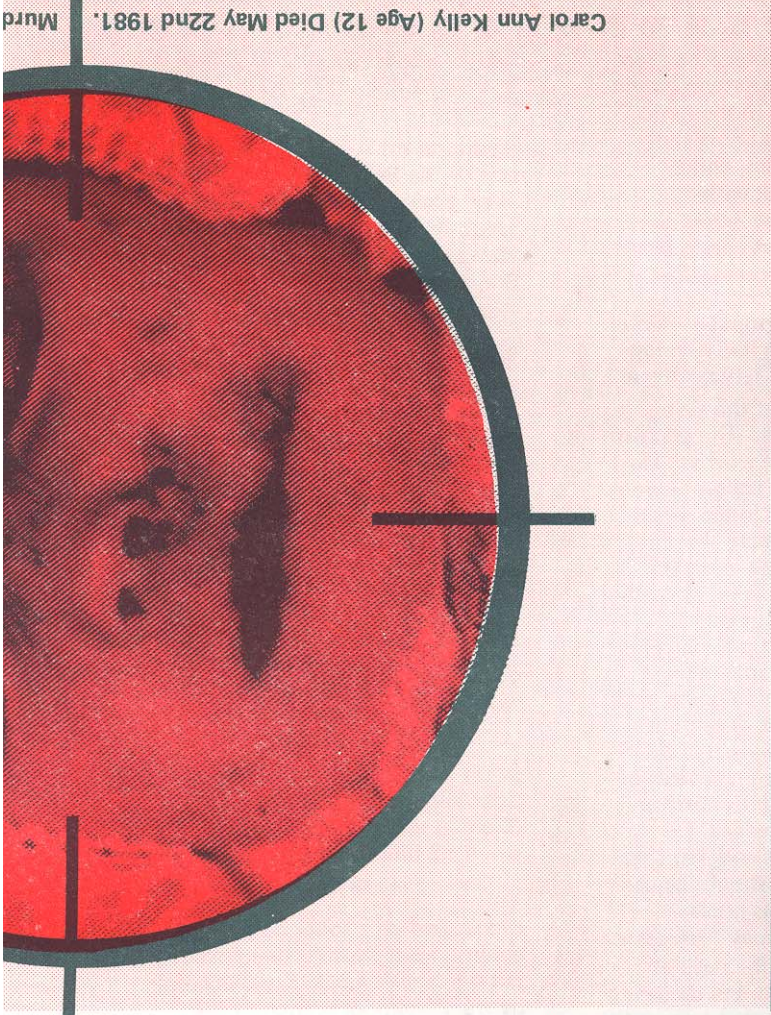


**FIRE!**



ed by the British Army.

# PLASTIC DEATH!



Carol Ann Kelly (Age 12) Died May 22nd 1981. Murd



**GOOD GRIEF!** returns. Silas Arbuthnot, who has taken a few issues out, again responds to our invitation for internationally unknown opion makers to make a few.

Apologies for my absence. I was ordered by the editor (sic) to a health farm (commune) in North Down for a cure for my 'wild imagination'. Mise? Ulster Muesli! They even offered me Ulster mushroom quiche. I declined; there is no substitute for the real thing. I thought on my return, I would treat you to some extracts from a recent edition of the Sunday Telegraph. Now there's a sobering thing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Leading Telegraph columnist Peregrine Worthorne says that Gandhi's "tactic of passive resistance was diabolically clever given the liberal character of the British Army. What better way of embarrassing the bemedalled British generals than by going to war against them in a loin cloth — the perfect camouflage. It took real greatness first to diagnose the Raj's Achilles heel - which was a soft heart and then to exploit it with utmost ruthlessness. The end triumphantly achieved was to get the British out of India. Conventional military means would have proved useless. A nationalist victory over the Brits was the aim not peace and it was nationalist

**GOOD GRIEF!**

victory that Gandhi won, not peace.' Obviously the next time you go out for a wee message go in the nude. This will result in not being shot dead by a plastic bullet, and any Brits you should meet would immediately withdraw across the Irish Sea. Where's that health farm?

\*\*\*\*\*

Gandhi, contrary to popular opinion was not a pacifist. He had developed passive resistance- satyagraha- as a tactic to rid India of the Brits. He was an anti-imperialist. The pacifism of CND has Peregrine worried. He feels that they might follow Gandhi to establish an anti colonial movement intent on removing the Americans out of Europe. In the same edition of the paper Monsignor Bruce Kent, in an interview, describes 'the current, membership of CND as predominantly young and middle class. It is important that the disarmament message is seen to come from normal, moderate people and not from crowds of cranks and partisan extremists on the left. We even have TACT - Tories Against Cruise and Trident. How jolly. Peregrine should be able to sleep soundly in his nuclear twilight. Kent continues "there is a different spirit from the days of Vietnam protests. Anyone throwing stones would stand out at once, and I am sure members would put a stop to it". How would they stop it, dear

priest? Maybe we should phone Father Faul.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the recent Assembly elections one of the Belfast CND leaders stood as an ecology candidate. He also stood on an anti abortion ticket. However, I'm digressing. Back to the Sunday Telegraph.

\*\*\*\*\*

Peregrine believes Gandhi's tactic was based on 'the massive inertia of the philosophy of resignation of the Hindu people. This is not the case with Western peoples, the best of whom are essentially active and vigorous, wholly unsuited to passive resistance.' Well, it is time that Ireland is more west than Britain if you can accept an argument with that much longitude. Is Peregrine trying to tell us something about ourselves? Does this account for my 'wild imagination'.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the same edition I noted that alcoholics cost 'the country' (Do you mean outside Belfast?" Ed) about £2 billion a year. Cheers!

\*\*\*\*\*

I must end on a sober note. This column must state its unequivocal outrage at the recent horrific attack by the Blackpool branch of the Animal Liberation Front. Cheers! Cruncher! Aris agus aris!

\*\*\*\*\*



# Cafe Despard

Featuring CITY IDIOT; HIT PARADE; JUST F. NOW  
 \*A shit-hot political revue with original sounds and satire  
 Tour: Markets Social Club, Thursday 3rd February  
 LESA Club, Short Strand, Saturday 5 February  
 Highfield Social Club, Saturday 12th February 8.30p.m.  
 £1 admission. Bookings available. Contact Just Books  
 c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast Phone 225426



Terry De Winne  
 How to make 2/6 into a  
 £4800 Loss!

As part of the Belfast Civic Week Terry de Winne, organiser of the Ulster Hall and Group Theatre, ran a five night Rock Extravaganza. The musical event was based on an old record album he purchased for something like 2/6. The symphony, performed by top local rock musicians turned out to be dated crap and failed to turn on the hundreds of rock lovers who might have attended. The whole event made a loss and the ratepayer had to fork out £4800 for Terry's little whim!



Edited ½ hour VHS video of TRADE UNION DAY OF ACTION, September 22nd. £10.50 to buy. Available from Media Workshop, 22 Lombard Street, Belfast Phone 240123



We know the statistics. We suffer them. The north of Ireland is the poorest region in the "U.K."; It has the highest unemployment rate, the highest cost of living, the lowest average income, the worst housing, and so on.

The cost of electricity is equal to the highest rate found in Britain. How does the Northern Ireland Electricity Service relate to a population which faces low income and high charges?

The response has been to establish a debt collecting policy which has been described as vicious, and whose guidelines lie outside its own Code of Practice. **ELECTRICITY SERVICE PRACTICES** Between April '81 and March '82 there were 2899 disconnections in the north. That is an average of almost 58 disconnections per week - a staggering figure given the enormous poverty we already face. It is also a declaration by the state that heating, light, and cooking are not a right but a privilege.

Before the ultimate of disconnection, the E.S. will attempt to force the consumer into a 'voluntary agreement', no matter how financially crippling. It is policy of the E.S. to exact repayment within three years. The pressures from the E.S. and the threat of disconnection often leaves people paying out more than they can afford. This inevitably means getting into debt over other bills, such as food, clothes, rent, etc. If this bullying fails then two other methods can be resorted to.

#### COLLECTION DEVICES

The first is the installation of a coin-operated collection device (not to be confused with the common slot meter). Its purpose is for debt collecting only.

Recently a person was forced to sign for the repayment of £49 per week. The device in his home only allowed electricity flow after £7 was put into the meter. The power switched itself off after 24 hours when another £7 was to be inserted.

This rate in itself was exorbitant. But the

person concerned thought the following 24 hours electricity was covered by the £7. He was astonished to find another bill come through his door at the end of the quarter. He was back to square one. The £7 only went towards debt collection.

#### LOAD LIMITER

Another installation is the 'load limiter' The E.S. describe it as the very last resort before disconnection. It was made and developed in what was then called Rhodesia, and has been used in only two other regions of 'the UK'. It is thought only the north now operates it. Usually a 5 amp limitation is put on the amount of electricity available. It would then be possible to only use two rings on the cooker, but no television; or one ring and the T.V. If overloaded the system cuts out, till one is turned off, and resumes after 30 secs.

The most famous example of its workings occurred in June 1980 in Divis Flats. The family at Colintree Row had a handicapped son, 13 years old. They qualified for a special payment from the DHSS called Attendance Needs, which meant the child required "frequent attention in connection with his bodily functions". They had a washing machine which helped.

The family income was £60 per week with £12.40 going towards rent. From the remainder the E.S. wanted a payment of £21.80 p.w. - £13 for consumption, £8 arrears, and 50p collection charge. A Belfast Law Centre worker went down to the E.S. offices in Bridge St. to try to get the payments reduced. But it was described by the worker as a waste of time. The E.S. were totally inflexible.

They offered to take less, if . . . a load limiter was installed. In total only £13 was to be taken. The family had no choice but to agree. But the washing machine required more than 5 amps, and the immersion water heater. Clothes had to be washed either by hand and using the kettle, or taken to the expensive launderette. It was an impossible situation.

The Law Centre approached Social Services to provide a gas water heater, but they refused. The E.S. offered a 10 amp limiter, but this was equally useless for the heater and washing machine.

#### TIP OF THE ICEBERG

A comprehensive list of examples would be too long for this paper. But one more would illustrate how even those not directly involved are victimised.

A woman and her seven children, most of whom were under 10 years old, left a violent husband. They stayed in a women's aid refuge before finding a flat in the Unity area. It was initially a squat but the woman hoped, reasonably, to get a 'use and occupation' rent book.

But there was £1000 arrears in her husband's name, and the E.S. refused to give her a supply. She was prepared to sign for a supply, and take out a rent book, but the E.S. refused.

The woman would have been forced to move back to the husband, except that Women's Aid found her another place in a refuge. She could not have waited for the rent book because there were no heating or cooking facilities for her or the children.

#### WHAT CHOICE?

Given the punitive debt collection policy of the E.S. it appears that people are offered one of two choices; to either stay warm and go into debt, or pay the bills by skimming on fuel, and freeze

A one day Conference "Electricity a Right - Not a Debt" is being organised on Sat. 12th Feb. 10.00-4.30 at the Central Hall Rosemary St. A creche is available and an advice stall will operate during the day.

It is hoped to initiate a campaign to highlight and monitor the E.S.'s debt collection practices, to demand a comprehensive and legally binding Code of Practice, end to disconnections and a recognition that fuel costs, allocated in welfare benefits are inadequate.

# Gardai Take Leaf Out of RUC Book

On the 13th July, 1982 Eamon Byrne was arrested under section 30 of the Offences against the State Act and taken to Raheny Garda Station in connection with a Post Office robbery and the subsequent death of the postmaster, one Robert Belton, brother of an ex-Lord Mayor of Dublin.

While he was held there threats were made against his life which he took so seriously that he reported them to the Prisoners Rights Organisation, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and the Irish Press when he was released (without charges). After his solicitor had visited him in Raheny he sent for a doctor to examine him. Eamon had two black eyes and numerous injuries to his body.

On the 22nd November 1982 Eamon Byrne was shot through the back of the neck by Gardai at the B&I yard and on the 25th November he died in hospital without regaining consciousness.

Though a Gardai inquiry has been set up into the death Eamon's family, friends, the PRO and ICCL want a full public inquiry to be set up into his murder. They not only believe that Eamon was set up for the B&I job but that his murder was a deliberate part of the set-up. There are many unanswered questions surrounding the murder:—

At the time of Eamon's arrest in July at least three other men from the inner city area were also taken in for questioning, and as attested in their sworn affidavits all were asked to implicate him in the robbery, all were told that any charges against themselves would be dropped if they did this. They were told that Eamon had been badly beaten during his questioning and that the same would happen to them if they didn't co-operate. One was offered a confidential telephone number he could ring. One was told that they had two witnesses who could identify both him and Eamon as having been present at the Post Office robbery. This man was offered money to set Eamon up and a gun was offered to him to plant in Eamon's flat. Another man was offered statements to sign that he had not made and told if he didn't sign them they'd take him up to the Dublin mountains and 'We'll see who gives out justice here.' The men got the impression that the Police were more scared of the Belton family and the pressure they were bringing to bear for quick results than of their superiors. They got the impression that a bounty had been put on the head of the person responsible for the postmaster's death. Eamon's wife spoke of the continual fear he had lived in since his arrest in July.

Garda statements as to what actually happened on the 22nd November at the B&I yard are totally contradictory. On the day of the shooting they said that guns

had been pulled on them and that they had fired in self defence. On the 28th, the Sunday Press ran a front page story alleging that Eamon had been handcuffed at the time of the shooting. This was immediately denied by the Gardai who then said that the shooting was accidental and admitted that the gun that Eamon was alleged to have been carrying had been found several yards away, not in his hand. The question has been raised as to how he came to be shot in the BACK of the neck. In the US when a person is shot in the back of the neck it is called automatic homicide and a full enquiry has to be held. This procedure does not exist in Ireland. If the job was not a set-up, how come there had been between 20 and 30 gardai hanging around the B&I premises for two mornings previous to the shooting? Why did the ambulance take 20 minutes to arrive when the nearest one is based not more than four minutes away on the North Strand? After the shooting, most of the gardai went and ate a hearty breakfast at the early morning cafe in Common Street!



We also ask how it was possible for a near relative of one of the gardai who had threatened Eamon in Raheny in July and who works on the boat, to turn around to other crew members & identify the men who had only minutes before been arrested on the quayside?

Why have all the independent witnesses clammed up, and why did they have constant garda watches put outside their homes during the time of the garda enquiry? Why were they told not to talk to anyone asking questions, but to refer them immediately to Store Street Garda station? Even when Eamon was lying unconscious on the life-support machine in the hospital, none of his friends were allowed to see him by the police on guard at his bedside.

When the gardai finish their enquiry, its findings will be sent to the DPP and it is then up to him to decide if any of the gardai should be charged. The results of garda enquiries are not made public, and given the ratio of garda witnesses to

independent witnesses, it appears unlikely that any of them will be charged.

Following the shooting of Robert Belton in July, the media pack went into full hue and cry for public enquiries, condemnations, etc. Following the shooting of Eamon Byrne you could have heard a pin drop as far as the media was concerned. Three friends of Eamon's arranged to meet a reporter from An Phoblacht in the Royal Dublin Hotel after his death. All were stopped and questioned by armed members of the Special Branch.

Robert Belton's brother is an ex Lord Mayor of Dublin; his family own several enormous plushy pubs in the city, and a lot of other property. They are closely allied to the Fine Gael party. These points were all put to the men taken in for questioning over Belton's death.

They were told 'Someone would have to pay for this shooting, even if they have to be stitched up'. Eamon Byrne was a young man from the inner city, with a wife, one child, and one on the way. He had been one of the first batch of children to be sent to Loughlan House, Europe's only prison for children, and since then he had served time in St. Patrick's Institution (YPs). Needless to say, he was neither powerful or rich, like Robert Belton, and has no power relatives who can push for a public enquiry. In the next few months there will have to be a Coroner's Inquest into Eamon's death, but no relevant facts or decisions are likely to emerge from this. There are no rules for picking Jury members for Coroner's Courts, like those for other courts. Their juries are hand-picked by the Gardai themselves, so, in the case of a death at their hands, we can be sure that the jurors will be very carefully picked indeed.

With the blue-shirts back in power, it seems highly unlikely to us that anyone will be charged with Eamon's murder, let alone that there will be a full public enquiry. The government is going to be far too busy implementing the law reforms they promised in their pre-election propaganda in their "fight against crime". Things like taking away the right to remain silent when charged, like denying bail to anyone with a criminal record, etc. Who knows, we may even see Oliver Flannaghan's prophecy of an army take-over before their term of office is over. At the very least, we're likely to see a return of the Heavy Gang that they brought in during their last but one term.

In 1982, the amount spent on the courts, the prisons and the gardai was £250 million. The prisons are bulging at the seams, and £30 million is earmarked for new buildings. At prices like these, it's cheaper to simply take a leaf out of the RUC's book and shoot people on the streets . . . . .