

1975

Peoples Hope : Special Easter issue, No. 11

Republican Clubs

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I.R.A. SAVES PROVO TRUCE

In early January of this year Joe Doyle, veteran republican from the 50's campaign, was approached by Seamus Costello, self-styled Chief-of-Staff of the I.R.S.P. and was asked to join the new military group.

Joe Doyle, who was sentenced to life for his part in the Arbourfield Raid in 1955, asked Costello when he hoped to start his campaign against the Brits. "WE HAVE TO DO THE STICKIES FIRST," was the Costello reply.

Costello's offer was immediately rejected by Joe Doyle; but in one sentence this latter-day general outlined the source of the recent attacks on Republicans in the Belfast area.

Classified in the news media as some unexplainable petty feud, the violence of recent weeks has been rarely understood by the war-weary citizens of Belfast.



The I.R.S.P. want a return to this

Now, as the dust settles, the truth is out. Costello tried to recruit hardline Provos and malcontents formerly in the Officials into another military campaign, in defiance of the vast majority of people in Republican areas today.

ARMS RAIDS IN BELFAST

A series of raids on I.R.A. arms dumps and attacks on Republican homes and vehicles was the beginning of a concerted campaign to neutralize the I.R.A. units in the Belfast area.

Costello's strategy was--and still is--to produce a sectarian shoot-out which will involve the usual heavy intervention by the British Army on the loyalist side. This, he hopes, will wreck the Provo truce and discredit the progressive element in the Provisional leadership.

(Contd. on p.2)

Co-op Takeover

HOGGS LTD., THE GIANT ENGLISH RETAIL GROUP, HAVE TAKEN A 25% SHARE IN ULSTER CRYSTAL, THE SUBSIDIARY OF TYRONE CRYSTAL, THE DUNGANNON COMPANY IN WHICH FATHER AUSTIN EUSTACE WAS A MAIN MOVER.

As a result of secret negotiations, Hoggs will handle the retail sales of the cut crystal, which will be made at the new factory in the Kennedy Way industrial estate. And as a result, a HOGGS nominee will be a "silent" director on the board of the new firm, ULSTER CRYSTAL.

(Contd. on p.3)

SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS

In the Belfast area, anyone can start a spate of sectarian murders. But in the main it is innocent Catholics and Protestants who suffer from irresponsible military action by armed gangs like the I.R.S.P., who start a shooting session and then leave entire areas unexpecting and unprepared.

In sectarian fighting, it is only the British who win and the Connolly ideal of a socialist republic is pushed to the background.

CLASH WITH I.R.A. UNITS

In his attempts to "lift" I.R.A. weapons, Costello forced his group in Belfast into running fights with I.R.A. units defending their weapons and men.

As a result, Costello's men--who had been promised all sorts of ultra-modern weapons for a last-ditch go at the Brits--found themselves fighting fellow-Irishmen and attempting to steal valuable weapons needed in the defence of West Belfast.

PRESS WAR

Frustrated in his attempt to provide weapons "on the cheap", Costello--with the aid of the British news media--has tried to present "the war" he started as a battle over political views.

In doing so, he hopes to hide his real intentions and to discredit the I.R.A. as some sort of Chicago gang.

It was by no accident that the British news media took up the Costello cause with such enthusiasm. The Daily Mirror in particular went to great lengths to hide the attacks on Republicans and the stealing of weapons in a cloud of reports headed "Gangland War" and "Feud Continues."

Unable to defeat the I.R.A., Costello has tried to sully its good name.

PEACE TALKS AND PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

A crucial aspect of the Costello press play was to call for talks with the I.R.A., while his men were attacking Republicans and trying to place the blame on defunct organizations like Saor Eire.

Costello himself was making such a call on R.T.E. while his gunmen were lying in wait to murder Sean Garland, the Sinn Fein Organizer.

It has been clearly part of his strategy to hit hard at the I.R.A. and then dive for cover behind calls for "peace talks" uttered continually by Bernadette McAliskey.

This strategy broke down on two counts. Firstly, the I.R.S.P. failed to gather large amounts of arms from the I.R.A. in Belfast; while several of their key men were arrested on petty robbery and sectarian assassination charges. As their military effort against the I.R.A. fell apart, they switched to "soft targets" like Republican Clubs personnel such as Sean Morrissey, who had actually been in contact with his would-be assassins concerning a peace settlement.

Secondly, on the basis of evidence supplied by the Republican Movement, Bernadette McAliskey took it upon herself to stand down the "twopence-ha'penny gangsters" in the Belfast area.

The confusion this caused in I.R.S.P. ranks led to approaches by a number of them seeking private settlement with the I.R.A. This produced an I.R.A. offer of amnesty, which resulted in 36 I.R.S.P. members disassociating themselves from the anti-Republican and sectarian acts of their associates.

TRUCE SAVED

The British Government is determined to avoid any responsibility it has to make concessions for the Provo truce. Meaningless I.R.S.P. attacks on the British Army like the recent shooting at Fort Monagh only play into the British strategy.

In resisting the I.R.S.P. attacks, the I.R.A. has no doubt saved the Provo truce and kept the ball firmly in the British court.

Massive political pressure must now be kept on the Rees administration to end internment, break up repressive legislation and bring in full Civil Rights in the North.

DAMAGE TO THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

There is no doubt that the attempts to discredit the Republican Movement as "feuding gangsters" received full support in the British press and was echoed by some elements in the S.D.L.P., the Alliance and Communist parties. Damage has been done to the Movement in the confusion concerning the causes of the violence.

The truth is now finally coming to the surface and sympathisers and Republican supporters are rallying round the Movement as the British attempt to discredit Republicanism is exposed and as the I.R.S.P. gunmen are seen as the "mad dogs" they are.

MANIPULATION OF SELF-HELP SCHEME
BY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
(contd. from p.1)

The new £250,000 factory at the Bog Meadows-Kennedy Way site in West Belfast is expected to be in production by July 1975. A dozen specially-selected school-leavers are presently undergoing training at the Government Training Centre on the site. Ulster Crystal's parent company, TYRONE CRYSTAL, began production 3 years ago and today has a payroll of 125.

The type of crystal to be produced at Kennedy Way is to be of modern design, aimed at the gift market in which HOGGS specializes.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE INCLUSION OF A HOGGS INTEREST IN ULSTER CRYSTAL WAS INSISTED UPON BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AS A CONDITION FOR A GOVERNMENT GRANT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ULSTER CRYSTAL.

It is hoped that in a year's time the labour force at Ulster Crystal will have reached 170 workers--150 of them men.

The deal insisted on by the Ministry of Commerce is typical of the fate which will confront all self-help industry. AS SOON AS SUCH INDUSTRY IS SUCCESSFUL, IT WILL HAVE TO SURRENDER ITS "COMMUNITY" BEGINNINGS FOR THE NORMAL COMPANY STRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DOMINANCE OF IRISH INDUSTRY BY INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL.

It is a pity that Fr. Eustace did not feel that the Irish people should be informed about the Hoggs deal. Have we not THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHO WE ARE REALLY WORKING FOR?

JOE McCANN COMMEMORATION
13th APRIL (Sun.)
Parade assembles at
Lagan Street at 2.30.



Brit Scabs

It has just been announced that the Royal Highland Fusiliers have been withdrawn from their strike-breaking duties in Glasgow--they are coming for a tour of duty to the 6 counties.

This should serve notice once again on Trade Unionists in the North and throughout Britain that Brigadier Kitson's scenario is being enacted almost according to a schedule: the British Army which has been harrasing, torturing and enforcing repressive legislation against the working class in the North of Ireland for the past 6 years has been only training for the day when it will be called upon to smash the Trade Union Movement in Britain and install a Fascist junta.

First we had the military takeover of the British airports; the use of troops to try to break the Glasgow binmen's strike (is it significant that Glasgow has been chosen for the experiment and not London or Cowley?) is a step further along that road to a military takeover.

No Jobs for Andersonstown

The Housing Executive seems intent on pressing ahead with its plans to build houses on a 33-acre site on the Upper Glen Road. This follows a meeting between a Republican Clubs delegation and the planning authorities.

The delegation--led by Bernie McDonagh, Jim Sullivan and Kevin Smyth, all candidates in the forthcoming Convention elections--put forward the demands of the local community that the site be used to provide badly-needed employment for the Greater Andersonstown area.

They were informed that McQuillan of Warrenpoint Road, Newry was the only contractor to tender for the project.

It is obvious that some political figures in the Civil Service and the Government still regard the Catholic population of Andersonstown as a reserve pool of cheap labour for the building industry and other low-paid employment; and are determined to rob Andersonstown of this last chance to have housing with adequate industry.

They are also obviously responding to pressure from the Revs. Beattie and Bradford, Paisley's men in Dunmurry, by running down Poleglass and transferring the housing to the Glen Road site.

THE OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT
CAN ASSURE THE SECTARIAN PLANNERS

THE OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT
CAN ASSURE THE UNEMPLOYED OF ANDER-
SONSTOWN THAT THE SECTARIAN PLANNERS
WILL NOT HAVE THEIR WAY.

What they died for

When we leave Beechmount Avenue each Easter Sunday, to march to the Republican Plot at Milltown Cemetery, we are not only commemorating the dead of 1916; we are commemorating all those who have died in the cause of the Irish working people.

As well as remembering the names of Connolly, Pearse, McDonagh and MacDiarmada, Clarke, Plunkett and Ceannt, we are also remembering great names like Davitt, Lalor, Mellowes and Tone. And, of course, at Milltown we will pass the graves of our own present-day revolutionaries: Vols. like McCann, Fox and Curry.



It is simply not enough to march at Easter and think about our patriot dead, full stop. We must also remember what they did and what they stood for when they were alive.

We must remember how James Connolly pioneered the organized working class in Ireland through the Trade Union move-

ment; and how Fintan Lalor organized the rural workers of Ireland against the Landowners.

All these men had a common cause: to unite Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter and to break the connection with England.

Each of them recognized that the class differences in Ireland were more important than religious differences. As Republicans, they recognized that everyone is entitled to his own religion (that is a private matter). They also recognized that those who made up the labour force and those who lived and worked on the land were the rightful owners of the wealth produced in the factories and on the farms.

This is what they fought and died for. The fight is still being fought and will not be completed until the Irish working class is in full control of the wealth and resources of our country.

This Easter Sunday, 59 years on from 1916, we must draw strength from -- and rededicate ourselves to -- the cause for which the men of 1916 died.



NATIONAL COMMEMORATION

Easter

Commemoration

Parade

assembles at BEECHMOUNT

MARCH TO MILLTOWN

SPEAKER: MICK HENNESSY

HONOUR IRELAND'S
WEAR A TRICOLOR

THE OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT SENDS
EASTER GREETINGS
TO REPUBLICAN PRISONERS EVERYWHERE

Staff Officer	Joe McCann
"	"
"	"
Volunteer	Ted Brady
"	Patricia McKay
"	Robert Millen

Roll of Honour

Our own modern day revolutionaries

This Easter Sunday will be a time when many of us will reflect on the troubles of the past 5 or 6 years; and we will remember the men and women, the young boys and girls of the Irish Republican Army and Na Fianna Eireann who are no longer with us in the struggle for the Irish Republic. Volunteers and Fians who gave the struggle everything--including their lives.

It will never be forgotten how vols. like Joe McCann and Gerard Gibson were killed by the guns of the British Army; and how Robert Millen and Ted Brady were assassinated at the hands of Loyalist extremists. Nor will we forget the tragic accidental deaths of Rose Curry and Gerard O'Hare; or the recent murder of Staff Officer Sean Fox, ambushed by another British Success: the Costello splinter group.



But above all, it will not be forgotten what they died for; and what they strove to achieve.

They knew what the Republican Movement stood for: the complete overthrow of British Imperial rule in Ireland; the rights of the common man before the right of property; the

ownership of the wealth of Ireland for the people of Ireland.

Have YOU thought about these things? Where do YOU stand on these issues? Do you believe that foreign bosses and Irish Capitalists should make millions of pounds per week profit, while the working people get a meagre wage? Do you believe that Catholic and Protestant workers should shoot and kill each other while the bosses reap all the money?

If you recognize the above injustices, then you agree with the Official Republican Movement.

You must also realize that in order to change things the Irish working class must be organized into a mass Movement. The Republican Movement is trying to build that mass Movement.

WHY NOT JOIN IT?

There is a place for you in the ranks of the Republican Movement. The work of Joe McCann, Sean Fox and their comrades must be carried on relentlessly.

The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland;
the cause of Ireland is the cause of labour.

-James Connolly (1868-1916).

Fian Gerard McAuley
" Rose Curry
" Gerard O'Hare
" Gerard Gibson
" Patrick McGreevy
" David McCafferty

ELECTION MAY DAY

Normally regarded as an international Workers' Holiday, May 1st of this year has been chosen by a reluctant British Government as election day for the Northern Convention.

The powersharing argument between Paisley and Rees has thrown the whole new British solution in Ireland into complete confusion. It is clear that Paisley's U.U.U.C. party will be the major power-block in the Convention and any subsequent election.

The S.D.L.P. are quite prepared to share power in Government with Craig and Paisley. But the U.U.U.C. realise that by playing hard to get they can squeeze every last concession out of the S.D.L.P. and the British government.

S.D.L.P. AND POWERSHARING

It would do no harm to recall that in return for sharing power with Faulkner in

the last Executive, the S.D.L.P. did the following:

1. FINED THE RENT AND RATES STRIKERS
2. DISBANDED THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
3. ACCEPTED THE R.U.C.
4. ABANDONED THE STRUGGLE AGAINST INTERNMENT
5. DROPPED THEIR DEMANDS FOR HIGHER HOUSING PRODUCTION
6. APPROVED THE NEW HIGH RENTS STRUCTURE.

NEW CONCESSIONS?

What will be the concessions this time? What price will Gerry Fitt pay this time to sit as Paisley's Deputy Dog?

The way to oppose Paisley is not to share power with him, but to UNITE WITH ALL PROGRESSIVE GROUPS AGAINST PAISLEY AND HIS RIGHT-WING CLIQUE.

VOTE REPUBLICAN CLUBS

UNITE AGAINST THE RIGHT



A Happy Dream

Last night I had a happy dream,
I saw my country free,
The Gaelic language spoken
And the border was the sea.

With the building industry nationalized,
Each family had a home;
People came before profits
And the people Ireland owned.

Each child was educated,
The state took care of health,
Our mines and soil, sea, gas and oil
Provided all the wealth.

United were our people
From valley, town and hill;
And our workers undivided
Owned the factory, farm and mill.

Emigration it was ended
And our people ceased to roam,
'Cause they'd found peace and happiness
And employment here at home.

Democracy was established,
Each man had equal rights.
Fear and oppression were abolished,
No more smashed doors at night.

The workers emancipated,
The capitalists overthrown,
Exploitation, poverty, bigotry
To our people were unknown.

The co-op farms had flourished,
The farmers owned their lands.
Production, distribution and exchange
Were safe in Irish hands.

When I awoke 'twas sad to see
Things were not as I'd desire,
For I am an Irish worker
And I'm jailed behind the wire.

A. MacMaolain

Staff Officer Sean Fox

(1943-1975)



We are here to mourn the death of Volunteer Sean Fox and to pay him the tribute of repeating our dedication to the principles for which he struggled and for which he was savagely murdered. Sean Fox stood by and for the policies of the Irish Republican Army — policies that were democratically decided in response to the demands of the working-class people of Ireland, policies that were established in the face of sectarian assault and provocation, policies that were sustained against the forces of British occupation and Orange bigotry, policies that will survive the cowardly and unprincipled attacks of those who want to have that bigotry mirrored in the continuing division of the working-class people of Ireland. Our tribute to Vol. Sean Fox is our determination to see these policies succeed.

In 1969 the people of the Six Counties, Catholic and Protestant, were beginning to demonstrate their revulsion against the mean society which an Orange junta had imposed upon them for almost 50 years. They were beginning to join in ever-growing numbers the marching mass of the Civil Rights Movement. The tide of popular feeling had turned away from the sectarianism of the past. Even middle-class politicians were talking about, although they did not look forward to, the breaking of old moulds and the establishment of a new order. The chance was there for the working-class people of the Six Counties to shape that order through their own Democratic organisations.

But the chance was lost, for two reasons. The uniformed forces of Orange Bigotry mounted a murderous attack on the working-class population, and those who were once our colleagues in the Republican Movement responded in the sectarian fashion expected and they blindly battered the working-class apart again with a campaign directed against the civilian population. We held our heads — I say that with pride in the sense and integrity of the working people of the North and our Volunteers who worked and lived among them. And because we held our heads, we saw the direction that events were taking, the political futility of allowing opportunists to reap the rewards that workers' suffering brought and the downright stupidity of offering the ruling junta the opportunity to recover the ground it had lost. We made gains against all the odds, in these past five years.

We saw no point from the start of this latest phase in our country's struggle in handing out promises of a revolution around the corner. We see no point in doing it now. We saw no point in spitting out the jargon of elitist politics, as if words that had lost their meaning through abuse could bring change simply because they had been uttered. We considered it more important to raise the sights of our people, Catholic and Protestant, from the mire of sectarianism to the first objective of working-class unity. We considered this more important than to feed on that sectarianism like vultures feeding on the dead.

We considered it more important — and we still do, and we will not be deflected by anyone from our conviction that the working-

class people of this country should see more clearly where their true interests lay than that they should be encouraged to adopt entrenched sectarian positions from which it would be difficult if not impossible to disengage. We made gains, in raising the consciousness of the people, in encouraging a sense of their dignity and their rights and their community of interest with one another. The thugs of the British Army, the R.U.C., the Special Branch and the U.D.R. did not stop us. The near-fascist loyalist murder gangs did not stop us. And, by god, the threats and the assaults of a few, power-hungry and confused malcontents will not stop us now.

We welcomed the Provisionals' ceasefire and we hope that it will continue. We had already operated a ceasefire for over two



years because the people of the Six Counties demanded it, because they wanted to avoid the risk of a sectarian civil war which would destroy the possibility of working-class unity for generations. We have called upon the Protestant working-class organisations to do all in their power to prevent sectarian assassinations. We have promised that we will use every means to do the same. And we will keep our promise. When the Irish Republican Army announced its withdrawal

from aggressive military action that it has kept for almost three years, it reserved the right to engage in defence and retaliation. It still has that right and it will use it to defend the gains that have been made and to defend its personnel. It will not allow a group of misdirected malcontents to destroy the chances of peace, of political organisation and progress of the working-class people of the Six Counties. It will not have our weary people plagued by a new and still more meaningless conflict in which they are the pawns — the community in whose name action is taken that is not only politically blind but criminally stupid.

Now is the time for all of us who are convinced of the correctness of the road we have taken to pledge ourselves to continue on that road towards the ultimate goal of a socialist republic. Now is the time to make it clear to everyone that we will use whatever means may be needed, but no more than is necessary, to make sure that the lives of the working people of the Six Counties, their rights to live and work in peace, and to achieve full equality and freedom, are not placed in jeopardy by those who act for frivolous reasons, inspired by foolhardy motives and led by a few cynically ambitious people.

The curse of division has always been suffered by the Irish working-class. They have paid the price and their rulers have reaped the reward. The curse of half-baked ideas has been suffered by Republicans and Socialists, and they have paid the price of failure to achieve their aims. The losers are still the working-class. We have begun to change that in our generation, not without reference to the great struggles of the past but not without a vision — and a realisable vision of the future. The suffering, imprisonment, defeat and death of the past did not put an end to the struggles of other generations. They will not succeed now where they have already failed.



A salute is fired over the coffin of Vol. Sean Fox. The text of the graveside oration by Cathal Goulding (above left) is here reprinted in full.

Volunteer Sean Fox, we do not come here to glorify your death. We come instead to mourn the loss of a brave, determined comrade of the working-class. And we come to say in the face of death — the death of Sean Fox — Comrade, we have and hold vision, our vision and we are determined to use every means at our disposal to make that vision a reality.

Subscriptions for the assistance of the widow and five young children of Sean Fox should be forwarded as soon as possible to:

THE SEAN FOX FAMILY FUND
REPUBLICAN CLUBS SECRETARIAT
40 CYPRUS STREET
BELFAST 12.



UP FRONT by the COUNCILLOR

PEOPLE IN GLASS FACTORIES....

In the face of increased linen sales and increased world demand for linen, EWARTS-LIDDELL have announced that they are gradually shutting down mill production in Northern Ireland, thereby laying off 400 workers at their Crumlin Road mill. Sir IVAN EWARTS is the local figurehead of the firm and the local chairman of the Confederation of British Industry. But Sir Ivan isn't the real power behind the closedown.

Ewarts-Liddell is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the British textile giant VANTONA LTD. British economic policy has always encouraged the closedown of textile finishing industries in the North, confining our textile production to low-cost half-finished products, to be exported to British factories for finishing and marketing.

Republicans demand that our textile industry have a strong viable finishing section, with an independent marketing operation capable of reaching new markets, in the SOCIALIST and DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Sir Ivan Ewart, whose family fortune was made out of the Catholic and Protestant mill-workers of Belfast, stands exposed and condemned as the agent of Vantona Ltd: the local hatchet-man who axes YOUR JOB for his British masters.

It is also interesting to note that another such director of VANTONA LTD. is one Mr. BASIL GLASS. Another strange ALLIANCE!!!!

ULSTER IS AMERICAN ?

I'm sure you all saw yet another wee U.D.A. man on T.V. the other night shouting that Ulster is British. He obviously doesn't know the facts of life... (economic life, that is). Take industry, for example.

Of the 17 industries in the North employing over 1,000 people, EIGHT ARE AMERICAN. The biggest single private enterprise employer of labour in the North is GALLAHERS the cigarette giant, owned by AMERICAN BRANDS LTD.

Other American firms--such as STANDARD TELEPHONES AND CABLES (ITT) in Enniskillen and Castlereagh, GOODYEAR, MONSANTO, etc.--form the fastest-growing sector of the Northern economy.

So, the next time you punch your card in, ask yourself who owns your work. It's odds-on it's an AMERICAN, GERMAN or DUTCH firm.

ALLIANCE'S AMERICAN CONNECTION

And speaking of American firms... Mr. AUSTIN McGROGAN, the Alliance party candidate in the last Assemble election, has just earned a free trip to America.

AUSTIN, you see, is the local representative of the American concern MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING CORPORATION. And he won the trip for services rendered in Ireland.

CAN I SEE YOUR LICENCE?

It's interesting to see BILL CRAIG and the UUUC stick to their NOT AN INCH slogan. (Maybe it should be "Not a centimetre" now, with the Common Market and all.)

After all, wasn't it Bill Craig, JOHN TAYLOR and ROY BRADFORD who handed over thousands of square miles to American-based mineral exploration companies, in Antrim, Armagh, Tyrone and Fermanagh.

Such firms as AMAX EXPLORATION, RIO TINTO and TARA EXPLORATION have been granted nearly 50 licences in the 6 counties.



WHAT'S MINED IS OUR'S...

And the behaviour of Craig and Co. shows that--in spite of all their sectarian prattle--they will in the end put the interests of foreign exploiters before the "people of Ulster" --Catholic and Protestant!