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Red Rag : Thompson Republican Club, issue 1

Sinn Fein

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RED RAG

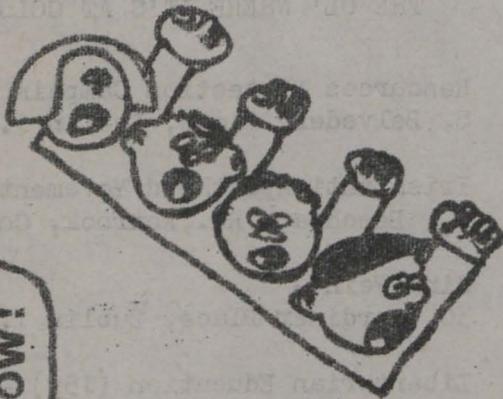
ISSUE 1

THOMPSON

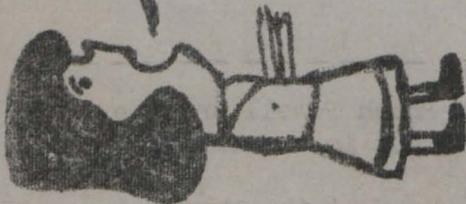
REPUBLICAN

CLUB

APRIL 1975



INSTEAD OF FINE SPEECHES AND
TRIBUTES TO WOMANHOOD ---
HOW ABOUT EQUAL PAY NOW!



'serve the people'

R

WHY A REPUBLICAN CLUB ?

The club was set up over Easter because we felt there was a need for an organisation working in education which would explain socialism and it's relation to everyday struggles. Our main work will be in the field of education but we will also support local and national struggles such as : anti-EEC, housing, rising prices, withdrawal of British Troops, etc. Our policies will be the same as those of Official Sinn Fein, to whom we give our full support.

SCHOOLS MUST SERVE THE PEOPLE

Our educational policy, in brief, is :

1. That all schools be under the control of elected delegates of: students, staff, parents, and representatives of the state.
2. That education be reorganised on the basis of non streamed comprehensive, community schools. All schools to be co-educational
3. That the system of learning 'facts and figures' be totally rejected and instead schools should promote democratic and anti-authoritarian values. Schools should not be exam grinds but centres of discussion and group work, for in the long term this type of education is of more use to us.
4. A review of the manner in which Irish is taught and an end to the type of teaching that causes it to be felt as an alien imposition.
5. That legitimate requests by students for specialist studies be met.
6. That as far as possible classes be split into work study projects and seminars.
7. The complete abolition of the exam system.
8. A totally free education for everyone, without exception.

EDUCATION NOT EXAMINATION

WHODUNNIT ?

RED RAG is collectively produced by the William Thompson Republican Club. All suggestions, comments, questions and donations(?) can be given to RED RAG seller or sent to the club c/o Alan Mac Simoin, 4 Ard Lui Park, Blackrock, Co, Dublin.

We wish to thank the following papers from whom we lifted some of our material : United Irishman, Black Flag, and Direct Action.

THE OL' WHERE IT'S AT COLUMN

Resources Protection Campaign -
8, Belvedere Place, Dublin 1.

Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement -
20, Beechpark Rd., Foxrock, Co. Dublin.

Sinn Fein -
30, Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

Libertarian Education (15p) -
1a, Wilne St., Leicester, England.

Rising Free Bookshop -
197, Kings Cross Rd., London WC1.
(ask for their education booklist)

There are many other organisations etc. who should be in this column but we don't have their addresses, so if you know of any please let us know.

Read the

UNITED IRISHMAN

each month 10p

Q. What have Enoch Powell and the
Queens bra got in common?

A. They both support the National
Front!

LEFT QUIZ

1. The London Rothschild bankers made their original fortune with a couple of birds and an onion. How was this typically capitalist coup brought off?

2. After crushing the Munich Commune the Bavarian government executed hundreds of workers, (although in suppress- ing the Hitler putsch a few years later it only dealt out light prison sentences). What however, was the meanest thing this reactionary and anti- semitic - though not yet Nazi - regime did in this respect?



What was it that Jim Connell was inspired to write by, among other things, the firmness and self-sacrifice of the Irish Land Leagues?



4. Who was William Barrett and why is he respected by both policemen and socialists?

5. There are plenty of ex-kings and reluctant peers. Are there any ex-gods or reluctant gods alive at the present time?

... answers on page 7

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UNITED IRISHMAN BOOKSHOP
30, Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

Socialism... Sexual Politics...
Working Class History... Third
World... International Affairs...
..Radical Science... Industry..
The Law and Repression... Marx
...Connolly... and much more

'the largest selection of left
books, pamphlets and papers in
Ireland'

GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR YOU

A rran comrade was telling us that the sales of Guinness have gone up all over Germany among the trendies "in sympathy with the Irish struggle". The Guinness family have, for the last forty years, been as far as possible to the Right up to and including Fascism. They have been a typical colonial family and as everyone knows they, far from helping the Irish people, have in fact made a fortune out of the misery of the working class.

REPRESSION IN BRITIAN

For a long time various socialist groups have been subject to intimidation and persecution by the Special Branch in Britian. The introduction of the new anti-terrorist laws has presented the Branch with an ideal excuse to attack the Irish left, in particular Clann na hEireann.

Clann is not and never has been a terrorist organisation, it is a Marxist group which works among the Irish community help- ing them with their problems and giving a socialist view- point on affairs in Britian and Ireland.

The Branch however, under in- structions from their political masters in Westminster, have used the fact that Clann is an Irish group as an excuse to victimise and harrass their members.

Clann have always condemned terr- orism and are noted for their attacks on the lunatic bombing campain of the Provos but of course this has not stopped the establishment, who see them as a threat to capitalist rule, from trying to smash them. So far comrades have lost their jobs, been arrested and even expelled from Britian. But already the left is uniting to fight against this attack on basic political rights - so the boss class won't have it all their own way.

WOMEN

Recognising that both men and women are oppressed by the capitalist system, we believe that women are conditioned in a particular way to accept a secondary and submissive role in society, and that this conditioning has led them to accept inequality in education, law, wages and opportunity. We believe that the special function of women in child-bearing has been exploited by the capitalist state as a means of oppressing women, in that they bear the full responsibility for rearing children without adequate and guaranteed support or protection for the vital work that they do. Conditioning (brainwashing) is continually used by the media and advertising since as wife and housekeeper, women play a part in maintaining capitalist society in their role as consumers.

Recognising that in a state in which the moral code of a particular church is enforced by law, that women are denied the right to control their own bodies and ultimate destiny. We believe that if we are to produce generations of free and conscious citizens both parents must share full responsibility in all aspects of their children's lives from birth, and the community must implement their responsibility for welfare of all children.

SINN FEIN DEMANDS :

1. Free family planning and advice for all women.
2. Equal pay, opportunity and an end to specific male or female jobs.
3. Fully paid maternity and paternity leave and a substantial maternity grant for all women.
4. Supervised nursery schools in all areas, available to all.
5. That the same criteria be used to assess the eligibility for unemployment benefit of women as in the case of men.
6. That the state pay an adequate grant to either men or women who are engaged full time at home in the care of children.
7. Equality in law.
8. Equal educational facilities at all levels and an end to the type of children's books which begin the discrimination process by segregating children into aggressive and passive roles.
9. The immediate cessation of all advertising, books and periodicals which perpetuate discrimination against women.
10. That a mother without the financial and emotional support of a husband be granted a living wage to support herself and her children in decent comfort.
11. That since the lack of decent housing facilities affects to a greater extent women and children, we demand decent housing for all.
12. That women wishing to return to work be provided with retraining facilities at all levels.
13. Trade Unionists, who have accepted the right of women to equal pay for nearly a century, should insist on the implementation of women's rights as workers now, i.e. - equal pay, an end to wage increase differentials, an end to the marriage bar, a minimum wage, etc.

SRC

OR

STUDENT
UNION ?

Are you happy with the Student Representative Council (SRC). Well let's look at the situation:

1. The SRC consists of one elected delegate from each class.
2. Many students don't care about the SRC and partly as a result of this it has become out of touch with a lot of students, after all what can you expect when student activity is confined to one elect-per year and little else?
3. The SRC is not linked nationally to other school organisations meaning that we will find it even harder to unite school students in the struggle for a better and more democratic educational system.

This is not to say that there is no good in the SRC, of course it has achieved improvements in the school and it did organise the dances but basically if it wasn't so isolated and unimaginative it could achieve much more. We support the idea of a Students Union because we feel that with this form of organisation many more students could become active in what would be their body, and this would help to break down much of the apathy in the school.

We propose the following as a basis for a Student Union in Newpark:

1. Elected class delegates who would be subject to recall.
2. General student meetings to be held at least once a month where interested students would instruct their delegates on what actions to undertake. All major issues would be debated at these general meetings so as to ensure the widest possible discussion and also to make sure that everyone would understand the issues facing them. The class delegates would work to implement the decisions of the general meetings as well as looking after student matters between the meetings.
3. The S.U. would be affiliated to the Irish Union of School Students (IUSS) as this provides the framework within which school student bodies can unite to help each other and work for a better educational system. (This would not mean the loss of any local autonomy)

We see the Student Union structure as an advance on the present SRC one and therefore ask you to support this idea and get your SRC rep. to do likewise.

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READ THE IRISH PEOPLE EACH WEEK - ONLY 2p.
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LEFT QUIZ



(answers from p.3)

1. Rothschilds had heavily invested in Allied bonds and when first reports from Waterloo stated that the English had been routed, they knew - from their use of carrier pigeons - that this was not so. Mr. Rothschild went to the Stock Exchange and stood by a pillar with an onion in his handkerchief, weeping. The speculators panicked and sold like mad at very cheap prices and low and behold Rothschilds agents were the only buyers.
2. They sent bills, for the execution of "traitors" to the wives and mothers of the condemned, and even seized furniture if they couldn't afford to pay.
3. "The Red Flag".
4. Barrett was the main organiser of the Belfast police strike in 1907. The police went out in protest at having to protect scabs (strike-breakers) during the great docks strike. Barrett was fired but only after the police had won a measure of reform.
5. The Mikado of Japan was a god until he resigned his divinity in 1945. Krishnamurti was discovered to be the reincarnate godhead by Annie Besant but as a man rejected the idea and became a philosopher. Ex-Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (formerly Ras Tafari) is worshipped against his will (he is a Coptic Christian) by the Rastafarian sect in the West Indies.

BRITTANY

In the town of Lorient, motor mechanics went on strike in support of a wage demand. The workers were asking for an extra 12p per hour but the bosses only offered an extra 4p which the workers didn't accept.

The mechanics then set up on their own doing repairs and washing vehicles. They did this as a free service but they had a collection box into which the motorists put whatever they could, to help the strikers and their families. Up to now the motorists, who have benefited greatly by this service have donated over £2,000. The mechanics are now hoping to raise another £4,000 to get suitable premises to set up their own co-op garage.

Mechanics in two other nearby towns also hope to set up their own co-ops. This is further proof that workers direct control can and does work.

Remember comrades, the bosses need the workers but the workers sure don't need the bosses.

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GALWAY BY-ELECTION

Renee Prendergast was nominated by Official Sinn Fein, not because they thought that she had a chance of winning the seat, but to give them a chance to put their policies to the people and gauge support.

Renee made no false promises and told no lies to the people of Galway (unlike the other parties) yet 656 voters decided to support her clear-cut socialist policies. Even though Sinn Fein is a small party with all the odds against it, it is slowly but surely winning the support of the workers and small farmers in the struggle for a united socialist Ireland.

SOCIALISM**AN
INTRODUCTION**CAPITALISM

At the base of capitalist society lies the principle of private property, owing to which society is divided into two fundamental classes - the workers and the bosses. The bosses possess all the factories, machines, capital, in short all the means of production. The workers possess nothing except their labour power, which they sell to the boss at a price below its value. EXAMPLE: 'Rip-Off Industries' employ Fred O'Toole and each week he produces goods worth £50 but he is only paid £32, the bosses take the other £18 he created and call it profit. We call it unpaid wages! As a result of capitalism and its motivation 'profit/greed' we have a system based on competition instead of co-operation, a real rat race. This rotten system with all its trademarks - war, poverty, famine, racism, etc. must be smashed.

SOCIALISM

Socialism is the only system where people can freely work as a community for the common good. Production would be for use not for profit. The rights of people as human beings would rank far higher than any 'right of property', to ensure that human wants were satisfied democracy would be used to the utmost. Factories would be under workers direct control, schools would be run by the people working and studying in them, etc. this system would be applied throughout society. This is real democracy as opposed to the sham we have at the moment, since when did democracy consist of putting the mark of the illiterate on a ballot paper once every five years! People must run their own lives.

(This is the first of a series of notes on Socialism which will be printed in future editions of RED RAG. Next..Munster Soviets)

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THE NEWS THAT THE TIMES WON'T PRINTSEATTLE

The president of the "Support Your Local Police" committee has been charged with attempting to bribe two policemen.

LONDON

Mr Robert McLerie, who is unemployed, asked a passerby for a cigarette. He was then charged with begging under the 1824 Vagrancy Act. Clerkenwell court sent him to jail for 1 month.