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Workers' Party of Ireland

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Southside News

Sinn Fein

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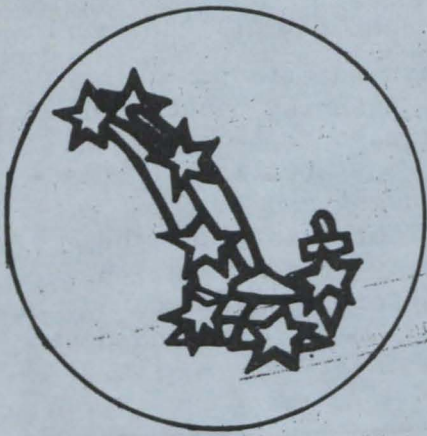


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Southside News

Number 5.

Published by Páirse Cuman Sinn Fein

UNEMPLOYMENT.

By now people are accustomed to hearing the ever increasingly pessimistic reports and forecasts on our employment position. A few short years ago we had a steady rate of 65,000 out of work. This has now risen to an unprecedented 120,000, and is still rising. This situation is all the more serious because of certain factors which have not existed in our previous 'slumps.'

30,000 new Jobs Needed.

Traditionally our short term solution to our unemployment problem was to increase our biggest export - people. Of course this is no longer possible because of the mass unemployment in Br Britain. So our dole queues get longer and longer. Also we have more young people coming of working age, than any other country in Western Europe. 32% of our population is 15 years of age and under. Year by year these young people will be leaving school and will find it impossible to find work because the jobs will not be there. These things, coupled with the fact that the Government, or for that matter the opposition, have no plan for creating the 30,000 new jobs which will have to be created annually if unemployment is to be eradicated.

LIVING STANDARDS REDUCED:

The Government are waiting for the economy to pick up automatically. This

probably occur within 18 months, but the best that can be hoped for then is that by 1978 we will have restored the employment level to what it was in 1974. Till then people who are lucky enough to have a job are asked to accept a drastic cut in their living standards in order to "increase competitiveness". Never are the private companies or the banks asked to reduce profit margins for to "increase competitiveness". The Government blame the present "world wide recession" for all our economic ills. They cannot or will not control the activities of the multi-nationals or the banks. They have always put the good of the private companies before the good of the community. Thus the only action they can take is to launch a vicious attack on the wages of Irish workers. As this attack on our living standards increases so does the number out of work.

There is however an alternative to the hand wringing policies of the Fine Gael/Labour government. This country could be industrialised on the basis of the enormous natural resources we possess. Our great deposits of lead and zinc plus our huge resources of oil and natural gas must be used to create the 30,000 jobs each year.

SOCIALISM.

The purpose of this article and the one which will follow in the next issue is to examine what is meant by socialism and religion and to remove some of the myths that are commonly associated with it.

On the Economic level socialism means that the means of production and distribution be taken out of private control and that production be centrally planned by the State. At present, production under Capitalism is chaotic because each capitalist seeks to maximise his own profits in complete disregard for the communal interest. This inevitably leads to unemployment and inflation with prices dictated by the monopolies. Central planning by the State would ensure that our Resources were used to the maximum advantage for the true benefit of all, instead of being used to satisfy wants artificially created by Advertising. A case in point is the tremendous housing shortage which exists in our cities. Many building workers are either unemployed or are engaged in building office blocks for native or foreign speculators, while those who want a home must either borrow at exorbitant rates from the Building Societies, or spend many frustrating years on a Waiting List.

Natural Resources.

It may be contended that we do not have adequate money to finance the building of all the houses so desperately needed, but when one realises the wealth that is in this country in the form of Oil and Gas Resources - the Kinsale gas find could realise £356 million profit at a conservative estimate - mineral Resources - the Navan mine is capable of realising over £2,000 million in metal value alone - and the profits from Big Business. The total profits of the 2 big Irish Banks in 1974 were £39 million and in 1975 Carrolls made nearly £3,000 profit per worker. It is obvious that such projects as the provision of

adequate housing for all our people is well within our grasp. Such central planning based on the needs of all our people could and would ensure the abolition of poverty, poor housing and lack of educational facilities, and the gross disparity of distribution of wealth in this country where just 5% of our people own and control over 75% of all our wealth.

Pearse Cumann A.G.M.

Summing up the cumann's activities and achievements through the year at the AGM of the Pearse Cumann, which was held in March, the outgoing chairman said that 1975 had been a very successful year.

The Pearse cumann had been involved in the fight to keep Belgrave Sq. open to the public and during that campaign had issued leaflets in support of the local Residents fight. The campaign was successful and the Square was sold to the Corporation. Later in the year when the cumann published its local newsletter Southside News it demanded that the Carmelite Convent in Ranelagh be developed to provide much needed accommodation in the area. To date the Allied Irish Bank which bought the site has not disclosed its plans for the site. The cumann was also active in selling its paper, the United Irishman and of course played an active role in the fight for the Oil Refinery.

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Read the United Irishman. 10p mthly
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