
Materials

Workers' Party of Ireland

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Sinn Fein

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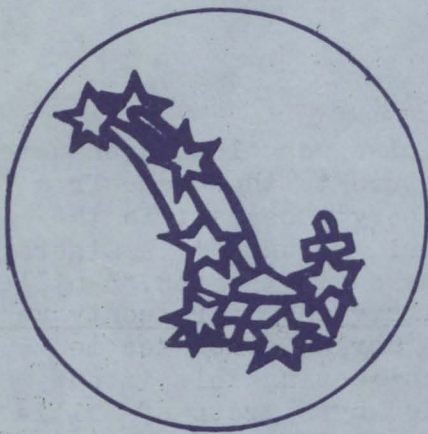


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Southside News

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THE CARMELITE SITE: A COMPULSARY PURCHASE ORDER?

The sale of the Carmelite Convent in Ranelagh to the Allied Irish Bank last year was one of the two main articles covered by "Southside News" No.1. (Sept.). The article, covering many aspects of the sale pointed out that neither the price paid by the Allied Irish Bank, nor their future plans for the site had as yet been disclosed. It showed the Corporation, already saddled with an immense housing problem, did not have its job made any easier when forced to compete with Private Enterprise.

C.P.O.'s (Compulsary Purchase Orders.), in themselves a sensible method of enabling the Corporation to purchase land for housing development etc. can become a financial burden to the Corporation and rate payers alike. For the Corporation in negotiating compensation with the original owner must take into consideration the market value of the property, as more than likely this will be the minimum amount the prospective seller will accept for the sale of the land. Thus the Corporation will more often than not have to negotiate deals at grossly inflated prices, prices which are set by profit hungry property speculators. For example the obstacles to the revitalisation of the Inner City areas; The Liberties and City Quay, are mainly of a financial nature. The proposed cost of each housing unit for these areas will be extremely high due to the high cost of this land to Dublin Corporation in purchasing through C.P.O.'s.

With the proposed sale of Cathal Brugha Barracks, presently zoned for residential purposes, there is a campaign being waged on behalf of property speculators by Carl Jones, Property Editor of the Irish Times, for its rezoning for commercial use. Sinn Fein demands that as the Barracks is presently owned by the State, That Dublin Corporation must be the only developer allowed for this site. Sinn Fein demands that the present system of land purchase by the Corporation be revised, enabling the Corporation to purchase land at a realistic price, rather than the present competitive market prices.

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The Wealth of Ireland for The People OF Ireland

IRELAND'S RESOURCES Contrary to what generations of Irish schoolchildren were taught Ireland is rich in mineral resources. Yet the return to the State from the largest underground zinc mine in Europe, the finest baryte deposit in the world and the largest mercury byproducts mine in the world amounts to a miserable £10.7 millions over ten years. This is small change compared to the £68.83 millions which American and Canadian share-holders will pocket every year for twenty years from one mine - Navan. The largest lead/zinc mine in the world is located in Navan: the ore is worth £2000 millions. Thanks to Justin Keating this is now in the possession of Tara Mines Ltd. a company controlled by a group of multi-national. The State will retain only 25% having handed over 75% to the Multi-nationals. Royalties will yield only a paltry 4½% to the State. There are no firm plans for a smelter. Thus Ireland will share only in the least profitable i.e. the mining stage. The many jobs which will derive from the smelting and processing of the Navan ore will be located in the Ruhr - not the Boyne - Valley.

OIL & GAS

Twenty-nine miles off Kinsale a gas field was found in 1973 by Marathon Oil. The field will yield one million million cubic feet of 98% methane gas. The licence enabling Marathon to explore for oil was originally granted in 1959. For a payment of £500 the Irish Government signed away 92½% of any oil or gas found. The Government has now agreed to pay Marathon between £000 and £700 millions for the Kinsale gas. Some of the gas will be used for an ESB generating station. The use of methane gas to generate electricity wastes 70% of the gas; in cash terms this means an annual loss of £11 millions.

STATE CONTROL NEEDED It is very likely that there will be further oil and gas finds in Irish waters. If the Irish people are to benefit fully from Irish resources it is clear that Government policy must change. At present our resources are feeding the greed of American oil and mining moguls while 102,000 workers find it difficult to feed their families. The aims of private enterprise and the needs of the Irish people are totally incompatible. The aim of private enterprise is profit; the Irish people need jobs. Thousands of jobs will be created as a result of the exploitation of Irish resources. Under private enterprise these jobs will be located in smelters and refineries in Western Europe. It is the duty of the Government to ensure that these jobs are not lost to Ireland. This can only be done under full State control. Recognising this, a number of interested individuals and organisations formed the Resources Protection Campaign two years ago. The RPC is a non-political public education campaign. Its main objective is the development of State companies to explore for minerals, oil and gas and develop industries from this immense natural wealth. For this purpose, the RPC advocates the establishment of an Irish State Mining Company and an Irish State Oil Company.

INFORMATION

Since its formation the RPC has held many public meetings throughout the country. The RPC Trade Union Support Group too has organised many successful meetings the last of which was addressed by Andy Barr, then President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The RPC recently published a pamphlet "Ireland's Resources: The Case for State Control" of which a limited number of copies are still available. In November the RPC is organising a series of events over a weeklong period which will deal with all aspects of the resources question. This should be of great interest to everyone concerned about Ireland's future economic and industrial development. Full details of these events will be published in the morning and evening papers.