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Workers Party of Ireland

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Hello and welcome to Tomorrow's People, the Workers' Party publication, so let's talk about freedom — freedom from want, freedom from cant and the freedom to express ideas.

Our heart is with the Workers' Party, but there'll be no hackery here: that never did anyone any _ood.

We hope Tomorrow's People will become an open door for everyone who wants real change in Ireland, and that means peaceful change.

We hope to grow with the Workers' Party as it takes its place at the heart of the struggle for freedom and openness in Ireland.

That struggle takes place from the street or townland where you live right up to the European Parliament in Brussels.

We know well that things like newspapers alone won't win progress. Clear thinking, hard sloggin', involvement with the people and the socialist spirit win progress. But a good people's paper very definitely helps.

We hope to look twice at events and trends that other media turn away from. And unlike other media, we hope to say boo to a few geese.

Tomorrow's People has been born at a good time. People are asking questions.

We are asking why cliques and cities are calling the shots in Irish society.

They are asking why the servicing of the rich by this and previous governments has set the economic agenda and left the rest of us overstressed, unemployed or trapped in poverty or debt.

And Ireland wants to know just how much longer the Prowos can keep up the killing when they know it's pointless. Their murdering has become merely a morbid habit. It remains the primary cause of the North's treadmill of bigotry and death.

They are asking if our social agenda should really be set by the leadership of a Church, or by any group that doesn't have to face the people at the polls.

In particular, women want to know when all the promises about equality will spark some real change. They want equality in work inside and outside the home. They want to be treated as human beings, not as servants or objects. They won't carry the heaviest burdens in silence any longer.

Tomorrow's People is arriving at a time when more and more citizens are recognising that "the environment" is not a minority concern. The environment is where you live and work. It dictates the quality of your life. It's what you hand on to your children. It dictates the quality of their lives too. If greed gets a free run over the environment, it'll poison you and your children without a second thought.

Business, after all, is business.

Tomorrow's People will be published twice a month. We hope to be a fighting paper with a fresh approach. Boredom is bad news for people with new ideas to put about.

So keep an eye out for Tomorrow's People. And in the cause of a better tomorrow, it'll keep an eye out for you.

A fighting new paper from the WP

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**Core of corruption?**

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**£150m profit in rezoning scandals**

Fianna Fáil Dublin County Councillors, with occasional Fine Gael help, voted to rezoned land in breach of agreed development plans 131 times in the life of the outgoing council — handling profits of at least £150 million to developers.

A new study shows that 88 of the rezonings passed allowed banned but potentially lucrative housing developments to go ahead.

Forty-nine motions rezoned scarce "green belt" areas, mostly for commercial or housing use.

On 91 occasions, the council's professional planners said "don't do it", but virtual bloc voting by Fianna Fáil pushed them aside.

A garda inquiry into alleged corruption in the Dublin planning process has been under way for two years.

Detectives have hit a wall of silence.

The Workers' Party Environment spokesman, Deputy Eamon Gilmore, who is also a Dublin County Council member and who drew up the study of rezoning voting, says: "Vast amounts of money have been made by developers and rezonings by developers and from rezonings by developers.

"The sheer number of these rezoning scandals either support the notion that the council and the government, in formulating the Development Plan in response to a proposal for useful development, "But on too many occasions, what we're seeing is a gross abuse of power at the behest of the rich. The people don't get a look-in."

Fianna Fáil say they are a working majority on the council in the last local elections in 1985. Since then...

41 Section 4 rezonings were passed, overridding any objections to individual projects by the council's professional planners.

45 rezonings were passed, ignoring any objections to individual projects by the council's professional planners.

Fianna Fáil were rezoning critical areas in the Dublin city area, including the "green belt" areas.

Michael Woods and the Department of Social Welfare says multiple does not mean more than one.

Michael Woods and his Department begin counting at three.

The twins' mother, Mairead Hilliard, of Lucan, Dublin, only recently began to look twice at the Child Benefit Act when the horrendous financial cost of raising twins began to weigh on her.

It turned her into an activist. "It just got up my nose when I thought about it," she says. She has now launched a campaign to have twin births accepted as multiple births, and therefore due special payments.

"It's a concession on the issue of twin births. Twins are born to one couple in 88, says Mairead Hilliard. She has contacted all the Dublin maternity hospitals asking to be put in touch with the parents of other twins. She would like to get a campaigning group on the case to press for change. "It's unjust and it's mean­ness," she says.

Mairead Hilliard would like to hear from the parents of other twins. Her address is 31 Wosley, 11th Ave, Ballyfermot, Dublin. Her phone is 02826185.

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**Don't count on Michael Woods**

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In your opinion, is there more than one child in the picture above? In fact, don't they look like twins?

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Fianna Fáil Dublin County Councillors, with occasional Fine Gael help, voted to rezoned land in breach of agreed development plans 131 times in the life of the outgoing council — handling profits of at least £150 million to developers. And if they are twins, isn't that a concession on the issue of twin births?"
Fighting fit women put O’Hanlon on the spot

Councillors talk sewage in Meath

Core of corruption in rezoning scandal?

PAGE 2 TOMORROW'S PEOPLE

Free education as promised in the Constitution has become a sour joke to the parents of Cherry Orchard.

There isn’t any realistic way to send their children to school except by private bus. For those whose kids are lucky enough to be enrolled in the nearest school — about a mile away — the charge is £1.75 a week; it goes up after that according to distance.

For those with kids in school in Inchicore, about two-and-a-half miles away, it’s £3.50 a week.

Multiply that by two or three school-going children per family — and in some cases more — and you have a sum that amounts to a steady drain on scarce resources. This would be a serious problem if it concerned only a few families whose homes for one reason or another weren’t located near a school. But, in fact, we’re talking about the population of the three last Corporation estates built before the Minister for the Environment stopped local authority house-building in Dublin in 1987. There are a total of 1,200 school-going children from Croftwood, Gallanstown and Elmdale estates — more than in many rural towns — who have no school of their own to go to.

The original plans for Cherry Orchard called for five estates with a church, shops and a school. When the building stopped, three-fifths of the homes and the church families are. Also there may be 25p a week. This is an unaffordable burden on families who in many cases already have to stretch finances to put food on the table, and the people of the area have come together to demand free transport or the school they should have had in the first place.

The Minister’s reaction? When Tomas Mac Giolla of the Workers’ Party, said last week in the Dáil, Mrs. O’Rourke said cheerfully that it wasn’t her responsibility, at least for the moment. “It’s not my business,” she told Mr Mac Giolla. It was the previous Minister’s responsibility, she said. “It wasn’t the Minister involved.”

She did not deny the fact that she has been Minister since 1987, when Mac Giolla pointed that out. Nor did she deny some of his other points — that the Government was saving £5 to £6 million by not building a school, and that the Cherry Orchard parents have spent about £250,000 over the past five years getting their children to and from the only schools they have a right to attend at no cost.

Core of corruption in rezoning scandal?

From page 1

million. If the increase in property values from other rezonings and the potential profit from the ‘developments’ themselves are taken into account, the estimate of £150 million is a cautious one.

A motion by Councillor Pat Rabbitte TD of the Workers’ Party, which called on the council to support a judicial inquiry into planning corruption claims, fell when 35 Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael councillors, in a strange show of unity, abstained.

Eamon Gilmore is adamant that a sworn public inquiry into the planning process is needed. “My feeling is that the corruption is not rampant. We are not alleging widespread crookery. But I feel that the people are certainly being sold out on an organised basis and if we don’t want the whole system demeaned, we’ll have to do something about it is a hurry.”

A long-time and non-political observer of Dublin County Council told Tomorrow’s People: “What’s been going on seriously calls into question whose interest some councillors are working in, and why. I don’t know why some of them aren’t in Mountjoy. There is no other explanation for what’s been going on than corruption.”

Here’s a rezoning story with a twist. The people want the rezoning. Local business don’t. So guess who the local councillors needed? The Garden City Residents and Crestwood Residents’ Association in the fast-growing area of Ashbourne, Co Meath, were strongly behind plans of a developer, Luke Moriarty, for a scheme involving a shopping centre, two cinemas, a bowling alley and 60 houses.

Unusually, the developer consulted the residents’ groups about his plans, which he publicly displayed and explained. This bit of democracy is rare in such rezoning matters.

Locals were particularly looking forward to a shopping centre. John King, local Workers’ Party representative and candidate for the Dunshaughlin area of Meath County Council in the coming local elections, says: “Shopping facilities are ridiculously inadequate. There’s about 7,000 people living in the Ashbourne area now. We have one very small shopping centre in one estate, another small shopping centre being developed, and a few shops scattered around. People were looking forward to the whole development.”

Councillors tell sewage in Meath

It pays to protest, members of the Bray Workers’ Party Women’s Group (right), fighting a bill despite appearances, put the skids under Rory O’Hanlon for a new health centre with a Dal protest.

Ferris continued: “On their behalf, we’re looking for the capital allocation promised under the Programme for Economic and Social Progress and we’re looking for it now.”

Just this week Ferris received a letter from Health Minister Rory O’Hanlon saying that he was making inquiries regarding a new Bray health centre and promising to keep the group informed. “We’re encouraged, even quietly optimistic, but we’re aware that there’s an election next month. We intend to keep the pressure on until we end the present situation because it’s a disgrace,” said Ferris.
The unbeatable power of honesty

I met Kathleen Lynch, councillor, in her house in The Lough, Cork City, on a rare sunny day last week.
It was a day made for indulgence, but that's something Councillor Lynch can't afford any more.

The house was full of life as well as light.

It was a busy lunchtime for a home-maker. The four children (aged 12 to 18) of Bernard and Kathleen Lynch came from school to eat and talk. They were fed and heard, with care.

The Lynch house is also more of less temporary Workers' Party headquarters in Cork City. People come and go. And she remarked that I was lucky her phone was broken; otherwise she'd be hard put to talk to me without persistent breaks to take calls.

She has been a Corporation councillor for the party since 1985. Why, I asked routinely, had she run.

"Because they guaranteed me I wouldn't get a seat."

Now, as someone used to knowing a fair number of politicians and among politicians I began to form the impression that I was dealing with someone and something quite different in Councillor Lynch.

Yes, I said, it certainly looked like that. But what political involvement?

"I guess in terms of TDs."

She got 412 votes in 1985 and took a seat on the 15th count. Then, two years later, she was an assistant - "I'm no good really on the system and transfers and all that, and on numbers generally," she says casually.

Four years later, in the Dáil election for Cork South Central, Lynch drew a very powerful block of four-and-a-half thousand votes.

How did she react to that?

"I got a fright," she says.

"I'm not interested in politics up here. That's a start." No, there is no obvious ambition. I saw no obvious hunger for power. And there was no perception of the insecurity that hangs around a lot of politicians.

I discovered in myself a growing sense of gratitude that Kathleen Lynch was on my side.

She gives no sense of sweaty ambition. I saw no obvious hunger for power. And there was no perception of the insecurity that hangs around a lot of politicians.

What I saw in a prospective new Workers' Party TD on that sunny morning was the unbeatable power of honesty.

I felt that her deep sense of belief in her politics was born out of a personal experience of the wrongs she was trying to right.

There's an old analogy between politicians and bananas. They start off green, soon turn yellow and before long get bent. People know I'm not like that and the Workers' Party is not like that."

Councillor Lynch does a lot of that herself. She doesn't have much choice about it — her husband and comrade, Bernard, works long hours.

She has come to realise, "only in the last few years", that her father was possibly the greatest influence on her. "He always treated me as a thinking person. He treated me equally, as he would a son. He taught me, for instance, how to wire a lamp... he taught me a bit of carpentry."

If she did take a Dáil seat for the Workers' Party, what would it mean for the party?

"Hold on now. They tell me I'll win — but don't forget they were wrong before, the common, when they told me I hadn't a chance."

"But if I do take the seat, it'll make a difference. All of them are important for the Party. With the great respect that Joe Sherlock is due, it would strike at the image of the Party as Dublin-centred — in terms of TDs. It would also be a blow to the party's image as a male-dominated party."

Was that image justified?

"Yes, it is."

What had women to offer in politics that men couldn't?

"All women are practical. Some are more practical than men."

Why?

"Because, you'll find, women don't have a lot of time. They have to make things work, and quickly. I'm tired of hearing people talking about working women always complaining. They're expressing the aggravation from the frustration of not really getting a look in."

"I have other things that would be good to bring into the Dáil. I know about unemployment. I know about being stuck for money."

What had she learned — so far — from her political involvement?

"I've learned that overnight change does not exist. I've learned that the smallest inroads represent movement, and that's progress. I've learned that changing attitudes is much harder than changing legislation, and I've also learned that there is a growing awareness of the existence of women. That's a start."

She cites an experience on Cork Corporation. "Quite properly, there was a move to dish some footpaths in a gesture to the dis- abled. It was, of course a civilised thing, and beloved as well. But it took myself and the other handful of women there to point out how women with buggies and prams had been fighting with undished paths, since they invented the wheel."

Arthur Scargill is her favourite person, and surprisingly, a Fianna Fáil Fáilir who shall be nameless is among those she admires most in politics. "Well, he's a plodder. He's not a good speaker so he makes up for it by being funny and a bit outrageous. Our TDs, you see, shine at what they do. They feel comfortable with the media. They certainly deserve their reputation for hard work and their dedication to their subject.

"But if you're going to catch the attention of the very many people who aren't interested in politics, you must make the effort and be a bit entertaining. In this area, that's where Eoghan Harris will be missed."

"There's a public perception of us being somehow rigid. I think what's happened is that we started to believe the public perception."

"The party is in a state of transition. We have work to do. We were so used to indoctrinating ourselves that we sometimes find it difficult to think. The leadership has been through these phases before, I think they see what's going on now as a challenge. But people on the ground are worried that all they believed in will be somehow swept away."

"What were the party's assets?"

"The dedication of the members and their willingness for change. I'm talking about people who've been sloggin away for 30 years. You can't overlook Próinséas De Rossa as an asset. And, of course, the bravery of Mac Giolla's willingness to let De Rossa go ahead is undeniable."

"People also see us as honest. It was the Workers Party that made the point that working-class people deserve the very best representation. The Labour Party has been presenting an impressive image lately, but people know in the back of their minds that when it came down to it, Labour always flanked it, every time."

Where did she hope to see the party in a year's time?

"Well, firstly, with more councillors."

"And I hope we'll be in the process of coming to grips not so much with a new philosophy, but with a new attitude — to a new philosophy. And I hope members with doubts will hold on, come to terms with what we're doing."

And off with her, about her business. 

Noel McFarlane 

met Councillor Kathleen Lynch of Cork this week. He feels she may be joining the WP Dáil team next time around.

Her activism began in a NATO branch in Ballyphehane in 1983. She had no interest in politics until then. She wondered off-handedly if Dublin-based party members were fully aware of the power of service charges as a radicalising issue for communities (Dublin does not have service charges at this time). "I saw elderly women marching up and down in anger with placards. My eyes were opened."

The opinion of this writer. Kathleen Lynch's education will never stop till she does.

She was educated at Blackpool National School, worked for a short while in the Sunbeam textile factory and continued her education "travelling and drifting around Ireland."

In the opinion of this writer, Kathleen Lynch's education will never stop till she does.

The house was full of life as well.

"He taught me, for instance, housework." 

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And off with her, about her business.
New plan aims to wipe out bias against women

A new plan for women's equality aims to abolish discrimination against women in every area of Irish life.

The Workers' Party report to the Commission on the Status of Women has been described as the best policy statement on women's issues produced by any Irish political party.

The 66-page document, "Equal to the Best", sets out to change the attitudes and the laws that hold women back.

The report advocates:

★ A constitutional guarantee on equality, a ban on all forms of discrimination and proper funding for mounting legal action in equality claims;

★ Reform of job equality laws;

★ Reform of social welfare laws to end all provisions which discriminate against women and adequate income support to all women not in paid employment;

★ A minimum income system for every individual, irrespective of sex, marital status or occupation, along with minimum wage laws, which would ensure full economic and social equality for all women, wherever they work;

★ A Ministry for Women's Affairs with real power;

★ A system of community-based childcare and workplace creches;

★ No state contracts for firms that discriminate;

★ "Positive action", such as set quotas for women, in all areas, to redress the effects of past discrimination;

★ A law requiring companies employing 10 or more to include "equality information" (a report on whether fairness is being practised).

Deirdre O'Connell, about "Equal to the Best":

"Tomorrow's People spoke to the chairperson of the Workers' Party Women's Committee, Deirdre O'Connell, about 'Equal to the Best'.

"Tomorrow's People: Everyone is issuing policy documents on women after the Robinson win. What makes yours different?"

O'Connell: Our document is different because it challenges fundamental assumptions about how society is organised. At the same time, it demands change in the Constitution, in legislation, in the social welfare system, in education — as do many other submissions to the Commission.

The difference is that we see the achievement of equality for women as part of our commitment to building a democratic, socialist society and this is why we say we want women to be "equal to the best", not the worst, and why we want women to be equally and actively involved in defining what is the best."

TP: Which is more important, changing attitudes or changing laws?

O'Connell: I think both changes are needed. And there is a connection. It is undoubtedly necessary to change laws to make a statement that society considers something to be wrong, whether it's job discrimination or rape. Changing laws is in itself a start towards changing attitudes. But it's also necessary to work at changing attitudes, especially through education, and also through eliminating sexism in the media, at work, in politics and indeed in personal life.

TP: Do you favour "positive action" in the Workers' Party itself?

Deirdre O'Connell: Heightened awareness of women's rights...

6.3% of Melina Mercouri (a Greek socialist) said at a conference in Athens a while back that measures such as quotas are not "a panacea" or solution which degrades women, but a solution which indicates the extent of the degree of sincerity in all those very important declarations about equality..."

But it's also necessary to change laws. Laws indicates the extent of the degree of sincerity which is in the process of becoming a feminist party, but not sufficiently feminist until the significance of gender is addressed in party policy and organisation.

O'Connell: I think that the WP is in the process of becoming a feminist party as part of its present development, but will not be sufficiently feminist until the significance of gender is addressed in party policy and organisation.

The draft programme before this year's ard-fheis is based on principles of freedom, democracy and equality. The debate so far has shown a heightened awareness among party members of the relevancy of feminism to socialism and I expect this to develop.

TP: On women in the party, who would you like to be able to report to the 1992 ard-fheis?

O'Connell: I would like to be able to report that the numbers of women members had increased, that women were increasingly active at all levels of the party, that the numbers of women elected representatives had increased as a result of the local elections next month. Above all, I would like to be able to report that the WP has become the party seen by women as the most likely to advance their aims, to deal with them democratically in its policies and debates and in its structures.

Mike Jennings: Temple Street is fighting for its life... How to get Dublin on the move again...

A new transport plan to get traffic-choked Dublin on the move has been launched by the Workers' Party.

The plan, "Get Dublin Going", aims to make the city a city for its people — not for the motorway lobby and "developers".

The 70-page scheme, launched by the party's spokesperson on Transport, Councillor Eric Byrne TD, is practical, radical and detailed.

Average traffic speeds in Dublin are lower than they were at the time of the horse-drawn transport, the study found.

The plan says cheap, efficient public transport is the best and cleanest way to get around the city. Its centerpiece is a Light Rapid Rail system.

This system, which is a big success in European cities, would run on existing rail lines and also create new ones. It would link all rail stations and parts of the city.

Other highlights include:

★ A diesel train service on existing lines for west Dublin;

★ An integrated, or linked, public transport system, allowing transfers between buses, DART, Light Rapid Rail and the diesel service;

★ A fresh approach to public transport based on quality service, efficiency and "putting the customer first", and a new involvement by transport workers in the running of their companies;

★ Strict limits on all-day parking in the city centre;

★ A crackdown on traffic offenders, including parking offences.

Eric Byrne says: "Our plan is detailed and costed. It sets out to put an end to clogged roads, noise, fumes and congestion on the roads. We want to improve the quality of life for Dubliners. To achieve this, we have to challenge a lot of vested interests."

Mike Jennings, Workers' Party candidate in next month's local elections, says: "It says a lot about how our society is being run. The Mater is thriving and Temple Street, after fighting so well for the lives of so many local children, is fighting for its own life now."
The yuppification of Ringsend

Tommy Crilly is generally a mild-mannered sort of a fellow, but his commitment to his community is fierce.

He's seen Ringsend in Dublin hurt by poverty. Now he's afraid it'll be hurt by wealth.

"If powerful people have their way, he fears the mad rush towards the Yuppification of Ringsend will tear the heart out of his community and create two Ringsends — one for the wealthy and one for the rest."

While cars have virtually stopped the building of affordable local authority housing ("they just packed up, said nothing, and walked away from their responsibilities"), says Crilly well over 2,000 luxury housing units, including 150 penthouses costing £150,000 each, are planned for Ringsend and its locality.

"To be blunt about it," Crilly says angrily, "they're going ahead and making a balls of a great opportunity.

"This could be a chance to bring life back to the whole community of Ringsend. It could be a showcase on how to revitalise an inner city area. Unless we fight it, it looks like it'll be a showcase on how to divide an inner city area."

"I'm a socialist, not a bourgeois — it's good to see people with a high standard of living and a nice lifestyle. And in the long term, that's what my party, the Workers' Party, wants for everyone."

"But in the short-term, it would be dreadful to see thousands of very well-off people coming into our community and locking themselves into luxury castles while the rest of us have to do with overcrowded and neglected housing, in a community with so many barely getting by on welfare."

One of the keys to stopping the well-off arriving and simply pulling up the drawbridge on one of the oldest and most tightly-knit working-class communities in Dublin, says Crilly, is the Workers' Party candidate Angie Murphy, is the Workers' Party candidate for the elections, is a "social housing mix" in the new developments.

"Some of these housing units have to be made affordable to local people," he says. "Otherwise, rising property prices, and rising prices for everything else, will force working-class people out of the area — Ringsenders will simply be forced out of Ringsend. If this community is to stay alive, there'll have to be a mix of private, public and co-operative housing."

Angie Murphy agrees. She is a native Ringsender and lives in O'Rahilly House in the heart of the area.

"I've made a lot of friends among the people over in the Fisherman's Wharf complex" (a large private flat development almost directly across the street from O'Rahilly House). "Some of the people living in the smaller apartments in that complex are paying big mortgages because, as well as everything else, there's hardly any low-cost private flats anymore — they've all been eaten up by office blocks."

Angie Murphy adds: "But I personally know of two cases where people from Ringsend, with decent jobs, earning the industrial wage, were refused mortgages to buy apartments in Fisherman's Wharf. I don't want to see the community I've lived in all my life split like that."

A Workers' Party survey has found that the average price of one and two-bedroomed apartments in the south city area is now between £75,000 and £85,000.

Luxury private housing threatens to tear the heart out of Ringsend, Dublin. It's a case study in how not to "renew" a working-class community.

It highlights not only the housing crisis, but a further steady widening of an already divided society.

The building of affordable local authority housing seems to have been dropped, while the luxury apartment sector proliferates — thanks to tax-breaks and other goodies for builders and corporations.

WHY IT'S HAPPENING NOW

To misquote the old song: "There's a reason that this is the season for makin' yuppies...

A plan by Bord Gais for a vast luxury development on its land around Grand Canal Basin came about primarily because of the Government's Section 23 tax benefit law, which, among other things, encourages companies to build buy apartments and re-set them for big profits — it is, in other words, a speculators' charter.

The Grand Canal Basin plan involves a staggering 1,400 luxury housing units, a £100 million luxury leisure hotel, and offices.

At the same time, about 1,000 applicants are looking for local authority housing in the area. It's got to the stage now that people are reading the deaths in the papers and making inquiries about such and such a flat or house. It's getting into a bit of a 'Lord of the Flies' situation. People are desperate."

"Bord Gais is making vague noises about setting aside a percentage of the scheme for affordable housing. But what do they mean by affordable? A hundred- and-fifty of the apartments will cost £150,000 each. What will be affordable beside them?" says Crilly.

"And they're talking about virtually a new town on the Basin site. What will the traffic from this do to the surrounding community?"

"I'm very careful about using the word 'apartheid','" says Murphy. "Strictly speaking, it's about vicious oppression in South Africa. But when I see one part of a community locked itself away from another part of the community with elaborate security, I wonder if we've caught a mild form of it here in Ringsend."

The sales pitch to lure yuppies to Ringsend can be hilarious.

A brochure for the "Camden Lock" scheme ("Galleon duplexes" can be had here for a mere £90,000) beside the Grand Canal Basin begins: "The lapping, unsuitable, whispering sea."

"It must be a great comfort that, for too-employed, unhoused and disadvantaged of Ringsend."

"The lapping what?" asks Tommy Crilly. "If you stand on the west side, you can always throw yourself into the lapping, unsuitable, whispering sea. But I'd prefer if you stood and fought for fair play with the Workers' Party."

• THE TWO SIDES OF THE STREET: Private housing (left) and public housing in the heart of Ringsend.
HARD TACKLE
How the games survive the GAA!

Well, the only county in Ulster never to have won a senior championship has produced a President of the GAA — the mighty Peter Quinn. But, good old Peter proves one thing as Dermot Morgan comes to Croke Park: you can take the man out of Fernasnah, but it’ll take quare surgery to get Fernasnah out of the man.

Quinn’s determination to maintain the image of the GAA as a Catholic nationalist organisation confirms the eighth wonder of the world — that Gaelic games have survived the GAA for so long. What a tribute it is to those games that while administrators play ghetto politics, children still want to play Gaelic football ... for the time being.

Dermot Morgan is a good musician. But Hard Tackle takes its hat off to the advertising agency that saved Dumpy to go on radio and take the pins out of himself. If you can’t beat them...

Mind you, for a man who openly admits he was always afraid of the hard tackle himself, it’s interesting to see he’s advertising... yes... chicken! Wait for the slagging when Eamon gives us the benefit of his expert commentary on Ireland’s next game against Turkey. What a nugget, eh Gillee!

May Day — Workers of the world unite, international solidarity and all that jazz. Just picture the scene in the Gdansk shipyard where once Lech Walesa bestrode the girders like the colossus he has turned out to be. But, where now? May Day will mean only one thing — the colossus against the “Irskos” — the Republic of Ireland to you and me.

If a child is first in a queue they should be served first because they have a right to education. Children have a right to education because without education you cannot get a very good job, most times you cannot get a job. If children start school they should not be expected to leave too soon in order to find work. They should be encouraged to stay on in school, not to be encouraged to leave school as soon as possible.

If a child is first in a queue he/she should be served first. A lot of the time the adult gets served first because they look as if they are in a hurry. Maybe they are, I am not saying that they are not, but the point is that if a child is first in a queue, they should be served first. The child could be in a hurry as easily as the adult could be, but the shopkeeper just does not notice that.

For instance, one day a girl I know said to the shopkeeper “These two packets of crisps please,” and she handed over the money. The shopkeeper snapped and she said “Wait!” and she went to serve an adult, when my friend was first in the queue. The shopkeeper eventually served my friend. The shopkeeper said with fury “Next time have patience!”

Children have rights and they are respected.

Children have a right to be heard. Adults or their elders seem to dismiss children. They do not always give children a chance. I do not think it is fair if a child asks an adult what something means and the adult reply is “You would not understand it”.

Do you think that is giving a child a chance?
Army bridges Roche's gap

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael Dublin County Councillors jeopardised the lives of Tallaght children by looking after the commercial interests of their friends, according to Workers' Party Councillor Don Tipping.

Tipping had to propose a Section 4 motion instructing the County Manager to put up pedestrian bridges over a section of the Western Parkway, where many children have to cross to get to school.

Tipping said he warned the council last December that the owner of the West Link Bridge, Tom Roche, would not provide the pedestrian bridges that were needed by the end of January, as the millionaire builder had agreed.

The single temporary pedestrian bridge currently in use had to be demolished.

"I believe that this section of the Western Parkway was opened before Christmas, through pressure from commercial interests, including Tom Roche," said Tipping. "The safety of the children of Tymon and Kilmarnagh estates who attend schools in Greenhills and have to cross this death-trap came second."

Tipping called on the residents of Kilmarnagh and Tymon to write to the County Manager and Tom Roche. "They say they might get around to it at Christmas," which Christmas.

"We want a second pedestrian bridge now before kids start getting killed."

"It's hard not to suspect that people are delaying on this in the hope of avoiding any responsibility to provide another bridge. That would be great news for Fianna Fail's business friends," Tipping said.

A mathematical and a moral problem for our times:

It will cost the Irish Government about £80 million this year to store it.

Ireland's contribution to the Kurdish relief operation was £1 million — that's the government's contribution; the voluntary agencies and generous individuals have dug into their pockets once again to give more.

There are 326,000 tonnes of Irish beef and dairy products stored in EC intervention, including 92,000 tonnes of skim milk powder and 155,000 tonnes of beef.

Most of this food will remain where it is until it is thrown out.

Johnnies go causing rows again, says local MP.

Back — straight back — into what may become known as The Cordonnerium! A nice welcome that Johnnies go causing rows again, hurroo, hurroo.

Don't get me wrong. AIDS kills. Cordonneries save lives. I saw more than enough young people dying of AIDS — and dying hard — in New York and elsewhere, thanks, to be flip about it.

But what makes many Irish socialists and other civilised people almost despair is the immediate attention and national debate that ensues when the issue has anything remotely to do with sex.

No, I don't think the Irish people are obsessed with sex.

I think the powerful old codgers, in clerical collars or in the plain clothes of ordinary citizens, who have been more than obsessed mainly with keeping contraception away from women.

A woman in control of her fertility has a chance of being in control of her life.

At the height of the Condonnerium, white up in the Dail we saw some of our elected fellows:

Workers' Party members, I saw what I first thought was a just-burst balloon — it was some object, anyway, ricocheting off the walls and emitting an angry hiss.

It slowed down on one occasion just long enough for it to be identified as this Fianna Fail gentleman from Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Senator Des Hanafin (elected on the 7th count, Labour Panel).

He was the head con, it seems, against Charlie Haughey's Rubber Revolution.

His bratface, I noted, looked nine months' pregnant. I wondered just whose brief, or briefs, he was carrying. Was it the brief of the Men's Solidarity — sorry, Family Solidarity — our new neighbours (there goes the neighbourhood) in Gardiner Place?

Of course Charlie changed his mind on change after his grand and arse whoop.

By Noel McFarlane

RISE-A-ROW

The Workers' Party Agriculture spokesperson, Joe Sherlock, has described the privatisation of the profitable Irish Sugar Company as a black day for public enterprise.

"The whole process of privatisation is being conducted with indecent haste," he said, and workers at Irish Sugar were viewing the move with apprehension.

Joe Sherlock is a former Irish Sugar worker.

A recent European Community study says: "Poor postal services can contribute to the marginalising of certain regions. Large company wages have less likely to establish themselves in a particular area if the postal services are slow."

The Communications Workers Union spokesman said that members protested in Dublin recently against cuts in the service, and which is putting up a magnificent fight against the "cut and run" mentality, couldn't agree more.

The jailing of Cork service charges protesters continued with the kid glove treatment given to tax defaulters and farmers who still owed £20 million in rates, Deputy Eamon Gilmore of the Workers' Party has noted. Workers' Party activist Ted Tynan was also jailed.

Our jail man, Paddy Mulcahy, had been less likely to be paid by a prospective Cork Fianna Fail local authority candidate. He paid the money, he said, for "humanitarian" reasons.

...Only half the chemist shops in Bray took part in a protest march by the Bray Workers' Party Women's Group last week.

"Our primary concern is to do with the spread of AIDS," Anne Fennell, director of a recent conference, "It's a medical issue, not a moral one."

"It is that the disease is now spreading continuously, up to 50,000 Irish people could be HIV positive in 10 years, she said.

It was discovered that at one chemist shop which is a late eight chemist shop, the Old Conna Pharmacy — condoms were not sold after six o'clock.

Kurds begging for bread distributed by Turkish soldiers at a refugee camp

De Rossa query on Kurd plight

I am a returned Yank — very recently returned.

After almost three years beyond New York, on the plane home, I made a gin discovery: 7,500 feet.

A man in the seat in front was reading that day's Irish newspaper. I saw the headline over his shoulder and froze. "BISHOPS!" a said, "WARNING CONDON ROWN!"

The refused point blank to turn the plane around.

They wouldn't even open a door to let me jump.

And no, they said, there was no chance that they'd drop me off there and then around Newfoundland, where 1'd rather take my chances with the polar bears than be tossed away to, say, His Eminence Jeremiah Newman of Limerick talking about young people and their propensity to "sin."

As a result, although generally opposed to privatisation, I am open to special pleas on the immediate privatisation of Aer Lingus.

In fact, I think they should give it free to Larry Goodman.

With such a class of organisation tasked with serving the travelling public would force a man back to the old era that somehow thought we'd outgrown.
Labour was Lld legislation were Report” TV pro­
attempts cancer. agreed “But this Is
there into the 20th century, Dilil
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Ireland poll • deal reached

TOMORROW’S PEOPLE REPORTER

**NO BOVVER: Cormac O’Hanlon, Robert Rassel and Paul Honey — skinheads against racism and secularism**

Belfast’s decent skins

The image of skinheads as the shock troops of neo-Nazi groups like the National Front is taking a beating in Belfast. A group of young skins have set up a group against racism.

Still sporting their DMs, denims and shaven heads, the Belfast boys aim to challenge the racist stereotype attached to skins and bring it back to its roots in racist imagery when black and white stomped across the dance floor together in the Sixties.

Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice (SHARP) have recently formed a branch in Belfast and a founding member, Cormac O’Hanlon, outlined its aims.

“Everyone thinks that skinheads are racist but the real skins who love the original music, which is black in origin, are not racists. The aim of SHARP is to challenge this image and fight against racism.”

“The vast majority of so-called skinheads, six or seven years ago, were racist or might have followed the National Front, but now I think the majority are anti-racist going back to the roots of the cult.”

The manipulation of skinheads in the early 1980s by the NF and the right wing British Movement led to the labelling of skinheads as mindless thugs. Another SHARP member, Robert Russell, however, says that the majority of what can be termed skinhead bands are following the anti-racist movement.

Not content with stomping out racism, skinheads are also set to smash sectarianism in Northern Ireland and to cross the religious divide. “We’re opposed to sectarianism as much as racism,” said Cormac. “After all, we are evenly divided in our membership in terms of religion.”

SHARP in Belfast hope to start its own magazine, or “Skinline” as it’s called, financed from disco and concert fees to hold in the city.

However as Cormac O’Hanlon points out, the new Belfast breed of skin is a different proposition. “We’re not bad. All we are interested in is the clothes and the music, we agree it’s a hard image, but there’s as much fighting among so-called ordinary people as there is with skinheads.”

The old Trojan record label, famed for its output of black Caribbean music, has been adopted by SHARP as its symbol.

“This is a very symbolic gesture — the following of this type of music produced the original skinhead cult.”

North’s parties unite — on condoms!

Former Tánaiste Jack Lynch once said: “I would not like to leave contraception on the long finger.” The North’s major political parties seem to agree. They support the promised liberalisation of laws concerning the sale of condoms in the South.

While no one has a policy on the matter, with the exception of the Workers’ Party, all agreed that condoms should be freely available to all who wish to buy them.

That all the parties agreed on something is a major breakthrough. But it was conditions which achieved what the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Peter Brooke, has yet to secure.

The SDLP admitted that the subject had never been discussed, but their House of Commons spokesperson was supportive of availability.

“We don’t get involved in the internal affairs of another country,” was the initial response from the Official Unionist Party. But the party’s Health spokesperson, the Rev. Martin Smyth, former Grand Master of the Orange Order, added: “Having said that, we would be supportive of their sale.”

David Ford of the Alliance Party said they had not formulated any policy on the matter but they were taking a “liberal” stance. The Workers’ Party was fully behind those progressive groups in the Republic which were attempting to bring legislation through the 20th century, said Dungannon Councillor Gerry Cullen.

Unfortunately, the best efforts of Tomorrow’s People failed to get a response from the Rev. Ian Paisley’s DUP. Neither the “clerical” nor the “lay” wings of the DUP will support the idea of “a voluntary coalition”.

The scrapping of the South’s “Order-in-Council system” and “a grand committee on Northern Ireland at Westminster”, if this touches a nerve, then the Official Unionists will support the idea of “a voluntary coalition”.

The SDLP is strongly anti-devolution — at leadership level at least.

In negotiating teams at the Brooke talks will be trying to steer them in the direction of the “Under-the-Cabinet system” and a “grand committee on Northern Ireland at Westminster”. If this touches a nerve, then the Official Unionists will support the idea of “a voluntary coalition”.

The financial outlay on the Brooke talks is likely to take Northern Ireland’s parties to the brink. If things fall through, the Brooke talks will be the “capitulation” for the parties concerned.

SIDELINES

A merger between the Official Unionists and the DUP is likely if informal talks between influential figures in both parties succeed.

It is believed that the retirement of both of the present leaders — Ian Paisley (DUP) and Jim Molyneaux (OUP) — may be necessary before any possible merger can happen. There is a new mood for the House of Lords and that younger DUP politicians linked to the party’s “non-clerical” section see a single Unionist party as a good career development.

Senior and middle-ranking figures in both parties are convinced that their grassroots are behind the idea of a merger, which would mean a major change in Northern politics.

The sum of £131,992 was made available by the Department of Health for “family planning” last year. Of this £93,325 (71%) was given to a combination of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Coun­cil, Family Life Centre (Cork) and the National Fertility Research and the Evaluation Method in Ireland. Only 28% was given to the government’s family planning groups. For the same period, the Irish Family Planning Association has received no money at all to provide services for its clients.

A bug in your ear: Seán Carroll of noble Senate Cathasachrach (chair), has written to the Daily Telegraph, urging them to ensure that a memorial be erected in Leinster House to Charles Stewart Parnell. But he adds, as an afterthought, his Senate committee “also proposes that the acquisition of portraits/pictures of the more recent holders of the offices of Cathasachrach and Ceann Comhairle for display in Leinster House could also be considered.”

All I want is Scaccia’s cut to hang him again.

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We have a problem with the Cult of the Cen in Ireland. They are used to kill people a lot. But should that sway you if you wish to illustrate a gay and terrible article about milk in a grey and tedious article about milk in a grey and tedious right wing maga­