

OUTTA CONTROL

BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

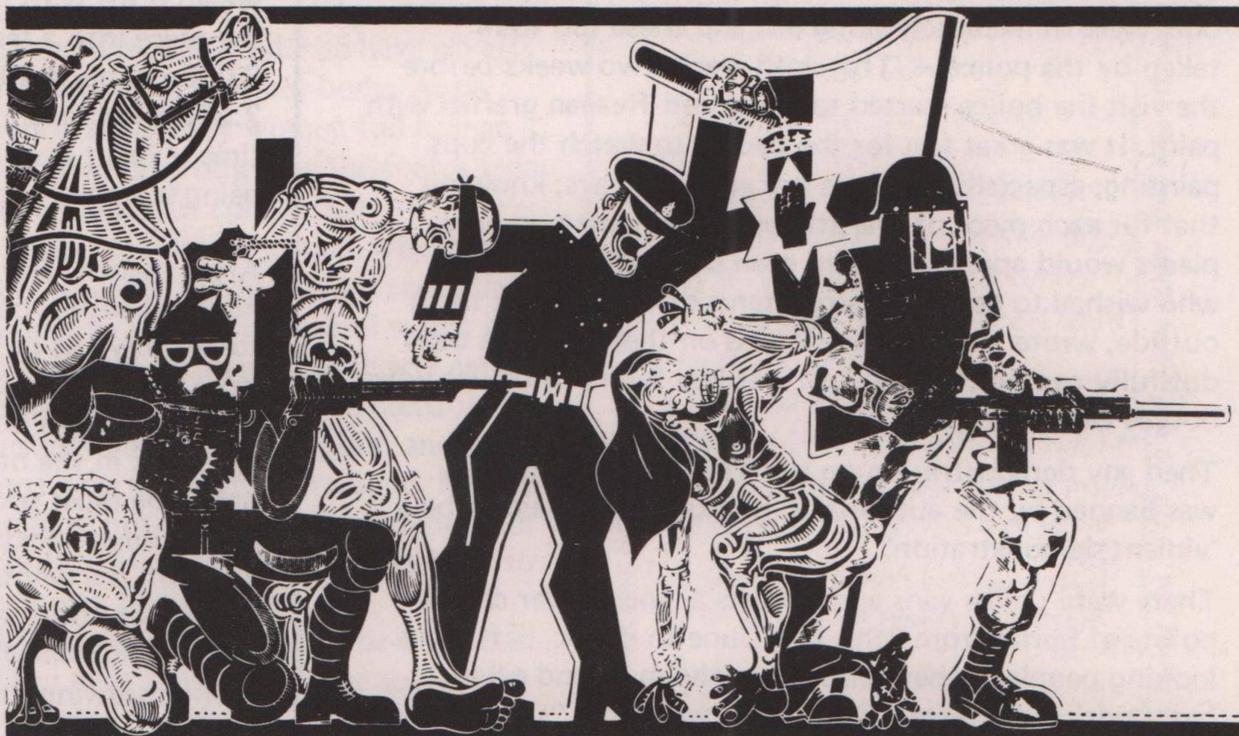
Sold with **GAINING GROUND**

ISSUE 29, JULY 1982
North Ireland 15p. South Ireland 20p
Elsewhere 25p.

FROM PLASTIC BULLETS TO TOUTS

These last two years have seen a build up of protest against the British presence here. The reaction of the British government has included the saturation of whole areas by its army, the use of the lethal plastic bullet to drive people off the streets, internment by remand, and recently the buying (and threatening) of touts to convict others. One person who has been a victim of all these tactics is Sean Tomelty, from Divis Flats.

Over the past three years he has been in and out of Castlereagh regularly, about 10 times — 4 of them for the 7-day period, and the rest for the 3-day period. On May 31st last year the Brits tried to kill him by firing a plastic bullet into his head from point blank range as he lay on the ground. This is Sean's story.



During the hunger strike the Brits couldn't get into the flats after the real rioting started. Before that they had been to my house looking for me for Castlereagh for 7 days, but I wasn't there. Apparently the soldiers had tried to come in to invade the flats, in the early hours of the morning, after 4am., and everybody went out to stop them. So there was a bit of a riot going on, and I was caught up in it — so people say, I don't know. I only know what I've been told afterwards. Everything that happened before that I can't remember because of the injury. People have told me the Brits came in, I went out with people to stop them, and the soldiers caught me, pulled me up the entry at Ross Row and put the plastic bullet gun to my head. My mother says when she was coming towards me after I'd been shot, the soldiers who'd done it were waving their rifles at the other soldiers saying 'We got Tomelty; we got him at last.' So they must have known who I was when they trailed me up the entry. They were from the Royal Marine Commandos.

I was brought to the Royal Victoria Hospital and spent 5 days on a life support machine. I underwent a 4 hour brain operation. I was hit on the right side of the head, so it has affected the whole side of my body. I've lost the power of my left arm completely, and can only walk with a caliper on my left leg. With my left eye I can only see straight ahead I can't see to the side. I've great difficulty crossing the road — nearly been knocked down a couple of times!

The consultant said there was powder burns on my head, so the gun was placed right against it. When I was taken to the Royal I had 7 cracked ribs and my legs were all skinned, I lost 7 pints of blood through the wound. The consultant said I had died for about 2 minutes on the machine.

I later got a platinum plate inserted in my head — the same thing they use for aircraft! For that operation I got 42 stitches in a half moon shape. It's for protection. My skull was smashed. When they opened it up in hospital the consultant Dr. Fanan told me the whole side of my skull fell out. The

plate replaces the skull, cause if I was to fall and hit anything sharp it would go straight into my brain and kill me.

CHARGES

When I was in the Royal - ward 39 - the Special Branch who were 'guarding' me, were torturing me, harassing me, opening the door and saying, 'Right Sean, the UVF are coming to get you now. You're only a vegetable, only half a man you'll be no good for your wife, she'll not want you, nobody wants you now'. They were saying things like that to my mother too when she came visiting. When my wife got a bedroom unit delivered to the house the Marines arrested the delivery men from Woolworths and held them for 5 hours. They took the furniture away, but we eventually got it back again.

The Royal physiotherapist told my mother to bring up my clothes as they were going to teach me how to dress again (I've still difficulty in dressing). But my mother thinks they dirty-joed me, were working with the police, for as soon as I got my clothes up, two days later on July 9th I was whipped

cont'd back page.

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Palestinians, Southern Jobless Prison Costs, Arms Sales, etc.

REAGAN "Thoroughly objectionable"

Weeks before Ronald Reagan, a well known American actor in the role of US President came to West Germany to take part in the NATO summit in Bonn, and for a 3 hour visit to Berlin, the Peace Movement which is rather strong and broadly based, prepared for demonstrations.

'We are not waiting until Reagan comes', said Revolutionäre Zellen (RZ) in a statement two weeks before the visit. They exploded bombs at Officers' Clubs at 4 US Army barracks, which caused damage estimated at £ 20 000.

A vast propaganda campaign against the radical protest was started by the media, police and politicians. Banners which were draped from the windows of squats and other houses in Berlin were seized by the cops, new ones were immediately hung out and these too were taken by the police — 'The cloth war!' Two weeks before the visit the police started to cover anti-Reagan graffiti with paint. It was great fun for the people to watch the cops painting, especially on these hot summer days; knowing that for each piece of graffiti covered at least two new pieces would appear, painted even on rooftops. People who wished to get rid of large items of rubbish put them outside, wrote anti-Reagan slogans on them and the cops dutifully carried it away.....it was less funny of course when houses were searched.

Then any demonstration on the 11th before 14:30pm was banned by the authorities, because it was said to be a 'violent demonstration'.

There were police vans and officers at the border checkpoints of Berlin from 9th—11th June to check "left wing looking people"; they seized some helmets and other 'weapons' and arrested 80 persons who they "suspected might be about to commit crimes" under a special law of the allied forces.

BONN, 9th JUNE

Reagan arrived and made a speech in the Federal Parliament, only 2 independent deputies (former SPD) made a few critical remarks. A 'strange' thing happened at that time: sirens were howling, and the cops didn't manage to stop them before Reagan left the Parliament.

10th June, day of the NATO summit in Bonn. Like a state of siege (17,000 cops). The protest march in Bonn turned out like a massive peace festival. 400,000 people expressed their wish for peace marching and gathering on the right hand side of the river Rhine, burning NATO flags and breaking some shop windows. Trying to break through the restricted zone around the Parliament and its administration buildings, they were forced away and beaten up by police. That same day about 50,000 people took part in a non-violent march in Berlin. Like the one in Bonn, it had the character of a peace festival more than of a demonstration of protest and resistance.

11th June, Berlin.

Reagan arrived at 10am. Together with Haig, Schmidt and Genscher (deputy foreign secretary) he was welcomed by American Army members and the Berlin Government and brought to Checkpoint Charlie (border checkpoint to East Berlin) at the wall. There he just hung around with Schmidt and Weizsäcker (Governing Mayor of Berlin) for nice press pictures. According to the BBC news...*"The President found it difficult to follow President Kennedy's historic "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech — so he said nothing."* (!)

While the two gave speeches in the maximum security confines of Charlottenburg castle, the rest of Berlin had the appearance of being in a state of emergency — searches, checkpoints, ambulances at the ready.



Around 10am, thousands of people were gathering around Nollendorf Platz for the protest march. More and more arrived, but the police blocked all roads to the square, sealed it off with rolls of barbed wire and by doing so the place into a temporary internment camp. They told the 3,000 people inside that, as any demonstration up until 2:30pm had been banned, they had to stay there for that time, except people who would go through a checkpoint, being searched and having to show their ID cards.

After a while, tear gas was thrown in by the cops. Some hundred people began to fight their way out, throwing stones towards police, taking furniture out of a furniture store and making barricades with it etc. At last the cops had to abandon one road block, and also one van which got stuck in the barbed wire, soon to become a burning barricade. Most people got out, others found their way out through backyards and over roofs. Rioting was going on the whole day in this area, militants holding a square for hours, and at times the cops had great difficulties. Through loudspeakers they once warned rioters to stop stone throwing otherwise they would have to shoot! Also at many places in the city there were short demonstrations, masses of people gathering, and sporadic 'disturbances'.

All over the city the police practiced civil war methods, and Berlin saw its greatest riots for a long time (1953). In the evening the cops finally cleared the square and pushed barricades aside. At least 200 people had been badly beaten up by them during the day (six had to stay in hospital), while between 40 and 80 police officers were injured... they said.

280 people were arrested, of whom 22 have been charged with breach of the peace and are held on remand. The others were released at night.

In the early evening the cops raided 4 squats near the scene of the riots, vandalising and smashing everything — their retaliation. That and the following night, the squats were attacked by other fascist gangs. Afterwards, politicians of all big parties blamed the alternative list* as being responsible for the "horrific" riots, and called it an "enemy of democracy." Some Conservatives said it should be banned. On the Saturday night, bombs were thrown into the AL offices and the place was burnt down. There's also heavy harassment and moves against squatters now. Reagan's passage through Berlin did not go unmarked by dissent and resistance — should he choose to visit Berlin again he will find that resistance is still there, growing and learning all the time.

*Alternative Liste Berlin (AL) was founded by various left-wing, alternative, ecologist people to stand in the elections and was successful (got about 7%).

Lebanon: Another 'Final Solution'?

Whilst the British media was obsessively documenting each step of the battle to regain possession of a large sheep farm and a colony of penguins in the South Atlantic scant attention has been paid to the genocidal actions of Israel in Lebanon. It is thought that there are some 20,000 civilian casualties and hundreds of thousands are homeless. Yet, there has been little condemnation of P.M. Begin's savage attack. The attitude of world governments seems to be that the Lebanese brought the catastrophe upon themselves by tolerating the presence of Palestinians in the country and allowing them a small degree of autonomy within the state. This autonomy has been described as a 'state within a state' but actually consisted of little more than a social services/medical system plus the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Golda Meir, former Prime Minister of Israel, once remarked, 'there is no such thing as a Palestinian' so it would appear that her successor, Begin, is following Zionist policy to its inevitable conclusion: the destruction of the Palestinians as an Ethnic group. Even at the very beginning of the Israeli state in 1948 when 56.8% of the British mandated territory of Palestine was given to Israel by the UN, Zionists immediately began mortar attacks and rocket bombardments on Palestinian villages to intimidate the Palestinians out. They were never to return as Zionists immediately occupied territory as soon as it was cleared (a policy pursued to this day in captured Arab territories). The British stood by until their mandate expired and then cleared off, washing their hands of the whole affair. In fact in the 1930s when Arabs rebelled against Zionist encroachment on their lands, they were suppressed by British forces working hand in glove with the illegal Zionist armed force - Hagana.

After the war which followed Israel's independence only the West Bank and Gaza, under Egyptian control, remained to the Palestinians. Then, after the 1967 war, Israel controlled the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights and the Sinai region - a territory 3½ times the size of the previous Israeli state including 165,000 Palestinians within its borders. Some three million Palestinians have been living in appalling conditions in refugee camps in neighbouring Arab countries for the past 30 years. Only in Jordan, where they still



number over a million, have the Palestinians ever been given any measure of recognition (they have dual nationality). Conservative Arab regimes fear the popular support for the Palestinians in their own countries, especially amongst the poor. They see this support for the Palestinians along with the Muslim revival as a threat to their regimes.

The Palestinians, despairing at the lack of interest shown to their plight, have fought back through armed resistance groups; the PLO was set up in the 1950s by the Arab League and, under the Al Fatah group which gained control in the late 60s, the organisation began to function as a government in exile. The growing strength and organisation of the PLO in Jordan prompted King Hussein to launch a massive liquidation campaign against them. In what became known as Black September, some 20,000 people were killed. The PLO moved to the mountains and into the Lebanon. Soon after this move (1975/6) civil war broke out since the right wing Christian Militia wanted the Palestinians out of Lebanon. A UN multi-national force, UNIFIL, was moved in, supposedly to keep the two sides apart. In the months leading up to the present invasion, the Israelis made two raids into Lebanon, killing over 400 people, in spite of the ceasefire agreed last summer which the PLO has adhered to. These raids were regarded by the USA as 'self defence' and 'hot pursuit' so it would appear that the USA backs the

Zionist view that the very existence of the Palestinians as an organised ethnic group is a threat to Israel.

The Israelis will never allow the Palestinians a realistic degree of autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as provided for under the terms of the Camp David agreement. However the massive public relations exercise launched by the PLO has brought some success. Even Lord Carrington was prepared to sit down with the erstwhile 'terrorist' Yassar Arafat at the conference table (a marked contrast to the attitude of the Brits during the hunger strike when the O/C of the hunger strikers was not allowed to be present at negotiations). The EEC last year recognised the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and also recognised the PLO as the representatives of the Palestinians. Israel, though economically dependent on the West and spending 50% of the budget and 30% of the GNP on military spending (the highest in the world) feels able to ignore criticism from Europe so long as the USA remains silent.

Now the PLO must move out of the devastated Lebanon or the Israeli army will inflict even more damage on the civilian population. President Mubarek has offered them a base in Egypt. Opposition to the Zionist destruction of Lebanon is growing both within Israel (where there have been several demonstrations against the attack) and abroad, but for now the country is left under Israeli military occupation.

1980 Estimate of the total Palestinian population.

Mandate Palestine	Adjacent Arab Territories	Other Arab Countries	Elsewhere				
1948 Occupied territories	530,600	(Trans-) Jordan	1,160,800	Kuwait	278,800	USA	102,000
Gaza	476,700	Lebanon	347,100	Libya	23,000	Other	136,300
The West Bank	818,300	Syria	215,500	Saudi Arabia	127,000		
		Egypt	48,500	Iraq	20,000		
				Uae, Qatar, Oman	105,600		
						TOTAL:	4,390,000

SOUTHERN JOBLESS START FIGHTBACK

Unemployment in the South is now close on 150,000 and over the last couple of weeks almost 1,200 jobs have gone with the closure of five different work places. In some areas the unemployment rate is twice as high as the national average. A recent survey in Crumlin (a working class area on the southside of Dublin) found that 22% of the workforce were unemployed. Another 7% said they were likely to become unemployed in the near future.

In 1981 the dole was increased by 3% (a mere 60p for most people). This year we got 25% but this does not compensate for the rise in inflation. Also the 25% is an attempt to buy off the unemployed who, in Garrett Fitzgeralds words, "are a threat to the stability of our society". It is estimated that there are one million people living in poverty in the 'Free State', the unemployed and pensioners forming the largest categories.

THE MEDIA

As well as having very little to live on the unemployed are subjected to what has become an intense campaign in the media to label us as scroungers, parasites etc. The Independent Group (well known for its Blueshirt origins) have run a series of articles on how people are better off living on the dole, how the dole can be fiddled and how the incentive to work has been undermined. They are also trying to create a divide between workers and unemployed by suggesting that the unemployed are a burden on workers. If only the unemployed would get up off their arses and get jobs then the employed would not have to pay so much tax and insurance!

The state is also trying its best to divide workers and unemployed. Recently the state increased the contribution for Pay Related Social Insurance. On top of this a 1% levy has been put on all workers wages to pay for the Youth Employment Agency. The official excuse for this is that workers must take responsibility for paying for those on the dole. The ruling class want to make the working class pay for the crisis created by the bosses' desire for greater profits.

FIGHTING BACK

The unemployment problem is presented to us as something that is so big that there is very little we can do about it. We are made believe that it must be left to others — politicians, bureaucrats, civil servants ect. We must wait and be patient.

Some people have rejected this and have begun to organise. Unemployed groups have been formed in parts of Dublin, Waterford, and other places. Workers are resisting redundancies. People are beginning to realise that we did not create the mess so why should we carry the can.

JOBS

Basically the fightback has been centred around two areas — jobs and living on the dole. As regards jobs the most effective action has been occupations of factories threatened with closure. The Clondalkin Paper Mills are presently being occupied. The Talbot Car workers got a guaranteed income for the rest of their lives after they occupied. In the papers this morning (June 24th) I see that a group of workers are occupying the offices of the British American Optical Co. The courts have become involved and it looks like the forcible entries Act will be used against them. This highlights the need for workers to fight repressive legislation whether it be this act, special courts, or garda harassment. Other demands have been taken up aimed at creating jobs. People are fighting for the 35 hour week, a reduction in overtime and an end to productivity deals. Basic wages should be high enough so that workers don't have to Half kill themselves to get a decent wage.

THE RIGHT TO WORK

In considering jobs the whole idea of the 'right to work' has arisen. But the right exists only when it is profitable. Secondly the right to work could easily be called the right to be exploited or alienated. We demand that jobs be socially useful and well paid. We won't accept the likes of manpower or ANCO schemes (the equivalent of YOPS) which are nothing but a form of cheap labour. We won't accept boring alienating badly paid jobs either. We believe that its not enough just to talk about jobs but the nature of work itself.

**IF YOU THINK CAPITALISM IS WORKING —
ASK SOMEONE WHO ISN'T!**

ON THE DOLE

People on the dole must get together to protect their living standards. We must demand dole which is the same as the wages we would get if we were working. Also it takes as much for one unemployed person to live as it does for someone who is working.

HARD TIMES

We need to counter the attacks on us by the press. We don't have to deny that people fiddle. People do, and more power to them. Most people on the dole could not survive if they didn't. We should also counter the myths about work incentives. Some people don't want to work in boring, alienating jobs. Perhaps the lack of work incentive is because wages are so low and not that benefits (sic) are so high.

The Dublin Unemployed Action Group has tried to counter some of this propaganda by producing a paper called Hard Times (available from Just Books).

CRUMLIN MEETING

In Crumlin we recently held a public meeting which was well attended. Meetings in other areas have also been organised. It was a great opportunity for us to share our experiences and discuss what could be done. People talked about being harassed by the SS. Others about being dumped on the dole after working for years in the same job. Some talked about the need to undermine all the forces that oppress us, as unemployment cannot be taken out of context. It must be related to other issues in the area such as housing, education, and recreation.

DIRECT ACTION

There are many things we can do to protect our living standards. We should refuse to pay - bus fares, rents, food. In Jobstown, on the southside of Dublin locals chased the Electricity Supply Board off the estate when they came to cut off unemployed people who had not paid their bills. There is now an arrangement with one of the ESB unions not to cut off people on the dole.

THE LONG MARCH

To take some of these demands up on a national level and to stimulate organisation, a group of unemployed and trade unionists have come together to organise the Peoples March for Decent Jobs. The march is leaving Waterford on June 29th. It will pass through Kilkenny, Carlow, Naas and end in Dublin on July 3rd. Meetings and gigs will be held along the route and hopefully it will stimulate local unemployed and employed to come together and organise.

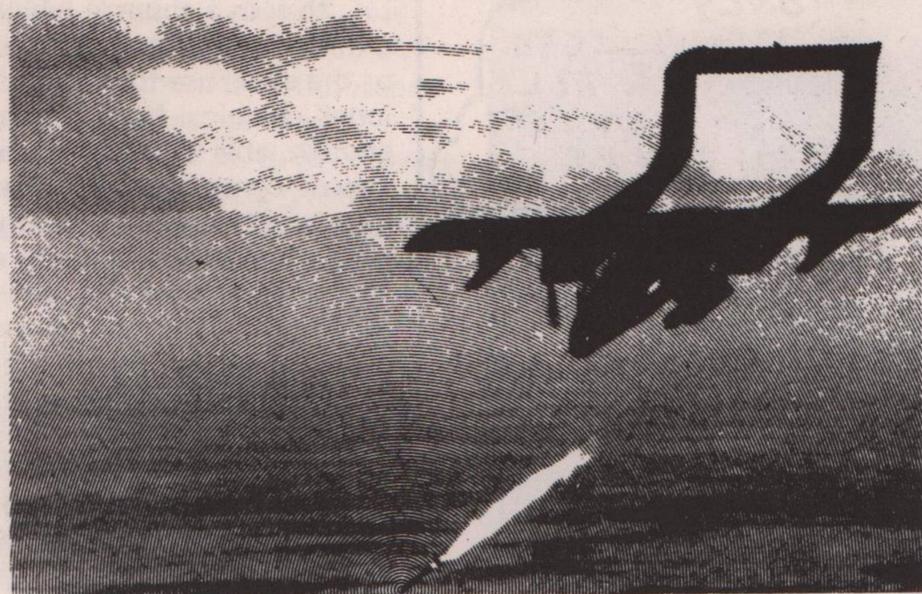
The march will be pushing the demand for socially useful, well paid jobs. It will encourage people to occupy their places of work if threatened with closure. We will push the demand for a 35 hour week and encourage people to take it up in their unions and work places. We will also be looking for a living wage for unemployed, and an end to discrimination against women and schoolleavers in the social welfare code. Some unions have supported the march. Some of the bigger ones have not. They claim its outside the official labour movement, its ultra-left, and its unorganised. They realise that their own power and privileged positions are under threat when people begin to organise without leaders. We should expose their rhetoric and tokenistic campaigns. We should also demand that they give us money — the bastards have enough of it and it's ours.

Unemployment = slave labour

Most US (military) aid finds its way back to the US economy in arms contracts. A little ends up in Belfast.

SHORTS SUPPLY THAILAND:

CIA BEHIND REPRESSION



**The Bronco workhorse:
Ask Thailand about it.**

Rockwell International

M.O.D. contracts are likely to be pouring into the various military equipment suppliers following the Malvinas debacle... hence the "confidence" (?) seen in the share prices of all the leading weapons-electronic companies. Shorts too, are sure to benefit, both from increased Brit orders and "overseas" investors.... given an added boost by their appearance at the latest British Army Equipment Exhibition in Aldershot last month. Even before the results of such deadly sales-talk becomes known, Shorts have just announced their third major order from Thailand for Blowpipe missiles. Thailand? What would they be wanting with Blowpipe missiles when their children are dying from malnutrition and even a pair of shoes is a luxury for some?

A Brief look at the Thai political history helps explain... After 1945, and despite the fact that the Thailand Government supported the losers in the war, the U.S. decided to encourage a military regime rather than dismantle it. "Constitutional" politics were gone, with the military police powers bought with U.S. money and arms. The money was used for "internal security"....a system of financed repression against all dissent. Not exactly the communist threat as explained back home. Communism barely existed! From 1948 onwards, the military junta took over directorships of banks and private companies, each military chief diverting funds to their private bank accounts. The Chief of Police, for instance, was directly responsible for the lucrative opium trade.

U.S. aid paid off in the 60's when

Thailand was used as a "landlocked aircraft carrier" for bombing Indochinese peasants in the Vietnam war. After the U.S. defeat in this war, masses of people clamoured for some degree of say in the running of their lives, and 1973-76 could be described as the emergence of some degree of democracy. However, more military aid poured into the army (£50m a year).....by 1976, and with the help of C.I.A. training of the local army in assassinations, beatings, strategic strikes, destroyed media, and murder of publishers and journalists....the military were back in controlkilling and looting through the government framework. In return, the military junta subordinates foreign policy to the wishes of U.S. madmen, and allows Thailand to be used as a counter-revolutionary base in S.E.Asia.

The money sent directly by the U.S. in so-called aid is supplemented by the money made from opium and heroin, most of which originates in the Golden Triangle (Burma, Thailand, Laos.). The C.I.A. and the Drug Enforcement Agency help run various Thai agencies and train the Thai border police to aid the manufacture and distribution of heroin to the West.

THAT'S WHY THAILAND--DESPITE THE APPALLING POVERTY OF THE PEOPLE, CAN AFFORD TO BUY BLOWPIPES FROM SHORTS. That they won't be used against the great communist threat goes without say....they'll be used by the military and the police to continue their schemes in corruption and death... to kill their own people!!

Shouldn't that make us all feel so proud in Belfast?

CHASERS!

LICENCE TO KILL WOMEN

'Wife's free love ended with killing' ran the headline in the Newsletter on 26th June. It wasn't of course the woman's approach to sexuality which led to the killing as the paper implied. It was the man's sexual jealousy. They had separated and when she asked for a divorce he 'snapped' and stabbed her to death. 'It was the triumphant look on her face' he claimed in defence. Justice Hidgson found him guilty of manslaughter and sentenced him to 2 years ... but under new powers ordered David Barlow from Birmingham to serve only 6 months.

At the same time a British soldier was sent down for 7 years for the 'off-duty' shooting dead of a woman in Strabane. It is expected he will serve only 2-3 years of this, and that in England. He had tried to rob the woman, who told him to fuck off, whereupon he shot her in the head. The judge said that losing his career was punishment in itself.

VICE HEAD HEADS FOR VICE

The Vice Head of St. Gabriels Secondary School on the Crumlin Road was recently convicted of stealing another teachers cheque book, forging a signature and cashing some cheques. The school however, took no disciplinary action, (neither kept him in, or suspended him) and he remains vice head.

SURELY NO DIFFERENCE

'There was a spate of bank robberies carried out in the university area by a gang of criminals, not terrorists' blurped Down-town Radio news... but we've been told there's no difference!

POLICE SACKINGS

Interesting to note that the Harbour Police are undergoing some degree of re-organisation following yet another assassination attempt on a Catholic worker at the ship-yard. The day after the assassination bid, the Harbour Commissioners -- in all their wisdom-- persuaded 8 of the 62-strong force to accept early retirement, claiming it was 're-organisation to cut costs'. It probably didn't take much persuasion (nor at many costs) as 3 weeks previously a sergeant accepted early retirement and in return received £23,000 and £87 a week pension. Not bad going!

The Harbour Police are a law unto themselves, investigating everything within the boundaries of the 3,000 acre dock-yard. Well-known for their sectarian make-up, even the RUC cannot investigate anything under their jurisdiction unless specifically asked by the Harbour Police to do so.

Their bizarre powers are slowly being whittled away, however, as a private security firm from Portadown have just been brought in to guard the harbour entrances.

THE COST OF PRISONS

N. Ireland has the highest proportion of its population in jail, in Western Europe. The total cost is almost £64 million. The following are extracts from a revealing article in T.&I. — The Boardroom magazine for Trade and Industry.

By far the biggest single item in the '80-'81 figures is pay and other staff costs — £40 million. In the '60's there were 400 employed, but today 2,900. The annual cost of maintaining an inmate is £28,663 and equates with the sum spent on Category A high-security prisoners in Britain. In England and Wales 2-3% of the 41,000 prisoners are in high security category. But here, where 3/4 of the 2,500 prison pop. are in jail for 'serious crimes', the figure is nearer 70%.

The ratio of prisoners to overall population in Britain is 90 to 100 per 100,000 of population. Here the ratio is 160 per 100,000. The cost of this is equivalent to £200 a year for every family.

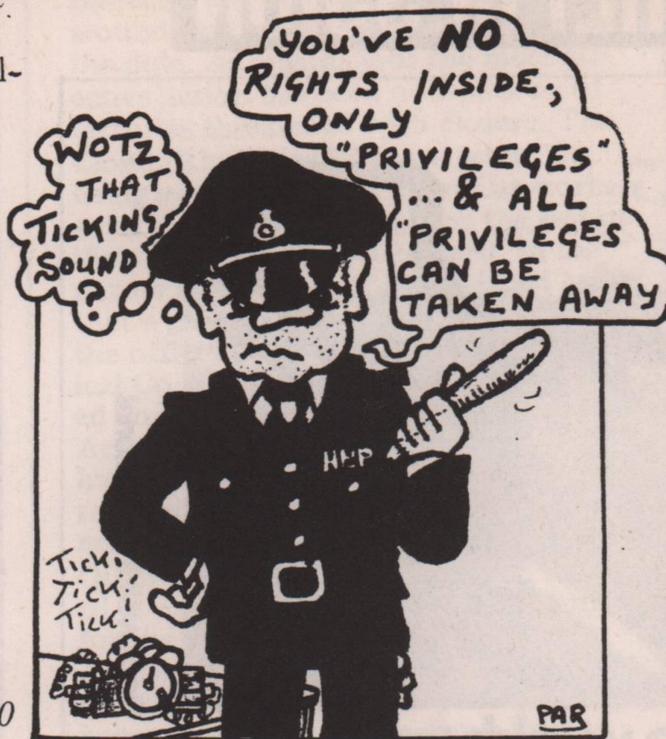
CRUMLIN

There are 5 jails now, compared to only two in the '60s. Some 450 are still held in Crumlin Rd, though soon to be brought back up to 700 when the remand prisoners return to A Wing from Long Kesh, after repair to the damage caused in a rooftop protest by loyalist prisoners. The repair is said to have cost £500,000. With 400 to 450 awaiting trial at any one time, the prison is used essentially as a remand centre, but also holds first time 'offenders' and long termers who can't be easily categorised. There are 250 in Hydebank Young Offenders Centre, a 'short, sharp, shock' prison for those under 21 serving up to 3 years.

LONG KESH

Long Kesh is in fact two prisons, the cellular 'accommodation' forming the infamous 8 H-Blocks housing approximately 1000 prisoners; and the special category complex (cages or compounds) holding 330 men.

The Kesh is the top security prison, while Magilligan, near Derry, is a complex, of three H-Blocks holding 330 prisoners, most of whom are second (or third) time 'offenders'. Few newly sentenced men are being sent there.



ARMAGH

Just over 50 women are held in Armagh with separate accommodation for young female offenders. And about 70 male prisoners work there as orderlies.

MEGHABERRY

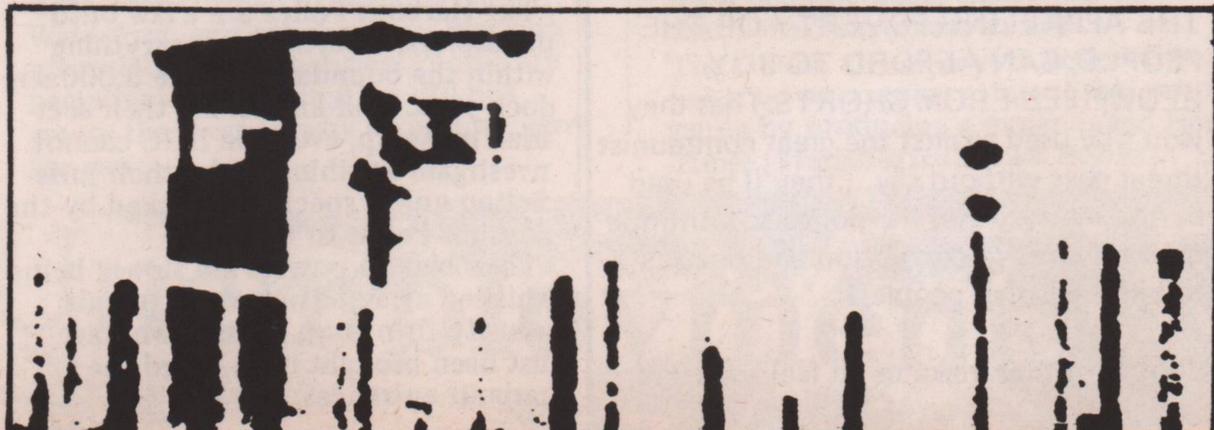
At a cost of £22 million, another new prison will open next year at Meghaberry. Based on a modern design known as Frankland — the name of a new prison in N.E. England — it will have 450 cells and will be an expensive prison in capital terms with all cells having integral sanitation.

Within the same complex will be a separate section for the 50 to 60 women and the object will be to close Armagh (and to turn it into a museum).

NUMBERS

While the prison population rose to as high as nearly 3,000 at the height of the violence in '75-'76, there are now signs of a downward trend and a stabilisation at the present levels.

But counter-balancing this, a cessation of violence would not necessarily mean a drop in the number of prisoners as many of them are long-term prisoners. And an increase in the RUC's conviction rate, at present about 25%, could in fact lead to another rise as old crimes are 'cleared up'.



CHASERS!

GOVERNMENT DEFENCE FUND

The Southern Government have just upped their annual spending on 'civil Defence' from £1M to £1½M for 1982this, in a country which hasn't got a fire service with either the equipment or the expertise to deal with 'conventional' chemical fires! (though, ironically enough, able to listen to each others private conversations at the press of a button.) The £1½ m. though, is NOT earmarked for the defence of the civil population — the money is to be used for ensuring the upkeep of safe places of hiding for the select few government and military officials during a time of nuclear war or revolutionary unrest! Calling it 'Civil Defence' money merely lets it pass through the Dail without too much comment or scrutiny.....

HUNGER STRIKE OVER

John James Somerville, the loyalist hunger striker, has ended his fast after 30 days. The prisoner stated that he will be bringing his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Somerville who is serving 35 years for his part in the Miami Showband killings has demanded political status as well as segregation from republican prisoners. On 29th June an organisation calling itself the Loyalist Prisoners Action Group claimed responsibility for the bombing of a Catholic school and church in north Belfast in support of his strike. They would have been better off bombing a Protestant church for its they who have disowned him!!

STUDENTS PROTEST

Interesting to note that students at Leeds university in England are beginning to organise and put some pressure on the university hierarchy, to put a stop to the war-research going on there funded by UKAEA, NATO and ministry of Defence. Similar research (and more!) is going on at various departments at Queens University in Belfast — in the Engineering, Chemistry and Physics departments and like Leeds it is financed by MOD, UKAEA and NATO. As yet, no student group or individual have voiced any protest.

BRADFORD 12 FREE!

The Bradford 12 (who became the 11 when one was acquitted early) were found 'not guilty' last week. Their defence was that they did possess the petrol bombs — to defend their area against imminent fascist attack. Next Issue we hope to have an interview with one of the defendants/defenders.

ABORTION: THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

We print below parts of a leaflet from the 'Right to Choose Perspective' who are working within the Anti-Amendment Campaign in the South.

Approximately 7,000 women last year (i.e. 140 each week) travelled to England for abortions. In certain age groups Irish women are as likely to have an abortion as their English counterpart.

Abortion in Ireland is illegal under all circumstances under the Offences against the Person Act (1861) and is punishable by life imprisonment.

A free comprehensive family planning service does not exist in Ireland today. Since the 1979 Health Act contraception is generally more available despite the confines and inadequacies of the act. But the need still exists for a free and adequate service. Of the women who sought abortion referrals through the I.P.C.C. last year 47% had never used contraceptives. The lack of education around the use of contraceptives is frightening. Coupled with this is the need for sex education in schools and colleges. Thousands of young people leave school with no positive understanding of sex and their sexuality. Economically a single parent in Ireland today, especially if dependent on the state for finance, has a constant battle to survive. If she is not married her child is considered illegitimate by the state and has to contend with demeaning social attitudes.

Socially facilities for mothers in Ireland are negligible. The lack of creches and other child care facilities means hardships for mothers who fight to

maintain an independent position in society.

WE BELIEVE THAT...

- a foetus is not a real person despite its potential to become so. No one else from the smallest baby to the oldest or most handicapped person requires to occupy the body of a woman to survive.

- a foetus has no social existence just as the woman carrying it is the only one who can directly experience it.

- since contraception does not always work abortion is necessary - otherwise a woman is just a breeding machine destined by her gender to have no effective control over her body. Anti-abortionists deny women full human status while giving it to the foetus from the moment of conception.

- although it is the woman who gives life, whether or not she does so is determined by society in general which is dominated by male, church and capitalist interests. The means to control fertility (both contraception and abortion) have now been developed. If women have not got access to these it is for political reasons. The access is basic to women's emancipation.

- Women have the right to bear children. They have a right to all the social and economic requirements necessary to bear and rear children. Inadequate social welfare provisions, laws against children born outside marriage, population control and forced contraception and sterilisation programmes are all, likewise, fundamental attacks on women. Free legal and safe abortion on demand is only one side of the **RIGHT TO CHOOSE**.



Bedtime Story

Dammit, run out of fags again
And milk too - oh just nip to the shop
Won't take a minute, just round the corner
Good thing it stays open late.
Put this white mac on
Since it's getting quite dark -
Woolly scarf and hat, great, she's off
Past the pub, it's quiet tonight.
Damp, a drift of mist in the air
Street-lamps' yellow halo
Rather familiar and safe
Nearly past the building site
Th- in a hand on the shoulder,
Who's that? Eh, you gave us a fright!
What the hell? Who're you?

Oh no, not me, she thought
Just off to the shop?
Dragged in the brickworks
The bang on the head makes her dizzy
All so slow, the repeated blows
Tearing fabric, her voice not heard
He stinks of beer,
What he does makes her vomit
"Dirty bitch" he growls as he nuts her
The blood from her nose fills her mouth
He rapes her, then uses a dirty old
To show her who's boss, and that.
Then he hits her again, 'cause she
bit him

And staggers off, singing a song.
She lies in the mud.
The white mac torn open
It's cold, but she doesn't feel a thing
Blood mixed with snot
All over her face
Broken teeth she can feel with her
tongue.

Later on, bright clean hospital,
Cheerful young nurses help to set
Her broken nose
Stop in overnight with the skull fracture
And try to forget the internal
to get spunk samples and retrieve
bits of bottle.
Try not to have time to think.

At the court case, months later,
A new her appears
A person she doesn't know
His lawyer says she's sexy and
provocative
In a shiny white mac and high boots
Sashaying along with come-hither glances.
"No wonder my client lost control!"
Yes, indeed, says the judge,
I quite understand, but you know,
Man to man, can't be allowed, what?
A £2,000 fine at £2.00 a week. Next!

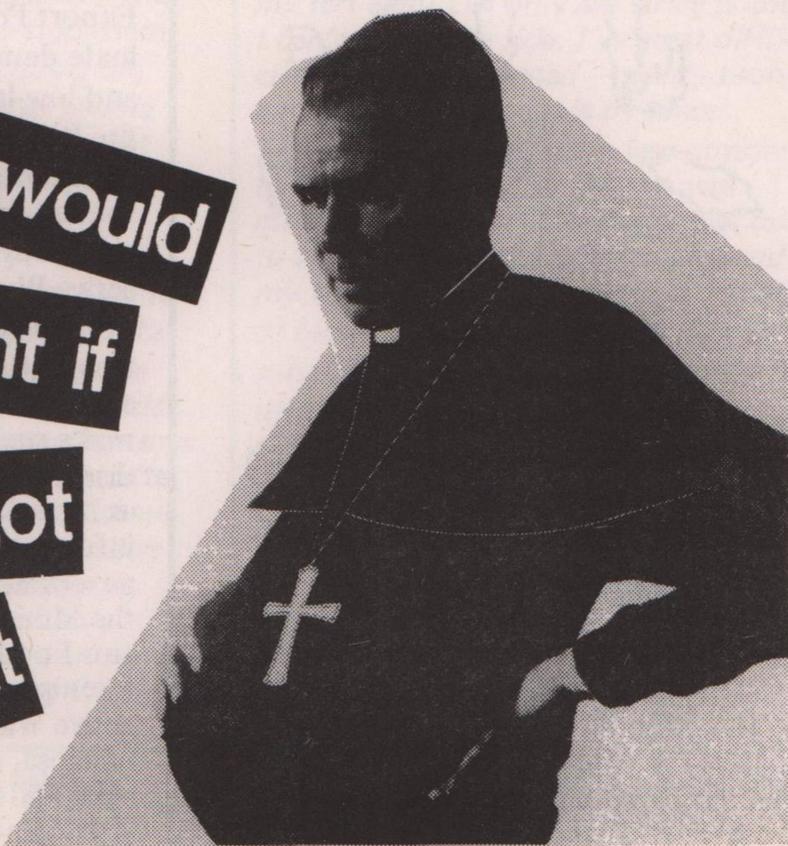
She was lucky, said the Doc,
It could have been worse
She's not pregnant
And she only caught clap.
Well, she'll know better next time
Not to go wandering round at night.

The above was written by Joolz, from
Bradford - she performs her 'socially
relevant' stories along with a co-op

Joolz may be contacted at: 166, Newcross St., West Bowling, Bradford 5

of like-minded poets + individuals. "I'm not especially interested in punks, skins, southeys, fashos etc... it's the ordinary estate kids who everyone ignores because they aren't fashionable."

the laws would
be different if
bishops got
pregnant



cont'd from front page

away to Musgrave Park Hospital (which has a military wing) where I was charged in a special court.

They charged me with riotous behaviour on the day I was hit by the plastic bullet and with possession of a rifle on May 12 when a friend of mine had been shot dead. I spent the next 7 months in Musgrave on remand and on Dec. 14th I went to the High Court and was granted bail.

When I was in Musgrave there was a corridor in ward 18 with rooms off it. In my room, room 6, there were wee windows. The Brits would come up to them, rap the windows and show me the plastic bullets, and gesturing that they were for the other side of my head.

ON THE WORD OF A TOUT

Then on March 20th this year I was arrested again and taken to Castlereagh and held under a number of offences — 2 attempted murders, possession of explosives, causing explosions, and membership of the INLA — on the word of a super grass, Goodman. He has probably done 30 people. He hasn't named anybody recently so we can only hope that he does as O'Rawe and withdraws his statements

They had said the same offer was open to me as to Jacky Goodman. They could get me to the Bahamas and all sorts if I turned informer, but I refused. I never signed statements but they verbed me on membership of the INLA. They told

me the reason was to do me out of any compensation claim for my injuries. They said they weren't going to let me get seventy odd thousand pound from the government. Also the first two charges of rioting and possession, if I don't beat them, would do me out of a claim. My solicitor says they obviously tried to kill me, but didn't do it right, and tried to cover up by bringing the first two charges.

I got bail on the second charge on April 30th, and only got out for 4 months physio-therapy treatment at the Royal. I've to go back to jail on Sept. 1st. The stipulation of bail was that on Wed. Sept. 1st before 6 o'clock I was to give myself up to the governor. The judge says if I need more treatment I could reapply for bail then.

RECENT HARASSMENT

I was lifted last Saturday down the Falls me and two mates in a van. They arrested us under section 11 and took us into Hastings St. barracks and held us for 2 and a half hours and then threw us out again, just general harassment. They were slegging about my injuries, 'Next time there's a riot on I should kick a plastic bullet and not try to head it'. Yesterday coming up through Barracks St. from Just Books two jeep loads of them stopping cars, said 'Well Sean, how are the legs, See you in Sept.' and as I was crossing the road they revved the jeeps up and came dead fast towards me. I can hardly walk that fast so they near-

ly knocked me down. They're always stopping my brother, 'Tell Sean we'll see him in Sept. He may as well enjoy the good weather while he can, cause he's little time to go.' They had seen me sitting out in the sun.

Two of my mates were lifted and brought to Castlereagh last week, and offered money to inform on me. Another time a fella had been offered £30 a week just to inform where I was and who I was with and at what times, not to discover if I was up to anything illegal, just where I was at all times.

IT'S LIKE RELEARNING

I usually wear a calliper, but its getting fixed as I broke it! With my left side its like relearning. They can only give me advice with exercises etc. They've given no hope for my arm. I just have to accept that my arm is no good to me. It will just sit there. The only thing I can do is keep it lying loose to stop it getting tight, and curling up against my chest. To get weight through it, and hang it by my side. Cause if it curls up it will be difficult to put on clothes and things. There's a lot of things before the injury which are a blank in my memory, but things come back to me, wee things, slowly but surely. Things like, I was at the birth of one of my children. I sort of knew I was at the birth but couldn't remember which one. Now that really annoyed me, not being able to remember that. She's 4 now. Things gradually are coming back.

Drugs and Their Law

Just Books are helping distribute leaflets — 'Drugs and their law' — which deals mainly with drugs out-lawed under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act. The leaflets include information on cannabis, magic mushrooms, LSD, and glue with general advice on writing your own statement, how to handle an interrogation, legal aid, the dangers of glue sniffing, and what to do when someone takes an overdose.

The law has been changed in one minor detail since the publication of this leaflet. Up to the end of April, miniscule traces of an illegal drug did not add up to a 'useable' quantity, and if you admitted nothing, signed nothing incriminating, you couldn't be done. The Law Lords however, in all their wisdom, ruled that you CAN be done — even for traces visible only through a microscope (the scraping of a pipe or the smallest roaches, or what's in the linings of your pocket). Advice though remains the same — you do NOT have to say anything to the police, other than your name and address, and sign NO statement. The prosecution must still be able to establish that you were aware you had the illegal substance in your possession.

Copies of the 4-page leaflet are available free from Just Books. Bulk orders — 50 for £1 post free.



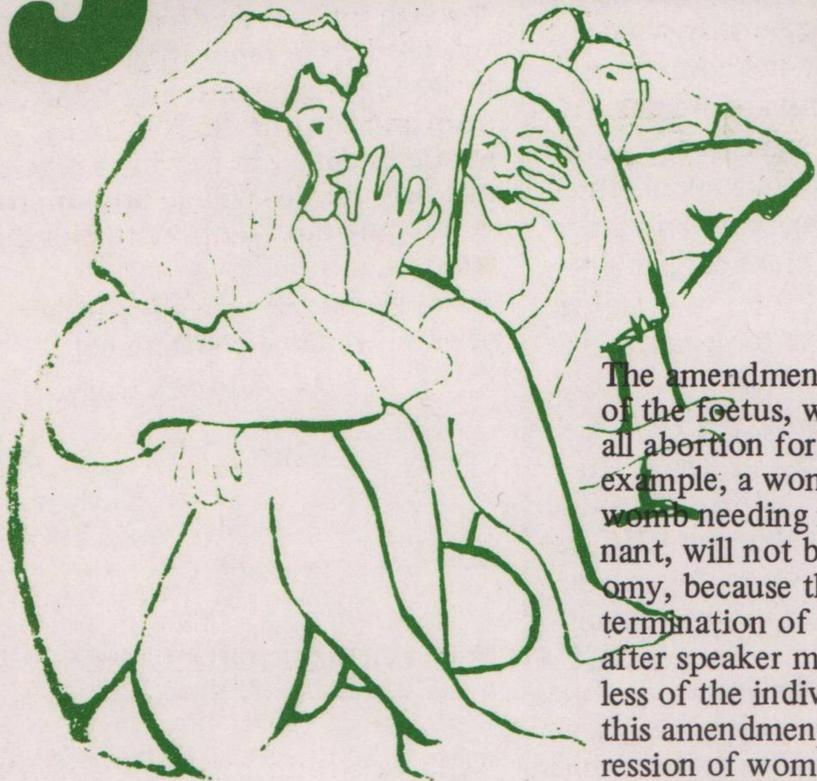
Government Fall Out!

As a follow-up to the article in the last issue of Outta Control — 'Brits Export Pollution' about the indiscriminate dumping of both high-level and low-level nuclear waste in the sea, the British Government have formally abandoned their decision to test-drill for suitable dumping places on land, citing advice from their own 'Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee'. In June, however, the Committee rather sheepishly pointed out that the government was **wrong** to make such a decision, and **wrong** to discontinue the test-drilling programme as it could have provided essential information. Meanwhile yet another government-sponsored investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, says that government attempts to monitor effects of Radioactive Waste in the sea are in danger of collapse, mainly due to a shortage of staff and further cut-backs on spending. This coincides neatly with the nuclear industry decision to increase the volume and extent of sea-dumping.

gaining

Sold with Outta Control

ground



The amendment, by preserving the right of the foetus, will effectively make illegal all abortion for whatever reasons - for example, a woman with a cancerous womb needing removal, who is also pregnant, will not be able to have a hysterectomy, because that would be procuring the termination of the pregnancy! Speaker after speaker made the point that regardless of the individual's views on abortion, this amendment will cause the further oppression of women in Southern Ireland, the reinstatement of the Catholic Church as

Anti-Amendment Campaign

ON Wednesday, June 9th., the Anti-Amendment Campaign was publicly launched in Dublin at a meeting with over 1000 people in attendance. The platform contained a variety of speakers representing a wide range of opinions, from the Professor of Law at Galway University, Kevin Boyle, to Bernadette McAliskey, Noel Browne and Peter Charlton, Rector of Cootehill Church of Ireland, and was chaired by Mary Holland.

The Campaign hopes to defeat the proposed amendment to the constitution concerning the right-to-life of the foetus. This amendment has been proposed by the Pro-Life Movement, which includes the anti-abortion groups SPUC, LIFE & CURA, and is due to be put to referendum in the autumn - a promise given by Charles Haughey, in grave need of votes from any quarter to stay in power. The anti-amendment campaign has launched itself with the slogan - "It's life that needs amending, not the constitution". At the meeting they made the point that the opposition was well organised, with direct access into the schools and through the Catholic Church into the pulpit. Many of the speakers made the point that the amendment would replace the Church back into the position they were in the early 70's. Then the Irish Constitution gave the Catholic Church a special place in the state. This was repelled, much to the annoyance and opposition of the Church, & this new move, if it succeeds, will place Catholic theology back in the constitution



arbiters of moral standards, and will cost a great deal of money that could be put to more effective use in fighting poverty and unemployment.

Speakers all indicated the extent to which the pro-life movement will go to force their views on other individuals, while effectively doing nothing about the quality of life for many children in the South. Kevin Boyle spoke forcibly of "the hypocrisy of groups who demand the protection of the unborn child, while they stand by content to let children lie under tarpaulin on the roadsides....." - an allusion to the plight of itinerant children. Do Noel Browne said that Haughey's decision to allow the referendum was in accord with the "bigoted nationalism of the branch of republicanism favoured by his predecessor Mr. de Valera". He went on to finish his speech with the chilling words: "Rome still rules in the Republic!".

The meeting went on for over 3 hours and in a collection raised over £1800 for the campaign funds. It is crucial that this amendment does not make its way into the constitution - if it does, it will put back the cause of women's liberation in Ireland another 50 years!

A friend from Dublin writes:

"The press and media coverage of the Anti Amendment Campaign meeting was negligible, and one of the major tasks facing the Campaign is to reach more people, especially outside Dublin. To this end it is in the process of establishing regional and local action groups on a country-wide basis. Already in Dublin three local groups have been set up, and because of the great response, these will be further sub-divided on a constituency basis.

That the Anti-Amendment Campaign has got off to a good start and has gained the support of a broad spectrum of Irish society, does not allow it to discount the enormity of the opposition. To stop the proposed amendment means taking on not only SPUC (Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child), and PLAC (Pro-Life Amendment Campaign), two rich and highly organised bodies, but also the three major political parties and the Catholic Church.

A meeting on June 19th discussed the report from the Steering Committee (who meet on a weekly basis) and the structure of the Campaign and activities for the future. It was an enthusiastic meeting, and numerous suggestions were made, such as a big Rally for next October."

The Anti-Amendment Campaign may be contacted at:

P.O. Box 1285, DUBLIN 7

The Right to Choose Campaign may be contacted at:

P.O. Box 1076, DUBLIN 1.

The Right to Choose Campaign supports the Anti-Amendment Campaign, but believes that it is fundamentally important to campaign for a woman's right to choose free legal and safe abortion, plus access to free and effective contraception.

If you would like to support this Campaign, then you can send an affiliation fee as follows:

Employed	£2
Unemployed	£1
Group Affiliation	£10

to the address given above.



HIDDEN VIOLENCE

A Study of battered women in Northern Ireland. by Eileen Evason.
Farset Co-operative Press. £3.00.

This important and valuable book is the product of the first systematic research done in the UK on the subject of domestic violence, and which has surveyed separated and divorced women *in the community*, not just in refuges.

The author hopes that the book will be not just of academic interest, but that it will be a help to women's groups in the establishment of more refuges, and to disprove (and deal with) the myths and prejudices that surround domestic violence, and to support *all* women's groups.

Eileen Evason, at a Press Conference to launch the book in Belfast last month, explained how interviews with women had revealed that the *causes* of domestic violence were a) the position of women in society generally, b) the position of women in marriage, c) the tradition that male wishes must over-ride everything else, and that domestic violence affects all social classes. Drink was not a specific cause; neither were unemployment or provocation. Children suffered greatly as a result of witnessing violence in the family, and many were psychologically distressed and were receiving large amounts of prescribed tranquilisers.

Part One of the book looks at the historical background, and shows that the past decade has not been the first period in which domestic violence has been a matter for public debate. Part Two examines the Northern Ireland survey, including the ways in which GPs, Solicitors and the Police have helped women - or not. Part Three gives extracts from taped interviews with women, and contains the most harrowing and explicit details of the entire book.

The following extract speaks for itself:

That night he just lost his head. He went in and dressed himself in black and he came out. He was wearing steel toe capped boots and he started knocking me around the place until the blood was running out of me. Then he dragged my hair up to the fire. He got papers and he started to set my hair on fire. I got them out. He left me alone for a couple of minutes then he started again punching me about the place again, wouldn't listen to no reason. Then I asked him for a drink of water and he went into the kitchen. Back he came with a breadknife. I felt the knife just going down my arms and he cut me a few places in the arms. He brought the knife across my face, it was only scraped, down my body from my chest down and he stabbed me 3 or 4 times in the stomach. I got 14 stitches in my stomach. The blood was running out of me. He just when clean cracked because I kept getting up from

the beatings all the time and sitting down again. He kept slinging me about. People heard me, but there was nobody to help me. He screwed the legs off the coffee table and started battering my head, my back, my arms, my legs, the back of my legs."

The book shows the importance of refuges to women and the need for more to be established. Although many women were reluctant to leave the home, the increasing numbers who are prepared to do so are an encouraging sign. Refuges introduce a new element to the violent situation, provide a breathing space and independence, give women more bargaining power ('I can leave if I want to'), and give the man an opportunity to re-assess his behaviour.

The fact that the armed patriarchy of N. Ireland gives some men easy access to weapons, adds an extra dimension to the violence, and we know that the RUC are even less likely to intervene in domestic violence if the man is a known paramilitary. Incidentally, a fair number of RUC & UDR wives are known to have been threatened with firearms, increasing the greater element of fear (and difficulty for women to leave the home).

It is clear that women value the refuges, and they are sometimes the only source of hope for them and their children. This book is a clear demand for more statutory help, and for the DHSS to establish a firm policy for levels of support in different areas.

"Hidden Violence" is essential, but distressing, reading for all women, and a most worthwhile contribution to the fight for women's liberation.

Available from Farset Press, 95 Shankill Road, Belfast 13. or from *Just Books*, 7 *Winetavern St., Belfast 1.*



QUAY CO-OP OPENS IN CORK

LAST month a new project opened in Cork with a day of mime, dance, children, art workshop, music, theatre, etc....about four hundred people took part.

Quay Co-op is a project organised co-operatively to provide facilities and support for people who wish to develop alternative ways of living, working and sharing resources. Their ideal is *self-help*, not waiting for the government or other statutory agencies or bodies to take the initiative.

There is a cafe (open every day except Monday), a bookshop, general shop, food co-op, a women's space, children's space, and resource facilities office.

The women's space is specifically for use by and for women - to meet, work, chat and to relax. It is a place where women can be together outside the house, without having to spend money. It is also available for meetings, seminars, workshops and so forth.

Money to start the project was raised through fund-raising events, donations, & through interest free loans. Nearly all this was used up in renovating the building & in getting equipment. Later, the cafe and shop and contributions from use of facilities are intended to provide a regular income. Any surplus will go into improving & developing the Co-op, or to aiding similar groups.

The Co-op produce a Broadsheet of news, and can be contacted at:

24 Sullivan's Quay,
Cork,
Ireland.



THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

THIS week the *Equal Rights Amendment* finally fell in the USA, failing to become a part of the constitution. The ERA steering group has been trying to insert it in the constitution since 1975. The ERA would make it illegal to discriminate on the grounds of sex in the USA - nothing more revolutionary than that, yet it has failed to be ratified by the required number of States.

To make an amendment to the constitution, you need a two-thirds majority in the Senate and the House of Representatives (both of which the ERA had) and three-quarters of the 50 States to vote in favour. The ERA had managed to get 35 States, 3 short of the 38 required, and even with a time extension of 2 years, the ERA still failed. To a large extent it was defeated by the united efforts of multi-national insurance and banking companies who knew that the passage of such an amendment would cost them a great deal of money in rectifying their discriminatory practices. It is clear that women still have a long way to go, if they can't manage to win such an innocuous demand from the state.

Contacts

Gaining Ground Collective: 7 Winetavern St., Belfast. Tel: 25426.

Belfast Community Law Centre:
Tel: Belfast 46984.

Belfast Women's Aid. Tel: 662385.

Gingerbread. Tel: Belfast 693710.