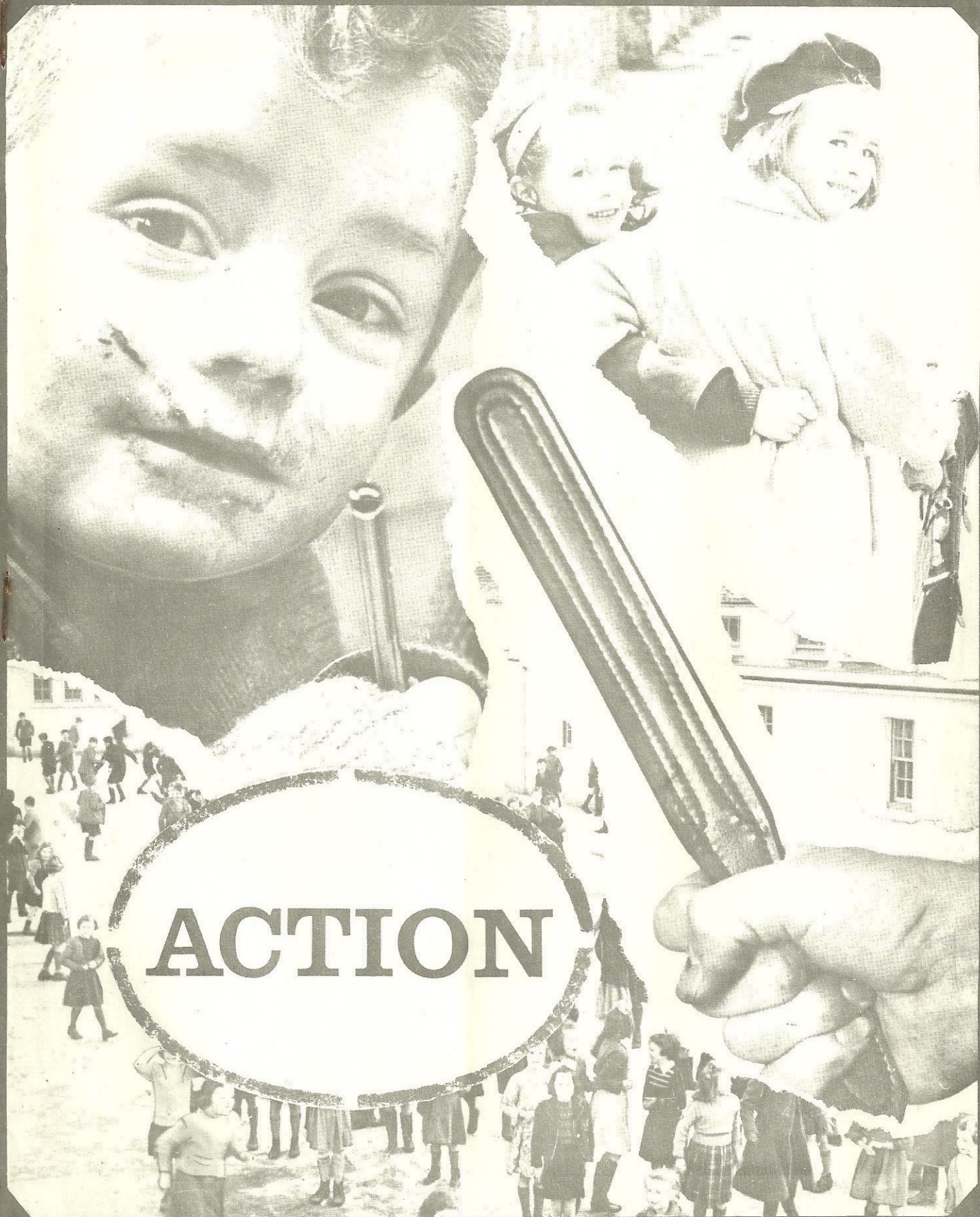
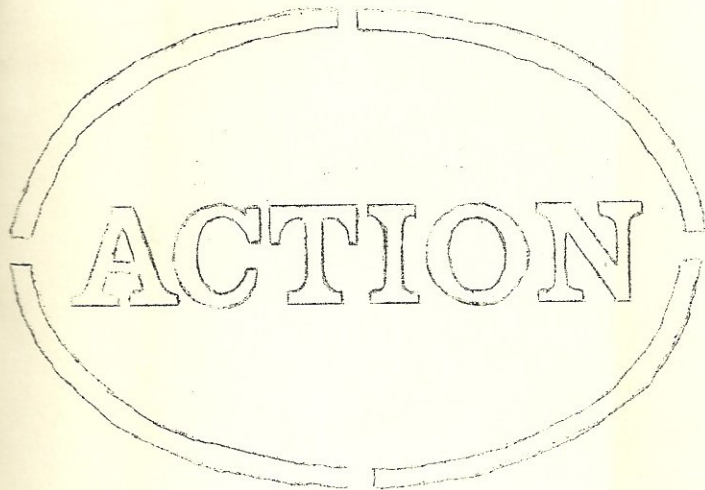


**ACTION**



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ACTION is printed and published by the Sean Heuston  
Branch of the Labour Party at 20, Earlsfort Terrace.

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# ACTION

## EDITORIAL.

To-day, young people all over the world are taking a more active interest in politics. With a better standard of education, a growing awareness is developing amongst youth that the decisions made by politicians and financiers are going to have a direct bearing on their future. With this realisation is coming an increasing involvement and the desire to participate in the making of decisions.

Here in Ireland, young people North and South, have raised their voices and are getting a hearing. They have seen through the sham of the "Old Order" and are demanding change. But they realise that demanding isn't enough - they themselves must bring about this change. To do this they must be organised and they must study the forces at work in the political set-up. Only by doing this will the protests, sit-ins and demonstrations be constructive. Protest for its own sake is as immature as a childish tantrum and only results in chaos.

There must be dialogue and ideas to give purpose to protest and reason for change.

In recent months, many young people, realising this, have joined the Labour Party, in the belief that Socialism is the only workable system for Ireland and the only system in which the dignity of the individual and the welfare of the nation as a whole can be achieved. :

The Sean Heuston Branch of the Labour Party is making a special appeal to all young, thinking people in Dublin North Central to come and join with us in our efforts to bring about radical changes in our society. The fight for Civil Rights in the South is just as important for us as the issues in the North are for the people in the Six Counties.

Our membership is made up of young people from the area. The branch is divided into sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of branch organisation. This gives every member a chance to participate fully in the running of the branch. We have lectures, debates, social and fund-raising activities, plus local work in the constituency planned for the immediate future. If you are interested in joining, we meet fortnightly in Parnell Square. Membership is 2/- per month.

To join your local Labour Party Branch  
write to :

The Secretary,  
Sean Heuston Branch,  
Labour Party,  
c/c 18, Iona Park,  
Glasnevin,  
DUBLIN 9.

Or phone 975027.

PROFILE: FATHER MICHAEL SWEETMAN S.J.

"WE ARE TOLD THE FAMILY IS THE HUB OF CHRISTIANITY. HOW THE HELL CAN A FAMILY START WITHOUT A HOME?" It's a question hundreds of homeless families ask every day without anyone paying much attention, but the query made headlines in January 1968 when it was put by the Rev. Michael Sweetman, S.J.

Father Sweetman was speaking at one of the first public meetings organised by the Dublin Housing Action Committee when he asked the famous question. He has spoken again and again on the same subject in the past year, despite the pressure of bad publicity attached to "agitators". In this he has shown commendable courage, courage conspicuously lacking in many of our political leaders who are elected to represent the people, and instead represent their own career interests.

Father Sweetman is not afraid to agitate, because he is more concerned with people than with votes. To accusations that he has joined with "extremists," he has replied: "I'll march with anyone who is actively tackling this problem!" In a newspaper article last February Fr. Sweetman wrote: "Human suffering can increase while balances of payments improve; if one section of the population exists so well we rank as the third best fed state in the world, that fact doesn't put

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WANTED -PREMISES  
We need a premises where we can print this Bulletin and hold meetings. If you have a spare room or basement somewhere in North Central which you would be willing to let, please write to us at;  
18, Iona Park,  
Glasnevin,  
Dublin 9.  
or phone 305326.  
\*\*\*\*\*

sufficient nourishment into the bellies of the other section... Sociology can only be implemented through political power. That should not induce a sigh of despair. Certainly anyone who uses the sufferings of others merely as a means to political power is as truly their exploiter as the site-speculator and the extortionist money lender. But to seek political power from a genuine intention of remedying their injustices is perfectly legitimate and indeed laudable. It is for the people to smell out with accurate noses, those who are really interested in them..."

Fr. Sweetman is not a politician, nor is he attached to any political party, but his definition of politics is one we would most sincerely applaud, it is concerned with solving the problems, it is based on co-operation, rather than competition, in an effort to help each other.

As an individual, Fr. Sweetman has done a great deal. He founded the Los Angelos Society's boys' home for

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\*  
\* DUBLIN HOUSING ACTION COMMITTEE \*  
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The Dublin Housing Action Committee was formed to tofocus attention on the plight of Dublin's homeless, and is run by those directly involved in the problem.

IF you have a housing problem and want advice, or if you wish to help in some way contact:

The Secretary,

D.H.A.C.

30, Gardiner Place,

Dublin 1.  
\*\*\*\*\*

homeless boys two years ago; he has taken an active and personal interest in rehabilitating ex-convicts, and he is tireless and outspoken in his efforts to help the homeless. Many times, Fr. Sweetman has said that a housing emergency must be declared in Dublin, that "there will have to be a crash programme providing decent accomodation, and a huge effort to clean, repair, and civilise places that will have to continue in operation for a considerable time longer."

Neither the Government nor Dublin Corporation has seen fit to agree with Fr. Sweetman. There will need to be many more courageous people speaking and agitating for these goals before we can hope for solutions to begin taking shape. But we salute Fr. Sweetman for his concern for social justice, and hope for the day when we will have many more such genuine leaders.

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\*\* LABOUR HOUSING POLICY. \*\*  
\*\*  
\*\* by Melachy Heffernan \*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The number and quality of houses.

Over the past forty-seven years successive governments have failed dismally to provide adequate housing for the people of Ireland. At present there are about 700,000 houses in this country. Of these, 50,000 are classified as being unfit for human habitation, while another 50,000 are structurally unsound. More than 160,000 are over 100 years old, while 35,000 are over 70 years old. Only 25% of the houses in this country have been built since 1945 (compared with over 50% in many other European countries). Furthermore on the basis of present forecasts we will have a deficit of 60,000 houses by 1971. If these forecasts are correct at least 200,000 people will be living in totally inadequate conditions.

The Labour Party considers this to be an intolerable state of affairs and upon assuming power will take immediate steps to remedy it. In its recently published policy it is proposed to set up a Department of Housing and Construction immediately after taking office. Labour also proposes to embark upon an emergency housing programme to provide houses for those in need of them.



Prefabricated dwellings will be used as a stop-gap, while the Labour Government will engage in a short term crash programme with the object of providing 100,000 new homes in five years.

Such an increase in the rate of building cannot take place without a change both in financial policy and in our concept of the rights of property. The chief hindrance to an emergency housing programme has been a lack of investment capital resulting from the extremely conservative financial policies pursued by Fianna Fail. Labour's policy provides for the supply of cheap capital for house-building. a second impediment to the building of sufficient houses has been the government's notion of the rights of property in general and land-lords in particular. Labour promises to bring building land under community control, thus ensuring the availability of enough land suitable for housing. In short, it is a part of Labour's Policy to remove all artificial hindrances, financial and otherwise, to the housing of Irish people in their own country.

In order to illustrate some of the implications of this part of Labour's policy, let us take for example Labour's plans for the building societies. At present considerable hardship is being imposed on people buying their own houses by the inordinately high deposits being demanded at the time of purchase and by the high interest rates on loans. The first Labour Government will take over the building societies and introduce government loans of up to 100% of purchase cost of houses in approved projects. The interest on these loans will be less than that at present being paid to the building societies.

Other important factors to be considered are efficient systems of allocation, renting and tenant purchase. The systems employed at present are bad and if left unchanged, dissipate many of the benefits that otherwise would accompany Labour's building programme.

Allocation

Houses will be allocated on a points system which will give credit for length of time

\*\*\*\*\*  
LABOUR OUTLINE POLICIES  
Available at Labour Party Head Office.  
20, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin, 2.  
Price 5/=.  
\*\*\*\*\*

on local authority waiting lists. People will be rehoused in the area from which they are being displaced instead of being moved indiscriminately as at present in the cities.

Rent

Legislation will be introduced whereby local authorities will control the creation of and rents charged for flats and bedsitters. The measurements of each flat and the numbers to be accomodated will be determined. Rent control will be introduced and cases of over-charging will be investigated by a rent tribunal.

Although Labour bitterly opposes the present scheme of differential rents it is not opposed to the principle. It is obviously right that the rents of local authority tenants should be based on the ability of the householder to pay. Labour will base its scheme on the income of the head of the house and not take into account the incomes of adolescent members. As these are engaged in providing for their own future and are not in a position to contribute much, to do so would place an unjust burden on the head of the house.

TENANT PURCHASE

Labour believes that tenant purchase schemes which are just from the tenants' point of view should be supported. Such schemes encourage greater communal living and neighbourhood pride. The mechanism of such schemes however will be left to the local authorities.



S C E I M B A L L A D C L U B

Every Sunday night, Sceim na gCeard-Cumann will be having a Ballad Session in the Kevin Barry Hall, Parnell Square. Admission will be 2/- and will be running from 9 - 12.



CONFIDENCE SHOULD BE AVOIDED."

\*\*\* (2) " Corporal Punishment should be administered only in cases of SERIOUS misbehaviour and SHOULD NOT BE ADMINISTERED FOR MERE FAILURE AT LESSONS."

\*\*\* (3) " Corporal Punishment should be administered only by the principal teacher or other member of the school staff authorized by the manager for the purpose."

\*\*\* (4) "Any teacher who inflicts improper or excessive punishment will be regarded as guilty of conduct unbecoming a teacher, and will be subject to severe disciplinary action."

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\*  
\*WHAT CAN YOU DO IF THESE RULES ARE BROKEN?  
\*  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* (1) Write to the Principal of the school and ask to see both him and the teacher concerned. Register the letter and keep a copy.

\*\*\* (2) If your interview is unsatisfactory write to the school manager (Usually the Parish Priest). Register the letter and keep a copy.

\*\*\* (3) If this is unsatisfactory write to The Secretary, Department of Education, Primary Branch, Marlborough St., Dublin I. (This does not require a stamp.) Inclose a copy of your letters to the Principal and the Manager.

\*\*\* (4) Also write to the Irish National Teachers Organization, 35 Parnell Square, Dublin I.

\*\*\* (5) If you are still unsatisfied get in touch with  
+++++  
REFORM, 90 KILFENORA RD., DUBLIN I2.  
+++++  
Reform was founded to combat excessive punishment in the  
schools and has done very good work in exposing cases of  
excessive punishment  
+++++

\*\*\*\*IF YOUR CHILD IS BADLY BEATEN GET A DOCTOR AND CONTACT Reform immediately. They will tell you how to get legal Dont rush up to the school and get involved with the

teacher,

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\* OTHER USEFUL ADDRESSES TO BE CONTACTED. \*  
\*  
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- \*\*\*\* (1). Your local Labour T.D. Michael O'Leary, Liberty Hall, D.I.
- \*\*\*\* ( 2). The Labour spokesman on Education - Mrs. Eileen Desmond,  
c/o Dail Eireann, Kildare Street.
- \*\*\*\* (3) Senator Owen Sheehy-Skeffington, Seanad Eireann, Kildare  
St. He is a life-long opponent of corporal punishment.
- \*\*\*\* (4) Dr. Cyril Daly, 296 Howth Road, Dublin 5. recently  
organised a petition to the minister of education asking for  
the abolition of corporal punishment. He got 8,000 signatures.  
He also collects case-histories of school beatings

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\*  
\* LABOUR PARTY POLICY ON SCHOOL DISCIPLINE. \*  
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"Order in our schools has in the past been maintained largely by repressive measures of various kinds. Rules were made by the school principal and his staff, and were strictly enforced by threat of punishment, a common deterrent being fear of physical pain. However, the need for severe repression arose, if need there was, it was perpetuated by the rigid authoritarian attitudes of those running the schools, and by their attempt to mould pupils' characters and personalities into a preconceived pattern. Most of the pupils were duly cowed and moulded, but the more spirited ones rebelled, and the schools thus created their own discipline problems.

Such methods are unhelpful in the context of the late 20th. century and radical changes will be necessary in order that the schools may come to terms with the climate of our times in this regard.

\*\*\*\* As the size of classes is reduced to a maximum of 25-30  
punishment will play a very much less significant role than heretofore in the schools.

\*\*\*\* PUNISHMENT FOR FAILURE AT LESSONS WILL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED; TYPES OF PUNISHMENT DAMAGING TO PUPILS' SELF-RESPECT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED, IN PARTICULAR, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT,  
THE PREMEDITATED INFLECTION OF BODILY PAIN IS BARBAROUS."

HARD TIMES  
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Who said there is no money for housing?

On March 4th the premises of James H. Worth & Co. of 110 Grafton St. went up for auction. Bidding started at £40,000 and there were 23 bids before the premises were sold to THE IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE CO. LTD. for £66,500.

This works out at £2,500,000 per acre or £3,140 per foot.

The Irish Life Assurance Co. already own property worth £5,250,000. Who needs a leprechaun when we have Irish Life?

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Three and a quarter acres of potential building land at Seafield Road East, Clontarf was withdrawn at £18,500 and sold immediately afterwards for a higher price.

\*\*\*\*\*

A five bedroom house in Ailesbury Drive, Donnybrook was sold for £12,800.

\*\*\*\*\*

FAMILY REHOUSED.

Mr. Chales Haughey, Minister of Finance is reported to be moving to a forty bedroom cottage called "Abbeville" between Kinsealy and Malahide. We Believe that there is no truth in the report that the ballroom in the house will be used as a soup kitchen for needy ministers, who have taken a wage cut.

Mr. P. Behan is still living with his wife and five children, at Mountjoy Square. ( in one room).

\*\*\*\*\*

A bungalow with twenty five acres of potential building land near Dunboyne Co. Meath was sold for £23,200.

\*\*\*\*\*

SOME RECENT "DOLE" INCREASES.

The Chairman of the E.S.B. got a rise last year of £1,960 to bring his salary to £7,000.

The General Manager of Bord Iascaigh Mhara got a rise of £1,000 to bring his salary to £5,000.

## MAY ELECTION?

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Rumour has already settled for a May General Election. while the Government has said nothing officially, their silence at this time is deafening.

Will it be the same as all other elections since the State was established? Will we see the same number of traditional politicians returned, despite the fact that Labour for the first time is contesting all constituencies with enough candidates to form a Labour government. Many say, no matter what happens, it's all the same to us.

This last view is constantly heard. The parliamentary system of government we have here is under fire. What has it done for us, people ask.

The honest reply would be, precious little has been done for the majority of our people. Health, employment, education, housing, agriculture, living standards, the list of unfinished national work could be infinitely lengthened.

When the historians of the future sit down to write about the period since 1922, they will surely call them the wasted years. Surely they will dismiss the politics that was dominant in those years as a politics of irrelevance and diatribe. They will record that the Labour Party over much of this period mattered little and was afraid to say boo to the conservative politicians who controlled the affairs of the country. Because changing times have given the Labour Party an opportunity to transform itself into a democratic instrument, aiming at the socialist transformation of our society, I believe that the course of our future political development can be profoundly altered.

The choice before all thinking citizens becomes increasingly

clear. On the Government side, we have the Third Economic Programme just published to give us an idea of their plans for the future. Here the mixture of economic exhortation is identical to that which failed before in the First and Second Programmes. Seventy-eight thousand new jobs were predicted in those Programmes and a constantly rising growth rate in the economy. In fact, there was a fall in the total of those at work and the economy did not grow at anything like the expected rate.

To give a graphic example of our failure as a community to meet the essential need of housing, here are figures to remember.

Last year, thirteen thousand houses, including municipal and private, were built in the State. That was the lowest rate of new house building out of all the other eighteen OECD European countries. It meant that we were building something like 3.5 dwellings per 1,000 of our people. Had we built at the same rate, for example, as Denmark, whose housing needs are not as grave as ours, we should have built 34,000 houses last year.

Government designed to get the country off its back doesn't just happen and certainly is not won by a fatalistic, "it makes no difference anyway" approach. To get Labour into Government will require more than wishing. Labour alone in every constituency at the next election will be offering policies which offer the only alternative to Fianna Fail management.

It will be difficult to get the real content of our policies across as distinct from the misrepresentations which our enemies set about our objectives. We must not be afraid because they are now using their familiar Operation Red



Herring. We must also realise that people are now better informed about what socialism really means and understand that freedom of the individual and his or her fulfilment is the inspiration of all our thinking. When our enemies call us Communist, they know now that they are only name-calling and attempting to smear us.

They accuse us of being over fond of State powers in our policy documents. We make no secret of the fact that our vision of the State is one which will place its powers and resources at the service of all its citizens. The State is the name by which we call the great human conspiracy against hunger and cold, against loneliness and ignorance. Who disagrees with that?

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LABOUR PARTY BRANCHES - NORTH CENTRAL

Sean Heuston Branch,	Mairin Johnston, 22, Belgrave Road, Rathmines, 6.
Fintan Lalor Branch,	Paddy Birmingham, 5, Main St. Baldoyle.
James Nolan Branch,	Terry Keogh, 49, Sheriff St, Dublin 1.
Fairview Branch	Mrs. Larkin, 10, Marino Park, Fairview, Dublin 3.
Clontarf Branch,	Frank Malone, 136, Mount Prospect Avenue, Dublin 3.
Ballybough Branch,	Charles O'Reilly, 64, Clonliffe Avenue, Dublin 3.

THE FIRST OF TWO ARTICLES

on the CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL  
by Kadar Asmal, Lecturer in Law, Trinity College

The Criminal Justice Bill which was introduced during the last session of Dail Eireann is one of the most important bills to have seen the light of day since the founding of the state. As far as it amends the Criminal Law, it certainly proposes the most far reaching changes in the law. A great deal of this part is certainly what is called 'lawyers law' but this does not mean that these sections do not deserve scrutiny.

Most critics have generally welcomed the provisions of the Bill which attempt to humanise our criminal law and procedure, and those sections which repeal many old and out-of-date enactments.

However, many people who are concerned with the maintenance and extension of civil liberties have been particularly alarmed by two aspects of the Bill. Firstly, there is an extensive increase in Police Powers of arrest, the power to search and to take fingerprints. Secondly, wide restrictions on the present right to hold public meetings, processions, and demonstrations are proposed, and the purpose of this short article is to bring out the implications of these sections which have already forced a number of public bodies, including the General Council of County Councils, several Trades Unions, the National Association of Tenants Organizations, farmers

Organizations etc. to express alarm. For Further Information Write to CITIZENS FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES 158, Rathfarnham Rd. Dublin 14

FREE ASSEMBLY.

Clause 30 of the Bill states that " A person

procession in or through any public place" unless notice is given to the Garda Superintendent of the district regarding the proposed time, place and route, at least 24 hours beforehand.

This requirement does not apply to an election meeting or to meetings held in a place or on an occasion when public meetings are customarily held. Nor does the notice provision apply to a procession which is a funeral or is of a kind customarily held along the route.

During the Second Reading of the Bill, the Minister gave notice to move an amendment to remove the provision that failure to give such notice would be an offence. If the Bill stands as moved, every spontaneous factory-gate gathering or similar meeting would be liable to prosecution. If the effect of the amendment is to strip the section of its legislative effect and refashion it as a simple exhortation, there would be no objection to it, but any amendment which retains the obligation to give notice in any statutory form must give rise to alarm.

Clause 31 of the Bill stipulates that when a Garda Superintendent believes that the holding of a public meeting "may occasion serious public disorder or, in the case of a meeting held in the public highway, undue interference with the rights of other users of such highway", he may prohibit the meeting or procession or lay down conditions governing the time, place or manner in which it is to be held.

These two provisions give very wide powers to the Gardai relating to public meetings, processions and demonstrations. Several points need to be stressed relating to them.

Firstly, a public meeting does not have to be held in the open air in order to be "public" as the law understands this term. The defining clause (clause 2) of the Bill defines a "public place" as any place (including a building) to which the public have access whether as of right or by permission and whether subject to or free of charge. The Gardai would therefore have powers to ban an outdoor meeting under these sections of the Bill if they feared that holding it would "occasion serious public disorder".

Secondly, the threat of "serious public disorder" need not necessarily come from the organisers of the meeting in order to justify a ban. The threat might come from some individual or group which proposed to attack or interfere with an indoor or outdoor meeting. The Gardai could, therefore, ban or impose conditions on the meeting in view of the possibility of such interference from others. This was done on several occasions during 1968 by the Six County Minister of Home Affairs who had similar powers under the Northern Ireland Public Order Act - civil rights demonstrations were banned because of the threat to "public order" that developed when Paisleyite groups threatened counter-demonstrations or marches.

Thirdly, "customary meetings and processions are exempted from the requirement to have the Gardai informed before-hand. There is no definition, however, of what constitutes "customary". How long must a meeting have been regularly held in a place before it becomes a "customary" meeting? What is a "customary" time?

There is a right of appeal to the High Court against bans or conditions imposed on public meetings by the Gardai and the Minister for Justice has stated that this right of appeal makes the proposed legislation here superior to that of the Northern Ireland Public Order Act. Apart from the fact that the Minister seems to be elevating the convenience of motor cars above the constitutional right of free assembly, there is a fundamental weakness in the Bill's provision of an appeal to the High Court. The requirement to give 24 hours notice to the Gardai would effectively make any spontaneous meeting in any public place illegal. Occasions do arise when groups of people wish to congregate in a public place to discuss some important issue. For example, workers in a factory who are informed of sudden redundancies or an impending closure may be refused facilities to meet on the employer's premises and may wish to meet at the factory gate instead. This happens often; yet under the Bill as it stands such a meeting would be illegal as the Gardai would not have been given the requisite notice before-hand. Even if the period of prior notification were to be reduced from 24 hours to some shorter period such as 4 or 6 hours, it would still be open to this objection.

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Your local Labour Party T.D. is Michael O'Leary and he can be contacted every Sunday morning in Liberty Hall, 2nd Floor, between 11a.m and 1o'clock.

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STUDENT NEWS

The tradgedy of the recent awareness amongst students is that in the case of U.C.D. it is too late to stop the movement to Belfield. This is a simple Government based plan to widen the gap between the student and the rest of society and to bring to a more refined stage the narrow processing of specialists as has been going on for along time, rather than to educate people in the truest sense.

There is no doubt that the establish- ment fears any coordinated mass of people (other than those created by itself) and its attitude to both Trades Unions and Student Unions is an indication of this.

The closure of the National College of Art and the statement by the Galway Local Authority that the grants issued to "misbehaving" students would be stopped, indicate clearly that students taking a good deep look at our society is much against the wishes of the present controllers of our society, be they the financial establishments or the Fianna Fail political machine.

It is proposed now that the N.C.A. get a new college and also that the student of Bolton Street and Kevin Street Colleges of Technology move out of the city. In the case of these colleges it is planned to create another prestige educational processing plant in Ballymun, neatly divorcing the student from the worker and also robbing Ireland's major city of one its principle functions-i.e. that of catering for many diff- erent types of institutions and businesses, thus stim- ulating the dynamism that is associatd with cities. It now becomes apparent that the big business element of our government want the city space for its office blocks and commit what could be a "troublesome" element to educational deserts on the outskirts.

Just as the government has tried to discredit the farmers associations, the Trades Unions and the teachers in their recent disputes, they have tried with much greater success in depicting the student as an irresponsible smug layabout, with too much money and so have lessened the chances of the student and trades unions getting toget- her to form a common front against repressive legislation, and for equitable distribution of the country's wealth

than exists at present. Students and workers are urged to share patriotically in the financial drawbacks created by the government while the spoils of our capitalist system find their way into the most surprising pockets. The days of the aristocracy are still with us.

