

letters to the editor

which flag?

Dear Comrade,

In your last two issues the writer of "Northern Letter" has misrepresented me.

In the May U.I. he alleged that at a Civil Rights meeting in Newry I supported the idea of separate 'Green' local councils in some parts of the Six Counties. I did not. Not in Newry. Not anywhere. Not ever.

In your June issue he claimed that I am "not prepared to honour both sides of Connolly, the Socialist and the Irishman", because, with Michael Farrell, I opposed the carrying of the Tricolour in the proposed Connolly Commemoration march through Belfast.

Connolly was a revolutionary socialist, a Marxist. As such he insisted at all times in the distinct and separate identity of the working-class section of any united front.

In 1916, after some hesitation, he co-operated with the other elements in the national revolutionary movement. He did so because at that time the objective interests of a large section of the national bourgeoisie demanded that the link with Britain be broken. Thus it was possible to unite with them, and to go along with them — up to a point at which their interests were satisfied. And to that point Connolly counselled . . . "hold on to your guns . . ."

I believe that in 1969 there is no section of the bourgeoisie in Ireland, Orange or Green, North or South, which has any interest in national independence and that the struggle for the Workers' Republic must be conducted independent of and against the bourgeoisie class.

Whether one likes it or not — and I accept that Republicans don't like it — the Tricolour has become the symbol of an all-class alliance. You may say that this is unfortunate. You may say that it is tragic and that the Tricolour is thereby sullied. But it is true.

The Tricolour is used by Fianna Fail and Fine Gael in the South and by every jumped-up Nationalist politician in the North. It flies over the foreign embassies of the "Free" State. It flew over the troops in Cyprus and the Congo who were sent out

this city for civil rights alongside the local Republican Club long before Oct. 5th 1968, when the street was not a very fashionable place to be, when the "moderate" gentlemen who seem to receive his enthusiastic support were sipping cocoa and watching the action on telly.

Fraternally,
Eamonn McCann (Derry Labour Party), 10 Gartan Sq., Derry.

fox walsh

A Chara,

Many of the men who were active in the Republican Movement in the pre-war years have now gone to their eternal reward. Many lie in unmarked graves, and their efforts to preserve the ideals of republicanism are mostly unrecorded.

Michael John (Fox) Walsh was such a man. He was imprisoned in 1936 during the height of the first period of Fianna Fail coercion, and for five years during the last war he was imprisoned either in Mountjoy jail or the Curragh internment camp. He was a prominent member of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, and was chairman for many years of Brian Dillons Hurling Club.

This committee have undertaken the task of erecting a memorial cross at Michael Walsh's graveside in Rathcooney cemetery, and appeal to his friends and comrades to help financially the work of preserving the memory of a man who was uncompromising in his views and loyal to his death to the cause of Irish freedom.

All subscriptions will be acknowledged.

Sinne le meas:
Derek McKenna, Glyndale, Carrigaline Road, Cork
Eugene Harrington, Lorraine, Dillon's Cross, Cork

Joint Treasurers
Michael Walsh Memorial Committee.

died for wales



GEORGIAN HOMELESS DUBLIN'S HOMELESS

Dublin Housing Action Committee's battle against property speculators when three families were moved into 44 St. Stephen's Green. No. 44 is one of between Georgian Preservationists, the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Boland, proposing to demolish the houses and erect office blocks on the site).

Mr. Boland recently overruled a decision by the dissolved Dublin City Council refusing planning permission to Green Property Co. and gave the green light for the office block development, not a surprising decision considering Mr. Boland's past record.

The Housing Action Committee which has consistently opposed demolition of sound housing, decided that the scandal would be best exposed by having homeless families occupy the buildings. Three families were moved in on July 13. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh O'Rourke with one child, Mr. and Mrs. James Wade (expecting first child)

and Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Geraghty with one child.

On the Thursday following the squatters' move, a public meeting was held outside the house by the Georgian Society, An Taisce and the Dublin Civic Group. These groups, mainly composed of bourgeois liberals, adopted a "holier than thou" attitude towards the housing Action Committee and refused to allow any of the squatting families to give their point of view at the meeting.

The squatters were not ignored for long, however. On Friday, July 18 agents of the Green Property Co. smashed their way into No. 44. The only person in the house at the time was the wife of one of the squatters and her 18 month old child.

After smashing their way into the house the terror gang, who were accompanied by Gardai, broke every toilet in the house, scattered belongings of the families around the house and broke down locked doors. They also tore to shreds the banner of the Dublin Housing Action Committee and smashed up a placard belonging to the Georgian Society.

HOTEL NOW FOR HOMELESS

Dublin Housing Action Committee has spotlighted the scandal of vacant property all over Dublin while thousands are homeless, by taking over the Carlton Hotel in Harcourt St., an extensive premises which has been idle for a year.

Three families were moved into the hotel on July 29,

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Title: Which Flag? [Letter to The United Irishman, Vol. 23, No. 8]

Organisation: Derry Labour Party

Author: Eamonn McCann

Date: 1969

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