

# LIMERICK SOCIALIST

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**THE  
VOICE  
OF THE  
WORKER**

'That which is good for the working class I esteem patriotic . . .' *James Connolly*

## THE NEWS IS GOOD!



## KEMMY FOR THE DAIL

# The chance of a lifetime

WHO LOVES ya, baby? Why everybody — that is until the polling stations close on the evening of June 16. Until then all those sharp-suited men and blue-rinse women who normally wouldn't bid you the time of day will smilingly tell you you're the greatest since sliced bread, in the words of Mary Martin's fab song, 'You're the top, you're the Tower of Pisa, you're the smile — on the Mona Lisa, you're a symphony from a melody by Strauss, you're Mickey Mouse!' Why this remarkable change of attitude? You've got it right first time: You're a Voter.

However, on June 17, your whirlwind courtship will be over and you will be back on the shelf, a work-shy bum, a no-good lout, an object to be despised, in the words of that same song, 'A worthless cheque, a total wreck, a flop'. (Let me here interpolate a small item: there is one man who does not love you even now; he is the Returning Officer for Limerick. He will not be going to the Labour Exchange to select unemployed girls and boys who can read and write for those nice little jobs as poll and counting clerks; they are reserved for people who are already in well-paid employment; they will be the only 'suitable' people and your out of work school-leaver will have to forego that badly needed suit or dress, pair of shoes, or railway fare to see Aunt Maggie. Give the Returning Officer his due he still acts as if you're a flop).

Until close of play on June 16 you will, as I said, be courted; the hitherto speechless will find tongue, slush funds will be discovered to pay for pints for the perpetually thirsty and the party candidates will in chorus tell you that heaven is around the corner. Your problem will be what road to take to this heaven because oddly one lot will tell you the right way is to retain the Coalition and the other lot to throw the Coalition out. Here I am reminded of a famous House of Commons reply (it may very well have been by Edmund Burke): "The right honourable gentleman's speech contained many things that were true and many things that were new; unfortunately the things that were true were not new and the things that were new were not true!" So there is a problem.

While it will be a nation-wide problem to separate the new and the old and the false and the true your task in Limerick is easy. You have an advantage over the electors in other constituencies: there is actually someone you can vote for with complete confidence, that rarity, an honest man, a worker of integrity who cherishes ALL people no matter what their condition, a man of no rancour, a man not only with ideas but with the ability to articulate them. I refer, of course, to Jim Kemmy.

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QUITE PROPERLY you will say, 'Well, if he's so blooming good why hasn't he been snapped up by one of the parties?' A fair question. Fine Gael won't have him because he does not know how to make profits by printing share certificates like Senator Russell; nor can he ride to hounds like Liam Cosgrave, or keep his own pack like a Bishop O'Dwyer. Moreover, he does not know how to get grants of the taxpayers' money to keep his *Limerick Socialist* afloat not like O'Donnell-A-Boo's paper *Amarach*. (Let me say parenthetically that in all the public correspondence about the failure of this Irish-language paper all the brouhaha has been about the alleged inadequacy of the taxpayers' grants, not a word that its failure was due to the failure of readers to buy it and advertisers to support it). At any rate they are some of the 'reasons' why Jim Kemmy is not acceptable to our huntin', shootin' and fishin' folk. He won't put on fancy dress either; no admiral's hat, no chain, no ermine. Obviously out of the question for Fine Gael.

Why not Fianna Fail? Easy that one: Jim Kemmy isn't a crook. Nuff said.

The fringe parties? Jim Kemmy doesn't think that freedom comes out of the barrel of a gun; he still worries about that

BY BERNOT MCBVOY

eight-year-old boy, Eamon Logue, who has to go through life without a left arm because he happened to be in the wrong place when an I.R.A. bomb went off.

Do you remember the big fuss made by the Limerick City Councillors, Russell, Coughlan *pere et fils*, &c., when they made their 'twinning' visitation to Derry, the wine, the oozing goodwill, the congratulatory speeches? Of course, you do; the pictures were in all the papers. Did you see a picture of one, just one, of these worthies bringing an apple or an orange to little Eamon? No, you didn't. Goodwill, honesty, sincerity . . . After I've been sick . . . let me turn to the Labour Party, so-called.

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I am personally aware that much effort was spent by Labour Party luminaries to get Kemmy back into the fold. If these had succeeded, there is no doubt that he would be the party choice to contest Limerick East and there would be no scandal of phantom branches 'nominating' Coughlan Senior. Nor would the dreadful Thady ever have been Mayor: the principle of Buggins's turn would, of course, have operated in Jim Kemmy's favour and with the aura of the mayoralty still clinging (Is it aura — or odour?) he'd have been offered as a 'sound' man, a great candidate.

Why then didn't Jim Kemmy stick to Labour and accept his reward? It is just that he prefers his PRINCIPLES. He found, as I have found in Dublin, that the Irish Labour Party does not exist; it is as phantom as the Coughlan nominating branches. Kemmy was in the inner sanctum, the Administrative Council, and you can get no higher (lower?) than that; he saw it for what it is — a talking shop, a rubber stamp for a close coterie of *individuals* who have found politics an agreeable and well-paid way of passing the time.

In the higher echelons of the party, anyone who suggests protest and action to back it up — is soon brought to order for 'rocking the boat'. At the outset, I frankly did not believe Jim Kemmy or accept his analysis. Indeed, I was upset when I told him rather grandly shortly after my return from London that I was now founder-chairman of my local branch of the Labour Party and a member of the party's Dublin Regional Council. 'You'll find out', he would say amusedly. There were times when I had qualms about attacking in this journal social ills, blatant evils that even a protest by one Labour T.D. or Senator must lead to public demand to have redressed; I too did not want to rock the boat.

I was not branch chairman for long; a 'safe' man superseded me: I am still on the Regional Council but I don't attend. For why? The Council found time to talk about nothing except what a handful of Provo-oriented members described as the harassment of 'Republicans'. A couple of years back the Council did discuss the cancer of school-leavers unable to find work (how it has grown since!), but when I suggested that we should put advertisements on the front pages of the two Dublin evening papers inviting school-leavers who could not get jobs to meet at Liberty Hall and be organised into the Labour Party *for free* I was laughed at: the Council, old fellows like myself, did not want youthful members. No doubt they'd rock the boat! Jim Kemmy forgave me, Now I know why he is not the Party's (bless the mark!) standard-bearer in Limerick: my subscription is going to his Election Fund.

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THE LABEL 'Socialist' is not, of course, used by members of the Labour Party except when they are attending

expenses-paid conferences in Paris or Vienna; it is not used when soliciting votes at home and it is mentioned sparingly at Labour Party gatherings. There is a reason for this, although it is not the reason that Labour Party T.D.'s and Senators advance: it is simply They Are Not Socialists! Socialism and Socialist are two dirty words because bishops and knights (of St. Columbanus) have made them dirty.

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FROM TIME to time I have commented on the more far-out impertinences of the other candidates, but I have not mentioned Miss Win Harrington, Independent. Indeed, I was not aware she was a candidate until I saw a piece about her in *Image*, which, at 30p a throw, describes itself as "The monthly magazine for today's Irishwoman". It seems she manages a business for her brother and in her spare time does much voluntary work for the handicapped. Additionally, she wants women to be more politically involved. The article, by Nuala Fennell, quotes Miss Harrington as saying: "Having strong views on contraception could be a dangerous policy for me right now" and it adds: "She spoke to a group of nuns who were very anxious about contraception and abortion and she feels that the fact she left them happy enough at her approach (without directly reneging) reflects the sense in taking a low profile on contentious issues".

Miss Harrington had better issue an immediate disclaimer about what *Image* has printed (if it is untrue) or else adopt as her election slogan: "Vote for Win — She'll keep a low profile".

Before Miss Harrington hands over her election deposit to be lost beyond recall I beg her to listen to my advice: Give that money to the *mentally* handicapped and, before it is too late, return to voluntary work. Nuala Fennell, by the way, ought to stick to politics; writing plain English is not her *forte*: nuns anxious about contraception *and* abortion! What's Limerick coming to!

Before I leave *Image*, here is a direct quote from the gossip tidbits: "Dessie O'Malley is a pain in the . . . and so is the Bookie's Runner". Where the ellipsis is you insert the four-letter word "neck" unless, of course, another word comes to mind. Mind you, when I write things about O'Malley or the Coughlans, especially as they are the unvarnished truth, there are cries at the Council of "character assassination". Let these gentlemen now turn their rage on *Image* and the 'ladies' who write it.

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THERE ARE plenty of nobodies putting themselves forward for election. Yet they are no better or no worse than the candidates the parties are offering you in Limerick East. All have one thing in common: their election guarantees a continuance of this unjust society.

Let me offer a personal sample: a bachelor earning £10,000 a year benefited to the extent of £17 a week in Richie Ryan's last Budget and so did all the well-heeled. That's the Fine Gael way; Fianna Fail wanted even bigger hand-outs.

Neither Labour, Fine Gael nor Fianna Fail saw any injustice in limiting the married woman's Income Tax personal allowance to a miserable £200 a year whereas in Northern Ireland and in mainland Britain her allowance is the same as for any other working person.

Tax the farmers? Since the Budget they've had millions more in benefits but only a miserable handful are being called on to pay anything. All the parties agree that this scandal, though they don't call it that, shall continue.

Family Law? Family planning, contraception advice — they'll be hot potatoes, too hot to mention for each of the parties. In between elections you get promises, promises, promises . . .

Jobs for school-leavers? Nothing, do you hear me? Nothing is being done. Or will be done.

But I could go on for ever. Now you are entitled to ask:

how will electing Jim Kemmy help? This way: these subjects and the many, many other grievances that bedevil our society will be sure of an airing. Please do not be cynical and say that's not much help. Let me remind you that it was the persistence of ONE MAN, William Wilberforce, who prevailed on Great Britain to abolish slavery. And Galileo's idea survived all the bishops!

Jim Kemmy is respected by the best men in the land — there are a few good ones; the country and you are fortunate in having him as your candidate. Let him be your voice! Unfortunately, I do not have a vote in Limerick, so will YOU, please, vote for me; I do have a sort of claim on you: my mother taught some of your parents and grandparents at the Model School during the Great War for Civilisation(!) and my father fought rather manfully to have the Christian Brothers retained at Bruff against the might of Bishop O'Dwyer. He lost that battle but battles are not all that important. He used to tell me: "Be satisfied to lose *all* the battles, so long as you win the war!"

Do me a favour: WIN THE WAR!

# Break the stranglehold of stagnation!



SHAKE OUT  
THE COBWEBS VOTE

# KEMMY

Jim Kemmy stands  
for progress and  
change.

Help to build a  
better Limerick by  
giving him your  
No. 1 vote

## PART 3

# DAINGEAN DAYS

## THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

by SEAN BOURKE

The day began at Daingean Reformatory with the shrill sound of the nightwatchman's hand-bell as he paraded up and down the centre of the dormitory shouting, "Come on, wakey wakey! Get out of those beds and get dressed before Brother Stack gets in!"

Brother Stack was the Kerryman in charge of the dormitories and the wash-house and his round face was perpetually flushed with anger. He would arrive to take over from the civilian nightwatchman at 7.30 a.m. By then we would all have our beds made and would be lined up ready for the next phase of the never-changing daily ritual.

It was the middle of October 1947 when I arrived in Daingean and I was twelve-and-a-half years of age. The winter of that year was a particularly bitter one and the snow was heavy and stayed thick on the ground. We left the dormitory in two parallel lines and were marched by Brother Stack through the dark, snow-covered grounds of the Reformatory. On the other side of the chapel was a long shed with small windows from which came a very faint light to punctuate the gloom. This shed had a single door at each end and as we, the junior boys, entered at one end, the senior boys (those from sixteen to twenty) were coming in at the other end. This shed was called the wash-house.

Both the senior and the junior boys were divided into sections called after different saints, and these sections were in turn arranged so as to keep the boys together as much as possible within their own age groups. Whenever the senior boys and the junior boys had to be brought together, the youngest section of the senior boys was deliberately positioned closest to the oldest section of the junior boys, and this progression went on so that the oldest boys in the senior sections were at all times farthest from the youngest boys in the junior sections. The significance of all these elaborate arrangements did not dawn on me for many months. The 24 brothers and five priests at Daingean Reformatory seemed to have an obsession with the Sixth Commandment.

The wash-house had a bare concrete floor and unpainted walls from which the plaster was crumbling. Like the dormitory, it had a number of bare, 40-watt bulbs suspended on lengths of worn flex from the beams of the tin roof. The only furniture was a long wooden stand stretching from one end of the shed to the other down the middle of the floor. On this stand were positioned two parallel lines of tin basins already filled with water. There was only one tap in the wash-house to which was attached a long rubber hose for filling the basins.

The boys lined up on either side of the stand, facing each other, the junior boys at one end of the wash-house and the senior boys at the other, with the youngest of the senior boys closest to the oldest of the junior boys. Near each basin was a small piece of yellow soap of the kind used for scrubbing floors. There was no heating in the wash-house and the ice was about a quarter of an inch thick in the basins. I copied the other boys and broke the ice with a quick jab of the elbow before having a wash in the freezing water.

Absolute silence had to be maintained at all times. The first words of the day could only be spoken at breakfast. Brother Stack had departed and Brother Ahearn was supervising the wash-house. He did this by standing on a wooden box at the point where the senior boys met the junior boys and watching every move and listening for the slightest whisper. Brother Ahearn was nicknamed, "The Killer". I found out why on that very first morning in Daingean.

Some boy was heard to whisper to another at the other end of the wash-house. Brother Ahearn went red in the face. "If I catch the fella that's talken he won't be able to talk again for a

long time!" he shouted. He had a harsh, grating voice. Then suddenly he seemed to notice something. He jumped down off the box and ran down to where the whisper had come from. He caught hold of a boy of about seventeen and proceeded to beat him methodically with his fists. He punched the boy in the face repeatedly until his lip was split and his nose spurted blood. In his frenzy, Brother Ahearn's crucifix worked its way loose from the belt of his cassock and, dangling from its neck cord, jumped about in a grotesque dance as he carried out his attack on the terrified boy.

Brother Ahearn then resumed his position on the wooden box and glared up and down the wash-house. "Ye scum of the earth!" he screamed, addressing the inmates in general. "Ye dirty, filthy, good-for-nothing scum of the earth! Ye dirty pack of robbers! Ye will be no loss to anyone when ye go back to the dirty filthy hovels and the ignorant, illiterate fathers and mothers that ye came from!"

From the wash-house we were marched once more through the snow and the darkness to the chapel for Mass. The bright lights and the heating were a welcome relief from the squalor we had just left. The youngest of the junior boys were up in the front pews and the older ones about half way down the chapel. One row of pews was then left empty to separate the youngest of the senior boys from the oldest of the junior boys. Further down towards the back of the chapel there was a wide gap separating the boys completely from the special pews for the priests and brothers. The Mass of course was in Latin and went on for about half an hour, being celebrated this morning by a Cork priest named Father Curtin.

After Mass we were marched across the grounds of the Reformatory again to an enclosed, gravelled yard where Brother Ahearn put us through half an hour of P.T. in the snow. Then, at long last, it was time for breakfast. Another march through the gloom to the boys' dining hall. And here another shock awaited me.

The dining hall was part of the main building and comprised the entire ground floor of one of the wings. The floor was scrubbed concrete and the walls were painted dark green. From the peeling white-washed ceiling hung the inevitable 40-watt bulbs. Along each of the two longer walls was a row of tables covered with black and white chequered linoleum like large chess boards. There were eight wooden kitchen chairs with spoked backs at each table. In front of each chair was a rusty tin mug filled with sugarless tea that had been poured out from buckets half an hour before and was now almost cold. Next to the mug was a chipped enamel plate half filled with a watery porridge that had also been poured out half an hour before and was also now cold. (The boys working in the dining hall were excused the P.T. so that they could do the pouring out well in advance of breakfast time). There was a small cob of bread for every two boys amounting to about two slices each.

The centre aisle of the dining hall was marked off from the table areas by two white lines that stretched the whole length of the hall. The boys, on entering the dining hall, had to stand with their toes just touching these white lines and facing each other in two long single files across the aisle, their backs to the tables. Brother Stack was back in charge again. He waited until you could hear a pin drop and, since everyone was starving, he did not have long to wait. Then, very slowly and deliberately, he started to make the sign of the cross and we all followed suit. "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen".

He waited again to see if he could detect a whisper. But the

# KEMMY FOR THE DAIL

As most of you know by now Jim Kemmy is going forward in the general election as an Independent Socialist candidate. So what, says the cynic, we've had independent T.D.'s before? Indeed so, and some of them have been good.

The "Limerick Socialist" has as much sympathy with the politics and activities of Joe Sheridan as we have with those of Coughlan, but Sheridan has been the better representative. His speeches in the Dail could be enclosed in a child's copybook; he has never shown initiative on any subject, nor given any indication that he has an original idea in his head. But he has done one job he has been a successful messenger boy for the ranchers of Longford/Westmeath, and when he recently announced a public meeting, for the Longford Arms Hotel, 'bar facilities laid on', just as sure as Thady will never enter Dail Eireann, you can be equally certain that the hotel was packed with Sheridan's strong farmers.

Coughlan will return to his natural place the racecourse, after the election; he is a messenger boy too, but while Sheridan's farmers gorge themselves on steak and stupify themselves on brandy, many of Coughlan's constituents, the workers of East Limerick, wonder if next month they'll be able to afford meat or potatoes or tea.

Yes, it is interesting that the most successful independents have been farmers representatives: Sheridan, Paddy Finnucane (North Kerry), Donnellan of Clann na Talmhan, the party of disparate individuals bound together in a commitment to big farmer interests. And indeed there lies the answer; they served a powerful sectional interest and were successful. Today they are not needed: the two big parties, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail vie to best serve the rich farmer.

In contrast, the working class independents have not succeeded or stayed the pace. The most interesting of these in his failure is Jack Murphy, who was elected to the Dublin South Central constituency in 1957 by the Unemployed Protest Committee. Murphy was a compromise candidate with no feeling for nor understanding of politics and he went the way of obscurity, a forgotten figure, resigning after a year in the Dail. So also Jack McQuillan and captain Peadar Cowan, men of progressive thought, hardworking men who could not walk the lonely road of independent socialism, were unsure in their beliefs, unable to withstand the buffeting on the sea of politics. Dr. Noel Browne, the stormy petrel, alone survives. The only problem with Noel Browne is that he is so independent that his followers loose him on his self-appointed pilgrimage to Golgotha.

Kemmy is an independent with a difference: he is no blow-in, no dabbling academic, no jazzy television personality. For over twenty five years he has been involved in the labour movement, a self-educated man, a tradesman, a Limerick

by JOHN CASEY

worker, a man with a clear political philosophy who has presented his manifesto to the people of East Limerick. Jim Kemmy has proved his ability to stay the pace. The "Limerick Socialist" was established six years ago and continues to improve with each issue; not only that but he has now a second back-up paper, "The Southill Star". In the Council chamber he has taken on the three parties, acting as a watchdog for the people of Limerick.

There are two questions you should ask yourself. Are you happy with the conservative parties that run the country? Are you happy with tea at a £1 a pound, potatoes £1 a stone, t-bone steak £1 a pound? If you are, vote for the big parties and don't in the name of common sense believe that voting in Fianna Fail is an answer to the National Coalition. If you are to forfeit eating meat, Justin Keating can explain why better than Charlie Haughey and with more conviction. Justin is good on television.

The other question you have to ask yourself is: "Is there a serious opposition party?" The answer is no. There are little rumps of parties who if they were given the job of renovating the public toilets in Limerick would split on the issue, probably on the bowls.

Jim Kemmy has more friends in the Labour Party than the bookie has or will ever have and they will say: "Ah, it's a pity Jim left the party, sure he'd have a seat in the Dail if he stayed". And they're right; of course he would, but he left the party when he saw the opportunism and duplicity that was rampant and the lack of any socialist commitment amongst the leadership.

Limerick is offered a choice. Limerick East will have a chance few constituencies enjoy, to elect a man, a real man for a change, one of their own, a man of courage, honesty and commitment, a man who knows where he stands, knows how to fight his corner, knows the loneliness of being a loner. You are offered more than that: you are offered one of the most outstanding men in contemporary labour politics, a man who will be remembered whether you vote for him or not; for when present day labour history is being written the name of Kemmy will be printed indelibly. Limerick has been saddled in the national parliament with faceless men, ignorant men and buffoons who have held the city up to ridicule.

You've a chance to change all this. And when your grandchildren ask, as they surely will, you can honestly say: Yes, I voted for Jim Kemmy in 1977 and elected the first Limerick socialist to Dail Eireann.

dining hall was as silent as a morgue. Then he went on, the boys carefully following and repeating his every word: "Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which, of tht bounty, we are about to receive, through Christ our Lord. Amen. And may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen".

But some of the boys, in their impatient hunger, had rushed the Grace Before Meals and Brother Stack had noticed it. He made us say the prayer four more times before he was satisfied and by then we had already been ten minutes in the dining hall and the breakfast was stone cold. Finally, he clapped his hands together loudly as a signal for us to sit down.

The porridge was uneatable and the tiny pat of margarine was hardly sufficient for one of the two slices of bread. Everybody forced himself to drink the cold tea. There was nothing else.

Twenty minutes later Brother Stack stopped his pacing up and down the centre aisle and, placing himself at the point where the oldest of the junior boys met the youngest of the

senior boys, he slapped his hands together again about three or four times. Everybody went silent. He clapped his hands again, once, and we all resumed our positions with our toes to the white lines facing each other across the aisle. Again, slowly and deliberately: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen". Another pause whilst he listened for someone talking. "We give Thee thanks to Almighty God for all Thy benefits, who livest and reignest world without end. Amen. And may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen".

The Grace After Meals had to be said three times before Brother Stack was satisfied that we really were grateful to God for his bounty. Then we were marched off to our various jobs.

I couldn't help reflecting as we left the dining hall that the Oblates of Mary Immaculate seemed to be more concerned with the dead and their sins than with the living and their sufferings. It was going to be a long three years.

(To be continued)

# BRITS OUT?

Brits Out Peace In. Did you ever hear such a stupid ridiculous and deadly dangerous slogan? Taking it on its simplistic basis but also assuming that it has a deeper implication, let's look at a possible scenario if the British Army was withdrawn — and make no mistake about it the British Labour Party, conscious of how unpopular the army involvement in Northern Ireland, is with its supporters (the soldiers are working class) would dearly love to pull the army out were it not for the results they foresee which would leave them open to charges of accommodating genocide.

Let's imagine the army withdrawn (and remember they went in to prevent one group of tribalistic bigots from murdering the other tribe) they would have to be replaced by some form of U.N. peace-keeping force. These forces are not remarkably effective — witness the Congo, Cyprus and the Arab-Israeli Theatre so that more fighting would very likely break out. The Provos even if they cannot state it, obviously intend to drive out the Protestant population and set up a 32-county Catholic state. They say they are not sectarian but the majority of dead UDR and RUC are not Catholic and bombed stores tend to be Protestant owned.

The Provos renew their campaign. The UDR — RUC and assorted Protestant para-militaries, well-armed and highly trained, attack a republican stronghold. There is a massacre of innocents. Fianna Fail is in power with Haughey and the Barstool Provos holding office. Nationalistic Ireland cries out for revenge for 'our people' — the Catholics are always 'our people'. Jack Lynch cannot, will not, stand idly by with the fires of nationalistic ignorance dancing around him. The Irish Army crosses the Border. Civil War? Impossible? Let's hope so.

## TRUTH

BY SEAN HEALY

Truth has more enemies at its birth  
than the weakest creature on the earth;  
to creatures mild and quiet  
speed is given to aid their flight,  
and strength is given those who're slow  
but truth  
— truth is a naked babe left in the snow  
— and you who'd suckle such a child  
will be outcast and reviled,  
damned by religion  
and mocked by art,  
only time will prove your noble heart.

## A MOVING STORY

ELECTIONS in Limerick never lacked irony. The Labour Party, always associated with the trade union movement, have not on this occasion "captured" a trade union election headquarters. The kudo this time goes to Cllr. Jim Kemmy, who, though an Independent, has "taken over" the Mechanics' Institute in Hartstonge Street, centre of Limerick trade unionism. The Labour Party is overhead the Saxone Shoe Shop.

("Limerick Leader 11/6/77).

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Questioned about the chances of Alderman Stephen Coughlan, the Tanaiste Brendan Corish said he would not be surprised if Ald. Coughlan headed the poll in East Limerick.

("Limerick Leader" 8/6/77).

## Election Posters.....



## Wake up the Dail!



## TIME for a CHANGE

# ELECTION SPEECHES...

WHAT THE ELECTION IS ALL ABOUT

Many people will ask how relevant this General Election is to their daily lives. Beneath the welter of party propaganda and meaningless political slogans, the central question of the election remains — what candidate stands for real change in our society? Unless this election is about change it is about nothing.

The issues in East Limerick are clear. The constituency has a variety of serious social problems such as unemployment, the housing shortage, the high and selective income tax on workers, women's rights, ground rents, family planning, multi-channel television, industrial development, urban vandalism and the lack of facilities for young people.

Unemployment is the core of many other social problems. Jobs will not be created by wishful thinking or by the pursuit of narrow nationalistic policies. The region needs more foreign capital and industries. The State has a major responsibility in the creation of employment and the Irish State has failed miserably to discharge this responsibility.

Other party candidates in this election have refused to state their policies on these vital and fundamental issues. These candidates are relying on their "personalities" and the strength of their party machines to get elected. The undemocratic positions of all other candidates on the Northern Ireland question is also a matter of serious public consideration.

As the election date draws nearer, the maturity and common sense of the Limerick people is very much in evidence. It is obvious that a growing number of these people are demanding more enlightened and more committed public representatives. It is also obvious that they want a change away from the window-dressing and petty squabbling that passes for politics in Limerick and in Dail Eireann.

The plaintive election slogan of Alderman S. Coughlan that he "needs you" is pathetic beyond words and is an insult to the intelligence of the Limerick people. Many will ask where this candidate was when the people of Limerick so badly needed him over the last four years.

This election is an important milestone in the political development of the Limerick people. Despite the limitations on the powers of individual deputies and the undemocratic structure of national government, the election offers an opportunity for political advancement. The election also offers the electorate of East Limerick the chance of voting for the only candidate who stands for real change.

## INCOME TAX

The massive increase in the income tax burden on workers over the past four years must be condemned. A more just and socially equitable taxation system must be brought in. The adjustments in personal allowances since 1973 have not compensated for inflation so that lower paid workers are being drawn into the tax net.

The main reason for the heavy tax burden on workers is that only ½p in the pound of farmers' incomes finds its way into the direct tax system compared with 20p in the pound of workers' incomes. Since 1974 the taxation of farmers has so far yielded only £6 million in all. This year it is estimated that farmers will pay £35 million. Compare this with the income tax of workers — workers paid £538 million in income tax in 1976 and this year will pay £673 million. (It should be noted that farmers this year will receive over £250 million in subsidies, grants and social welfare payments from the state but will only pay £35 million in tax).

Out of a total of 17,000 farmers only 15,500 (or less than 10%) pay income tax compared with over 90% of workers.

The burden of income tax on workers, especially lower paid workers, must be eased and farmers and other powerful and influential groups must pay their fair share of tax and,

## ... BY JIM KEMMY

furthermore, discrimination against married women in matters of taxation must be eliminated.

### THE NORTH

The bloodshed and terror in Northern Ireland is not solely the responsibility of the Northern communities. Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour bear a heavy responsibility of their own. If the policy I stand for had been followed by these parties since the Treaty, there would be peace now in Northern Ireland. There will be no lasting peace unless the Southern parties follow this policy in the future.

This policy is the right of the Unionist majority in Northern Ireland to live in the State of their choosing, coupled with full democratic rights for the Catholic minority. Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour have always rejected these policies. Even though they have constantly and loudly expressed their concern for the minority, this has been sheer hypocrisy.

These parties have always encouraged the minority to reject the validity of the Northern State and to boycott it and obstruct it. This attitude makes it impossible for a healthy democracy, where politics would revolve around social and economic issues and where Catholics would have full and equal rights and duties, to be built in Northern Ireland.

A million people cannot and should not be forced to become citizens of a United Ireland which they overwhelmingly reject. Yet this is exactly the coercive policy enshrined in Articles 2 and 3 of our Constitution. It should be made clear that this is the traditional policy of all three major parties which none of them have repudiated.

Fianna Fail hypocritically claims to want "unity by consent", but they support the I.R.A.'s central demand for British withdrawal. The object of this demand is to make it easier to coerce the Unionist majority. The undemocratic claim to Northern Ireland in Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution is fully supported by Fianna Fail.

A few Coalition deputies have said they favour the repeal of Articles 2 and 3, but they also said it could not be done because Fianna Fail is opposed to it. They blame Fianna Fail for their own cowardice and they show contempt for the intelligence of the electorate.

The Coalition have attempted over the years to maintain a bipartisan approach on Northern Ireland on the lowest common denomination of the bigots of Fianna Fail.

When I am elected to the Dail on June 16th I will not take part in any "bipartisan" alliance to ignore difficult issues and give T.D.'s a cushy life. I will not be crushed by party whips, nor will I ask permission of Fianna Fail or anyone else to speak my mind. Inside and outside the Dail I will press for a Referendum to repeal Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution and thus make a real contribution to the cause of peace in Ireland.

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# KEMMY TO WIN

## A WORKERS' T.D.

For the first time in the history of Limerick politics a local socialist, backed by a politically conscious group, has openly presented himself as a candidate at the forthcoming general election. For the first time ever the Limerick people have an opportunity of electing a genuine working class candidate to represent them in the Dail. Unlike other left-wing groups who merely put forward candidates at election times in order to be seen to be doing something, or to "keep the old flag flying", this Organisation enters the election confident of winning one of the four seats in the constituency.

No other candidate in the election in Limerick has a record of involvement in working class political affairs to compare with Jim Kemmy. He has been the most active and prominent trade unionist in the city for the past two decades. Over twenty-five years a trade unionist, he has served as secretary of the Limerick Branch of the Brick and Stonelayers' Trade Union for the past seventeen years. He became president of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions in 1973, a position to which he was re-elected in the following year.

He is a former member of the Labour Party. During his membership of that party he spent three years as a member of the National Administrative Council and also acted as chairman of its worker democracy policy committee. He left the Labour Party in 1972 when he became convinced that it would not become socialist.

His efforts on behalf of his fellow-workers culminated in his election to the Limerick City Council, in June 1974, on the first count. His record-breaking 1,275 votes was the highest ever recorded by a candidate contesting the local government elections in Limerick for the first time.

Among the other offices held by Jim Kemmy are:  
 Secretary Limerick Building Trades Group.  
 Chairman Limerick Branch of the Workers' Association.  
 President Delegate Board of the Mechanics' Institute.  
 Chairman of the Limerick Branch of the Irish Labour History Society.  
 Chairman of the National Monuments Advisory Committee of the Limerick Corporation.  
 Vice-Chairman of the Limerick Family Planning Association.  
 Editor of the Limerick Socialist.  
 Member of the Limerick Multi-Channel Campaign Committee.  
 Executive member of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions.

The decision of the Limerick Socialist Organisation to nominate its chairman, Jim Kemmy to contest the general election is, therefore, an important step in the political development of the working class in Limerick. Despite the limitations on the powers of individual deputies and the undemocratic structure of national government, the election offers a unique opportunity for political advancement.

In the Dail Jim Kemmy will strive to use his position to defend and advance the democratic rights of the people. Backed by the LIMERICK SOCIALIST newspaper, he will be able to continue to expose and attack injustice and discrimination. With the support of the paper he will be able to operate as an outspoken, vigilant "watchdog" on all sections of government. With research and other assistance from his socialist colleagues outside the Dail and working in close consultation with tenants and workers, he will be able to bring an uncompromised voice to Irish public life.

Unlike the personal election "manifestos" presented by the candidates of the three main political parties, Jim Kemmy, as befitting a socialist candidate, has given a clear and comprehensive statement of his political position. No other candidate in Irish political history has called for following policies:

\* The democratic settlement of the Northern Ireland conflict

based on the right of the Northern Protestant people to opt for the state of their own choosing and the democratic rights of Catholics in the N.I. State.

- \* The complete separation of Church and State.
- \* Full family planning facilities as a basic human and civil right.
- \* The democratic control and management of schools and colleges.

As a member of the Limerick City Council Jim Kemmy has been an outspoken and fearless champion of the people's rights. He is the only member of the present council with a full attendance at ordinary Council meetings. He has been a consistent critic of the waste of public money by trips abroad and by costly dinners and receptions following "opening ceremonies". He has also repeatedly opposed the adjournment of Council meetings for frivolous reasons.

Jim Kemmy has also spoken out strongly on a variety of social problems such as unemployment, the housing shortage, income tax, women's rights, ground rents, family planning, multi-channel television, industrial development and many more issues. He was responsible for the setting up of the Limerick Family Planning Association and has played a leading part in the success of its Clinic.

Other candidates in Limerick have refused to state their policies on these vital and fundamental matters. These candidates are relying on their "personalities" and on the strength of their party machines to get elected. The representatives of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael are straightforward upholders of capitalism and make no attempt to disguise their class position. The Labour Party, having abandoned the pretence of the "Seventies will be Socialist" policy, does not now claim to be a socialist party. However, many of its candidates still attempt to present themselves as the political representatives of the workers. The performance of Labour Party on the Limerick City Council and as a partner of Fine Gael in the Coalition Government has been weak and cowardly. The party's representative in Dail Eireann from the constituency has made Limerick a byword for intolerance and bigotry and, because of his buffonery, has made our city a laughing-stock throughout the country.

As a result of these antics wrongly our people have often been maligned for being a backward, conservative lot. Any objective observer, who has lived in and out of Limerick, will testify that this picture is a false one. In general our people are no different from people in other parts of this country. The conservative image of the city has been largely earned by loud-mouthed spokesmen, lay and clerical, who projected themselves and their ignorant ideals as being generally representative of the entire local community.

As the election date comes closer the maturity and common sense of the ordinary Limerick people is very much in evidence. It is obvious that a growing number of these people are demanding more enlightened and more committed public representatives. It is also obvious that they want a change away from the window-dressing and petty squabbling that passes for politics in Limerick and in the Dail.

The election campaign being organised on behalf of Jim Kemmy is being led by local socialists and trade union activists and will be one of the most determined, best-organised efforts ever seen in an election in Limerick. The election workers on the campaign team will not need market research consultants to interpret their finding on the canvass. The signs from the people are already definite and unmistakable: the opening of the ballot-boxes will not only open the way for the election of the first Limerick socialist deputy: it will also be a milestone in the political development of the Irish working class.