LUCKY LAMP (Quin's)

Music Nightly · Drinks • Light Lunches SPEEDI-CABS 4-68-44

ANYTIME! ANYWHERE!

Limerick

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WORKERS TO BE PAID STRIKE MONEY

FERENKA CRISIS: TH

OVER 500 striking Ferenka workers, members of the Marine Port and General Workers Union, were told by the General Secretary of their union. Mr. Seamus Redmond, that they would receive strike pay from now on.

Each of the 840 MPGWU members will receive 67 a week in strike pay for as long as the dispute roes on.

Mr. Phillip Byrnes, a workers' okesman, said that it was the ish Transport and General orders' Union who were keep if the factory closed and he id he would prefer to see the cory close than to accept the ransport Union "as a cancer our society."

Mr. Frank Ellis, President of a MPGWU, repeated his nion's stand on the fact that ou can't hold 800 members in roganisation that they don't and to be in.

Mr. Redmond said that the matter was a very simple one where workers should be given the right to join the union of their choice.

He felt the company should react to the suggestion of the ballot.

Employer

The present situation was that the matter was a concerning the suggestion of the ballot.

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n Marsh dun. drers: G. H, 1-1; P: 0-2. T. Ken-1-1; M.

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E. Maher
(Mayo),
b) D. Moalty (Galmegal), J.
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eehan, D. Berkery Fregan, K. Onnolly, K. Lawler, T.

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ILOWS:

leld out well

Mr. Byrnes told the meeting at they had held out well in ew of the pressure on them. "We have got to stick it out," went on, "we won't be blaffed, e won't be frightened."

Mr. Redmond said that his nion had the will and the dermination to see this dispute rough.

rough. He said that his union would and over any decision re-ived after a ballot of all the

orkers.

He claimed that there had
en a negative response to the
ill for a ballot from the transrt union.

ort union. He welcomed the interest of he Limerick Council of Trade

Say Brannigan, agriculural officer, Bank of Ireand, who attended the resentation to Bally-

The present situation was that the employer was deciding which union the workers should belong to, Mr. Redmond went on, "instead of the worker choosing his union. This is a terrible state of affairs."

Referring to the executive committee's decision to pay strike pay, he said that this would display to members the determination of the MPGWU to walk with them "step by step in this dispute until it is resolved."

He said that in view of the

solved."

He said that in view of the Taoiseach's recent statements he wanted to point out that the MPGWU does not or did not make false promises to anyone.

make false promises to anyone.
"We made no promises to
anybody," he declared.
"He said his union had always
been responsible and it did not
canvass members and never
sought members.
"Under no circumstances have
we made any promises to anybody. You chose our union and
we accepted you," he commented.

we accepted you," he commen-ted.
Mr. Phillip Byrnes pointed out: "The fact is that we don't want to go back to work under the transport union."
He claimed: "We would be better off with the Legion of Mary."

Telegram

He disclosed that the workers ned sent of telegram to Mr. Jack which and his government saying that it was up to him and his government to give the workers their free choice in a democracy.

ms government to give the workers their free choice in a democracy.

Mr. Seamus Murphy, Vice-President of the MPGWU, said that if the company said they would talk with the MPGWU then the men would be back to work tomorrow morning. He believed the Ferenka workers were making history by leaving the transport union. He said their move was the start of the downfall of the transport union. He said the message to go out from the meeting was that the MPGWU and they wanted to get back to work.

Parade

Later, the union paraded

the city carrying placards stating: "No more cheap labour at Ferenka," "IT & GWU cause division amongst workers." They stopped outside the LT. & GWU offices for some recents and marched on again before dispersing.

Mr. Vincent Feeney, President of the Chamber of Commerce, this week suggested that some sort of legislatidh would have to be brought in, to prevent inter-union feuds. "It would be dreadful", he said, "If the conflict between the two uniors leads to the closure of Ferenka".

Mr. Tom O'Donnell, T.D., Shadow Minister for Transport and Power, Fine Gael, called for Government initiative to be undertaken immediately with a view to finding a formula to resolve the dispute.

A spokesmar for the Government stated while the Government stated while the Government was very concerned it had no intention of intervening in what was essentially an inter-union dispute.

A letter

After carefully digesting (as it were) the statement by Mr. Jack Lynch, Taoiseach (Limerick Leader, Monday, October 17, 1977), at the Muintir na Tire conference in Limerick over the week-end. Quote: Mr. Lynch said that we were facing a critical period in our economic development 'Only those countries who pull together will succeed,' he said. 'And you have an example only a few miles from home that if trade unloss try to outbid each other for members by promising conditions that the economy cannot sustain, then they will soon outstrip each other in the volume of their unemployed membership.

It is not my wont entering too deeply into the merits or demands of this dispute, only to beg space in your widely read paper, the Limerick Leader, to comment on one or two important on the first instance, looking.

tant points in connection with same.

In the first instance, looking in on Friday night's Politics Programme, chaired by Olivia O'Leary, the one thing which surprised me was Miss O'Leary's grave inability to keep in check Mr. John F. Carroll during part of the discussion between himself and Mr. Liam Redmond. It was very noticeable after Mr. Carroll had outlined his case and Mr. Redmond began tis reply—he was continually being interrupted by Mr. Carroll, so much-so, I'm-cortain sure the viewers were simply dabbergas ted at the antics of Mr. Carroll.

Vague

Secondly, a statement from Mr. Carroll published in our National Press, in which he said if the Ferenka company were to close down, the M.P.W.U. would have to answer to the people of Limerick and the country at large. It all seems so strange Mr. Carroll's memory should be

so vague as to forget he himself in the same position (as it were) in May 1998 during a certain strike in one of the large factices in the Industrial Estate,

in May 1998 during a certain strike in one of the large factories in the Industrial Estate, Shannon.

The strike, which implicated his union (I.T. & G.W.U.), didn't seem to be zoing in its favour, and Mr. Carroll, who then was acting in the capacity of P.R.O. in Galway, declared this company should clear out of Shannon. If the company in question had decided to leave Shannon, I'm certain sure the LT. & G.W.U. would have incurred the wreth of many a mother with families.

Lam firmly convinced the wrong approach is being made in this dispute and feel deeply conscious an amicable solution will not be found intil such time a tempers cool off.

Laconclusion, I make this special appeal to all those working at Ferenka: Please, for the sake of this greand old city of ours, which has been torn apprit down the years with industrial strife, and through, a spirit of Christian understanding, return to your work and, by the grace of God, bury your differences and work in peace and harmony for the good of all and for the good and prosperity of Ferenka; You may felrest assured of the gratitude of the people of your own city and county, Also, it is our earnest prayer (that both management and workers will work whole heartedly together for the betterment of all; and is one who believes in the old proverb:

Out of evil, coneth good."

PATRICK I, WALSH.

Quo Vadis

As a trade unionist for almost 60 years, the son of a trade unionist who, in 1912, represented the Typographical Society (embracing Limerick, Tipperary N.R., Clare and Offaly) at the founding of the Irish Labout Party at Clonmel, and srandson of the well-known William Fitzgerald (plasterer), member of Limerick's only Labour City Council (1197-1977), with John Daly (Fenian) as Mayor, I would appeal to the ITGWU and DMPWU to return to the status quo now, and for God's sake, as well as for their distraight wives and little children, to sit down together in some "cool" ballroom or lecture hall, with both "heat" and "hot air" turned off, and settle their differences later. To sat otherwise would be industrially suicidal.

Here is my formula for an early settlement:

Be workers still, to workers true,

Among ourselves united,

For never but by workers' hands,

Shall workers 'wrongs be righted.

Keep Limerick moving — let there be no turning back!

WILLIE W. GLEESON.

WILLIE W. GLEESON. Blackwater, Co. Çlare.

Vacant council house



The Minister for Industry, Commer officially opening the Institution of hibition at Ni.H.E. Included in the tary, Thomond Region, I.E.I.; Prof Joe Fitzgerald, secretary, I.E.I., and the secretary of the secreta

Closures a a help to Clover Me

SINCE the end of March last, velopments have taken place a favourable impact on the societ

a favourable impact on the societ port of Clover Meats states.

The loss making Limerick opteration was permisently coded and a decision was taken to sell connellys in Dublin as a going concern. Staff reductions have been made both in, the Water ford and Donnelly factories, and in September 1977 group employment was 1,233 compared with 1,573 in September 1976.

Pig kill

In the period April 1977 to mid-September 1977, Clover's share of the National Pig Kill the same period of 1976. In the same period of 1976. In show a terms of numbers willed, this represented an increase of 19.4% while the National Pig last July

Aer Lingu