Stevie and the 'Red Menace'

IN 1970 the Mayor, Stevie Coughlan, alerted the city to the dangers of what he called 'The Red Menace'. He appealed to parents and to all people in authority to alert themselves to the terrible dangers that are in our midst. "There are amongst us left-wing extreme elements in the city who are distributing insidious propaganda and seek to tear down and destroy our Christian, local and national identity.

"Unless we act now to wipe out once and for all this most undesirable element, there is a real danger that our community will result in a take-over of all authority and the suppression of the freedom that we enjoy, and for which so many Irish people have given their lives."

Several sources weighed in behind the Mayor in his anti-Maoist campaign, not least the Leader in an editorial, which thundered: "This is the Maoist movement which may well be regarded as a threat to the foundation of our nation. There is a fact which can be realised only too clearly if one is to read some of the literature that has been distributed throughout the city. The people of Limerick must wake up to the threat that is facing them and they must unite to run all those connected with such a movement out of the city before serious damage is done to the community as a whole."

"The Irish Revolutionary Youth Movement must be crushed and run out of the city without delay. What the Maoist advocates is nothing more than the dream of a few. Have they forgotten the slaughter and the slave labour that is an integral part of life in Red China?"

Regular contributors to the letters column, like W. Glesson and Daniel J. McCauley, rushed into print. "Whack", as W. G. was known, was highly indignant that of all places, the Maoists had chosen St. Mary's Parish (Nicholas Street) to set up their propaganda book-stall. He said only two of the City Council ("the rest must be Cis-terscians") at their weekly meeting saw fit to speak on the setting up of a Maoist bookstall in his beloved parish. "It saddens me to think that a group of fellow-citizens, once Catholic in doubt, now Dermot McMurr-oughs, Quislings, Fifth Columnists, anti-Christians, call them what you will, have set up in busines calling themselves the Disciples of Mao Tse-Tung, whose avowed aim (in blood) is to make Limerick a second Poland, Hungary, or Czechoslovakia (that's what they think)."

"Already the facade of their premises, once white and red, has been painted red. See for yourself, dear reader, I do not exaggerate. What's next?" wrote W. G.

Daniel J. McCauley, congratulated the Leader on its stand and said there as a target when the Irish Revolution-ary Movement would have stayed long in business here. "The Maoists must be crushed as the same as the Communists crushed in Christi-anity in China. They should be given the same reception here as Christians would get from a wolf."

This was Stevie's "golden" era. He then turned his attention to what he described as the left-wingers within the Labour Party and attacked Barry Desmond. "Who does he think he is telling the people of Limerick what they should or should not do regarding the forthcoming visit of the South African team?"

"Already the facade of their premises, once white and red, has been painted red. See for yourself, dear reader, I do not exaggerate. What's next?" wrote W. G.

Boks picketed

SOUTH Africa were here in January, 1970, to play against England and while they got a warm welcome when they arrived at the stadium, the Boks fans, anti-apartheid demonstrators picketed, with a smoke-grenade outside Thomond Park on the day of the match. It was a disappointing day for the 10,000 fans who attended despite the police ban. No match was played. TheBehave."

The Minister was lambasted by the newspapers, Mac Sluics of the Daily Mirror, in a letter: "What is the Minister doing? What is the Unionist stance?"

Helen detained

LIMERICK Leader staff writer, Helen Buckley, was detained on her way to check in at the Parkway Motel in April, 1970. With two Irish visitors, they were leaving the Press Club when two armed guards at Checkpoint Charlie threw them into a room. "It seems that someone was too young - do you want them here too?"

Savoy closes

AFTER 40 years staging shows of the world’s great stage acts, including Houdini, Rosalyn Paul, Bob Hope, and Bob Hope, the Savoy, at 13-15 O’Connell Street, was closed in 1975. The Savoy was founded in 1887 by the O’Neils, who announced that the Savoy was closing on its doors in February, 1975.

Bills slashed

PATRICK J. DUNPHY, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, said in 1974 that he would help prepare for a radio broadcast of the Irish Republic, which he declared in 1977. The Minister was lambasted by the newspapers, Mac Sluics of the Daily Mirror, in a letter: "What is the Minister doing? What is the Unionist stance?"

No BBC here

CLLR. Tony Bremner, at a meeting of O’Brien’s (Minister for Posts and Telegraphs) plans for the re-broadcast of the Irish Republic, which he declared in 1977. The Minister was lambasted by the newspapers, Mac Sluics of the Daily Mirror, in a letter: "What is the Minister doing? What is the Unionist stance?"

Too young

F. CLEARY from London wrote to say that he agreed with Jim in his statement that the selection of Thady Coughlan as Mayor was too young - do you want them here too?"