

THE ORANGE

STANDARD

"Lift up a standard for the people."

(Isaiah 62:10)

MARCH, 1977

Price 10p



ALONE IN UK: ULSTER ENDURES DIRECT RULE

Mr. Enoch Powell, M.P. for South Down, speaking at the annual meeting of the South Down Divisional Unionist Association in Warrenpoint Orange Hall, said the direct rule system of government under the 1974 Act is something which no other part of the Kingdom has to endure.

SEMI-COLONIAL FEATURE

"What are its characteristic features," he added. "One is legislation for Northern Ireland by the semi-colonial method of Order in Council. Now, as you know, the Ulster Unionists secured important improvements last year in

the manner in which these Orders in Council are handled; but not for a moment would we regard this as any substitute for proper democratic legislation.

"The Government have now accepted in principle that, wherever possible, legislation for Northern Ireland shall be by Act of Parliament and — again whenever possible — by United Kingdom Act of Parliament. This is all right so far as it goes; But we shall not rest content until the principle is fully realised in practice, for we have always claimed the same rights as our fellow subjects to live

under the same laws made in the same way and are sick of being treated as a race apart, a sort of caste of untouchables.

"Another detectable feature of direct rule is the replacement of democracy by bureaucracy in all the services which most nearly and intimately affect the lives of our people. We will not wait a minute longer than is necessary to re-establish the control of democratically elected representatives of the people over housing, planning, health, education, roads, transport — everything that goes to make up the environment of the community.

"We are not prepared to be told that we must wait for some mythical millenium or insincere charade whereby Unionists and Republicans pretend there is no difference between them. We are perfectly capable of working elective democracy here and now; and the proof of the fact is that it happens already every day right here. As our manifesto at the Convention elections said: "Democratic local government automatically involves shared responsibility and participation as between majority and minorities because in local government the Councils themselves are the executives."

—ENOCH POWELL

On the three district political opponents, whether they happen to be in a majority or a minority, do work together in their present sphere of administration, not without disagreement, of course, but nevertheless effectively. I refuse to believe that political representatives of the Ulster electorate would not administer equally effectively as large a range of subjects as elected repre-

sentatives administer in the rest of the United Kingdom.

RESTORE CONTROL

"I am sure the people of Ulster would never forgive us Members of Parliament if we did not do everything in our power to obtain for them at the earliest moment democratic control over the things which affect them locally and to end the bureaucratic nonsense of direct rule, where nothing less than the combined intervention of a Member of Parliament and a Minister of the Crown is necessary to get a road sign moved or a pothole filled up. They simply would not understand it if their politicians were to take up a dog-in-the-manger attitude and declare that until they could have their way over every jot and tittle of the Convention Report their constituents should have no relief or improvement at all.

"Anyhow fortunately this is not one of those cases where 'the good is the enemy of the best.' There is a Bill before the House of Commons at this moment to devolve legislative power to an elected Scottish assembly; but that Bill does not propose to take away from the regions in Scotland, Strathclyde or anywhere else, the extensive powers of

BIBLES PRESENTED

The W.D.M. of No. 5 District, Sandy Row, Belfast, presented Holy Bibles suitably inscribed to Bro. S. Jones P.M. secretary and Bro. R. Owens, P.M., treasurer on their retirement from these offices.

These two brethren have given many years faithful service to Royal Oak L.O.L. 374 and No. 5 District. We extend to them our very best wishes and thanks.



Left to right — Bros. R. Owens, P.M.; Bro. Watson W.D.M.; Bro. S. Jones P.M.

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"WELL DONE, SCOTS ORANGE

Sir, - On reading your report of the Grand Lodge of Scotland's recent debate on the U.D.A. association I hope that as a Bro. Orangeman I may be allowed through the "Orange Standard" to congratulate the delegates of the said Grand Lodge for the wholehearted support given to their leadership.

The resolution as quoted by the "Orange Standard" I think is worth repeating again: "We resolve to implement the sound Christian principles and precepts contained in our Constitution. We utterly reject all support be it active or tacit of terrorist organisations whose activities contravene the law of the land. We reaffirm that it is required of all Orangemen that they fully support the forces of law and order."

RIGHT TO THE HEART

Here we have a perfectly worded resolution going right to the heart of the Institution's ideals. A resolution which can leave no doubt in anyone's mind - friend or enemy - or to the standing of the Orange Institution. A great pity, however, that it wasn't given the same publicity as the matter which caused the debate. Perhaps this isn't the kind of publicity that sections of the national press etc. want to give to the Orange Institution.

One point in your report which stood out in my mind was that the resignations

LEADERS"



tendered were only to apply to the five senior members' positions as leaders of the Institution in Scotland and not to their membership of the Order. This should leave no doubt as to the integrity of the Brethren who obviously felt that they could no longer remain as leaders if the delegates of the Grand Lodge were to register a vote which contravened the Constitution. However they were still prepared to work for the good of the Institution from within the rank and file membership. Perhaps lesser men would have resigned completely.

USEFUL PUBLICITY

From the details given in the "Orange Standard" report it is my opinion that there was never any possibility of the resolution being defeated. I think the large attendance of 350 delegates and the almost

unanimity shown will bear this out.

The publicity given, although small, can only benefit the Institution at large in that whereas Mr. McDonald was stating a purely personal standpoint the media had already turned this somewhat and was implying that the Orange Institution was giving it's support to paramilitary organisations. No doubt in the unlikely event of the resolution having been defeated I'm sure national coverage would have been greatly increased not only at the present time but, at the slightest opportunity, in the future.

M.W. Bro. Orr's remarks on the present standing of the Institution and its membership should give heart to Orangemen worldwide and there is no doubt in my mind that the Grand Lodge of Scotland in particular can only continue

with the progress that has already been made. I think also that the membership can feel proud of its present leadership and relax in the knowledge that they are being represented so diligently by them.

PRAISE FOR IRISH ORANGEISM

The Grand Lodge of Ireland, too, can take pride in the fact that we have brethren such as these to represent us overseas and to speak out on our behalf.

I think it should be noted that the support given to our cause in Northern Ireland by our brethren in Scotland is none the weaker for the decision taken.

A word of thanks to the Grand Master for his explanation oh why the flag of the Irish Republic was carried in front of a recent peace march. I must admit I was mystified when a recording of the march was shown on a television news bulletin. The gentleman whose idea it was described the action as a representation of the two sides in Northern Ireland coming together.

However I feel I must agree with the Grand Master when he says the flag carried was still that of the Irish Republic and as such must cast a doubt on the wisdom of the decision.

I also think it is a great pity that the name of the Orange Institution is always dragged into a debate of this nature.

Yours fraternally,
A BROTHER.

THE MASSACRE OF 1641

In the year of 1641 the Fenians formed a plot To massacre us Protestants and leave our bones to rot. To massacre us Protestants and not to spare a man. But to drive us like a herd of swine into the River Bann.

Brave Porter fell a victim there because he did intend To help his brother Protestants their lives for to defend. The blood that stained the waters red while bones lay on the ground, And some entombed beneath the stream that flows through Portadown.

Now a lady living in Loughgall and with her children five. She asked them for the sake of God to let her be alive. That she might go to England her husband for to see, And to live in peace and harmony far, far from Popery.

Oh no they would not hear her cry, they dragged her to the ground, Then after pain and torture the six of them were bound. O'Neill appointed as their guide to lead them on their way. She little thought that wretched curse was driving her astray.

Then after pain and torture a pain she could not stand Down through the streets of Portadown they dragged them to the Bann.

"They say you are a heretic and the Pope you do deny, Sure it's on this bridge in Portadown this day you're doomed to die."

At least 1,000 Christian souls in Portadown were slain, All for the curse of Popery their wicked ends to gain. But God raised up the brave Cromwell our deliverer to be, And he banished Popery from our Isle and Protestants set free.

King William soon came after him and he planted at the Boyne, An Orange Tree to flourish there that we should bear in mind.

How Popery did murder us, we Christians great and small For it was the order of their priest to drown us one and all

In the T.C.D. the books are there with history us to show. The powerful persecutions we were forced to undergo. Our trials they were many and their testimonials great, How that Fenian band they formed a plot, their plan for to complete.

Like Shaun O'Moore and Phelim Monroe, these priests would like us now

To come before their altars and before their gods to bow. But if die we must, we'll fight them like William sure we'll stand

And we'll treat them as they treated us down by the River Bann.

"MANY SAY CHURCH IRRELEVANT"

The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland had repeatedly missed the chance of giving a vibrant and challenging experience to young people, many of whom regarded it as irrelevant and its clergy out of touch, the Rev. Aidan Jones, vice-chairman of the National Federation of Youth Clubs, told participants in an adult education course for parents in Gorey, Co. Wexford, yesterday. He added that the Church was missing out by concentrating on side issues and short-term victories.

PORTER'S AUSSIE HONOUR

Mr. Norman Porter, who a decade or so ago was a well known Protestant speaker and Orangeman in Northern Ireland, has been elected a vice-president of the Australian Protestant Council. He was already a member of the South Australian Protestant Federation.

The election of Mr. Porter and M.W. Bro. John Gowans as President of the Council, took place at Loyal Orange House, Melbourne. Bro. Porter was well known here as a loyalist speaker on Orange occasions and at church services before he emigrated to Australia.

THE PRAYER PERFECT

Dear Lord! Kind Lord! Gracious Lord!
I pray
Thou wilt look on all I love,
Tenderly today!
Weed their hearts of weariness,
Scatter every care
Down a wake of angels' wings
Winnowing the air.

Bring unto the sorrowing
All release from pain;
Let the lips of laughter
Overflow again;
And with all the needy,
O divide, I pray,
This vast treasure of content,
That is mine today!

- James Whitcombe Riley

SCOTTISH LECTURERS CONFERENCE

The Annual Scottish Lecturer's Conference was held on Saturday 15th January 1977, in the Masonic Halls, Landressy Street, Glasgow E.

Sir Knt. George Wells R.W.D.M. No. 5 presided, assisted by Sir Knt. Philip Fisher acting D.D.M. and Sir Knt R. Paul as Chaplain.

Sir Knt. Wells, welcomed all present (close on 100) to the Conference which was held under the auspices of No. 5 District, Glasgow and extended the compliments of the new season.

Tribute was paid on the death of several Lecturers, among them being Sir Knt. R. Thompson (Partick). A silent vote of condolence was reverently observed.

Sir Knt. David Hastie, P. Grand Lecturer, was invited to take over ceremonial work which was carried out in a dignified manner, by the young Sir Knights of No. 5 District Chapter.

Among those who congratulated them were Sir Knts. A. Lindsay (P.G.M.), P. Downie (P.D.G.M.), D. H. Boyd (P.P.G.M.), B. Boal (P.D.G.L.), P. Fisher (I.G. S/B).

An invitation was accepted to attend 1978 Conference in Motherwell. Tea was afterwards served, and a vote of thanks to those who made the Conference such a success.

The singing of the National Anthem concluded the proceedings.

"PROTESTANT EXTINCT BY YEAR 2000

A correspondent in "The Observer" stated recently: Michael Davie (2 January) writes happily of the coming together of the Protestant and Catholic churches. As for the time scale; he quotes one cleric as saying, 'It'll take 25 years.'

When the Irish Free State was established in 1922, Protestants formed rather more than 10 per cent of the total population. By the 1940s this had sunk to 6 per cent, and by 1971 to about 4 per cent. In 'The Anglo-Irish Tradition', Professor J. C. Beckett concludes that it seems not unlikely that by the end of the century Protestantism will be virtually extinct over the greater part of Ireland.'

DEATH OF GIFTED LECTURER

Royal Black District Chapter No. 4 has suffered a loss through the death of Sir Knt. Robert Thompson after a short illness.

A prominent lecturer in District Chapter, local Class, and in his Preceptory 461, he was always willing to assist in ceremonial work throughout Scotland.

Although advanced in years, well over the allotted span, he was always present at Lecturers Conferences, in Ulster, England and Scotland, keenly interested and taking a prominent part.

His funeral which took place to Western Necropolis Crematorium, Glasgow, on December 28 was largely attended by both Orders, also St. Johns Masonic Lodge.

Rev. Mr. Fairfax conducted the service at the house and crematorium, and Sir Knt. James Hamilton R.W.D.M. No. 4 paid a striking tribute to the deceased's life and work in the Black Institution.

"Well done thou good and faithful servant."

PROVINCIAL GRAND BLACK PRESENTATION

At the monthly meeting of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter Committee, held on Wednesday January 5 in the Orange Hall, Springburn, Glasgow, Sir Knt. Allan Lindsay, M.W.P.G.M., presided, assisted by Sir Knt. Peter Downie, P.D.G.M. in the vice-chair.

The P.G.M. welcomed all present and expressed his good wishes and compliments for 1977.

After routine business the Sir Knights and their lady friends held a social function to recognise the Past Grand Master's term of office.

While the dance band played lively music, and all enjoyed a meal, a pause was made for the photographer

to take a picture of Provincial Officers present, after which a presentation was made by Sir Knt. Bryce Boal, D.G.L. and Imperial Deputy Grand Master, to Sir Knt. David H. Boyd, P.P.G.M., in the form of a wallet, nicely lined.

Sir Knt. Boal, stated he was highly honoured on behalf of his Scottish Sir Knights to carry out their request and spoke in eloquent terms of the grand service rendered by the Past Grand Master of Scotland.

Sir Knt. Boyd very ably replied and expressed his sincere and grateful thanks to all concerned for their kind thoughts and the

manner in which Sir Knt. Boal had made the presentation.

He said he never regretted the step he took 55 years ago, when he joined his present Preceptory No. 150. Despite many difficulties during these long years their great and beloved Black Institution continued to carry on the good work in Scotland.

He appealed to the Sir Knights to continue their support and co-operation to their new Grand Master and Officers, which he had enjoyed.

The proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

First Portadown Orange Lodge Had Its

Much has been written about the formation of the Orange Institution in Lough-gall at the Inn run by James Sloan following the historic Battle of the Diamond in September, 1795.

Less is known about the first meetings of the Lodges which came into existence in the weeks and months following. But only recently a member of the editorial staff of the "Orange Standard" reading the remarkable diaries of Colonel William Blacker, the Orange poet, of Carrickblacker, Portadown, discovered a vivid picture from the old warrior's pen of the formation of such a Lodge on his estate, probably only days after the first warrants were issued by Sloan.

Colonel Blacker, who was the owner of the Blacker estate at Carrick, a mile from Portadown on the road to Gilford, tells how he attended the meetings to band the Protestants of the area into a Lodge pledged to support the Orange cause.

The meeting took place in a house which he describes as "the first house in the loanin" (a lane). One can presume fairly accurately that this was what is still known as the "Long Lane" or loanin', off the Gilford Road, and passing through the new estate of houses opposite Portadown Golf Club.

According to Colonel Blacker this structure was first built and covered in, but the walls had not been perforated for the windows. "All was as dark within as any conspirator could desire," he wrote.

EARLY INITIATIONS

Blacker mentions that this was the first house in the loanin', and he goes on to state that a proverb says that "walls have ears."

"I can only say that if these had any such organs they must have resembled those of a Newfoundland dog after a duck hunt, for they were dripping wet."

In this slender abode, as he called it and "within these damp walls the first Orange Lodge in this quarter held its meetings, and there on the first night of its formation did I and sundry others join it."

We may take it that as Colonel Blacker had been closely involved in the affray at the Diamond and in view of his eminence in the district his may well have been the first Orange Lodge to have been formed in the Portadown area, the town then being a mere village. Today Portadown is one of the principal Orange strongholds in Ireland.

Colonel Blacker goes on to relate that the house in question was built by Alex Lutton, "and is the same now occupied by Thomas England on the face of the loanin'."

Let the diarist continue: "It was a scene not unworthy of the pen of Scott or the pencil of Salvador Rosa scenes which took place in the country about that period and which cannot be referred to without pain, to view the group of men, young and old, collected upon these occasions — as far as could be seen by the light of the few small

Origin By Candlelight

VIVID DIARY ACCOUNT OF MEETING IN UNFINISHED HOUSE UP THE LOANIN'

candles, some seated on heaps of sods and rude blocks of wood, more standing in various attitudes, most of them armed with guns of every age and calibre to which the term "patent safety" might be applied with greater truth than to many of the same who bear it in England in as much as rust and antiquity had blighted the spring of their days into an utter incapacity to strike fire."

STERN SOLEMNITY

"There was a stern solemnity in the reading of the lesson of Scripture and administering the Oath to the newly admitted brethren which was calculated to produce a deep impression, and did so," wrote the diarist. "There was a fixed, steady fervency to the cause which brought them together. When I heard their adhesions to it it was the result of deliberation, not of imposition."

Blacker points out that these early Orangemen "did

not rush blindly (or were under the influence of mere example) into the Order; they had pondered the matter and had become convinced of the absolute necessity of a defensive union among Protestants."

According to Blacker this feeling was in no small way held by men (some of which was in existence in the country) of very advanced age who had in the early period of their lives "lived with those who had been at a still more remote period witnesses of or had partaken in the War of the Revolution in 1688 and who had heard from the lips of those Patriarchs of the Boyne and Aughrim of the sufferings which had driven them to the field in arms."

One of "these worthies" resided on the Carrick estate. His name was William Lutton, "a most respected old man." Blacker mentions that William Lutton was born in 1710, only 20 years after the Battle of the Boyne, so that at 20 "he must have had conversations with many

who had been stout fellows from 25-39 in that memorable action."

Colonel Blacker says that on many occasions he sat by the side of William Lutton listening to his tales of "those Boys of the Boyne" as he used to call them. William Lutton died in 1802, aged 92 years.

NOT SAFE AFTER NIGHTFALL

The diary goes on to indicate that the farmers and others in the locality were not slow to avail themselves of a society which promised them protection at this troubled period of Ulster's history. In fact matters had come to such a pitch, writes the Orange historian and bard, that Protestants who ventured up the road alone after nightfall were not safe, and neighbours were obliged to make up parties and wait for each other on fair and market days.

"Upon this state of things the fame of the Diamond

and the foundation of the Orange Order had a speedy and beneficial effect," he stated.

He went on to record that "very few of the resident gentry of the County Armagh joined us in the first instance." Of these were "my old friend," Joseph Atkinson, the Reverend George Blacker, afterwards Dean of Leighlin, Captain Clarke of Summerisland, and all the young Verners of Churchill.

Old Mr. Verner never joined, though he took interest in the proceedings of the Order. He refers to that "venerable and beloved" Viscount Northland of Dungannon, who was the first nobleman "who fostered by his example the infant Institution."

Mr. Brownlow of Lurgan — the family who were later to bear the title, Lord Lurgan — who according to Blacker had succeeded "his distinguished father in his estates," and in the representation of the County in 1794, also took an interest in the Orange Institution's welfare and "became one of us, as did old Major Waring of Waringstown, a veteran of George the Third's wars."

OFF TO COLLEGE

Colonel Blacker goes on to recall that in the month of October, having been taken to Dublin to enter College, and his father "having removed for the winter into the city of Armagh I escaped being an eyewitness of those

Continued on page 6



The Manor House Home (Lisburn)

(Under The Auspices Of The Irish Church Missions)

THE PAST

The Home (the only Church of Ireland Home in Northern Ireland) has been functioning for the past forty-seven years and during that time has tried to provide a happy, secure and loving background for hundreds of boys and girls denied the security and comfort of their homes and families ... the families for which they never cease to long.

All down the years God has provided wonderful friends to help promote and maintain the work. We are deeply indebted to them and to those who contribute in various other forms and who ask nothing more than that their gifts go directly to the personal needs of the children.

A FAMILY

Our young people, never more than twenty-two in number, weld into a remarkably well knit family. Often deep concern for the safety, happiness or success of one member is shared by many in the group.

The young people live as normal a family life as possible and are found in many and diverse places, and engaged in equally diverse pursuits; C.L.B., G.F.S., Swimming, Soccer, Rugby, Athletics, Bowls, Table Tennis, Badminton, Music,

Singing and Drama etc. Each has its own enthusiasts. Our own spacious grounds also provide plenty of scope for recreation.

Holidays are great fun. The Home's mini-bus (a generous gift from the members of Lisburn Round Table) enables them to enjoy a great number of outings and to surprisingly distant places, but the real highlights are the camps attended by the over ten year olds. They attend in twos and threes according to the prescribed ages. Times spent in these camps and on school tours have taken our young people to places far apart so as to enable them to broaden their horizons.

EDUCATION

Educational standards are very satisfactory. Boys and girls going out into adult life are able to take their places in the working world and compete with those beside them. One old boy of whom we have up-to-date knowledge holds an excellent degree from Queen's University and is presently engaged in post graduate studies. Another is an Instructor in the Army in Malawi. An extract from a recent letter reads "Life has been kind to me, I have a good wife, and two lovely little ones, but it was the teaching in my childhood that taught me to value the real and true things of life". J. who left recently, declared he will "never, never, forget", and made a special effort to express his appreciation of the many years he had spent in the Home. We too, shall never, never forget him, nor many of his predecessors, now scattered to the four corners of the earth.

EXTENSION ?

The Home is a happy one and the subject of complimentary remarks from many visitors and indeed, the envy of some, but we find that because of the changes taking place all around us in these days our house is much too small for present needs. Older children who own guitars, tape recorders, radios, records etc., require space in which to indulge their interests away from the "little uns". The Staff more than need some sound-proof area for the all too few completely free hours. Visiting parents and friends need a private corner in which to have a family reunion or a family reconciliation session. We are persuaded that we hold a ministry to the whole family and not only to the children. (Unhappily not all our young people have a family). We look to God to direct us in any extension plans we may feel led to pursue.

GOD'S PLACE

We daily commend ourselves to God's care in our morning prayers. The young people who are all members of Scripture Union are encouraged to read the portion appointed and to pray before retiring at night. And as Staff we depend upon Him to guide and direct the young folk into future lives worthy of His calling.

THANK YOU

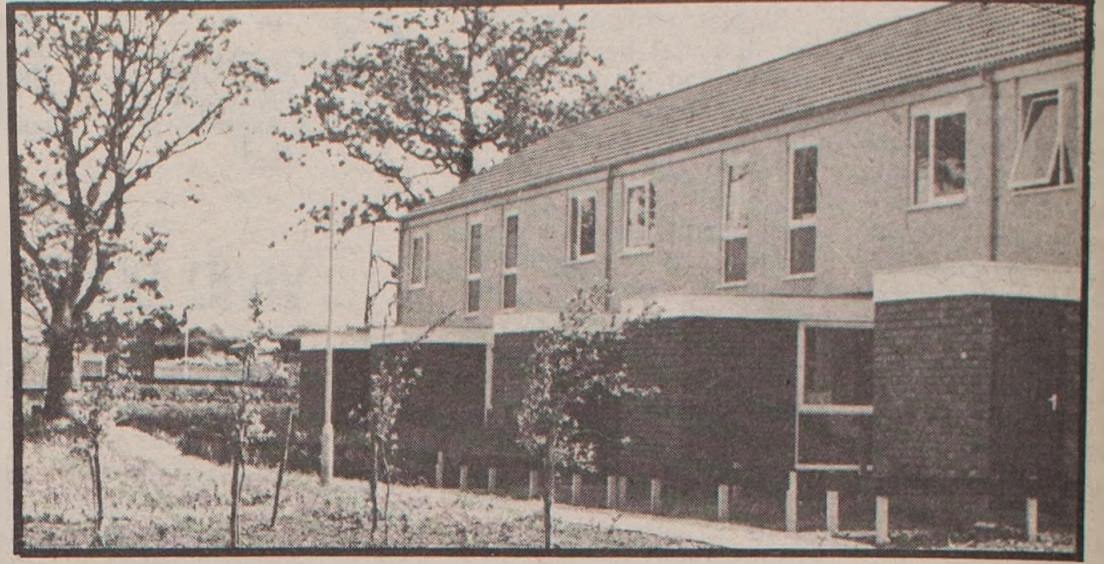
This report goes out to you to tell you something of the work which is being done. We are grateful to everyone who has helped, and is helping, not least those who daily pray for the work, and those who send gifts and donations.

OFFICE :- 5 COLLEGE SQUARE NORTH BELFAST BT1 6AR

"New Line of Thinking is Needed on

Ulster's Housing

Policy" — Collr.



In the past few months, measures to improve the appalling housing problems in the province have been announced by the Government and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

As a party we have welcomed them in as much as they represent a change of direction on housing policy and appear to be a genuine attempt to make a start at tackling a problem which is so great that at the present rate of building will take about 25 years to solve, says Councillor William Bell, Unionist Party spokesman on Housing and Local Affairs in a prepared statement.

When building and financial resources are becoming more limited, a much greater effort is needed and if we are to speed up the process we must aim at the

rate of building achieved by the Northern Ireland Government who for years succeeded in building more new houses per head of the population than any other area in Western Europe. This will be achieved, only when the Government recognises that the Housing Executive is too large and monolithic.

ANSWERABLE

It should be re-organised and made answerable to elected representatives. It should be divided into regions, possibly three in number each administered by a Committee comprised of elected representatives and those nominated by the Local Authority who should be in control of the region,

say 70% elected and 30% nominated.

With the Local Authorities again in control and answerable to the electorate the necessary crash programme of Urban and Rural renewal and re-habilitation could be undertaken with more enthusiasm and speed. And we would propose the use of Direct Labour wherever possible because too much of this work is falling into the hands of unscrupulous individuals and organisations.

As a party we believe that the Housing Selection Scheme (the points system) is unfair. We are asking for a complete re-appraisal of it and can suggest ways of improving it whereby highly pointed and newly married applicants would have at

least equal priority with groups 2, 3, 4 and 5 (see Housing Executive Selection Scheme) Newly married and childless families have been made scapegoats for too long. It is time that they were treated fairly.

An urgent examination of the Housing Executive's maintenance programme is overdue. At advice centres throughout the province our Councillors are inundated with complaints about the inadequacies of its maintenance section. We know that improvements can be made and can suggest ways of making them.

Private sector housing has always played a large part in the Northern Ireland Housing programme

HOUSE PURCHASE

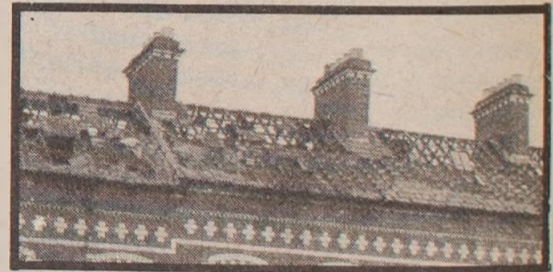
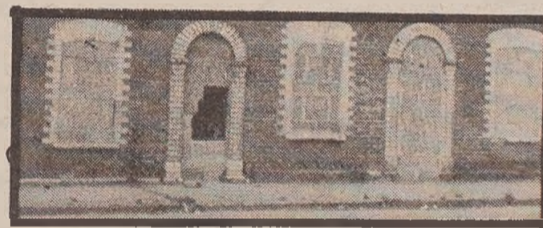
Encouragement should be given to 'first time' house purchasers through more readily available mortgages to enable them to buy with the minimum of financial worry. We have various schemes in mind and will be putting these to the Government at the first opportunity.

The present House building subsidy applicable to houses under 1050 sq. ft. is too small and completely out of date. When first introduced after the war this subsidy of £270 represented approximately 25% of the cost of building a new semi. Today the same house would cost ten times as

aged to become owner occupiers. A more comprehensive scheme than the current Sale of Housing Executive dwellings is being examined by our party.

Housing Associations when they encourage a certain type of home ownership can play a useful part in future housing strategy and are worth encouragement.

The task of solving our severe housing problem is a formidable one. It can best be done by Ulstermen directly answerable to an Ulster electorate, preferably a devolved Parliament, but in advance of this control should be handed back to our Local Authorities, not as some suggest the present district Councils but the missing tier which



particularly under the Stormont Government, but since Direct Rule this has dwindled and is now a very small portion of the total housing output. That is regrettable because Northern Ireland is already well below the rest of the U.K. and in the Republic in this respect. We believe in Home Ownership and will press for greater Government involvement in this sector.

much yet the subsidy has only been increased to £380, a figure which is irrelevant at today's prices and is discouraging builders from building in the lower price range. A review of the subsidy would undoubtedly help the private sector and thus contribute greatly to solving the total problem.

Housing Executive tenants should be encour-

aged to become owner occupiers. A more comprehensive scheme than the current Sale of Housing Executive dwellings is being examined by our party.

On February 11 it was announced that £130 millions would be available for a Government attack on the housing problem in Belfast with a promise of more to follow. (Editors Note)

WHO SETS YOUR PACE?

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush.
He makes me stop for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind,
And his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day
I will not fret for his presence is here.
His timelessness, his all-importance, will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity,
By anointing my mind with his oils of tranquility.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Truly, harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord
And dwell in his house forever.

(Attributed to a Japanese writer: Tokio Megashie)

PLACE OF THE ORANGE ORDER

Addressing an Orange Rally in Lisbellaw Recreation Hall on February 9, under the auspices of the District Lodge, the guest speakers were the Rt. Hon Harry West, Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, and the Rev. S. E. Long, Imperial Grand Chaplain.

Bro. West gave a most helpful appreciation of the political situation in the Province, and Bro. Long dealt with the Place and Purpose of the Orange Institution in a very well received lecture.

There was an excellent programme of music, song and humour.

The chairman for the evening was Lt-Col. G. E. Liddle, CBE, JP, County Grand Master, Fermanagh.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR LOL No. 750 GILLYGOOLEY

Bro. John Porter, Secretary of Mountjoy L.O.L. 750, presided at the installation of office-bearers for Gillygooley Sons of William L.O.L. 339 held in Gillygooley Orange Hall on 13th January.

He was assisted by Bro. Samuel Crosbie, W.M. of L.O.L. 750. Deacons were Bro. Joe McCormick, Lecturer of Omagh District L.O.L. No. 11 and Lecturer of L.O.L. 226, and Bro. C. J. Beattie, W.M. of Blacksessiagh L.O.L. 226. Also present was Bro. Victor Jeffrey, Deputy Grand Secretary of Tyrone Grand Orange Lodge.

Officers installed were as follows:— W.M., George Smyth; D.M., George Armstrong; Sec., Andrew Scott;

Ass. Sec., Malcolm McKinley; Treas., Walter Armstrong; Chap., Victor Anderson; Lecturers, Victor Anderson and Charles Smyth; Tyler, Matt Boyd; Committee, Bertie Hemphill (foreman), Ronnie McKinley, Gerald McCualey, Victor McFarland, Robert Walker, Cecil McConnell.

The W.M. thanked the visiting brethren for carrying out their duties so efficiently and each replied.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were presented, indicating the Lodge to be in a very healthy position, both numerically and financially.

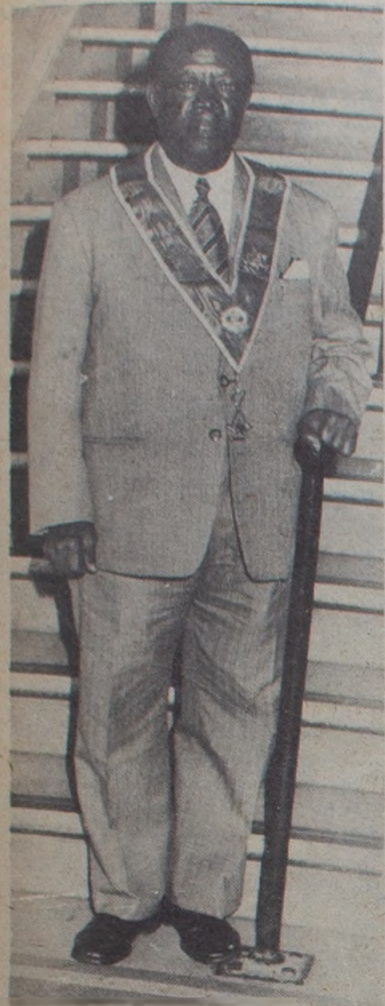
A meeting of the Royal Arch Purple Chapter followed when the Officers installed were the same as at the Lodge

LOL Man For 62 Years

The two longest-serving members of Killycoogan Orange Lodge were recently presented with 50-year jewels.

At a special ceremony in the Orange Hall, Brother William James Boyd, who has been with the Lodge for 62 years, and Brother Thomas Bristow, 52 years with the Killycoogan Brethren, received their presentations from Worshipful Master Brother James McCallion.

Brother McCallion also presented Past Master Certificates to Brothers W. Reid, H. Wilkinson, J. Bell and J. Carleton.



Bro. Odonkor

Royal Black Expands Into West Africa

Royal Black Preceptories are now operating in West Africa, leaders of the organisation in Northern Ireland have been told.

Delegates attending the half-yearly meeting of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter in Belfast heard that warrants for the new preceptories in Ghana and Togoland had been issued through the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of England.

The advent of Black Sir Knights — the RBP is the senior organisation of the Orange Order — in West Africa has stemmed from the growth of Orangeism there and the recent visit of Grand Lodge representatives to Northern Ireland.

More than 130 delegates attended the meeting in Sandy Row Orange Hall, 30 of them from Scotland and England.

Rt. Wor. James Molyneux MP, the Sovereign Grand Master, presided, and he welcomed the Rev. Martin Smyth, Grand Master of the Orange Order, and Mr. J. A. Anderson, Grand Master of the Royal Arch Purple Chapter.

Sir Knight Molyneux, who is the UUUC leader at Westminster, is to visit Australia and New Zealand next September on behalf of the Royal Black Institution. His visit is being arranged to coincide with members of the Institution in Western Australia, Queensland,

Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and New Zealand.

It is the first visit by the titular head of the Institution for more than 20 years — Sir Norman Stronge, a former speaker of the Stormont Parliament, visited Australia and New Zealand during the 1950's when he was Sovereign Grand Master.

The overseas trip by Sir Knight Molyneux is not the only one being undertaken by an RBP head next year. The Rev. Victor Ryan, County Grand Master of Belfast, will visit Canada, and an invitation is being considered for a visit to the United States members by a leading official in 1978.



Bro. Essien

50 Year Certificates For Donaghmore Orangemen

At the annual Installation of Officers meeting and dinner of Donaghmore L.O.L. 1364 recently 5 members of the Lodge were presented with 50 years service certificates.

The County Down Grand Master, who is also a member of the Donaghmore Lodge, Bro. S. Cowan, J.P., presented the certificates to the following members — Bro. R. Boyd (52 years), Bro. H. McConville (52 years), Bro. S. Hill (51 years), Bro. A. Skillen (51 years) and Bro. R. Boyd, Ballylough (52 years). Bro. J. Copeland, the County Down Grand Secretary also attended, along with the following Newry District No. 9 officers, Worshipful District Master, Bro. J. Thompson and the Deputy District Master, Bro. The Rev. A. McCormick.

The outgoing Worshipful Master, Bro. J. Porter, presided at this historic meeting and he described the loyal years of service among the five members, and congratulated them all on their achievement, as did the County Grand Master, Bro. S. Cowan, J.P.



The five certificate holders from left—Bros S. Hill, H. McConville, R. Boyd, A. Skillen and R. Boyd, Ballylough. Back row, from left — Bros. W. Graham, newly elected Worshipful Master, J. McGaffin, Deputy Master, J. Thompson, W.D.M., S. Cowan, J.P., County Grand Master, J. Copeland, County Grand Secretary and Rev. A. McCormick, D.D.M.



Bro. S. Cowan, J.P. (left) presents the Past Master's Certificate to Bro. R. Boyd, the outgoing Worshipful Master.

HAVE WE THE TIME?

Have we the time to step inside and say a little prayer?
 Have we the time to help a soul in need or in despair?
 Have we the time to listen, to comfort and to share
 In other people's troubles, and do we really care?
 Have we the time to think of distant lands afar
 Where poverty and famine are anything but rare?
 A drop of water, piece of bread, a sack, an old tin shed.

A wrinkled face, tired hands, a wailing child unfed,
 Parched earth, dry wells, disease and misery,
 These are the troubles of a vast majority,
 We must take time to do the best we can
 To help, to comfort and to give to every man,
 To take advantage of the seconds, of the minutes, of
 the hours.

To see and hear and listen to anxieties of others.

(Written by children at St. George's County Primary School, Shrewsbury)

SILVER JUBILEE PORTRAITS

These splendid Re-productions in full colour 23" x 18" are obtainable from Grand Secretary, House of Orange, 65 Dublin Road, Belfast, BT2 7HE. They are especially suitable for framing and displayed in the house or in Orange Halls.

PRICE £1 EACH, PLUS 10p FOR POSTAGE. Order now as the demand will be enormous.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

FIRST PORTADOWN ORANGE LODGE

Continued from page 3

exaggerated as were the accounts of them."

It is worth repeating his words which follow as being a gentleman's views on events not entirely dissimilar to those which have blackened Ulster's name throughout the world in the past ten years.

"Happy had it been for the Protestants' name if the Protestants had been content with the defeat of their enemies at the Diamond and the formation of the protection society. Unhappily it was not so, and a spirit of vengeance and retribution had sunk too deeply into many of their minds to be thus easily satisfied.

"Many, it is true, had a long account of wrongs to suffer, after which they wholly overlooked the divine declaration 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.'

"This mode of payment and determination was expressed by driving from this quarter of the country the Roman Catholic population. It is true a great proportion of these had taken an active part as Defenders and persecutors of Protestants, still there were many who were quiet in the land, and had taken no share in such proceedings but revenge like love is blind."

A LESSON TO LEARN?

Perhaps there is a lesson somewhere in this remarkable diary for Loyalists and Roman Catholics alike who are caught up in the disturbances which have blighted Ulster in this generation, and whose impact must take several generations to eradicate if ever this is possible.

The drastic reduction in the Presbyterian community in the Republic has been as traumatic a depopulation as that following the famines of the last century, said the Presbyterian Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Jack Weir in Limerick.

ONLY 20,000 LEFT

Dr. Weir was one of the Protestant clergymen who, in last 1974, met Provisional Sinn Fein representatives at Feakle, Co. Clare — their talks were followed by the Provisional ceasefire which nominally still holds. Within his Church, Dr. Weir is regarded as being liberal and ecumenical, wrote the "Irish Times."

But he had harsh words for complacency about the decline in size of the Presbyterian community in the Republic, while there were, he said, some 400,000 men, women and children in the Presbyterian Church, North and South. Less than 20,000 of these were in the Republic, with 40% in Donegal; 25% in Monaghan and Cavan and another 25% in the Dublin area.

"In the South, the pace is set for others by the Roman Catholics and then the Anglicans — in the North, perhaps, it is the Presbyterian tradition which has been the pacemaker," Dr. Weir said.

"The causes for decline in the South are complex, but until the decline is halted, and significantly reversed, I fear that no promises, or provisions made, are likely to carry much weight in the North. . . . I must warn against complacency over this, whether within our own community, or beyond it."

Dr. Weir said that a better understanding of our differing ecclesiastical heritages was essential to a solution of our problems. In the Republic "one may find widespread misunderstanding of the Northerner and especially of the Presbyterian. There may be no illwill — indeed much goodwill — but also easy assumptions which disregard realities and lead to disillusionment."

WORLD CONTEXT

Dr. Weir spoke of the worldwide context of Presbyterianism — the strong Scottish link of the Irish Presbyterian Church and the doctrine and government that are particular characteristics of the Presbyterian Church.

"Throughout our time in Ireland we have been a people under pressure — religious, ecclesiastical, political and economic. Inevitably, there have been pressures from the Catholic majority, but also from the

PRESBYTERIAN DECLINE IN EIRE IS "TRAUMATIC" —

— MODERATOR

Protestant ascendancy of the Church of Ireland.

The uniformity, under episcopal rule, which it sought to achieve, from which our forefathers felt obliged to react, in dissent, or nonconformity, has meant that many of our people still see episcopacy as a symbol for exclusion and division rather than the reverse," Dr. Weir said.

"Hesitations, such as have been noted among our people regarding the ecumenical movement, may, perhaps, reflect a more realistic appreciation of the

radical changes this would have to mean — should mean, for all — not just by way of some marginal adjustment, or enlargement which could absorb us into a basic Church of Rome.

"We would see that as a deceptive, even a self-deceptive ecumenism; and, a parallel might be drawn in the political, as well as in the religious field."

Dr. Weir's term as Moderator ends in June. His successor will be The Rev. Tom Patterson.

Police Widows : Pitiful Pittance

Mr. Neil Oliver, hon. secretary of the Monday Club in a statement said that the awards of £16,000; £14,000 and £14,000 respectively to the dependents of the three policemen killed at Belcoo were "pitifully small."

Allowing for the rate of inflation and taking into account the dedicated services of these men to the community, apart from the inestimable value to their dependents, we should expect sums of at least treble those awarded.

"When our society con-

siders the sanctity of human life at a discount and discounts still further the lives of the security forces who are murdered in the exercise of their duty, there should be a public outcry at the insult inflicted by such awards which are no reward or compensation for this needless slaughter and human sacrifice," Mr. Oliver declared.

FRIENDS OVERSEAS
KEEP IN TOUCH WITH
CURRENT EVENTS IN THE
ORDER BY SENDING THEM
THE ORANGE STANDARD



COMMENT :

THE POPE AND THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

Because the Orange Institution owed its beginnings to the men of the Diamond who were almost to a man members of the Church of Ireland it has always had a large percentage of its membership from that church. Indeed the preponderance of episcopalians, clergy and laity, in the membership and especially in certain areas remains most impressive.

The loyalty to Great Britain of the members of the old church in Northern Ireland has been a taken for granted thing. There is the story of a crusty old Church of Ireland cleric who was taken to task by a Presbyterian neighbour for not flying the Union Flag on a Royal occasion and who replied, "But our loyalty has never been in question."

The attack on the church for what has been suggested as "a sell-out" to the Church of Rome by leaders of the Church of Ireland bothered more than the C. of I. members of the Order.

The matter arose over the appearance of a consultative Anglican/Roman Catholic document — very few in Ireland have seen it — which looks to the unity of the churches and the primacy of the Bishop of Rome in a coming Great Church. It must be said at once that the C. of I. is an entirely autonomous body within the Anglican Communion. It makes its own decisions on every matter which concerns it. And because the church is two-thirds to one-third governed by the laity no decision can be taken without the consent of the people.

There is no evidence that the C. of I. by its bishops, clergy and laity are concerned about unity other than unity in truth. Because it continues to believe that the Church of Rome is in error on many of its doctrines — they are without Biblical basis — there can be no organic unity with that church. To say this is not to deny that the Church of Rome is a church in change in parts of the world — we are not unacquainted with the Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands and with "Those Dutch Catholics" — but the recent "Directory on Ecumenism in Ireland" (Veritas Press 35p) makes it clear by the Irish hierarchy that the RC Church in Ireland is determined to set its face against liberalism in the Dutch fashion. But, of course, the points of disagreement between Anglicans and Roman Catholics are many on social and political questions. They remain chasmic.

Whilst Christians must always be vigilant to ensure that there is no watering down of the faith in pulpit or practice there must not be a dissipation of energy, and enthusiasm, in attacks on something which the great number of church people recognise to be of no utilitarian value and no scriptural warrant. The place of the Pope as the supreme head of a great church is a present day nonsense.

In the face of the growing secularism and atheism of our society the whole impetus of the church should be to make Christians and to make better Christians. This remains the commission, and the philosophy, of the Church of Ireland whose biblicism is patent in its Prayer Book, Articles of Religion, preaching and teaching, and whose Protestantism is everywhere apparent. Because the controversies between Roman Catholic Church and Church of Ireland apologists continue on mixed marriages, and social questions in the Republic of Ireland, the excitement over the place of the Pope and relations with the Church of Rome should be seen in that perspective.

Within days of the attacks on the C. of I. two bishops of the church had the headlines for another reason. Robin Eames, Derry and Raphoe, and George Quin, Down and Dromore, made strong attacks on the security policies of the Government.

Using simple, forceful, language they spelled out the feelings of many people who believe that the forces should "go in and get them." They were complaining bitterly that the murderers appear to kill at will. They lamented the deaths of so many good people at the hands of evil men and women. And Bishop Quin was particularly angry at the gloating of the Provos over their killings. He believed that the killers must be known to the intelligence people.

Few Ulstermen are satisfied that a war situation is being tackled with enough skill and strength. Bishop Quin spoke out at the funeral service of S/Constable Harrison at Gilford, Co. Down, on February 7. The "News Letter" leader writer next day made the point that while others had been unheard when they made their charges against ineffective security measures perhaps the voice of the churches would be heard calling, untypically, for a greater and more realistic show of legal force to suppress terrorism of whatever kind.

Stormont Approves £90,000 Grant Aid To Gaelic Sports

It will come as a surprise to many in Northern Ireland that the authorities at Stormont have paid out no less than £90,000 in grants to the Gaelic Athletic Association since 1968.

Money Galore

The disclosure was made in a written reply by Mr. Ray Carter to Bro. Harold McCusker, Unionist MP for County Armagh. According to the figures the 1968-69 grant out of public funds to the GAA was £3,483, dropping to a mere £535 in 1972-73, and then rising to its present level.

In addition to the foregoing benefit the Sports Council for Northern Ireland contributed an additional £2,500 to the GAA.

To be fair, the GAA is entitled to receive grant aid out of the public purse, like any other sports organis-

ation in this Province, but there are just a few points to be raised.

The GAA is an all-Ireland body, catering for football, hurling and camogie. Its players, in contradistinction to Soccer exponents are not paid wages, and the GAA is, therefore, one of the most financially secure bodies in the country.

But of far greater importance, transcending all considerations of finance, is the fact that the GAA is a discriminatory organisation, and it is arguable that they may well come within some of the legislation which covers discrimination in this part of the world.

Soccer Ban No More

Until recently no member of the GAA could play Soccer or Rugby, but that rule has now been relaxed and there

are a number of Soccer players who play Gaelic football as and when they are available to do so.

Gaelic Rules

By far the most serious aspect of Gaelic football is the discriminatory directives concerning the RUC and the British Army. No member of these forces can turn out for a Gaelic team. How on earth then, can young Gaelic players, not to speak of other youngsters, learn to respect either the role of the police or soldiers when they know that by GAA rule they are exempt from membership of their GAA? Even if the policeman or soldier is a member of the Roman Catholic faith!

This is indeed discrimination which can only have the widest implications and repercussions, and something which deliberately sets out to achieve a divisiveness in society which

must have had a direct bearing on some of the tragedy which has afflicted Ulster in the past, if not indeed in the present.

The GAA was born under the umbrella of the Roman Catholic Church, vide Archbishop Croke, in whose memory the chief Gaelic arena in Dublin is named, and under the guise of anti-British political evocation.

Bro. McCusker has done a very useful piece of work in bringing to public notice the facts relating to the financing of certain GAA activities out of the State coffers.

No Cash Unless

It must now be made a condition that any future grant aid will be conditional on the offending rule being erased from the GAA book. The ban on Soccer went. This one ought to go too.

Now The Civic Guard Is On The Rack For Prisoner "Brutality"

Some of the heat which has been turned on the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the British Army in Northern Ireland accusing them of "brutality" and subjecting prisoners to harsh methods of interrogation has been taken off by the amazing allegations published in the "Irish Times" concerning the treatment of prisoners by the Civic Guards in the Republic of Ireland.

POLICE DENIAL

In the week commencing February 14 the "Times" published on succeeding days astonishing interviews with men and women who

ings and interrogation whilst in police custody.

We do not know whether these allegations are true or false: they have been denied by Divic Guard spokesmen and obviously there are two sides to be listened to.

Curiously this tendency for prisoners to accuse the police and security forces generally of ill-treatment is not confined to this country, or the British Isles in general. It is becoming a common feature in many lands to set teeth on edge against the police. Certainly in Northern Ireland we have had more than a fair share of accusations against the security forces, and in some instances there have been court awards against the

upholders of law and order for injury.

It is no part of any policeman or soldier to impose the law by force of baton or fist, except where a prisoner himself requires to be forcibly restrained. And where this is not found to be the case and a prisoner has a just claim for compensation the procedures to be followed in a court of law are laid down in black and white.

But it must be remembered that of the many thousands of men and women who have come into conflict with the law the proportion of those in Northern Ireland who have had their accusations against the RUC and the Army upheld is minimal.

SMEAR TACTIC

Far too many miscreants who come up for trial are much too ready to claim that they have been maltreated. It is now so easy to smear the forces of law and order that it is becoming commonplace in defensive submissions.

The right and proper place for such charges alleging brutality and injury is in a court of law, not the public rostrum. There the truth can be sifted from the fiction, with the specialised medical testimony. A claim upheld by a court is infinitely more beneficial than all the hot air discharged about police and army brutality.



The Unionists And The Dutch

By S. E. LONG

A group of twenty Ulster Unionist Party people including Harry West, Leader; Austin Ardill, Chief Whip; Martin Smyth, John Taylor and John Laird, were the guests of the Dutch — Northern Irish Advisory Committee on a Study Tour of The Netherlands, 16-20 January. The base was the old palace "Oud Poelgeest" at Oegstgeest, near Leiden, and now an adult education centre.

POLITICAL STRUCTURES

The tour, the second of its kind — the other was in March, 1975, and had representatives of SDLP, NILP, UPNI and Alliance — had the opportunity of studying Dutch political structures, government and local government, with experiences of Dutch horticulture, housing, schooling and policing with a local valuation on the European Economic Community.

The tour organisers had obviously gone to great trouble to ensure that the Ulster Unionists were "taught" in the several subjects by involved people who took as much trouble to explain the most complex matters of political, social and educational kinds in their complex society. For the most obvious thing about Holland is that any appearance of simplicity is illusory.

Every attitude, and arrangement, in the country has been dug out of hard thinking, and that willingness to accommodate to decisions which are capable of producing workable arrangements for everything in a society which is divided religiously in ways which our own divided society has never known.

The big difference, of course, is that Dutch divisions do not produce the violence which has been symptomatic of Ireland's struggle. But then the fundamental difference between Ulster and Holland is that our problem is Constitutional and whatever is represented by religious quarrels the real cause of the trouble is the aspirations of people to be British or Irish.

Like any bald statement this one is questionable, but only on the ground that one's religious denomination does not always represent one's political views. Whatever tensions

there may be in the Dutch situation there is no desire to change the Constitutional status of the country. There is no divided national loyalty. So that a study in the Netherlands on community relations, politics, or any other subject, must never lose sight of this primary reality.

But having said that, there are many things that the perceptive observer can learn from an appreciation of the Dutch scene. And the Ulster Unionists were advantaged by being allowed to see things of particular interest in the country guided by experts in the several subjects at examination.

THREE IN ONE

The first lecture was expectantly "An Introduction to the Netherlands: Three People Rolled Into One" by Dr. E van den Brink, in which the philosophy of pillarisation was spelled out.

The method is to separate the nation into groupings which represent their denominational loyalty and political allegiance — Protestant, Roman Catholic and Socialist with their churches, schools, parties, trade unions, newspapers, universities, sports clubs, radio and television stations. There was little inter-communion, for there were few cross contacts and inter-marriage was unusual. The system works, in spite of the divisions, because the pillar leaders join to produce a coalition government, and a recognised official opposition for the country.

Peaceful living together came by disassociation, because none is strong enough to dominate the others and because none is so weak that it can be dominated. The philosophy of Dutch politics has been described as de-politicising life, that is avoiding divisive political problems to have a politics of accommodation with a slogan, "compromise and communicate."

Dr Van den Brink, a most articulate and forthright lecturer who enjoyed questions, explained that there was in process a crumbling of the old system and structure, and people were now crossing the divides in the belief that each pillar has something to offer them.

The Unionists were to hear from Dr Brink then, and later from the leaders of the Confessional Parties at the seat of government, The Hague, of the formation of a coalition, the Christian Democratic Appeal, which hoped to gain 60 of the 150 seats in the next parliament, the election for which is on 25 May, and perhaps 76 seats in the near future to allow majority government in a country where such a possibility has long been out of the question.

The Protestant and Catholic parties togetherness — it is not total because three small Protestant parties refuse to co-operate — was described as the result of the influence of ecumenism and the greatly improved

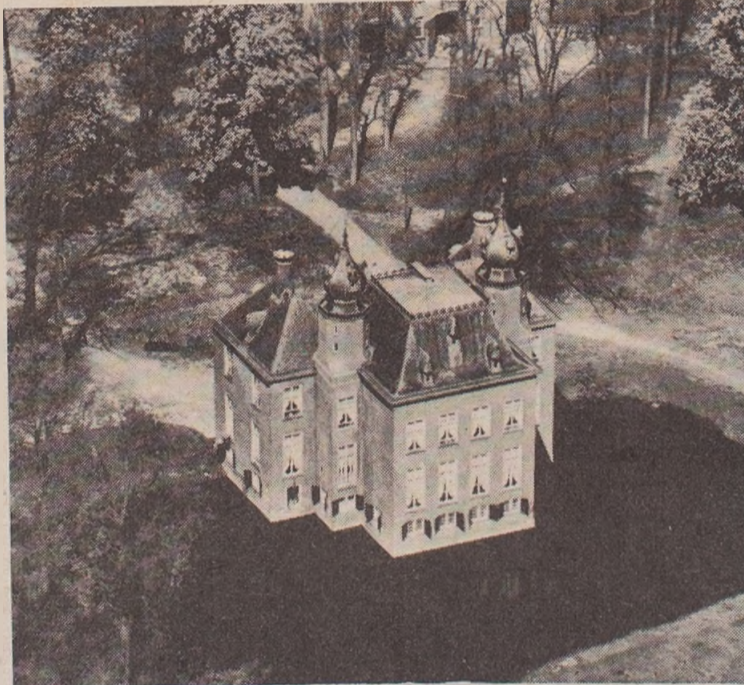
relations in the churches post-Vatican Councils. There is reason for believing that there was also the matter of survival, for the socialists have been gaining ground numerically, and pressure was on the confessional parties to face together the common enemy. The basis of the Christian Democratic appeal is the Bible.

R.C. LIBERALISM

The Alliance of the religious parties was possible largely, no doubt, because of the changed Dutch Roman Catholic Church, once very conservative and now one of the most liberal branches of the Roman church in the world. The spokesman of the Catholic party said that it refused to give political advice any more. The party did its own thing. The present party strengths in Parliament are, the two Protestant parties 17 and 7 members respectively, and the Catholic party 27, total 48.

The three party spokesmen answered questions on M.P.'s salaries, £22,000 a year, and described the place of the Queen in the Dutch system. She has certain rights — to be informed; to encourage; and to warn. The three influences of compulsion in the country are the Queen, Parliament and Public Opinion.

The differences in the



Oud Paelgeest, Oegstgeest, the home base for the study tour.

English and Dutch political systems were pointed out. One important difference is that the Dutch Government is separated from Parliament. A Cabinet Minister on his appointment is required to resign his seat which he may not recover even though he may have made an arrangement with his successor to have it back if and when he leaves the Government.

While the contention is made that the Queen is a beloved monarch without power — her value is in the fact that the Crown represents the unity of the country and the continuity of government — she appears to have enough, for she appoints commissioners to represent her all over the country and Cabinet Ministers are her appointees with the assistance of the Prime Minister who is himself her chosen man. Her decisions are regulated, of course, by electoral results. When questioned about her influence the reply was that no one could value it because

that is "the secret of the palace."

The visitors while admiring the beauty of the Second Chamber, the meeting place of the Dutch Parliament, witnessed the swearing-in of a new lady MP. The brief ceremony was recognisably a serious matter for the House and that part of it which quickly and happily congratulated the new member. The First Chamber is the Senate, the members of which are elected by provincial administrations, and which has the right to veto parliamentary bills which it does not believe to be for the good of the country.

POLICING

The study of the police was at headquarters in Amsterdam where the lecturer was the Chief Commissioner for Criminal Investigation, Mr. J van der Voort and his subject, "Law and Order in Dutch Cities."

The Dutch police system by municipal and State forces, with the usual special agencies, was explained, and especially in the setting of the international city of Amsterdam. Mr. van der Voort, with a remarkably quick reaction to questions, and a fund of pithy sayings talked about the undersirability of "tinned policemen" and the policy "policing is caring."



"The Jolly Toper" by Frans Hals (1579-1666). The Dutch have a heritage of good painting.

galleries we saw only a few women and the men were mostly young. The flowers were indescribably beautiful. The management put on a film slide show of the auction facilities and the flowers in an excellently appointed viewing room.

The visitors were impressed with the Westland glass houses and the timed growth of acres of flowers so that marketing dates are controlled.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At Delft, famous for the tableware of the name, local government was studied by the help of the Queen's Commissioner for Cultural Affairs for the area and the lady Deputy Burgomaster. Two incidentals impressed me, a painting in the splendid old council chamber of William III by c De Man, and the dinner which followed the engagement was in the cellar cafe of the old palace of William the Silent, the ancestor of William of Orange. The palace is a museum of international repute. Regrettably it was after closing hours when we reached Delft.

At Den Helder on the North Sea coast the party saw something of Dutch housing, now and reconstructed, with the help of housing experts and of Alderman van den Bosch, the local Minister for Housing and Town Planning, the jolliest Dutchman of them all.

The Alderman had also arranged a tour of three schools, a pre-primary, which had been obtained on the pressures of parents — we met a most articulate one of them — a secondary and a grammar school. Comparisons were interesting especially with the Protestant/Roman Catholic Johannes Grammar School which had been founded in 1968 with a hundred pupils and located in its new buildings in 1973 with 1100 and now with a roll of 1200.

Things which impressed were the moveable walls of classrooms — they made for all kinds of pupil movements and happenings — a television room peculiarly well fitted out and used extensively for some original school work, and a wall "picture" which said "It often shows a fine command of language to say nothing." (in English).

The vice-principal and English master lectured on

the Dutch education system with particular reference to Johannes school the one integrated school of the area. Its policy is to develop Christian character. The underlying emphasis is on Bible teaching. The reason for coming together was economic but the agreed basis of belief is "The Apostle's Creed."

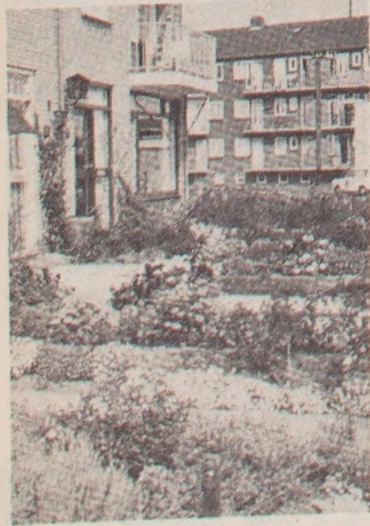
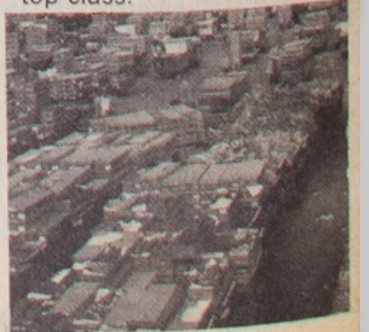
DAILY PRAYER

There is morning prayer each day relayed to classrooms by the "general announcing system" from that remarkable tv room. The VP ended with the two objectives of the school — to accompany and guide young people on the way to adulthood and to promote the welfare of others; to develop the critical attitude to life and to stand for the oppressed.

It was seen to be of major importance that the children feel part of a community which believes in God and everything is geared to that end. With typical Dutch honesty the lecturer admitted that some teachers were reluctant to support the aims of the school. But he added quickly that the common faith in Christ kept the school together.

The lecture on the European Economic Community gave a pro-view of the Common Market, a natural reaction from a Dutchman who has been 25 years an official of EEC and because Holland has every appearance of being successful in it. The history of the Community and the explanations of the goals were well presented to an audience which had many reservations on its value to Ulster.

One could well wax lyrical about the generosity of the Dutch. Suffice to say that those who were responsible for this educational trip were generous and helpful to the highest Dutch standards. No doubt some useful ideas were gathered from this Dutch experience and, of course, the fun and fellowship of the Unionists was top class.



Housing at Den Helder

Church's Longing For Peace And Devolved Rule

A statement from the Church of Ireland Role of the Church Committee says:

"We share the longing of the overwhelming majority of people in this island for a society, North and South, in which there is security of life and limb, and confidence and trust between peoples and communities, coupled with an honest attempt to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to provide opportunities for all to live a full and satisfying life. This is a goal to be worked for at every level in society and in this context we recognise the need for various initiatives.

POLITICAL INITIATIVES

"Responsibility for taking political initiative lies collectively with the British Government as the sovereign power in Northern Ireland, and also with politicians and political

parties in Northern Ireland and with the Irish Government.

NORTHERN IRELAND

"In Northern Ireland there is urgent need for some form of devolved government through which elected representatives can express their views and voice public opinion in a democratic way. Meanwhile politicians and political parties should spell out their policies by means of which these initiatives can take place. A danger in the present situation is that it is furthering the drift towards chaos and anarchy.

"There is the need to realise that the gradual withdrawal from active politics of people with recent electoral support helps to create a vacuum that can all too easily be filled by non-elected people who endeavour to impose their will on the community through intimidation or the use of physical force.

"To be effective, devolved government depends on working together and partnership not only in the processes of governing but also in the local community. However, true partnership cannot be imposed by law nor by an outside authority; if it is to work it has to be based on the consent and will of people in all sections of the community to work for the benefit of all.

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

"While a grave responsibility rests upon the British Government and on all

sections of the Northern community, an equally serious and urgent obligation lies with the Government of the Republic of Ireland. Its contribution to creating a climate in which this partnership can develop and flourish can best be made by a determined effort to create a more free and open society in its own country.

"The plain fact is that partnership in Northern Ireland is being seriously impeded by the absence of a positive, realistic and honest approach by the Republic to the issue of Irish unity. And this in a situation in which the great majority of citizens in Northern Ireland are quite determined not to be absorbed into the Irish Republic as it at present exists. This is a stark fact of life.

"The historical and contemporary difficulties are well expressed in the following words: "Over a long period successive Dublin Governments maintained an extensive propaganda against partition... While demanding that the country must be united, Dublin Governments made no concessions at all to the traditions or susceptibilities of the Northern Protestants." (Extract from "Memorandum on Irish Unity" by Professor J. C. Beckett appended to the 1973 Report of the Role of the Church Committee).

CHURCH AND STATE

"One essential contribution to peace and reconciliation in this island must be

to rid ourselves of any commitment to or any desire for a confessional state, namely "a Protestant state for a Protestant people" or "a Catholic state for a Catholic people." Our hope is well expressed by the late President J. F. Kennedy and our endeavours should be aimed at creating a state "where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials, and where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one Church is treated as an act against all." (Extract from Campaign address, Greater Houston Ministerial Association, 12/9/60).

REAPPRAISAL OF CHURCH ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS

"This involves the Church in Ireland in a drastic and meaningful reappraisal of their past, present and future roles in Irish society, North and South, their relationships with each other, and the bearing these have on the perpetuation of divisions. This would mean a realistic facing up to the citizen's freedom of conscience in relation to such issues as the law governing family planning, marital breakdown, divorce and Sunday observance. This is a harsh essential.

"The Churches must engage in an open, honest and courageous examination of issues such as Church/State relations, law and morality, mixed marriages, experiments in integrated education, free-

dom of conscience and basic human rights. We are bound to say that the unreality of inter-Church dialogue hitherto, e.g., the Ballymascanlon meetings, is illustrated by an apparent inability to come to grips with these moral, social and practical issues which affect the lives of ordinary people and contribute to the maintenance of divisions based on suspicion and fear.

THE WAY AHEAD

"We make this statement acknowledging that we, in common with the other Churches, share some of the blame for the suspicion, fears and prejudices which

divide persons and communities in this country. Where penitence, honesty and realism prevail there is, by God's grace, confident reason for hope in the future. Given penitence, honesty, realism and a determination to face radical change, there is still time for Churches, Governments and others to make positive contributions to the creation of that society for which we long."

Editor's Note

We believe this C. of I. document to be a consequent expression of opinion which deserves the widest press coverage.

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50 Year Certificates For Orangemen



Seven members of Ballyvea L.O.L. 343A Mourne District No. 6 were presented with 50 year certificates at the annual installation of officers meeting of the Ballyvea Lodge on Friday night last. The certificates were presented by the Worshipful District Master Brq. W. Russell. Our picture shows members who received

their certificates, seated from left—Bros. T. Annett (58 years), T. Barbour (53 years), J. Cousins (64 years), G. Crutchley (54 years), W. Orr (54 years). Back row—Bros. S. Skillen (62 years), J. Chambers, Deputy Master of the Lodge, H. Crutchley, Worshipful Master, W. Russell, W.D.M. and R. McConnell

(59 years). Other esteemed members who received certificates but were not present to receive them were as follows—Bros. J. Haugh (59 years), R. Heaney (59 years), W. Newell (57 years), G. Annett (57 years), H. Bennett (52 years) and A. Irvine (51 years).

Britain Blamed For "Deadlock" in N.I. Politics

Speaking at the annual meeting of South Down Unionist Association in Warrenpoint, the former Cabinet Minister, Mr. John D. Taylor, said that there was a real political deadlock in Ulster and this was now recognised by all, both locally and internationally.

Mr. Taylor said that the three most important groups involved in the political solution were the British Government; the S.D.L.P. and the Unionists, although he accepted that

the Alliance and N.I.L.P. had a helpful contribution to make, and that the Republic of Ireland had a passing interest.

He said that the main responsibility for the deadlock rested with the British Government who had always laid down pre-conditions to any talks between the S.D.L.P. and the Unionists. This meant that all such talks failed and it would be futile to attempt talks again with the S.D.L.P.

until the British Government abandoned pre-conditions, such as power-sharing, which had resulted in the failure of previous talks and had been overwhelmingly rejected by the Ulster electorate.

The former Minister claimed that there was massive pressure from political, church and press sources against the British Government's present policy of a political vacuum in Ulster and calling for a

new British Government initiative.

Likewise the second party to a possible Ulster solution — the S.D.L.P. — had their problems. Not only are some of its more acceptable members, such as Sean Holywood from South Down, resigning, but the Party has become divided between those who identify more openly with Republican policies and those who wish to maintain the pretence that the S.D.L.P. would not work towards a United Ireland if they held positions in a future Ulster Cabinet.

With the British Government and the S.D.L.P. having their problems now was the time for official Unionists to remain calm; to stand by

their assurances to the Ulster electorate and to work with even greater vigour towards a solution based upon the main principles of the Report of the Ulster Convention.

When the British Government and S.D.L.P. abandoned positions, which had already been decisively rejected by the Ulster electorate, then there could be quick progress towards a political settlement between Unionists and S.D.L.P. which would provide for greater minority participation in government of our province. Mr. Taylor said that he had little doubt that the vast majority of Ulster people, both Catholic and Protestant, would welcome such a



Mr. John Taylor

solution and that the terrorists would become more isolated and thus drift towards defeat.

However, Mr. Taylor concluded by warning Unionists that, due to pressures upon London and the S.D.L.P. now was the time when Unionists should avoid the temptations of fanciful solutions or soft options, and stand firmly behind policies which had the support of the electorate and which would create a better society for all Ulster people.



Bro. W. Close (front row) who has been a member of Mount Ida LOL 26A (Banbridge District No. 7) for 67 years. Bro. Close is pictured with officers and wives at the Lodge's annual dinner dance in the Orange Hall on Friday night last.

'SCANDEL' AS ALEX TAKES WAFER

Princess Alexandra — reported to have caused an "ecumenical scandal" by taking communion in a Vatican ceremony — was just making "an understandable spontaneous Christian response," said a Church of England clergyman recently.

The Princess, with her husband Mr. Angus Ogilvy was at the canonisation in Rome of her husband's ancestor, Blessed John Ogilvy, when she was offered a consecrated host by a priest.

A Turin newspaper said: "The episode is now being spoken about as an ecumenical scandal." But Canon John Arnold, secretary of the Church of England's Board for Mission and Unity, said "My immediate reaction is that it's a pity that any fuss is being made about the incident at all."

He did not believe Princess Alexandra had deliberately set out to receive communion, he said.

Meanwhile, the influential magazine, Concilium, suggested that the excommunication of Martin Luther should be reviewed. The issue will figure in talk between Vatican officials and a delegation from the World Lutheran Federation, which began in Rome.

Record RC Voice in US House

Have you ever visualised your local parish priest or curate as a member of the Dail? The Americans have two Roman Catholic priests in the new Congress — Robert Drinan of Massachusetts and Robert J. Cornell of Wisconsin, just two of the six Congressmen who are also ordained ministers of their churches.

With a Southern Baptist, Jimmy Carter, the most publicised winner at the recent elections it will come

as a major surprise to most that Roman Catholics outnumber any other religious group in the new Congress with a total of 129 Catholic members, 13 of whom are senators.

Next in order come the United Methodists with a total of 80, 20 of whom are in the Senate, with Episcopalians 64, Presbyterians 60, Baptists 56, Jews 27, and various other groups down to the "unaffiliated" five.

In the world of newly elected governors in the U.S., the Roman Catholics are in command also with 15

as against seven Presbyterians and five each Baptists and Methodists.

The fact that Roman Catholics lead in these fields will come as a surprise to most, who do not view the White House as a centre in which Roman Catholics would dominate their colleagues.

These figures were published by a Washington-based evangelical magazine, "Christianity Today," and this records the Roman Catholic totals as new records.



SLAVE LABOUR in a Siberian prison camp. Hundreds of thousands of Christians are sentenced to these camps.

ONE ADULT IN FIVE IN RUSSIA — A BELIEVER

SOVIET AUTHORITIES ALARMED at the continuing interest in religion in the USSR — reported the Baptist Times in December.

Interest in religion grows apace, especially among young people, despite the tremendous state-sponsored atheistic propaganda.

A booklet entitled "Public Opinion and Atheistic Propaganda" published in Leningrad, says that 33 million Soviet citizens declare themselves to be religious believers. As a result of a survey of opinion in that city, 41% of the people questioned admitted to conducting religious ceremonies in their homes, or those of friends. An appreciable number of educated and 'intellectual' people are admittedly believers or interested in religion.

OFFICIAL SF OPENS OFFICE IN ROME

Official Sinn Fein has opened an office in Rome following a series of meetings between Mr. Sean O Cionnaith, director of the International Affairs Bureau of the party and representatives of various Left-wing Organisations in Europe.

The function of the office is to continue developing the links with fraternal organisations in Europe and to explain Sinn Fein policies to those countries.

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THE FAMILY

Controversies on human relationships are often divisive, yet there remains general agreement that a basic need of a good society is good families; that many of the weaknesses of modern society are traceable to the absence of standards in family behaviour which were the norm in other days.

Children and young people — who have more need of models than of critics — are the targets of attack for mob violence which puts society at risk with its contempt for law and order; its incredible destructiveness of property; and its bestial savagery in rioting which is often triggered off by incidents of little consequence. Children who vandalise property and throw stones and petrol bombs are described as the products of bad parents. Parents are castigated for their negligence or ignorance or selfishness.

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

Parental responsibility for the well being of family and community must be accepted. The influence of home is all pervading. But circumstances in violent situations wrest influence from parent, and teacher and pastor, to gather it for the evil purposes of faceless manipulators.

Community responsibility demands that young people be given the facilities which will enable them to spend their energy happily and peaceably. Youngsters deprived of recreational opportunities are susceptible to violence. And illiteracy and unemployment among young people are social evils which must be eradicated by the government for it only has the power and resources to do it. "To make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely". (Burke)

The very much greater number of well behaved young people say that when they are less criticised and given more opportunity to fulfil themselves they amply prove their ability to be good citizens. If young people are expected to respond to the thoughtfulness, and generosity, of the community, then community responsibility to help them must be readily accepted. The authorities, and voluntary bodies and organisations for youth activities should be encouraged by every concerned citizen to do their utmost to road all our youngsters into peaceful and useful ways.

MARRIAGE

Marriage, children, family and home are the inseparables of life in an ordered society.

Christian marriage is a life-long union between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily undertaken. The two become "one body" (1 Corinthians 6:16. A.V.), "one flesh" (Jerusalem Bible).

Christian marriage is "for the due ordering of families and households" (Prayer Book).

Christian teaching on marriage underlines the seriousness of a commitment which demands utmost care in the choice of a partner, and needs constant caring and sharing for its continuance. The emphasis is on love of husband and wife, physical, mental and spiritual, expressed in respect, devotion and loyalty of the one to the other.

STRESS

Different interests can be helpful by sharing experiences in marriage, but different loyalties and commitments can be destructive. "Mixed marriages" between Christians and non-Christian and between Christians of different denominations present difficulties. Divisions within the family reflect on children and never to advantage. Broken marriages are a factor in juvenile delinquency and lawlessness in modern society.

The Christian emphasis on family, the care of parent for child, child for parent, and child for child, remains the salt which flavours our society.

Every effort must be made to improve the quality of family life. Christian families must set an example to others in family relationships in the knowledge that "All happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way" (Leo Tolstoy).

SLEEPY CHRISTIANS

Too often society is composed of sleepy Christians and wide-awake sinners. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the struggle over human values. The advocates of permissiveness in social behaviour are often given a free run even when their views are ill conceived and patently destructive of what is good in society. They have an enthusiasm for wrong thinking which shames those whose right thinking goes unstated and unheard. We are constantly in need of Christian apologists when social questions are at issue.

Too often Christians dissipate their energies, and waste their time, on matters of small consequence while they stay silent on social and political questions which are of critical concern to people generally. The plea for the encouragement, and betterment, of family life, and for open opposition to everything which militates against it, is a proper campaign for all Christian people.



Bro. James Logan, left, who presented Bibles to Bro. Frank Fleck and Bro. David McCord in recognition of 50 years as members of Ross L.O.L. 515. Photo: "Antrim Guardian."

Age And Youth Blend Well in Ross Lodge 515

All good teams require a blend of experience and exuberance and, if this is so, then the Ross L.O.L. 515 has the making of league leaders for they have both these qualities in abundance. Their exuberance stems from one of the youngest and of officers ever elected coupled with the fact that they now have one of the most youthful W.M.'s in the Ballymena District in Br. Uel Stirling.

Their experience comes from the older members, especially the Honorary Members in the Lodge—in fact two of them, Br. Frank Fleck and Br. David McCord, have now completed 50 years in the service, thus continuing Orangeism at the

Deputy District Master Br. James Logan.

Hon. membership is becoming something of a habit in the Ross for the Secretary Br. J. Robinson intimated that there would be a similar occurrence, he hoped, next year when two more Brethren would attain a similar distinction.

The election of office-bearers was conducted by Br. J. Logan and he was assisted by Br. Wm. Simpson.

Deacons elected were Br. S. Douglas and Br. H. McConnell, Regalia Steward, is Br. D. Kelly.

Others elected were—W.M. Br. Uel Stirling; D.M., Br. Jack Crawford;

secretary, Br. James Robinson; treasurer, Br. James Thompson; chaplain, Br. James Gregg; lecturer, Br. William Matthews. Committee—Br. Robin Matthews, Br. Charles M. Cartney, Br. William Gregg, Br. Mervyn Gregg, and Br. John M. Cord, Tyler, Br. Samuel Stirling.

Supper was provided by the Ladies' Committee and tidling to the entertainment were Miss M. Anderson and Br. R. Matthews.

A hearty and comprehensive vote of thanks was expressed by the W.M., Br. Uel Stirling on behalf of the Ross L.O.L. 515 and by the D.D.M., Br. James Logan, on behalf of the visiting brethren.

Alone in UK

Continued from page 1

local government which they already possess. Clearly, then, proper local government constitutes no bar to devolution at the legislative level; and nobody could turn it against us as an argument for denying to unionists in Ulster what is proposed to be conceded to nationalists in Scotland.

"I will not conceal from you that in my opinion the coming months are going to be more crucial than any which have preceded them in this Parliament for the progress of Ulster Unionism

towards righting the wrongs and removing the injustices which were inflicted in this province by the Heath-Whitelaw Government in 1972 to 1974.

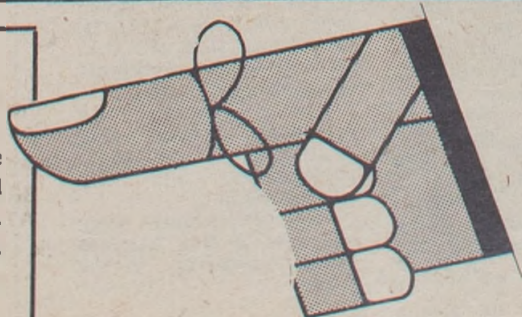
"I cannot think of any greater help and support that we in Parliament could have than the unanimous reaffirmation of our aims by our own Party in the Province. Nothing could do more good, and I am sure that it will have the blessing of this annual general meeting."

And the simple step of a simple, courageous man is not to take part in the lie, not to support deceit. Let the lie come into the world, but not through me. Moreover writers and artists can do something more; they can vanquish the lie. Wherever else it fails, Art has always won its fight against lies, and it will always win. Its victory will be obvious to all men . . . In Russia, the most popular proverbs are about truth. They express the not inconsiderable and bitter experience of the people, sometimes with considerable force. One word of truth outweighs the whole world . . .

ALEXANDER SOLZENITSYN

Attention All Lodge Reporters!

Due to a heavy amount of Lodge News received this month and the lack of space, it necessitated a number of items being held over until next month. Such items will receive top priority.





Armagh W.D.M. Bro. Charles Armstrong, centre, presented 50 year jewels to Bros. Albert Ferguson and Arthur Clarke after Killuney L.O.L. 347 lodge meeting. Included in the picture are W.M. Norman Neville and D.M. Thomas Houston. Inset is George McCartney who also qualified for his jewel, but was unable to attend. Photo "Ulster Gazette."

TANDRAGEE PURPLE DISTRICT CHAPTER INSTALLATION

The annual installation of officers in connection with Tandragee Royal Arch Purple District Chapter No. 4 was held in Acton Orange Hall at the invitation of Acton True Blues RAPC No. 254.

Bro. W. J. Robb, WDM, presided with Bro. L. Harrison, DDM, in the deputy chair, and at the outset expressions of sympathy were conveyed to numerous brethren who had been bereaved since the last stated meeting.

Visitors welcomed included Bro. W. F. Bell, RAPC 42, Aghalee district registrar, who conducted the installation.

Before vacating the chair

Bro. Robb, now residing in Bangor, returned thanks for the support he had received during four pleasant years in office as WDM.

The following were installed — Bros. L. Harrison, WDM; George Johnston, DDM; M. Patterson, PDM; Chaplain; Herbert R. Plunkett; registrar; W. C. Moody, MBE, JP, assistant registrar; J. Clayton, treasurer; N. Greer, assistant treasurer; W. Black and S. McCullough, lecturers; W. McDonald, inner guard.

The installing officer and Bro. R. Clarke and R. Whiteside, who had assisted him, were warmly thanked, and Bro. Robb was presented with a framed Past Master's certificate.

At a social hour the Loyal toast was duly honoured, as were toasts to the visitors and the District Chapter.

A very lavish supper was provided and served by the ladies' committee of RAPC 254, and thanks were extended to Acton RAPC for the catering and the use of the hall, on the motion of Bro. H. R. Plunkett, seconded by Bro. J. Clayton. Bro. R. Whiteside, WM of 254, suitably replied and conveyed fraternal greetings to the District Chapter.

Much pleasure was expressed at the record collection — £196 — at the annual church service in September. The money was devoted to the funds of the Boley Home, Dublin.

Lodge Room Dedicated by Imperial Grand Master

FIRST VISIT TO BESSBROOK

The Imperial Grand Master, Wor Bro the Rev. Martin Smyth, paid his first-ever visit to a meeting of Bessbrook District L.O.L. No. 11 in Bessbrook Orange Hall on Thursday February 17.

The significance of the Grand Master's visit was the re-opening and dedication of the main Lodge Room in the Hall in memory of two local Orangemen who were murdered at Kingsmill on January 5, 1976 along with eight other Protestant workmen.

Bro. Smyth performed the re-opening and dedication ceremony in the presence of 60 Bessbrook brethren, who were gathered to pay tribute to Bros. Joseph Lemmon and James McWhirter.

The walls of the Lodge Room have been panelled, a new floor erected, new fire-place installed, new carpet fitted, and other furnishings added. The finance for the scheme was provided by voluntary subscriptions from the Bessbrook brethren.

Bro. Lemmon, the caretaker of the Hall, was Tyler of Bessbrook District L.O.L. No. 11, Chaplain of Bessbrook Purple Star L.O.L. No. 959, and Worshipful Master of Bessbrook Crimson Arrow R.B.P. No. 38. Bro. McWhirter was a member of Bessbrook Purple Star L.O.L. No. 959 and of Bessbrook Crimson Arrow R.B.P. No. 38.

A memorial plaque adorns the wall of the Room and a new set of curtains for the

windows and door were provided by Bro. Lemmon's widow and daughters.

Bro. Smyth joined in the tributes to the two brethren and said it was fitting that the Bessbrook lodges should remember in this way members who paid the supreme sacrifice for their faith.

Also present were Bro. J. A. Anderson, County Grand Master of Armagh; Bro. William C. Moody, Deputy Grand Master of Armagh; Bro. Charles Armstrong, District Master of Armagh District L.O.L. No. 5 Bro. James Clayton, Secretary of Tandragee District L.O.L. No. 4, and Bro. Arthur Lockhart, Past District Master of newry District L.O.L. No. 9.

They were welcomed by the Bessbrook District Master, Bro. C. R. Morrow, and his Deputy, Bro. James Little.

The four lodges in Bessbrook District were represented, together with the two local Black Preceptories and the Apprentice Boys of Derry Club. Following the meeting the brethren were entertained to supper. Mrs. Jean Lemmon, wife of the late Bro. Joseph Lemmon, and Mrs. C. R. Morrow, were in charge of the catering arrangements.

Four of the 10 Protestant workmen murdered at Kingsmill were rangemen. Bro. Robert Freeburn was a member of Tullyhappy Temperance L.O.L. No. 59 and Bro. Robert Walker belonged to Lurgyross L.O.L. No. 133.

THOSE SCARVA SUSPENSIONS

Sir, — It was with a deep sense of shame and dismay that I learnt of the suspension of some of our Black brethren for heckling on July 13, 1976, at Scarva. One would have thought that after our beloved Province had suffered ten years of war from the I.R.A. the Royal Black Institution would have something better to do than conduct a witchhunt against those of our brethren who showed the courage of their convictions and obligations as Blackmen by protesting against the odious, vile and

secret meetings of Martin Smith with those friends of the I.R.A., the S.D.L.P.

I had always believed that the Orange and Black Institutions stood for civil and religious liberty, the defence of Protestantism and the defence of our beloved Province. By their actions (and inaction) they have shown that they are capable of none of these.

One should remember that the Orange Institution was the first "paramilitary" organisation, formed in bloodshed, and that in 1912 members of it were prepared to turn a blind eye to the

law to save the country. Now its leaders only seem capable of conducting a vendetta against those who are prepared to fight for their country (e.g. Bro. Roddy McDonald of Scotland).

Finally, I would like to ask what action is to be taken against those who tarnish our colours by participating in so-called peace rallies with priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Yours fraternally,
JOHN BLACK
23 Upper Toberhoney Lane
Lurgan.



Left to right back row — Bros. N. Allen, E. Stevenson, I. Walker and T. Gleeny. Front row left to right — F. Forde, R. Verner, J. P., W. G. Troughton and G. Sproule. 35A.

Five total 300 years in Orange

Five members of Derryadd, Birches, L.O.L. No. 21 have totalled almost 300 years with the Lodge and their services were recognised on Friday night when framed certificates were presented.

They were Bros. B. Verner, J.P., Derryane, Dungannon, who joined in 1921, Fred Forde, Derryane (1926), W. G. Troughton, Derryaw (1921), Ralph Hanna (1925) and George Sproule (1918) both of Derryadd.

At the same function a

posthumous Past Masters' certificate was presented to the family of the late Bro. W. Salt who was for seven years a W.M. of L.O.L. 21. Bro. H. Salt, D.M. of L.O.L. 48 received the certificate on behalf of his family.

The long-serving members were congratulated on their achievements and they suitably replied.

The proceedings were arranged by Bro. Thomas Gleeny, secretary of the lodge.



W.M. of L.O.L. No. 21 Bro. E. Stevenson (left) hands over a framed certificate to the family of the late Bro. W. Salt. 35B

Photo: "Portadown News."

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