
STRIKE BULLETIN NO. 9

THE GOVERNMENT
IS ANARCHIST

*"Those whom the Gods wish to destroy
they first drive mad."*

That is a saying of the ancient Greeks.
They must have had prophetic knowledge of the SDLP.

Francis Pym called on the Ulster Workers' Council and its supporters not to embark on a course of anarchy. He should have directed his call elsewhere: to the "Executive" in Stormont and to Downing Street, The Government has now embarked on an all-out course of anarchy. It has disrupted the essential services maintained by the Ulster Workers' Council for twelve days. Within hours of Wilson's decision to accede to the SDLP call to break the strike with the army, essential services are breaking down.

The Government pretends that the Army was sent into the business of petrol distribution for the purpose of providing essential services. But it was so obvious that the sending in of the Army would bring about the collapse of essential services, that the real aim of the exercise could not possibly have been the maintenance of essential services. Its aim can only have been to force a situation of anarchy.

Hume and Fitt have been telling the British public for the past week that they are in the front line of defence against a fascist takeover. They have now caused the breakdown of essential services, and they must be hoping that this will lead to the outbreak of some hooliganism in the protestant communities or some attacks on Catholic areas. If that happens Hume and Fitt will declare it to be proof that the strike movement is fascist. And they will have the opportunity to escalate things still further by getting the Army to use jackboot methods on the people under cover of suppressing "fascist

"hooliganism".

But if the methods of the Ulster Workers' Council are strictly adhered to, and if orderly behaviour is strictly maintained during the next few days despite the irresponsible provocations of the Government, then Fitt and Hume are finished; Faulkner is finished; and Rees and Orme are finished.

Isn't it a strange state of affairs when the "anti-fascists" can only be saved from political disaster if they can succeed in provoking hooligan behaviour among the people that they describe as fascists!

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A COLLAPSE OF CREDIBILITY

British public opinion has been systematically misled about this strike by Fitt, Orme and Rees, and by most of the British press. But the true facts of the case have been getting through to some extent in recent days. Fitt and Rees have been steadily losing in credibility. Wilson's speech on Saturday night caused a further substantial loss in the credibility of the Government. And the showdown that they have tried to force today will cause a collapse of credibility if orderly behaviour is maintained throughout the Protestant community.

Pressures against the present policies of the Government are already building up. They will build up with increasing momentum from now on, if the Government fails in its bid to provoke anarchy.

Workers' Association,

27.5.1974

STRIKE BULLETIN NO. 9 SECOND EDITION

A CHALLENGE TO THE BELFAST TELEGRAPH

The Belfast Telegraph is still talking about thugs and bully boys. In today's editorial it says: "*it is true that there is intimidation on a massive scale. It is true that the past few days have seen activities that can only be described as 'fascist' in character.*"

It concedes that there is some genuine support for the strike because of fears about the Council of Ireland, and continues: "*But not all the tacit support for the strike is based on opposition to a Council of Ireland. A great many are also opposed to the very existence of the power sharing Executive. Indeed, its destruction is a principal objective of the Ulster Workers' Council.*"

The Belfast Telegraph does not cite a single scrap of evidence that the UWC is opposed to power sharing. it is opposed to the people of Northern Ireland being railroaded into a Council of Ireland against their will. And it is opposed to this present Executive, (made up of three minority parties, who are a minority even when they are added together), because it has tried to ram the Council of Ireland down the throats of the people. This minority Executive declares that there can be no election for four years. It has the ambition of ruling as a minority government for four years, against the hostility of a majority of the people.

Democratic power sharing cannot take the form of tyrannical government by a Catholic party and a very small Protestant party against the wishes of a majority in the society. To call that power-sharing is to degrade the concept of power-sharing, and bring it into contempt. But it is that kind of "power-sharing" that exists in this present Executive, that is being propped up by Westminster, that the Belfast Telegraph defends, and that the Ulster Workers' Council opposes.

It is an irresponsible and inflammatory action by the Belfast Telegraph to declare that the UWC is opposed to the general policy of power-sharing, as distinct from the distortion and caricature of power-sharing that is represented by the present Executive, (which will probably have fallen by the time you read this).

The Belfast Telegraph must either retract its slander of the UWC, or else be branded as an irresponsible mischief maker.

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THE WORKERS' ASSOCIATION

The Workers' Association which publishes these Bulletins is an organisation of Catholic and Protestant workers whose aim is to bring about a democratic settlement of the national conflict. It has branches in both parts of Ireland. One of our members in the South, Jim Kemmy of Limerick, is standing for a local government election next month on a programme of demanding that the Southern Government should recognise Northern Ireland properly by calling a referendum to delete Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution which claim sovereignty over Ulster. This will be the first time that anybody in the South has contested an election on such a programme, but not the last time.

We have discussed things with the Ulster Workers' Council, and are convinced that what we say about them is true. And members of the UWC have read these Bulletins and said that we have given

a fair and correct account of their views and activities. They have encouraged us to keep on producing them.

The government abdicated all practical responsibility for the maintenance of social and economic life almost two weeks ago in an effort to bring about chaos and break the UWC. And the UWC was forced to take over many functions of government in order to avert chaos. In these circumstances the Workers' Association undertook to counteract the irresponsible misrepresentation of the UWC by most of the British and Northern Irish press.

Workers' Association

27.5.1974