

***NORTHERN IRELAND***



***THE PLAIN TRUTH***

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Reprint

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## THE PLAIN TRUTH

Since 1920, when Ireland was divided, the Republic of Ireland has been a separate independent state while Northern Ireland has remained an integral part of the United Kingdom.

The Northern Ireland Government is at pains to present the province as a happy contented place. This is very far from the truth. Over a third of the population belongs to a minority which has been hard pressed for over forty years. It has been denied rights which you accept as a matter of course in Britain.

The position in Northern Ireland is that less than two thirds of the population is Conservative and Unionist and the other third Nationalist (Roman Catholic people who comprise the one third minority must accept Nationalist or other politics because no Catholics have ever been allowed to be members of the Conservative and Unionist party); Labour is represented in Belfast only.

The Conservatives and Unionists, by manipulation of the electoral boundaries in a very undemocratic way known as "gerrymandering," keep control. They have for years returned all twelve members to Westminster. Obviously something is very wrong here.

"Gerrymandering" is also done at a local level when one Conservative and Unionist vote is often equivalent to two opposition votes (please see the example overleaf in the Londonderry statistics). This is achieved in three ways: (i) by housing all the Nationalists in one large ward and keeping the other wards small and predominantly Conservative and Unionist; (ii) by means of the "Company vote." For every £10 Poor Law Valuation of premises tenanted by a Limited Company, the Company is entitled to one extra vote up to a limit of six votes, e.g., a firm with 100 branches can control 600 extra votes at local elections. (There are very few Nationalist Limited Companies as these people have been kept poor and underprivileged and are treated as "second class citizens" by the Conservative and Unionist Community); (iii) in order to squeeze out the Nationalists and force them to emigrate the Unionist controlled councils build very few houses for Nationalists. The latter are kept on waiting lists for up to twelve years, whilst safe Conservative and Unionist voters receive houses in the same town even before they are married. (Dungannon details overleaf prove these points.)

There is practically no representation of the minority on the Boards of Public Bodies, consequently virtually all the 'plum' jobs from Consulting Surgeons to Town Clerks go to Conservative and Unionists.

Even the opportunity to work is denied first to Nationalists. As a result of this they make up by far the biggest proportion of the 'dole' queues, and are forced to emigrate—to suit the Government voting policy. The Campaign for Social Justice recently asked a parliamentarian to request the names of all on unemployment benefit in one town so that a percentage figure could be arrived at but the Government refused this.

The Conservative and Unionist Government has held continuous office for over forty years. It is to be expected that in all this time anomalies would creep in. Here is an example:—

Recently in the Northern Ireland Parliament the Minister of Home Affairs admitted that some Justices of the Peace had not been removed from office when they had been convicted of serious police offences. They were of course Government supporters.

Another example of the lack of democracy on your doorstep is what happened to the B.B.C. "Tonight" team. Alan Whicker, five years ago, made a series of nine programmes about Northern Ireland. Inevitably some were critical. After the first programme the series was suppressed. Up to now the "Tonight" cameras have never revisited Northern Ireland, although they frequently report in the Republic of Ireland. Some weeks ago Mr. Whicker said "No country deserves the Government you have here. This is the only place in the world where you can't report honestly without silly people kicking up about what is only the truth."

Four years ago Mr. R. A. Butler, who was Home Secretary at the time, received a deputation of Northern Ireland Nationalist Members of Parliament, who put such facts as these before him. He notified the members later that these matters were purely the concern of the Northern Ireland Government. This was an insincere evasion unworthy of the man. His action was endorsed last year by Mr. Henry Brooke. Sir Alec Douglas Home has recently refused to see these Nationalist politicians about the same matters. The answer by these three statesmen is not a valid argument against the British Government's intervention because it has intervened in the past on Northern Ireland domestic affairs. It did so when the Ulster Government tried to reduce the children's allowance for third and subsequent children (in order to discriminate against Roman Catholic Nationalists who have bigger families). The Northern Ireland Government was compelled in this instance by Westminster to drop this uncharitable scheme.

Last April the South African Minister of Justice introduced a new Coercion Bill by saying that he "would be willing to exchange all the legislation of this sort for one clause of the 'Northern Ireland Special Powers Act'." This Act, which has been in operation for many years, gives the police power to search premises and make arrests without warrant and to detain suspects for an indefinite time without trial. The Bill also allows seizure of property without compensation, and can compel a citizen to live in a special area and not leave it without penalty. It can also forbid those in prison the right to communicate with their legal advisers.

The secret power which directs the Government's operations and even sees to it that Protestant and Catholic people are kept segregated as far as possible in separate housing estates is a nominally religious body known as the "Orange Order" with many points of similarity to the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. All Cabinet Ministers must defer to its "fiats" or lose office.

It would be impossible to give all the glaring facts in a publication of this size. Here are a few examples from widely scattered towns:—

## Londonderry

This is the second city of Northern Ireland. It was endowed by the City of London Companies after the Plantation of Ulster in the sixteenth century.

In 1962 the population increased by 1,127. In 1963 the Corporation built only 33 houses, in spite of the fact that in that year they had 211 new applications for them—virtually all from Nationalists.

Of the 100 houses erected by the Corporation in Academy Road over the past few years, only two were let to Nationalists.

## VOTING POSITION

SOUTH WARD-13,718 Nationalists, 1,569 Conservative and Unionists.

NORTH WARD - 4,564 Unionists, 2,980 Nationalists.

WATERSIDE WARD - 4,405 Unionists, 2,713 Nationalists.

Total Electorate - 30,000. 10,500 Unionist electors secure 12 seats. 19,500 Nationalists secure 8 seats.

## EMPLOYMENT

The Corporation has 167 salaried staff, of which 136 are Conservative and Unionist and 31 Nationalist. The Unionists draw Salaries totalling £111,960 as compared with £18,910 drawn by Nationalist staff. There are 17 heads of departments and **not ONE Nationalist** among them, and of the 35 people employed in the Guildhall, **not ONE** is a Nationalist.

## HOUSING

Virtually no Conservative and Unionist is unhoused in Derry, yet Nationalists are living in furnished rooms at up to £7 per week, and six hundred other people, practically all Nationalists, are housed in an atrocious camp **made** up of rat-infested Nissen huts which belonged to the American Army during World War II, and which are now owned and administered by the Corporation as a Nationalist "Ghetto."

## Enniskillen

The principal town of County Fermanagh, of which the Nationalists make up 54% of the population.

## EMPLOYMENT

Of the 7 jobs in the Town Clerk's Department there are no Nationalists; of the 7 jobs in the Borough Surveyor's office there is **ONE** Nationalist; of the 34 jobs in the Fermanagh Education Department there is **ONE** Nationalist; of the 28 jobs in the County Surveyor's Department there is **ONE** Nationalist.

## VOTING POSITION

Nationalist Voters in the County—27,291. Conservative and Unionist Voters in the County- 24,322.

Due to gerrymandering, there are 20 Unionist and 6 Nationalist County Councillors.

## HOUSING

Since 1948 Enniskillen Borough has built 177 houses in 4 housing estates and given only **TWO** houses to Nationalists. The rest went to their own supporters to boost the voting power of the Conservatives and Unionists.

## Lurgan

Nationalist people make up 42% of the Borough. There are no Nationalist members on the Borough Council because of the use of the "block system" of voting.

All the 17 members of the Lurgan and Portadown Hospital Management Board are Conservative and Unionists. In consequence, of the 7 consultant doctors employed there, 6 are Conservative and Unionist. All 3 Registrars are Conservative and Unionist.

Of the fifteen hospital administrators, all are Conservative and Unionist.

Of the matron, assistant matron and two sister tutors, all are Conservative and Unionist.

In the lower grades of nursing staff, representation is reasonable because it is difficult to recruit nurses.

2 of the 3 physiotherapists are Conservative and Unionist.

Both the radiographers' clerks are Conservative and Unionist

All the 7 laboratory workers are Conservative and Unionist.

Even the 2 needlewomen are Unionist, as well as the 3 boilermen, the 2 storemen and the 2 hallporters.

The Engineer, Electrician, Joiner, Plumber and Painter are all Conservative and Unionist.

The Pharmacy employs two persons - both Conservative and Unionist  
All the ambulance drivers are Unionist. 4 of the 5 Cooks are Unionist  
The assistant cook and the supervisor are both Unionist.

The 4 Receptionists are Conservative and Unionist and one of the 2 night porters is Unionist.

Amongst the cleaners (the lowest grade in the hospital service) representation of the Nationalists is reasonable.

## Dungannon

The population here is 53% Nationalist. By means of gerrymandering and the 'Company Vote,' the Conservative and Unionists have 14 seats on the Urban Council as against 7 for the Nationalists. (The Chairman of the Council, Senator William Stewart, is a Unionist member of the Upper House in the Northern Ireland Parliament).

Since the war 194 houses have been built for normal letting by the Council. All have gone to Conservatives, none to Nationalists. (In the same period 128 other houses have been let in re-housing families in Slum Clearance. This is of no help to new families).

There may be upwards of 300 Nationalist families on the Council's waiting list and not one of these has been allocated a house. (The Unionist Urban Council will not allow Nationalist Councillors to inspect the waiting list, so the exact requirements of the town are not known to us.)

When tenants were moved in the slum clearance operation from 50 prefabricated bungalows, the Council announced that these were to be knocked down to make way for further house building. Before the bungalows could be dismantled 30 Nationalist families who were living in single rooms in appalling conditions and paying up to half their incomes in rent, "squatted" overnight into "prefabs."

"The Homeless Citizens' League" was born from this operation, and its first discovery was that there were no plans submitted to the Ministry to develop the area on which the prefabricated bungalows stood. The Unionist Council's only reason for wanting to demolish the bungalows was to keep the Nationalist numbers down.

The League also discovered that the Council Chairman's wife owned slum property which was not condemned, nor was a tenement belonging to a Unionist condemned in which there were living 8 families, consisting of 29 people, sharing 1 kitchen, 1 bathroom and 2 toilets.

Much better property owned by Nationalists was condemned and the people forced to leave against their will.

Two Unionist Councillors offered a substantial sum of money to a woman who had rented a shop with living accommodation from them if she would give up her tenancy.

The offer was later withdrawn and the living accommodation condemned by the Sanitary Officer. At the time of writing a Council house has been kept empty for the past four months for this lady. If she is evicted from the living accommodation her rent can be raised by such a figure as to drive her out of her business.



## **A CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST SUPPORTING THE GERRYMANDERING POLICY**

“We are not going to build houses in the South Ward and cut a rod to beat ourselves later on.”

“We are going to see that the right people are put into these houses and we are not making any apology for it.”

—**ALDERMAN GEORGE ELLIOTT AT ENNISKILLEN ON 7/11/63.**

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## **A CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST URGING DISCRIMINATION**

“Charity begins at home. If we are going to employ people we should give preference to Unionists. I am not saying that we should sack Nationalist employees, but if we are going to employ new men we should give preference to Unionists.”

- **SENATOR J. E. N. BARNHILL AT LONDONDERRY ON 9/1/64.**

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**Subscriptions to help our cause gratefully received**