New information from four surveys

INTEGRATED SCHOOLING

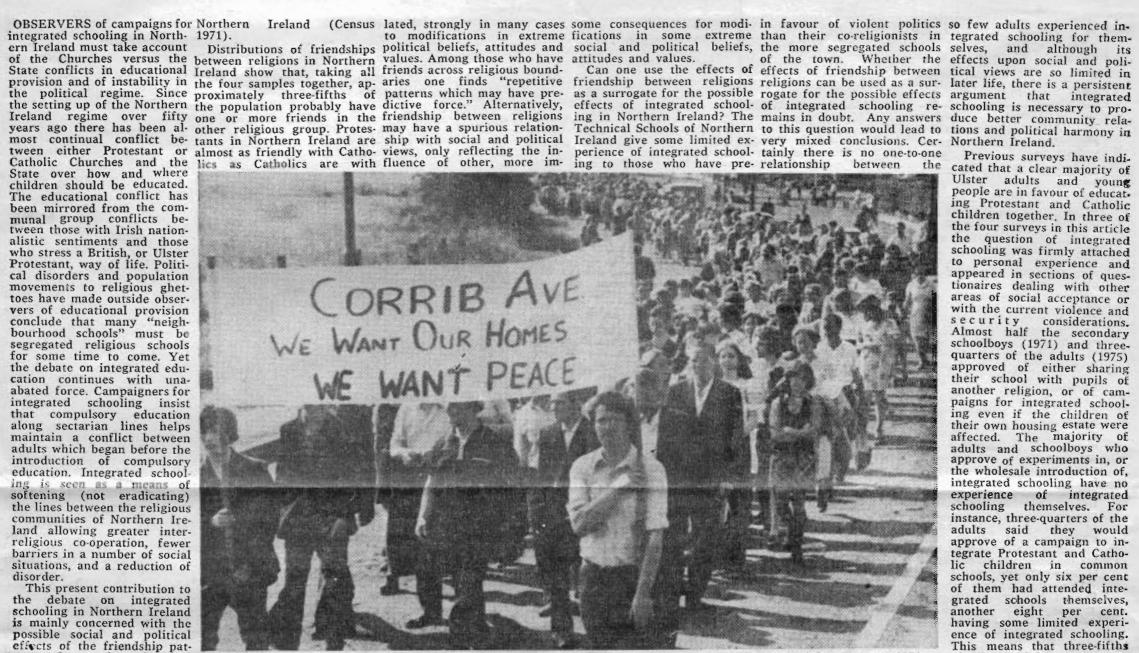
A research note by Dr. JAMES RUSSELL

alistic sentiments and those who stress a British, or Ulster Protestant, way of life. Political disorders and population movements to religious ghettoes have made outside observers of educational provision conclude that many "neighbourhood schools" must be segregated religious schools for some time to come. Yet the debate on integrated education continues with unaabated force. Campaigners for integrated schooling insist that compulsory education along sectarian lines helps maintain a conflict between adults which began before the introduction of compulsory education. Integrated schooling is seen as a means of vers of educational provision ing is seen as a means of softening (not eradicating) the lines between the religious communities of Northern Ireland allowing greater interreligious co-operation, fewer barriers in a number of social situations, and a reduction of

disorder.

This present contribution to the debate on integrated schooling in Northern Ireland is mainly concerned with the possible social and political effects of the friendship patterns of some four thousand schoolboys and one thousand adults. The research is also concerned with the possible effects of limited integrated education, the demand for integrated and content of the second second

the four surveys in this article the question of integrated schooling was firmly attached to personal experience and appeared in sections of questionaires dealing with other areas of social acceptance or with the current violence and with the current violence and security considerations. Almost half the secondary schoolboys (1971) and three-quarters of the adults (1975) approved of either sharing their school with pupils of another religion, or of campaigns for integrated school paigns for integrated schooling even if the children of their own housing estate were affected. The majority of adults and schoolboys who approve of experiments in, or the wholesale introduction of, integrated schooling have no experience of integrated schooling themselves. For instance, three-quarters of the adults said they would approve of a campaign to integrate Protestant and Catholic children in common schools, yet only six per cent of them had attended integrated schools themselves, another eight per cent having some limited experience of integrated schooling. This means that three-fifths integrated schooling have no This means that three-fifths This means that three-fifths of Ulster adults want something for the children of the Province which they have never experienced for themselves, the effects of which they can only imagine. On the other hand, the young people and adults of Northern Ireland who have had some experience of



"Among schoolboys there seems to be a distinct tendency for friendships between religions to diminish between 1971 and 1975. That seventy per cent of adults can report having friends in the other religion is some indication that political discord and disorder can proceed at the same time as much social friendship between the religions of Northern Ireland," — (Irish Times photograph.)

sex, age and religion for portant, characteristics.

Housing Executive) was collected in every town of a whole for social interaction, lationships is not great enough. Northern Ireland having a Such friendship, however, appopulation of 5,000 or more, communal group relations spurious effect relying upon schoolboy samples contained approximately correct profically religious beliefs and though the extent of friendship between religions varies and social behaviour of those concerned, ships between religions varies and though the extent of friendship between religions varies associated with reductions in acts of vandalism, and with modifications in the justification of vandalism, this is not the case in the religiously integrated schooling is appear to generalise to greater sustained by ecumenism, social interaction on a number of levels and more positive feelings towards the in politics in Northern Irelations of vandalism, this is not the case in the religiously integrated other religions as awhole. Curbing upon the religions of levels and more positive feelings towards the in politics in Northern Irelations, and with modifications in the justification of vandalism, this is not the case in the religiously integrated other religion as a whole. Curbing upon school year. Also, whereas friendship between religions by a confusion between the friendship between religions is associated with reductions in acts of vandalism, and with modifications in the justification of vandalism, this is not the case in the religiously integrated other religion as a whole. Curbing the religions between religions of the controls upon the religions is associated with reductions in acts of vandalism, and with modifications in the justification of vandalism, and with modifications in acts of vandalism, and with modifications in the justification of vandalism, and wi 1,000). The adult sample (ten-does appear to generalise had little or no effect upon ants of the Northern Ireland to a greater acceptance of the relationships. The effect

approximately correct profically religious beliefs and though the extent of friendportions by religion and social behaviour of those concerned. ships between religions varies class. The adult sample, whilst In what is probably the most in different sub-groups of being mainly a working class divisive area of all in Northsample, contained approximately correct proportions by religious beliefs and though the extent of friendship between religions varies is associated with reductions in the approval of violence in politics it is the boys in the divisive area of all in Northsample, contained approximately correct proportions by ship between religions where it is found, has social classes, who are more

effects of limited integrated education, the demand for integrated education, the demand for integrated education, the demand for not friendship between religions among school- whether or not friendship between religions among school- boys can be used as a surrogate for integrated schooling use whether or not friendship between religions to diminish between religions and interview centre during the Greater during the Greater critical during the religions lines and the effects of which received religious lines and the effects of the chirch reland, and dults of the doring his surveys in the analysis together with the religious survey (1975) had some experience of schoolboys in Northern Ireland.

The extraction of knowledge and disorder can proceed at my be important for reduction to the secondary analysis of the same time as much social and political personal training and the feets of which the defects of which the control characteristics. Only the theory between religions lines and the effects of which the defects of which the defects of which the chirch and dults of fine fragrate shooling which as an interview centre during the Greater Critiques and interview centre during the Greater Critiques of Secondary School between religions in terristics. The surveys in this article.

The extraction of knowledge and disorder can proceed at my between religions proportion of the same time as much social and political between religio tween religions is associated different religions does for integrated schooling is

viously attended more segre- effects of friendship across