

The CLANN

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OUR POLICY

THE decision of the Clann to put out the Fianna Fail Government and to join in an inter-party Government will be exploited to the utmost by Fianna Fail in an effort to split the Clann and to disrupt the inter-party Government. One look at the "Irish Press" indicates that they will stop at no device to foster dissension.

The people's verdict was clearly "put them out." We asked them for that verdict and got it. We asked them also to voice approval for our whole policy. This they did not do. They merely gave approval to those portions of our policy which were common to the policies of the opposition parties. In this set of facts we could not claim that we had a mandate to form a Government by ourselves, nor indeed, would it have been possible to attempt to do so.

To have allowed Fianna Fail to come back to office would have meant an immediate General Election. The only two alternatives left were to join in the formation of an inter-party Government or to support a Fine Gael Government from outside. To support a Fine Gael Government from the outside would have been a blind acceptance of Fine Gael's policy. This would have been impossible. In such an eventuality Fianna Fail could have precipitated a General Election at any time, by clever parliamentary tactics.

Instead we adopted the remaining alternative, that is, of joining in an inter-party Government under the Chairmanship of one who had not been associated prominently with the turbulent past. As already indicated, there are many points upon which all the parties joined in the inter-party Government are agreed. Those will be the points that will form the policy of the Government. Ten of these points have already been published. An examination of these will show that they formed a substantial part of the Clann's policy.

There are, of course, many points upon which there

is no agreement. These matters, therefore, will have to remain in abeyance. This will apply not merely to those portions of the Clann policy upon which there is no agreement, but also to those portions of Fine Gael's policy upon which there is no agreement. For instance, Fine Gael's Commonwealth policy will not be pursued; indeed the best sign of good faith in this matter was the appointment of Sean McBride to External Affairs. Inversely, the Clann's policy in relation to the repeal of the External Relations Act and the separation of currency will have to remain in abeyance until such times as the Clann can secure a definite mandate from the people. In the step they have taken the Clann have yielded nothing, for there was no possibility of putting into operation the other parts of our policy until a mandate was secured from the people.

The Clann has achieved the position whereby it will be able to have at least a portion of its policy put into immediate operation. No other policy which it could have pursued would have secured this. It is ridiculous to suggest that the Clann and Fine Gael have merged. The two organisations remain completely separate with distinct and separate policies, just as the Conservative and Labour Parties in England maintained their respective independence during the Coalition Government under the Chairmanship of Mr. Winston Churchill. The matter was stated succinctly by Sean McBride in the course of his speech in Dail Eireann on the Election of the Taoiseach. He said—

"We as a Party in this House do not abandon, waive, mitigate or modify any portion of our policy, we merely agree to co-operate with other parties in giving effect to those portions of our policy upon which there is agreement. We shall do so honestly, frankly and to the best of our ability because we believe that that is what the nation wishes us to do. But we shall maintain our identity and policy in every respect."

ANYTHING, THEN, WHICH WILL PRODUCE OR FOSTER CONTEMPLATION, USING THE WORD IN ITS WIDEST SENSE OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT ABOUT REALITY, AWARENESS OF THE WORLD OF MEN AND THINGS AND THE MAKER OF IT, EXAMINATION OF THE CONVENTIONS AND PREJUDICES AND PERHAPS PRINCIPLES ON WHICH WE LIVE, ANYTHING THAT WILL PRODUCE THIS WILL MAKE FOR ORDER AND PEACE.

—Gerald Vann, O.P.

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OUR NEW GOVERNMENT

AFTER sixteen years of domination by the will of one party which openly claimed a political monopoly Irish life received a new orientation when on the eighteenth of February an inter-party Government was formed consisting of Fine Gael, Labour, Clann na Poblachta, National Labour and Independents.

This was an historic step because it marked the first attempt of Groups with differing policies to come together with a view to working those points of policy common to all. No loss of identity will be sustained by any party and in the event of future elections each party will attempt to gain support on its individual policy.

There will always be the pessimist who voices the opinion that strife rather than co-operation is the basic element in human affairs. Just as that mentality is the first to fan the flames of war in the international sphere so is it the breeder of disension in the narrower circle of national politics. Already gloomy prophets are busy. The sly hint, the casual suggestion and the innocent assumption are being weighed against the hopes of the people that our new Government will carry out the work which they have set themselves to do. Already the party organ of Fianna Fail is marshalling its forces in a grand campaign of distortion and misrepresentation of the motives animating those who have come together to co-operate in a time of crisis for the national good. Particularly will its venom be directed against Clann na Poblachta. It will do everything possible to confuse the less staunch and reliable of our followers.

It behoves the Irish citizen then to resist these cunning distortions by making himself familiar with the situation and problems which the new Government has to face. Fianna Fail has had the audacity to picture the country as a land of progress and plenty. Those Clann na Poblachta supporters will not be easily deceived by such naive assertions. Neither will the Irishmen who have been driven from their land to earn their bread in other countries.

The first outline of policy of our new Government indicates the task before us. These points are:—

1. Increased agriculture and industrial production.
2. Immediate all-out drive to provide houses for the working and middle classes at reasonable rents; luxury building to be rigidly controlled.
3. Reduction in the cost of living.
4. Taxation of all unreasonable profit-making.
5. Introduction of comprehensive social security plan to provide insurance against old age, illness, blindness, widowhood, unemployment, etc.
6. Removal of recent taxes on cigarettes, tobacco, beer and cinema seats.
7. Immediate steps to provide facilities for the treatment of sufferers from tuberculosis.
8. Establishment of a Council of Education.
9. Immediate steps to launch a National Drainage Plan.
10. Modification of Means Test as at present applied to Old Age, Widows' and Orphans' and Blind Pensions.

We need not assume that these exhaust the matters on which agreement can be reached when a greater understanding and good-will will have been established between the various groups composing the Government.

But we the people must play our part. As Clann na Poblachta has pointed out so often, Public Affairs are our concern and our Public Representatives need our co-operation in their work. They need our good-will and our criticism. Above all they need our interest in their work, which is our work and which will benefit the future generations of our people.

If there was one point in Clann na Poblachta's policy which appealed to our people it was that which said:

"Instead of flag-waving, 'national records,' and personalities what is needed is a policy based upon realities. Instead of recriminations and self-glorification based upon past events, the need is vision and planning for the future."

That call has gone far beyond the bounds of our party and to-day we see its realisation. Democracy is on the march again in Ireland.

THE appointments of Sean McBride to the post of Minister for External Affairs and of Dr. Noel Browne to the post of Minister for Public Health have come as a pleasant announcement not alone to Clann na Poblachta but to people of the most diverse political opinions. Sean McBride has ideal qualifications for the world of international diplomacy while Dr. Noel Browne's record as a fighter in the cause of Preventive Medicine makes him the obvious choice for this important post.

THE spectacular story of Dr. Noel Browne's appointment as Minister must set a new headline for Ireland. Too often has youth been considered an insurmountable handicap for those with integrity, energy and ideas. Dr. Browne has come to politics as the last hope for vigorous action in the campaign which he and his fellow-workers have been carrying on against the scourge of Tuberculosis. Now the national decision on this question will lie largely in his hands. His story must be an inspiring example to the youth of this country who in the past have received too little encouragement to make any positive contribution to the welfare of their people. We trust that the appointment of Dr. Browne is the first sign of a new attitude and a new recognition of the important part that young people may play in the affairs of the nation.

THE PROVINCIAL FILM SOCIETY

By Liam O Laoghaire

THE drift from the country towns and villages of Ireland may in part be blamed on the lack of intellectually vigorous leisure pursuits. Apart from the economic conditions which start such an exodus, rural life is felt to be dull and lacking in that stimulation which the person of our time regards as necessary to a full and happy life. The city with its cinemas and theatres, its picture galleries and concert halls, and its bookshops and music stores has an attraction for the more enterprising and adventurous spirits from the country. The comparatively recent phenomenon of the Film Society opens still greater horizons on the world's drama and the realistic field of the Documentary Film.

True, the rural centre has its library and even a local cinema. It may even have its own drama group. But in Ireland so far, these things apart from the local cinema, are not well publicised or made to play that part in the life of the community which they deserve to have. A great deal remains to be done and every effort which goes to the provision of amenities for the intellectually stimulating yet pleasant use of leisure time in rural areas will be of the greatest benefit to our people.

A striking headline has been set in the recent expansion of the Portlaoighise Film Society which in the past has done pioneering work in its organisation of film shows for farmers with the co-operation of the County Instructor of Agriculture.

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CURSAI EITILEORACHTA

le Ciaran O Concubhair

Do tugadh dubhslán do lucht riartha chúrsaí eitleorachta na tíre seo cúpla seachtain seo agus cé gur foillsíodh an scéal ar na nuachtain mar ghiota nuai-ochta suimiúla ní fhachtas do mhórán gurb dubhslán é, agus bagairt ar each-nomaíocht na tíre. An scéal—turgnaimh, ar éirigh leis, a rinnadh maidir le h-Ath-líonadha eitleáin mhóir phaisnéara ó eitleán eile agus an da áthrach ós cionn an Atlantaigh—i lár stoirme. An Dubhslán—an baol nach mbeidh aon-úsáid ag na h-Aer Línte eachtrannacha d'Aer-Phort chostasach na Sionainne má's féidir leo a gcuid meaisín. d'ath-líonadh 'san aer ós cionn na fairrge.

Bíodh fhios againn nach aon grádh d'Eirinn a spreagann na comhluchtaí seo le Rinn Eanaigh a usáid, ach sainnt agus eileamh bhraibhaigh. Ní thagann a gcuid eitleáin i dtír ag Rinn Eanaigh de gnath ach chun a thuille chonnaidh a thógáil ar bhórd. Tré ath-líonadh seo bíonn méadú ar "pay-load" gach eitleáin sa tslí is gur féidir leis suas go seisear paisnéirí breise d'iompar. D'éir na tuairiscí a foillsíodh d'éirigh leis an chóras ath-líonta san aer agus ma foirítear é a thuille, is soiléir go mbeidh

cailliúint níos tráchtála ag bagairt ar Aer-Phort na Sionainne. Agus má Theip-eann ar an Aer Phort seo, ar chaith an Rialtas na milliúin punt d'airgead mhuinntir na h-Eireann, air cheana féin, is amhlaidh gur as pócaí na ndaoine a thíochas cúiteamh ar bith a bhéas a dhíth ar chóras airgeadais na tíre de bharr a theipthe. Chonnacamar mar a tréigeadh Faing, nuair nach raibh sé eachnomaiciúl a thuille seirbhísí a reachtáil le h-eitleáin fairrge. Tá 's againn, ó'n dtaithí san nach leanfaidh na h-Ameiriceanaigh ag usáid Rinn Eanaigh má's féidir leo am—agus airgead—a shabháil tré feidhm a bhaint as an chóras ath-líonta san aer.

Fíú amháin muna mbheadh an córas nua ann, tá forbairt eile déanta agus 'á dhéanamh i gcursaí eitleorachta a bheadh ag chur isteach ar fhiúntas an Aer-Phoirt lua no mall. Poinnte suimiúil fá'n inneal scáird-ghluaiste go bhfuil sé i bhfad níos éifeachtaí ag árd luas—agus go méadúitear ar an luas agus ar an éifeacht d'éir mar a téigtear anairde. Islíonn an caitheachas chonnaidh freisin d'éir mar a téigtear anairde agus tá an seans ann go sábháilfidh na comh-

luchtaí níos mó airgid tré leanúint de'n turas thar-Atlantach ag an aoidre eachnomaiciúl ná tré teacht anuas ag Rinn Eanaigh agus connaidh breise a usáid ag túrlingí agus ag dul anairde airís.

Cad é an léigheas ar an anachan seo atá ag bagairt? Níl leigheas ar bith air, go bhfios dom ach ár suidheamh mar an oileán is fuide siar ón Eóraig a usáid chun tairbhe na tíre, tré'n ár seirbhísí féin a fhorbairt agus a choinneáil suas-chum-dátaí-gcónaí. Is féidir eitleáin eatroma le h-innill loinithe a usáidh ar thurasanna idir Rinn Eanaigh agus príomh láir daonraídh na Breataine agus na h-Eorpa. Bheadh se seo níos eacnomaciúil ar thurasanna gearr, thurasanna de bharr nach mbeadh árd-aoidre uatha, agus go bheadfaidís lasta paisnéirí na n-eithleán mór thar-Atlantach a roinnt eatortha féin. Muna deintear rud eigin ar an dul sin tá baol ann nach mbeidh fágtha d'Aer-Phort na Sionainne i gcionn fiche blian ach na bealaigh reatha bána sinnte amach fe ghaethe na gréine ar nós cnámha ainmí mhóir (elefant bán?) a fágadh le feóchadh ar fhasach an chláir—ar fhasach ná h-Eirinn béidir.

REFLECTIONS FOR PATRIOTS

A citizen may have two ways of acting towards the welfare of the nation. He may try to turn it to his own benefit, or he may try to conserve and develop it. The first way does not make a good citizen. This is selfishness, not patriotism.

True patriotism is found in striving to conserve and defend the state. This it is that makes a good citizen. In the same way, one has not a right attitude towards eternal life if he simply strives to obtain it for his own benefit. Unrepentant sinners may have a desire to be saved. The right attitude is found in striving to conserve and propagate the spiritual life, and remove obstacles which prevent its development in ourselves and in others. This it is that makes one a good citizen in the Kingdom of God.

And this is charity, the love of our neighbours as possible sharers in the happiness of eternal life. Charity seeks also to oppose whatever is harmful to the life of grace in ourselves and in others.

—St. Thomas Aquinas.

THE PROVINCIAL FILM SOCIETY (Continued from page 2)

To quote Richard Delaney the energetic Secretary of the Society: "Knowing of the availability in Dublin of good documentary films and of the existence in Laoighis and neighbouring counties of institutions and groups newly owning 16mm sound projectors, the Society decided to bring the two together. Early in the winter, the best of the material in the catalogues was assembled into four programmes, each of two hours duration. Details were circulated and of the half-dozen groups approached, five agreed to share the suggested programmes: The Carlow Arts Council, Athy Young Farmers' Club, Salesian Missionary College, Ballinakill, Carlow Technical School Students and Clara Film Society.

The shows, which begin at the end of January and are taking place at three-weekly intervals, are composed of these titles:

Programme One: Chants Populaires No. 5, Your Children's Ears, High Over the Borders, Instruments of the Orchestra, Crofters, This is Colour.

Programme Two: Canadian Landscape, Modern Guide to Health, Children of the City, Bronco Busters, Student Nurse, Vegetable Insects.

Programme Three: Land of Quebec, Your Children's Teeth, A String of Beads, Children Learning by Experience, Life in the Western Marshes.

Programme Four: The More We Get Together, Valley of the Tennessee, Jasper National Park, Your Children's Eyes, The World is Rich.

"The Society believes that there are in this scheme of shows elements of importance beyond the merits of the films included. Audiences wider than any reached till now by the film societies in this country are gaining an introduction to the documentary idea and the film society idea."

Here then is a lead for other communities. In addition to the Portlaoighise experiments, the work of the County Dublin Libraries Committee may be mentioned, which also includes on its Agenda of Lectures and Gramophone Concerts a series of Documentary Film Shows.

At the moment Ireland does not make her own Documentary Films but when she does it looks as if a ready-made system of distribution for those films will have been established by just such groups as follow the example of Portlaoighise.

PEOPLE AND POLITICS

By Denis Burke

NOW that the elections are over a great many people will feel that their responsibility for the affairs of the country has ended. They have done their job. They have voted. They now look forward to being allowed to carry on their private business in peace.

It is a pleasant experience to leave the world of party-cries and slogans and an atmosphere tense with the blare of loudspeakers. These are the inevitable accompaniments to the methods of modern high-powered publicity. But the affairs of the nation do not automatically adjust themselves when the last vote has been recorded. The people's representatives in the Dail to work effectively require the co-operation and intelligent understanding of those for whom they speak. Admittedly they have a personal contribution to make to any given situation—that is why they were selected—but the action they will take must be linked with the active interest of the society they represent in order that public life will be flourishing and healthy.

Both the Government and Dail represent the ultimate form of organisation of the individuals in a community, and must lead back through the various intervening forms to the individuals which compose that community.

Clann na Poblachta outlined a policy which it asked the people to support as being the best possible policy for our people at the present time. While various circumstances prevented that policy from being understood or fully appreciated nevertheless 173,000 people endorsed that policy with their first preference votes thus giving a position of some importance to Clann na Poblachta in the Dail. That policy is still the guiding force in Clann na Poblachta and it is the belief of the Party that it will receive greater support in the near future when misunderstanding and prejudice will have been cleared away.

Now the carrying out of that policy is going to affect the lives of every man, woman and child in this island. Already we have moved forward somewhat towards its realisation. To increase the chances of its being car-

ried out we must rely on the goodwill and understanding of not only that 173,000 people who place it before every other policy offered to them but also on all those other people who do not fully understand what it involves. To spread the belief in Clann na Poblachta policy we rely above all on the missionary efforts of those who already support us. As that can best be done by group work we urge the formation of new Craobhaca and the perfection of Craobhaca already in existence.

Many people have a violent distrust of political groups. Very often this has been justified. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that Craobhaca should avoid every suspicion of narrow prejudice. The true function of a Craobh is that of an Adult Education Group, because it is concerned primarily with the ends and means which will achieve a full and happy mode of living for the community as a whole. It is concerned with applying the broad principles of Clann na Poblachta to the local scene and that implies a study and examination of the environment of the Craobh.

All through the election campaign the responsibility of the individual was stressed by Clann na Poblachta speakers. Clann na Poblachta relies above all on the support of informed and self-reliant people. No decision of the Dail or Government has much meaning or significance if it does not find an echo in the hearts of the people. When all the actions of Government are complete the sphere of individual action is still both wide and great.

Clann na Poblachta believes in decentralisation. This means that more power will be placed in the hands of local groups. The correct use of power demands responsibility and knowledge. The Craobhaca of Clann na Poblachta can serve their local communities by setting a headline for public responsibility and initiative.

Clann na Poblachta has deplored the narrow conception of politics which placed the welfare of our people at the mercy of cliques and groups whose existence threatened the future of co-operation for the public good.

Every human being has some good in him and every human being needs understanding and encouragement if he is to give of the best that is in him. What we need in Ireland is a larger conception of politics and a larger conception of education. The future of Clann na Poblachta depends on its ability to unite all our people under a system which will respect the individual personalities of each one of us.

**WE WANT
NEW READERS!**