



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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The present system of financial aid to farmers combined with the existing structure of the Common Agricultural Policy will not bring about a sustained increase in marketable output nor will they ensure the most productive use of our land resources. They have also failed miserably to develop a comprehensive system of industrial and marketing linkage between the producer on the land and the consumers of food products, timber or horticultural products.

We believe that the creation of a single government agency is vital for the development of the agricultural sector as a vital industrial sector of our economy and as one with enormous job creation potential. That agency, the Agricultural Development Authority, would have the responsibility of stimulating investment, farm modernisation, diversification of production, and the development of food processing, production and marketing. It would also take over the State's role in respect of land use policy, research and development, and training. In addition the disease eradication scheme and the various grants for infrastructural development on the land would be administered in accordance with the priorities of the Authority.

In future all State aids for agriculture should be related to farm plans, national production priorities, value added production, and employment potential. The new Authority would be the executive authority of the State in this sector and have on its board representatives of the farmer's organisations, trade unions, the various development agencies and the State itself. It would be similar in structure to the IDA, but would have a very specific development role in relation to agriculture, food and land use.

COMPOSITION OF THE FARMING AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- (1) ACOT — needed to educate farmers and provide an advisory service;
- (2) The Agricultural Credit Corporation — needed to finance farm and food industry development on a planned basis;
- (3) The Sugar Company — it should revert to its 1960s role of developing a serious food industry;
- (4) An Foras Taluntais — scientific research;
- (5) A Farm Development Service — to control development grants and to ensure that improved and increased output is directly related to the size of the grant provided;
- (6) A marketing agency — to find and organise markets; to give advice on product development and to control marketing;
- (7) A central planning and development unit — to plan extensive development, the growing of industrial crops and the development of the processing of industrial crops and raw hides to leather and similar activities.
- (8) Bord na Mona — to develop forestry and industries related to this use of land. The manufacture of paper and other wood derived products should be the responsibility of Bord na Mona.
- (9) An advisory council should be a part of the Farming and Food Development Authority. The advisory council should be made up of the farming organisations and the trade unions with members employed in farming and related industries.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Workers' Party has consistently campaigned for PEACE, WORK, DEMOCRACY and CLASS POLITICS in Northern Ireland for well over a decade. The party has taken every possible opportunity to bring this programme to the voters of Northern Ireland in general, local and bye elections.

PEACE

We are totally opposed to all paramilitary gangs; we seek the elimination of terrorism and establishment of the rule of law. The party has recognised the major reforms which have taken place within the RUC and wish to see the police service exercise its role and authority throughout the community.

Work

The party has presented a wide range of economic proposals to both the present British Government and the Labour opposition designed to tackle the deep-seated unemployment problem which must be tackled, in the main, by the state.

The party's economic programme is based upon the development of Northern Ireland's natural resources, in particular lignite, major investment in the building and engineering industries, expansion of specialised food production and the development of the natural fibres industry.

The party has called for an all-party jobs conference to enable the widest possible contribution to be made to the solving of Northern Ireland's chronic unemployment.

DEMOCRACY

The party is committed to democratic devolved government and the securing of a bill of rights for Northern Ireland. Continued direct rule from London is not only undemocratic but is weakening political culture in the state. However the party believes that the principle and spirit of democracy must permeate all public institutions. We therefore also seek fully comprehensive integrated education in place of the present sectarian elitist structures.

CLASS POLITICS

The Workers' Party stands virtually alone in opposing the sectarian politics and parties of both the Unionist and Nationalist blocks. We stand absolutely alone in presenting a Socialist programme as the only possible alternative to the discredited and failed system of private enterprise.

The party is constantly seeking every opportunity to raise class consciousness within the community so that citizens can identify themselves primarily as workers rather than members of sectarian Nationalist or Unionist blocks.

ANGLO — IRISH AGREEMENT

The Workers' Party voted in favour of the Anglo — Irish Agreement as it appeared to offer a chance for peace, devolved government and a Bill of Rights. At the time we were, and we still are, highly critical of the undemocratic manner at which the agreement was arrived. We forecast the alienation of the Unionist majority in Northern Ireland and this has happened.

The agreement has not as yet delivered on its major propositions and indeed we appear to be even further removed from securing democratic politics in Northern Ireland.

The party has therefore called for a "non-contentious location" of the Maryfield Secretariat and suspension of governmental meetings to enable all party talks, without preconditions, to begin in Northern Ireland to secure new democratic institutions.

As part of our efforts to win support for the party's Northern Ireland programme we are shortly initiating a campaign throughout the British Labour movement which in the event of a Labour government being returned to Westminster we hope will make a significant difference to the quality of life for all the people of Northern Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ireland has had a long history of neutrality. This neutrality should now be given a positive character to allow our government take a more active position in raising issues of world peace, nuclear disarmament, and support for developing countries and those seeking to create democratic governments in place of racist or dictatorial regimes.

Ireland is in a key position to work for peace and social progress in the world, through development of our role as a neutral and non-aligned state. Within the EEC we are the only country not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. It is the duty of the government to strongly defend and enhance this status.

Instead our neutrality is under threat from a number of sources. There must be very deep concern at the government's failure to seek adequate written assurances on our neutrality in negotiations on the EEC's Single European Act. The Workers' Party was the only party to propose in the Dáil that the Act be referred back for amendments to this effect.