

Viewpoint

Thursday, January 11, 1977

Age of violence

NO parent needs to be reminded of the dangers to young people growing up in a violent society, but figures produced by Mr. Mason should add statistical evidence to their fears. In the first 18-year-olds have been arrested in connection with serious crime — more than three times the rate over the whole of last year and four times the 1975 rate.

These are boys and girls who were not 15 plus age when the trouble started, and know no other life but the one in which they are living in numbers and the most powerful people are those who carry guns. Their values are distorted by the violence or lack of it, given by their elders, and inevitably they drift away from them.

To change this program will require more than one revolution and a gradual wait on end to the political conflict, even though this is basic to the problem. There must be a conscious effort to improve the conditions in which young people live, to teach them different values and inculcate some social consciousness. It will be a slow, thankless job, requiring a professional approach, but the penalty for failure will be increasing rejection by youth of the society they have inherited.

Many more young people have learned to return to the streets in the ways of violence than ever before. The children of this present generation are being brought up in a society where the negative outweighs the positive, and there is a temptation for the builders to give up when faced with destruction on the scale that has wrecked a Loyalist neighbourhood park.

Their work must go on, and they must keep the aim of the party people — to "get a grip" on their local communities — at the forefront of their minds. In the end, the re-building of society is everyone's individual responsibility.

**Hard work**  
In establishing "safety net" credit facilities for British overseas sterling balances so quickly after the granting of the IMF loan, the British foreign allies, principally America and West Germany, have shown their level of respect to give international support to the E.

# Home Prices Soaring

THE PRICE OF A NEW HOME in Northern Ireland rose by a staggering 22 pc last year — more than three times the national average — and the troubles are being pin-pointed as the main cause.

## Mortgage rates drop unlikely

By Don McIlroy

ULSTER mortgage rates are unlikely to fall, the managing director of a province-based building society said today.

Mr. Hugh Brown of the Progressive Building Society said there would be no immediate reduction in the rates until the general level of interest rates fell.

"This is unlikely to happen until the Bank of England minimum ending rate drops considerably below the present extremely high 19 pc," he said.

And he hit out at a speech by Mr. John Ryan, MP, which accused building societies of disorganised behaviour. Mr. Brown described it as full of mis-statements and exaggerations.

Mr. Brown said that the constant aim of the building society movement was to secure the lowest rate possible to borrowers. But this was determined by how much interest they paid out to investors. These rates were high enough to compete with government stock, insurance offers and banks. The cost of administration was the difference between the lending rate and the gross investment rate.

"This leaves a very narrow margin indeed for operating costs and reserves, and it is approximately the same at all levels of rates as building societies do not operate for profit. Their aim is to encourage thrift and home ownership. To do this the lowest rates possible are charged compatible with attracting funds."

Mr. Brown said that the line was closed at 10.30 last night after a claim to speak for the Provisional IRA gave the party a full licence in Newry.

An Army bomb expert checked the area today, people were travelling to and from Lurgan to Dundak by bus.

Lord Mayor's Show in May  
BELFAST'S Lord Mayor's Show — to be held on May 14 — has received its first two applications forms. They came from the City Council's Gas Department, and the Old Bushmills Distillery Company.

Costs fall  
RAW materials and fuel costs fell last month for the first time in two years, the Department of Industry reports.

According to figures issued by the Nationwide Building Society today prices in the province went up much faster in 1976 than those in the rest of the UK.

A representative of a leading estate agent said the spiralling costs are due to people clamouring to get out of troubled areas and into "better districts".

The average increase for house prices in the country was 8 pc, but Ulster was far ahead of this figure in every category. A new semi-detached house now costs £10,600 on average, an increase of 26 pc over the year.

What is described as a "modern semi" averages 19 pc, while an older one in the semi range, up 15 pc, to about 10 pc.

One reason  
Mr. William Greer, manager of Nationwide in Belfast, said today it was difficult to see a clear reason for the huge increase here.

Ulster houses had lagged behind the upsurge in prices in the rest of the UK until about two years ago, but then began to increase sharply.

"This trend has continued throughout the past year while prices in England have remained fairly constant," he said.

"One reason is that more and more young people are buying rather than renting, and there is a strong preference for houses out of the city," he said.

There are a tremendous amount of population movement in the rest of the country with a lot of people getting out of troubled areas.

"People are prepared to pay more for houses where they can leave their car and their dustbin outside, and be sure that they are large in the morning," he added.

People involved in the business agree that buying a house is a good investment. The average price will go on increasing, but probably less sharply in the near future.

Rail link disrupted  
TRAIN services between Lurgan and Dundak were disrupted today after a warning call that the line had been mined.

Savings with the Trustee Savings Bank in Northern Ireland increased by over £17,000,000 in the past year, said Elliott Wilson, chairman, revealed today.

## Now Healey outlines that deal

By MICHAEL DEVINE

EIGHT members of the SAS who were arrested south of the border in Co. Louth last May will be prosecuted.

This was disclosed in Dublin's Special Criminal Court today when March 7 was fixed as the date of the trial.

The arrest of the soldiers on the night of May 5/6 caused diplomatic row between the British and Irish Governments. The men were questioned by sub-machine-guns, automatic pistols and a pump action shotgun. Some were in plain clothes and others in combat gear.

They were taken to Dundalk Garda station, where they were questioned by the Special Branch. Later, in Dublin, they were charged under the Special Criminal Court.

The eight were set free, pending trial after the British Embassy put up £40,000 in bail bonds. They were flown back to barracks in Eastbrook, Co. Armagh, in a British Army helicopter which collected them at Baldoon, headquarters of the Irish Air Corps.

The arrest and the charges caused embarrassment in Government circles in Dublin. Several Ministers have disengaged privately with the action of the Director of Public Prosecution.

Fuss  
One senior Minister said: "The Garda should have taken their names and then been passing across the border as soon as possible." He said that all the fuss was over a matter which is expected to last about three days.

It is expected that the trial will be held in the court by helicopter each day.

Illness  
The illot radiated to London on a flight from New York for police to stand by after the man went berserk in the passenger cabin.

At Heathrow airport, where police boarded the jet to restrain the man, Mr. Rifal was driven off with a Scotland Yard escort.

He said: "The man, who was in the rear of the aircraft, told a crew member that he was carrying a grenade and that he would pull out the pin and blow up the airplane unless he was taken to Uganda."

Support  
The Peace People have received a message of praise and support from the National Organisation for Women's Monterey Chapter in California.

## Mid-air grenade drama

By DAVID WATSON

AN influential City Hall committee is trying to veto plans by Belfast City Council to provide a temporary itinerants' site at May's Market.

After hearing objections to the scheme from about 10 traders, the committee has abandoned the plan.

Mr. Fred Proctor, the committee's deputy chairman, said today: "While we are sympathetic to these people, because they have no permanent place yet, we could not see a way of going ahead."

The traders pay rents and we might have difficulty getting some of the itinerants off the site once the future permanent one is completed. Road becomes ready."

Since most of the traders have moved to Boucher Road, the council has approved a committee to using May's Market as a temporary home for the itinerants.

But now members of the markets committee are still negotiating for the Government to take over the area under a development plan — feels that it could become a problem when the dozen caravans from the area.

The Moon — Last Quarter, January 12; New Moon, January 19.

Lifting-up time — 4:35 p.m. till 8:11 a.m. — 3:18 a.m.; 3:46 p.m.

It was too early yet to see clearly the power this body would have but as it was made up of the best themselves it would be a formidable enough task.

The bulk of the Act's provisions took effect from November 22 last.

Mr. Wilson recalled the tragic deaths of Mr. C. Oliver Eaton, a member of the bank who was gunned down as he arrived at the bakery of which he was a director, and of Mr. James Kyle, who had been general manager for barely three months.

He added: "The security situation is always with us and the problems resulting from it raise their heads in various ways. In these difficult times I wish to record the committee of management's appreciation of the whole staff."



Denis Healey.



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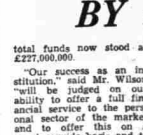
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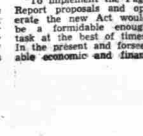
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### WEATHER

FORECAST for tonight and tomorrow: Clear or sunny intervals. Scattered snow or hail showers, fairly frequent and heavy in places, giving moderate falls of snow in some areas, especially over hills. Some of the showers may be accompanied by thunder. Inland overnight they will be isolated. The temperature will fall to minus 7C overnight with a severe frost and icy patches on roads, will rise to only 2C tomorrow. Winds will be mainly light northerly. Outlook for Thursday: Cold, but bright or sunny intervals and wintry showers, but probably some longer outbreaks of sleet or snow. Overnight frosts and widespread frost.

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## BOOM FOR TSB AS ULSTER SAVINGS LEAP BY £17m

SAVINGS with the Trustee Savings Bank in Northern Ireland increased by over £17,000,000 in the past year, said Elliott Wilson, chairman, revealed today.

He told the bank's second annual meeting in Belfast that total balances due to depositors at the end of 1976 were £217.4m, showing an increase of £17.7m in the year as opposed to £16.7m the previous year.

Where there was a large volume of funds, he said, its increase was to a great extent self-generated by the addition of interest. Of the £17.7m increase, £13.2m was generated by the bank's own funds from £3.2m to £4.3m and also generated by the department as the creator of the greatest number of transactions. The banks' financial climate the problems will be exacerbated.

Mr. Wilson, impressed by the enthusiasm and firm commitment of all associated with the bank. It is within our power to succeed and succeed we will.

Mr. Wilson recalled that last year he had spoken of a "major leap" which was now law. It was an enabling Act in which the terms were widely drawn. A major feature was the establishment of the Central Board of Management, a central professional team.

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