SOCIALIST ELECTION RESULTS

BELFAST — The following news was received from Belfast, where the WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF IRELAND contested a second municipal bye-election in the Shankill Ward (Ultra Orange):

"Though many did vote for us it is unlikely that they would have run the risk of publicly identifying themselves with us — in view of the considerable show of numbers the Unionists (Gov't Party) had on duty around their expensively hired caravan tally rooms at the different polling booths. The Socialist voter living in an area like Shankill has to be very discreet indeed! Between eighty and one hundred cars were in service by the Unionists and bands of women workers plyed the streets in the Ward trying to keep those cars occupied. In spite of this, however, most of the cars sat for lengthy periods and often when active it was to convey a single voter. Obviously, in their traditional stronghold, the Unionists were having difficulty in achieving what they cynically refer to as 'pulling them out." . . .

"When the returning Officer announced the result, Christie (Unionists) 3,800, Skelton (WSP of Ireland) 454, Christie arose to the howling of the mob but contented himself with thanking the R. O. and staff and claiming that the result "speaks for itself." The mob then began to shout 'Where's Skelton?' and it was pretty obvious that they were not bent on sympathy. . .

"Certainly it is pleasing to think that our existence as a Party caused the Unionists to bring out their Party machine and spend anything from 700 to 800 pounds (in a local government election!) to keep Socialism out of a Ward they could truly claim to 'own'. As a result of our campaign we have become very widely known as a political party and this must augur well for the future — even if it creates precedents which necessitate the establishment of an election fund and the promise of much hard work to come!"

R. MONTAGUE, Gen'l Sec'y.

VICTORIA, B. C. — Local Victoria of the S. P. of Canada reports the recent bye-election at Esquimault-Saanich that:

International, national and local response in the Esquimalt-Saanich bye-election was inspiring. The members of the Victoria Local wish to extend thanks for the cooperation of members and branches of the World Socialist Movement for the part they played in the recent campaign here.

Financial and moral support came from Winnipeg, Boston, Vancouver, England Australia and members far and near.

While the number of votes for socialism were few (149) they were more than was expected. The Socialist case and some of its principles and the party name were spread across the country in some daily papers and on two National TV programs, which also took in the territory comprising the Northwestern Pacific states of the U. S. A. as well as Northern B. C. One of these programs include close-ups of the front cover of The Western Socialist. The name of the party was also used on the TV news of election results.

While definite results aside from votes would be impossible to measure, we do know that many thousands of people are now aware that the Socialist Party of Canada does exist who didn't know this before.

BULLETIN

✪ U. S. A. announces plan for a "clean" neutron bomb which will destroy lives but, fortunately, save property.

Announcement !

THE WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF THE U. S. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE COMING LABOR DAY WEEK-END, SEPT. 2, 3, 4, AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS, 11 FANEUIL HALL SQ., BOSTON . . . ALL INVITED.

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HARVEST OF SHAME

On the evening of November 25th, 1960, CBS Reports with Edward R. Murrow presented "Harvest of Shame." This one-hour documentary on the migrant farm worker struck the viewer with the shattering impact of the good earth splitting open and disclosing a cesspool of sewerage beneath. It was especially effective because it was shown at a time when many were still full of their Thanksgiving turkey; the desperate plight of the millions of men, women and children who work the fields to harvest the food probably made many a television viewer uncomfortable.

The camera, interview, and commentary followed with relentless realism some of the migrant workers north from their winter slums in Belle Glade, Florida. The average migrant works 136 days a year, making an annual income of $900.00. One of the southern farmers remarked: "We used to own our slaves, now we rent them."

After Murrow, in his somewhat pontifical style, declared that we are the best fed nation on earth, an interview was shown with the Dobie family. Mrs. Dobie is 34 years old and has 9 children. Everybody works but the baby. Food is a pot of beans and potatoes. The children have milk only once a week. They like milk, one of them shyly said, and the camera recorded the pathetic tragedy of these hungry faces.

Scene followed scene along these lines. A little boy in a rat-infested hovel was taking care of his younger brothers and sisters. His foot was festered from an encounter with a rusty nail and the only medical attention he received was the application by his mother of rubbing alcohol. We were even shown the holes that the rats dug in the mattress. The mother, Aline King, was out picking beans. She had no money to put the children in the camp nursery because it cost 85 cents a day. That day all she got for her work from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. was $1.00 because the beans were of poor quality. She said she needed at least $2.00 to feed her family for the day. Aline is 29 years old, has had 14 children, and has worked in the fields since she was 8 years old. Like all the others interviewed she admitted she never expects to get a chance to get out of that kind of work.

Then was shown the endless stream of jalopies going north like the Joad family in Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath." "The farmers are not worried about our problems," one of the migrants remarked. "They only use us — when finished (with us), 'move along! get out!'" They go 1500 to 2000 miles north to work. Many of them ride nonstop in flat-bed trucks for 10 hours with no food or facilities. (Note: According to federal law, cattle trains must stop for 5 of every 28 hours to feed and water the cattle). Many migrants are killed or injured in auto accidents. In one accident alone, on June 6th, 1957, near Fayetteville, N. C., 17 migrants were killed. The coroner's verdict was: "packaging of occupants of truck" caused the high death toll.

Elizabeth City, N.C., another bean stop. In the labor camp straw was provided for the people to sleep on, but there were no mattresses and there was one water tap for hundreds.