

change to "Eire". There emerged the External Relations Act: Eire was declared a republic.

Then came World War II, and Eire's neutrality, in O'Neill's view, hurt her standing with the Allies, then and now. The divisions between north and south grew.

In 1948, the "disastrous" coalition government took Eire out of the Commonwealth.

Another disastrous coalition government—in the 1950's—produced the IRA. "Coalitions have not been a good thing for Ireland," he said.

By 1963, in the north, the Protestants had become "haves" and the Catholics were "have-nots". O'Neill came to power.

"I wanted to bring about change," he said. The Unionist Party that he now headed had been unwilling to make change. "Nobody had tried before."

So he began by visiting Catholic schools and hospitals; he invited the Prime Minister of Southern Ireland to Stormont; and he brought about one-man-vote at city government levels.

He needed sectarian support and, remarkably, he got it. His ecumenical overtures were all well-reported, he said, and during an election held nine months after the meeting with Eire's Prime Minister, he did "much better than anyone before on a sectarian ticket."

"It is one of my happiest memories. The people of Northern Ireland were willing to accept improved relation."

Why did it fail, then?

"Because of the 50th anniversary of the uprising in Dublin of 1916." There was no stopping it. There was no one in the Catholic community to suggest otherwise.

"It was physically impossible to stop 120,000 Catholics in Belfast."

So the celebrations took place, and they lasted for three weeks. During that time, "extreme Protestantism arrived in a big way and has been there ever since."

"These are the roots of the present trouble," he said.

Things were quieter for a while. He began to make contacts with Mr. Lynch, prime minister of Southern Ireland. Things were gradually improving. Until the civil rights movement got going in 1968.

"But I'm not blaming the civil rights movement. I didn't blame them then."

But after Christmas in 1968 Bernadette Devlin and the People's



Democracy walked from Belfast to Derry. "Things became impossible after that. Everything was going back to square one. Everything I had worked for was going, and London wouldn't let me resign." So he called an election. Three

extremists were unseated, but nine returned.

"It was a remarkable election: candidates were pro-O'Neill or anti-O'Neill."

The extremists were clearly in a position to seize power, and rather than lose the recently-won one-man-vote, he resigned.

But peace lasted for only three months. The bombs eventually came, and in August 1969, the British Army.

Still London would not take over, as he believes they should have. The elections in Britain in 1970 saw the Conservatives win with only a 28-seat majority (in a 630-seat Commons). With the nine members from Northern Ireland in opposition—according to the peculiar mathematics of Parliament—Heath would be reduced to a majority of only ten. And with Great Britain's imminent entry in the Common Market, the Irish problem was "pushed out of the way."

Where is the problem now?

"There is the British Government White Paper, which foreshadows legislation, later this summer. Briefly it provides for:

-no parliament in Northern Ireland; instead, a legislative assembly. (O'Neill drew a parallel to Canadian provincial governments).

-no cabinet; instead, "committees", chaired by Protestants and Catholics. The combined chairmen will form an

"executive committee."

-law and order will be provided for from London.

After the election, power will only be handed over to this assembly "as and when London sees fit."

O'Neill stressed that "nothing is possible without peace."

"With petrol bombs in people's houses, it is impossible to make anything work."

But will there be peace?

"I don't know. Historically in Ireland, extremists always have won. Let's hope that history won't repeat itself."

The main Catholic opposition party has welcomed the White Paper. O'Neill's remnants of the Unionist Party have welcomed it. "But the extremists and the IRA have condemned it. The omens are poor at the moment."

"Bear one thing in mind," he said: "If this thing goes on, the British will get fed up with the whole situation. There is a terrible possibility that it can drag on indefinitely."

But economic factors appear to be gaining in prominence.

"I can say—and this is a real plus—that despite all the things going on, the factories are still going flat out. In fact, productivity is greater than in Great Britain."

"The election was recently lost in the South because of the Opposition's concentration on economic and social issues not the 'Irish problem.'"

like, a , this is the end watch for one last special issue next Thursday.

NOTE

IMPORTANT STAFF MEETING TONIGHT AT 7:30 p.m. IN ROOM 282 SUB. if you are interested in working on next year's Gateway, please come! we'll need editorial staff, production staff and writers. If you don't think you can write, but are still interested, come anyway. (we'll nurse you into confidence.)

in-faculty job placement

Since late October the Commerce faculty has had a group of five third and fourth year students available as student advisers. The group is called 5 on 4 (no relation to 4um 5) because its office is on the fourth floor of CAB.

Someone is present at most hours of the day, with advice to help first and second year students set up their programs and select their courses. 5 on 4 also will refer students with special grievances to a faculty grievance committee, and the proximity to the student files office facilitates counselling.

5 on 4 has been set up only experimentally, on the premise that

students will have the first-hand knowledge that a faculty official won't have, and will relate more easily to student problems. The program will be evaluated to determine if it is worthwhile, and staff members expressed hope and optimism for its continuance.

More recently the office has received notices of job openings and is attempting to place students with businesses. The staff members suggest that all faculties should handle some of the initial recruitment for jobs, to act in a more specialized and personal fashion than does Manpower.

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abortion Tribunal to indict gov't

by Sheila Mawson

"I do not believe that doing medically safe abortions is a criminal act. On the contrary, I feel very strongly that denying women safe abortions and exposing them to death and injury is criminal."

So spoke Dr. Henry Morgentaler, M.D. at a public rally of 500 people sponsored by the Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws (C.W.C.)

The rally was part of a three-day conference of the C.W.C. held in Toronto on March 16-18 which attracted women ranging in age from 11-79 years from across the country in the fight to win total repeal.

The conference called for a Cross-Country Tribunal to be held in Ottawa on Nov. 3. This tribunal will hear testimony from women across the country "to expose the daily suffering of women as a result of restrictive abortion laws."

The Tribunal will indict the federal government and all those responsible for continuing this suffering by refusing to recognize women's basic right to control their own reproductive lives.

Throughout the spring and summer, local chapters of the C.W.C. will be collecting testimony from women who have suffered under the laws in their areas. As well, local hearings will be held in each area before the Cross Country Tribunal in Ottawa.

The conference also made concrete plans to campaign in defence of Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a Montreal doctor, who is presently before the courts

charged with performing "illegal" abortions. Morgentaler, in defiance of the present laws, publicly stated that he has been performing abortions for a number of years and that he was proud of having helped a few thousand women obtain safe, medical operations.

Morgentaler is a long-time advocate of women's right to abortion and sees his case as a direct challenge to the government to repeal the anti-abortion laws.

In addition, the C.W.C. reaffirmed the principle of women's right to control their bodies by supporting 1) repeal of Canada's abortion laws 2) ready access to birth control information and devices and sex education 3) the right to voluntary sterilization and stand opposed to forced sterilization.

Laura Sabia, chairwoman of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, in her address to the conference, stated that she was a practising Roman Catholic who had had an illegal abortion and challenged the Church to excommunicate her.

Having completed a cross-Canada speaking tour, Joan Campana spoke of growing support that the Coalition is experiencing across the country. She cited the 100,000 signatures collected on a petition calling for repeal as well as referenda held on university campuses across the country which showed 70% in favour of a woman's right to choose.

Campana also spoke of the latest Gallup poll which indicated that 61% of Canadians believe the matter of abortion should be made solely by a woman and her doctor. Despite these

indications that the majority of Canadians favour repeal, she said, the government has refused to act—"women must now take this majority sentiment and begin to organize concrete actions aimed at forcing the government to repeal the laws."

"We must take the inspiration of the victory of U.S. women who have won the right to abortion and win the same victory for women in Canada."

Terri Mastel, chairwoman of the U of A committee for Abortion Law Repeal speaking at the Toronto conference said that "women's lack of

control over our reproductive lives is a fundamental aspect of the lack of control women are allowed over their lives as a whole.

"We want to take the ideas that have been adopted at this conference and take them back to Edmonton to step up the campaign, looking for new areas of involvement, reaching out to more women, and convincing them to join the campaign. It is only through the united actions of large numbers of women, against the anti-abortion laws that we will win a woman's right to choose."

U act revision considered

He urged that the committee consider "what's happening in government," and charged that the university will be swallowed up into a "centralized school administration."

Rose, an outspoken critic of recent moves by the department of advanced education, said that his "worst fears were confirmed" at the meeting between the academic staff association and minister of advanced education Jim Foster.

Also advocating a strong university voice in restructuring the Universities Act was vp-planning and development W. D. Neal. He urged that the university take "very vigorous and positive action" and "not wait until legislation is brought to us by the government."

The matter was routinely resolved by a decision to participate on the Board Committee to revise the act.

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