

'THE MILK IS SOUR; THE TURKEY IS COLD'

Opinion Piece. Sean Nuinseann (Divis IRSP) on why participants in upcoming Stormont elections are flogging a dead horse.

Many people normally oblivious to politics here, have become glued to the latest conflict between Sinn Féin and the DUP. Of course, we welcome popular interest in politics, even if it is the politics of drama school; better than focusing on Instagram accounts, Soccer or the latest mediocre music hitting the charts. And now an election is up the road, the parties of the status quo will gear up for another round of 'nonsense' versus 'madness'. Sinn Féin will portray themselves as the warrior class, destroying the temple with the stroke of a pen, while the DUP will take to the mic, claiming to be the enduring guardians of the queen's palace, but it's all a game. For Republicans pursuing a **Workers' Republic**; there was never merit in Stormont participation. The IRSP are not abstentionist, yet the price of admission was too high. Perhaps we could have caused some minor disruption, briefly raising slogans in the main hall. Yet Sinn Féin's inability to even undermine the border, whilst in the highest seat of electoral strength in the six counties demonstrates the futility of thinking, that the tricks of Imperialism, can be beaten by...well, the tricks of imperialism. And (lest we forget) as Gerry Adams once reminded the party faithful...*'there is no plan B'*. And so, constitutional Nationalism has effectively been snared by Stormont participation. Sinn Féin will return to Stormont, as will an emboldened (and no less embittered DUP) contradictions will re-emerge, Tory cuts will continue, **what then?** "People Before Profit's" *'Riot at the Ballot Box'* is an interesting development. Are they hinting at a revolution? They used to when they still called themselves the *Socialist Workers Party* and vocally supported the Irish National Liberation struggle. Not now though, indeed their comrades in Leinster House recently declared



that Irish Unity can wait. For bums in seats, Stormont may well lure Eamon McCann and his handsome young protégé into the constitutional mire also. Perhaps not, but the pressures are great; the state prefer Socialists to act like PBP, their student army is spared the MI5/PSNI attention endured by other revolutionaries and their families. McCann once warned SF against the *'taming influence of electoralism'*, disillusioned voters might just remind him. A word to those that have 'seen the light' off the back of this latest episode and sampled a spoonful of the Stormont soup; **none of this matters.**

Hospital workers, those suffering under zero hour contracts, the family struggling to pay their mortgage and the prisoner surrounded by violent screws will face all this again tomorrow. Because Stormont is (and always was) a fictitious battleground; a smokescreen acting out the orders of London's financial elite. Stormont existed as a curtain to block out the reality of who was really running the show; They being the political bulldogs of exploitation based in Westminster; represented by an appointed Secretary of state, whose job was to relax behind the curtain with feet up, unless a press conference was required to give a five-minute question and answer session on 'Northern Ireland'. The entire set-up was without substance, it administered poverty to the population here, as instructed to by the twinned parties of Blair & Thatcher.

It's latest phase was dominated by sectarian conflict, intolerance and childishness, reflecting the worst of Irish society. Unfortunately for Sinn Féin (and those who chucked their weight behind them) republicanism never found its place in Stormont and that was the prediction of all those who critically analysed proposals prior to 'Good Friday'. Those criticisms fell on deaf ears. When our concerns were forwarded they were dismissed by a Sinn Féin leadership who erected a 'like it or lump it' billboard in the heart of working class areas. But now that leadership are realising the pointlessness of the Stormont project themselves, yet their only option is another rally to the polls. They are literally stuck in a rut.

The game is up. **The milk is sour. The turkey is cold.** The Ballot Box alone cannot deliver.

I will conclude with a 1994 prediction of INLA leader Gino Gallagher who said;

"Sinn Fein has aligned itself with the constitutional reformists of the SDLP and the Dublin government in an unarmed strategy. The Republican Movement appear to have put their faith in a diplomatic war against Britain in the hope that the British Government will react positively. This course can only lead into a political cul-de-sac. This is undoubtedly a critical period in this campaign and all concerned must speak out, must come together and pool their thoughts in order to ensure that an alternative strategy is advanced. A real peace, a lasting peace cannot be achieved until the British are confronted and forced to withdraw from Ireland."