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PENSMAN takes you Behind the Spotlight

GOVERNMENT MOVES TO KICK INFLATION MONSTER

Months after they should have acted, the Government, at last realising and admitting that inflation was paralysing the economy of the country, made a move last week when the Minister for Finance called "short term drastic measures" were announced in an effort to retrieve the situation.

Mr. Colley said: "The current difficulties and the threat of major damage to our economy, as a result of the failure of the employer-labour conference, have made it imperative that the Government should take decisive and urgent action."

The urgent action includes: a limit of 6 per cent (with a floor of 2 1/2%) a week and a ceiling of 3 1/2% to all pay increases whether arising under new agreements or instants of old agreements, or both, in the period up to December 31, 1971; applications for price increases will not take account of wage increases in excess of the limit now being imposed; the retail prices of commodities which are important in the household budget will be controlled; the prices of new houses will be controlled; professional fees will be controlled; dividends and directors' fees will be restricted; rents of houses, flats, offices and factories will be restricted.

The failure of the Government for so long to raise rent agencies, a situation which was blatantly evident and the hardness of the measures now taken has drawn a reaction from the average citizen which cannot be termed unpredictable. That the unions are up in arms and have begun preparations for a conflict is not surprising in the circumstances and there can be no doubt that the Government by defaulting for so long have now by their latest action sown dragons teeth which will bring us a long winter of discontent.

The Finance Minister made heavy play of the fact that the Government held back until the failure of the employer-labour conference before taking action by everyone knows that the onset of the rot went back to at least the budget of last April and perhaps further back to the period when the members of the Oireachtas unanimously voted themselves huge increases.

The increase in the turnover tax gave the cost of living figures such a wallop that demands for higher pay became inevitable and those who warned at the time of the dire effects which would follow have now been proved correct. But indeed the present sad state of our economy is no consolation to them for the correctness of their predictions. There are tough times ahead and in all probability they will get worse before we can look forward to better times. We have affluently enjoyed the long summer; we must now pay for the too good times we had with a dull, dreary winter of confinement and strife.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

I had intended writing something on this in this week's column but I find myself unable to do so until next week. Should any readers have anything to say about the Act and the method of its application I should be most pleased to hear from them. Any such comments should reach me before Tuesday morning.

SHE MOVED THROUGH THE FAIR

A very special request which I could only ignore at my peril has come to me for the words of the beautiful old ballad: "She Moved Through The Fair" and with which I have pleasure in obliging this week:

My young love said to me:
"My mother won't mind,
And my father won't slight you
show for your lack of kind."
And she stepped away from me
and this she did say:
"It will not be long, love, till
next market day."

She stepped away from me
and she went thro' the fair,
And fondly I watched her move
here and move there,
And then she went homeward
with one star awake,
As the swan in the evening
moves over the lake.

Last night she came to me,
she came softly in,
So softly she came that her feet
made no din,
And she laid her hand on me,
and this she did say:
"It will not be long, love, till
our wedding day."

There is another verse which is seldom included when this ballad is sung but to complete the record, I will include it here. Whenever

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Members of Dungarvan Urban Council were divided in their views as to the merits of inviting outside agencies into the town to carry out housing development when they discussed the matter at their monthly meeting last Monday night.

Particular reference was made by one group of Councillors to the new 28 house scheme at present being completed for the National Building Agency at Youghal road and while they were assured by the senior officials and by the Chairman that this Agency was a non-profit making society, some members expressed doubts on the score and one went so far as to claim that the Agency in selling the houses at £5,100 each stood to make £600 profit on each transaction. Another member objected to bringing in outside agencies because the Council were left completely in the dark about what they were doing.

I have been going into the figures for the N.B.A. houses insofar as I have been able to ascertain them. I find in fact that £3,100 (as was

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ALWAYS ASK FOR POWER ORANGE

COUNCILLORS QUESTION COSTINGS OF N.B.A HOUSING SCHEME

REPORT ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN DUNGARVAN

It is sung it goes in as verse number three and it goes as follows:—

The people were saying that no two were ever wed,
But that one had a sorrow which never was said,
That she went away from me with her goods and her gear,
And that was the last that I saw of my dear.

To Make Another Effort To Re-Open Railway Line To Dungarvan

Mr. D. Goode made a suggestion at last Monday's meeting of Dungarvan Urban Council that a new effort should be made to have the railway line between Waterford and Dungarvan re-opened as a tourist amenity for local people during the summer months.

Mr. Goode was expressing appreciation of the invitation of the Gulliey Magistrate Division of Piltzer Inc. to members of the Council to the opening of their new Magistie Plant at Ballinacorney, and he personally thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. What struck him most forcibly was the trip from Ballinacorney to Waterford on the special train and he felt that it would be a grand idea if the Council got in touch with Gulliey Magistie, C.I.E. and Bord Failte and put forward a suggestion that the line might be re-opened as a tourist amenity during the summer months.

Mr. A. Deasy thought they should not be too hasty and ask C.I.E. to re-open the line as far as Ballinacorney full time. He felt that the decision to close the line had been premature as the roads were not now able to cope with the heavy contactor traffic which was now causing chaos especially as it passed through Dungarvan.

Mr. T. Kynne, Chairman, said he thought they should accept Mr. Goode's suggestion as this would put in the narrow gauge of the wedge to re-open the line. "We would see how we go on from there," he said, "although I'm afraid it won't go on but let us try."

Mr. Deasy found the train journey to Waterford the most enjoyable part of that day of the opening of the plant.

The Town Clerk was directed to get in touch with the contractors mentioned to find out their reactions.

would be better and cheaper for the Council to put up a scheme for tender and appoint their own contractor.

Mr. T. Kynne, Chairman, said that the N.B.A. was a non-profit making concern and could not make stipence out of the houses.

Mr. Hackett then asked questions about the costing of the N.B.A. scheme at Youghal Road and the Town Clerk said that the price of these houses was £3,100.

PREFABRICATED HOUSES

The report continued: "A recent circular from the Department of Local Government would also have some bearing on the scheme. The Minister has recently invited tenders from the manufacturers of pre-fabricated houses in an effort to reduce the cost of housing on local authorities. The tenders would be on the basis of guaranteed orders over a period of from three to five years, and if suitable tenders are obtained, it is envisaged that a considerable number of local authorities would erect these type of houses. In areas outside the larger cities, these schemes would be carried out through the National Building Agency.

"A point which might also be considered by the Council is relevant to this scheme is the possibility of reserving some of the houses for tenant purchase. As you know, there is a fairly large number of tenants who are paying high rents in some of the newer schemes, and these might be able to purchase their houses at only slightly more than they are paying in rent at the present time. On the other hand, it is becoming increasingly dearer for the Council to provide houses. It would obviously be much more economic to re-let existing houses where the tenants of these had purchased new houses. If the Council were to agree to this course, a circular could be sent to all tenants which the tenders for the scheme would give details of purchase price, repayments etc. and depending on the response, the Council could then decide to reserve a number of these houses for tenant purchase."

MIDDLE MEN

Mr. N. Hackett objected to housing in such "middle men" as the N.B.A. when they wanted to build houses. He said that it

A DANGER

Mr. C. O'Connor, Co. Manager, pointed out that the Department of Local Government had first set up the National Building Agency to deal with house building for the Garda and for key personnel in the industrial development. They then made themselves available to Local Authorities to carry out schemes. But, he said, there

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COLOURFUL MILITARY WEDDING

With full-dress military honours, the wedding took place at Abbeyside Parish Church on Saturday afternoon, October 10, of Lieut. Brian Wickham, son of Mrs. Paul Wickham and the late Comdt. T. Wickham, Navan Road, Dublin and Miss Geraldine Keegan, only daughter of Mrs. Maire Keegan, Calbre House, Abbeyside.

The ceremony with Nuptial Mass and Papal Blessing was performed by Rev. R. O'Shaughnessy, O.S.A., St. John's Lane, Dublin, assisted by Rev. Fr. McNamara, O.P., Killybegny and Rev. M. Walsh, C.C., Abbeyside. Very Rev. John Roche, P.P., Abbeyside was also present.

The bride, who was given away by her uncle, Mr. Sean Norris, wore a high waisted gown of silk grosgrain with train, the bodice and collar of which were encrusted with seed pearls. Her full-length mantilla veil was held in place by a Spanish headpiece and she carried a bouquet of white and gold roses.

The bridesmaids, Miss Joyce Wickham (sister of the groom), Miss Hilary Browne (cousin of the bride) and Miss Patsy Mc

at the Altar with drawn swords. The honour guard which was under the command of Capt. Paddy Walsh, consisted of Lieutenants Owen O'Sullivan, Joe Lynch, Enda Breatnach, Ray Quinn, Maurice Kenly, Cormac Lawlor and Mick O'Dwyer.

Mr. Paschal Kennedy, Waterford, presided at the organ.

After the ceremony a reception was held at Ballyrattler House Hotel, Lismore and later the bride and groom left for their honeymoon which is being spent on a tour of the Greek Isles and Cyprus in the Mediterranean.

Photo shows the bridal gown taken before the reception at Ballyrattler House Hotel.

