



"We were standing up in class and putting forward, say, the Maoist analysis of agriculture. We could monopolise the time of class by discussing a particular point.

" Healey was the first to be suspended. He was found reading a book called 'Food and Population.' He was told to leave school and not come back without his parents.

"The other three of us who were members of People's Rights had a chat with Koye Majeko- dunmi. He was our guiding light, through contact with the Irish Student Movement (a group closely aligned with the Internationalists at the time).

"We decided that people were making the wrong thing the issue, that we were Communists while the real thing was the classroom incident. We made out a statement. Koye and Peter Semper looked over it for us.

"As we were not out of school yet - the three of us-we were able to go back and do a lot of propaganda for Healey. We turned the school into a big discussion group. The whole talk both inside and outside class was this issue.

"Then the press came. The pupils formed a 'Save the good Name of the school committee. There was scuffling one day and a car carrying an *Irish Independent* reporter was almost turned over.

"The next week-just before the Easter recess-we were taken up for a long lecture with the head. I had quite a liberal discussion with him. He said just as we were parting - and I'll never forget it - 'Friend, basically, I'm for the establishment, and you're against it and there lies the difference between us.'

"None of us went back to school after Easter, but he arranged for us to sit our exams. Cronin got a university scholarship. I got honours in English, Irish and History, but failed the exam. Healey didn't do it at all.

"We all left home, then. Things had gone from bad to worse there, especially after being thrown out of school. All of our parents went in to speak to the head. Then there was a big scare: about eight sort of liberal fellows supported us. Their parents were called in-it was touch-and-go if they would be thrown out or let stay.

" Another pupil, Peter Keirns (18), from Colaiste Mhuire, a member of People's Rights, was also in trouble at this time in his own school. He didn't have to leave school, though. There was also around this time a row in a Cork convent school-a girl called Susan Curtis, who was connected with the Irish Student Movement through her sister. She got into trouble for a time and left the school, but she got back in. There was something in Midleton also,

"Accommodation was got up for us by the Internationalists in Wicklow street. We led a communal type of existence. We pooled all our money and organised work on a rota basis. For about five or six weeks I was living in the group and drawing from the kitty although the only work I was doing was occasionally four hours in the bookshop in Townsend street.

"If you were making £4 a week, or £10 a week, you put it into the kitty, and took out what you needed for food or cigarettes. A chap earning £4 might get £6 out of it some weeks, while a fellow earning £10 might only get £4. It depended on what you needed.

"We carried on the same existence when we moved to a flat in Northumberland Road. If any-one failed to wash the dishes or make the beds, he might be accused of bourgeois slovenliness, or something like that.

"The effect of the suspensions on the bookshop was that people were queuing up outside for books. Initially we only were taking in about £4 or £5 a day- but after the school business we were taking £15 to £20 a day.

"In the bookshop we got books sent direct to us from Peking and Albania. We never had any trouble with customs or censorship. We didn't have to pay for the books until we sold them. Even then we only had to send a small amount back for each book - there was a high profit margin.

"However, the suspensions had the effect of breaking the Internationalists sole connexion with the schools. There were other radical groups - young socialists in St. Vincents, Glasnevin, etc but we had not much to do with them.

"We were the Internationalists' sole contact with schools. Once that was gone the thing came to a halt. Also, Koye went off to England, and he had been a unifying force. Carol Reakes took over, but she was not so effective.

Gerry Bradly had been in close touch with the Internationalists and their subsidiary groups now for two years. He believes they have for some time been divided between a doctrinaire group, who preach theory and doctrine first of all, and another, more pragmatic element, who demand that theory take second place to the reality of local conditions, and the level of political consciousness of the people. This division hindered the quayside operations of People's Rights, he says, and is currently causing stress within ranks.

He estimates their numbers as about 30, with a hard core of less than ten. While the O'Connell's Schools suspensions last year temporarily broke their contact with secondary pupils, he believes the Carmel Gorman case shows they are re-asserting their position.