

August 21st 1939

Mr. P.D. Carey,


A Chare,

Mr. Hickey has asked me to write to you in answer to your letter of August 5th, as he is at present extremely busy owing to the absence of his boss on holiday.

I am not surprised that you find progress in the Anti-Partition movement very slow at present. In London, since the incident at Kings Cross, there has been a rather strong Anti-Irish feeling which makes it difficult to propagate Anti-Partition news. The effect of the bill has been to make the ordinary public more cautious than ever in dealing with Irish affairs, and indeed I do not blame them, as the bill is an extremely wide measure which could, if necessary, be interpreted by the Executive to the detriment of all Irish bodies, political and otherwise. Curiously enough, the impression I gained in Dublin, on my recent visit there, was that this bill would not in any way impair our progress.

In regard to the use of Radio Eireann as a means of stating the case against Partition, the objection in Dublin seems to be that Eire is bound by an international convention not to use the Radio for political propaganda. I found out however that Ireland and Britain were the only two countries who make any attempt at adhering to the terms of the convention, and the opinion in Ireland seems to be that Britain has already broken this convention as often as she liked. Pressure is, I know, being brought to bear by various sections of public opinion in Ireland to make the Government use the Radio for the purpose of ending Partition, and I feel sure it will have some result. Already a review of Harrison's book "Ulster and the British Empire" is ~~is~~ being relayed tomorrow night, Tuesday, August 22nd.

I raised the question in Dublin of the forthcoming general election and of the necessity for putting our say in during that time

I mentioned your idea of a questionnaire for each candidate, and also the necessity of providing quantities of literature stating our case for distribution outside political meetings, and the advisability of inserting advertisements in the National Newspapers, also stating the case and appealing for consideration.

To my mind, the only difficulty we should have in this direction is one of finance, and I feel sure you will agree with me in saying that we cannot possibly hope to finance any activities in that direction ourselves. We have found it alarmingly difficult to raise sufficient money to carry on, and the only thing we could hope to do in our present state is to provide a number of hecklers for meetings. In regard to membership, the figure for London stands at approximately 600, while we have a small overdraft at the bank. For the Autumn and Winter campaign, we shall have to appeal for the second time to members of the public.

In regard to the membership cards, there seems to have been some misunderstanding between us here in London and the other Branches. We returned from the last National Executive meeting with the impression that no definite agreement as to where the membership cards should be printed, or who should provide the finance, had been agreed upon, but we have since found out that Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow had other impressions. The position remains at present that no membership cards have been printed by us beyond those of the type enclosed, and even if we had felt that the obligation for printing them lay upon us we have not had at any time the necessary finance.

I believe Mr. Hickey may write to you before the end of the month.

Le meas nor,

Organising Secretary.