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Leo Howe

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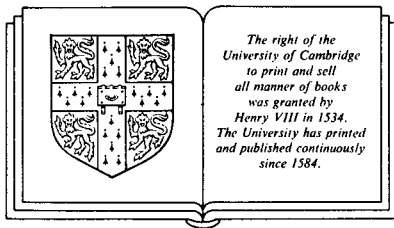
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Being unemployed in Northern Ireland

An ethnographic study

Leo Howe

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To my Mother and Father

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I have not found this an easy book to write. No doubt this is partly due to my own failings as writer, observer, and analyst. It is also due to the large quantity of material I was able to collect and which, at first, seemed chaotic and unmanageable. But for someone trained in social anthropology perhaps the biggest obstacle was the almost complete lack of an established body of anthropological theory and literature on unemployment in Western societies, to which my own findings could be related and which could supply inspiration and guidance. Willy-nilly I was forced into other areas. I scoured the literature on industrial sociology, the psychology of unemployment, the history of the welfare state, the policy process, the sociology of bureaucracy, social security legislation, and so forth. The final version, then, is an inter-disciplinary work which, I hope, will have some appeal to scholars in all of these fields.

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Some of the material contained in chapters 3, 4, and 5 has appeared elsewhere in different form. Cambridge University Press, Galway University Press, and Gower Publishing Company have kindly granted permission for this to be republished.

Abbreviations

ARs	Additional requirements
CAB	Citizens' Advice Bureau
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Security
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
EEC	European Economic Community
ENPs	Exceptional needs payments
ETS	Employment Training Scheme
FEA	Fair Employment Agency
FIG	Fraud Investigator's Guide
FIS	Family income supplement
HGV	Heavy goods vehicle
IO	Interviewing officers
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IS	Income support
JTP	Job Training Programme
LOSC	Labour-only sub-contracting
LTSR	Long-term scale rate
NCC	National Consumer Council
NHS	National Health Service
RR	Replacement ratio
RRR	Rent and rates rebate
SB	Supplementary benefit
SBC	Supplementary Benefits Commission
SSO	Social security office
VO	Visiting officer
YTS	Youth Training Scheme