

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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Saturday March 1st 1980

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FOUR IRA VOLUNTEERS serving life sentences in England have again stated that it was they who carried out the Guildford and Woolwich bombings of soldier-pubs in 1974 and not the three men and a woman who were convicted for the explosions. This fresh claim has served to highlight the innocence of the 'Guildford Four' and focuses attention on the frame-up of the Maguire family and the father of one of the 'Guildford Four' Belfast man Giuseppe Conlon who died in January after serving five years in jail.

The statement issued by IRA Volunteers Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan, Joe O'Connell and Brendan Dowd reads: "We four wish to re-state, as three of us captured in Balcombe Street stated at our trial on 24th January 1977, that we were responsible for the Hare and Hounds, and Kings Arms public house explosions in Guildford and Woolwich in 1974.

"Four completely innocent people were arrested and framed by the Special Branch and sentenced to life imprisonment on October 22nd 1975. We repeat: Paul Hill, Patrick Armstrong, Gerard Conlon and English girl Carol Richardson are innocent victims.

"We have decided to re-issue this statement after the death of Belfast man Giuseppe Conlon who only came to England to visit his son Gerard who had been charged with operations which we carried out, and because new scientific tests have emerged which also support this man's innocence and the innocence of other Irish victims of British racism."

A.S.U.

Three of the IRA Volunteers, Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan and Joe O'Connell were captured after the Balcombe Street siege in November 1975. After their arrests they were isolated and interrogated over a week. The Special Branch drew up a list of forty-eight incidents for which they believed the active service unit had been responsible.

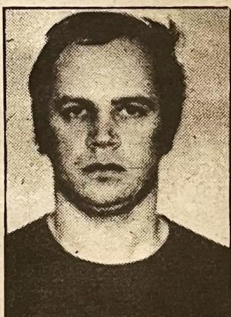
However, things began to go wrong for the Branch when the three (who had been arrested along with Hugh Doherty) stated that they were also admitting to the Guildford and Woolwich bombings for which the Branch knew they had sent down four innocent people.

BRANCH

The Branch tried to suppress these admissions and did not contact the solicitors of the 'Guildford Four'. This sensational evidence would have been the basis for an appeal, but more importantly, would have exposed the English police for blatantly fabricating evidence and would have blown

FRAME-UP SHAKEN

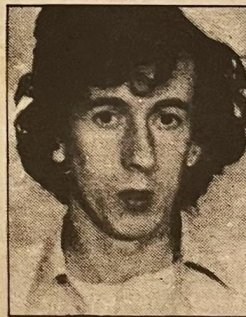
IRA VOLUNTEERS REPEAT CLAIM



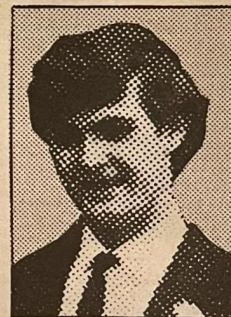
EDDIE BUTLER



HARRY DUGGAN



JOE O'CONNELL



BRENDAN DOWD

open other frame-ups, notably that of the 'Birmingham Six'.

Brendan Dowd, the fourth IRA Volunteer who had taken part in the Guildford and Woolwich operations had been captured in Liverpool in May 1975 and subsequently gave a statement to a court shorthand writer in the presence of lawyers.

Details he gave of the operations corroborated those given by the three Balcombe Street men and coincided in detail with many of the four thousand statements taken from witnesses in the Guildford and Woolwich trials, which the police had chosen not to use. There was thus no doubt that this IRA active service unit had carried out the attacks.

On the first day of their trial in January 1977 the three Balcombe Street men claimed responsibility for the Guildford and Woolwich bombings. They refused to plead because, as Joe O'Connell said:

"The indictment does not include two charges concerning the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings. I took part in both bombings for which innocent people have been convicted."

Their claims were largely ignored by the media and rejected by the judge and English jury.

That was three years ago... Two years previously an ailing, old man, Giuseppe Conlon made his way from Belfast to England to visit his son Gerard who had been charged with the bombings.

Giuseppe Conlon was arrested and on the sole basis of a forensic test he was convicted and sentenced to twelve years in jail for allegedly possessing explosives.

CONLON

Every day in jail for five years Giuseppe Conlon protested his innocence. He died on 23rd January this year. A local BBC production in the North 'Spotlight', last Tuesday featured a programme on the circumstances of Giuseppe Conlon's conviction and on the utter unreliability of the forensic evidence used against him.

The Guardian newspaper had previously revealed on February 19th that the techniques used to detect traces of nitro-glycerine, are

now being seriously questioned. A forensic scientist, John Yallop, who himself developed one of the tests has carried out new research and discovered that tobacco smoke gives off similar traces. (See page 5: 'Jail for smoking'.)

These tests were used to convict the Maguires, Giuseppe Conlon and in the trial of the 'Birmingham Six'.

Had these innocent prisoners not been Irish political prisoners then perhaps there would have been an upsurge of concern from the mighty English liberal conscience. Instead there has been a silence which only confirms their apathy, in fact racism, which raises no objection to British oppression of the Irish.

4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REMOVAL OF POLITICAL STATUS

**MARCHES
AND
RALLIES**

Saturday March 1st

DUBLIN

Assemble 2.30 p.m.
St. Stephens' Green
March to GPO

Sunday March 2nd

BELFAST

Assemble 2.30 p.m.
Junction of Whitehead and
Falls Roads

The Dublin march is organised by the National Smash H-Block Committee. The Belfast march is jointly organised by the six county co-ordinating committee of the Relatives Action Committee and the Ulster Executive of Sinn Féin.

SCREENING CHALLENGED

WHEN the British army arrested Clara Reilly, mother of six children and stalwart of the Association of Legal Justice, from her Turf Lodge home in West Belfast on Wednesday 20th February at six o'clock in the morning, they were put through their paces with respect to what they can, and can not, legally enforce an arrested person to do.

From the outset of the raid, which was carried out by about twenty soldiers, Clara Reilly questioned every order directed at her or her family. She was ably assisted by her six children who all refused to give their dates of birth.

For the past five years Clara Reilly, who lives in an area subjected to a notoriously high level of Brit harassment, has daily advised those unfortunate enough to be arrested, how they should act and what their few entitlements are under the draconian six-county legislation — the Emergency Provisions Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Armed with this knowledge she put into practice her own advice and challenged her captors every step of the way, along with what is for the victim an arduous trial to maintain personal dignity.

The first challenge arose when Clara phoned her solicitor to inform

him she was being arrested. Three times she was threatened by a gun-toting Brit not to phone, but she ignored him and contacted her solicitor, much to the embarrassment and anger of the Brits.

She then refused to leave her house until she was formally arrested. This meant a Brit had to place his hand on her shoulder and say, "As a member of Her Majesty's forces I am arresting you."

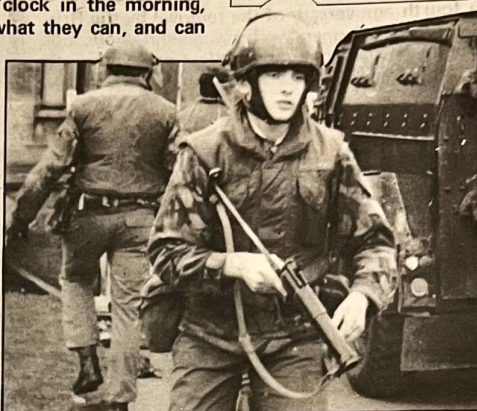
Inside Springfield Road RUC barracks while she was under the guard of a military policewoman, Clara Reilly was directed to sit in a chair inside a cubicle and to face a wall inches from the chair. Disobeying the instruction she turned the chair around the opposite way and sat facing the amazed guard who said, "You can't do that, you have to face the wall".

"Why?" Clara asked.

"You just have to" was the reply, which was dutifully ignored.

In the interrogation room Clara was asked her name and address.

BY PETER HAYES



"I can well understand young people being terrified in the hostile environment which begins immediately you step inside one of their armoured vehicles."

These she gave. There followed a stream of personal questions, to which she replied, "I am entitled to give you my name and address

and that's all". And that is all she gave.

When Clara was instructed to be measured, weighed and photographed

she stubbornly refused, stating, "I do only what I'm entitled to do, I'm claiming the few rights I have."

The final challenge came when a plain-clothes Brit attempted to medically examine her. Clara asked him if he was a doctor to which he parroted that he was a "representative of the medical corps" — hardly the credentials of a qualified doctor. She promptly dismissed him.

Before being released she lodged a formal complaint with the RUC against the British army for false arrest (for the purpose of 'screening'); false imprisonment; insulting behaviour and invasion of privacy; and ill-treatment from excessive cold (while held in the cubicle). She is intending to sue the British army in a civil court action.

Clara later stated: "The entire arrest procedure is designed to inflict terror and to degrade you. Everything they ask you to do has a purpose which works to their advantage. I can well understand young people being terrified in the hostile environment which begins immediately you step inside one of their armoured vehicles. Personally speaking I was more angry than afraid. Everytime I thought of these people having the power to disturb my children at six in the morning and take me away it made me even more angry."

DERRY HARASSMENT

BY TERESA O'DWYER

BRIT harassment of women and children continues unabated in Derry as the unfortunate recent experiences of three victims — Mrs Hagan, Mrs. McNaught, and Mrs. Coyle — only too clearly show.

Mrs. O'Hagan of Ederown Park, Shantallow, was lying on her settee in labour with her second child whilst her husband was away phoning for an ambulance. Brits burst in and insisted on raiding the house, demanding to know where her husband was. Despite her obvious condition, and the explanation that he had gone for an ambulance, the raid continued.

Strangely enough the O'Hagans suffered a carbon-copy raid when Mrs. O'Hagan was in labour with her first child.

McNAUGHT

In the adjoining Elaghmore Estate, Mrs. McNaught was another victim. At half-past-six in the morning, Brits burst in while Mrs. McNaught was alone with her six-year-old son Michael.

They let their Alsatian war-dog off its lead and the dog raced to the child's room and jumped on top of him in his bed. The child awoke

screaming and as a result of this experience had to be hospitalised — he has always been in poor health, having only one kidney and spending the first year of his life in hospital.

Michael has been lifted from his bed, since the age of two, by Brit raiding parties, regardless of his mother's protests and at whatever stage of illness. He was actually arrested for the first time at the age of three.

COYLE

Mrs. Sheila Coyle of Rosemount, along with her children have been subjected to such a history of harassment that it has become a way of life.

In one week before Christmas her home was raided five times by armed British soldiers. In almost every one of the frequent raids which she suffers Mrs. Coyle is alone in her house with her children. Not a day passes without Brits loitering at the window, making obscene gestures and taunting her in every possible way.

Often in the early hours of the morning Brit jeeps pull up outside her door, the occupants dismount and kick her door, before jumping back in the jeeps, and racing away.



All the children have been affected: the eldest Siobhan (aged 12) has nightmares and sleep-walks; and the youngest Cathal (aged 3) cannot sleep on his own.

A fortnight ago Mrs. Coyle sent her eight-year-old daughter Marie to the corner shop for a loaf of bread. Two Brit jeeps came along and one of the Brits shouted 'There's a Coyle! Grab her!'

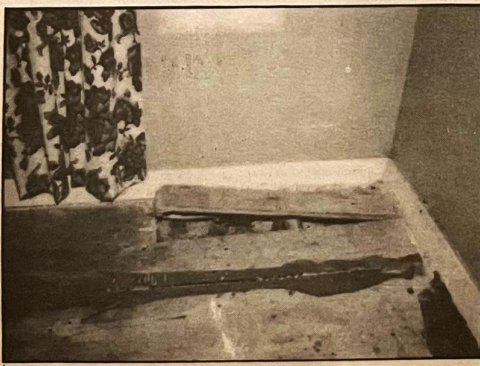
Marie dropped the loaf and ran

home as fast as she could — the two Brit jeeps keeping pace with her until she stood chalk-white and shaking at her own door. In their most recent raid the Brits again took advantage of their victim being a woman on her own.

In the early hours of Thursday 21st February Mrs. Coyle heard her door being kicked in. When she went to the door she was pushed aside by twelve Brits who verbally

abused her calling her a 'tucking paddy bitch' and irreverently calling themselves the 'twelve apostles'.

The Brits ransacked the house, roaring foul-mouthed comments from room-to-room, awakening the children. As they finally left one Brit shouted more foul-mouthed abuse stating that he would laugh when he heard Mrs. Coyle and her family had been blasted.



Floor boards ripped up in Dundalk house by Garda Special Branch while the house-holder was away.

Dundalk Harassment

THE HOME of Mr. S. Davidson in Proleek, Ravensdale, Dundalk, was broken into by the Garda Special Branch on Tuesday 12th February and ransacked whilst he was away. The gardai pulled up carpets and floor boards and scattered his personal belongings around the floor. Bricks were removed from the kitchen fire-place, and skirting boards were pulled out from the walls, damaging the plaster. Mr Davidson returned to find his home in chaos.

According to the Goss/Gaughran, Sinn

Fein cumann in Dundalk, and as Mr. Davidson subsequently discovered, local solicitors are reluctant to handle cases for damages against the Special Branch because of intimidation by them.

The Goss/Gaughran cumann also point out that in recent weeks members of Sinn Fein and na Fianna Eireann, and An Phoblacht/Republican News sellers have suffered serious abuse and threats from armed Special Branch men cruising about in unmarked cars.

DEPRIVATION INFLICTED ON PROTESTING PRISONERS

MARCH 1st 1980 marks the fourth anniversary of the removal by the British of political status for Republican prisoners. This weekend thousands will march in the streets of Dublin on Saturday, and Belfast on Sunday, to protest at Britain's criminally cruel prison policy.

A policy of deliberately depriving protesting prisoners of basic facilities, in order to force them off their protest — a protest which essentially consists of refusing to wear prison clothes, or to do prison work, in the case of the more than 350 blanket men in the H-Blocks, and of refusing to do prison work (their own clothes are allowed them) in the case of more than 30 women in Armagh jail. Having denied the prisoners facilities — such as washing and toilet facilities, and putting them on 'lock up' — as a punishment designed to break them, and their protest, the Brits for their own propaganda purposes then hypocritically claim the prisoners' conditions are 'self-inflicted'.

The situation in Armagh has rapidly deteriorated since Thursday 7th February when more than forty male warders attacked prisoners there during a wing search. Since then the women, now in 'A' wing, have been totally denied washing and toilet facilities, and are locked-up twenty-three hours a day.

ARMAGH

The latest smuggled notes from the prisoners' O/C report as follows: "Conditions are still as bad. We get very small amounts of food and it is always freezing. Not only the quantity but also the quality is bad. When meals come up screws leave it sitting. They give us our hour's exercise first and then after it they give out the food which by then is very cold. Also believe the milk is watered down. There is not enough knives and forks to go round and the screws give us spoons to eat our dinner and tea.

"On the landing above us male screws are doing a lot of work. Think they may be moving us up there and suspect they are putting wire on the windows but we cannot see what exactly is happening.

"This place is really dirty now, especially our cells, excreta and urine are all over the cell walls.

"The only time any of us are out of our cells is to collect our meals or to go for the one hour's exercise. From the minute one leaves the cell to do either of these things one is constantly bawled at by screws to hurry up. They are never off our backs, but of course they are ignored, and if we take too long we are dragged back to the cells...

"The male screws have started blocking the windows with big bits of wood. Not all windows are done yet. We can't see out of the windows, that are done, now. They are done in a slant so we have difficulty reaching them from the cells; but they are not closed in at the bottom so stuff can still be thrown out...

"A lot of women have lost weight — some have lost half-a-stone. We have a lot of complaints concerning medical staff: they have been asked for sanitary towels on numerous occasions but did not bother."

Finally the O/C states 'the morale of the women remains high' and 'we are pledged to continue our struggle for political status'.

H5-BLOCK

In the H-Blocks of Long Kesh casual brutality by the warders against the naked defenceless 'Blanket men' continues. And the obscene internal body searches continue with dual purpose. Firstly, to degrade the prisoners; secondly, to intimidate them from communicating their plight to the outside world.

Two blanket-men were badly kicked on the ankles by warders whilst being subjected to the obscene internal body search procedure on Tuesday 12th February, according to a smuggled note received from H5-Block.

Finbarr McKenna (Kashmir Belfast) and Brendan McLaughlin

The doctor (Emerson) asked Bernard how he received his injuries. Bernard told him because of the methods the screws used to search him.

"The doctor was not satisfied with his answer and he said if Bernard did not specifically name the screws he would not list his injuries. Bernard refused to do this — if he had he would have complied with what the doctor asked, Bernard would have been charged with false allegations.

"Bernard was not allowed to go to the toilet but he had to use the pot in his cell. When he did use the pot the screws watched and then searched the excrement. Also when Bernard was sleeping out, a screw stood beside him and told him to pour the contents of the pot out very slowly so the screw could observe.

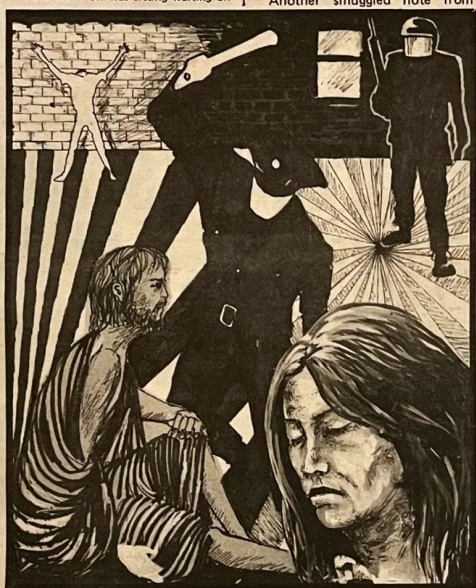
"No letter was discovered."

Another smuggled note from

(North Derry) were both bruised on the ankles by this brutal treatment.

A day later on Wednesday 13th February, Bernard Fox (St James, Belfast) was the warders' victim. The note from H5-Block continues:

"Bernard Fox was sitting waiting on



his visitors coming into his box. The screw told Bernard to sit with his hands straight out in front of him, Bernard just sat on, so the screw brought Bernard to the punishment block and while he was there the screw said he was trying to conceal a letter in his hand.

"While Bernard was in the punishment block he was dragged to the cell by the board. There he was stripped naked and bent over. During this he was kicked very badly about the body and privates. When they had bent him a screw inserted a finger into his back passage. This is getting to be routine — as well as being degrading it is very painful.

"Bernard's knee was very badly swollen and he later heard from the doctor that he had an aggravated ligament. The next morning Bernard went to the doctor to get his injuries treated and to log them on a bodychart.

H5-Block reveals that blanket-men coming out of the visiting area suffered serious harassment, three days later, on Saturday 16th February. The note states:

"The men were asked to give a prison number and on refusal, several screws attacked them without warning. The injuries vary. Most men were beaten around the head and stomach, some were kicked about the backs of the legs and between the legs and a group of men were sent to the cell block for a more vicious assault session.

"The following men were beaten beside the visiting area: John Coleman, Francis Gill, Ray McCartney, Mickey McVeigh, and Henry Cushman. A further three men were sent to the punishment block: Mickey Culbert, Perry McClarnon and Alex McCrory, who had a grim tale to tell on his return.

"After being assaulted outside the visiting area he was brought to the P-Block where he was stripped and a screw alleged that he had seen Alex receive something on his visit, and hide it on his person. Alex was roughly grabbed by several screws who bent him over.

"A screw, infamous for his activities on the boards, pushed his fingers up young McCrory's back passage. This very painful operation was accompanied by a barrage of punches and kicks, followed by threats of more to come. A frightened Alex was finally left in a cell completely naked and without any bedding or cover for several hours, while the screws threatened to come back in and do the same again.

"Nothing was found on this unfortunate victim."

SEVEN QUIT UDR

TWO MONTHS AGO, on Sunday 6th January, three UDR men from the 3rd (County Down) Battalion were killed when a massive IRA land-mine exploded under their land-rover near Castlewellan. The explosion clearly evoked echoes of the IRA's successful Narrow Water ambush, only a few miles away, and also in County Down.

Subsequently the attendance rate of part-time UDR 3rd Battalion men — who are only expected to do eight eight-hour duties a month — dropped dramatically. Seven of them, from 'B' company, were called before their commanding officer last week and were told to quit or to improve their attendance. They wisely chose to quit. A UDR spokesman described them as 'paper soldiers' whose names were on the books but who were not fit for duty regularly.

Last Monday, Lieutenant-Colonel Roderick Gordon Duff, commanding officer of the UDR's 3rd Battalion, speaking at their Ballykinkar camp, publicly acknowledged the battalion's demoralisation by pleading for 'about 300 more part-time recruits' to help bring their numbers up to strength.

IRA attacks

THREE ATTACKS were launched by the IRA against British troops, during the week, according to supplied statements.

A mobile military patrol came under IRA sniper attack at Asylum Road in Derry during the evening of Wednesday 20th February, when a number of shots were fired at two land-rovers.

A dozen shots were fired at a mobile military patrol on the Monagh Road in Turf Lodge, Belfast, by IRA Volunteers operating from a commandeered house, during the afternoon of Friday 22nd February.

A single shot was fired at a mobile military patrol in Twinbrook, Belfast, from a commandeered house, in Juniper Park, shortly before mid-day on Monday 25th February.

In all the operations no hits were claimed by the IRA, no enemy fire was returned, and the IRA Volunteers returned safely to base despite massive Brit follow-up and search operations.

Eviction threat

LEGAL MOVES to evict Sinn Féin from the Belfast Republican Press Centre (the Northern office of An Phoblacht/Republican News) at 170a Falls Road are to be made in the city's magistrate court on Monday 3rd March, when the Housing Executive are applying for a court order to recover possession of the premises. A notice of this court action has been served on three members of Belfast Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair, who state that they will not be attending the hearing nor will they be legally represented, and who promise that they will resist subsequent eviction moves.

The order to the Housing Executive to take court action came last November from direct-ruler Philip Goodhart — as a typical Brit sop to the loyalists — after publicity-seeking Official Unionist MP Harold McCusker had publicly petitioned for such an anti-Republican move.

Third attack

FOR THE third consecutive week loyalist gunmen have turned their sights on the nationalist community of Belfast's Lower Ormeau Road. Fortunately the latest murder-bid failed unlike the previous two which claimed the lives of two local men. The gunmen's target was an eighteen-year-old youth who was returning home last Friday night at one o'clock after an evening out with friends.

As he walked along the deserted Ormeau Road, the scene of many sectarian murders, a car with three men stopped alongside him. One of its occupants shouted to him for street directions and as he approached the car a gun was produced at the car window. At least seven shots were fired at the youth, but incredibly none of the bullets found their mark, and he escaped by running down a nearby street, Shaftesbury Avenue. The assassins' car sped off at high speed in the direction of the University area, the same district that those responsible for the two recent killings escaped towards.

Nobody flushed

WIDESPREAD DISRUPTION to the lives of nearly five-hundred families living in the Portlaine-Gulladuff-Toome triangle of countryside in South Derry was the sole product of a massive four-hundred-strong Brit/RUC search there last week. Despite claims by the media during the four-day so-called Operation 'Flush-out' that at least six, if not twelve, wanted IRA men were cornered, the dragnet drew a blank, and two arrested brothers were later released.

The ring-of-steel covering large areas of countryside and a four-mile stretch of the River Barn was erected at dawn on Wednesday 20th February and was not lifted until seven o'clock last Saturday night. Using helicopters with powerful spotlights the search continued through the three nights as forests and moors were scoured. Virtually no house in the triangle escaped an unwelcome visit; barns and outhouses were also searched; and people going to and from work as well as shoppers were stopped, questioned and searched.

Bore released

RUC INTERROGATORS at Castlereagh barracks dubbed a twenty-three-year-old married Belfast man Liam Johnson as a 'bore' when he was in their custody last week for a period of thirty-seven hours.

After being arrested from his home at five o'clock on the Morning of Thursday 21st February Liam Johnson refused to speak, or answer any questions, after he gave his name and address. His incensed RUC interrogators punched him on the chest, slapped him on the head, and tramped on his feet. They pulled hairs from his moustache and twice spat on his face. They called his wife a whore and threatened to assassinate him. They viciously described him and the people of Turf Lodge as parasites, rats, scum, and fenian bastards. Hoisting their true colours they told him they were proud to be Orangemen and no matter what happened they would always rule the six counties.

Despite this torrent of abuse Liam Johnson remained passive, staring directly in front of him. He concentrated his mind on a spot on the wall, thought of his wife and child, and repeatedly counted up to one hundred. Improvised distractions by the RUC men such as waving a wad of pound notes, making crude gestures and cracking foul jokes, made no impact on Liam. Eventually the silence routine, which more and more people are correctly adopting while in the hands of the RUC as the sure way of being released, paid off. Liam Johnson was sent back to his cell, to bore himself to death; to quote one of his interrogators, before he was released.

PICKET ARMAGH PRISON

Defend political status!

2 p.m. Saturday 8th March

Belfast Bus:
Leaves Dunville Park at noon
Derry Bus:
Ring 61208 to book
Dublin Bus:
Leaves Municipal Gallery,
Parnell Square at 10 a.m.

Organised by ad hoc committee
Supported by Sinn Féin

HOUSING EXECUTIVE TURN ON THE HEAT

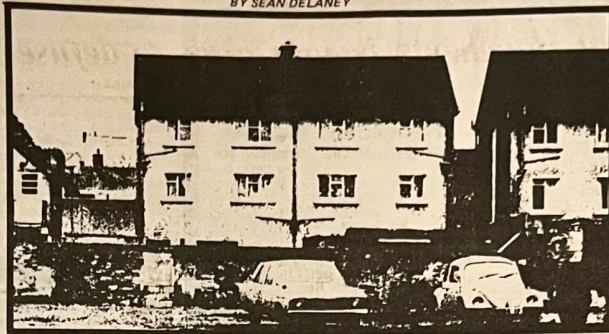
BY SEAN DELANEY

A DOUBLE BLOW of rent and heating increases which was dealt last week against the working class in the six-counties demonstrates once again that behind the 'velvet glove' reforms of leisure centres and mythical 'job creation' the British government has nothing to offer but institutionalised poverty on a massive scale. The cost of home heating in the six-counties, with the demise of the gas industry and the escalating cost of electricity, is relatively high, yet the Housing Executive, instead of ensuring that all their tenants live in adequately heated accommodation are really turning on the heat against their tenants' pockets through this double price rise.

The announcement, a week last Thursday that the Housing Executive is increasing district heating charges for 7,500 tenants by an average of £2.38 per week (from April 7th) — a staggering 50% increase — was followed up the very next day by an announcement of a rent increase averaging £1.60 per week which is to be applied (from June 2nd) to all the Housing Executive's 190,000 tenants.

HEATING

In addition, meters gauging the amount of heat used are to be installed into all the housing using the notoriously unreliable district heating schemes. Heating used over and above a certain amount will be charged for separately.



And those households who refuse to allow a meter to be installed will be penalised by the imposition of a 15% surcharge on the already crippling increases.

For those families on supplementary benefit the increased heating charge will have to come out of their already meagre allowance — there will be no increase in benefit to compensate them.

CALLOUS

It should be remembered that only a few weeks ago, John Gorman, the chief of the Housing Executive — in a vain attempt to defuse the Demolish Divis Campaign — was mouthing humble concern for the squalor

and degrading poverty in which the residents of West Belfast's Divis Flats complex are forced to exist.

Yet in a statement which displays all the blind callousness of the Housing Executive, as opposed to its pretended concern, a spokesperson said: "These tenants who use heat carefully and economise will receive rebates yearly, and those who wish to use more than their weekly budget will be charged accordingly."

What this really means was spelt out in a Divis flats survey (done by the Demolish Divis Committee), which revealed that 'economising' on heat has already cost the lives of elderly people, who are specially

prone to illnesses such as hypothermia.

Sinn Fein has condemned the increases as 'outrageous and inflationary' and asked: "With price increases such as these, food prices higher than almost anywhere else in Western Europe, low average wages, unemployment rising rapidly, and depressingly few proper social amenities, is it to be wondered at that poverty exists on such a huge scale?"

As usual it is the nationalist working-class population who will suffer most of all — not only enduring stepped up Brit harassment on the streets, but having to do so amid conditions of continually increasing and grinding poverty. The main possible 'escape clause' (non-payment of rent and heating charges) has been effectively cut off by the Payment of Debt Act which deducts arrears of payment at source from wages and unemployment or social security benefits.

REPORTS

Part of the history of the last ten years has been a plethora of 'official' reports and surveys purporting to examine various aspects of poverty in the six-counties. Invariably though, the reports are a substitute for any remedial action.

The ultimate nonsense in this charade of Brit 'concern' to alleviate poverty was a British government 'cost of living' survey published two weeks ago, which took 222 pages to establish the obvious: that 'Ulster is the poorest region of the UK'. With these latest Housing Executive increases it will be poorer still.

Creggan heating protests too cool

BY TERESA O'DWYER

A PUBLIC MEETING organised by the Creggan Community Association in Derry city, to discuss future action against the delay in installing central heating in the estate, attracted a large crowd to the parish community centre at Fanad Drive on Tuesday evening, February 12th. However the effectiveness of the Community Association's current campaign must be questioned. The temperature of the protests needs raising.

The Housing Executive have previously promised the Community Association central heating for the whole of the estate and the initial stage of this installation was due to begin late last year. But now the word of the Housing Executive has been broken. They talk of their 'ultimate intention' to install heating throughout the estate but 'due to cuts' the bulk of the scheme is now postponed indefinitely, that is, cancelled.

Yet special cases have been made of other areas such as Irish Street, Derry's largest loyalist estate, which is getting central heating.

The residents' meeting followed a street protest, a fortnight previously on Tuesday 29th January, organised by the Community Association and backed by Sinn Fein.

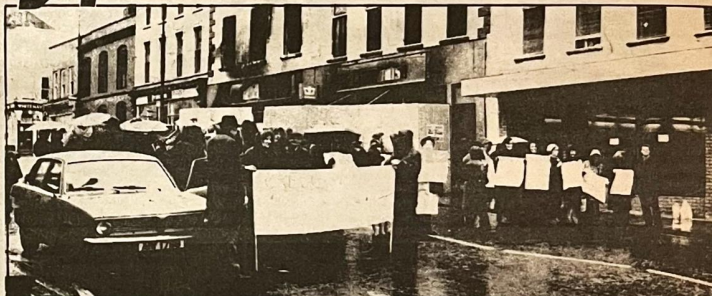
Despite the well-planned mechanics of the street protest — there

was a banner, amplification for speakers, and widespread canvassing — and the turnout of seventy residents, Sinn Fein representatives had misgivings about the handling of the march itself.

The protestors marched from Creggan to the local Housing Executive office in Bishop Street where a meeting was held in the street. (No effort was made to contact the office workers to explain the action, to win their solidarity. Instead the workers could legitimately wonder if they were the target of the protest, rather than the Housing Executive bosses.)

The futility of standing outside the Housing Executive office dawned on the protestors and they decided to march to the Guildhall to see the Mayor — Creggan resident Pat Devine.

The RUC told the protestors



Creggan Community Association, Derry, demonstrating outside Housing Executive offices

that they were 'not allowed' to march in the street but had to walk on the footpath. This instruction was meekly obeyed, thus making the 'march' indistinguishable from the shoppers.

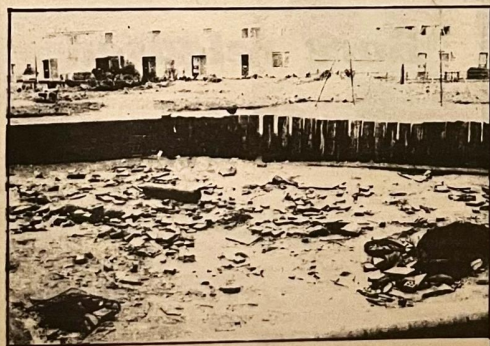
Once at the Guildhall the protestors made no attempt to get into the building despite adequate numbers, but stood outside in the rain and demanded that the Mayor come out to see them.

The weakness of their 'demand' was revealed when a minor official reported that the Mayor was 'unavailable' and offered the town clerk instead. This offer was accepted and the town clerk stated that although the council had no responsibility for housing it would do 'everything in its power' to help the protestors.

Sinn Fein has correctly given support to all such marches, but such protests must be analysed to see how they can be improved upon. Was this march an example of militancy which can be easily controlled by the establishment in its interests?

Certainly it posed no threat: docile and put off with a promise.

Perhaps it helped less to gain central heating than to improve the image of certain Community Association members as 'concerned community leaders'. In fact if no gains are made through the current 'cool' line of protests then it will only have succeeded in demoralising people from participating in further, less easily controllable, militant action which might have a chance of success.



Carnhill play centre littered with rubbish

CARNHILL PLAYGROUND an 'attractive nuisance'

DERRY city council have at last agreed to re-design the Carnhill playground, following complaints from the Shantallow Sinn Fein advice centre which had itself received complaints from many parents. This is quite a victory as the council is notorious in its neglect of nationalist working-class districts in its provision of amenities.

The playground is in a shocking state of disrepair: there is a total lack of swings or other playground equipment; the grassed playing area is a mire of overgrown weeds, bushes, and slimy mud; the sand-pit is full of logs, old tyres, parts of beds, and other furniture. Steady

rain quickly creates a small filthy lake. The whole place is an 'attractive nuisance' to children — a dangerous health hazard attracting them like bees to honey.

Brandywell Sinn Fein advice centre in Derry also fights a constant battle 'on behalf of the

residents of that neglected area. Currently the centre is seeking the replacement of a demolished footpath at Quarry Street.

Another problem being highlighted is the lack of public telephones — a lack which could prove drastic for the elderly, or the ill, in a crisis. After fourteen months, a heart patient, whose plight Sinn Fein had publicised, has been informed by the post office that he will shortly get a much needed private telephone installed in his home.

THE HAUGHEY BUDGET presented by Fianna Fáil's Minister for Finance Michael O'Kennedy last Wednesday is typically window-dressing. As always the better-off will gain much more of whatever benefits are going than the lower-income groups, and also will suffer the harsh effects more lightly.

Faced with the monster PAYE demonstrations of the past twelve months and the Free State's Supreme Court decision on married persons' taxation, Fianna Fáil had no option but to make concessions in PAYE. Thus they hope to defuse the militancy of those taxpayers who took to the streets and allow the ICTU enough room to join the new tax commission which will consider ways of 'overhauling' the taxation system over a lengthy period.

DIRECT

Direct taxation concessions therefore look at first sight impressive, especially for married people, and in fact they will put most PAYE taxpayers in the same position they were in 1974 in real terms. (Better than the ICTU's demands).

But the PAYE allowances have not been linked to the cost of living index (one of the ICTU's demands), and the present position will not be maintained for long in the face of rising inflation and the resultant increased wage demands.

The possible use of taxation as a decisive instrument of wealth redistribution has, of course, been ignored. The new taxation bands

will mean that the better-off will benefit to a far greater extent than the lower paid workers. Equally the increase in children's allowance with no clawback from the higher income groups will be of greater value to the better-off than to those who need it most.

MUSCLE

Those who have no political or economic muscle at all — the people dependent on social welfare payments — will still, in terms of recent years, lag behind the inflation rates even after the increases in benefits announced.

The proposed tax on short-term Social Welfare benefits, which has been dropped, was never favoured by Haughey as it always, looked too nasty for his PR style. But, by the same token, he was probably pleased that he is now able to announce its cancellation as an attractive and (at a cost of £7 million) a relatively cheap concession of an ICTU demand.

FARMER

The demands by the ICTU for increased farmer taxation have not been fully met, but the rich ranchers are likely to squeal loudly enough,

whilst some of the smaller farmers will be caught by the lowering of the tax net, the ending of rates relief and the limited capital allowance restrictions at a time when the agriculture industry looks to be entering a period of recession.

Taxation from farmers will in any case fall short by £15 million of the £100 million that Fianna Fáil had promised to raise from the agricultural sector this year.

The new Resource Tax, on all land over £70 rateable valuation at a rate of £3.50 per pound valuation is an extremely nominal return to capital taxation. The only comfort PAYE workers can get from it is that it is there and they might campaign for its increase in future years.

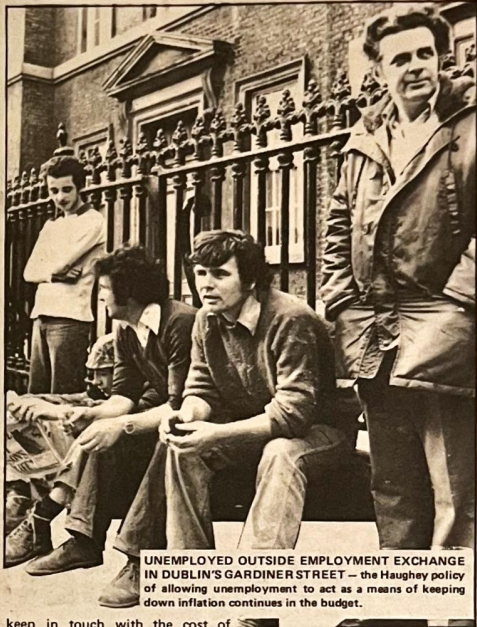
BITES

The budget bites hardest through indirect taxation and by this recoups the concessions given to PAYE taxpayers. Cigarettes, beer, wines and spirits are traditional targets for increases and do not escape. Petrol now at £1.50 per gallon, increased motor tax and excise duty in all will mean at least an immediate 2% rise in the inflation rate.

Increases in postal charges and social welfare contributions have yet to be announced but are promised within a few days. In the weeks leading up to the budget there have been large increases in the price of bread, milk, petrol, gas and electricity among other essentials.

Direct taxation and price increases always hit hardest at the lower-paid groups and those on social welfare payments who are forced to spend all their income.

In the face of this, O'Kennedy's cool announcement in his budget speech, that there is 'no scope for further wage increases this year' (outside of those presently taking place under the 'national understanding') is clearly nonsense and workers within months are certain to be pressing for wage increases to



UNEMPLOYED OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE IN DUBLIN'S GARDINER STREET — the Haughey policy of allowing unemployment to act as a means of keeping down inflation continues in the budget.

keep in touch with the cost of living.

These increases will themselves eat into the present good-looking tax concessions forcing workers into the higher bands of taxation.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Haughey policy of allowing unemployment to act as a means of keeping down inflation continues in the budget, and nowhere is there a mention of job creation.

The already announced cut backs in public spending — especially in direct job creation and in state

building programmes in housing, hospitals, schools and roads — not only will have their direct harsh social effects, but also will mean even less employment opportunities for those marooned in the lengthy dole queues.

In all the budget has been designed to defuse PAYE workers' militancy and allow their trade union leaders to enter, once again, the sterile government negotiation chambers. Its full harsh effects will be felt later in the year, but workers should not be fooled now.



Ballymun women's action

Members of the Ballymun Women's Action Group in Dublin recently picketed the local supermarket and were successful in forcing a reduction in the abnormally high prices at the store. The budget switch to indirect taxation will mean increased prices again and this week they will be faced with an immediate 2% rise in the cost of living.

JAILED FOR SMOKING

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

FORENSIC EVIDENCE used to convict a number of Irish political prisoners, now serving long sentences in prisons in England, has been challenged by Britain's leading forensic scientist. And a major controversy is likely following a BBC *Spotlight* programme last Tuesday and an article in the previous week's *Guardian* both of which highlighted the new claims.

John Yallop, who has had thirty years experience in explosives at Woolwich Arsenal, has established in new research that the same result as for the highly explosive nitro-glycerine can be caused by cigarette smoke and possibly other household products.

SPOTLIGHT

The *Spotlight* programme dealt with the case of Giuseppe Conlon who died on January 23rd this year whilst serving a twelve year sentence.

Conlon, already suffering from chronic tuberculosis for the previous sixteen years, was arrested in 1974 at the home of his brother-in-law Paddy Maguire. At the time of his arrest Conlon had been in London only seven hours, having arrived from Belfast on the arrest of his son Gerard who was later convicted with others of the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings.

(Afterwards three of the Balcombe Street Four and another Republican made detailed statements claiming that they had carried out these operations and neither Gerard Conlon nor the

others convicted with him were involved at all. All however still remain imprisoned.)

Along with Giuseppe Conlon were arrested Paddy Maguire and his wife Anne, their sons Vincent and Patrick (then only thirteen years old), their lodger Sean Smyth and a neighbour Patrick O'Neill who had called to the house to ask Anne Maguire to baby-sit for him. All seven were convicted of possession of explosives, and all have consistently declared their innocence since then.

The prosecution case rested on one piece of forensic evidence which they claimed showed that minute traces of nitro-glycerine



GIUSEPPE CONLON

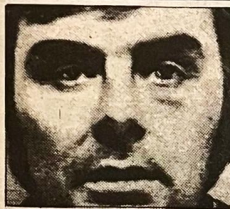
were found on the hands of six of them and only on a glove belonging to Anne Maguire. The *Spotlight* programme recalled that, at the trial, the man who actually developed the forensic tests used, John Yallop, said that they had been used wrongly and did not prove the presence of nitro-glycerine.

The test, known as 'Thin Layer Chromatography' (TLC) was carried out by an eighteen-year-old apprentice with a mere three months experience. Only one test was done, the results were not photographed and the samples destroyed.

Yallop, at the trial, and a professor of chemistry at Queen's University Belfast, on the *'Spotlight'* programme, both claimed that one test could not possibly constitute proof.

However the English jury, drawn from an hysterically anti-Irish public, and guided by a blinkered judge, found all guilty as is the common result in trials of Irishmen and women on political charges in English courts. Appeals were also dismissed.

The *Guardian* article, on Tuesday 19th February, linked Yallop's new research to the six Irishmen convicted of the bombings in Birmingham in November 1974. The reporter, David Leigh, concentrates on the cases of two of these men Patrick Hill and William Power. Both these men, he says, 'described



PATRICK HILL (top)
WILLIAM POWER (bottom)
— two of the 'Birmingham Six' from whom statements were extracted after they were brutally beaten by the police.

in later statements how they sat awake throughout the small hours, smoking nervously and waiting to be interrogated."

In the morning their hands were swabbed and a standard 'Griess' test was said to show the presence of nitro-glycerine, but when repeated

the result for both was negative. The Yallop TLC test also gave a negative result for Power.

The *Guardian* says that these tests convinced police that they had the right men and confessions were then extracted from all of them.

At their trial all the men complained of vicious beatings at the hands of the police before confessions were extracted, but the men had also been brutally beaten by warders on entry to prison to await trial and so the court was able to decide that they could not say when the well-documented injuries were received. (A number of warders were later 'acquitted' on assault charges. No policemen were ever charged.)

REPERCUSSIONS

The repercussions of this new research could be extensive, and could effect several more Irish political prisoners in England. However, even in the event of re-trials being obtained, it would be obviously over-optimistic to rely on British justice. But a major publicity campaign can highlight the injustices suffered by the Irish prisoners.

Already three Westminster MPs have stated that they are taking up the Conlon case: Tory John Biggs, Labour's Andrew Bennett and super-opponent Gerry Fitt. A campaign for justice cannot be left solely in such unreliable hands and extensive support and publicity is expected to be mobilised by groups already campaigning on behalf of Irish political prisoners in England.

CATTLE-RUSTLING, ARMS AND MASS BLOCKADES

BY DANNY MORRISON

ONE THING the people of South Leitrim certainly share with the nationalist people in the North is that they won't talk about those locals who carry guns in the area! Pickets at the McCartin Group headquarters in Newtownmore are extremely reticent to confirm or deny media reports about workers on the McCartin lands patrolling the grounds with shot-guns after 187 cattle (worth £29,000) were rustled off the land by a creditor. However, some broad grins when the question is put more or less confirm that the patrols have been out.

The rustling incident, responsibility for which has been claimed by Larry Goodman of Anglo-Irish Meats occurred on the night of Monday 11th February while the 350 workers and local people were at a meeting in Carrigallen discussing how to fight the receivership. Earlier that day the receiver, Laurence Crowley, who had been appointed by the Agricultural Credit Corporation (a semi-state body attached to the Department of Finance), arrived in Leitrim to assess the financial situation at the various works.

Danny Mulligan, spokesperson for the workers and manager of farming activities (land and piggeries), states: "Crowley was alleged to be doing a feasibility study. But, from what we could see of him the only conclusion to his feasibility study was an immediate close-down across the board. His system of working suggested that; the fact that one, two, three of our companies within the group were being phased out.

"He didn't actually say that but the actions were there. They weren't allowed to buy or sell and you automatically come to a standstill in a very short time... "Also, an ACC contact gave us information that that was the case. And the cattle rustling had a very frightening effect; the fact that we had a receiver in the morning and rustling in the evening."

ROBBERY

This fear was further heightened by rumours that Crowley was either a brother-in-law of cattle-rustler Goodman, or at the least had legal connections with him. Then on Tuesday another creditor this time a Dublin firm — stole a machine: a slurry-gater. With the robbery of the assets going on around them, and the unsympathetic Crowley from 'the Big Smoke' evaluating the works in the context of liquidation, the workers decided to act.

There were meetings in Ballinamore and Carrigallen with up to 2,500 people present. Local men began helping workers patrol the land where cattle belonging to the McCartins are kept. Some of the men, who operated in groups

of two for eight hours at a shift, were armed with shot-guns. The gates leading to the various works were also guarded.

Crowley's staff were boycotted and were not served in pubs or shops and then on Friday 15th with the build-up in tension, it was reported that his staff had panicked and fled.

But on Monday they returned and were this time refused entry, the workers having formed their own 'security system', checking identities of all passing through the gates, the workers pledged to refuse all cooperation.

The next day Crowley obtained a High Court injunction in Dublin prohibiting the workers from stopping him gaining access. The local people — that is non-employees who were not covered by the court order — immediately responded by taking over the blockade and manning the gates. The various factories then went back to work which was technically illegal since only Crowley had the power "to carry on or concur in carrying on the business of the Company or any part thereof."

Local people continued with the blockades and a member of Crowley's team only made an appearance once; that was on Wednesday week. He showed the crowd his 'holy' injunction but they refused to budge.

These solidarity actions have ensured massive publicity for the workers. Letters of support have poured in and the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union have also expressed support.

GUARD DUTY

Last Monday those on guard-duty handed out copies of John

Healey's article in Saturday's *Irish Times*, 'The Battle of Newtownmore'. Healey, the highest paid journalist in Ireland, though extremely conservative, had correctly written that it was not an economic issue as such but an attack on the social fabric of Leitrim.

And he grudgingly added: "Yes, it is emotional — and I make no apologies for it. I have no time for men who carry guns and never did and even less time for Provies, but I recognise this as a Provie country, Sinn Féin country..."

On Monday afternoon when *An Phoblacht/Republican News* reporters visited the engineering works, two Gardaí and Special Branchman Billy O'Neill from Cavan loitered about at the bottom of the lane. Up the lane at the first 'security' hut scores of people of all ages studied our car as we approached them and only broke their concentration and let us pass when they recognised our driver, John Joe McGil, the local Sinn Féin councillor.

Once past the second security gate we could see that work was going ahead. People were being paged to come to the telephone and animal feedstuffs were being loaded onto lorries.

The McCartin brothers, Joe and Tommy, who own half of the equity in the McCartin Group are unassailable characters as far as the people of Leitrim are concerned. Both are members of Fine Gael (Joe is a Euro MP and Senator, and Tommy is a local councillor), yet neither fit into the Fine Gael mould when it comes to capitalist economics.

Both have fallen foul of the party hierarchy over this dispute. Crowley, the receiver, claimed on RTE last Sunday that a few prominent Fine Gaelers were going to involve themselves but he advised them to stay clear and they did so.

Joe McCartin resisted approaching party colleagues until the last minute and now regrets doing so. There is a Fine Gael split in the county over the issue and one Fine Gael senator, Pat Reynolds has said that the receiver should be allowed entry. The McCartin brothers are certainly not doctrinaire Fine Gaelers, although it is said they were strong on 'law and order' during the coalition's term of office: the only explanation for this strange paradox in their popularity is that their job creation redeems them!

Beginning in 1966 with thirty-three acres of grazing land, the



brothers built a substantial business (with a turnover in 1979 of fifteen million pounds) embracing agricultural engineering, milling, clothing, pig rearing, a trading company and traditional farming. *Business and Finance* magazine criticised the brothers for being "dedicated not to profit, but to their employees".

It is this concern, and the jobs which they created, that has won them respect and sympathy from the people of economically depressed Leitrim.

LEITRIM

The people of County Leitrim have plenty to be bitter about. Totally ignored by the Dublin government they have always had to rely upon themselves or emigrate. And without the means to stay on the land many thousands of people plodded the traditional path to the Dun Laoghaire ferry for work in England.

Sinn Féin members in Leitrim are too familiar with the story of the poorest county in Ireland. "There were 54,000 people in this county when the war was set up," he says. "Now there are just 35,000. The death rate has been the lowest and the birth rate the highest in Western Europe. So we've headed the population figures."

"The county has been pieces of a political entity bit of an electoral constituency, a bit in Sligo, Donegal, a bit in Sligo, south of the county engaged in agriculture halved."

Over recent years, emigration figures have reversed due to the success of the McCartin Group and an increase in prosperity that brought.

The population of the parish, which includes the town of Carrigallen, is rising for the first time in the first century. Thus the loss of the 350 jobs would be a tremendous demographic possibly devastating the area.

What has happened? McCartin Group is an accountant's report. Agricultural Credit Corporation



McCartin Group headquarters at Newtownmore. INSET: Fine Gael Euro MP and Senator, Joe McCartin — not in the Fine Gael mould when it comes to capitalist economics.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT

AUGUST 1979: McCartins suspend interest payments to the ACC. Arthur Andersen, accountant acting for ACC assesses accounts for the year to July 31st and states that McCartins are insolvent.

JANUARY 1980: Bank demands payment of £1.7m from McCartins.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8th: ACC appoints Laurence Crowley receiver.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 11th: Receivership announced. Crowley arrives and takes over Group. 187 cattle driven off in six lorries by a creditor while local people and workforce meet in Carrigallen. Patrols are mounted.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15th: Crowley's staff refused service in pubs and shops. It is reported that they are frightened and have fled.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17th: 2,500 people meet in Ballinamore and Carrigallen and pledge support and solidarity.

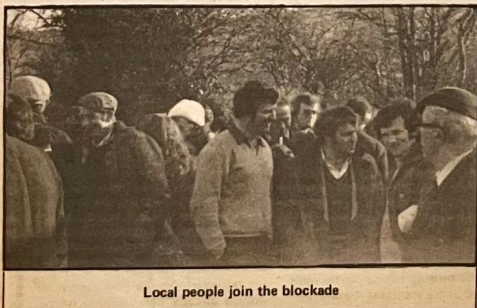
MONDAY FEBRUARY 18th: Crowley and staff return after week-end and are refused entry. 300 employees form their own 'security system' and pledge to refuse cooperation.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19th: Crowley obtains a High Court injunction in Dublin to allow him access to the premises. Strangers, including *IRISH TIMES* journalist, Willy Clogan, are asked to produce identification to prove that they are not part of Crowley's team. Local men, some armed, help workers patrol the land where cattle belonging to McCartins are kept. Fields and business premises also guarded.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20th: Local people assume responsibility for the blockades as a tactical way around Crowley's injunction. Work resumes on the farms and engineering works. 500 people gather at 7 a.m. waiting for Crowley. Banner hung across road which reads "Leitrim will not lie down for Collins or Crowley", and a placard read "Welcome Home Lord Leitrim" a reference to the unpopular landlord, the third Earl of Leitrim who was assassinated in 1878. Crowley's staff turn away. At press conference two Bishops appeal for more time and state aid. But Bishop McKiernan said they did not support the blockades: "Naturally enough, we don't support any kind of illegality". Free State Minister for Finance, Brit collaborator Michael O'Kennedy refuses to

meet Newtownmore the receiver. **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21st:** F. O'Grady and T. Research Centre issue Empire could be made contradict ACC's account local people who are Look-outs are posted which Crowley's employees. McCa the ACC and receiver firm. Hearing is put

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22nd: application to have next Thursday. The act as mediator. For the removal of Joe McGil seconds Motion, which is immediate action that exists in the



Local people join the blockade

LABOURERS



January stated that they were incurring heavy losses (mostly as a result of the depression in the pig industry), that they owed £1.7 million to the bank and were insolvent.

Andersen, the accountant, also said that net assets amounted to £575,930, whereas the McCartins say that net assets amount to £2 million.

Joe McCartin says that the accountants "came to us as enemies — they understood nothing about agriculture."

Nevertheless, on the basis of the accountant's report the ACC appointed a receiver and when it was suspected that Crowley was there merely to dispose of the assets the situation exploded.

The McCartin's case has been given a welcome boost by a report from *An Foras Taluntais* (the

Agricultural Research Centre) last Thursday 21st February, which stated that their pig empire could be making a profit of £335,000 a year.

They contradicted the ACC's accountant's report and stated that the piggeries and ancillary facilities alone are worth about £2,250,000. Of the expensive fattening unit for which the McCartin brothers were criticised, the report says it is "one of the most impressive we have ever seen."

People on guard duty (at which incidentally the women have taken a prominent role) are extremely determined to see that Crowley is kept out and that work continues.

One woman said: "We've been treated like lepers by the Government. Just four miles down the

road from here there is a school with no toilet or running water for the kids to wash their hands. Charlie Haughey gave the kids toothbrushes but they've no water!"

THE LAW

On Monday there was some doubt as to whether Crowley could legally prevent local people from protesting and from participating in the blockade but later that afternoon it emerged that he done just that and succeeded in getting an order "restricting Daniel Mulligan or any other person acting in concert with him, from interfering with or obstructing the access of the receiver" to one of the group's premises.

Crowley will probably now need Garda protection to gain entry.

One farmer commented on this aspect: "There's means round that too."

Asked, "But what if 'the law' goes against you?" he said "I wouldn't comment on what we'd do next."

The demands of the people of south Leitrim are simple — the preservation of the 350 jobs and the McCartin Group which they generally regard as wholesome and as benign as the sun or a good piece of land.

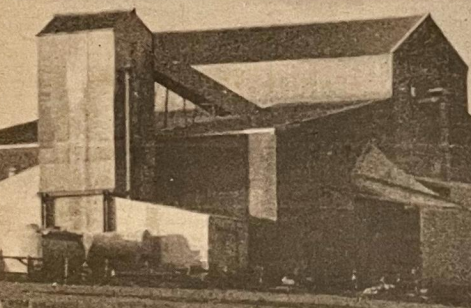
For anyone to raise any greater demands would cause confusion and one would be scowled at.

Danny Mulligan says: "Labour relations have been excellent over the years. As you know we are not unionised. We have nothing whatsoever against unions."

"Basically the reason why unions come into a place is because there is a lack of satisfaction between staff and owners or managers. But if you have a situation where if somebody has a grievance and there is always someone available to deal with it this I think covers the role of the unions."

"We are very happy that some of the unions throughout the country have expressed support for us."

The Agricultural Credit Corporation have adopted an intransigent position, have refused offers of mediation, and are insisting that Crowley gains access. The people of Leitrim are totally behind the struggle to keep him out and are prepared to cross 'the Law' to do so. When that happens strange stirrings take place in the heart.



AT McCARTINS

McCartins' court to have receiver removed is adjourned until 22nd. IFA President, Paddy Lane, offers to set up a 'fighting fund' is set up to campaign against the receiver. Sinn Féin councillor John Gormley motioned at Leitrim County Council. A motion was passed, calls on the ACC "to take action to defuse the present serious situation in the McCartin Group of Companies by

withdrawing the companies from receivership" and calls for the appointment of a financial controller acceptable to both parties.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24th: Hundreds of people demonstrate their solidarity with McCartin workers and turn up at the various blockades.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 25th: Michael Culligan of ACC turns down offers of mediation. Crowley wins injunction in Dublin High Court to prevent "Daniel Mulligan or any other person acting in concert with him, from interfering with or obstructing the access of the receiver". But the injunction is only to apply to the premises of T. and J. Farms Ltd, not to the other companies in the group.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26th: An application by McCartin Brothers (Clothing) Ltd for an injunction to have the receiver removed from the company is adjourned until next Monday. On the pretence that the injunction against McCartin workers has 'legalised' the position, the Fianna Fáil government change their minds and the Fianna Fáil government change their minds and the Fianna Fáil government attempt to meet the parties involved to discuss the situation.

CAINT GAN BHRI

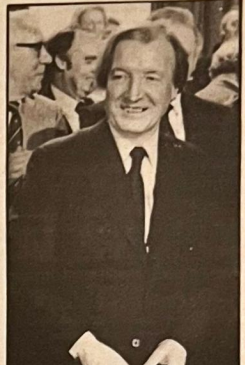
— Tomás Ó Sé.

Sárshaothar lán den cur i gcéill, de bhreaga agus den fhiminteacht ab ea oráid Chathal Ó hEochaidh ag Ard — Fheis Fhianna Fáil le déanaí. Bhí sé soiléir san oráid go bhfuil deacrachtaí ag Fianna Fáil nuair a bhíonn orthu dul thar manaí simplí a úsáideann siad aimsir thoghcháin.

Is ar cheist an Tuaiscirt is fearr a bhí déchiailú Fhianna Fáil le feiscint. Dúirt Ó hEochaidh gur mór an tionchar a bheadh ag ráiteas ó Rialtas na Breataine gur mhaith leo ath-aontú na hÉireann. Dar leis is leor sin chun Bóthar na Síochána a oscailt romhainn.

Is fuirist a fheiceáil nach bhfuil sé féin ná a pháirtí ag fulaingt faoi dhaoasmacht Arm na Breataine. Tá sé fuirist caint a dhéanamh i mBaile Átha Cliath nuair nach bhfuil ort cónaí a dhéanamh i dTuaisceart na hÉireann.

Tugann sé an Cheist Náisiúnta ar Cheist an Tuaiscirt ach mar sin féin is dóig leis gur páirtí náisiúnta é Fianna Fáil. Níor chuala mise riann go raibh cumainn ag Fianna Fáil sna sé Chontae, Nó, an amhligh go gceapann sé gur ionann an náisiún agus stát na Sé Chontae fíchead?



O hEochaidh ag gairt tar eis do dultalamog a chur ar na teachtaí arís.

DOSHEACHANTA

Dúirt sé gur Stát saorga ab ea an Stát a cuireadh ar bun sna Sé Chontae agus gur coinníodh ina bheatha an stát le modhanna saorga. Dúirt sé leis go raibh sé dosheachanta sa chas sin ach go mbeadh fóiréigean agus cur faoi mar thoradh ar sin.

Is ainneoin sin dúirt sé go raibh sé sásta com-obairiú sin gur faoi chois a leanann an forfáig dosheachanta ach níl sé sásta, fiú an Bhreatain a cháineadh mar gheall ar an marú agus an céasadh atá á imirt acu ar Náisiúnaíthe an Tuaiscirt.

Dar leis gur i gcomhtheacs Chomhphobal Eacnamaíochta na hEorpa (C.E.E.) a bheidh toradh le fáil ar cheist an Tuaiscirt. Tá caint cheana féin mar gheall ar ath-aontú na hÉireann taobh istigh den C.E.E. agus ní hamháin sin, ach taobh istigh de N.A.T.O. chomh maith.

Ansin bheimís gan neamhspleachas ar bith againn agus bheadh orainn glacadh le bunáiteanna de chuid N.A.T.O. sa tír seo. Níl spéis ar bith ag Poblachtaigh sa ságh as saoil sin.

OIBRITHE

Is maith is eol dúinn, Poblachtaigh, nach féidir a bhaint ag súil le faic na fríde ó Fhianna Fáil ó thaobh an Tuaiscirt ach amháin tuilleadh cur faoi chois agus caint. Is mar an gciaighdeán chaithéann Ó hEochaidh le hoibrithe na Sé Chontae Fíchead.

Dúirt sé nach féidir le hoibrithe a bheith ag súil leis an gcaighdeán beatha céanna mbliana. Deirtear leis na hoibrithe gearradh siar nó rudaf a chur ar athló. Ar ndóigh ní



O Coileáin ag bualadh bos.

larrann sé ar na caipitiligh agus na rachmasóirí gearradh siar — ní bheinn ag súil lena mhalairt uaidh ós rud é gur milliúnaí é féin.

Bhagair sé díthe nua, ar oibrithe a dheineann iarracht a gcearta a bhaint amach. Ní hamháin gur thug sé bagairt uaidh ach bhain sé úsáid as breaga agus leathbhéaga chomh maith.

BRÉAGA

Dúirt sé go raibh duine ar bith a bhí ag rá go bhféadfá seirbhís rialtais a ardú agus cáin dhíreach agus indíreach a ísliú, ag cur an pobal ar seachrán. Ní fíor sin mar tá go leor sílte eile chun airgead a bhailiú seachas i gcáin. D'fhéadfaidís ár n-achmhainní náidártha a náisiúin in éineacht leis na bainc agus na mór chomhluchtaí.

Ach sin arís é, b'fhearr le Fianna Fáil cur faoi chois in ionad cur i gcoinne an chórais is cúis leis an bhfad.

Is ag caint mar gheall ar an nGaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht is mó a léiríonn sé fímhíneacht Fhianna Fáil. Dúirt sé "Ba pheaca in éadan an náisiúin ligint don ghaeilge dul as." Ní deireann sé gur lean meath na gaeilge agus go leanann fóis, agus Fianna Fáil i gcumhacht arís.

BÉALGHRÁ

Mar is gníth thug sé béalghrá don teanga ach sin an méid. Teastaíonn uaidh an Ghaeltacht a choinneáil slán le go mbeadh sí mar chúnamh agus lucht foghlama na teanga sa tír seo. Dúirt sé leis gurb í an cúspóir sin ceann de phríomhthábhachtanna an Udarais nua gaeilteacha.

Ní mar sin a fhéachann ghraiceacht na Poblachta ar an nGaeilteacht. Ní saotharlann mór í chun gur féidir le daoine Gaeilge a fhoghlaim ann. Pobal daoine is ea na gaeilteacht atá agus tá sé de cheart acu cosaint d'fháil ós na fórsaí atá a ionasáí agus ag bagairt ar chaighdeán na beatha atá acu. Seasann Gluaiseacht na Poblachta le muinntir na Gaeilteacha sin iarracht atá a dhéanamh acu chun a gcearta a bhaint amach.

Dúirt sé níos déanaí go nglacann sé leis an príonsabal go bhfuil sé de cheart ag daoine seirbhís i nGaeilge d'fháil ó fheidhmeannaigh an Stáit. Ach, ní raibh sé sásta a rá go gcuirf an príonsabal sin i bhfeidhm. "You, and your f...ing Irish," mar a dúirt bleachtairse speisialta liom.

I ndeireadh na dála, tá sé soiléir nach bhfuil reiteach ar fhadhbanna na tíre seo ag Fianna Fáil. Ní féidir a bheith ag súil le faic uathu.

Postmhála



All letters should be addressed to the Editor —
An Phoblacht/Republican News, 170a Falls Rd.,
Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin

ARMAGH P.O.W.s

A chara,

In Armagh gaol there are four female POWs who are classed by the authorities as 'Special Category' prisoners — meaning they were arrested before March 1st 1976 and therefore have political status. These four POWs are housed in 'C' wing where they have no contact with their comrades 'on protest' or the remand POWs, who are housed in different wings.

One would think that since there are only four with political status, that the prison authorities would have a more lenient attitude towards these women. Instead the prison authorities are attempting to make life as difficult as possible for them.

Before the withdrawal of political status restrictions on these POWs were reasonably limited but with the introduction of Britain's criminalisation policy, the prison authorities began to clamp down on these women restricting them to the bare minimum of what they were entitled to.

The prison authorities have gone a step further: these four POWs no longer receive the bare minimum. Now there is a gross infringement of their rights.

Each of these women are entitled to one visit and parcel per week — included in the parcel are 250 cigarettes. Two of these POWs have been refused their weekly quota of cigarettes.

On each occasion when cigarettes have been left in by relatives, the screws have returned them. This is a deliberate violation of their rights.

They are also no longer allowed the use of the yard for exercise in the evenings. The reason given was 'security' although the yard has been used for the past five years! Several items of clothing have been refused entry to the jail as a colour restriction has now been introduced.

The prison authorities seem geared towards a definite policy of withdrawing privileges from the POWs in 'C' wing. Their comrades 'on protest' have lost all privileges for refusing to accept the criminalisation policy.

But the prison authorities not content with causing hardship there have had the audacity to approach the women in 'C' wing suggesting they partake in prison work!

I intend their aim becomes clear. The prison authorities are now attempting to phase out political status completely.

P.R.O.,
'A' Company,
Armagh gaol.

Government's attitude to Northern Ireland very forcefully in Rome, and it is recognised that his efforts persuaded the Pope NOT to refer in Ireland to the controversy surrounding H-Block at the Maze Prison."

Are we to take it that Human Rights for Irish Catholics, and claims upon the Pope, are to be regulated by a Swiss Archbishop working in London?

Or, is it the case that, when it comes to pushing this issue under the carpet, anyone and everyone can lend a hand; but when it comes to bringing such a horrific subject to public view in order to have something done about it, e.g. Irish National Caucus in U.S.A., these people are told to 'mind their own business'?

P.R.O.,
South Derry and
South West Antrim
Relatives Action Committee.



Hackney march

Dear Editor,

On Saturday 2nd February the East London Branch of the Troops Out Movement held a local march through the Hackney area to publicise the conditions of prisoners in the H-Blocks, in Armagh and in English jails, and to get support for the demand for political status.

Over a hundred people attended, including representatives of Sinn Féin, the IRSP, Women & Ireland, RCG, RCT, the RCL and several London TOM branches.

As a local action, it was designed not for large numbers of people, but to be as visible and clear as possible. Unlike the situation a couple of years ago, the march met with little hostility and many people, including some of the numerous West Indian community in Hackney showed their support.

Anne Zel,
East London TOM,
Box UT,
2a St. Pauls Road,
London.

Quaking

A chara,

On the recent BBC TV programme about the British Official Training School, referring to Crossmaglen, Kitson stated "We are up against 500 notorious terrorists". That's a laugh, and its proof that the Brits are quaking!

Was he not ashamed to let such a demoralised statement be uttered. He well knows that there are 15,000 British soldiers in occupation of the six counties. We now know they outnumber the Provos 30 to 1.

So even with armoured cars, tanks and helicopters they still know that 500 Provos are a force to be feared and reckoned with.

Una Toal,
Newry Road,
Dundalk.



Building buses

A chara,

The Robert Emmet Cumann Sinn Féin Inchicore fully support the call by the ATGWU to C.I.E. to return to building its own buses at the Spa Road Depot in Dublin. Regular readers of An Phoblacht/Republican News will remember that since as far back as November 1977, we have been pressing for C.I.E. to do just this.

In that month An Phoblacht ran an extensive article on conditions at the Spa Road works and warned of the danger of a possible slowdown by Van Hool the Belgian company which had taken over the works from C.I.E. in 1972.

When Van Hool moved in with the aid of huge government grants they promised the work force security with a lot of talk of expansion and exports in the luxury coach business. So convincing were the new management that the workers agreed to rationalisation, work study and flexibility with semi-skilled workers being permitted to carry out work normally reserved for skilled workers.

However all these promises came to nothing. The export markets never materialised and through gross mismanagement the company began to accumulate huge losses.

In 1977 Van Hool refused to renew its contract with C.I.E. unless it was given an escalator clause which would enable them to increase the price of new vehicles as they saw fit. C.I.E. refused to agree to the clause and so the writing was on the wall for the 300 strong work force.

The firm closed down early in 1978 and only a small number of the workers were able to secure jobs within C.I.E. Many of these men are still without work two years later.

Since then despite constant pressure from the Unions and many letters from the local Sinn Féin Cumann, C.I.E. is pressing ahead with its plans to hand over a new contract to a Canadian company which will set up in Ireland with all the usual grants etc.

The ATGWU and the other unions involved are agreed that they have not been consulted in a matter which so vitally affects their members and they are now threatening strike action. They are assured of the full support of Sinn Féin members in the area.

Robert Emmet Cumann
Sinn Féin
13 Abercorn Tce.,
Inchicore, Dublin.

'Suspects' rights threatened

Dear Editor,

The Executive Committee of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties is deeply concerned about the recent statements of the Minister for Justice that he is preparing a package of 'tough' laws which

would deal with 'privileges' of suspected wrongdoers.

Newspapers have had to guess at what is in the Minister's mind since he has not disclosed his hand, except to state that new legislative proposals would be put before the Oireachtas in March.

The Minister used the press conference announcing the publication of the Garda Commissioner's report to make vague statements on the need to "remove some of the advantages enjoyed by the criminals and strengthen the hand of the Garda in dealing with criminal activity".

In the Council's view, this is hardly an intelligent or sophisticated approach to changes in fundamental rules which protect the innocent, especially the poor, the socially disadvantaged and the inarticulate.

The Council feels that the Minister ought to have put before the public the kinds of changes he had in mind so that interested bodies could make a proper response. As it is he has been reported as saying that civil liberties bodies are "only interested in placing further restrictions in the way of the Garda investigating crime."

This observation is quite uncalled for.

The context in which this Council has supported restrictions on Garda activity has been in the area of ill-treatment of suspects. The need for such protection has been indicated by a Committee appointed by the Minister himself, the O'Brien Tribunal, whose urgent recommendations have been rejected by the Minister.

It is disappointing therefore that newspapers and civil liberties organisations have had to make intelligent guesses at what the Minister has in mind. One sure method of beating large scale and organised crime is by improving the means of detection.

Tinkering with rules of evidence and the right to bail may appear to be convenient and easy solutions, but the old adage 'First catch your criminal' is still the most pressing requirement. It has been pointed out already that the conviction rate in Ireland is about the highest in Europe.

Instead of periodic outbursts against rules and procedures that protect the innocent, the Minister and his advisers ought to recognise that the professional criminal and the bank robber are hardly constrained in their activities by the present rules.

Let him produce the evidence and the facts. Then civil liberty organisations could react in a meaningful way.

He might also see in his White Paper proposals changes that might increase and improve the liberties of citizens. This would be a pleasant response from a Minister for Justice.

T.R. Jackson, Treasurer,
G. Byrne, General Secretary,
Irish Council for Civil Liberties,
Liberty Hall, Dublin,
Tel. 895035 (Kader Asmal).

Harassment at Ballinamore

A chara,

Since my last letter pointing out the harassment of Republican sympathisers by the forces of the state in Ballinamore and surrounding areas, I wish to state that the raids and harassment have been stepped up in the past weeks. This may be, first, retaliation for publication of their activities.

If this is so it is a sad reflection on the maturity of the so called forces of law and order.

However, it looks much more a concerted effort to intimidate Republican supporters, and

indeed the nature of some of this harassment bears the evidence of a force equally hostile and bitter to the forces of the imperial occupier in the six-counties.

A few examples will bear this out.

In a morning raid and search of a house, the man of the house was at work, and only his pregnant wife was present. This woman who is of nervous disposition, requested the Garda to get her husband, or wait until he came home — only to be informed that they had the authority — and would exercise it.

In another case a car driven by one of the men who were held without charge on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was stopped at a road check near Ballinamore. The man's wife and a very young son were passengers in the car. The woman was shopping for the very first time following a confinement.

After a considerable delay the woman and child were driven home in their own car by a Garda and escorted by a Garda Patrol Car. The driver and a neighbour who was a passenger were taken to the Garda Station and held until 3 a.m. on Sunday morning when they were released.

In Carrigallen area which also had its share of similar searches, during a search on one house, in a room where there were four children — the oldest ten years — a member of the Special Branch occupied himself brandishing a sub-machine gun to the horror of the children.

This harassment and intimidation is probably to demonstrate to the British Authorities the state's co-operation — or is it an attempt by Charlie Haughey to shed the tag of Republicanism which he so carefully manipulated in his quest for power?

John Joe McGill,
(Wenton Leitrim Co. Council)
Main Street,
Ballinamore,
Co. Leitrim.

Cothrom na feinne a dhith ar na mna

A chara,

Bunaidh an coiste, Co-ordinating Committee on Women's Affairs, tarmáilín beag rómhán ar Ard-Fhéis deiridh. Tháinig mná le chéile ó chumann ar leith de Shinn Féin as gach aird den tír, a bhí corraithe go mór faoin leatrom a déantar ar mhna na tíre seo, go háirithe, agus ar mhna an domhain.

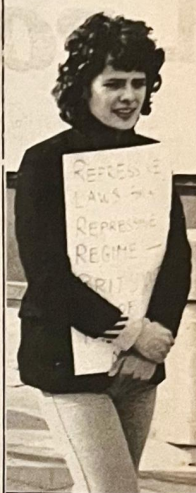
As na rún a bhí i gcló sa chár ba léir go raibh gá le díospóireacht faoi staid na mban ag an Fhéis, ach ar na rudaí ba mhó a chur díomá agus fearg ar na mná bhí an da bhar. 'Mná agus An Óige' bruite streach lena chéile.

Maidin Shathairn theastaigh ó Chóir Marshall, in éind le mná eile, go n-athrófaí an da díospóireacht faoi mhna óna 5.30, tráthnósa Domhnaigh, go dtí n-iaidh an dinneir.

Rinneadh é seo agus nuair a tháinig an 15 leigh sí féin, ar bhon an choiste, ráiteas gearr a bhí déanta umach acu le cur i láthair Sinn Féin.

Mhíneadh sí go raibh sé thar am go ndéanadh Sinn Féin polasí sróifa faoi mhna a chur ar fáil. Dúirt sí nach raibh na mná sa dhíospóireacht chun seasamh sin ach go raibh sí ina rún daingean acu labhairt umach faoina gcearta agus ar ábhair a bhaineann leo.

Néadar chur a bheith ciúin a thuilleadh. Tá an da seo ag



Spriag se seo neart ban a labhair go gonnata faoin ábhar, maidir leis na mná atá ag déanamh agóide sa phríosún, cé mhna a tuaiscirt agus faoin gaoi i a chairteas siad glacadh le féid-bhéil malaitheach na Sasanach.

Mná nach féidir leo páirt a ghlacadh i ngrúpaí éagsúla toisc nach bhfuil an deis nó an t-am acu, de bhar easpa cabhrach óna gcuil cífir. Maidir leis na feadhanna a bhaineann le mná go ginearálta ó 16 go 18, dílte na bhfuil baint acu leis an gcánán agus cearta na mná mar bhean chéile, ní mar chéannaire an tí, de ríréis é an dí. Frithghníúint, aire a thabhairt do pháistí, oideachas agus a léitheidh.

Is fíor a rá, agus é áfachach go leor, go bhfuil an choiste seo bunaithe ag mná chun aigne na bhfeir a mhúscail leatrom go dtuigfidís an leatrom a déantar i goime na mban sa chomhludair capiteilach ina bhfuiltear. Is fíor a rá, freisin, go bhfuil neart fear sa ghluaiseacht Phoblachtach agus smaointe coimeádacha agus roinnt smaointe capiteilacha aige, cé nach gompáidís é sin iad féin, bhéidir. Cé mhéad fear atá páirteach i ngrúpaí nach bhfuil a bhean chéile páirteach iontu?

Ní toisc nach bhfuil suim acu, ach toisc go nglacair leis agus na smaointe seo brúite ag an gcléir agus ar gcóras oideachais orthu nach bhfuil an mhaith i mbean ach amháin mar neach slabhaíochta sa teach ag freastal ar pháistí agus mar ábhar spraoi sa leaba!

Seo mar a smaoiníonn an choiste. Is duine daonna an bhean, deirtear mar atá an fear. Tá na cearta céanna ag teastáil uathu i ngach gné de saol, is atá an bhean.

Teastaíonn ón goiste go ndéanadh Sinn Féin seasamh i bhfad níos láidre ar son na mban agus a gcearta agus slabhróidí amach faoi.

Bhí bean amháin ag caint ag an Ard-Fhéis agus í suna sásta. Dar léi ní dhéantar an leatrom ina haghaidh. Ach tá mae éile atá i gcánnas éagsúla agus ní bheadh an deardach céanna acu. Mná scairte, baintrí, srl. Chuid an bhean seo ceist: "An chuid ní eile a bheadh uathu na bheir thuas ansin" agus í ag síneadh a mheán i dtreo an ardáin.

Bhuel, cinnte: céin dochar? Tá muid chomh mian, chomh háifeachach, chomh fúnnúil, chomh héirimúil agus chomh coisniasach is atá siadán ar an ardán agus — cá bhfuil — pas beag níos fear ná di.

Is mae,
Máire Bhui Ní Laoighre,
Átha Cliath.

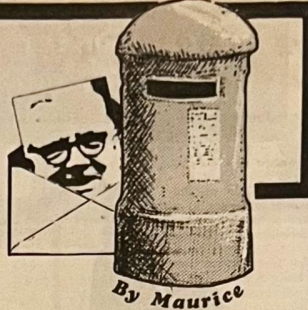
H-Block and the Pope

Sir,

In the first issue of "The Times" after the strike, Mr. Clifford Langley, the Religious Correspondent, reported as follows:

"Archbishop Helm is known to have promoted the British

MAURICE'S POST BAG



Dear Sir Maurice,

Can you do anything to prevent the drunken Guardian correspondent who ran naked along the seventh floor of my wonderful Europa Hotel denouncing it as 'a brothel' last week from publishing her pernicious tales? There's a few magnums of champagne and a Europa 'bombed 27 times' tie in it for you.

Yours obsequiously,
Harper Brown, Manager.

Dear Werner,

I have ensured that her copy is spiked, and will accept your bribe by delivery. A word to the wise however, perhaps you should close the 'entertainment room' on the 7th floor for a while until the fuss blows over, and stop hacks like Trevor Hanna and the Lord Mayor's two streetwalking sisters from frequenting the first floor bar. Thanks for calling me Sir Maurice.

Sir Maurice.

Dear Mr. Oldfield,

I hope you approve of me trading in the Rolls Royce for a new £18,000 motor.

Yours grovellingly,
Billy Bell, Lord Mayor of Belfast.

No. It will only encourage your sisters to take up kerb crawling. Also, the old Rolls is now rusting away in Duncrue Street and taking up space that the bin lorries could well use.

Also, I will not intercede to save convicted Constable Reg Scales who shot a 16 year old Prod for tampering with his milkbottles. As far as I'm concerned, he is now out of the RUC. (He can, of course, join the UDR.)

Maurice.

Your mightiness,

Many thanks for allowing Shorts to get the £20,000,000 order to supply blowpipe missiles to the T.A.

Yours, Phil Forman, Managing Director.

Dear Phil,

Not at all. Some wicked people have suggested that the money could have provided free school milk and buses for two years

here, but I have always wanted to see Dad's Army, take on someone their own size and blowpipes seem about right for pygmies. Can you ensure that they are used against Roy Mason?

Maurice.

Dear Sir Maurice,

Can you do something about the abominable BBC? I tell you, it will be a cold day in Hell before I ever let them use cheap shots like that again when they film my wonderful Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Yours furiously, John Z DeLorean.

Dear John Z,

I assume you refer to the TV news broadcast when you had the idiot Atkins out to the plant to test drive the new wonder car and it wouldn't even start. I confess that I think that this was your own fault and, it was, to say the least, criminal to let an incompetent moron like that even sit behind the wheel. Since you have managed to con the tax payer out of about £50 million, the least you can do is give a free one of your cars to me, if one is ever built.

Yours hopefully, Maurice.

Dear Sir Maurice,

Are you aware that the Deputy Governor of Albany prison in England is called Mr. Mole, and that he is a brutal thug who does his best to make things hard for Irish prisoners and especially the Blanket men?

Signed, Wellwisher.

Dear Wellwisher,

Yes, I know all about the dirty mole's exploits and have, for some time been endeavouring to keep them hidden from evil Republicans who might want to harm this splendid patriot and member of the National Front. Alas, I have been unable so to do. So it goes!

An anxious Maurice.

Dear Obergruppenfuhrer Oldfield,

Can you do anything to stop that red rag Hibernia printing information about us training with the UVF?

Big Jackie, Column 88, National Front/VMO.

Dear Big Jackie,

Sorry, but it's a bit late now. Had you asked I would have got Column 88, the NF and the Flemish fascists of VMO training with the UDR.

I gather you have all already had training with the TA, but, until they get their blowpipes, it isn't really worth much is it?

I'm afraid you are going to have to recognise that the UVF and UDA are absolutely riddled with traitors who think nothing about talking to rags like Hibernia and even the appalling Sunday News. Personally, I'd have nothing to do with them, but then, I suppose that there aren't too many sewer rats left who will even talk to you.

Commiserations, Maurice.

Dear Sir Maurice,

I used to be a devout and regular reader of your estimable paper, but a few weeks back you referred to my son Assistant Chief Constable Michael MacAtamney as 'Mad Michael'. Please cancel my subscription.

Mrs. MacAtamney

Dear Mrs. MacAtamney,

Nothing could have been further from my mind than to cause you distress. I do NOT think that your charming son Michael is mad - mentally bewildered, perhaps, but certainly no worse than 99% of the morons and thugs who make up the RUC. The reason that he was jocularly referred to as 'Mad Michael' was because this is his nickname in Castlereagh. Please accept this apology in the spirit that it is intended.

A remorseful Maurice.

Dear Sir Maurice,

Can you find space in your wonderful column to give a plug for the two Green-finch of the UDR who entertained the elderly and brain damaged members of the regiment at the Old Comrades' do in the UDR Drill Hall in Armagh recently. The cowgirls rendering of 'The Black Hills of Dakota' will be particularly remembered.

Signed Crossmaglen Observer.

Dear Crossmaglen Observer,

No.

Maurice.

'The slums of West Belfast', 'The dictator without a solution', 'The acceptable face of terrorism' and 'Why the Major wants selective assassinations'. Such were the titles last week in the columns of the *Guardian*, one of the main British newspapers, aimed at the 'radical' English middle-class and representative of moderate Labour opinion.

The *Guardian* decided at editorial level to carry a week of features on the theme 'Ulster '80' with the stated aim to "re-examine the problems of the Province and its relationship with Britain... with a view to stimulate public discussion". Indeed, if nothing else, the sheer amount of space devoted to the subject - fourteen pages in all - will surely have got through to the readers. And if last Saturday's letter column was any sign of things to come, it has.

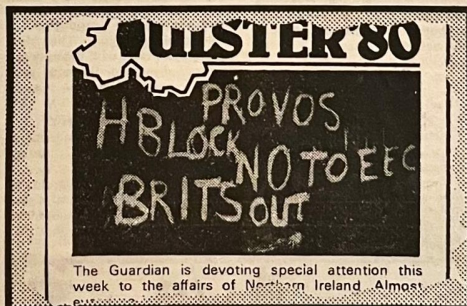
The thirty or so articles, spread over six days, covered a wide range of topics: the political conflict only accounted for ten, the rest dealing with housing, economic subsidies, grammar schools, the punk rock scene, etc.

All articles were not equally 'stimulating', and some journalists seem to have come back from Belfast without having noticed anything. John Fairhall's piece on grammar schools, Brenda Polan's article on the textile industry, John Robert's coverage of the sports scene, to quote a few, were hardly worth the bother sending a team over.

Of equally questionable value, the full-page 'wasted' on John

REVIEW
BY
UNA O'NEILL

A Week of THE GUARDIAN



Stanley's ego-trip entitled 'A Yank in Belfast'. Belfast deserves better than a fake Hemmingway, and Stanley's rantings on 'violence' would have been more appropriate in the *Daily Telegraph*. If a journalist had been sent to Nazi Germany in the thirties, and had only managed to bring back a page on the building of the new motorways, or the atmosphere in the beer-halls of Munich, he might well have stood accused of fiddling while Rome was being set fire to.

Fortunately, others did a more thorough job, like Polly Toynbee on the Divis Flats, or Malcolm Dean, who in a perceptive study of the

social services, pointed to the obscenity of big leisure centres in the midst of unemployment and squalor, and analysed the unjust Payment of Debts Act, foreseeing its possible extension to Britain by the Tories. That important point failed to be seen by Anne McHardy in her rather superficial account of emergency laws: that the North of Ireland is being used as a laboratory of repression by the British state.

The political future of the North was examined with great emphasis on the Atkins conference. Richard Gott toyed with the idea of 'Independent Ulster', about which Anne McHardy made the only valid point, that the few who advocate it do so

for totally opposite reasons, either as a means to return to loyalist rule, or as a stepping stone to a united Ireland, thus making this option totally non-viable.

Nowhere was the nature of the link with Britain studied in the context of colonialism, except in Ruairi O Bradaigh's statement in the Monday issue, and in a lot of the articles, it was this imperialist domination which seemed to be the missing piece of the jigsaw puzzle.

Words themselves can be an indication of a lack of depth in thinking: 'terrorism', 'the hard-men on both sides', 'paramilitaries', and this gem by Peter Jenkins: "It only needs one major IRA outrage, one nasty Protestant backlash for all the months of patient boring circular Irish talk to be cancelled out once more by violence, the traditional means of settling Irish disputes."

It seems that the *Guardian* has yet to discover that the key to the political conflict in Ireland lies in British involvement, and that patronising utterances on 'those violent Irish' will lead nowhere.

Nevertheless, it is a sad fact that for the North of Ireland to feature at all in a British newspaper, other than in short, often meaningless, news bulletins, is in itself a major breakthrough. Bi-partisan policy on Ireland has ensured that inside Westminster the debate has been stifled.

The media, by and large, too the line, and carry a large part of responsibility for today's lack of interest among British people. The *Guardian's* attempt is therefore a positive step. Whether it will have any effect on British attitude to their involvement in Ireland will be seen in the months to come.

duirt siad

"You don't know what you're talking about."

A member of the audience 'speaks out' to 'peace leader' Betty Williams at a 'peace meeting' at the University of Toledo, Ohio, America.

"I think you're calling me a liar," Betty Williams to her critical audience member.

"And I know I'm calling you a liar," Betty Williams' critic having the final word.

"I am surprised that the big one-two combination of policy speeches by Chief Constable Jack Hermon and General Sir Richard Lawson on February 13th and 14th last, did not get more airtime and news space, for together they represent the most significant moves towards de-escalation of the Northern conflict that we have yet seen."

"Peace leader" Ciaran McKeown, typically fantasising on Brit 'moves towards demilitarisation' as Brit/RUC repression is stepped up.

"In Aberdeen a scab lorry driver was admonished for killing a picket while on the other hand, in Glasgow a man who sang about Mountbatten's demise on a bus was imprisoned for 6 months."

"Socialist Scotland" pamphlet on the double-standards of British justice.

"The parties of the Left, principally the Communist Party, Sinn Féin the Workers' Party, and the old Liaison of the Left element of the Labour Party, cannot make any real progress until they unite. In order to unite they would have to achieve some sort of 'programmatic unity' on all the important questions including the vital national question itself. But they cannot achieve this programmatic unity while the national question remains. It is the national question which, more than any other, divides the parties of the Left. To say the least, a bit of an impasse. Perhaps in order that they may unite and make some progress somebody else will have to solve the national question for them."

Journalist Anthony Cronin, Magill magazine, on the inadequacy of 'the parties of the left'.

"He sees Northern Ireland as 'the major national issue and its peaceful solution as our first political priority'. On the other hand, or even on the same hand, industrial relations is 'so important that we will award it absolute priority'. The agricultural sector 'is in many ways still the most important', while 'it is on the industrial sector that we have to rely in the main'."

Journalist Gene Kerrigan, Magill magazine, on the bewildered Free State premier Charlie Haughey at the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis.

"The 780 members of the Royal Tank Regiment stationed on the Fermanagh-Tyrone border will be lifting their glasses and saying 'cheers' 6,000 times. For the troops take delivery of the biggest free round of drinks ever to be sent to Ulster when they get £1,600 worth of beer on Wednesday."

Sunday News, 24th February.

"Police and army chiefs in Northern Ireland are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of members of the British security forces appearing in court accused of being drunk in charge of firearms."

Sunday World, 24th February.

THE FEIN A.G.M.s

Dundalk

The Worthington/Watters cumann, Dundalk, elected the following officers at the recent AGM, held in the Sinn Fein rooms in Market Street:

Chairman: Hugh McMahon;
Vice-Chairman: Gerry McKeown;
Secretary: Sean Kenna;
Treasurer: Joe Ashmore;
PRO: Gerry McKeown.

The following were elected to be committee members: Philip Carr, Willie Newberry and P.J. McCaffery.

A vote of solidarity was passed with the political prisoners in Ireland and England, especially those in the H-Block.

The Duffy/Downey cumann, Dundalk elected the following officers at their recent AGM:

Chairman: Anthony Flynn;
Vice-Chairman: Jim Darcy;
Secretary: Mary Duffy;
Treasurer: Frank Duffy;
PRO: Sean Murphy.

The new officer board and all present, pledged their allegiance to the leadership of the Republican Movement.

A vote of solidarity was passed with the political prisoners, especially those 'on the blanket' and votes of thanks were passed to the cumann's supporters, and to councillor Fra Browne for the great work he has done for the people of the town and for Sinn Fein.

Louth

The Louth Comhairle Ceantair AGM was held recently in the Sinn Fein rooms, Forrester's Hall, Dundalk. Presiding at the meeting was Brendan Golden, Leinster organiser of Sinn Fein. The following are the new officer board:

Chairperson: Frank Duffy;
Vice-Chair: Margaret Woods;
Secretary: Jim Darcy;
Treasurer: Pearse McGeough;
Organiser: Pat Duffy;
PRO: Fra Browne;
Finance: Sean Kenna;
Education: Sean Geaney.

Frank Duffy said not enough houses were being built in the county, at the waiting list was at an all time high level. He also said that greater assistance should be given to co-ops.

Unemployment was also discussed when councillor Fra Browne said the government of the twenty-six counties had failed miserably in this area. He also criticised the many incursions by the British army into county Louth during 1979 by land and air. He continued by saying members have been harassed while going about their Sinn Fein duties, especially since the introduction of the Special Task Force to the northern part of the county.

Votes of sympathy were passed and two minutes' silence was observed for Larry Gordon of Drogheda.

New Ross

The Michael O'Hanrahan cumann, New Ross, County Wexford, elected the following officers at their AGM:

Chairperson: Moses Murphy;
Vice-Chair: Dessie Foley;
Secretary: Pat Walsh;
PRO: Dan McPhillips;
Treasurer: Nicholas O'Reilly;
Education: Mick Kane;
Comhairle Ceantair delegates: Pat Walsh, and Dan McPhillips.

The outgoing officer board praised the cumann members for their consistency throughout the year but expressed disappointment at the weak response from the people at the local elections last year. This was due mainly to the lack of understanding of what Sinn Fein stands for. They urged the members to educate themselves thoroughly to ensure the Sinn Fein policies were fully understood.

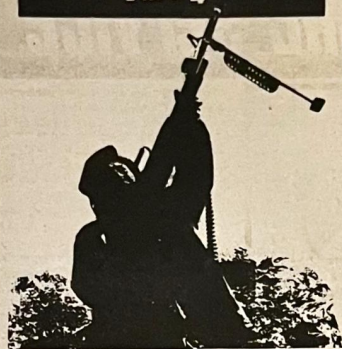
Ulster

The Comhairle Cúige Ulaídh held its AGM last Sunday in Castleblayney, County Monaghan. Delegates from many parts of Ulster attended and after reports were given by the outgoing officer board, Vice-President Daithí O'Connell took the chair during the election of the following officer board:

Chairperson: Billy Donnelly;
Secretary: Tom Bannon;
Finance: Mary McDermott;
Education: Mick Hasson;
Joint PROs: R.G. McAuley; Pauline McAteer;
Regional Govt.: Hugh Cusnahan;
Youth: Francis Molloy;
Delegates to RAC: R.G. McAuley; Mary Devlin;
Delegate to POW Department: R.G. McAuley.

The proceedings were interrupted temporarily by the sardal who claimed there was a hijacked car outside — which they eventually blew up. After moving any of their cars in the vicinity the delegates unanimously agreed to continue with the meeting.

REVOLUTIONARY GUERRILLA WARFARE Part 4



NICARAGUA:

'Prolonged popular war, proletarian and insurrectionist'

EVERY STRUGGLE for national liberation and socialism has involved armed struggle. In a series of four articles, Claran Dowd looks at four successful cases of revolutionary guerrilla warfare — China, Vietnam, Cuba and Nicaragua — from which Irish Republicans can learn and draw inspiration for our own struggle, whilst, of course, remembering that there is no revolutionary blueprint and each country has its own particular history. The fourth part of the series is on Nicaragua — 'Prolonged popular war, proletarian, and insurrectionist'.

BY CIARAN DOWD

TWENTY YEARS after the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, the people of Nicaragua showed that Cuba had not been a fluke, that revolution was not only necessary but also possible in Latin America.

The war of resistance against dictatorship and American imperialism began in 1927 under the legendary General Augusto Cesar Sandino. He led the war for five years, got the Americans out, but was then murdered by the dictator Somoza in 1934. This is the movement from which the present Sandinista National Liberation Front takes its name.

SANDINISTAS

The modern Sandinistas began to organise in 1961, in the wake of the victorious Cuban Revolution. For many years the movement suffered serious defeats: the guerrilla 'foco' of Patuca was smashed in 1963, that of Panosan in 1966, and yet another in 1970 was broken up by the repressive forces. The resistance movement was in disarray, and most of the fighters were dead or in jail.

Then a daring hostage-taking operation in 1974 achieved the freeing of the prisoners. But this was to some extent offset by the death in combat of the Sandinista's founder and main leader, Fonseca Amador in 1976. So, in 1977 the Sandinistas were weak and divided. They were to make a comeback towards the end of that year on the crest of a revolutionary wave, which was victorious in mid-1979.

DICTATORSHIP

An attack by the Sandinistas on the San Carlos barracks in October 1977 was driven back but it was the beginning of the end for the Somoza dictatorship.

As the mass movement against Somoza began to rise again in 1978, the 'insurrectionist' wing of the Sandinistas launched a daring attack on the Parliament buildings. By holding the politicians hostage they managed to get sixty of their prisoners released, and gave a big boost to the resistance. In September they began a big push against Somoza, taking over a number of cities.

This movement however was poorly armed and the people were not well organised, so a fierce military repression led to defeat.

OFFENSIVE

It was in May 1979 that the second and final offensive was launched. By June, the Sandinistas had called a general strike which paralysed the country (similar to one in Cuba towards the end of the guerrilla war), and then the insurrection began in earnest.

Town after town fell to the Sandinistas and the people in arms, for by this time the will for victory was generalised across the country.

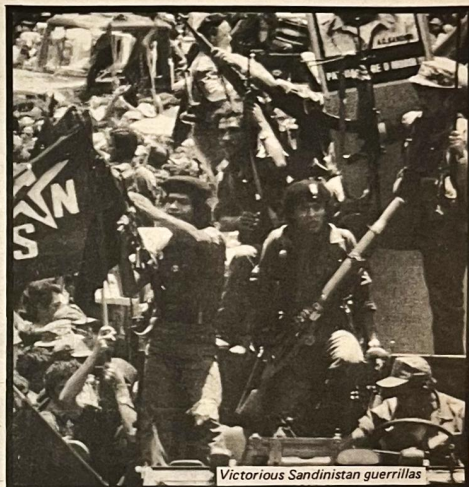
The actual Sandinista army which moved in from the north and the south numbered only two thousand soldiers, but some three thousand guerrilla fighters were also engaged, with perhaps ten thousand more auxiliaries. These last helped organise the local people's militia which were to play a critical role in the war.

As the National Guard was being defeated, more and more arms were distributed amongst the people. This was really a case of a united people in arms.

TENDENCIES

Now since 1975 the Sandinistas had been divided in three 'tendencies', effectively operating as separate organisations. A united command was set up in December 1978, and this was the one which led the movement to victory.

But, the political discussions in the period before are extremely interesting.



Victorious Sandinista guerrillas

One group called for 'prolonged popular war' following the example of Vietnam (which was closely studied by the Sandinistas) with a rural guerrilla force gradually building up strength till it could encircle the cities.

A 'proletarian' tendency, said that organisation in the cities was the primary task, particularly amongst the working class and the poor districts.

The largest grouping was the 'insurrectionist' movement, which followed the Cuban example most closely, stressing the efficiency of armed actions in producing a revolutionary situation. They also had close contacts with the middle-class opponents of Somoza, and social democrats, abroad.

COMPLEMENTARY

In fact, these different tendencies were complementary during the final stage of the war.

Those who supported 'prolonged popular war' built up a strategic mobile force in the mountains which was decisive in the big battles.

The 'proletarian' tendency built up the Sandinista political organisation in the cities, especially amongst the workers.

Finally, the 'insurrectionists' helped gain international support, but above all gave the movement confidence in victory through its audacity.

The implication is that a guerrilla movement should be flexible, it should operate on all fronts, it should neglect no area of the country or sector of the population. But, above all it must be daring, which is not the same as being foolhardy.

ROOTS

Many of the other guerrilla movements which had followed the Cuban Revolution, tended to substitute military heroism for organisation. After Cuba, the armed forces of the continent were re-equipped and re-organised by the Americans in the best counter-insurgency tradition.

The element of surprise, which meant so much in Cuba had now gone. Also movements arose committed to 'repeating' the Cuban example, but each country has its own political history. A movement must have real national roots, as the Sandinistas obviously have, if they are to succeed in mobilising the people.

In Chile between 1970 and 1973 there was an attempt to build socialism 'peacefully' and no preparations were made for the inevitable military repression, whereas in Nicaragua, the armed vanguard of the people and the mass uprising of the people coincided.

Victory was hard, but this combination was unbeatable.



Sandinista guerrillas in training

(Series concluded)

GALWAY COUNCILLOR PADDY RUANE

— 25 years of public service

SINN FEIN councillor Paddy Ruane of the Galway County Council last weekend celebrated twenty-five years of unbroken service as an elected public representative. The longest serving councillor in the history of the Sinn Fein organisation, he was first elected in 1955 and has been re-elected on four occasions since then.

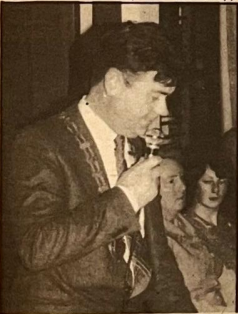
A dairy farmer in the Carnmore area Paddy Ruane has been deeply involved also in GAA affairs in the county, both as a player and, for fifteen years, as treasurer of the county board.

A capacity attendance was present at Flannery's Hotel in Galway last Sunday night at a testimonial dinner organised by Galway Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Fein to honour Councillor Paddy Ruane's silver jubilee.

Among those present were Ruairi O Bradaigh, president of Sinn Fein; Fr. Piaras O Duill, chairman of the National H-Block Committee; Phil Flynn, deputy general secretary of the Local Government and Public Service Union; and Sinn Fein Councillors Michael Nevin and Sean Lynch of Longford and Pat Hynes of Loughrea. The proceedings were chaired by Sinn Fein Councillor Frank Glynn, the chairman of Galway County Council.

GLYNN

Frank Glynn, paying tribute to his fellow councillor, described his qualities of honesty and sincerity,



FRANK GLYNN

of dedicated work, of patience and of the ability to mix with people.

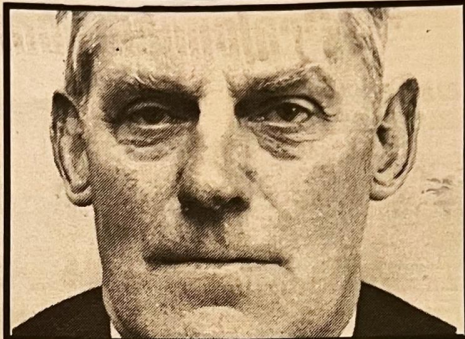
"Paddy has a lot of the qualities of the typical politician. I am not saying that he has all the qualities of the typical politician, I wouldn't like it if he had. But he has all the qualities of the perfect politician, yet he is not a politician in the general sense of the word but rather he is a true republican social worker".

O BRADAIGH

Guest speaker at the testimonial was Ruairi O Bradaigh, who said that he had known Paddy Ruane for almost thirty years, and had campaigned for him in the 1955 local elections. He paid tribute to Paddy's wife Nora and his daughter Ann.

The main text of his address is as follows:-

"The role of Sinn Fein councillors in local government is an old and honourable one, dating from early in this century when all Ireland was under direct British rule. Sinn



PADDY RUANE

Fein's complete electoral take-over of local councils in twenty-eight of the thirty-two counties of Ireland in 1920 was decisive in wresting control of the machinery of government at local level from alien and oppressive hands.

"Councillor Paddy Ruane, whose twenty-five years as representative of the people of Galway County Council we celebrate tonight, springs from that revolutionary tradition. His father, the late Tom Ruane, was chairman of the first Sinn Fein county council sixty years ago.

"Integrity, honesty and fearless and honourable representation of the ordinary people which have been the hallmarks of Sinn Fein councillors down the years, are all personified in Paddy Ruane. Tonight's function bears ample testimony to the respect in which he and his cause are held.

"It is important that the Sinn Fein organisation mark an occasion such as this in support of those standard-bearers of the Republican Movement who act in an advanced and in most times isolated position of trust and service.

"We wish to demonstrate our solidarity with our public representatives who have long been ignored by the mass media - because they serve the radical cause of Irish Republicanism and of the total liberation of the whole Irish people.

"For a number of years they, along with other Sinn Fein spokesmen, have been banned completely from the state-monopoly RTE. Any words spoken here tonight by Paddy Ruane, or by his comrade, Frank Glynn, who is this year Chairman of Galway County Council, will be denied live coverage on RTE by Ministerial order under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

"I'd like to congratulate the *Tuam Herald* on its excellent article last week on political censorship in the media.

"Such dictatorial censorship of elected representatives by direct order of the twenty-six county government is a shame and a disgrace and renders hollow and tainted the claims of that state to give democratic freedom of expression. The free exchange of political ideas does not exist in the twenty-six counties to-day despite the protests by so many local government bodies, including Galway County Council on several occasions.

"Nevertheless, Paddy Ruane, Frank Glynn, Pat Hynes and all of the other twenty-seven Sinn Fein councillors will continue to serve the people with diligence and courage. They will keep on familiarising their local communities - since

of Ireland's age-old war of national liberation is taking place.

"The Sinn Fein Councillors serve their local communities, since patriotism like charity begins at home, but they are also engaged in knitting together the first fragments in the twenty-six counties of the fabric of new revolutionary Ireland, the Ireland visualised by the men and women of the 1916 Rising, of the First Dail in 1919 and of the functioning and resurgent local administration of 1920.

"They stand 'in goodly company' to quote Roger Casement on the eve of his execution, 'and in right honourable succession'. To-night we salute their longest-serving comrade!"

CONGRATULATIONS

Frank Glynn then read out several messages and telegrams of congratulations including ones from other Sinn Fein councillors, John Joe McGirl, Leitrim, Robert Beasley, Kerry, and Finbarr Kissane, Tipperary. He then made a presentation to Paddy of a silver tray with Galway Crystal decanter and glasses. Expressing his thanks Paddy Ruane said:-

"This is one of the greatest nights in my lifetime. And when I look round the hall and see so many faces from over the county, outside the county, and different parts of Ireland, it gives me great pleasure to say that I am proud to be the standard-bearer of the people for the past twenty-five years.

"I want to make it clear to everybody, that as far as friends are concerned with me, I never ask anybody who comes to me, wanting anything, do they belong to any political parties. It doesn't matter who you belong to, if you come to me I will do my best for everybody as I have done in the past."

He said that he had been proud to nominate Frank Glynn for the chairmanship of the council and see him elected. He thanked all those concerned in organising the testimonial and presentation and promised to work on in the council for all the people during the next four or five years. He particularly asked those present to listen to Fr. O Duill who would later be explaining the situation in the H-blocks in Long Kesh.

A small presentation was then made to Nora Ruane by Irene King, secretary of Galway Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Fein.

Finally Fr. Piaras O Duill outlined the present conditions in the H-block, described the purpose of the National H-Block Committee and suggested what those present could do in the Galway area.



RUAIRI O BRADAIGH

they are debarred from reaching the national community - with the modern concepts of Irish Republicanism.

"The expulsion of British power from all parts of our island; the complete restructuring of local government on the basis of power to the people at the lowest possible level of decision-making and administration; the return of the wealth of Ireland to its people to be developed in their interests only; these are the basic concepts of Eire Nua - the completely New Ireland for which so much is being suffered to-day in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and in Armagh Women's prison, in the streets of Belfast and Derry and in the countryside of Tyrone and South Armagh where the last stage



Frank Glynn making the testimonial presentation to Paddy Ruane. Seated are his wife Nora, daughter Annie and Fr. Piaras O Duill.

BALLAD SESSION
The Barleycorn
7.15 p.m. Friday 29th February
Ratcatcher Inn
RATCATCHER
Co. Meath
Admission £1.50
Proceeds to An Cumann Cabhrach

PATRIOT GAME FILM
8.30 p.m. Thursday 6th March
Connolly Hall
CORK
Admission £1
Organised by Cork Sinn Fein

WINSON GREEN
PRISON PICKET
Saturday 15th March
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Organised by Birmingham Sinn Fein

LA EILE PADRAIGH
CEILI AGUS OLD TIME
Atha Cliath Ceile Band
Osta John Devoy
JOHNSTOWN
Co. Kildare
Monday 17th March
Dancing 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Bar Extension
Taille £3.50 - supper and bus included:
leaving 44, Parnell Square, Dublin at 8.15 p.m.
Limited number of tickets.
Please book early at 44, Parnell Square.
Proceeds in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach

H-BLOCK MEETING
8 p.m. Wednesday 19th March
ITGWU Hall, Bridge Street
WATERFORD
Speakers: Two former blanketmen and a member of the National H-Block Committee.
Organised by Waterford H-Block Action Group and supported by Waterford Trades Council.

DUBLIN YOUTH
A SINN FEIN youth meeting, at which youth from most of the Dublin cumann were present, was held last Saturday morning. Sean Crowe, the National Sinn Fein youth spokesperson chaired the meeting, and discussion covered a broad spectrum of issues relevant to youth inside and outside the movement. The main decisions taken were that a circular be issued outlining Sinn Fein youth policy, that pressure be placed on all parts of the movement to ensure more direct involvement of youth, and that a national youth conference be held in early July. The next meeting of Sinn Fein youth is Saturday 1st March at 11 a.m., No. 5 Blessington Street, Dublin.

FIAN SEAN HUGHES
Would the relatives, or anyone who has information regarding the late Fian Sean Hughes, who died in 1972, please contact the Republican Press Centre, 170a, Falls Road, Belfast. Telephone: 46841.

SYMPATHY

Gogarty
Green Cross extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Frank Gogarty.

IN MEMORIAM

DUFFY Paddy, (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of a very dear friend Paddy whose anniversary occurs 3rd March. St Francis pray for him. May Heaven keep the men who sleep from the ranks of the old brigade. Will always be remembered by Sally, Dan, Patsy and Martin.

THANKS

The James Connolly Sinn Fein cumann, Belfast, would like to thank the management of the Pound Loney Social Club, the young children of the Divis Ramblers, and the hundreds of people who attended the recent H-block function, for their generosity.

SINN FEIN STALL
Books, Badges, records etc. available
Dandelion Market
St. Stephens Green
DUBLIN
Every Sunday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Anyone who wants to join Sinn Fein can give in their name and address at the stall.

DRAW RESULTS
James Connolly Sinn Fein cumann, Dublin.
£100: 292; £50: 91; £25: 28; and five £5: 78, 74, 212, 218 and 31.

GET WELL
Tommy Maguire
Get well soon Tommy from Mr. and Mrs. Mackel and family, from Peggy and Marny, from Billy McAree and family, from Cathy and Joe and family, from Jackie and Kathleen Lyttle and family, from Bridie and family, from Patsy and Manie and Jim Reid and family, from Benny and Mary McBride and family and from all at the Republican Press Centre.
Brendan Gorman and Patsy Conlon
Get well soon Brendan and Patsy from Duffy/Downey Sinn Fein cumann, Muirhevnamor, Dundalk.

COYLE, Patrick, (H5-block). Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket on February 7th. Solidarity in your revolutionary struggle and much love from your sister Marian.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Solidarity son on completing one year on the blanket. H-bloc is just one more of England's cursed laws that must be maintained against Ireland's sacred cause. U.T.P. God bless you son and all your brave comrades. Victory to the blanketmen! From your proud and loving mother and father, Theresa and Damien.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Congratulations Frankie on completing one year on the blanket. Your uniform is your courage. From your cousin Hugh Rooney (H3), cousin Philip Rooney (H3), and cousin Gerald Rooney (H3). Also Theresa and wee Sammy, Sinead Mackin, the Mackin family, aunt Sara, Big Joe and all the Gowdy family. Victory to the blanketmen!

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Solidarity greetings Frankie, victory to the blanketmen! From your old friend and comrade, Wee Boots.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Congratulations on completing one year on the blanket. You are always in our thoughts. Love from Marie, Eamon and great nephew Claran.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Congratulations to my brother Frankie on completing one year on the blanket. Stone walls and iron bars do not a prison make. You may lose your privileges but never your principles. Victory to the blanketmen! We're proud of you kid, from your loving sister Rita and Terry.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Congratulations on having completed one year on the blanket. "They took you to a prison cell, cold and damp inside, they handed you a blanket which you wear with endless pride." Victory to the blanketmen! From your sister Maureen, brother-in-law Pat, Samantha, Paula, wee Pat, Willie, Rose and wee Damien.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Congratulations Frankie on completing one year on the blanket. We are proud of you kid. Your courage is your uniform. Victory to the blanketmen! From big brother John, Maureen, Fionna, Gareth and wee John.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Solidarity greetings brother. We are all proud of you. Keep up your spirits. Our day will

Solidarity Greetings

come. U.T.P. From Ned, Dymna and wee Sean O'g.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Solidarity greetings uncle. "It does not take a special day to bring you to our minds because a day without a thought of you is very hard to find." There are no men like the blanketmen. From Tony and Bernie.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). The Short Strand RAC sent congratulations to Frankie Higgins on completing one year on the blanket. Your courage is an inspiration to us all.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Congratulations Frankie on completing one year on the blanket. "It is not they who can endure the most but those who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will ultimately triumph." From the Martin/Tracey cumann, Short Strand.

HIGGINS, Frankie, (H5-block). Solidarity greetings to my brother Frankie on completing one year on the blanket. "You are not alone in H-bloc no matter what they say for outside your friends and loved ones are behind you all the way." Love from your big sister Eilish and nieces Lisa and Karen.

McDONNELL, Gerard, (H5-block) Two years completed on the blanket. We hope that during your third year that victory for the blanket men will come. From uncle Liam, aunt Lily and cousins.

McQUILLAN, Joseph, (H3-block). Congratulations son on completing two years on the blanket. "They took you to a prison cell, cold and damp inside, they handed you a blanket which you wear with endless pride." God bless you. From mum and dad.

McQUILLAN, Joseph, (H3-block). Congratulations Joe on completing two years on the blanket. "It is not they who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will ultimately triumph." God bless. From your sister Kay.

McQUILLAN, Joseph, (H3-block). Congratulations Joe on completing two years on the blanket. "Within the depth of that H-bloc cell what life is like we cannot tell, but this much we know because it's true they won't break your

spirit whatever they do." From your brothers Bernard and Owen.

McQUILLAN, Joseph, (H3-block). Congratulations Joe on completing two years on the blanket. "Degrading spiteful treatment, they strip your body bare, but the blanket in the H-blocs is the noblest cloak to wear." From your brother Jim and fiancée Pat.

McQUILLAN, Joseph, (H3-block). Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. May God and his holy mother bless you and all your comrades. From Mr. and Mrs. Bradley and family, also John (H5).

McQUILLAN, Joseph, (H3-block). Congratulations Joe on completing two years on the blanket. "Blessed are you when men reproach you, and persecute you and speaking falsely, say all manner of evil against you..." (Matthew ch. vi and xii). From Peter, Marion, Karen, Siobhan, Damien and Paul.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

FANNING, Eugene, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday to my dad, love from Aine.

FANNING, Eugene, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday Eugene. Love Sheila.

FANNING, Eugene, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday Eugene, best wishes from Cathleen, Stephen, Martin, John and Patricia, and all the gang in Gracchill Street.

HUGHES, Frances, (H5-block). Happy 24th birthday Frank. May the ones to come be spent in freedom. Thinking of you always. All my love, Margaret.

HUGHES, Frances, (H5-block). Happy birthday "top-along". Yet another night to celebrate in the "Pound". Love from Sean (H4) and Mary.

McCANN, Edward, (H-block). Birthday greetings Edward on 28th February. We are behind you all the way. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. From your mother, brothers and sisters, Lurgan.

McVEIGH, Sean (H-Block). Happy 22nd Birthday Sean. Hope your next one is spent in more pleasant surroundings. God bless you. From your mother, father, brothers and sisters. Also your friend Arter, Deloide and kids.

Paul Best commemoration



The Martin Forsythe Sinn Fein cumann, Turf Lodge, Belfast, held a wreath-laying ceremony in Milltown cemetery last Saturday, February 23rd, at the grave of cumann member Paul Best, who died in February 1976 as a result of gunshot wounds inflicted on him by renegades.

Belfast pickets



Belfast Sinn Fein held one of their series of Saturday afternoon "Smash H-bloc" pickets, last Saturday, February 23rd at the junction of Whitelock Road and Upper Springfield Road.

Belfast Relatives Action Committee organised a picket on the American consular office on Thursday 21st February to highlight the failure of President Carter — despite his much-projected 'human rights' image — to speak out about the inhuman conditions existing in the H-Blocks and Armagh jail.



A "Blanketman" in a horse drawn cage led an H-bloc march, last Saturday, through the Ballyfermot and Inchicore areas of Dublin to Thomas Street in the Liberties where a short meeting was held. Andy Connolly and Mick Flanagan of Sinn Fein spoke. The march which attracted considerable interest from shoppers, was jointly organised by the Robert Emmet, James Connolly and Frank Stagg Sinn Fein cumann.

Dublin march



A demonstration was held outside Gartree prison, Leicestershire, England on Sunday 17th February. The fifty-strong protest was one of a series by Birmingham Sinn Fein and was supported by contingents from Nottingham and Leicester including members of English revolutionary groups.



Gartree protest

French solidarity



The Comité Irlandais de Besancon and Belfort, East of France, organised a weekend of 'information and solidarity' on Ireland in Belfort on January 12th/13th. The weekend included a showing of the film 'The Patriot Game', debates on the Irish war, a photo-exhibition and a social evening (pictured here) with the 'Ugly Tinklers' Irish music players from Besancon. £70 was raised and sent to the Green Cross.

San Francisco solidarity

Bloody Sunday was commemorated in traditional fashion in San Francisco on Sunday February 3rd. Both Irish Northern Aid and Na Fianna Eireann were well represented at the protest outside the residence of the British Consul. In addition, individuals from the Irish National Caucus, the Pearse Connolly Fife and Drum Band, and Students for Peace in Ireland highlighted the ranks of demonstrators. The demonstration protested the continued presence of the British army in Ireland and highlighted the issue of political status for prisoners of war. Earlier many of the participants



had attended a mass at St. James Church for those who have died for Ireland. A Fianna colour party opened the services.

COISTE CUIMHNEACHAIN NA POBLACHTA

Applications for speakers at Easter commemorations should be made as soon as possible, giving full details of venue, time etc., to:

An Rúnaí,
Coiste Cuimhneacháin na Poblachta,
44, Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.

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