

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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British troops enforcing democracy — British style in Ireland — in Belfast at an H-block march last Sunday. With force of arms they were keeping nationalists in their ghetto, and in so doing caved in the back of the head of a nine-year-old boy with a plastic bullet (fired from one of the guns pictured here). The next day, Monday, Margaret Thatcher (inset) — who is the real direct-ruler in the North and who is directing these and thirty-three thousand other gunmen to enforce British rule — gave a lecture on 'democracy' which was full of typical British deceit and hypocrisy.

BRIT BARRIER TO DEMOCRACY

MARGARET THATCHER has quite a few inches over Mason, went to elocution classes, and has a more sophisticated delivery. But, whatever the poise, behind that twisted mouth there are still thirty-three thousand gunmen whose muscle she uses every bit as violently as did the much-hated Mason, to enforce British rule.

Last Monday night, Thatcher, the real direct-ruler in the North, delivered a piece of nonsense called

the first 'Airey Neave Memorial Lecture' to a London audience. She spoke about the mythical democratic North where "the challenge which the IRA have been mounting against our political system is still being contained".

Her lecture on democracy was self-indulgent, and full of typical deceit and hypocrisy. "No democratic country can voluntarily abandon its responsibility in a part of its territory against the will of the majority of the population there," she said.

The fact of the matter is that the British overthrew the democratic will of the Irish people (expressed in the 1918 general election), drew partition to suit a loyalist 'majority' and are now using that 'majority' to suit the continuation of partition. The Mother of Parliaments, as centuries of Irish history testify, is the mother, of death and suffering in Ireland.

Thatcher's pledge to loyalism, "we do not forget you, we will not abandon you", is an assurance that their veto over the will of the Irish nation stands before all other rights in Ireland.

BRAVE

So what about the so-called nationalist SDLP and Fianna Fail 'the republican party'?

What brave stand are they making? The slaves of the SDLP are playing their traditional role. They have been regularly trooping up to Stormont, like dutiful school-children, giving credence to the Atkins talks, whilst on the streets and in the jails Stormont's soldiers and warders repress Irish people.

Last Sunday a nine-year-old Belfast boy had the back of his head caved in by a plastic bullet, and in the H-blocks the inhuman treatment continues — neither of which has been condemned by the SDLP. They are craven, weak-kneed and self-seeking, and if they had their way the nationalist people would have been swallowed up long ago and compromised into a new Stormont.

DESTINY

Haughey's 'Soldiers of Destiny' are little different, and are extremely weak when it comes to dealing with Thatcher and the loyalists.

Foreign Affairs Minister Brian Lenihan went to see his Brit counterpart, Lord Carrington, on Tuesday but on Carrington's insistence discussion on the North was excluded from the agenda.

The 'nationalist' euphoria at the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis was misplaced and so was the big deal that was made of Haughey being born in Swatragh, County Derry!

Here, it was being said, was a Northern man who knows what Brits and loyalists are really like! Such nonsense.

Fianna Fail has Portlaoise jail full of Northern men each one of whom is a much better authority on British rule in Ireland and how to end it. It is clear that Fianna Fail have no conception of Brit rule or loyalism.

The loyalists know how to intimidate Fianna Fail and other Free Staters, Paisley, with a brass neck, waved his big finger at Haughey and called him 'a bully boy politician', knowing full well that Haughey because he knows very little about the North is suitably admonished.

REPUBLICAN

But, the Brits and the loyalists know that the Republican Movement understand them better than most, knows their motivation and can see through their deceit. The Republican Movement, as leader of the struggle against British rule and British oppression, is the only force with the determination and courage to organise a stand against their thirty three thousand armed soldiers and RUC men, to resist British oppression, and to strike for the democratic right of the Irish people to self-determination.

ARMAGH PRISON PICKET
2pm Saturday 8th March

*Defend
Political
Status!*

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



PRICES are going up that fast in the twenty-six counties that one is hardly back from the shops before another increase is announced.

The switch from direct to indirect taxation in Fianna Fáil's budget last week was a severe blow to those who were never earning enough to pay tax (and so did not benefit from PAYE concessions), and who have to spend all their meagre incomes in order to live (and so feel the full effect of the increased indirect taxes).

Recent figures indicate that one in five of the population of the Free State are living below the poverty line whilst the same proportion are barely above it. But the budgetary blitz was only one more onslaught on their standard of living which has been weakened almost daily by major price increases.

All such increases in the twenty-six counties are government-sanctioned and here are just some of the price rises granted since the beginning of this year.

January 7th: Coal prices increase by £3.03 per ton; the increase works out at £4 per ton for those who cannot afford to buy in large quantities, and therefore have to buy by the bag; and the price of Dublin gas is raised by 20%.

January 11th: 1p on a packet of cigarettes.

January 14th: 4p on a kilo of flour; and 29p on a cylinder of bottle gas, which is the main heating and cooking fuel for the less well off.

PRICE RISES INFLICT FURTHER POVERTY

BY KEVIN BURKE



Recent figures indicate that one in five of the population of the Free State are living below the poverty line whilst the same proportion are barely above it.

January 26th: Bread goes up by 5p, and milk goes up ½p a pint.

January 28th: CIE fares are increased by 20%.

February 4th: Beer is increased

by 2p a pint and spirits by 6p a glass.

February 5th: Just before Christmas electricity was upped by 10% and the ESB now get a 20%

further increase whilst coal goes up again by £2.32 per ton, or if you can only buy it by the bag £3.02 per ton.

February 25th: Dublin gas prices

increase for the second time this year, this time by 8%.

February 27th: Budget day. Petrol up 20p per gallon, 10p on cigarettes, 16p on a glass of spirits, 6p on a pint of beer, 20% VAT increased to 25%, are just some of the increases.

February 28th: More is to come. Cigarettes go up another 1p; petrol goes up another 2p; and bottled gas goes up again by a massive 77p and retailers threaten not to sell it unless they get a further price increase because they say that they are not getting their fair share.

March 3rd: Dublin gas goes up for the third time in two months, this time by 10%, making a 70% increase in twelve months.

There is every indication that prices will continue on this upward spiral — in the budget, for example, O'Kennedy promised that post office charges would be increased shortly.

The above increases have their immediate effect, but also cause further price increases as industry passes on these costs to the consumer.

It is obvious that the poorer you are the greater the proportion of your income must go on bread, milk, electricity, gas, coal, and bus fares. But not only the lowest-paid and those on social welfare will be affected by this and any hope Fianna Fáil have of a wage freeze this year will certainly be shattered as workers demand compensation for the rise in the cost of living which will quickly negate the PAYE budget concessions.

CAPITULATION?

DEMORALISATION appears to have set in at the McCartin works in County Leitrim following the surprise decision last Monday to allow the previously-barred receiver, Laurence Crowley, access to the works and the McCartin books. (Crowley was appointed receiver by the McCartin group's main creditor, the Agricultural Credit Corporation, a semi-state body attached

to the Free State Department of Finance.)

Just over a week ago Free State agricultural minister, Ray McSharry, had separate talks with the main parties involved in the dispute — the McCartin brothers, the ACC and the receiver. Then on Friday the Free State government declared that no decision could be taken until the receiver examined the books. This would take six weeks and they would have provided

interim funds to keep business going.

This was rejected and local people demanded instead the appointment of an independent consultant.

Despite another statement on Sunday night from the Carrigallen community group declaring that Crowley would be resisted, opinion swung overnight, and on Monday

MCCARTIN BROS. (GROUP)

Crowley was allowed into Newtownmore headquarters (as 'a gesture of good-will') for talks with the McCartin brothers and farmers' leader, Paddy Lane.

However, by Tuesday, when access had been conceded and Crowley had resumed his examination of the books, Tommy McCartin

was despondent and seemed to realise that Crowley will proceed without concession to interpret his role as receiver in the usual way, that is not in the interests of the firm's management or workers. Also his presence in the group's premises may break the confidence of creditors and customers completely.

CIE CEMENT STRIKE STAYS SOLID

BY PAUL ROONEY

THE POSSIBILITY of a major CIE transport strike over who builds the buses has been attracting wide attention in recent weeks, but at CIE's sole cement depot on Dublin's Cabra Road a 'forgotten' strike of thirteen lorry drivers enters its tenth month.

The unofficial strike by members of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU) and the National Association of Transport Employees (NATE) began on 1st June last year — the seventh strike in a long-running dispute.

The depot was opened in December 1978 to facilitate a number of cement firms who had been collecting cement from Drogheda. The cement then travelled by rail from Drogheda and was collected by lorry from Cabra Road.

In order to safeguard the jobs of the thirteen lorry drivers the two unions involved, after lengthy negotiation, secured an agreement from CIE that a list of firms, and the number of lorries each could use at the depot, would be drawn up.

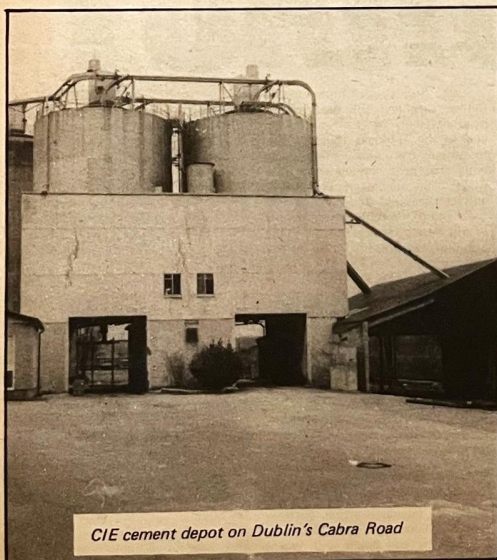
According to the men on strike, CIE broke this agreement from the beginning and allowed any cement lorry into the yard. And they are bitter at their union's decision not to make the strike official. In fact both unions, when asked, appear to be keeping silent about the dispute.

According to Daltun O'Ceallaigh, Public Relations Officer of the ITGWU, there is nothing on file at Liberty Hall about the strike and the union official whose responsibility it would be is uncontactable.

But the anger of the strikers is also directed at CIE. At the start of the strike two hundred thousand tons of cement were stored in tanks at the depot. But in November last year CIE management staff brought lorries to the depot and, backed by fifty gardai, broke through the picket and removed the cement.

The men also say that CIE sent them their cards before Christmas but all were returned unopened.

Meanwhile nothing is moving at the depot, although nine railway men, who unload the trains, still report to work each day and are on full pay. CIE on the other hand are reported to be canvassing cement firms with a view to re-opening the depot without the CIE drivers. The thirteen drivers, who are determined to stay out until satisfied, are clearly in need of support.



CIE cement depot on Dublin's Cabra Road

AN IRA active service unit shot and seriously wounded a British soldier in West Germany last Saturday evening. And in bombing attacks in the occupied six-counties the IRA caused more than a million pounds worth of damage in four days.

IRA units launched two successful bomb attacks on bus depots within twenty-four hours last week-end — at Belfast's Ardoyne Citybus depot on Friday night and at Newry's Ulsterbus depot on Saturday night. Thirty-one buses were destroyed and total damage was later estimated at more than £600,000 — every penny of which will have to be paid by the British government in compensation.

Another £100,000 was added to their bill by the destruction of Dungannon Rugby Club clubhouse in the early hours of Sunday morning. And then on Monday night the IRA struck in Maghera causing more than another quarter-of-a-million pounds worth of destruction, and widespread disruption to commercial life of the town.

THURSDAY 28th FEBRUARY

Belleek

In a cleverly mounted ambush IRA Volunteers wounded a Greenfinch, a woman member of the UDR, near Belleek, County Fermanagh, during the evening.

Three Volunteers in a commandeered car drew up outside the UDR woman's home, four miles outside Belleek, at about twenty-to-six. When the UDR woman appeared the Volunteers opened fire with a rifle and sub-machine-gun hitting her in the leg. The three Volunteers returned safely to base.

FRIDAY 29th FEBRUARY

Belfast

IRA Volunteers carried out a carefully-planned bombing operation on the Ardoyne Citybus depot in North Belfast during the night. Twenty buses were destroyed, and another ten were badly damaged.



ARDOYNE: over £350,000 damage

Ten armed IRA Volunteers launched the assault just before midnight. Having gained entry to the bus depot they went from one bus to another planting bombs before making good their escape. But before leaving they drove a previously commandeered van across the main entrance to the depot at Cranbrook Gardens. Because of the obvious possibility that the van might contain a bomb (which in fact it did not) the Brits and RUC men were reluctant to immediately move it and therefore could not remove the doomed buses. A short time later the bombs on the buses began exploding, starting fires which quickly spread through many of the buses in the depot.

Demoralised Brits/RUC could only stand and watch as hundreds of thousands of pounds-worth of buses went up in flames.

The next morning the full extent of the successful attack could be seen in the depot yard where lines of bombed single and double-decker buses sat reduced to smouldering shells. Total damage was later estimated at more than £350,000.

A MILLION DAMAGE

WAR NEWS

All the operations referred to here were claimed in supplied statements by the Irish Republican Army.



NEWRY: over £250,000 damage

DUNGANNON: over £100,000 damage



This was the fourth major attack on Citybus in the past fourteen months — the Ardoyne and Falls Road depots have both been hit twice during that period and more than seventy buses have been destroyed with several dozen others badly damaged.

SATURDAY 1st MARCH

Newry

The IRA launched their second successful and well-planned attack on a bus depot within twenty-four hours, when they hit the Newry Ulsterbus depot in County Down. Eleven buses were destroyed and three damaged in an almost carbon-copy attack to that on the Ardoyne Depot.

Five armed IRA Volunteers launched the attack on the Edward Street depot at just before 11 p.m. and planted five bombs around the depot. Before making good their escape on foot they drove a commandeered car, in which they had arrived, across the depot's main entrance — a similar tactic to that

used by Belfast Brigade Volunteers the previous night.

As in Belfast the Brits/RUC were reluctant to immediately move it and therefore were again restricted from removing buses from the target area.

A short time later the bombs in the depot began exploding, starting fires which quickly spread through many buses. Damage was later estimated to be more than £250,000. The managing director of the bus company, Werner Heubeck, was said by the company to be 'out of the country on business' last weekend — perhaps he was busy buying replacement buses!

Muenster, West Germany

On Saturday evening in Muenster, West Germany, an IRA active service unit ambushed a British military police patrol, seriously wounding a Corporal.

Two Corporals, members of 133 Provost Company based at Winterburne barracks, were on routine patrol in a Ford Cortina

with a blue lamp on the roof and the words 'Military Police' on its side.

When the vehicle pulled up at red traffic lights at a road junction on the outskirts of Muenster, it was fired upon by IRA Volunteers concealed behind bushes on the opposite side of the road. The Volunteers opened up with a barrage of more than twenty shots — rifle and pistol fire — hitting the vehicle thirteen times.

Two shots hit one of the Corporals seriously wounding him, and he was later said to be critically ill. The IRA Volunteers made good their escape.

In a statement, signed by P. O'Neill and issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, Dublin, claiming responsibility for the ambush, the IRA warned "all British soldiers and administrators that there will be no sanctuary from their war of repression in Ireland."

The ambush took place less than fifty miles from Bielefeld, where the IRA shot dead a British army

Colonel two weeks previously on Saturday 16th February.

At that time the IRA also claimed responsibility for previous operations including the execution of Richard Sykes, Brit ambassador to the Hague, and stated: "The rhyme and reason for these attacks is crystal clear — the continued occupation of part of our country. Other British oppressors, wherever they be stationed, should know that by no means have we finished."

Last Saturday evening's ambush hammers home that message.

SUNDAY 2nd MARCH

Dungannon

IRA Volunteers launched a successful bomb attack against the clubhouse of Dungannon Rugby Club in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The active service unit smashed windows in the clubhouse on the Moy Road and then placed four bombs inside it, before returning safely to base. At about 4 a.m. the first bomb exploded igniting a fire. The fire brigade wisely refused to approach the burning clubhouse for fear of further bombs, and the building — pavilion and cloakrooms — were destroyed.

Total damage was estimated at more than £100,000.

MONDAY 3rd MARCH

Maghera

The IRA launched a concerted attack on the commercial life of the South Derry town of Maghera late on Monday evening.

An active service unit in two commandeered cars drove into the town's Main Street shortly before 11.30 p.m. and boldly planted a series of bombs outside shops in the street. As they made good their escape the Volunteers fired a volley of warning shots into the air enabling civilians to get clear of the impending explosions.

Half-an-hour later, around midnight, eight bombs exploded in rapid succession. The attack was concentrated on one part of lower Main Street.

Within minutes of the bombs going off a block containing a drapery store and furniture shop was ablaze with flames pouring through the roof. The flames quickly spread to a paint and carpet store behind the shops and this added to the fury of the blaze.

At least six other shops and buildings including the Ulster Bank were damaged by the bombs and ensuing fires.



MAGHERA: over £250,000 damage

At one point exploding gas cylinders forced the fire brigade to withdraw. More than a quarter-of-a-million pounds worth of damage was caused. There were no civilian casualties.

The following day, Sticky Republican Clubs candidate in the last district council elections, Peter Merron, publicly called on people to tout to the RUC. He called on all the political parties to assist the RUC in their hunt for the IRA Volunteers and said no-one should give 'shelter or comfort to terrorists.'

MASON ON THE RUN

THE MUCH-HATED former Northern direct-ruler Roy Mason has been put on the run in his own Labour Party constituency in Barnsley by Yorkshire miners' leader Arthur Scargill, supported by militant members of the miners' union.

Scargill supporters won three top officers' posts and doubled their representation to ten on the forty-strong Constituency Labour Party executive committee at the Party's annual general meeting in Barnsley last Friday. Outgoing chairman the Masonic Ronald Fisher showed his contempt for democracy by stating after his removal: "Democracy has taken its toll within the party". Mason's position as a Westminster MP is threatened because he has a reputation as a vicious right-winger. He will face a re-selection meeting in the near future.

Congratulations

FOLLOWING the landslide victory of guerrilla leader Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party in the Zimbabwe elections, Sinn Féin President Ruairi Ó Bradaigh sent the following telegram to ZANU: "On behalf of Sinn Féin I send warmest congratulations to the people of the Republic of Zimbabwe, who under the leadership of ZANU have achieved a magnificent victory against the forces of racism and imperialism. We salute your president Robert Mugabe and the victorious freedom fighters, and wish you every success in the reconstruction of your country and the establishment of a society in which all of Zimbabwe's people can enjoy the rights of a free and independent people. Your victory is an encouragement to all struggling and oppressed peoples of the world."

Confrontation

DON CONCANNON, the obnoxious side-kick of former direct-ruler Roy Mason, is currently serving with British imperial forces in Zimbabwe. Last weekend he had a confrontation with a hippopotamus which not surprisingly took objection to him. The hippo charged. A petrified Concannon later said it was a "terrifying sight". The comments of the obviously sound hippo were unfortunately not recorded.

Fourth attack

FOR THE fourth consecutive week loyalist gunmen have turned their sights on the nationalist community of Belfast's Lower Ormeau Road. Fortunately this latest murder bid failed, like the third attack — but unlike the first two which claimed the lives of two local men.

The gunmen's target was a nineteen-year-old youth who was walking along the road with two women, just before midnight on Monday night, when two gunmen snatched up behind them. Several shots were fired at the youth, but miraculously he escaped with only a bullet graze to the back of his neck. The two women escaped unscathed.

R.U.C. gangs

THE BRITISH POLICY of Ulsterisation continues to be pursued, especially with respect to pushing the RUC into the front line. The ten so-called RUC 'Divisional Mobile Support Units' which constitute especially heavily-armed anti-Republican mobile gangs (armed with pistols, rifles and sub-machine guns) are to be strengthened. The less military Special Patrol Groups are to be disbanded, with the exception of Belfast, in order to re-inforce the DMSUs, which are expected to be used especially in country areas.

Uneasy Alliance

THE LEADERSHIP of the Alliance Party — the Northern unionist party which attempts to appeal to the 'nationalist' middle-class — is currently in a state of disarray. Basil Glass, its well-known deputy leader and one of its founder members, is resigning for 'business' reasons. The party recently lost Ivor Canavan, former mayor of Derry, who has taken up a job on the continent; its former industry spokesman Keith Jones is dropping out of active politics; and it may also lose one of its leading political strategists Denis Loretto, who may be moving to work in England. All in all this gutless party, led by the creep Oliver Napier, increasingly looks like an uneasy alliance.

Twinbrook turn-off

ON MONDAY MORNING an arrogant gang of Electricity Board bully-boys, backed up by several land-rovers of armed RUC men, invaded more than twenty homes in Twinbrook, West Belfast. Their mission was to cut off the electricity supply to families who they claim have fallen behind with their payments for the exorbitantly priced electricity. In Summerhill one man was knocked to the ground when he tried to resist this callous attempt to cut off his families' only source of power; and in Glasvey a young mother was rudely awoken at 7 a.m. by RUC thugs banging at her door.

As a nationalist working-class estate, Twinbrook is obviously an area of high unemployment and low wages, so with the recently announced rises in rent and in heating charges (which are not recoverable through social security payments) the plight of many families attempting to exist on a meagre weekly budget will become increasingly harsh with the added threat of the early morning knock-at-the-door to enforce impossible payments.

TV licence threat

THE SINN FEIN local councillors, at their quarterly meeting in February considered the re-imposition on January 20th of the RTE ban on Sinn Féin spokespersons. Several local authorities and other bodies have recently called for the removal of this ban. The councillors decided that if there is no response in the near future to their demands for legitimate freedom of expression they will proceed with a course of non-payment of television licence fees, as a first step in a more intensive campaign to have this ban removed.

LOYALIST GUN ATTACK ON BELFAST REPUBLICAN KILLS COMPANION

A LOYALIST sub-machine-gun attack on Belfast Sinn Féin PRO, Joe Austin, outside the Belfast Republican press centre in the Lower Falls last Friday morning, February 29th, led to the tragic death of Brendan McLaughlin, a thirty-five-year-old father-of-three and Housing Executive worker.

The fatal attack by the pro-British murder gang happened as Joe Austin (who was on his way to open the press centre), Brendan McLaughlin and another friend, neared the corner of Clonard Street and Falls Road.

Joe Austin recalls:

"I saw one of the gunmen getting out of a van parked on the opposite side of the street. He stood with a machine-gun raised to eye-level and began firing in our direction. He fired at least three bursts. We dived in different directions. Everything happened in split seconds. Brendan ended up sprawled against the wall and myself and the other fellow ended up in the doorway of the bookies."

"The shooting stopped for what appeared to be about a minute but when I looked across the road the driver of the van let loose another few shots from a hand-gun, in our direction."

Brendan McLaughlin was hit in the head and leg, and died a few hours later in the Royal Victoria Hospital. Joe Austin and the other man miraculously escaped the hail of more than a dozen bullets which slammed into the wall beside them.

Marie Moore, a leading member of Belfast Sinn Féin was walking down Clonard Street when the shooting happened. She says: "I heard several shots then saw a van speeding up the street. Workmen and other people scrambled in doorways and some people climbed over the Monastery railings to get out of the way. One of the men in the van was pointing a gun out of the window but he didn't fire."

Immediately after the killing the



Happiness (above) and tragedy (below) for the McLaughlin family. Belfast man Brendan McLaughlin was machine-gunned to death by loyalists last Friday morning. He is pictured above with his wife at the christening of their third child shortly before Christmas. His funeral, pictured below, took place last Monday afternoon. His wife (black-coated and in the left foreground) can be seen being comforted by relatives.



two men apparently responsible were caught as they tried to escape on foot through a permanent road barrier separating the nationalist Clonard area from the loyalist Shankill. They ran straight into the arms of a Brit/RUC patrol who had a few minutes earlier come across their get-away car and arrested the

driver — because of his nervous and strange behaviour.

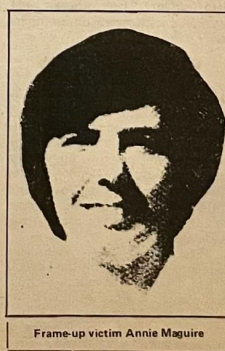
In stark contrast to the barrage of condemnation from politicians, media and churchmen which follow IRA operations, hardly a voice of protest was heard following this latest act of loyalist slaughter of a catholic civilian.

Maguire hunger-strike

ANNIE MAGUIRE, one of the seven people framed on explosives charges in 1975 is in her third week of a hunger-strike in Durham jail, where she is serving a fourteen-year sentence.

All seven — Annie Maguire, her husband and two sons, her late brother-in-law Giuseppe Conlon (who died in January), a lodger and a neighbour — have consistently declared their innocence, and have been supported recently by new research on forensic tests for nitroglycerine which show that a number of innocent products can cause the same results. The only evidence against Annie Maguire herself was alleged traces of explosive on a glove, said to belong to her, found in her home.

Since she went on hunger-strike on February 18th, Annie Maguire



Frame-up victim Annie Maguire

has written to a relative in Belfast explaining her action. Her two sons

Vincent and Patrick have now completed their sentences and been released. (They were seventeen and thirteen years old at the time of their arrest). Mrs. Maguire, in the letter, stresses that she is not only protesting on her own behalf but "until the stain has been removed from their characters".

She says: "This protest that I am doing is something that has crossed my mind from the very start of all this and had it not been for all this I would have carried it out before."

"But I did not want them to suffer any more than they already were doing. If I don't continue this protest I will always look upon myself as a failure towards my family."

"I know the risk I take upon myself health-wise but I leave myself in the hands of God and his blessed mother Mary that it won't be in vain."



Brits shoot nine-year-old

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

NINE-YEAR-OLD Hugh Hamill, from Spamount Street in Belfast's New Lodge Road, was seriously injured by a plastic bullet fired by a British soldier into H-block marchers last Sunday afternoon.

The incident occurred on Finaghy Road at the junction of Riverdale Park South where the H-block march had turned to make its way back onto the Andersonstown Road.

Two hundred yards up the road militant youths were stoning riot-clad soldiers and RUC men who had blocked the march from getting onto the M1 and heading for Long Kesh. They had taken shelter behind riot-shields and armoured jeeps under a bridge whilst on the bridge sat RUC jeeps and British armoured vehicle reinforcements.

SALVO

The first salvo of plastic bullets were fired not at the rioters as might have been supposed, but over their heads and they struck people on the march. One of those hit was nine-year-old Hugh Hamill who was struck on the back of the head, fracturing his skull. He fell to the ground unconscious his head covered in blood. He was immediately carried into an ambulance under a rain of more plastic bullets and British snatch squads charging towards the crowd.

Hugh had only been allowed by his parents to go to the march because he was in the company of older boys from an accordion band from his own area.

British soldiers regularly indiscriminately open fire with plastic bullets on marchers to discourage and deter concerned nationalist people from protesting. Indeed many thousands of people have been driven off the streets by British attacks on Bloody Sunday and other marches.

Sinn Féin condemned the attack and pointed out that the RUC knew that they and the Brits had created casualties (and saw an ambulance take away Hugh) yet their public statement issued later only announced their own supposed casualties — a statement obviously intended to cover-up, and distract attention from their attack on the marchers.

SUNDAY

On Sunday night Hugh had undergone surgery for a fractured skull (he will ultimately have to have a metal plate inserted in his skull to replace smashed bone) and was later on a heart machine and drip.

On Monday morning plainclothes RUC men arrived to question

him about the incident when he was still under anaesthetic, though he had occasionally regained consciousness.

They were probably looking for him to say something self-incriminating but medical staff and his parents objected and they had to leave. (After a Sinn Féin statement the RUC ridiculously replied that they had just called in to see how Hugh was keeping!)

SHOCKED

Before they left the RUC took away his clothes for forensic examination. His parents were shocked at the shooting of Hugh and extremely distressed at the RUC attempt to question him. Mrs. Hamill says that she pointed out to the RUC that Hugh was like any other nine-year-old boy and was bound to have dirt on his clothes which they need not presume was an indication that he had been rioting.

These huge, so-called riot control bullets which the Brits use against defenceless people are vicious weapons and can be as lethal as their lead counterparts. People have been blinded for life (Mrs. Emily Groves of Andersonstown) or per-

manently maimed, and British soldiers have killed three Belfast children with them — Michael Rowntree, shot dead in 1973 by a rubber bullet into the head of

which Brits had inserted a metal battery. Stephen Gheddiss in August 1975 and Brian Stewart in 1976, none of whom were in 'riot situations'.



Grabbed!

Twenty-three-year-old Belfast man Paul Wilson is pictured here being arrested by British soldiers during last Sunday afternoon's H-block march in Andersonstown. A Brit snatch squad chasing young rioters up Finaghy Road North failed to catch any, so instead grabbed Paul, one of the by-standers.

Whilst four Brits grabbed him others bated him on the head. He was dragged to a sarcen at Finaghy Road bridge where one British soldier hit him in the stomach with a rifle butt and threatened to blow his brains out if he moved. He was held in Springfield Road barracks for several hours and was charged with 'riotous behaviour'.

CARDINAL VISITS THE H-BLOCKS

Irish Press condemns British attitude

CARDINAL TOMAS O'FIAICH, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all-Ireland, and Bishop Edward Daly of Derry, last Monday visited the Republican prisoners on the blanket in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

They spent more than nine hours in the jail where since 1976 Republican political prisoners have been kept in naked, solitary confinement, denied exercise, reading material or food parcels, because they refuse to wear the British criminal uniform. The prisoners, who are demanding political status, have also been on a 'no-wash no-slop-out' protest since March 1978 after warders denied them proper toilet and washing facilities.

Two years ago after a similar visit, the Cardinal compared conditions in the H-Blocks to the slums of Calcutta. On that occasion he seriously embarrassed the British government. They partly showed their displeasure by pettily referring to him as Archbishop O'Fee (the

English translation of O'Fiaich).

The Cardinal and Bishop Daly were exceptionally treated when they arrived at Stormont grounds on Sunday to urge direct-ruler Atkins to resolve the blanket crisis and to also avert an escalating situation with Republican women prisoners in Armagh jail. Their car was stopped at an RUC check-point inside the grounds and they were made to walk the rest of the way in the rain.

On Tuesday Atkins had agreed to see the Cardinal but emphasised that the British government would not concede political status.

Their meeting on Wednesday lasted an hour and they agreed to see each other again. The Cardinal said he and Bishop Daly expressed serious concern and made a number of suggestions.

Commenting on the intervention of the Cardinal and the Bishop and in support of a resolution of the protest, an editorial in Wednesday's *Irish Press* said:

"Mr. Atkins now has his conference ingloriously out of the way, to all intents and purposes that is, and there is no fear of offending Unionists' opinion to the detriment of the Conference by acting boldly to resolve the situation..."

"The Northern Ireland Administration has to ask itself does it want to hold the prisoners or humiliate them..."

"Moreover, several lives have been lost over the issue and it is known that the Provisionals' campaign against warders would cease if a solution to H-Block could be found. The prisoners once had a Special Category status. Those in the compound part of the prison who were sentenced before March 1976, for the very same type of

offences as the men now in the H-Blocks, still have the status but by denying a special category to the H-Block men the British Government charges them in a special way via the Diplock courts.

"The authorities can hardly go on having it both ways, denying that the prisoners are different to other criminals and yet treating them in a different way to other law-breakers, especially when the issue is bedevilled by loss of life and possibility that the prisoners, already weakened through a poor diet and other effects of the protest, loss of exercise, and so on, may embark on that particularly hazardous form of protest, the hunger strike..."

"Certainly, whatever formula is found the H-Block issue has to be elevated to a plane of decision-taking far more enlightened and far more decisive than anything we have yet seen..."



DUBLIN

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

ONE THOUSAND people took part in Saturday's Dublin H-block march and rally. The march from Stephen's Green to the GPO included contingents from Sinn Féin, IRSP, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin College of Catering and Navan Prisoners Action Committee.

At the GPO the platform party comprised of Fr. Piaras O Duill, chairman of the National H-block Committee; prominent Dublin barrister Seamus Sorahan; trade union leaders Matt Merrigan of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union and Kevin McConnell of the Engineering and Electrical Trades Union; the first blanketman Kieran Nugent; and Sean O Bradaigh, Sinn Féin's director of publicity.

Conradh na Gaeilge members who had arranged a meeting at the GPO at the same time to protest against RTE's language policy postponed their meeting until later and stayed on in support of the H-block rally.

Joe Stagg, chairman of the southern-based sub-committee of the National H-block Committee, chaired the proceedings. He announced that from the committee's work so far, thirteen action groups have been formed in various areas of Dublin; similar groups are being formed in Cork, following a meeting attended by five hundred people the previous night; and further meetings are to take place in Galway and Waterford over the next fortnight.

Fr. Piaras O Duill, speaking first, stressed that the National H-block Committee crossed all political boundaries raising the issues on the basis of common humanity and regard for human rights. He continued: "The history of political prisoners in this country shows the disastrous consequences of leaving the just demands of the prisoners to be resolved by the prisoners themselves. Any intensification of the present protest by these prisoners would, I fear, precipitate death in the H-blocks."

Seamus Sorahan, who spoke next, recalled the various occasions when Irish political prisoners had refused to wear criminal uniform and had worn only blankets, going back to the last century, and in both British and Irish jails. He dealt in detail with the winning of political status in the six-counties in 1972, its removal four years later, and the struggle for its restoration to date, he described as: "The spiritual struggle of resolute idealistic men; whatever you may think of their activities, the struggle of steadfast lion-hearted men, against the might of the British establishment."

Kieran Nugent, after an enthusiastic reception from the audience, spoke briefly of the attempts to degrade the prisoners. He stressed that they could not continue their struggle without



the active help of those outside.

Matt Merrigan expressed regret that he was not speaking as the representative of his union "because the trade union, at its peril, is ignoring the sacrifice of the people in H-block."

About those who had not lent support to the H-block campaign because of reservations about the use of political violence he said: "There are people who have principled reservations, and I have some, but I have no reservations about prisoners' rights. I have no reservations about civil and political rights."

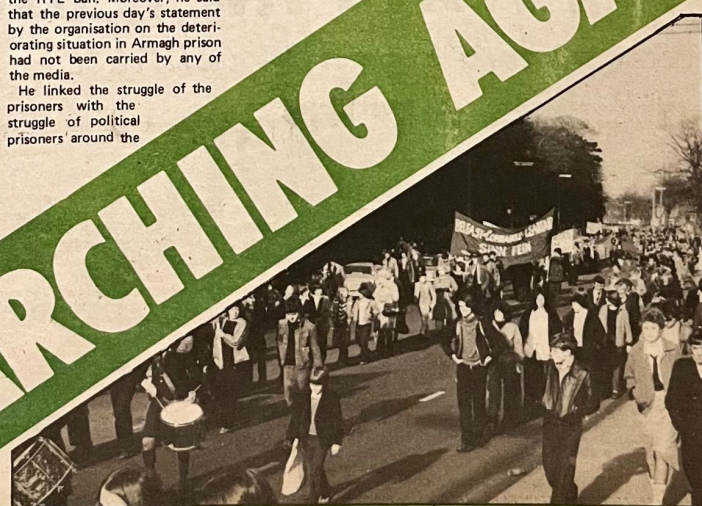
He said that he and a few others in the trade union movement are working towards the formation of a delegation from the labour movement to visit Long Kesh and Portlaoise. He urged all trade unionists present to raise the H-block issue at their branch meetings and force the executive of their unions to raise it at the ICTU and thus mobilise the trade union movement in defence of the dignity and rights of prisoners, and end the use of repressive laws to defeat the political opposition.

Final speaker was Sean O Bradaigh. He pointed out that Sinn Féin had been hindered in publicising the H-block issue by the RTE ban. Moreover, he said that the previous day's statement by the organisation on the deteriorating situation in Armagh prison had not been carried by any of the media.

He linked the struggle of the prisoners with the struggle of political prisoners around the



world. He compared the spirit of the blanketmen with that of Terence MacSwiney and all those republican prisoners who had gone before. "The British cannot kill their spirit, but we must ensure that they do not kill their bodies either. It is up to each one of us to work as hard as we can for the H-block struggle and ensure that they survive and that they triumph."



MARCHING AGAINST THE



LAST SATURDAY MARCH 1st, on the fourth anniversary of the removal of the British political status for Republican prisoners, many people marched in Dublin and on Sunday with the more than 350 men and the blanket in the H-blocks of Long Kesh and the more than thirty women protesters in Armagh jail.

30th marches were militant and well supported locally. The Dublin march was organised by the recently formed and Belfast march was jointly organised by the Belfast co-ordinating committee of the six-county Union Committee and the Ulster Executive of Sinn Féin.

Waiting at the bottom of the lane a gang of Brits and RUC moved to block the way and came under a fusillade of stones, bottles and half-bricks.

The stoning continued as the march, in a state of disarray, made its way back to Andersonstown Road, while a number of baton rounds were fired at the crowd by the Brits.

In a second attempt to cut through to the motorway the march then wound down through the Riverdale Estate towards Finaghy Road. The marchers' frustration was actively expressed by youths who ran through the estate raiding doorsteps for empty milk bottles, 'tooling up' for the next confrontation with the Brits — which came as the march was again turned back at Finaghy Bridge where the Brits had blocked the road.

A crowd of youths which swelled to 300 charged forward with a hail of missiles, as the bulk of the march moved on once more back to the main road. It was during one of these riots that a young lad — nine-year-old Hugh Hamill of Spamount Street, New Lodge — was struck on the head by a plastic bullet, and was rushed to hospital.

The frantic over-reaction by certain stewards to the young rioters demonstrates the urgent need in the future for stewards to be fully informed of how to respond in all situations which arise and how — most vitally — to channel the militancy of young people for the overall good of the march.

The march finally made its way up the Stewartstown Road, and came to a halt two hundred yards short of a Brit blockade of more than twenty jeeps and saracens, at Lenadoon Avenue where a short rally was held, with Mary McDermott (Sinn Féin) and Maura McCrory (RAC) outlining the current atrocious conditions in the H-Blocks and in Armagh.

BELFAST

BY SEAN DELANEY

THE INTENDED route of Sunday's Belfast H-block march was the road to Long Kesh. But from early on, evidence of a massive Brit/RUC mobilisation showed their determination to forcibly prevent the marchers from leaving the nationalist ghetto of West Belfast.

The crowd of several thousand which moved up the Falls Road from the Whitelock Road junction included contingents from Dublin, Lurgan, Clonoe, Toomebridge, Derry and South West Antrim, as well as Belfast people. In addition to Sinn Féin and the RAC, the IRSP, Peoples Democracy and the Women Against Imperialism group were also represented.

A first sign of the militancy which was a feature of the march came as demonstrators passed Andersonstown RUC barracks where young lads scrambled up the wire netting surrounding the barracks, shouting their hatred of the RUC and Brits, whilst the O'Neill/Alsopp band from Belfast's New Lodge Road — to the delight of the marchers — played 'Say hello to the Provos'.

The first clash occurred after the march took a sudden turn off Andersonstown Road down the narrow Stockmans Lane, in an attempt to cut through on to the M1 motorway to Long Kesh.



Postmhála



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

ARMAGH PICKET

Dear Editor,
International Women's Day — March 8th — is traditionally the day when women throughout the world take to the streets to highlight the struggle for women's liberation.

In Ireland this has a special significance, when women stand shoulder to shoulder with men in the struggle for national liberation. For perhaps nowhere are these two aspects of the same struggle felt more intensely today than in the heroic resistance — alongside their comrades in H-Block — of women POWs in Armagh gaol.

The broad-based Armagh Protest Committee was set up some six weeks ago to focus attention on the particular conditions endured by the women in Armagh, and specifically, to build as large a picket as possible outside Armagh gaol on March 8th.

Initiated by 'Women Against Imperialism' the Armagh Protest Committee is actively supported by such disparate elements as Sinn Féin, I.R.S.P., R.A.C., P.D. and the Belfast Anarchist Collective.

The idea for a picket on March 8th stemmed from an original protest on that date last year by 'Women Against Imperialism'. That small picket of some forty women was attacked as it dispersed, by the RUC, resulting in the arrest and subsequent charging of what became known as the 'Armagh 11'.

It has been as a result of the way 'Women Against Imperialism' used the attention focussed on the trial of the 'Armagh 11' to highlight the problems and conditions faced by protesting P.O.W.s in Armagh, both as Republicans and women, that increasingly large demonstrations have taken place on three occasions since outside the prison — the last one, on January 2nd, supported by some fifty feminists travelling from England.

The effect on the morale of the women P.O.W.s has been significant. As a letter smuggled out from 'B' wing in January explained: "We were able to shout and wave to the women from our windows. It was a good feeling to see these women outside the gaol chanting their slogans and generally showing their support."

Recent developments in the prison situation in Armagh have to a degree obscured the original political significance of the protest on International Women's Day, while at the same time making massive support for the picket on that day even more vital.

The second of the two slogans of the Armagh Protest Committee — 'Political Status Now!' and 'No National Liberation without Women's Liberation' may not carry much weight with many of

the men and women who, hopefully, will turn out on Saturday but nevertheless it is to be hoped that, standing outside Armagh and thinking of our courageous Republican P.O.W.s inside, many of those will understand the futility of struggling against the slavery of British oppression only to end up — in a 'New Ireland' — as domestic slaves to male chauvinism.

Whatever your motivation however support for the women in Armagh gaol next Saturday is a matter of extreme urgency.

D. McCabe,
Andersonstown,
Belfast.

Derry Women's Aid on Armagh

Dear Editor,

In line with the unwavering position against male violence against women, Derry Women's Aid condemns the use of male violence in the attacks made on female prisoners in Armagh Prison recently. Indeed Women's Aid is concerned about conditions generally in the prison and calls for an open public enquiry to examine both the attacks and the administration of Armagh Prison.

For some time Derry Women's Aid have been receiving unconfirmed reports of the mistreatment of women prisoners — two non-political prisoners, we were told, suffered miscarriages as a direct result of the conditions of their treatment. Such information came to Derry Women's Aid through solicitors — but the cases could not be publicised at the time as the women involved were unwilling to be publically identified.

We now however, feel that we take issue with the authorities about Armagh prison to challenge them to hold an open public enquiry — which would include representatives from the trade union movement and from civil liberties groups such as the National Council of Civil Liberties.

We also feel that there is a need for the establishment of a Prisoners Rights Organisation to represent and protect the rights of all prisoners — irrespective of political or sectarian allegiances. We would see the benefit of such an organisation as preventing 'divide and rule' tactics being used by prison authorities; providing non-political prisoners along with those convicted for political actions with a voice; demanding such basic liberties as trade union rates of pay for prison work, the right to wear one's own clothes in prison etc. and the highlighting of conditions in our prisons.

We do not envisage such a Prisoners Rights Organisation necessarily taking a stand on the struggle for political status — that right is one best left to the political organisations involved; however the resulting brutalisation of the whole prison system can not be overlooked.

Furthermore Derry Women's

Aid is concerned at the trend illustrated by a recent case from Creggan — that of the unwarranted imprisonment of the mother of a single-parent family, which showed that the authorities were completely regardless of the woman's family circumstances.

This is not the first such case and Derry Women's Aid has pledged itself where-ever possible to prevent the victimisation of single-parent families both by the authorities and in the communities where they live. Again an effective Prisoners Rights Organisation would be vital in highlighting not alone the position of prisoners but also of their families which is so often ignored.

In conclusion Derry Women's Aid repeats its demands for a public enquiry into Armagh Prison and would be glad to hear from individuals or groups interested in the establishment of a Prisoners Rights Organisation. We will also continue our work of highlighting and fighting on behalf of specific cases involving the victimisation of women or single-parent families.

Women's Aid,
Derry.

RAC newspaper

Dear Editor,

The Relatives Action Committee in Belfast are producing a monthly newspaper. We think it is very important to use this paper to highlight the conditions of the Republican prisoners and how this affects their relatives. For this paper to be successful in the struggle for political status we need lots of information from relatives and supporters of the prisoners.

Please send information to
Belfast R.A.C.
c/o 170a Falls Road,
Belfast.

Divis partial demolition

Dear Sir,

As one who has been deeply involved since 1973, in a long-running battle with both the Housing Executive and the British Government to obtain improved living conditions in Divis Flats, a number of residents have approached me to clarify my attitudes and views towards the recent Consultants Report, i.e. 'Divis Complex Present and Future'.

As I see it, the proposed partial demolition is a forward step, and means 150 families will be rehoused, but I feel that a commitment must be obtained from the Executive, that phased demolition of all the other blocks would be carried out within a specified period of time. Unless such a commitment is forthcoming, partial demolition may create more problems than it would resolve.

To brazenly refuse to accept the present proposals, could possibly mean that the £8½ million to be spent on Divis, may go back to the coffers of the Department of Housing, and residents of Divis could be faced with living in conditions of squalor for X number of years, before another such opportunity would be re-housed would be presented to them. I feel that most residents could put a very strong case forward for eventual demolition of all blocks if a start was once made on Whitehall and Farset.

One of the greatest problems affecting this area is the pressure density of housing, and by demolishing even some of the blocks it will reduce this density. The Executive could be persuaded to step-up 'Transfers' which would greatly help in this respect.

I believe the cost to build Divis Complex was 3½ million. (The Executive will correct me if I'm wrong). The fact that the Executive is now prepared to spend £5,000,000 for major rehabilitation is ludicrous, this is approx. on average £8,162 per unit for 600 units, a major portion of this money (£1,000,000) would be spent to extend the district heating to the 600 flats at present without proper heating facilities.

Alternative proposals could be put forward as to how this large amount of money could be spent for the benefit of residents. While I feel that major rehabilitation would not be accepted by residents, (people must not allow their emotions to overrule their intelligence), repairs MUST BE an on-going process, proper lighting, proper stairways, electrical repairs, front doors, locks and windows as well as other minor internal repairs, so as residents can feel reasonably safe both in their home and during access to and from their homes.

I believe the way forward for residents is to set up a Liaison Committee as suggested by the Executive, this is also a forward step, as all meetings between the Liaison Committee and Senior Officers of the Executive would be on a top level basis and decisions could be monitored.

A General meeting convened for residents could democratically elect a Liaison Committee which would accede to the wishes of the majority of residents. Community groups fought and won a long-drawn-out battle, so residents of Divis now have this opportunity. It is only by discussion and dialogue that amicable agreements may be reached.

In conclusion, may I point out the fact, that decisions to accept or reject the proposals, rests solely with the residents of Divis, not with dictates OR influences by organisations such as the Falls Community Council, many of whose members live in comfortable conditions in good houses dotted along the road between the Lower Falls and Twinbrook, while residents of Divis pay high rents to live in squalor.

Residents must decide for themselves on this issue.

Robert Anderson,
Massarene Walk,
Belfast.

Norwegian solidarity

Dear Editor,

On January 30th 1980, the Ireland Committee and the Ireland Front here in Norway arranged a joint demonstration outside the British Embassy in Oslo in order to highlight the atrocities committed by the British occupational forces in Northern Ireland.

January 30th has been chosen because it is the anniversary of 'Bloody Sunday' in 1972, when 14 innocent civilians were killed and 130 wounded at the hands of the British occupational army during a peaceful civil rights march in the town Derry, Northern Ireland. This incident, more than any other illustrates the true nature of the British colonial power in Ireland and the means it is ready to stoop to in order to keep a risen people down and to maintain its own selfish economic interests by the exploitation of the Irish people.

So far from being prosecuted, the parachute regiment which committed the Bloody Sunday atrocity, was rewarded by a war medal by the British government in spite of the fact that the same government admitted its guilt in the massacre by granting the survivors of the murdered a small economic compensation!

The 'Bloody Sunday' massacre is the biggest, but not at all the only atrocity committed at the hands of the British army during the 10 years it has now been occupying Northern Ireland...

The demand of the prisoners for 'political status' is a well justified demand, which we fully support. Especially we want to express our solidarity with the prisoners in the notorious H-Blocks in Long Kesh Concentration Camp and in Armagh Women's Gaol.

The Norwegian Ireland Committee,
Postboks 13, Blindern,
Oslo 3, Norway.



Smash the PTA

Dear comrades,

The Prevention of Terrorism Act has been in existence for over five years. When it comes up for renewal in March there is no doubt that it will be endorsed by the British Parliament.

For Irish anti-imperialists five years of the PTA has meant five years of harassment, interrogation and imprisonment under the Act. It is used in Britain to crush the support that is developing for the war of national liberation currently being waged in Ireland.

A campaign has recently been set up in Britain to provide immediate practical support for PTA victims, to collect information about the use of the PTA and publicise it, and to build working class support in Britain for the anti-imperialist war.

Please will you publish the address and phone number of the Smash the PTA Campaign in An Phoblacht/Republican News so that Irish anti-imperialists can contact us before coming to Britain and thereby enable us to respond to any cases of harassment or arrest. Also we would be grateful for any information concerning PTA arrests either past or present so that it can be used to aid the Campaign to abolish the act.

Thank you very much,
Kate Marshall,
for Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign,
BM RCT,
London WC1
Tel. 01-274-3951.

P.S. SP.TAC is organised by the RCT and is supported by several anti-imperialist and labour movement organisations.

UVF visas

Dear Editor,

In a White House statement, President Carter 'condemned support for organisations and individuals engaged directly or indirectly in Campaigns of Violence' in Northern Ireland,

yet the President and his State Department granted visas to members of the notorious UVF, allowing them to enter the US and lecture here, despite UVF admissions, in the press and elsewhere that it had assassinated about 200 Irish Catholics.

How inconsistent can President Carter be? It is conceded by all that the UVF is a 'loyalist' terrorist para-military group, which openly supports British rule in Northern Ireland and opposes the granting of civil rights to Irish Catholics.

Granting visas to UVF members to tour the US to raise funds to carry on their terrorist activities is typical of State Department policy. Mr. Vance's aid to the UVF will no doubt finance further UVF operations and mean additional assassinations of Catholics in Ulster.

Since IRA members are denied visas, we wonder why President Carter and Mr. Vance adopt a reverse policy and grant visas to the UVF members? Could it be that the UVF supports British rule, and the IRA opposes British rule, and this is the point of distinction?

John Kelly,
National Secretary,
National Council of Irish Americans
Elliot Square Building,
Buffalo 3, New York.

Sinn Féin Ard Fheis

A chara,

I was interested to read in the Ard Fheis supplement that 'whole sections of the Clár' had to be scrapped. Every year is the same — important subjects being brushed away, to be considered later.

Yet every year it seems valuable time is wasted on the old chestnut — contesting elections in the Partition states. Surely it is time that the cultural, educational and foreign fields got a fairer crack of the whip.

It is satisfying to see foreign links represented by observers and messages of support, but what are these comrades to make of a revolutionary organisation that goes on about 'left wing socialism' and 'thin end of the wedge'?

Credibility takes a knock with these sentiments.

J.P. Murphy,
Acton,
London.

Thanks

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Coarbaid Harp R.C. Flute band, Scotland to thank the various people who helped us with arrangements on our recent visit to Birmingham for the 'Bloody Sunday' demonstration.

We wish to thank mainly Pearse McDaid, Sinn Féin, Birmingham; staff of the Labour club and the local people of Sparkhill and surrounding areas for giving the band accommodation.

Sean McGoldrick,
Band secretary,
Airdrie,
Lanarkshire,
Scotland.

Dear Editor,

The James Connolly Flute band, Glasgow, would like to thank Derry Sinn Féin for once again providing transport and accommodation during our recent visit to attend the Bloody Sunday Commemoration. We would also like to thank the people of the Bogside and Creggan for making us feel so welcome.

Secretary,
James Connolly Flute Band,
Glasgow.



Nine of the Armagh 11 displaying their spirit of resistance

H-BLOCK PROTEST IN FLEET STREET

BY HELEN STEVENS

THE TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT held a spirited blanket protest in London's Fleet Street — the heartland of the British press — on Wednesday evening, February 27th, as part of a series of activities demanding political status for the prisoners in the H-blocks and Armagh.

Chants of 'H-block, Hell block, Britain's Concentration Camp' resounded along the street as over one hundred protestors moved off from the Law Courts in single file. The protest was led by two people in blankets carrying a huge 'H'. Further down the line eight people carried a forty-foot banner, held lengthwise, inscribed on both sides with slogans in support of the prisoners — so that all the passers-by could see clearly what the protest was about.

Outside major newspaper offices the protest halted so that English pacifist campaigner Pat Arrowsmith and Lily Fitzsimmons of the Belfast Relatives Action Committee could hand in a message to newspaper editors.

The message called on them to end the shameful silence of the British press on the H-blocks, and included a copy of a letter from prisoners, smuggled out of the H-blocks. Addressing their letter to the people of England, the men explained clearly the reasons for their protest and the conditions they suffer.

OFFICES

A number of reporters and photographers covered the protest — and outside every newspaper office was a thick line of police (even outside the offices that were off the route).

So there was no way the press could say they didn't know about the protest. The absence of coverage the following day testifies once again to the unwillingness of the press to print anything that conflicts with government policy.

The protestors moved on to Holborn to join a rally in the Conway Hall. The rally was informative and encouraging, with a sympathetic audience of over three-hundred people. There was an overall emphasis on the need to extend and broaden activity both in support of the prisoners and for withdrawal from Ireland.

RALLY

The rally opened with the first performance in Britain of the H-block play describing the thoughts of a blanket man. This proved an excellent way of communicating to the audience what the prisoners stand for (though as Lily Fitzsimmons pointed out later, no actor could possibly look as starved

and ill-treated as the prisoners themselves).

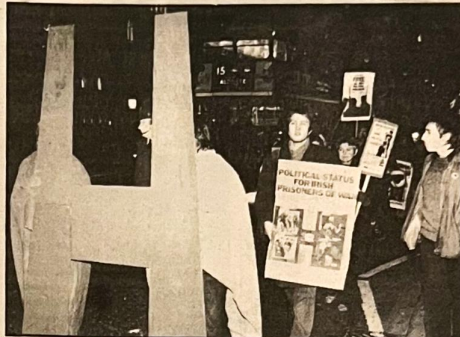
The rally was chaired by Pat Arrowsmith, and all of the eight speakers made interesting and varied contributions. (Several people commented afterwards that they were glad to see that all but three of the speakers were women: a marked difference to most political events, which reflected the key role that women play in the withdrawal movement in Britain).

Tariq Ali, editor of *Socialist Challenge*, made a strong plea for activists to make a push within the Labour movement, for a Troops Out Movement, presence at big trade union events, and for a big effort to break the Labour Party from its notorious bi-partisan policy. He also called for socialist groups working on Ireland to give full support to the TOM.

Maeve Foreman of the Women and Ireland group gave a graphic description of the situation of the women on protest in Armagh and of the recent attacks aimed at forcing them onto a 'dirty protest', and appealed for support for this Saturday's picket of the prison.

Von McClarey of the IRSP explained that the prisoners are in jail because they have engaged in political and military struggles for the liberation of their country, and to establish a thirty-two-county socialist republic.

Alan Thornett, a well-known trade union activist (whom the press describe as the 'Red Mole') gave a very interesting account of battles inside Oxford trade union branches after support had been



given to Sinn Féin's march there. However after lengthy discussion the trade union section involved was convinced that the support given the march was correct. Alan Thornett blamed the leadership of the trade unions for the backward attitudes held by so many trade union members. The struggle to change their views is a hard one, he said, but the Oxford events showed it can be won.

BELFAST

The rally gave a very warm welcome to Lily Fitzsimmons who came from Belfast to speak on behalf of the Relatives Action Committee. She described how the seeds of the H-block protest had been sown in 1969 when the British army moved in to oppress the nationalist people, and went on to give a moving account of the tortures suffered by the prisoners. People in England, she said, are well known for their love of animals — but they allow the prisoners in the H-blocks to suffer far worse than they would let an animal suffer.

She was followed by Tony Cliff, a leading member of the Socialist Workers Party, who pointed out that it is in our interest, in the heart of the British imperialist beast' to work for the freedom of Ireland, and appealed for the issue to be taken up in the trade union movement. (The SWP is launching a 'Charter 80', on the lines of the Czech Charter 77, on the prisoners' demands.)

ARMED

Sue O'Halloran then spoke for Sinn Féin and An Cumann Cabhrach. She pointed out that there is one armed member of the repressive state forces in the six-counties for every twenty members of the nationalist community, and that the prisoners had grown up in



these circumstances. She gave some powerful quotations from Irish prisoners in English jails, and pointed out that Republican prisoners are political in the sense that they are imprisoned for their political views and activities, in that they are aiming for a socialist Ireland. She appealed for support for the Republican Movement.

Yana Mintoff spoke on behalf of the TOM, pointing out that the repression in the north of Ireland is being done in the name of the British people. She said that the people of the nationalist community have no choice about fighting back, they cannot spend time making up their minds: it is time that British people stop 'taking long decisions' and join the struggle for Irish self-determination. She appealed for people to join TOM branches and get involved in activity.

ACTIVITIES

Other activities were organised around March 1st by TOM branches up and down the country. The TOM placed a half-page advertisement in *Tribune*, the paper of the left of the Labour Party, calling for support for political status. Smaller advertisements were placed in the *Irish Post*, paper of the Irish in Britain, and the *Morning Star*, the Communist Party paper. These ads were paid for by people who signed a statement supporting the five demands of the prisoners in the H-blocks and Armagh. *Tribune* also published a letter from a prisoner in the H-blocks. Some TOM branches are also placing ads in their local papers.

At the end of a huge folk concert in the Albert Hall which was part of the so-called 'Sense of Ireland' festival currently taking place in London, a TOM member got hold of the microphone and called for support for the H-block and Armagh protestors... he managed to get his message across before the mike was removed from him!

duirt siad



"If a prize were to be awarded for the best prison in Europe then the Maze would win it".

The idiot Humphrey Atkins making a sick joke about the horrific H-Blocks of Long Kesh, when speaking at an Armagh Council luncheon.

"We would sooner die than permit you and the IRA to obtain your shared goal of an all-Ireland republic. Get the message tonight, Charles Haughey: there'll never be an all-Ireland so long as there is a Unionist and Protestant majority in Northern Ireland."

Ian Paisley displaying his staunchly Orange colours for loyalist consumption, to cover his back whilst simultaneously trooping off to Stormont to see if he can fix up an accommodation with the SDLP behind closed doors.

"His remarks are predictable and there is nothing I want to say about them."

Slavish SDLP leader John Hume, aware of the Paisley play, and not wanting to rock the Stormont boat where he sees a few crumbs coming his way.

"The events described in this book have shown that the Northern Ireland state is inherently sectarian and undemocratic and that the British presence only serves to perpetuate that state of affairs. To end sectarian oppression and to free the Northern working-class, including the protestant workers, from the shackles of sectarian division the British must go and the Northern statelet must be dismantled."

Michael Farrell in an updated version of his book 'Northern Ireland: The Orange State', due to be published next week.

"There is no such thing as an anti-imperialist who does not support the Provos and no such thing as a socialist who is not anti-imperialist."

Eamonn McCann in a revised and updated version of his book 'War and an Irish Town', also due to be published next week.

"They are also firmly against the granting of political status to imprisoned paramilitary people, so much so, that when the annual meeting of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association voted in favour of political status recently, a large group of Republican Clubs people walked out of the hall. This has been a difficult issue for the Clubs, who have been dependent on support from the Catholic ghettos of Belfast. The political status question, as the Peace People have found to their cost, is one of the most divisive issues around."

Irish Times Northern editor David McKittrick on the Sticks.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ON CONWAY HALL PLATFORM:

Sue O'Halloran (Sinn Féin and An Cumann Cabhrach); Maeve Foreman (Women and Ireland group); pacifist campaigner Pat Arrowsmith; Yana Mintoff (Troops Out Movement); Von McClarey (IRSP); and Lily Fitzsimmons (Belfast RAC).



SINN FEIN A.G.M.s Cavan

The Cavan Comhairle Ceantair elected the following officers at their recent AGM:

Chairman: Dan Daly;
Secretary: Kevin O'Reilly;
Treasurer: Thomas McManus;
PRO: Brid Donohue;
Education: Margaret Greenan;
Organisers: Mrs. Fitzpatrick;
Dan Daly;
Ben McHugh;
Charlie Boylan.

Connaught

The Annual General Meeting of the Comhairle Cúige Connacht was held in the Percy French Hotel, Sligo town on Sunday 24th February.

The following officers were elected:
Chairman: J.J. McGillicuddy;
Secretary: B. McIntyre;
Treasurer: B. McHugh;
PRO: M. McNeill;
Education: D. Crogan;
Youth Officer: A. McGillicuddy;
Regional Government: M. Keegan;
Delegates to Ard Comhairle: P.J. Kearney, C. Kelly.

The President of Sinn Féin, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, and the Education Officer, Philip Flynn, attended the meeting. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh thanked the officers and delegates for their work during the year.

Cork

The Tony Aherne Cumann, Carrigaline, County Cork, elected the following officers at their recent AGM:

Chairperson: Rose Fitzgerald;
Vice-chairperson: M. Fitzgerald;
Secretary: E. Lane;
Treasurer: D. Fitzgerald;
PRO: F. McCarthy;
Delegates to Comhairle Ceantair: E. Lane, F. McCarthy.

The secretary thanked the members for their good work and commitment during the year. A special mention was made of the work of an Cumann Cabragh.

Leinster

The Comhairle Cúige Leathainn held its AGM on Sunday 24th February at the West County Hotel Dublin. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Christine Ellis;
Secretary: Aine Ní Ghabhann;
PRO/Vice chair: Sean Halpin;
Education: Niall Fagan;
Organiser: Brendan Golden;
Treasurer: Larry Clarke;
Youth: Dave Douglas;
Delegates to Ard Comhairle: Niall Fagan, Christine Ellis.

There was a large turnout at the meeting and reports from outgoing officers generated lively discussion. A vote of thanks was passed for outgoing chairman George Lynch.

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 Féin can give in their name and address at the stall.

RATHFARNHAM/CHURCHTOWN

Anyone wishing to join Sinn Féin in the Rathfarnham/Churchtown area of Dublin should write to:

Betty Crilly,
PRO,
Martin Forsythe Sinn Féin Cumann,
Union Hall,
33, Main Street,
Rathfarnham,
Baile Átha Cliath 14.

JOIN SINN FEIN

Anyone interested in joining Sinn Féin should contact their local Cumann; head office at 44, Parnell Square, Dublin; 85b Falls Road, Belfast; or 15 Cable Street, Derry.

I am interested in becoming a member of Sinn Féin

NAME

ADDRESS

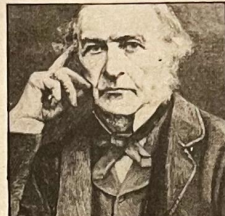
A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER — Another TV film suppressed

"An hour — long television film by a well-known programme-maker dealing with the Irish problem has effectively been suppressed," according to last weekend's 'Sunday Times' — whose own record is hardly unblemished. (The paper suppressed its own reporters submitted copy of cold-blooded murder by British para-troopers on Bloody Sunday in Derry.)

Harlech, the Welsh independent television company, was so embarrassed by the programme, 'Curious Journey', made by Kenneth Griffith, that it sold the rights of the film, costing an estimated £30,000, to Griffith for £1 on condition that every reference to Harlech was removed from the credits and that Griffith would not say which company had financed the project.

DEAL

The deal is 'even more astonishing,' according to the 'Sunday Times', since the film is concerned only with events in Ireland sixty years ago, and more. It consists of a series of interviews with nine Irish men and women who fought the British in 1916 and in the Tan war. All of them are close to eighty years old, or over. Whilst they



GLADSTONE — censored

recall past 'wrongs' done to Ireland by Britain, none speaks of the current war in the North, except to hope for unity.

According to the 'Sunday Times': "Harlech's manoeuvre will be seen as perhaps the most extreme example yet of television's sensitivity on Northern Ireland. It

will also be interpreted as yet another example of the lengths television companies will go to avoid giving offence as their licences come up for re-allocation."

Another film on Ireland by Kenneth Griffith was suppressed four years ago. Both the independent company ATV and the Independent Broadcasting Authority decided that his 'Life and Death of Michael Collins' was not suitable for showing.

TRUTH

Griffith points out that if British people "avoid the truth about the partition of Ireland, we only keep ourselves in a guilty predicament." The film makes the point that all the old people interviewed — amongst them a music publisher, a doctor and a retired policeman — were members of what were once described as "Murder gangs." They tell how the executions of the 1916 leaders boosted Republican support and how Frongach prison camp at Bala in north Wales became a 'revolutionary and educational university'.

Griffith himself does not appear in the film, but speaks the commentary, made up of historical references.

He quotes a comment on the Act of Union of 1801: "There is no blacker or fouler transaction in the history of man! We used the whole civil government of Ireland as an engine of wholesale corruption. We obtained that union... by wholesale bribery and unblushing intimidation."

Harlech wanted this passage out — it being too reminiscent of British policy today. Griffith pointed out that not only was the reference to an event 180 years old, but the words were those of British Prime Minister Gladstone. Harlech insisted. Griffith stood his ground. The film was suppressed.

Ron Wordley, managing director of Harlech, justifies the suppression: "The way it came out, it is better to show it when things are very much quieter."

'Things' however will only be 'very much quieter' when Britain no longer obstinately insists on occupying six counties of Ireland.

FINE GAEL ~ FEALL AR GHAEIL

Is maith le Fine Gael iad féin a chur ós comhair an phobail mar pháirtí atá difriúil ar fad ó Fhianna Fáil. In ainneoin sin is beag an difrí atá idir na páirtithe sin. Táid araon coimeádach agus is mó go mór na cosúlachtaí ná na difríochtaí atá eatartha.

Sheas an dá pháirtí le chéile ag iarraidh ar mhuintir na hÉireann páirt a ghlacadh i gComhphobal Eacnamaíochta na hEorpa. Táid sásta leis an gcaipitealachas mar chóras eacnamaíochta agus d'fimir an dá pháirtí cos ar bholg ar phoblachtaigh atá ag iarraidh saoirse na hÉireann a bhaint amach.

Mar sin féin is maith le Garret Fitzgerald é féin a chur chun cinnt mar pholaiteoir de shaghas nua. Tá sé ag iarraidh daoine óga a mhealladh le caint sheimh agus lena phearsantacht féin.

Dar leis go bhfuil an chuid is mó den bhrí a bhaineann le bheith ar an eite clé nó ar an eite deas cailte le deich mbliana anuas. Deir sé nach bhfuil tábhairt ar bith ag baint le náisiúnas lá atá inniú ann.

Níl le rá aige ach go bhfuil sé mar aidhm aon bheim a chur ar pholasaithe chun go mbeidh oideachas, títhe agus postanna le fáil ag aos óg na hÉireann amach anseo. Níl sé sásta na polasaithe sin a chur ós comhair an phobail anois. Tá sé á coimeád go dtí go mbeidh toghcháin fógartha.

Níl na polasaithe atá i gceist aige fiú curtha ós comhair binse tosaigh a pháirtí féin fós. Tá eagla air go scoiteadh an scéal amach agus go noidfeadh Fianna Fáil a bpolasaithe. Táiseánann sin cé chomh cosúil is atá na páirtithe nuair is féidir leis polasaithe a thógaint óna chéile.

'Sé an aidhm mhór atá aige ná sprid an phobail a mhúscailt i dtreo seirbhís den phobal seachas a bheith ag tabhairt aire dóibh féin. [Tugann sé socaí "mé féin" ar an socaí atá - aginn faoi láthair].

Ce gur in-mholta an aidhm e sin níl modh oibre ar bith curtha romhainn aige chun e sin a thabhairt i gcríoch. I ndáiríre combhreasnug focal is ea e a bheith ag caint ar an

ideal sin a bhaint amach i stat atá bunaithe ar gcaipitealachas.

Tá an caipitealachas bunaithe ar saint agus dúshaothrú an phobail. Nuair atá socaí den tsaghas sin i réim cailthfidh an duine troid chun a chearta d'fháil.

Ní féidir leis an lucht oibre dul i muinín seirbhís den phobal nuair nach bhfuil a gcearta aon agus nuair atá na máistrí sa mhullach orthu. Cailtear socaí bun-aithe ar idéal eile seachas caipitealachas a chur ar bun chun gur féidir é sin a dhéanamh.

Níl i gceist ag Fitzgerald ach aghaidh phoiblí níos fearr a thabhairt den gcaipitealachas. Níl sé i gceist aige aon mhórhóir a dhéanamh. Buanú an gcaipitealachais atá i gceist aige.

International Conference in Portugal

SINN FEIN recently attended the second international conference of 'Peoples in Struggle' which was held in Lisbon, Portugal, on the weekend of February 8th, 9th, and 10th despite attempts by the Portuguese Government to exclude all foreign delegates. The conference and cultural festival was organised by the National Committee of Support and Solidarity with Peoples in Struggle (CNASPEL) — a committee of the left opposition in Portugal.

Four days before the conference was due to start a government statement was issued which read: "This government does not authorise the participation of foreigners in the meeting on Peoples Struggle" and this declaration was issued on the basis "that most of the movements invited to participate in the meeting are organisations which conduct an armed struggle against the institutions and legitimate governments of democratic countries and friends of Portugal".

Clearly this was a sop to the imperialist West with whom the Portuguese Government is ingratiat-



Portuguese street slogans

ing itself. It was also hypocritical since the roots of the present Portuguese institutions can be freshly traced to armed struggle and the April Revolution of 1974 which overthrew Caetano's fascist regime, and when one considers a 1976 addition to the Constitution which upholds "the rights of peoples to insurrection against all forms of oppression."

However, under extreme

pressure the government climbed down at the eleventh hour but with the proviso that the musicians attending, especially the Basques and the Irish, and the foreign delegates, did not make any political statements from the stage. CNASPEL had by this time anyway decided not to hold the conference in public, but convened it in secret. Discussions were held on the world crisis of imperialism and the

new international economic order. Richard Behal, Director of Foreign Affairs, represented Sinn Féin, and in his message to the conference warned delegates against involvement in power politics — a prime example being the current situation in Afghanistan with the USSR and the USA. He also warned against Portugal joining the EEC, that it would be a betrayal of the April 25th Revolution.

It was recognised that the various imperialist powers had increased their co-ordination of political, economic and military forces in order to maintain the status quo. The lesson to learn was that all those organisations fighting imperialism and oppression must force stronger links.

Organisations which attended the conference included the Basque Revolutionary Party (EIA); Hasi — Basques; Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF); Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP); Ligus Populares 28th Fevereiro — El Salvador; Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR); Socialist Party Chile (CNR); Organisation of United Workers, Portugal; Galician Party of Workers; and Communist Movement, Spain.

AN BARR BUA

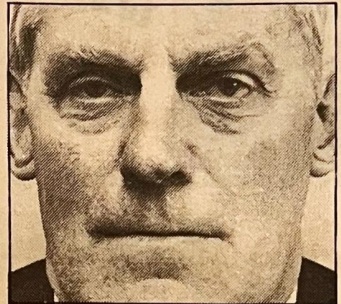
CHINSIREACHT
AR CHINSIREACHT!

CUID A HAON

Ard-oíche a bhí acu i nGaillimh ag deireadh mhí Feabhra nuair a tugadh omós, onóir agus dearbhú urraime don Chomhairleoir Padraig Ó Ruáin, ionadái tofa de chuid Shinn Féin ar Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ó 1955 i leith.

Is fada cáil agus gean an phobail ar Phadraig léirithe mar dhúine de na hionadaithe poiblí is macánta, is ceasta agus is díse in Éirinn. Ar éigean má tá namhaid pholaitíochta dá chuid ar nChomhairle Chontae a bhfuil drochfhocal le rá acu ina thaobh — cé nach dtairtíonn a chuid polaitíochta agus go háríte a dhílseacht do bhóthar coil díreach na Poblachta leo. Ba thráthúil mar sin an onóir a tugadh dó agus é ag comórach a lúbaile Airgid sa saol poiblí. Bhí suáir mór mílteach i lárthair in Oslann Flannery's agus bhí oíche go maidin ann. Bhí Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán Shinn Féin, agus a bhean i lárthair i lárthair freisin bhí an tAthair Piaras Ó Dúill, agus Deirdre Uí Chonail, thar ceann na fir a bhí i mbun oibre an pháirtí i gCúige Uladh an deireadh seachtaine céanna. Bhí suáir mór ionadaithe de mhuintir na Gaillimhe agus de mhuintir an iarthair i lárthair, ina measc ionadaithe poiblí eile de chuid Shinn Féin (Padraig Ó Héidhean as Baile Locha Riach agus Seán Ó Loinsigh atá ina bhall de Chomhairle Chontae an Longfoirt mar shampla) agus Pilib Ó Floinn, Ard-Rúnaí Chumann na n-Oifigeach Rialtais Áitiúil agus na Seirbhísí Poiblí. Cuid de na hionadaithe tofa nach raibh in ann teacht — ar nós Riobard Béalair i gClarra agus J.J. McGirl as Co. Liatroma — chuir siad sreangseálta nó teachtaireachtaí. Ach b'é rud ba mhó a thug sámhóg do gach éinne a bhí i lárthair ná nach raibh ar Shinn Féin dul laesmhúid dá lucht leanúna féin nuair a shocraigh siad go mbeadh Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, i gceannas na hoíche. Seo i'n chéad uair lenár linn go raibh an cathaoirleach i nGaillimh i lárthair Shinn Féin agus mbeadhbraigh an té atá ina Cathaoirleach faoi lárthair, Proinsias Mag Fhloinn dúnnaí go raibh an oifig i seilbh Fhianna Fáil le 45 Bliana anuas go dtí n.á. Má D'eirigh le Mag Fhloinn an onóir a thabhairt leis an t-am seo ar son Shinn Féin, bhí an chreidimint ag dul don té a bhí a onóir, Padraig Ó Ruáin, thar dhúine ar bith eile mar a mbeadhbraigh sé dúnna. Agus mar a mbeadhbraigh Ruairí Ó Brádaigh dúnnaí n'haon fhas an oíche don saol poiblí bhí anseo mar go raibh díúthbaint ag athair Phadraig, Tomás Ó Ruáin, leis an obair a rinne Shinn Féin i 1920 — '21 chun an córas rialtais áitiúil a ghlaacadh ó gheirín na nGall isteach i lárthair ionadaithe an ghnáthphobail.

Dúirt Ruairí gur bhuail an beart reabhlóideach polaitíochta úd ag an am buile marfach ar gheirín na Sasanach ar an gcuid ba mhó ar fad d'Éirinn. B'é teagasc reabhlóideach Poblachtaíoch Shinn Féin rogha an phobail i 28 gcinn de na 32 chontae ag na toghcháin áitiúla i 1920. Níor cheart ligean don feall a rinneadh ina dhiaidh sin



muid a dhalladh ar an mbunfhric sin go deo. Ach mas fíor gur dearnadh comórach maith flathúil ar lúbaile Airgid Uí Ruáin i gCo. na Gaillimhe le garid fágadh b'fíle éiríne ina dtost. Guthanna R.T.E. agus Radíó na Gaeltachta nach raibh cead acu glog a ligean astu ar eagla go gcuirfí olc ar Albert Reynolds an phocphocais as Co. Longfoirt a bhí fós sa chliabhán nuair a bhí Ruairí Ó Brádaigh ina Th.D. don chontae sin, agus a dhúntoir Mark Killilea as oirthear na Gaillimhe, — an té nach maithfidh go deo do Phroinsias Mag Fhloinn gur éirigh leis Cathaoirleacht na Comhairle Chontae a bhaint de! Mar bhaire an donas, ó thug Charles ardo céime — gluaisint ar chostas an phobail — don bheirt atá an cineadh a bhainfidh le comhthoghadh na bhfoirgnas sa dá Chomhairle Chontae — i Longfort agus i nGaillimh — ag brath cuid mhaith san dá chás ar vótáil na mball tofa atá ag Shinn Féin.

Tuigearn an bheirt mar sin tábhacht agus tionchar na bpolaiteoirí Poblachtaíoch — eolas nach bhfuil fonn orthu a roinnt leis an saol mór. Agus an leighis? Cosc iomlán a chur ar ionadaithe Shinn Féin ó pháirt a ghlaacadh in aon chláir ar na meáin chraolta atá faoina smacht.

Ní dócha gur gá ag an bpoinnte seo dul siar ar scéal scannalach na cinsireachta fíor Alt 31 den Acht Craolacháin. Ach tá fianaise tagtha chun solais a léiríonn gur iomráil agus gur "coinsiasaí" i bhfad atá ardbhainistíocht RTE na mar atá ordaithe dóibh ag Albert, Mark agus an rialtas féin. Tuilleadh faoi sin an chéad uair eile.

Seán Clárach

MEMORIAM

HUGHES, Charlie (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Charlie Hughes 'O' Coy. Murdered by renegades on March 8th 1971. "Weep not for him with useless tears, but think of him with pride, for Ireland he fought the fight, for her with joy he died. I remember his blood, his wounds, his pain, not one pain was wasted, not one drop of blood was shed in vain". Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him. Always remembered by his friend Patsy Hickey Long Kesh. **HUGHES, Charlie (9th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol. Charlie Hughes. Murdered on March 8th 1971. "On our wall hangs a beautiful picture. It is more precious than silver or gold, it is the picture of a brave volunteer whose memory will never grow old. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him. Always remembered by Mrs. Hickey and Family.

HUGHES, Charlie (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Charlie Hughes. Shot dead by enemies of Ireland on March 8th 1971. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.

HUGHES, Charlie (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Charlie Hughes. Shot while on active service. A tribute on the 8th March 1971. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

HUGHES, Charlie (9th Anniversary). The Clonard Martyrs Sinn Féin cumann remember with pride Vol. Charlie Hughes. Murdered by renegades 8th March 1971. "Fad's atá na uaigneas sa Éirinn n'fheidh síocháin ann gan saoirse. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him.

HUGHES, Charlie (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Charlie Hughes 'O' Coy. 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oslann na hÉireann. Killed while on active service 4th March 1972. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him. "Deep in our hearts his memory is kept. We loved him dearly to ever forget." Remembered always by his parents, brothers, sisters and a large family circle.

KAVANAGH, Albert (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear son Vol. Albert Kavanagh, A. Coy. 2nd Battalion Oslann na hÉireann. Killed while on active service 4th March 1972. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him. "Deep in our hearts his memory is kept. We loved him dearly to ever forget." Remembered always by his parents, brothers, sisters and a large family circle.

KAVANAGH, Albert (8th Anniversary). In sad but loving memory of my dear brother Albert, very sadly missed by his sister Paula.

KAVANAGH, Albert (8th Anniversary). The Clonard Martyrs Sinn Féin cumann remember with pride Vol. Albert Kavanagh who was killed while on active service on 4th March 1972. Ar dheis Dá go raibh a anam óg usail. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him.

MCCANN, Tom; LEWIS, Tony; CROSSAN, Gerry; JOHNSTON, John. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tom McCann, Tony Lewis, Gerry Crossan and John Johnston who were killed while on active service duty 9th March 1972. Their comrades shall ensure that their dream of a socialist republic will become a reality. Gone but not forgotten. Always remembered by Sean, Rosemary and family.

MCCANN, Tom; LEWIS, Tony; CROSSAN, Gerry; JOHNSTON, John. (8th Anniversary). In loving memory of Tony, Tom, Gerry, and John who died for Ireland on 9th March 1972. St. Patrick pray for them. Always remembered by the Murray family.

MCCANN, Tom; LEWIS, Tony; CROSSAN, Gerry; JOHNSTON, John. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tom McCann, Tony Lewis, Gerry Crossan and John Johnston who were killed while on active service duty on 9th March 1972. Fuair siad b'as ar son an Phoblacht sóisialach. Ní dheanfaimid dearmad orthu arís. From their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

MCCANN, Tom; LEWIS, Tony; CROSSAN, Gerry; JOHNSTON, John. (8th Anniversary). The Clonard Martyrs Sinn Féin cumann remember with pride Vol. Tom McCann, Tony Lewis, Gerry Crossan and John Johnston whose anniversary occurs on 9th March. I measc Laochra na Gaeil go raibh a n-anamacha usail. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for them.

DEATH OF MARGARET AHERNE

ON SATURDAY 23rd February, one of Ireland's unsung heroes went to her eternal reward in a quiet church yard on the banks of the lovely Curragh.

Margaret Ahern was laid to rest beside her son Tony. Tony Ahern made the supreme sacrifice in the fight for Irish Freedom while on active service.

While young men and women fight for freedom, mothers like Margaret Ahern live each day and night fearing the worst. But like her sisters in the occupied six counties she squared her

shoulders and faced the heartbreak.

In sunshine or hail she never missed the occasion of the annual commemoration for Tony. She was a magnificent inspiration to all. Tony Ahern Sinn Féin Cumann, Carrigrohilly, County Cork tender their deepest sympathy to her family.

Among the mourners at her funeral was Tom Kelleher a veteran of the war of independence, who despite his great age he is still very active with An Cumann Cabhrach.

DEATH OF PETER QUINLAN

THE DEATH has occurred at his home in Cappawhite of Tipperary republican Peter Quinlan. Peter was interned in the infamous Curragh Camp during the forties. Proud of his ancestor, the Rapparee "Cut" Quinlan, Peter in his younger days was prominent in land agitation. He was also an active member

of N.A.C.A. and staunch upholder of its ideals.

He had lived in County Clare for some years and was a member of the Shannon Sinn Féin cumann, where he was an inspiration to his younger colleagues.

LA ELLE PADHRAIGH

CELLI AGUS OLD TIME

Atha Claithe Ceilí 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

DUBLIN 'BUY A BUS' APPEAL

The Joe Clarke Sinn Féin cumann, Finglas, Dublin, have launched an appeal fund to 'buy a bus'. The main purpose of the bus will be the transportation of prisoners' relatives to the prisons. The bus will also be used for transport to functions.

The target is £3,500 with a final date of March 31st.

Donations to be sent to 'Bus Fund', c/o Lita Campbell, 44, Parnell Square, Dublin. Tel. 726932 or c/o Joe Austin, 170a, Falls Road, Belfast. Tel. 46841.

DUBLIN SINN FEIN

Education Quiz

All teams wishing to compete must submit names by next Comhairle Atha Claithe meeting on Tuesday 11th March when the draw will take place.

DUNDALK CUMANN CABHRACH

15th Draw results: February 22nd
£100: 247; £30: 97; £20: 264; £10: 308, 324, 276, 311, 525, 236 and 396; £5: 12, 373, and 404.

SYMPATHY

CLARKE

The Wolfe Tone Sinn Féin cumann, Tallaght send deepest sympathy to Larry Clarke on the recent death of his father.

CLONARD MARTYRS SINN FEIN

CUMANN

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION

In honour of the following volunteers of 'C' Company 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade who died fighting for Irish freedom: Vol. Tom Mc Cann, Vol. Lewis, Vol. John Johnston, Vol. Gerry Crossan, and Fian Sean O'Riordan, and Vol. Albert Kavanagh and Vol. Charlie Hughes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

1 p.m. Sunday 9th March

Miltown Cemetery

BELFAST

GET WELL SOON

Tom Carey. The Sean Corcoran Sinn Féin cumann Kilbrannagh send 'get well soon' message to Tom Carey who is presently in the Merlin Park hospital, Galway. Sorry to hear you are ill Tom.

THANKS

H-block. The H-block appeal fund wish to acknowledge, as requested, an anonymous donation of £5.

No 5 Club

Blessington Street

DUBLIN

The club will be opening each Saturday at 8.30 p.m. for an evening of ceol agus comhra. Doors close 10 p.m.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

ON WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

The conference arranged for March 15th/16th has been postponed until March 29th/30th. Further details later.

A Sense of Ireland

MUCH has appeared in the media in recent weeks about the 'A Sense of Ireland' festival currently being held in London.

A Republican view of the festival (several events being notable exceptions) can only be that it provides a deliberately distorted Free-State sponsored picture of Ireland for British audiences. A picture that is in accord with British ignorance and pre-conceived prejudices — reducing the Irish people to purely 'friendly singing natives' who need — the hidden implication is — paternal (British) help to get over their 'troubles'. Not surprisingly British Imperialism in Ireland and the war in the North are virtually ignored.

A correctly critical view of the festival has been taken by the Troops Out Movement in London who have distributed thousands of the leaflet reproduced here, to the festival audiences.

A Sense of Ireland...



... is something missing?

Troops Out Movement leaflet

CORK MEETING

FIVE HUNDRED people, many of them trade unionists, attended an H-Block meeting organised by the National H-Block Committee, in the Connolly Hall, Cork, last Friday February 29th. It was the largest meeting in the city on such a political issue for a long time.

The meeting was chaired by Jim Lane, chairman of the Cork H-Block committee and the speakers were: Fr. Piaras O Duill, chairman of the

National H-Block Committee; former blanket-man Kieran Nugent; Maura McCro of the Belfast Relatives Action Committee; and Joe Stagg, chairman of the Southern-based H-Block sub-committee.

Messages of support were read out at the meeting from various groups including local trade unions. The following resolution, unanimously passed by the Cork Council of Trade Unions at its

meeting of Thursday 21st February was also read out: "We strongly condemn the complete violation of basic rights and degrading and inhuman treatment of prisoners held in Long Kesh concentration camp and call on the British government to take steps to ensure its discontinuance. Council furthermore calls on all the parties involved to play their part in bringing this shameful situation to an end."



KIERAN NUGENT



Ardoyne leafletting

As part of their regular Saturday afternoon H-Block protest activities, Belfast Sinn Féin last weekend leafletted the Ardoyne district.

ARMAGH PRISON REGIME CREATING H-BLOCK CONDITIONS

Women prisoners in Armagh jail:

- 23 hours per day cellular confinement
- denied washing facilities
- denied toilet facilities
- attacked by male warders

STOP THE DEGRADING TREATMENT! DEFEND POLITICAL STATUS!

ARMAGH LEAFLETS

Leaflets on the present deplorable conditions being inflicted on the Republican women prisoners in Armagh jail are now available from the Sinn Féin POW Department, 5 Blessington Street, Dublin (Tel. 308783) and 85b Falls Road, Belfast (Tel. 23214).

STOP THE INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT IN ARMAGH JAIL!

THE ARMAGH PRISON REGIME is a disgraceful and inhuman one. It is a complete violation of basic rights and degrading and inhuman treatment of prisoners held in Long Kesh concentration camp and call on the British government to take steps to ensure its discontinuance. Council furthermore calls on all the parties involved to play their part in bringing this shameful situation to an end."

DEFEND POLITICAL STATUS!

Solidarity Greetings

JACKSON, Gerard (Jake), (H-Block). Congratulations son on completing two years on the blanket. "They may look you away and refuse you your rights but Ireland's brave sons continue to fight." Love mum dad and kids xxxxx

JACKSON, Gerard (Jake), (H-Block). Congratulations Jake on completing two years on the blanket. "They may break you in body but never in spirit." Thinking of you always, your loving sister Theresa.

JACKSON, Gerard (Jake), (H-Block). Congratulations Jake 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." Always in our thoughts. Your loving sister and brother-in-law Pauline and Raddo xxx

JACKSON, Gerard (Jake), (H-Block). Congratulations Jake on completing two years on the blanket. "Each time they beat you and throw you on the boards try to smile and keep your chin up for victory will soon be yours." Well done. From your loving sister Carol, brother-in-law Tommy (H-Block) and kids Pauline and Thomas. xxx

JOHNSTON, William, (The Desk) (H-Block). "A blanket for a pillow, a blanket for a gown, a blanket for a friend, a blanket cold and brown. We always think of you, Desk. Won't be long now, God bless."

McDONNELL, Gerard P. (H-Block). Congratulations to you on completing 2 years on the blanket. We are proud of you today and every day, for your

resistance against Brit criminalisation. Love from your friend Agnes.

McDONNELL, Gerard P. (H-Block). Best wishes dear brother on completing 2 years on the blanket in that British Hell Hole. Love and support from your sister Anne, nieces and nephews.

McDONNELL, Gerard P. (H-Block). Solidarity greetings Gerry. "It does not take a special day to bring you to my mind because a day without a thought of you is very hard to find". Love from your friend Agnes.

McDONNELL, Gerard P. (H-Block). Congratulations Gerard on completing two years on the blanket. We are behind you all the way. You are always in our prayers and thoughts. Your courage and that of your comrades is an inspiration to us all. From Michael, Pat and family.

McDONNELL, Gerard P. (H-Block). Two years completed on the blanket. You are not alone in H-Block no matter what they say, for outside your friends and loved ones are behind you all the way. Thinking of you always. From Marj Thomas and kids, Clara, Sinead, and Louise.

McDONNELL, Gerard P. (H-Block). Solidarity greetings Gerry on completing two years on the blanket in Britain's Holocaust. You may lose your privileges and Aine, and from Cathleen and family in Gracchill Street.

McDONNELL, Gerard P. (H-Block). Solidarity greetings Gerry on completing two years on the blanket in the living Hell Hole. Mason the mad midget could not break you, Atkins won't either. Rosie.

McQUILLAN, Joseph, (H-Block). Tuff Lodge R.A.C. salute you Joe on completing two years on the blanket protest. "They may break you in body but never in spirit. You are an inspiration to us all." Victory to the blanket-men!

STEVENSON, Lawrence, (H-Block). Congratulations Lawrence on the anniversary of your fourth year in Long Kesh on 6th March. Three of those long years you have spent in the terrible conditions of the H-Block protest. We are all very proud of you and your comrades in your struggle. We wish you luck and strength while continuing your ordeal. From mum, dad, brothers and sisters.

ARMAGH

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Sinn Féin co-ordinating Committee on Women's affairs sends solidarity greetings, on behalf of all Sinn Féin women, to our courageous sisters in Armagh jail. We salute you and pledge our support in your struggle for Prisoner-of-war status.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BARNES, Joe (H-Block). Happy birthday from Sheila, Eugene (Portlaoise) and Aine, and from Cathleen and family in Gracchill Street.

DOHERTY, Robert, (H-Block) Birthday greetings Robert. We hope your next one will be spent in freedom. All the best from Rosemary (Armagh) and all the Callaghan family, Short Strand.

DOHERTY, Robert, (H-Block). Happy Birthday Robert. "You are not alone in prison no matter what they say for outside your friends and loved ones are

behind you all the way." From your friends in the Short Strand.

HUGHES, Frances, (H-Block). Happy 24th birthday Frances. "You are not alone in the H-Block no matter what they say, for outside your friends and loved ones are behind you all the way." Lots of love from Dolores and Paddy.

HUGHES, Frances (H-Block). Birthday greetings to our son Frances on this your 24th. "No one could be prouder of you than we are today and this is just to tell you we are behind you all the way." Lots of love from mummy, daddy, brothers, and sisters.

ROONEY, Philip (H-Block). Happy 21st birthday Philip. Your courage is an inspiration to us all. Love from Ellish, Lina, Karen, Tony and Bernice.

ROONEY, Philip, (H-Block). Congratulations to our son Philip on your 21st birthday. "You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Love from your mother and father."

ROONEY, Philip (H-Block). Happy 21st birthday Philip. May your next one be spent in freedom. All our love from Marie, Tucker, Michael, Catherine, Patrick, Mary, Anthony, Jim, Theresa, Gerald, Theresa, Sam, Patrick, Annette, Philip, wee Patrick, Stephen, Dolores, Thomas, Lee-Anne, Eddie, Mazie and kids, Betty, Ray and kids, Paula, Bernard, Bernadette and Brendan.

ROONEY, Philip (H-Block). Happy 21st birthday Philip. You are in my thoughts today and everyday. All my love from Sinead. xxxxx

ROONEY, Philip, (H-Block). Happy 21st birthday Philip. Your fight is our fight. Love from Minnie, Willie and family.

McCLUSKEY, John, (Long Lartin) Birthday greetings John on 12th March. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Love and God bless you from all your family.

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

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.

H-BLOCK MARCH NEWRY
Sunday 23rd March
Organised by National H-Block Committee

H-BLOCK MARCH DERRY
Sunday 27th April
Organised by National H-Block Committee

ON THE PROTEST

IN a list published three weeks ago, of Republican women prisoners 'on the protest' for political status in Armagh jail AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS missed out Patricia Craig (Downpatrick) - an omission for which the paper apologises.

BLANKET MEN - ENGLAND

THERE are now two Irish political prisoners 'on the blanket' in Wormwood Scrubs prison, West London. They are Mick Murray (Dublin) and Patrick Hackett (Tipperary), who lost an arm and a leg in an explosion before his arrest. Anthony Cunningham and Liam Baker (both of Belfast) continue their 'blanket' protest in Albany prison, Isle of Wight.

TRADE UNIONS - BELFAST

THIRTY trade unionists (and one RUC plain-clothes man, who was told to leave) attended an H-Block meeting at the Central Hall in Ben's Rosemary Street on Wednesday 27th February. The meeting, which was described as an 'encouraging step' by one of the organisers, was called by the National H-Block Committee to discuss how to raise the prisoner issue in the trade unions. It was addressed by Dublin trade unionist and Kevin McConnell (of NEEU) and Belfast trade unionist Brian Sullivan (of NUPE). The next meeting is to be on the evening of Wednesday 19th March at the same place.



MANCHESTER PICKET

A PICKET, organised by the 'North of England Irish Prisoners Committee' and supported by Sinn Féin and various English socialist groups, was held at Manchester Strangeways prison on Saturday 16th February. A small counter-demonstration led by fascists dissolved after an ineffective attempt to disrupt the picket, which was addressed by a former black inmate of the prison, who condemned the racist (anti-black and anti-Irish) prison regime.



COISTE CUIMHNEACHAIN NA POBLACHTA
Applications for speakers at Easter commemorations should be made, giving full details of venue, time etc. to An Rúnai, Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



Order your Easter Lilies
Available from Mrs. P. King, 29 All Saints Park, Raheny, Dublin 5. Price £10 per 1,000.
Honour Ireland's dead - wear an Easter Lily!

