

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

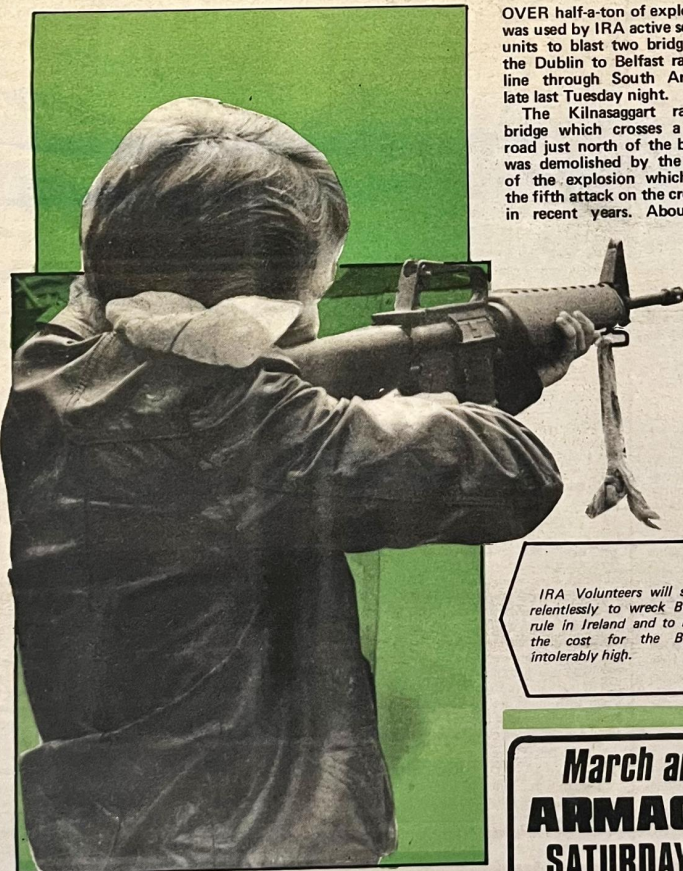


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Saturday May 10th 1980

(England, Scotland and Wales 20p) Price 15p

Brits out-witted: IRA strike RAIL LINK BROKEN!



OVER half-a-ton of explosives was used by IRA active service units to blast two bridges on the Dublin to Belfast railway line through South Armagh late last Tuesday night.

The Kilnasaggart railway bridge which crosses a main road just north of the border was demolished by the force of the explosion which was the fifth attack on the crossing in recent years. About six

hundred yards away an explosion at another railway bridge again extensively damaged the line.

Last Tuesday night IRA Volunteers placed two explosive charges under the bridges which are in an area kept under surveillance for just such attacks.

About twenty minutes to midnight a bomb exploded at the first bridge, followed twenty minutes later by a huge explosion at Kilnasaggart which brought down the recently reinforced structure and completely severed the North-South link.

In the darkness a patrol of British soldiers who were walking along the line came across the operation being finally laid but the Volunteers escaped after completing their task.

Contrary to media reports no rifles were left behind. Furthermore it was the Brits who panicked and fled the scene.

Twenty-four hours after the blast the area was still sealed off. A British army helicopter examined the scene from the air and soldiers began moving in cautiously for fear of booby traps.

DETERMINED

In claiming responsibility for the attack the IRA in South Armagh said they were determined to completely break the communications link, which is a major freight network as well as a passenger line, and they ordered workmen in the border area not to restore or maintain the rail-link. Last Sunday the

cross-border electricity link, which was being repaired, was also severed by a series of explosions at pylons a few miles south of Crossmaglen.

These two attacks came in for criticism from Free State politicians one of whom, John Kelly of Fine Gael, was interviewed on BBC radio. He accused the IRA of attacking Irish unity by striking at some of the only tangible North-South links!

HYPOCRITICAL

These criticisms are hypocritical coming from people who have not lifted their little finger to help end British rule in Ireland but have consistently crashed down their fists on those who do. The Free Staters have over one thousand soldiers deployed in propping up the border.

All Free State government connections and links with the British regime in the North and its departments are geared towards reforming or improving that rule and not towards ending it. The Free Staters complain only of the misgovernment while republicans fundamentally oppose foreign government of our country.

To wreck British rule in the North of Ireland and make the cost of rule intolerably high it is unavoidably necessary for the IRA to attack the communications system, such as transport and power. To those bankrupt on the national question such attacks are an occasion for those windbags to belch hot air. But to those concerned about the ultimate freedom of Ireland these attacks against the Brit regime are of no significant inconvenience. None at all.

**March and Rally
ARMAGH CITY
SATURDAY 10th MAY**

Assemble 2.30p.m. English St.
Rally in Irish St. Speakers include Rose McAllister — the first Armagh 'no-wash' protestor to be released — and a former 'blanket' man.
BELFAST BUS (cost £1.50 per head) leaves Dunville Park at 1p.m.
Organised by National H-block Committee

O'CONNOR'S ORDEAL

AT HALF-PAST-FIVE on the morning of January 20th 1977, school-teacher Bernard O'Connor was arrested from his Enniskillen home by armed RUC men, backed by British soldiers. Over several days he was subject to a wide range of RUC ill-treatment, both physical and mental, which has left him with permanent mental scars which affect his everyday life with his family.

Two months afterwards his treatment was publicly exposed on the BBC television programme 'Tonight'. Despite this, despite available medical evidence of torture, and despite the credibility of Bernard O'Connor's account of his ordeal (see 'Account accepted'), the Director of Public Prosecutions refused to take the RUC to court. Bernard O'Connor has thus been forced to take a civil action for damages against his torturers, and this case is currently being heard in a Belfast court.

Printed here are extracts from a statement made by Bernard O'Connor describing his ordeal during different interrogation periods in Castlereagh barracks.

Account Accepted

'ON March 2nd 1977, the BBC television programme 'Tonight' carried a specially extended programme on RUC interrogation methods. In this television programme, which was unusually honest for the BBC when covering Ireland, Bernard O'Connor described how he had been tortured by the RUC. He also said that he was told that he would be assassinated by his interrogators if released. He stated: "I resigned myself that perhaps I would be killed during this interview, and the actual smothering under the hood really convinced me that something like that would happen." A doctor's report was quoted stating that during the interrogation Bernard O'Connor "had been assaulted while in police custody".

Following strong criticism of the programme by the then direct-ruler, the much-hated Roy Mason, and the then Tory spokesman on Ireland, the late unlamented Airey Neave, the BBC issued a statement saying that the programme was broadcast only after the most rigorous checking.

On March 4th 1977, the 'Irish Press' carried an editorial describing the 'Tonight' programme as "an indictment of the RUC interrogators" and as giving "the lie to the assurance by Britain's Attorney General, Mr. Sam Silkin, at the Strasbourg hearing that torture in interrogation centres had been stopped since 1972".

On March 8th 1977, the Bishop of Derry, Dr. Edward Daly, speaking on an RTE radio programme, said he believed Bernard O'Connor's account of his treatment in Castlereagh and that it substantiated quite a number of allegations that had been brought to his attention by doctors and by some people who had been interrogated.

A tribute to Bernard O'Connor was paid by Fr. Padraig O'Mearain, a local Enniskillen priest who had known him for twenty years. In a letter to the 'Irish News', published on March 10th 1977, he said of O'Connor: "When he soberly and graphically described his five days ordeal in Castlereagh barracks in such an ordered and dispassionate way I personally believed every word he uttered and admired his courage."

EXTRACTS FROM BERNARD O'CONNOR'S STATEMENT OF HIS INTERROGATION ORDEAL AT THE HANDS OF THE RUC IN JANUARY 1977.

I was told by the taller of the two detectives to stand in front of the table. He looked at me and he said: "So you are Bernard O'Connor, man but you are an insignificant bastard."

He then put me standing on my toes, made me bend my knees and hold my two hands out in front of me. I was told to stay in that position. When my heels touched the ground I was hit a slap on the face.

At a later stage when I had to wipe the sweat from my forehead with my hand I was also hit a slap on the face for not keeping my hands in the position I was told. Several times I wobbled to my heels and each time I was struck on the face...

I went through this type of interrogation for approximately three-and-a-half to four hours. My legs were trembling with the strain and the sweat was running freely down my face onto the ground...

It was during this interview that I heard at least three other people receiving physical abuse, as walls shook and I heard people shouting in the room adjoining the one I was in, and in the one opposite the one I was in, and in a room some distance away. People were evidently being bashed against the walls and doors and receiving other ill-treatment which caused them to cry out and roar...

PRESS-UPS

I was made to stand on my toes, bend my knees and hold my hands out in front of me. I was made stand in that position for about fifteen minutes and I was slapped on the face several times by the younger man, mainly to the cheeks and ears.

I was kicked around the room by both men, on the legs and buttocks. I was fired around the room from one to the other. I was punched severely in the stomach several times, mainly by the older man. I was made to get down on the floor and do ten press-ups and if I let my body touch the floor I was kicked by the younger man.

I was made to do ten sit-ups and if my heels left the floor again I was kicked by the younger man on the buttocks. I was again put back on my toes and made to stand again with my hands out and this went on and on and on.

Finally they decided that it might be even better if I took off my clothes, so I was told to take my trousers off. They then told me to take my underpants off. They then told me to take the rest of my clothes off and I did so, leaving me naked.

I was pumped up and down with my head between my knees several times after I was fully clothed again. I was pushed into a corner and the track-suit top which I was wearing was taken off me and put down over my head, by the younger man, with the arms tied around my neck. I cannot say who tied them round my neck.

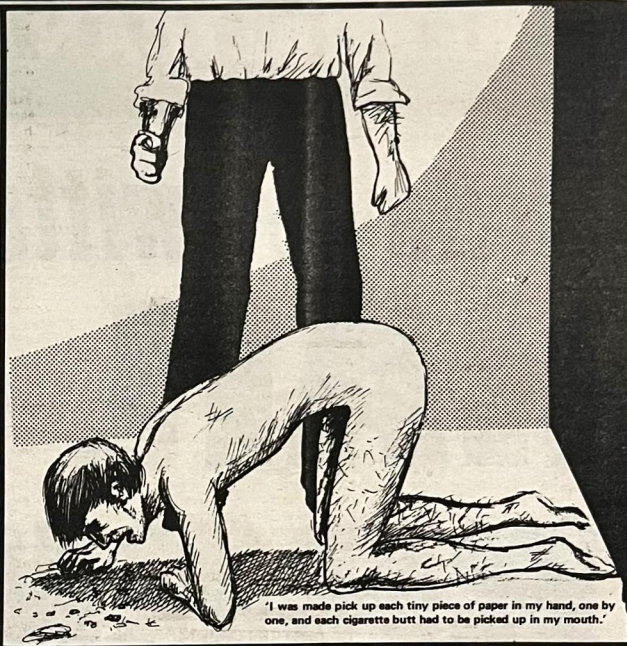
CHOKE

My nose was closed off with their fingers and my mouth was sealed off with another hand. I couldn't breathe. During this I heard the older man say 'choke the bastard'. I found even my very stomach trying to come up my throat, until finally I could remember no more for a short stage. I must have fainted for maybe just a minute or maybe five or ten minutes. I have no idea but when I came round the same two people were kicking me in the side.

I was made to run up and down, jogging and running on the spot and each time I ran past them they kicked me on the legs and buttocks. They couldn't get me to run fast enough.

The younger, fair-haired CID person started to shadow box in front of me and at no time did he hit me in front of me and at no time did he hit me in the face with any of his punches until suddenly he would hit me very very hard in the stomach which would land me, maybe, five or six foot back against the wall with a very loud bang...

Very shortly afterwards I was made take off my entire clothes again. In all I was stripped naked on two occasions. On at least three occasions I was kicked for being slow in taking off or putting on my clothes. I was hooded again by the younger man and again choked, and tried to be smothered by them both, but



except this time I remember that I definitely didn't faint out...

SPINNING

The tall black-haired man took me and he spun me around above his head and he spun me around several times and then he threw me through the air and I landed on my back on the ground. When he was spinning me he held me straight up above his head and threatened to break my back on the table. I remember seeing a most beautiful shade of violet for at least half-a-minute; it would seem that length and it was the most beautiful colour I had ever seen.

I was then taken by the same tall dark-haired man and at another stage he hit me a massive box in the stomach which fired me straight across the room without my feet, or anything, touching the ground until I splattered against the wall.

I was back in the nude again at another stage. They took my under-pants, which had been severely soiled with sweat and excretion. They were then put above my head and hung down over my face and I was made to run around the room while they mocked and jeered at me concerning my private parts, making references to the fact I had seven children and then I was left again, standing on my toes with my hands out in a very awkward stance again. I never in my life ever sweated as much as I sweated during that period...

While they, the first two, sat eating, one of them, the older of them, took the waste paper bin and dumped it down over my head and the litter and papers and cigarette butts went all over the floor. I was made pick up each tiny piece of paper in my hand, one by one, and each cigarette butt had to be picked up in my mouth and if I wasn't doing it quick enough then again I was getting kicked by both of the first two interviewers.

When they were finished their fish supper one of them, the younger of the two, came over to me with a white plastic beaker of water and asked me did I want a drink. I was extremely thirsty and would have been very delighted to get a drink. I said yes. He handed the drink into my hand and with his other hand he smashed it out of my hand and sent it flying over the floor. I was then made get down on the floor on my hands and knees and lick the water off the floor and I was delighted even to get it like that...

ROARING

The thinner, taller one of the two would keep roaring at the top of his voice and I thought my ear drum would burst open. This would last for fifteen or twenty minutes solid at one time.

When the dark-haired one would be tired of punching me in the back of the head and after a slight rest, and again talking through the stuff on the file, he would then stand in front of me and slap my face from left to right with his open hand until his face got white with temper, when he wasn't able to do it any longer. He got so tired hammering me that he left the room and said that he would be back in ten minutes after he got a break. He said he was fatigued and wasn't able to continue it any longer at that rate but, that when he came back, if I wouldn't admit to any of the offences by then, he would take me to within an inch of my life...

QUESTIONS

Both the men smoked a lot and they offered me sweets which I was very glad to take. It appeared to me that these men were out to ask me as many questions as they possibly could about everything and anything. I was asked questions about religion, priests, nuns, the pope, schools, civil rights, PD, all forms of politics, united Ireland, political parties in the South, England, sex, personal sex life, practically everything one would want to ask questions about. The questions were mainly asked in a very stanted sort of manner.

For instance they would ask did I believe that priests had intercourse with young girls? Did I believe that priests had intercourse with nuns? Did I believe that the nuns were in orphanages to cater for their own children? Did I believe that the Pope was a bastard? Did I believe that the Pope was the cause of starvation in parts of the world, for not selling his wealth and his property? This type of question went on and on and on and on, roughly to about between 4 and 4.30 in the morning of January 23rd.

At times I was answering yes and no to things I honestly didn't believe in and I knew were completely untrue. I know for a fact that when they asked me did I believe the Pope was a bastard, I answered yes...

At this time they did not attempt to abuse me. They were there to give me good advice and the advice was that I should take a short stretch in jail now or if I was going to be now released — which they doubted very much and said that, in fact, they were sure I wasn't, but if by any chance I was — that the UVF would only be too delighted to murder me. That was very strange and reminds me of the first interview I had with them when they were kicking me around the place; that they said that they personally would make sure that I would be assassinated and they said that they personally would be the boys who would assassinate me.

WAR NEWS

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

LISBURN BOMB

A railway signal box near Lisburn was bombed and damaged by an active service unit from the Belfast Brigade on the evening of Wednesday 30th April. No civilians were injured and the unit returned safely to base.

PUNISHMENT SHOOTING

The IRA's Belfast Brigade carried out a punishment shooting in the leg of a man in the Lenadoon area, on the evening of Thursday 1st May. According to the IRA, the man "had been involved in a series of break-ins which had caused great hardship to the working-class families of Andersonstown." The IRA warned that others "should remember what the inevitable consequences of their anti-social behaviour will be."

UNDER-COVER BRIT SHOT DEAD

In Belfast an under-cover plain-clothes British soldier was shot dead by the IRA on the Antrim Road — at the junction of Cavehill Road, on the fringe of the New Lodge area just after 2 p.m. on the afternoon of Friday 2nd May.

The dead soldier was later acknowledged by the military to have been a captain, a member of the Grenadier Guards, who was attached to British army headquarters at Lisburn. In fact he was more than likely a member of the elite SAS regiment, whose members are officially 'on attachment', and who are not usually acknowledged,



when captured or killed, to have been SAS men.

RUC MAN INJURED

Also on Friday, the IRA in Crossmaglen claimed responsibility for a booby-trap bomb attack on British soldiers and RUC men in South Armagh.

The 200lb bomb was cleverly concealed along a minor road at Mount Hill, about two miles south of Crossmaglen. It was detonated by remote control, injuring an RUC man — two British soldiers narrowly escaped injury — during a major cross-border search, by British soldiers and RUC men in South Armagh, and by Free State soldiers and gardai in County Louth.

ELECTRICITY LINK BOMBED

On the evening of Saturday 3rd

May, the IRA carried out another attack near Crossmaglen, South Armagh. This time their target was the cross-border electricity link, which the IRA successfully wrecked several years ago, and which the British and Free State governments are now trying to re-establish.

A string of explosions toppled a giant pylon, near Moybane, about two miles south of Crossmaglen. Four of the six double cables carried on the pylon, were severed, and the Brits admitted that damage was 'considerable'.

The IRA stated that this latest successful attack underlines their determination to smash the link-up. They have previously warned that they will not allow the Free State government to prop up the artificial six-county statelet by supplying electricity which helps alleviate the cost to the British of their occupation.

UDR MAN AMBUSHED

A part-time soldier belonging to the 8th County Tyrone Battalion of the UDR was shot and wounded shortly after he left his home in Castlederg at about eight o'clock on the morning of Wednesday 7th May.

As he was driving a lorry along the Castlefinn Road near the village, IRA Volunteers opened fire from a parked car. Several of the bullets grazed the UDR man's head. The attack happened just a few hundred yards from the local RUC barracks. The active service unit returned safely to base.

RUC IN COURT

THE TRIAL of two RUC men on charges of murdering a Catholic three years ago, Abigail Grover William Strathern, has continued for the third week in Belfast. The two are RUC Sergeant John Weir from Magherafelt, and Constable William McCaughey from Lurgan. McCaughey, along with RUC Sergeant James Armstrong from Armagh city, has in a previous trial already admitted to the kidnapping in June 1978 of sixty-one-year-old Fr. Hugh Murphy whom they had threatened to kill.

Last Tuesday the court heard that Sergeant Weir attempted to strike a deal with one of his interrogators, a detective inspector at Castleragh. The prosecution alleges that Weir admitted to the inspector that an earlier statement he had made about his involvement in the murder was not the whole truth. The inspector told the court that Weir had said the statement he had made would give him 'a fighting chance' in court, but that if he told the whole story he would have no chance. Weir then asked if it was possible to get a pardon for his part if he turned Queen's evidence against two Lurgan men, Robin Jackson and Bob Kerr (named as the two UVF men who actually shot Strathern), which would put them behind bars. "Would that not be better than locking me up?" Weir is alleged to have said. The inspector claims that he told Weir that there could be no deal, he should turn Queen's evidence and just take his chances with the judge.

Weir's defence is accusing the RUC at Castleragh of denying his client a doctor when he was ill, and of putting extreme pressure on him, because there was little likelihood of getting a confession out of the two UVF men.

Editor raided

THE WEST BELFAST home of An Phoblacht/Republican News editor Danny Morrison has been raided by armed British soldiers and RUC men three times in nine days — including twice in just over twenty-four hours — but on none of the occasions was he at home.

The first occasion was in the early hours of Tuesday 22nd April, the second was lunch-time the next day, and the third was a week later, on Wednesday 30th April — when the abusive raiders claimed that they were looking for arms.

These harassment raids started just two days after the recent successful Derry H-block march at which Danny Morrison was one of the main speakers, and appear to be designed to hamper both the 'Smash H-block' campaign and the production of this newspaper. The raids, in fact, are strongly reminiscent of direct-ruler Mason's failed attempts in 1977 and 1978 to close down through harassment, Republican News, of which Danny Morrison was then editor.

Battering on

THE RUC's recent ill-treatment of two young Strabane men in Derry's Strand Road barracks shows that the RUC interrogators — in this case RUC men, Kelly, McFarland, Ridmore, Robinson and Walsh — are 'battering on', despite Brit propaganda claims to the contrary.

Nineteen-year-old Michael McCrory and twenty-three-year-old Jerry McMonagle were arrested in a dawn swoop on their homes on Friday 25th April by a large force of armed British soldiers and RUC men, and were held for three days and two days respectively. Michael McCrory was interrogated during ten sessions for a total of twenty-two hours over the three-day period. He was verbally abused and punched in the stomach by RUC men, who also forced him to carry out exhausting physical exercises: he was repeatedly made to squat on his haunches for several minutes at a time.

During his two-day incarceration Jerry McMonagle was subjected to verbal abuse, shaken by the collar, and slapped about the face with a rolled-up newspaper. One of the RUC men threatened to shoot him, his wife, his mother-in-law and his solicitor! Jerry McMonagle is the third member of the Molloy-Devlin Sinn Féin cumann in Strabane to be held for up to three days, since the re-formation of the cumann earlier this year. The cumann has stated that RUC threats and harassment will strengthen, rather than weaken, their determination as Republican political activists.

Bizarre Brits

THIRTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD Hugh Duffy from Creggan, Derry, was subjected on Tuesday 29th April to a bizarre four hours interrogation in Strand Road barracks, which although intended to be sinister, was in effect comical. British soldiers put him in an interrogation room where two of them sat behind a table wearing civilian clothes — and gas masks! After ten minutes, not a word having been spoken, he heard a hissing sound — as if the room was being filled with gas — but the impact of this 'special effect' fizzled out when he realised one of them was fiddling under the table with a gas-lighter refill.

For the next hour a tense silence reigned, and then the two Brits were joined by a third — also in civilian dress wearing a gas mask! One produced a newspaper and wrote on it "We will get you, Republican bastard, like we got Heaney!" — a reference to the SAS killing of Denis Heaney. Apart from making occasional gestures, as if to shoot him, for the next two hours the three gas-masked men made not a sound. But every ten minutes each of them in turn, sweating profusely under their gas-masks, left the room — presumably for a breath of fresh air.

After four hours Hugh Duffy was released. From his vast experience of Brit harassment he was able to see his experience simply as a bizarre experiment in disorientation. But had he been a relatively inexperienced teenager, for example, and the same process formed part of a seven day interrogation, the result could have been more sinister.

Derry Gaeilgeoiri

WHEN SEAN O'CAINAIN, from Rosemount, Derry, was in the city's courthouse on a motor-tax charge on Thursday 1st May he addressed the court in Irish and requested that an interpreter be provided for the court. He was informed that as the official language of the court was English, anything he had to say must be in English.

At this stage, Proinsias O'Mianain, veteran of Innumerable Irish language rights battles, stood up in the public gallery and informed the magistrate (in Irish) that he was denying Sean O'Caínain a basic human right under the Council of Europe's legislation on human rights, the EEC's common law and the United Nations Convention. O'Mianain further told the magistrate that he was "co-operating in a criminal conspiracy between the two states in Ireland to persecute Irish speakers."

He posed the question why it is that a Welsh man in Wales is allowed the right to have a case heard in his own language, while an Irish man in Ireland is refused this right by the same British government. He was forcibly removed by the RUC. Another person in the public gallery then rose — Thomas O'Muineachain, a member, like O'Mianain, of Cnoc Gaeltacht, Cnoc Fola, Donegal. He addressed the court in Irish, pointing out that the defendant would be entitled to an interpreter if he was French or German — but his speech was interrupted by the eager RUC who removed him bodily from the court.

Sean O'Caínain was eventually fined £25 and ordered to pay £25 arrears and £4 costs, for keeping a motor vehicle without tax.

PAISLEY'S PLOY

THREE loyalist MPs, angered at the presence of Free State premier Charles Haughey at the enthronement of the Most Reverend John Armstrong as Church of Ireland primate, were arrested by the RUC in Armagh city last Wednesday afternoon.

Led by Ian Paisley, fellow Westminster MPs Peter Robinson and Johnny McQuade protested with a small band of placard-waving followers outside St. Patrick's Cathedral. When they came within thirty yards of the Cathedral gates RUC men blocked the road.

Paisley refused to be stopped and told an RUC Inspector: "We are here to protest against the visit of the head of a hostile state who is responsible for giving sanctuary to murderers, the murderers, sir, of your own colleagues who are in the grave.... We are not moving. You've no other option but to put the three of us under arrest."

They were led away by a two-man RUC guard at each arm.



"Despite appearing oafish, such outbursts by Paisley are the greatest vote- and crowd-pullers this foxy loyalist has."

Before being taken into custody — unlike the treatment meted out to Sinn Féin Vice-President Gerry Adams when being arrested out of a house in Andersonstown earlier this year — Paisley was allowed to address the media.

He said: "I am being arrested because Charles Haughey, who has the

blood of Ulstermen on his coat, Charles Haughey, who was responsible for bringing arms into Northern Ireland, Charles Haughey, who is trying to destroy this state and the men that are arresting me, that he is permitted in, but I as a public representative, who has a bigger vote than any other person in Northern Ireland, am taken away because I am not allowed to stand at the gate of this Cathedral and make a protest."

The protest lasted an hour and there was a strong demonstration outside the local barracks before the three loyalists were released without charge. (Details of the incident, according to the RUC, are to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.)

Despite appearing oafish, such outbursts by Paisley are the greatest vote- and crowd-pullers this foxy loyalist has. Also, Paisley knows that such behaviour intimidates the Free State weaklings who are vulnerable to loyalist protestations — Free Staters having no conception or understanding of the ways of the loyalists.

MONAGHAN COURT PICKET



SINN FEIN organised a picket of Monaghan court on Tuesday 29th April when Sinn Féin councillor Jim Lynagh, and Seamus McElwaine (son of a former Sinn Féin councillor), appeared in court charged with IRA membership — both were sent for trial at Dublin's Special Criminal Court. Amongst the picketers were Seamus' and Jim's mothers (front, centre) as well as Sinn Féin chairmen of Clones Urban District Council, Frank McCaughey (front, far left). The picketers carried placards demanding an end to harassment of Sinn Féin members.

ROSCOMMON

AT their last meeting Roscommon County Council unanimously agreed to support a national campaign of protest against conditions in the H-blocks and Armagh prison. The motion was proposed by Sinn Féin councillor Dermot Mullooly and seconded by Paddy Lanihan brother of Free State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Brian Lanihan.

On Thursday 1st May more than one hundred people attended a meeting in Sroolestown to form an H-block action committee in County Roscommon. The meeting was chaired by independent county councillor Michael Mitchell and messages of support were read from eleven Fine Gael councillors, one Labour and an Independent. Speakers at the meeting included Fr. Piers O'Duill and Patrick Sanderson of the National H-block Committee and former blanketman Fra McCann. As a result of the meeting a committee of twelve has been set up under the chairmanship of Padraig Regan, Ballyshadreen.

DERRY

DERRY city council's mild request recently to Atkins to permit the International Red Cross to visit the H-blocks and Armagh prison has met with an extremely evasive reply from Atkins, who is obviously under pressure. Atkins took refuge in the fact that the Red Cross has not requested such a visit, but went on to say that if the Red Cross made such a request it 'would be very carefully considered.'

This response prompted the 'Derry Journal' to devote their lead editorial to H-block for the second time in two weeks: "Why the qualification?... The more evasive the NIO becomes, the more the feeling will grow that the authorities have something to hide, something that could not stand a searching, independent probe from a world-wide organisation like the Red Cross."



DUBLIN

MEMBERS of Dublin Sinn Féin held a 24-hour hunger-strike, outside the GPO on Saturday 3rd May, to draw attention to the situation in the H-blocks and Armagh jail. Posters were displayed and leaflets distributed, and several donations accepted for the H-block fund. Michael Mac Connara (above) addressed passers-by on the current state of the prison struggle and urged them to show their support.

DUBLIN OFFICE

THE Dublin Office of the Sinn Féin POW Department at No. 5 Blessington Street, (Tel 308783), is now open between 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. for six days a week, Monday to Saturday. Any enquiries regarding prisoners are welcome.

WAR AND AN IRISH TOWN

REVIEWED BY MARTHA MCCLELLAND.

IN HIS newly-updated edition of 'War and an Irish Town', Eamonn McCann sets out to make a 'contribution to discussion of how best to continue the struggle for a free, socialist Ireland.' He succeeds in a welcome and stimulating book.

His latest work is not aimed at Republicans; his most likely target audience are those not directly involved. They will find a highly readable history of the past ten years, and the background, particularly in Derry, leading up to this phase of the struggle, updated until mid '79. For this reason alone, it should be valuable to those outside the immediate situation, who otherwise have no recent history in a single volume.

ACCOUNT

Part 1, 2, and 3 are from the earlier book and form an anecdotal and autobiographical account of growing up in Derry, leading up to the Civil Rights campaign.

Part 3 contains worthwhile reading for Republicans, as well as outsiders, in its analysis of the changing economic patterns in Ireland, which according to McCann have made redundant both the Orange political machine and Fianna Fail nationalism. McCann spends some time unravelling myth from history before stating that the Republican tradition 'stemmed from a genuine, if episodic, anti-imperialist struggle; the Orange tradition was objectively pro-imperialist.'

By the time he concludes Part 3, his readers know clearly why British politicians are lying when they enunciate the establishment line towards Ireland:

"The psychopaths have not taken over. There is a war in Ireland because capitalism, to establish and preserve itself, created conditions which made war inevitable."

McCann gives a clear account of how imperialist and capitalist ideology is 'as necessary to British rule as iron-fisted repression, and more dangerous because it is so much more subtle and all-pervasive.'

Parts 4 and 5 are the new ones.

In Part 4, McCann provides a cogent explanation — for those who need it — of why 'The Provisional IRA is entitled to see itself, and to demand to be regarded by others, as the legitimate inheritor of the struggle for civil rights launched in the North in 1968.'

EXPLANATION

His explanation leads clearly to the inevitable: "The machinery of government could not operate democratically. So the fight for democracy was always likely to become a fight against the state."



"The Provisional IRA is entitled to see itself, and to demand to be regarded by others, as the legitimate inheritor of the struggle for civil rights launched in the North in 1968." — MCCANN

itself. The 'National question' was going to be posed. The only question left open was by whom, and in what form?" He salutes Republicans "who, amid all the surging of emotion and swirl of events, had kept their eyes fixed on the one, final answer: end the state."

CORRECTLY

McCann correctly puts British policy into context: "Britain's political aim has not changed. Britain seeks to lull and lure 'moderate' Catholics and 'moderate' Protestants into some sort of structure which might, at a pinch, be projected as representative of both communities."

He correctly points out the basis for Britain's ceaseless efforts to invent the square circle for Ireland: "Bringing the two sides together jointly to protect British interests, remains by far the most rational strategy for the British ruling class."

McCann continues to state home-truths — truths Republicans are only too well aware of — such as the nearly three thousand years imprisonment served by internees between '71 and '75. His account of RUC torture, and the murderous activities of the SAS, all bring real life in the six-counties home to the reader. In particular his account of the murder of Derry IRA Volunteer Dennis Heaney.

McCann concluded Part 4 by indulging a bit of neat journalistic phrasing: "The Provos will not be beaten while there is no generally-accepted political solution. And there will be no generally-accepted political solution while the Provos remain unbeaten. There is no internal solution to the Northern Ireland problem. The existence of the Northern state is the problem."

CRITICISM

In Part 5, McCann provides some thought-provoking (some may feel, controversial) criticism of Republicanism.

But throughout his book, McCann's criticism aims to be honest, comradely and constructive, rather than smug or divisive.

His description of Wolfe Tone as a 'bourgeois revolutionary' is worthy of consideration: "The job which Tone started remained to be done. But why should it still persist through vast change in the social composition of Ireland, long after the Easter Rising, the War of Independence and the consolidation of the Free State, and despite Connolly, the finest Marxist educator and propagandist ever produced in these islands, who died fighting to assert that only the working-class could take the struggle on to victory?"

This book deserves attention by Republicans. The crowded events of the past ten years have politicised many, but not nearly enough. McCann strikes a resonant chord when he recalls "how naive we were when we detonated the present phase of the Irish struggle."

"How seriously our class enemy took us! How light-heartedly we took ourselves!"

Today, although no-one can deny the impact of action, few either would disagree with McCann when he points out "without revolutionary theory, there is no action — or at any rate no revolutionary action with prospect of success."

As the actions of the IRA in this war have brought the Irish people closer to victory than at any other time in history, the failure to develop truly revolutionary politics becomes a greater weakness and a more urgent task. Republicans need serious contributions — from people both within the Movement and outside of it — which should be subject to our own rigorous analysis in order to make Republican politics as successful as Republican warfare and to create a truly revolutionary political alternative.

Which school do you go to?

BY UNA O'NEILL

THE education system in the North has come under some criticism recently. Well-deserved surely, but its critics have made the same mistake of ignoring Irish history and confusing cause and consequences.

It is hard to view the latest BBC effort by the 'Man Alive' team: 'Which school do you go to?' (BBC2, Thursday 24th April) as any different from the usual British propaganda which hits our eyes and ears daily. The idea that this war is a religious conflict between two slightly backward tribes has been dutifully spread by the Brits for years in order to justify their military intervention in Ireland.

And those liberal minds who have advocated integration of schools as a means to 'solve the troubles' are dangerously close in spirit to those who have built the H-blocks and encouraged loyalist murder-gangs into action. In a display of typical imperialist arrogance, reporter Jack Pizzev described the school system in the six-counties as 'self-imposed apartheid'. "And yet," he added, "this is part of the UK."

In 'The Listener' (dated April 24th) Jack Pizzev writes: "Like serrated teeth, segregation saws deep into Northern Ireland: segregation in housing, segregation in jobs, segregation in friendship, segregation in marriage, segregation in schools." But he conveniently forgets to add that this segregation has been imposed right

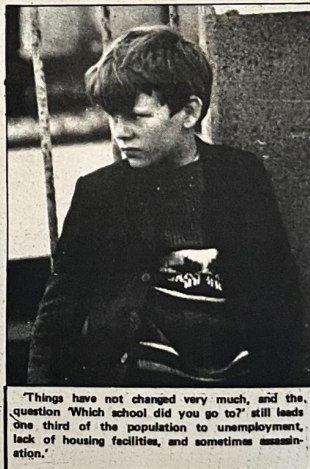
down the years by the Unionist junta set up by the British government in Stormont.

Things have not changed very much, and the question 'Which school do you go to?' still leads one third of the population to unemployment, lack of housing facilities, and sometimes assassination.

The May issue of 'Fortnight', the Alliance Party — inspired, Queen's University-based magazine, in a special feature on schools in Ireland, writes: "For the umpteenth time in Irish history, (...) Church representatives put power first and values second. In so doing they illustrate the way in which the historic link between religion and politics in Ireland makes religion into an apparently insuperable obstacle to problem-solving in the Northern Ireland conflict, to a breaking of the deadlock."

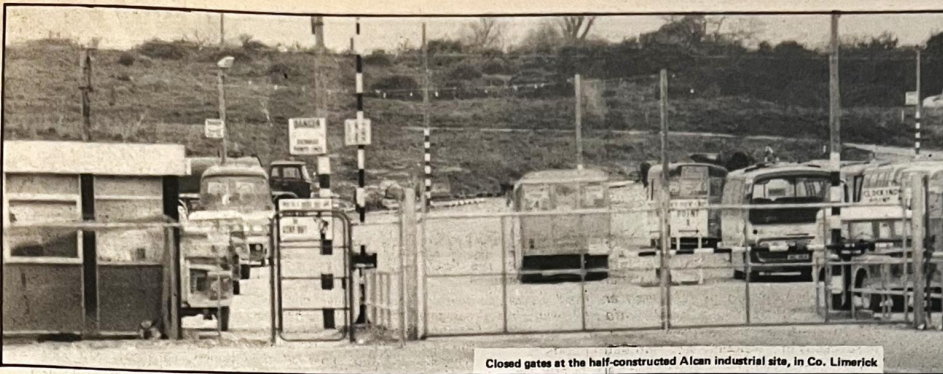
It seems that in some quarters, mainly press and academics, which boast to be informed and enlightened, Irish history has not been studied properly. Yes, the people of the North of Ireland are divided. Yes, the churches are entrenched, thriving on division and holding on to power. But this division was born of colonisation, and can only disappear when the link with Britain is broken. Then, and only then, will the old power blocs crumble.

The British do not have any lesson in tolerance to give to the Irish. Nor must they blame the Irish for allowing their churches too much say. It is the British who made the Irish Churches what they are now, who gave them



"Things have not changed very much, and the question 'Which school do you go to?' still leads one third of the population to unemployment, lack of housing facilities, and sometimes assassination."

Trinity College and Maynooth, who sent Presbyterian settlers to Ulster, who in 1922 divided Ireland against the will of the majority of its people. It is the British who have encouraged loyalist murder gangs and the ghettoisation of the occupied cities of the North. They have nothing to feel superior about.



Closed gates at the half-constructed Alcan industrial site, in Co. Limerick

ALCAN BLACKMAIL

BY KEVIN BURKE

THE LOCK-OUT of the four hundred-strong workforce at the multi-million pound Alcan project at Limerick's Aughinish Island, from Wednesday 30th April, has precipitated an unprecedented spate of worker-bashing in the Free State establishment media. The tragedy of the affair is that the workers have not been defended by their own trade union leaders who have even joined in the chorus of condemnation.

The immediate cause of the current dispute — and there have been eleven stoppages in the last twelve months — is an inadequate and inequitable bonus system.

BONUS

Steel-fixers, scaffolders and carpenters employed by Wimpey-Hegarty — one of the firms sub-contracting to Alumina Contractors Limited, who have shut down the site — were left last week with either no bonuses at all or less than £20, whereas concrete-pourers employed by the same firm earned up to £90 in bonuses. The steel-fixers, who got nothing, actually put reinforcements in the concrete and therefore have to keep pace with the highly-bonused concrete-pourers.

Because of this, the two hundred men directly involved placed a picket on the site. It is a clear indication of the solidarity of the workers

and the extent of their dissatisfaction that all fourteen hundred men, of all unions, refused to pass the picket and were backed up in this 'unofficial' action by their twenty-two shop stewards.

The bonus system has been at the centre of most of the dissatisfaction on the site with some sub-contractors paying better bonuses than others and some bonus levels being easy to achieve whilst others are impossible.

The bonus systems have been the subject of much negotiation between local trade union officials and the contractors. On the Thursday following the closure an ICTU adviser hit out at management who he said had first of all under-estimated the number of workers needed on the site by half, and had started their bonus schemes based on 1944 British standards.

BUREAUCRATS

However, in negotiations on this, and indeed on any other matter, the shop stewards — the direct representatives of the workers on the site — have been excluded by their own trade union bureaucrats from the negotiating table. The shop stewards, who have the most intimate knowledge of the on-site situation, also claim that they are not even consulted but merely informed of major decisions reached. Even when the situation has reached the present crisis level, the trade union officials are refusing a direct meeting with the shop stewards committee but insisting that communication can only be made through the formalised method of branch meetings. And high-ranking trade union leaders have been openly critical of their 'unruly members'. So far out of control are the bureaucrats, whose only purpose is to serve their members!

The twenty-two shop stewards are now insisting that they should be at the negotiating table in future, with their full-time officials

serving as consultants and advisers in what are acknowledged to be extremely complex agreements. The workers in West Limerick appear to be giving complete support to this position and much bitterness and resentment is being directed at their full-time trade union officials.

MANAGEMENT

With the trade union side in disarray the management are pressing home their advantage. Having already delivered the hammer blow of a lock-out they have now followed up with the impossible demand that they will only open up again if they are able to selectively re-employ the workforce — excluding those on their black-list of troublemakers. A monstrous demand which typifies their overbearing attitude to date.

Although there is a belief in the area that Alcan will not pull out altogether — based on the fact they have already invested £60 million — there is an underlying fear that this might happen. The employment provided by the construction of the plant is expected to provide at least one thousand more jobs over the next three years. The Alcan project itself when constructed will provide substantial employment also.

Many families have returned from England and are in the process of building, buying or renting homes in the area — with rents at £60 per week the present shut-down has already started a trickle of workers back to the boat. There is no doubt that a complete pull-out would bring the area close to ruin and put an end to the Shannon Estuary as an industrial base.

In the face of this blackmail from Alcan it will take united trade union action to make them back down and come to reasonable terms with what is, in spite of the propaganda, a responsible workforce.

LIMERICK MAY DAY

MAY DAY in Limerick was marked by a meeting in the city's Connolly Hall on the theme 'Workers' Struggles and Trade Union Solidarity'.

The main point of interest was a speech by Tom O'Brien, spokesman of the shop stewards at the Alcan plant. He outlined the causes of the lock-out there and urged the workers to form a united front against both the bosses and the trade union bureaucracy.

Other speakers included journalist Eamonn McCann on the relevance of the national struggle to the trade union movement; Ger South, president of Limerick Trades Council, who emphasised the importance of workers playing an active role in their trade unions; and Jean Duncan of Limerick Women's Collective. At the end of the meeting, Joe Harrington of the Limerick May Day Committee, expressed the hope that next year local trade unions would organise a May Day march.

Prior to the meeting an exhibition was held in the hall which included amongst the displays a replica of an H-block cell erected by the Limerick H-block Committee who also distributed leaflets and pamphlets.

HALLMARK CARDS

AN official strike at Hallmark Cards in Rathfarnham, Dublin, has been triggered by the suspension of seven supervisors in the company's stores — department. Nineteen members of the National Graphical Association (NGA) are picketing the factory following the refusal of management to negotiate pay increases with the seven men, who were expected to operate new processing equipment in the stores — department. Extra work for the same pay. The NGA has applied to the ICTU for an all-out picket at the premises and meanwhile thirty members of the ITGWU are refusing to pass the pickets.



CORK HOMELESS

THE PLIGHT of the homeless in Cork city is a major scandal which continues to grow. The story of two women, who recently approached Sinn Féin in Cork for help, illustrates one type of problem faced by people in this position. Both women acknowledged that they knew many others living in worse conditions than themselves.

At present, the women and their children are living in two miserable rooms in a private house, where the doors have been patched up with tape and the same method used to try to hold the wallpaper on to the damp walls. The women obtained this totally inadequate accommodation last October after local publicity following a protest staged by them at City Hall, where they left their children in the care of the council staff until they provided proper housing. The response of officialdom to this cry of desperation was to have the gardai prosecute the mothers.

Until then the women and their children had been living for several months at Edel House, a women's hostel in Cork. One of the women's story is the all-too-familiar one of being forced from her home with her children by a drunken violent husband. Over the long months at the hostel, and since, the corporation have made several promises of accommodation but have always failed to keep them.

Currently another twenty-three mothers and children are crowded into the Edel House hostel, and the women point out the impossibility of attempting to bring up children in this overcrowded atmosphere in a house which also caters for seriously disturbed women with drink and personality problems.

There is no real hope being held out for these homeless women and children by Cork corporation, and as always the most deserving people are the least powerful and remain at the end of the queue. Only militant organised action groups can hope to force some response. There is an obvious need for such a group in Cork.

THE ten-week-old strike at Industrial Yarns in Bray, County Wicklow took a new turn last Sunday when the one hundred and thirty-seven strikers, all members of the ITGWU, occupied the factory and padlocked the gates. Their action follows the discovery that the management had been transporting lorry-loads of yarn out of the premises during previous nights.

OFFICIAL

This official strike, which began on 22nd February, is in pursuance of a pay structure which will not discriminate against shift workers. Presently non-shift workers get a basic wage of £81.20 for a forty-hour week, whereas shift workers get a basic £55.45 for a forty-two hour week. The pay claim submitted to management also seeks improvement in shift allowance and bonus as well as a fourth week's holiday.

A Labour Court hearing in January rejected the claim on the grounds that it was outside the 'national understanding', but shortly afterwards, in another decision regarding a firm in Cavan, allowed a claim for an extra week's holiday. After protests about the court's inconsistency, they agreed to re-hear the Industrial Yarns workers' case,

Occupation At Industrial Yarns

BY CATHAL MCCORMACK



Workers in occupation at Industrial Yarns plant, in Bray, Co. Wicklow.

but management refused to comply. This precipitated the strike.

OWNED

Industrial Yarns is owned by the Sunbeam Group and Seafield Gentex. The latter company recently threw out of work the entire

four hundred workforce of Westport Textiles in County Mayo.

Chairman of both Seafield Gentex and Industrial Yarns is R.D. Lord who presided over the asset-stripping at Westport, where the factory was closed in spite of making profits in recent years. The same scenario is possible in Bray.

Despite published figures showing profits in 1977 and 1978, and a profit of £112,000 in the first half of 1979, management has recently claimed shortage of funds and prior to the strike were expressing doubts as to their ability to pay wage increases due under the second stage of the 'national understanding'.

Atkins' Desperation

BRITISH desperation about current adverse publicity, which is increasingly exposing the deplorable conditions in which they are holding Republican prisoners in the H-blocks of Long Kesh and 'A' wing of Armagh jail, was revealed last week when direct-ruler Atkins directed one of his assistants, Michael Allison, to send letters to the parents, or next-of-kin, of all the protesting prisoners. Sinn Féin's H-Block Information Centres in Belfast and Derry have subsequently been inundated with complaints from prisoners' relatives, angry at the blatant arrogance of the British in attempting to use them in yet another cynical publicity stunt directed against the prisoners.

The letters expressed hypocritical concern about the prisoners' 'health and welfare' and about the relatives' 'understandable anxiety'. But as always,

Brit word and Brit deed are very different.

ARMAGH

For example, in Armagh jail, only last week, on the evening of Monday 28th April, when Rosaleen Nolan (Ballymurphy) was briefly let out of her cell to collect her supper she was attacked by wardresses.

On her way down the wing she stopped to speak to one of the other protesting prisoners through the cell door. Five wardresses immediately grabbed her, one held her by the throat, another by the hair, and others held her by the arms and legs, before throwing her bodily into her cell. Fortunately she was not hurt, mainly just shaken.

Such incidents of harassment are now routine in Armagh, as they have been in H-block for three years — they form part of the institutionalised

violence designed

Again, only last week, a British concern for Republican prisoners was shown in two ways. Two months ago, a year-old blanket protest in refusing to be prison number, upon by warder another monthly was sentenced to punishment block. He was therefore visit of half-an-hour was not reserved also applied to h

'NO WASH' PROTEST IN

THE INHUMAN TACTICS used by the Armagh prison regime in a desperate effort to break the 'no work - non co-operation' protest by more than thirty Republican women prisoners protesting for political status have forced the women to step up their protest, in the only way possible, to a 'no wash - no slop-out' protest.

Following the brutal attacks on the women on February 7th by male warders as well as wardresses, which resulted in many of the women being bruised, they were locked in their cells and totally denied access to washing and toilet facilities.

Prior to February 7th the prison regime had increasingly treated access to the toilets as more of a 'privilege' than a 'right' and women often had to wait hours for their cells to be unlocked. Then, in the days following February 7th, when the women were totally denied access to the toilets, it became obvious that the governor had now decided to openly use such access as a weapon against them.

So, in the face of this deliberately degrading treatment, the women eventually took their only possible course of action and decided to go on a 'no wash - no slop-out' protest.

This development was confirmed by forty-one-year-old mother-of-four Rose McAllister, when she was released from Armagh prison on Thursday 1st May, having successfully defied Britain's criminalisation policy throughout her two year period of imprisonment.

Following her release, Rose McAllister described conditions for the protestors in 'A' wing as filthy, and not fit for human beings. She said that the atmos-

phere remains tense and that the prison regime are leaning heavily on the women, with male warders still patrolling the landings.

An examination of the events — as described by Rose McAllister — before, on, and after, February 7th, when the women were attacked by warders, reveals exactly how the prison regime forced the women into their present 'no wash-no slop-out' protest. The behaviour of the prison regime, in fact, was strikingly similar to that in the H-blocks of Long Kesh, two years ago, when the blanket men were forced to escalate their protest.

CULMINATION

The attack on the women on February 7th was not an isolated incident, but was the culmination of a series of petty restrictions and harassment by the prison regime stretching back over more than three months.

These restrictions began before last Christmas when body searches were introduced before the women were allowed to go to mass on Sundays. When the women refused to be searched

they were prevented from going to mass for five weeks, and the prison authorities only reluctantly conceded after strenuous protests from the prison chaplain.

This was followed by a reduction in the number of sanitary towels given to each woman, plus the timing of their distribution was so strictly regulated that if a woman's period was early she was denied protection.

Other petty restrictions followed: there was undue delay by wardresses in response to requests by women to be allowed out of their cells to use the toilet; the quality of the food deteriorated; the number of weekly library books available to each prisoner was reduced; letters went missing; and visiting relatives were harassed.

ATTACK

It was against this background of steadily increasing pressure that the February 7th attack took place. Rose McAllister had a bird's eye view from two floors above where the attack took place.

"It was shortly after twelve o'clock. We were all out getting, or preparing for, dinner. I was on B3 landing, waiting on a friend bringing my dinner up to me. Then suddenly the door of the tunnel (a corridor linking 'A' and 'B' wings) opened, and in rushed a



horde of screws. They congregated all around the ground floor and cut off the girls' access to the stairs. The girls were all standing at the hot-plate at this time.

"The governor, Scott, had the operation well planned. After the screws had the place covered, in he walked. Mairead Farrell, our representative, demanded from him an explanation of what was going on. He told her it was a general raid and that all the girls had to go into the cells used for association while their cells were searched.

"She refused to obey his orders unless he allowed the girls back to their cells to collect their personal possessions, as is normal during

such raids. Scott refused to allow anyone back to their cells and became very aggressive.

"When a few girls tried to get up the stairs past the screws they were set upon and dragged to the ground. All hell broke loose with the girls at the hot-plate throwing plates and anything they could lay their hands on for protection.

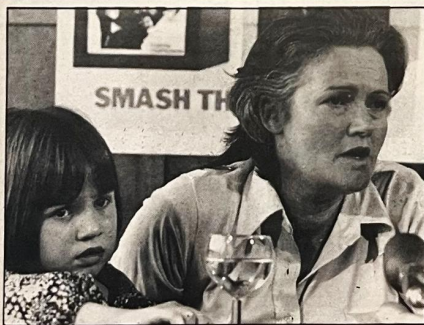
"I saw two male warders hold, Shirley Devlin's two arms up her back while they pressed her face firmly against the wall. Ann-Marie Quinn was held on the ground by another two warders. One of them was actually sitting on top of her to keep her on the ground. Bernie Boyle was held down by four

warders and one tight grip on her hair. "The place reeked with the screws flying in. Although the lasted five minutes girls were badly bruised black eyes and bruises. "I never saw a The screws, especially ones, were worse

Members of the 'A' wing are pictured here, for children: Carl (6) and



ARMAGH PROTESTOR RELEASED



Armagh protest prisoner, Rose McAllister, speaking at a press conference held in Belfast last week. Beside her is her eight-year-old daughter, Patricia

FORTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD mother of four children, Rose McAllister, who was released from Armagh prison on Thursday 1st May, served every day of a two year sentence imposed on her in April 1978. If she had meekly accepted 'criminal status' then she would have been released last April. But, because she joined, first the 'no work' protest, and then the 'no wash-no slop-out' protest, she lost her entire remission of one year.

Rose McAllister, who is from Ardoyne in Belfast, has been a republican throughout the last decade and during her imprisonment she continued her republican stance by resisting the British 'criminalisation' policy.

She has been imprisoned twice previously. In February 1971 she, along with other women, protested outside Belfast's petty sessions court against the charging of three Ardoyne men with wearing an 'illegal uniform'. The women carried hurley sticks and wore combat jackets, similar to those the men had been charged with wearing. For her part in this show of defiance Rose McAllister was sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Then, in February 1974, along with her eldest son Dominic, then fourteen years old, she was charged with possession of a rifle. After being in prison for six weeks both her and her son were acquitted of the charge.

The shadow of British rule and British-imposed misery has not been far away from Rose McAllister over the last decade. On internment day, in August 1971, her first husband, IRA Volunteer Patrick McArdoyne, was shot dead by loyalist gunmen when Ardoyne was under attack.

Shortly after her latest imprisonment began, her present husband, Terry, was arrested and he is now serving a six year sentence in the H-blocks of Long Kesh.

This meant that her eldest son, Dominic, then aged nineteen, had to become both father and mother to her other children, Karen then aged eleven, Patricia then aged six, and four-month-old baby Christopher. Dominic not only had to ensure that the baby was cared for, and that the other children were fed and clothed and went to school, but he also had prison visits to make.

It was a difficult time for him and early on he took an attack of shingles, a nervous complaint. Also, six-year-old Patricia became very withdrawn and difficult, she could not sleep, and when she did so, she woke due to nightmares. Money problems were never too far away, with only a meagre amount of social security coming into the home. Despite the handicap, the children got through it with the welcome assistance of family friends, and they are now very pleased to be re-united with their mother.

ONE 'ARM JAIL

A twenty-seven-year-old children aged between from her husband, the no-wash protest for obstructing the R

The imprisonment her four sons — Simon — will have to be temp Anne-Marie Loughran Imperialism group, was Riverdale Park Drive, A after the deadline exp imposed after a picket could serve up to two mo On the day, last mo

...returning from a visit, nineteen-
...Perry McLarnon (Ardoyne),
...refused to give his
...to be criminalised, refused to give his
...and was therefore viciously set-
...Then, several days before
...visit was due last weekend, he
...to nine days 'on the boards' in the
...block - for assaulting the warders!
...denied his meagre monthly
...But this callous treatment
...of an hour.
...only for the prisoner, but was
...family. When his sister Erin

Also last Saturday, relatives — including the mother — of another H-block blanket man, Kieran Smyth (Short Strand), were banned indefinitely from visiting him, or anyone else in the prison. His mother, his sister Deborah, and his brother-in-law, were banned because a clipping from *An Phoblacht/Republican News* was found in his sister's possession and the warders suspected her of trying to smuggle it in to him.

N ARMAGH



McAllister recalls that the women were surprised by this attitude because they expected things to get

On February 12th the women were moved from 'B' wing to the ground floor of 'A' wing. They found each cell window boarded up, with a thin strip of light squeezing through, and each spigole also boarded up. The furniture in the cell consisted of two bunk beds without any sheets or pillow-case, and a chamber pot. They were not allowed out of their cells and the denial of toilet and washing facilities continued. Meals were brought around to the cells and it was only under the threat of the women going on hunger-strike that the prison regime allowed the women out of their cells to collect their meals.

E OF
MAGH 11'
ILED

ment of Anne-Marie Loughran means that Simon (9), Mark (7), Carl (6) and David (4) be temporarily split up.

Loughran, a member of the Women Against Up, was taken by the RUC from her home in Drive, Andersonstown, last Saturday morning. Her fine expired for payment of the £10 fine, picked up Armagh jail in March 1979. She has two months imprisonment.

Last month, that the fines were imposed on

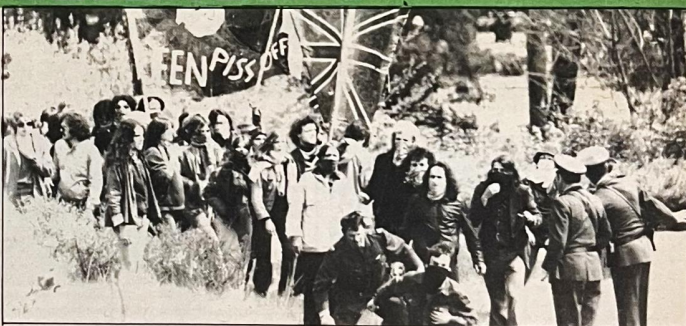
Anne-Marie's imprisonment is clearly designed to intimidate the other women into paying their fines. But Anne-Marie's resolve to join the no-wash protest may mean the Brits' plan backfires as publicity regarding her case spotlights the deteriorating 'Armagh conditions'. Other members of the 'Armagh 11' are also determined to refuse to pay their fines, and to join the protest if imprisoned. Some of them have very young children. And one of them faces a sentence of six months after being found 'guilty' of assaulting the RUC.

DEFIANCE!



But Dessie McCallion defiantly refused to accept 'criminal' status and immediately joined the 'blanket' protest, which he stayed on, until he was released this week.

SWISS VISITORS: NUGENT AND ELIZABRIT



On Thursday, Kieran met a member of an influential law society, who - after listening to Kieran explain about prison conditions - promised to relay this information to other lawyers throughout Switzerland. And also on Thursday - despite Kieran's absence - a 400-strong protest successfully disrupted Queen Elizabeth's ceremonial visit to Basle, carrying 'Brits Out' banners

(Even amongst members of the Swiss Government, things were not all smiles, bouquets and cowbells. Socialist Minister Willy Ritschard had planned, in a May Day address, to object to the servile admiration being publicly displayed to royalty, an attitude encouraged by the gutter press which described at length "everything a Queen wears down to her underpants." But unfortunately

Following Kieran's visit, a number of Irish solidarity committees are being set up in Switzerland.

Postmála



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

Establishing a socialist republic

Dear Sir,
Firstly, I wish to congratulate 'Brownie' for his analytical presentation, 'Scenario for establishing a Socialist Republic', which appeared in your paper on April 19th.

This being the first attempt to discuss openly the building of a radical political movement I would warn of the dangers of opportunists exploiting the evident variance of political thought among members of the Movement. However, that is not to pre-suppose that differing views are unhealthy — far from it. The radical, strategic and ideological change can only come about after a free flow of expression among members. However, even allowing for the destructive elements, I warmly welcome the opportunity to express a few constructive criticisms.

'Insular' and 'Elitist' have often been criticisms levelled at Sinn Féin and no matter how we, as Republicans, brush these accusations aside it becomes increasingly difficult to rationalise our failure to become involved consciously in the spectrum of social, economic and political discontent among the working class.

The political immaturity of Republicans is clearly evidenced by our lack of progression and the apparent inability to mobilise 'the people of no property' against the omnipresent face of imperialism — be it foreign or native. This, in itself, is an indication of complacency.

Unless this slide is halted, unless we become consciously involved in building a popular political movement to encourage, activate and educate the working class, then we will, as 'Brownie' suggests, find ourselves in the position of underdogs and no amount of rhetoric will alter that sad, but realistic, fact. For, in a post-war Britless Ireland, principled Republicanism will mean very little unless we build now.

For if we do not start now to build a progressive political movement aimed at securing the 'Socialist Republic', not very long after the heady euphoric days of a Britless Ireland, we Republicans will all be meticulously analysing our wrongs in a concentration camp somewhere in a Federated Ulster under a Regional coalition of UVF, UDA, UFF and SDLP.

G. Luckey,
Belfast.

A chara,
'Brownie's' 'Scenario for establishing a Socialist Republic' (AP/RN, April 19th) breaks new ground and will hopefully spark off a long overdue debate.

As I read it the article makes two major points; firstly, the Socialist Republic must be made by the people and cannot just be produced by the Movement for the people; secondly, a pre-condition for ultimate success is a strong radical Republican Movement which can consolidate the inevitable victory of the Wilsons. Now I think this is absolutely (some would say obviously) correct as it goes. However, in the building of this political movement we will have to come up with much more detailed answers to many questions.

For example, for a number of years successive Bodensons speeches have stressed the need for Republican involvement in economic and social struggles, particularly in the twenty-six counties. Have we come up with

a clear policy on how this is to proceed, what its strategy should be, how we raise the national question of the broad anti-imperialist front which must surely emerge in the 1980's if we are to be successful in drawing in more social forces into the national struggle?

Have we clarified our attitude towards this, set out the clear guidelines on how we would like to see it develop?

The answer to these questions, I'm sure 'Brownie' will acknowledge, can only be worked out collectively, within the political movement he so rightly says we must go out and build.
Ciaran Dowd,
Belfast.

A chara,
The 'Brownie' article, published in AP/RN on April 19th, was like a breath of fresh air. His piece was the first honest attempt in many years to publicly plot the probable direction the Republican Movement must take if it is to win, and not lose, the war, and succeed in successfully establishing a Socialist Republic.

In his analysis of the possible 'Scenario for Establishing a Socialist Republic', 'Brownie' well and truly shattered the four 'phases' which many Republicans have for so long blindly taken for granted. In their place he painted a less idealistic, however in my opinion a more realistic, picture of what would actually result in the 'British' establishing a political and economic system suitable to their interests and detrimental to those of the Irish working class.

As importantly, for Republicans, he explained how 'we can go nowhere, nor achieve anything meaningful, without building a strong, radical Republican Movement.' At the moment as 'Brownie' correctly points out there is a 'real lack of a comparable' (to the Irish Republican Army) political movement. Consequently, 'it is most likely that the British will



succeed in withdrawing in circumstances and conditions most suitable to their own long term interests and to imperialist interests in general.'

If we therefore take the obvious lessons to be learned in the 'Brownie' article it is time that we created that 'comparable' political movement and gave to it the same dedicated commitment Republican Volunteers have given to the war.

I certainly believe that we can build such a political movement. We have great potential. We are the heirs of a Republican radical tradition which has demonstrated in the past its ability to mobilise and educate the people.

There is no reason, given the necessary commitment, why we cannot achieve that 'comparable' situation. If we do not, then not only will the day of British withdrawal be a 'considerable time' in the future but, more importantly, we will provide the necessary conditions favourable to the creation of a British neo-colonial state.

If we grasp the bull by the horns now, if we begin to build a strong radical movement which is 'truly representative of the interests and the thinking of the working class people, of the rural communities and small farmers, then the influence of the Free State government factions

and of SDLP types becomes diminished."

And, "Therefore, the conditions and circumstances of a British withdrawal can be organised in the interests of the Irish people and not to the advantage of the British government or imperialist interests."

R.G. McAuley,
Belfast.

Zimbabwe

Dear friends,

It was a shock when I saw in the news that the new government in Zimbabwe would no longer call liberation movements in Africa 'terrorists' in the media, but that groups like the Provisional IRA would still be called 'terrorists' because 'they attack civilians'. This is very strange coming after so many statements of support between the IRA and ZANU.

Perhaps it was simply a mistake or just the action of an individual (maybe Stick influence), or maybe some kind of sop to the Brits. Sinn Féin should try to get this taken care of.

As more and more liberation movements take power it is important that they continue to support their comrades still in arms. The fight in Southern Africa is basically the same fight as in Ireland — against imperialism and racism. So Zimbabwe should support both.

A supporter.

Dublin picket

A chara,

Much to our surprise there has been little coverage of the 'Great Train Robbery Appeal' in the national press. I say to our surprise because this case has made legal history in Ireland, not only in terms of its cost and duration, or the sleeping justice, but even more importantly by the fact that responsibility for this robbery has been admitted by the Provisional IRA, and that they alone were involved, not any IRSP members.

Breatnach and McNally have always proclaimed their innocence, and have been imprisoned since December 1978 for a crime they did not commit. We ask all people who seek justice to support a picket on the Department of Justice in Stephen's Green on Friday, 9th May at 1 p.m. to call for their release.

Naomi Brennan,
IRSP,
34 Upper Gardiner St.,
Dublin.

The fount of violence

A chara,
THE FURROW of April 1980 has an article on the Church and Northern Ireland, by Rev. Edmund Hogan, couched in cool theological language, which, however, received a sharp criticism from Father Desmond Wilson, Belfast, and was thereupon attracted by its author under certain aspects.

There is no need to seek to improve on Father Wilson's statement, which covers some important considerations; but there are other matters to be dealt with. There is the question of priests who secret sympathies for the IRA, and these, Father Hogan suggests, should be disciplined by their bishops.

But how do you discipline a man whose sympathies are in

secret? To do that would require an inquisitorial proceeding to make him confess his secret feelings and to disavow them, and a bishop is unlikely to undertake that.

Father Hogan's theology is thin and cold when it comes to the case of the H-bloc prisoners. These are only mentioned once as an instance of priest sympathisers hosting congresses in their favour; but not a word is said of the unjust treatment suffered by these men. A cold theology indeed, and far removed from the word that says, I was in prison and you visited me.

The IRA are commonly characterised by Father Hogan as men of violence; the loyalist politicians and paramilitaries, sometimes; the British not at all. But the British provide many instances of violence in our country, commencing with the massacre of thirteen people in Bloody Sunday and continuing down the



years with countless individual killings.

Think of Peter Cleary, who was dragged one night by the British SAS, from among his parishioners, and killed in a nearby field, and I cannot remember any professional theologian raising voice or pen to condemn this act of violence. This was left to people like Father Denis Faul.

But apart from these individual acts of violence there is the whole question from which they originate, namely, the British assumption of authority over our country which is founded on no principle of justice at all. Here is injustice on a grand scale, the very fount of violence in Northern Ireland.

So if a man undertakes to study this question, he finds himself confronted with a vast panorama of violence, with the British firmly placed in the foreground — their sidekicks, the loyalist paramilitaries, by their side — and against them those who deeply resent their presence in our country.

So with this all before him he has to determine what Our Lord's message is, always bearing in mind the authentic sources from which it is to be derived.

Allan Cananach Diarmuid Mac Ionair,
Cill an Chruaigh,
Dun Dealgan,
Connas Lu.

Other people's wars

A chara,

We must be the laugh of the entire world. The six North-Eastern counties of our country are still, after eight hundred years, occupied by foreign troops, yet we are sending Irishmen to far off lands to get involved in other people's wars.

As a result, as I write this letter, one of them is dying because of a bullet in his head. Would it not be more appropriate if he was at home doing something for his own country?

Irishmen are blamed for fighting and some for dying, for their own country. Yet it seems that they are praised for fighting, and

even dying, for far away countries. Our country should never have become involved in the UN or EEC rich men's clubs.

If war broke out tomorrow, the cream of Ireland's manhood would be sent out to fight — and fodder made of them as the men before were — fighting for the rights of small nations. They fought in the last two world wars and need to put up precious space in outlining the treatment and 'freedom' they got for demanding the freedom of their own country.

Wake up Irishmen and women, and stay out of other people's wars and live and work to make Ireland a country to be proud of.

We Irish never colonised any country. All we want, Catholics, Protestants, and dissenters, is to live in peace without outside interference.

John Shaw,
Cork.

Ring-road

Dear Sir,

As representatives of residents and patrons of our community centre, we feel we must state publicly our 100 per cent opposition to the ring-road in Belfast and particularly to the section which will pass Divis Flats. The vast space which this unnecessary monstrosity will occupy is urgently needed to relieve the terrible housing conditions, not only in Divis Flats, but in West Belfast as a whole.

It is an absolute shame to think that, in an area where there are almost six thousand people living in the worst slums in Europe, plans are under way to take away land which could be used to re-house these people and well, in fact, worsen their plight. We now assure the Department of Environment that our committee will participate in any direct action and go to any lengths to stop the building of the ring-road because we believe that only desperate action can rectify a desperate situation.

Sean Stitt,
For the Management Committee,
Divis Community Centre,
Divis Flats, Belfast.

Thanks

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank the people of Belfast through this paper on behalf of the Coarbridge Harp R.C. Flute band, Scotland. We once again enjoyed ourselves playing for our Irish friends at the Easter parade and really appreciate the way we were treated.

The committee would especially like to thank the band association for the invite to the parade; the 'West' club, Andersonstown Social Club, and the Donegal Celtic, for their hospitality in making the band welcome; and the many local people, too numerous to mention, who accepted the band members into their homes and treated them like family.

We would also like to thank the committee of the Kevin Barry Flute band of Glasgow.

Sean McGoldrick,
Secretary.

Federalism

A chara,

In reply to the letters by Christine Ni Elias and Joe Austin on 'Federalism' (AP/RN, March 29th and April 19th, respectively) may I suggest that the federal structure of government proposed in the Eire Nua discussion document first published ten years ago seemed to be 'a good idea at the time.'

As a result of delivering a

number of lectures on Eire Nua two years ago by members of London Sinn Féin, and members from the North-Eastern and Southern counties, I found no enthusiasm whatever for federalism, but great interest in the Eire Nua conception of democratic Irish socialism — in workers ownership and control, credit unions as financial co-ops leading to co-operative enterprises, the socialisation of banking, credit and insurance, co-operative farming, etc.

Three years ago Christine Ni Elias said that to avoid even a vague association with Conor Cruise O'Brien's 'Two-Nations' theory we should refrain from using the word 'federalism' and strive to emphasise our own term 'regionalisation' (An Phoblacht, Meitheamh 1, 1977). This term describes the Eire Nua system of decentralising political power and administration into the hands of the people, through democratically elected regional councils.

Why not lop off altogether one of the four tiers of the decentralised government structure proposed in Eire Nua — the tier of four provincial parliaments for the historic provinces of Ireland?

In this modern age of technology it is realistic to place such importance on geographical areas as sources of governmental power?

To say 'yes' is to repudiate the teaching of James Connolly — "Under socialism, states, territories or provinces will exist only as geographical expressions, and have no existence as sources of governmental power, though they may be seats of administrative bodies." (James Connolly, 'The Axe to the Root'.)

Nor would four provincial law-making parliaments and a federal Dail Eireann at national level meeting in Athlone necessarily be the answer to the evils of Dublin 'Leinster House' centralism with all its bureaucracy. Devolving power from the centre to the provinces would mean that the word will only be brought about when economic power is de-centralised and de-monopolised into the hands of the people.

Parliamentary democracy in itself — voting for party political opportunists every four or five years — is 'sham democracy'. Without economic democracy, the socialism of Eire Nua, it is fraudulent and has failed the working people and kept them in social and cultural bondage.

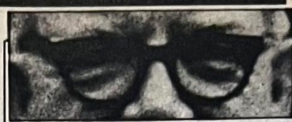
Finally, what has finally off federalism in any shape or form for many Sinn Féin adherents is that the word is now bandied about by Fianna Failers, Fine Gael reactionaries and discredited SDLPers, desperately searching for a parliament to go to, and — God preserve us — even favourably discussed by John Taylor and Desmond Boal, former Unionist MP for the Shankill. (The latter said in 1974 that he wanted an Irish Federal Parliament with the same powers as those outlined for it under the Government of Ireland Act 1920.)

Joe Austin is assured of great support in calling for a full and open debate on this issue. A six-county or nine-county Ulster parliament would perpetuate and institutionalise the bigotry of the corrupts, they say, to divide the Irish people by imperialist rulers.

The loyalists would rule as a majority in the new Ulster parliament, and when they found it most opportune could even evade the Republic. Power corrupts, they say, and loyalist power would corrupt absolutely. Maximum powers within the province for regional, district and community councils would, on the other hand, safeguard both minority and majority interests. Combining the economic democracy what more should former loyalists want? Come to think of it what more should they deserve?

M. O'Callaghan,
London.

THUGS, OAFS AND CLOWNS



By Maurice

Evenin' all,

What does one make of Sergeant John Weir of Meeting Street in Magherafelt? The whole sordid case of priestnappers and sectarian assassins, drags on for yet another week, and the wretched Weir has compounded the whole matter by alleging that he was beaten up, and threatened, at Castlereagh by his erstwhile colleagues. This, to my mind, raises the whole question of ever charging policemen.

Obviously the general public, normally fairly docile and gullible, will start to question things when a member of the RUC accuses other members of the RUC of torturing him. Quite clearly one or other side is lying, and this does no good for the farces of law and order.

I've pointed this out to Jack Hermon, but, to be honest, with little or no success. The idiot appears to be cracking up. He's forever looking over his shoulder and twitching anytime anyone slams a door.

He told me that he'd been over at Humphrey Atkins' offspring's wedding the other day (no-one invited me!) and that even in the quiet rural village in the Cotswolds where the ceremony took place, Provo and 'troops out' graffiti abounded. He says that the sooner Blue-rinse does a Rhodesia, and rats, the better. He'll be off to South Africa with Harry Taylor and a golden hand-shake. An unreliable sort of a fellow.

ALLEN

And so is Gregory Allen, the curator of the Garda Síochana museum in Dublin. When I met him recently he tried to tell me how his public relations job for the force was coming along. It seems that he has been inundating the

newspapers with long and tedious letters which attack the TV series 'Strumpet City' for showing the RIC in 1913 as a bunch of thugs.

Wise up, Allen, I told him. You are surely not suggesting that any members of the RIC of 1913 are still alive and serving in the Garda Síochana, are you? In which case, readers will jump to the obvious conclusion that you are trying to cover up for the Heavy Gang, Buffalo Ryan and the clumsy oafs who framed the IRSP over the Sallins train robbery.

I think I'll have to suggest to Collins that this fellow be muzzled. He may mean well, but all he succeeds in doing is bringing discredit and opprobrium on his own thugs and thicks.

SULLIVAN

And while he's at it, Collins (who, to be candid, is a bit of a clown) could do something to curb the zeal of District Justice Sullivan of the Kilmineham Court. Last week he sentenced four gallant young airmen: junior birdman Tom

McHugh, his brother Des, Seamus McGann and Michael O'Rourke to six months jail each, just because they slit the throats of some inoffensive drinkers in the 'Happy Brig' public house in Newcastle on the night of the Papal Mass in Phoenix Park last September. The two victims had to have thirty-one and thirty-four stitches in their throats respectively and were lucky to survive the birdman's attack, but I still regard this as a pretty savage sentence.

The DJ Sullivan claimed that he has 'down the years dealt leniently with Army personnel', but his hefty sentence surely gives the lie to that one. The sooner the general public get it into their heads that members of the armed forces and police can do exactly what they like, and get away with it, the better for the country, I say. The only way Johnny Citizen will behave is if you put the fear of God into him. That's what the security services are all about.

PUPPETEER

And while I'm on the matter, may I add that the likes of my good self are not about to be swayed from doing our imperial duty by any rag-tag and bobtail demonstrat-

ors. We've had them all, you know: H-block protesters, gay vicars, and, only last week placard waving tiny-tots, who, were, I was informed, protesting about the arrest in England of some idiot puppeteer Wanderley Lambert.

Of course the police made a complete cock-up in arresting him; of course he didn't desert from the Barmy in 1946 and of course he was badly treated, but that's all part of growing up and being Irish, and silly enough to go to England.

When will the paddies learn this! God knows we've been trying to beat it into their thick heads for centuries now. Sometimes I despair, and long to be back home in Derbyshire, sitting at the roaring fire with mummy and a lovely big Bakewell tart (that's quite enough of that — Editor)...But I digress.

BETTY

And, of course, I had to get the usual panicky phone call, this time from Heather. It was Betty the Boot herself, tearfully asking me to get the Metropolitan filth to drop charges of assault and disorderly behaviour. No chance!

I had to make it quite clear to this unscrupulous and power-mad Nobel prize winner that the days of the gravy-train are long gone.

If, at last, her foul mouth, her promiscuity, her extravagance and her drunkenness have caught up with her, there is nothing that I can do. She was of use to us once, now she is quite expendable, and, to be candid, we're really glad to get rid of her. A most unpleasant creature.

Maurice.

EDUCATION QUIZ
Saturday 10th May
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Hughes v Emmet v
Casement/Nolan cumáinn

**WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS
CONFERENCE**
12 noon - 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 11th May
Junior Common Room
Trinity College
DUBLIN
Social in the evening 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

BALLAD SESSION
8 p.m. Monday 12th May
Shilleagh Hotel
Quinsboro' Road,
BRAY
Featuring Ronnie Drew and
The Freewheelers.
In aid of Industrial Yarns Strike Fund

H-BLOCK MEETING
8.30 p.m. Tuesday 12th May
Walkinstown Public Library
DUBLIN
Speakers: ex-blanketman, prisoner's
mother, Matt Merrigan and Joe Stagg.

EDUCATION LECTURE
8.30 p.m. Wednesday 14th May
5, Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Eamonn MacThomas on 'The '69 Split'

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET
5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday 15th May
Andersonstown RUC barracks
BELFAST
Organised by Armagh Protest Committee

**H-BLOCK ACTION GROUP
MEETING**
8 p.m. Thursday 15th May
Trinity College
DUBLIN
To organise publicity and support for
the National Smash H-Block demonstra-
tion in Dublin on Saturday 7th June.

DANCE
Friday 16th May
Rinn Roinn Hotel
RUSHBROOKE
Co. Cork.
Music by Chris Ryan
Organised by Sinn Féin
in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach

FOLK NIGHT
Friday 23rd May
The Ratters Lounge
SWATRAGH
Organised by
Seamus McCusker Sinn Féin cumáinn

**MCNEELA/GAUGHAN/STAGG
COMMEMORATION**
Sunday 25th May
BALLINA
Organised by Mayo Comhairle
Ceantair, Sinn Féin.

COMHAIRLE CHUIGE MUMHAN
Next Meeting
2.30 p.m. Sunday 25th May
Limerick

BODENSTOWN
Sunday 22nd June
Orator: Martha McClelland (Derry)
Chair: Tom Hartley (Belfast)
Chief Marshal:
Gearoid Mac Carthaigh (Cork)
Assemblée Sallins, 2.15 p.m.

CLONMEL
Anyone interested in joining Sinn Féin
in the Clonmel area, County Tipperary,
should contact Denis Cooney, 6
Highfield Grove, Clonmel, or Geraldine
Joyce Old Spa Road, Clonmel.

**AN CUMANN CABRACH DUBLIN
APRIL DRAW RESULTS**
£100: No 53; £50: No 83; £25: No 203;
£10: Nos 198 and 132; £5: Nos 15, 38,
160, 205, 214 and 148.

JOIN SINN FEIN

Anyone interested in joining Sinn Féin
should contact their local Cumann
head office at 44, Parnell Square, Dub-
lin, 85b Falls Road, Belfast, or 15 Cable
Street, Derry.
I am interested in becoming a member
of Sinn Féin

NAME:
ADDRESS:

SINN FEIN YOUTH CONFERENCE

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

SINN FEIN'S Youth department have organised a one-day national youth conference to take place in Dublin's Liberty Hall on Saturday 21st June — the eve of Bodinstown Sunday. All members of Sinn Féin, Na Fianna Éireann and Na Cailíní under the age of twenty-five years have been invited to take part, although observers of any age are welcome.

The opening address, at 10.30 a.m., will be given by Sinn Féin President Ruairi O Bradaigh, and speakers have also been invited from the Economic Resistance Department and the POW Department.

The idea of such a conference came from last January's Sinn Féin Ard Fheis when several of the young delegates, spearheaded by National Youth Spokesman Sean Crowe, expressed anger and frustration at the section on youth in the clar not being taken due to lack of time. They did manage to get an emergency motion passed pledging that a national youth conference would be organised in the year.

CRITICAL

Sean Crowe is strongly critical of the lack of encouragement of youth in Sinn Féin. He points to the Ard

Fheis flare-up as only one example, and states that positions throughout Sinn Féin are usually held by older members — the youngest Ard Comhairle member is twenty-eight years old.

He stresses that, on the other hand, those involved in action, — marching in protests, staging pickets and selling papers — are predominantly the younger members. He feels that this anomaly could be a reason for the failure to attract youth to Sinn Féin on a large scale.

At the same time he says that the lack of emphasis on social and



SEAN CROWE:
National youth spokesman.

economic policy action, particularly in the Free State, is also a major reason why youth may feel frustration at the lack of an organised response to the problems which affect them most in their daily lives. He is convinced that determined action along the lines of the new Social Economic and Political

Dimensions document can fill this gap.

PROBLEMS

On the problems which do face youth — harassment of youth in the North, education, employment, recreational facilities, social benefits etc. — Sean Crowe has some definite views and is hopeful that a detailed policy can be worked out by Sinn Féin youth on all points as soon as possible. However the main priority of the forthcoming youth conference, he says, will be to assess the strength and feelings of youth in Sinn Féin and to work out organisational links for the future. Already each of the four provincial comhairle cuige has appointed a youth officer.

"The people fighting the war in the North are the young people and the people lying in the H-blocks and other prisons are the young people. We are determined that young people will play an equally major role in the rest of the movement", he concludes.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT TITO

PRESIDENT Josip Broz Tito, the father of modern Yugoslavia, died on Sunday 4th May, at the age of eighty-seven after a four-month illness.

On behalf of the Ard Comhairle of Sinn Féin, Ruairi O Bradaigh, and Risteard Beal, Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, issued the following statement:

"The death of President Tito deprives the world of a dedicated socialist and staunch internationalist.

"Sinn Féin, on behalf of the Irish people struggling against British aggression and international exploitation, espec-

ially mourns his passing. We extend our deepest condolences to the peoples and governments of the federation of Yugoslavia.

"During World War II, as the then Marshal Tito, he clearly proved by his heroic armed struggle against racism and reactionaries that he understood the need for national liberation and self-determination before true freedom could be achieved.

"Tito instituted a federal democratic and socialist regime based on shared sovereignty and pioneered an economic and political system founded on workers' control and the principles of decentralised self-management.

"That policy closely echoes the 'Éire Nua' policies of Sinn Féin and his enlightened and progressive internationalist policy of non-alignment and defiance of both major power blocs corresponds closely to our programme also.

"This is a highly dangerous time in world history. Unfortunately the traditional neutral role of the Irish people is being eroded by the Dublin government's capitulation to EEC and NATO pressure.

"We hope and trust that President Tito's death at this critical time will cause people to think and act responsibly and to thwart the ambitions and war fever of the big powers and their imperialisms."



President Tito: 'dedicated Socialist and staunch internationalist'

AN AFRAIC THEAS

TÁ APARTHEID i bhfeidhm san Afraic Theas agus i Namibia go fóill. Chuir bua Robert Mugabe deireadh leis an apartheid i Zimbabwe. Aon duine go bhfuil spéis ar bith aige i gcearta an duine caithfidh sé troid in éadan an chórais sin.

Tá leabhrán beag foilsithe ag an gCiste

Idirnáisiúnta le haghaidh cosanta agus cabhrach do dheisceart na hAfraice den teideal Seo Apartheid, trácht agus pictiúir. Foinse eolais den scoth é agus tá na griangrafanna go sár-mhaith mar léiriú ar staid na n-Afracach. Is as an leabhrán sin a baineadh an teolas atá i gcló thíos.

Seo apartheid

IS É DEISCEART na hAfraice an t-aon chuid den Afraic atá fós faoi riail an mhionlaigh ghil. Dhá thír atá faoin smacht geal ann—Namibia agus An Afraic Theas.

In ainneoin gur tháinig na Náisiúin Aontaithe ar shocrú a chuir deireadh go hoifigiúil leis an sainórdú (nó leis an gceart sealadach) a bhí ag an Afraic Theas chun Namibia a rialú, tá an Afraic Theas fós i seilbh neamhdhleathach sa limistéar sin. San Afraic Theas féin, tá ceithre mhiliúin geal ag rith a saoil do 18 milliún Afracach, 2% milliún duine de chiníocha éagsula (a ainmnítear 'daite' i nDeisceart na hAfraice) agus trí ceathrú milliún duine de bhunadh Indiach.

APARTHEID

San Afraic Theas, cuireann na bánaigh a riail i bhfeidhm le córas ar a dtugtar Apartheid. Córas is ea apartheid lena ndeantar grúpaí ciníocha a dheighilt. Coimeádtar ó cheile le dlíthe ciníocha iad bánaigh, Indiaigh, daite agus Afracach. Ansin, arís, deineann an rialtas na hAfracach a dheighilt de réir teabh.

Ainmnítear 'gorm' iad, trína chéile, Afracach Indiaigh agus 'daite'. Tá siad uile faoi leatrom, go mór mór Afracach. Toisc nach bhfuil cearta vótála ag an gcine gorm, níl cóir dhléathach ar bith acu a athródh cúrsaí dóibh.

CÓIR MHAIREACHTÁLA

Tá géarghannchúis tífíochta do dhaoine gorma ann. Tá mórchuid fear gorm a chaitheann dul ar loistín i mbeairicí ollmhóra d'íostais 'bhaisilíreach', i gcongar a gcuid oibre, i sráidbhalaithe atá coiscthe ar a gcuid ban agus clainne. Coimeádtar tífíocht d'Afracach faoi shrian teann. Faoi thearma na dlí níl bunáite na dteaghlach Cáilithe d'aontós. Má bhíonn sé de sheans ar fhear gorm teach a aimsiú dá theaghlach, ní bheidh ann ach teach

an-bheag gan leitreas, go míon minic 'gan uisce gan leictreachas, agus go minic gan doras ar bith laistigh ann ná síleáil.

Afracach nach mbíonn aon ghnó doibh i gceantair bánach seoltar dá n-ainneoin iad chun cónaithe i gceantair sheasca a bhíonn forlán le daoine. Bantustan a tugtar ar a leithéid sin de dheantar caomhnaithe. Níl ach 13% den tír faoi na bantustain ach is iontu, amháin, a mheastar ceart beatha a bheith ag Afracach (breis is 70% den daonra).

Seo thíos an pá, ar an meán, a íochann na príomh-chomhlachtaí i mianadóireacht, i ndéantúsaíocht, i dtógáil agus i miondíolaíocht.

Bánaigh — £70 sa tseachtain 'Daite' — £22 sa tseachtain Indiaigh — £27 sa tseachtain Afracach — £13 sa tseachtain Is mó go mór a chaitheann an rialtas ar oideachas do bhánaigh ná do ghrúpaí eile. Tá an meánchaitheas bliantúil ar oideachas gach dalta scoile de cheithre ghrupa tugtha sa tábla seo a leanas:—

Geal: £398; Indiaigh: £113;

'Daite': £100; Afracach: £26

Tá seasamh eacnamaíochta na hAfraice Theas ar an lucht oibre gorm; go deimhin, is i bunchloch an chórais iomláin apartheid sochar a bhaint as sclabhaíocht gorm ar an bpingin is ísle.

Tá na postanna scile agus na postanna a dhíolann airgead maith ag bánaigh agus an furchóir mór gorm i dtaobh le hobair shuarach.

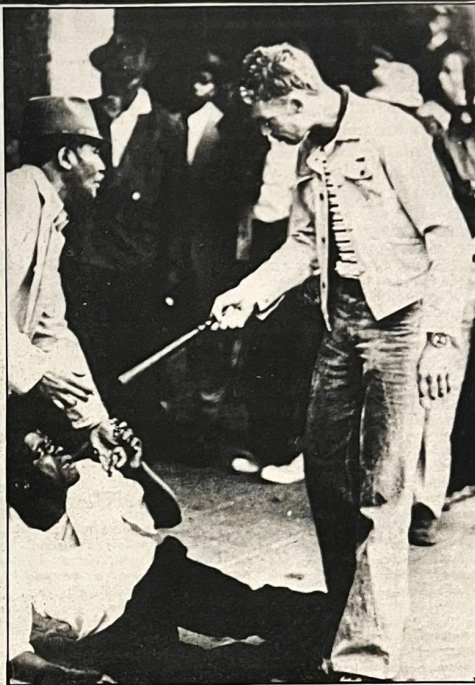
Ní thugann an rialtas aitheantas d'aon cheardchumann do dhaoine iarra. Agus iad sin a dhein iarracht ar cheardchumann a eagrú do dhaoine gorma, cuireadh bac orthu, cuireadh faoi ghabháil tí iad, deineadh iad a choinneáil gan trial nó cuireadh i bpriosúin iad i síl is gorm coimeádadh óna gcuid oibre iad.

Tá saibhreas mianrach san Afraic Theas—ór, diamaint, gual, platanam agus uráiniam. Níl de phá seachtaine, ar an meán, ag Afracach a oibríonn sna mianaigh ach £13.80, fad atá mianadóirí geala ag tuilleamh £112.94 sa tseachtain.

De reir traidisiúin, tá an pá is ísle ar fad ag sclabhaíthe ar fheirmeacha. Tá pá chomh ísle le £5.92 sa tseachtain acu. Áirítear sa mhéid sin tá an bia a sholáthraíonn an feirmeoir dóibh agus fágann sin iad i dtaobh le £3.23 ina airgead sa tseachtain.

PASDLITHE

Bíonn ar Afracach ós cionn sé bliana déag d'aois, idir thrí agus mhná, pasleabhair a bheith de shíor ina seilbh. Má ráiníonn an leabhar



Póilín i ngnatheadaí ag ionsaí agóidithe

sin ar iarraidh ó dhúine acu nuair a éilíonn póilín é a bhreithniú, beidh sé i mbaol gha. Cúpla lá dá éis beidh sé, b'fhéidir, faoi bhráid cúirte speisialta agus fineáil nó príosún curtha air nó é curtha ag obair ar fheirm bánaigh.

Tá baol ann, má chuirtear príosún ar Afracach, go gcaillfidh sé a phost agus, má chailleann, is é an Bantustan is dán dó. Níl lá ná go mbíonn breis agus míle Afracach ós cóir cúirteanna agus coireanna in aghaidh pasdlithe ina leith.

AGÓIDÍOCHT

I Sharpeville, ar 21 Márta, 1960, bhí agóid shíochanta in aghaidh pasdlithe ar siúl ag slua fear, ban agus páistí ar theoir ón gComhdháil h-Afracach. Scaoil póilíní urchar leo agus maraíodh 69 díobh agus gortaíodh 188 duine. 'Seachtain ina dhiaidh sin d'fhógair an rialtas staid eigeandála. I rith na treimhe sin deineadh 20,000 duine a choinneáil.

Nuair a bhraith an rialtas an namhadas míleata ag dul i dtreis ina n-aghaidh, cuireadh i bhfeidhm dlíthe a cheadaigh daoine a choinneáil i mbráigheanas aonair fad is ba mhin. Céasadh agus ciapadh príosunaigh go coitianta agus tá a leithéid a dhanamh fós. Idir 1963 agus Nollaig na bliana, 1977, is eol gur éag 47 duine agus iad ar choinneáil pholaistiúil ag na Póilíní Stándála.

SOWETO

Ar an 16 Meitheamh, 1976, i Soweto, i gcongar Johannesburg, d'ionsaigh póilíní le harm daltaí scoile a bhí ag agóid go síochánta, gan arm, in aghaidh Oideachais Bantu. Laistigh de thré lá bhí na cádta den dream a lean leis an agóid sínte marbh ar na sráideanna ag póilíní. D'adhaic an slad seo tine agus tháinig aistí na hógóidí ba mhó agus a b'fhorleithne riannh. Idir 16 Meitheamh agus deireadh na bliana deineadh amach go raibh 1000

duine marbh - an chuid ba mhó acu ag piléir na bpóilíní. Bhí mílte eile gortaithe agus marraithe.

Ón 16 Meitheamh, 1976, i leith, meastar go raibh 10,000 duine a gcoinneáil agus cuireadh príosún ar chádta mar gheall ar a bpáirt sna hógóidí.

COIMHLINT ARMTHA

Toisc nach raibh bealach eile ann dóibh, b'éigean do dhaoine i nDeisceart na hAfraice dul i muinín airm in aghaidh réimis chiníocha na mbánaigh.

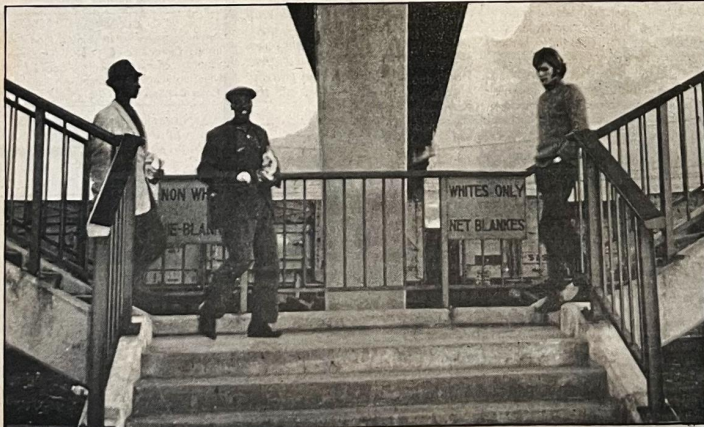
I Namibia, ón mbliain 1966 i leith, tá cogadh eadarmaíoch á throid ag fórsaí Eagraíocht Phobal Iardheisceart na hAfraice i gcoinne na h-Afracach Theas. Sa bhliain sin d'fhógair na Náisiúin Aontaithe neamhdhleathach é don Afraic Theas fanúint i seilbh Namibia dá eis sin. Tá, fós, áfach, tuairim is 50,000 de thrúpaí na hAfraice Theas ag troid ann d'iarraidh Swapo a chloí.

SAOL LE TEACHT

Cad é an sórt saoil a shásódh fir agus mná atá ag troid ar son saoirse i nDeisceart na hAfraice? Deir siad féin go láidir nach cógadh ciníoch atá ar bun acu ach gurbh amhaith atá siad ag cur suas de chóras ansmachta atá ag baint sochair astu.

Ag an triail i Rivonai, 1963, sular tugadh an bheith a chuir príosún lena shaol ar cheannaire Chomhairle Náisiúnta na hAfraice, Nelson Mandela, thug sé óráid i láthair na cúirte agus mar bhuille scoir dúirt:

"Tá mo shaol tugtha agam ag cathú ar son mhuintir na hAfraice. B'é an t-ideal ba ghiorra do mo chroí an pobal a bheith saor daonlathach agus cách ann ag maireachtáil le chéile go síochánta agus cothrom deiseanna acu. Is idéal é ar mian liom mo shaol a chaitheamh leis agus é a fheiceáil i gcrích. Ach, más gá sin, is idéal é nár chás liom an bás a fhulaingt ar a shon."



Fogra ciníoch ar dhroichead coisithe

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BRENNAN, Paul, (H5-Block). Greetings to our son Paul on his birthday on 1st May, and on completing three years on the blanket on 6th May. "No family today and this is just to let you know we're behind you all the way." May God bless you and all your comrades on the blanket. From mother, dad, brother Edmund and sisters Moira, Joanne and Sal.

BRENNAN, Paul, (H5-Block). Greetings to our son Paul on his birthday on 1st May and on completing three years on the blanket on 6th May. "No family today and this is just to let you know we're behind you all the way." May God bless you and all your comrades on the blanket. From mother, dad, brother Edmund and sisters Moira, Joanne and Sal.

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BRENNAN, Paul, (H5-Block). Greetings to our son Paul on his birthday on 1st May and on completing three years on the blanket on 6th May. "No family today and this is just to let you know we're behind you all the way." May God bless you and all your comrades on the blanket. From mother, dad, brother Edmund and sisters Moira, Joanne and Sal.

BRENNAN, Paul, (H5-Block). Greetings to our son Paul on his birthday on 1st May and on completing three years on the blanket on 6th May. "No family today and this is just to let you know we're behind you all the way." May God bless you and all your comrades on the blanket. From mother, dad, brother Edmund and sisters Moira, Joanne and Sal.

CAMPBELL, Kevin, (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings to Kevin. From Kevin Dummigan ('A' Wing, Crumlin Road). U.T.P.

CAMPBELL, Kevin, (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings to Kevin. From Mary, Ned and Sinead.

CAMPBELL, Kevin, (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings to our son Kevin. From your loving wife Bernadette and children Anthony, Brid, John and Kevin. xxxxxxx.

GOLLOVY, Paddy, (H4-Block). Birthday greetings to our son Paddy for 12th May. "You're not alone in H-Block, no matter what they say, for outside your friends and loved ones are behind you all the way." From mum and dad and brothers Joe, Donal, Paul and Brendan.

MOLLOY, Paddy, (An Cu, (H4-Block). Greetings Paddy on your birthday on 12th May. Vencermos. From Kevin, Kate, Rualid and Niall Carson. Revolutionary greetings also for Mayday to you and all your comrades and to all Irish prisoners in jail everywhere.

MOLLOY, Paddy, (H4-Block). Greetings Paddy on your birthday. Keep greetings to our son Paddy for 12th May. From all your comrades from the Short Strand. Also from Hatcher (Portlaoise). Go mbeldh bair na h-iarraidh.

MEPEAKE, Pat, (H-Block). Many happy returns on your 27th birthday. From your dad, James, Martin and Kevin. **MEPEAKE, Pat, (H-Block).** Happy birthday Pat. "You're not alone in prison, no matter what they say, for outside you

friends and loved ones are behind you all the way." From Aidan, Maureen and family, and also Raymond, Kathleen and family.

MEPEAKE, Pat, (H-Block). Best wishes on your birthday Pat. Never a single day passes without a thought of you. From John, Annie and family and also Pat Susan and family, Eugene, Eileen and family.

MEPEAKE, Pat, (H-Block). Best wishes on your birthday Pat. Thinking of you always and remembering you in our prayers. From John, Geraldine and family, also from your sister Colette and Michael.

MEPEAKE, Pat, (H-Block). Birthday greetings Pat. "It does not take this special day to bring you to my mind because a day without a thought of you is very hard to find." Lots of love from Mary.

QUINN, Anne-Marie, (Armagh Jail). Happy birthday Anne-Marie. How does it feel to be getting on. (Hail Hail) Love from Padraig, Ireland and family.

QUINN, Anne-Marie, (Armagh Jail). Birthday greetings Anne-Marie and to all the girls on protest in Armagh Jail. God bless you all. From Mr. & Mrs. Brennan and family.

WALSH, Martin, (H-Block). Happy birthday darling. All my love, Roseanne. xxxxx

WALSH, Martin, (H-Block). Happy birthday daddy. Lots of love, Aine. xxxxx

WALSH, Martin, (H-Block). Happy birthday Martin, thinking of you always. From all the Watson family and Joe (H3).

WALSH, Martin, (H-Block). Birthday greetings to our loving son Martin. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Love and best wishes from mum and family. U.T.P.

WALSH, Martin, (H-Block). Solidarity greetings Martin on your birthday. From your good friend Eugene, see you. Also greetings from Mr. & Mrs. Mulvanny Mr. & Mrs. Parker and families, Felix and Sadie and children. U.T.P.

will ultimately triumph." Victory to the blanket men! Vencermos - From B. Downey

MCDADE, Gerard, (H3-Block). Congratulations on completing three years on the blanket. May God bless you and all your comrades. Love from mum and dad and brothers.

MCDADE, Gerard, (H3-Block). Congratulations brother on completing three years on the blanket. May God bless you and all your comrades. All the best from Alice. U.T.P.

MCDADE, Gerard, (H3-Block). Congratulations son on completing three years on the blanket. May God bless you and all your comrades. From John, Bill and we Patrick. Also granny and Pat. U.T.P.

MCDADE, Gerard, (H3-Block). Greetings Gerard. "It is not they who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most will ultimately triumph." From Mairéad Nugent, (Armagh), and also from all the Nugent family.

Solidarity Greetings

From your wee brother Seamus, and your sisters Tina and Rosemary.

CONWAY, John, (H4-Block). Congratulations to our friend John on completing one year on the blanket on 10th May. Victory son to you all. From the McNaught family and Pius (H4).

CONWAY, John, (H4-Block). Congratulations to our brother John on completing one year on the blanket on 10th May. All the best and keep your chin up. From your brother Eddie, sisters Maria and Patricia.

GOUGH, John, (H4-Block). Congratulations to our brother John on completing one year on the blanket on 10th May. "You are always in our thoughts."



MEMORIAM

AHEARNE, Tony. In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tony Ahearne who died in action 10th May 1973 in Rostell, Co. Fermanagh. Always remembered by the Tony Ahearne Cumann Sinn Féin Carrigrohilly, Co. Cork.

AHEARNE, Tony (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tony Ahearne who was killed in action on May 10th 1973. Always remembered by Ahearnes/Crowley Cumann, Sinn Féin, Cobh, Co. Cork.

MAGEE, Michael, (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan. Michael Magee, Belfast Brigade, Na Flanna Eirinn, who died as a result of an accidental shooting while on active service. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade Na Flanna Eirinn and Belfast Brigade Oglagh na h-Eirinn. Thus se a shaoi ar son saoirse na h-Eirinn.

O'TOOLE, Dan, (20th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother-in-law Vol. Dan O'Toole, 'D' Company. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him. He was one of Ireland's bravest soldiers, he died as he lived - for the cause of Irish freedom. Always remembered by his sister-in-law Cassie O'Toole.

O'TOOLE, Dan, (20th Anniversary). Treasured memories of my dear uncle Vol. Dan O'Toole, 'D' Company, R.I.P. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him. "The dust of these Irish earth among their own rest, and that same land that gave them birth has caught them to her breast. Always remembered by his niece Eileen, Jack and family, also remembered by his great nephews Claran, Damien and Sean (H-Blocks).

O'TOOLE, Dan, (20th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear uncle Vol. Dan O'Toole, 'D' Company. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him. Dear Ireland take them to thy breast, this soldier son who died for thee. Always remembered by his niece Maureen, Tommy and family.

O'TOOLE, Dan, (20th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear uncle Vol. Dan O'Toole, St. Martin pray for him. "When only a few are found faithful, they must be the more steadfast for being but a few." Remembered always by his niece Kate Bell.

O'TOOLE, Dan, (20th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear uncle Vol. Dan O'Toole, Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him. Always remembered by his niece Patsy, Richard and family. Also his niece Peggy, Gerald and family.

Sympathy

CARILL, Paddy. Sinn Féin Cumann in County Clare deeply regrets the death of Paddy Carill on 1st April. He was a member of Sinn Féin and a life-long Republican. Go ndéana Dia trocrair ar a nam.

MULRYAN, Andrew. Died 26th April 1980. Deeply regretted by his sons, Andrew and Patrick, Hull Prison, England. Imeach laochra na nGael go raibh a nam. **MULRYAN, Andrew.** Died 26th April 1980. Sadly missed by his wife Theresa, sons Paul and Colin, son-in-law Harry and daughter Mary, and grandsons Andrew and Paul. Ar dhéan Dia go raibh a nam.

POLAND, Clonard Martyrs Sinn Féin cumann learn with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Poland, mother of their esteemed member Christine. Mrs. Poland died after a long illness. To her family we tender our most profound sympathy. Go ndéana Dia trocrair ar a nam.

POLAND, The Flynn family learn with deep regret of the death of our friend Eileen Poland and tender our deepest sympathy to her family. "Too good in life to be forgotten in death."

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Funeral of William Lonergan

LARGE CROWDS attended the removal of remains and funeral of the late William (Bill) Lonergan of Beanchestown, Ardara, County Tipperary, on 25th April. A guard of honour accompanied the tri-colour draped coffin to the graveside, where Dan Gleeson, an old comrade, gave a short oration. He paid tribute to Bill Lonergan, a life-long and unrepentant republican, for his untiring efforts over a long and varied life to bring about the unity of his country in a Democrat Socialist Republic. He extended sympathy to his son and family.

The Late Eileen Poland



EILEEN POLAND, a member of the O'Carroll/Tierney Sinn Féin Cumann in Andersonstown, Belfast, died on Friday 2nd May after a lengthy illness. (Pictured above is her funeral cortege after leaving St. Theresa's chapel on Monday.)

Eileen Poland had a long association with the Republican Movement, but it was in the years since 1969, that she became fully and totally involved. She did Trojan work for the refugees who poured into Andersonstown from other areas of Belfast in 1969/70. Her house and resources were always at the disposal of Republicans.

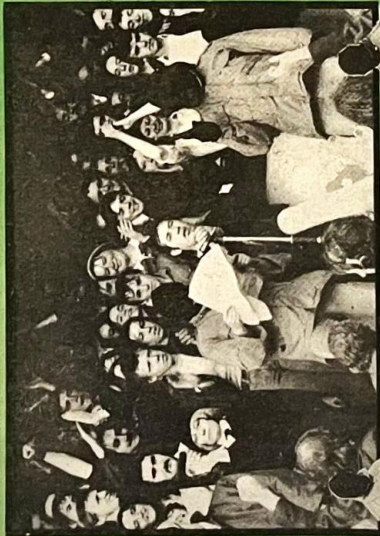
Her husband, Mickey, who pre-deceased her about eighteen months ago, was interned in the forties and again in 1971. She was an active member of Sinn Féin until ill health overtook her, but perhaps her abiding commitment was to the prisoners, never missing a march or protest. She will be sadly missed.

Bronnadh



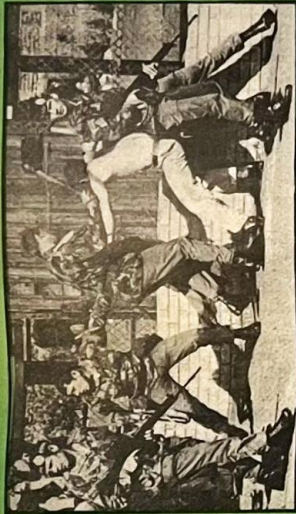
Ag an Dinnéar Urraime a bhí ar siúl le déanaí bronnadh trófaí ar Chumann Mhic Caba/Uí Choghiligh, Baile Munnas as ucht a ngníomhaíochtaí ar son na Gaeilge. Bhuigh siad an trófaí toisc a mbail a bheith gníomhaíoch ar Choiste Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch (Scoil Ián Ghaelach) agus ar Ghnóthas na nGael i Baile Munnas. Bhronn Ríáirí O'Brádaigh an trófaí ar Phádraigh O' Maisteigh thar cheann an chumainn. Anraídh bhuigh Baile Munnas an duals i nGomortas ghíúir na nGael don baile is mó a chuir an Ghaeilge chun chinn sa tír iomláin.

VICTORY TO IRELAND'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

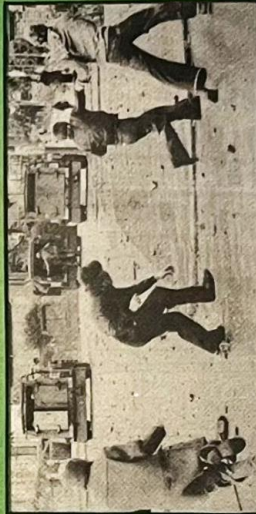


"We have the guns to press
forward our demands and
press forward with them
we shall"

THE I.R.A.



SMASH BRITISH IMPERIALISM IN IRELAND!



ONWARDS TO VICTORY
AND A UNITED
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

THE I.R.A. TODAY

style man to be free, and in every enemy of
tyranny we recognise a traitor, wherever
he his birthplace, in every enemy of freedom
we also recognise our enemy, though he
were as Irish as our hills.

The whole of Ireland, for the people
of Ireland, their public property
to be owned and operated as a
national heritage, by the
labour of free men
in a free country.

That is our ideal and when you ask us what are
our methods, we reply: Those which in our hands.²³
— JAMES CONNOLLY

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