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TREACHEROUS DEPTHS

Fianna Fail collaborators bring RUC to Dublin

FREE STATE premier Charles Haughey brought the RUC to Dublin this week as he led Fianna Fail to new depths of treachery and of collaboration with Britain. Several RUC officers have appeared as prosecution witnesses in the Dublin Special Criminal Court where three men are charged with the killing of a former UDR man in County Armagh last March.

The three, Aidan McGurk, Laurence McNally and local Sinn Féin councillor James Lynagh, from Monaghan, are the first ever to stand trial in the Free State for an alleged offence in the North. Their trial is the first use of the 1976 Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act, which was introduced by the coalition government to circumvent the extradition laws.

The collaboration of Haughey and Fianna Fail in this action is all

the more staggering when it is recalled that they opposed the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill throughout its passage through Leinster House.

Haughey himself was its most determined opponent as he and present members of the Free State government decried such collaboration with RUC torturers and SAS murderers. As Haughey put it himself: "Anyone listening to the frightening chilling outline of the psychological terror and physical torture that were practised there must surely have felt compelled to turn away in revulsion from this legislation".

But Haughey has felt no revulsion since he came to office in stepping up collaboration and has diverted massive financial resources into unleashing the Garda Special Task Force and Free State army against nationalist people in the twenty-six county border counties, closely co-operating with their counterparts on the Northern side.

In addition, he has directed vicious Garda operations throughout the twenty-six counties, particularly against those who have come forward for humanitarian reasons to support the H-Block and Armagh prisoners.

But even as Haughey continues to strive for these higher levels of collaboration, and even as in his speeches (such as that in Donegal last weekend) he offers the British further assurances of his good will towards them, he can still manoeuvre his supporters into believing that he is pursuing a 'republican' line. This impression he has strengthened by carving a new alliance with the SDLP, who have proven themselves equally collaborationist, but who now give Haughey an apparent thirty-two county dimension.

Haughey himself achieved a telling symbolic summary of this tight-rope act last weekend when he left Fianna Fail members at the by-election convention in Donegal with the feeling that he had struck another blow against the British, and then travelled into Derry with an RUC escort to take a plane back to Dublin from Eglinton Airport.

Charles Haughey, cynical self-seeking opportunist, is a dangerous man.

See page two for 'Haughey seeks London-Dublin agreement on mutually beneficial solution' and 'Free Lynagh, McGurk and McNally!'



Dublin Sinn Féin picket on Special Court on Wednesday

**ARMAGH
PRISON
PICKET**

Sat. 11th Oct.

Organised by Sinn Féin's Ulster Executive
and P.O.W. Department

FOR BUSES SEE BACK PAGE

Haughey seeks London-Dublin agreement on mutually beneficial solution

Shallowness of Fianna Fail 'republicanism' exposed once again

BY KEVIN BURKE

IN DONEGAL last weekend, for the Fianna Fail by-election convention, Charles Haughey expressed himself "proud to be speaking to stalwarts of republican, nationally-minded Fianna Fail".

But what the man who came to power largely due to the efforts of these supposed stalwarts told them, speaks volumes for the shallowness of the 'republicanism' of Fianna Fail and, of course, of Haughey himself.

Donegal, like the other border counties, is in a prime position to witness the upsurge in collaboration exercised by Haughey since he became Fianna Fail leader. The garda task force has been heavy on the ground there and heavy-handed on the population.

The actions of the gardai and Free State army, in road-blocks and searches, can clearly be seen to be in close co-operation with the RUC and British army, who are only yards away. The realities of the North are always present, as are the realities of the Free State response.

In the light of this, it could have been expected that Haughey would make some suitably strong 'Brits out' style speech to counteract the evidence of his actions and tell the party faithful. But he did not consider it

necessary. After all, Fianna Fail has hung, shot down, tortured and interned republicans under 'republican' de Valera. The blinkers that come with a party membership card can remain just as firmly in place under 'republican' Haughey.

So what the 'stalwarts of republican, nationally-minded Fianna Fail' did hear last weekend was further back-peddalling by Haughey on the national question. If they, and even some of the Free State media, wanted to hail it as Haughey 'getting tough' then presumably that was okay by him.

DISTANCING

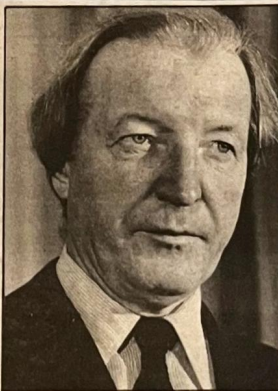
In fact this latest speech by Haughey represents an even further distancing from the old 1975 Fianna Fail policy which called on the British government "to declare Britain's commitment to implement an ordered withdrawal from her involvement in the six counties of Northern Ireland". It was Lynch's refusal to pursue this policy and Haughey's identification with it that contributed so heavily to the change in leadership.

Once in office, however, Haughey rapidly out-Lynched his predecessor and at the February Fianna Fail Ard Fheis he was looking for merely "a declaration by the British of their interest in encouraging the unity of Ireland by agreement and in peace."

He underlined his back-tracking in the May meeting with Thatcher when he accepted the loyalist veto on any changes and expressed his concern for British interests.

And now Haughey in Donegal has abandoned all demand for British withdrawal, particularly political withdrawal, and sees a solution "only on a new level and in the context of political co-operation between Ireland and Great Britain."

His idea of a united Ireland is one that takes into account "the unique relationship between the two countries." Most significantly he said: "We stand ready at the same



CHARLES HAUGHEY

— back-peddalling on the national question

time to adopt an open and imaginative approach. In the constitutional and legislative field our minds are not closed to any realistic proposal or suggestion."

What Haughey is obviously angling at is a federal or confederal solution on a six and twenty-six county basis. This would incorporate some British guarantee to the loyalists backed up by Dublin, leaving Ireland loosely 'united' but protecting the British strategic and capital interests as well as those of the native capitalists North and South.

DISMISSING

In the light of this, his dismissal of the

British 'initiative' towards 'rolling devolution' in a strictly six-county context, is logical. Haughey, like the SDLP who are now in close alliance with him, see no advantage (in terms of real position or in history's pages) in pursuing such impossible solutions. What they are pursuing is a sell out of the interests of the Irish people on a larger scale.

It remains to be seen if the British can be convinced of his intent in this regard, and thus his determined and increasing collaboration in repression.

Certainly the loyalists are not convinced of Haughey's 'good intentions' nor do they want to be. As always they resist anything which appears to loosen their grip on the British prop. So their response held its usual level of hysteria with Paisley leading the way by interpreting Haughey's intentions as "the destruction of the Protestant population", followed by similar remarks from Unionists Ross, Molyneux and Passmore and from Alliance's Napier. All were very much in the 'not an inch' tradition.

The antagonistic responses from former SDLP members Fitt and Devlin, who both rejected Haughey's speech as electioneering and interference, has mainly to do with their former party's strengthened alliance with him and therefore makes him a target for the venom of those two idealistic somersaulters.

Haughey, however, does not place high priority on wooing the loyalists. His strategy relies on convincing the British of his sincere desire to co-operate with them in reaching a mutually beneficial solution. He believes that once London and Dublin agree on this then the loyalists can be convinced by the same means — savage collaboration against republicans. But try telling that to the Fianna Fail party 'stalwarts'.

Free Lynagh, McGurk and McNally!

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

THE four-year-old Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act was finally used by Fianna Fail this week when three men, James Lynagh, Aidan McGurk and Laurence McNally, appeared in Dublin's Special Criminal Court charged with the killing of a former UDR man in County Armagh last March.

The purpose of the Act is to put on trial and imprison those who would successfully challenge extradition attempts. It is the first time anyone has been tried in the Free State for an alleged action in the North.

The evidence against the three men is being given by RUC officers and is based solely on forensic evidence. There is no evidence of them being seen at the scene of the killing and none of the men made any statement when arrested by gardai in March (shortly after the shooting) in Monaghan town, or when they were re-arrested in July.

On Tuesday a string of RUC officers began to present this supposedly 'scientific' evidence to the court based on samples taken from the men's clothing by gardai and sent to the RUC laboratories for comparison with those taken from the scene.



Sinn Féin members picketing the Special Criminal Court

This reliance on the RUC for the prosecution case would be enough to ensure acquittal by any jury in the Free State, who could not be unaware of that force's record of murder, torture and framing of their victims.

The non-jury Special Criminal Court however will give this evidence full attention despite the history of challenges to its value and the record of its usage in headline-making trials where convictions are wanted.

The use of forensic evidence in Britain in such trials as the Maguires and the six men convicted of the Birmingham bombings of 1974, has been challenged in more recent times.

Indeed the man who challenged the tests used to convict the Irish people involved was the very scientist who developed the tests and since found them to be unreliable and too heavily depended on.

Lawyers have pointed out that

forensic evidence appears weighty only because it has the aura of science around it. In fact it is merely an opinion, and the value of the evidence depends on the reliance placed on the integrity and capacity of the experts tendering the opinion — in this case, RUC officers.

Moreover anyone who has seen experts disagree in a TV discussion will know that the conclusions drawn from any set of facts can be disputed.

Defence counsels, however, find massive problems in challenging forensic conclusions in that the examination of the 'clue' in the first place often destroys the exhibit, thus denying independent examination.

It is this kind of suspect evidence which is currently being presented in what is a most important and historic trial. A verdict is expected on Friday.

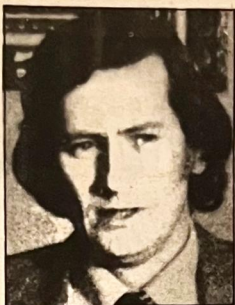
Protests at the use of the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act by Fianna Fail were mounting as the trial began. The previous Friday, October 3rd, Leitrim County Council passed a motion, proposed by council chairman John Joe McGill, calling on the Fianna Fail government to repeal the Act.

Sinn Féin is conducting a campaign against the Act throughout the twenty-six counties with the distribution of one hundred thousand leaflets and the picketing of the homes of Fianna Fail Leinster House members. On Wednesday, Dublin Sinn Féin mounted a picket on the Special Criminal Court where the trial was taking place.

Only a major outcry against the use of the Act, and the hammering home to Fianna Fail members that they are using an Act which they vehemently opposed when it was passed, will stop this collaboration and will free Lynagh, McGurk and McNally.



HUME — forthright rejection



MALLON — boycott call



HENDRON — qualified backing

SDLP SLUMBERS DISTURBED

BY PETER ARNLIS

DUST ROSE from the SDLP last week after two statements from senior party leaders shook the party out of its complacency, when attacked by loyalists and former party leader, Gerry Fitt, who said there was a split within the party.

The interest was generated by an unusually strong declaration on Friday, October 3rd, from deputy leader Seamus Mallon that they would boycott any elections to an advisory assembly ('creeping devolution'), although in fact the statement from SDLP leader, John Hume, in Duncannon the previous Wednesday, will have equally frustrated the British administration.

HUME

Hume said that the two proposals put forward by the British government last July were no basis for political agreement. (The first option for devolved government to the North suggested a form of proportional representative power-sharing, quickly rejected by the loyalists; and the second option would have meant a return to loyalist government, rejected by the SDLP.)

Hume also attacked the British pledge to the loyalists, for which, he said, they gave nothing in return. He hinted that the guarantee of the union could be 'honourably withdrawn' and expressed a naive wish that a moderate and 'far-seeing' Protestant leadership could step forward.

This latter statement shows the defects in SDLP thinking because it ignores the power of loyalism which has entrapped the Protestant people; and ignores the fact that any Protestant who expresses nationalist sentiments (John Turnley, for example) is a potential UDA/UVF target.

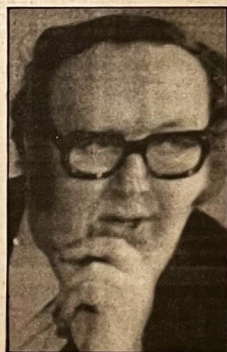
MALLON

Hume's forthright rejection of the British government's dead horse was reinforced by the party's deputy leader, Seamus Mallon. He caused an internal party stir, which was soon calmed by the weight of backing, albeit qualified, from Hume and party executive member Joe Hendron.

Mallon declared that the British options set out in July were a barrier to serious political dialogue and that the party rejected 'devolution by stages'. His strong statement, claimed to be made on behalf of the party, about boycotting any elections to a proposed 'devolved' or 'advisory' assembly drew flak from predictable quarters but also publicly from a senior party member, Paddy O'Hanlon from south Down, who sharply criticised Mallon saying that such



Former SDLP leader GERRY FITT (above) and leading member PADDY DEVLIN (below) may be part of a sticky amalgam formed by the Brits to 'represent' the nationalist people.



a decision was "a matter solely for the Party Executive". "Abstaining from political processes is one thing, but abstaining from elections is something else," said O'Hanlon who has his eye on a £10,000 per annum seat. But O'Hanlon got little party backing and first Joe Hendron (who is possibly being groomed to contest Fitt's seat in west Belfast) and then John Hume endorsed Mallon's comments, representing an expedient hardening of the SDLP's attitude in proportion to Brit intransigence, and an apparent concurrence with some of Haughey's enunciations in Donegal.

HAUGHEY

The statements suggest that

'nationalism' is on the increase in the party (an inevitable development given the bankruptcy of Fitt's line) which has struck up a real accord and convergence of interests with Haughey. For Haughey, wearing his 'republican' sombrero in Donegal, such a relationship with the constitutional representatives of the nationalist people in the North does not just amount to a short-term electoral interest, as Fitt has suggested, but is a badly needed Northern and nationalist dimension to Fianna Fail's collaborationist policies.

However, the British administration in the North — which through one of its direct-rule ministers, Hugh Rossi, on Tuesday, rejected Haughey's proposals — could still go ahead in 1981 with elections to a devolved or advisory assembly using an amalgamation of the Sticky Republican Clubs, Paddy Devlin and Gerry Fitt as 'representatives' of the nationalist people.

FITT

Under such circumstances SDLP calls, backed by Fianna Fail, for a boycott could certainly chime with Sinn Féin but there should be no illusion as to an identity of interests.

For example, Fitt's announcement that the SDLP is now 'almost indistinguishable' from Sinn Féin is the ranting of a unionist politician about to lose his west Belfast sinecure, and does not take into consideration determined republican resistance down the years which has brought change about, nor the principled republican position which clashes with both Fianna Fail and the SDLP.

Even the conservative 'Irish News', which traditionally props up Fitt with two or three weekly headlines, was critical of his divisive comments.

PAISLEY

Nevertheless the SDLP's line is perceptibly changing (but then so are the times). The SDLP leadership has ignored the screams coming from Castlereagh and the plight of the men in the H-Blocks and the women in Armagh jail, and the party has given credibility to every British conference, all talks and assemblies — the net result of which has been to prolong the agony and bring extreme loyalism, in the form of Ian Paisley, to the fore. It has fallen in and out of love with the RUC, about to embrace it one day, and then being forced by circumstances to express their 'reservations' the next day.

So, the SDLP cannot be trusted to carry a position through to its logical conclusion, nor do they or Haughey have the backbone to face up to loyalism which will certainly not voluntarily abandon sectarian privilege.

BELFAST DISRUPTION

THE IRA'S BELFAST BRIGADE carried out a successful disruption exercise on Friday afternoon, October 3rd, when road traffic almost ground to a halt as hundreds of British soldiers and RUC men were forced to deal with more than a dozen potential bombs at important road junctions on main roads. All but two of the devices turned out to be hoaxes, and the small explosion which occurred in Wellington Place and Little May Street caused little damage, with no civilians injured, but were big enough to make the Brits extremely wary of the hoaxes.

The operation, involving more than fifty IRA Volunteers at relatively little risk, was the fourth similar large-scale disruption exercise in the city this year, and was said by the IRA to be designed to disrupt commercial life. The IRA have pointed out that the British army were responsible for a lot of the disruption caused to nationalist areas. In one incident, at Iveagh Drive off the Falls Road, an Anderson & McAuley delivery van was stopped by British soldiers, and the driver and his assistant were taken into a nearby entry. The Brits then declared the vehicle to be a potential van bomb, sealed off the area and unnecessarily evacuated several rows of houses.

UDR man grazed

A PART-TIME MEMBER of the UDR narrowly escaped serious injury on Tuesday morning, October 7th, when ambushed by several armed IRA Volunteers in County Fermanagh. The attack happened at 7.50 a.m., as the soldier was driving his car in a laneway between Brookeborough and Lisnaskea: the IRA Volunteers blocked his path with a commandeered car and opened fire on him with rifles, one bullet passing through the lining of his jacket, grazing his shoulder. Although enemy fire was returned the Volunteers returned safely to base.

UDR rapist

A FULL-TIME SOLDIER of the loyalist UDR was jailed for two-and-a-half years at Belfast crown court on Monday when he pleaded guilty to assaulting a young woman student with intent to commit rape. UDR man Stephen Ruddick, aged twenty-one, of Kilmuir Avenue, Dundonald, also admitted assaulting three fellow 'peace-keepers', members of the RUC, and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment to run concurrently.

On October 2nd, last year, the student was walking along Belfast's Malone Avenue when the UDR man approached her, put his arm around her neck, and forced her to the ground. A passer-by remonstrated with the UDR man, who ran away, but was later arrested and taken to an RUC barracks, where he attacked the RUC men. The defence counsel, loyalist Desmond Boal, in an attempt to play on the loyal sympathies of the judge, stated in court that the UDR man had been serving with a regular unit of the British army in West Germany but had requested a transfer back to Ireland and the full-time UDR when he became homesick. In a vain attempt to justify the attempted rape, Boal claimed: "It is ironic that after realising he was drinking too much while in Germany, that drink was the main cause of this incident."

Caught Red Handed

AN RUC RESERVE appeared in a Belfast court, last Saturday, charged with belonging to the proscribed loyalist sectarian gang, the Red Hand Commandos, and with giving arms training to other members. Ian Henderson, aged twenty-two, from Dundonald, Belfast, conveniently resigned from the RUC whilst being interrogated in Castlereagh, only hours before he was charged. He was released on bail, which was not opposed by the RUC as Henderson said that the Red Hand Commandos are 'not particularly active' in his home area, but the UDA and Hand Commandos are the RUC's propaganda drive about their so-called reform has laid emphasis on the fact that over half the force are young men who were only boys when the troubles first started and so cannot be tainted with any sectarianism 'which may have existed' in 1968 and 1969. However, those RUC men charged in recent months with priest kidnapping, bombing Catholic pubs and sectarian assassinations have been young, which shows that the RUC still draws its members from a sectarian base.

Not DUPed

A MEMBER of Paisley's ultra-loyalist Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) claims that calls for him to resign from the party have been made by fellow party members (whom he describes as 'little dictators'), because he sold two houses in Portadown's Craigview Avenue to Catholics. Apple farmer Henry Stothers said: "These houses sat idle for the most of ten years and no Protestants would buy them. What am I supposed to do? I could not get a permanent Protestant tenant, even though I offered six months' free rent. The time came when the houses had to be put on the market to prevent deterioration and vandalism, and also to ensure that adjoining premises would not lose value."

But Henry Stothers deserves no sympathy if he is claiming to be duped about the party he belongs to. He has been in the sectarian DUP since it was founded; he helped stop a carol service in St. Mark's Parish Church, Portadown, involving Protestant and Catholic children; and in 1977 was an unsuccessful DUP candidate to Craigavon borough council.

Continual harassment

FORMER BLANKET MAN Ned Brown was arrested from his Twinnbrook flat in west Belfast on Tuesday morning at half-past-five and taken to Castlereagh, leaving his wife Jacqueline, who on doctor's instructions is supposed to be confined to her bed after a recent serious illness, to cope with their baby alone.

Ned was arrested in the dawn raid by two jeep-loads of RUC men, and the contents of his flat turned upside-down, only nine days after addressing an H-Block rally in Twinnbrook estate. His arrest comes after continual harassment and repeated detention in Castlereagh since his release from H-Block last year. (His wife Jacqueline is herself no stranger to Brit harassment, being a former Armagh protest prisoner.) Only five weeks ago Ned was arrested off the street and taken to Castlereagh, and although he was released after a few hours, his Special Branch interviewer warned: 'we'll be back for you in a few weeks.' As we go to press, Ned is still in Castlereagh.

Proposal floated

IN ANOTHER doomed effort to divert international criticism of the conditions in which the H-Block blanket men and Armagh women protesters are held, the Brits last weekend floated — via one of their hack journalists, Chris Ryder of the 'Sunday Times' — yet another apparent 'concession' to the prisoners: the installation of a lavatory and a wash-hand basin in every cell. On Monday the Northern Ireland Office, in a blatantly dishonest comment, then claimed that this proposal is in no way connected with the 'no wash' protest, and stated that a feasibility study of the proposal — which would cost nearly half-a-million pounds to implement — is being carried out, but no decision has yet been taken. If implemented, the proposal would, of course, in no way affect the prisoners' protest or meet their demands (and would in any event, take months, if not years, to implement). However the new £20 million jail at Maghaberry, near Lisburn, which is due to open late next year, will have cell lavatories and wash-hand basins.

The Brit's amenability to spending millions of pounds on jailing republicans could well mean — given the rapidly degenerating housing situation in the occupied six counties, exacerbated by inadequate funding — that, ironically, in the eighties, nationalist working class people might well be provided with better housing and toilet facilities in jail than in decaying Housing Executive accommodation.

Norwich Union strike continues

FIVE hundred workers in the Norwich Union Group throughout the twenty-six counties, are continuing their seven week strike.

At a meeting on Wednesday 1st October, the workers, all members of ASTMS, rejected a management offer which merely undertook to pay whatever wage increases would be due if the 'national' understanding is accepted by the ICTU delegate conference on October 23rd.

In fact, management have been stalling on pay talks since the last agreement (under the 1979 'understanding') ran out in June, and this latest offer of 15% is considered grossly inadequate by workers whose main demand is for parity with their colleagues in the rest of the insurance business.

Castlebar engineer's post blacked

THE ITGWU has informed Mayo's acting county council manager that the union's engineering members have decided to black the post of the suspended Castlebar town engineer, who is a union member.

The engineer's colleagues claim that he is a victim of an arbitrary and unfair action based on a long-unsolved technicality — allegedly hiring machinery from an outside contractor 'without the county manager's consent'. They claim that if this 'consent' clause was enforced no engineer employed by the council would be secure. With no settlement in sight, consideration is now being given to a work-to-rule by the engineers in support of their colleague.

Galway union's cultural drive

AS PART of its new cultural development policy the Irish Transport and General Workers Union in Galway is sponsoring an exhibition of the paintings of local artist, Willie Quillinan, at the ITGWU Hall, Prospect Hill, all this week. Quillinan, an ITGWU member now employed in the offshore oil exploration industry off the west coast, will have twenty-five widely-differing paintings on view.

And, on Tuesday 30th September, the ITGWU Folk Club was opened by Galway Branch President Patrick Naughton at the Crane Lounge in Sea Road where weekly sessions will be held each Tuesday, admission free.

In his address Patrick Naughton said: "The history of Irish workers and the many struggles they have faced is well recorded in music and song. I hope that the ITGWU Folk Club will pay due tribute to this great tradition, keep it alive and indeed record present events in song for the benefit of future generations."

Ringsend road-blocking



RESIDENTS of Ringsend in Dublin have been blocking roads in the area this week in protest at the heavy traffic there which last week resulted in the death of six-year-old local child Samantha O'Brien, who was killed when an articulated lorry overturned.

The protestors are demanding that heavy traffic be re-routed away from the flat complexes in the area before another tragedy occurs. On Tuesday they blocked Thomastown Street (above) and the following day moved out to block the main road through Ringsend village.

Wall of silence partially breached TANKER DRIVERS STATE THEIR CASE

BY JOHN DOYLE

THE ABUSE of the petrol tanker-drivers in the twenty-six counties has continued from all sides with an increasing level of hysteria aimed presumably at the introduction of repressive anti-worker legislation.

However, there have been some encouraging displays of solidarity against the strike-breaking of the Free State army. The oil depot clerical workers, the Esso drivers, and the Calor-Kosangas workers have all taken action in sympathy.

But the trade union leadership have shown no stomach for the action necessary to stamp on the use of military scabs, contenting themselves with muted disapproval. In deed their major response has been criticism of the workers involved.

On Monday the tanker drivers achieved a degree of success in breaching the wall of silence against their case with an interview in the 'Irish Times'.

In the interview, Dermot Teeling, chairman of the shop stewards committee, and Dermot Dignam, a committee member, expertly articulated the drivers' case. Because of the general media bias it is worth summarising the points they made.

INTERVIEW

On pay they rejected statements that they are overpaid, pointing out that their basic wage is £68.35 per week (— not comparing favourably with the Free State's official poverty level of £60 per

week). This rate is £16 to £18 below the norm for the twenty-six counties.

Their highest average take-home pay is around £90 weekly. When taken together with the massive profits of the oil companies and the high risk and social and economic importance of their work, such wages are relatively low.

As to responsibility for the stoppage, they trace their efforts to reach a settlement since the last pay-deal expired in August, and their attempts to obtain a Labour Court ruling on their case which rests on difficulties inherent in the 1967 productivity settlement. That settlement ended in August and the men felt entitled to revert to pre-1967 working conditions in view of the employers' refusal to talk.

Although the decisions of the strikers have been reached democratically, the refusal of the ITGWU to make the dispute official centres mainly on their hopes of a new 'national' understanding. The company too has been foot-dragging to await a lower settlement from such a new centralised deal.

The strike leaders also pointed out that they have already compromised on their original demands but the employers have not moved. In addition they insist that they are providing a comprehensive and effective emergency service to hospitals, schools etc., and bitterly resent the use of military scabs.

In conclusion the two strike leaders dismissed any interim settlement, of which they have had bad experiences, the most recent in 1975. They want the employers to make a firm offer on the foundation of a fair evaluation of the existing productivity arrangements.

ADMISSION

But the tanker drivers, as strong as they have shown themselves to be, still face massive opposition in



Dermot Teeling and Dermot Dignam, of the tanker drivers' shop stewards committee, arriving for a union meeting in Liberty Hall on Tuesday

achieving their aim. Nevertheless they have gained admiration from many fellow trade-unionists by their adherence to worker democracy, their refusal to be bullied by unelected trade union bureaucrats, and their principled stand against the might of multi-nationals, the

media and the Free State government.

Further resolutions and indications of support are likely to come in from other workers, and will indicate the potential ability of rank-and-file trade unionists to resist the planned restrictions on them.

Roinn an Chomhraic Eacnamaíochta

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

CHUIR mé agallamh le déanaí ar cheannaire Roinn an Chomhraic Eacnamaíochta Pádraig Ó Bulguidhir agus thug sé an t-eolas seo a leanas dom.

AP/RN: Cathain a cuireadh an Roinn ar bun?

P.Ó.B: Cuireadh an Roinn féin ar bun i dtús na bliana seo, ach bhí an polasáí an ó 1971. Cuireadh grúpa ar bun anuraidh chun chomheangal a dhéanamh idir lucht na gearrchumhann sa ghluaiseacht agus chun go mbeadh éifeacht lena n-iarraichtaí. D'fhás roinn an Chomhraic Eacnamaíochta as an grúpa sin.

AP/RN: Cad tá a dhéanamh agaih faoi láthair?

P.Ó.B: Go dtí seo táimid ag eagrú agus ag iarraidh an polasáí a leathadh i measc bhaill Shinn Féin. Táimid ag comhoibriú le Roinn an Oideachais de Shinn Féin agus in éineacht le roinn an Chultúir agus Roinn na hÓige táimid ag pleanáil an chéad chéim eile.

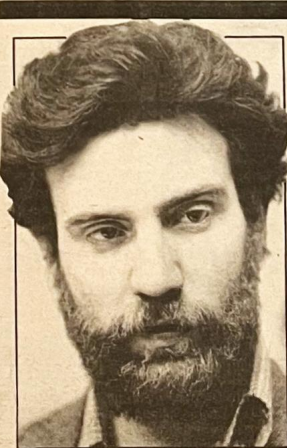
AP/RN: An bhfuil tú sáista leis an dul chun chinn go dtí seo?

P.Ó.B: Táim. Tá bail nua tagtha isteach sa Ghluaiseacht agus tá speis á mhúscailt i measc oibrithe mar gheall ar pholasaíthe ghluaisleach na Poblaíochta. Is í gcúrsaí na gearrchumhann is mó áitimid gníomhach go dtí seo agus tá meas ag na hoibrithe ar ár bpolasaithe.

AP/RN: Ar ndóigh tá dí-fhostaithe agus boileisciú ag dul i bhfeidhm go mór ar an dtír, an fada eile a leanfaidh sé?

P.Ó.B: Tá uair na cinniúna sroiste againn i gcúrsaí eacnamaíochta sa tír seo agus sna tíortha ar fad ina bhfuil an córas caipitheach i bhfeidhm. Tá lucht stailce sa líne tosaigh chun cearta na n-oibrithe a chosaint. Is in oclac a bheidh cúrsaí eacnamaíochta ag dul agus caithfidh oibrithe seasamh láidir a thógaint.

AP/RN: An ndéanann tú idirleáil idir stailceanna oifigiúla agus neamhoifigiúla?



Pádraig Ó Bulguidhir, ceannaire ar Roinn an Chomhraic Eacnamaíochta

P.Ó.B: Ní dheinim. Bíonn ar oibrithe dul ar stailc neamh oifigiúil toisc nach bhfuil móran maítheasa i gcuid des na ceardchumhann.

AP/RN: Fágann sinn go gceapann tú go bhfuil na ceardchumhann lag?

P.Ó.B: Níl na ceardchumhann idé faid lag, tá an chumhacht ag na hoibrithe ach tá cuid des na ceannairí agus na feidhmeannaigh atá fostaithe sna ceardchumhann lag agus ní theastaíonn uothu dul i ngleic leis na maistrí. Leapann na daoine seo gur féidir cearta na n-oibrithe a

bhaint amach trí caint amháin. Lhomh maith le sin tá euid mhór des na daoine sin ceangailte le píorthithe polaitiúla atá i bhfábhar an chórais atá i bhfeidhm sa tír seo.

AP/RN: Cén seasmhacht á ghlacadh againh ar an gComhthuisicint 'Náisiunta'?

P.Ó.B: Ní aontaimid leis in aon chor. Bliain i ndiaidh bliana tá na hoibrithe ag cailliúint. Táimid ag moladh do ghach oibrí vóta a chaitheamh ina choinne.

AP/RN: Conas a éiríonn leis an Roinn a dtuairim a chur ina lúf ar an bpobal?

P.Ó.B: Tá na príomh meáin cumarsáide i lámha an stáit agus seasann na nuachtáin laethúla leis an stáit ar bheagánach gach pointe. Táimid ag brath ar an AP/RN chun an scéal a scaipeadh. Tugann an AP/RN seirbhís maith nuachta ar chúrsaí eacnamaíochta na tíre agus tá a lán oibrithe á léamh chun an fhírinn maidir le stailceanna d'fháil.

AP/RN: D'úsáid stáit na Sé Chontae Fíchead an t-arm atá acu chun stailc na dtíomáiníte arla a bhriseadh, an dóigh leat an dtáirgídh sin go minic amach anseo?

P.Ó.B: Bhuel, nuair a d'éirigh leo na póilíní d'úsáid chun na fir a bhí ar stailc in Oifig an Phoist a ionasf ní nach ionadh go bhfuil an t-arm á d'úsáid acu anois. Is fiú cuimhneamh gur úsáid siad na saighdiúirí an t-arm a bhí na hoibrithe i C.I.E. ar stailc cheana. Ní haon rud as an ngnáth é anois na saighdiúirí á úsáid mar sin agus is dóigh liom go mbeidh siad á úsáid níos minicí as amach.

AP/RN: Cad é aithne na Roinne?

P.Ó.B: Teastaíonn uainn Réabhlóid a thabhairt i gcrích agus Poblaíocht Dhaonlathach Shóisialach a chur ar bun sa tír seo. Chuirge sin táimid ag iarraidh ceangal a dhéanamh idir na grúpaí sin den phobal atá ag iarraidh saoirse agus saol níos fearr. Teastaíonn uainn ceangal a dhéanamh idir an troid atá ar síúl chun neamhspleáchas a bhaint amach agus an troid chun cearta na n-oibrithe d'fháil. Táimid ag leanúint bhóthar Shéamais Uí Chonghaile chun Poblaíocht Dhaonlathach Shóisialach a chur ar bun.

Brit terror in Tyrone continues

Thousands of pounds worth of damage

BY SEAN DELANEY

BRITISH TROOPS continued their systematic campaign of destruction and intimidation against the fiercely nationalist farming community of County Tyrone last week, when they invaded land belonging to two families in Clonoe, near Coal-island, completely wrecking a partially-built bungalow, causing several thousand pounds worth of damage; ruining hundreds of bales of hay; and destroying furniture and fittings worth thousands of pounds in a number of farm outhouses.

One of the farmers was held and questioned for two days in Gough Barracks in Armagh, while British troops wrecked his farm in his absence, before he was released without charge.

This carnival of wanton damage follows similar episodes, the previous week, where serious damage was caused to no less than five farms within a four-mile radius of these latest incidents; while early last month, two chicken farms in Killucan, also in County Tyrone, were systematically destroyed by a force of over a hundred British troops, again costing thousands of pounds in damage and lost production.

O'NEILL

Mr. O'Neill first became aware of the presence of the Royal High-land Fusiliers on his land early on Saturday evening, September 27th, when he saw them spying on farm buildings from surrounding fields, but it was not until 6.30 p.m. on Monday that they swooped on the O'Neill's farm itself, raiding their bungalow home, placing the family — the O'Neill couple and their children, two-year-old Pauline and four-month-old Brian — under house arrest, where they remained for three days, and proceeding to ransack outouses, completely destroying their contents. Meanwhile, less than one hundred yards away on adjoining land, another force of Brits began to demolish an uncompleted bungalow belonging to the Campbell family who live nearby.

The comprehensive trail of damage on the O'Neill farm began with nine hundred stored bales of hay being strewn about, handled and left exposed to the rain, rendering it useless for feeding cattle, and in itself a loss of almost two thousand pounds. Elsewhere, the distributor cap was wrenched off a tractor, immobilising it, fencing posts were torn up, and doors pulled off their hinges.

REMARKABLE

But the senseless damage done inside the farm buildings, including a still largely furnished former dwelling house, is even more remarkable.

There, wiring was ripped out; ceiling rafters torn down; files

ripped off walls and roofs, and then smashed; windows, lightbulbs and switches smashed; and window frames and sills torn out and broken. Bits of furniture, including old beds, armchairs and sofas were upturned, and slashed, and their stuffing strewn about; cupboards, chairs, an old washing machine and fridge, were knocked over and damaged or smashed; and the contents of a tin of orange paint were daubed over much of the furniture. Inside the dairy room itself, equipment was knocked over and strewn about.

Two incidents, in particular, illustrate the attitude of the Brits to the farm's occupants. On one outhouse doorstep a bored Brit had engraved 'Willie was here, 1980' and inside an outhouse a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was disfigured with an inked-on pair of spectacles and a moustache, and cynically adorned with the slogan 'Peace, man', before being trampled on and finally torn up.

While this orgy of destruction



Above: torn and splintered rafters, and damaged wiring in one of the O'Neill's outhouses; and below: the torn and disfigured religious picture cynically adorned by the Brits



was under way Mr. O'Neill was arrested, on Tuesday at 1 p.m., and taken to Gough Barracks where he was questioned about alleged arms and explosives finds on his farm land, though none of this 'evidence' was produced during questioning. He was released on Thursday afternoon, a couple of hours after the Brits left the farm.

During the five-day occupation of their farm land, the O'Neills were prevented even from fetching coal to light a fire and neighbours were prevented from entering the farm which was completely sealed off. Mrs. O'Neill needed medical treatment for her nerves because of the Brits' maniacal behaviour, which even included stealing the

contents of one of her children's savings box!

CAMPBELL

A stone's throw away, another squad of Brits continued their campaign of harassment against the Campbell family, by spending several days demolishing a partly-built bungalow belonging to them. The Brits demolished four out-houses, smashed through cavity and single brick walls, destroyed window sills and frames, took a sledge hammer to building blocks and bricks, and used parts of the house as a toilet.

Fifty-year-old Brendan Campbell and his two sons, Seamus and Peter, are no strangers to Brit harassment. In March this year, their home was raided twice within forty-eight hours by Brits and RUC, resulting in both sons being assaulted and arrested, and Brendan Campbell being bruised from a kick and a blow from a rifle butt. For the last two years the Campbell family has been the object of sustained harassment by both the Brits and the RUC, with their home being raided on several occasions and the sons being held and assaulted in Gough Barracks. This persecution has culminated in Seamus currently being held on remand.

These latest acts of Brit destruction, in what is increasingly clearly becoming a widespread revenge campaign designed to make the nationalist community 'pay' for undiminished republican resistance in the Tyrone area, has left that community uncowed and as contemptuous as ever of the occupying British army of terror.



Demolished walls and smashed brickwork in the Campbells' partially-built bungalow

Andersonstown

HUNDREDS of leaflets urging support for the protesting republican prisoners, in particular the Armagh women, were distributed by the O'Connell/Tierney, Sinn Féin column to Saturday shoppers on Belfast's Andersonstown Road last weekend. The shopping precinct had been plastered beforehand with the latest Armagh poster, and, over the loud-speaking equipment, people were urged to support next Saturday's Armagh picket — for which a bus will leave the Busy Bee at 1 p.m.

Belfast

IN a welcome move, Belfast Trades Union Council last week backed suggestions by Cardinal O'Flaherty that general reforms to the prison system might go some way to meeting protesting prisoners' demands for political status. The trades council backed calls for the H-Block protestors to be allowed to wear their own clothes and to engage in educational courses rather than doing prison work, in an attempt, they said, to end 'the inhuman conditions under which protesting prisoners are presently serving their sentences.'

Buncrana



DURING the recent Fleadh held in Buncrana, County Donegal, several street protests and rallies were held by members of the local H-Block action group, supported by Derry RAC and Sinn Féin, in the Main Street, Buncrana, at which former blanket man Charley Cumley spoke of conditions in the H-Blocks. In addition, over fifteen hundred signatures were collected for the international H-Block petition, and literature was distributed.

Leitrim

FIFTEEN members of Leitrim County Council have sent a letter of congratulations to Governor Edward King of Massachusetts for the reception he gave to former blanket man Fra McCann in Boston recently. They thank him for his interest in the H-Block and Armagh prisoners.

The letter is signed by council chairman John Joe McGilfray, and councillors Larry McGowan, Joseph Mooney, John Ellis, Michael Kilgus, Anthony Ferguson, Mary Bogan, Jim Short, Michael Guckian, Pascal McKeon, Kathleen Coleman, John Cullen, John Clinton, Joe McLoughlin and Thomas McCartan.

A similar letter has been sent to the governor by the Leitrim H-Block Action Committee.

Letterkenny

EXACTLY one dozen years after the RUC batoned peaceful demonstrators in Derry's Duke Street in the glare of international media coverage, Haughey's gardai were up to a little of the same thing a few miles away in Letterkenny, County Donegal, with barely a peep from the press.

Members of Derry Relatives Action Committee, along with former blanket men and relatives of prisoners, travelled to Letterkenny last Sunday where Charles Haughey was addressing the by-election convention, in a Letterkenny hotel, of Fianna Fáil delegates. During a two-and-a-half hour picket, during which uniformed gardai prevented them from seeing Haughey, the demonstrators held placards and chanted slogans protesting at cross-border collaboration, especially the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, and at Haughey's silence on the H-Block and Armagh.

But as Haughey left the hotel, and as his car was surrounded by protestors, the gardai leapt into action. One crippled mother of a blanket man, Mrs. McNaught, was almost knocked from her wheelchair; Derry RAC spokesperson Kathleen Gallagher was batoned on her arms and legs as she lay in the path of Haughey's car; and other demonstrators were shoved and struck with batons.

Finally, having failed to deter the RAC members, Haughey was forced reluctantly to agree to meet the women in a fortnight's time to discuss the situation in the H-Block and Armagh.

What is Republicanism

THE BULK of the text is printed here of a lecture on 'nationalism and socialism' delivered by Phil Flynn at Sinn Féin's National Education Seminar held over the weekend of September 27th/28th.

An Phoblacht/Republican News published a report on the seminar last week, and over the next two weeks will be printing large extracts of the texts of two other lectures: one on 'women' by Rita O'Hare, and the other on 'small farmers' by Joe Gaillogh.

BY PHIL FLYNN

TO ACHIEVE an understanding of the connection between nationalism, socialism and republicanism it is necessary to go back to basics. Most people, when asked 'what is a republican?', answer: 'someone who believes in a republic.' The difficulty with this answer is that the Free State claims to be a republic, and the USA and France are republics.

The dictionary definition is: 'one who believes in supreme power being in the hands of the people through their elected representatives.'

None of these definitions adequately explain the philosophy or aspirations of members of the Irish Republican Movement. To answer the question 'what is an Irish republican?' it is necessary to retrace cursorily the evolution and principal elements of Irish republican philosophy.

The influence of the French Revolution, against the despotic rule of the King and aristocratic class, with its demand for 'Liberty Equality and Fraternity' greatly influenced the United Irishmen organisation and its leader, Wolfe Tone, in whose writings is the codification of the three principles which form the basis of Irish republican philosophy: separatism, secularism and non-sectarianism.

SEPARATISM

On separatism he wrote: "A closer examination into the situation of my native country had very considerably extended my views, and, as I was sincerely and honestly attached to her interests, I made speedily what was to me a great discovery — that the influence of England was the radical vice of our government

and consequently that Ireland could never be either free, prosperous or happy until she was independent and that independence was unattainable while the connection with England existed."

On the question of secularism: Irish history has many examples of how churches can abuse their position to support the establishment, even when the establishment is corrupt, dictatorial and anti-christian in its policies and practice. Although, like most of the leadership of the United Irishmen, Tone was a Protestant, he saw and understood why the Protestant churches supported England and why sectarian conflicts, which kept the Irish masses divided, were deliberately kept alive by England.

The United Irishmen proposed the breaking of the connection

with England and the formation of a secular society — that is, a society in which churches held no power and where religious tolerance would not only be preached, but practised. They were aware of the use to which sectarianism was put by England and dedicated themselves to "unite the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of past dissensions, and to substitute the common name of Irishmen in place of the denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter."

LAND

With the emergence of the Young Ireland Movement, Davis re-introduced the fundamental demand of Tone: separation from England.

Fintan Lalor gave Irish Republicanism a new base: the land question. By linking this with the demand for separation, the relationship of forces within Irish society of the time was entirely changed. It created the basis for the modern Irish nationalist tradition and, for the first time, a force capable of taking on the British Empire.

Lalor wrote: "The entire ownership of Ireland, moral and material, up to the sun and down to the centre, is vested in the right of the people of Ireland. That they, and none but they, are the land-owners and law-makers of this island: that all laws are null and void, not made by them; and all tithes to land are invalid, not conferred by them."

In this and all the writings of Lalor, although he was not a scientific socialist, there is, in addition to the doctrine of separation, considerable socialist theory.

FENIANS

The next influence on the development of the philosophy of Irish republicanism was the Irish Republican Brotherhood, or Fenian Movement.

The Fenian Movement was inspired by the writings of Tone and sought to achieve the complete separation of Ireland from England by force. It was essentially a national movement based on the American ideas of 'Liberty' and 'Freedom'. This period was one of the great national revival generally and saw the foundation of such organisational expressions of nationalism as the GAA and Conradh na Gaeilge.

Although one can find in the writings of the United Irishmen, Young Irelanders, and Fenians, elements of socialist theory, at the end of the nineteenth century nationalism was the dominant force in Irish republicanism. As



Above: three leaders of the Young Irelanders: left to right: Thomas Davis, Charles Gavan Duffy, and John Dillon; and, inset: Fintan Lalor



the Rising of 1916 approached, however, the IRB was beginning to realise the necessity of socialism in its revolutionary programme.

PEARSE

The best example of this realisation is to be found in the writings of Padraig Pearse. For example, in his 'Sovereign People' written shortly before the Rising: "So that the nation's sovereignty

extends not only to all men and women of the nation but to all material possessions of the nation, the nation's soil and all its resources, all wealth, and wealth producing processes within the nation. In other words, no private

right to property is given the public right to social equal rights and liberties of man and woman nation."

In this period, when Plunkett and Connolly contributed significantly to making socialism an element of republicanism, Connolly who succeeded in making socialism a part of republicanism, from his readings, especially from his early struggle that nationalism was not enough, a programme was required to destroy the inequality and exploitation which existed throughout Ireland.

CONNOLLY

In his political philosophy, particularly in relation to Connolly sought to bring Irish men and women to a sense of socialism allied to nationalism. There can be no doubt that it was his influence which caused Pearse to 'Sovereign People'.

Connolly made his point concisely when he wrote: "Social and political freedom are two separate and unconnected principles, each being without the other."

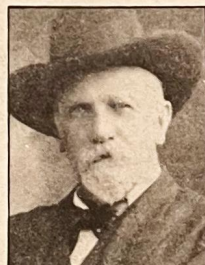
Connolly realised the ownership of Ireland was a political, that it had a basis. He knew that British army left Ireland would still control the country through its grip, through its control of financial, industrial and all life in the country.

How prophetic were his words: "If you remove the English tomorrow and hold them over Dublin Castle, what about the organisation? Socialist Republic: yes."

LEADERS OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN BROTHERHOOD (FENIANS)



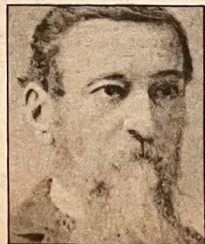
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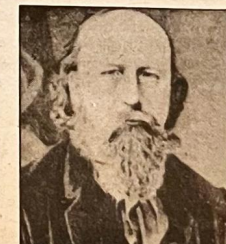
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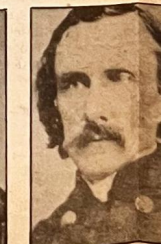
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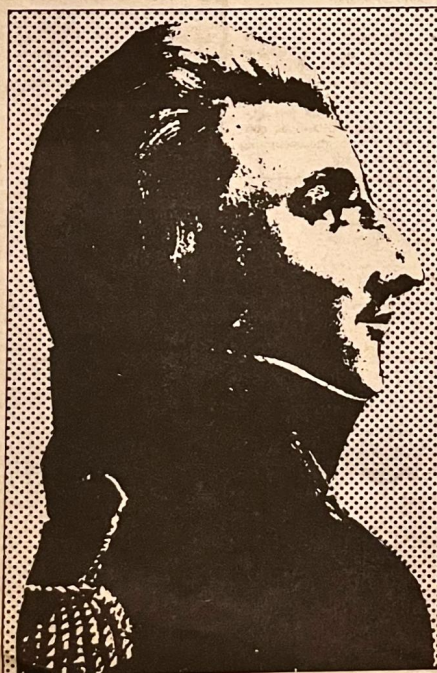
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WOLFE TONE

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would be in vain. England would still rule you. She would rule you through her financiers, through the whole array of commercial and individualist institutions she had planted in the country."

In the Proclamation of 1916 and the Democratic Programme of the First Dail there is evidence of the further development of the socialist dimension. The proclamation declared "the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies to be sovereign and indefeasible."

Typical of the terms of the Democratic Programme of the First Dail was:

"It is the duty of the nation to ensure that every citizen shall have the opportunity to spend his or her strength and faculties in the service of the people. In return for willing service, we, in the name of the Republic, declare the right of every citizen to an adequate share of the produce of the nation's labour."

ELEMENTS

Clearly, therefore, Irish Republicanism has not been a static concept, but a living, developing and growing ideology. By 1916 it had evolved to embrace five principal elements:-

- separatism: to break the connection;
- non-sectarianism: to substitute the common name of Irishman in place of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter;
- secularism: to limit the control of the Churches to things spiritual, and to treat everyone equal before God;
- nationalism: promotion of language, culture and national identity, and the restoration of the Irish way of life;
- and socialism: the ownership of Ireland for the people of Ireland, and the subordination of private property to public right and welfare.

Clearly any suggestion that socialism is alien to so-called traditional republicanism is ill-founded. Equally incorrect is any suggestion that in the context of a struggle for national freedom, nationalism and socialism do not march together.

DOMINATION

The Rising of 1916, followed two years later by the popular Tan War, forced British imperialism to modify the form of its domination of the island. This was done in 1921 in a deal with the emerging capitalists - the strategy was to give formal independence to a part of the country while carrying on an exclusively British enclave in the six north-eastern counties.

Their hold on this was guaranteed by the existence of the Protestant caste system, which systematically denied democracy and equality to the Catholic minority.

The military occupation of the six-counties was designed, and has acted since, as a bridgehead for the economic and socio-cultural domination of the whole island. The nature of the British connection in the post-1921 period, therefore, goes much deeper than the occupation of

part of the country by British troops.

FEATURES

In the period since the so-called treaty, imperialism has had the following principal features:

- the occupation of the six-counties directly, by British troops;
- the economic domination of the six and twenty-six counties by British and foreign capital;
- the lack of democracy in the six counties, and the use of religious discrimination to divide the working people;
- the exploitation of twenty-six county agriculture by the artificial rigging of the British and in more recent years the EEC, markets;
- the use of the financial system to channel Irish wealth abroad;
- political subservience by Dublin governments in foreign policy and trade;
- collaboration between twenty-six county governments and British and six-county administrations, and the introduction in both parts of the country of a range of repressive legislation designed, primarily, to defeat the struggle for re-unification;
- and, cultural domination by the English language, literature and ways of thinking in all aspects of life.

COMPREHENSIVE

The imperialist presence in Ireland - covering as it does the entire country, and having many aspects and operating at several different levels - requires a comprehensive and thirty-two county response. Only a fool, or the politically naive, would suggest that imperialism can be defeated by the armed struggle alone, how-

ever successful it is, or even by action in the six-counties alone.

All the manifestations of imperialism must be fought and all these areas of struggle must be organised and integrated by the active involvement of the people under the leadership of the only revolutionary organisation committed to the defeat of imperialism.

The job, then, of republicans is to take up the sharpest political contradictions within Ireland, North and South, irrespective of their class nature, whilst orientating the struggles around these contradictions towards political power by the people. Quite obviously the sharpest political contradiction is partition. The issue of partition is central to the struggle against imperialism and, by definition, against Irish capitalism.

CONSISTENT

The most consistent element of the Irish republican tradition is armed resistance to British imperialism which will be continued - because progress in the struggle at other levels or against other man-

ifestations of imperialism, without doubt, depends on the continuance of the war at a high level. It is from this that the Republican Movement draws its legitimacy.

Given that, republicans must go about the task of developing the political consciousness and revolutionary potential of the Irish people, North and South. This must be done by implementing the Sinn Féin programme of Economic Resistance: by leading people through agitation and direct action on issues such as housing, redundancies, unemployment, discrimination, land, civil rights issues - in fact, on all the many injustices and abuses that workers suffer in a capitalist state.

The republican purpose is to build a mass movement against oppression and exploitation, a movement of workers and small farmers to overthrow the twin forces of oppression and exploitation in Ireland: British imperialism and capitalism.

EVOLVED

This is Irish republicanism as it has evolved through centuries of

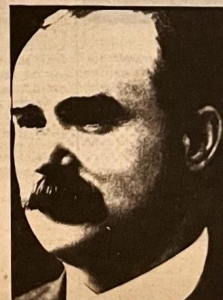
struggle and political thought. It embraces both nationalism and socialism.

Anything short of this is not worth fighting for, and does not justify the loss of one life. It follows that anyone who rejects such an objective, rejects republicanism, as sure as those who accept the imperialistically imposed border.

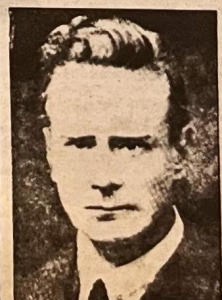
To sum up then. Republicans must act as the mass organiser of the people, to lead them in agitational activities on issues such as land, for better working, living and social conditions; showing them in all these fights that their enemies are their landlords and their gombeen exploiters banded together into the establishment. The objective is both nationalist and socialist: a thirty-two county democratic socialist republic.



PATRICK PEARSE



JAMES CONNOLLY



LIAM MELLOWS



All letters should be addressed to the Editor — An Phoblacht/Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

Armagh picket

A chara,
I would like to remind your readers that this Saturday, October 11th, Sinn Féin is organising a mass picket of Armagh jail in support of the demand for political status, for which twenty-eight republican women prisoners are currently on protest. The picket is jointly organised by Sinn Féin's POW Department and Ulster Executive.

Buses are being organised from many areas including Belfast, Dublin, South Derry and South West Antrim. All who support the five demands of the prisoners are strongly urged to support the picket, and to demonstrate that these courageous prisoners do not stand alone in their defiance of Britain's tactic of criminalisation. Banners are welcome.

Tom Hartley,
Sinn Féin POW Department,
51/53 Falls Road,
Belfast.

Belfast action group

A chara,
A meeting to form a Belfast H-Block Action Group will be held this Friday, October 10th. The meeting, which is open to all who support the five demands of the prisoners, will be held in the Old Celtic Bar, 85b Falls Road, and is due to commence at 7.30 p.m.

Anyone who is interested in being a member of, or assisting in the activities of, this action group is urged to attend the meeting. The gravity of the H-Block situation demands urgent action.

Ad-hoc Northern organiser,
National H-Block Committee,
Belfast.

Ireland live on

A chara,
"Ireland live on", a play written by Seamus McKearney, is a historical saga of our country, commencing with the formation of the United Irishmen on October 11th 1791 at the historic meeting — in the back room of Peg Barclay's tavern in the High Street of old Belfast — of Tone, McCracken, Neilson, Russell and Simms.

Following on from that night, the play traces the path of Ireland's poignant history right up to the cruel deaths of the patriot leaders of the Easter Rising 1916 in the cold, grey prison yard of Kilmainham.

The play comprises drama, tableaux, music and song, telling the story of those harsh and bitter years when Irish men and women opposed the cruel repression of the age-old English oppressors, and when small armies of Irish patriots, who were a mere flea bite

in comparison to the armed might of the British Empire, marched forth with their pikes and pitchforks against colossal odds, to die or be transported in hulks to malaria-infested prison settlements across the sea rather than suffer the stigma of slavery.

The play is presented in language which is poetically beautiful and often sad as it tells of the resistance of a proud people.

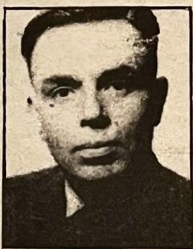
It is intended to stage this play in Belfast in the near future. It was last produced in 1951 and we are happy to have with us some of the original participants, the least being our producer, Joe Quinn, a young 'live-wire' of seventy-six years old, who keeps us all 'on our toes' and talks like a 'Dutch Uncle' to anyone who fails to play up to his standards.

This venture should be of special interest to the younger generation who, over the last ten years, have had no opportunity to experience entertainment of an historical or cultural nature. We still have a few more acts in the latter part of the programme to cast and rehearse and would welcome anyone who cares to join us to help in any capacity.

This would entail the sacrifice of time and hard work, but the reward of our efforts will be to see this great play proudly and lovingly represented on stage. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7.15 p.m. and on Sundays at 1.15 p.m. and anyone interested should call at

The Felons' Lounge,
Upper Falls Road,
Andersonstown,
Belfast.

Sean McArdle



A chara,
Those who have resisted British rule in Ireland should reserve a special place for the late Sean McArdle who died in Belfast in July.

Small in stature, sharp in wit, equipped with a questioning mind and a humanistic spirit, he was a political activist of the highest calibre.

His fifteen years of imprisonment by the British included a prison ship stay during which he was submerged in water for weeks on end and subjected to daily hose-downs on the vessel's deck with icy sea water. Sean was only released after this torture had shattered his health. Despite his chronic emphysema, however, he

A chara,
Besides whatever else he may be, Humphrey Atkins is definitely a bumbling idiot — but as Secretary of State he is also a dangerous buffoon. This was amply demonstrated when he spoke at a public meeting on Friday 3rd October in the Tory stronghold of Staines just outside London. This is his own constituency and the topic for discussion was, 'Is there an answer to the question of Ireland?'

Except for four TOM members the audience was mostly true blue Tories, who before the meeting began had been ecstatically eulogising grammar schools and the cuts, and they now listened with admiration as Atkins glossed over the seventeenth century plantations and the subsequent almost total transference of land from the indigenous people to the British colonists.

To this historic crime he simply added, "well, rightly or wrongly so..."

Later he mentioned "that because the Unionists refused to accept the will of the majority of Irish people, Ireland was partitioned in 1922, 'rightly or wrongly'."

Even on the very foundation of Labour and Tory bipartisan policy towards Ireland he was unsure: "The fact is, that Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom. That may be right, or it may be wrong."

Later on, "There are people from the Troops Out Movement who would have me withdraw the troops from Northern Ireland. Well let me tell them that's exactly what we plan to do." But when a woman then said that her cousin in Armagh was "terrified lest Britain withdraw her troops," Atkins reassured her not to worry!

As a TOM member raised the question of the H-Blocks and Armagh jail the Tory audience gasped in disbelief and shouts of 'lies', 'rubbish' and even laughter could be heard as she unfolded the cruel reality of British rule in

would not be broken.

His friends in California remember him as having been instrumental in organising the Irish Northern Aid Committee and bringing together members of the California Irish community and others concerned with the Irish conflict. We remember with fondness his compassion and interest in the world around him. An avid reader, Sean frequented the Belfast public library, never limiting his scope to his own environment.

He died on the streets of Belfast as a citizen of the world. His commitment to the fight against injustice will endure.

Michael Grumet,
California,
USA.

Afghanistan and the Soviet Union

A chara,
I wish to take up some of the points made by Jim Corcoran in his letter on Afghanistan published in An Phoblacht/Republican News July 26th, in which he writes about the "misconceptions and lies about the Soviet Union and its foreign policy."

Firstly, it should be pointed out that one cannot view the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in isolation from other such interventions. To do so would be like treating Hitler's invasion of Poland in isolation from his occupation of Czechoslovakia and Austria.

As for Afghanistan, Mr Corcoran tells us that the Karmal government has the support of "the leader of the Pashu nomadic tribes" and of "the highest Moslem authority". Now surely for a socialist government which is being bolstered by

RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY

the North.

"This just doesn't happen. Have you ever been in Armagh jail?" asked Atkins smugly. When she answered that it was impossible for her to gain admission, a male member of the audience hurled sexist abuse: "How do you know it's bloody well true then, you silly woman?"

Such was the hostility of those present that the chairperson had to reprimand the audience for not letting another TOM member speak, saying that "democracy must be observed."

But, if we thought Atkins had simply proved himself a congenial idiot, he certainly felt that he

hadn't done enough. When asked at the end of the meeting, "But you still have not told us, what is the answer to the Northern Ireland problem?" he replied confidently, "People say to me what is the solution? I say, I don't know."

Even as he was leaving, "Mr. Atkins, could you answer one last question?"

"I don't know if I can."

"What would you do if there was a mass hunger strike in the H-Blocks or Armagh?"

"Sorry, that's the question I can't answer, Goodnight."

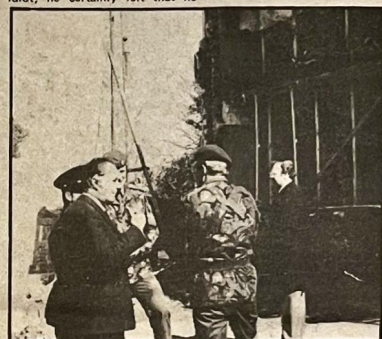
As he left the room with his bodyguards, who were overheard to mention that they should all go for a drink, Atkins sighed, "That's the best suggestion I've heard all night."

South London TOM,

c/o Box TOM,

2a St. Paul's Road,

London N1.



Atkins talking to Brits and RUC men outside the remnants of Kingsley barracks, blasted by the IRA

the 'party of Lenin' — the key question must be: how does it stand with the workers and peasants?

Can Jim Corcoran say clearly and without equivocation that the Soviet intervention has the full and total support of the mass of the Afghanistans workers and peasants?

I doubt very much if he can! And the reason for this is quite clear. The people of Afghanistan (not unlike other peoples) take grave exception to any foreign power which invades and occupies their country, as the British found to their cost in the last century.

As I said at the outset, this debate should not be confined solely to Afghanistan. So, let me now deal with other matters raised in Jim Corcoran's letter.

In defending the non-aggression pact between the USSR and Nazi Germany, he says that it thwarted the sinister designs of Western imperialism and, seemingly more to the point against the Soviet Union "two valuable years" to prepare for the inevitable Nazi onslaught.

But when the onslaught came the Soviets were anything but prepared. In the first few months of the invasion vast areas of West-

ern Russia were occupied, the Red Air Force was almost totally destroyed on the ground, and whole Soviet armies were annihilated.

To cap it all, on the eve of the invasion — while German troops were in their starting off positions — trains full of Soviet wheat were still on their way to Germany. Such was the state of Soviet unpreparedness.

For a country which claims to be the world's leading workers' state, and which at the time commanded the intense loyalty of millions of socialist workers across the globe, to have entered into an alliance with a regime which was responsible for the wholesale slaughter of tens of thousands of working class militants was and remains an indefensible act.

Jim Corcoran attempts to justify the brutal crushing of the Hungarian people's revolt of 1956 by claiming that the thousands of workers and students who fought against the Rakosi regime and resisted the Soviet Army were really right-wing elements in disguise. Their anything but right-wing demands, he further informs us, were all a clever attempt to mask their real pro-

capitalist intentions.

Does he really expect us to believe such rubbish?

The truth of the matter is that the people of Hungary wished their country to have full independence and for them to have a real say in the way they were governed. Unfortunately for them, their aspirations ran counter to the strategic needs of the USSR and so they paid the penalty.

With regard to Czechoslovakia, he tells us that the CIA had hundreds of agents there in 1968. There's nothing very surprising about that! The CIA and other Western intelligence services, no doubt, still have agents in Czechoslovakia along with the rest of Eastern Europe and quite likely inside the USSR itself. One can also be quite sure that the CIA's most secret services have many people in the capitalist countries.

But apart from the number of CIA agents in the country, what is also clear about Czechoslovakia in 1968 is that the vast majority of the population including a large and significant proportion of the Communist Party were in favour of important changes in the country's socialist system.

There is no hard evidence of any significant plot either inside or outside the Czechoslovakia CP to restore capitalism. They wished to democratise the Socialist regime — not overthrow it. Surely this was their right as a sovereign government and people.

No doubt, Jim Corcoran will be able to explain the recent events in Poland by telling us all about the right-wing counter-revolutionaries cleverly disguised as workers.

The attitude of republicans and socialists to events such as those in Afghanistan and Poland invariably stem from how they view the Soviet Union itself.

Without doubt the USSR and its allies are socialist states in as much as that capitalism has been abolished and the means of production, distribution and exchange are socially owned, (theoretically at least). There is no disputing that these countries have made, and continue to make, strenuous efforts to see that their peoples are not denied the basic requisites for living. Also, it is doubtful if they would have attained the levels of economic progress which they have, if they were still under capitalism.

But, while they have made substantial social and economic gains, these have been made at the expense of many fundamental human rights. In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, socialism has been founded, built and maintained through a system of terror, oppression and blatant dictatorial rule.

As such these countries can never serve as a satisfactory model for the building of socialism in our own country. And this is the crucial point which must be grasped by republicans and socialists when examining the internal and external policies and actions of the Soviet Union.

Padraig Malone,
Limerick.

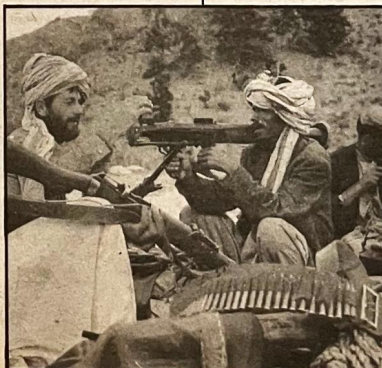
TOM office

Dear comrades,

At the Troops Out Movement's bi-annual conference in June this year, a motion was passed proposing the appointment of a full-time office worker. In September this year the worker was appointed and a national office was opened. The office will be staffed five days per week, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The telephone number is 01-2672004.

We welcome your inquiries about the TOM and any other campaigns with which we are connected. The name of the worker is Loraine Lough. She will be able to keep you informed of TOM's proposed activities and any other details you may wish to know.

Steering Committee,
Troops Out Movement,
Box TOM, 2a St. Paul's Road,
London N1.



IRKSOME GNOMES AND BRITEN-PANZER

Evenin' all,

It is one of the tiresome aspects of this wretched job of mine that, at times, I have to go and dine with native paddy Quislings. These people, I admit are necessary, and so one does one's duty and puts up with the whining Fitts, Philbins, Devlins and Cushnans performance.

But last week, I had the ghastly experience of dining with one of the most appalling specimens: Erskine Holmes, commonly known, I believe, as Iriksome Gnomes.

Immediately the invite dropped through the bunker's outer fortifications I consulted Jack Hermon's Special Branch chappies and got a dossier on the Holmes creature. It did not, I confess, make light reading.

HOLMES

Born of poor but honest folk in East Belfast, Holmes attended Annadale Grammar School and managed to scrape into Queen's University, where he posed as a revolutionary and paraded around in a combat jacket. This phase, I'm glad to say, didn't last too long and he relapsed to occasionally wearing a red shirt and affecting a beard.

This too didn't go on for too long and finally, on joining the moribund local Labour Party, he reverted to wearing a red tie once a year on May day. Nonetheless, while at the university he had assoc-



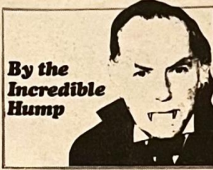
ERSKINE HOLMES: 'one of the most appalling specimens'

iated with such trouble-makers as that nasty Eamonn McCann and that commie Michael Farrell.

Although he has, on the surface, totally dissociated himself from his sordid past and become an establishment hack, I confess to having had a feeling of disquiet.

TAYLOR

Harry Taylor, a genial if rather



thuggish idiot, did his best to reassure me. Over the past decade he asserted, Holmes has faithfully carried out his Quisling role, emulating and splitting the pathetic NILP, gloating when his erstwhile colleagues were interned in '71, backing the EEC in order to get a plum job there.

Now, as gauleiter in charge of various housing associations he is fulfilling a very useful role, as well as feathering his nest with shrewd property speculations. In short, it was quite safe for the memsahib and I, accompanied by Boris and Ivan, my trusty aides and bodyguards, to venture chez Holmes.

Accordingly we made the trip up the Ravenhill Road at the designated hour. But, the evening was not, I must say, much of a success. In my time I've accepted free nosh from plenty of property speculators (Rowlands, Vestey, Goldsmith, etc.) and generally you can expect a good spread and a fair modicum of the old vino. Not so chez Holmes! Definitely a night to forget!

The next day wasn't up to much either. Sitting at my desk reading the latest lists of UDR, RUC and

RUCR personnel due to appear before the courts charged with various sectarian activities, and even rape, and possibly due to tell all, my hang-over was interrupted by the arrival of the mail. One item in particular, the September 25th edition of the German newspaper 'B.Z.', caused me to blanch.

BERLIN

'Britten-Panzer' in Berlin geknack't screamed the front page. It seems, so the translator tells me, that during the recent Brit-French joint manoeuvres, held in the Tegeler forest, some idle soldiers abandoned one of our tanks and went off to hold hands or molest the local livestock.

On their return they were somewhat dismayed to discover that some clever Huns had, as I believe our American cousins would say, 'trashed' the tank. It was a write off. High explosive shells, ammunition and grenade launchers and rockets had all been nicked, and offensive and disloyal slogans daubed all over the burnt shell of the tank. Red faces all round.

Someone's going to be up on a fizzer, believe you me! The Huns even had the temerity to paint up slogans about the late lamented Lord Mountbatten, that gay old sea-dog, and about the H-Blocks.

Are these fiends everywhere? I have decided to cancel all appointments for the next few days. It's all too depressing!

A disconsolate Hump.



Iran's oil refineries ablaze at Abadan

Iraqi invasion of Iran

BY PETER STEELE

THE British and Free State mass media have been consistently portraying the invasion of Iran by Iraq as a minor territorial dispute between two warring 'tribes' — or to be more precise, between two Muslim sects, the (Iranian) Shiites and the (Iraqi) Sunnis — unable, owing to their untamed innate aggressiveness, to reach an amicable settlement in true-Brit fashion, around a debating table!

This false portrayal of the conflict is, of course, remarkably similar to that peddled by the Brit media about the sectarian nature of the war in the North, where, according to them, British imperialism (the real aggressor) plays only a mediatory role between two untamed, innately aggressive, Irish factions.

In the Middle East there exists the obvious, and similar, threat of foreign military intervention (with a huge American naval task force at the mouth of the Arab Gulf and 110,000 American troops of the Rapid Deployment Force on war alert).

SURVIVAL

It should be noted that in the Shah's time the Iraqis were quite happy to let the territorial issue (over the Shatt al Arab estuary) lie dormant. The current Middle East conflict is, in fact, about the very survival of the regimes in Iran and Iraq, and much more.

Indeed, Iran's leader the

Ayatollah Khomeini, has stated: 'We are at war with America, and today the hand of America has come out of the sleeve of Iraq.'

Whilst the invasion of Iran by Iraq may not have been launched as a result of the direct collusion between Baghdad and Washington, the invasion is certainly one which the American government will have welcomed as possibly bringing in its wake the downfall of the anti-American Khomeini regime in Iran, and a new role for Iraq as imperialism's 'policeman' in the Middle East.

(Other Western powers, however, may not be quite so happy about the immediate future because of the threat to their oil supplies; but America, itself, gets only a negligible amount of oil from Iraq and none from Iran.)

The American government certainly needs a local 'policeman'. The victory of the Iranian revolution, in February 1979, struck a significant strategic blow against America, whose local 'policeman', the Shah

and his regime, were overthrown, threatening American interests in the whole of the Middle East.

COMPLICITY

Certainly Washington has a record of ongoing complicity with counter-revolutionary pro-Shah forces now based in Iraq, including Bakhtiari, the Shah's last hand-picked prime minister, as well as two of the Shah's former top generals, the 'butcher' Oveissi and Palizban.

Washington's 'Iraq option' is just one aspect of the same overall policy that led to its abortive attempt in April at a raid on Tehran. Despite President Carter's claims that it was a humanitarian rescue mission, the raid clearly had much broader aims, in line with Washington's goal of overthrowing the Iranian government and replacing it with one more accommodating to imperialist interests in the region.

Then, the very next day after Carter's botched raid, Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, publicly attacked Khomeini at a rally in Iraq, stating that his government was ready to defeat Iranian forces. Fewer than three months later, in mid-July, the Iranian government succeeded in breaking up a coup attempt in which the Iraqi military were, apparently, directly

implicated.

The recent revelation by leading American newspaper columnist Jack Anderson (who did such a good job exposing Britain's H-Blocks in America) of a 'top secret plan to invade Iran with a powerful military force', sometime in October, raises serious questions about how the Iraqi regime's military offensive may be connected with the exposed invasion plans.

REVOLUTION

Relations have generally been strained between Washington and Iraq since the revolution in 1958 that toppled the Iraqi monarchy. Subsequent Iraqi regimes had aligned themselves with the Russians; but in 1978, despite virulent Russian objections, Iraq executed twenty-one Communist Party members accused of illegal political activities on behalf of Moscow.

Over recent years, American-Iraqi relations have eased, and this appears to have been especially true since the overthrow of the Shah in Iran, and increasingly clear since the turn of the year.

'We see no fundamental incompatibility of interests between the United States and Iraq,' declared Carter's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, in April; and, in June, that distinguished establishment organ, the 'Wall Street Journal', wrote: 'The revolutionary Iraq creating so much tension in the Middle East, Washington would clearly welcome any role that the Iraqis might play in stabilising the Persian Gulf.'

WHAT'S ON

H-BLOCK MEETING

To form a Belfast Action Group
7.30 p.m. Friday 10th October
85b Falls Road
BELFAST
Organised by
National H-Block Committee

TRADITIONAL NIGHT

Friday 10th October
Pound Loney Social Club
BELFAST
Featuring Tara
Admission £1
Organised by
Lower Falls Commemoration Committee

SOCIAL

Friday 10th October
Saunders Club
ARDOYNE
Belfast
Admission £1
Organised by the Armagh sub-committee
of the National H-Block Committee

PUBLIC MEETING

'RTE's Betrayal of Irish'
3 p.m. Saturday 11th October
GPO
DUBLIN
Guest-speaker: Gwynfor Evans
Preceded by march at 2.30 p.m. from
Conradh na Gaeilge office, 6 Harcourt Street.

EDUCATION QUIZ FINAL

& MUSIC NIGHT
8.30 p.m. Saturday 11th October
No. 5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Organised by Dublin Sinn Fein

H-BLOCK MARCH

Sunday 12th October
BUNCRAHA
Co. Donegal
Organised by
Donegal H-Block Committee

SINN FEIN

COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHNEAN
PRE-ARD FEIS MEETING
2.30 p.m. Sunday 12th October
No. 5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Two delegates from each Comhairle
Ceantair to attend.

SEAN TREACY COMMEMORATION

3.30 p.m. Sunday 12th October
KILFEAKLE
Co. Tipperary

H-BLOCK MEETING

7 p.m. Monday 13th October
Andersonstown Social Club
ANDERSONSTOWN
Belfast
Organised by Andersonstown RAC

POW FILM

1 p.m. Wednesday 15th October
Swift Theatre, Arts Building
Trinity College
DUBLIN
Speaker: Claran Nugent
Admission free

GRAND IRISH NIGHT

Thursday 16th October
The Woodville Arms
LURGAN
Featuring Battering Ram
Admission £1.25 Late bar

POW FILM AND CONCERT

8 p.m. Friday 17th October
ITGWU Hall
Prospect Hill
GALWAY

PUBLIC MEETING

AGAINST
'NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING'
8 p.m. Friday 17th October
ATGWU Hall
Marlborough Street
DUBLIN
Organised by
Sinn Fein Trade Union Group

PATRIOT GAME FILM

8 p.m. Wednesday 22nd October
Swift Theatre, Arts Building
Trinity College
DUBLIN
Admission 50p

COMMEMORATION

Terence MacSwiney's 50th anniversary
6.30 p.m. Friday 24th October
BRIXTON
London
Assemble police station
March to prison for vigil
Organised by RCT

KEVIN BARRY COMMEMORATION

80th Anniversary
Sunday 26th October
Assemble Carthy's Cross
RATHVILLY
Co. Carlow
Organised by Sinn Fein

Translations

PLAY REVIEW
BY MARTHA MCCLELLAND

DERRY PLAYWRIGHT Brian Friel knew what he was doing when he chose his native city for the recent world premiere of his latest work, 'Translations'. The Brits have spared neither effort nor expense in their attempt to make Derry a showpiece of 'normality', and successful cultural imperialism.

Friel develops themes in 'Translations' which combine in a particularly pertinent political statement about the subtle and blatant forms of cultural imperialism.

The action takes place in 1833 in Ballybeg/Baile Beag, an Irish-speaking community in Donegal not far from Derry. A British army Ordnance Survey team is there producing a six-inch map of the country, anglicising Irish place-names in the process.

At the same time, Britain is establishing a system of education entirely through the medium of English, ironically called National Schools despite their blatantly colonial purpose. They effectively destroy both the fiercely nationalist hedge schools, and Irish language and culture in their aim to transform the people into docile Brit subjects.

CONSEQUENCES

The old master of Baile Beag hedge school, where most of the action takes place, is in fact closing his hedge school happily, to become master of the new local National School, oblivious — for all his learning and, in particular, his many languages — to the political and cultural consequences of his action. His two sons are archetypal products of Irish education of any era.

Opportunistic Owen returns home after six years in Dublin, as the civilian translator with the British army Ordnance Survey team, renaming his home area in English. His brother Manus has stayed at home, teaching for the benefit of the community — for example, painstakingly giving a nearly mute girl the gift of speech.

Friel makes brilliant use of a device to dramatise the language barrier between the people and the Brits: though all the actors speak in English, when the people are talking amongst themselves it is in Irish and the English soldiers need a translation. The often amusing translation reveals much about the political consciousness of Owen, as he translates for the benefit of the foreign soldiers.

CONCERN

In a scene instantly recognisable to Republicans, two Brits appear at the hedge school, invited by Owen — then relatively unconscious of his role as collaborator.

Captain Lancey, the perfect colonial servant, pompously delivers a patronising speech — to the scholars' amusement. Their amusement would have



A scene from Brian Friel's new play 'Translations'

been anger and suspicion but for Owen's translation, which distorts Lancey's description of a blatant military operation into words of reassurance for the community. In true Brit style, Lancey stresses his concern and the 'benefits' to the natives of his task, noting how privileged Ireland is to get such a map, as no such map is being made of England, and even whips out a White Paper to quote further benevolent aspects.

Owen, a clever slave, even suggests taxes will be reduced as a result of the map — although naturally a primary aim is actually to tax Ireland more thoroughly.

Manus understands English and attacks his brother for covering up Lancey's true purpose. Owen attempts to defend the map-making and anglicisation as intellectual progress, but Manus recognises the extinction of one culture to make way for the new imperialism.

CONTRAST

In sharp contrast to Owen's indifference to his own rich culture George Yolland, the young English officer, discovers the people and place with delight. Fascinated by the language, he resolves to learn Irish. While Owen strips the language from his hand, the politically naive, but basically decent, Yolland ponders the wisdom and morality of this attempt to rename a country overnight.

Manus comes on the scene, deeply resenting what is taking place. Yolland tries to make pleasant conversation by complimenting Owen, 'We'd be lost without him.'

Manus, wishing just that would happen, hits back, 'I'm sure. But then there are always the Rolands.' (In addition to renaming the countryside,

the British anglicise Owen himself to Roland.)

Yolland, infatuated with Ireland, decides he wants to live there but is sensitive enough to recognise that even if he learnt Irish, he would always be something of an outsider, as the private core of experience would elude him. It dawns on Yolland that his renaming job will destroy what he has discovered and begun to love: it is 'an eviction of sorts'.

CONFLICTS

Friel refuses to trivialise the love between Yolland and Maire into a message of 'love conquers all'. 'Translations' reveals precisely the opposite: the social and political conflict of interest between colonisers and colonised cannot be resolved through good community relations or a love affair.

The ending stresses the dangers of such encounters in a conquest situation. Those most at risk are not the architects and collaborators in such a situation, but those like Maire and Yolland who stumble rather innocently into it all, oblivious to everything but their love.

Tragedy emerges. Yolland disappears after walking Maire home from a crossroads dance. Troops are rushed into the area and the raids follow a familiar pattern. Lancey bursts into the hedge school and orders Owen to translate the savage reprisals, including evictions, planned if Yolland is not found.

Ironically, the townlands. Lancey selects for levelling are the very Irish names Yolland used the previous night to woo Maire — the only words of communication he had.

As a shocked Owen translates for the scholars, Lancey's threats finally translate the meaning of the map-making exercise and British occupation for him. Owen is sick to realise the truth of

Lancey's parting shout: "You carry a big responsibility in all this!"

CONQUEST

Faced with his home being tumbled, a fully-conscious Owen now throws his lot in with Doalty, the salt-of-the-earth student who cannot translate Latin nor Greek but easily translates the Brit language of occupation: "They did the same thing in my grandfather's time. I've damned little to defend, but they'll not put me out without a fight... There'll be others who'll feel the same. If we all stick together... If we know how to defend ourselves..." and goes off to organise resistance.

It is Doalty who knows how to deal with the present and defend culture most effectively. His clarity of mind contrasts sharply with the old school-master who, flipping through the book of places renamed with Owen's help, counsels the now-willitant Owen, "We must learn these new names; we must make them our new homes."

Angry and seeing only the unalterable fact of the imminent eviction, Owen shouts, "I know where I live!" and rushes off to see Doalty. The intellectual school master, imprisoned in his many languages which obscure the landscape of present reality, is impotent to deal with the new facts of life.

This latest, and possibly best, play of Friel's offers a penetrating insight into our history in multiple layers of meaning. It deals powerfully with a number of themes of particular interest to Republicans — language and identity, the meaning of education and its relation to political reality, colonial conquest through cultural imperialism. Not surprisingly, perhaps, its political content has been largely ignored by reviewers so far.

But 'Translations' needs no translation in the occupied six-counties.

Compassionate parole refused



PAUL HOLMES

THE Belfast mother of Republican POW, Paul Holmes, who is in jail in England, died last Sunday night in Our Lady's Hospital in the Beechmount district of Belfast, cruelly deprived of her dying wish to see her son.

Mrs. Eileen Holmes, from Ardoyne in North Belfast, was in her late sixties, and was suffering from a terminal heart complaint. In March of this year she was finally admitted to the hospital, where nursing staff grew increasingly anxious for her well-being as she would cry out at night for her son, Paul. (Paul was sentenced to thirty years in 1974 for bombings in England, but unlike four of his co-accused: Dolours and Marian Price, Hugh Feeny and Gerard Kelly, he was not repatriated to an Irish prison near his relatives.)

Convinced that seeing Paul, if only for a few hours, would ease her last few weeks, hospital staff unanimously signed a petition calling on British Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, to let Mrs Holmes see her son before she died. Another petition was organised by relatives and friends in Ardoyne and signed by over one thousand people, calling on Whitelaw to grant Paul a few hours' compassionate parole to see his mother who was too ill to travel.

However, in a typical vein of Brit hard-heartedness and inhumanity, Paul Holmes remained in Wormwood Scrubs prison in England while his broken-hearted mother was buried in Milltown cemetery in Belfast on Wednesday.

France expel third world editor

THE FRENCH government last week-end expelled Simon Malley, editor of the Paris-based 'Afrique — Asie' magazine which is renowned for its support of the third world liberation struggles.

Prior to the expulsion, Sinn Féin's Foreign Affairs Bureau, in Dublin had sent a letter of support to Malley paying tribute to his work in publishing true accounts of the oppression of people around the world. They also called on the French authorities to respect his freedom and right both to remain in France and to pursue his role in enhancing press freedom.

Sympathy

REILLY. Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jimmy Reilly. From all his comrades in the Prisoners Aid Committee, London. Venceremos. REILLY. The Nottingham branch of IMG mourn the death of Jimmy Reilly, a revolutionary who contributed both to the Irish Republican Movement and the British Labour Movement.

REILLY. We mourn the loss of a great friend and dedicated republican. May we extend deepest sympathy to his family. Filasimmons' O'Hanlon cumann High Wycombe.

REILLY. On that we would all work as hard and with such dedication as Jim did, to bring to reality our hopes for the new free Ireland. I'm going to miss you Jim. Sue. REILLY. Deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Jim Reilly. Lutton Sinn Féin. From Mick Kelly and Sam McRory, Dublin.

REILLY. Sincere regret and sorrow at the passing of our friend Jim Reilly. He will be sadly missed, but never forgotten. His work and dedication were an inspiration to us all. From Frank and Mary Duffy, Dundalk.

REILLY. Sympathy to the relatives, comrades and friends of the late Jim Reilly. Lutton Sinn Féin. From the loss of a most sincere and dedicated person. Ar. delis del go raibh a h-anam. From Val and Dolores Lynch and family. REILLY. It was with deep sorrow that we learned of the untimely death of our friend Jim Reilly. He was a true revolutionary republican socialist. We have lost a personal friend and Ireland has lost a true son. Ar. delis del go raibh a h-anam. From George and Phyllis Lynch, Dublin.

THE FUNERAL OF JIM REILLY

THE FUNERAL of life-long republican Jim Reilly, who died in Luton, England, two weeks ago, at the age of fifty-four, took place in Belfast last Friday.

The funeral was delayed for several days because British Airways vindictively refused to fly the coffin from Heathrow to Aldergrove using the threat of loyalist reaction as an excuse not to do so. A British Airways spokesman said: "It is quite possible that our employees in Belfast would take action if we handled the remains." Aer Lingus reluctantly agreed to fly the body to Dublin airport on condition that there was no personal tribute paid to Jim at the airport.

This callous attitude continued to be experienced by Jim's distressed relatives when they sought to place his remains in St. Peter's chapel in Belfast's Lower Falls. Fr. McKinley, who earlier this year refused to allow the remains of IRA Volunteer Dee Delaney into the chapel, told them that he would prefer to say requiem mass without the body present, but he would allow it in to the chapel provided there was no tri-colour on the coffin.

Veteran republican Jimmy Drumm chaired the graveside proceedings at Milltown cemetery, and another veteran, Liam Hannaway, recited a decade of the rosary in gaelic.

Belfast republican John Higgins, a former friend and comrade of



John Higgins gives the oration, flanked by Liam Hannaway (left) and Jimmy Drumm

Jim's in Luton, delivered the oration. He claimed that the treatment that Jim had received at the hands of the English police since

his arrest earlier this year had resulted in his untimely death; he outlined Jim's service to the Republican Movement since joining na Fianna Eireann in the New Lodge area of Belfast at the age of fourteen; and he described his recent staunch work collecting funds for 'Green Cross', and as a Sinn Féin political activist in England, continually agitating against the repressive Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Jim Reilly, John concluded, was a socialist in the true sense of the word, who always stressed the importance of workers' solidarity, and "our greatest tribute to Jim Reilly is to continue, as he did, with the same vigour and energy in pursuance of a thirty-two county democratic socialist republic."

LABOUR COMMITTEE ON IRELAND



Tony Benn addressing Thursday's fringe meeting on Ireland. Also included on the platform are: Ray Buckton (railwaymen's union, ASLEF), and (right) Pat Byrne (Campaign for Democracy in Ulster)

BENN URGES UNITED IRELAND

BY PETER HAYES

A SIGNIFICANT measure of the increased interest in, and support for, the demand for total British withdrawal from Ireland occurred at a fringe meeting at the annual British Labour Party conference in Blackpool on Thursday 2nd October.

The meeting, organised by the Labour Committee on Ireland, received a major boost because this was the platform chosen by party leadership contender Tony Benn, to further articulate his views on Ireland. This of course aroused intense media excitement and a highly attentive audience packed the meeting to hear what Benn had to say.

CHOICE

Benn did not speak on the motion on Ireland which was debated at the party conference proper the previous day. The choice of the fringe meeting indicates that although he does not see Ireland as one of the major planks in his platform he is feeling his way and testing the response to his more frequent statements on the issues. So far he appears to have been encouraged by the favourable response he is getting from within the party, and last week's fringe meeting definitely reinforced this.

Loyalist reaction to Benn's address was as predictable as ever. Paisley labelled him an IRA fellow traveller and significantly spoke of the dangers of integration with a Britain which might be led by Tony Benn.

Robert Bradford preferred a 'communist' label for Benn and predicted an imminent attack on

the Royal family from the same quarter.

MEETING

The meeting was also addressed from the platform by Labour MP Jock Stallard; railwaymen's trade union leader Ray Buckton; Labour Committee on Ireland spokesperson Clare Short; Dáil O Ceallaigh of the Irish Sovereignty Movement; veteran socialist Pat Byrne, who in his youth was secretary of the Republican Congress in Dublin; and Paddy Bolger, from Dublin, on behalf of the National H-Block committee.

High point of the meeting, however, was the speech by Tony Benn, which he began by saying: "I was brought up to believe very strongly from my father that the partition of Ireland was a crime... and that the work of the Lloyd George government et al at that time was one of the blackest episodes in British imperial history, and I agree with that and I must say quite plainly and clearly... that in my view there is no future for a policy based upon partition, no future for peace and co-operation in the whole of Ireland that did not include a clear presentation of an alternative perspective on re-unification and independence."

This emphatic statement was greeted with loud applause by

the three-hundred-strong audience.

Benn spoke about his attitude of sympathy to the introduction of British troops to the North in 1969 and how his view was gradually changed by events since then. He went on to outline the two major factors he views as responsible for the current high level of interest in Irish affairs within British Labour.

One is the possibility that the North is a 'training ground' for future repression in Britain. (He explained how he became aware that there is 'a process of accommodation' to surveillance methods, etc. being transferred to Britain.) The other is the lack of previous discussion on the issue, which, he said, was not handled even at cabinet level like any other issue.

"These factors," he said, "lead me to the conclusion that what we have to do as British socialists is to make a declaration of intent... that it is our wish to bring about a united Ireland."

Benn was loudly heckled by members of the loyalist Ireland Labour Party, refused, as he said, "to be by a heckle from my judge."

Benn concluded by saying he believed that the presence of the British in Ireland, as a political and military force, is the major barrier to the achievement of a united Ireland and labour unity. And from the meeting: "I believe the presence must be withdrawn."

IN MEMORIAM

DONAGHY, John; MAGUIRE, Paddy; McKINNEY, Joe. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols. John Donaghy, Paddy Maguire and Joe McKinney, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na h-Eireann, who died as the result of an accidental explosion while on active service duty on October 10th 1972. Thug stad a raibh acu ag troid ar son saoirse muintir na h-Eireann. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

DONAGHY, John; MAGUIRE, Paddy; McKINNEY, Joseph. (8th Anniversary). The Lower Falls Commemoration Committee, remembering with pride Vols. John Donaghy, Paddy Maguire, and Joseph McKinney, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion Oglagh na h-Eireann, killed in action on October 10th 1972. "Mary Queen of Ireland pray for them."

DONAGHY, John; MAGUIRE, Paddy; McKINNEY, Joseph. (8th Anniversary). In memory of John Donaghy, Paddy Maguire, Joseph McKinney, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion Oglagh na h-Eireann, "While Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Always remembered by R. Hickey (Long Kesh) and the Hickey family.

JENKINSON, Noel. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Noel Jenkinson who died in Leicester Prison on October 1st 1977. Leaba I mase na dearmad air. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement and especially by his comrades in English prisons.

McAREAVEY, Daniel. (8th Anniversary). In loving memory of Vol. Daniel McAreavey 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion IRA, killed in action 6th October 1972. "Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him." Remembered always by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.

O'CONNAILL, Seán. (3rd Anniversary) In proud and loving memory of Seán O'Connell who died in Parkhurst Prison on October 1st 1977. Leaba I mase na Laochraí go raibh aile. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement and especially by his comrades in English prisons.

McKINNEY, Joseph. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear nephew Vol. Joseph McKinney 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na h-Eireann, who died while on active service on October 10th 1972. In loving memory also of all of his friends and comrades in 'D' Coy, whose anniversaries occur around this time. RIP. Masses offered. Our Lady Queen of Ireland pray for them. "While Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Always loved and remembered by his loving uncle Joe and sister Geraldine.

McKINNEY, Joseph. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear nephew Vol. Joseph McKinney, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na h-Eireann, who died while on active service on October 10th 1972. RIP. Masses offered. St. Joseph pray for him. "May heaven keep the men who sleep from the ranks of the old Brigade." Always remembered by his loving aunts Mary and Lizzie.

Solidarity Greetings

DONAGHY, Tom. (H-Block). (H-Block). Congratulations and best wishes to Tom on completing two years on the blanket. Victory to you and your brave comrades. God bless from Rose, Johnny and family.

DOWNEY, Jim; COLLINS, Robert. (H-Block). Turf Lodge RAC salute Jim Downey on completing three years on the blanket protest on October 6th and Robert Collins on October 10th. Your courage and determination are an inspiration to us all. Victory to the blanket men and to the Armagh women. May God protect you all.

FITZSIMMONS, Michael. (H-Block). Congratulations Michael on completing three years on the blanket protest. Within the depths of that H-Block call what life is like we cannot tell, but this much we know because it is true, they won't break your spirit whatever they do. From Manus, Mary and Manus Junior. UTP.

MORAN, Tom; MCCRORY, Emanuel. (H-Block). Turf Lodge RAC

sends solidarity greetings to Tom Moran and to 'Digger' McCrory on completing one year on the blanket protest on September 28th and 29th. Your courage and determination are an inspiration to us all. Victory to the blanket men and to the Armagh women! God protect you all.

MCCOOL, Gary. (H-Block). All our love and prayers are with you son as you end your first year on the blanket. Some day you'll be free, Gary, and hold your head up high. Then, those mercenaries who ignored you in your struggle will be unable to look you in the eye. Victory to the blanket men! Love always, from mother, father, Roy, from Brian (H4) and from all your aunts, uncles and cousins.

MCCOOL, Gary. (H-Block). I salute your courage Gary, as you begin your second year of hell on the blanket in H-Block. "Our patriotism is measured not by the volume in which we declare it, but by the service in which we render it." Always thinking of you and all your brave comrades. Love Alana. xxx.

MCCOOL, Gary. (H-Block). Congratulations Gary on completing one year on the blanket. I think about you always, everywhere I go, and hope and pray that victory will soon be yours, because I love you so. God bless you and all the brave blanket men. All my love Ann Marie. xxx.

and your comrades and may our Lady wrap the blue mantle around you all. Love from Austin, Cathleen, and brother-in-law Charlie. Love from our sister Mary and niece Caitlin-Theresa. CHILLINGWORTH, (Green) John.

CHILLINGWORTH, (Green) John. (H-Block). Birthday greetings to our uncle John. "Happiness is this message, that's our wish for you, may it be in every way the nicest day all through." Love from Lorraine, Cathy, Charles Gerard and Sinead.

DOHERTY, Dánnv. (Portlaoise). Belated

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BATESON, Finbarr. (H-Block). Birthday greetings to our dear son Finbarr. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. We miss you more each day. Lots of love from mum and dad. Lots of love from Clare and Sean. UTP.

BATESON, Finbarr. (H-Block). Birthday greetings to our dear brother Finbarr.

Peadar O'Donnell lecture

AT A MEETING in Dublin on Wednesday 1st October veteran republican socialist Peadar O'Donnell made one of his rare public appearances, speaking on the theme 'There will be another day' - arguing that a major national revolutionary movement could be built to the proportions of the Tan War.

To Peadar O'Donnell the early Sinn Féin of Arthur Griffith was not a truly republican organisation. 'Nationwide mass support for republican aims did not arise until the threat of conscription by the British in 1918.'

In 1916, Labour was represented by the Citizen Army, but it did not take its proper place in the vanguard of the independence struggle in 1919. According to O'Donnell the reason for this was that most unions were British based and Labour allowed these backward elements to dictate policy. Ireland, he said, suffered the effects of the backwardness of the English working class.

Referring to the Treaty, O'Donnell said that Arthur Griffith was a home ruler and monarchist, who, with Collins'



PEADAR O'DONNELL

support, followed the Lloyd George line. Griffith with his capitalist interests did not support the true republican position; and he was supported by the middle class, the churches and the media, who turned against the independence movement. Labour should have intervened at this stage on the Republican side.

O'Donnell was very much involved in the formation of the Republican Con-

gress and he said there is still of thinking as to why the Congress in itself there strands of thought: one sect to proclaim a workers' republic others wanted to take on deV own ground.

On the national question remains solidly anti-imperialist speed up or delay, but cannot revolution." He emphasised the alliance of workers and small achieve a republic, all of would stop short of a solution their own narrow interests.

In the 1940's O'Donnell phone call from deValera who claiming that O'Donnell had not a republican. O'Donnell that under Fianna Fail the people were leaving the emigrant ship. De Valera would it not be the same if it was in power. "Yes" said "but they would not be people."

Extradition proceedings expected to back-fire

THE British government initiated extradition proceedings on Monday against Belfast republican Dessie Mackin, after his arrest a few days earlier by American immigration officials in New York, for being in the country illegally.

Mackin is in America to help co-ordinate, with the Irish Northern Aid group, the highly successful tours by former blanket men Fra McCann and Liam Carlin, who are exposing the injustices of British rule in Ireland, especially the conditions imposed upon the political prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and Armagh jail.

ARRESTED

Mackin was arrested along with Fra McCann on Wednesday 1st October, when they were taken away from a several hundred strong New York demonstration against HM Eliza-Brit's husband, Prince Philip.

Within minutes of the arrests, Liam Carlin gave television and newspaper interviews from within the ranks of the demonstrators, and he continues to publicise the H-Block issue.

After the arrests both men were entitled to a hearing on bail applications but this right was not recognised until compliance was ordered after a habeas corpus proceeding before an appeal judge.

After this order a special Saturday session of the immigration court was conducted, during which Mackin was offered departure on the next flight to the Free State if he would consent to deportation. Mackin agreed, in order to avoid extradition to

the North, but moments before he was scheduled to leave for the airport he was stopped and told that he would be held in custody despite the court stipulation. Forty-eight hours later the British moved for extradition.

(Fra McCann was subsequently released on bail of \$30,000 on Tuesday evening, and is due to appear in court again next Wednesday.)

CONDEMNED

Irish Northern Aid in New York condemned the action of delaying Mackin's departure and stated that "the American government has violated its own laws and promises made in open court at the behest of the British."

The British have applied for Mackin's extradition because last year he failed to appear at a non-jury court in Belfast after his arrest with another Belfast man, Bobby Gamble. The two men were arrested two years ago, after both were innocent victims of SAS gunmen who shot Mackin three times and Gamble eight times.

Both were charged with attempted murder and possession of firearms despite a blatant lack of evidence, but were granted bail. Mackin left the six-counties while Gamble was found guilty and jailed last year, but, on appeal, earlier this year, his conviction was quashed.

Irish Northern Aid have pointed out that: "Should the British persist in the attempt to extradite Mackin it would involve a full trial of the issues of Mackin's case, as well as exposure of the conditions in the H-Blocks to which he might become subject, and also of the policy of visa denial to Irish republicans. Such a case may well generate the exposure of the H-Blocks and a judicial reversal of visa denial policies, which the British so greatly fear in the USA."

though all the actors speak in English, when the people are talking amongst themselves it is in Irish and the English soldiers need a translation. The often amusing translation reveals much about the political consciousness of Owen, as he translates for the benefit of the foreign soldiers.

CONCERN

In a scene instantly recognisable to Republicans, two Brits appear at the hedge school, invited by Owen — then relatively unconscious of his role as collaborator.

Captain Lancelotti, the perfect colonial servant, pompously delivers a patronising speech — to the scholars' amusement. Their amusement would have

ence to his own rich culture. George Yolland, the young English officer, discovers the people and place with delight. Fascinated by the language, he resolves to learn Irish. While Owen strips the language from his hand, the politically naive, but basically decent, Yolland ponders the wisdom and morality of this attempt to rename a country overnight.

Manus comes on the scene, deeply resenting what is taking place. Yolland tries to make pleasant conversation by complimenting Owen, "We'd be lost without him."

Manus, wishing just that would happen, hits back, "I'm sure. But then there are always the Rolands." (In addition to renaming the countryside,

oblivious to everything. Tragedy emerges after walking Maire roads dance. Troop area and the raid pattern. Lancelotti school and orders of savage reprisals, planned if Yolland

Ironically, the selects for levelled names Yolland use to woo Maire — communication he

As a shocked the scholars, Lam translate the mean exercise and British Owen is sick to

Massachusetts presentation

Fra McCann being presented recently by Massachusetts state representative Marie Howe with a citation for bravery while in H-Block



Looking back to Armagh Jail

EILEEN McCONVILLE, aged twenty-three, from Ballymurphy, Belfast, was released from Armagh jail on Friday 3rd October after serving two years' imprisonment, first on the 'no work' protest and then on the 'no wash' protest. A few days later she described her experiences in Armagh:—

Being in Armagh jail over the last eight months has been like living in a filthy rat hole. When I think of it now I just don't know how I did it. When we were in 'B' wing it was bad enough, but it was nothing compared to the way we were treated in 'A' wing after we were moved there, having been attacked by male screws on February 7th.

My experience on the protest has made me even more cynical towards the whole system of so-called British 'justice' and 'fair play'.

The screws constantly tried to degrade and intimidate us, but the more they did it, the more determined we were to fight back. Like, for example, when Shirley Devlin was on report and she refused to see the governor. The screws waited until she was on exercise, then they cornered her and dragged her to the ground. In the middle of all this she defiantly pulled her arm free, raised it in the air and shouted to us: 'No problem'!

Beatings have definitely increased. Just before my release one girl, on coming back from her visit, was ushered into a cubicle by three screws who said they had seen her taking something from her visitors. They tried to put their hands down her trousers but she pushed them away telling them that she was having her period. More of them entered, held her



Eileen McConville (right) being met on her release by Marie Moore, of the H-Block Information Centre

forcibly and removed the sanitary towel.

Another pretty disturbing factor is that a lot of kidney and urine infections have broken out. I'm not surprised there's urine infections. When we have our periods the sanitary towels were unwrapped and thrown onto the cell floor amongst all the excreta and urine. This is what you have to wear against the most intimate and vulnerable part of your body.

Weight loss is another problem. I lost one-and-a-half stone, including three pounds in one day, after I'd been vomiting everything up.

Morale, however, among the

women, is fantastic but especially so when we hear people singing and calling to us when there's a picket on outside the jail.

I know a lot of people sympathise with our demands but if more would actively participate in demonstrations then half the battle would be over. That's why I would like to impress upon people the urgency of the situation existing in Armagh at the moment and ask them to make a big effort to go to the picket this Saturday afternoon. I think I can safely say that the women in Armagh jail will welcome their support with open arms.

Pauline McLaughlin hospitalised

SERIOUSLY ILL Armagh protestor Pauline McLaughlin was rushed to an outside hospital on Tuesday afternoon, for the second time in just over two months, after a serious deterioration in her condition. Latest reports indicate that she now weighs only five stones.

Last Friday, Pauline was visited by a specialist, in her cell, but on Sunday she collapsed with severe chest pains. However, it was not until Tuesday afternoon that she was transferred to Musgrave Park Hospital. Visitors who arrived from Derry shortly after the transfer were first told they could visit her in hospital, but subsequently this decision was reversed by Governor Scott, who also told the visitors the bare-faced lie that moving Pauline was 'purely routine' and that her condition was 'not as bad as before'.

This is apparently to cover the fact that she has received no medical treatment whatsoever since her return from hospital to Armagh in July.



Pauline McLaughlin — before her arrest

Buses to Saturday's Armagh Jail picket

FROM DUBLIN

Leaves 44 Parnell Square 9.30 a.m. and travels via Cabra (Rathoath Road roundabout), Finglas (Cardiff Inn), and North Road, Dundalk, Book at 44 Parnell Square and 5 Blessington Street, Dublin. Fare £4.50 return.

FROM S. DERRY AND S.W. ANTRIM

Leaves Dunloy 8.30 a.m. and travels via Rasharkin, Killybegs, Swatragh, Maghera, Gulladuff, Bellaghy,

Toome, Newbridge, Duff's Corner, and Ardobe.

FROM BELFAST

Leaves from Thompson Street, Short Strand, at noon, picking up at Russell Street (Markets), and Divis flats; from Busy Bee, Andersonstown, at 1 p.m., picking up at Twinklbrook estate entrance; and from Dunville Park at 1 p.m. Tickets: £1.50 on the bus, or from Sinn Féin members.

THE FUNERAL OF

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Belfast republican John Higgins, a former friend and comrade of



John Higgins flanked by Liam and Jimmy Drumm

Jim's in Lutor oration. He claimed that Jim had hands of the En