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SAS ASSAULT BACKFIRES

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ing jeans, anoraks and their distinctive orange arm-bands, and carrying gas-masks, (and some wearing balaclava helmets), had arrived in a van and three private cars with blacked-out number plates. They were seen to be carrying a variety of weapons: Armalite rifles, self-loading rifles (SLRs), Uzzi (and other) sub-machine guns, converted stens and pistols.

ASSASSINATION

A widely publicised Twinbrook Relatives Action Committee meeting (to organise support for the forthcoming H-Block hunger-strike) was due to start in the house belonging to H-Block activist Moyra Berkery an hour after the SAS hit it.

The style of the attack, and the nature of this target, has resurrected and strengthened popular belief that the SAS were directly responsible for the assassination the previous week of H-Block campaigners and IRSP members, Noel Little and Ronnie Bunting, and earlier this year of H-Block

On the brink

AS THE momentum of protests in support of the prisoners in the H-Blocks and Armagh jail intensifies, and now on the brink of the impending hunger-strike, the blanket men have replied to a joint statement issued by Cardinal O'Flaich in Rome and Bishop Edward Daly of Derry.

Last Thursday, October 16th, the churchmen appealed to the British government and to the prisoners to think again because if the hunger-strike takes place "it will represent a considerable worsening of an already serious situation". But, given that it is the men who are undertaking the hunger-strike, the Cardinal's statement was more or less directed at them.

However, to desist, the hunger-strikers made clear, would be unthinkable, given all that they have gone through and how they are mentally poised for October 27th.

The churchmen also said: "Lest there be any misunderstanding we wish to make it clear that the talks between the Secretary of State and ourselves have not broken down".

Neither the prisoners nor Sinn Féin have ever asserted that the talks had broken down but drew a distinction by saying that the talks had failed to get anywhere, an admission which, anyway, Cardinal O'Flaich made himself after his last visit with Atkins.

REPLY

The blanket men's reply, released on Saturday, said: "Our decision to go on hunger-strike was not a hasty one. We carefully examined the situation and our position over

a lengthy period before taking the decision.

"We would draw attention to the fact that a succession of meetings between Cardinal O'Flaich and Humphrey Atkins have taken place over the past eight months and proved fruitless.

"We delayed our action during this period and now cannot seriously consider further delay.

"We are prepared for a hunger-strike. To change this decision now, without a serious response from the British government, would cause strain and worry, not only for those who volunteered for the hunger-strike but for their families and friends.

"We have used all peaceful forms of protest to date, and we are now left with no other choice. The onus to resolve the H-Block hunger-strike rests squarely on the British government's shoulders."

MAGUIRE

Westminster MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, Frank Maguire, visited direct-ruler Atkins on Monday and said that he had adopted "the by now familiar intransigent attitude for which the British government were condemned in the European Court of Human Rights in June of this year. In my

opinion the British government know the issues which are at the heart of the threatened hunger-strike. It is ridiculous for the Northern Ireland Office to continually harp on about what concessions they have granted in recent months.

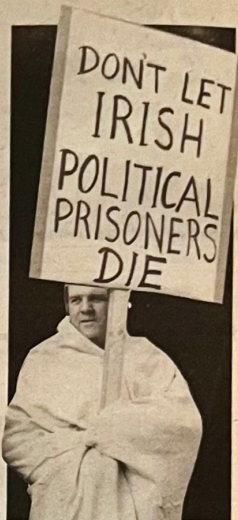
"These so-called concessions," said Frank Maguire, "are meaningless because the two issues, which if resolved could lead to a de-escalation of the H-Blocks' protest, are the issues of prison uniform and prison work.

"I publicly challenge the Northern Ireland Office to state whether or not they are going to be reasonable and move on these two crucial issues. If the NIO's answer to this question is 'no', then responsibility for the hunger-strike rests on their heads."

FIANNA FAIL

Meanwhile another indication of the growing support, and public pressure, especially on Fianna Fail in the Free State, has been the confirmation of reports that Dublin government ministers have raised the H-Block issues with British ministers and that, in particular, Free State Minister for Foreign Affairs Brian Lenihan pressed direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins at their recent meeting to adopt a 'humanitarian approach' so that it could be resolved.

Free State premier Charles Haughey met relatives of the blanket men in Letterkenny, Donegal,



last Sunday (a meeting which will have done him no harm in the forthcoming by-election) but refused to make a statement afterwards, other than his officials suggesting that he was 'working away behind the scenes'.

However, nationalist politician and Euro MP, Neil Blaney, has declared that he intends to make the H-Blocks an issue in the by-election.

SAS WIDELY CONDEMNED

EVEN nationalist politicians hostile to the republican cause, and normally not unfriendly to the Brits, have strongly condemned last Sunday's SAS assault on two homes in Belfast's Twinbrook estate.

But, not surprisingly they have

any denial. There has been plenty of confirmation of our report yesterday of a particularly nauseating example of Gestapo tactics in the area, on Sunday night. The persecution of Catholic areas of West Belfast has been stepped up in recent months and it is not surprising that terror tactics and oppression are being catalogued by the residents."

DEVLIN

Former SDLP man and RUC advocate, Paddy Devlin, said that it was quite clear that the intruders could be suspects for the murders the previous week of H-Block campaigners and IRSP members Noel Little and Ronnie Bunting (who were shot dead after two armed men broke into Bunting's West Belfast house with sledgehammers) and for the murder earlier this year of H-Block campaigner and former IRSP leader Miriam Daly (who was tied up in her house before being shot dead).

Devlin demanded the exam-

ination of "all weapons carried by those intruders for ballistic checks to see if they match up to the bullets found in these three people who were murdered."

When senior members of the SDLP Belfast District Executive met in emergency session on Monday evening they demanded a (useless) urgent meeting with RUC chief Jack Hermon to insist on the immediate suspension from duty of military personnel involved in the "outrageous attack on two homes in Twinbrook."

They said that "the frenzied behaviour of those men at Twinbrook smacks of diminished mental responsibility" and that there was "clear evidence of assault, battery, false imprisonment and the illegal use of firearms."

SDLP spokesman Michael Canavan said he had contacted the London Home Office and had demanded a Scotland Yard inquiry. Meanwhile he demanded the arrest of the SAS soldiers involved.

West Belfast Westminster MP, and collaborator, Gerry Fitt claims that he will raise the assault in the British House of Commons and that direct-ruler Atkins "must not be

allowed to explain this away by issuing a statement from the rarified atmosphere of Stormont Castle."

Even Alliance Party spokesman John Cousins said that reports of the raids were extremely disturbing and added that the Relatives Action Committee, whose meeting had been broken up, had a perfect right to organise and meet in peace.

STICKS

Sticky Republican Clubs man Kevin Smyth also stated that the SAS action was totally indefensible and reeked of a mass murder attack on people who had a legitimate right to protest.

He continued: "the deadly hand of the SAS has hung over recent assassinations, particularly those of Bunting, Little, Daly and Turnly. That tonight's deadly mission was thwarted was due solely to incompetence on the part of the perpetrators and watchfulness by neighbours."

HASSARD

And Dungannon independent unionist councillor Jack Hassard, former 'B' Special (I) and former RUC Police Authority member (he resigned because of RUC torture), stated:

"It reminds me, and a lot more people, that it is a return of the Black and Tans to Twinbrook on Sunday night and it undermines a lot of confidence because anybody with a head on his body rightly sees that this was only an act of revenge carried out against a political party.

"It had only one objective in mind and that was the intention to wreck the H-Block campaign for once and for all, which misfired completely. Who in God's name would believe that in a house where they were organising an H-Block meeting that you would get a pile of arms and ammunition for use against the RUC?"



Aisling Berkery, Maire Campbell, and others, sitting together, highlighting their terrifying ordeal.

NON-VALID BRIT ARGUMENT USED TO BACK UP H-BLOCK INTRANSIGENCE

Clutching at Strasbourg straws

BY PETER DOWLING

THE British government are vainly attempting to justify their intransigence in the face of the H-Block prisoners' demand for political status by frequent reference to the European Commission of Human Rights decision in June to reject a test case taken by four 'blanket men' — Tom McFeeley, John Hunter, William Campbell, and Kieran Nugent (released since the case was initiated two years ago.)

In fact, for a number of decisive and related reasons the British government's use of the Strasbourg decision is an extremely weak, if not invalid, argument with which to back up their intransigence.

Firstly, the commission actually condemned — in diplomatic language — the Brits' intransigence: "the commission must express its concern at the inflexible approach of the state authorities which have been concerned more to punish offenders against prison discipline than to explore ways of resolving such a serious deadlock."

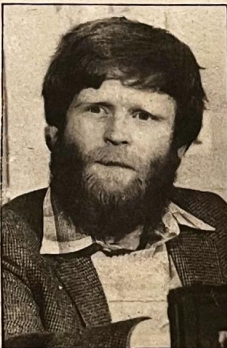
IMPLICATIONS

Secondly, as 'Irish Press' editor Tim Pat Coogan states in his book 'On the Blanket: the H-Block story' the Strasbourg decision did not necessarily reflect the merits of the case but was more based on political consideration of 'powerful interests'. He warns: "The Court of Human Rights and the European Commission of Human Rights between them constitute a highly political forum."

If a decision favourable to Irish Republican prisoners, and consistent with political prisoner status (acknowledging, for example, refusal to wear prison clothes as a right of conscience), had been given in this case against the British government, then there would have been implications for other member states, who have similar political prisoners: namely, Coogan suggests, the Dutch with the South Moluccans, the West Germans with the Baader-Meinhof Red Army Faction, and the Italians with the Red Brigades.

ILL-TREATMENT

Thirdly, the Strasbourg case was only one of many channels opened



KIERAN NUGENT: first blanket man

by the H-Block 'blanket men' in order to alleviate their appalling conditions — conditions which the commission admitted "must pose a significant threat to their physical and mental well-being." Thus the case was not an attempt to get a favourable decision specifically on the prisoners' entitlement to 'special category' status — which, in any event, is not allowed for in the articles of the human rights convention — rather, the commission was asked to rule on whether the Brits' treatment and punishment of the prisoners breached any articles of the human rights convention.

The prisoners alleged that they had been subject to a 'general administrative practice' of 'inhuman and degrading' treatment and punishment by the Long Kesh

prison regime, and that the regime was breaching various other rights — for example, violation of the men's freedom of expression and right to association — protected by the European Human Rights Convention (properly titled, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms).

CIRCULAR

Fourthly, finally, and most importantly, the Brits' use of the Strasbourg decision to justify their denial of political status falls down because it forms, in effect, a completely circular argument: the convention does not allow for special category status; therefore for the British to use the commission's judgement to say the men are not entitled to political status is completely fatuous!

On the main allegations of 'inhuman and degrading treatment' — particularly the prison regime's refusal to allow the men out of their cells and the denial to the men of the use of (exercise, medical and library) facilities within the jail — the commission ruled against the men. This ruling was because they, the men, refused to conform to prison rules and to wear prison uniform to leave their cells, and because it, the commission, does not (within the articles of its human rights convention) acknowledge a special category of prisoners.

So, given the reasoning by which the commission arrived at its decision, that decision holds no fresh solace for the Brits: the convention does not allow for 'special category' or political status, it did not take the failure of the blanket men's case against their 'inhuman and degrading' treatment to know that. The British government are truly clutching at Strasbourg straws.

SAS SENSITIVITY

BRITISH SENSITIVITY about their crack SAS regiment even extends to the honouring of their dead heroes. Captain Herbert Westmacott, who was killed by the IRA on the Antrim Road in Belfast last May, has now been awarded the Military Cross. In the roll of honour the Brits still insist that he was in the Grenadier Guards, although his name has been added to the SAS regiment's memorial at its headquarters in Hertfordshire. But the circumstances of Westmacott's death are extremely topical this week. He was shot dead by an IRA M-60 machine gun as, in plain-clothes, he was attempting to smash down the door of a house with a sledgehammer — the method of entry used by the SAS attackers on the Berkery home in Twinbrook last weekend and also used by the Bunting/Little assassins in Andersonstown last week.

Andersonstown ambush

AN RUC LANDROVER was hit twice by gunfire in an ambush at the junction of Kennedy Way and Andersonstown Road in Belfast at 10 p.m. on the evening of Friday 17th October. The shots were fired by IRA Volunteers who, more than an hour earlier, had taken over a nearby house and lain in wait for the patrol. No injuries were claimed and the RUC were unable to return fire.

Vengeful hand

THE VENGEFUL hand of Lord Diplock — architect of the Northern special non-jury court — has fallen again, this time even farther afield. Last week, in London, acting as a Privy Council judge, he turned down the appeal of two men sentenced to death for drug trafficking in Singapore. This judgement could now mean death for another ten men and two women, including a twenty-year-old mother, who have been similarly condemned.

The corrupt and repressive Singapore regime is one of several commonwealth governments who have kept the British Privy Council as their final appeal court. The laws under which the people are condemned requires them to prove their innocence and makes the death sentence mandatory for possession of narcotics whatever the extent of responsibility. All of this was found to be unfair by this staunch upholder of British justice, and his fellow privy council judges.

Large pockets

RED-FACED British Army and RUC experts are still puzzling over the events leading to a controlled explosion being carried out on a car in a restricted car park at Long Kesh prison camp three months ago. The vehicle, which was discovered early one morning in July by patrolling Brits, had different number plates at front and rear, a tax disc belonging to a motor cycle, and had not been checked in at the gate. Fearing an IRA car-bomb, the car was blown up by bomb disposal experts.

It was later discovered that the car belonged to a warder, who claimed to have bought the car whilst out drinking and 'smuggled' it past the security gate so that he could work on the car whilst on duty. However the warder is not to face disciplinary measures of any kind and there is widespread talk of a cover-up to hide the embarrassment of it all. Prisoners interested in the case have been looking for a warder with extremely large pockets.

Sectarian system

REPUBLICAN REMAND PRISONERS in Belfast's Crumlin Road jail have called attention to the sectarian and biased nature of the North's judicial system which last week released on compassionate parole Francis Curry, nephew of former UVF leader Gusto Spence, who is currently serving a life sentence for the Malvern Street murders. Curry, who is facing armed robbery and attempted murder charges, was allowed out to attend the funeral of Gusto Spence's brother, Robert, who died in Long Kesh whilst serving a fourteen-year sentence for a pub-bombing on the Falls Road in 1976.

In their statement the republican prisoners point out that two of their number, Michael Devine and Peter Campbell, were both recently denied compassionate parole to attend the funerals of their fathers, yet a loyalist prisoner is allowed out to his uncle's funeral. Gusto Spence himself was allowed parole some years ago and spent several months of freedom in the Shankill Road area before being recaptured, when he claimed that he had been kidnapped by his UVF comrades, and had thus been unable to honour his parole.

Inhuman campaign

ENGLISH PRISON authorities are carrying out an inhuman campaign of harassment against Irish republican prisoner Patrick Hackett who is presently held in Wakefield prison. Patrick has been conducting a blanket protest for political status for several months and has been moved to the special 'control unit' in Wakefield which was supposed to have been closed in 1975. In addition to confining him alone in these sensory deprivation conditions, the prison regime have removed his artificial arm and leg which he has required since losing his limbs in a premature explosion.

Internment plans

A DOCUMENT leaked to journalist Duncan Campbell of the British magazine 'New Statesman' reveals contingency plans in the event of a nuclear holocaust affecting Britain, including internment, special courts and military firing squads, which — as remarked on by Labour Shadow minister Tony Benn recently — bears a stark resemblance to what has already been tried and tested in the six counties. The document, produced for the NATO 'Crusader' exercises which are just completed, outlines a grim scenario following a nuclear attack on Europe, in which 'dissidents' in Britain — including pacifists — are rounded up in camps, tried by 'special courts' and then shot.

Tony Benn, in his 'troops out' speech at a Labour Party conference fringe meeting at the beginning of this month, said that one of the incidents which confirmed his view was that, when outlining a few years ago in the Cabinet the type of 'security' measures which would be used in relation to nuclear energy supplies, a colleague had said: 'Well, what's wrong with you, we've done that in Northern Ireland for years'. Clearly, Benn's fears about similar measures being used in Britain are well-grounded.

FUTURE NATIONAL H-BLOCK COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

THE National H-Block Committee has been active in mobilising the H-Block action groups throughout the country and following this Sunday's eve of hunger-strike march in Belfast and rally in Dublin it has organised a series of activities.

On Tuesday 28th October there will be an indoor rally held at the Round Room in Dublin's Mansion House starting at 7.30 p.m.

On Saturday 8th November there will be protest marches and rallies in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Leitrim.

On Sunday 9th November there will be a national collection organised by the committee in order to finance the H-Block publicity campaign.

On Saturday 15th November there will be protest

marches and rallies in Waterford, Donegal and Navan.

Saturday 15th November will also be the final date for the return of the 'international petition' forms to 85b Falls Road, Belfast, or 30 Mountjoy Square, Dublin. Thousands of these petition forms are still circulating throughout the country and it is urgent that completed forms be returned by this date.

On Sunday 16th November there will be an open conference held in Dublin for trade unionists.

On Saturday 22nd November there will be a nationally organised march in Dublin from Parnell Square to Leinster House and if the H-Block crisis is still not resolved by Saturday 6th December there will be another national march in Dublin on that day from Stephen's Green to the British Embassy.

EMERGENCY H-BLOCK APPEAL

HUNGER STRIKE FUND

THOUSANDS of pounds are needed to finance the massive campaign of leafletting, posterage, picketing and sending speakers throughout Ireland and abroad to publicise the plight of the H-Block hunger-strikers. Rush donations to the H-Block Appeal Fund, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNION SEMINAR IN DUBLIN

Facing up to public sector cut-backs

BY SEAMUS COUGHLAN

OVER the weekend of October 17th/18th, a seminar on the 'Public Sector in recession' was organised by the Dublin branches of the Local Government and Public Services Union (LGPSU). The significance of the seminar lies in the fact that it is the first serious attempt by any section of the Southern trade union movement to face up to the consequences of financial cutbacks in the public sector.

The seminar was opened by LGPSU general secretary Harold O'Sullivan who defended the role of the public sector in the field of economic growth and made a withering attack on monetarism. He was challenged from the floor on his defence of the new 'national' understanding and was forced to admit the inadequacy of the non-pay aspects.

He was followed by Alan Cave of the British TUC who detailed the full extent of the Thatcher government's assault on employment and the social services in Britain. He outlined the resistance from joint trade union and local community groups in picketing and occupations.

REDUCTIONS

A paper on cutbacks in local authority expenditure was delivered by Dermot Whelan (who is a mem-

ber of Sinn Féin's trade union department). He gave extensive figures for reductions in Dublin and Dun Laoghaire corporations. In the area of housing, finance for loans to purchasers had now been used up, building had been severely cut-back, and maintenance run-down. The other most significant sector he dealt with was engineering especially in road works where most redundancies are taking place.

However as bad as the situation in these areas is, it pales in comparison to the picture on the health services as outlined in a paper from Brid Clarke. On the capital side a mere half million pound increase in funds allocated, has meant a 17% cut in real terms. The revenue side (that is, day-to-day running costs) has also been slashed in all the main areas — general hospitals, special hospitals and community services. The most critical area being the

psychiatric and mentally-handicapped services.

In the Eastern Health Board (EHB) area its plans for the renovation of the psychiatric hospitals has had to be curtailed. A point underlined later in the seminar by the programme director of the EHB's special hospital care who revealed that a deplorable £150,000 and £50,000 had been allocated to improving the St. Brendan's and St. Ita's mental hospitals.

PROPOSALS

The final speaker was Peter Cassels of the ICTU. He outlined the rationale of the current Haughey approach to state spending — placing stress on investment in infrastructural areas (electricity, telecommunications etc) at the expense of social investment.

Following a workshop session the seminar concluded by summarising its findings and outlined its practical proposals including extensive publicity and constant monitoring by union branches of any new cut-backs, and, where necessary, extended action by staff on the ground.



Massive cut-backs in the health services condemn patients to conditions of appalling primitiveness

SINN FEIN MEETING CONDEMNS 'NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING' NO COMMON INTERESTS

BY JOHN DOYLE

AS PART of its campaign against the proposed 'national' understanding in the twenty-six counties, Sinn Féin's trade union department held a well-attended meeting in Dublin on Friday 17th October.

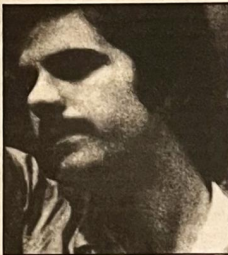
Dave Farrell (AUEW/TASS), opening the meeting, condemned the situation within the ICTU which had brought about an offer as bad as the current one being recommended by the trade union representatives at tripartite talks. In a detailed attack on the pay-deal proposals he exposed the inadequacies of the non-pay terms of the document.

He said: "The working class in the twenty-six counties share no common interests either with Fianna Fail or the bosses. The

'national' understanding is based on the false assumption that such common interests do exist. There is nothing wrong with centralised bargaining as such, if the trade union movement undertakes it as part of its duty to establish sound minimum wage levels, enforce equal pay and increase holidays and social welfare etc. But this will not be done by agreeing to sell-out deals like the present one."

BOLGER

Also speaking at the meeting was Paddy Bolger, who gave a history of



DAVE FARRELL

the damage done to the trade union movement and its members by the

last decade of centralised pay deals.

He said: "The malign effects of these 'national' agreements can be seen in the low attendance at branch meetings, the weakening of the role of the shop steward in the wage bargaining and the ease with which such deals are put over on the workers. All of this is inevitable when ordinary union members are divorced from true decision making by the actions of a new bureaucracy of non-elected officials which has sprung up during the seventies."

DEMOCRATIC

He advocated the organisation of a democratic movement within the trade unions which would be against

this collaboration, embracing the individual militant, the shop steward, the principled branch secretary and the radical official or executive member. Only such a force could restore trade unions to their true economic and social role — that of a fighting organisation looking after the interest of the working class only, he added.

Opinion at the meeting accepted that this year's pay-deal looked inevitably as though it was going to be accepted, but that now was the time to organise against future such deals. At the same time solidarity was pledged to workers who may break the pay terms and restrictive clauses banning strikes.

ARDU PA!!!

LE TÓMAS O SÉ

"TÁ AN tír a scríodadh ag na hoibrithe agus na ceardchumann. Tá siad sanntach." Is minic an port seo le cloisteáil ó dhaoine agus ar na meáin cumarsáide le fada an lá anois. Tá sé tagtha go dtí an pointe go gcreideann cuid de na hoibrithe féin an scéal anois.

Tá an tuairim sin a bhfuil chun cinn an t-am ar fad. Ní nach ionadh go bhfuil an smaoinemh sin ag dul i bhfeidhm ar dhaoine. Tá Haughey agus na páirtithe polaitiúla ag iarraidh orainn glacadh le titim i gcaighdeán na beatha atá againn. Sin díreach a thárlóidh má ghlactar leis an gComhthuisicint 'Náisiúnta'.

Ach, mar is gnáth, tá taobh eile den scéal nach bhfuil a phoiblíú. Sin an méid aird a fochtar le lucht an rachmais. Sin iad na daoine is mó a bhíonn ag iarraidh orainn oibrithe, srian a chur leis an méid aird a bhíonn a lorg againn. Deirtear nach féidir ardaithe pá a foch leis na hoibrithe mar go bhfuil an

comhlucht i mbaol.

SUIRBHÉ

Ach tá na saibhir ag éirí níos saibhre agus na boicht ag éirí níos boichte. Agus sin mar a leanfaidh cúrsaí faoin gcóras damanta ina bhfuilimid ag fulaingt.

Foilsíodh suirbhé fíor spéisiúil le déanaí: Inbuccon Management Consultants annual salary survey. Bhí eolas sa suirbhé mar gheall ar sheasamh na mbainisteoirí maidir le cúrsaí pá agus an tsí ina bhfuil siad ag tabhairt aire dóibh féin a fháid atá siad ag bagairt ar oibrithe a bpá a choimeád seail.

Le ceithre bliana anuas tá árdú 80.8% faighte ag bainisteoirí i

gcomparáid le 63% d'árdú as chostas maireachtála. Fagann sin go bhfuil 25% de na hard bainisteoirí ag tuilleamh níos mó ná £22,000 in aghaidh na bliana.

BREABANNA

Ní deiradh leis an scéal ansin, mar nochtaítear go bhfuil gluais-teáin saor is aisce ag breis is leath des na bainisteoirí go léir. Tá breabanna eile ag na bainisteoirí chomh maith mar shampla bónas aird, scéimeanna pinsin agus árachais, cabhair aird maidir le tithe a cheannach agus dinneir dá gairde a cheannach. Ó is breá an saol é a bhuaicail!

Ach, nuair a iarrann tiomáinithe na dtaincírí artola cúpla breab dóibh féin, cad a thárlaíonn? Bíonn na meáin cumarsáide lán de scéalta mar gheall ar an tsí ina bhfuil siad ag creachadh na tíre. Ní fiú creidiúint ar bith a thabhairt dos na scéalta seo.

Dála an scéil, chuaigh na hathraithe sa chóras cánach níos mó chun maitha na saibhir thar mar a chabhair siad le dream ar bith eile.



Ta lucht an rachmais ar muin na muice agus ta siad ag deanamh a ndícheall an chuid eile againn a choimeád faoi chois. Tá firinne sa seanfhocal fós: "Se an taon fath go bhfuil an dealramh ar lucht na cumhachta go bhfuil siad cumhachtach na toisc go bhfuilimid ar an nglua, Eileiríocht."

Twinbrook ordeal

SAS terror tactics

DESPITE the overall adverse political affects for the British of the blundering SAS assault against two homes in Belfast's Twinbrook estate last Sunday, the SAS, not surprisingly, certainly succeeded in striking terror into people's hearts.

In one house their victim was mother-of-four Maureen Mooney and in the second house — where a Relatives Action Committee meeting was due to start shortly after the assault commenced — there were seven victims: mother-of-three Moyra Berkery; her husband John Boyd; her fifteen-year-old daughter Aisling; her twenty-one-year-old neighbour Maire Campbell and her two-year-old daughter; and two of John's friends, both aged twenty-four and both of whom decline to be named because they live in areas of North Belfast vulnerable to loyalist attack.

Moyra and the three men were arrested by the RUC, once the SAS had retreated, and were held in Castlereagh. Moyra states: "I was interviewed three times, but it seemed to me that the interviewers didn't know why the SAS had broken into the house and felt that they were just being left to clear

up the mess. I was mostly questioned about the H-Block campaign and the approaching hunger-strike, and my son Liam who is 'on the blanket'." John Boyd also reports that his RUC interrogators were very interested in the hunger strike.

After the SAS assault, and the four arrests — blatantly designed to give it much-needed credibility as a 'security operation' — the RUC and the British army issued a number of their usual lying and contradictory statements about the purpose of the assault and the accountability of the under-cover soldiers — who, it was ludicrously claimed, were under the direction of the RUC.

On Tuesday the four were released. One of John Boyd's friends had spent two hours on a hospital operating table for injuries he received during the raid and on the day of his release attended a press conference with a badly blackened, swollen eye and his left arm heavily bandaged and in a sling.

An *Phoblacht/Republican News* reporter Seamus Boyle has compiled an account of these people's terrifying ordeal.

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

SHORTLY AFTER 6 p.m. last Sunday evening in Belfast's Twinbrook estate British SAS soldiers bludgeoned their way with sledge-hammers through the front door of the Cherry Park home of mother-of-four Mrs. Maureen Mooney, aged 28, who was alone with her two-week-old baby daughter.

She recalls: "I heard thumps and bangs. I turned and there was a gun at my head. The man had an English accent and was wearing casual clothes — I thought it was Orangies and I started screaming. Another man, with a Belfast accent, came in and nudged the first man. I thought I was going to be shot. There were ones up the stairs shouting and banging things about. And they were all very abusive, using a lot of foul language.

"Eventually — I think when they saw British army jeeps arriving — the men put on orange arm bands and quickly left. A uniformed British soldier ran in and said to me: 'Don't you effing move.' They



MAUREEN MOONEY — gun put to her head

didn't ask me anything but put me under house arrest in my living room. It was then that I realised that the men must have been SAS."

BRAZENLY

Meanwhile, about one hundred and fifty yards away, the SAS had bludgeoned their way with sledge hammers through the front door of the Cherry Gardens home of mother-of-three Mrs. Moyra Berkery, aged 40, in whose house there were seven people including a two-year-old baby.

Running between the two houses one of the SAS men brazenly shouted to a young woman in the street: 'If you want to see someone being shot, come down to Berkerys.'

Moyra Berkery is a Relatives Action Committee activist, and mother of a blanket man, Liam, aged 21. An RAC meeting had been publicised to take place at her house — just one hour after the SAS smashed their way in.

When the armed SAS men began to smash down the front door,

Moyra Berkery had been sitting in the dining room with her neighbour, twenty-one-year-old Maire Campbell, and her neighbour's two-year-old daughter Roisin. Moyra ran out into the hallway in response to the commotion. When she saw armed men she ran back, and seconds later the SAS men broke in, imprisoning the woman and child there for the duration of the raid.

GLAZED

Moyra Berkery says of the first man, who had smashed the door: "He didn't look as if he belonged in this world, he was really hyped up, his eyes were glazed and his eyes were darting all round but it was as though he wasn't seeing anything. I could hear crashing all over the house. I thought it was a loyalist assassination squad.

"A blond-haired man appeared in the doorway and screamed at Maire to shut the baby up. Then I was pushed to the floor and my hands taped behind my back. I felt a gun pointed at my head. Then the men's English accents clicked in my mind and I thought 'It's the SAS'.

"I could hear neighbours outside challenging the gunmen, and one of them answering: 'This is a quick way to kill fanian scum. I was lying face down on the floor, unable to see anything, just hearing English voices yelling and screaming."

When the SAS broke into the house, Moyra's fifteen-year-old daughter Aisling was upstairs and she heard them bashing in the door.

She states: "A dozen men with guns and wearing combat jackets came pouring into the house. One of them ran upstairs and pushed me on to a bed and then tied my hands behind my back with plastic hand-



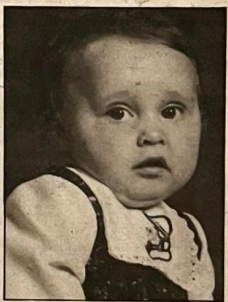
AIKLING BERKERY — hands tied

cuffs. The men did not say who they were but spoke with English accents. One called me an 'Irish b.' I heard shouting and a shot being fired, and then I was brought downstairs."

Shortly after gaining entry to the Berkery house, one of the SAS men, either accidentally or as a frightener, apparently unleashed a single shot.

MAIRE

Maire Campbell, who was with her two-year-old daughter Roisin and with Moyra, recalls: "I heard the shot and the door getting bas-



ROISIN CAMPBELL — mother dived on her

hed in. I threw myself onto the ground on top of the child. Men ran in — they all had guns out — and told me not to move and to lie against the wall. They ran back and forth and then they tied Moyra's hands behind her back and they brought Aisling downstairs with her hands tied.

"One of the men had a bullet proof vest on. We knew it was the SAS then. We were sure they were out to kill by the way they came in. The only reason they didn't shoot anybody is that the neighbours all came out and witnessed it. If not for that, we'd all have been shot dead."

JUMPED

Two young men, who are friends of John Boyd (and who decline to be named because they live in a 'dodgy' area of North Belfast), were in the large living room. As the raiders burst in, the two — fearing loyalist assassination — jumped through a closed window, showering glass, into the back garden.

Simultaneously, several SAS men hurtled through the garden gate, at least one of them firing live silenced pistol shots. One of the youths was pinned to the ground with a gun to his head, the other fled back into the house through the door leading into the back living room.



The front door of the Berkery house smashed in by the SAS. And Moyra Berkery after her release from Castlereagh.



The former recalls the arrival of the SAS: "There was a loud crash at the door and we jumped up. There seemed to be men at the door and one of them was battering down the door with what seemed to be a sledge-hammer. My friend said to me: 'It must be the Orangemen!' He put his hands up to his face and dived through the window and I jumped through it after him. My shoulders were covered in blood but my friend's hands were badly cut, part of the flesh was hanging off.

"There was a big fence at the back of the house which we couldn't get over, so we tried to go towards a smaller fence separating the next-door neighbour's house, but this man with a gun and what appeared to be a silencer over it fired at us a couple of times. My mate said, 'Christ, they're opening up on us'.

"We doubled back and now there were SAS men battering at the gate with sledge-hammers. My mate ran back into the house and I tried to batter in the coal-hole door. I was quickly surrounded and this man with an English accent and carrying a machine gun, shouted, 'Freeze! One move and you're dead!'

"I was frisked and forced to lie on the ground. I could hear screaming coming from the house, 'Ah, mister, don't be killing me!' I could hear kicking and beating coming from the house.

"The next-door neighbour came out and she started screaming. The SAS man said to her, 'One more word and you're dead!' Another SAS man made me crawl and put my face down in the broken glass of the window we had dived through."

JOHN

Meanwhile, Moyra's husband, John Boyd, aged 32, who was in the kitchen washing dishes, also heard the sound of hammering on the door, and came out into the hall at the moment the SAS burst in. He fled into the back living room, also intending to escape into the back garden, but seeing the youth coming in pursued by more raiders, flung himself down behind a settee.

The youth then tried to shut the door leading into the hall, against the SAS men, but the door was smashed down injuring his hand as SAS poured into the room from front and back. The youth was thrown to the floor and savagely kicked, and John, giving himself up, was also pinned to the floor, and held there for the whole of the raid.

The youth states: "I tried to shut the door but they kept breaking it in with sledge-hammers. I was knocked to the floor and one

of my fingers was practically torn off as they came through the door.

"They kicked me in the head and I lay there in a thick pool of blood, half-dazed. I did not know what was going on around me — all I kept thinking was 'I'm dead'."

John Boyd recalls: "The lad lay there on the floor as the SAS came into the room from both directions. His hand was bleeding and he was shouting 'Don't kill me'. The men were all kicking the lad, in the body and in the head. They were shouting with English accents, and one with a Scottish accent.

"I stood up with my hands raised, and they dragged me and threw me into a corner. I was made to lie on my stomach with my hands on my head, and one of them stood on me and stuck a gun into me. There was yelling and screaming all over the house."

NEIGHBOURS

Alert neighbours, especially Mrs. Lily Campbell, aged 49, Maire's mother, aroused the Cherry Hill neighbourhood to what was apparently an attack by a loyalist gang. And within minutes, as news of the attack spread like wildfire, the first of scores of people began to arrive on the scene from all over Twinbrook.

Mr. Cunningham, aged 50, states: "At about half-past six the phone rang in our house, and Lily Campbell says: 'Will you come round quick. I think there's someone shot in Berkery's house.' I jumped in my car and drove over."

"I saw a blue Volkswagen van and three private cars with their doors lying open. I went to Berkery's back door. A fellow in jeans and anorak with an armalite said 'get up against the wall.' Then he brought me round the front of the house. People were gathering and the armed men were getting panicky. One of them called on a radio for help. Shortly afterwards a lot of Brit jeeps arrived and sealed off the area.

"An army major came up to the gate. One of the SAS men pointed his rifle at him and said 'get out'. The major didn't answer but turned on his heels, back out of the gate. About twenty SAS men came out of the house and got into the three cars and van. A uniformed British soldier gave them a clear run out of the estate."

Soldiers and RUC men spent a couple of hours going through the ritual of searching both the Berkery's house and the Campbell's house before leaving with the sole captured 'bounty' of H-Block leaflets and the proceeds of an H-Block Appeal Fund collection taken that morning in Twinbrook.

The plight of small farmers

THE BULK of the text is printed here of a lecture on 'the plight of small farmers' delivered by Joe Gallogly at Sinn Féin's National Education Seminar, held over the weekend of September 27/28.

Over the last three weeks An Phoblacht/Republican News has published a report on the seminar, plus the bulk of two of the lectures. This is the final extract from the seminar.

BY JOE GALLOGLY

THERE EXISTS much misunderstanding about conditions in farming. There has been a polarisation of two sections of the workforce — those engaged in industry, distribution and the public sector and those engaged in agriculture. It may be of advantage to some people or organisations to do that. It certainly does not help the small farmer.

It is important to understand that there are two types of farmers — there are big farmers and small farmers, wealthy farmers and poor farmers. 80% of the farmers of the country are small farmers — not ranchers as many imagine.

The earnings of a large percentage of these small farmers are less than the average industrial worker's wages — in many cases less than £40 per week. And that is not for a five day week, it is for a seven day week. The majority of these farms are family farms, where everybody in the family makes some contribution towards its working. It is a poor return for the amount of work which must go into it.

The marketing system in agriculture is disastrous, going from boom to depression, and being oftener in depression than in boom. This, of course, militates more against the small farmer, than the big farmer, as he is not cushioned against it. His work and investment is more speculative than in certitude.

There are many big farmers owning very large tracts of land. Over one third of the good agricultural land in the twenty-six counties is held in farms of over one hundred acres.

These farmers are the wealthy landed gentry, and they dominate policy making in agriculture and dominate the whole agricultural economy. This is an historical inheritance. It has meant that the better the land the bigger the farms, the worse the land the smaller the farms.

The majority of congested small farms are situated on the western seaboard, from West Cork to North Donegal and across from Monaghan to Sligo. And in the poorer section of the better landed counties, any mountainous or poor land is concentrated in small farms.

NUMBER

We most view with alarm the rapid reduction in the number of people engaged in agriculture. Since 1926, in the Free State, the number has fallen from 659,000 to 265,000.

Modern farm methods and mechanisation may account for a large part of this, but in the smaller farms the decline is in the actual number of farmers.

In County Leitrim, the poorest landed county and one of the most congested, the number of people engaged in agriculture fell from over ten thousand in 1951 to just over five thousand in 1974; and at the present time is down to about four thousand nine hundred. The further regrettable thing is that, simultaneously the small farmers have not increased their holdings.

The only holdings that have shown an increase are those from fifty to one hundred acres. These are very few because only 3% of farms in County Leitrim are of more than one hundred acres.

What has happened is that 65% of the land has been acquired for forestry, 78% is let on eleven

month conacre and another small percentage has gone into increasing small holdings.

The balance has been acquired by a new aristocracy — the professional class, doctors, lawyers, teachers, even gardai — who are holding land as a security at a time when money is rapidly losing its value. They are not in any way prepared to work it as it should be worked in any agricultural economy. These people should not be included in the category of part-time farmers, they are in fact side-line farmers.

However, 23% of farmers in Leitrim for example, can correctly be categorised as part-time. They are people whose holdings are so uneconomic and whose conditions are such that they are forced to seek some additional form of employment to supplement their income. This type of employment is generally with the forestry or in the roadwork force of the local government. Any agricultural policy must not write these people off; they must be given, where possible, enough extra land to make their farms viable.

STRUCTURE

The first basic problem, then, is land structure. Any agricultural policy must take land structure as its priority. The land of Ireland is our greatest national resource, and as such it must be used for the maximum benefit of all the people — not for a section of the people or for individuals, but for all the people. It follows therefore that there can be no absolute ownership of land by any individual, or any company, or by any section of the community.

Nobody should be allowed to hold for personal advantage, and enrichment, large stocks of land. Nobody has a right to hold a section of land in a non-productive state, undeveloped and gone to waste. No alien should have the right to purchase or hold land. The democratically elected authority of an Irish Republic must have the right to acquire and divide ranch farms.

Where congestion exists around them, ranch farms should be acquired and divided amongst the small farmers. Where congestion does not exist around them, there can be a form of migration from congested areas, or there can be set

up economically viable units for farming which can be given to people who are qualified and trained to work them. That should be the basis of any land structure policy.

CEILING

There must be a ceiling on the amount of land any individual can hold.

Before we can set a ceiling on it the whole economy must be working towards self-sufficiency. It would be disastrous to talk about a ceiling of acreage rather than productive quality of land. Also it

would be disastrous to talk about placing a ceiling at a time when the economy is an open-ended economy, buffeted by inflation and external influences.

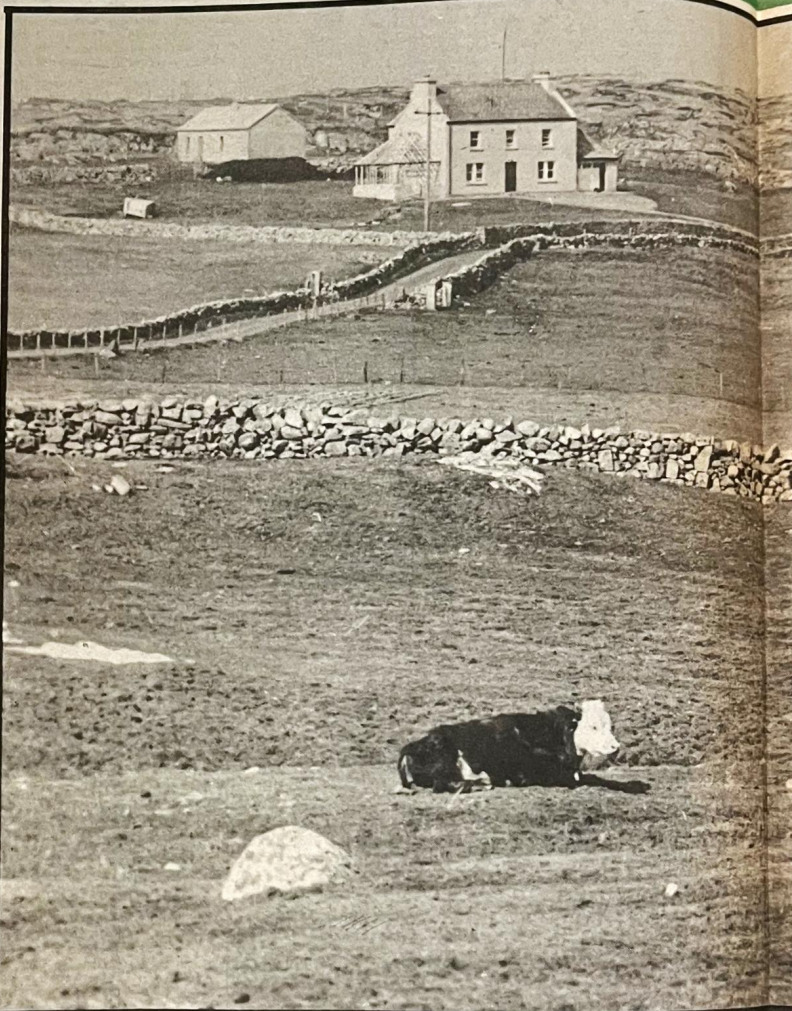
Only when the economy has protection against this could we say that so many acres of land in a particular area is sufficient as an economic holding. A ceiling on the amount of land any person can hold must be incorporated in any land structuring policy.

Our policy and aim, therefore, should be to try, as far as possible, to hold as many people in agriculture as we can. Hold what we

have at the present time in the poorer land, and create more viable working units in the richer land.

First of all to achieve this, when land comes on the market, there must be an agency commissioned to purchase and divide it. A person who is allowed to purchase land must be seen to be only increasing an uneconomic holding to an economic one, or that he is a qualified person to work full-time — that he is not just holding it as security.

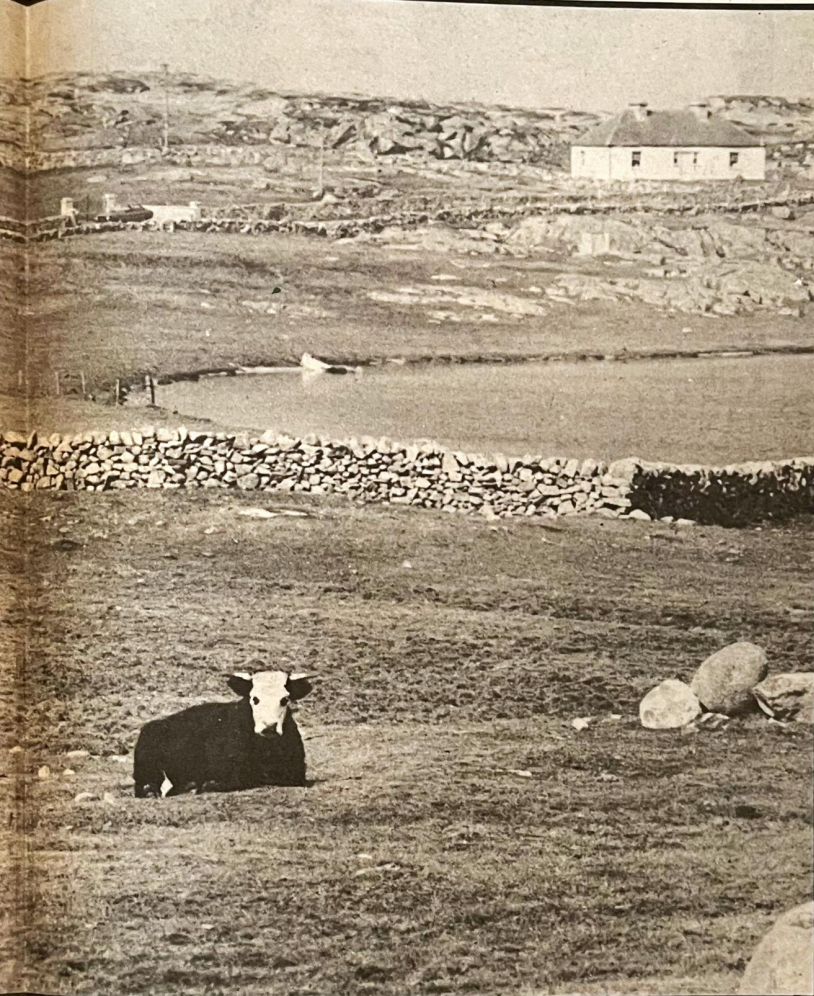
However, a great majority of farms that are reckoned to be un-



The land of Ireland is our greatest national resource and must be used for the maximum benefit of the people or for individuals but

economic today can viable economic unit maintain a family of standard of living done through development. The majority of small farmers have starved land, housing, low stocking all the things which small farmer in poverty we could increase threefold, at the least of these holdings this investment and planning. On the poorer land, the need is drainage, average acre of land

Small farmers



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Leitrim takes something over £300. The EEC grant for that is alleged to be 75%, but in actual fact works out around 50%. Small farmers cannot afford the balance.

In Leitrim the drainage programme results in one thousand acres of land being drained each year. But 224,000 acres of the county need drainage. So at the present rate of progress it will take two hundred and twenty-four years to drain the county.

FERTILITY

After increased drainage, we

need increased fertility. The lands of the poorer counties have been impoverished for one hundred and fifty years. Only the rancher's and landlord's land were looked after because the poor people were continually forced to crop land, which was maybe unsuitable — as the staple diet was the potato — and it had to be taken from the same little plot.

It would take a tremendous amount of proper manuring to bring this land back to the state of fertility to which it can be brought. Half of the land of

Leitrim gets no artificial manuring, no fertiliser, and less than 10% of the farms get over 2lbs worth in the year. A ton of artificial manure costs £140.

It takes 8,400lbs of dry matter to feed an animal. Undrained, unmanured land producing 3,500 lbs of dry matter can be brought up to a production level of 13,500 lbs per year, as proven in experimental plots in the poorest and worst part of Leitrim.

Currently in that county, it takes 3.19 acres per livestock unit but this could be reduced to at least 1.5 acres to each livestock

unit in safety, without overstocking.

However that brings with it the tremendous cost of increased housing: more than half of the cattle houses, in Leitrim are inadequate and outdated. The cost of building a sixty foot by forty foot slated cattle-shed is £17,500; but the grant for doing it is £4,500 and small farmers are incapable of making up the difference.

WATER

The next problem is the need for water. Half of the farm houses of Leitrim have no piped water — an essential in agriculture.

There is a need for backward areas to be supplied by group water schemes; the cost of which, again, cannot be borne by the small farmer. The average cost of a group water scheme is £750 for every section of a farm for which water is supplied (land many farms are severely fragmented). But the grant is only £500.

The pig industry has been taken over by the commercial pig producer with up to fifty thousand pigs. 85% of farmers in Leitrim who lived by producing pigs now have no pigs. The pig industry must be given back to the small farmer.

EDUCATION

If small farmers are to develop their units, education is essential.

It was a tradition that the duller and least able member of a family was kept on the land. But a successful farmer today must be a vet, an accountant, and a variety of other things, as well as agriculturalist.

The education system today does not provide for agriculture: it is not taught at primary stage and it is half-taught in secondary school, as an unimportant subject. In a predominantly agricultural society, agricultural science must be taught at primary and secondary level and must be given the status of a full subject for qualification for third level education.

We must have farmers who are educated, can plan, and who know their business, if we are to make small holdings into viable holdings and keep people on the land, and at the same time increase production in agriculture.

CAPITAL

In order to do these things, we need capital. In Leitrim 55% of the farmers are afraid to borrow money, and rightly so. Because of the ups and downs in returns, and the interest costs on money, they would not be able to pay it back.

It is the duty of a national government to provide the funds. It is an investment in a natural resource, an investment in an industry which will pay back, it is an investment which belongs to all the people.

In order to get the best agricultural production out of small farms there is a need for planning, specialisation, and for classification.

Until now, particularly on small farms, the farmer has been jumping from one thing to another. He does not know whether he is a dairy farmer, a beef farmer, a stock farmer, a sheep farmer or a pig farmer. He

does a little bit of everything, because any grant aid or anything he can get he goes for. If anything goes wrong then he has something else left.

CLASSIFICATION

What is needed is classification so that we know how many dairy farmers we have, how many beef farmers, and so on. Dairy farming, on the stock side of farming, is by far the most lucrative. It should be concentrated on the small farms, whereas at present it is the reverse.

Small farmers in the west of Ireland produce store cattle up to six or seven hundredweight, and they give them to the big farmer in Meath and the Midlands.

He fattens them in a couple of months and he reaps the profit, whilst the small farmer takes all the trouble of the growing period when the disease and mortality rate is at its highest. The small farmer takes all the risk.

The big dairy farmer also has all the advantages. On the better land a farmer can get up to 1,500 gallons per cow, whilst in the poorer land it's down to 400 gallons per cow. With the development of small farms, as outlined here, it would be possible to treble the stocking weight and increase the milk yield per cow up to 1,000 gallons. Thereby increasing farm income by up to 300% and making many of the presently uneconomic farms into viable units, and holding the rural balance in our population that we need.

CO-OPS

One other thing that needs to be mentioned are the co-operatives. The co-ops as we know them must go.

There should be a co-operative system through which all purchases and sales would be done by all the farmers. There would not be a milk co-op and a grain co-op and so on. It would be one central co-operative with branches spread throughout the country, where all farm produce was marketed.

All subsidiary industries would be controlled by it, such as slaughter of cattle, packaging of meat etc. All materials used by the farmer would be purchased through the co-op; fertilisers, grains, seeds, and so on.

The co-op, on a system similar to the credit union, could do most of the financial business. When the state takes over agricultural finance it should be channelled through these co-ops, with the money to be utilised in loans to less well-off farmers who are developing their farms.

In that way we would not be faced with importing £490 millions worth of food stuff, as the Free State did last year, an increase of £100 million on 1978.

We would be producing cheaper and better food; we would be keeping more people in agriculture; and we would be achieving a better balance between the rural and urban populations. We could then envisage a time when the Irish farmer would be producing enough food for an ever-growing Irish workforce.

Solidarity Greetings

DONNELLY, Gerry, (H4-Block). We are very proud to congratulate you on completing three years on the blanket on October 18th. We think about you always, everywhere we go and hope and pray that victory will soon be yours. Bua dona fir pluid. Love from your mother and father.

DONNELLY, Gerry, (H4-Block). Congratulations on completing three years on the blanket. "Our patriotism is measured not by the volume in which we declare it but by the service in which we render it." Love from Fiona, Orla and Bronagh.

DONNELLY, Gerry, (H4-Block). All the best on completing three years on the blanket. Well done Gerry. Keep it up. From Bernie, Sean and all at 179. Also from Sheila, Patsy and family and Pius (H4).

DONNELLY, Gerry, (H4-Block). Congratulations on completing three years on the blanket protest on October 18th. Your fight is our fight. From Teresa, Jimmy and family, and John (H4).

HAYES, Bill, (Portlaoise). Congratulations and good wishes to Bill Hayes on completing one year of his sentence in Portlaoise Prison. We are always thinking of you. From Dad, Mam, Sheila, Carol, Noel, Kathleen, Aisling and all friends and cousins. In Ferrybank also from Tom, Breda, Mary, Frank, Paul and Noel.

LENNON, Sean, (H3-Block). We salute you and all your heroic comrades. We pledge our full support as you complete three years on the blanket. We commend all of you to the care of God and his Holy mother in the days that lie ahead. From Maureen and Leo Wilson and family.

LENNON, Sean, (H3-Block). Congratulations Sean on completing three years on the blanket. "You wear no convict's uniform, nor mickly serve in the cage, that England might make Ireland's fight eight hundred years of crime." God bless you all. From Aunt Kate.

LENNON, Sean, (H3-Block). Congratulations Sean on completing three years on the blanket. "Men as brave as blanket men are very hard to find." God bless you and all your brave comrades. From Gran O'Toole.

LENNON, Sean, (H3-Block). Congratulations Sean on completing three years on the blanket. Victory to you and all the blanket men. God bless. From your sister Maureen, Brendan and kids, aunt Maureen, uncle Tommy and Mary, aunt Peggy, uncle Gerald and family, Southampton.

MCCAUGHLEY, Bríge Ann, (Armagh). Solidarity greetings to you Bríge Ann and to all your comrades in Armagh and the H-Blocks. "I just want you to know of the pride that's in my heart and that I miss you everyday that we have to live apart." All my love from Padraig, UTP.

MCMULLAN, Jimmy, McKENNA, Finbar, McNERNEY, Paul, McAULEY, Jim, COSGROVE, Tommy, (H-Block). The Clonard Martyrs Sinn Féin cumann salute the blanket men from the Clonard area who shall start their fifth year on the blanket protest this month.

SMYTH, Kieran, (H4-Block). Congratulations son on completing three years on the blanket. "We will have a very day, God bless and watch over you and all your brave comrades. With all my love from your mother and father."

SMYTH, Kieran, (H4-Block). Three years on the blanket. Solidarity to you and your comrades. The spirit of the blanket men and the spirit of the Republic are surely with you all. From your brothers Raymond, Dane, Sean and Liam. Venceremos!

SMYTH, Kieran, (H4-Block). Best wishes to our grandson on completing three years in Britain's Hell Hole. We are very proud of you. From Grandma and Granddad. Also from your sister Deborah, brother-in-law Danny and nieces Danielle and Cara. xxx

SMYTH, Kieran 'Zack', (H4-Block). Congratulations 'Zack' on completing three years on the blanket. God bless you. From the McDowell family, and your comrades Mario (H3) and Peter (H4).

SMYTH, Kieran, (H4-Block). Congratulations 'Zack' on completing three years on the blanket. We may have brave men but we will never have better. Love and solidarity from Elish and family and Frankie (H5). Also from 'George' and from Paddy (H-Block). From Eleanor, Christy and Croisóil, and all the George family in Twinbrook.

SMYTH, Kieran, (H4-Block). Martin Tracey Sinn Féin cumann Short Strand and the Short Strand RAC salute and pledge solidarity to you Kieran on this your fourth year on protest for political status. "When the history of this era is written, Ireland's blanket men will have pride of place." Bua dona fir pluid.

WILSON, Padraig Conor, (H4-Block). We salute our son and brother on completing three years on the blanket. May God give you and your gallant comrades the strength to face the coming month. All our love from mum, dad, brothers and sisters.

WILSON, Padraig Conor, (H4-Block). Solidarity with my grandson and our nephew on completing three years on the blanket. Love from Granny Wilson, uncle Patrick and all the Wilson family.

WILSON, Padraig Conor, (H4-Block). On this the completion of your third year on the blanket we send you all our love and pledge our full support to you and your brave comrades in the days that lie ahead. Mary of the Gael watch over you all. From Aunt Kathleen, Marsha and all your cousins. Also from your little godson Brendan Padraig.

WILSON, Patrick, LENNON, Sean, (H-Block). Andersonstown RAC and solidarity greetings to Padraig and Sean on completing three years on the blanket on October 27th. God bless you and all your brave comrades, particularly at this crucial time.

HUNGER-STRIKE PROTESTS

Belfast

BELFAST has been the scene of intense organisation and activity over the past week, reflecting the widespread and growing resentment of the British government's intransigence which is seen to have forced the H-Block protesters towards a hunger-strike.

Throughout the week meetings have been held in almost every nationalist area to organise H-Block action groups and co-ordinate activities between Sinn Féin and Relatives Action Committees.

On Friday 17th October, 300 members of Ardoyne RAC staged an hour-long road-block of the Crumlin Road, during which the incensed RUC struck a six months pregnant woman in the stomach.

On Saturday, Belfast Sinn Féin co-ordinated seven pickets throughout Belfast during which over ten thousand leaflets were distributed and many signatures collected for the H-Block petition.

On Sunday, the local Sinn Féin cumann and RAC in the Twinbrook estate staged leaflettings after all masses in the local chapel — the home of one of their members being raided later that evening in the bizarre SAS raid. And in Ardoyne, two thousand people turned out to support an H-Block march.

So far this week, on Monday 20th October, as well as a statement from the Executive Committee of Queen's University students' union calling for the H-Block and Armagh prisoners' demands to be granted, rallies were held in Short Strand, of over seven hundred people, organised by the newly-formed 'Ex-prisoners against H-Block', and in Twinbrook, of several hundred people, organised by the local Sinn Féin cumann. Both marches in support of the H-Block protesters and in protest at the SAS raid in Twinbrook the previous day.

Indeed, frightened at the tension which has built up, Belfast Unionist Lord Mayor, John Carson, postponed the much-publicised opening of three community centres in West Belfast, to avoid H-Block protests.

On Tuesday about two thousand people took part in a march through Ballymurphy organised jointly by the Relatives Action Committee and the Greater Ballymurphy Sisters Sinn Féin cumann.

And as we go to press, torchlight processions are planned to take place on Thursday evening in New Lodge and St. James.

In addition, a number of vigils and road-side H-Block displays have been held in various parts of Belfast on an almost daily basis in the build-up for Sunday's march in Belfast organised by the National H-Block Committee. And an outdoor meeting is planned on Saturday afternoon in Andersonstown by the local RAC.

Apart from the more dramatic Twinbrook SAS episode, harassment of H-Block activists has centred around threats to arrest them for distributing 'subversive literature'. But as a Sinn Féin statement recently pointed out, 'No level of harassment, no number of arrests, will deter us from agitating on behalf of our comrades.'

Downing Street

OVER two hundred and fifty people attended a blanket protest at Downing Street in London, last Saturday. The protest was called by Charter 80 in response to the news of the imminent hunger-strike in the H-Blocks. The turnout was the largest yet of such protests at Downing Street.

A deputation of five people wearing blankets, led by peace campaigner Pat Arrowsmith, handed in a letter at Number Ten. The letter appealed to Margaret Thatcher to intervene urgently to get the government to concede the prisoners' demands and thus avert a major tragedy. The letter was signed by Stan Thorne MP, Sid Bidwell MP, Lord Tony Gifford, Francis Beckett (president of NUJ), Peter Hain (former Young Liberal chairman) and Gordon McLennan (general secretary of the Communist Party).

The protest was supported by Sinn Féin, the Troops Out Movement and several British socialist organisations. It was the first in a series of events which is planned nationwide in support of the prisoners. A national demonstration will



DOWNING STREET, LONDON

be held in London on December 7th in support of the hunger strikers, if their demands have not been won by that date.

Details of future activities in Britain can be obtained by phoning 01-2672004.

Dublin Colleges



TRINITY COLLEGE

AMONG the stalls exhibited during 'Fraser Week' (the first week of the academic year) at Trinity College and University College Dublin, were extensive and well presented H-Block stands which attracted significant attention from the students. On Wednesday 15th October the POW film was shown in Trinity College with Kieran Nugent as



Above: a march in Ardoyne last Sunday, and below: one of the Sinn Féin pickets on Saturday in Belfast



Irish Playwrights

A MOTION in support of the five demands of the H-Block and Armagh prisoners was passed unanimously at the annual general meeting of the Irish Playwrights Union last Sunday.

The motion was proposed by Margaretta D'Arcy who herself served a three month sentence in Armagh jail because of her participation in a picket outside the prison on International Women's Day 1979.

This support follows the passing of the same motion by the Theatre Writers Union in England at their September meeting. The Irish Playwrights Union is affiliated to the Irish Transport and General Workers Union who have also adopted support of the prisoners as policy.

Monaghan

H-BLOCK campaigners in County Monaghan on Saturday 11th October collected over three thousand five hundred signatures for the International H-Block Petition on the streets of Monaghan, Castleblaney, Clones, Ballybay and Carrickmacross. The County Monaghan H-Block Action Committee began the collection of signatures following a successful public meeting in Monaghan town on September 10th. Many of the housing estates in the county have now been canvassed and committee members report a 90% positive response. Arrangements are now under way to ensure a good response to the national H-Block

collection on Sunday 9th November for a demonstration in Monaghan at a late date.

Roscommon

ON Monday, Roscommon County Council called on the Free State government to support the prisoners' five demands, and is now contacting the European Parliament and the International Red Cross, asking them to mediate between the British government and the prisoners and to monitor conditions in H-Block and Armagh.

Tyrone

AN UNPARALLELED surge of concern and organised activity has been the response throughout the County Tyrone area to the hunger-strike announcement of the protesting blanket men in Long Kesh. Local H-Block organisers report that the level of support they have experienced in the past fortnight exceeds that at any time in the past eleven years.

During these last two weeks H-Block action groups have been established in the following areas of County Tyrone: Grogan, Carrickmore, Altamusk, Clonoe, Pomeroy, Cappagh, Ardobe, Kilielsh, Stewartstown, Tattysbagh, Fintona, Moy, Dungannon, Cookstown, Dunamore, Clogher and Augher, and Eglis. Other local committees are due to be set up shortly.

Exactly how high feeling is running in the area in support of the political prisoners can be gauged by the fact that a sizable number of clergymen have been emboldened to express support for the prisoners, some of them even being elected to local committees. And last Sunday over twenty chapels were leafleted, receiving a uniquely warm response from congregations, with a similar number of chapels in the area to be covered this coming Sunday.

The energetic, though futile, response of the Brits and RUC has been predictable. Daily harassment of former republican prisoners in County Tyrone, who have been actively engaged in H-Block campaign work, has been escalated. And on the evening of Tuesday 14th October the Dungannon home of a member of the Tyrone H-Block ad-hoc committee, twenty-five-year-old Peter Sherry, a former Long Kesh prisoner, was raided and searched for over an hour by RUC men, backed up by over forty Brits who sealed off the area.

An H-Block campaign contact point for the South Tyrone area has now been set up. Those wanting information, or offering help, should ring Dungannon 24552.

Woodworkers' Union

AT THE recent annual conference of the National Union of Woodworkers and Cabinet makers a resolution condemning the treatment of prisoners in H-Block and Armagh was passed. The resolution called on the ICTU to intervene in order to bring about a speedy and just settlement.

Broadcaster's book puts Castlereagh cover-up under the spotlight

A CONTROVERSIAL new book by the British television broadcaster Peter Taylor accuses the British government and the RUC chief constable of a cover-up over the beatings meted out to prisoners in Castlereagh and other interrogation centres in order to obtain statements which could secure convictions in the non-jury Diplock courts.

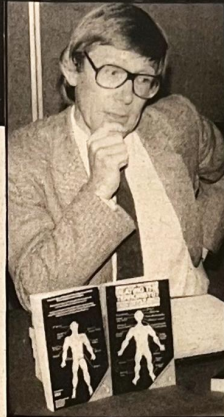
Peter Taylor documents, in *'Beating the Terrorists? Interrogation in Omagh, Gough, and Castlereagh'* (published by Penguin, price £1.50), how ill-treatment of prisoners was legally sanctioned. Also, that the then British attorney-general Sam Silkin (now a Labour Party leadership contender) — who had recently given the European Human Rights Court an 'unqualified undertaking' that there would be no recurrence of ill-treatment during interrogation — and the then British prime minister, James Callaghan, both knew that prisoners were being beaten again.

'Beating the Terrorists?' was launched by Peter Taylor at a press conference in Belfast's Europa Hotel last Wednesday morning.

He said that the fact that the beatings have stopped showed that "when the British authorities wanted it, they did so. But the issue is not over and finished with. The issue faces us all in the H-blocks because I believe the conflict in the H-blocks is about essentially what I document in this book. And with a

hunger strike due to start next Monday I think that anybody who really wishes to understand what the real issues are behind that protest in the H-blocks should read this book."

His publisher answered a question about whether or not he thought they would be sued for



PETER TAYLOR: launching his book at a press conference on Wednesday

libel by those who Taylor indicts, and if not would he interpret it as confirmation of an 'administrative practice' of beating prisoners.

"The most obvious course for people like that to pursue would be to issue a statement making their own claims or giving their own side of things," he said. Failure to sue could not be interpreted as acquiescence.

Peter Taylor stated that he

thought that the beatings had stopped but he could not be sure that that was the end of the story. Two people who had refused to talk to him when he was compiling his book were James Callaghan and Roy Mason.

Danny Morrison, attending the press conference on behalf of *'An Phoblacht/Republican News'*, then asked him "Do you support calls for prisoners sentenced in the special non-jury courts to be treated as political prisoners or as special category?"

Taylor answered: "Loyalists were also affected by this process... the process was a very special process and when prisoners say that they are a special kind of prisoner I think that it is very difficult to deny that case because factually that is the case. I wouldn't like to comment on the broader issue of political status."

When asked how does today's RUC chief constable, Jack Hermon — who, in the book, was director of operations at Castlereagh, whilst also in charge of investigating complaints about interrogations at Castlereagh — emerge from the cover-up. Taylor said: "I wouldn't wish to pass comment on the current chief constable.... The Hermon committee was set up in October 1977 and didn't make any difference... it (the beatings) started again. Most of the doctors on the committee saw it as a complete waste of time. The Hermon committee did not stop ill-treatment."

When asked what he would now like to see happen Peter Taylor said: "I would still like to see the full inquiry into this period which has been refused or been avoided. Such an inquiry would be a grave embarrassment. My last words in the book are: 'this has been an attempt to explain why those questions were never asked.' Those questions were always avoided."

Pomeroys youths batoned

BY SEAN DELANEY

TWO NATIONALIST YOUTHS — nineteen-year-old Frankie Loughran and twenty-year-old Frankie McKenna — from Pomeroy in South Tyrone fell victim to the baton — diplomacy of the RUC on the night of Saturday 11th October, requiring hospital treatment for head injuries.

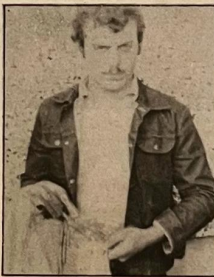
The attack occurred after the two lads left Boyd's chip shop in Pomeroy's main street, after a heated exchange of words. The RUC were called, and as the youths attempted to walk away from the shop they were set on by four uniformed RUC men who drew up in a car.

Frankie Loughran was immediately struck across the back of the head with a baton, and both he and his friend were punched and man-handled into the car. As the car slowed down in heavy traffic the terrified youths managed to escape but were pursued on foot by the RUC men. Both were pushed to the ground and struck across the back of the head as they attempted to

get up.

In Pomeroy RUC barracks both youths were questioned before being examined by a Brit doctor who was obliged to dispatch them in an ambulance to the South Tyrone Hospital in Dungannon where they both received several stitches. The head gashes were so severe that the clothes of both of them were saturated in their own blood. Frankie Loughran was detained in hospital under medical observation till Monday, and Frankie McKenna until Tuesday.

No charges were brought against either of the lads, yet the RUC men responsible for the assault later approached Frankie Loughran and Frankie's mother asking both lads to call to the



FRANKIE LOUGHRAN

barracks. This may have been to dissuade them from pressing further the complaints of ill-treatment which their solicitor has lodged.

The two lads believe that the reason for the savage treatment they received



FRANCIE MCKENNA

was that they were recognised as nationalists in the chip shop, which is situated in a loyalist part of Pomeroy, and this information was communicated to the RUC patrol.

LURGAN LOYALIST VICTIM ON RECOVERY ROAD

BY B. SLOANE

KIERAN MURRAY, the sixteen-year-old Lurgan youth who was shot in bed in his Wolfisland Terrace home by a hooded loyalist gunman eight weeks ago, is now able to walk without the use of crutches; and, fortunately, shock has totally erased from his memory even the slightest detail of the near-fatal shooting in the early hours of Wednesday 27th August, and of the days he subsequently lay critically ill in hospital under intensive care.

But his fourteen-year-old brother Stephen, who was by Kieran's side at the time of the attack, will still not sleep alone in the bedroom where the merciless shooting attack took place.

Kieran's nightmare experience began when he awoke around 1 a.m. to find

himself looking down the muzzle of an automatic pistol held two-handed by a man crouched in the manner of a trained gunman. The man fired more than half-a-dozen shots at the boys lying huddled in the bed leaving Kieran with severe wounds to the abdomen and leg.

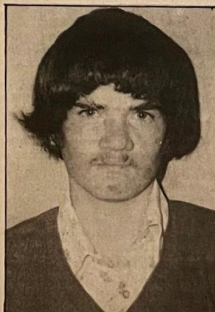
Kieran was hit in the heel by a bullet which was deflected up his leg and made an exit wound through his thigh; another bullet, which struck him in the pelvis, ruptured his large and small intestines and lodged in his body. Miraculously Stephen escaped the murder bid unscathed.

The boy's father, Brian, who is in his mid-forties, maintained at the time, and still does maintain, that the two-man assassination bid was contrived and carried out by the RUC Special Branch men based in Lurgan, and that he himself was their intended victim.

'Neither he nor his wife were at home when the two would-be assassins burst

into their house past their twenty-year-old daughter Rosalea, one of them rushing upstairs and into the darkened room where the two boys lay asleep in a double-bed. Brian Murray believes that in the gloom the boys were mistaken for their parents.

His insistence on RUC involvement stems from his arrest and interrogation in 1977 when he was badly beaten by Special Branch men at Lurgan RUC barracks. Although one Branch man, Walkinshaw, was suspended and charged with causing him grievous bodily harm, at the subsequent court case the judge disregarded evidence from the RUC doctor and concluded that Brian Murray's injuries — extensive bruising to the head and body, and a perforated ear drum — could have been self-inflicted, and the RUC man was acquitted. According to Brian Murray, before the court case, Branch man Walkinshaw told him 'I'll wipe out your whole family.'



KIERAN MURRAY

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL EVENING
Friday 24th October
Westrock Community Centre
Ballymurphy
BELFAST
Music by Easy Street
Admission £1
Organised by Ballymurphy RAC

H-BLOCK MARCH
To highlight the condition of Pauline McLaughlin and to support the women in Armagh jail and the men in H-Block
2.30 p.m. Saturday 25th October
DERRY

Assemble Bogside Inn
March to Gullinall
Organised by Derry Sinn Fein

H-BLOCK MEETING
2 p.m. Saturday 25th October
Andersonstown Leisure Centre
ANDERSONSTOWN
Belfast
Organised by Andersonstown RAC

EVE OF HUNGER-STRIKE
H-BLOCK MARCH
Sunday 26th October
BELFAST
March from Dunville Park
to rally at Bussey
Organised by
National H-Block Committee
Dungannon bus: leaves 1 p.m.

KEVIN BARRY COMMEMORATION
60th Anniversary
3 p.m. Sunday 26th October
Assemble Carthy's Cross
RATHVILLY
Co. Carlow
Organised by Sinn Fein

BUSES FROM DUBLIN: Leaves Parnell Square 1 p.m.
Buses will return in time for Dublin H-Block rally that evening.

EVE OF HUNGER-STRIKE
H-BLOCK RALLY
Sunday 26th October
GPO
DUBLIN
Organised by
National H-Block Committee

H-BLOCK MEETING
8 p.m. Monday 27th October
The Library
RATHCOOLE
Co. Dublin

H-BLOCK TORCHLIGHT MARCH
Monday 27th October
Assemble 9 p.m.
Ballygawley Road housing estate
DUNGANNON

H-BLOCK MARCH
2.30 p.m. Monday 27th October
KILMORE
Dublin
Assemble 16a bus terminus
March to Cromacastle Court Flats for rally
Speakers include former blanket men
Organised by McArdery Sinn Fein cumann

H-BLOCK MEETING
7.30 p.m. Tuesday 28th October
Community Centre
TURF LODGE
Belfast
Organised by
Turf Lodge Action Committee

H-BLOCK MEETING
8 p.m. Wednesday 29th October
Conradh na Gaeilge
Harcourt Street
DUBLIN
Organised by
Central Dublin
H-Block / Armagh Action Group

SINN FEIN
COMHAIRLE ATH CLIAHT
Next meeting
8 p.m. Wednesday 29th October
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN

H-BLOCK MEETING
To plan campaign within trade unions
Thursday 30th October
Liberty Hall
DUBLIN
Organised by
Dublin H-Block Trade Union Group

H-BLOCK MARCH
7.30 p.m. Thursday 30th October
LURGAN
Assemble Levine Road
March to Francis Street
Organised by Lurgan Sinn Fein

OCTOBER MEMORIES



By Eamonn Mac Thomais

DAVY MCCONNELL

Tribute to Davy McConnell

THE Republican Movement in Belfast lost a staunch member in the early hours of last Saturday morning, October 18th, when seventy-six-year-old Davy McConnell, from Short Strand, died after a prolonged illness. In recent times, despite being seriously ill, he always managed to attend marches in support of the prisoners on protest for political status.

Davy McConnell gave a life-time of service to the republican cause as an IRA organiser in the thirties, the fifties, and during the present war. In fact his republican activities spanned almost two generations.

He played an important role in re-organising the IRA in the Short Strand area especially during the loyalist pogroms of 1969. From then until 1975, when ill-health forced him to slow down, he used his wealth of experience to encourage the young people of the Short Strand to join the IRA and fight for their country. His house in Clyde Street was open twenty-four hours a day for republicans and it was a familiar place for them to conspire together to strike a blow for freedom.

Davy McConnell was highly respected by local republicans until his death and his advice on how to handle problems was sought frequently. He had a deep political awareness of the nature of the struggle and he laid great stress on political education as a pre-requisite for building a movement competent to secure national freedom.

Many of his old and young comrades turned out to pay their last respects to Davy McConnell on Tuesday when his tri-colour draped coffin was buried in Milltown cemetery. At the graveside Liam Whiggins of the National Graves Association recited a decade of the rosary. Liam Mulholland, a veteran republican and life-long friend of Davy delivered the oration.

Sympathy

LITTLE. The Short Strand prisoners in H-Blocks 3, 4 and 5, in the Long Kesh, and in Armagh jail, deeply regret the death of our comrade Noel who worked so hard on our behalf.

LITTLE. Sincere regrets and sorrow at the death of my dear friend and comrade Noel Little. You will be sadly missed by Elish Carlisle and family and by Frankie Little. The Short Strand RAC deeply regret the death of our friend and comrade Noel Little. The destruction of the H-Blocks and Armagh jail will be your memorial. Venceremos!

LITTLE, BUNTING. The committee and members of Lúthín Sinn Féin deeply regret the deaths of comrades Noel Little and Ronnie Bunting, murdered on October 15th. We express our deepest sympathy to their families, friends and comrades. Ar dheis De go raib a n-anamacha.

LITTLE, BUNTING. The Connolly-Keegan Sinn Féin cumann Hemel Hempstead, St. Albans, England, tender deepest sympathy to the families and friends of comrades Noel Little and Ronnie Bunting, murdered on October 15th. "They can murder the revolutionaries but never the revolution."

GREENE. Deepest sympathy to Mrs. Greene and family, the death of Joseph Greene, from the Dublin Committee of An Cumann Cabrach.

LITTLE, BUNTING. Deepest sympathy to Suzanne and family and to the friends and comrades of Noel and Ronnie. I am with you full of sorrow, rage and love. From Eivis van der Meer, Holland.

MCCONNELL. Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Davy McConnell, life long republican who died last weekend. From Mick and Theresa.

MCCONNELL. The Republican prisoners of war from Short Strand would like to extend their most sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Davy McConnell who died recently.

REILLY. Deepest sympathy to the family and relatives of the late Jimmy Reilly, and also to the members of the McAdorey Sinn Féin cumann, Luton, from the Macdonald family, Dardale.

MY FRIEND Fr. Livinus OFM Cap., the Church Street Capuchin republican priest, lay dying on his hospital bed in the Bon Secours, Glasnevin. All his strength was gone. His voice was so weak that at times I had to place my ear to his lips.

"Tell them", he said, "that if they will allow it, I want a Provo funeral."

I sat at the side of the bed reading passages from Canon Sheehan's book *The Sadness of Autumn*. The last piece I read was *The Timekeepers of the Flowers*. I then left as Fr. Livinus was going into a light sleep. The next day I planned to visit him again.

supreme sacrifice for their country, his life was truly for God and Ireland.

He loved Belfast, and was one of

the first to go to St. Teresa's when the Belfast people needed help, and then to the Bogside and Free Derry's walls and Crossmaglen. He visited every jail wherever there was a republican prisoner. The comforts and blessings, that he poured forth, can never be described in words.

He was another Fr. Albert, another Fr. Dominic.

When James Connolly was a prisoner in Dublin Castle after the 1916 rising, the British asked him if

he wanted a priest.

"Yes", said Connolly, "send me a Capuchin."

It was the Capuchins who walked with Nurse O'Farrell through the bullet-swept streets of Dublin when she carried her white flag of surrender. It was the Capuchins who stood beside the leaders in the execution yard of Kilmainham jail.

EXILE

It was Albert and Dominic who stood with the republican forces in the Four Courts in 1922. Both died in exile: Fr. Albert in Santa Barbara California 1925, and Fr. Dominic in Oregon in 1935.

On his deathbed Fr. Albert renewed his allegiance to the Irish Republic. His last words were: "Bury me in Glasnevin with Rory and the boys."

Fr. Dominic's dying request was the same.

In defiance of their wishes they were buried in exile. In 1958 their remains were repatriated and re-interred in the Capuchin cemetery at Rochestown, Cork. For love of Ireland they were driven into exile and were refused their final wish of burial places.

Whenever I walk down Church Street on a wet day I can almost see Albert, Dominic, Livinus, Columbus, Augustine, Sebastian and Aloysius coming along with their beards; brown habits, sandal shoes and black umbrellas.

FACES

October memories bring to mind many names and many faces: Noel Jenkinson, Sean O'Connell, Dorothy Maguire, Maura Meehan, Terry McDermott, Martin Forsythe, Peter Blake, Tom McGoldrick, Pat Maguire, John Donaghy, Joseph McKinney, Daniel McAreavey, Frank Fitzsimmons, Joey Surgenor,

JOEY SURGENOR

Paul Marlowe, Martin McKenna and Michael Hughes.

I remember well the day I introduced Maire Drumm and Seamus McCusker to Fr. Livinus. Maire, my life-long friend, and Seamus — gentle, kind Seamus, shot down on a mission of mercy.

Maire Drumm never counted the cost, never looked for reward. Ireland and the prisoners were her only concern.

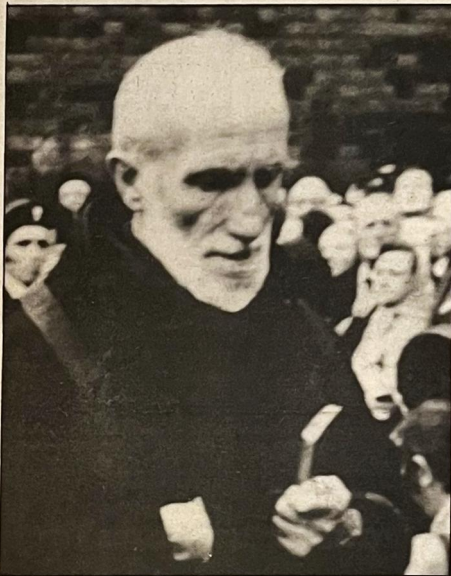
Maire from Armagh adopted Belfast or was it Belfast that adopted Maire. She stood in the same tradition of all the great Belfast women.

SALUTE

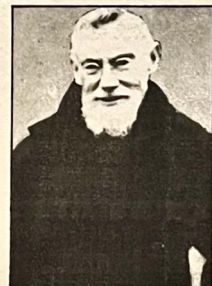
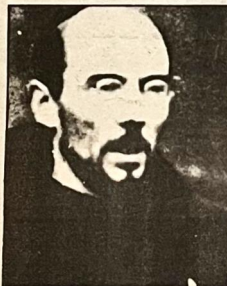
The forgotten names of those who did not die for Ireland. The forgotten names of those who suffered lifetimes of hardship, imprisonment, blacklists and houndings. Their names may never get into history's pages, yet without them Ireland's cause would never have survived.

So let us salute the names of Jordan, McGurk, the names of Youghal, Adams, O'Hara, Donnelly and Hallon.

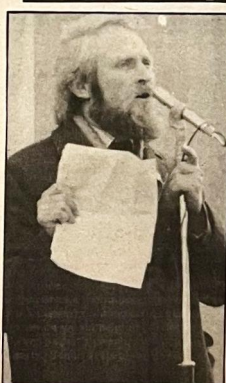
And the scores of others who kept the faith all over Ireland and across the seas.



REPUBLICAN CAPUCHINS: — above, Fr. Livinus, and below, Fr. Albert (left) and Fr. Aloysius



MAIRE DRUMM



SEAMUS MCCUSKER

HOSPITAL

When that day came I found myself caught up in *An Phoblacht's* offices with more work than I had expected. There was only one thing to do: work late, and leave the hospital visit until the following day.

On the way to the hospital by bus the heavens suddenly opened and down came the rain. With no coat or hat I knew I'd be drenched if I got off the bus to visit the hospital. So I decided to postpone the visit again. As the bus reached the hospital gate the rain came down harder.

But then, like a light, I jumped up, ran down the stairs, and managed to jump off before the doors closed.

I stood in the rain for a moment to ask myself why I did that. Then I made my way quickly to the hospital gate and up the drive-way to the hall door.

The hall porter looked at me as I brought a small river of rain into the hospital. I thought he was going to throw me out, so I ran quickly up the stairs and pushed on the door of Fr. Livinus's room.

PREPARING

A priest and a nun were preparing Fr. Livinus for the Last Rites. The priest looked up and saw me and the rain water dripping to the floor.

He waved his hands — 'get out, get out'.

Just as I was about to withdraw Fr. Livinus looked at me and waved his hand — 'come in, come in'.

As I went down on my knees, I noticed Fr. Livinus staring at me. His eyes never left my face. When the ceremony was ended the priest and nun left the room. I noticed that Fr. Livinus had some of his strength back and his voice was louder.

"Tell me", he said, "did the hospital send for you, or did you come in on spec?"

I told him about the rain and how something lifted me off the bus. "Well that's very strange," he said. "When I saw the priest and nun and holy oils, I said to myself 'Livinus, this is it'. Then I said to myself 'If God were to grant me one request it would be to send me Eamonn Mac Thomais', and with that you walked into the room."

That evening I was delayed in the *An Phoblacht* office until after midnight. The following morning I was arrested by the Special Branch as I sat at the editor's desk. I never saw Fr. Livinus again. He died while I was on remand in Portlaoise Jail.

HELP

Livinus was one of the finest men and priests that I have ever known. To the men and women in jail, to the mothers and fathers of the men and women who made the

LEIRIMHEAS AR 'ROSC'

LE TÓMAS O SE

FOILSIÓDHA eagrán Meán Fomhair / Deireadh Fomhair de Rosc le déanaí. Tá mórchuid eolais ann, go háirithe ón Rannóg Chearta de Chonradh na Gaeilge. Tá an iris dteangeach agus tá altanna idir Béarla agus Gaeilge ann.

RTE's Empty Promises is teideal don phríomáil ar leathnach na haon. Míltear seasmh Chonradh na Gaeilge ar an geist agus tá staitisticí maidir leis an méid cláracha Gaeilge a bhíonn ar RTE tugtha. "Irish speakers are being denied their rights by RTE as is also that wide section of the community who showed in surveys carried out in recent years that they would like to watch good Irish-language programmes on a more regular basis."

BLOC H

Tá scéal eile faoin teideal "Stadas Polaitiúil Anois!" ar an gcéad leathnach ag tagairt d'úafas na mBlocanna H. Tá gairt ar scéal don Comhdháil Speisialta a bhí i mBaile Átha Cliath le déanaí ag Coiste Náisiúnta Bloc H. Tá tagairt ar leis ar sheasamh an Chonartha ar na Blocanna agus molar do na crabhachá comhoibriú leis na coistí gníomhaíochta logánta den Choiste Náisiúnta Bloc H.

Tá polasáir na mbealladéireachta agus an cur ó dhóras i bhfeidhm ar an Roinn Oideachais chun bacanná a chur i mbéalach na mbunscóil-eanna lán Ghaelach. Léirithear ceithre chás ina bhfuil na húdaráis ag cur moill ar fhorbairt na scoil-eanna. Is iad sin 'Scoil an tSeachtar

Loach, Baile Munná; Gaiscoil Íse Chóir; Scoil Mhic Easmainn, Trá Lí; Scoil Dhún Chaoin.

SAMPLAÍ

Ta mórchuid eolais san eagrán seo mar gheall ar obair Rannóg Chearta an Chonartha. Tugtar samplaí de fógraí a bhí i gcló sna nuachtáin ag Gaeltarra Éireann agus Údaráis na Gaeltachta. Mar shampla.

"Co. Kerry. - Ballyferrier Údaráis na Gaeltachta are applying to Kerry County Council for permission to construct an effluent holding tank and sea outfall to Ferriert's Cove." (Irish Times, 28.5.80)

"Clerk of Works: A competent knowledge of spoken Irish would be an advantage." (Irish Times, 28.9.79)

G.P.E. Teo. - A member of the Gaeltarra Group ... G.P.E. Teo. head office and manufacturing plant is located in Annagry, North West ... Donegal." (Irish Times, 25.1.80)

"Factory Manager - Connemara: It is desirable that applicants have a knowledge of spoken Irish or that they be prepared to avail of the facilities to acquire the knowledge." (Irish Times, 4.7.80)

Tá cur síos freisin ar an Letter-



kenny Names' Row agus tá breis eolais san alt a léiríonn an droch-éide a tugtar do lucht labhartha na Gaeilge ar an North Western Health Board. Tá alt eile ag plé leis an mí-úsáid ó thaobh na Gaeilge do agus na Bancanna.

Tá ceachtanna do lucht foghlaim na Gaeilge ann iris seo leis. Tá cur síos ar an athrú polasáir a d'eaghadh i 1948 maidir leis an Ghaeilge san Rialtas na Seacht Fíchead. Tá altanna speisialla le Cristina Cona mar gheall ar chúrsaí eagraíochta.

Ta an t-eagrán seo fíor spéisúil, 20p a luach. 'Siad Conradh na Gaeilge a d'fhoilsigh agus molaim do ghach duine é a cheannach.

IN MEMORIAM

BLAKE, Peter; McCOLLICK, Tom. (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peter Blake and Tom McCollick, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na h-Éireann, who died as the result of a car accident while on active service on October 27th 1970. Fuair siad bás ag obair ar son saibhreas na h-Éireann. Remembered always by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

DRUMM, Mairé. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Máire Drumm Sinn Féin Vice-President, who was brutally murdered by agents of British Imperialism on October 23rd 1976. B'á saol ag obair ar son saibhreas na h-Éireann. Always remembered by her comrades and friends in the Republican Movement.

DRUMM, Mairé. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Máire, murdered by Pro-British elements on October 28th 1976. Dúis go bás. From Jimmy and family.

DRUMM, Mairé. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my very good friend Máire Drumm who was brutally murdered in the Mater Hospital on October 28th 1976. "The only people worthy of freedom are those who are prepared to go out and fight for it every day and die if necessary." Remembered always by Liam.

FORSYTHE, Martin. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Martin Forsythe Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na h-Éireann, who was shot dead by the RUC on October 24th 1971 while on active service. I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh a anam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

FORSYTHE, Martin. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Martin Forsythe, Belfast Brigade Óglagh na h-Éireann, who was killed in action on October 24th 1971. Remembered always by the Martin Forsythe Sinn Féin Cumann, Dublin and Turf Lodge, Belfast.

MAGUIRE, Dorothy; MEEHAN, Maura. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols. Dorothy Maguire and Maura Meehan, Belfast Brigade, Cumann na mBan, who were killed while on active service on October 23rd 1971. Chail siad a saol ag obair ar son saibhreas. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

MAGUIRE, Dorothy; MEEHAN, Maura. (9th Anniversary). In loving memory of Dorothy and Maura shot dead by Royal Green Jackets on October 23rd 1971. "October comes with sad regret, it brings back a day I will never forget. Some may forget you now you are gone, but we will remember you no matter how long" Mary Queen of the Gael pray for them. Fondly remembered by their sister-in-law Ann Maguire and family.

MAGUIRE, Dorothy; MEEHAN, Maura. (9th Anniversary). In fond memory of Dorothy and Maura who were killed on October 23rd 1971. "The time here gone we spent together but previous memories last forever." Remembered fondly by Marie Gaughan and husband Brendan, our love of course pray for them.

MCKEER, Seamus. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Seamus McKee, who was shot dead by renegade Irishmen on October 31st 1975. Chail sé a saol ag obair ar son na Poblachta. Remembered always by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Martin McKenna, who died on October 23rd 1979. I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh a anam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Martin McKenna, who died on October 31st 1979. "You have not been forgotten, God knows you never will." Remembered always by Peter and Geraldine.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Martin McKenna who died on October 31st 1979. Gaeilimid duit. a Mháirtín, nach méidíocháin ann go saoirse agus go mbanaimid an Phoblacht. Always remembered by his friends. Eileen, Tommy and children Stephanie, Rory, Tracy and baby Bronagh Sínead.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). The officer board and members of Clonard Martyrs Sinn Féin cumann remember with pride Vol. Martin McKenna, Óglagh na h-Éireann, who died on October 23rd 1979. I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh a anam.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Martin who was killed on October 23rd 1979. RIP. "It is so good in life to be forgotten in death." Always remembered by the officer board and members of the Emmett-Lippett Sinn Féin cumann, St. James.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear friend Martin who was killed on October 23rd 1979. RIP. Never forgotten by Sheila.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). The Tom Williams - Thomas Harte Sinn Féin cumann, Lurgan, remember with pride their good friend and comrade Martin McKenna who died (as a result of a car crash) on October 23rd 1979. "Lay him away on the hillside along with the brave and the bold. Inscribe his name on the roll of fame in letters of purest gold."

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our good friend Vol. Martin McKenna who was killed in a car crash on October 23rd 1979. "We will not take any steps backwards, our steps will be onward. For if we don't the ghosts of the martyrs who died for you, for me, for this country, will haunt us for eternity." Remembered always by Peter, Mary and Liam.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). The staff of the H-Block Information Office proudly remember their friend and comrade Martin McKenna. Mary Queen of Ireland, pray for them.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Martin McKenna whose untimely death on October 23rd 1979 has left us with a terrible loss. Always remembered by the staff of the H-Block, Dublin.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Martin, who was killed in a car accident October 23rd 1979. Still sadly missed by his family and friends.

MCKENNA, Martin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend and comrade Martin McKenna, who was killed tragically on October 23rd 1979. Always remembered by the staff of An Phoblacht/Republican News.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

DUGAN, Harry. (Parkhurst). Happy birthday Harry. We are behind you all the way. Love Joe and Martina. LENNON, Claran. (H-Block). Happy birthday to my brother, Claran, wishing you all the best and hoping to see you soon, from your sister Maureen, Brendan and kids. LENNON, Claran. (H-Block). Birthday greetings to my dear nephew Claran on your 23rd. God bless you. From aunt Kate. LENNON, Claran. (H-Block). Best wishes Claran on your birthday. "No-one can be prouder than I in you today." God bless you. From Gary O'Toole. LENNON, Claran. (H-Block). Many happy returns Claran on your 23rd birthday. We are behind you all the way. God bless. From aunt Peggy and uncle Gerald and family, Southport. MEEHAN, Gerald. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday Meeke. Though prison bars divide us and we are far apart, they have you in their keeping. I have you in my heart. Love Mary P.

THANKS

THE H-BLOCK APPEAL FUND would like to thank the RUC, for their generous donation of £25 in memory of the late Jim Reilly.

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN PRISONERS WELFARE COMMITTEE gratefully acknowledge a donation of £135 from the Crawford / Fox Sinn Féin cumann, Sligo.

THE JOE CLARKE CUMANN, SINN FEIN, HACKBALLSCROSS, wish to thank those who attended our recent ballad night in Fintan Callan's lounge. We would also like to thank Fintan Callan for the use of his premises and all those who assisted in any way, especially Phoenix who provided most of the entertainment.

DRAW RESULTS

FERGAL O'HANLON SINN FEIN CUMANN SOUTH LAVEY ANNUAL DRAW: 1st prize (Harp): Seamus Storrie, Moneyglass, Toome; 2nd prize (Picture): Veronica McCullough, Glady; Co. Derry; 3rd prize (Hand-bag): John Henry, Portlaoise; Co. Derry; 4th prize (Ladies purse): Patricia Collins, Bellaghy; Co. Derry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MAGUIRE. The husband and family of the late Annie Maguire of Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, wish to thank all those who sympathised with them in their recent sad bereavement; those who called at the house, sent mass cards and wreaths, and all who attended the funeral. A special word of thanks to Tommy's comrades in Cate 12, Long Kesh.

REILLY. Mrs. Edna Reilly and daughter Claire wish to acknowledge with thanks all those who sympathised with them in their recent sad bereavement; especially the Republican Movement in Belfast and Dublin; Browns funeral undertakers in Belfast; Nevilles funeral parlour in Luton, Bedfordshire; the staff at St. Mary's hospital, Dunstable Road, Luton; and all those in Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland and Australia who sent floral tributes, mass cards, and messages of sympathy on hearing of Jim's untimely death. Since it would be impossible to thank everyone personally, we hope that this acknowledgement will be accepted by all.

BUNTING-LITTLE MEMORIAL CEREMONY

IT WAS a sombre occasion last Saturday afternoon, October 18th, when about five hundred people marched up Belfast's Falls Road to Milltown cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony, behind three flags — the tri-colour, the Starry Plough, and the Red Flag — symbolising the politics of Ronnie Bunting and Noel Little, the two H-Block campaigners and IRSP members assassinated by loyalists (or SAS gunmen) the previous Wednesday.

The memorial march served a dual purpose — to honour both men and to protest at their slaying. In Milltown cemetery Liam O'Comain (IRSP), Maura McCrory and Eilish Carlisle (RAC), and Gerry Roche (IRSP) were the speakers. They traced the political lives of the men and impressed upon the mourners the need to continue their republican work.

The families of both men gave them private funerals despite their



The memorial march forming up last Saturday on the Falls Road

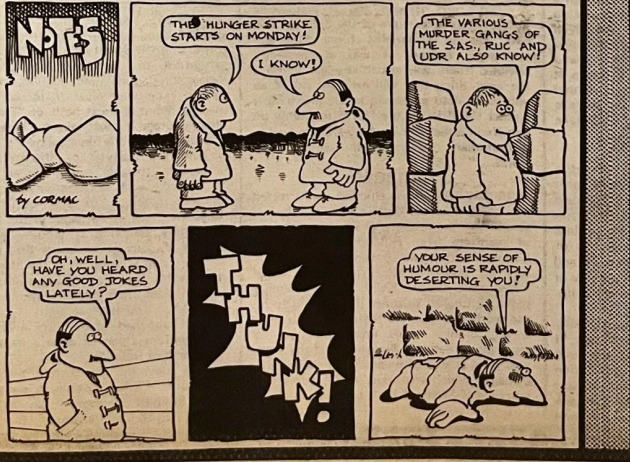
known wish, and that of their organisation, for them to have republican funerals.

Noel Little was buried on Thursday at Roselawn, in East Belfast and Ronnie Bunting was buried on Saturday at Donaghadee on the County Down coast.

On Friday, what might well have been a plan to lure Ronnie Bunting's comrades into a loyalist

ambush, misfired, when a telephone call asking them to collect the remains from the East Belfast funeral parlour, where they lay, was checked and was found to be false.

The funeral parlour happens to be situated opposite the UDA headquarters on Newtownards Road, where the UDA hung out a large Union Jack during Saturday's funeral.



Rose Dugdale

Her political motivation, involvement and jail experiences

ON Saturday 11th October, Rose Dugdale was released from Limerick Prison having spent almost six-and-a-half years there as a political prisoner. That someone from her background — a rich English family with no previous connections with Ireland — became involved in the Irish struggle, has certainly attracted major attention.

Since her release, she has been pursued relentlessly by press and television in their attempts to further sensationalise her story. She has shunned such approaches. Of them she says: "They try to glamorise it in a revolting way: titillation. They try to reduce a people's movement to aberrations of individuals, by star treatment."

And of the English press in particular: "It must be, to a tiny degree, slightly unsettling to English people to see that one of their own has become involved in this way and lead English people to question what the army is doing on the streets of Ireland. It must be disturbing, because the English cannot deal with it in any other terms, they cannot ignore it, so they do the opposite, they try to sensationalise it."

This week Rose Dugdale spoke exclusively to Kevin Burke of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* about her experiences in jail and the political motivation and involvement which led to her being there.

BY KEVIN BURKE

ROSE DUGDALE, who is now aged 39, traces the beginning of her real political awareness back sixteen years to 1964: "I got a job as an economist in the Ministry of Overseas Development in London, which was largely dealing with economic development of underdeveloped countries, and I saw that there was no way that their lot was going to be improved within the system."

"It became clear that it wasn't just that the developed countries were not going to help the underdeveloped countries. It became increasingly clear to me that the nature of capitalism itself was the cause of the underdevelopment."

This awareness prompted her to begin some reading on alternative directions. By 1968 she was at London University as a lecturer and was strongly affected by the student movement in France that year.

This led to a three week visit to Cuba the following year. That visit made a significant impression on her: "It showed me concretely that a revolution was possible. Despite the fact that it was one of the poorest countries in the world, people were fed and they were housed. There was no racism. It was very clear that racism was not a part of the system. I felt an amazing involvement of the people in building their own country."

LONDON

Back in London, Rose Dugdale continued as a lecturer in economics, trying to show her students what was wrong with the economics they were obliged to learn.

She never became a member of any formal political group, but her attempts to politicise the students led to a definite course of action: "I rented a shop in Tottenham and we tried to organise. We formed a claimants' union. Also, people would come to us who were literally out on the streets and we would squat them in houses, and most regularly we would go up mob-handed to hassle the local council and occupy their offices and get the squats accepted."

This militant group attracted support in the area although Rose is fairly philosophical about the success rate: "Some stayed, but why did they stick around? A lot of free drink, a moneyed young woman — but it



was not entirely negative."

At this time the civil rights campaign in the North began to capture her attention: "I remember being at a student meeting and someone came across from Belfast and told us about the march to Burntollet."

BELFAST

Her interest in what was going on in Ireland led her some months later to take the boat across to Belfast to see for herself. She tells with some amusement the reaction of two Belfastmen to her when she made her way to the Falls Road: "I was standing around on a corner. Two men came up and asked a few questions: what was I doing there? etc. They were extremely nice, they said: 'Probably the best thing for you is to take you down to the university, you'll be better there'. They carted me down to the university and dumped me there. So I then had to find my way back up to where I thought the trouble was ... I went up and watched the British army raiding a housing estate."

Bloody Sunday in Derry in January 1972 was a turning point: "By the time they had shot thirteen innocent people walking on a demonstration for civil rights, there was no question... I went across to Derry and stayed in a hotel. I gave the odd bit of money and tried to offer any kind of assistance that I could. I did whatever I could to make it clear that any use that I could be, I wanted to be, and would like, if possible, to take part in whatever armed struggle I could take part in."

ROBBERY

After some time in Derry, Rose Dugdale returned to London and was once again involved in the Tottenham scheme. To gain further finance for this political action, in 1973, she organised the robbery of paintings from her parents' home. However one of those involved was a police informer and Rose was put on trial. Very much because of her background she merely received a suspended sentence.

The principle of the robbery is totally consistent with the line of her politics: "I am not one who believes that the only people who can play a part in the revolution or in armed struggle are the working class. I definitely recognise that there are very serious limitations if you come from the kind

of background I come from, because what brings you into politics is something quite different. It tends to be very intellectual — the fact that you are not struggling because you have not got a job or whatever."

After the court case Rose began selling 'Republican News' in London and increased her association with republicans.

REPUBLICAN

Shortly after Christmas 1973 she came across to Ireland and her involvement developed further. Two months after she left England, British police issued a warrant for her arrest on arms and explosives charges.

But how did her politics match up with those of the Republican Movement at the time? "I think that I did not see as much need as I do now for the fact that it should become more politically conscious. To me, it seemed inevitable that the movement would become more radical as the struggle went on. So long as the struggle went on, there was no way that the struggle could be won until it became more radical politically. As long as there is no more truce, no more co-operation with the Brits — believing that we can somehow reason them out ..."

"There was Ireland and it was quite obvious that it was one of the colonies and here was an imperialist force that was oppressing Ireland, it was all perfectly obvious. There was armed struggle which is the only thing that will ever get rid of an oppressor. Also it seemed to me that a blow against the Brits in the North is a blow on behalf of all the people who were involved in revolutionary movements around the world..."

CHARGED

In May 1974, Rose Dugdale was arrested and charged in the Dublin Special Criminal Court with the robbery of £8 million worth of paintings from Russborough House in County Wicklow, which were held for the return to Ireland of the Price sisters, Hugh Faneely and Gerard Kelly, then on hunger strike in English prisons. (It was said to be the world's largest art theft.) She was sentenced to nine years imprisonment — a sentence repeated in November of the same year on a charge of hijacking a helicopter in Donegal, which was used in the attempted bombing of Strabane RUC barracks.

On her arrest in May, Rose Dugdale went

on hunger strike in solidarity with the Prices, Feeney and Kelly, ending her protest when they did in June. Rose was the first woman political prisoner of the current campaign to be imprisoned in Limerick, she was later joined by Rita O'Hare, Angela Duffin, Marion Coyle and Marie Murray (the latter two are still there). Conditions in the prison for these prisoners amount to de facto political status — comparing equally with Portlaoise.

JAIL

On two major occasions during her six-and-a-half year term this status had to be defended. In April 1975 Rose Dugdale embarked on a hunger strike principally concerned with visiting conditions, restrictions on mail and the ability to receive republican newspapers. This was successful in achieving the removal of screens from the visiting area, and some improvements over letters etc.

The other attempt to test the resolve of the prisoners was in November of the same year when gardai were introduced onto the wing to supplement the warders who constantly followed the political prisoners whenever they moved outside their cells. The women after delivering a warning, attacked the gardai with boiling water and although they were eventually overwhelmed — during which they received injuries — the gardai, while remaining at the jail, never resumed a presence in the cell area.

The physical conditions in the cold, dripping wet, grim prison are abominable however. Rose says that the ordinary women prisoners, of whom there are on average about nine at any one time, fare worst of all. Although they share, to a lesser degree, the conditions established by the political prisoners, they are actively discouraged by the prison regime from taking advantage of them.

They are not allowed to remain in their cells during the day and attempts to take advantage of supposedly unrestricted use of the exercise yard are often made difficult for them: "They were mostly young girls from terribly deprived backgrounds. Conditions for them were desperate, they were locked out of their cells all day and absolutely nothing was provided for them."

Reading, for example, was out of the question as 80% of them were illiterate: "There was no way we could even teach them to read and write. We made several efforts. They were persistently harassed by the screws if they were seen to be associating with us. I've seen young girls degenerate, what they call cracking up, and they do crack up. I've seen a perfectly normal girl, after doing a couple of very short sentences, taken away, and they had to hold her hands down because she was scratching her eyes out. It just destroys them."

RELEASED

Released from prison, Rose Dugdale's commitment to the Irish struggle is unrelenting, and she has immediately become involved in the H-Block and Armagh campaign. Two days after her release she began taking part in a regular evening picket on O'Connell Street bridge in Dublin calling attention to the conditions of Armagh prisoner Pauline McLaughlin. Her own prison experience gives an increased awareness of what it must be like: "The tremendous courage it must take for those women, especially someone like Pauline McLaughlin."

And the analysis of the overall anti-imperialist struggle, begun sixteen years ago as an economist working on overseas development remains: "In terms of the courage to survive, say in Armagh or the H-Blocks, personally speaking it would be a great source of courage to know that when the soldier's dog is jumping at the black person in Soweto, that I'm hitting at that soldier in being identified with a movement such as the IRA. You have to fight it where you are. I happened to be born in Britain and am therefore a part of what is happening in the North of Ireland."

She sums up her current feelings in a few words: "Life is not worth living without some kind of involvement in the struggle against British imperialism."