

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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NO CAPITULATION TO LOYALISTS! FATAL ERROR

THE Irish establishment's attitude to loyalism is one of complete capitulation, and is a fatal error not only with respect to achieving a united Ireland, but to safeguarding the well-being of the beleaguered Northern nationalist people.

The Irish Republican Movement's attitude to the reactionary, pro-imperialist philosophy of loyalism which the Protestants of the North voluntarily espouse is one of unflinching opposition, with the armed struggle of the Irish Republican Army oriented to undermining the prop of loyalism — British rule and the will of the British to remain in the six counties.

The establishment's attitude, which has directly prolonged the suffering in Ireland, and which was recently seen to have been instrumental in encouraging British intransigence during the hunger-strike, should demonstrate to everyone the necessity of not only defeating British rule and loyalism but also of replacing the Irish establishment, not just at the end of the war, but during the war where the opportunities present themselves.

Last week saw the crusade against Irish unity launched by Free State premier Garret FitzGerald get underway in a blaze of publicity, senate debates, and newspaper commentaries.

FitzGerald's campaign to delete Articles 2 and 3 from de Valera's 1937 constitution, relating to the territorial claims over the six counties, is an attempt to weaken

the nationalist ideals of people in the twenty-six counties.

Whilst these territorial claims mean nothing to the nationalist people of the North, have never given any protection to the nationalist people, and do not even relate to the motivation or zeal of IRA Volunteers, there are, nevertheless, dangerous ramifications to their removal.

These are: a definitive consolidation of the Free State ethos and a further strengthening of loyalist intransigence, with the crusade being interpreted even at this early stage as the dividends of the 'No Surrender' stance.

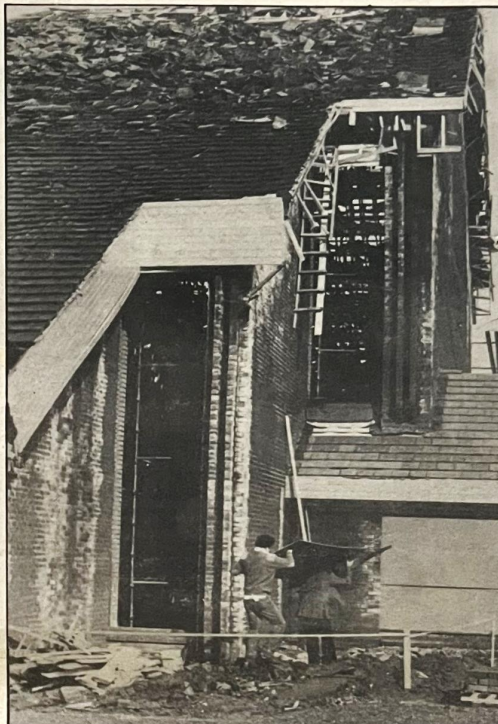
In parading before the people of the twenty-six counties with his arguments, FitzGerald has been confronted by a hypocritically outraged Fianna Fail.

Up to now, the mere existence

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● The funeral of anti-H-Block councillor Larry Kennedy took place in Ardoyne, north Belfast, on Monday, four days after he was shot dead by the UDA in the Shamrock club



● A newly-built Catholic chapel, the Church of Christ the King, in Limavady, north Derry, was the object of a loyalist bomb attack last Sunday night, which caused extensive structural damage to the building. Responsibility for the blast was subsequently claimed by 'Captain White' of the Ulster Freedom Fighters, a cover name for the sectarian UDA.

In a typically confused attempt to explain the motivation for the attack while simultaneously formally distancing themselves from it, the County Derry Brigade of the UDA issued a statement which said they could well understand the loyalists' frustration 'that led to the bombing. The statement pinpointed the Gaelic football pitch behind the Catholic chapel, and the playing of Gaelic games on a Sunday, as the reasons behind the attack



● Victims of loyalism: Winifred Ewing and her three sons — (from left) Brian, Bobby and David — whose husband and father, Bobby Ewing, was shot dead on Monday in their living room, by UDA gunmen whilst watching television news coverage of the funeral of Larry Kennedy, previously assassinated by the same gang

FATAL

(continued from previous page)

tence of Articles 2 and 3 saved their consciences on the national question whilst they continued with building a Free State and propping up the border.

Sinn Féin's opposition has been handicapped because Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act ensures that no republican is heard on RTE radio or television to refute FitzGerald's arguments. But central to the credibility of FitzGerald's campaign has been the attitude of the middle-class SDLP in the North.

FitzGerald has quoted, without contradiction (and shortly after he met John Hume and five other SDLP leaders), their support for his attempt to supposedly 'Spell out the economic, social and political implications of the claim to unity'.

The SDLP leadership's endorsement of his anti-Irish crusade is a damning indictment of their political capitulation, and evidence of their lack of nationalist commitment given that at their recent Carrigart conference they expressed fears about just such a campaign. Spinelessness, however, has been a trait of the SDLP for many years with their inability to resist being sucked into all British-proposed fudged 'internal settlements' being one of the main reasons why 'the troubles' have been prolonged.

HIERARCHY

These two political forces along with the Catholic hierarchy comprise the Irish establishment whose interests coincide in a stable, capitalist Ireland. Instead of trying to shift that which creates instability in Ireland — British imperialist rule — the Irish establishment attempts to accommodate it and in the process is viciously anti-republican, reactionary and hypocritical.

Several weeks ago, IRA attacks on out-of-uniform members of the RUC and UDR brought statements of condemnation from a cardinal and a bishop. In this past week or so, several Belfast Catholics have been shot by loyalists, two fatally, and a Catholic church in Limavady, north Derry, was destroyed in a bomb attack.

Amazingly, the relatives of the two assassinated men have publicly received no moral comfort from their church leaders, as if to have done so would upset the ecumenical apple-cart by telling things as they really are.

In the case of the bombed church, Catholic clerics again displayed a politically compromised attitude as if there were morally extenuating circumstances for loyalist violence (but not for republicans engaged in war)!

PAMPERED

The loyalist people of the six counties, molly-coddled here, there and everywhere, are sympathetically 'understood' to have a 'siege mentality' which is why they behave the way they do and which is why they have to have everything handed back to them.

A pampered child grows up to be a pampered adult, but the pampering is at the expense of the Irish people and it has to stop some time.

The prop behind loyalism is British imperialist rule whose power in the North is being broken by the sacrifices, blood, sweat and tears of nationalist people.

Loyalism analysed and understood as the shrinking foot-hold of British rule in Ireland can be defeated through a coherent political policy and firm action directed against the main enemy, the Brits, and with neither, on the issue of Irish sovereignty, can one compromise.

WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS...

IRA BOMB ATTACKS

ALTHOUGH the main IRA action of the last week was the bomb attack on soldiers outside Chelsea barracks in London, there were also bomb attacks in the North.

Targets in the commercial centres of Derry, Armagh and Strabane were struck, the latter two twice, whilst near Derry there was also an unsuccessful mortar bomb attack.

THREE CENTRES BOMBED

IRA bombs were planted in three commercial centres — Strabane, Derry and Armagh — on Friday afternoon, October 9th.

The most successful attack was in Strabane, where the Crown Buildings was the target.

The blast wrecked the hallway of the Crown Buildings — which houses various government department offices — in Barrack Street, and caused lesser damage to the rest of the building.

Two armed and hooded IRA Volunteers planted the bomb in the hallway before making good their escape in a commandeered car.

After the alert was raised the area was cleared twenty minutes before the bomb exploded just before 5 p.m.

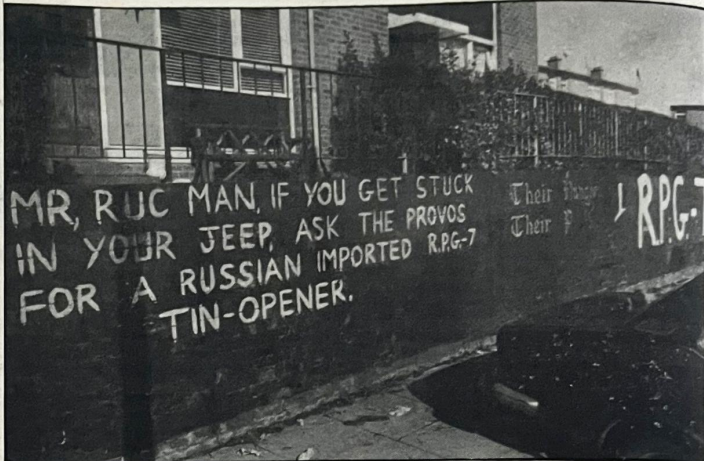
It was a daring attack: the target building is only seventy yards from the RUC barracks.

In Derry city, a van bomb exploded at a garage in Foyle Road, near the city end of the Craigavon Bridge. The garage was damaged, as was the former shirt factory of Tillie and Henderson (now used as a shopping arcade), overlooking Carlisle Square, and in Abercorn Road, where hundreds of windows were broken.

Telephone warnings were given prior to the explosion.

In Armagh city, serious damage was only narrowly avoided when just the detonator of a car bomb exploded.

Windows were broken in the Southern Health Board offices at Gosford Place in Mall West when



● A pertinent reminder to the occupants of marauding RUC landrovers in Lenadoon, west Belfast, of the devastating effectiveness of a piece of IRA weaponry used in the vicinity three weeks ago

the explosion occurred in a car placed there by the IRA.

The area had to be sealed off for two hours by British troops and RUC men whilst the bomb was defused. A warning telephone call had been made half-an-hour before the explosion.

MISFIRED MORTAR BOMBS

An IRA-mortar bomb attack on British troops on the Derry/Donagall border misfired last Sunday evening, October 11th.

The troops who had the narrow escape were in the permanently-manned British military checkpoint on Letterkenny Road, just outside Derry city on the Northern side of the border.

A commandeered lorry was fitted out with mortar bombs by IRA Volunteers and set in position two hundred yards to the South of the checkpoint. Simultaneously, civilian traffic was blocked from

approaching the checkpoint from its Northern side by a commandeered bus, containing a hoax bomb (a package of cement), placed across the junction of the Lomemoor Road and Letterkenny Road, blocking both.

Unfortunately the attack misfired and the lorry and mortar bombs were themselves blown up, with no missiles being launched.

TWO CENTRES BOMBED

Commercial premises in Strabane and Armagh were again the targets for IRA active service units on Tuesday night, October 13th.

A 50 lb. bomb exploded in the centre of Strabane causing extensive damage to Elliott's drapery store where the bomb had been planted by IRA Volunteers.

Blast damage was widespread and windows were broken in al-

most every building along Main Street.

The bomb went off a few minutes before 10 p.m. A forty-five minute warning had been given by the IRA and the area was cleared of civilians.

The street, one of the main traffic arteries, was sealed off until early Wednesday.

In Armagh city's main shopping centre only slight damage was caused when three grille bombs were planted at shops by an IRA active service unit.

The explosions occurred between 9.25 p.m. and 9.40 p.m. on Tuesday. The targets were Wilson's shoe shop, Wright's furnishing shop, and Johnston's shoe shop.

The area was cleared of civilians prior to the explosions, and as in the Strabane attack, there were no civilian injuries.

Volunteers returned safely to base after both operations.

A BRITISH army patrol who burgled, the Belfast headquarters of the UVF, threw away papers containing incriminatory information about the illegal organisation it was revealed in court on Thursday week, October 8th.

Eight members of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders admitted three break-ins and a theft between December 1975 and March 1976 when they appeared in a Belfast court. They were fined a total of £3,500 and two of them were sent to prison.

Five of the Brits were on patrol on the Shankill Road when they kicked down the door of the UVF headquarters — a restaurant — and lifted a safe containing £1,600 and papers belonging to the loyalist gang.

The patrol later approached another member of the regiment, Corporal David McCullough, of Abbeyview, Muckamore, who opened the safe for them with a drill in a sangar at Unity Flats, and the documents were thrown away, and the money stolen.

McCullough, who had since become a prison warder (1), was last week jailed for three years.

Brit burglars

One of the other soldier-burglars was jailed for a year. The other four were fined; three also receiving suspended prison sentences.

Two other members of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders regiment also appeared in court, and were fined and received suspended prison sentences for their involvement in various acts of theft.

In December 1975 two of the soldiers were on patrol in Belfast's North Street when they broke into a record shop and stole £350 worth of goods.

Four also stole electrical goods worth £200 from another North Street shop in January 1976.

McCullough also stole electric hair curlers from a shop in North Street when he was sent

to investigate a burglary.

Sentencing the soldiers, the judge told them: 'You have disgraced both yourselves and an historic regiment'.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is rapidly becoming not only one of the Brits' most historic regiments, but also most infamous.

This year, ten members (plus one former member) of the regiment have appeared in three separate court cases involving killing of civilians by them: the horrific Fermanagh 'pitchfork murders' of two Catholic farmers in October 1972; the cold-blooded Strabane checkpoint machine-gunning to death of a woman car passenger in April of last year; and the ritualistic and sadistic stabbing to death of a County Antrim youth in March of this year.

SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS

THE Sinn Féin ard fheis will be held in Dublin's Mansion House on Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November, starting Saturday at 9 a.m. with check-in of delegates.

All cumainn, comhairlí ceantair, and comhairlí cuile are requested

to ensure that the names of their delegates are sent to head office immediately. Creche facilities will be available.

Any enquiries, please contact 44 Parnell Square Dublin (tel. 726932).

IRA BLASTS BRITS IN LONDON

TWENTY-TWO British soldiers were injured in the daring IRA bomb attack outside Chelsea barracks in London, last Saturday, October 10th. Nine were injured seriously, including one critically.

Despite two regrettable civilian fatalities and seventeen other, mostly slight, civilian injuries, the attack was acclaimed by the republican people throughout the beleaguered nationalist ghettos and countryside in the occupied six counties, as part of the very necessary extension of the war outside of the North, particularly into the very heart of the imperialist monster: London.

And the massive publicity given by the media to this attack certainly confirmed the wisdom of this widespread sentiment.

It was last January when the IRA last attacked a target in Britain: Uxbridge RAF barracks in west London; then also claiming responsibility for bomb attacks the previous December in London on Hammersmith Territorial Barracks and the Bromley-by-Bow gasworks.

BOMB

Last Saturday's military casualties were inflicted on a bus load of the First Battalion of the Irish Guards regiment who were returning to their barracks from ceremonial duties at the Tower of London.

The bomb, of a devastating shrapnel-type, which was in a laundry van parked near the Chelsea barracks in Ebury Bridge Road in London, was detonated by remote control by an IRA Volunteer shortly after noon as the bus carrying twenty-three Irish Guards passed by.

Twenty-two of the troops were injured as the side of the bus was ripped out and wreckage strewn across the road. The van bomb had been precisely placed in position just over half-an-hour beforehand.

VAN

The whole operation was carefully planned and coolly executed.

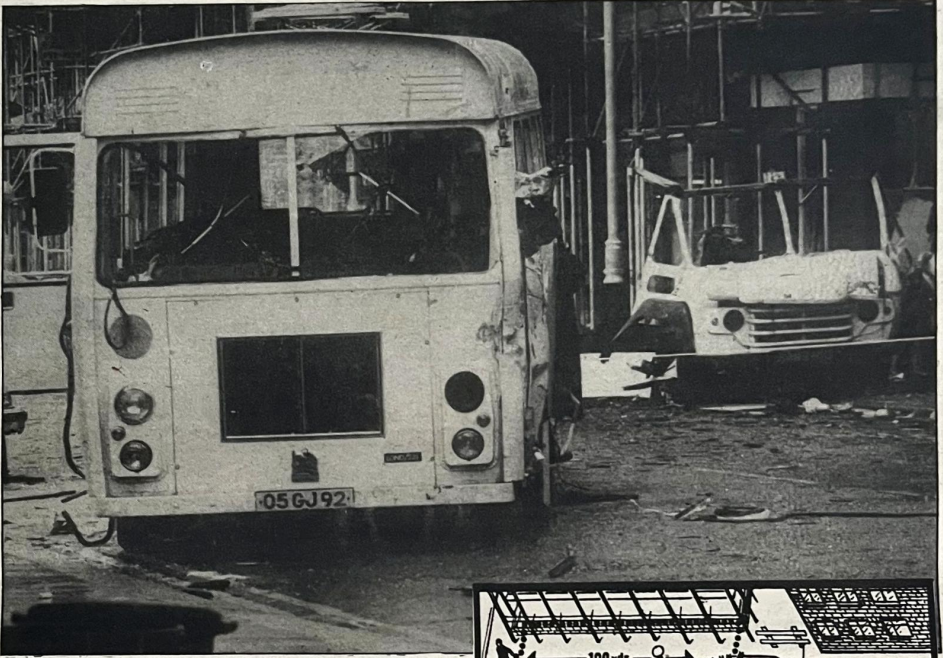
The van, which had been purchased in mid-September, was parked overnight from 10 p.m. Friday, by an IRA active service unit, near the ambush point.

At about 8.30 a.m. on Saturday morning, one Volunteer fed the parking meter at which the van was parked, whilst another — with breath-taking audacity — began to lay a command wire along one hundred yards of scaffolding on the nearby Ebury Bridge Road. Passers-by assumed that he was a workman.

The scaffolding runs the length of a block of empty flats, and the Volunteer laid the wire along a walkway on the scaffolding and then back to street level.

At 11.30 a.m. Volunteers pushed the van from the parking meter to the ambush point, a distance of about thirty yards. There it was adjacent to one end of the command wire, on a scaffolding pole, which was quickly connected up.

Traffic on that side of the road now had to pass through a re-



● British soldiers' bus blasted by the IRA in London in a coolly-executed and precisely-timed urban guerrilla ambush

latively narrow gap between the van and the bollard of a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road.

Between thirty and forty minutes later the Irish Guardsmen's coach drove down Ebury Bridge Road and duly slowed down to squeeze past the IRA's van.

A Volunteer, one hundred yards away, on the pavement, detonated the bomb, and the coach — blasted at point-blank range — slewed wildly across the road: it was never to reach its destination, the barracks entrance, one hundred yards away. The van containing the bomb disintegrated, leaving only its frame.

Despite Brit praise of their own security arrangements, the military coach operated on a regular schedule, always returning to the barracks at roughly the same time, along the same final approach route.

CLAIMED

The IRA claimed responsibility for the attack on the soldiers, in a statement which said:

"The attack is attributable to the state of war which exists between the British government who occupy Ireland, and the Irish people who strike out through the IRA."

"We await the hypocrisy which will undoubtedly follow from British political leaders whose attitude to Irish victims of their violence in our country only strengthens our conviction in our cause and methods."

The statement was issued on Saturday afternoon through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin and was signed by P. O'Neill.

There was not long to wait for the screams of hypocrisy from the British establishment — hurt by the penetration of London. A chorus of anti-Irish abuse was led by premier Margaret Thatcher, with typically racist remarks about 'sub-humans', and with London police chiefs recommending to the English public a revenge witch-hunt against Irish immigrants in London and the Home Counties.

REMOTE

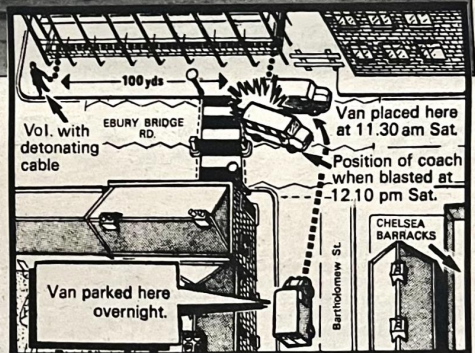
Large bombs in parked vehicles, detonated by remote control, have been used frequently with good effect by the IRA in the North, but never in Britain before last Saturday; and the precedent certainly opens up interesting possibilities about what may be in store for England in the future.

The timed-to-the-second precision of the attack was such that only one of the twenty-three soldiers in the ambushed coach escaped injury, as their vehicle took the full brunt of the blast.

Many of the soldiers, it so happened, were Irish. The Chelsea barracks are shared between the First Battalion of the Irish Guards and the second Battalion of the Scots Guards.

IRISH

Although the Irish Guards have

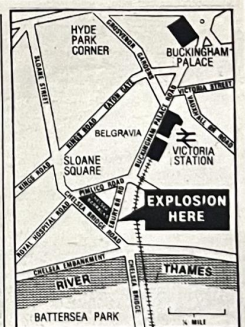


never been used as part of the occupation forces in the North in the last twelve years, the British army last year decided to use another Irish regiment, the Fifth Royal Inniskilling Guards, in the North.

Previously the army's five Irish regiments had not been used in Ireland because of the political sensitivity and possible repercussions of so doing, particularly in terms of the risk to the British army's own security given the high proportion of Irishmen in their ranks.

In the Inniskillings, this proportion is about one in three, but it is much higher in some of the other Irish regiments, about four out of five in the Irish Guards.

It should be noted, of course, that any section of the British military machine constitutes a legitimate target for the IRA, whether or not that section has played, or is playing, a direct role in oppressing the Irish people,



and whether or not that section comprises Englishmen or Irishmen, or any other nationality in the mercenary service of the British crown.

FITZGERALD'S DIVERSIONARY CRUSADE ATTACKED BY HAUGHEY

Hypocrites conflict

BY KEVIN BURKE

AS a diversionary tactic, Free State premier Garret FitzGerald's 'constitutional crusade' has successfully kept a place on the front page of the newspapers, presumably keeping off some story of added economic gloom.

In every other way it has been a failure.

Fianna Fail has latched on to it with gratitude, correctly assessing that any attempt to abandon the national aspiration, as FitzGerald is suggesting, by altering Articles 2 and 3 of the Free State constitution, would be overwhelmingly defeated if put to a referendum.

Fianna Fail was suffering some embarrassment at having to defend the Free State economy from constant assaults by its government (an unusual position for an opposition party) and is obviously much more at home verbalising about republicanism — its normal opposition stance.

BATTLE

Last Sunday, in Ennis, at the unveiling of a statue of Eamon de Valera, opposition leader Charles Haughey and the De Valera family firmly drew the battle lines taunting

FitzGerald as a 'Free Stater' with a 'colonial mentality'.

The following day, Fianna Fail announced that it would be moving the writ for the Cavan/Monaghan by-election at the first opportunity — confident now of victory.

The previous Thursday and Friday, FitzGerald's view of the constitution was the subject of debate in the Leinster House senate. Fine Gael senate leader Gemma Hussey, who, earlier in the week on RTE, had described the 'Northern majority' as 'the only persecuted minority on this island',

led the attempt at portraying the dropping of the claim to unity as a step towards unity. It was a difficult task and Fianna Fail had no problem picking her off.

DEFEAT

It is, of course, the hypocrisy of Fine Gael's position which allows the hypocrisy of Fianna Fail to defeat it. Undoubtedly there is much in the Southern constitution which is socially and economically unjust and there is undue clerical interference in much of political life.

But this has nothing to do with the claim to the North and abandoning the one is not going to correct the other. It is a totally illogical equation.

But FitzGerald has yet to come face to face with his ineptitude, both in this and related matters. He will no doubt do so when he meets the British premier Margaret Thatcher later this month.

GUTS

His backing down on the H-Block hunger-strike clearly showed that he lacks the guts to back his words with actions when publicly humiliated by Britain.

In the current 'crusade' he is declaring that the faults of the Southern state are of such magnitude and have such a sectarian effect that it is not surprising that Northern loyalists shun unity.



● The blatant hypocrisy of Fine Gael on the national question leaves them as easy prey for the sham republicanism of Haughey and Fianna Fail

In addition, he is trumpeting far and wide that he is running a bankrupt economy.

It is not difficult to see what Thatcher can do with that combination; and so, at a time when Britain should be under the maximum pressure with its policy in

the North in shreds, and seen to be so internationally, FitzGerald has succeeded in drawing off much of the fire.

After all, what pressure can the leader of a timid, bankrupt, sectarian statelet bring to bear in negotiations with British might?

PAY DEAL TALKS CONTINUE

Descent into farce

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

AFTER a big build up, the announcement of a 'pay norm' to govern wage increases in the twenty-six counties for the next year, descended into farce.

The 'three wise men' — the economists on the government's committee — were forced to hold a press conference at which they announced that the 9.5% pay increase suggested in their published report should now read 6.5% because of exchange rate changes since printing.

With a 'pay norm' which can therefore vary each day because of exchange rate fluctuations, the employers were not in the strong position they expected to be on Monday of this week as they continued centralised pay deal talks with the trade unions. The issue of a pay limit was therefore avoided on Monday and the talks adjourned for a week.

However, the employers are still insisting that a pay freeze is necessary, followed by an increase somewhere near the suggested 6.5%, with no allowance made for any special pay increases above the basic terms on grounds such as relativity.

With inflation for the year certain to be over 20%, it would seem impossible for trade union leaders to secure any kind of a deal acceptable to their members, who have, over the decade of centralised pay dealing, seen real wages eroded alarmingly.

BREAKDOWNS

In previous years, however,

there have been dramatic breakdowns in the talks followed by talks re-opening and finally a percentage increase, way below inflation rates, presented successfully to the membership as the best possible deal.

Whether this subterfuge and charade will work (there is no doubt that it will be tried) is an unknown quantity, but there is the prospect this year, as never before, of the pay deal talks eventually breaking down completely and two or three of the strongest unions leading the way in the battle with the employers for compensatory wage increases.

It is not a battle which the employers' side would currently shirk as they are anxious to take on the unions at a time when unemployment and the tales of economic woe are at their highest. Last year's pay deal, it is acknowledged, was forced on the employers, not the trade unions, by the then premier, Charles Haughey, then shaping up for an early election.

There is little indication that the Coalition government will have a major governmental non-pay input into any pay deal, and the government as employers are known to consider even the 6.5% pay limit as far too high for the public sector. They would not be reluctant to take on the public service unions rather than allow a negotiated centralised pay deal bring across-the-board increases.

FITZGERALD

On Wednesday week, Coalition premier Garret FitzGerald returned to the theme of wage costs as the main contributor to both inflation and unemployment and he was backed up by former governor of the Central Bank, T.K. Whitaker — the man that both Fianna Fail and Fine Gael appoint to the senate.

FitzGerald is promising major cutbacks in public spending, partly in order to fund the electoral promise of transfer of taxation from direct to indirect taxes.

Price increases forced by this regressive policy will not only result in renewed wage demands, but severely strain the Coalition itself, with the Labour Party already suffering strong internal attacks on the credibility of what was termed as the anti-inflation policy in the Coalition pact.

Whilst FitzGerald favours holding down public service pay to defray some of the cost of the income tax concessions, Whitaker would also argue against the tax concessions themselves. In this he was backed up last week by a report from Dublin stockbrokers, Maguire, McCann, Morrison and Co., which also insisted that direct taxation concessions as promised were not on.

The International Monetary Fund has, in the last fortnight,



● Guinness' St. James Gate brewery in Dublin, last Tuesday, where only the second strike in the history of Guinness has begun, over the breaking of a standing agreement on promotion.

Strikes could become an even more regular feature of the twenty-six county industrial scene if a centralised pay deal unacceptable to the trade union rank-and-file is struck again this year between the employers and the union leadership.

argued the same way and it is ironic that Labour Party leader Michael O'Leary has found himself in the same camp, demanding that the tax concessions be limited and then being publicly slapped down by FitzGerald.

OBSESSION

A deliberate obsession with wages and income tax has therefore been built up in the propaganda war which would have workers bear the cost of the recession. It was a welcome breach of this smoke-screen to see a strong article on banks' tax evasion carried in this month's edition of the ITGWU journal *Liberty*.

Research official, and tax specialist, Paul Sweeney, claims in the article that by taking advantage of tax legislation loopholes, the banks may be paying no tax

at all or may be receiving more in government grants than they are paying in tax.

Sweeney points out that in 1980 £17 million out of a total of £110 million paid out by the Industrial Development Authority to encourage firms to be competitive went directly to the banks to clear outstanding loans.

Bank profits are only one counter-weight to the current propaganda war against workers' living standards. There are several more including the lack of wealth or realistic capital taxation, the discrepancy between the contribution of PAYE taxpayers and the self-employed, the amount of 'defence' spending and even the level of ministerial perks.

There is no reason to take it all lying down.

BURNING ISSUE OF WORK REMAINS

Blanket men don their own clothes

BY PETER ARNLIS

AN ATTEMPT by the British administration at Stormont to use the twenty-eight day moratorium announced by direct-ruler Jim Prior, in his statement after the ending of the H-Block hunger-strike, to just slowly phase-in prisoners receiving and wearing their own clothes has been successfully challenged.

The Brits attempted to set the pace by stating that prisoners could only receive their own clothes after they had a visit and this would have led to a ridiculous situation where one prisoner in a cell could have been on the blanket until his visit in mid-November and his cell-mate could be receiving exercise and association now because he had a visit during the week.

The prisoners inserted a statement in last Saturday's *'Irish News'* calling upon their relatives to send in their clothes, regardless of whether or not they had visits, beginning last Monday, October 12th.

The immediate reaction from Stormont castle was to issue a statement emphasising the sequence in which clothes were to be delivered to the prison and to place an advertisement in Monday's *'Irish News'* to this effect. But when it came to the crunch the Long Kesh prison administration were directed to accept the clothing and deliver it to the prisoners. The alternative was that the British would have been seen to have been stubborn and awkward.

CLOTHES

So, by the time prisons' minister Lord Gowrie visited the jail on Wednesday many of the four hundred blanket men were off the blanket and wearing their own clothes.

Those republican prisoners, where they amounted to substantial numbers, immediately began claiming association and recreation and meals in the canteen served by republican nominated 'orderlies'.

By last Wednesday, prisoners with their own clothes had received only a paltry hour's association (seven or eight mixing together), one hour's daily exercise (that is, twenty men in the morning and twenty in the afternoon), and were going to the canteen for their meals. An attempt by a senior prison officer to introduce ordinary orderlies in H3 on Tuesday was resisted by the men and they won the rather fragile and perhaps temporary right to nominate their own men for these duties.

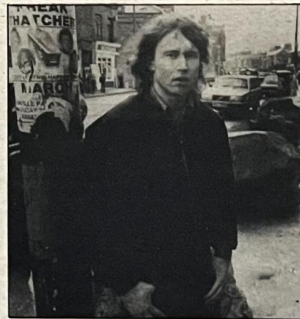
GOWRIE

On Wednesday, Lord Gowrie returned from the Tory Party conference in Blackpool and visited the H-Blocks. At that conference Prior was forced to declare the obvious — that no deal had been struck to end the hunger-strike — and was under pressure (partly as a result of the Chelsea bomb explosion) to give an undertaking to withdraw his promise that Gowrie would visit Long Kesh and talk to the prisoners once the hunger-strike ended.

He dodged the issue, but what actual



● MONICA CULBERT, whose husband Michael is an H-Block blanket man serving a life sentence, leaving the Belfast republican transport centre on the Falls Road with her husband's civilian clothing on Monday — the first day the blanket men received their own clothes, won from the British through the hunger-strike



● JOHN CONNOLLY, a blanket man for the last four years, completed his sentence on Tuesday. He states that the prisoners do not consider that the prison crisis is settled

effect on British attitudes and commitment to getting the H-Blocks out of the way, IRA activity in Britain and Ireland will have, remains to be seen. The Brits will, of course, attempt to sell the prisoners as short as possible, but they are aware that if they sell them too short they risk leaving roots in the soil out of which could sprout further prison crises which will only bring international attention to the war in Ireland.

In an attempt to put pressure on Prior and brand him as being naive, loyalist leader Ian Paisley and his deputy, Peter Robinson, compared the Chelsea bomb attack to an alleged comment Prior made to Paisley stating that he expected 'a republican gesture' in response to the proposed British prison reforms.

BITTER

Last Tuesday, a twenty-three-year-old

Belfast republican, John Connolly, walked free from the H-Blocks after serving every day of a five-year sentence on an explosives charge. He had been on the blanket for four years, including three years on the 'no wash, no slop-out' protest.

He said that the prisoners do not consider that the issue is settled. They are very bitter over the British government's vindictive attitude on the restoration of lost remission and he said that the burning issue of what and what does not constitute prison work has still to be resolved.

Gowrie visited the prison on Wednesday afternoon and, it is understood, he spoke to protesting prisoners, some former hunger-strikers, and possibly Brendan McFarlane, the O/C of the protesting republican prisoners.

In his statement Gowrie stated that he spoke to no-one claiming to represent other prisoners. Gowrie added little to Prior's original statement but announced that the type of work at the prison was to be broadened out to include a scheme to build three inter-denominational churches (a scheme originally proposed by the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace), and new job training schemes. He also said that prisoners in adjacent wings could associate but only after security gates were erected.

Gowrie said that if a prisoner did not take part in any of the schemes he could not expect the same privileges as those who do. However, the punishment for refusing to carry out work, if it is considered objectionable by the prisoners, was apparently not clarified.

The prisoners were expected to issue a statement on Gowrie's visit and proposals last Thursday.



● 'TOMBOY' LOUDON denied compassionate parole

Callous indifference

FOR the second time in less than a year the Northern Ireland Office have dismissed a request for compassionate parole from 'Tomboy' Loudon, from the Unity Flats area of Belfast, who is serving a life sentence in the H-Blocks. On Tuesday morning 'Tomboy's' mother died from a terminal illness. He immediately requested parole but was refused it.

Earlier this year his father died and on that occasion he was also refused parole.

During his mother's illness 'Tomboy' made several attempts to see her, but her weakened condition prevented her from travelling to the prison. He requested to be taken, under guard if necessary, to the outside hospital where his mother was receiving treatment, but the prison administration rejected even this humanitarian request.

Owen Carron, MP, made a personal appeal to the British officials in charge of the prison, to grant parole, but they refused to reconsider their earlier decision.

Commenting on their attitude, Owen Carron said: "This refusal reflects the callous indifference of those in charge of prisons in the North, indicative of the attitude which is responsible for creating problems in the prison where none should exist."

OWEN CARRON TYRONE SURGERIES

FERRMANAGH and South Tyrone MP, Owen Carron, will be holding regular weekly surgeries at his Dungannon office every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and at his Coalisland office every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

South Tyrone constituents with any problems concerning either prisoners, arrests, and harassment, etc., or social security, housing, and roads, etc., should attend either of these offices at the specified times.

Owen Carron can also be contacted at Muckin, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, or by telephoning Florenscourt 506. His office telephone numbers are Dungannon 25776 and Enniskillen 26854.

BULK ORDERS

ANYONE wishing to purchase bulk orders of H-Block badges or posters, republican posters, 'The Writings of Bobby Sands', 'The Diary of Bobby Sands', etc., should contact John Connolly, 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast, or telephone Belfast 620768.

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My pastime

legged trousers and like The Beatles, The Who, The Jam and revived music. And the Punks wear anything at all!

Loyalist skinheads have two parallel shaved lines in their heads symbolising support for the British neo-fascist National Front, and some nationalists have a green strip through their head. "It really divides us into Catholics and Protestants. Protestants seem to be National Front and don't like blacks, and Catholics just seem to accept blacks," says Colum, on politics imported from England, in a city where a black man is hardly to be found (outside of the British army).

Every generation, albeit under a different product, has had its 'Punks', 'Mods', and 'Skins', as part of a teenage rebellion. However, this generation has surely reached a new peak in ostentatious dress and their fierce independence (from all groups, including the Republican Movement) led to a disillusionment and disaffection from gut nationalist politics, despite high unemployment and Brit repression.

The RUC, who, up until the first H-Block hunger-strike last year, believed that with the help of the SDLP they were breaking down barriers in their struggle for acceptability, looked favourably upon this disaffection and disillusionment of many sections of the nationalist youth.

The kids were into mostly British pop music and, under the mild influence of left-wing English politics, donned anarchist emblems, anti-nuclear badges and had anti-National Front hair styles (single line shaved on either side of the head).

SERIOUSNESS

It is easy to be cynical about

their demeanour, but underneath it all is a subjective seriousness traceable to nationalist ghetto life and it was back to that root, as they will admit, that many returned under the politicisation of the hunger-strike. Moved by the sacrifice, first of Bobby Sands and then that of his comrades, the kids got involved in Youth against H-Block/Armagh committees, began painting magnificent wall murals, and then, where they were given berth, moved closer to the republican fold, bringing with them their earrings, safety pins, leather jeans, and green hair.

Even the glue-sniffers were affected: "We used to sniff in Alexander Park, behind Stewarts, and for a while we used to talk to the Orangies and started drinking together. But round about the time of the hunger-strike last April or May we started singing republican songs and they started to sing their songs and then we fought, beat each other up and don't bother now, though a couple of the girls still come across to us. We don't like the cops or the Brits - they shouldn't be in our country."

However, while thousands of the youth have now found an identity through the national struggle for liberation, others have not, and the problem of glue-sniffing remains a serious one - one to be tackled and understood.

Colum has given up glue-sniffing because, he says, his health was run down and he was losing weight. When he went to bed at night he dreamt he was being attacked by flies and bees, and attributed it to the sniffing: "But now I've stopped and I just dander around the town all day bored out of my mind."



FASHIONS

that sniff glue or eat roams are not 'hoods' evinced. Most of them one of three current the skinheads are the es, wear long dark and follow pop groups specials, Bad Manners, ss. The Mods wear is, parallels and tight-

me by the hand and we set off for a and the others went window- and we walked and we walked, Vinegar Hill it was wet and soggy ke or a cannon gun. It was hard to had been fought on it.

to come down again and we were eeing back to meet me ma. "Look he skin. I'll give you Vinegar Hill

did not change on the way home. e had her head and say: "Vinegar ag Hill."

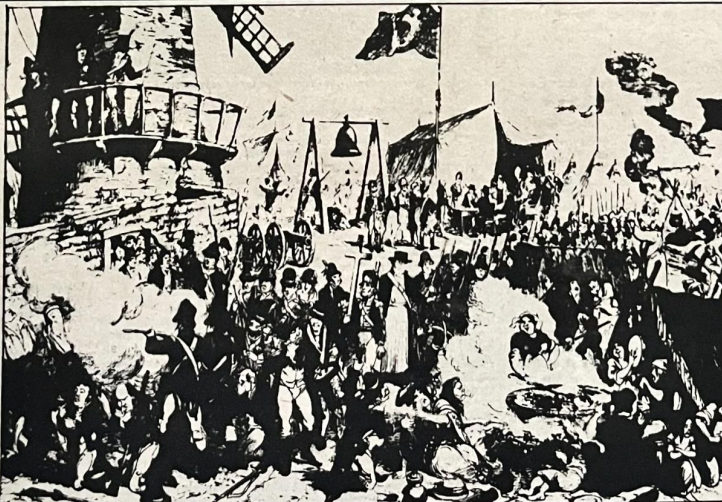
last tram home and the ma never e were dried, fed, and put to bed. the bedroom door, she turned e sorry I didn't go with you to

DUBLIN

of many visits to Vinegar Hill. hood stories of Wexford, Dublin onnection. Whenever I think of ag Hill, or Three Bullet Gate, I our of Dublin.

Chippies' Hole on Sarsfield Quay, ves of the United Irishmen. Many who were captured on Vinegar

ent stop, the grave of Skin the is, the great invincible Fenian who in Portlaoise jail rather than tell a pauper in the Union.



■ Vinegar Hill, just outside Enniscorthy in County Wexford, the scene of the rebels' defeat on June 20th 1798

When the late Lorcan Leonard designed the memorial for his grave I had the honour of delivering the oration.

The name Lorcan Leonard will always be associated with Wexford and Skin the Goat. In the same way as Dr. Herbert Mackey's name will always be associated with Roger Casement and his diaries.

FURLONG

From Glasnevin I go over to Drumcondra churchyard to the grave of Thomas Furlong, the Wexford poet.

Sometimes I have to clean the ivy from his memorial to read the golden words: 'To the memory of Thomas Furlong in whom the purest principles of patriotism and honour were combined with superior political genius'. He died on July 25th 1827.

Thomas Furlong was a clerk in Jameson's distillery and he kept the republican spirit alive in the darkest days after the Emmet rising and handed the separatist link on to the Ribbonmen, who in turn passed it on to the Young Ireland movement and the Fenians. His true spirit for the nation is reflected in this verse of one of

his poems:

"The mountains high and misty
"Through the moors must go,
"The rivers shall run backward
"And the lakes o'er flow.
"And the wild waves of old ocean
"Wear a crimson hue,
"E'er the world sees the ruin
"Of my Róisín Dubh."

The spirit of Furlong was the spirit of the nation in the great separatist tradition, started in Duncormick Woods by Wexford men in 1169 when the Anglo-Norman Brits first set foot in Ireland. The name of Wexford and its people is studded like diamonds in the annals of the Irish nation.

There are so many things to shout about that I do not know where to begin.

The Tuam workers, the re-zoning of lands, the PMPA, the education leaving cert. farce, the price of foodstuffs and milk, the property pages in the daily papers, the office blocks and the speculators, the bank interest rates, the Alcan foreign staff, the US embassy and the rates, and the political question.

I have decided to put my three shouts on Vinegar Hill into one loud shout, something like the quick sudden hip, hip, hip, and my shouts are this: H-Block, hunger-strikes, five demands, Brits withdraw.

The Free State republican crusade has been announced: Mr. Dooge has spoken at the United Nations, Fianna Fail have gone to Bodenstown.

The road to peace in Ireland is a simple one to reach. Don't glibly quote Tone and Davis and, at the same time, ignore Tone and Davis' teaching.

Break the connection with England, the never failing source of all our political ills. Demand a British withdrawal. Demand a general amnesty for all political prisoners. Design a new flag for the Irish nation.

Draft a new constitution with built-in guarantees for the Protestant people. Have a national parliament with no opposition parties, using the best brains in the nation to run the nation for the people of the nation.

Mr. Dooge, what a chance you had at the United Nations to be a true Irishman and to have read the annals of this nation and its demand for freedom. Have you forgotten Pearse? Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.

THE CHURCH

Dear comrade,

Through your fine uncensored newspaper I would like to voice my disgust at the actions of the Catholic church and Fr. Faul towards the hunger-strike. This comes as no surprise as the Catholic church has always sided with the British oppressor.

Let us take some lessons from history.

Firstly, the Battle of the Boyne, 1690.

This battle was a result of an alliance between Pope Innocent XI and William, Prince of Orange, against King Louis of France and King James of England. When news of the Irish defeat reached Rome special Masses were offered in thanksgiving.

Secondly, the Act of Union, 1800.

On March 1st, 1800, no less than thirty-two Orange lodges protested against the Act of Union but the Catholic church endorsed it.

Thirdly, Mayothon, founded 1795.

Richard Lalor Shiel addressed the British government on the occasion of the Mayothon grant of 1845 and said:

"You are taking a step in the right direction. You must not take Catholic clergy into your pay, but you can take them under your care."

over to the PLO the building from which the Zionists had been expelled by the revolution. Ever since the overthrow of the Shah, Iranian support for Palestine has been unwavering. Malicious fairytales won't change reality.

Finally, I would advise Mr. Khaled and other woolly-brained 'leftists' to avoid the main trap. Don't confuse form and content. The test of the pudding is in the eating; the test of a man's or a nation's politics is their actions, not what they say about themselves.

Michael Quigley,
Hamilton,
Ontario,
Canada.

Dear comrades,

We send our most sincere greetings to the militant Irish people and to the IRA and Sinn Féin as the vanguard of struggle against exploitation and British imperialism and wish you victory and success.

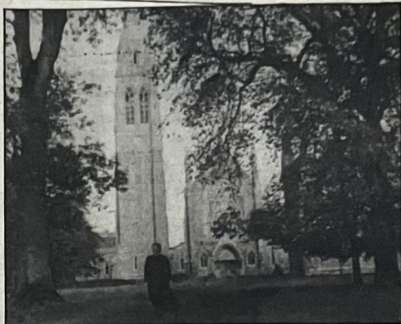
Your consistent struggle against the domination of British imperialism exploitation and on the path to national emancipation is undoubtedly supported by all the militant peoples of the world and especially by the peoples under domination, the communist and revolutionary forces.

The oppressed peoples of the world, communists and other revolutionaries, are paying special attention to your struggle against British imperialism, and in this struggle they are by your side.

The heroic resistance of the Irish militants in the primitive prisons of British imperialism is yet another glorious page to the history of revolutionary resistance and self-sacrifices of the Irish nation. It is the evidence that the revolutionary faith and belief for emancipation cannot be suppressed and destroyed by any means or force.

It is possible that British imperialism destroys your bodies by capturing and torturing you, but it is unable to destroy your revolutionary aims for freedom and independence. All the colonising and exploiting aggressors and reactionaries of the world do not fail to use any atrocity in order to preserve their doomed domination, and British imperialism which has been murdering and suppressing the people for many years is not an exception to this rule.

Today, not only in Ireland, El Salvador, South Africa, Israel, Turkey, Afghanistan and Iran, the communists, revolutionary



● Mayothon college's Catholic clergy — endorsed by the British as Ireland's "moral police"

"Are not lecturers at Mayothon cheaper than state prosecutions? Are not professors less costly than crown solicitors? Is not a large standing army and constabulary more expensive than the moral police with which, by the priesthood of Ireland, you can be thrifflily supplied."

So you can see from history that the church is as much guilty as the Brits are of making us 'lie under'.

Through your paper we can fight the church and teach our

supporters the truth about 'the men in black', and also fight the lies from the English gutter press who are trying to win the simple Irishman through page 3 of the Sun.

Keep up the work, Northern comrades.

Victory to the IRA in the North.

And victory to the future struggle in the South.

Noel Wynne,
Fleet St.,
Dublin.



● The Islamic Republic of Iran: revolutionary or reactionary?

democrats and freedom-fighters are imprisoned, tortured and executed, but also in very many other countries of the world, the exploiters and colonisers can only continue with their filthy existence by the use of force and torture.

Today, our dear homeland, Iran, is yet again the scene of one of the most blood-thirsty, reactionary and anti-revolutionary regimes in history.

Today in Iran, no-one has a secure life and fascist bands are in pursuit of communists and other revolutionaries in streets, towns, villages and mountains. The sentence for only having thoughts and beliefs opposed to the primitive beliefs of the reactionary ruling elite in Iran is execution and death, let alone when the thought and belief is expressed and turned into protest. The Islamic Republic regime's murderers have violated all the human rights and committed such ferocious crimes which have made Hitlerite fascists, Pinochet and the terrorist Begin seem respectable!

The execution of about five hundred communists and revolutionaries, whose sole crime was their long years of struggle against the fascist regime of the Shah and American imperialism, in less than two months; the execution of a pregnant woman with her eight-month unborn child for her communist beliefs; the execution of comrade Mohsen Fazel

(Sami), member of Al-Fatah Organisation, for collaborating with the Palestinian revolution; and hundreds of other savage murders are only small examples of the fascist actions of the Islamic Republic regime.

Thousands of the revolutionaries are imprisoned in the prisons of the Islamic Republic regime (the prisons which were made by the Shah) and they are subjected to gradual death under the most terrible and unbearable conditions and torture.

Sports stadia are used as detention centres and the regime puts the revolutionary prisoners, group by group, in front of the firing squad, whereas the Savak torturers and lackeys of imperialism are released from prison.

There are no signs of courts, trials, solicitors, etc. in the chambers of injustice of the regime. The so-called 'trials' last only a few minutes and the verdict of the overwhelming majority of these unjust courts which are passed by a mullah who, basically, has no knowledge of judicial rights, is execution. Instances have arisen in which someone has been executed by mistake instead of someone else.

The Islamic Republic regime is trying to justify all these atrocities under the names of 'defence of the revolution' and 'struggle against imperialism'. This is a regime which has set and exploited the valence and revolutionary self-sacrifices of the Iranian tolling masses in over-

throwing the Shah's imperialist-dependent regime as a basis for its demagoguery, and under the name of 'people and revolution', it bombs Kurdistan and massacres the Kurdish people; it replies to every freedom-seeking demand with bullets; it shoots the workers on strike; it closes down the universities by the force of the gun and by killing hundreds of revolutionary students; it signs military deals with the Zionist and racist regime of Israel; etc.

Yes, such a regime which has set its foundation on the illusion and religious beliefs of people and of fascist oppression and demagoguery, has made use of all the deceitful means in order to obtain political reputation and deceive the Iranian toilers.

One such demagogic policy is the false and irritating propaganda regarding the Iranian regime's 'support' for the struggle of Irish revolutionaries. While the Khomeini regime tortures the revolutionaries and puts them, group by group, in front of the firing squad, and its reply to the political prisoners' hunger-strike is execution, the regime deceitfully claims to be the 'friend' of the militant prisoners and their hunger-strike, and by shedding crocodile tears on the bodies of the Irish revolutionaries and its false propaganda, it is pretending to be a 'friend' of the militant prisoners and revolutionary forces. In this way the regime is trying to obtain political reputation as to retain its doomed domination perhaps a little longer.

The immense hue and cry of the Islamic Republic regime in 'defending' your struggles and the vast propaganda it has made about the Irish militants' messages of support to the regime are not sure about the reliability of this news, but we think that this is also one of the regime's big lies have all become a tool in the hands of the Islamic Republic regime for justifying its crimes.

For the Iranian regime, by falsely 'sympathising' with the revolutionaries of the world, is trying to deceive the Iranian toilers and divert their attention from its own crimes.

Though feeling responsible towards the oppressed peoples of Iran and other peoples of the world, we regard it as our duty to express the truth and expose the regime's deceitful 'anti-imperialist' and 'revolutionary' mask and to show its true criminal and reactionary nature to the peoples of the world.

We also expect the revolutionary forces of the world not to let any reactionary and anti-revolutionary regime to misuse the revolutionary movement of their people, and to expose these pseudo-friends, these enemies of the revolution and people, by taking a firm position against the crimes of imperialism and reaction.

Comrades and friends, as a section of the revolutionary Iranian student movement abroad, and in the name of freedom we would ask you — the consistent militants of the path of revolution and emancipation — to expose these pseudo-friends of the Irish, Palestinian and other militant peoples of the world, by declaring your revolutionary solidarity with the political prisoners who have been captured by the butchers of the Islamic Republic regime; to strengthen the revolutionary link and solidarity of the peoples of Iran and Ireland, by protesting against the crimes of the anti-popular Islamic Republic regime.

Once again, we express our active solidarity with the resistance movement of the Irish people, and by relaying the principles of the revolutionary movement of Iranian students abroad, we swear not to hesitate a moment in our struggle against imperialism, Zionism, fascism and reaction in every form, and by the active participation of the peoples to remain by their side with our full strength and not to show the slightest fear in this path.

The World Union of Iranian Students Abroad,
Postfach 6433,
1000 Berlin 12,
West Germany.

Catholic faith

Dear editor,

As a reader of 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' every week, I was very pleased to read your article regarding drinking ('Learning from mistakes', 'AP/RN', August 29th).

It is a very sad state of affairs when our people are drinking too much and to-day it is more so than ever.

Could you not put it over in your paper that our Catholic religion is very important to us all and especially our young people.

It was our religion which kept us going all through the years and made the British hate us more. But to-day the young don't want to know about God and this will be our downfall.

If only our young people would return to Mass and pray. Faith can move mountains. Please help our country and our religion. An Irish mother,
Co. Down.

UDR wounding

A chára,

The South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin wish to congratulate the UDR on the wounding of one of their own members on Friday, 9th October. This occurred at the Inn on the Park, Dungannon, at about 9 p.m.

The UDR had a checkpoint set up, while some of their members were also in the bushes (afraid to be seen).

The 'boys' in the bushes were playing 'Cowboys and Indians' when the incident took place. The wounded 'cowboy' is recovering in hospital after his little game.

Congratulations, again. Keep up the good work. Maybe you are trying to show your sectarian face by shooting yourselves.

PRO,
South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair,
Sinn Féin.

The English

Dear editor,

I'm just writing to say please don't be against all the English. There are many who support the courageous Irish prisoners, and Ireland for the Irish. Britain has no right to be there: I've always believed that.

Now that Thatcher has murdered ten young Irishmen she has inflamed anti-British feeling; but we're not all the same.

Victory to the prisoners.
A well-wisher,
Birmingham,
England.

Iran

Dear editor,

Your correspondent Omar Khaled makes two points in his letter ('Iraq/Iran', 'AP/RN', August 8th) which must be rejected.

In the first place, he attempts to equate the Islamic revolution in Iran with Paisleyite fascism. This idea is so absurd it will only take a moment's reflection to deal with.

Was it Iraq or Iran which renamed a major street in honour of the memory of Bobby Sands?

Was it Iraq or Iran which sent official representatives to the funerals of Bobby Sands and Kieran Doherty?

One must assume that your correspondent has made the same mistake as so many other infantile Western 'leftists' in accepting at face-value the claims of Bani-Sadr and the Mojahedin (and their new-found friends in the US State Department). From these sources we have begun to hear the sound of buckets of crocodile tears about the 'fascist repression' of the 'left' in Iran.

The fact of the matter is that the 'left' were responsible for the terrorist attacks which slaughtered scores of the leaders of the Iranian revolution. Whether they are actually on the CIA payroll is beside the point; the Iranian 'leftists' are acting as agents of US imperialism when they carry out these attacks. They are doing the work of the main enemy of the Iranian people.

Just as your correspondent seems willing to believe any monstrous lie peddled by US imperialism about the Iranian revolution, he is equally uncritical about the pompous claims of the Saddam Hussein dictatorship in Iraq. Just because Saddam Hussein (and, for its own reasons, the US) calls himself socialist isn't good enough.

Let's look at the facts behind the fancy words. Saddam Hussein calls himself 'socialist', 'non-aligned', 'progressive'. Why then are his main allies in the Middle East King Hussein of Jordan (a former employee of the CIA) and the reactionary Saudi regime?

More to the point, what sort of commitment to the principles of 'socialism' and 'non-alignment' are displayed by the Iraqi aggression against Iran, when the Islamic revolution is clearly the most feared and hated threat to the interests of US imperialism in the whole region?

Although your correspondent makes a baseless charge about a mythical Iranian call for the expulsion of Christians from the PLO (does this include Yasir Arafat, himself a Christian?), he avoids the real issue. For fifteen years, the touchstone of all Mid-Eastern politics has been one's attitude towards the Palestinian revolution and the PLO. The Iraqis have a very bad record in this light.

Just two years ago, Saddam Hussein launched a series of murderous attacks on PLO representatives in Europe and the Middle-East, therefore siding, in practice, with the Zionists.

Two years ago, Imam Khomeini personally welcomed Yasir Arafat to Tehran, to hand

H-Block/Armagh .. H-Block/Armagh .. H-Block/Armagh

Ireland

THE end of the hunger-strike and the still confused situation inside the H-Blocks continues to be reflected in a winding-down of protest activities throughout the North, though several street demonstrations in support of the prisoners ensured the continuation of popular awareness of the prisoners' situation.

Last Sunday, H-Block demonstrators were on the streets of Belfast and Ballinascreen in County Derry.

In Belfast almost two thousand people marched from the Busy Bee in Andersonstown to Dunville Park on the Falls Road.

Former Armagh protest prisoner, Silé Darragh, pointed out that the hunger-strike had ended because of the treachery of the Irish establishment and vigilance was necessary to ensure that the British were sincere now in bringing about a settlement.

Other speakers were Joe Austin of Belfast Sinn Féin, Maura McCrory of the Belfast H-Block/Armagh committee, and Christy McKenna of the youth committee.

In County Derry, the recently formed Jack Heggarty/Paddy Laverty/Francis Hughes Sinn Féin cumann in Ballinascreen held a march to the centre of the village in support of the blanket men. Over seven hundred people gathered at Straw to march the one-and-a-half mile route, accompanied by three local bands, following which several speakers addressed the crowd.

There has been a natural drop in protest activity in the twenty-six counties, following the end of the hunger-strike.

However, local action groups have continued to meet, keeping the wide-spread H-Block/Armagh support structure intact, and several areas have continued with more overt action.

In County Monaghan, where a by-election is expected this year to fill the seat vacated by the death of hunger-striker Kieran Doherty, TD, there continues to be a strong H-Block presence, with information centres open daily in a number of towns. A permanent full-time constituency office is also operating in Monaghan town.

Last Saturday, October 10th, the usual 'white-line' picket was held for two hours in the town.

On the following day there was a fund-raising event in the form of a sponsored walk staged at Castleblayney. And on Sunday afternoon demonstrators took to the field at half-time during the GAA county senior football final at Ballinacorney and were well received by the crowd.

On Monday evening, October 12th, the H-Block video was shown in Monaghan town.

In Dublin, H-Block/Armagh pickets have not entirely disappeared and were in evidence on Rathmines bridge on Thursday week, October 8th, and last Saturday, October 10th, outside the British embassy.

On Saturday, in Limerick, the H-Block video film was shown in the city at a public meeting.

County Leitrim's H-Block/Armagh committee began a series of meetings in the county on Monday 12th October with a meeting at Mohill; on Tuesday there was one in Ballinamore; and on Wednesday in Carrigallen.

Abroad

A TREMENDOUS amount of national publicity was generated in America this week by two most unlikely sources, British premier Margaret Thatcher and her Conservative Party mouthpiece, the 'Daily Express'.

Thatcher, after the IRA's London bomb attack on British soldiers, claimed to journalists that she had met two American tourists and urged them 'never, never to send money to Norair'.

The following day, a hypocritical front-page editorial in the 'Daily Express' claimed that five leading American politicians are 'morally as guilty as the IRA bombers', because of their public statements on the North.

Both of the attacks were answered in statements issued by Irish Northern



● Former Armagh prisoner Silé Darragh addresses last Saturday's Belfast rally



● Marchers make their way from the Busy Bee to Dunville Park in Belfast

Aid which stressed British hypocrisy in attacking Irish-Americans for being involved in Ireland while the British themselves are interfering in the most direct way imaginable, by a colonial and sectarian state imposed upon the Irish people by British troops and British terrorism.

The British attacks not only succeeded in generating wide publicity for Irish Northern Aid, but also engendered a new amount of financial contributions among Irish-Americans, for whom condemnation by Thatcher is the supreme accolade.

The major financial paper in the United States, the 'Wall Street Journal', published a review of Irish Northern Aid and its growth during the hunger-strike, as its front-page lead story last Monday.

Demonstrations continued daily at the British consulate in New York, and a national day of mourning for the dead hunger-strikers has been announced for November 1st, with activities scheduled across the USA.

In Britain, an Irish cultural festival under the title 'aoirse' (Irish Freedom Festival) is to be held in London this Saturday, October 17th, and will attempt to encompass all aspects of the struggle in the North.

There will be exhibitions, films, videos, slides, theatrical events, songs, music, poems and talks during the ten-hour event. Those taking part include film-maker Kenneth Griffith, architect Peter Moloney, actress Maggie Stead and playwrights John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy.

Last weekend's activities were mainly dominated by the annual conference of the Troops Out Movement in Leeds. The conference was told of a dramatic



● Rathmines bridge, Dublin, last Thursday week

increase in membership in a number of its branches, mainly due to the watershed effect of the hunger-strike.

Troops Out activity is to be particularly directed into the British trade unions, following the use of the union block votes to stop a motion in support of British withdrawal at the Labour Party conference, a motion which had majority support from the constituency delegates.

In addition, the Troops Out Movement are intensifying efforts to recruit young people and to provide counselling designed to dissuade those who may

be thinking of joining the British army.

Last Tuesday, October 13th, Troops Out members in Haringey, North London, held a public meeting at which the video film about life in the occupied North — 'We Ourselves Speak' — was shown.

In Glasgow, prisoners' supporters have launched a campaign against a ban imposed in the city on marches concerning Ireland. Leafletting has been taking place at a number of venues and several hundred signatures have been collected on a petition against the ban.

WHAT'S ON

**SINN FEIN
COMMUNITY ADVICE CENTRE**
7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Wednesdays & Thursdays
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN

H-BLOCK BALLAD SESSION
Featuring the Freewheelers
8.30 p.m. Friday 16th October
Dowling's
RATHNEW
Co. Wicklow
Admission £1

FUND-RAISING DISCO
9 p.m. Friday 16th October
Market Social Club
THE MARKETS
Belfast
Organised by
The Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare
(Transport section)

**H-BLOCK/ARMAGH
CAR CAVALCADE**
Moon Saturday 17th October
Starts Mountjoy Square
DUBLIN
Organised by
Dublin H-Block/Armagh committee

SINN FEIN MEETING
Robert Emmet cumann, TCD
pre-freshers' week meeting
3 p.m. Saturday 17th October
5 Blessington St.
DUBLIN

SINN FEIN MEETING
COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHNEAN
2.30 p.m. Sunday 18th October
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN

**H-BLOCK/ARMAGH FUND-RAISING
BALLAD SESSION**
8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday 23rd October
Dowling's
PROSPEROUS
Co. Kildare

SINN FEIN MEETING
COMHAIRLE CUIGE MUMHAN
2.30 p.m. Sunday 25th October
LIMERICK
Two delegates to attend
from each comhairle caantair

KEVIN BARRY COMMEMORATION
Speaker: Owen Carron. MP
3 p.m. Sunday 25th October
Assemble Carthy's Cross
RATHVILLY
Co. Carlow

H-BLOCK/ARMAGH PUBLIC MEETING
1 p.m. Wednesday 28th October
James Usher Theatre
Arts Block
Trinity College
DUBLIN

FILM SHOW
'POW' and 'The Patriot Game'
8 p.m. Wednesday 28th October
Junior Common Room
Trinity College
DUBLIN
Admission 50p

**MANCHESTER MARYTRS
MEMORIAL MARCH**
2 p.m. Sunday 28th November
Assemble St. Patrick's church
Oldham Road
MANCHESTER
March to rally at
Mostyn Cemetery
Organised by Sinn Féin (Britain)

**SALUTE THE PRISONERS
MARCH & RALLY**
to mark the anniversaries
of the death of Terence MacSwiney
and the start
of the first H-Block hunger-strike
2.30 p.m. Sunday 28th November
Assemble Dunville Park
BELFAST

IS É ALBERT FRY an t-Uachtarán ar Chonaradh na Gaeilge. Is é Bhéal Feirste Albert agus tá sé gníomhach i nGlaireacht na Gaeilge le fada. Amháin iontach is ea é chomh maith agus tá go leor céiríní déanta aige.

'Sé Conradh na Gaeilge an t-eagras is gníomhaí sa tír ar son na teanga. Eagraíonn siad an t-Oireachtas agus deineann siad mórán oibre chun an Gaeilge a scaipeadh i measc an phobail. Tá agóid ar siúl acu in éadan polasaithe RTE i leith na Gaeilge. Chuaigh baill den Chonradh go príosún de bharr na hagóide sin.

Tá an Conradh lán taobh thiar des na príosánaigh sna Bliocanna H. Le déanaí ainmníodh Seán Mac Mathúna, Rúnaí an Chonartha mar bhall de Choiste na mBliocanna H/Ard mhaca.

AP/RN: A Albert, An dtiocfadh leat cnámha scéal stair An Chonartha a insint duinn?

ALBERT FRY: Má amharcann tú ar stair na hÉireann, an dóigh a bhí ar an tír, 1893: i dtírtha an ama sin bhí talamh ar ais ag na daoine. Bhí an t-am acu bheith ag meabhú ar rudaí. Bhí cuid mhór grúpaí beaga bídeacha ann a bhí ag plé le cúrsaí Gaeilge. Bunaíodh an Conradh amach as na grúpaí beaga seo, agus spréigh an Conradh fríd an tír.

Ghlac muintir na hÉireann go fonnmhar le seo. Spreag an Conradh iad le suim a chur ina dteanga agus ina dtír féin. Bhí agóid acu leis an Gaeilge a fháil ar curriculum na hollscoile, sílim. An deireadh a bhí ar, go bhfuair siad an Gaeilge aitheanta ins na scoileanna. Fuair siad an Gaeilge isteach ins na hollscoileanna.

Bhí an Piarasach mílteanach gníomhach i gConradh na Gaeilge. Agus a rud a tháinig ina dhiaidh sin go bhfactas dó na daoine a bhí i gConradh na Gaeilge gur cheart don teanga a bheith in achan chuid de ghnóithe na hÉireann. Agus an rud a rinne siad ansin ná bhain siad úsáid as na cúirtanna le stadéigin a fháil don Gheilge mar theanga oifigiúil.

Chaith cúirtanna na Sasana seo amach, agus níor chleacht an Piarasach an dlí ní ba mhó ina dhiaidh sin. B'é an rud a dúirt sé leis féin i ndiaidh, is dóiche, dhá bhliain déag a chaiteamh i gConradh na Gaeilge, nárbh fheidir an Gaeilge a thabhairt puinn chun tosaigh ón staid sin gan stát a bheith ar a cúl.

Chaith an Piarasach an chuid a ba mhó dá shaoil mar oideachasóir. Níor chaith sé ach na cúpla bliain, b'fheidir trí bliana le polaitíocht mar pholaitíocht.

I dtírtha an ama sin, deireadh 1913, a thosaigh cuid mhór daoine i gConradh na Gaeilge ag smaointiú ar na línte sin, nach dtiocfadh leo an Gaeilge a thabhairt i réim gan stát a bheith ar a cúl. Agus ansin ant-am a bunaíodh Oglacha na hÉireann. Anois, tháinig sin uilig amach as Conradh na Gaeilge.

Ansin chuaigh siad ar aghaidh agus tháinig an t-éirí amach i 1916. As seachtar a tháinig fóirga na Cásca, bhí ceathrar den seachtar sin, ba bhall den choiste ghnó iad de Chonaradh na Gaeilge. Duine amháin eile, bhí sé ina bhall de Chonaradh na Gaeilge. D'fhéig sin go raibh blas iontach ag an chonaradh ar an rud ar fad.

Bhí an Piarasach ag dul thart an t-am sin ag caint ar 'chan é amháin saor ach Gaeilch Chomh maith, chan é amháin Gaeilch ach spor chomh maith', agus bhí amadain in Éirinn a chreid go raibh dhá rud ansin. Bhí rud amháin ansin.

Níorbh fheidir leis an tír a bheith saor gan í a bheith Gaeilch, is ní fheidir léi a bheith Gaeilch gan í bheith saor. Sílim gur Máirtín Ó Cadhain a dúirt é ar dhóigh éinteacht ní b'fhearr é.

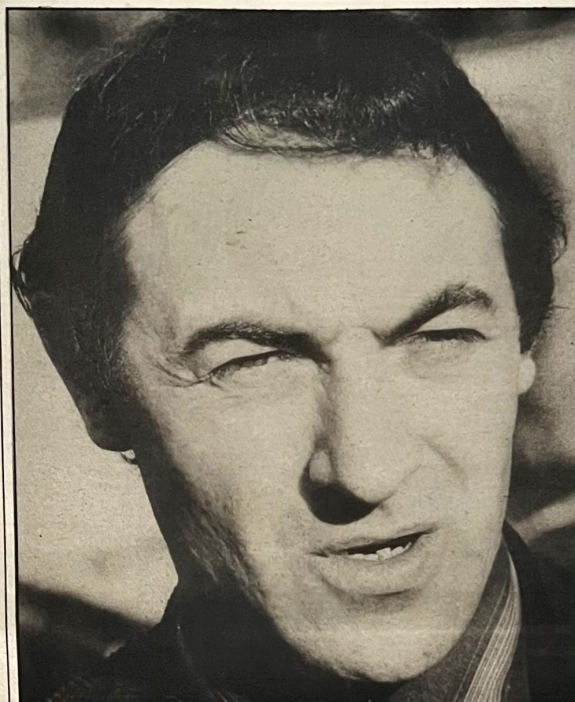
'Is í an Gaeilge athghabháil na hÉireann. Is athghabháil na hÉireann, slánú na Gaeilge'.

Ach, ar scor ar bith, sin an meon a bhí ag na daoine a bhí taobh thiar de 1916. Chuaigh an rud ar aghaidh agus bhí an céad Dáil againn, 1919, agus níor tabhradh

E As seachtar a tháinig fóirga na Cásca, bhí ceathrar den seachtar sin, ba bhall den choiste ghnó iad de Chonaradh na Gaeilge. Duine amháin eile, bhí sé ina bhall de Chonaradh na Gaeilge. D'fhéig sin go raibh blas iontach ag an chonaradh ar an rud ar fad.

Agallamh le Albert Fry

Uachtarán Conradh na Gaeilge



● 'Sé Albert Fry an t-Uachtarán ar Chonaradh na Gaeilge. Rinneadh an tagallamh seo roimh deireadh an stailc ocras

focal Béarla ansin. Agus ansin tháinig an tragóid 1921-22. D'imigh cuid de na daoine bealach amháin, d'imigh cuid acu bealach eile.

Agus go fiú nuair a cuireadh saorstát Éireann ar bun, má ceart an focal a úsáid, ceapadh Eoin Mac Néill, a bhí ina uachtarán ar an Chonaradh, mar Aire Oideachais. Ceapadh Dubhghlas de hÍde, an céad uachtarán a bhí ar an Chonaradh, mar uachtarán ar an stát.

Agus ansin tháinig an pholaitíocht ní ba mhó ná gnóithe Gaeilge isteach sa tír agus cailleadh idéal an Chonartha áit éigin idir 1921 agus an lár inniu.

AP/RN: Cén cospóir atá ag an Chonaradh agus trí cén modhanna atá sé i gceist aige iad a bhaint amach?

ALBERT FRY: Tá sé go soiléir sa bhunreacht: Éire saor, Éire gaeilch is aidhm don Chonaradh. An rud atá le déanamh againn in Éirinn ná í a ghaelú. Níorbh fheidir le Sasain, nó dream ar bith eile an tír seo a chur faoi smacht má tá ar dteanga againn.

Thig leo sinne a choinneáil faoi smacht ar feadh tamaill, ach níorbh fheidir leo sinne a choinneáil faoi smacht ar feadh ró-thada da mba rud é go raibh ár dteanga againn féin agus againn uilig.

AP/RN: Cad iad na casadóir is mó atá agat ar na rialtais éagsla sna Sé Chontae Fíchead, stát ina bhfuil an Gaeilge mar phríomh-theanga oifigiúil?

ALBERT FRY: Is dóiche an rud is mó nach dtugann siad aird ar bith ar an bhunreacht a chum siad féin. Níl ach an teanga amháin rianachtaigh ins na Sé Chontae Fíchead agus sin an Béarla. Tá andáil a bhrisdeadh acu achan lá a tscait. Dúlaíonn daoine de chuid an rialtais Gaeilge a labhairt.

Dúlaíonn siad ceart a thabhairt do dhuine agus is dóiche an sampla is mó a bhfuil eolas ag daoine ar sin i gCúige Uladh

E Séannam siad ceart na Gaeilge gach áit. An rún is dóiche atá ag na húdaráis seo ná teanga cultúrtha a dhéanamh dithe; teanga a bheas in úsáid ar ócáid. Ach i dtaca leis an Gaeilge mar phríomh-theanga oifigiúil an stáit, níor mhián leo sin riamh.

nó cás Thomáis Uí Mhonacháin sa Ghaeltacht féin. Dhiúltaigh an breitheamh go raibh ceart ar bith ag na Gaeilge sa chúirt mar theanga.

Séannam siad ceart na Gaeilge gach áit. An rún is dóiche atá ag na húdaráis seo ná teanga cultúrtha a dhéanamh dithe; teanga a bheas in úsáid ar ócáid. Ach i dtaca leis an Gaeilge mar phríomh-theanga oifigiúil an stáit, níor mhián leo sin riamh.

Ní fheidicim go raibh rialtas riamh i dteach Laigheann a tharraing bunreacht na hÉireann chucu féin mar is ceart.

AP/RN: Sílim gur léiríodh é sin nuair a gcaidh an Dochtúir Seán Ó Connail mar Chéann Comhairle, mar d'admhaigh sé féin nach mór an meas atá aige ar an teanga náisiúnta?

ALBERT FRY: Ní miste liom duine gan mórán meas a bheith aige ar rud, 'cead ag an duine sin bheith aige, ach níl sé ceart aige a bheith ina shuí ó cionn dála ansin agus gan é a bheith ábalta an phríomh-theanga oifigiúil a thuigbheáil.

AP/RN: Maidir leis na ghnéth - daoine, an bhfuil aon pointí ginearálta ar mhaith leat

a dhéanamh ar staid na Gaeilge sa lár atá inniu ann?

ALBERT FRY: An t-ionad rud amháin a dtug liom a rá ná gach suirbhé a rinneadh ar mhuintir na hÉireann le céad bliain anuas dóirt an mhórchuid acu gur mian leo an Gaeilge a bheith ins an tír. Tá na daoine atá faoi cóg bliain is fiche gur mó d'ádh atá acu leis an teanga ná son dream eile.

Agus chím féin sin go minic agus mé ag siúl fríd an tír, gur mar sin atá. Ach arís an rud atá ann, ná meán chumarsáide agus an dóigh a bhfuil teagasc na Gaeilge ins na Sé Chontae Fíchead.

Ní thuigeann siad gur teanga í agus gur ceart í a chur chun tosaigh mar theanga. Tá sin amhlaidh chomh maith ins na Sé Chontae.

AP/RN: Is ionaí fear a fuair inspioráid ón sár-obair atá déanta ag na daoine sna bliocanna-H chun an teanga a fhoghlaim agus a chur in úsáid. Tá Conradh na Gaeilge an aontaobhle Coiste Náisiúnta na mBliocanna-H/Ard Mhaca. Cén éifeacht atá ag an Chonaradh chun tacaíocht a fháil do na cinní ó Ghaeil na tíre?

ALBERT FRY: Tá na daoine óga ansin ar an abhar go bhfuil ceist idirnáisiúnta anseo in Éirinn. Ansin nuair a bhí sa phríosún casadh an dóighas ar go leor acu agus chuaigh siad a fhoghlaim na Gaeilge go fíochmhar ar an abhar go bhfuil grá iontach acu ar a dtír. Agus an t-ionad rud amháin a chuireann isteach go mór orm nach dtugann siad iarracht an náisiúntacht a bhrú chun tosaigh fríd an teanga.

Tá fhios agam taobh istigh go bhfuil iarraidh mhílteanach ar bun an náisiúntacht sin a chur faoi smacht. Mar is eol do go leor daoine, má labhrann tú focal Gaeilge cuirtear deireadh leis an chuart.

Má bheireann tú iarraidh litir i nGaeilge a scríobh isteach chuig duine sa phríosún ní bhfaighidh sé an litir sin. Ní fheidir litir a scríobh amach. Tá buncheart sibhialta é shéanadh acu. Agus is dóiche i dtaca leis an Chonaradh de, tá sé Míofar gur fheidir le Sasain fáil ar shuíl le seo.

Ach ba mhaith liom go mór da mba rud é gur tharraing na daoine óga atá istigh sciath chosanta na Gaeilge orthu féin mar chuid de náisiúntacht. An dearcadh atá agamsa ar na ceistanna seo uilig go bhfuil ceist idirnáisiúnta, anseo in Éirinn.

Agus an dóigh ab fhearr a dtiocfadh leis na daoine óga, gur mian leo a rá leis an domhan go bhfuil siad istigh ansin ar an abhar go bhfuil ceist idirnáisiúnta ann, an dóigh ab fhearr a dtiocfadh leo a dhéanamh na Gaeilge a thabhairt chun tosaigh.

Agus caithfidh siad sin a rá le Sasain. Ní shílím go dtabharfaidh Sasain isteach, ach is cuma. Ní bhrisreann an ghaith ach an crann nach lúbann.

AP/RN: Cén rudaí a thugann dóchas duit faoi staid na Gaeilge sa todhchaí?

ALBERT FRY: An rud is mó, is dóiche, a bheireann dóchas domsa ná an méid sin na daoine óga atá ag cur suim ins an teanga agus ins an chultúr. Chím cineál de reabhtóid chultúrtha ag éirí ansin thart anseo, ba fiú, má amharcann tú ar na ballaí thart anseo i mBéal Feirste.

Ní fheidicidh tú garbh-chaint an Bhéarla scríofa ar na ballaí. Tá ealaín iontach ar na ballaí. Tá daoine óga i mBéal Feirste a bhfuil ceol na hÉireann níos fearr acu ná mar a bhí ag glúin ar bith le b'fheidir leath-céad bliain.

Tá daoine óga thart anseo ag an Chumann Chluain Ard a bhfuil an oiread sin Gaeilge acu, agus cuid acu níos mó, ná mar a bhí ag go leor de bhunadh Bhéal Feirste.

Tá cuid mhór de na sean fhóndúirí a fuair amach ar na mallaibh go bhfuil an oiread sin daoine ansin ann a bhfuil Gaeilge acu, nach bhfuil aithne acu orthu, ar an bhóthar seo (Bóthar na bhFál) go gcaithfidh siad fáinne na Gaeilge a chaiteamh. Anois tá fáinní de goicé féin é dhéanamh acu anseo i mBéal Feirste.

Agus is dóchas, dóchas, dóchas ansin, iomlán an bhealaigh.

E Má bheireann tú iarraidh litir i nGaeilge a scríobh isteach chuig an duine sa phríosún ní bhfaighidh sé an litir sin. Ní fheidir litir a scríobh amach. Tá buncheart sibhialta é shéanadh acu. Agus is dóiche i dtaca leis an Chonaradh de, tá sé Míofar gur fheidir le Sasain fáil ar shuíl le seo.

Not criminals

KEN LIVINGSTONE, leader of the Greater London Council, usually alternates with his fellow Labour Party member Tony Benn as 'public enemy number one' in the British press, but this week he is way ahead.

'Red Ken', who has an apparent inability to be publicly dishonest, hit the front pages yet again last Tuesday with his opinion of the IRA's bomb attack in London.

Speaking to a meeting of Tory students in Cambridge he said: "They are not criminals or lunatics running about ... that is to misunderstand them."

"As long as we are in Ireland people will be letting off bombs in London. I can see that we are a colonial power holding down a colony. For the rest of the time violence will recur again and again."

"People in Northern Ireland see themselves as subject people. If they were just criminals and psychopaths they could be crushed, but they have a motive force which they think is good."

There were some interesting responses to the recent allegations of financial misbehaviour attached to John Zachary De Lorean and his Belfast car plant.

Most interesting were those of Jimmy Blair, Belfast district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and the Sticky 'Republican Clubs the Workers Party'. Both staunchly defended De Lorean's exotic salary and expenses on the grounds that jobs were being provided, and called for more of the same.

A craven sycophantic cap-touching attitude from these supposed defenders of working-class interests. Our only answer to unemployment is to crawl to ageing millionaire American playboys?

The front pages of the papers are full these days of calls for wage restraint and demands that workers tighten their belts, but the other side of the coin is often hidden inside in the depths of the financial pages.

The massive Jefferson Smurfit group is a case in point, turning in an increase in profits for the first half of this year of 59% on its Irish operations. The increase in profit was £1.6 million, and this was contributed to by a sizeable saving in wage-costs with five hundred redundancies during the six-month period.

The share-holders are very satisfied with this performance.

Coalition Minister for Defence, James Tully, has been getting great mileage out of his life and times as a war hero ever since he got hit with shrapnel in the shooting of President Sadat in Cairo.

But perhaps the most naive and amusing part

Burke's at the back

BY KEVIN BURKE



of his much-repeated story is where he expresses the surprise and pleasure of the Free State party at getting seats so close to Sadat for the occasion, in fact only four places from him.

Surely he has worked out why by now? After you; no, after you; no, I insist, after you...

The fiftieth anniversary of the Easter Rising was commemorated in Limerick, as elsewhere, with much enthusiasm and the committee responsible for events there contained many veteran republicans as well as republicans still very active today.

A booklet, published in 1966 by the committee, gave a complete picture of Limerick's part in the Easter Week Rising and subsequent years, and includes an interesting article about resistance to conscription in the city which culminated in the Limerick soviet. The article is headed 'Labour - Foes to British Tyranny'.

The story tells of co-operation between the labour movement and the IRA against the British, and in particular of the struggle by both inside the prisons to secure 'political treatment'.

In glowing terms it tells of a hunger-strike for political status during the course of which an attempt was made to rescue the leader of the hunger-strike, Robert Byrne, in which one of his police guards was killed and several seriously injured.

Unfortunately Byrne himself was also killed and of his death the author of the article writes: "In dying he became a legend and an inspiration to those who followed after him and who felt the fire of freedom in their hearts."

The author of these fighting words? None other than the currently anti-republican, anti-nationalist, anti-political prisoner, pro-RUC, pro-Fine Gael Toryism, deputy for Limerick, Jim Kemmy.

IN MEMORIAM

FITZSIMMONS, Francis; MARLOWE, Paul; SURGENOR, Joe. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois. Francis Fitzsimmons, Paul Marlowe and Joe Surgenor, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died while on active service on Saturday 16th October 1976 as a result of an accidental explosion. They laid a rainbow arc on our sorrowful hearts. Never forgotten by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

FITZSIMMONS, Francis; SURGENOR, Joe. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois. Francis Fitzsimmons and Joe Surgenor, never forgotten by their friends and comrades from the Short Strand, Belfast.

FITZSIMMONS, Francis. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my son, Francis, who died on active service on October 16th 1976. RIP. Mary never forgets. Always remembered by his loving mother.

FITZSIMMONS, Francis. (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of my father, Francis, who died on active service on October 16th 1976. RIP. Let perpetual light shine upon him, O Lord. Ever remembered by his two sons, Harry and Martin.

FITZSIMMONS, Francis; MARLOWE, Paul. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois. Francis Fitzsimmons and Paul Marlowe, who died while on active service on October 16th 1976. Will those who think of them today, a little prayer to Jesus say. Remembered always by the Surgenor family.

JENKINSON, Noel. (5th Anniversary). In proud memory of Noel Jenkinson, who died on October 9th 1976, while a political prisoner in Lancaster Prison, England. He shall be missed and missed by his people and generations shall remember him and call him blessed. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

SURGENOR, Joe; MARLOWE, Paul. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois. Joe Surgenor and Paul Marlowe, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on active service on Saturday 16th 1976. RIP. In the shelter of your sacred heart, Jesus, may they rest. Remembered always by Mrs Margaret Fitzsimmons.

SURGENOR, Joseph. (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of my son, Joseph, who died on active service on October 16th 1976. RIP. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him. "Sweetest are the memories silently kept of the son I loved and will never forget." Always remembered by his mother and sister Susanne.

SURGENOR, Joseph. (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of my brother, Joseph, who died while on active service on October 16th 1976. RIP. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him. "They say time heals all sorrows and helps one to forget, but time has proved so far how much I love you. Always remembered by his sister Geraldine, brother-in-law Seamus, nephew Sean, and niece Claudine Mooney.

SURGENOR, Joseph. (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of my brother, Joseph, who died while on active service on October 16th 1976. RIP. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him. "There will always be a heartache and silent tears for the precious memories of the days when you were here." Always remembered by his sister Eileen, Jimmy, Jesus and family, Twinbrook.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

CAMPBELL, Sean. (H6-Block). Best wishes, Sean, on your twenty-seventh birthday. Keep your chin up. It won't be long now 'til you're back home. From all the family.

CAMPBELL, Sean. (H6-Block). Best wishes on your twenty-seventh birthday, Sean. From Ron and Mary O'Neill.

CHILLINGWORTH, John. (H5-Block). Loving thoughts and best wishes on your 21st birthday. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you and all your brave comrades. From your wife Eileen and children, Mark, John, Ryan and Kerry.

CHILLINGWORTH, John. (H5-Block). Happy birthday to my dear son John. I just want you to know that I am proud of the pride that's in my heart and how much I love and miss you every day we are apart. God bless. From your loving mother.

CHILLINGWORTH, John. (H5-Block). Birthday greetings to our brother John. "We are nation on all the best and best of braver hearts." UTP. All the best from your brothers James, Michael, Joseph and Gerard-Martin.

CHILLINGWORTH, John. (H5-Block). Birthday greetings to our brother John. From your sisters Frances, Hannah, Kathleen, Mary and brother-in-law Charlie, and nieces and nephews.

CHILLINGWORTH, John. (H5-Block). Many happy returns on your birthday, John. Wishing you all that you would wish on yourself. Victory to the blanket men. From Eileen and Jack Lennon. Also from Sean, Claran, Damien (H4-Block), and Florence.

CHILLINGWORTH, John. (H5-Block). Happy birthday, John. From all the Fitzsimmons family at home and abroad.

CHILLINGWORTH, John. (H5-Block). Happy birthday, John. We are always thinking of you and all your brave comrades. From Ivan, Jean, John, Pat, Siobhan, Marian, Kathleen, Paul and John, Virginia, USA.

DOHERTY, Frankie. (H5-Block). Love and best wishes, Frankie, on your birthday on Wednesday 7th October. Thinking of you always. All our love. From Stole and Cathal.

DOHERTY, Frankie. (H5-Block). Best wishes on your birthday, Frankie. Hope to see you soon. From Danny, Margaret, and family.

DOHERTY, Frankie. (H5-Block). Many happy returns on your birthday, son. "They may lock you away, deny you your rights, but Ireland's true sons continue to fight." Love from mum and dad.

DOHERTY, Frankie. (H5-Block). Happy birthday, Frankie. Love and best wishes from your brother Liam and Ann, Coventry. Also from your brother Brian and Noelene, and family.

DOHERTY, Frankie. (H5-Block). Love and best wishes on your birthday, Frankie. From your brother Jackie, sister-in-law Rosena and family; from your brother Martin and sister-in-law Theresa;

and from your brothers Charlie, Patrick and Tony, and your sisters Bridie and Noreen.

DOHERTY, Frankie. (H5-Block). Love and best wishes on your birthday, Frankie. From your sister and brother-in-law Ian.

DOHERTY, Frankie. (H5-Block). Best wishes, Seamus, on your birthday on Wednesday 14th October and congratulations on having completed two years on the blanket. God bless. All our love. From Marian, John, niece Jacqueline, and nephews Darren and Michael.

MCALLION, Seamus. (H3-Block). All the best on your birthday, Seamus. Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. Thinking of you always. From Pauline, Willie, Michael and Paula.

MCALLION, Seamus. (H3-Block). Many happy returns on your birthday, Seamus. All our love. From your sister Rosemary and family. Also from Martin and Linda.

MCALLION, Seamus. (H3-Block). Best wishes on your birthday, Seamus. "It does not cost a special day to bring you to this world for a day, but it costs a lot of you is very hard to find." Solidarity greetings, also, on completing two years on the blanket. All our love always. From mum, dad and brothers, Derry.

MCILLOWAY, Sadie. (Armagh). Birthday greetings, Sadie, on your twenty-fifth birthday. God bless. From mum, dad and Gabrielle.

MCILLOWAY, Sadie. (Armagh). Birthday greetings, Sadie, on your twenty-fifth birthday. From James, Lynda and family, Dublin.

MCILLOWAY, Sadie. (Armagh). Birthday greetings, Sadie, on your twenty-fifth birthday. From Ann, Larry and Sharon, USA.

MCILLOWAY, Sadie. (Armagh). Thinking of you, Sadie, on your twenty-fifth birthday. From Tony, Margaret and family.

SMITH, Eugene. (H5-Block). Birthday greetings to my dear son, Eugene, on October 11th. (four-and-a-half years on the blanket). All our prayers and love are with you. From mum and dad.

SMITH, Eugene. (H5-Block). Birthday greetings to my dear brother, Eugene, on October 11th. From Sean.

SMITH, Eugene. (H5-Block). Birthday greetings to our dear brother, Eugene. Hope you're in better surroundings next birthday. From Kathleen, Gerald and family.

SMITH, Eugene. (H5-Block). Birthday greetings to my dear brother, Eugene. Thinking of you always. From your sister Bernie, brother-in-law Claran and family. Also from your brother Frankie and sister-in-law Pat and family.

SORAGHAN, Seamus. (Portlaoise). Best wishes on your twenty-seventh birthday, Seamus. Hope to see you soon. From all at Tully in Monaghan.

Solidarity Greetings

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H3-Block). Congratulations, Gerry, on completing four years on the blanket on October 18th. We are behind you and all your comrades in your fight for political status. From mother and father.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H3-Block). Congratulations, Gerry, on completing four years on the blanket. Victory to the blanket men. From your brothers Paul, Michael, Martin and Kevin.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H3-Block). Congratulations on completing four years on the blanket. From Eddie, Lucia and family.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H3-Block). Thinking of you especially at this time when you have just completed four years on the blanket. Victory to the blanket men. From John, Floma and family.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H3-Block). Congratulations on completing four years on the blanket. Victory to the blanket men. From Roline and the kids.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H3-Block). Congratulations on completing four years on the blanket. From Eddie, Lucia and family.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H3-Block). Congratulations on completing four years on the blanket. Victory to the blanket men. From Marian and Martin.

FITZSIMMONS, Michael. (H3-Block). Congratulations, Michael, on completing four years on the blanket. From Tony (Isle of Wight).

FITZSIMMONS, Michael. (H3-Block). Congratulations, Michael, on completing four years on the blanket. Love from Joe and Anne.

FITZSIMMONS, Michael. (H3-Block). Congratulations, Michael, on completing four years on the blanket. Our love and support always. From your mum, dad, brother Gerald and sister Theresa. Victory to the blanket men!

FITZSIMMONS, Michael. (H3-Block). Solidarity greetings, Michael, on completing four years on the blanket. I love you. From Eamon, Marion and family.

FITZSIMMONS, Michael. (H3-Block). Solidarity greetings to our brother Michael on completing four years on the blanket. From Manu, Mary and baby Manus. Victory to the blanket men!

KELLY, Joseph. (Portlaoise). Congratulations, Joe, on the completion of your second year as a POW. From Seana, David, David Jr., Mark, Catriona and Tom Butler.

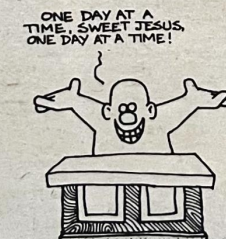
O'CONNELL, Patrick (Arnie). (Portlaoise). Congratulations, Arnie, on the completion of two years 'behind the wire' for the freedom of your country. From mam, dad, and family; also Judith, Pat and Arnie's Angels.

NOTES

by CORMAC

SITTING LISTENING TO THE LOCAL BBC RADIO STATION THIS MORNING AND I HEARD A RECORD REQUEST FOR IAN AND EILEEN PAISLEY...

IT'S THEIR SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY... AND THE RECORD REQUEST IS FROM THEIR FOUR DEAR OFFSPRING...



AND WHAT RECORD WAS PLAYED FOR MAMA AND PAPA...

ONE DAY AT A TIME, SWEETEST, ONE DAY AT A TIME!

GOT IT WRONG, DIDN'T THEY? THE CURRENT FAVORITE AMONG THE LOYALIST THUGS IS... ONE THING AT A TIME

NORTH BELFAST CATHOLICS SUFFER MURDEROUS GUN ATTACKS FROM LOYALIST GANG

UDA assassins strike twice

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

THE sectarian assassination of a Catholic father-of-three, Bobby Ewing, in the living-room of his home in north Belfast's Oldpark district, last Monday evening, coming four days after the random killing of nationalist councillor Larry Kennedy in a machine gun attack on a social club half-a-mile away in neighbouring Ardoyne, indicates that a new and ruthless UDA murder gang is now operating in north Belfast.

Although in the past few months the isolated Ardoyne/Oldpark district, bordered on all sides by loyalist areas, has suffered numerous loyalist gun attacks — among them the killing of nineteen-year-old Liam Canning in Alliance Avenue on August 8th, several woundings and near-misses, and the gun attack on a mock H-Block cell in Elmfield Street on September 20th — the gunmen involved in these two latest shootings displayed an unusually high degree of coolness and professionalism.

Oldpark killing

Father-of-three, Bobby Ewing, who lived in a 'mixed' area of the Oldpark district, adjacent to Ardoyne, was just getting ready to drive his nine-year-old son Brian to a boy scout meeting, shortly before 6 p.m. last Monday, when he delayed for a few minutes to watch television coverage of the funeral of Larry Kennedy, which had taken place earlier that day.

As he was doing so, two unmasked gunmen ran through the open front door of his Deerpark Road home and straight to the living-room where Bobby sat with his wife, Winifred. One of the gunmen fired repeatedly, hitting Bobby twice in the head and killing him.

The gunmen then escaped in a car, stolen late last month in Newtownabbey, driving a short distance along Deerpark Road to the playing fields in the loyalist Ballysillan estate where they made off on foot.

According to his wife, Bobby — who was employed as a steel erector among the predominantly loyalist workforce at Kilroot power station — had probably been under loyalist surveillance for some time before the attack. Two weeks earlier, she had received a number of phone calls from anonymous callers who asked for Bobby and who then just hung up. At that time she had thought it was just a prank.

The fact that this — like the Shamrock gun attack — was an obviously planned and coolly executed assassination, raises the strong possibility that both attacks were carried out by the same gang.

That the gang felt confident that they would not encounter any British army or RUC patrols a mere four days after the killing of Larry Kennedy, despite the fact that Deerpark Road runs across Alliance Avenue where Larry Kennedy's killers had made their car escape, indicates the very real possibility that the Brits and RUC are turning a blind eye to an assassination campaign in north Belfast, in an effort to frighten and demoralise the north Belfast nationalist population.

Ardoyne killing

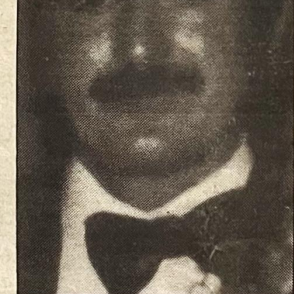
When two loyalist gunmen — one armed with a hand-gun, the other with a machine gun — came face to face with Belfast councillor and anti-H-Block campaigner thirty-eight-year-old Larry Kennedy in the doorway of the Shamrock social club in Ardoyne, at 10.50 p.m. a week last Thursday, October 8th, he paid with his life for being 'just in the wrong place at the wrong time'.

Yet his death, and the critical wounding of a friend who stood talking with Larry, forty-year-old Michael Lagan, undoubtedly prevented the mass murder intended by the loyalist gang, giving as it did a crucial few seconds' warning to the several hundred other people thronging the club, and robbing the assassins of the element of surprise.

Forty-three-year-old Seamus Murphy, the manager of the social club, was sitting with



● Above: Loyalist assassination victim Larry Kennedy (back row, extreme right), pictured taking part in a seven-day token fast in support of the hunger-strikers, outside the Shamrock social club where five weeks later he met his death; left: father-of-three, Bobby Ewing, gunned down in his Oldpark home last Monday



his wife and daughter, her boyfriend, and a couple of friends, at a function in the 'cabaret room' of the club, among a crowd of some two hundred, when he heard three or four shots ring out in the entrance hall.

Like others in the room, he pushed people near him to the ground, upturned their table as a shield, and with others piled tables against the 'cabaret room' door.

The hooded assassins, however, having fatally wounded Larry Kennedy in the head, neck, chest and leg as he stood in the main doorway, and shot Michael Lagan (who had organised the 'cabaret room' social to raise money for an ambulance for the Knights of Lazarus) in the chest and lung, stepped over their fallen bodies and turned towards the lounge bar where a further hundred or so were seated.

There, as people flung themselves to the ground and pelted the gunmen with bottles and a stool, one of them opened up with a long machine gun burst; but either because

he was unnerved by the shooting of Larry Kennedy at such close range, or because he was pressured by the barrage of bottles hurled at him, the bullets mostly struck the wall and ceiling, failing to hit anyone else, before the two gunmen made their escape in a white Vauxhall Chevette.

Larry Kennedy and Michael Lagan were both rushed to the Mater hospital in a local man's mini-bus, but Larry was dead before arrival.

Two factors in the attack — the first-ever on the Shamrock, which is not a specifically republican social club — raise serious questions about British army or RUC collaboration, or foreknowledge of the sectarian attack.

Firstly, the street lighting facing the club's main entrance, in Havana Court and Jamaica Court, was — unusually — switched off all night, making local people less likely to notice armed and masked men approaching the club.

Secondly, although the expected escape route would have been along Flax Street (where the club is situated) and on to the loyalist Crumlin Road, the getaway car was instead seen driving through Ardoyne towards Etna Drive, and along Alliance Avenue towards the loyalist upper Cliftonville Road.

About half-an-hour before the attack, a forty-year-old Ardoyne man, Sean MacLiam, who had been selling hamburgers from a mobile van at the top of Alliance Avenue

for the previous two evenings, was told to move on out of the area by the RUC. Apart from the patrol which approached him, he says, there was barely any Brit or RUC presence that evening in the immediate area, through which the escaping loyalist gang would have driven.

Larry Kennedy

Assassination victim Larry Kennedy was a Tyrone-born bachelor who had arrived in Ardoyne around the end of 1961, to spend one night at the home of his friend Anthony Keenan, and who then stayed on for the next twenty years until his brutal death, having fallen in love with Ardoyne and its people.

Larry was a founder member of the Shamrock club and was assistant treasurer of it when he died. In 1969 he travelled to Lisburn to buy a wooden hut, into which the club moved from its original attic premises, and to which several extensions were gradually added. He was instrumental in the club's acquisition of its present site in Flax Street in 1975.

Through the club, Larry exercised his extraordinary ability for organising activities, and his concern for Ardoyne people, particularly children and the elderly.

Among those activities, Larry was practically the founder of the Cancer Research campaign in Ardoyne and his efforts lay behind a £40,000 donation to Cancer Research made by the Shamrock club last year.

Every week he organised mini-bus trips to the Andersonstown and Maysfield leisure centres in the west and east of the city for local children, and campaigned vigorously for the provision of a separate leisure centre for north Belfast's nationalist population. During the summer he drove local children to the seaside each day, organised the club's annual Halloween fireworks display, and organised an annual trip for Ardoyne's old people to the Ould Lamas Fair at Ballycastle as well as staging a yearly party for orphaned children from the local Nazareth House (Larry himself had been brought up by an aunt).

Although never a member of the Republican Movement (though he played his part in the defence of Ardoyne at the time of the pogroms), Larry was interned for two-and-a-half years in 1972, being released early in 1975.

Having self-educated himself during internment he went on to get a degree in sociology at Queen's University in Belfast, a fact which resulted in his local nickname of 'the brain'.

Despite his academic achievement, Larry abandoned neither the people of Ardoyne nor his republican sympathies.

He was a strong supporter of the H-Block prisoners, and when in May of this year he became the only nationalist councillor in his predominantly loyalist north Belfast electoral ward, having stood on an 'independent' community ticket to win social facilities for the people of Ardoyne, he left the council in support of the hunger-strikers' demands. He also took part in a seven-day token fast outside the Shamrock social club in support of the prisoners.

Part of a poem he wrote during the hunger-strike, reads:

"Arms or H-Block
"Women or men
"If God is above us
"Let him bring to an end
"This suffering and torture
"For what we believe..."

A very quiet and inoffensive man, who loved Ireland and knew Irish history thoroughly, and who might often be heard in the Shamrock social club singing his favourite songs, 'The Cottage by the Lee', and 'The West Awake', Larry Kennedy — until he was robbed of life by a loyalist bullet — was a rare breed of man who continually put the needs of others before his own.

As his close friend Anthony Keenan said: 'Ardoyne never before had a person like Larry'. His death is felt bitterly.