

# An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



## General election

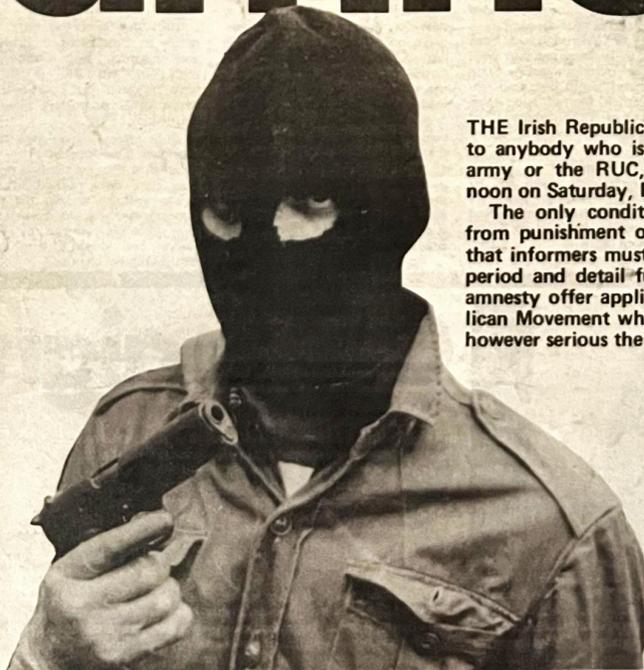
A GENERAL ELECTION will take place in the twenty-six counties on Thursday 18th February following the rejection of the Coalition government's budget on Wednesday evening, January 27th.

Following last year's Sinn Fein and their decision to field abstentionist candidates in Leinster House elections, when and where it is thought beneficial to do so, Sinn Fein will now be specifically considering its position with regard to this election.

On page 5, 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' correspondent Kevin Burke examines details of the proposed budget which was dramatically defeated and ended the seven-month spell in office of the Fine Gael/Labour coalition.

Swath Nua Imi 4 uimhir 4 Dearduin Eanáir 28 Thursday January 28th 1982 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

# IRA offer informers amnesty



THE Irish Republican Army has this week offered a two-week-long amnesty to anybody who is working, or has worked, as an informer for the British army or the RUC, beginning at noon this Saturday, January 30th, until noon on Saturday, February 13th.

The only condition of the amnesty, and of its guarantee of immunity from punishment or execution for those who take up the IRA's offer, is that informers must contact the Republican Movement within the two-week period and detail fully the information they have given to the enemy. The amnesty offer applies equally to civilians and to any members of the Republican Movement who have agreed to act as informers, and will be honoured however serious the nature of the information which has been given.

The terms of the amnesty also guarantee that informers who admit their involvement will not be ordered to leave the six counties. Furthermore, people previously ordered to leave the North because they had acted as informers are free to re-enter the North, during this two-week period only, and to approach the Republican Movement to have their situation reviewed.

As proof that such approaches will be considered sympathetically the Republican Movement have pointed out that a man from the Bally-

murphy district of west Belfast who was ordered to leave the country last year has been allowed to return. The offer of reviewing their situation, however, only applies to people ordered out of the North for informing and does not include those ordered out for other anti-social behaviour or acts of violence.

Once the two-week offer has expired though, the IRA have warned, they are in a strong position to take stern and immediate action against a number of Brit and RUC

(continued on next page)

## BLOODY SUNDAY

10th Anniversary commemoration

March & Rally  
Sunday 31st January  
DERRY

Bloody Sunday

## IRA OFFER INFORMERS AMNESTY

(continued from previous page)

informers known to them, if those people have not already come forward.

Obviously too, anybody who agrees to work for the British army or the RUC as an informer during or after the amnesty period will leave themselves open to punishment or execution upon discovery.

In an extensive and wide-ranging interview given to 'An Phoblacht / Republican News' earlier this week, (see centre pages) an IRA spokesman gave details of the amnesty offer and the reasons which have led to it, as well as giving fascinating and comprehensive insights into how RUC Special Branchmen, who call themselves 'handlers', recruit and employ informers, who they term 'agents', from among the nationalist population to give information on IRA Volunteers and sympathisers, IRA operations and the location of weapons and explosives.

The IRA interview also alleges a regular exchange of information between the RUC and the 'illegal' loyalist paramilitary UVF, such information — to mention just two instances — apparently leading to the UVF's assassination of IRSP members Ronnie Bunting and Noel Little in October 1980, and the assassination of IRA Volunteer Jim Burns in February 1981.

The key point which emerges from the IRA interview is that despite the Brits' and RUC's cynical manipulation of nationalist informers, who are usually acting under severe psychological duress, the supply of informers is rapidly drying up.

In part this is due to the fact that a greater proportion of those people arrested and interrogated under British emergency legislation are successfully adopting the correct policy of saying absolutely nothing and thus avoid the risk of being blackmailed or intimidated into acting as informers.

But it is also very much attributable to the growing success of the IRA's security personnel in rooting out informers, both recently recruited and those who have been informing for several years, and physically halting any further flow of useful information to the enemy. In little over a year the IRA has been forced to execute six informers, four of them IRA Volunteers, and to deal with six other not-so-serious instances of informing by less drastic measures.

Quite clearly then it is in the interests of all those to whom it applies to take up the IRA's offer while it is open to them, to save themselves from a shameful course of action that can only bring disgrace or death to them, and hardship to their own people, as well as great grief to their families and friends.

And what the Irish Republican Army have to say about the way in which informers are taught by the Brits and RUC to glean information, unsuspected, from people who are unaware of their listener's treachery, has a relevance for the entire nationalist population.

As the IRA spokesman says: "If there were no loose talk, informers would have an almost impossible job. If there were no informers the war would have been over long ago."

# London/Washington alliance illustrated

THE detention in a United States prison of Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP Owen Carron and Sinn Fein's Director of Publicity and editor of 'An Phoblacht / Republican News' Danny Morrison has amply illustrated the close alliance between the London and Washington governments.

In an unusual move the United States authorities brought several criminal charges against the two men and their co-accused Patrick Morrell, a naturalised Canadian citizen of Irish origin and Helen Quigley, an Australian legally resident in Canada — all four of whom were arrested as they attempted to cross the United States/Canadian border on Thursday night, January 21st.

In normal circumstances, persons attempting to enter the US without a visa would be charged under civil laws by the Immigration Service and usually expelled with a warning not to return.

### CHARGED

Owen Carron and Danny Morrison, however, who, along with the two Canadian residents, have been held in the Erie County Correctional Facility near Buffalo, New York, appeared before a magistrate last weekend on criminal charges of making false statements to US immigration officials, which carries a possible prison sentence of five years.

Patrick Morrell and Helen Quigley were charged with smuggling them into the US illegally and they face a possible two-year sentence.

At a further court appearance on Tuesday this week, January 26th, all four were further charged, on a Grand Jury indictment with conspiracy to commit acts against US law. These charges too carry possible five-year prison sentences and fines of up to \$10,000.

Jury selection in the case was scheduled to begin on March 8th. Bail was fixed by the court at \$10,000, but all four remained in prison on the instructions of the Immigration Service which had civil charges pending against them.

Officials of this department initially said that they did not plan to hold a hearing until the criminal charges were disposed of.



● Dublin Sinn Fein picketed the American embassy in Ballsbridge last Monday, January 25th, in protest at the detention of Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP Owen Carron and Sinn Fein's Director of Publicity, Danny Morrison, in a New York prison

But efforts to force an immigration hearing bore fruit and late on Wednesday afternoon the charges under immigration entry law were heard.

Each case was taken separately and in the early hours of Thursday it was reported that Owen Carron and Danny Morrison had been ordered to be deported (but were held overnight in Erie State Penitentiary), whilst their co-defendants Patrick Morrell and Helen Quigley had been granted bail and allowed to leave the United States.

### ARREST

The arrest one week ago of Owen Carron and Danny Morrison, both of whom have been refused entry visas by the United States government because they are Irish republicans, came after a week

which Danny Morrison had spent in a much-publicised visit to Canada to counter the propaganda tour of loyalist leader Ian Paisley.

Owen Carron had joined him there later and on his arrival Ian Paisley, who had refused a television debate with Danny Morrison, on the grounds that he was not an elected representative, returned to Belfast rather than face the same challenge from the Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP.

Whilst the two republicans were held in prison in New York state, the US-sanctioned propaganda tour of America — 'Operation USA' — by Paisleyite MP Peter Robinson, Official Unionist Euro-MP John Taylor and Norah Bradford, widow of the late Rev. Robert Bradford, MP, was continuing.

Both Carron and Morrison, in

statements from the prison and in court, have drawn attention to the difference between the facility given to expression of the loyalist line and the clampdown on republican attempts to get their message across in the United States.

Irish-Americans too have been quick to protest to congressmen and senators, and members of Irish Northern Aid in Buffalo have picketed the court-hearings, whilst other supporters filled the courtroom.

Both Owen Carron and Danny Morrison have insisted since their arrest that they are political prisoners. They have refused to wear prison uniforms and at the court appearances have conducted their own defences, advised by a US lawyer, and refused to enter a plea to the criminal charges.



## Campaign of abuse

PAULA FOX, aged eighteen, from the Iveagh district in west Belfast, is being subjected to an intense campaign of sexist and obscene abuse by British soldiers, who have focussed on her their general contempt for the nationalist population as well as their own feelings of inadequacy and immaturity.

The campaign against Paula has been going on for five years, with each outgoing regiment pointing her out to the arriving one, but it has intensified dramatically in recent weeks. Obscene slogans about her have been daubed on gable walls near her home, passing soldiers have called out after her, and at Christmas she received an official Christmas card stamped 'B Company, 2 Royal Green Jackets, Macrory Park' from Brits in a nearby barracks.

Paula comes from a republican-minded family, one of her brothers, IRA Volunteer Paul Fox, was killed in a premature explosion in December 1975.

Despite publicity being given to her harassment at the end of last week in the Belfast newspaper, the 'Irish News', and despite RUC claims of a 'thorough investigation' underway, the abuse continued. Last Sunday evening, as she left a shop close to her home, members of a Brit patrol whistled and called after her. When she ignored this they shouted obscene remarks after her.

# INSIDE THE PENITENTIARY

Letter from America by Danny Morrison, Erie State Penitentiary, New York, Monday 25th January

THE STARS must have augged ill for either myself or the other members travelling. I was being driven across the border by Helen Quigley, the Australian-born wife of Mike Quigley of the Toronto Irish POW Committee.

I had parted from my luggage and beard to minimise suspicion and recognition by American border officials and carried only a small black hold-all and a white plastic carrier bag.

Helen paid the 35 cents toll at the Peace Bridge, Niagara Falls. We continued along in the icy night, behind a number of cars most of which passed through the gates quickly and unmolested, which buoyed our confidence.

The old boy at the gate scrutinised our IDs meticulously, and our faces, and looked at some papers before summoning two police officers to the car. We were ordered into the immigration inspector's bay and the arrival party made me realise the game was up.

They separated us, and as soon as they went through my belongings they came across my passport. "Ah, Mr. Morrison, we have been waiting for you," said an official, with neat navy blue trousers to match his dark blue shirt secured by a cartridge belt and intimidating holster belt and magnum. All property was removed from my person and I was left to stew for several hours, before burly-looking Castle-reagh-type immigration officers eventually showed up.

Owen Carron, although I didn't know it at the time, had been arrested half-an-hour earlier under the ID of a Tyrone man settled in Canada. He had been picked up at about 8 p.m. at the Whirlpool Bridge, seventeen miles downstream.

## HANDCUFFED

After several interrogations at which I only identified myself, I was handcuffed to a chair in another room where all requests for food fell on deaf and largely unresponsive ears until this little grey middle-aged woman from County Mayo, hearing I was hungry, began to plaster me with dry crackers and cookies and apples, etc., until I felt loaded. It was shortly after this that the honourable member from Fermanagh and South Tyrone, looking slightly disgusted but not dejected, was taken through, handcuffed to Pat Morell, his driver, from Niagara Falls, Ontario.

US immigration agents had apparently been set up along the whole length of the border — a not surprising expectation of our attempted entry. Both of us were scheduled to speak at the tenth anniversary dinner of Noraid in New York, the following night. Paisley's Canadian flop ended that day, while the delegation that he had been due to take part in, and whose trail we were about to take up in the United States, was continuing its propaganda trip along the west coast.

Owen and I were charged with illegal entry; Helen and Pat with attempting to smuggle us into the country.

We were then driven to Buffalo and

taken to Erie State Penitentiary about forty miles away. After a very long delay we were turned over to the prison authorities and the handcuffs removed. We were separated, then taken underground to the suffocating basement to be stripped, deloused and given a uniform of white shirt and beige trousers with the particular wing of the jail stamped on the backsides.

Helen was taken to the women's wing. And our eyes popped out of our heads when we saw what they did to poor Pat, who, unfamiliar with republican convention, did what he was told and put on a flimsy dressing gown and was put to the side as 'Carron' was called. Owen, in that melodious voice of his which reached passionate notes of conviction and sheer determination when aroused, launched into a tirade against criminalisation, British or American; and we stormed into the room affirming our position of non-conformity. The lead on the screw's pencil broke on the ledger as he stared across the table at a black colleague.

"Lieutenant," he shouted on the phone, along with a string of expletives, "there are two guys down here claiming to be political prisoners and refusing to strip."

## LIEUTENANT

We were put back on the waiting benches, and Pat successfully claimed his own clothes back. The lieutenant, the equal of an assistant governor, heard us out, scratched his head, and tried to contact immigration authorities to get rid of us, but it was about 3 a.m.

We were taken to the wing that is usually reserved for touts, and put into three almost consecutive cells that were segregated from the other prisoners. A lot of the windows in this wing were broken and we shivered most of the night, although the following night we were moved to a much warmer upper landing and allowed to associate all day with our cell doors open.

On Friday morning, we were driven by immigration officers back to Buffalo, to the courthouse. A number of attorneys visited us, but Owen and I decided to represent ourselves as our case was political, in that we attempted to enter the US legally. (All our visa applications had been turned down, in my case just the previous week, while loyalists who are presently on the propaganda tour 'Operation USA' were allowed to enter the US to present their case.) A lawyer told us that the decision whether or not to prosecute us with a federal offence and deceiving a federal officer while carrying out his duties was out of the hands of the local district attorney and was being decided by the State Department in Washington.

At 4.30 on Friday afternoon we appeared before Judge Maxwell on criminal charges of trying to enter the country illegally in violation of the US code.

Owen refused to plead to the charge. I also refused to plead and stated that the American government are signatories to the UN declaration of human rights in which freedom of speech and freedom from discrimination are key articles, but we were being discriminated against while the loyalists were in America presenting their jaundiced view of things. We said that we view the decision to prosecute us as a political



● OWEN CARRON (left) & DANNY MORRISON detained crossing the Canada/US border

decision and we consider ourselves political prisoners and would act accordingly. (Upon being found guilty the penalty could be five years in prison or a \$10,000 fine, or both; whereas an administrative hearing under the immigration authorities would probably have resulted in us being excluded from America and deported back to Ireland.)

The judge was sympathetic and although bail had been set for \$50,000 each for Owen and myself and \$25,000 for Helen and Pat, he reduced it to \$10,000 personal bond in all four cases. The prosecutor said that under separate administrative charges they were opposing bail. The judge has no jurisdiction over them, so we were returned to jail for a preliminary hearing on criminal charges on Tuesday, January 26th.

## GRAFFITTI

The prison authorities siezed all our property. We salvaged one book each from my bag. Owen got the 'Year of the French', the rest of us have finished much shorter books.

Owen has written graffiti on the walls with a smuggled pencil, although he has since been given writing materials and I have added some of Bobby Sands to my graffiti. Owen has also billed a poster at the top of the wing 'Irish Republican POW' which the screws have not removed so far. The screws smiled at the graffiti. I don't think they like it. Any political graffiti, crude or sophisticated, is viewed as a rebellious message.

Meanwhile, Helen, who is isolated from us, protested and demanded her own clothes back. The lieutenant would not move her into our wing but after a visit she was given back her own clothes.

Earlier a screw had told us some fan-

tastic stories about the Sunday services, and the sermons of mostly self-appointed black Protestant ministers. Overcome by an ecumenical urge we asked to go to a Protestant service. The lieutenant could not understand us and Owen muttered an esoteric joke about us avoiding the local priest railing against those who illegally cross borders.

"Listen", said the lieutenant, "you guys can't even go to Mass. When the other prisoners see you they think 'why can't we have our own clothes?' That gives me a real problem." About 70% of the 600 prisoners in Erie (built in 1923) are black, serving short sentences of under one year. The language of the prisoners and prison staff is indicative to say the least. I'm no prude but it accurately reflects a common habit of foul swearing and sexually orientated cursing common in North America.

## CHAINS

Our cells have three yellow walls, the largest of which is about nine-foot long, and from this a bed is hinged which is suspended by chains. The mattress is as spongy as a dead pancake. Bars like a fixed portcullis, with a barred door, make up the fourth side of the cell. There is a grimy wash basin and equally grimy toilet whose contents flow into Owen's and vice versa when it's flushed.

And there are a number of dim fluorescent lights in the outside corridor. Except for the change in accent and the usual swearing, all the noises — the chattering, jangling of keys and slamming of doors — echo those of Crumlin Road or any old prison for that matter. On Saturday night we discussed our cases: all prisoners are always obsessed with their case.

Breakfast comes around at five every morning. Juice, bread, black coffee, soaking toast. It is like a Trappist monastery; three or four hours later you think 'is it morning yet?'

Regarding our religious eccentricities — we were told by the screw yesterday that it was Mass or nothing, and even Helen, who was born an Anglican, was assumed a Catholic because of her republican sympathies. We went to Mass in a large auditorium at 8 a.m. Prisoners, numbering about thirty, by gender segregated probably, and all white, were amazingly well-behaved. The priest sang unaccompanied.

About five minutes was spent on each handshake, which at home is something of an embarrassment, but which the prisoners here entered into energetically and sincerely.

The ordinary prisoners could not shake hands with us as we were separated and we did not shake hands with the screws. Prison protocol involves us being isolated from even visual contact with other prisoners: the corridors are clear of inmates whenever we go out to court or to meet the attorney as they are bound to resent us wearing our own clothes and also to question the regime...

The worse thing that could happen to us now, we think, would be an outbreak of nuclear war. We would be in the wrong place at the wrong time. There are a number of fallout shelters in the basement for the screws, says Carron.

# RUMOURS OF ROLLING DEVOLUTION ABOUT

# Sights levelled on Bradford's seat

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

MAJOR political developments in the North over the past week have focused on growing inter-unionist squabbling about who, or how many, will contest the South Belfast Westminster seat left vacant by the IRA's execution of former Official Unionist MP, Robert Bradford, last November, as well as further inkling — though yet to be announced in any concrete form — of Northern direct-ruler James Prior's proposed Stormont assembly. It is widely believed that Prior intends to have this assembly functioning, in one form or another, by the autumn.

Whether by that time enough of the fragile unionist unity — fostered temporarily between the mutually contemptuous Official Unionists and Paisley's DUP in order to put on a false front for the ill-conceived "Operation USA" propaganda trip — will have survived for the two parties to sit side by side in the new assembly remains to be seen; but indications from the South Belfast election campaign trail must offer little to be cheerful about for wistful promoters of inter-unionist amity.

## BLUFF

The bluff mounted by Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, in issuing what amounted to an ultimatum to the Official Unionists to agree to a unionist 'unity' candidate to contest Bradford's former seat, thinly veiled the DUP's strong desire to contest the election under their own party flag and has easily succeeded in its secondary aim of further disuniting the badly fragmented OUP.

Corned into angrily slamming what he called the DUP's torpedoing of an agreement reached earlier, that the two parties would pursue a joint approach to the election, Official Unionist leader James Molyneux has nevertheless been out-manoeuvred by Paisley into appearing publicly to be the one opposing an agreed candidate.

For while the DUP have held back from publicly discussing party nominations to contest the election, and are still publicly calling for an agreed candidate, the Official Unionists are already down to the nitty-gritty of short-listing candidates from a total of no less than eight who have submitted nomination papers to party headquarters.

Favourite contender for the Official Unionists is certainly the Orange Order grandmaster, Rev. Martin Smyth, but also in the running are virulent anti-Paisleyite, Robert McCartney, a barrister, and Raymond Jordan, who is not a member of the OUP but who was the election agent for the late Robert Bradford.

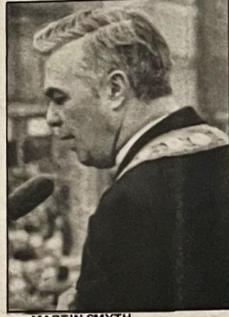
As sights are levelled on the South Belfast seat, earlier appeals by Bradford's widow, Norah, for unionist unity have been thrown aside in the far more crucial battle between Paisley and the Official Unionists for the hearts and minds of the loyalist population.

Without doubt, the most important forthcoming arena for that battle will be during this autumn, when elections to some form of advisory or semi-devolved assembly appear to be a certainty, though Prior has yet to publicly announce firm proposals.

Speculation in Wednesday's 'Irish Times' by London editor David



● NORAH BRADFORD appeals for unity



● MARTIN SMYTH fancies his chances



● ROBERT MCCARTNEY also in the running

McKittrick suggest however that Prior will unveil his proposals by the end of February or early in March, possibly in the form of a British government White Paper, followed by speedy legislation, and elections in the autumn to an assembly that will, at first at least, have no administrative or legislative powers but will be almost purely consultative.

The prospect of gradually devolving power being extended to the assembly, once a broad measure of consensus had been reached among its members, could be held out in the hope it would prove sufficiently attractive to both main unionist parties and the SDLP to ensure their participation.

Other sources also suggest that the assembly (for which a figure of about eighty seats is being mooted) would have powers to scrutinise bodies such as the RUC

Police Authority and Housing Executive, without being able to legislate for them, and be linked to a non-elected executive, headed perhaps by Prior himself and composed of junior ministers and non-party appointees, which would exercise real administrative control, subject to nominal scrutiny from the assembly.

Yet although Prior will almost certainly attempt to establish some such assembly this year, there can be no similar guarantee that it will not be rendered practically unworkable by the continuing squabbles of the main unionist factions.

## CONFRONTATIONS

Also in the 'Irish Times' on Wednesday, further evidence of possible confrontations between the OUP and DUP in the near future.

Official Unionist, and Orange

Order leader, Rev. Martin Smyth has alleged he approached DUP leader Ian Paisley in 1975 concerning allegations made to him by a member of Paisley's Free Presbyterian church against the former Kincora Boys' Home housefather, William McGrath, who was jailed last month for homosexual offences against boys in care.

Paisley has not only strenuously denied that Smyth contacted him in 1975 or that he in fact deliberately failed to deal with the allegations, but has, somewhat hysterically, taken to predicting future allegations against himself.

"I don't think any mud will stick on me," boasts Paisley, "because the people of Northern Ireland know who I am. If the 'Irish Times' is going to say that Ian Paisley is a homosexual, that Ian Paisley is tied up with homosexuals, then I think they'll have a very hard story to sell."

# Councillor jailed

EDDIE DOHERTY, a Sinn Fein member of Carrick-on-Suir Urban District Council in County Tipperary, and a local branch secretary of the ATGWU, spent several days in Mountjoy jail, Dublin, this week, for refusal to pay a fine imposed for non-payment of his television licence fee.

Doherty, who began a one-month sentence last Saturday, January 23rd, was fined £50 plus £2.60 court expenses at Waterford district court on September 3rd last year. He told the judge on that occasion that he would continue to refuse to pay the licence fee whilst Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, which bans all republicans from RTE, remains in force.

Before he was jailed, Eddie Doherty received a letter from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs informing him that continued refusal to pay would mean a fine of £100 and confiscation of his television set.

On Wednesday, his fine was anonymously paid, and he was released from jail, on his fifth day inside.

## REFUSE

In 1980, all thirty of Sinn Fein's local councillors announced that they would refuse to pay the licence fee because of the Section 31 ban and

because of the low level of Irish language broadcasting on RTE.

The Sinn Fein and their extended this television licence boycott to all members of the organisation and this position was re-affirmed at the 1981 and this last October.

In July last year, another Sinn Fein councillor, Frank Glynn of Galway County Council, of which he was chairman in 1979-80, was also fined the maximum penalty of £50 for refusing to buy a television licence. Speaking at a meeting of the Commerce and Economic Society of University College, Dublin, on Wednesday 20th January, another Sinn Fein councillor, Joe O'Neill of Bundoran Urban District Council, condemned the RTE ban which covers councillors even when discussing local issues.

He went on to point out that in Longford, which forms half the constituency of both the present Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Paddy Cooney, and his Fianna Fáil predecessor, Albert Reynolds, Sinn Fein councillors hold the balance of power on the county council. One Sinn Fein councillor was very recently also chairman of that



● Monday's picket at Mountjoy prison, Dublin, in protest at the jailing of Sinn Fein councillor Eddie Doherty, who refused to pay his TV licence fee in protest at the RTE ban on republicans

council. He condemned the banning from RTE of Owen Carron, Westminster MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, and particularly attacked attempts by the station to portray the SDLP as the only voice of nationalists in the North.

"A deliberate and conscious policy has been followed," he said, "to ensure that the voice of nationalist and republican Ireland in the six counties is totally distorted or denied representation on RTE to a degree that even the

British government would never seek to openly impose on BBC, UTV or other independent services."

Also, on Tuesday 26th January, Mrs. Margaret Langsdorf of Dublin Sinn Fein had her television set confiscated by the Rathfarnham district court because of her refusal to pay the licence fee. She was also fined £1. Protestors picketed the courthouse during the hearing.

## BANNED

Sinn Fein has issued a statement on

the imprisonment of Eddie Doherty: "Sinn Fein is the fourth largest political organisation in the twenty-six counties and is the only organisation with elected representatives whose spokespersons are explicitly banned from the state-monopoly RTE.

"Not alone are the people denied the viewpoints of thirty Sinn Fein councillors, but even Owen Carron, MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone and successor to Bobby Sands, MP, cannot be heard — although unionist candidates defeated at the polls are interviewed regularly.

"As a protest against this unjust and undemocratic political censorship, the thirty Sinn Fein councillors signed a public pledge in 1980 to refrain from paying TV licences while Section 31 operated and also on account of the low level accorded to the Irish language and Irish culture generally on RTE, which is now less than 4%.

"Several Sinn Fein councillors have had the maximum fine imposed on them and Eddie Doherty is the first to go to prison in support of his stand for democratic freedom of expression.

"Already, ten Irish language workers have been imprisoned for making a similar licence protest and the two struggles have been linked in the persons of the Sinn Fein public representatives."

On Wednesday 27th January, Sinn Fein's head office lodged a complaint with the Free State Department of Justice over the refusal of Mountjoy prison officials to allow Eddie Doherty to be visited by Sinn Fein's general secretary Joe Cahill and national treasurer Seamus McGarrigle. A request by Eddie Doherty to be transferred to Portlaoise prison had also been refused.

COALITION PROMISES & PROGRAMME CONTRADICTED

# Savage budget not swallowed

BY KEVIN BURKE

THE Free State Coalition government pushed its luck too far.

The crushing budget which it attempted to introduce in Leinster House this Wednesday, January 27th, was obviously too much for even its strong-stomached 'independent' supporters to swallow.

Not only did it ignore the Fine Gael tax promises, which were considered to have won the last election for the Coalition, and ignore the 'Gaiety programme' on which the coalition with Labour was based, it actually directly contradicted them.

It is one of the features of parliamentary democracy that such con-tricks can be pulled on the electorate, but Garret FitzGerald was unable to do so.

In the event he only got the support of Noel Browne of the independents, the rest, even the staunch Coalition supporter Jim Kemmy, obviously decided that their credibility as 'independents', 'socialists' or 'workers' could not survive any further betrayals.

## SAVAGERY

The savagery of the non-budget was all the more staggering given that it far exceeded even the gloomy predictions of recent weeks. With the Coalition defeated on the first vote on its proposals and FitzGerald immediately seeking a dissolution of his government by the Free State president, none of the budget package will now come into effect.

The details of that failed budget, announced by Coalition Minister for Finance John Bruton tell their own story.

Income tax, which to all intents and purposes means the burden borne by the PAYE sector, was the key area in which Fine Gael promised reform and reduction. The election pledge was for the 35% rate to be reduced to 25% — the decrease being paid for out of indirect taxation increases.

Not only had the 25% rate not been introduced, but income tax for 1982 was expected to bring in an extra 27% as against wage increases at the very best of 18%; in other words a substantial increase, not a decrease, in direct taxation.

## INCREASES

In addition, increases to be made in social insurance contributions of 3.5% and over, would have been a further deduction from wage packets.

However, the non-implementation of the income tax concessions had not saved us from the indirect taxation increases. The proposed increase in VAT rates from 15% to 18%, came only six months after the punitive July budget which raised that rate from 10%.

The increase in the current 25% VAT rate to 30% would have



Workers recently made redundant by the closure of Clondalkin Paper Mills, Dublin, were among those who picketed Leinster House during Wednesday's budget debate. There was no hope at all, announced inside, for the unemployed

meant that almost all goods, except food, would increase dramatically in price just from this decision alone.

An added cruel twist was the proposal for the 18% VAT rate on clothing and footwear which was previously zero-rated. Even children's clothes and shoes were included, whereas in other EEC countries they are exempted.

Food itself was not to escape the net however and, in the budget, food subsidies were to be removed from milk entirely, so that it would increase by 4p per pint in price. The subsidy on butter was to be cut, resulting in an increase in price of 8p.

Proposed increases in excise duties, on beer, wines and spirits, cigarettes and petrol also followed on swingeing increases in last July's budget: 4½p more on a pint of beer, 8½p on a glass of spirits, 11½p on twenty cigarettes. In other words the once simple pleasures of a pint and a packet of

cigarettes per day would now cost over £14 per week!

The 14p extra on a gallon of petrol followed on a 13p increase in July and is, of course, one of the prime cost increases which are quickly passed on to the consumer, who thus suffers directly and indirectly.

Into this category also came the big increases in road tax, which was re-introduced last July. And the 20% increase in postal and telephone charges came after they were subjected to a 20% increase in July. All these proposals also fall with the government.

The effects of these increases immediately would be a rise in the cost of living of between 6% and 7% at least. As the increases are passed on to the consumer a further increase of the same magnitude would also have been borne. Inflation which for the last quarter was 23%, and for 1982 was optimistically forecast at 15% before the budget, would have been approaching the appalling figure of 30% for the year.

## POOR

In the light of this, the compensations offered in the budget looked very poor indeed. Social welfare benefits to increase by 25%, and much will be made of this now by the Coalition, but it will be remembered that in July only a 4% increase was provided — and not implemented until October.

Already lagging behind inflation rates the 25% — to have come into effect in April — would only have restored the level of the beginning of this year, even as the next bout of inflation soared away again.

Similarly, increases in children's allowances, to have been renamed children's benefits, would have been cancelled out by the VAT increases and removal of food subsidies in general and, in particular, by the crippling 18% tax on children's clothes and shoes.

Not surprisingly either, the well-off sectors of society, both individ-

uals, companies and banks, escaped with only derisory tax increases.

Capital taxation had merely been fiddled with. There was no introduction of a wealth or property tax. A 5% increase in corporation tax was not to apply to manufacturing industry.

No bank tax had yet been worked out, so another levy had been proposed by them for the year, this time £15 million. The banks themselves were expecting £20 million, and the profits of the big four banks alone last year was a massive £94 million.

## PINPRICK

The extra 15% tax on gains made on the rezoning of land for development also represents a mere pinprick in comparison to the millions of pounds made by property speculators merely by virtue of a local council vote.

Cosmetic touches such as £17 extra tax on a colour television, £20 on a video machine, the abolition of tax allowance for future personal non-mortgage interest were all virtually meaningless.

The most ironic new tax in this luxury category was perhaps the £10 flat rate tax on foreign holidays, given the Free State premier's recent return from three weeks in Tenerife and the state-paid holiday of the deputy-premier in the United States, where John Bruton himself, shortly after coming to office, spent his honeymoon, also paid for out of public funds.

Nowhere did the budget contain any provision for employment creation schemes, and the effect of the inflationary budget increases on the unemployment figures, presently at 141,146, would have been almost too damaging to contemplate.

As things have turned out, the fall of the Coalition has spared us the proposed suffering. At least now, with a general election in prospect, we know what a Coalition is really offering and the ball is up in the air again.

## Gibney arrested

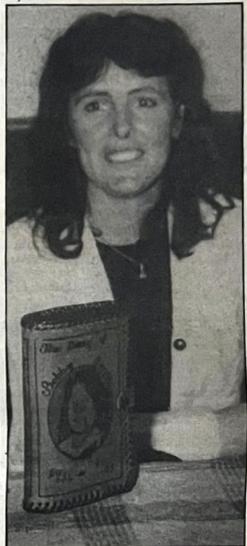
SINN FEIN national organiser Jim Gibney was arrested by the RUC on Friday afternoon, January 22nd, at Long Kesh prison camp, shortly after visiting a prisoner there.

Jim Gibney, a well-known Belfast republican in his late twenties, from Short Strand, was nationally prominent in organising the campaign of street protests throughout the two H-Block hunger-strikes.

At the time of going to press he is still being held in Castlereagh interrogation centre under Section 12 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Gibney's arrest has been condemned by Sinn Fein as an act of intimidation against a key figure in the present re-structuring and political development of the party.

## Release



DEIRDRE McDonnell from Andersonstown, Belfast, was released from Limerick prison last Saturday, January 23rd, having served fifteen months of an eighteen-month sentence as a republican prisoner.

At a welcoming reception in the Dublin offices of Sinn Fein's POW department in Blessington Street on the same day, Deirdre was presented with a wallet and a harp made in Portlaoise prison.

## Clones warning

THE Republican Movement in Clones, County Monaghan, has issued a strongly-worded statement in which it warns elements in the town, who have been masquerading as republicans, and threatening and physically assaulting people, to cease their activities immediately.

The statement continues: "We take this opportunity to thank the people of Clones for their continued support during 1981 and to assure them that our fight is for and with the people and not against them. Our prime aim is to rid our country of British imperialism and the divisions it has imposed upon our people."

"Our struggle is for a united socialist republic where exploitation will be a thing of the past."

## Armagh attack

THE IRA have claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a commercial target in Armagh city, last weekend.

In the late evening of Saturday 23rd January, Volunteers planted bombs at Hillock's hardware store and timber yard in Dobbins Lane. Three bombs exploded shortly before midnight causing slight damage. All Volunteers returned safely to base.



JOHN BRUTON a devastating package

THE IRA, in an exclusive interview with 'An Phoblacht/Republican News', has announced that a two-week amnesty for informers begins this Saturday and has revealed details of the secret war between the RUC Special Branch and IRA security personnel whose function is to prevent the infiltration of informers into republican circles.

# IRA COMBAT

IN an extremely frank interview with 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' earlier this week, announcing a two-week amnesty offer for informers, the Irish Republican Army has for the first time revealed in detail the techniques used by the British army and, primarily, by the RUC Special Branch, to recruit informers, including IRA Volunteers, from among the nationalist community, and the IRA's efforts — through its security personnel — to combat the problems posed by informers.

The IRA have also publicly admitted for the first time that they executed thirty-three-year-old Peter Valente in November 1980, an IRA Volunteer from Unity Flats in north Belfast, who was a central RUC informer for a number of years, and whose interrogation by the IRA prior to his execution led to the uncovering of several other informers and to major advances in the IRA's awareness of the RUC's deployment of informers.

As well as detailing precisely the reasons for the execution in Belfast of six informers over the past fourteen months, and for the less harsh treatment meted out to other proven informers, the IRA also reveal the ways in which informers operate within the nationalist community and their motivation, building up their credibility in the eyes of ordinary people as well as with republican Volunteers only to betray them again and again — out of fear, and for a few miserable pounds.

The purpose of the IRA interview, coupled with their offer of an amnesty, is to offer a way out to reluctant informers without fear of reprisal, before their activities are discovered and dealt with by the IRA.

It is also, of course, to remind the nationalist population of the dangers of informers in their midst and to warn them to guard against loose talk at all times, no matter who they are talking to.

## RECRUITMENT

Most informers are recruited as a result of having 'broken' during interrogation, whether in Castlereagh or some other interrogation centre, and having made personally incriminating admissions (even of activities they were not involved in).

In return for immunity from prosecution the informer makes his initial agreement to work for the RUC. Once that first agreement is made the informer is trapped, as his original admissions can always be used against him at a later date, or the RUC will threaten to make public the fact that he has informed.

The best effective defence for anyone under interrogation is, of course, to say absolutely nothing.

However, having initially agreed to work for the RUC, the informer is given a code-name, and a telephone number to ring, as well as a total of three pre-arranged meeting places, designated 'one', 'two', and 'three'.

At an arranged time the informer rings the phone number and asks to meet his contact, known appropriately enough as his 'handler', at one of the three meeting places specified by him. In the Belfast area these meeting places are frequently the Lisburn Road, University Avenue, Shaftesbury Square, the Ormeau Road area, or the museum.

After cruising around the area to make sure they aren't being set up, the RUC 'handlers' pick up the informer and drive off, usually to a safe bar. Bars in central Belfast mentioned by the IRA as having been used include

the 'Bunch of Grapes', the 'Red Barn' and the 'Bodega' bar, all within the city-centre security gates.

The informer quickly becomes humiliated in his own eyes, being forced to socialise with the RUC 'handlers', accept drinks and small sums of money from them, and buy them drinks in return. He lives in constant fear of RUC threats to make it known he is an informer, if he tries to stop.

To compensate the informer, the RUC term him an 'agent', creating a James Bond atmosphere to disguise the sordid nature of his activities. Other forms of compensation include cash bonuses, and financial payments made in several other ways, for information leading to republicans being jailed, weapons and explosives seized.

However, financial payments are invariably small, usually less than £10 or £20 at a time, since the informer, once 'hooked', works principally on the basis of his fear.

Interestingly enough, although an RUC 'handler' may only give a few pounds to an 'agent' he will claim a far greater sum on his expenses!

## INFORMERS

As evidence of the IRA's increasingly efficient security department, which monitors attempted enemy infiltration, through informers, into the nationalist community, the IRA has detailed some of the informers uncovered by the IRA's security personnel in the past year, in the Belfast area, whose actions were, however, not serious enough to be executed for.

● A man arrested last April while undergoing recruitment to the IRA. He agreed to work for the RUC while in Castlereagh, and later met his 'handler' outside a technical college on the Lisburn Road. The IRA let him off with a warning after deciding he wasn't in a position to do serious damage by informing. His recruitment, obviously, was stopped.

● An Ardoyne IRA Volunteer of ten years' standing. Like all IRA Volunteers he exercised his right to a court-martial. The court-martial failed to prove conclusively he had given information to the RUC, though it did prove he had agreed to work for them and had been given a code-name, 'Rugbyman', and a code-number. He was ordered to leave the country.

● A civilian from Ballymurphy

who agreed to act as an informer after admitting in Castlereagh that his car had been used to carry military equipment for an attack on a British army base last year. He was ordered to leave the country, but later allowed to return.

● A man who, under duress, agreed to set up two men, believed to be republicans, for assassination by Brits (with the blame to fall on loyalist assassins). He later refused to go through with this, and eventually also withdrew false allegations against the men, after talking to his family. No physical action was taken against him.

● A group of republicans engaged in robberies for personal gain. All but two were arrested by the IRA and suffered punishment shootings. One man escaped IRA custody, and the other was taken from a bus bound for a H-Block march in Dublin, by Brits and RUC men, apparently willingly, fearing his imminent arrest by the IRA. Information given by one of these men led to the seizure of IRA dumps. The IRA now wish to let this informer know that he can safely come forward to take advantage of the amnesty.

## VOLUNTEERS

The most insidious informers, and against whom the sternest action is taken, are IRA Volunteers, or active sympathisers, who 'break' under interrogation and agree to work for the RUC.

According to the IRA, the RUC actively endeavours to build their credibility in the eyes of republicans by, for example, encouraging them to hold weapons dumps (with, of course, a guarantee that their homes will not be raided) and by giving them additional RUC training in use of weapons and explosives.

They are also encouraged by the RUC to show greater enterprise within the IRA, aided by RUC information, to boost their standing. By arresting senior IRA personnel identified by an informer the RUC hope that one of the vacant positions may eventually be taken by the informer himself, increasing his value to them.

On several occasions the RUC have actually permitted IRA operations to go ahead, even though they knew of them in advance. This has involved, for instance, the bombing of Belfast city centre targets, and, on another occasion, a sniping attack on an RUC sanger in the New Lodge Road area. These operations have been under RUC surveillance of course.

When the RUC become aware of an intended IRA target through an informer, but decide that it would be too prestigious for the IRA, they may simply use the



● Most informers are recruited as a result of having 'broken' during interrogation, whether in Castlereagh or some other interrogation centre, and having made personally incriminating admissions (even of activities they were not involved in).

informer to sabotage the operation by ensuring that a bomb does not detonate properly or that a car used in the operation breaks down or crashes.

This favourite technique employed by the RUC when using informers is called 'not present target' (NPT).

However, successes in uncovering, and dealing with, informers over the past fourteen months has severely restricted the RUC's prior warning of IRA operations. Much of that success followed the interrogation and execution of Peter Valente.

## VALENTE

Peter Valente was executed by the IRA on November 14th 1980, though for the sake of his staunchly republican-minded family as well as for internal IRA security reasons his execution was not claimed at the time. He was an IRA Volunteer and active in the local H-Block committee, yet had agreed to work for the RUC several years earlier after admitting his IRA membership under interrogation in Castlereagh.

Valente gave information on IRA operations, both before and after they took place, named Volunteers and detailed movements and locations of weapons. On one memorable occasion in

late 1980, Valente passed information to the RUC on a planned IRA operation in Belfast. The RUC in turn requested surveillance assistance from the British army but were outraged when the SAS insisted on taking over the whole thing, hoping to assassinate the entire IRA active service unit. The row between the RUC and the SAS reverberated in London, and it was finally British premier Thatcher who gave her support to the SAS.

However, due to a complete breakdown in co-operation between the SAS and the RUC because of the row, the SAS launched a disastrous raid on the 'wrong' house (not the one containing the IRA unit) and arrested, and assaulted, completely innocent civilians! Instead of bringing glory on the SAS, the fiasco caused an outcry.

Ironically, Valente also came into contact with an RUC man who was selling information to the IRA, including information about informers. Valente reported this to his Special Branch 'handler' who in turn gave Valente money to hand over to the RUC man at a rendezvous on the outskirts of north Belfast, the RUC man believing that it was in fact an IRA payment. The RUC man was arrested by the Special

Branch leaving them averted and forced to resign avert a major police and confidence crisis RUC.

There is no evidence of this being the only who has been prior information to the

## GILVARY

Maurice Gilvary, under from Ardoyne, mailed in 1977, was on the basis he had made several just before he was which had not been him at the time.

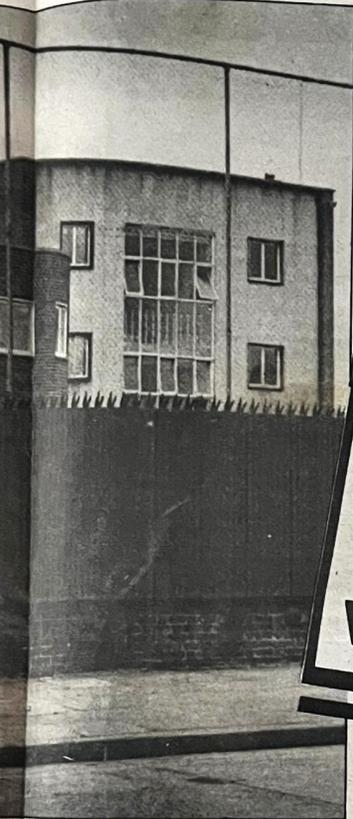
From 1977 on, Gilvary worked as and on one occasion he gave regarding operation led directly of several IRA volunteers.

Maurice Gilvary by the IRA in and his body was South Armagh bog hill.

## TRAIN

Although not a Volunteer, Paddy to work for the RUC arrested on the other men in 19

# AT RUC INFORMERS



Castlereagh or some other interrogation centre. The best effectiveness...

ing the rendezvous, to design in order to join political scandal and a crisis within the no evidence however the only RUC man on prepared to sell the IRA.

**VARRY**  
Varry, an IRA Volunteer, was blacked-out in Castlereagh in several statements several years earlier, and he was interned, and he was used against Varry towards Maurice as an informer, and information regarding a planned directly to the deaths of IRA Volunteers in Varry was executed in January 1981 and was left on the border, near Fork-

**TRINOR**  
Trinor, a republican, was a member of the RUC after being on the border with two in 1976, and being

questioned in Bessbrook barracks where he admitted his role in an INLA armed robbery in Portadown some time previously.

From June 1976 until his execution by the IRA in February 1981 Trainor supplied names of Volunteers, watched the movements of known republicans, and gave locations of weapons dumps, informing on both the IRA and the INLA in the Lower Falls where he lived.

Under interrogation he admitted being responsible for raids that had taken place in Divis Flats over several years, and said that he had been told to bug an IRSP member's flat in Divis, as well as to frame another IRSP man by planting a short-arm under his mattress.

Worst of all, Trainor admitted that he frequently gave false information, implicating innocent people, to his RUC 'handler' when he was in need of extra 'bonus' money, which he spent on drink.

**ROBINSON**  
Like Trainor, Vincent Robinson was not a member of the Republican Movement, but, like Trainor, Peter Valente and Maurice Gilvary he was centrally involved in his local H-Block committee, leading the IRA's security per-

● A striking poster which has appeared on Belfast streets in recent months

## Loose talk costs lives

In taxis  
On the phone  
In clubs and bars  
At football matches  
At home with friends  
Anywhere!

Whatever you say - say nothing

sonnel to suspect that the RUC were attempting to infiltrate all local H-Block committees with well-trusted, 'republican' informers.

Vincent Robinson supplied information on the movements of IRA Volunteers, 'call' houses, and the whereabouts of large quantities of explosives. His information led to the arrest of several Volunteers.

Robinson was executed by the IRA in June 1981. His code-name as an informer had been, ironically, 'H-Block'.

**BRANIFF**

Anthony Braniff, an IRA Volunteer from Ardoyne in north Belfast, was executed in September 1981 after a court-martial found him guilty of having passed information to the RUC over a short period of time, leading to the discovery of three local dumps.

Following his death, allegations by his family that he had been tortured during interrogation led to a full IRA investigation into the allegations. The IRA point out that at his court-martial, the right to which is absolute for any accused Volunteer, Braniff made a statement admitting and detailing his involvement with the RUC. He also made a statement saying he had no complaints about his treatment by his captors.

The IRA investigation found that Braniff had not been tortured or ill-treated and that the alleged burns to his body had probably

been caused by powder burns when he was shot. The IRA also point out that the RUC were curiously reticent about the torture allegations, indicating that there was no substance in them at all. Braniff's RUC code-name was 'Jelly'.

**TURBITT**

The last of the RUC informers to be executed was John Turbitt, from Lenadoun in west Belfast. Turbitt was shot in his home on January 3rd this year after ignoring repeated IRA warnings to leave the country. He died from his wounds two weeks later.

Turbitt was a senior officer in the IRA who agreed to work for the RUC after 'breaking' under interrogation in Castlereagh. He had then made arrangements to meet his RUC 'handler'.

On his release from Castlereagh he failed to report this to IRA security personnel (despite being well aware that even should people agree to work for the RUC while in Castlereagh, they should immediately inform the Republican Movement of this on their release).

Even when confronted with an accusation that he had agreed to inform Turbitt denied it, but later during questioning, he admitted this.

He was ordered to leave the country, but did not do so and, weeks later, and after repeated warnings, the IRA reluctantly

carried out what they had warned him of repeatedly, should he not leave the country, and executed him. Had he left the country when told to do so, the IRA point out, he would be alive now.

**DANGERS**

The dangers to the nationalist community as a whole of the activities of RUC informers, according to information supplied in their interview by the IRA, can be gauged by the fact that Special Branchmen regularly meet UVF members in two Shankill Road pubs to pass on information on IRA, INLA and other republican personnel. Such information led to the assassinations of Ronnie Bunting and Noel Little, and of IRA Volunteer Jim Burns.

In the case of the Bunting/Little killings, IRA security sources claim that a car-load of known UVF members were stopped by a British army patrol in Downfine Gardens in Andersonstown - the street where Bunting's home was situated - only fifteen minutes before the double assassination.

The Brits radioed the men's names back to base but were told to allow them to proceed. No-one has ever been charged with the killings.

The danger to the nationalist community and the republican struggle posed by even a handful of active informers has been

greatly reduced in recent months by the increasingly effective detection of recently-recruited and longer-term informers by the IRA's security personnel.

The resulting shortage of well-placed 'agents' in the nationalist community and their reluctance to pass information which may lead to their detection by the IRA is currently causing an acute problem for the RUC who, instead of employing active republicans and sympathisers to inform while carrying on a normal day-to-day life, have been forced to try to squeeze information out of people who 'break' under interrogation during the few days in which the RUC can keep their victim isolated, frightened, and away from relatives and friends.

The benefits to be gained from this sort of informer by the RUC, while occasionally dramatic - as in the case of so-called 'super tout' Chris Black - are ultimately less valuable, and all too frequently counter-productive.

The lessons, however, both to republicans and to the nationalist community, are very clear. If you are arrested and under interrogation, stay silent throughout. And even from day to day, whoever you are talking to, mind what you say. You may be talking to an informer.



● GARY ENGLISH

BY GERALDINE HEGGARTY

## A CLASSIC CASE OF INJUSTICE IN DERRY

# ANGER AS BRITS CLEARED

UPROAR broke out in the public gallery at Belfast crown court, on Wednesday week, January 20th, when two British soldiers were acquitted of killing two youths, deliberately knocked down by a military landrover in Derry city, Easter Sunday last, April 19th.

And there was angry reaction in some political and legal circles; with the (British) National Council for Civil Liberties threatening that they are going to publish the findings of an independent inquiry, headed by Lord Gifford, into the episode, and would be pressing the British Attorney-General to make a statement on the case.

Even the Mayor of Derry, SDLP man Joseph Fegan felt it necessary to state that he had been "shocked beyond words by the verdict in view of all the evidence", and that he could "see no reason for acquitting the two soldiers".

After the jury had returned 'not guilty' verdicts on Lance-Corporal Stephen Buzzard and Colour-Sergeant Hugh Dalton Smith, women in the public gallery started screaming at the two soldiers, calling them "murdering bastards" while one man pointed at the dock and shouted 'you two will be got'.

Buzzard, aged twenty-three, was acquitted of causing the deaths by reckless driving of seventeen-year-old Jim Brown and nineteen-year-old Gary English; his commanding officer, Smith, aged thirty-three, was cleared of aiding and abetting Buzzard.

Prosecution witnesses had told the court how they saw a landrover, driven by Buzzard and containing Smith, drive at about 65 mph into a crowd of rioters and onlookers at the junction of Creggan Street and Creggan Road.

James Brown and Gary English died minutes after they were struck and English's body was found 160 feet from the impact.

### INTERESTS

The father of one of the dead youths, Gary English, forty-year-old Michael English, who was outraged by the case, spoke to 'An Phoblacht/Republican News'. Jim Brown's parents preferred not to talk about it and let Michael English speak on behalf of both families.

Michael English described his son: "He had five interests in life. The first was Manchester United, the second was Charlie Nash, the third was the horses, the next one would be Bjorn Borg, and then his work. He worked as a barman. He'd always kept himself busy you know, he took a great interest in all that went on around him."

"He took a great interest in the hunger-strike, although he wasn't the type to express his feelings but you knew by the way he came in every day and read the reports. The only time we saw him express any thing like was when Bobby Sands won the election, he went bananas, he nearly hit the roof."

The pain and sorrow endured by the families was aggravated even further by the acquittal of the two Brits: "When you have lost one of your children in them circumstances like, you think it's bad, it changes your whole life, it upsets your whole family, it upsets the routine of your life. And then you think that you're getting over it, the pain and the



● Michael English, a bereaved and angry father

sorrow, and then came the court, that was to me a bigger pain than the death itself.

"You think, here's two blokes and they run over our sons, the seriousness of the crime: they killed your son, they killed somebody else's, and then they're aided and abetted by the very principle by which society is formed, that is the law of the land. And they were definitely aided and abetted by the law of the land. By no stretch of the imagination, even by their own statements, could anybody bring in a not guilty verdict."

Michael English contrasts the crown court with the independent inquiry chaired by Lord Gifford which also looked into the incident: "You can't appeal against a not guilty verdict. I have no say as regards that at all. Cases like this are taken very cleverly out of your hands. To begin with the DPP and the police control it so you have no opportunity to vet anything that goes on in court. You're just a spectator. There's nothing you can do if they tell lies, you just have to sit and listen."

Whereas Lord Gifford sought information from all the parties concerned: "He let the eye-witnesses give their accounts. He familiarised himself with the actual location and area where the incident happened. He took measurements and drew plans and weighed them against what the eye-witnesses had said to him."

In sharp contrast to Lord Gifford, Judge Hutton, who was one of Britain's barristers at the Strasburg hearings where Britain was indicted for ill-treatment of internees in the six counties, handled the case in the interest of the British state. He asked the jury to consider that it had been the accused's first time on

riot duty despite one of the accused's own sworn testimony that he had been on riot duty the previous night.

He asked the jury to consider that "soldiers in this kind of situation had the right to break the law regarding speed and to be compared with police, ambulances and fire engines going to an emergency." He went on to say that the jury may think he was "favouring one side against the other, and they would be right in assuming so, although if they thought he was wrong in his assessment they still had the right to think and act accordingly."

He referred to Colour-Sergeant Smith's army record and service medals. As in Bloody Sunday where the perpetrators were promoted and the O/C decorated by the English Queen, it was revealed during this trial that Sergeant Smith has been put in the listings for promotion to Warrant Officer.

### INQUIRIES

Incredibly, even though the pathologist's report thoroughly described the injuries to both youths, Judge Hutton specifically instructed the jury to ignore as irrelevant the fact of the second jeep reversing over Gary English as he lay in Creggan Street — despite the fact that his injuries included twelve broken ribs, and that he died due to a rib puncturing his heart, and despite the pathologist's evidence that the first jeep hit him on the pelvic bone.

The judge stated that all this was irrelevant as it was reasonable to assume that Gary was already dead at the time the second jeep reversed twice over the top of him. This is despite the pathologist's admission that he could not be certain, but



● Grief-stricken at their son's funerals last April, James Brown's mother, Myra, and step-father, Jack Murray, (above), and Gary English's mother, Maureen (below)



● JAMES BROWN

ask your comrade to prosecute for you, because the fella that was the photographer on that day was introduced as a witness to the prosecution as a member of the 2nd Royal Anglians and that's who killed my son and Jim Brown."

The jury itself was handicapped; it is fair to describe it as a Shankill jury. This jury's ignorance of the area and political persuasion was exploited by the court in order to discredit the evidence against the Brits.

### JUSTICE

The two bereaved families are intent on achieving justice, however elusive it may prove to be. Lord Gifford is to come over to Derry this weekend to conclude on the case and pass a verdict.

Michael English has no intention of giving up: "No matter how long it takes I'm going to pursue this and some way along the line I'll get justice."

The community has given support to the families throughout this time and Michael English has faith in the nationalist community's strength and commitment to struggle against injustice: "There's a great sense of hatred but there's no sense of fear. It has been proved time and time again, there was thirteen killed and it will not stop the people in Derry going out and fighting against injustice so I don't think my son's death will keep them in fear of meeting head on what they see as an injustice."

Gary has three brothers and three sisters. Jim has two sisters and one brother. Michael English spoke of how his family has tried to get over such a loss: "It took quite some time to adjust. It's just the policy of the family to go every Sunday to the city cemetery. Sometimes, without asking, the boys — who go to St. Peter's school in the Creggan — as a matter of taking a short-cut go through the cemetery, and on their way to school in the morning and on their way home at night, they always stop and say a wee prayer."

The suppression of the facts and the real nature of the crime in this case is part of a more general British state strategy of condoning acts of violence against the nationalist community. As in the Widgery Tribunal on Bloody Sunday — the British army was vindicated of any blame.

The 'Silent Too Long' campaign has been initiated by those relatives who have suffered state and loyalist assassinations. This helps to initiate discussion and gives some emotional support to the families concerned. It is not enough, however, and Michael English realises this and hopes to push his case in the courts once again. Once the doors of the courts are closed, however, where do we go from there?

The youth in Derry are particularly affected by these murders. Many are friends of Jim and Gary and they are all potential victims in similar situations. One argues that the verdict should be challenged: "They got off with murder. I think it (the case) should be brought back. There wasn't enough done about it. I think they (the community) should start up marches and things like that... I knew the Brits would get off, like they get off with everything else."

The nationalist community are well aware of the limits of legal justice, with an Orange judiciary and a court system which is little more than a facade for the needs of the British government.

# Carpethbagging Sile

## WHAT'S ON

### Burke's at the back BY KEVIN BURKE

SILE de Valera, often regarded as the nearest thing Fianna Fail has got to a republican, is becoming the subject of increased speculation that she will attempt to oust H-Block TD Paddy Agnew from his Louth seat at the next general election.

At the election in June, when Agnew topped the Louth poll with 8,368 first preference votes, Euro-MP Sile de Valera could only get 5,408 in the Dublin South constituency and lost her Leinster House seat to Jack Lynch favourite Seamus Brennan.

After her defeat she pledged that she would fight again in Dublin South, but more recently it appears that she has taken up the carpetbag, and her name has been linked first with her grandfather's original Clare constituency and now with Louth.

At the June election, with the seat of Fianna Fail's Pdraig Faulkner uncontested because of his position of ceann comhairle, Fianna Fail were supremely confident of taking two out of the three seats remaining.

Against all odds, Paddy Agnew ran out clear winner with almost three thousand votes more than his nearest rival on the first count.

Some Fianna Fail people in Louth believe that Sile de Valera, because of her 'republican' image, can win back enough of the H-Block vote to take the extra seat for Fianna Fail.

However, there is also a contrary view that in the event of Sile de Valera entering the poll against Agnew, she could not credibly retain her republican image.

Agnew supporters, in the strongly nationalist border county, point out that history will record Margaret Thatcher, with her H-Block death policy, as having taken the seat from Kieran Doherty, TD, in Cavan/Monaghan; Sile de Valera cannot afford to be seen as having tried to complete the picture by attempting to take the second H-Block seat, that of Paddy Agnew in Louth.

A move from Dublin South to Louth could well be out of the frying pan into the fire.

★★★

I see that members of the Free State army who took part in the half-hearted and belated snow-clearing operation during the cold spell will receive a bonus payment of £9.50 for each day involved.

On the other hand the Coalition's assessment of the world of women working in the home is just 10p more at £9.60 - for a seven day week.

★★★

Graffiti which appeared on a Dublin wall during this month's freeze up:- 'Don't blame Michael O'Leary, he's done nothing.'

★★★

It's not just Coalition government Ministers and Ministers for State who can afford Mercedes cars. Last week, the managing director of Motor Distributors Ltd, announced that there was no shortage of buyers for the new Mercedes coupes, 330 SEC and 500 SEL, which cost £46,405 and £48,903. In fact, supply cannot keep up with demand.

The same story comes from Huet Motors Ltd, who import the Rolls Royce Silver Sprite at £30,000 plus extras. The 'recession' has not affected the demand there either, with the



● Sile de Valera's ability to steal a scene was dramatically evidenced at last year's Fianna Fail ard fheis when she unblushingly took over the front of the stage to share Charles Haughey's applause. Will conceit now lead her to an attempt at stealing a seat in County Louth?

distributors unable to get their hands on enough cars.

There is, in this country, a small minority who are very, very wealthy indeed.

★★★

Ireland features in American life in two ways. There are those who work, campaign, picket and demonstrate throughout the year in support of Irish freedom.

Then there is St. Patrick's day with shamrock, leprechauns, jigs and reels, colleens, green beer and general folksy razzamatazz.

Last year, a visit to the Free State embassy by President Reagan on that day fittingly summed up the seriousness with which the US government regards Dublin.

This year, on March 17th, Garret Fitzgerald is lending himself to this shamrogyery by attending lunch with Reagan at the White House, and will no doubt come away with his own special presentation pack of the ageing actor's favourite jellybeans - all green ones of course.

★★★

In the space of a week, employers in the Free State have launched two separate but equally vicious attacks against the weakest members of society.

Last Wednesday, January 20th, it was revealed that the Federated Union of Employers (FUE) is demanding that legally-enforced minimum wages be abolished. Legislation in force in the twenty-six counties for over thirty-five years, requires all employers to pay the minimum wage agreed by statutory union-employer committees.

These wages, because they are agreed by employers, are inadequate anyway, but do form a basic figure. The current FUE campaign has arisen following a joint committee recommendation for legal minimum wages in the clothing industry which would mean increases of around 18% for most clothing workers.

The second attack came on Monday 25th January with the publication of a Confederation of Irish Industry (CII) report entitled 'Jobs and the Workforce'. This claimed that social welfare benefits and tax rebates available to the unemployed meant that there is little monetary incentive for some workers to find jobs, and called for reductions.

In fact, the majority of social welfare recipients are actually below the official poverty line set by the Department of Social

Welfare itself, which clearly illustrates the level of wages which the CII has in mind.

And, of course, workers are being made redundant by CII members, they are not throwing up their jobs in order to sample the delights of unemployment.

★★★

An enterprising Dublin garda has appeared in court this week, charged with defrauding and embezzling from the Free State Minister for Justice.

John Coughlan, based at Cabinteely, had the job of collecting money from people fined in the district court. But, according to the prosecution, Coughlan collected many of the fines and pocketed the proceeds for himself. However, the court decided that no criminal intent had been proven and suggested an internal garda investigation.

A fine carry-on, indeed.

★★★

'The Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton' was how that famous Irishman, the Duke of Wellington, himself an old Etonian, summarised the privileged class's creation of the British empire.

Now the pupils of Britain's premier public school seem to have decided that the last stronghold of the empire should finally be dismantled.

The current issue of the college magazine, 'Eton Chronicle', calls for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and the re-unification of the country.

Blaming the present troubles in the North on British rule, the magazine condemns the guarantee to maintain the North's present status, and continues:

*"It must be replaced by a commitment to establish in time a united Ireland, to withdraw the army, and until unity is established to spend the money saved on the province's social problems."*

The commitment of loyalists to union with Britain lacks 'the fire of republicanism', the magazine says, and concludes: 'The road to the republic is long and dangerous, but it offers the only final solution to Ireland's misery.'

Present editor of the 'Eton Chronicle' is Viscount Althrop, brother of the Princess of Wales.

**DARTS COMPETITION**  
7 p.m. Friday 29th January  
No. 5 Club  
5 Blessington Street  
DUBLIN

**DEFEND THE EMBASSY 20 PUBLIC MEETING**  
7.30 p.m. Friday 29th January  
Junior Common Room  
Trinity College  
DUBLIN  
Organised by  
the National H-Block/Armagh  
committee

**BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION**  
**DUBLIN BUSES FOR DERRY**  
Leave 11 a.m. Saturday 30th January  
(returning Sunday)  
5 Blessington Street  
DUBLIN  
Tickets £3

**COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN SINN FEIN MEETING**  
2.30 p.m. Saturday 30th January  
5 Blessington Street  
DUBLIN  
Two delegates to attend  
from each comhairle ceantair

**BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION PICKET**  
3 p.m. Saturday 30th January  
British embassy  
Merrion Road  
DUBLIN

**SOCIAL AND BALLAD SESSION**  
Music by guest artists  
every Saturday  
Kevin Barry Club  
44 Parnell Square  
DUBLIN  
Admission £1

**COMHAIRLE CUIGE MUMHAN SINN FEIN MEETING**  
2.30 p.m. Sunday 31st January  
CORK  
Two delegates to attend  
from each comhairle ceantair

**TRADITIONAL NIGHT**  
Irish music, song & dance  
10 p.m. - 2 a.m. Sunday 31st January  
Creighton hotel  
CLONES  
Co. Monaghan  
Bar extension. Supper served  
Admission £1.50  
Organised by Clones Feis Committee

**FUND-RAISING SOCIAL**  
Music by 'The Irish Brigade'  
Friday 5th February  
Kells room  
Donnelly's  
William Street  
DUNGANNON  
Co. Tyrone  
Admission £1  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**NATIONAL H-BLOCK/ARMAGH COMMITTEE**  
**RECALL CONFERENCE**  
Open to all H-Block activists  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday 7th February  
Mansion House  
DUBLIN  
Creche facilities available

**FRANCIS STAGG COMMEMORATION PICKET**  
1.30 p.m. Sunday 14th February  
Wakefield prison  
WAKEFIELD  
Yorkshire  
Organised by Sinn Fein (Britain)

**IRISH SOLIDARITY PUBLIC MEETING**  
including 'Prisoner of War' film  
7.30 p.m. Thursday 18th February  
St. Roch's Secondary School  
Royston Road  
GLASGOW  
Organised by  
Glasgow Irish Freedom  
Action Committee

**IRISH SOLIDARITY MARCH & RALLY**  
11.30 a.m. Saturday 20th February  
Assembly: Roystonhill  
GLASGOW  
Organised by  
Glasgow Irish Freedom  
Action Committee

# Bundoran harassment

INTIMIDATION of republicans in the Bundoran area of County Donegal by members of the Garda Special Task Force has been condemned by the Patrick Carty Sinn Féin cumann in the town.

Members of Sinn Féin have been subjected to increased harassment in recent weeks, according to the cumann. They have been arbitrarily stopped on the streets, had sub-machine guns pointed at them, and suffered early morning raids in which furniture, clothing and personal belongings have been damaged.

Members of Sinn Féin, interrogated by Task Force gardai, have been abused and roughly treated in a degrading manner.

The cumann stresses that republicans will not be deterred by the tactics of the Special Task Force who it described as "roaming Ireland doing the undercover work of the British government whilst being paid by the Irish taxpayer."

Anyone who is arrested, harassed or intimidated in this way is asked to get in touch with their local Sinn Féin representative in Bundoran or Ballyshannon.

# Four in court



AS four of the Crumlin Road escapees appeared in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin on Thursday week, January 21st, Sinn Féin picketed the entrance to Green Street where the court is situated.

The four men — Anthony Sloan, aged 28, Angelo Fusco, aged 26, Michael McKee, aged 25, and Paul Magee aged 34, all originally from Belfast — are charged with escaping from the jail on June 10th last year, and, during the escape, shooting at an RUC man.

The case — fixed for February 16th is being brought under the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act which allows the trial in the twenty-six counties of persons alleged to have committed political offences in the six counties.

Shortly before Christmas, two other escapees — Robert Campbell, aged 28, and Michael Ryan, aged 26 — became the first men to be convicted under the act and were sentenced to terms of ten years' imprisonment.

# Sean Breslin memorial

A MEMORIAL ceremony was held in Deansgrange cemetery, County Dublin, on Saturday 23rd January, for Dublin republican Sean Breslin, a member of the Rathmines cumann of Sinn Féin, who died in December after a lengthy illness and was buried on Christmas Eve.

Members of na Fianna Éireann provided a colour party at the simple graveside ceremony and an oration was given by Sean Halpenny of Sinn Féin's Foreign Affairs Bureau, a fellow cumann member of Sean Breslin.

# London conference

A CONFERENCE on Ireland, entitled "Ireland: Time for Tony Policies to Go", will take place in London on Saturday 27th February, organised by the Labour Committee on Ireland — a ginger group within the British Labour Party.

The conference is sponsored by a number of Labour MPs, including Tony Benn, and several trade union leaders. Speakers will include Mr. Clive Soley, who is now a Labour Party frontbench spokesman at Westminster on the North; GLC leader Ken Livingstone; and Irish trade union leader Matt Merrigan of the ATGWU.

At the Labour Party's annual conference in Brighton last September, there were over fifty motions demanding a new policy on Ireland. Eventually the conference adopted a somewhat ambiguous recommendation from its national executive that the party should, in general terms, support Irish unity, whilst continuing to support direct-rule today.

# Cursáí eacnamaíochta

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

TÁ eagla a chothú i measc muintir na hÉireann mar gheall ar chúrsaí eacnamaíochta sa aha chuid den tír seo.

Tá míleán á chur ar ghnáthphobal na tíre de bharr an staid ina bhfuil eacnamaíocht na tíre. Cé gur bh iad na Rialtais éagsúla is cúis leis an gcur amú aird ar fad níll sásta é a admháil.

Tá dí-fhostaíocht ag méidiú gan stad agus níl i gceist ag na húdaráis ach a thuilleadh traenála a thabhairt don aos óg. Ach níl aon reiteach sa traenáil do fhadhb na dí-fhostaíochta. 'Sé an coras caipitleach is cúis leis an dí-fhostaíocht.

Chomh maith le sin tá an bolscú ag méidiú an t-am ar fad. Tá luach an aird i bhpoáil na n-obrithe ag titim ag t-am ar fad. Luaitear na hoibríthe an t-am ar fad mar chúis an bhoilsciú.

## BUISEÁD

Tá buiséad na seachtaine seo léite gaibh a leitheoirí ach níl agam ach tuairisc ar na nuachtáin roimh ré. Is soláir go mbeidh an gnáth oibrí thíos leis. Tá caint ar ardaíthe cánach agus is cinnte go luifidh siad go trom ar oibríthe.

Agus a chairde is cinnte go mbeidh an míleán orainne na

hoibríthe. Sin a bheidh le léamh na nuachtáin. "Living beyond our means." "Paying ourselves too much." Beidh a leithéid le cloist arís agus arís eile. Tá lucht an rachmais ag iarraidh a chur ina luf orainn go bhfuil an iomarca aird againe na hoibríthe.

Ach ní hiad na hoibríthe atá go maith as. Tá ár gcaighdeán maireachtála ag titim an t-am fad. San am céanna tá na saibhir ag éirí níos saibhre.

## MILLEÁN

In fuirist dóibh sin le pócaí lán a mhóladh dúinne go mbeidh orainn glacadh le hslúil inféir goaigéadn maireachtála. Sin é atá ag fárlúint an t-am ar fad. Tá sé in am dúinn athrú a thabhairt i gcorch.

Caitimid a rá agus athrú agus ní hamháin sin caitimid tsonú ag béicigh go bhfuil bréaga



● Tá líon na ndaoine atá dí-fhostaíthe ag méidiú gan stad

á insint acu. Ní orainne, na hoibríthe atá an míleán. Níl aon smacht againe ar chúrsaí eacnamaíochta na tíre seo.

saibhre agus na hoibríthe ag éirí níos boichte.

An duine nach sóisialach é caithfidh sé/sí a fheiceáil nach bhfuil aon cheart ag baint leis an staid seo. Táimid oibríthe thíos leis agus níl reiteach cóir le fáil laistigh de chóras an chaipitleachais.

Sóisialachas an t-aon reiteach. Caitimid an Phoblacht Shóisialach a thógaint. Ar aghaidh linn.

# Development demanded

BY SEAN McSPARRAN

"I CAN'T deny that Sean McDermott Street has a bad reputation, but through our campaign we've shown that the majority of kids there are not thieves and layabouts. We really want to work — if only we were given the chance."

Those were the words of Martin Brennan, spokesperson for the Sean McDermott Street Youth Employment Action Group, as fifty young people from the area came to the end of a thirty-eight hour fast in Dublin's O'Connell Street last Saturday, January 23rd.

The fast was part of a campaign to win an industrial estate for the area.

Research by members of the action group, which was formed last May, has uncovered the staggering statistic of an unemployment rate of 80%. The highest level in the twenty-six counties, they believe.

Of eight thousand people in the Sean McDermott Street area, only seventy — twenty adults and fifty youths — are involved in manufacturing industries.

Since its formation, the youth action group has made considerable progress. A door-to-door petition was taken up, calling on Dublin Corporation to change the plans for a four-acre park around the Gloucester Diamond, and set aside two acres for the development of a light

industry estate by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA). Similar industrial clusters in the Liberties, East Wall and Pearse Street areas of Dublin have been successful.

The action group won backing for their proposal from the Dublin Council of Trade Unions and eventually received unanimous approval from the city council's inner-city committee. After lobbying most of Dublin's city councillors, the plan was endorsed by the council in full session.

Dublin Corporation officials, however, have been opposed to the plan to reduce the open space throughout the City. In addition, they are dragging their feet, according to the local action group.

It is because of this, they believe,



● Petition signatures, for industrial development, being collected by youths from Dublin's Sean McDermott Street

that no progress has been made in agreeing a price for the two acres to be sold to the IDA which has expressed itself willing to carry out the development.

The fast last weekend and the continuing campaign is aimed at getting the Dublin government to push the corporation over this last obstacle.

"Despite having no previous political experience," says Michael Brennan, "and

having to learn as we went along, we've seen that, with the backing of the local people in unity, we can really achieve something."

"There's nothing to stop any group of kids with similar problems, in Finglas say, or anywhere else for that matter, from doing the same. We're only asking for basic human rights, including the right to work."

# Ban rejected

AN attempt by Fine Gael Leinster House TD and councillor, George Bermingham, to establish a ban on renting the Mansion House for Sinn Féin's ard theiseanna, was rejected by Dublin city council at its meeting on Thursday week, January 21st.

Bermingham's proposal for the ban was based on the much publicised phrase, used by Sinn Féin's director of publicity Danny Morrison, at last October's ard theis: 'Will anyone here object if, with a ballot paper in this hand, we take power in Ireland?'

Bermingham said that he had felt 'degraded' to see Sinn Féin using the public rooms of the Mansion House and sought for a direction to be given to corporation officials not to accept any future bookings from Sinn Féin.

Most councillors, however, said that

the organisation should be entitled to express its opinions and the motion was eventually withdrawn. Nevertheless, the City Manager has been asked for a report on the letting policy of the corporation in relation to the Mansion House and on any organisations which might have been barred from it.

Among those speaking in support of Sinn Féin's right to use the Mansion House were community councillors Tony Gregory and Brendan Lynch; Tomas MacGiolla of the 'Workers Party'; and Ben Briscoe of Fianna Fáil.

Sinn Féin has held its ard theiseanna at the Mansion House every year since 1973, with the exception of the 1979 ard theis which was held at Liberty Hall. In addition, in the last two years Sinn Féin has held internal conferences and public meetings there on the H-Block/Armagh issue, organised independently of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee, which has also



● Sinn Féin ard theis delegates in the Mansion House — a move to bar future ard theiseanna at that venue has been defeated

regularly used the Mansion House.

In the mid-seventies, Sinn Féin meetings on the Portlaoise hunger-strikes drew capacity crowds to the Mansion House. And in 1979 Sinn Féin pulled off something of a coup by booking the hall for a commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the First Dail.

The ceremonies to mark that occasion took place on the exact date, January 21st and in the same room, as the first meeting of the First Dail, and took the form of an afternoon and

evening of speeches, pageantry and music.

Ten years previously, the Leinster House parliament had hypocritically marked the fiftieth anniversary by transferring its session there from Leinster House for that day.

Sinn Féin's application to book the Mansion House for this year's ard theis, which will be held in the autumn, is already with the corporation, but actual confirmation of bookings is not made until six months before the date applied for.

# Silent too long

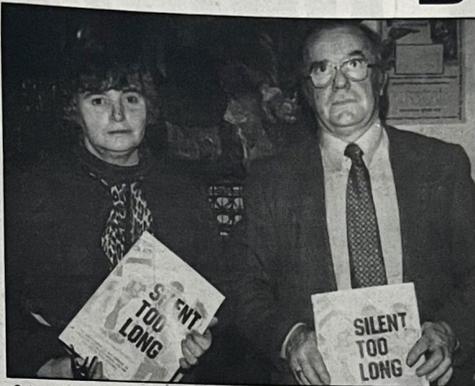
A 48-PAGE pamphlet outlining some of the assassinations of innocent nationalists by the British army, UDR, RUC and loyalist paramilitaries over the past thirteen years, was launched last Sunday afternoon, January 24th, at a press conference in the Felons Club in the New Lodge Road area in north Belfast, attended by about two hundred relatives of victims.

Also present were representatives of Sinn Fein, the IRSP, PD, the IIP and SDLP, as well as Fr. Denis Faul and Fr. Raymond Murray.

The pamphlet, entitled 'Silent Too Long', takes its name from an organisation of the same name which was set up in August of last year to highlight the campaign of anti-Catholic murder conducted by the combined British and loyalist forces.

The organisation was set up by relatives of victims who are determined that the reality of these killings is not hidden under the weight of official propaganda that would place all deaths in the North at the door of the IRA.

The pamphlet illustrates a number of relevant facts very clearly: the vast majority of sectarian assassination victims are Catholics; most of these murders have been committed by a legal organisation, the UDA; there is dual membership and collusion between loyalist paramilitary organisations and the



● Launching the pamphlet: Turf Lodge mother Kathleen Stewart, whose thirteen-year-old son Brian was killed with a plastic bullet by the British army in 1976, and Andersonstown father Eddie McWilliams, whose nineteen-year-old son Gerry was horrifically slaughtered by loyalists in 1974

'crown forces, as the cases of the Shankill Butchers and the Miami Showband most dramatically showed.

The 'Silent Too Long' pamphlet examines dozens of killings of nationalists in detail and includes a long list of victims. The first part of the new publication describing the history of the six-county state, also contains the chilling speeches of loyalist politicians from William Craig's 'shoot to kill' to Ian Paisley's 'desperate retaliatory

action'.

What the politicians express in words, the paramilitaries carry out in actions.

'Silent Too Long' gets straight to the root of the problem - nationalists cannot expect anything except injustice, oppression, violence and death. Those most closely affected by this reality, the relatives of its victims, are now determined to proclaim this fact as loudly as they can.

## IN MEMORAM

**DONAGHY, Gerry.** (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan Gerry Donaghy, na Flanna Eireann, who died while on active service duty on January 30th 1972. Thug sí saoi óg ag troid ar son saoirse muintir na hÉireann. Never forgotten by his friends in na Flanna Eireann.

**HANNAWAY, Liam.** (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Liam Hannaway, who died on February 2nd 1981. Always remembered by the John Green Sinn Fein cumann, Castletibberney, Co. Monaghan.

**MCNULTY, Peter.** (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peter McNulty, Oglagh na hÉireann, Castletewlian, who died while on active service duty on January 26th 1972. I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh a nam. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in Oglagh na hÉireann, Castletewlian.

**MCNULTY, Peter.** (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peter McNulty, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on January 26th 1972. Fuair sé bás ar son saoirse. Always remembered by the Peter McNulty Sinn Fein cumann, Killoco, Co. Down.

**MCNULTY, Peter.** (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peter McNulty, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on January 26th 1972. Fuair sé bás ar son saoirse. Always remembered by the Peter McNulty Sinn Fein cumann, Longstone.

**MCNULTY, Peter.** (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peter McNulty, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on January 26th 1972. Fuair sé bás ar son saoirse. Always remembered by the Mid-Down comhairle ceantair, Sinn Fein.

**MOHAN, Peadar.** (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peadar Mohan, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was tragically killed in a car crash on February 1st 1981. Thug sé raibh aige ar son saoirse. Always remembered

by his friends and comrades in the 2nd Battalion, Oglagh na hÉireann, North Armagh.

**MOHAN, Peadar.** (1st Anniversary). In sad and loving memory of Vol. Peadar Mohan, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in a car accident on February 1st 1981. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. "There is a family who loves you, in a home where you used to be. Family who wanted to keep you in our hearts, because we loved you so." Sadly missed by his loving parents, sister and brothers, Kilcove, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan.

**MOHAN, Peadar.** (1st Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother, Peadar Mohan, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in a car accident on February 1st 1981. "God gave me a wonderful brother, the best this world could hold. He made his smile of sunshine, he made his heart of gold. He wanted a beautiful star, a star in heaven to shine. But why, of ídra, did it have to be, that wonderful brother mine? Always remembered by Patsy (Portia), Caroline and Carrie.

**MOHAN, Peadar.** (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peadar Mohan, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in a car crash on February 1st 1981. Always remembered by his friend, Raymond Leonard.

**MOHAN, Peadar.** (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peadar Mohan, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in a car crash on February 1st 1981. Thoughts of times together hold memories that will last forever. Always remembered by Eugene, Mary and Peadar McNamee.

**MOHAN, Peadar.** (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peadar Mohan, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in a car crash on February 1st 1981. Always remembered by the John Green Sinn Fein cumann, Castletibberney, Co. Monaghan.

**MOHAN, Peadar.** (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peadar Mohan, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in a car crash on February 1st 1981. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Fergal O'Mahon Sinn Fein cumann, Monaghan.

**MOHAN, Peadar.** (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peadar Mohan, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in a car crash on February 1st 1981. Always remembered by the John Green Sinn Fein cumann, Castletibberney, Co. Monaghan.

## Sympathy

**FERGUSON.** The Dublin committee of An Cumann Cabhrach wish to extend deepest sympathy to Des Ferguson and his family on the death of his father.

**GLYNN.** The members of the Jackie Griffith Sinn Fein cumann, Dublin, wish to extend their deepest sympathy to Sean (Jack) Glynn on his recent bereavement.

**HARKER.** The Foreign Affairs Bureau of Sinn Fein extend their deepest sympathy to the family, friends and comrades of Tony Harker, murdered by the UDR. Tony was always a cheerful and willing helper and will be missed by the staff of the FAB and the many foreign visitors whom he made friends with. This is the harvest Britain has sown. Her actions will eventually seal the fate of her rule in Ireland. (Bobby Sands).

**HARKER.** We extend our deepest sympathy to the Harker family on the death of our friend Tony. From Paddy and Brian, Dublin.

**HARKER.** We deeply regret the tragic death of Tony Harker, who was brutally murdered by UDR gunmen. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his grieving family and friends. Fhad's ata na uagh-eanna seo in Éirinn, bíonn síochain an gan saoirse. He will never be forgotten by his friends in the Dublin Youth Against H-Block/Armagh Movement.

**HARKER.** Students Against H-Block/Armagh extend their deepest sympathy to the family of our friend Tony Harker, who was murdered by the UDR.

**HARKER.** Dublin Central Youth Against H-Block/Armagh send sincere condolences to the family of our dear friend Tony Harker, murdered by the British war-machine.

**HARKER.** The O/C, Staff Officers and members of the Dublin Battalion, Oglagh na hÉireann, extend their most heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of our friend and comrade Tony Harker who was brutally murdered by pro-British elements. We will always remember him for his ever-

energetic and exuberant nature and, more importantly, for his unrelenting eagerness to do any duty asked of him no matter how small. He will be sadly missed.

**HARKER.** I noll cuimhne Tony a dómharaíodh le bithdánach an Chóirín. D'íobhrigh sé go dian ar son na bforósuáigh polaitiúla agus bhí sé gaisiúrach i gcónaí. Suaimhneas síorrdóid, Mícheál.

**HARKER.** The County Monaghan H-Block/Armagh co-ordinating committee wish to express their deepest sympathy with the family and friends of the late Tony Harker who was murdered by British forces on January 24th. Ar dheis do go raibh a nam.

**HARKER.** We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Tony Harker, who was murdered by the UDR. We shall always remember him as a friend of our friends from Armagh now living in Monaghan.

**HARKER.** Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Tony Harker who died recently. Too good in life to be forgotten in death. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. From his friend and comrade, Patrick McGovern, Dublin.

**HARKER.** We extend our deepest sympathy to the Harker family, Armagh, on the death of Tony Harker, Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. From his friend and comrade, Paul Little, Anthony McClynn and Thomas Brown, Dublin.

**HARKER.** The Higgins family, Ballyfermot, Dublin, deeply regret the death of our friend Tony Harker and extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

**HAYES, McCABE, O'CONNELL, SULLIVAN.** Listowel comhairle ceantair, Sinn Fein, extend their deepest sympathy to the Hayes family Lisselton; the McCabe family Causeway; the O'Connell family, Listowel; and the Sullivan family, Gortnamich, on their recent respective bereavements.

**KERR.** The Francis Hughes Sinn Fein cumann, Glasgow, wish to express their sincere sympathy to the family and relatives of the late Duncan Kerr. May he rest in peace.

## Thanks

THE COUNTY MONAGHAN H-BLOCK/ARMAGH COMMITTEE wishes to thank their sincerest thanks to the McMeel family of Monaghan for their support throughout the hunger-strike campaign and in particular for providing office facilities for the organisation during these months.

## Draw results

Co. Monaghan H-Block 400 trump draw week 10  
1st (£100): Jimmy Lee, Carrickmacross; 2nd (£50): Seamus Keenan, Enniscorthy; 3rd (£50): Betty Coe, Castletibberney, week 11  
1st (£100): Bernard Finnegan, Hackballcross; 2nd (£50): Seamus Keenan, Threemile House; 3rd (£50): Joe Campbell, Monaghan town.

No. 5 Club, Dublin raffle drawn on January 20th  
1st: No. 1486, Pat, c/o No. 5 Club; 2nd: 1168, Pat Gannon, Cappaugh Ave, Finglas West; 3rd: 1936, G. Farrell, c/o Billy Cooney, Cappaugh House, Finglas West; 4th: 3098, Jim Connolly, c/o Oasis pub, Cabra West; 5th: 1041, Docu, c/o No. 5 Club.

## Sinn Fein AGMs

### Kilmore

At the recent AGM of the MacAdorey Sinn Fein cumann, Kilmore, Dublin, the following officers were elected: chair and organiser: Jimmy Burnett; secretary: Sean Hayes; treasurer: Niall Taylor; welfare: Colm Lumstone; and delegate to Comhairle Ára Cliath: Mary Taylor.

### South Kerry

THE AGM of the South Kerry comhairle ceantair, Sinn Fein, was held recently in Killarney and was addressed by Ruairi O'Bradigh, president of Sinn Fein, and Richard Behal of the ard comhairle.

The following officers were elected: chair: Brendan Doherty; vice-chair: Donie O'Neill; secretary: Gamon O'Brien; treasurer: Dermot O'Sullivan; PRO: P.J. Herlihy; and delegates to Comhairle Cuige Mumhan: Brendan Doherty and Jim Murphy.

A vote of sympathy was passed to the wife and family of the late John Clifford, Callinacree, Milltown.

## El Salvador protest

OVER two hundred people took part in a demonstration at the American embassy in Dublin on the evening of Thursday week, January 21st, organised by the Irish El Salvador Support Committee to protest against United States' support for the military junta in El Salvador.

Earlier in the day, a cross of three hundred and fifty lighted candles had been laid on the ground in front of the embassy, each one representing one hundred people in the total of thirty-five thousand who have died since the military junta came to power.

A petition of ten thousand signatures was also handed in at the embassy. Another eight thousand petition signatures have been collected in Waterford, where a protest meeting was also held on Friday in Connolly Hall.



# LOYALIST MILITIA SLAY ARMAGH NATIONALIST

# UDR get their man

BY PETER HAYES

TONY HARKER, the twenty-one-year-old Armagh man shot dead by a UDR patrol early last Sunday morning, January 24th, paid the ultimate price for his persistent refusal to bend the knee in the face of constant harassment by British soldiers and the RUC.

Having endured more than three years of such torment, including brief prison sentences and assaults, and nurturing a fierce contempt for the Brits and an active concern for the H-Block prisoners (whose daily experience of brutality he was well able to understand), a bullet in the back claimed the life of young Tony Harker and the UDR finally 'got their man'.

Shortly after 1 a.m. last Sunday a UDR patrol passing on the edge of the nationalist Drumary estate in Armagh city spotted two men outside McAneaney's shop 'n save supermarket, apparently in the process of burgling the premises. One of the two men, standing beside the well lit side door of the supermarket, and instantly recognisable, was Tony Harker.

The UDR, without warning, opened fire on him. Two shots missed but as he ran for cover across an open courtyard a bullet struck him in the back and killed him. In typical fashion, to excuse themselves after cold-bloodedly murdering another nationalist youth, the UDR claimed that they opened fire only after one of the two men produced what they believed was a gun.

This lie was exposed when not only was no weapon found on Tony's body nor in a search of the area, but also no weapon was found on the second man, arrested nearby, thirty-three-year-old Anthony Toal, who has since been charged simply with burglary.

Local people believe, with very good reason, that Tony Harker was shot dead not because the UDR believed him to be armed, but precisely because they recognised him, knew what he was up to, and saw the moment as a golden opportunity to revenge themselves on someone they regarded as an uppity fenian.

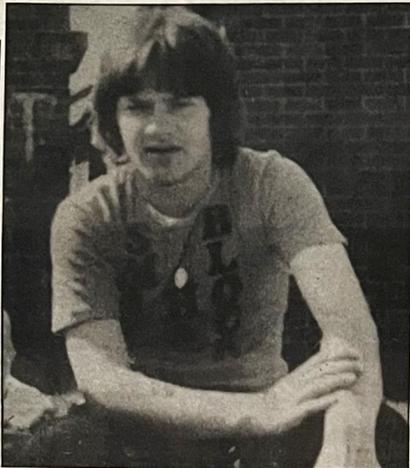
### ARTICLES

Just under two years ago, Tony Harker, then aged nineteen, featured in two major articles in 'An Phoblacht/Republican News'. The first, 'Armagh youths suffer British army harassment' (March 29th 1980), described the terrorising by British soldiers of local nationalist youths, and of four youths in particular — one of those was Tony Harker.

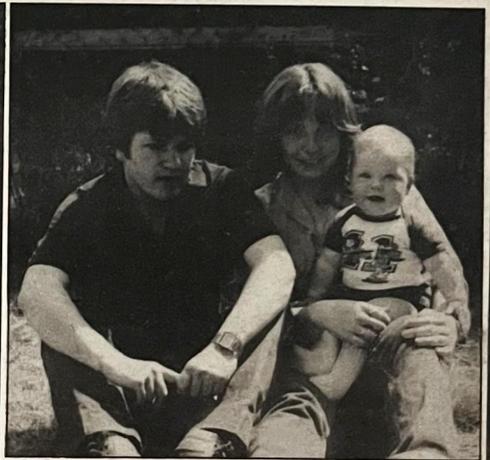
Tony was keeping a diary of his personal harassment at this period and had logged, between January 18th and March 18th, seventy separate occasions on which he had been stopped by patrols on the street, delayed for lengthy periods and verbally and physically assaulted. In addition, Tony — who was five-and-a-half feet tall and weighed little more than seven stone — had received a six months' prison sentence for assaulting several RUC men (in fact it was they who had assaulted him) and subsequently received a three-month sentence for wearing a tricolour badge 'in breach of the peace', which ran concurrently.

Because of his tiny stature and his defiant air — he wore H-Block badges openly and badges of James Connolly and Che Guevara — he was recognised on sight and a constant target for persecution. His undaunted defiance irritated the Brits and RUC beyond reason.

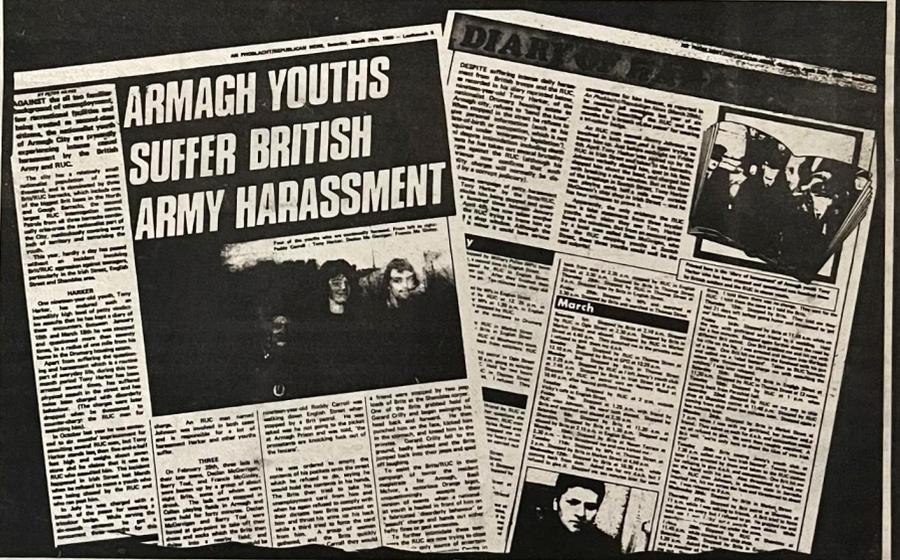
Yet because of an RUC vendetta launched against him, detailed in the second 'AP/RN' article (April 26th 1980) which reprinted his diary of harassment, and



● Tony Harker, a keen H-Block campaigner, shot dead



● Tony Harker moved away from Armagh because of Brit/RUC harassment, but returned and is pictured here with his girlfriend Cathy and their baby son Ruairi



● 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' highlighted Brit/RUC harassment of Armagh youths, and in particular Tony Harker, in the issues of March 29th and April 26th, 1980. The latter issue reprinted extracts from Tony's diary in which he logged seventy separate occasions in three months when he had been stopped on the street.

threats to his life by British patrols, Tony left Armagh for a while, coming to live in Dublin. There he joined Sinn Fein and na Fianna Eireann and was a familiar sight, as he had been home in Armagh, on demonstrations and protests in support of the H-Block and Armagh political prisoners. Inevitably too, he came in for casual harassment from the Special Branch in Dublin.

### RETURNED

Tony Harker returned to Armagh and moved into a house at Culdee Crescent with his eighteen-year-old girlfriend Cathy and their fifteen-month-old son Ruairi.

It was a critical period, however, for a youth as nationally conscious as he was, with one hunger-strike over and the second one begun, with ten heroic, tortured prisoners to die. In August he was imprisoned in Crumlin Road jail for riotous behaviour,

being released four months later, shortly before Christmas. At the time of his death he was awaiting trial on further charges of petrol-bombing last August.

It is more of an indictment against the rotten, repressive environment in which he lived and battled, than an indictment against Tony Harker himself, that he also became involved in petty acts of burglary — only tragically to be murdered apparently breaking into a supermarket.

The 'AP/RN' article on March 29th 1980 highlighted the social deprivation and the all too familiar background of unemployment and few recreational facilities' which led to local youths being treated as 'second-class citizens'. The article also noted the RUC's attempt to close down Jenny's community centre in English Street, virtually the only source of entertainment for nationalist youths in the city — the new

leisure centre being sited in a loyalist district of the city. Brit patrols also harassed those using the community centre, including Tony Harker, constantly.

In those circumstances it is perhaps of little surprise that some youths should turn to acts of petty burglary for alternative 'entertainment'. There is certainly irony, but perhaps no contradiction, in the fact that many of these youths have a sound and active response to the biggest illegality of all: the British occupation by force of arms of their country.

There is no irony, and certainly there is no surprise among the nationalist population, that having slowly strangled Tony Harker, and youths like him, with years of social deprivation and brute repression, the Brits — through their murderous lackeys in the UDR — finally finished him off last Sunday with a bullet in the back.