

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith Nua Im! 4 uimhir 8 Deardain Feabhra 25 Thursday February 25th 1982 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

HUNGER-STRIKE ANNIVERSARY MARCH & RALLY

Sunday 28th February
BELFAST
 Assemble 2.30 p.m.
 Dunville Park

WAR AT SEA

THE sinking by the IRA of a British coal boat in Lough Foyle, the second such operation in a year, has embarrassed both the British, whose forces regularly patrol the waters, and the Free State, which claims territorial rights over these Irish waters.

The salvage operation and compensation claims of about £2 million are likely to involve both governments in a dispute over the exact demarcation of territorial jurisdiction.

The highly successful raid began at around nine o'clock last Monday night, when up to a dozen IRA Volunteers, armed and carrying several bombs, occupied the pilot station at Carrickrory pier in County Donegal.

They arrested two pilots and

two boatmen, ordered one of the pilots to hand over his uniform and the other to accompany them in the pilot boat out to the Scottish coal boat, the 1,847 ton St. Bedan, which was then sailing into Derry with a cargo of 1,600 tons of coal. A number of Volunteers stayed on

(continued on next page)

Exclusive photographs of the IRA in action on board the St. Bedan
 — SEE ALSO PAGE 2 —



● The crew of the St. Bedan coal boat were unperturbed at being held captive by the IRA; and (inset, left) IRA Volunteers on board the commandeered pilots' boat in Lough Foyle

WAR AT SEA

(Continued from previous page)

shore to protect their comrades on the operation.

ARMED

David Hinson, second mate of the St. Bedan, saw what he thought was the pilot come on board: "But he pulled out a gun and shouted 'IRA! Hands on your head.' I soon realised it wasn't a joke." The rest of the active service unit, armed and wearing balaclava helmets, then herded the ten-man crew and the skipper, Captain Roderick Black, on to the bridge.

"We were told to keep away from the radio, to stop the engines and drop anchor," said Hinson. "They asked us if there were any weapons or troops aboard, also if any of us were ex-army or ex-UDR. They promised if any of us were they wouldn't kill us if we owned up..."

"They then took some photographs of us for American propaganda... They wanted us to shout 'Up the Provos' and we all burst out laughing, so they just took a picture of us all laughing!" said Hinson, who was obviously none the worse for his experience.

Three large bombs were placed at strategic points in the vessel. The crew were warned that other British shipping would be subject to attack.

They were then put into a lifeboat and the active service unit escaped in the pilot boat which was then sent back out to tow the St. Bedan's lifeboat to shore. About forty minutes after the boat was evacuated a number of huge explosions ripped the bow of the Glasgow-registered boat and it sank in about fifty feet of water.

SIMILAR

In February of last year, a similar attack was made on the Nellie 'M' coalboat. Compensation claims have not yet been settled.

The most recent bombing was raised in Westminster on Tuesday by the Official Unionist MP for Derry, William Ross, who urged the British government to keep shipping lanes clear and safe.

Nicholas Scott, for the British government, said that the jurisdiction of Lough Foyle was part of County Derry 'and so part of the United Kingdom'. But the Free State authorities undertook last year to cover claims for damages in respect to the Nellie 'M' just to maintain its myth and empty claim of territorial jurisdiction.

The British government is to step up patrols in the area. Two navy vessels, the Albert and the Vigilant, if they can stay afloat, have been ordered to the area and the Royal Air Force are to step up helicopter patrols.

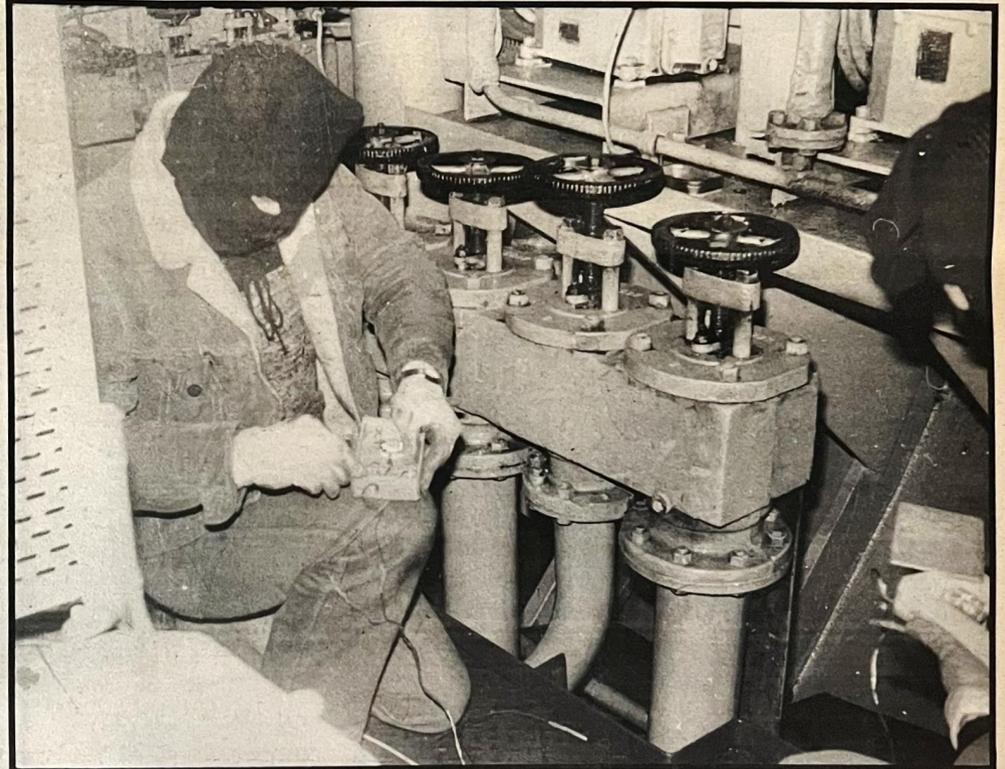
The peevish skipper of the boat, Captain Roderick Black, who is shortly due to retire, revealed a certain degree of naivety and lack of understanding of the state of the war in the occupied six counties.

When he was asked, "but haven't you been sunk before?" he snapped back: "Aye, during the war though. You accepted it during the war. You know for a fact that when you go out there somebody's gonna be sunk. But not this way. Not blowing your ship up."

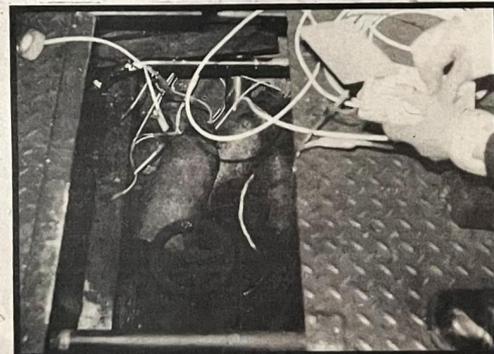
"It's peacetime, isn't it?"



● The coal boat's captain was surprised to discover it is war-time in Ireland



● The bombs were primed to detonate well after the IRA and crew were clear of the vessel



● Bombs were placed at strategic points



● The crew were evacuated in a lifeboat

BY-ELECTION CLAIMS, DISSOLVING DEVOLUTION, KINCORA LULL AND DE LOREAN'S UNDERTAKER

Blowing hot air

BY HILDA McTHOMAS

A LOT of hot air was blown in all directions this week by politicians and other people with a media profile. Assurances were given, promises made, and accusations and allegations thrown across newspapers' columns and television screens.

Things would come right in the end, they all claimed, to a puzzled South Belfast electorate, to tens of thousands of unemployed, to men scarred by years spent in a boys' home, to half-a-million nationalists waiting to be granted some constitutional existence, to hundreds of women discriminated against at work. But, somehow, it all rang so hollow.

The candidates for the South Belfast by-election, due to take place next Thursday, March 4th, are beginning to warm up.

While the SDLP's Alistair McDonnell tries to convince voters that he has a social conscience by making trite observations on the job situation or district heating, while Alliance man David Cook advises people to vote for him because the other candidates are all so awful (an honest, if unkind assessment), while John McMichael for the UDA, sorry ULDP, claims that he is only seeking a consensus on his 'independent Ulster' plan, Reverend-Commandant William McCrea philosophises on the theme: 'if hanging was brought back, life would not be so cheap'. If elected, he has promised he would give up his position in the Third Force, which may be an invitation for security-conscious loyalists not to vote for him.

ROLLING

The mysterious British initiative known as 'rolling devolution' seemed to dissolve slowly into thin air, as still nothing concrete has been happening about it. And the utterances of direct-ruler Jim Prior made to the Conservative Party Bow Group on Tuesday week, February 16th - "it may be that at the end of the day I conclude that a new initiative just could not work, that the differences between the parties remains so great that it would be pointless even to try" - were confirmed by *Irish Times* London editor David McKittrick, who last Saturday, February 20th, quoted a 'source' as saying that Prior had already 'thrown in the towel' in his quest for a 'solution'.

This uncertainty, combined with government instability in the South, puts the SDLP in a very difficult position politically. Their usual ally, the Free State government, turned its back on them and seemed more intent on dealing with unionists, elected or not; besides the fact that there may not be a Free State cabinet for a while yet.

The SDLP's main objective, to secure a position for themselves in a constitutional settlement with the Brits, is being postponed as Prior's initiative seems to have sunk somewhere between Westminster and Belfast. As for the SDLP's electorate, 1981 somewhat cooled their enthusiasm; a rough ride ahead for the SDLP.

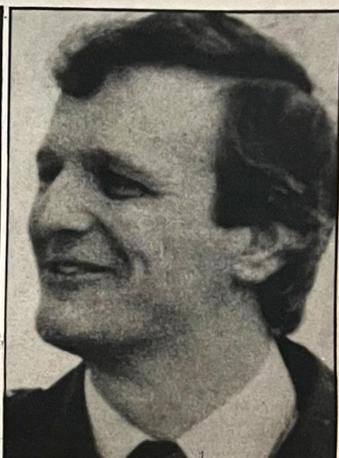
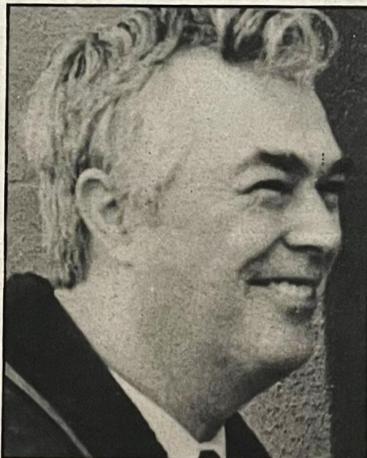
LULL

Meanwhile, there is a lull before a furious political storm in the Kincora affair.

Prior has finally bowed to demands for a full judicial inquiry, but not before RUC investigations are resumed and completed. An outsider, Sir George Terry, has been called in from Sussex police to head the investigation, in view of the fact that several allegations were made about an RUC cover-up.

In 1971, ten years after the first complaints led to an internal inquiry with no results, and ten years before some of the culprits were finally brought to court, allegations of sexual assault had been made by some boys, and a file constituted, but it somehow disappeared into the hands of the RUC never to be seen again.

The British media, after weeks of silence, are beginning to take an interest in the case, and on Tuesday, February 23rd, BBC's *'Nationwide'*



● The Official Unionist candidate and Orange grand-master, Martin Smyth (left), and the singing Paisleyite, Rev. William McCrea, have been to the fore amongst South Belfast by-election candidates making all kinds of empty promises to the unionist electorate

programme went into all the allegations of cover-up that have been levelled at the social services, the RUC, the British army, and loyalist politicians.

One journalist involved in reporting the case declared that a public inquiry would be 'shattering' and that if only a quarter of the allegations were found to be true, 'some leading loyalist politicians would have to leave public life'.

Coincidentally, on Wednesday, February 24th, the law on homosexuality in the six counties was brought on a par with British law: homosexual acts between consenting adult males are no longer a criminal offence.

The change comes after years of harassment of homosexuals by the RUC including frequent arrests and attempted blackmail against those whose families did not know about them. A case was successfully brought in front of the European Court of Human Rights last year and this led to this week's change

of law. Although prejudice against homosexuals is still strong, especially from church quarters, Wednesday marked a positive step for one of Ireland's oppressed minorities.

UNDERTAKER

Finally, as De Lorean's white elephant is dying its slow death in the hands of a British-appointed receiver, Sir Kenneth Cork, nicknamed 'the undertaker to the City' by his fellow businessmen, more facts are being brought to light about the whole operation, which on the American side will remain in the annals as one of the great cons of the century.

According to employees at De Lorean headquarters in New York, John Z. awarded himself an annual salary of \$442,000 plus expenses. Expensive paintings were bought in such quantities to decorate the offices that they cluttered the corridors, preventing the cleaners from working unhindered. Personal servants of the De Lorean family

were apparently on the payroll of the company.

As for the product itself, it had to be recalled not twice but three times since last autumn, for various repairs to the front suspension. De Lorean can indeed congratulate himself with the way things have turned out for him, as receivership for the Belfast plant means that his American company is free from the liabilities of the Belfast one, which amount to £40 million, in unpaid bills and loans.

For the British government, it is a costly counter-insurgency operation which has turned sour. How can one forget that De Lorean, like the leisure centres built by the previous Labour administration, was the kid glove barely concealing the iron fist of Castlereagh and the H-Blocks?

So many British blunders which exploded back in their faces. The British may be well advised next time to confine themselves to leisure centres...

WAR NEWS

SECOND SHIP SUNK

THE highlight of IRA activity, and a humorous incident at that, during the past week, was the sinking of a British coal boat in Lough Foyle for the second time in a year. However, there were a number of other attacks on crown forces and in the most serious a man in his late fifties who had just recently left the Ulster Defence Regiment was critically wounded in a bomb attack on his car in Armagh city.

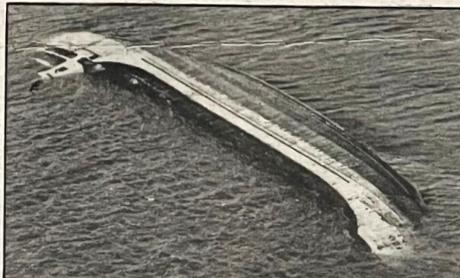
The booby-trap bomb attack on the former UDR soldier (he had left the regiment only two months ago) took place on Friday, February 19th, just after lunch-time as he left work, where he was a foreman engineer in the maintenance department of St. Luke's hospital in Armagh city.

The car, a blue Vauxhall Chevette, had travelled about five hundred yards when the explosion occurred, blowing off both his legs. In claiming responsibility the IRA pointed out that former soldiers should make their resignations known to them - through neutral mediators - otherwise they run the risk of attack.

On Monday, February 22nd, the Belfast Brigade of the IRA

warned that an anti-personnel device had been placed on the site for a new RUC barracks which is under construction at the corner of Durham Street and Grosvenor Road. Last December the IRA warned that civilians who engaged in such projects were helping the British war machine and would be at risk if they continued.

On Monday night, IRA Volunteers in South Armagh and in County Fermanagh opened fire twice on military forces patrolling roads close to the border but claimed no hits. The target in Fermanagh was a British army checkpoint at Mullon on the Enniskillen to Swanlinbar road. Also on Monday night, and for the second time in a year, the



● The St. Bedan coal boat sunk by the IRA in Lough Foyle

IRA disrupted British shipping entering Lough Foyle for the port of Derry.

Having captured a pilot house in County Donegal they sailed to the St. Bedan coal boat and planted bombs which sank the vessel. A spokesperson for the ship's agents in Derry said that this second

attack could make ship owners think twice about using the Derry port and 'could have far reaching consequences for trade'.

It was thought that seamen would press a demand for danger money or that an earlier suggestion of placing armed guards on incoming vessels could be taken up.

Not informers

IN an article in last week's *'An Phoblacht/Republican News'*, 'Amnesty success', three Belfast men whom the RUC unsuccessfully attempted to recruit as informers were referred to.

It should be pointed out that these men - a twenty-one-year-old Westrock man, a former prisoner from Andersonstown, and a thirty-four-year-old hairdresser from Divis Flats - are not informers, a mistaken impression which some readers may have been given, but were approached by the RUC during the amnesty period given to informers by the IRA.

These three men promptly and correctly reported to the Republican Movement the RUC's attempts to inveigle them into the role of spies.

Parliament hung, Fianna Fail split whilst Coalition manoeuvres

BY KEVIN BURKE

THE Leinster House parliament had scarcely been hung again by the inconclusive election results, before the headlines were grabbed by the open split in Fianna Fail.

That split was predicted to come to a head this Thursday, February 25th, at a meeting of the Fianna Fail parliamentary party in a dramatic leadership battle between Charles Haughey and the Limerick deputy Desmond O'Malley.

The election results — Fianna Fail 81 seats, Fine Gael 63, Labour Party 15, Sinn Fein the Workers' Party 3, and Independents 4 — left Fianna Fail without an overall majority but with the best chance of forming the government.

What proved crucial was the lapse between the results and the election of a new premier in Leinster House on March 9th. Had Haughey immediately been declared premier, no challenge to him would have arisen.

As it was, the election left Haughey — already under pressure in the party since his divisive election in December 1979, and further weakened by his hopeless performance in the opinion polls as an alternative leader to Garret Fitz-Gerald — without some of his most loyal allies.

Mark Killilea, Flor Crowley, and Tom Nolan, three of Haughey's closest supporters, lost their seats to equally strong anti-Haughey Fianna Fail deputies including his historic arch-enemy Jim Gibbons. And, of the 61 Fianna Fail members returned, only 29 had actually voted for Haughey as leader two years ago and several of these, including the influential Albert Reynolds, had already deserted him.

INDECISIVE

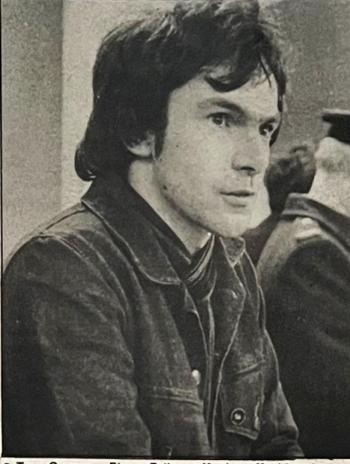
Even as the indecisive election result became clear on Friday and Saturday, last weekend, it was noticeable that powerful members of the anti-Haughey camp — Jim Gibbons, Martin O'Donoghue, Desmond O'Malley, George Colley and Seamus Brennan, — as though by pre-arranged signal, were all refusing to agree that Haughey would automatically be the party's nominee for Taoiseach. The egocentric Charles McCreery was equally evasive, but by Wednesday lunchtime his urge to appear important had bubbled over and he split the full beans on RTE's lunchtime news, predicting that O'Malley would be the contender.

The formation of a new Free State government has still to get past the horse-trading stage, which cannot properly get underway until the Fianna Fail leadership question is settled. Meanwhile, Garret Fitz-Gerald is refusing to concede the premiership.

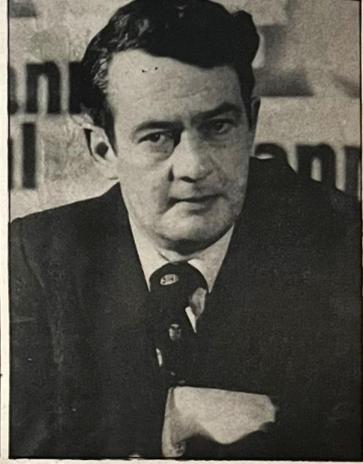
In fact, FitzGerald (who went to the country on a platform of the necessity of a strong budget, then watered it down slightly, but insisted the bitter pill had to be swallowed) is now working on further adjustments by which he can attract the Jim Kemmy vote and the SFWP vote in order to stay in office. The slogans of honesty and integrity have apparently been shelved until the next election campaign.

The Labour Party — supposedly split on the coalition issue — have appeared to postpone their principles too. The re-election unanimously of pro-coalitionist Michael O'Leary as leader signals that they will not abandon coalition if there is any possibility of it at all. On the other hand, if a coalition is not on, the Labour Party will go into 'principled opposition' with a great flurry of idealism.

The key to the new government is, of course, in the hands of the three Sticky SFWP members and the four independents: John O'Connell (at present neutral as ceann comhairle), independent socialist Jim Kemmy, independent Fianna Failer Neil Blaney, and the new face among the independents Tony Gregory.



● Tony Gregory — Fianna Fail can afford to offer him a lot



● Des O'Malley in the leadership battle

With O'Connell likely to remain neutral and Neil Blaney a certainty to vote Fianna Fail (unless the leadership contest upsets him), it is Gregory's vote which becomes crucial as the only one which needs to be won by Fianna Fail. And they are in the best position to win it.

CYNICAL

In the most politically cynical terms — and with no reflection on Tony Gregory — Fianna Fail can afford to offer a lot to Tony Gregory to give him visible success in his quest for jobs and houses in the inner-city. The SFWP's wider demands would obviously cost more. Fine Gael would have to share the carrots on offer between SFWP, Gregory and Kemmy to win power. Fianna Fail can concentrate the lot on Gregory.

In addition, there is another angle to the likely direction of these crucial votes, and it is the continued dominance of Civil War politics, even in an election which has, for the first time in years, shown a definable pattern of class politics emerging.

The reality is that Fianna Fail's pseudo-republicanism looks the

better option to those independents who have a nationalist view of the North, thus Blaney, O'Connell and Gregory could be expected to tend towards Fianna Fail.

On the other hand, anti-republicans such as SFWP, Jim Kemmy, and of course the Labour Party, tend towards the anti-republican Fine Gael party.

It is noticeable that SFWP draws its support generally in a stronger proportion from Fine Gael voters than from Fianna Fail. In fact, on elimination their votes went roughly two to one in favour of Fine Gael in contrast to the Sinn Fein vote which went roughly two to one in favour of Fianna Fail.

CLASS

It is ironic then that a general election fought exclusively on social and economic issues could eventually be decided on the national issue.

This is not, however, to write off the class angle which emerged in the election results. Patterns of voting showed quite strong swings on a class basis.

In Dublin, for example, the SFWP candidates and Tony Gregory

attracted swings away from Fine Gael in working class areas: Dublin North-West, which includes Ballymun and Finglas; Dublin Central, where all the inner-city depression is concentrated; and Dublin West, with Ballyfermot. Elsewhere in Dublin, the south-west constituency, with its large working class concentration in Tallaght showed a swing to Fianna Fail as did several other similar areas.

In contrast, the largely middle class constituencies, such as Dublin South and South East, Dublin North and North East, and Wicklow, showed definable swings to Fine Gael.

It was a situation which not only threw up a new 'left' in Free State politics, but for the first time since the pre-Sean Lemass era, Fianna Fail, detecting the trend, reverted slightly to its populist line of the thirties and forties and began referring to the 'working class' and even ventured a few pinpricks against businesses in its proposed alternative budget.

In all it was a bad election for those so determined to enforce stability in Irish politics, and to that extent then is encouraging.

Bochtanas sa CEE

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

IS IN olcas atá cursaí ag imeacht maidir le bochtanas i measc bailistait Comhphobal Eacnamaíochta na hEoropa. Tá an fadhb ag dul i ndonacht leis na blianta agus níl aon chuma ar an scéal go dtiocfaid feabhas ar chúrsaí.

Institiúid is ea an C.E.E. a cuirtear ar bun ar mhaithe le caipitil agus an t-uasail acme den phobal. Is cuimhin liom go maith na geallúintí a thug na polaitoirí don phobal anseo aimsir an Reifrinn sna Sé Chontae Fíchead.

Ach tá na tíortha agus ceann-tair ar imeall an C.E.E. ag éirí níos boichte a fhad is atá na tíortha sa lár ag éirí níos saibhre. Mar sin feid dhein an C.E.E. staidair ar an mbochtanas i lár na seachtóidí. Tháinig siad ar fhigiúr 30 milliún duine a bhí "beo bocht" sa C.E.E.

Agus is in olcas atá cúrsaí imithe ó shin.

Níl aon phlean acu chun deighleáil leis an fhadhb seo. Níl aon phlean acu chun an dhfhostaíocht a laghdú. Is cuma leo. Ag an am céanna tá siad ag úsáid maoin na tíre seo ar mhaithe le polaitíocht a imirt le tíortha eile.

Go dtí seo tá 663,000 tonna gránach, 77,000 tonna feola (cuid mhaith di as Éirinn), 55,000 tonna siúcra, 32,000 tonna bainne agus 600,000 tonna ola óláige díolta ag an C.E.E. leis an Phólaínn ar phraghas

laghdaithe. Agus tá a thuilleadh le seoladh fós.

Nílilim ag rá nár chóir bia a sheoladh go dtí an Phólaínn ach chomh maith le sin ba chóir bia a chur ar fáil ar phraghas ísle do na buich. Is iomáí duine nach n-éireann feoil ó cheann ceann na seachtaine sa tír seo. Is aisteach go bhfuil feoil na hÉireann áithe sa Phólaínn agus pobal na hÉireann ar an nganchnuid.

Chuirfeadh sé laetheanta an Ghorta Mór i gcuimhne duit. Bia á chur thar lear agus gan dothan bia ag pobal na hÉireann. Sin é an C.E.E. dúinn.

Mholamar i Sinn Féin don phobal votáil i gcoinne pairt a ghlacadh sa C.E.E. Tá an dealramh ar chúrsaí go bhfuil pobal na hÉireann ag teacht ar an tuairim sin anois.



● Tá na tíortha agus na ceann-tair ar imeall an CEE éirí níos boichte a fhad is atá na tíortha sa lár ag éirí níos saibhre

AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF SINN FEIN'S ELECTION INTERVENTION

SINN FEIN'S intervention in a Free State general election for the first time, as a party, in twenty years, proved something of a disappointment after the high expectations created by the H-Block vote last June.

In gaining 16,894 first preferences in the seven constituencies contested, Sinn Fein overall took approximately 50% of the H-Block electoral support.

However, none of the results were disastrous and any look at electoral history will show that each of the seven results can be described as a sound base for the future.

In the aftermath of the election, however, Sinn Fein is faced with the serious task of soberly, and intelligently, assessing its structures, strategy and policy in the light of its electoral experience. And it is certain that the election did at any rate raise several questions and problems to be considered.

First of all, looking back at the June election and the hunger-strike campaign, the Sinn Fein vote confirmed that the National H-Block/Armagh Committee's strategy in appealing to wider support than republicanism then was the correct one, which did in fact show appreciable results.

The Sinn Fein election intervention this time was by necessity rushed, not only by the shortness of the campaign, but also because it came only a few months after the ard their decision agreeing to such interventions. Because of this unpreparedness it was perhaps inevitable that there was a level of confusion in the electoral strategy which needs to be closely analysed.

Some of the issues needing such analysis would be as follows.

From the campaign's outset there was a tendency for Sinn Fein, under a barrage of media scrutiny, to apparently attempt to distance itself from the armed struggle in the North. Whether consciously or unconsciously this tendency slightly increased as the court action against the RTE censorship took over the centre of the campaign.

With the establishment parties confining the campaign to a battle of alternative budgets, Sinn Fein too seemed to become involved in figure swapping and suggested reforms, which is also to become involved in the discussion of how best to prop up the present pernicious economic system.

In this context, the defining of partition by the economic cost of collaboration — (at £500 million or whatever) is a valid point to make, but it is certainly not the main point in the argument against the British occupation.

VITAL
What the vital message here is the crushing violent oppression of the nationalist population by a foreign army as evidenced by death, torture, imprisonment, constant harassment and so on. To support those taking up arms against this enemy is vital and it is to this support existing in the twenty-six counties that Sinn Fein must always first appeal.

If the cost of ridding Ireland of this oppression is five times £500 million then so be it.

Sinn Fein came to the social and economic struggle only comparatively recently and so, in this election, was struggling to

QUESTIONS POSED

BY KEVIN BURKE



On the campaign trail in Louth

develop a policy to put on offer.

Here too, it is imperative that the economic and social struggle is not divorced from the national struggle; that is the path of reformism. The emphasis must always be that native capitalism and British imperialism are inter-dependent and the former can only be overthrown when the latter, its prop in Ireland, is broken. Capitalism in the Free State thus depends on the British as its first line of defence and has come to depend on it more than most neo-colonies.

LYNCHPIN

In taking up the economic and social struggle, Sinn Fein has also to keep its lynchpin policy to the fore, that of the replacement of the partitioned capitalist system with a united socialist republic.

To become involved, therefore, in a view of politics which stresses the elected TD as a glorified social worker in his constituency — fixing up a house here, a road there, and so on — is to hinder the clientelism by which the twenty-six counties is governed. Rights and entitlements should not in any way be seen as goodies from the back

pocket of politicians. In this area too, the thinking behind Sinn Fein's 'constituency clinics' may also need to be clarified.

It must be said that no matter how many Sinn Fein TDs are elected they cannot create, in any parliamentary or extra-parliamentary assembly, a socialist republic by decree. They are, and will be, only one way of raising political consciousness and of harrying and attacking the status quo.

The essential ingredient is the moulding of all the working class, including the unemployed, the youth, women, small farmers and the underprivileged in whatever way, into a definable and self-conscious class which is in a position to take into its hands and control for itself the economic wealth of the country. Without that, party political success is meaningless.

To this end then Sinn Fein's political work and its policies must be directed. Obviously individual wrongs must be righted wherever possible and individual battles and campaigns on housing, employment and so on must be engaged in and fought with vigour; but the final goal must always be kept in mind, the politicisation, not only of

Sinn Fein members, but of all the people towards the removal of the British presence from the North and the overthrow of the capitalist system, North and South.

TABOO

The other main issue raised by the election is, of course, the taboo republican one of abstentionism.

It was a question raised by voters and it is not a question to shy away from. It is perhaps an issue viewed emotionally rather than intellectually by republicans, with an obvious need for a well-argued and well thought out case to be made for it in today's situation.

Confusion in this area may have been heightened perhaps by, in the middle of the campaign, the decision by Sinn Fein to bend its constitutional strictures to take a court action on the RTE ban.

In the coming weeks all these issues, and more, present themselves for detailed examination by Sinn Fein. It should not be a task viewed with trepidation but with calm appraisal.

LITTLE COMPENSATION IN DOUBLE-KILLING CASE

TEN-YEAR-OLD LIES REPEATED

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

MORE than ten years after the shooting dead of two west Belfast women by British soldiers, the husband of one of the women has successfully sued the British Ministry of Defence for 'excessive force' used to stop the car they were travelling in at the time of the shooting, and for compensation for his wife's death.

The two-day hearing, last week, in Belfast's High Court, into the killing of nineteen-year-old Dorothy Maguire and her thirty-year-old married sister, Maura Meehan, on the night of October 23rd 1971, brought by Maura's widowed husband, forty-two-year-old Jim Meehan, re-awakened the tissue of deliberate lies told by British soldiers and the British media at the time.

Despite a tape recording, produced at the original hearing into the deaths ten years ago, made by a local man that night, which conclusively proved that

the only shots fired were from British-regulation high velocity weapons, several members of the Royal Green Jackets regiment at last week's hearing persisted in the lie that they fired only in response to low-velocity shots fired at them from the car, as it travelled along Cape Street in the lower Falls, and that they had tried to wave the car down before returning fire.

Billy Davidson, from Clonard in west Belfast, who was driving the car in which Dorothy Maguire and Maura Meehan were back-seat passengers, recalls what actually happened that night: "Internment had been introduced in August of that year. Arrests, torture and imprisonment were rife, but there was organised resistance in all nationalist areas, whether it was bin-lid bashing, whistle blowing or stone throwing.

"Dorothy and Maura belonged to a group called the Women's Action Committee who helped to organise such resistance. That night I went down to a friend's house in Brantry Street with Maura's husband, Jim, and both Maura

and Dorothy were there. In the internment days people stayed up to all hours of the night in case raids took place.

While we were there someone told us there was raiding taking place in the lower Falls. The Women's Action Committee had just bought two klaxon boat horns and we decided to test them.

"We took one of them and toured the lower Falls sounding the horn, and alerting people that raids were on. We then went up to collect the other one. It was on this second tour we ran into the Brits. I came up Leeson Street and turned into Raglan Street. Suddenly a Brit saracen pulled across the road and I had to swerve left into Cape Street to avoid it. Cape Street was crawling with Brits and armoured vehicles. "To be honest, I was frightened, because I knew if we didn't get out of the street we would be almost certainly be arrested or worse, so my main objective was to get out of the street.

"I weaved in and out of cars and Brit vehicles, but as I reached the end of the street another saracen pulled out in



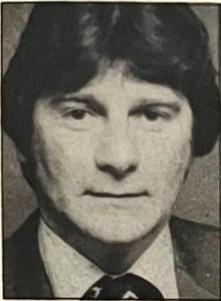
Sisters Maura Meehan (left) and Dorothy Maguire, who were shot dead by British soldiers in the lower Falls in October 1971

front of me, leaving a gap between it and the corner house. I decided to take the chance and drove through the gap. It was then I heard the shooting. I heard glass smashing and the next thing I knew the car went out of control and eventually came to a stop. I was very shaken but it was only when I got out to open the back door that I discovered Maura and Dorothy lying dead, covered in blood."

Needless to say, no firearms were found in the car; yet despite this, and despite Maura's clothing at the time of

her death of white slacks, red jumper and blue jacket, and Dorothy's clothing of a blue and white flowery blouse and jeans, the British press peddled the story of the women, dressed in 'terrorist-type' or men's clothing, having fired two shots.

At the end of the hearing last week, the seven-strong jury decided that 'excessive force' had been used and awarded maximum compensation to father-of-four, Jim Meehan. This, however, amounted to a paltry £1,500. Such, in British terms, is the value of a nationalist life.



● FRA BROWNE



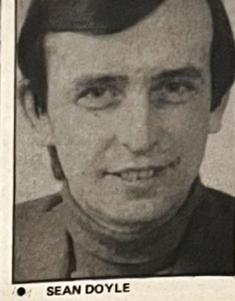
● SEAMUS McELWAIN



● JOHN JOE MCGIRL



● SEAN LYNCH



● SEAN DOYLE



● CHRISTY BURKE

HALF H-BLOCK VOTE RET

Solid base of electoral support, despite disappoint

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

SINN FEIN'S seven candidates in the general election in the twenty-six counties took a total of 16,894 first preference votes. In general the votes won were approximately half of those gained by the H-Block prisoners last June.

Sinn Fein won no seats in this election, although its best results were in Louth and Cavan/Monaghan where the two H-Block TDs, Paddy Agnew and the late hunger-striker Kieran Doherty, were successful in June.

After the results were announced the following statement was issued by Sinn Fein head office in Dublin:

"Naturally, Sinn Fein are disappointed with the results secured in the election. We involved ourselves in last year's election within the ambit of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee, and the satisfactory results secured then had built up expectations for this occasion.

"Sinn Fein succeeded in holding almost 50% of the votes cast last June. The voting pattern of that election showed widespread support for the H-Block issue. On this occasion, the votes cast was a solid republican vote for Sinn Fein policies.

"Sinn Fein laboured under many difficulties in this election. We were the only organisation excluded from radio and television coverage and the inconvenience of having to prosecute a civil action against the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs resulted in a diversion of resources and personnel.

"Sinn Fein can take satisfaction from the fact that Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act was found to be unconstitutional. This was a victory beneficial to all and for the fundamental principle of the right to freedom of speech.

"Sinn Fein will continue to build upon the support achieved today. We are a small organisation in comparison to the major parties but the dedication and energy of our people on the ground is deserving of praise and augurs well for the future."

Louth

Sinn Fein's candidate in Louth, Fra Browne, was attempting to hold on to the seat won last June by H-Block prisoner Paddy Agnew who topped the poll then with 8,368 votes.

In this election Fra Browne came sixth in the first preferences in the contest for the four seats in the constituency, with

3,714 votes, or 9% of the poll — just half that achieved by Agnew. The total poll this time was over two thousand down on June.

In the second count, Fra Browne received only 43 votes when the second preferences of Frank Godfrey (Independent), Donnachda MacRaghnaill (SFWP) and Helen Corcoran (Republican Labour) — who had 2,587 votes between them — were distributed.

Gaining most from this distribution was the Labour candidate who overtook Fra Browne at this stage and he was eliminated. Fra Browne's votes when distributed went 46% to Fianna Fail, 13% to Fine Gael and 12% to Labour. 29% were non-transferable.

The final result in Louth was three seats to Fianna Fail and one seat to Fine Gael.

Cavan/Monaghan

The 9,121 votes achieved in June by the late hunger-striker Kieran Doherty, TD, was the target for Sinn Fein in Cavan/Monaghan who put forward remand prisoner Seamus McElwain this time. In the event Sinn Fein secured just under half that figure, with 3,974 first preference votes — 7% of the poll.

Seventh in the first preference poll in the five-seater constituency, Seamus McElwain remained in until the fifth count when the three remaining seats were filled following the distribution of the Sinn Fein votes which went 45% to Fianna Fail and 13% to Fine Gael. 42% were non-transferable.

Whilst still in the counts, Sinn Fein picked up a quarter of the 455 votes of Captain Kelly (Independent) and a fifth of the 529 votes of Francis O'Donoghue (SFWP) on their elimination.

Fianna Fail took three seats in Cavan/Monaghan with the other two going to Fine Gael.

Sligo/Leitrim

In Sligo/Leitrim last June, the late hunger-striker Joe McDonnell narrowly missed election when he gained 5,639 votes. This time John Joe McGirl, as the Sinn Fein candidate, got 2,772 — 6% of the total poll.

In the second count John Joe McGirl received 320 of the distributed votes of the independent socialist Declan Bree and the Labour Party candidate S. Kennelly who had 1,434 votes between them. He also received a small packet of Fine Gael votes on the elimination of J. Cawley.

On John Joe McGirl's elimination his votes went 48% to Fianna Fail, 21% to



● The count in Dublin Central

Fine Gael, and 31% were non-transferable.

Longford/Westmeath

Sean Lynch was the Sinn Fein candidate in Longford/Westmeath where last June the late hunger-striker Martin Hurson achieved 4,573 first preferences. Sean Lynch received 2,121, following the pattern of the other constituencies in winning half of the H-Block vote, in this case 5% of the poll compared with 10% last year.

One interesting feature of the count, perhaps, was the fact that Sean Lynch received a quarter of the distributed surplus votes of Fine Gael's Paddy Cooney, who in his role of Coalition Minister for Posts and Telegraphs stopped Sinn Fein from making an election broadcast on RTE. In fact Sinn Fein received more of Cooney's surplus than Fianna Fail.

On Sean Lynch's elimination on the fifth and penultimate count only two Fianna Fail candidates remained and they received 60% of the Sinn Fein votes.

The four seats on Longford/Westmeath were equally divided between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael.

Wexford

Wexford was not one of the constituencies contested by an H-Block prisoner in last June's general election, so in that context Sinn Fein was starting from

scratch this time. There are, however, three local Sinn Fein councillors in the constituency.

The Sinn Fein candidate, Sean Doyle, achieved 1,622 votes — 3% of the poll — adding another 89 transfers from Fine Gael, Labour and a non-party candidate. On Doyle's elimination after the fifth count, his votes went 51% to Fianna Fail, 18% to the Labour Party, 10% to Fine Gael, and 21% were non-transferable.

Fianna Fail took three seats in Wexford and Fine Gael took the other two seats.

Dublin Central

Sinn Fein candidate Christy Burke stood in the Dublin Central constituency, where there was no H-Block intervention last June. Sinn Fein gained 3% of the poll with 1,458 first preference votes.

When Christy Burke was eliminated after the sixth count, 37% of his votes went to the independent candidate Tony Gregory, 23% went to the SFWP, 11% to Fianna Fail, 7% to Labour and 5% to Fine Gael. 17% of his votes were non-transferable.

Tony Gregory was later elected in one of the dramatic results of the election, and the other seats went two to Fianna Fail, one to Fine Gael and one to Labour.

Clare

There was an H-Block intervention in the June election in Clare when Tom



JOE O'CONNELL

AINED

ting results



McAllister won 5% of the poll with 2,120 first preferences. This time another republican prisoner, Joe O'Connell, standing for Sinn Féin, took 3% of the poll and 1,233 votes. An IRSP candidate who also contested the Clare constituency got 238 votes, half of which went to Sinn Féin after the IRSP elimination.

When Joe O'Connell was himself eliminated after the fourth count, 28% of his votes went to Fianna Fail, 28% to Fine Gael, and 12% to the Labour Party. 32% were non-transferable. However, at that stage, Bill Loughnane and Brendan Daly of Fianna Fail, both of whom could have been expected to benefit in particular, were already elected.

Three seats in Clare were taken by Fianna Fail and the other one by Fine Gael.

Others

Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the election campaign was the showing of Bernadette McAliskey standing on an anti-imperialist platform in the Dublin North Central constituency. Although she polled well gaining 2,085 first preferences and adding another 655 before elimination, she was well down on what had been hoped for and expected.

Elsewhere, the Peoples Democracy candidate, Joe Harrington, in Limerick East, got 215 first preferences. IRSP candidates got 800 votes in Dublin West, 799 in Dun Laoghaire, 542 in Cork North Central, 343 in Limerick East, and 232 in Clare.



Good losers

BY DANNY MORRISON

ON Friday morning the election offices of Sinn Féin prisoner candidate Seamus McElwain in Monaghan and Cavan were naturally at low gear or in no gear. The voting was over, the count had just begun and apart from the five 'reps' at the count in Cootehill, everyone was redundant.

I was hoping to collect some gems for a story on the atmosphere of the constituency that day, and *'AP/RN'* had dispatched several reporters to other constituencies where republican opinion suggested possible electoral successes.

In the Monaghan office I heard how Fianna Fail got their premises in the Diamond.

Jim Jenkins, a local Protestant businessman, gave over one of his empty shops on condition that 'the republican party' did not fly the tricolour, and they duly complied. There was a rumour, unconfirmed, that Paddy Peoples, a member of the garda task force, who had shadowed the previous Sunday's Sinn Féin car cavalcade, had been challenged when attempting to persuade. And there was the story about Micky McGorman, a haulier, who holds a licence for cross-border and cross-channel trade but not for carriage within the twenty-six counties.

He was in Dublin three weeks ago and was asked to do the guards a favour by transporting eight desks to the barracks in Monaghan. He delivered the desks but as he reached his Glaslough Street home, which is about one hundred yards from the barracks, the guards arrived and charged him with transporting goods without the proper licence!

We left for Cavan before the disappointing news, based on the early predictions of tallymen, had begun to come in. Along the road the first buds were breaking through the weathered bare branches of trees and shrubs and the spartan black and white posters of Seamus McElwain alternated on telegraph poles with the full colour posters of Garret FitzGerald declaring 'He's right' and Haughey's map transmitting the message 'We do a better job'.

DESOLATION

The Cavan office was deserted but for one or two people hanging

around. A big coal fire crunched and glowed in the hearth and a tinny transistor was tuned into RTE's election special. The election phone had been disconnected earlier that day and this heightened the sense of desolation.

A middle-aged man ruminated over the campaign — they hadn't the same forces as last time, there were personality clashes and — raising the old bogey — he said that people would vote only for those who would take their seats. I had been previously hit up the teeth with this by several voters who, on the one hand, looked upon armed struggle and abstentionism in the North as legitimate but, on the other hand, looked upon the Leinster House parliament as legitimate.

I explained the traditional republican position, our ideological and political opposition. The shrug-of-shoulders from some stolid election workers on previous occasions when this highly divisive issue arose indicated a not altogether subscription to our rationale.

Given the influx of young people since the hunger-strike a similar problem could well arise for the Republican Movement over the next few years as youthful activists attracted to republicanism for predominantly political reasons as opposed to romanticism, and without the familiar republican tradition, and, in some cases, without the attitudes and intuition moulded by hard-earned experience, climb the rungs to important positions of influence.

By early afternoon the drop by almost fifty per cent in last June's anti-H-Block vote was confirmed.

Most annoying was the increase in representation the Sticks were to get. However, freedom or prin-

ciples cannot be measured by how many representatives one gets elected to a partitionist assembly, but by how much one resists and struggles against foreign oppression and in this the Republican Movement is number one. Disappointment was soon absorbed.

TRICK

I felt it was now time to do my disappearing trick. Chagrin, now only potato crisp thick, intermingled with a number of things in my head.

Firstly, there was no victory story in Cavan/Monaghan!

Secondly, were the other *'AP/RN'* reporters, having heard the news now scheming to get back to Belfast and Dublin? It wouldn't do for me to be staunch.

Thirdly, I couldn't stand the smart-alecs now creeping out of the woodwork with their 'I told you so' remarks.

Fourthly, there was the faintest possibility, which had probably been registered subconsciously and which now required closer scrutiny, that somehow yours truly (due to an outburst of conference rhetoric' as Paddy Bolger had rather insidiously described it in a BBC interview) would be held responsible for the outcome and found hanging from an oak tree on the road between Ballybay and Castleblaney.

I calculated the odds by counting up all of Sinn Féin's first preference votes this time around, adding to it those from outside of the constituencies or the North who would have liked to have voted but who through one thing or another couldn't make it, and the number on the ard comhairle minus one — myself. My windpipe felt decidedly uncomfortable.

Discretion being the better part of valour I withdrew to Dublin that night hiding in the back of a passing *'AP/RN'* van, and to all inquirers identifying myself as Jimmy Drumm — who has a sound position on elections.

KILTS

Walking along O'Connell Street

on my way from the GPO I noticed scores of people standing outside the city centre headquarters of Fianna Fail. Party officials were pasting up on the window the incoming results and a TV blared out RTE's coverage.

Dandering up the street, like they needed their heads examined, came two wooden barrels, because that's what they looked like: two Scotsmen in tartan kilts, sporrans and six-inch thick woolly socks, the contributors to which must have been nurtured on porridge and whiskey as they gambolled about the fields around Loch Lomond.

Our two Celtic cousins, over for the rugby match, joined the on-lookers: "It's an election, Andy," said the first beer tub, "a general election."

"Huh, no many voters."
"Dinnae be daft Jemmy, They've already voted and are counting out the back."

I gritted my teeth and took my leave. That name Jemmy reminded me of Kemmy, the east Limerick anti-nationalist TD and proponent of the 'two nations' theory, whose re-election on such candid policies is deserving of some analysis by republicans if we are to loosen the cement around Free Statism.

As I crossed the road two speeding nuns in a red Toyota tried to kill me at the lights with Parnell Square, a murder which would have subsequently been presented as a routine traffic accident. They missed, and with head tucked to duffle coat I made my way into the Blessington Street club.

A cold eye through a peep-hole surveyed Jack Crowe and myself. To boots, and like lepers, we eventually entered the smog. Dublin's good losers looked as if they had won, the drainage that was going on.

Christy Burke's election agent, Paddy Bolger, with convincing equanimity was explaining how they had achieved what they set out to do — get Tony Gregory elected. Everybody cheered and I was handed a wooden armalite, ten specimen ballot papers, and a pint of Smithwicks.

MÁLA POIST

All letters should be addressed to: The editor, An Phoblacht/Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

Khomeini condemned

Dear editor,

The regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, weaker than ever before, frightened of the popular struggles, has unleashed a campaign of massacre and executions. The capitalist regime, unwilling and incapable of responding to the basic demands of the masses, after three years in power has brought nothing but poverty, homelessness, inflation, and suppression of national minorities.

Today, confronted with the rising struggles of the masses, incapable of responding to the people's demands, it is resorting to murder, torture and imprisonment to lengthen its wretched life.

The severity of the economic and political crisis has intensified class contradictions. In a desperate attempt for survival the regime is using all its power to suppress the movement.

The savage killings of the masses are not limited to Kurdistan anymore, but they are continued on a larger scale all over Iran in factories, in farms, and in the streets, by the unjust, anti-popular regime.

Teenagers have been executed for possessing leaflets, workers have been shot for participating in demonstrations, towns and villages in Kurdistan have been attacked and bombed by the army, even the lives of pregnant women and children have not been spared. The mass executions of the regime can only be compared with the crimes of Hitler's fascist regime.

The government has organised groups of armed gangs (mujahideen) to terrorise the civilian population and impose an undeclared civil war on the Iranian people.

And all the time the revisionist supporters of the regime, the Tudeh Party and Majority, these traitors to the working class, acclaim the anti-imperialism and determination of the government in suppressing 'the counter-revolution'. But neither its indiscriminate murders, nor the lies of the Tudeh Party and Majority, can save this government.

Today, the Iranian people and their revolutionary organisations have started an open struggle determined to overthrow the regime of the Islamic Republic. Today, the Iranian people realise that whatever the promises or the threats, neither this government, nor any other sections of the dependant bourgeoisie, is capable of responding to their genuine economic and political demands and aspirations.

In calling for the overthrow of this reactionary regime, the Iranian people know that their struggles for democracy are inseparable from anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist struggles. Learning from the experience of the February uprising, with a clear analysis of the camp of revolution and counter-revolution, the Iranian working masses and their revolutionary organisations will



● Reactionary regime

do their utmost to prevent the bourgeoisie from diverting the revolutionary movement and assuming its leadership.

In fighting against the reactionary regime of the Islamic Republic, the Iranian working class rejects all reformist platforms and insists on the complete overthrow of the regime by force.

Organisation of Iranian Students in England, Scotland and Wales (supporters of the Organisation of Iranian People's Fedaii Guerrillas),
BM KAR,
London WC1N 3XX.

Peoples Democracy

A chara,

In a letter published in 'AP/RN', January 7th, Peoples Democracy national secretary, S. Jackson describes your columnist Kevin Burke's comments ('AP/RN', December 10th) as being of "an extremely scurrilous and unpolitical nature".

In my opinion Burke's 'criticism of PD' was quite fair. His main point was that there are small anti-imperialist groups claiming to have plenty of influence among the broad spectrum of the anti-imperialist movement. He quotes from an article describing the PD annual conference: "The H-Block campaign demonstrated that despite its small size Peoples Democracy has a major influence within the anti-imperialist movement."

If the H-Block campaign is anything to go by, it would appear from the above quote that PD is living in fantasy!

Prior to September 6th 1981, PD had three members on the seventeen-strong National H-Block/Armagh Committee; with the increasing of the new committee to thirty members, PD's membership fell to only two. Some influential

PD also tried to broaden the national committee to cover issues other than the prison issue. That is, PD tried to set up a whole new political party. In this they failed also.

On the question of broadening the National H-Block/Armagh Committee to cover the wider

A chara,

At the Sinn Fein ard theis last year, I was totally opposed to contesting local elections in the six counties, but this was — as we are all now aware — easily passed.

However, during the past few weeks I have had much thought on the matter and have come to a final conclusion that I was wrong to oppose it as I did on a point of what I then considered principle, but upon reflection looks more like a natural in-built dislike for all things British.

Due to this I completely ignored the tactical value of the motion or to examine my principle on it in depth but now having done so, belatedly, I must admit I am of the opinion that it can only do the Republican Movement good. Principle does not enter into nor is it interfered with in anyway when contesting local elections and as our abstentionist policy regarding Westminster elections is safeguarded in our constitution, so our principle remains intact.

By contesting local elections, and where successful by taking our seats, we are giving ourselves the opportunity to show the people that not only are our policies designed to provide a better standard and way of life for them, but more importantly, that we do have the qualities of leadership needed in a national government (when the time is right) to undo all the harm done to this country through years of misrule by successive, capitalistic, partitioned state assemblies.

During the past thirteen years our previous tactic enabled us only to give advice on the daily problems facing our people that arise from the British influenced aspects of our society, such as unemployment and bad housing to name two.

We often did the ground-

work, provided the facts and figures on many of the individual evils, but found ourselves being dismissed as totally insignificant by the bodies and authorities set up by the British system due to the fact that we had no elected public representatives.

The ordinary people in view of this had no-one to turn to but to public representatives, best described as nationalist renegades, and thus giving them credence both locally and internationally, plus an alleged authority to speak on behalf of our people.

This was our previous tactic, one which I myself advocated up until now, which allowed the SDLP, etc., to rise to such a position, which was largely responsible for our alienation from many nationalists outside the ghettos. The position we faced was where the war for liberation

survival for the first twenty-four hours after getting thrown out of home; how to set up a claimants' union, or who can advise on how to 'use' the dole to your benefit; your rights and their limits when hassled by law 'n' order, information on the facilities fought for and developed by the women's movement, how to bypass the food-processing business; good local literature, who produces it and why; where to get in touch with the political organisations; a listing of all the alternative services and services that we can discover with help.

In short, a useful resource book. The directory will be updated after a year, so all contacts should expect to last until well into 1983.

We'd like information on anything you think might be useful to others no matter how extraordinary, unprintable or original. It'll cost in the region of £500 to publish and print, so if you want to contribute financially as well, fair enough. Send everything to:

Just Books Collective,
c/o Just Books,
7 Winetavern Street,
Belfast 1.

The other side

Dear editor,
We are currently putting together a directory of 'the other side,' a catalogue of ideas and contacts that we have been able to discover either through our own experiences or those of like minded friends like yourself. Coverage and inclusions will be restricted to the 'North' and, in particular, Belfast; though towns like Derry, Omagh, Portrush, Coleraine, Ballymena, Newry, Craigavon and Dungannon will be included to the extent that others inform us.

LOCAL ELECTIONS



● Calling for a boycott of six-county council elections during the hunger-strike last year

work, provided the facts and figures on many of the individual evils, but found ourselves being dismissed as totally insignificant by the bodies and authorities set up by the British system due to the fact that we had no elected public representatives.

The ordinary people in view of this had no-one to turn to but to public representatives, best described as nationalist renegades, and thus giving them credence both locally and internationally, plus an alleged authority to speak on behalf of our people.

This was our previous tactic, one which I myself advocated up until now, which allowed the SDLP, etc., to rise to such a position, which was largely responsible for our alienation from many nationalists outside the ghettos. The position we faced was where the war for liberation

tactic results — as happened before when Sinn Feiners once elected turned traitor to our cause.

Let's get out now and start working towards election time, we must redouble our efforts, make sure we know all there is to know about local problems and necessities, and have the information on our tongue-tips so when we go out canvassing we shall not be found wanting in our answers to the many questions we shall be asked.

Above all we must show that both our policies and our leadership is what is needed and when we have done that then the democratic socialist republic is not too far away.

Danny McCauley,
Strabane.

simplicistic dismissal of the women's movement. The Republican Movement, on its own admission, closes ranks on 'outsiders' and yet simultaneously demands that its causes be supported and publicized by 'outside' groups. This contradiction does not help any form of 'political clarity', but is the women's movement or elsewhere.

In England, the Brit propaganda of the war in Ireland (that is, its denial that it exists!) creates an alienation that is hardly penetrated by the minimal republican solidarity.

Republicans are fighting their oppressors and feminists are attempting to undermine the patriarchy. Many feminists rebuke the armed struggle as a means of expression of male violence and masculine values but will

express solidarity and show support for sisters who, having made the alternative choice to support armed struggle, are consequently oppressed and imprisoned by the Brit state machine in Ireland. All women would express anger at the denial of freedom.

Uns O'Neill's same dismissal of the freedom of choice because it does not coincide with her own priorities shows a great misunderstanding of the nature of personal politics within the women's solidarity movement.

Does she really believe that letters and enquiries from feminists (indeed anyone not closely related) would have penetrated Armagh jail? Particularly at the time of the protest and a complete denial by the Republic of Ireland?

The 'ghetto culture' is again evident in O'Neill's comments on the Peoples Democracy women — again closing ranks on the 'patronising attitude of the intellectual towards the Republican Movement'. How patronising can you be to refer to Machiavelli as only existing in PDII Politics by its very existence is Machiavellian...

If O'Neill is so convinced by the 'political clarity' of Sinn Fein as compared to the women's liberation movement, recommend that she read the interview given by Danny Morrison in 'Marxism Today' (December '81).

When questioned about abortion he states: "I am against abortion on moral grounds, I don't have to go any further on that. Our movement understands and sympathises with women who have abortions or who feel they have to have abortions." It is a question, he says, "which we have not come to terms with politically... I would find it personally very hard to legislate or to finance abortion if I was in government."

If Sinn Fein has not 'come to terms' with an individual's right to choose over their own bodies, then I question their aspirations to a free socialist state for all women and men.

If Morrison was 'in government' he would presumably be there as a representative of women and men who have the right of choice — he would be bound, as a socialist, to prepare for the alternative, as a political representative he cannot then turn around, once elected, and become a moralist instead: of course, Machiavelli is alive and well...

Unless basic questions of freedom and equality such as these are qualified and there is a recognised response to freedom of personal choice there can be no 'political clarity' in Sinn Fein. There may be less unity as a consequence but always, as in the women's liberation movement, are we qualified to freedom and solidarity. To 'understand' and 'sympathise' with the other 51% of the population is not enough. Sinn Fein must go much 'further on that'.

Clare Smith,
Redditch,
Worcestershire,
England.

Tell them everything

Dear editor,
I would like to refer to Una O'Neill's review of Margarata D'Arcy's book, 'Tell Them Everything', ('An Phoblacht/Republican News', January 21st).

The 'ghetto culture' that D'Arcy refers to as a unifying factor is also evident in O'Neill's

I'm alright Zach

**Burkes
at the back**
BY KEVIN BURKE

WITH the De Lorean Motor Company in Belfast now in the hands of the receivers, and its workforce on the brink of redundancy, many readers will no doubt be worried about the wellbeing of its founder, John Zachary De Lorean.

However, there appears to be no cause for concern about the future of the ageing American playboy and his fashion-model wife Christina.

Earlier this month, when the Belfast company was already in ruins, the De Loreans purchased another private residence to add to their existing homes in New York and California. The new purchase is Lamington House and its 2,300-acre estate in Bedminster, New Jersey, one of the largest estates in the area.

The price paid for the new home by the multi-millionaire conman - sorry, carman - was \$3.5 million and set a record for the highest price ever paid for a residence in New Jersey.

John Zachary De Lorean is not going to be left without a roof over his head.

★★★

Belfast skinheads will, in future, have to wear heavy disguise if they wish to venture into the city centre, after open season has been declared on them by a Belfast magistrate.

On Monday, last week, Belfast magistrate Albert Walmsley told a seventeen-year-old skinhead, who appeared before him on a disorderly behaviour charge after a skirmish with 'mods' outside the city hall: "These people who come into the city dressed in this manner can only expect to go to prison."

★★★

Whilst Ian Paisley's Third Force was receiving headline treatment and strong criticism, an official third force (the British army and police being the first two) was being trained and equipped in Britain by the large metropolitan police forces.

Britain's third force comprises civilian police support units originally trained for civil defence purposes. The new force has been revealed by a British Home Office report in the wake of the riots in Britain last year and is, in effect, a network of special riot squads attached to the major police forces in Britain.

The eleven-thousand-strong force is equipped with reinforced vans, NATO glass-fibre helmets as used by the British army in the North, gas respirators, fire-proof overalls and light shields. It also has access to vehicles, similar to the 'pigs' or armoured carriers used in the North; plastic bullets, CS gas and water cannon.

The Whitehall report says that the plastic bullet 'can be lethal in certain circumstances', but suggests that in order not to cause too much alarm to the public 'any vehicles used by the police should clearly have as conventional appearance as possible and should, therefore, be painted in a colour usually used by a force, for example, blue'.

It's these nice little touches which make life so pleasant.

★★★

For once the boot was on the other foot earlier this month when a district justice in County Meath allowed a man who admitted burglary charges to go to England with his wife and family in the hope of making a new start.

British Tory MP Nicholas Winteron was last week up in arms with outrage at this and asked was Britain to become 'a dumping ground for criminals'.

It is, of course, the prerogative of British courts to allow countless young English criminals to go free once they declare their intention of joining the British army and travelling to Ireland.

★★★

The British press council has upheld complaints about a report in the London



● A visit by SDLP leader John Hume (right) to canvass on behalf of his party candidate Alistair McDonnell was not the happening of the week in the South Belfast by-election campaign. In the end, however, some supporters were found to pose for a press photograph, but at least three of those rounded up will not be voting SDLP.

Times, last May, claiming that the IRA had killed 2,000 Protestants in the North.

The report, on the funeral of Bobby Sands, read: 'The Roman Catholics buried Robert Sands yesterday as Protestants lamented their 2,000 dead from 12 years of terrorism', and went on to say that while a place in history for Bobby Sands was assured, 'the 2,000 victims of his collaborators will never be as famous'.

After letters of complaint to the paper, *The Times* printed a further comment that its correspondent had 'checked and confirmed his figures with several sources'.

The British press council, censuring *The Times*, said that the figure of 2,000 dead included a high proportion of Catholics along with members of the British army, UDR and RUC.

★★★

It is a strange quirk of the present 'democratic' system that of the 1,665,353 people who voted in the twenty-six-county election it would have taken only a few hundred voters in a few marginal constituencies to totally alter the outcome.

Only 112 votes in Sligo/Leitrim, or 252 in Louth, would have given an extra seat to Fine Gael, whilst 130 in Cork East would have given one to Fianna Fail, as would 153 in Wicklow or 224 in Dublin West.

So the million-and-a-half plus votes elsewhere didn't really make much difference, or certainly do not carry the same weight.

★★★

Then again, 555,000 people on the electoral roll did not vote at all. That's only sixty thousand less than Fine Gael's total poll. They presumably don't want any of the parties to govern them.

And 100,000 people who were eligible to vote could not do so because they were not on the hopelessly out-of-date electoral registers.

That, apparently, is what democracy is all about.

★★★

And, finally, positively my last general election story.

Last week, it might be recalled, *The Irish Times* boomed in Cavan/Monaghan by claiming that the Sticky Workers Party had called for support for the Sinn Fein candidate Seamus McElwain.

On the day after polling day it carried a very short story, which incidentally put two Sinn Fein candidates in the constituency. But it is the drama of the piece which is so appealing.

Headlined 'security tight in Cavan/Mon-

aghan', the short article read: "In the Cavan/Monaghan constituency, where two Provisional Sinn Fein candidates were standing, security was tight yesterday. Several Northern cars were being used to carry voters to the polls." End of story.

Good heavens, will these terrorists stop at nothing?

★★★

British courts in the North and England have recently been busy with a spate of law-breakers among their guardians of law and order.

Leading the list of 'bad apples' is RUC Special Branchman Thomas McCormick of Ballymens, who went on trial in Belfast for the murder of a fellow RUC man in Cusendall five years ago. McCormick is charged with twenty-seven other offences including armed robberies and causing explosions. It was when his RUC colleague suspected him that McCormick shot him down on the steps of the Cusendall RUC barracks.

In England, two Royal Marines, Kevin Willis and Stephen Arkle, were jailed for four years by St. Albans crown court for robbery of a pub armed with replica pistols. After the robbery Willis had also been involved in the burglary of a house with another marine, Neil Madrid, who was sent to borstal.

At Derry petty sessions, a UDR soldier, John Moore Caldwell of Clooney Base, was found guilty of drunken driving having been found to have the extremely high figure of two-and-a-half times the permitted level of alcohol in his blood.

Another UDR soldier, Ian Smith, whose address is 17 Jubilee Hill, Trory, Ballinamallard, County Fermanagh, was found guilty in Enniskillen court of careless driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident. The UDR man, who had been resting (sobbing up?) in a lay-by late at night, pulled out into the path of another car, hit it, and then headed for home.

RUC man James Nixon, based in Beleck, County Fermanagh, was found guilty of careless driving by Irvinestown court after he crashed his car into a wall late at night last July. An over-tired (probably drunk) Nixon had failed to notice a bend in the road and travelled a considerable distance through a field before hitting the wall.

British soldier Clark Leonard Gilbert (yet another drunk?) based at Portadown, was found guilty of careless driving by Craigavon court. He also ran into a wall late at night. The same court found another Brit, Colin Hancock, guilty of careless driving, driving without 'L' plates, and having no insurance, after he had collided with another car.

WHAT'S ON

SINN FEIN WOMEN'S MEETING
Open to all Sinn Fein women
noon Saturday 27th February
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Organised by
Sinn Fein dept. of women's affairs

**JAMES 'SKIPPER' BURNS
1st ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION**
2 p.m. Sunday 28th February
City cemetery
BELFAST

DARTS COMPETITION
8 p.m. Thursday 4th March
Kevin Barry Club
44 Parnell Square
DUBLIN

**SEAN LYNCH
ELECTION FUND SOCIAL**
Music by Gallagher Brothers
8 - 11 p.m. Friday 5th March
Brehoney's
CLONDRA
Co. Longford
Admission £1.50

IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES
All welcome
7.30 p.m. every Saturday
commencing 6th March
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN

PRISON PICKET
Sunday 7th March
ARMAGH

**NATIONAL H-BLOCK/ARMAGH
CONFERENCE**
Sunday 14th March
DUBLIN

ENNISKILLEN OFFICE
OWEN CARRON, MP, has opened a new constituency clinic at 7 Market Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Tel: Enniskillen 26854 or Florens-court 506 outside office hours.

POPPINGTREE CUMANN
A NEW Sinn Fein cumann has been formed in Poppingtree, Ballymun, Dublin. Anyone wishing to join Sinn Fein in the area should contact Chris Kelly at 113 Belclare Park, Poppingtree, between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, or head office at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

**DUBLIN ACCORDION/
FLUTE BAND**
A REPUBLICAN accordion/flute band is being established in Dublin and will be named the Jim Bryson/Liam Mellowes band. Anyone interested, contact Steven, c/o 5 Blessington Street, Dublin.

SINN FEIN ELECTION FUND
THE Sinn Fein election fund - to finance the standing of seven candidates in the recent general election in the twenty-six counties - is still open. Donations should be sent to Sinn Fein election fund, Kevin Barry Memorial Hall, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

SUBSCRIBE to An Phoblacht/ Republican News

TO ensure a weekly copy of 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' subscribe to the paper directly.

Annual subscription rates are:
Ireland and Britain £16.50
Europe £20
Elsewhere \$60

To: An Phoblacht/Republican News,
44 Parnell Square, Dublin, or 51/53
Falls Road, Belfast.

Please find enclosed £ for a subscription for six months/one year to be sent to:

Name

Address

IRA'S DERRY BRIGADE UNDER PRESSURE TO CARRY OUT PUNISHMENT SHOOTINGS

THE Derry Brigade of the IRA are under considerable pressure from the nationalist community to kneecap far more people than they actually do. Often this comes from those who fail to realise that kneecapping is brought in only as the absolute last resort for someone who persists in serious offences against the community despite numerous warnings.

A strict procedure governs handling all complaints made against anyone. Statements are taken from all parties concerned, including, of course, the accused, and unless the IRA are completely satisfied with the proof of guilt, no action of any kind is taken.

In determining what action will be taken, the IRA explore every possible alternative to kneecapping, even on the most serious charges. For example, one person they kneecapped was engaged in child molesting. He was only fifteen when first brought to republicans' attention — too young to be kneecapped in any event.

The IRA immediately informed his parents (a procedure strictly adhered to when dealing with young people), and ensured that he received psychiatric treatment. After his discharge from hospital, he molested another child. Due to his psychiatric problems the IRA decided to put him out of Derry rather than kneecap him.

He joined the Free State army and was dismissed for the same offence before the IRA finally kneecapped him. Many in the community regarded republicans' treatment of this offender as too lenient.

WARNINGS

Statistics are kept by the RUC on the numbers of persons kneecapped, but not on the vast majority of those for whom less drastic treatment is devised.

Kneecapping is resorted to only when all other methods of dealing with the offender have failed, or when the crime is very serious. Most anti-social behaviour can be, and is, dealt with by other methods. Warnings are sometimes sufficient.

Republicans regularly bring in teachers, social, community and youth workers, the medical profession, and, of course, parents. Parents play an important role in dealing with very young people, who nonetheless can be engaged in activity such as meter robbing and break-ins that considerably upset the community.

Republicans approach the parents and make it clear that they cannot act in their place, and that responsibility for controlling their children rests with them. In many instances the parents are very genuine people, and cases involving young offenders are often successfully resolved by consultations with the parents. Sometimes parents are unaware of the problem; in certain instances republicans have arranged for successful professional family counselling.

PERSISTENT

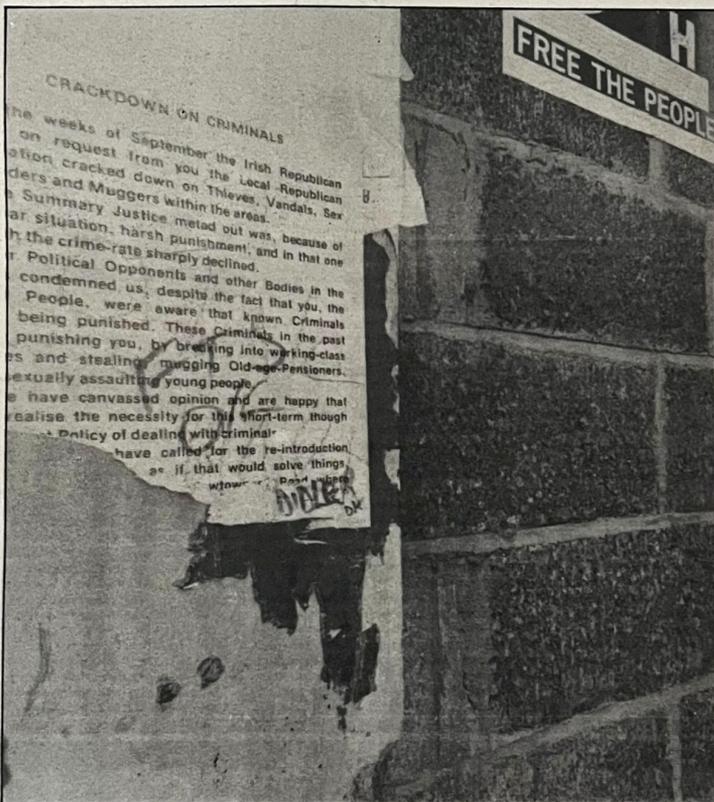
Very few of those kneecapped suffer serious consequences from this injury. Occasionally a persistent offender is kneecapped severely. In 1974, for example, the IRA's Derry Brigade kneecapped a Fagin-type character who organised children between eight and twelve years of age into gangs.

One of his favourite tactics was to send them into the chapel while women were making the Stations of the Cross, and typically had left their handbags and prayer books in a pew during this devotion. This man had the children nip in and steal the handbags and purses.

Another trick which many fami-

Kneecapping: a last resort

BY PETER HAYES



● Kneecapping is resorted to only when all other methods of dealing with the offender have failed, or when the crime is very serious. Most anti-social behaviour is dealt with by other methods — warnings are sometimes sufficient

ies suffered from was his practice of sending these children into school cloakrooms to steal the newest and best coats. Break-ins were organised and the children became quite expert. Such adults exploit both the children and the community at large, and we have no hesitation in dealing with such people.

It should be noted that the RUC, on the rare occasions that they do catch these people, typically either let them off or give them a very light sentence, preferring to try and use them as touts. These people return to the community to repeat their activities.

After this man was kneecapped, most of the children — deprived of their organiser — straightened out and grew into decent young people today.

However, it is significant that a few of these child-criminals became the nucleus of a group of young thugs who terrorised the community until they were kneecapped recently. They were behind an epidemic of break-ins, extorted money intended for family shopping from other

young people, mugged old people, and forced young people working in shops to hand over goods and cash from the till.

One need only talk to the victims of these thugs' activities to appreciate the immense human suffering and hardship they caused. Despite these hoodlums' massive harassment of ordinary young people, it was a sore point throughout the community that whenever the RUC pulled them in, they were either let off or given trivial sentences.

HALT

Kneecapping, though crude, often brings an abrupt halt to the anti-social behaviour cited. However, there have been some repeat offenders and occasionally they have been kneecapped more than once.

An example of this is the man seriously injured in a recent kneecapping following a notorious career preying on the community. His record included continual break-ins. (In one instance, he robbed the

furniture from an old person's house while the man actually lay dying in another room.) He made a career of robbing post offices, causing hardship to pensioners and those on social security benefits, and risking the closure of certain post offices.

At one point, the 'Peace People' got him out of the country, but he was arrested on the boat to England for stealing from the passengers. After numerous warnings, beatings, and several previous kneecappings, he took advantage of the situation at the height of the hunger-strike, when prisoners were dying almost daily, to hijack and rob a post office van, jeopardising deliveries to part of the city. Despite this man being severely injured by the kneecapping which followed, the reaction in the community was one of relief, not criticism.

Another example of anti-social activity we are currently investigating is a major prostitution ring running between Foyle Street and the Rossville Flats. The organisers of this form of exploitation, like

the Fagin character, can expect no leniency.

RELUCTANT

The IRA are reluctant to use kneecapping for a number of reasons. It is a crude method of dealing with a complex social problem. However, in a war situation republicans are extremely limited as to what action they can take against those who persistently prey on the community, despite numerous warnings.

The IRA do not seek a policing role in the community. It not only diverts considerable time and energy from their primary task, but they dislike endangering their Volunteers by involving them in this work. Each time IRA Volunteers carry out a punishment shooting, they risk long-term imprisonment and even death. (A Belfast Brigade Volunteer was shot dead by the British army when kneecapping a hoodlum.)

There is an additional reason why republicans are anxious to use other methods and to involve other people in dealing with the problem of anti-social activity. Those kneecapped can usually, and do, claim substantial compensation from the Northern Ireland Office. This is obviously counter-productive.

PROTECTION

The community demands, and is entitled to, protection from anti-social activities: robberies, break-ins, muggings, intimidation and extortion, rape, child molesting, etc. Others — politicians, community and youth leaders, social workers — have consistently failed to face up to the reality of the community's rejection of the RUC. By ignoring their responsibility to develop viable alternatives in dealing with crime, they are leaving the IRA, who cannot abdicate their responsibility to the community, to pick up the pieces.

Because the IRA are reluctant to use kneecapping, they seek alternatives. But the reality is that the community not only support kneecapping but demand it in preference to other options experimented with.

For example, long before the establishment discussed community service orders, republicans implemented community work for offenders. This flourished due to lack of community support. Given community support, such options would again become viable.

The IRA are extremely concerned with this preference for kneecapping by the community, but recognise it as a product of the establishment's preoccupation with punishment rather than the rehabilitation of offenders. Because of the community's involvement and support in the search for alternatives, republicans could become much more positive and sympathetic in their methods of dealing with this problem.

PROBLEMS

The social problems which predictably bedevil this oppressed society stem not only from British military and RUC repression but epidemic unemployment, chronic overcrowding, and merciless poverty. In particular, little outlet is available for the considerable energies of youth. Vicious social conditions are reflected in anti-social behaviour.

The IRA's Derry Brigade have very positive attitudes towards community activists and youth workers involving themselves in this problem. Recently they called together a number of community activists in a scheme which seeks to create, through discussion, new ways of dealing with anti-social individuals.

Ultimately, in the absence of other options, and despite genuine efforts on the part of republicans to develop realistic alternatives, kneecapping is a regrettable reality that must be lived with.

AN TOGHCHIAN

LE TOMÁS Ó SE

BHUEL a chairde tá an toghchian thart agus tá na polaitoír ar ais i dTeach Laighne arís. Is beag ná go raibh mé bodhar ag eisteacht leo agus bhí mé tuirseach traoctha de bheith ag feachaint orthu. Beidh sos agam arís. Ní bheidh faic le cloisint uathu go ceann tamall eile.

Ar ndóigh bhí eisceacht ann. Ní raibh iomaithoírí Shinn Féin le cloisteáil ar an raidió nó ar an teilifís. Agus ní raibh geallúint gan bhri á thabhairt acu. Ó thaobh na geallúint a tugadh dom tá sé do-chreidte an méid a iníodh dom.

Bhí Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael agus an Páirtí Oibreachais ar líom vóta a thabhairt dóibh mar go mbéidís ar mhaith leis an ngnáth-duine nó ar mhaith leis an lucht oibre. Tá Fianna Fáil agus Fine Gael chomh ceangalaithe sin le lucht an chaitpít go bhfuil siad i bPócaí na saibhir. Ní cheadtar acu sásta an seachtó cúig gaoiá de sháibreas na tíre atá i bPócaí na saibhir a thógaint uathu.

DÍOSPÓIREACHT

Thaispeán an díospóireacht idir Haughey agus FitzGerald cé chomh híseal is atá polaitíocht titithe sa tír seo. Bhí rud amháin soiléir ón ndíospóireacht sin agus b'shin é gur beag iad na dífríochtaí atá eatartha i gcomparáid leis an méid



● John Joe McGill ag caint i rith an toghchian. Ní raibh geallúint gan bhri á thabhairt aige.

ar a n-antaíonn siad.

Ar ndóigh níor cuireadh an cheist orthu ar aontaigh siad gur ceannairí iad an bheirt acu ar pháirtithe de chuid lucht an rachmais. Mar sin é bun agus barr an scéil. Seasann siad agus seafaigh siad ar son lucht an rachmais. Tá an bheirt acu ag iarraidh an dubh a chur ina geal ar dhaoine go bhfuil siad go obair ar son coismhuíntir na hÉireann.

DICHEILLÍ

Maidir leis an Páirtí Oibreachais tá sé do-chreidte cé chomh trína chéile is atá siad agus iad ag caint leat. Aontaíonn siad leat nach bhfuil an mhaith leis an geannairí ná ina iomaithoírí ach mar sin féin d'iarraidaís ort vóta a thab-

hairt doibh. Is deacair a chreidúint gur féidir le daoine den tSaghas seo fanúint sa pháirtí seo.

Agus cé go bhfuil na dreamanna sin go léir go hollc ó thaobh cur i gcéill do, caitheadh mé a rúg rug na daoine a bhí ag canbhasáil dos na Stieckies an craobh leó. Dúradar go raibh siad i bhfábhair Éire Aontaithe, i gcoinne na Bliocanna H agus gur theastaigh uathu fáil reidh le saighdiúir na Breataine sa Tuaisceart. Agus: chreidadar gur bhí sin polasaithe a bhPáirtí. Bhuel sin é a chairde. Tá an sorcas thart ar feadh achair eile. Ach, a chairde, feachaimis chuige nach sorcas a bheidh an amach anseo. Bíodh sé mar aidhm againn na bréaga a thaispeáint ina iomaíne don bPóba.

MEMORIALS

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was brutally murdered by British agents on February 23rd 1981. Thug sé a raibh aige ar son saoirse. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear son, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by British agents on February 23rd 1981. RIP. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. "The tears still flow when we speak your name, the ache in our hearts remains the same. No-one knows the sorrow we share, when the family meet and you're not there." Sleep, Irish soldier, sleep. Loved and always remembered by his mother Bridget Burns, sister Louise, and Pete.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by British agents on February 23rd 1981. RIP. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. May the green soft soil of Ireland rest easy on you. Always loved and remembered by his brother Joe, Betty and family.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by British agents on February 23rd 1981. Mother Ireland, take him to thy breast this soldier son who died for thee. Always loved and remembered by his sister Clara, Joe and family.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by pro-British thugs on February 23rd 1981. St. Patrick, pray for him. Mother Ireland, take him to thy breast this soldier son who died for thee. Always loved and remembered by his brother Kevin, Evelyn and family.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by pro-British thugs on February 23rd 1981. St. Patrick, pray for him. Mother Ireland, take him to thy breast this soldier son who died for thee. Always loved and remembered by his brother Harry, Delia and family.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by pro-British thugs on February 23rd 1981. St. Patrick, pray for him. Mother Ireland, take him to thy breast this soldier son who died for thee. Always loved and remembered by his brother Paul and Jerrí.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by pro-British thugs on February 23rd 1981. St. Patrick, pray for him. Mother Ireland, take him to thy breast this soldier son who died for thee. Always loved and remembered by his brother Pat and Sandra.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by pro-British thugs on February 23rd 1981. St. Patrick, pray for him. Mother Ireland, take him to thy breast this soldier son who died for thee. Always loved and remembered by his sister Bridgid, Harry and family.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by British agents on February 23rd 1981. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. "Go to sleep my wáster Mauva, John and family."

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother, Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by British agents on February 23rd 1981. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. United we will succeed. Always remembered by his sister Bernadette, Joe and family.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Jim Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered by British agents on February 23rd 1981. When the undying republic of Ireland is rescued from thraidom and shame, you will have a place for her memory and her soldiers will salute your name. Always remembered by aunt Lily, uncle Joe and cousins; and Aunt Teresa and Yvly.

BURNS, James. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Jim "Skipper" Burns, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was brutally murdered by a loyalist murder squad on February 23rd 1981. "You have waited, priests of Ireland, till the hour was late. You have stood with folded arms, 'till it was asked, 'Why do they wait?' By the fever and the famine you have died, and in your footstep I will whisper hissed through Ireland, your silence was a sin. Be proud of them, our martyred dead, and in their footsteps I will whisper hissed for us that we might see, Ireland united, Gaelic and free." Proudly remembered by his aunts Kate and Bernadette, USA.

DUFFY, Paul. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Paul Duffy, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was shot dead by the British forces of occupation on February 26th 1981. Fuar sé bag ag troicireant agus muintir na tíre. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in Oglagh na hÉireann, Tyrone.

HANNAWAY, Liam. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my friend and colleague, Vol. Liam Hanaway, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died suddenly on February 2nd 1981. His patient teaching and his example of honesty and integrity will give us the strength and perseverance to carry us through to victory. Always remembered by Crístín Ní Eilias.

O'NEILL, James. (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan James O'Neil na Fianntaigh, Belfast, who died on active service on February 13th 1976. Always remembered by Gerard (H), Paul (H) and Martin.

STAGG, Proinsias. (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Proinsias Stagg, Oglagh na hÉireann, England, who was murdered by crown criminals and cowards in Wakefield prison, Yorkshire, on February 12th 1976. "While Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Always remembered by Sinn Féin (Britain) and An Cumann Cabhrach (Britain).

STAGG, Proinsias. (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Proinsias Stagg, Oglagh na hÉireann, England, who died on hunger-strike in Wakefield prison, Yorkshire, on February 12th 1976. "He lives in Erin's heart yet, and wherever flies the flag of Ireland's sons and Ireland's daughters, will remember brave Frank Stagg." Always remembered by the Troops Out Movement, Leeds, England.

McMULLAN. Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Vol. Danny McMullan, South Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann. From Liam, Veronica and Aine.

RICE. The Mid-Down comhairle ceantair, Sinn Féin, extend their sincere condolences to the good friend, Frances, on the death of her mother, Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for her.

McVEIGH, Sean. (HS-Block). Greetings to our nephew, Sean, on his 24th birthday. We wish for you all you would wish for yourself. From all your family, aunt Kathleen and uncle Willie.

McVEIGH, Sean. (HS-Block). Birthday greetings to my brother, Sean. From all your family, always, but especially on this day. We love and miss you. From your sister, Rose Marie, and brother-in-law, Gerry.

McVEIGH, Sean. (HS-Block). Greetings to my brother, Sean, on your birthday. I wish you think spend it with me. God bless you, son, and all your comrades. All our love. From your sister Ann, brother-in-law Paddy, and nephews Sean O's and Pádraig.

McVEIGH, Sean; MORGAN, Michael. (HS-Block). Birthdays and birthday greetings, Sean and Michael. From Des and Gráinne.

MORGAN, Michael. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Mickey. See you soon. From Maggie Langsford.

THE GEOGHAN FAMILY wish to thank most sincerely the members of the Jackie Griffin Portlaoise Unit, Sinn Féin, na Fianntaigh, and all those who sympathised with them on the recent death of Elizabeth 'Lili' Doran. A special word of thanks goes to the colour party who gave the final salute at Lili's funeral. She would have been very proud at this tribute.

DRAW RESULTS
An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin
January Results
£100: 2761 £50: 92; £25: 278; £10: 344 and 375; and £5: 116, 124, 235, 288, 307 and 388.

Sympathy

McLAUGHLIN. The James Connolly Flute Band, Glasgow, extend their sympathy to the family and friends of the late Mark McLaughlin, Derry. He will be truly missed by all his friends in Glasgow.

GREETINGS

McGARRY, Patricia. (Armagh). Happy birthday to you and your brothers and all your friends in the Blocks.

McGARRY, Patricia. (Armagh). Happy birthday, Patricia. From all the family.

MGNALLY, Dermot. (HS-Block). Victory to you and all your comrades. All our love. From mammy, daddy and all the family.

McPEAKE, Sean. (HS-Block). Best wishes on your birthday on Monday 1st March. Your courage is an inspiration to us all. From the Bellaghy Prisoners of War Welfare Association, Co. Derry.

McVEIGH, Sean. (HS-Block). Greetings to our son, Sean, on his 24th birthday. We are with you in spirit on your special day. We are all yours. From mammy, daddy, all our love. From mammy, daddy, Jim, Catherine and Michael.

Thanks

THE JAMES CONNOLLY FLUTE BAND, GLASGOW. would like to thank the people of the Bogside and Creggan districts of Derry who, for the sixth successive year, extended their hospitality to us during our recent visit for the Bloody Sunday commemoration.

THE WOLFE TONE FLUTE BAND, GLASGOW. would like to thank the people of Ardoyne, Belfast, and staff of the Highfield Social Club for the most generous hospitality shown to us during our recent visit for the Bloody Sunday commemoration in Derry.

Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta Republican Commemoration Committee

REQUESTS for speakers at Easter commemorations should be made as soon as possible to:
An Runaí, Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



EASTER LILIES available from:
Mrs. P. King, 29 All Saints Park,
Raheny, Dublin 5.
Price £12.50 per 1,000.



Honour Ireland's dead - wear an Easter lily!

NOTES

THE BRITISH MEDIA SEEM TO BE GETTING QUITE OBSESSED WITH THE SUBJECT OF GUN-RUNNING FROM THE U.S.A. TO....

...TO EL SALVADOR! QUITE RIGHT! ONE DAY REAGAN AND THE YANKEE GANGSTERS SHALL PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES...

NO, NO! GUN-RUNNING TO THE IRA!!

GUNS FROM AMERICA? GOOD LORD! I THOUGHT ALL THE GEAR CAME FROM CHINA AND RUSSIA - AND LIBYA

I'M BEGINNING TO LOSE MY CONFIDENCE IN BRITISH JOURNALISM... PERHAPS THEY SHOULD TRY TO REPORT ON SIMPLER STORIES...

... SUCH AS HOW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPLIED ARMS TO GANGS OF LOYALIST THUGS THROUGH SEMI-RESPECTABLE FRONT ORGANISATIONS LIKE THE RUC AND THE UDR!!

Symbol of resistance

BY SEAN DELANEY

LIKE an outdated landmark, barely noticed by local passers-by, standing alone and slightly crumbling and surrounded by steam-rollers and mechanical diggers busy surfacing a new road which curves awkwardly around it, Free Derry Corner — once the internationally recognised symbol of defiant 'no go' nationalist Derry — gives all the appearance of a last stubborn relic from a period of the Bogside's history that is fast disappearing.

The question of Free Derry Corner's relevance to the Bogside of 1982, thirteen years after the slogan 'You are now entering Free Derry' was scrawled on the gable end of Kitty Kane's house at the corner of Lecky Road, and almost ten years since the British troops and tanks of 'Operation Motorman' removed the 'no go' barricades, has been — once again — raised sharply in recent months in the Bogside itself.

Last November, a local Irish Independence Party councillor, Liam Bradley, proposed that Free Derry Corner be re-sited to make way for the new road, itself a source of controversy. Derry Sinn Fein, on the other hand, have not only argued for the wall's retention as a permanent monument to, and symbol of, Free Derry, but are also launching an appeal fund to preserve, landscape and maintain the wall and its site.

What then, if anything at all, does Free Derry Corner represent? Is it a monument with a fading history, a fortunate media image, but little more, of an embattled Bogside in 1969? Or is it still important today, to the people of Derry, as a symbol of a war, and a popular struggle, that continue?

RELEVANCE

Undoubtedly, to many of today's militant Derry youths, accustomed to riotous confrontations with the Brits and RUC several hundred yards away from the wall, at William Street, Free Derry Corner has little direct relevance to their own experience of resistance.

Even some Derry republicans, themselves rioters in 1969 when the RUC onslaught against the Bogside was beaten back, maintain that the bulk of the fighting always took place in Rossville Street, near the 'high Flats', and not at Free Derry Corner. That, they say, was 'John Hume's corner', where the civil rights marches ended, within the safety of the Bogside, rather than risking confrontation by marching to the Guildhall in the city centre. It was the focal point for the 'moderates', the constitutionalists, and not for active resistance, they claim.

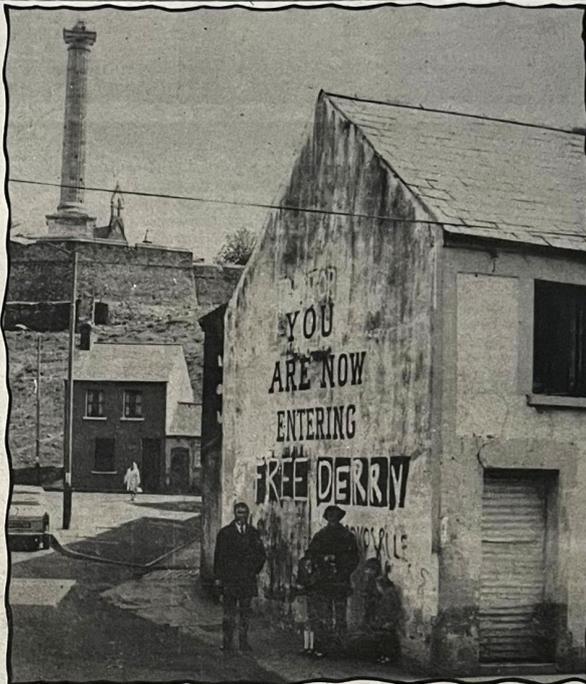
As one person argues: 'Free Derry Corner is a symbol of the civil rights movement, it was born with and died with the civil rights movement.'

Others disagree. To fifty-nine-year-old Jim Wray, whose son, also named Jim, was shot dead on Derry's Bloody Sunday at the age of twenty-two, Free Derry Corner is the 'embodiment of a national struggle', crucially relevant to past resistance and equally relevant now. 'I think it is a symbol of the struggle of Derry people against an armed oppressor.'

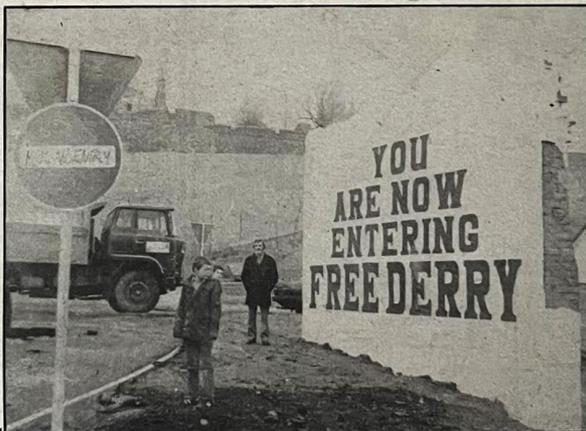
RIOTING

The history of Free Derry dates back to January 5th 1969. The previous night, fierce rioting with the RUC on the edge of the Bogside followed the victorious arrival at Derry's Guildhall of civil rights marchers from Belfast, bruised and battered by the loyalist ambush at Burntollet. At 4 a.m. on January 5th, drunken RUC men invaded the Bogside along Fahan Street and rampaged through St. Columb's Wells, smashing windows and yelling abuse.

Later in the day, under threat of further fierce rioting, the RUC withdrew from the



● Free Derry Corner, 1973 — Jim Wray (left of group), father of one of the Bloody Sunday victims, stands at the gable wall in the old Bogside. In the background is Walker's monument, dedicated to the governor of Derry in 1689 who remained loyal to William of Orange during the Siege of Derry



● Free Derry Corner, 1982 — Jim Wray stands in the midst of the changing Bogside. The houses are gone, so too — courtesy of an IRA bomb in 1974 — is Walker's monument. Only the wall remains, as a symbol for a new generation of resistance

Bogside and a 'no go' area for Brits (who arrived in August) and RUC began to be established, at first by mutual agreement and later by barricades, which was to be maintained until 'Operation Motorman' in July 1972.

A few days later in January, the slogan, 'You are now entering Free Derry', was

spontaneously and roughly painted on that now-famous gable wall. It was an act of good humour rather than of political intent.

What was now Free Derry Corner had long been the hub of the nationalist ghetto under the city walls that, after 1969, came to be known as the Bogside. Directly above it, at the city walls, towered Walker's monu-

ment, in memory of the Williamite governor of Derry during the siege of 1689, where on Orange festival days loyalists gathered to provocatively light bonfires and hurl abuse at the nationalists below. In retaliation it became a tradition for the nationalists in the area to set fire to their chimneys, to send the smoke up to the loyalists on the walls.

The houses around Free Derry Corner, including all but the famous gable wall of Kitty Kane's house, the boxing club that was there and the profusion of pubs, are now long gone, demolished in 1974. So too is Walker's monument, demolished by an IRA bomb.

When the RUC launched their furious attack on the Bogside in August 1969, their two routes into the area were along Rossville Street (where they met fierce resistance at the 'high Flats' from stone-throwers and petrol bombers), and down along Fahan Street, a steep downhill street from Butcher's Gate at the city walls, to Free Derry Corner.

RECALLS

Jim Wray clearly recalls the 'battle of the Bogside': 'To prevent any arrests barricades would be thrown up, small barricades, you know, and they were placed at the foot of Fahan Street... or they could come down Rossville Street, so there were barricades there.'

'And that left that the people had to be behind those barricades and they had to congregate at Free Derry Corner. They'd walk up to a barricade and stone the RUC and when they wanted a rest they'd come back to Free Derry Corner.'

'It was a marshalling point for supplying: small vans and cars arrived and there were crates of bottles dumped there and the petrol was in big fifty-gallon containers and they dished it out from there. It was the supply point and the base, people had a feeling of security about Free Derry Corner.'

Jim Wray denies emphatically that the Free Derry wall was not a focus of resistance, though he admits that many older people, 'those not fit to riot', gathered there out of curiosity to watch the rioting:

'One time the alarm went out that the Paisleyites were coming down Fahan Street. And there was a crowd at the barricades at the Rossville Flats but the barricade at Fahan Street was unmanned, and right enough there must have been a couple of hundred standing around Free Derry Corner, but they were nearly all aged people; I remember Bernadette Devlin saying: 'look, I don't want you to fight or to throw stones, I just want you to stand at the barricade so if they look down from Derry walls they'll think it's manned'. And that's what happened.'

REMOVED

Three years later, when the Brits stormed the 'no go' areas using 4,000 troops, 343 armoured cars and four Centurion tanks, during 'Operation Motorman' at the end of July in 1972, the strongest barricade to be removed was at Free Derry Corner. It took British sappers six whole days to dismantle the two lorry chassis cemented into the ground, after a fifty-two ton Centurion tank broke down on it.

For many people, 'Operation Motorman' split the end of Free Derry. Jim Wray's disagreement with that analysis, and the disagreement of many people like him, is an impassioned plea for the preservation of Free Derry Corner as a monument whose relevance to Derry and its people, as a symbol of resistance, is as real and as clear now as it was, way back, in 1969:

'Free Derry Corner was a symbol of the future, more than a symbol of the time that it was put up there. That even if the British army or the RUC did come into the area we would still be a free people, we were free in our minds. The British army might walk our streets, might do this and do that, but anyone seeing how they hold this area would see that they hold it by force of arms. The people are still free in their minds, the one thing they can't enslave is your thinking.'

Derry appeal

DERRY Sinn Fein are launching an international appeal fund for the preservation and maintenance of Free Derry corner. The gable wall requires immediate structural stabilisation to prevent it toppling, as well as maintenance on a regular basis.

A goal of £3,000 has been set, and the fund will also provide for the landscaping of the site and the planting of fourteen oak trees as a memorial to the victims of Bloody Sunday. In addition, the fund will

be used to maintain the Bloody Sunday memorial plinth at Rossville Flats.

Donations should be sent to 'Free Derry Corner appeal fund', c/o 15 Cable Street, Derry (telephone Derry 68926).