

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith Nus Iml 4 uimhir 11 Deardaoin Marta 18 Thursday March 18th 1982 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

LAST Monday night's bomb blitz across the six counties, despite being overshadowed by the incident in Banbridge in which an 11-year-old boy was tragically killed and several civilians injured, has shown once again that the IRA remain able to strike at commercial centres whose protection is supposedly guaranteed by British writ, British soldiers and the British-subsidised loyalist forces of the RUC and UDR.

For direct-ruler, Jim Prior, the bombs were part of a double-blow at his recent buoyant mood. Earlier that day, the Official Unionist Party pulled out of his devolution talks, thus putting a serious question mark over their future although seemingly not affecting the prospect of elections to some kind of advisory assembly later this year. Then, that evening, despite all the 'set-backs' which the RUC have claimed to have inflicted on the IRA, Prior was forced to swallow hard after the breadth of the bomb attacks and admitted, "I have always been extremely worried about the IRA."

However, despite RUC propaganda boasts, they have tried not to make over-exaggerated claims and have indemnified their credibility by taking the ridiculous step of issuing almost fortnightly warnings about possible future IRA attacks. This attempt by the RUC to appear all-wise (and, incidentally, to psychologically inhibit IRA units) backfires on them, and makes them look extremely foolish when the IRA goes right ahead with its attacks.

COMMERCIAL BOMBING

In claiming responsibility for last Monday night's explosions — car-bombs in Belfast, Armagh, Newtownstewart and Banbridge, and a bomb in Newry — the IRA referred to the Banbridge explosion and stated that an inquiry was underway into the circumstances of the warning which never reached the civilians in the vicinity. The IRA also stated that it "remained committed, out of necessity, to the commercial bombing campaign." In conventional warfare, success for an army is measured in terms of its military victories and its task is the military defeat of the opposing army. But in revolutionary guerrilla warfare, success is measured in terms of the political defeats inflicted on the ruling regime by — through force of circumstances — limited military actions. And military action broadens outside of a conventional framework to include attacks on politicians, figureheads and com-

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Bombings will continue

— Irish Republican Army



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mercial property which, through playing off one political force against another (for example, the loyalists against the Brits or against the SDLP and 'power-sharing'), frustrate the ruling regime's plans to stabilise the situation.

REPERCUSSIONS

The commercial bombing campaign of the IRA, which on occasions has regrettably resulted in loss of life or injury to civilians, has been forced on the IRA because of its limited military resources and because it does have desirable political repercussions. In the early 1970s widespread bombing of property forced the British government to deploy its forces everywhere in a mostly elusive attempt to capture or destroy IRA active service units.

That ASUs managed to constantly penetrate such tight security meant a loss of credibility to the British government which had taken over control of security from the unionists at Stormont and guaranteed the protection of business interests. Brigadier James Glover, Commander of Land Forces in the North two years ago wrote in 'Document 37' that "bombings expose the inadequacy of the security forces", and Paisley admitted that "every bomb weakens the Union."

So, as the IRA said in last Tuesday's statement, it remains committed out of necessity and because it has no alternative at present (heavier weapons to develop the military war into a larger arena) to the commercial bombing campaign which has cost the British government one billion pounds in compensation, so far, with several years' worth of claims yet to be processed.

The IRA knows that in nationalist areas it depends on support and approval for its actions, but believes that its supporters understand the necessity of this aspect of the campaign which, despite its risks, has been a major factor in destabilising British rule and demoralising the will of the British to remain in Ireland.

A WEEK of intense IRA activity across the occupied six counties has served to remind its imperialist enemies that whatever alleged 'set-backs' the IRA may be deemed to suffer from time to time it retains enormous flexibility and the operational capacity to wage war at will.

Most spectacular of the week's operations was a co-ordinated bomb blitz which caused substantial damage in five towns, while a sixth bomb in Lisburn was eventually defused before detonation.

RAILWAY ATTACKS

Following up its six-county-wide bomb disruption of rail links early last week, the IRA continued by planting several suspect devices on railway lines last Wednesday week, March 10th.

On Wednesday morning the IRA planted hoax bombs on the Belfast-Dublin rail link at Meigh in South Armagh, and at Finaghy near Belfast. They also placed a hoax on the line between Ballymena and Ballymoney, affecting Belfast-Derry rail transport.

Only hours after the line had been cleared in South Armagh, another IRA suspect device at the much-bombed Kinasagagh bridge, close to the South Armagh border, again closed down the North's main rail link.

SHOOTING ATTACKS

In an ambush in Newry, County Down, last Thursday, the IRA executed a former member of the UDR.

The 28-year-old man had just arrived at his workplace and got out of his car, when he was ambushed by two IRA Volunteers who approached him mounted on a motorcycle and opened fire, hitting him at least five times and killing him instantly.

Although the man had left the UDR some time ago, the IRA in a subsequent statement claiming responsibility pointed out that anybody in a similar position should inform the IRA of their resignation, through an intermediary, to ensure that they do not remain a target.

Later that day, an IRA active service unit operating on the border opened fire on a British army patrol just outside Crossmaglen in South Armagh. The attack took place at 6 p.m. in the townland of Drumuckavall. Two shots were fired and a British soldier was wounded in the shoulder, though not seriously. The Brits did not return fire.

That night in Belfast two suspect devices planted at the Central and Botanic railway stations occupied British bomb disposal experts for

BOMB BLITZ



Firemen moved in to deal with the wreckage left by last Monday's car-bomb blast in Belfast city centre

Statement on Banbridge bombing

FOLLOWING the death of an 11-year-old boy and the injuring of several civilians in the Banbridge car-bomb blast, the IRA on Tuesday issued the following statement:

The IRA claims responsibility for explosions in five centres last night including the car bomb in Banbridge which tragically and regrettably claimed the life of an 11-year-old boy, Alan McCrum, and injured several other civilians.

"We remain committed, out of necessity, to the commercial bombing aspect of our campaign.

"In relation to the Banbridge bombing, we have initiated an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the warning, and will issue a statement in due course.

"The Irish Republican Army does not set out to deliberately kill or injure civilians, in spite of the propaganda of our detractors.

"The RUC and the politicians are only being their usual hypocritical selves, with their cries of outrage, when they remain mute whenever the RUC, not accidentally but deliberately, kill children with plastic bullets."

several hours before they were discovered to be elaborate hoaxes.

LANDMINE

South Armagh Volunteers of the IRA were responsible for the planting of a 200 lbs. landmine, last Sunday, concealed in a stone wall near Crossmaglen.

The bomb consisted of two beer kegs packed with explosives, left in the townland of Coolderney, connected by command wire to a detonating point 400 yards away in the neighbouring townland of Drumuckavall (from where an IRA shooting attack had been launched three days earlier).

It took British army bomb disposal experts several hours to defuse the bomb, tying down large numbers of enemy personnel in the process.

BOMB BLITZ

On Monday, March 15th, the IRA carried out an extremely

successful, widespread bomb blitz against commercial targets across the North in five different locations.

Regrettably, at one of these, an 11-year-old boy died when he was caught in the blast and hit by shrapnel. Several others were slightly injured.

The explosion at Banbridge in County Down, where the fatality and injuries occurred, took place at 5.30 p.m. in Bridge Street in the centre of the town, causing massive damage to commercial premises in the car-bomb blast.

Three minutes later, at 5.33 p.m., a car-bomb in Newtownstewart in County Tyrone detonated, wrecking the Northern bank premises outside which it had been parked, and causing damage to a score of shops.

At 5.40 p.m., in Armagh city, another 200 lbs. car-bomb left outside car showrooms at College

Street, near the city centre, wrecked the premises and caused extensive damage to a Royal British Legion hall nearby and several offices. It was the second attack on the showrooms in seven months.

Around the same time two IRA Volunteers carried a bomb into off-licence premises in the Mall, in the centre of Newry, which exploded wrecking the building and starting a fire.

The final successful operation in the bomb blitz was in Belfast where a car-bomb exploded in the city centre, at Donegall Square East, at 6.33 p.m., causing damage to an insurance office, a building society and several nearby shops.

In Lisburn, County Antrim, earlier in the evening, a sixth car-bomb, placed in Market Street in the town centre, was eventually defused after British army bomb disposal experts had carried out a controlled explosion.

BOMB AVERTED

To round off the week of intensive IRA military activity, the centre of Strabane in County Tyrone was the target, last Tuesday night, of republican Volunteers who planted a 200 lbs. car-bomb in Castle Street in the town centre.

The car had earlier been commandeered from Springhill Park in the town and loaded with two beer kegs packed with explosives.

When the car-bomb was discovered it took British army bomb disposal experts more than five hours to defuse the explosives.

HERMON TOLD TO EXPLAIN GRANDMOTHER'S WHEREABOUTS

Waiting and worrying

THE RUC Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, was last week ordered to appear in the High Court in Belfast this Friday, March 19th, to explain the whereabouts of 66-year-old Margaret Russell, who was last seen by her family and neighbours when she was taken from her Oldpark home in north Belfast by the RUC four months ago.

Margaret Russell is the mother-in-law of the north Belfast RUC informer Christopher Black, and lived with him and her daughter Kathleen at their Ballyclare Street home in the nationalist Oldpark district.

Black was arrested in neighbouring Ardoyne on November 21st and under interrogation in Castlereagh incriminated himself before doing a deal which has led to the arrest and imprisonment of more than thirty republicans and supporters.

On the evening of November 24th — while Black was still in Castlereagh — the RUC arrived at the Blacks' home and persuaded his wife, Kathleen, to accompany them along with her four children. Margaret Russell refused to go with them.

Later that evening the RUC returned and said they were removing Margaret for her own safety. Neighbours at the time said she looked very distressed and confused at what was going on and was reluctant to leave.



● Mary McGahan, pictured with her children: from left: Louise (7), Carmel (1), Michael (2) and Roisin (5)

Since then, neither Margaret Russell's husband, 68-year-old Joseph, nor her 31-year-old married daughter Mary McGahan, have been able to establish — despite repeated requests to the RUC — where Margaret Russell is, whether she is alright, and whether she left with the RUC voluntarily. In an affidavit read out at the High Court hearing last

Friday, March 12th, Mary McGahan said: "I have not been able to establish my mother's whereabouts or her state of health. I am unable to determine whether she acted voluntarily in leaving and in remaining away from her home. I believe that if my mother was free to do so she would communicate in some manner with either myself or my father to reassure us as to the state of her health and that she is acting voluntarily in the course which she has taken. "I am afraid she is detained by police, or held incommunicado by police against her will."

Despite the summoning of Hermon to the High Court this Friday, it appeared unlikely that the RUC would comply with the request to put Margaret Russell in contact with her family, and more likely that they would employ lengthy legal manoeuvres to stall for several more months.

The RUC's tactics are based firmly around maintaining intense psychological pressure on Christopher Black to persuade him to testify in court against the republicans his Castlereagh statements have incriminated. Any disclosure by Margaret Russell that she was taken or kept against her will, or that her son-in-law was being unfairly pressed to maintain his allegations, could seriously jeopardise and embarrass the RUC's impending court cases.

Meanwhile, as the RUC callously uses a 66-year-old grandmother in their war against republicans, Margaret Russell's husband and daughter, at home in Ardoyne, wait and worry



● Margaret Russell (left), pictured with her daughter Kathleen and oldest child

BY HILDA McTHOMAS

ST. PATRICK'S Day, the occasion for Irish people all over the world to rejoice in their Irishness, has sadly always been also the signal for pseudo-nationalists and verbal republicans to crawl in front of television cameras showing themselves to the Irish-American community and generally doing their bit against the Irish struggle for national liberation.

Free State premier Charles Haughey and SDLP leader John Hume chose to display their Irishness by lunching with Ronald Reagan, the man responsible for mass murder in El Salvador, for planning a Chile-like destabilisation of Nicaragua and for equipping the US army with chemical and biological weapons.

The American public has also been inflicted with the presence of Official Unionist Harold McCusker, on an overt anti-IRA propaganda tour, and of SDLP man Austin Currie. The proposed British devolution scheme has come under attack every day over the last fortnight. Last Monday, the Official Unionists, in a re-make of their comedy act during the Atkins' talks last year, announced that they were pulling out of any talks with direct-ruler Jim Prior.

They accused him of double-dealing and deceit and of trying to hoodwink them back into some sort of Sunningdale-type power-sharing agreement. But their action is probably also related to the fear that despite their recent come-back, Paisley could pull the rug from under them with regard to the devolution talks.

Meanwhile, the SDLP continued to issue statements describing the proposed scheme as 'largely unworkable', but not once did they explain that this was due to the fact that the six counties as a unit are 'unworkable'. Interestingly, both the SDLP and the Official Unionists criticised the 70% weighted-majority proposal as dangerous in that it could lead to a handful of elected representatives leading the game, in much the same way as the independents in Leinster House.

Prior appeared unflappable in front of TV cameramen, declaring that his scheme would go ahead and that 'agreement was not necessary'. The media described Prior as 'putting a brave face on it'. Did anyone suggest that he might actually be pleased at the way in which his scheme is being rejected by the various parties? Could it be that one purpose of the whole operation was to demonstrate in the eyes of the world that 'those Irish can't agree among themselves', and that Britain's role as 'umpire' and 'peace-keeper' would therefore be justified? Could it be that 'rolling devolution' is nothing more than a massive psychological operation in the best Kitsonian tradition?

UNITY

One of John Hume's crazy theories on Irish unity is that membership of the EEC will in time make the border irrelevant. This theory received a body blow on March 10th at the launching in Belfast of a report on the effect on Ireland of EEC entry. The report, compiled by two economists, Pat Cox from Limerick and Alastair McCullough from Jordans-town, shows that EEC entry has been mostly negative on North-South economic integration, because of Britain's and the Free State's conflicting economic interests within the EEC.

The report also stresses that the economic decline in the six counties is not due to 'the troubles' but to the deep economic recession

A great day for the Irish?



● James Prior seems uneasy as reporters question him about his 'rolling devolution initiative' — could it be because he knows it's merely a British ploy to justify their presence in the North?

affecting an antiquated British economy. This vindicates the republican viewpoint that the link with Britain, and not the IRA, is to blame for the poverty and chronic unemployment in the occupied six counties.

SHOOT-OUT

Continued gloom on the economic front as the collapse of De Lorean motor cars continues. What constitutes a personal tragedy for hundreds of paid-off De Lorean workers, looked more like a grotesque farce last week when officials of the Bank of America and De Lorean security staff nearly had a shoot-out at the warehouse in California as the Bank of America attempted to seize 2,000 De Lorean cars in lieu of payment for a £10 million loan which John De Lorean had failed to repay.

In Ireland, 157 unsecured creditors are threatening court action to enforce the winding-up of the Dunmurry plant, in order to enable them to recover part of their capital engaged in the operation. Meanwhile, John De Lorean's promise of \$5 million to keep the factory open has not yet materialised. And a consortium of industrialists has pulled out of a deal with

the British receiver Sir Kenneth Cork, to take over the plant.

KINCORA

Finally, a former Belfast correspondent for the *Daily Mail*, Kevin Dowling, revealed last week that as early as 1973, Colin Wallace, then a British army PRO and intelligence officer, had given Dowling details of McGrath's political involvement with Paisley, and described the Paisleyite paramilitary group, Tara, as a 'bizarre homosexual army'. Colin Wallace, presently in prison in England for killing his mistress's husband, was interviewed three weeks ago by an RUC team of inquiry into the Kincora scandal.

Other revelations on the Kincora scandal are gradually building a picture of a vast cover-up involving the British army, the Health and Social Services, British civil servants and local politicians. They all point to the cynical manipulation of criminals by the Brits, who at all times were less concerned with the welfare of children put into care than with the political and military deals that could be made from blackmailing people like McGrath.

SAS connection

A MEMBER of the Ulster Defence Association, convicted on March 10th for the assassination in Larne in 1980 of Irish Independence Party co-founder, John Turnly, claimed in a Belfast court at the conclusion of the trial that he had been working for the British army's SAS squad.

Twenty-seven-year-old, Robert McConnell, named the two SAS soldiers whom he claimed supplied him with information and with weapons for the killing and who had discussions with him on Miriam Daly, Bernadette McAliskey and John Turnly, all of whom were shot by the UDA in 1980 and 1981 in attacks claimed under the cover-name, the Ulster Freedom Fighters. In his statement McConnell said that "in or around the month of April 1980, I was working as a fish salesman in the Larne area. I was stopped one day near Cushendall by a van containing a number of men. I became satisfied subsequently that they were all members of the SAS and I had dealings with them on that and a number of subsequent occasions through their leaders who were Sergeant Tom Aiken and Corporal McGow."

He said that at their behest he placed a listening device in a bar in Cushendall, County Antrim, in which Sinn Fein vice-president Gerry Adams was allegedly attending a meeting. He continued: "during a series of subsequent meetings with them (the SAS) they discussed with me republican leaders and in particular Turnly, Miriam Daly and Bernadette McAliskey. During this period weapons, uniforms and information on how to obtain intelligence-gathering equipment was supplied by Sergeant Aiken, who would contact me by telephone and arrange for me to pick up various items in lonely roads at the dead of night."

UDR

McConnell, his brother Eric, and William McClelland were given life imprisonment for the Turnly killing and for killing Rodney McCormick, a Catholic, who was shot dead in front of his wife in Larne in August 1980. A number of other UDA men were given lenient sentences for their parts in various sectarian attacks. One of these men, 26-year-old Martin Martin, was a sergeant in the UDR, the British army's regiment for loyalists, when he bombed a Catholic school in Ballyclare and petrol bombed a house. He received a mere five years' imprisonment after a 'plea for mercy' was made by a former Moderator of the Presbyterian church the Very Rev. Victor Lyanas.

Despite a long and bloody record of sectarian bombings, North and South, and their involvement in the assassinations of hundreds of Catholics the UDA remains an open, legal organisation in the six counties.

PETTY RESTRICTIONS REMAIN

Brendan Mailey, a republican protesting prisoner in H5-Block of Long Kesh, was last weekend refused compassionate parole to attend his father's funeral, which took place on Tuesday 16th March.

Brendan, aged 27, comes from Ardoyne in north Belfast, and was sentenced to life 'at the Secretary of State's pleasure' in 1973 for shooting an RUC man.

This was the second denial of compassionate parole for Brendan within a matter of days. Several days before his father, 69-year-old James Mailey, died in hospital Brendan applied also unsuccessfully — for parole to visit him.

Similar petty restrictions against protesting prisoners in Brendan's block, H5, which the prison warders are employing in order to provoke

an escalation of the existing no-work protest, include the denial of hot water for washing.

For several weeks, hot water for showers and washing facilities has been rarely available, and despite repeated complaints no effort has been made to remedy the problem, forcing most of the forty prisoners in each wing of the block to take cold showers or forego their only weekly opportunity to keep clean.

Last Monday, March 8th, hot water was available yet warders began ordering prisoners to 'wash only'. When one prisoner, Paddy O'Carroll from Derry, ignored this

stupid order and went ahead and took a shower he was taken off to the punishment block for several days in solitary confinement.

In a smuggled communication from H5-Block, the PRO stressed: "The problem of H-Block remains. We need your activated support and agitation once again, before the objectives of our ten martyrs can be achieved and this problem finally resolved."

The issue of building a fresh campaign in support of the political prisoners was the subject of a closed conference of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee held in Dublin last Sunday, March 14th, where it was agreed that any decision to expand the committee into a broad anti-imperialist front would

be deferred for another six months.

The conference resolved that meanwhile the committee should "defend campaign activists from harassment, arrests and charges North and South, oppose collaboration between British and Irish forces and oppose repressive laws North and South."

It was also decided that there should be a national campaign to have black flags flown on the anniversaries of the death of each of the ten hunger-strikers.

The conference elected a new national committee: Vincent Doherty (Dublin), Dave Farrell (Dublin), Joe Keohane (Kerry), Paddy Logue (Derry), Des Long (Limerick), Bernadette McAliskey (Coalisland), Fra McCann (Belfast), Maura McCrory (Belfast), Mitchel McLaughlin (Derry), Caoimhin O Caoilain (Monaghan), Daithe O Conaill (Dublin), Christine NiEilias (Dublin), Tony O'Hara (Derry), Seamus Ruddy (Dublin) and Joe Stagg (Dublin).



● James Mailey whose son, Brendan, was callously refused parole both prior to and on his father's death

MOUNTING TOLL OF JOB CUTS LOST IN FOCUS ON POLITICAL MANOEUVRINGS

Confrontation on prices, wages and jobs

BY KEVIN BURKE

ALTHOUGH the Free State budget is to be officially delivered by Fianna Fail's new Minister for Finance, Ray McSharry, in Leinster House next Thursday March 25th, it began in reality last Friday with the excise duty increases, by statutory order, of 4p on beer, 6p on spirits, 30p on wine and 10p on cigarettes.

These figures are higher than those contained in the failed Coalition budget and are to be added to by a price rise permitted to publishers and by the increase in the 15% VAT rate to, at least, the 18% proposed by the Coalition.

Also last Friday, price increases were sanctioned by the Fianna Fail Minister for Trade and Commerce, Desmond O'Malley, on frozen foods, margarine and cornflakes, and on Monday this week the Fianna Fail Minister for Posts and Telegraphs John Wilson announced that post and telecommunications charges will be increased by an average of 20% from April 1st. The following day an increase of £3.61 per tonne was sanctioned for coal in the Dublin area.

LIVING STANDARDS

Even minus the increases announced in advance, the budget speech itself will be certain to add heavily to the cost of living.

The effect on living standards will therefore be dramatic. Already wage settlements so far agreed for this year, negotiated by free collective bargaining since the centralised pay talks collapsed, have been very low. On average, pay increases will only be half the inflation rate already predicted for the year, before the increased effect of the forthcoming budget.

Some groups of workers, however, are still holding out in the battle for realistic increases. The powerful Irish Bank Officials' Association, whose 15,000 members

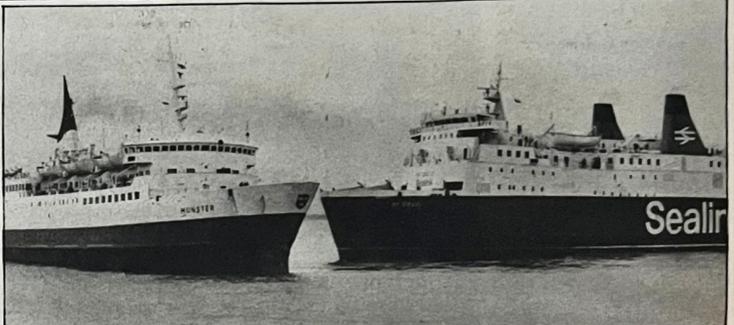
have mandated industrial action, is currently in Labour Court talks. The same court has recommended an average increase of 8½% backdated to October as a parity deal for 2,000 clerical staff at CIE. The unions involved are now studying the offer but earlier threatened a series of one-day stoppages.

Workers at the Dublin Gas Company have served strike notice on the company in pursuit of a moderate claim and two hundred provincial journalists are threatening strike action in support of a wages claim.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The main weapon that the employers currently have in keeping down wage increases is the rising unemployment figures.

The latest quarterly report of the Economic and Social Research Institute predicts a continued increase of those out of work over the next two years. According to the managing director of the Industrial Development Authority, Pádraic White, this week, some three hundred and fifty manufacturing companies in the twenty-six counties are now in danger of closing with a potential loss of between ten and twelve thousand jobs. And a confidential report prepared for the Free State



● The confrontation between the B and I and Sealink ferries has been the most dramatic and militant battle against unemployment in recent weeks. However, the picture created was of disunited workers fighting over declining jobs

government by the Telesis consulting group reveals that of 100,000 foreign company jobs approved between 1970 and 1976, fewer than 30,000 remain.

On Thursday last week, March 11th, the outgoing president of the Cork Council of Trade Unions, Joseph O'Callaghan, warned that over fifty companies in Cork are in financial trouble and might soon have to close.

Verbal attacks by business leaders on trade unionists led to a number of clashes last week. One such person, Ed Williams, chairman of the Free State export agency, was called upon to resign after he said that the 'incompetence and dishonesty' of workers was the main cause of unemployment.

In another incident Tom Reynolds, Director of the Construction Industry Federation, whose members have made millions in property speculation, trailed in a red herring

about bricklayers who he said were earning in excess of £400 per week. In reality the gross pay of building workers is lower than in manufacturing industries.

The mounting toll of job cuts in recent weeks has possibly been clouded over by the interest in the political scene in the election and post-election period. But the biggest ones have pushed their way into the news to some extent and include the 630 jobs in jeopardy at Fieldcrest Ireland Ltd. in Kilkenny and the 550 workers threatened with redundancy at Mogul Mines near Nenagh in County Tipperary.

Perhaps the most spectacular battle over job losses has been that which has resulted in last week's dramatic manoeuvrings at sea between the B and I and Sealink ferries.

SEALINK

The decision to put on a new

B and I service to Holyhead met with resistance from Sealink workers at Holyhead who, along with Sealink workers at Dublin, fear that their jobs will be cut by the decision to run the new service alongside Sealink's existing one. They believe that the British government is determined to trim down Sealink's staff before selling it off to private industry in keeping with its policy on nationalised industries.

The sacking of thirty-eight port workers by Sealink in Holyhead on Tuesday this week supports this theory. But while sailings are currently suspended, the unfortunate picture of last week's battle at sea was of workers fighting over declining jobs.

The only possible strategy on the other hand, in facing rising prices, cuts in real wages and redundancies, is united trade union action. It still appears to be a long way off.

SECRET DOCUMENTS REVEALED BY CARRON/MORRISON LAWYERS

Free State urge visa denials

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE



● Irish-American support for the IRA has brought pressure on Washington from both Dublin and London

CONFIDENTIAL United States government documents, detailing United States, British and Free State co-operation against fund-raising by Irish-Americans, have been obtained by Irish Northern Aid.

The documents have been submitted to the federal judge presiding over the case in which Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP Owen Carron and Sinn Fein Director of Publicity Danny Morrison are charged with conspiracy to enter the United States illegally, having been denied visas.

The documents relate mainly to Irish Northern Aid (Noraid) fund-raising activities and to the denial of visas to republicans.

One communication from the US embassy in Dublin records that the then Coalition Foreign Minister Garret FitzGerald (or 'Formin FitzGerald', as he is described) had been complaining vociferously about Noraid fund-raising activities and proposed co-operation between Washington, London

and Dublin to prepare a list of people likely to go on fund-raising tours, in order to deny them visas.

VISA REFUSAL

The document mentions such well known republican names as Joe Cahill, Maire and Jimmy Drumm, Sean Keenan and Ruairi O'Bradigh. However, it points out the practical difficulties of identifying unknown IRA members, fears about the sympathy earned by the IRA from being denied visas and also worries about finding good reasons for a visa refusal. Some of the old IRA members are 'pillars of the community' it states.

Another set of documents obtained by Noraid contain requests by the British to the FBI to investigate various American citizens, including a former editor of the New York *Irish People* newspaper. There is also a request from the RUC for the FBI to investigate Noraid's Portland committee on their behalf.

A further FBI memorandum is an analysis of attitudes of Noraid members in Chicago, supplied by informants. These attitudes were the basis of a propaganda strategy of attempting to link the IRA with communist

groups in order to undercut American support.

A 1976 memorandum from the then US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is also among the documents. It warns overseas embassies that a republican speaker from Ireland may attempt to obtain a visa in order to address that year's annual Noraid dinner in New York.

DISPLEASURE

A communication from the US embassy in Dublin, in August 1973, reports the continued displeasure of the Free State government over the continued support by Americans for Irish republicans. A State Department memorandum on the subject suggests that in response to this pressure from Dublin a wide range of US agencies, including the FBI, CIA, Customs and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, should act, wherever possible, against any American citizens involved in such support activities and in particular against Noraid itself.

The confidential documents which were obtained by lawyers acting for Owen Carron and Danny Morrison were published in the current issue of the New York *Irish People*.

Loyalist campaign in Tyrone

A SUSTAINED campaign of intimidation against nationalist families in Fivemiletown, County Tyrone, has resulted in a number of people moving out of the area, according to Owen Carron, MP for the constituency. However, ten other families, who have also suffered intimidation, remain determined to stay their ground.

Carron, accompanied by Councillor Seamus Cassidy and Francie Molloy of Sinn Fein, highlighted the intimidation on a visit to Fivemiletown on Friday and Saturday, March 12th and 13th, and spoke to some of the victims. Fivemiletown and the surrounding countryside is predominantly loyalist and in the town itself there are only four nationalist business premises.

DAUBED

In the early hours of March 11th the slogan "UVF" in huge blue lettering was daubed across the shop window of the Valley Stores, owned by 42-year-old father of five, Mr. Joe Woods and his wife. Although Mr. Woods would not commit himself as to whom he suspected of painting the slogan, it is widely accepted by local nationalists that he was singled out because he closed his premises during Bobby Sands' funeral last May.

Another family who had lived

in Cleen Gardens in the town have been forced to leave and have moved in with relatives in Roslea, County Fermanagh. Two families from Nelson Park and Spout Walk have also received threats. Another local, Seamus Cassidy, a married man with two children, has left the town after constant intimidation since last December which involved threatening letters, four incidents of the slashing of the tyres of the family's car, and culminating in a live round of ammunition received through the post. Last week, slogans referring to Seamus Cassidy were painted on walls, including one on the wall of another business premises belonging to a Catholic, Callaghan's.

As expected the RUC has taken no notice of the intimidation campaign and do not even acknowledge its existence.

PETROL BOMB

Last Sunday night, March 14th,

in another part of County Tyrone, there was a petrol bomb attack on the home of a Catholic family on the Stewartstown Road, Cookstown. Fortunately, the occupants, including several young children, escaped injury.

Despite this ongoing and organised sectarian campaign against nationalists (which, it has been said, is linked to the emergence of the Third Force and last year's republican successes) loyalist politicians, British government officials and RUC spokespersons are continually given a platform by most sections of the media to propagate the ten-year-old lie that IRA military attacks on uniformed or out-of-uniform RUC and UDR personnel are attacks on Protestants and are attacks on the Protestant community in the border areas.

In fact, in June 1980 the Church of Ireland primate, Dr. John Armstrong, stated that "it is difficult to find evidence of a plan to eliminate Protestants." However, it is not difficult to find evidence of a loyalist sectarian campaign against Catholics yet little attention is given to such attacks.



● Owen Carron inspects the Valley Stores' window in Fivemiletown which was daubed by loyalists as part of an intimidation campaign against Catholics

BRITS' VETTING OF HOUSING PLANS EXPOSED

Housing collaboration

BY SEAN DELANEY

A MAJOR ARTICLE in last Saturday's *Guardian* newspaper has publicised the role played by the British army and RUC in vetting Housing Executive development plans for nationalist areas in the six counties.

In his report, the *Guardian* Northern correspondent, David Beresford, claimed to have access to confidential documents passed between the Housing Executive and the Belfast Development Office of the Department of Environment.

As well as claiming that the Belfast Development Office (to which the Housing Executive forwards all its proposed building plans for clearance) is represented along with the RUC on a security committee on housing, Beresford stated that British army involvement in the past had included insisting on the removal of a group of houses from a planned development in the Ardoyne district of north Belfast; reinforced pavements in the new Poleglass estate to bear the weight of armoured vehicles; and high 'security walls' in new developments in the lower Falls and at Roden Street in west Belfast.

COLLABORATION

Beresford claimed that such vetting of housing development plans, to ensure their acceptability to the British army and RUC, was becoming routine.

In the glare of publicity which followed hard on the heels of the *Guardian* article, the Housing Executive sought to play down its own part in this collaboration by asserting that it had no direct contact with the Brits or RUC and that it was obliged to forward its plans for developments to the Belfast Development Office for consideration. At that level only, the Housing Executive conceded, consultation might take place with British military strategists.

The falseness of this hand-washing exercise by the Housing Executive, however, was interestingly underlined by a document leaked to the *Irish News* which that newspaper published on its front page last Monday.

The document is a letter, dated October 7th 1981, from an official in the Belfast Development Office to a senior Housing Executive official, and reads: "We have, in recent months, sought to remind everyone



● A cul-de-sac in west Belfast's new Poleglass estate perfectly illustrates the level of collusion between the British army and the Housing Executive in planning developments to facilitate the Brits' tactical needs

concerned in the DOE and the NIHE of the need to involve the Security Forces at an early stage of proposed new works, involving new buildings, road alignments, etc."

Bemoaning several recent instances where plans were 'virtually at starting date' before the Brits saw them and found them unacceptable, causing 'last minute and potentially costly changes', the letter continues: "Perhaps we could review our present arrangements to see if we can tighten up even more - though we will never quite eliminate the mavericks."

LEAKS

The newspaper revelations (which are apparently the result of leaks from within the Housing Executive), although they are 'extremely useful' in giving widespread

around a cul-de-sac plan. This involves new estates having only two entrances and consisting of a series of cul-de-sacs linked by footpaths.

In British strategic terms this arrangement is designed to hamper IRA operational capacity by limiting the exit routes from a specific area, and to enable the Brits to control an area more easily during riots and other disturbances.

In social terms it has meant the destruction of old community street patterns in nationalist Belfast and the development of less closely knit, more individually isolated, modern estates.

TURF LODGE

Another example of direct British army interference in housing development occurred in the Turf Lodge estate in west Belfast in 1979, where local residents had been campaigning for the demolition of the flats and maisonettes complex. The Housing Executive agreed in principle to the demolition and redevelopment of the complex only two months before the British army occupied an adjoining industrial site and constructed the huge Fort Jericho base.

This was on land that the local residents' association had earlier asked the Housing Executive to develop for housing. They were blandly told that it was designated for another purpose, which they took to mean industrial development.

Both the decision to demolish the Turf Lodge blocks of flats and the proposed low-level housing development which is due to supersede them on the site, can be attributed to the British army's need for a clear field of view from Fort Jericho into the heart of the Turf Lodge estate, underlining the Housing Executive's collusion in facilitating a British base in the heart of a nationalist housing development.

The idea of military involvement in housing development is not particularly new and was advocated several years ago by the British army counter-insurgency expert Brigadier Frank Kitson who argued that in such a situation every social and environmental factor, as well as the press, the judiciary and statutory public bodies (like the Housing Executive) should be tied in to serve the overriding military interest.

Quite obviously, Kitson's lesson is well learned by the North's Housing Executive.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID O'NEILL FOR THE NEWS

Belfast's linen s

FALLS' MEMORIES BY GERRY ADAMS

'Belfast's linen slaves' is the fourth article in an occasional series of 'Falls' memories' by Gerry Adams, and provides a historical sketch and insight into the atrocious conditions endured by the millworkers, and their struggles with their employers.



The majority of Falls Road people were employed in the linen mills which stretched from the Springfield Road to Northumberland Street — the Blackstaff, Milford's, Ross's, Clonard Print Works, Craig's, Chartise's, Kennedy's, Durham Weaving Company, and Grieves's. Women and, until about 1920, children worked in these mills while men were generally employed as unskilled workers, carters or builders' labourers. Because of the consistently high level of male unemployment women were the main wage earners.

They worked for a minimum pay, slaving from 6.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on weekdays with a break for breakfast at 8.00 a.m. and a dinner break at 1.00 p.m. On Saturdays, work stopped at twelve noon. For this a woman, at the turn of the century, might earn eight shillings.

Children, mostly girls, worked for the same hours as the adults until new legislation in 1874 introduced an arrangement whereby they worked three days one week and went to school the other two. The following week the process was reversed. These children were called 'half-timers'. In 1891, the minimum age for millworkers was raised to eleven and subsequently in 1901 to twelve. Half-timers in 1904-1907 were paid 3/4d (17p) for the 'long week' and 2/11½d (14½p) for the 'short week'.

ILLITERACY

Illiteracy was rampant. In 1861, 30.2% of Belfast Catholics were illiterate compared with 10.6% of Protestants. By the turn of this century there was little improvement in this situation until the local Catholic bishop, Bishop Henry, commenced the building of new schools in the area. Many of today's schools including St. Finian's, St. Vincent's and St. Gall's started as schools for the education of half-timers.

The living and working conditions of the millworkers were

inhuman. Crammed into small insanitary houses and living on a diet of tea, buttermilk, potatoes, herrings, cheap cuts of meat or pork and a variety of barnocks and farls, long hours working in damp humid conditions took their toll on the workers' health. In 1897, an outbreak of typhoid affected 27,000 people. In the spinning rooms the uncomfortably hot air was kept damp to prevent the flax from breaking. The women and children, working barefoot, inhaled dust from this flax. This combination of factors caused serious bronchial illnesses and the death rate from tuberculosis was very high. The greater number of the workers died before the age of forty-five and children were generally small and badly developed.

SONG

A Belfast street song, still heard today, reflects on that period and on how marriage provided a possible, if temporary escape:

'Wallflower, wallflower growing up so high,

'All the little children are all going to die,

'All except for Kathy McKay for she's the only one,

'She can dance, she can sing,

'She can show her wedding ring.'

In 1909, Dr. Baillie, city medical officer of health, stated in an official report:

'Premature births were found

to be the most prevalent among women who worked in the mills and factories, engaged in such work as the following — spinning, weaving, machining, tobacco-spinning and laundry work. Many of the women appear to be utterly unable for such work owing to the want of sufficient nourishment and suitable clothing, and being, through stress of circumstances, compelled to work to the date of confinement, would be accountable for many young and delicate children found by the Health Visitors.'

Dr. Baillie also recorded that: *'As in previous years, it is found that consumption is most prevalent among the poor, owing largely to the unfavourable conditions under which necessity compels them to live — such as dark, ill-ventilated houses and insanitary habits together with insufficient food and clothing.'*

UNORGANISED

The women were unorganised and the working regime was strict with trade union spirit among the workers extremely low. Efforts by the labour leader Jim Larkin in organising the Belfast dockworkers and carters into a united, if temporary, labour movement in 1907 had left the linen workers largely untouched so that by 1911 new rules, forbidding singing or laughing, were introduced in the mills. Girls could be fined for such 'offences' or for fixing their hair during working hours and the penalty for bringing a newspaper, darning or knitting needles to work was instant dismissal. To arrive late for work meant the loss of that day's work with the subsequent hardship caused by the loss of the wages.

'Half-past-five, we all must go,

'If you be a minute late

'Oui' Jack Horn will shut

the gate

'So early in the morning.'

CONNOLLY

Into Belfast, and the Falls Road of that time, came James Connolly who began work as the Ulster organiser of the Irish Transport Union in July 1911. He brought his family to live at 420 Falls Road, just below and opposite the city cemetery (which incidentally was once used as a green for bleaching linen) facing the Whitecroft Road. The Connolly family lived there until Good Friday 1916, when Mrs. Connolly was summoned to Dublin by her husband on the eve of the Easter Rising.

On his arrival in Belfast, Connolly set about the job of organising and winning recognition of the labour unions, especially in Belfast docks; but he was soon to turn his attention and his pen to the struggles of the mill workers. In October 1911, he wrote in *The Irish Worker*:

'The whole atmosphere of the mill is an atmosphere of slavery. The workers are harassed by petty



• Belfast at the turn of the century

bosses, mulcted in fines for the most trivial offences and robbed and cheated in a systematic manner. If a spinner whose weekly wage averaged 12/3d lost a day's work, stayed out a day, she is fined 2/2d, a sum out of all proportion to her daily earnings. The same was true of half-timers and doffers.'

FRUSTRATED

At that time the mill owners had agreed to limit production by 15%. In practice, however, this meant that each manufacturer attempted to get the same amount of production as when they were working full-time. They did this by speeding up the machinery and thus increasing the workload upon the mill workers. The mill workers, frustrated by the lack of action from their own union leaders soon turned to Connolly for help.

Nora Connolly O'Brien describes such a meeting in Connolly's office in Corporation Street: *'Yes, a woman near the fire was saying, her husky voice, fierce and bitter, 'It's over forty-five years since I started working in the mills. I was just turned eight when I began. When you were eight you were old enough to work. Worked in the steam, making your rags all wet and sometimes up to your ankles in water. The older you got the more work you got. If you got married you kept on working. Your man didn't get enough for a family. You worked 'til your baby came and went back as soon as you could; and then, God forgive you, you count-*

ed the days 'til your child could be a half-timer and started the whole hell of a life over again.'

STRIKE

It wasn't long until the women were driven out on strike. Over 1,000 of them marched out of various mills and appealed to Connolly to lead them. He readily gave his support although the Textile Union representatives (the women's union) refused to give their aid and advised the women not to strike. Without union funds to back them the women could only draw two shillings a week strike pay which they secured by street collections. Connolly wrote:

'The girls fought heroically. We held a meeting in St. Mary's Hall and packed it with 3,000 girls and women. They were packed from floor to ceiling, squatting on the floor between the platform and the seats — 3,000 cheering, singing enthusiastic females and not a hat among them.'

At such a meeting, at the Custom House steps, Nora Connolly spoke in public for the first time. The strike was essentially about conditions, against the Truck Act, and while Connolly had put a demand for higher pay he regarded this demand as a negotiating point which could be given up in return for an improvement in working conditions so that 'should any girl feel happy enough to sing, she can do so without fear of losing her job'.

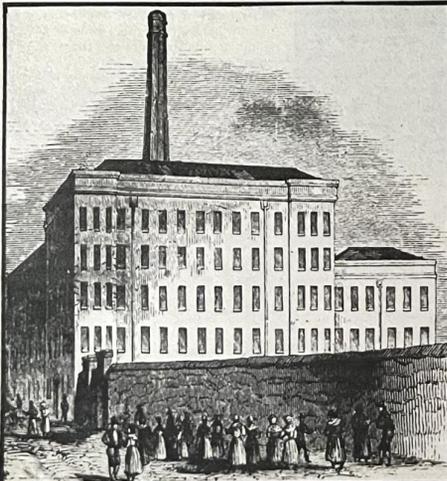
Yet despite all their efforts and the worthiness of their cause, the

lack of union funds, powerful position of owners was beating them. They were in no position to meet their demands by other means. Connolly proposed women commences 'st

use of this tactic in Ireland. *'Go back,' he told the women, 'but not twice. Gather outside and all go in in a body singing. Defy every rule, sing, laugh and is reproved. laugh. If a girl is singing let the whole sing at once and dismissed, all should sing and march but you are returning ma, and cheering.'*

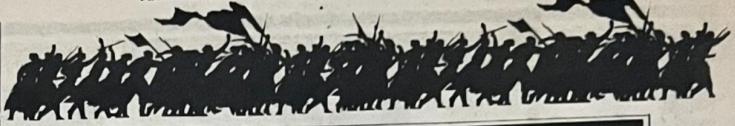
MORAL VIC

And so it came manager who sent a to send for her again resumed only when and was welcomed song. Though the str a moral victory was return the mill girls song about Connolly. *'Cheer up, Co name is everywhere, 'You left old Ba the chair, 'Crying for mercy, there, 'So cheer up, Co name is everywhere, 'Drawing largely o experiences Connolly 1912, was to write*



• Nineteenth century Belfast mill

slaves



Film review by Danny Morrison

Love story

"REDS", the film about the last years of the life of the American political journalist and revolutionary, John Reed, opened in Dublin last week to a wave of fairly complimentary criticism which stretches back across the Atlantic to America. The film which was produced, directed and co-written by Warren Beatty, who acts the part of Reed, cost \$40 million to make and is an epic three hours and nineteen minutes long. Danny Morrison reviewed the film for AP/RN.



● Bryant and Reed in Russia during the October revolution

WARREN Beatty has been a long-standing admirer of John Reed so this personal undertaking has been unjustly seen by some as a vehicle for Beatty's radical politics, in the way that 'Shampoo' (which was on television recently) was correctly seen as a bit of an egocentric peddling of Beatty's sexual mores. However, Beatty is a natural as Reed the legendary playboy, who became a legendary revolutionary.

The film is best described as a love story with the political action of the Russian revolution competing for equal coverage on celluloid as well as competing with Louise Bryant for the attention of her lover/husband John Reed. The romance interweaves not always harmoniously, but at least realistically, with the trials, tribulations and pressures of the Bryant/Reed relationship which sees her have an affair, when Reed is away on business, with the representative of cynicism, the poet Eugene O'Neill, played by the irreproachable Jack Nicholson; despair at the dedication of her husband who rises above the demoralising infighting of the left; and then her long, frustrating journey to Russia for a reunion with him on his sickbed.

DILEMMA

Reed's political career and life before 1915 is merely sketched (his trade union agitation, his coverage of the Mexican civil war and encounters with Pancho Villa) to allow us to witness his delectable introduction to, and infatuation with, the seductive (if at times seemingly insecure) Louise Bryant. Throughout their relatively short and passionate love life the inescapable conclusion emerges that no two people can have an equal relationship and Bryant, notwithstanding her feminism, her sexual liberation and assertion of independence and, notwithstanding Reed's undoubted love for her, lives in Reed's shadow ("As long as you have your two shots of limelight every day you don't need a thing," she shouts at him), and stitches curtains on a sewing machine as he leaves for Russia for the second time. In short, the classic dilemma facing all revolutionaries: for the sake and progress of the struggle he will not compromise on his political commitments so she must either subjugate her own ambitions or go off and satisfy them (if she is fortunate

enough to have the opportunity), thus threatening or ending their relationship.

The evocative scenes of the Russian revolution, the bronze tinge to segments of the film, present visually strong images which, along with the documentary technique of intercutting comments from American veterans of the period, probably compensate for any unfamiliarity with the historical facts of Russia in the autumn of 1917. Reed's observations and experiences of the October revolution he set down in his classic and absorbing book, 'Ten Days That Shook The World' which he wrote on his return to America in April 1918.

REVOLUTION

In February 1917, the despotic Tsar had been forced to abdicate and a Provisional government was set up which made the mistake of continuing the debilitating war (Russia was an ally of Britain and France in the First World War). Under a German counter-attack the morale of the Russian soldiers (already undermined by Bolshevik propaganda and politicisation) crumbled; behind them the cities were starving because of rising food prices and the breakdown of the transport system.

The main Bolshevik leaders had been on the run since July and were outside of the bourgeois coalition government. Even as a minority within the Bolshevik party the uncompromising leaders, Lenin and Trotsky, advocated insurrection and the deposing of a disintegrating administration. Their slogan, "All Power To The Soviets Of Workers, Soldiers and Peasants! Peace! Bread! Land!" struck a chord in the hearts of the disenfranchised and oppressed people, and their sheer determination, iron-will, and success against incredible odds is a feature of history which should rescue all revolutionaries from pessimism.

Reed, despite his sympathies, maintains objectivity in his book in the recording of dissent against, and the unpalatable actions by, the

legitimate insurgents. With regard to this he describes the divisions in the army, the suppression of 'free' speech, the opposition of the socialist parties, the unions and many sections of the people to the Bolshevik coup, and their forlorn dream of an international revolutionary damburst by the working classes.

MISTAKE

Whilst in a history book, recording a revolution-in-the-making, such 'objectivity' is tolerable, to repeat the technique on film, which relies on a fictional bent and selectivity for the sake of entertainment, is a mistake. Thus, although the pointless, demoralising sectarian wranglings of the left, the dictatorial manner of Zinoviev, the encroachments of the Bolshevik bureaucrats, and the disillusionment of veteran anarchist Emma Goldman, are all rebuffed, their rebuttal in the form of Reed's unwavering dedication is only one image, albeit a strong one, which is nevertheless cancelled out by the weight and sources of criticism. So seeing the film will convert no-one to communism or endanger the empire of Gulf Oil (a subsidiary of which provided the \$40 million costs on a most lucrative investment). I am not even convinced that it is political propaganda. It should, however, engender a respectful curiosity in Reed and the Russian revolution.

No doubt, the scoffers of pure nationalist faith, devoting their limits to the cause of republicanism, will point to Stalinism as a natural scion of that great October revolution. But that is totally invalid and is to admit Free Statism and partition as the progeny of that Easter dream, instead of being a betrayal of principles and intent.

Finally, the intercutting of the old veterans for commentary, gives the impression that the 'Reds' of this historic period, determined and idealistic souls, were merely transitory, blooming only for one season. But, as we know, the 'Reds' are still with us.

contented working class and a rebellious womenhood. I cannot separate these two great things in my mind. Every time the labourer, be it man or woman, secures a triumph in the battle for just conditions, the mind of the labourer receives that impulse towards higher things that comes from the knowledge of power... the fruits of victory of the organised working class are as capable of being stated in terms of spiritual uplifting as in the material terms of cash."

In 'The Re-conquest of Ireland', published in 1915, Connolly returns to the plight of the millworkers, vividly describing at length their working and living conditions and castigating the establishment.

"In these industrial parts of the North of Ireland the yoke of capitalism lies heavily upon the backs of the people... In this part of Ireland the child is old before it knows what it is to be young... In their wisdom our lords and masters often leave full-grown men unemployed but they can always find use for the bodies and limbs of our children."

HISTORY BOOKS

And so it was, and so too did the mills remain, outliving the brave James Connolly by many years. Not for nothing did we read little of such occurrences in our school history books. We passed the mills everyday, knowing little of the slavery upon which they prospered. Instead, we read or were lectured upon the shrewd

business sense of the unionist land-owning and manufacturing class and of how they built up the North's textile industry.

And yet the people whose sweated bodies they sapped lived all around us. My grandmother worked as a half-timer. So undoubtedly did yours, if you came from an industrial area. And it wasn't a thousand years ago. Maybe you worked in the mills yourself or like me, perhaps your granny, your mother or your aunts were doffers or half-timers.

Well wait 'til I tell you something which might give you some satisfaction. In 1969, I stood behind a barricade of burning tyres at the corner of Albert Street and watched petrol bombs showering into the mill at Northumberland Street. I must admit the enormity of it all frightened me a wee bit as the huge place began to blaze. I didn't really know then what was burning. I know now. And so undoubtedly did the person who threw the first bomb. So there you are now.

Connolly's house still stands, only now, to the shame of us all, it has a commemorative plaque which was donated by one Gerry Fitt on behalf of the Republican Labour Party.

The Republican Labour Party, of course, like Gerry Fitt's republicanism, is no longer with us. We know at least what Connolly, a fierce opponent of Hibernianism and Redmondism, would say about Fitt's plaque but mar a ditear, is a sin seol eile.



Toronto support

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day 1982 was celebrated by a number of events in Toronto, Canada. At the main rally in Toronto City Hall on Saturday, March 6th, the solidarity message from the women prisoners in Armagh was read out to a warm reception from the crowd of over 3,000 people. The Toronto Irish POW Committee took part in a march which followed the meeting and carried a banner calling for political status for the Armagh women.

A workshop on women involved in national liberation struggles around the world the International Women's Day Committee said that they viewed those fighting in Ireland as a national liberation movement just as important as the popular war in El Salvador.

The following day the Congress of Canadian Women held another celebration featuring Im-Am Abu Shrar, a member of the executive of the General Union of Palestinian Women. Following her address the meeting unanimously adopted a resolution supporting "the women of Chile, South Africa, El Salvador, Palestine, Ireland and countries where the struggle to end national oppression encompasses the promise of the advancement of women."

Grenada rally

A RALLY to commemorate the third anniversary of the revolution in Grenada attracted 450 people in London last week-end, most of them Grenadians living in Britain. The rally was called by the New Jewel Movement which led the revolution in 1979. The key message of the rally was that small nations can win against imperialism.

The speakers included the Nicaraguan ambassador to Britain, an official from the Cuban embassy in London, a representative of the FMLN-FOP from El Salvador, Euro-MP Alf Lomaff, and Alan Sapper of the British TUC. All the speakers emphasised the importance of an alliance among anti-imperialist people and Sinn Fein was warmly thanked for its message of solidarity and congratulations.

Gays protest

MEMBERS and supporters of Dublin's gay community picketed Pearse Street garda station on Saturday, March 13th, in protest at the stepping-up of harassment of gays by gardai investigating the murder in January of RTE designer Charles Self who was a member of the gay community.

Since the investigation began over 1,500 people have been questioned, had their photographs and fingerprints forcibly taken, and have been visited at home or at work in crude attempts to intimidate them into 'co-operating' with the garda. (Some gays have been arrested by sub-machine gun wielding detectives under the Offences Against the State Act.)

One member of the Gay Defence Committee, who is also a member of Gays Against Imperialism, told *An Phoblacht/Republican News* that this latest attack on one of Ireland's most vulnerable minorities is a "re-run" of harassment suffered during the H-Block campaign.

"The garda are concentrating their enquiries on the gay community and ignoring the possibility that Charles Self could have been murdered by a 'lover basher' or blackmailer. "Not only have gays been forced to have their photographs and fingerprints taken but we've been intimidated into making statements by gardai saying that if we refuse we must have something to hide. "Basically, they're reversing the process by putting the onus on us to prove our innocence rather than them having to prove their alleged suspicions.

"If the garda can abuse our civil liberties and get away with it there's no telling who will suffer the same treatment in the future."



All letters should be addressed to: The Editor, An Phoblacht/Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

POWs in Britain

A Chára,

I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to Owen Carron, MP, for finding the time recently to visit a number of British prisons in England where he met our incarcerated POWs.

The short period that Owen Carron spent in the country was used to the utmost.

The geographical positions of the prisons meant extensive travelling, with little sleep, but this was truly typical of the person who accepted 'victory on behalf of our political prisoners of war' when elected by 31,278 people in Fermanagh and South Tyrone, who stand shoulder to shoulder behind all our POWs.

Since Owen Carron's departure following his talk-in with all his POW 'constituents' I have visited your finance, normally the bouncy kind at any time, and not terribly tall, and I detected or suspected that since Owen Carron's visit that he had an extra 'tiger in his tank', and that he appeared as big as the Brit prison that incarcerates him. That is my view of what Owen Carron's visit has done for him, and I am assured that it was a great morale booster to all the other POWs and will be to some extent the talking-point amongst them for quite a while.

At no time did Owen Carron attempt to pretend that he knew all the problems in existence or that he possessed a magic wand which would produce the desired solutions. But he did stress that whatever could be done he would spare no efforts in his endeavours to do it. When one reflects on the tireless efforts of this person during the hunger-strike of last year we can rest assured that there will be no living down on his part.

From the days of the Fenians to the present time the Brits have always tried to undermine the struggle for Irish freedom by attempting to criminalise our political prisoners, but this has always been resisted from behind prison bars, with the deaths of ten hunger-strikers in the H-Blocks being the recent courageous example of republican resistance to this well known and used imperialist policy.

To those of us on the other side of the wall, that is, relatives, republicans and genuine supporters, we also have a role to play.



Owen Carron's recent visit to Irish POWs in England was a great morale booster to those who sometimes seem to be forgotten.

apart from expressing our thanks to those like Owen Carron, and admiration for our prisoners' spirit, courage and endurance.

In an extract from Bobby Sands' diary is a fitting and to this letter of thanks to Owen Carron and the Republican Movement who work tirelessly for our prisoners' and victory in our struggle.

"I have always taken a lesson from something that was told me by a sound man, that is that everyone, republican or otherwise, has his/her own particular part to play. No part is too great or too small, no-one is too old, or too young to do something."

Let us try to answer this call, even in a small way.

Una Caughey, Birmingham, England.

Dear Sir,

Once again we have witnessed the champions of human rights at work - namely, the still Fine Gael government in their release of the UDA man, Mr. Frederick Parkinson. We write this letter bearing absolutely no animosity or rancour at Mr. Parkinson's release. However, it is a sad shame that none of this humanitarianism was directed towards the plight of Irish prisoners in British jails.

For two years we have been requesting relevant Irish ministers to concern themselves and use their influence to seek an improvement in the inhuman conditions and harassment under which our brother, Patrick Hackett, has been subjected to for the past six years in Brixton, Wormwood Scrubs and Wakefield jails (confirmed by Amnesty International). Our brother is physically handicapped and is in his third year of solitary confinement. Regrettably, our attempts at ministerial intervention have so far proved unsuccessful.

We, the family of Patrick Hackett, as contributors to the up-keep of such ministers in their influential positions, hope that relevant ministers of the present government will now press their British counterparts to reciprocate a like humanitarianism as has been witnessed in the Littlejohn and Parkinson cases - a gesture that will achieve a tangible improvement in our brother's confinement.

Bridget Hackett, for the Hackett family, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

'Belfast 34'

A Chára, Monday, March 22nd, is the date set for the trial of the 'Belfast 34'. It is virtually certain that the trial will go ahead and that the defendants will be found guilty. The defence committee plans to appeal any guilty verdicts and is fighting for the right to demonstrate by challenging the law which seeks to stop anti-imperialists demonstrating in Belfast city centre. No amount of court cases will keep us off the streets.

This case should be supported by all anti-imperialist organisations, H-Block committees, and individual militants. A movement that cannot defend its own

HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD

A Chára,

Each Easter it is traditional for republicans to wear Easter lilies and for republican houses to fly the national flag, the Irish tricolour, in honour of Ireland's dead. In republican areas of the North, and especially following the huge commemoration in Belfast in 1966 of the golden jubilee of the 1916 Rising, it has been the practice for local committees to be set up in advance of Easter and to decorate their streets and roads with bunting and banners.

This year the Republican Commemorations Committee, in conjunction with the National Graves Association, appeals to all local republican sympathisers, republican groups and organisations to honour the republican dead this Easter by again organising such committees which would see to the erection of street bunting and banners.

We appeal to the many youth groups who emerged during last year's heroic hunger-strike to decorate walls with patriotic murals or to re-touch those daubed or destroyed by the vandals of the British army or RUC.

We hope that this appeal will be met with action in fitting tribute to those fearless men



The right of anti-imperialists to protest in Belfast city centre must be defended

members is not going to go anywhere.

There will be a meeting of defendants on Thursday, March 18th, at 8 p.m., in the Lake View Hotel, and a public rally on Saturday, March 20th, at 3 p.m., in Castle Street, Belfast. John McNulty, PD Belfast city councillor, 'Belfast 34' Defence Committee.

Ionsai ar deontais

A Chára,

Caitheadh mic léinn troid in ádán an mhéadaithe de cheithre faoin chéad. Caitheadh siad uilig a thuigtheáil go mbaineann an méadó seo leis an deontais is beaí anáil, agus na daoine sin nach bhfuil ag fáil an deontais is mó ní bhfaighid siad oiread, agus ceithre faoin chéad sa bhliain seo chugainn.

Agus lena chois sin tá boillsid ag dul i méid i gáonáil. Beidh cúlú i bhfad níos mó ná ceithre faoin chéad ar Ióistín, bia, ádair agus leabhair. Dé thairbh sin, beidh dóigh níos miosa ar mic léinn sa bhliain seo chugainn ná mar a bhí orthu le fiche bliain anuas. Goideáid an riaras ag iarraidh a dhéanamh.

Tá rialtas Mhaighread Bean a Tuiofóra ag iarraidh líon na mac léinn a laghdú sa dóigh nach mbeidh an seans ódhána ó thaobh oideachais de ag páistí s'againne agus a bhí againne. Cuirfidh sé crustán pháistí ar lucht oibire go háirité díonnas nach mbeidh siad ábalta fós as na costais a bheas ar oideachas an tré leibhéal.

Tá sé seo ag gabháil caol díreach in aghaidh, 'Acht an Oideachais' a chuir an t-oideachas ar fáil ag achán duine mar chear



Wall murals defaced by Brits should be re-painted for Easter murals or to re-touch those daubed or destroyed by the vandals of the British army or RUC.

We hope that this appeal will be met with action in fitting tribute to those fearless men

under British occupation, how youth in Belfast and Derry organise and how they see their struggle going forward, in order to report back to the sponsoring bodies and attract new people to the solidarity movement.

The delegation takes place from the 9th to 12th April; coaches will leave from London, the Midlands and Manchester; and the fee is £30. If any of your readers require further information or want to join the delegation from Britain they should contact us by phoning 01-274-3951.

People who want to meet the delegation in Ireland should contact Sinn Fein in Belfast or Derry.

Sabana Norton, Irish Freedom Movement, Britain.

Section 31

Dear Sir,

It is not highly hypocritical of the Leinster House junta to deny Sinn Fein the right to address the electorate through the medium of RTE when people who make 'shoot to kill' speeches and exhort their followers to compile dossiers on their Catholic neighbours are granted interviews on RTE? Furthermore, they and their cohorts - some of whom have been involved in the Kinross sex scandal - have been wired and dined at Leinster House in the not too distant past.

The condemnation of 'the men of violence' sounds hollow indeed, when one considers that a claimant for an IRA pension must satisfy the relevant government department, that they took part in ambushes in which they killed or attempted to kill British soldiers, Black and Tans, or members of the RIC, carried out executions of spies and informers, bombed or burned police barracks or disrupted road and rail communications, before their claim for a pension is considered!

Kevin Sharkey, Kincasslagh, Co. Donegal.



The delegation is being sponsored by trade union branches, trades councils, colleges, unemployed centres and claimants' unions. The delegates will want to find out as much as they can about what life is really like

Burke's at the back
BY KEVIN BURKE

FORMER Coalition Finance Minister John Bruton will have more than a political interest when Fianna Fail introduce their budget in Leinster House, to replace the Bruton budget on which the last government fell.

Tucked away in Bruton's own budget was a clause relating to the transfer of farm property. It exempted from stamp duty liability any transfers of land to young farmers 'under 35 years of age', and also increased by £50,000 to £200,000 the limit at which capital acquisitions tax becomes payable on such gifts.

According to Bruton's budget speech the concessions are "designed to get land quickly into the hands of young farmers at a time when their contribution is much needed."

John Bruton himself already farms several hundred acres at his extensive estate in Cornelscourt, Dunboyne, County Meath, but his father, now in his late seventies, owns well over one thousand more.

Had the January budget gone through the Brutons would have been well in line to benefit. John Bruton is thirty-four and so qualifies for the apparently arbitrary thirty-five years' age limit.

The Capital Acquisition Tax concession would have given a straight benefit of £9,375 to them, whilst the stamp duty saving, at a conservative estimate, could easily amount to £20,000.

But John Bruton must now wait to see if Fianna Fail retains this personally beneficial provision next Thursday. It would be particularly ironic if they did introduce it, but delayed its coming into effect until, say, June 1st.

John Bruton's thirty-fifth birthday is in May and he would therefore be too old to qualify.

★★★

British ex-spy Kenneth Littlejohn, set free from Mountjoy prison by the Coalition government last September, does not seem likely to stay at large too long. On Tuesday this week, he was arrested near Birmingham after a motorway car-chase following a £15,000 armed robbery at a Derbyshire country mansion which he has now been charged with.

★★★

The small farmers in the Irish Farmers' Association are at last showing some signs of discontent with their big rancher leaders, if their recent election for president is anything to go by.

Donal Cashman was re-elected as president, but his rival Maurice Harvey, who got the support of a quarter of the IFA's branches, had some harsh things to say afterwards.

He claimed that the IFA leaders were doing nothing to help farmers at this time of crisis in order to allow the weak to go to the wall so that their land could be bought cheaply by the big ranchers.

Donal Cashman, who has never paid income tax and is currently refusing to pay rates, farms five hundred acres near Cork. In the agricultural boom of the 'seventies he was one of those who borrowed every possible penny, not for development purposes, but

Bruton's birthday



● Former Coalition Finance Minister John Bruton will be awaiting next week's twenty-six county budget with some anxiety

simply for land-grabbing purposes.

His main aim, so far, as IFA president is to attempt to have the large bank debts of himself and similar cronies wiped out from public funds.

★★★

The suicide rate among RUC men continues to remain at its amazingly high level. On Friday last, a 21-year-old RUC man was found with a gunshot wound to the head in the garage of his home at Glengormley, Belfast. He died on the way to hospital. His pistol was found nearby.

★★★

The obsession of the United States president, Ronald Reagan, with Libya could well have been a topic of conversation in the White House meeting between Charles Haughey and the world's most dangerous cowboy on St. Patrick's Day.

Last week, Reagan announced unilateral trade sanctions against the tiny, yet oil-rich state which, with Colonel Gadafy as its leader, Reagan appears to judge to be a suitable enemy for the mighty United States.

The Irish connection, however, is the new Fianna Fail Minister for Industry Albert Reynolds who, on the night of his appointment last Tuesday week, came up with just two ideas when questioned by an RTE reporter. The first was to encourage the development of the small industries in the twenty-six counties and the second was the export of Irish technical skills to "such countries as Libya, where I visited last Easter," said Reynolds.

If the US embassy in Dublin has been working correctly, Reagan will be aware of this. Last year he prevented Aer Lingus selling two of its American-purchased Boeings to the Libyans and is certain to be exceedingly displeased at this latest move.

★★★

The British government's own Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights has criticised its decision last year to prevent republican prisoners standing in Westminster elections.

The Westminster parliament passed the new legislation after the death of Bobby Sands, MP, in an attempt to prevent a repetition of his election, but the move backfired when Owen Carron was elected as a prisoners' candidate with an increased majority.

The Advisory Commission describes the legislation, in its annual report, as offensive in principle and defective in effect. It says that the decision may well "assist the terrorist campaign against democracy" and adds:

"If the person is in prison, so be it. There he or she remains. However, the constituency has made its decision and we believe it to be wrong for parliament to deprive the people of their right to take that decision."

★★★

The Brit-like mentality of Free State gardai is quite remarkable in its spiteful pettiness. The home of Sean MacStiofain at Baile Gibb in the County Meath Gaeltacht was recently the object of a search by Special Branchmen.

The search warrant used was all in English and addressed to 'John Stevens'.

★★★

A reader in England, P. Byrne, thinks that we might appreciate this interesting theory that he came across recently.

"It is said that French officers always wear red coats so that their men would not know if they were wounded. Which makes us wonder why the British wear khaki."

WHAT'S ON

PRESENTATION TO CHARLIE McGLADE & TONY RUANE
Music by 'The Dublin City Flambers'
8 p.m. Thursday 18th March
Carolann Room
The Embankment
TALLAGHT
Co. Dublin
Admission: £2
Organised by the Sinn Fein National Finance Committee

FUND-RAISING BALL AND SESSION
Every Friday
Wagon Wheel Lounge
Trinity Street
DROGHEDA
Admission: £1
Organised by Sinn Fein

KIERAN DOHERTY PARK NAMING CEREMONY
3 p.m. Sunday 21st March
MULLAGHMIAT
Monaghan Town

ELECTION FUND-RAISING SOCIAL & DANCE
Music by 'The Barleycorn'
and support group
Sunday 21st March
Mayflower Ballroom
DRUMSHANBO
Co. Leitrim
Admission: £2.50
Organised by Sinn Fein

IRISH NIGHT
Featuring 'Cuchulainn'
Friday 26th March
Bellaghy Social Centre
BELLAGHY
Co. Derry
Organised by Bellaghy POW Welfare Association

ANNUAL COLLECTION NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION
CO. TYRONE
Sunday March 28th 1982
Collection will be taken up at all Masses throughout Co. Tyrone

COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN MEETING
2.30 p.m. Sunday 28th March
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
(All Leinster areas to send delegates)

EASTER COMMEMORATION
2 p.m. Sunday 11th April
Speakers' Corner
Hyde Park
LONDON
Organised by Sinn Fein (Britain)

Sinn Fein National Finance Committee
ANNUAL NATIONAL COLLECTION

Friday 12th March to Saturday 20th March

Donations should be sent to:
National Finance Committee,
44 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.
Tel: 726932

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

Name
Address

Moyard family harassed

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

AT 7 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10th, the Moyard flat of Mr. John Ward, aged 29, and his 21-year-old wife Lorraine, was broken into and raided by members of the Royal Green Jackets regiment.

John, who is a regular victim of Brit harassment, refused to go with the Brits because they would not inform him of which section he was being arrested under. According to John: "They became very agitated and started shouting abuse and swearing, then one of them grabbed me, pushed me up against the wall and shoved his rifle against my throat. My wife Lorraine called out to my brother Patrick who lives just opposite and when he and his wife Rita arrived they also came under verbal and physical assault."

Mrs. Rita Ward, who is three months' pregnant, was thrown to the ground by one of the Brits. Meanwhile, Patrick was punched in the face and threatened with a plastic bullet gun. Their one-year-old daughter, Madeline, began screaming and neighbours began to gather outside. The Brits then sent for reinforcements and two jeeps arrived.

As John was trailed out of the flat, Lorraine was pushed around the room, breaking several ornaments and Patrick was also placed under arrest. Both were

taken to Springfield Road barracks where they were questioned for four hours and charged with assault.

Two years ago, Lorraine Ward was also physically assaulted by Brits who hit her in the stomach with a rifle butt, as she took a short-cut across fields at the back of the Sloan Club on the Whitebrook Road. At the time she was several weeks' pregnant and subsequently had a miscarriage. Her husband, John, is also constantly stopped in the street and at work and verbally abused.

In another incident last year, during the hunger-strike, a plastic bullet round was fired through the Wards' window, narrowly missing Rita who was in the living-room at the time.



● LORRAINE WARD

100,000 killers

REVIEW BY HILDA McTHOMAS

IN October 1976, 13-year-old Brian Stewart from Turf Lodge, Belfast, died from head injuries caused by a plastic bullet fired from close range by a soldier of the infamous King's Own Scottish Borderers. Last week, after years of legal battling, Kathleen Stewart, Brian's mother, who was suing the soldier who shot her son, saw her case quashed by a Belfast court in yet another illustration of the nature of British rule in Ireland: injuries and deaths inflicted by an army of occupation, cover-ups by the courts, and silence from the media.

Almost 100,000 rubber and plastic bullets have been fired in the occupied six counties since 1970, 30,000 of them during the hunger-strike campaign of last year. Thirteen people have died, hundreds have been injured, many of them seriously. Yet it took British Home Secretary William Whitelaw's cynical stance in July of last year to embarrass the British media into mentioning plastic bullets. Whitelaw had then declared that plastic bullets would not be used against the rioters of Brixton and Toxteth because they could kill "innocent bystanders". At about the same time an innocent bystander, 30-year-old mother of three, Nora McCabe, fell on the pavement of Belfast's Falls Road fatally wounded by a plastic bullet fired by the RUC.

CRUMBLÉD

The wall-of-silence further crumbled last week when the 'Information on Ireland' group launched its latest pamphlet *They Shoot Children*, at a well-attended press conference in London on Friday, March 12th.

'Information on Ireland' was formed in 1978 to help break the censorship on Ireland in the British media. Its publications include *British Soldiers Speak Out on Ireland*, *British Media and Ireland*, *Voices for Withdrawal*, and *H-Blocks - an indictment of British policy*.



● Liz Curtis (right) of 'Information on Ireland' shows a plastic bullet to reporters during the press conference to launch *'They Shoot Children'*. Also at the conference was anti-apartheid campaigner Peter Hain (left) and Euro-MP Richard Balfe (centre)

Following the launching of this latest pamphlet BBC's *Newsnight* programme, last Friday, featured an interview with Dr. Laurence Roche, a surgeon from Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital who announced the imminent publication of a medical report on the injuries caused by plastic bullets. Dr. Roche also stated that medical opinion disapproved of plastic bullets because of the extent of the danger they caused, which was out of all proportion to the situation in which the weapon was used. *Newsnight* also revealed that, in spite of Whitelaw's assurances in July 1981, the London Metropolitan police and Liverpool police have been equipped with plastic bullets. On Saturday, March 13th, the British daily newspaper *The Guardian* also reviewed *They Shoot Children*.

VICTIMS

The thirty-eight page booklet itself is extremely well-produced and easy to read. Every other page includes a small caption about one of the many victims of rubber and plastic bullets in Ireland. Various aspects of the use of plastic bullets are detailed: in particular, the British campaign of propaganda

which surrounded the launching of plastic bullets, presented as 'harmless' and even slightly 'ridiculous' by British army PROs (the word 'plastic' itself suggests a rather innocuous projectile); the tactical use of plastic bullets ('designed to disperse crowds by punishing demonstrators and to intimidate people from taking part in protests'); and, finally, the type of injuries caused by the bullet, which 'avoid the flow of blood', and therefore do not attract as much media attention as injuries caused by live bullets.

RESISTANCE

They Shoot Children must be read by all those concerned by the level of repression meted out to the people of the six counties. Every time a plastic bullet is fired at a demonstrator or bystander on the streets of the North, the right to protest peacefully is under attack. Thirteen people, six of them children, were killed in this attempt by the British to smash mass resistance in the North of Ireland. The tens of thousands who continue to march in defiance of those terrorist tactics, are, nevertheless, proof of the resistance of the republican people.



They Shoot Children: the use of rubber and plastic bullets in the North of Ireland.

Available by post from: Information on Ireland, Box 189, 32 Ivor Place, London NW1 6DA.

Make cheques money orders, etc., payable to Information on Ireland.

Price (inclusive of postage): Ireland and Britain: 70p each or £4.40 for 10; Europe: £1.30 each or £6.60 for 10; and outside Europe: £8.40 for 10.



● THE LATE KATHLEEN THOMPSON who died tragically in February 1979

My son

THE following poem was written, a few months before her death in February 1979, by Belfast republican Kathleen Thompson, a member of Cumann na mBan and known throughout Ireland and America for her rendering of republican ballads, including 'Four Green Fields' and 'Soldiers of the Rearguard'.

Her premature death from cancer at the age of thirty-five was a deep shock to republicans, and to the thousands of people who had heard her sing or listened to her records; and particularly to Irish political prisoners to whose welfare she was totally dedicated.

Although written in late 1978 the poem was lost, only being recovered a few weeks ago during a Brit raid on a house in west Belfast.

*I watched him grow from a babe in arms,
When I nursed him to my breast;
The time went by and school days came,
He stepped out with the rest;
Those were all the happy days,
I watched him grow with pride,
And when he discovered something new,
How his eyes would open wide.*

*This was my son when he was young,
Now he's grown to eighteen years,
And in the years that have come between,
My heart was filled with fears;
For Ulster was a tortured land,
Like a coat that's rent in two,
And her sons were paying very dear,
And I knew that mine would too....*

*For to break the link with England,
As their fathers tried before,
My son would take this final step,
And force her from our shore;
But fate dealt him a cruel blow,
And with comrades he was caught,
While on an operation bound,
And to Castlereagh was brought.*

*Now my son lies in a prison cell,
In H-Block in Long Kesh,
His sentence being eighteen years,
On political status protest,
Wearing a blanket, and a board for a bed;
How I pray to God to guide him,
When I lay down my head,
My son is not a criminal, nor will he ever be,
But a soldier of Ireland, who tried to set her free.*

*The day will come when Ireland's one,
And we'll honour them with pride,
And our young men who suffered,
And all of those who died....*

Killarney commemoration

THE fifty-ninth anniversary of the murder of four republican prisoners by Free State soldiers at Countess Bridge in Killarney was commemorated on Saturday, March 6th, with ceremonies which followed a parade from the IRA memorial in High Street to the monument at the bridge.

The four prisoners who were killed on March 6th 1923 were tied to a mine which was then exploded. All Kerry men, they were Jeremiah Donoghue, Daniel Donoghue, Stephen Buckley, and Timothy Murphy. The previous night, eight other prisoners had been murdered in similar fashion at Ballyseedy Cross, County Kerry, and six days later, another five prisoners were shot and then blown to bits by a mine at Cahirciveen, also in County Kerry.

The commemoration ceremony in Killarney was chaired by Richard Behal of the Sinn Féin ard comhairle. The chief steward was Tim Garvey. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Sinn Féin, and an Cumann Cabhrach, and a decade of the Rosary was recited by Mary Healy.

The oration was given by Fermanagh/South Tyrone MP Owen Carron.

LE MÂÎRE DE BARRA

MAR chuid des na himeachtaí a heagraíodh do dhreathadh seachtaine idimáisiúnta na mBan, bhí taispeántas ana mhaith i gColáiste na Tríonóide ar an Satharn an séú lá de mhárta. B'iad an Co-ordinating Committee for International Women's Day a d'eagraigh an taispeántas.

"Bin Lids and Barricades" a tugadh air, agus léirigh sé an pháirt a ghlac mná na hÉireann sa troid ar son na saoirse leis na blianta anuas. Léiríodh go maith, an tsí inar chuir mná lena chéile chun éagóir a throid arís agus arís eile. Ba mhínic gur i bhfoirm agóid ar na sráideanna iad seo.

Mar shampla, i 1970, nuair a chuir Arm Shasana dlí míleata i bhfeidhm ar Bháthar na bhFál, chuir mná an cheantair lena chéile agus d'eagraíodh dhá mháirseáil mhór le cur ina choinne agus le brú ar aghaidh chun bia a fháil dá gclainn.

Nuair a dhúiltáigh an Coiste Títhochta an obair dheisiúcháin a dhéanamh ar Árasán Divis do chuir mná na n-Árasán lena chéile, agus dheisiúodh féin iad. Gan dabht, sin é an saghas spiorad a choimeádnann an phobal dlúite lena chéile agus le mhóir an chuidiúint a bhí ag dal dóibh siúd a thug-an-treibr.

Is deacair cur síos iomláin a dhéanamh ar



● Mná ag máirseáil sa bhfeachtas in éadan na Bliocanna H

an bpáirt mhór atá glactha ag mná ins an troid, gan éagóir a dhéanamh ar dhaoine áirithe, agus gan daoine a fhágaint ar lár. Ina measc síod go gcaithfeadh tracht orthu táid síúd atá nó a bhí faoi ghlas.

Ní dheardúir an céasadh do-chreidthe a deineadh ar Dolours agus Marion Price nuair a bhíod ar stailc ocras a mhair 213 lá. Faoi láthair tá Eileen agus Anne Gillespie ó Thír Chonnail faoi ghlas i Sasana, agus Carole Richardson a ciontaíodh nuair ná raibh sí ach seacht mílaine déag d'aois.

GAOLTA

Nuair a thosnaigh agóid na pluide sna

H-Bhloic, d'eagraigh gaolta (mná ba mhó) na "Relatives Action Committees" agus thugadar sár phoiblíocht do chás na bpríosúnach ar fuaid an domhain.

De réir mar a chuaigh cúrsaí in oclás laistigh de phríosún Ard Mhacha bhí, agus tá fós, na coimníolacha go dona.

Rugadh beirt leabhán agus agus laistigh de roinnt lá cuireadh na mairtheacha thar n-ais go dtí cillíní suarachta, salacha.

In Ard Mhacha tá an fhadhb bhreise ann gur fir iad fómhór na goimeádiríní agus is mínic go ndéantar na mná a mhaslú agus a náiriú ar bhonn a ngeis.

CEARTA

Agus sinn ag tracht ar Ard Mhacha ní féidir deardú a dhéanamh ar an míseach agus an crógacht a bhí ag Mairéad Farrell, Mairéad Nugent, agus Mary Doyle nuair a chualad ar stailc ocras i dtacaíocht leis an úileamh ar stadas polaitiúil. Is mínic a deardútar an phairt tabhachtach a ghlacann mná i gcúrsaí na trada. Is mínic nach le h-aon droch-thoil é seo, ach go mb'fhéidir ná déanamh ar, go mór-mhór, go leor smaoinemh ar an gceist.

O cuireadh Roinn na mBan ar bun i Sinn Féin, tá feabhas nach beag ag teacht ar an sgeál, agus le cúnann D6, as seo amach, cinntíodh mná nach dtéantar a thuilleadh agóir orthu agus go mBainfeadh amach a gearta dóibh laistigh agus lasmúigh den ngluaiseacht.

An toghchán

San alt seo féachann Eoghan Mac Cormac ar an olltoghchán a bhí ar siúl le déanaí sna Sé Chontae Fíchead. Tá Eoghan seo ar bhliúre páipéir leithris

BEIDH an olltoghchán sna Sé Chontae Fíchead tharainn agus na torthaí scríofa sa stair sua léighfidh aon duine na focail morán. Creidim féin gur cuma cé aige a bheidh an bua, ní bheidh mórán athraithe bunúsacha i saol na tíre. Fad is atá an córas polaitiúil mar atá ní fheicim go mbeidh aon athrú le fáil.

Is léir go mbaineann mór thadhbhanna na tíre leis an cloch tuiseal de bhraeg theorann a scarann sé chontae áirithe ón chuid eile den tír. Ach ní hé sin an cás a dhéanfaidh mé a scrúdú inniu. In ionad sin, b'fhearr lóm mo chuid smaointe ar an toghchán féin a chur síos agus féachaint a tabhairt ar gníomhartha na bpolaitoirí le linn doibhtha bheith ag iarraidh do vóta a mhealladh. Glac Cathal Ó hEochaidh mór shampa, fear is ea é gur maith leis a lán aire a bheith dírithe air agus go háirithe i rith feachtas toghcháinóchta. Tá daoine a deirneann gur poiblíocht mhaithe, poiblíocht at bith ach ní thaobhann Cathal leis an tuairim sin.

PÓGADH

Tá inniú mór air go nglacfaí leis go mí-cheart nó nach dtuigfí é go cruinn. Mar sin tá sé ag gearán faoin dhroch-phoiblíocht a fuair sé dar leis sna meáin cumarsáide. Dar leis tá frith feachtas ina éadan ar siúl ag na tuairisceoirí.

Tcim é sna nuachtáin, ag imirt peile, ag dreapadh déimre, ag pógadh linbh. Ionadh is ea é nach raibh sé ag léamh Aifrin... b'fheidir go raibh sé ach ní fhad mé a tuairisc. MacGearailt chomh maith, tá sé ag bécáil císti, ag tabhairt léachta do mhic léinn, ag tabhairt cuairt ar mhonarchain

agus gach gné eile den gnáth feachtas a teimid go ró-mhínic.

Eatartha, tá an bheirt is glíce in Eirinn le fáil. Mar a dúirt J.F.K. tráth faoi Risteard Nixon, "an geannófa seanghluistáin ón bhfar sin?" Ní cheannóin-se.

AMADÁIN

Cá tuige mar sin, go bhfuil sé riachtanach do pholaitoirí a dhul amach ar fud na tíre le vótaí a mhealladh? Sílim féin, dá mb'fhúid iad na vótaí agus an tacaíocht nach mbeadh orthu an 'taobh seo' taistil? a athbheoigh ag gach olltoghchán ag dul timpeall ag deanamh amadáin dóibh féin.

Ní ghlacltar leo go d'áirítear cibé ar bith, ach b'fhearr doibhtha a gcuid áiríog agus fú a gcuid ama a chaitheamh ar shílte níos cáilimhaire ag comhlíonadh na gceallúintí briste a rinne siad le linn an feachtas deiridh.

Is roth gan deireadh é, gheall siad an ghealach agus toghadh iad. Gníonn siad dearmad ar an phobal, fanann siad in oifig agus ansin amach leo ar na sraideanna arís, a nguthanna dár mealladh agus an do-dhéanta á gheallúint go dtí go dtoghtar arís iad.

Ansín is cuma fút-sa nó fúm-sa. Ba chóir doibhtha stad a chur leis an 'charade' anois. Ní fíú fáil a mbreága.



• Vóta eile do Charlie



• "Féach orm, amadán mé"

MEMORIAM

COLLINS, John. (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother, Johnny Collins, National Graves Association, who died on March 15th 1977. RIP. St. Patrick, pray for him. Always remembered by his brother Michael, sister-in-law Maureen, and nephews and nieces at home and abroad.

SMITH, Thomas. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tom Smith, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died while attempting to escape from Portlaoise jail on March 17th 1975. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

SMITH, Thomas. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tom Smith, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was shot dead in Portlaoise jail by Free State forces. Mar a dúid do bheith óir de Phoblacht na hÉireann, rinne tú tar-racht éadú ó ghlaisibh ach ár lán nór éirigh leat mar maraíoch ag gunnaí an tSaor Stáil thú. I measc Laochra uile na nGae go raibh tú. Always remembered by the O.J.C. Staff and Volunteers, Oglagh na hÉireann, Portlaoise jail.

SMITH, Thomas. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my comrade Volunteer Tom Smith, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered in Portlaoise jail by Free State forces. Always remembered by Mick Quinlan and all the ex-POWs from Portlaoise jail.

SMITH, Thomas. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my comrade Vol. Tom Smith, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered in Portlaoise jail by Free State forces. Always remembered by Mick Quinlan and all the ex-POWs from Portlaoise jail.

SMITH, Thomas. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my comrade Vol. Tom Smith, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered in Portlaoise jail by Free State forces. Always remembered by Mick Quinlan and all the ex-POWs from Portlaoise jail.

Sympathy

of our good friend and fellow Cumann Cabhrach worker, Mrs. Brigid Greene. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for her. MCGONAGLE, James, McGLOIN, Sinn Féin cumann, Fανά, Co. Donegal, extend their deepest sympathy to the family of the late Nell McConisley, Fανά.

GREETINGS

CAMPBELL, Peter. (H4-Block). Happy birthday for March 22nd, Peter. From Tommy and Tina.

CAMPBELL, Peter. (H4-Block). Best wishes and happy birthday for March 22nd, Peter. From Tommy, 'Juggie', 'Jockey' and Vincey.

CORRIGAN, Bob. (H4-Block). Birth-day greetings. From your 22nd birthday. Thinking of you and all the republican POWs will celebrate your birthday. God bless you. From mother, father, Seamus, Bernadette and Maria.

CORRIGAN, Bob. (H4-Block). Greetings to you on your 22nd birthday. Our love and support are with you always. From your brother Pat, sister-in-law Isabel, and wee Pat of Conner and Seanad.

CORRIGAN, Bob. (H4-Block). Greetings to you on your 22nd birthday, Bob. We salute you and pledge our continued support in the fight for political status. From your sister Sally, brother-in-law, Aini, Liam, Conor and Seanad.

CORRIGAN, Bob. (H4-Block). Greetings to you on your 22nd birthday, Bob. We are all thinking about you in our hell-hole. Keep your chin up and walk tall. We still back you, our POWs, in your struggle for political status. From granny Corrián; granny Doily; uncle Seamus, Buffalo, USA; uncle Bob, Texas, USA; and aunt Marie, London.

COYLE, Patrick. (H4-Block). Happy birthday, Patrick. If they aren't able to destroy the desire for freedom, they won't break you. (Bobby Sands). Love from Yvonne, Marian and Angela.

DONNELLY, Vincent. (Parkhurst). Happy St. Patrick's Day, Vincent. I like a man who knows his onions. From the Blonde Bombardier, Black-rock.

DUMMIGAN, Kevin. (H4-Block). Happy 23rd birthday, Kevin, for March 20th. Best wishes from mother, father and brothers.

DUMMIGAN, Kevin. (H4-Block). Best wishes, Kevin, on your 23rd birthday. From Tony and Geraldine.

DUMMIGAN, Kevin. (H4-Block). All the best on your 23rd birthday, Kevin. UTP. From aunt Charlotte.

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Many happy returns on your birthday, 'Beaky'. Thinking of you always. Lots of love. From your ever-loving wife Patricia.

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Many happy returns on your birthday, daddy. Lots of love from Kevin, Karen and Patricia. xxx.

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday and best wishes, 'Beaky'. From mother-in-law Alice, and father-in-law Billy Macklin and family.

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Many happy returns on your 26th birthday. From your ever-loving wife Patricia.

NEARLY, Peadar. (Portlaoise). Birth-day greetings for March 20th, Peadar. We won't cut the cake until you arrive. Fondest wishes from your loving wife, Sinead; and children, Padraic, Cathal, Dathi, Sinead agus Ursula.

NEARLY, Peadar. (Portlaoise). Birth-day greetings for March 20th, Peadar. I'll have the soda cake ready. From your mother-in-law, Mrs. Maghann, and Sinead.

NEARLY, Peadar. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Peadar. We're looking forward to your homecoming. From your loving wife, Sinead, and children, Padraic, Cathal, Dathi, Sinead agus Ursula.

O'HAGAN, Paddy. (H5-Block). Greetings on your birthday, Paddy. We pray you will soon be able to celebrate future birthdays as a free man. God bless, Sinead, Seanad, and Raimund, Philadelphia, USA.

O'HAGAN, Paddy. (H5-Block). Happy birth-day to a true republican. God bless you always. From Gerri and Mike Chadrué, Philadelphia, USA.

O'HAGAN, Paddy. (H5-Block). Happy birthday, Paddy. We pray that next year you'll celebrate in freedom. God bless you and all the Provos. From Brian Guard, Philadelphia, USA.

O'HAGAN, Paddy. (H5-Block). Birth-day greetings, Paddy. We send a wish for freedom by your next birthday. UTP. From Margaryn and John Jude, Philadelphia, USA.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY GREETINGS to Eddie Byrne (Gartree), Martin Coughlan (Wormwood, Scrab), Raimund McLaughlin (Albany), and all POWs in English and Irish jails. Keep your spirit up on your day will come to you all! From Marie and Patrick; Pat and family; and Maire and the children.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY GREETINGS to Bernard McGinn and Patsy Moran (Portlaoise), and Brian Turley (Green Road). All the best, boys. From all your friends in the John Green Sinn Féin cumann, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

Thanks

THE TONY AHEARNE SINN FEIN CUMANN, MANCHESTER, would like to thank the Clydeside Troops Out Movement, Glasgow, for the hospitality shown to us during our recent visit to Coatbridge to commemorate the first anniversary of the hunger-strike. Their kindness was appreciated by all.

Draw notices

Bellshy POW Welfare Assoc., Co. Derry, will be drawing on 25th March 1982. Details will be available later.

An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin February results
 £100: No. 179; £50: 5; £25: 501; 143 and 340; and £5: 85, 265, 300, 315, 345 and 363.
 Co. Monaghan H-Block/Armagh draw Week 18
 £100: Peter McGrath, c/o Concession Road, Monaghan; £50: Peter Flynn, Roslea, Co. Fermanagh; and £50: James Murray, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan.

FOUND

TWO flags have been handed in to the Sinn Féin office at 5 Blessington Street, Dublin, which may have been mislaid by someone. Any claimants should call into the office or phone Dublin 308783.

Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta

Republican Commemoration Committee

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 BY CORMAC

DEVOLUTION? INTEGRATION? POLITICAL INITIATIVES?

NEW STRUCTURES COMMANDING WIDE ACCEPTANCE... PARSEING MEANINGFUL POLICIES...

JUST ANOTHER CLAPPED-OUT HACK OF A POLITICIAN ON HIS WAY TO YET ANOTHER TELEVISION PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF 'ULSTER'!

WHY DO THEY BOTHER?

IT'S LIKE DISCUSSING WHETHER THE ROTTEN WOOD IN A DECAYING BLUM SHOULD BE PAINTED BLUE OR PINK!



Paradoxical View

As I watch the endless procession of heroes' coffins
 Leaving Britain's infamous H-Blocks
 My soul is agitated to the very depths
 By the paradoxical view that confronts me.

One eye weeps the tears of countless sorrows
 That reflect the despairing anguish
 Of a people who have been historically trained
 To suffer and bear almost unendurable grief.

One eye sheds not a tear
 But shines forth a deep pride
 Born from the suffering of comrades
 Who would not submit.

One eye grows angry
 As I watch the obsequious Humes, FitzGerald's and Dalys
 Acting as apologists for the Medusa of Albion
 Who daily slays our heroic youth.

One eye fills with a fiery spirit
 As I watch armed guerrillas and militant youth resisting fascist tyranny
 With the determination and intrepidity
 Of an unconquerable people.

One eye fills with nausea and loathing
 As I watch and listen to the Medusa and her running dogs
 Propagating the Big Lie:
 'A Crime is a Crime is a Crime.'

The inanity, the infantilism and arrogance
 Of this utterance was decimated utterly
 By the Irish people's election of Bobby, Kieran, Paddy and Owen.

One eye fills with disbelief
 That quickly turns to contempt
 As I watch the pseudo-socialists slander and denigrate
 The best cadres of the Irish guerrilla ranks.

Let the pseudo-socialists reflect on this simple revolutionary statement:
 If the erasure of capitalism be your aim
 Then the struggle against all its manifestations must be your struggle.
 The pursuit of socialism in Ireland cannot be divorced
 from the anti-imperialist war.

Petty bourgeois, learn this!
 In revolutionary struggle
 You either stand with the oppressed or with the oppressor.

If to be a Dail filibuster,
 Combined with gas and water 'socialism' be your aim
 Do not sully the proud mantle of socialism
 With your Quisling's embrace.

Now, with both eyes crystal clear,
 Inspired by unparalleled sacrifices of our dead comrades,
 I behold the future of our country.

I see armed struggle, death, and yet more revolutionary sacrifice.
 But not in vain are these intense endeavours,
 For I see the coming to pass of Connolly and Pearse's
 Historical promise.

No Utopian fantasy this,
 But the objective reality
 Of a dedicated people
 Invigorated by revolutionary struggle.

I see the working people,
 No longer physically or mentally oppressed by imperialism,
 native capitalism or clerical mythology.

Take up the tools
 And reconstruct the Ireland of our revolutionary dreams.

Raymond McLaughlin,
 Albany prison,
 Isle of Wight.