

AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



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Shunned!

THE FALL of Charles Haughey from the leadership of Fianna Fail, which appears inevitable as we go to press on Wednesday night, is caused by one single factor — his own failure to deliver.

He did not deliver primarily on the national question, which was the basis of his grass-roots party support, and he did not deliver the economic miracle which, as the perceived super-capitalist, he projected as within his grasp.

Had he delivered, the combined might of media, opposition, party dissidents, bugs and taps could not shift him.

And whatever the leadership outcome of Fianna Fail in his wake, the reality is that the establishment professional politicians — and their powerful financial backers who have so dramatically found themselves in an unwanted spotlight this week — have regained control of the party.

INSTALLED

When the grass-roots of Fianna Fail overthrew Jack Lynch, bucked the combined might of the Free State cabinet and installed Haughey, three years ago, it was the most dramatic display of such rank-and-file power seen in a major Western European party in years.

The man they put into power was, because

of his arms trial background, seen by them as a hope for the real nationalist progress they genuinely desire, and, at the same time, his financial whizz-kid image was taken as a sign that capitalism could perhaps make everyone wealthy if the right man was in the job.

But whilst Haughey blew hot on verbal republicanism, he intensified collaboration with Britain and cravenly caved-in on the H-Block issue. And far from working miracles, it is not only the Free State's economic mess, but Haughey's own personal financial difficulties that dominate headlines three years later.

For one heady moment three years ago, ordinary Fianna Fail members had their hands on the party reins and got their way. But their hopes were all too quickly proven to be misplaced.

The struggle since then has been based on

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION

2.30pm Sunday 30th January
Creggan Shops, Derry

BELFAST BUS LEAVES DUNVILLE PARK 11am SUNDAY



THIS Sunday marks the eleventh anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Derry on January 30th 1972 when 14 unarmed people were murdered by British Paratroopers and a similar number seriously injured in a planned 'shoot-to-kill' operation aimed at smashing a risen militant people.

In the immediate aftermath, the British army claimed that over 200 rounds had been fired at its soldiers by 'seen gunmen' and that those killed were either in possession of nail-bombs or guns.

The British Ministry of Defence claimed that four of the dead were on the army's wanted list.

Much later, all of these claims were shown to be lies. Even the whitewashing Widgery report had to admit that "none of the deceased or wounded is proved to have been shot whilst handling a firearm or bomb," and that none of the names appeared on any 'wanted list'.

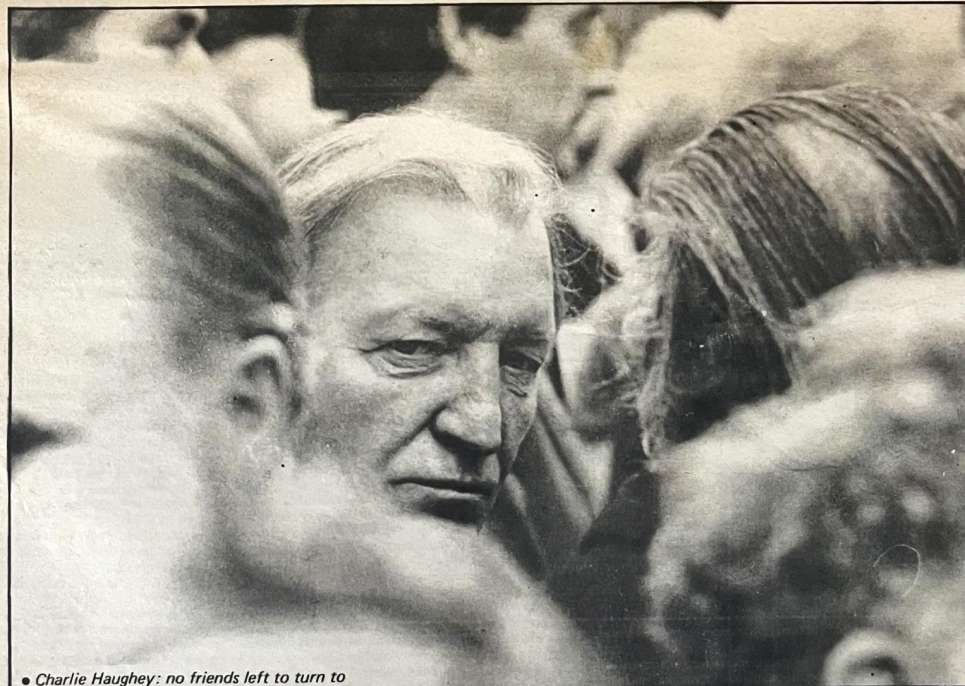
In August 1973, when the inquests were finally held, the Derry city coroner accused the British army of "sheer unadulterated murder."

POLICY CONTINUES

Eleven years later, the 'shoot-to-kill' policy is still in operation. Nationalists are still being shot down in cold blood by British army and RUC murderers. And the same immediate statements about coming under fire, weapons and wanted lists are still being issued by a cynical, sneering authority; and later revealed to be untrue.

And whilst the British remain in this country they are going to continue that same murderous policy against those who challenge their presence.

And those who challenge their presence are going to continue to resist them until they get out.



• Charlie Haughey: no friends left to turn to

Trying to attract attention

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

SINCE the Coalition government regained office in December it has been trying desperately to attract the attention of Margaret Thatcher: engineered visits, television interviews, nothing was spared.

After the two-day informal visit to the six counties last week by Free State Foreign Minister Peter Barry, he managed to be seen talking for all of half an hour this week with his British counterpart, Francis Pym, after an EEC meeting in Brussels.

It was announced that Barry would meet direct-ruler James Prior in London next week and that Thatcher and Garret FitzGerald would exchange a few words at another EEC summit meeting next March.

INTERVIEW

The Free State premier was interviewed on UTV's 'Counterpoint' programme on Thursday 20th January.

And, as the interview went on, from EEC issues to the Free State constitution (over which FitzGerald was very coy), from extradition to an all-Ireland police force, and from Prior's assembly to the SDLP, it became clear that FitzGerald was not only addressing himself to the Northern unionists but also, and mostly, to the British government, which for nearly one year has snubbed its Free State counterpart.

On extradition, FitzGerald reversed the usual accusation of the Free State being a 'safe haven for terrorists', claiming:

"The problem is that there are hundreds of known terrorists moving around Northern Ireland too, and some of them are turning up in delegations to Stormont."



● FitzGerald's latest pronouncements are aimed at gaining the attention of James Prior and the British government

FitzGerald advocated, once again, an all-Ireland police force, which, in response to fears expressed during the last Free State election campaign, he described as "not the

RUC crossing the border under their present guise and arresting people all round the place," but rather an "equivalent of the FBI."

Irish Times assistant editor Conor O'Clery, also interviewed by 'Counterpoint', pointed out that, anyway, it was all pie-in-the-sky as Dick Spring, Labour Party leader and deputy premier in the Coalition government, was opposed to such ideas and had obtained a right to veto any official Free State policy statement on the North.

The all-Ireland police is one of FitzGerald's hobby-horses, and typical of his warped pseudo-intellectual thinking, which goes like this: the way to the unionists' heart is through more repression of republicans, and the way to a united Ireland is through promoting all-Ireland institutions, hence if both are combined, the result should be 'Irish unity by consent'. Little wonder therefore that Clive Soley, British Labour Party spokesperson on Ireland, speaking in England the same day, was so taken by the whole idea. One of Soley's jobs is to find how to implement his party's inept policy of 'Irish unity by consent'.

Interestingly, the all-Ireland police was discussed in June of last year at a secret conference in England, attended by Soley, FitzGerald, as well as SDLP leader John Hume, Lord Gowrie, Terry Carlin of the Northern Committee of the ICTU, Housing Executive chairman Charles Brett, and many more British, Irish and American officials.

WORRY

But FitzGerald's main worry expressed was the Sinn Féin vote in the last elections in the North, and the simultaneous erosion of the SDLP's position. Justifying the SDLP's boycott, apparently accepting it as an unalterable reality, he explained that had the SDLP not engaged in a boycott "an even larger proportion of the very frustrated minority population would have gone over to Sinn Féin."

He concluded with a further warning to Thatcher about the need to give the SDLP some "role in the running of the affairs" in order to sustain "the centre ground in Northern Ireland politics" if "something like civil war" was to be avoided.

SDLP SCARED OF SHOWDOWN

THE SDLP, still looking for its lost credibility and still smarting over the way in which the British allowed Official Unionist Harold McCusker to unseat their deputy leader, Seamus Mallon, last December, are hoping to use the media coverage of their annual party conference this week to raise their profile in anticipation of this year's elections.

Not so much the Armagh by-election, which is to follow Mallon's unseating as the SDLP so far does not intend to run, but certainly the Westminster elections and, before that, a local council by-election next March, which is caused by the resignation of Brendan Martin, both from Omagh District Council and from the SDLP last December.

Brendan Martin, a founder member of the SDLP in the Carrickmore area, resigned in protest at the new Stormont assembly and at the SDLP's attitude to the elections.

The local councillors from the SDLP and IIP had agreed to co-opt SDLP member Peadar Montague in Martin's place, but at an IIP meeting on Monday 24th January, after IIP leader Pat Fahy had proposed to accept the SDLP co-option, an IIP councillor, Francis Anthony Conway, objected, arguing that the seat should be fought for. This objection was enough to put an end to the SDLP's hope of a quiet co-option, and at a subsequent council meeting a by-election had to be decided on and a date fixed for March 22nd.

The outcome of this electoral contest is dreaded by all the parties except Sinn Féin, which intends to fight for the seat. The IIP don't want to expose the weakness of their electoral machine deprived of Sinn Féin activists. The unionists are dreading to see a republican sit in the council chamber. And the SDLP are scared of a showdown which, as Sinn



● BRENDAN MARTIN

Fein Mid-Ulster elected representative Danny Morrison said, would be "a microcosm of the general slide away from the SDLP across the North."

He added: "It would have been a negation of Brendan Martin's protest had the SDLP not had to face the electorate with their disastrous divisions on the national question and which filter right through to a poor style of representation on the ground."

Clergy's concerted onslaught

IN THE month following the assembly elections, nationalists in the North have been exposed to a concerted onslaught from clergymen of all denominations, mostly members of the Catholic hierarchy, with Bishop Cathal Daly as their upfront political spokesman.

No less than 15 priests and ministers issued statements condemning the IRA in the past week, following the lead given by 'dear, brave Bishop Daly' — as an Anglican bishop described him at an ecumenical service in Belfast's Clonard Monastery on January 19th.

The weirdest attack came from Father Faul who, in the columns of the *Sunday World*, childishly made what he thought would be a calculated insult:

"The Provos are not red, they are just stupid."

Faul was denouncing falling attendances and staged walkouts at Mass by republican prisoners in Long Kesh. Faul obviously cannot face up to the fact that it is him the prisoners object to, for the way in which he undermined the hunger-strikers in 1981,



● Fr Faul has once more joined the clerical offensive against republicanism

and later called on nationalists to inform.

DIATRIBE

Yet another anti-IRA diatribe was delivered by Daly, this time on Radio Ulster on Sunday 23rd January. Daly, who sees himself as being on a crusade to save the souls of the thousands of sinners who voted for Sinn Féin at the last elections, was not afraid to resort to exhortations of another age when he said of republicans:

"They will never have peace of soul in this world or the next if they continue on their evil campaign."

Addressing himself to the IRA's question of whether British occupation was morally good he avoided it by arguing, in the face of hundreds of years of British occupation, that "the end does not justify the means." Such simplistic arguments proved embarrassing even to strong supporters of the

clergy, like the *Sunday Press* or the *Irish News*.

PIOUS

On Sunday 23rd January, under the pen of columnist Fergus Hall, the *Sunday Press* remarked: "One wonders if Bishop Daly... lived in Rhodesia would he say that Robert Mugabe or Joshua Nkomo were wrong..." and referred Daly back to 1916, asking had the violence then applied been injurious to the Catholic Church of today.

In Monday's *Irish News* leader there was more mild criticism of the militant bishop:

"Too often one hears... pious exhortations to isolate the men of violence when those at the highest level of government renege on their clear responsibility and almost directly promote the continuation of violence."

Daly, it seems, has overstepped his mark.

BIG NAMES ON TAP LIST

BY KEVIN BURKE

PERHAPS the most sensational name to arise as the subject of a phone-tap is Chief Superintendent Patrick Doocey, former head of the Special Branch, who, according to normally reliable sources, was tapped shortly after being transferred out of the most sensitive position in the garda to make way for Joe Ainsworth, the now-ousted security boss.

And the list of telephones tapped, at some time or all the time, during both Fianna Fail and Coalition periods of government, is an extensive one. How many are official — with 'correct authority' documented — or unofficial, is not immediately clear, as the technical staff operating them inside the Post Office are merely instructed to set them up.

In connection with the Fianna Fail battle, the taps extended beyond the two journalists Geraldine Kennedy and Bruce Arnold, to the logical taps placed unofficially on the five leading Fianna Fail deputies, Des O'Malley, George Colley, Martin O'Donoghue, Charles McCreavy and Seamus Brennan. Two other journalists, Olivia O'Leary and Dick Walsh, both of the *Irish Times*, were also bugged in this operation.

Last weekend, former Minister for Justice Sean Doherty, the man at the centre of the current tapping storm, was predicted to reveal that the British Embassy, the headquarters of the Workers' Party and journalist Vincent Browne were

tapped by the Coalition government. In the event the former two taps were merely leaked by Fianna Fail, whilst Doherty confirmed the Browne tap on RTE on Sunday.

ARMS TRIAL

Charles Haughey himself is known to have been tapped by the Lynch government, leading up to the arms trial in 1970, and again during the Cosgrave Coalition period. Other Leinster House politicians known to have been tapped include Neil Blaney, John O'Connell and Tomas MacGiolla.

The most senior judicial figure to have had his telephone tapped is Judge Donal Barrington, who

was tapped whilst a senior counsel, by the Coalition government. And, not surprisingly, Sean MacBride SC is another name to appear on the tapped telephone list.

As well as the British Embassy, it is understood that the Russian and American embassies have come in for similar attention.

Other journalists known to have been tapped extensively by both the Coalition and Fianna Fail include John Mulcahy, Tim Pat Coogan and Eamonn McCann.

Trade unionists on the list include the late ITGWU general secretary Michael Mullen, and Des Geraghty and Dalton O'Caalligh of the same union, Phil Flynn of the LGPSU and Matt Merrigan of the ATGWU.

NAMES

In the civil rights area, the names include Kadar Asmal, David Norris and Joe Costello.

As well as the Workers' Party headquarters, the phones at the

IRSP office and the Communist Party of Ireland office are known to be tapped.

The Fine Gael party headquarters was also tapped whilst Fianna Fail was in power in 1980, and the tap was accidentally discovered and publicised by the then party secretary Peter Prendergast in January 1981.

Least surprising of all is the final category of phones tapped, which is also by far the largest.

Phones in the Sinn Féin head office, Sinn Féin's Dublin area office, and the office of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* are the subject of constant taps, as are several public phones in several nearby

public houses. The private phones of leading republicans are also constantly covered.

It is also known that almost every known republican in the twenty-six counties who possesses a phone has had it tapped at some stage for some period in a profile-building operation by the Special Branch. This process is understood to be repeated from time to time.

And relatives, close friends, and even brief acquaintances of republicans are also known to be subject to the same telephone-tapping procedure.



● Former Justice Minister Sean Doherty

Media ignored the real issues

BY KEVIN BURKE

WITHOUT any doubt, the major reason for the hammering taken by Haugheyite Fianna Fail, has been its total loss of any voice in the media.

In corruption, low standards in high places, bugging and phone-tapping, political fixing and the rest — and in the real area of bashing the needy whilst pandering to the greedy — there is nothing to choose between them and the Coalition, however Garret FitzGerald might like to polish his shining armour and ride his white charger.

The basic difference is that Haughey's Fianna Fail has no propaganda arm to defend itself, whitewash its villains and smear its opponents. The *Irish Press*, the organ which de Valera created as the voice of Fianna Fail for that very purpose, was quickly in the ranks of the establishment Fianna Fail dissidents and the rest of the press and RTE was, as ever, on the Fine Gael side of the fence.

There will be many in Fianna Fail kicking themselves that they did not legalise commercial radio stations whilst in power, with the majority of them decidedly pro-Fianna Fail.

NO SYMPATHY

Republicans will be sparing no sympathy for the victims of this ironic situation, who have as determinedly banned and defamed republicanism in the media as any Coalition government.



● GERALDINE KENNEDY

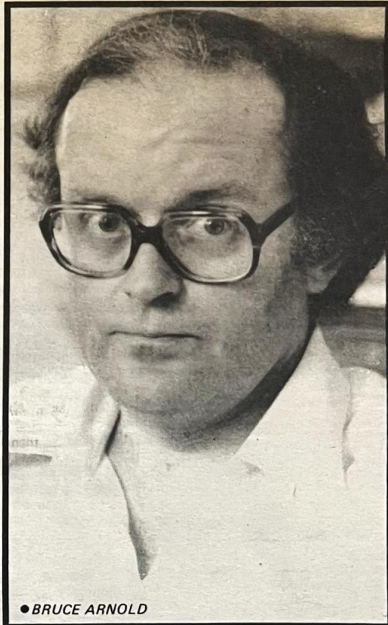
Yet no-one can deny the hysterical anti-Haughey campaign which has raged in the media right up to the totally blinkered attitude to the present contrived 'scandal' over telephone-tapping.

The Coalition's blunt declaration that it is not going to talk about any other incidents of telephone-tapping — a major invasion of

privacy and a major tool of repression — is accepted almost without a quiver by a media which knows the extent of this abuse of power yet could not give a damn about it.

PARTISAN

So blatant is this partisan approach, that the *Sunday Independent* blithely dis-



● BRUCE ARNOLD

missed the obviously correct story that the Coalition had tapped the phone of journalist Vincent Browne as 'bizarre' and 'incredible' — end of story.

So hopelessly biased and non-objective has the media become that normal journalistic 'sacred cows' — such as confidentiality — have been cast aside and 'off the

record' briefings by Fianna Fail personnel linked openly to named press officers in the newspapers, as a further method of causing dissension.

M16 CONTACTS

But perhaps the strangest aspect of the media's role still centres on the two journalists at the centre of the stage: Bruce Arnold and

Geraldine Kennedy. Both of whom throughout the last year have worked amazingly closely together for political correspondents supposed to be on rival newspapers and in competition for the same stories.

But not only have the regular meetings between the two been a feature of the whole history, but also needing some explanation are their close links with British Embassy personnel.

Both Arnold and Kennedy are said to have had regular briefings not only with the British press attaché but also with the shadowy figure of top M16 man at the embassy, David Tatham.

DISSIDENTS

Of course, the activities of the leaking dissidents, O'Donoghue and O'Malley in particular, the arrogance of Charles Haughey, and the stupidity of Sean Doherty, have given the media plenty of worthwhile ammunition. But the point which has to be made is that any concept of journalists, independently examining the real issues of the day is insupportable, even to the extent it existed previously.

The cancer of media control, political censorship and self-censorship — inflamed particularly by Section 31 — can be seen creeping across the board in a plethora of pretty spineless journalism.

And for once, republicans see it in action against those who have lent themselves to its anti-nationalist appetite. To that extent there is satisfaction to be gained — as long as its formidable power is recognised.

Cruel conditions for homeless families

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THERE are at present seven women and 19 children living in the Eastern Health Board's emergency hostel at Bru Chaoimhin in Dublin's Cork Street — the only shelter for homeless families run by the Health Board in the Dublin area. It consists of two huts in the grounds of a geriatric home.

The accommodation is for women and children only. Husbands, and boys over the age of 11, are excluded. In each 'unit', as the huts are called, there is one room, a kitchen and a toilet. In the biggest unit are ten single beds, three children's beds, two standard cots and a cot for a tiny baby.

DIRTY

Women and their children often sleep three to a bed. There have often been 30 women and children in one undivided unit. Bed linen is not changed regularly, and no towels are provided.

As there is only one toilet to cater for all these people, it inevitably is dirty and frequently gets blocked.



● Both the facilities and attitude at the Cork Street hostel are sadly lacking

The kitchen facilities consist of a cooker and a sink. The utensils are also communal. There are no facilities for washing and drying clothes. This situation obviously

constitutes a health hazard, and there are frequent outbreaks of gastroenteritis which, of course, quickly spreads to all the residents.

There are no lockers, no wardrobes, nowhere to keep clothes or possessions. There are no toys for the children or arrangements with local schools to cater for them on a temporary basis, and no play-group for the younger ones.

CRUEL

Particularly cruel is the Eastern Health Board's attitude to families with boys over 11 years old. They make no provision for them in the Cork Street hostel and tell the distraught mother that she can send her son to HOPE, the voluntary organisation which runs a night shelter for homeless boys between the ages of 12 and 18 but which as a rule cannot provide day facilities for such children.

So a child as young as 12, made homeless by eviction, a fire or other ordeals, has to cope with the added trauma of being separated from the rest of the family. He cannot stay with his mother, and if the father also has to get accommodation in a hostel, he will be refused there as well, as the lower age limit for men's hostels is 18.

DUBLIN AND LIMERICK MILL WORKERS RESIST BLACKMAIL

RANKS DISGRACE

BY JACK MADDEN

A CAMPAIGN of 'psychological warfare' is being waged by the management of Ranks Ireland Ltd against striking workers in Dublin and Limerick, according to trade unionists picketing the Phibsboro plant.

These workers totally reject management claims that their strike is largely responsible for last week's decision to close down the milling plants at Phibsboro and in Limerick city. This announcement was, they say, an attempt by the company to blackmail workers into submitting.

The problem at Ranks dates back to 1978/79 when the company introduced a rationalisation scheme which encouraged voluntary redundancies. The terms were seen as generous and so many volunteered that the company ended up actively discouraging men from leaving by offering them job security. They agreed that the same terms would be available in any future redundancy.

In September last the chief executive of Ranks, Gordon Bull, announced to Brian Lenihan, then Fianna Fail Minister for Agriculture, in a letter dated September 2nd, that the company would be introducing a rationalisation scheme.

This decision was not passed on to the unions until October 13th. Despite this delay the company insisted that the scheme be accepted and introduced by December 1st.

REDUNDANCY

It emerged at talks that 112 redundancies were being sought in the short-term and that the company was going to renege on its commitment to pay the same redundancy terms it had paid in 1978/79.

The proposal to pay the statutory entitlement plus 60% was rejected by the unions and by the Labour Court as being totally unrealistic. Management ignored both and refused to move on the issue.

"We made ourselves available for talks at all times," said Denny Gelsman, who has been involved in all negotiations to date. "When management would not move we began a series of work-stoppages. We were prepared to discuss work-



● Ranks workers' victims of 'dumping' sharing and the spread of the Labour Court recommendation over a number of years. But because of the company's reaction we were forced to call a strike."

One area in which both company and workers would appear, on the

face of it, to be united is in the area of flour imports. These have increased dramatically over the past year and are a threat to the future of milling in Ireland, according to both sides in the dispute. In a petition produced by the workers, they say:

"A major factor creating this predicament is that English flour is being sold on the Irish market at less than its price on the English market because British exporters have not passed on a £12 per tonne UK price increase to the Irish market. We feel that this is, in effect, a secret subsidy and is tantamount to dumping."

SURVIVAL

Ranks trade unionists doubt the sincerity of management, however, in opposing these imports and point to the letter sent by management to workers on October 13th which announced that 'the replacement of some flour now being milled by Ranks with, if possible, flour milled in this country... supplemented by imports where necessary to maintain our share of the market (a third)."

With obvious foresight that

government would do nothing to stop imports, a number of top executives in Ranks were already making preparations as early as September last when Irish Bakeries Ltd, an associated company of Ranks, established Mr Kipling Cakes in Doldalcan as an import company.

"The rapid growth of this operation with new vans and premises suggests that Bull and a number of his colleagues intended for some months past to expand their share of the import market," says Harry Fleming, another shop-steward at Ranks in Dublin.

"The hypocrisy of the company is equalled only by the incompetence of a government which stands by and allows a vital Irish industry to fall, making us dependent on John Bull!"

The union points out that the supplier of bread to the Curragh military camp and to a number of Health Boards is 'Pat the Baker', a non-union bakery which uses only imported flour.

SECONDARY

Despite intense pressure, the strike continues and workers are preparing to begin secondary picketing at all subsidiary companies of Ranks. To give in now would leave the workers worse off than before the strike and few doubt that the mills would eventually close anyway.

An intensive and militant strike will, they believe, force both government and Ranks to rethink their present attitude, and save the Irish milling industry from destruction.



● ITGWU pickets at Brooks Thomas: "Job retention is the issue, not redundancy."

Little Island strike

BY JACK MADDEN

AN ATTEMPT by Brooks Thomas to lay-off five workers in its plant at Little Island in Cork, is being met with stiff resistance by the local union. The workers, all members of the ITGWU, are determined to resist what they see as the unnecessary closure of their workplace.

Brooks Building Services Ltd supplies scaffolding to the building industry and the Cork branch of the firm has, according to shop-steward Sean Boland, "been making money since 1976. Indeed, last year was our busiest ever." Union attempts to force the company to open its books to examination have failed and workers feel that the truth is being hidden from them.

Just over one year ago, in December 1981, Brooks Thomas in Dublin and Cork, and Brooks Hanly in Sligo, were sold to a Finnish multinational, Ruoma Ratola. A condition of sale was that there would have to be 100 redundancies

in the Dublin branch. This was accepted.

REDUNDANCY

In 1982, however, the company decided to sell off its scaffolding and other operations to concentrate on timber and hardware and in September last the company announced that there would be 128 redundancies; 121 in Dublin and 7 in Cork. A number of meetings followed which the union official representing the Cork workers was not allowed to attend.

"They were making decisions about our future and we weren't even allowed to present our case," says Sean Boland. In any event, the Dublin workers

accepted redundancy. The Cork workers were promised that their plant would be sold as a going concern but on January 4th the company announced that it would be closed on January 28th, regardless of sale.

The ITGWU began frantic efforts to stop the closure but when talks failed on January 14th they called a strike. Now it appears that management have found an interested party, believed to be a Belgian firm. The union is to meet with representatives of this firm and with Brooks Thomas management to discuss takeover proposals.

Sean Boland is sceptical about this move and argues that "this new buyer wants to remove all the scaffolding from Little Island to Dublin. We will listen to their proposals but we are saying that job retention is the issue, not redundancy."

'SHOOT-TO-KILL' POLICY CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM

Another RUC murder

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE RUC policy of shooting dead any nationalist they choose was in tragic evidence last Wednesday week, January 19th, in Belfast, with the killing of 31-year-old Francis Joseph McColgan.

McColgan, who had a long history of criminal activity and who on the night of his death had been yet again engaged in robbery, this time of a filling station on the Lisburn Road, had been (according to his brother-in-law, Jimmy Whelan) lined up for a bullet by the RUC since last year.

In June, Whelan was told in Castlereagh by a detective, referring to Francis McColgan, that:

"If we as much as see him coming out or going into a bank we'll shoot him dead."

Whelan, who said that it came as no surprise when he heard Francis had been shot, said:

"They had no right to kill him. The family all know what he was but he didn't deserve what he got. We only hope that by getting some publicity it will save some young

lad from Francis's fate."

'SHOOT FIRST'

The Republican Movement, whilst not condoning any aspect of McColgan's criminal activities, nevertheless pointed to the fact that in one month, two people (the other being 19-year-old Patrick Elliot, who was engaged in similar activities and shot dead on December 19th) have been gunned down without the option of surrender by both Brits and RUC.

The same attitude of 'shoot first' has been adopted by the RUC against joy-riders, several of whom have been shot dead for what in any normal society would be regarded as a petty juvenile offence.

DRAMATIC

The RUC story of a dramatic



● The funeral of Martin McColgan (inset) who was shot dead by the RUC on January 19th

car chase before Francis McColgan was killed was challenged by one of the two men apprehended at the time who told relatives that the first they were aware of the RUC was when a car pulled out in

front of them and an RUC man jumped out and fired into the passenger's side where Francis McColgan was sitting.

He was killed instantly; ironically the 'haul' at the filling station

amounted to the pathetic sum of £130 - a dear price to pay with one's life - but apparently not to the RUC who used it as an adequate excuse to take another nationalist life.

yards of a British army observation post in Northumberland Street.

CARTRIDGES

The second man had just left the Pound Loney Social Club in Cullinstree Road and was walking up Albert Street towards his home when a man, dressed in a brown coat and wearing a cap, stepped out of the shadows at the junction of the Falls Road and Albert Street.

He pulled a gun from inside his coat and fired a single round at the man who was a matter of yards from him and, after a short pause, fired another two shots.

Terrified, the young man ran for his life, not stopping until he reached the safety of his own home.

Meanwhile, his assailant ran up the nearby Northumberland Street which runs directly through the 'peace line' and into the loyalist Shankill Road.

Three empty cartridge shells, ejected from the fleeing gunman's revolver, were found by the RUC on the loyalist side of the 'peace line'. But, in what has become the normal statement issued by the RUC on such occasions, they said:

"We have not yet established a motive for the shooting."



● The view from the Falls Road of Northumberland Street leading to the 'peace line' and the loyalist Shankill Road

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

LATE on Sunday night, January 23rd, at around 12.45pm, 18-year-old Thomas Hughes was walking up the Falls Road past the Albert Street/Northumberland Street crossroads. He had just left his sister's flat in the Divis complex and was going to Springfield Road to get a Twinbrook taxi. Behind him he noticed two men coming out of an alleyway who began to draw close to him.

As they came alongside him, Hughes turned to look at them and saw that one of the men was wearing a scarf wrapped half-

way around his face and a hat pulled down over his forehead. The man pulled out a gun and with both hands aimed it at Hughes' head, firing one shot.

Thomas Hughes was momentarily fixed to the spot but began shouting

in panic and fear. The second assailant shouted: "Right, leave the bastard alone. No more shooting, that's enough!"

Hughes ran a short distance but fell. The gunman approached again and fired another shot as he stood over him, the bullet this time entering his coat under his armpit. Both men ran

off up Northumberland Street.

It is highly possible that the gunman who attempted to assassinate Thomas Hughes was also responsible for the attempted murder later that night of another man from the Lower Falls.

Both attacks took place within

Black evidence prompts sectarian attack

BY SEAN DELANEY

NATIONALISTS leaving a North Belfast pub on Thursday night, January 20th, found themselves facing an orchestrated attack by a large gang of bottle-wielding loyalists - resulting in one young man being hospitalised - as a direct consequence of the evidence which paid informer Christopher Black continues to give in the trial of 38 people from the north of the city, currently underway at Belfast Crown Court.

Loyalists, who had by all accounts been ferried into the area by minibus, ambushed local people leaving 'The Hole in the Wall' pub in Baltic Avenue, on the perimeter of the isolated Newington ghetto.

Earlier in the day, newspaper accounts of the trial reported Black's claim that (among other clubs he named) one of the pubs directly controlled by the IRA was called 'The Hole in the Wall'.

Local nationalists are convinced that this statement by Black provided the excuse for a large-scale sectarian attack. (In actual fact, what the newspapers failed to report, un-



● CHRISTOPHER BLACK

fortunately for the people of Newington, was that Black was referring to a different pub, of the same name, in another area of the city.)

Not surprisingly, the RUC - who were on the scene - failed to intervene in the loyalist attack, or make any arrests among the attackers, even when the same gang moved into the nearby Catholic Molyneux Street, breaking windows and terrorising residents.

ERRORS

Meanwhile, Black has been under defence cross-examination since Wednesday, January 19th, and has admitted to a number of significant 'errors' between his original statements in Castlereagh and his evidence in court, leading one defence counsel to accuse him of showing "considerable adroitness and speed in covering up when you are caught in a lie."

Black has persisted in claiming that his original statements were made voluntarily before he was offered immunity from prosecution by the RUC, and that he has not been offered financial inducements for his testimony. (This claim has comprehensively been shown to be a lie by the revelations of other would-be informers - such as Jackie Goodman and UVF man Clifford McKeown - who later retracted evidence they had

promised to give after having been bribed with money and with immunity.)

Under cross-examination, however, Black has admitted that part of his earlier evidence - that as part of an IRA active service unit he refused to fire on a bus-load of soldiers leaving Girdwood Barracks, in September 1981, because there were also women on board - was completely wrong. Black now claims that his orders to fire were changed, and that - not his pangs of 'conscience' - was why the attack was called off.

He has also been forced to acknowledge that in an earlier statement he incorrectly identified one of the present defendants, 27-year-old Gerald Oliver Loughlin from the New Lodge area, as 'Loughran' and gave the wrong address for him.

Defence counsels have suggested that in some cases Black is fabricating evidence, on RUC instructions, against people he does not know personally.

UNTRUE

Most revealing of all about the calibre of Black's 'voluntary' and 'unbribed' evidence is his claim, under cross-examination, that part of his original statements made in Castlereagh in November 1981, after he broke under interrogation, were untrue, and were an 'insurance policy' against the RUC reneging on their immunity promise.

Trial judge, Justice Kelly will also have to reconcile Black's versions of events with his admission that he deliberately perjured himself while giving evidence at an earlier trial during 1981. The judge on that occasion, coincidentally, was none other than Judge Kelly himself.

ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY



● British Paratroopers round-up civil rights protestors following the Bloo

THIS WEEKEND, the murder of 14 people in Derry, on Sunday January 30th 1972 is commemorated as usual by a march which retraces the route of the civil rights march of that day 11 years ago.

As well as the 14 murdered by British Paratroopers, another 12 people received serious gunshot wounds and survived. An Phoblacht/Republican News reporter Pat Deeney has been talking to one of those survivors, Peggy Deery, who recalls her experience of Bloody Sunday.

BY PAT DEENEY

"I'LL NEVER forget his face. I can't forget his face." Eleven years on, Peggy Deery, one of the survivors of Derry's Bloody Sunday, still remembers the Paratrooper who deliberately shot her from a range of less than ten feet.

After the initial outburst of firing, Peggy and her friends had run in panic through the Rossville Flats carpark and into Chamberlain Street. There she had seen a soldier lift his rifle and point it at her. She threw herself against a man named Leo Deehan shouting, "Get down, he's trying to kill us!" when she felt a terrific blow on her leg.

As she lay on the ground, unaware that she had been shot, she was trampled on by the panic-stricken crowd. "I could hear someone calling, 'That woman's been shot,' and I remember Michael Kelly and another man crawling towards me and dragging me into a house in Chamberlain Street." Michael Kelly was himself to be murdered less than ten minutes later.

She recalls lying on a sofa, blood pouring from her wound when the Paras burst into the house, abused the people there, and roughly checked that it was indeed a woman they had shot, before leaving.

A local chemist applied a tourniquet to the wound and after half an hour an ambulance came. Peggy and another wounded marcher, Micky Bridge, were rushed to Altnagelvin Hospital where both were annointed by Fr Carolyn, a Creggan priest. Peggy was to be again annointed later that Sunday night.

STREAMS OF BLOOD

"From when I was in casualty, I still remember vividly the streams of blood and can still see the nurses and matrons wiping it away with mops." Peggy's left thigh had been pierced by the bullet and whole thigh muscle was destroyed, severing the



● PEGGY DEERY

sciatic nerve which means that to this day Peggy has no feeling in her leg from the knee down. She received over 100 stitches in a skin-graft operation to repair her shattered leg.

Peggy was given an immediate blood transfusion. Unfortunately, she was given

the wrong blood type which resulted in kidney failure and jaundice. She was taken to Belfast City Hospital the next day and placed in the Renal Unit and put on a kidney machine for five weeks.

The British army had offered to rush Peggy to Belfast in a helicopter but she refused, believing that they planned to throw her out because she could point out the soldier who had shot her.

Peggy Deery spent her next seven months in hospital and the next two years in a wheelchair. During this whole period she had to attend Altnagelvin Hospital daily for bandage changes.

NIGHTMARES

The wounds inflicted on Peggy by a British Para totally changed her life. A widowed mother of a large family she was forced to depend on her children to run the house.

She has a metal caliper fitted to her damaged leg as a support but even with that support she can stand for less than five minutes before the pain sets in.

"I now exist on a daily diet of valium, blood pressure tablets and sleeping tablets but I still have nightmares of that day and still see the Brits 'closing in' on me."

Since Bloody Sunday, Peggy Deery's home in Creggan Heights has been raided by the British army on 128 occasions.

Six months after Bloody Sunday her young son, Patrick aged 14, lost an eye after being struck by a rubber bullet.

Like the other survivors of Bloody Sunday, Peggy Deery has become just another half-forgotten statistic in the long list of atrocities committed by the crown forces in Ireland. But Peggy does not forget nor does her family who have been harassed and intimidated by the British army for the past 11 years.

"I hate the bastards," she says, referring to the Brits, "not for what they have done to me but for what they done to the people down the years."



● The family of Michael McDaid, a victim of Bloody Sunday, plant a c

Bloody Sunday

LAST Saturday afternoon, January 22nd, the relatives and friends of the men murdered by the British army on Bloody Sunday assembled for a short and dignified tree-planting ceremony organised by Derry Sinn Fein at Free Derry Corner.

Sinn Fein has long believed that an appropriate memorial to the dead of Bloody Sunday should be established and it was decided that 14 oak trees, symbols of Derry and symbols of strength and endurance, should be planted, one for each of those murdered 11 years ago.

ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOOD

DY SUNDAY



the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry, January 30th 1972

his face"



commemorative oak tree at Free Derry corner

y Memorial

In a short oration, Martin McGuinness, local Sinn Féin elected representative, thanked all the relatives for their support and participation in the ceremony. He spoke of the Republican Movement's commitment to the upkeep and preservation of this small grove and Free Derry Corner which for republicans would always represent the spirit of freedom in Derry.

"As permanent reminders of all that has happened in the streets of Derry they will be both a shrine and an embodiment of the unconquerable resistance of the Irish people to British oppression," he said.

DY SUNDAY



STRIP-SEARCHING DESCRIBED BY WOMAN PRISONER

ANGER IN ARMAGH

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE barbaric and systematic strip-searching of women remand prisoners in Armagh Jail has been going on for almost two months during which time prisoners have been subjected to this most degrading and humiliating treatment each time they go to and from court.

Three women alone — Pauline McKinney, Margaret Rooney and Elizabeth Ann McWilliams, all presently on remand charges in the Christopher Black informer case — are strip-searched twice each day before they are taken to Belfast Court and again on their return to Armagh.

One ex-remand prisoner who related her personal experience regarding strip-searching describes the way it has been used by Armagh governor Thomas Murtagh to inflict the maximum humiliation and victimisation of republican prisoners:

"When I was brought from Townhall Street RUC Barracks to Armagh, I was taken into the reception area where a Screw directed me to a cubicle.

"It was about three feet wide and five feet long. There is only a half-partitioned door and there's a small bench at the back. She told me to strip and put a sheet around me, when I did this she squeezed in and told me to open

the front of the sheet, then the back. She was apologetic, excusing my treatment as being 'part of everyday routine'."

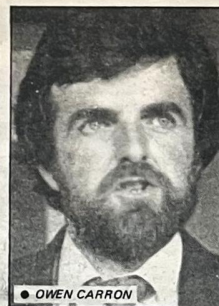
NO NEED

"There is no need for this inspection because as soon as you go to the hospital wing you are given the same inspection so really the first strip-search in reception is just a form of humiliating you from the beginning and letting you know where you — and they — stand.

"In the time I was there I was strip-searched about nine times going to court.

"After the first search when I went into Armagh, I still wasn't fully aware of what was happening. The first time I went down before going to court though there were around nine Screws hanging about and I was left with no illusions.

"They told me to strip and hand out my clothes for inspection. When they got them they made snide remarks about their shape or the style, just to get you



OWEN CARRON

to react. The door was left open and I was left naked in full view of all nine of them.

"Personally, I was really embarrassed, even from my childhood in school, with friends or even teachers, I was modest. Going to the doctor, you still try and hide yourself but here I was standing in front of complete strangers, naked."

HUMILIATED

"First of all, I felt humiliated by it, then she told me to turn round and I was aware I was being stared at. My embarrassment turned to real anger at the way I was being treated.

"It's the same for the other women but we came to realise

that it isn't us who are being humiliated, it's the Screws."

ASSAULT

Owen Carron MP, elected representative for Fermanagh/South Tyrone, visited Armagh Jail on Tuesday, January 25th, and spoke to both Mairead Farrell, from Belfast, and Philomena Lyttle, from Derry, who is on remand and who was one of three women subjected to a brutal physical assault during a forcible strip-search on January 4th.

Carron said that there were still several black marks and scratches around Philomena's throat and she appeared tense when detailing the strip-searching, urging the importance of highlighting the situation by whatever means possible.

RESPONSIBILITY

In a statement issued after his visit, Carron placed full responsibility for strip-searching squarely on the shoulders of the new governor adding:

"The sheer amount of repressive measures being taken against the women in Armagh Jail is nothing short of torture."

He also accused the Northern Ireland Office of covering up its "hiding conditions in their prisons, especially Armagh, from people who they know will give a factual account of British treatment of republican prisoners of war."

Burke's at the back

BY KEVIN BURKE

SIX days before the Coalition Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Jim Mitchell, renewed the Section 31 ban which debars Sinn Féin members from RTE, he wrote to Sinn Féin councillor Fra Browne, who sits on Louth County Council, as follows:

"I am writing to ask a personal favour. A very good friend of mine is running for election to the senate on the agricultural panel. His name is Frank Barrett and I strongly recommend him.

"I wonder if it would be possible for you to give him your No.1 vote. He is really worth it.

"If ever I can do you a personal favour you will always be welcome to contact me."

☆☆☆

The Irish Sea is more heavily contaminated by radiation than any other sea anywhere in the world, according to a study about to be published by UCD's physics department.

And like many of our other troubles, the source is Britain which insists on dumping its radioactive nuclear waste on our doorstep.

☆☆☆

Garrett Fitzgerald travelled to Britain last week on what was described as a 'private' visit. Accompanying him on the ferry was a senior member of the British Embassy in Dublin.

Rumour-mongers suggest that he crossed in order to brief the Duke of Norfolk on the major scandal which broke on his return.

Well, he couldn't have used the phone, now could he?

☆☆☆

Bruce Arnold should talk about people eavesdropping on his conversations.

In his semi-autobiographical novel 'The Song of the Nightingale', Arnold recalls how as a boy at boarding school he crept under the floor of the chapel and listened in to an indiscreet romantic conversation between a teacher and another teacher's wife.

Cheeky little bugger.

☆☆☆

RUC men run the highest risk in the world of being killed, according to statistics published by the *International Criminal Police Review* and quoted in the current issue of the RUC's magazine, *Police Beat*.

Even in El Salvador, such personnel are less than 50% likely to be killed than members of the RUC, the magazine bewails.

☆☆☆

The British psychological propaganda operation, or 'psy-ops' as it is known, continues unabated.

Last weekend, the Northern papers carried a story that Judge William Doyle, shot dead by the IRA the previous Sunday, had been warned of the possibility of an attack.

PERSONAL POLITICAL FAVOURS



● Jim Mitchell: looking for a favour

The Irish News on Saturday stated: "It is understood that intelligence officers heard in the middle of last week of an IRA

plan to kill a leading member of the judiciary and of when the attack would take place.

"Possible targets in the Belfast area were contacted and told to be especially careful over the weekend."

Exactly the same silly line was trotted out in March of last year when an RUC man was shot as he left Queen's University. But apparently after ten months it is due for a rerun.

☆☆☆

The Free State gardai have had a few names attached to them derived from various top cops of previous days.

There have been 'Peelers' and 'Broy Harriers' and so on. But with the appointment this week of the new garda commissioner, Laurence Wren, comes an inevitable addition to the list - the 'Wren Boys'.

You know, they're the guys who dress up in strange clothes and go around annoying people.



COOLOCK CLOSURE FOUGHT

BY JACK MADDEN

COOLOCK Community Law Centre in Dublin, for years a pioneer in the area of community legal aid schemes, will be forced to close down shortly if badly-needed funds from the Free State government are not granted, and soon!

This centre is the last of its kind to operate independently of government control and it is this independence which is the real reason for the withholding of funds, in the opinion of its PRO, Dave Ellis.

Since 1975, when the CCLC was established as a pilot scheme, it has provided a valued and growing service to a community of more than 46,000 people. Its work in providing legal aid is only part of the picture because this service is supplemented by education courses in civil rights, consumer legislation, and a host of other areas, given to schools and associations within the area.

FUNDING

All this work demands regular funding but every year the CCLC finds itself fighting for survival because no government, to date, has given a long-term commitment to funding.

In its latest newsletter the CCLC complains of "a complete inability by successive governments to make the decisions necessary. What we have got is a whole series of temporary solutions which have just postponed the crisis for a couple of months."

Dave Ellis comments: "What we want is a guarantee of funding for the next three years. Valuable time which could be spent in providing educational classes is being lost every year as we look for funds."

Meanwhile, the government-controlled Legal Aid Boards get adequate funding without question.

"The reason," says Ellis, "is that both politicians and civil servants like things to be neatly packaged. It is a question of control."

MEANS TEST

He argues that the Legal Aid Boards



● Coolock Community Law Centre's PRO, Dave Ellis: successive Free State governments have withheld funds because of CCLC's independence

are far from satisfactory in that they require a means test which can often discriminate against the unemployed.

"Furthermore," says Ellis, "they can often work out more expensive than a private solicitor." Indeed, Coolock can provide a full legal service up to the High Court for only £67: the same service provided by the Legal Aid Boards will cost about £340.

"The answer," says Dave Ellis, "lies not in penalising one system or the other but in recognising that both can exist side by side."

WHAT'S ON

WELCOME HOME DINNER
(for recently-released POWs)
Jimmy Kavanagh & Sean Finn
9pm Friday 28th January
The Tailor Hotel

WEXFORD
Tickets £9
Bar extension
Details: phone Phil Kelly 053-23706

IRISH NIGHT
Featuring The Irish Brigade
Friday 28th January
The Oak Grill
CASTLEWELLAN
County Down
Admission £1.50
Organised by Sinn Féin

NO MORE CHAINS!
SEMINAR ON WOMEN IN IRELAND
10am to 5pm Saturday 29th January
The North Star Hotel
Amiens Street
DUBLIN
Admission £1 (unwaged 50p)

PRICES/CUTS
PROTEST MEETING
3pm Saturday 29th January
Thomas Street
The Liberties
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Féin

BLOODY SUNDAY
COMMEMORATION
1.30pm Sunday 30th January
Savile Park
Chapelstown Road
LEEDS
Yorkshire

PERCY HANNAFIN
COMMEMORATION
3pm Sunday 30th January
Denny Street
TRALEE
County Kerry

IRISH NIGHT
Language-learning, ceilí & 'crack'
8pm every Tuesday night
Sodality Room
Presentation Convent
WEXFORD
Organised by Conradh na Gaeilge

FOLK NIGHT
Featuring The Irish Brigade
Thursday 3rd February
Thornlea Hotel
CUSHENDALL
County Antrim
Admission £1

CHARLES MCCANN/PHILIM GRANT
COMMEMORATION MARCH
2.30pm Sunday 6th February
Ballyduggan Villas
Parade to Cargin Graveyard
CARGIN
County Antrim

COMHAIRLE CUIGE
MUMHAN MEETING
2.30pm Sunday 6th February
LIMERICK
Two delegates from each comhairle
centair to attend

FRANK STAGG
COMMEMORATION
(7th anniversary)
1pm Sunday 13th February
Wakefield Prison
Love Lane
WAKEFIELD
Yorkshire
Organised by Sinn Féin

BENEFIT NIGHT
(in aid of the Jeff McKenna Fund)
Featuring Brimmer
8.30 to 11pm Friday 25th February
Dowling's Lounge
PROSPEROUS
County Kildare

ULSTER SINN FEIN
EDUCATION OFFICERS MEETING
11am Saturday 26th February
Sinn Féin Centre
DUNGANNON
County Tyrone
All comhairle centair
education officers to attend

SINN FEIN NEW MEMBERS
EDUCATION SEMINAR
11am Sunday 27th February
St Patrick's Hall
DUNGANNON
County Tyrone

Protestors jailed

TWO members of Monaghan Sinn Féin are presently serving 14-day sentences in Mountjoy Jail having refused to pay fines and sign bonds to keep the peace, imposed on them by a Monaghan court for blocking the Aughnacloy border-crossing during the H-Block hunger-strike in 1981.

Patsy McCourt and Caoimhin O'Colain, who is also general manager of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* were arrested on Saturday 22nd January.

Death of Mary Collins

THE death took place on Sunday 2nd January of Mary Collins, aged 80, a veteran Dublin republican. Born Mary Byrne in Haddington Road, she was descended on her father's side from the founder of the Irish National Foresters, Sam Hayes.

She was active in Clann na nGael and then Cumann na mBan in the Tan War, being involved in intelligence work and in fact obtaining a job inside Dublin Castle, a hazardous duty. In one daring incident she managed, single-handedly, to rescue a Volunteer by the name of Flood from the Black and Tans in Mount Street.

In 1923 she married an IRA comrade, Joseph Collins, who survives her, and she remained an active republican until her health finally prevented her from continuing her activities about a year ago.

At the Dublin hospital where she died, after a ten-week illness, she was noted for her gentleness.

About three days before her death, while a tape of republican songs was playing by her bedside and as she lay semi-conscious she surprised nurses by saying clearly, "I'm a nation once again." They were to be her last words.



Kevin Coen remembered

THE annual Kevin Coen commemoration took place in Sligo on Thursday evening of last week, January 20th, marking, to the day, the death of the IRA Volunteer eight years ago in South Fermanagh.

After 8pm Mass in Soave Chapel, on torchlight procession led by piper Philip Conlon took place to the memorial in his honour, and wreaths were laid by John Coen, Kevin's uncle; the Republican Movement; the local Coen/Savage Sinn Féin cumann; and Sligo National Graves Association.

The proceedings were chaired by Sean MacMathuna. Sean McGoldrick recited a decade of the rosary in Irish, and Michael Colreavy, chairman of Leitrín Sinn Féin, gave the oration.

Thanks

AN CUMANN CABRACHRACH would like to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of donations of £100 from Mick Hanley and friends, Limerick, and £170 from the Michael O'Hanrahan Sinn Féin cumann, New Ross, County Wexford.

Draw results

Dundalk Sinn Féin
15-Week Draw
Week 1:- £50: Ann Smith, c/o Clark's;
£25: Bernadette O'Hanlon, c/o Clark's.
Week 2:- £50: Ogie, c/o Higgins' Bar;
£25: Ann Cosgrove, Bridge Street, Dundalk.
Week 3:- £50: Browne family, c/o Fra Browne;
£25: David & Sharon Dunne, Slieve Foy Park, Dundalk.
Week 4:- £50: Owen Hanratty, Mountain View, Dundalk; £25: Willie Martin, c/o Clark's.
Week 5:- Mary Dullaghan, c/o J. Browne;
£25: Catherine Casey, O'Hanlon Park, Dundalk.
Week 6:- Bernadette O'Hanlon, c/o Clark's; £25: Rene Nordone, Marian Park, Dundalk.
Week 7:- £50: Gino, c/o P. McGaughy;
£25: Sarah McGuinness, c/o Clark's.
Week 8:- £50: Gerard Gray, c/o UDC;
£25: Pat Bennett, c/o Gussie Hearty.

TU & RADIO

Prisons and prisoners

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

MR McEVoy is a member of the Prison Officers' Association in Dublin and he was on RTE's 'Day by Day' on Radio 1 last Monday. Now, Mr McEvoy is not your run-of-the-mill warder, just in it for the easy money, the free uniform and the chance to push people around.

Oh no, Mr McEvoy is a man with a mission (although not a first name, apparently) — he wants to lock up as many people as possible.

He was complaining to the programme presenter, John Bowman, about the terrible state of affairs in Mountjoy where, because of overcrowding, men sentenced to prison are being released early. Early can mean within two hours of coming from the court, if you are lucky.

And the distressed Mr McEvoy takes this very personally. Talking about Loughan House, the kids' prison in Cavan, he deplored the fact that it was now to be an open prison for adult men.

"You can only get about 30 in there with the open prison system," he complained. "Under the ordinary regime you'd get in 60."

MOUNTJOY

Later on Monday, RTE Radio 1's documentary was 'Mountjoy — a day in the life of a prison'. The main focus of the programme was a 28-year-old former prisoner from Dublin. First sent to St Patrick's Institution at the age of 16 he has been in and out of Mount-

joy regularly ever since. Any claim that prison is meant to 'rehabilitate' and not merely 'punish' was well and truly destroyed by this programme.

Mountjoy, built in 1847, has three times as many prisoners as it was meant to hold. There are few enough facilities for the basic needs of sleeping space, washing or eating, never mind education or recreation.

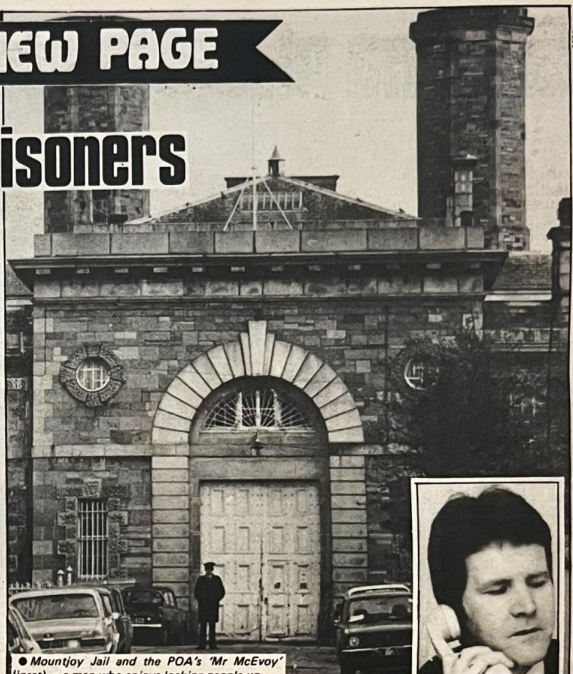
Any dignity a man has, any respect for himself or confidence in himself, is deliberately destroyed by the system as administered by the governor. No trade is taught him, no useful skill.

He is then released, totally unable to cope with the outside world both emotionally and physically. So he returns to the life of petty crime; and the vicious circle starts again.

Prison was also the theme of the Monday film on BBC1, 'One in a million'. It was the true story of Ron Le Flore, who managed to come out of jail to a successful career — one in a million indeed.

BASEBALL

From a deprived background in the black ghettos of De-



Mountjoy Jail and the POA's 'Mr McEvoy' (inset) — a man who enjoys locking people up



troit, Le Flore was sent to prison on a 5 to 15-year sentence for armed robbery. Whilst there he discovered a real talent for baseball.

Shocked by the realisation that his brother was following in his criminal footsteps, Le Flore determined to give him some-

one to look up to. He applied himself to baseball and became so good that he got a trial with the famous Detroit Tigers. He was released from prison to play for them, overcame the sometimes hostile reception from the fans and went on to become a national sporting personality.

Spirit and determination of an exceptional kind enabled 'one in a million' to break the mould. His brother did not survive to see Ron Le Flore victory over poverty and hopelessness. Gerald Le Flore was stabbed to death in a fight with a drug-pusher at the age of 18.

A story of torture

BY FR DES WILSON

THIS is an account of a day in the life of Bobby Sands. It is a story of brutality and viciousness which few can imagine who have not been through it.

The prison administration is bound to attract wretches who impose suffering because they want to. In the present situation, where the English government forcibly occupies our country, brutes and sadists will be present all the more, the money being an attraction, the temporary power being an attraction too. The humiliations, degradation and suffering imposed on men like Bobby Sands were inexcusable. What is worse, they were allowed to happen by those whose bounden duty it is to prevent such things.

It is well-known that in many prisons the boards of visitors are not a safeguard for prisoners, nor are they meant to be. They are there to give an appearance of decency to what is basically inhuman and is rendered even more inhuman by ignorance and wickedness.

There have been very few prisoners whose life has been saved or rendered more bearable by boards of visitors. And when the visitors do not protest against inhuman treatment of prisoners — of the kind described in this book — can one really expect all the well-cared for and well-treated people outside the prisons to react against it?

CONTEMPT

The indisputable and disgraceful fact is that the London government has treated with supreme contempt all of our people, churchmen included, and by a fine impartiality, also the prisoners for whom the churchmen are required by the gospel to have a special care.

They have made it clear that neither the cries of the



FR DES WILSON

dispossessed nor the complaints of prisoners are going to move them. Nor will the pleas of others, churchmen and politicians included. The result of their policies is contained in this book, a record of savagery against one of our own people.

Sadly, if this book had been written about, or by, a prisoner in one of the Communist prisons, or in South Africa, we would have had programmes running about it on British television as long-running as the current replays of the Argentine killings. Pious hands would have been wrung and there would have been increased subscriptions to whatever good cause happened to be nearest the heart of the problem.

But you do not get that reaction from the pious for something that is happening a few hundred yards off the M1.

SAVAGERY

For those people who have taken the view that every-

BOOK

BOBBY SANDS ONE DAY IN MY LIFE



INTRODUCTION BY
Sean MacBride S.C.
Nobel Peace Prize Winner

possible means must be tried, short of war, to discipline the English government, the reading of this book will test their patience to the utmost.

Indeed, every peaceful means tried has been undermined not by the people of Ireland as a whole but by a government intent on driving us into anarchy and civil war.

Peace has had a very poor reward under the English military and racist regime. It will have an equally poor reward as long as Irish people, with the decency and worth of centuries behind them, have to ask for favours from London. There is still a chance to discipline the London government — if we can influence foreign countries to such an extent that they will share our revulsion from the savagery we now experience in this country.

This book, one can hope, will have a vast circulation in many countries where at present

there is a deep suspicion of English motives and methods. Given that circulation, there is some hope that world opinion will do what our pleas and promises of co-operation have failed to do — bring discipline to a government which is based on corrupt aristocracy that has all the arrogance and viciousness of the Czars.

This book is not easy reading. No story of torture ever is. Our reaction to what it contains should be one of disciplined anger, and a firm deter-

mination that the London government will be disciplined, however long it may take.

And so, one hopes, will the men who worked the system. 'One Day in My Life' by Bobby Sands (introduction by Sean MacBride) is published by Mercier Press, Dublin and Cork, and is available from Republican Publications, 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast, or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Price £2.50 plus 50p postage.

Guth na nGael le cloisint

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

LE FADA an lá anois tá Rialtas na Sé Chontae Fíchead agus Rialtas Mheiriceá ag iarraidh na Gaeil atá i Meiriceá a choimeád faoi smacht maidir le saoirse na hÉireann. Blain i ndiaidh bliana cuirtear bolscairf go Meiriceá chun a chur in iúl do na Gaeil ann gur chóir dóibh glacadh le polasaíthe Shasana.

Ach, tá traidisiún fada ag Gaeil Mheiriceá tacaíocht a thabhairt do chogadh na saoirse in Éirinn. Murach iad, is cinnte nach mbeadh an méid d'chun cinn is atá déanta againn bainte amach againn.

Léiríonn gníomhartha na Rialtais éagsúla nach dtuigean siad meon na nGaeil i Meiriceá. Tá ceist bunúsach le freagairt agus sé sin ó h-aid na Gaeil seo atá gníomhach ar son saoirse na hÉireann i Meiriceá? 'Sé freagra na ceiste sin ná gurab iad síochnt na nGaeil a d'bhíodh as an tír seo. Tuigean siad stair na hÉireann agus is an ádúiscint sin a thagann a ngníomhartha.

TUISCINT

Ní féidir tuisceant a sháru agus dá bhí sí sin níl ag éirí le polasaíthe Rialtais Bhaile Átha Cliath d'chun cinn ar bith a dhéanamh i measc Gaeil Mheiriceá. Is cinnte go dtuigean clainn na ndaoine a d'bhíodh as an tír seo ná fídhíocht agus ina dhiaidh sin go bhfuil Stát na Sé Chontae Fíchead bunaithe ar chnámha phoblachtachaigh.

Ní chuireann fulaingt phoblacht- aigh isteach ná amach ar fhostaíthe Rialtais. Lufonn siad suaimhneach ar fobairt phoblachtachaigh agus dár-



● Peter Dailley, ambasador Mheiriceá

PARAID

Bhí Peter Dailley, ambasador Mheiriceá sna Sé Chontae Fíchead i dtéarmaí le Roche. Chuir sé in iúl dóir chóir dó freastal mar aithéir Oiglaigh na hÉireann clonaid i marú an ghilíais Doyle.

Ach, d'fhearg Roche nach raibh le fáil ag an AOH ach tacú b'fáil sa Rialtas éagsúla. Bhí sé, dar le, imithe thar an am sin agus go raibh le fáil na gíomhaíocht.

De réir na tuisceant is déanaí, tá an coslaíocht ar an scéal go mbeid Michael Flannery mar phríomh stiúrdair ar an bparaid ar lá le Padraig Nua Eabhrach. Deirtear anois go gcuirfidh Rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath cosc ar fhoras Fálte agus eagraí eile freastal ar an bparaid.

Tá sé mbuachaill tuille ag Gaeil Mheiriceá agus is mór an c'obair iad, sa chomhlínt chun saoirse na hÉireann a bhaint amach.

Irish Lesson 14

fada (fodhú) - long gearr (gyarr) - short bocht (bucht) - poor saibhir (seivir) - rich bus (bus) - a bus train (train) - a train bíd (buid) - a boat stáisiún (stáshoon) - a station skúil (skúil) - a school

Cá bhfuil an bhean rua? (caw will un wan roo-eh?) - Where is the red-haired woman?
Tá sí sa bhus. (Thaw shee shu vus) - She is in the bus.
Cá bhfuil an fear fionn? (caw will un far fyunn) - Where is the fair-haired man?
Tá sé sa bhíd (thaw shay shu vaud) - He is in the boat.

PONCUNATION: The pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound.

CH is sounded as in LOCH ERNE.
D and T before A, O and U are thick, spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth.
DH and GH are like a G far back in the throat - almost a gargle.

Cá bhfuil an páiste óg? (caw will un paw-shay-og?) - Where is the young child?
Níl sí sa stáisiún (neel shay shu stáshoon) - He is not in the station.
An bhfuil an fear saibhir? (un will un far seivir?) - Is this man rich?
Tá sé sa tsein (thaw shay shu train) - He is in the train.

An bhfuil an bhean sa tsein? (un will un wan shu train) - Is the woman in the train?
Níl sí sa tsein, tá sí sa phairc (neel she shu train, thaw shee shu fawirk) - She is not in the train, she is in the field.
Tá an buachaill beag sa soil (thaw un voochill beag sa sku-il) - The small boy is in the school.

PHRASES
1- Tá go leor eigin (thaw guh lyore uigin) - I have enough.
2- Is leor sin (is lyore shin) - That is enough.
3- Níl go leor aige (neel guh lyore aige) - He hasn't enough.
4- Bí cúramach (bee koorumoch) - Be careful.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Feminist, trade unionist and revolutionary

BY PETER O'ROURKE

TO Helena Molony, arrested during protests against the visit of the British king in 1911, went the honour of being the first woman of her generation to be jailed in Ireland's cause.

Feminist, republican, trade unionist, Abbey actress and revolutionary, she was first attracted to the nationalist movement by Maud Gonne MacBride. She joined Inghinidhe na hÉireann (Daughters of Erin), a patriotic feminist organisation, in 1903. And, five years later, she became editor of *Bean na hÉireann*, a monthly magazine founded by Maud Gonne MacBride, which advocated 'militancy, separatism and feminism'.

NA FIANNNA

With Countess Markievicz, she helped to found Na Fianna Éireann, the republican youth organisation, in 1909, which they also instructed in the use of arms. The same year, she joined the Abbey Theatre.

She refused to pay a fine imposed for throwing stones during the royal visit protests in 1911 and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment in lieu. Much to her annoyance, she was released

after a few days when her fine was paid anonymously.

Again with Countess Markievicz, she was instrumental in starting the Irish Workers' Co-operative in 1915 and in November of that year, at the request of James Connolly, she became secretary of the Irish Women Workers' Union.

Helena Molony joined the Irish Citizen Army and on Easter Monday 1916, took part in the attack on Dublin Castle, during which her colleague at the Abbey, Sean Connolly, was shot dead.

TREATY

She was imprisoned in Aylesbury Jail until December 1916 and upon release she returned to her work in the republican and labour movements. After the Treaty she took the republican side.

In 1931, Helena Molony, Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Maude Gonne MacBride and Mrs Despard became active



● HELENA MOLONY

in the Prisoners Dependents Fund on behalf of the republican prisoners and their relatives.

She became an organiser with her old trade union and became president of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Owing to ill-health, however, she retired in 1945.

Helena Molony died, aged 83, on January 27th 1967.

WOULD readers please note that all insertions (memoriam and sympathy notices, birthday greetings, listings for the What's On column, etc.) should reach the An Phoblacht/Republican News office in either Dublin or Belfast no later than 5pm on the Monday prior to publication to ensure inclusion in that week's edition of the paper.

DELANEY, Kevin. (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, Belfast Brigade, IRA, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. Always remembered by Maura.

DONAGHY, Gerard. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan Gerry Donaghy who was murdered by the British forces of occupation on January 30th 1972 (Bloody Sunday). Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, Derry.

HARKER, Tony. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend, Tony Harker, who was murdered by the loyalist thugs of the UDR on January 24th 1982. Sadly missed but never forgotten by Cormac and all his friends in the Carroll/Ashe Sinn Féin cumann, Dublin.

HARKER, Tony. (1st Anniversary). In fond and loving memory of our nephew, Tony Harker, who was murdered by the UDR on January 24th 1982. Always remembered by Annie, Paddy and family, Drumara.

HARKER, Tony. (1st Anniversary). In fond and loving memory of our cousin, Tony, who was gunned down by the UDR on January 24th 1982. Always remembered by Seamus and Colette, Druid's Villas, Armagh.

HARKER, Tony. (1st Anniversary). In loving memory of our dear friend, Tony Harker, who was murdered by the UDR on January 24th 1982. Too good in life to be forgotten in death. Always remembered by Barry and Jacqueline, Armagh; Eamonn and Elizabeth, Armagh; Thomas, Bridge and family, Drumara; and Niall, Susan and family, Drumara.

HARVEY, Seamus. (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Seamus Harvey, 2nd Battalion, South Armagh Brigade, Oiglaigh na hÉireann, who was killed in action on January 16th 1977. Always remembered by the Barney Morris Sinn Féin cumann, Crossmaglen.

KELLY, John STONE, John. (8th Anniversary). In loving memory of my husband, Vol John Kelly, and his comrades, Vol John Stone and his comrades, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for them. Always remembered by his wife Marie and children Michelle, John and Michael.

KELLY, John STONE, John. (8th Anniversary). In loving memory of my daddy, Vol John Kelly, and his comrades, Vol John Stone, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for them. Always

remembered by his daughter Jacqui and Jimmy.

KELLY, John STONE, John. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Kelly and John Stone who died on active service on January 21st 1975. Fuir siad b'as ag tréad sa na saoirse. Always remembered by Lily and Andy Fennell and family.

LIGGETT, Francis. (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Francis Liggett who was killed in action on January 18th 1973. Mary, Queen of the Gael, watch over him. Always remembered by his sister Bernice and brother-in-law Liam.

LIGGETT, Francis. (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother-in-law, Vol Francis Liggett, who was killed on active service on January 18th 1973. Mary, Queen of Ireland, watch over him. Always remembered by Martin and Martin O'.

LIGGETT, Francis. (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my very dear friend, Vol Francis Liggett, who was killed in action on January 18th 1973. RIP. Always remembered by Pat Burns.

MCCANN, Charles; GRANT, Phelim. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Charles McCann and Phelim Grant who were killed in action on February 5th 1972. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for them. Always remembered by the McCann/Cannon Sinn Féin cumann, Toome.

MCCULLY, Peter. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Peter McCully, Oiglaigh na hÉireann, who was killed in action on January 26th 1972. Always remembered by the County Down Sinn Féin comhairle ceannair.

MCCULLY, Peter. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Peter McCully who was killed in action on January 26th 1972. Always remembered by the McCully/Cannon Sinn Féin cumann, Dublin.

MCCULLY, Peter. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Peter McCully, Oiglaigh na hÉireann, Castlewells, who died on active service on January 26th 1972. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a nam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement Castlewells.

IN MEMORY of those murdered by British paratroopers in Derry on Bloody Sunday, January 30th 1972, whose 11th anniversary occurs at this time. Always remembered by the Warrington Irish Solidarity Group, England.

SYMPATHY

BEHAN, MOLONEY, MURPHY. The North Kerry Sinn Féin comhairle ceannair extend their deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Tommy Behan, Listowel; Mick Moloney, Moyvane; and Tom Murphy, Tarbert, go nGánda Dia Trócaire ar a n-anamacha.

CARLIN. The County Down Sinn Féin comhairle ceannair and the Anne Douglas Sinn Féin cumann extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Elizabeth Carlin (mother of the late Vol James Carlin), Downpatrick, who died on January 16th, 1976. Go nGánda Dia trócaire ar a n-anam.

CARLIN. The Louth O'Hanlon Sinn Féin cumann, Downpatrick, extend their deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of life-long republican Mrs Elizabeth Carlin, New Model farm, Downpatrick (formerly of Brocagh, Longmishland).

CARLIN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late Elizabeth Carlin, mother of my dear friend and comrade, the late Vol James Carlin, from Sean Mulligan (Portlaoise).

DEVLIN. The Tony Aheane and Paul Duffy Sinn Féin cumann, Moortown and Ardoba, offer their sincere condolences to the family of Bernadette Devlin who died recently. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for her.

FARRELL. Deepest sympathy is extended to Kathleen Farrell on the recent

death of her mother. From na Fianna Éireann, Dun.

FARRELL. Deepest sympathy is extended to Kathleen Farrell on the death of her mother. We stand solidly beside you during this difficult time. From Conn, Dooey, Mackey and Mick.

GRANT. The Míre Drumm Sinn Féin cumann, Clondalkin, County Dublin, extend their deepest sympathy to Tommy Grant on the recent death of his mother.

MCPHILLIPS. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Veronica McPhillips (Coventry), sister of Vol Frank Stagg, who died recently. From the Frank Stagg Sinn Féin cumann, the Liberties, Dublin.

O'DONNELL. The Bobby Sands Sinn Féin cumann, Tullamore, County Offaly, extend their deepest sympathy to Susan O'Donnell and family on the death of Vol Phil O'Donnell. Fuir b'as ag tréad ar son saoirse.

O'DONNELL. We extend our sympathy to the wife and family of Vol Phil O'Donnell who died recently. May his soul rest in the knowledge that his work will be carried on. From Niall, Gay and family, Tullamore, County Offaly.

O'DONNELL. Sincere sympathy is extended to the wife and family of the late Vol Phil O'Donnell, time comrade we shall never forget. From Oliver, Teresa and children, Clara, County Offaly.

O'DONNELL. Deepest sympathy is extended to the wife and family of the late Phil O'Donnell. From Joe and Frankie, Tullamore, County Offaly.

GREETINGS

CUSHINIAN, Brian. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Brian. All the best from Henry (Big) and Frances.

CUSHINIAN, Brian. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Brian. We are always thinking of you. From Míre and dad.

CUSHINIAN, Brian; MCKEE, Eugene; MAGEE, Paul; TAYLOR, Willie. (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings and best wishes, lads. From the Sinn Féin POW Dept., Dublin.

HANRATTY, Gerard. (Crumlin Road). Best wishes, Gerry, on your 24th birthday. Sorry that you cannot be here to enjoy it. Hope to see you out soon - I'm stuck for a drinking partner. UTP. From Tommy, Joan and family.

MGLINCHEE, Paul. Happy birthday, Paul. Hoping your next is spent in freedom. Many happy returns. From Cindy Duffin.

MAGEE, Paul. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, love. Even though we are far apart, I love and miss you with all my heart. From your everloving wife Maria. xxx

MAGEE, Paul. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, daddy. Lots of love from Paul, Donna, Andrea and Seamus. xxx

MAGEE, Paul. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, uncle Pat. We miss the shot of red-eye - wish we could say the same about you! All the best. From Mary, Elaine, Joseph and Mike.

O'NEILL, Eddie. (Hull). Happy birthday and all our very best wishes, Eddie. From mum, dad, brothers and sister.

O'NEILL, Eddie. (Hull). Happy birthday, Eddie. From the Derrytresk Sinn Féin cumann, County Tyrone.

SHEEHAN, Kevin. (H-Block). Birthday and solidarity greetings, Kevin. From all your friends in the Troops Out Movement, England.

TAYLOR, Willie. (Portlaoise). Many happy returns, Willie. From Annette and Malachy.

Sean MacDiarmada statue

IN last week's centre-spread article on the centenary of the birth of Sean MacDiarmada, we made some inexplicable slip, we captioned a photograph of the statue of Sean MacDiarmada in Killyclogher, County Leitrim, as being of Terence MacSwiney. We can offer no explanation for this error, only an apology.

BY TONY BARRY

THE FIRST protests against the Free State education cuts hit the streets of Dublin on Wednesday, January 26th, when more than 7,000 teachers, parents and students demonstrated in front of Leinster House in a massive show of opposition.

The 70,000-strong Union of Students in Ireland has called for a massive turn-out from students and parents for a demonstration it itself is organising on February 3rd — the climax of three days of nationwide protests.

Joe Duffy, education officer of USI, told *An Phoblacht/Republican News*:

"We see the cuts in education as symptomatic of the way the country is being run. In the late '60s and early '70s — the Lemass/Whittaker era — money was pumped into education. The reason behind that increased expenditure was to provide trained personnel for industry."

SURPLUS PEOPLE

"Now, in a recession there is a 'surplus of personnel', and money is being cut off from education. This country is run in the interests of the rich, not the mass of the people."

"The cut-backs in the free school transport system, for example, mean a saving of £5 million. But since that measure was announced, the three main banks have made a profit of £7 million!"

"If you look at these cuts from the point of view of the family... most kids in any family go to school at the same time, the same age. Schoolchildren's bus fares have been doubled and this means that if there are three kids in a family going to school, their parents will have to pay something like £500 per annum on bus fares alone!"

"The government has, in effect, resorted to mugging the schoolkids to pay for the crisis they have created."

"And remember, it is they who created this crisis. They lash out three times as much money in grants to foreign multinationals as they spend on third-level education."

"How many third-level places went for a joy-ride with the money given to Fieldcrest, Ferenka or Polaroil?"

"Which only goes to show that the real arbiter of government policy is not the wishes or the needs of the people, but the selfishness and the greed of the rich."

The already-critical lack of finance for education, and the crippling effect of the economic recession on the system is apparent at every level, and in every sector — and nearly every school — in the Free State.

Sinn Féin member Mícheál MacConmara, a maths teacher in Colaiste Dhulaigh, Coolock, commented:

"The school in which I teach is in a work-

MUGGING THE KIDS



● Teachers, parents and students take to Dublin's streets on January 26th in protest against Free State education cuts

ing-class area of Dublin and only a tiny minority of the kids go on to third-level education.

"Recently, the number of pre-employment classes has increased as kids stay on at school in order to avoid the dole queues. Those who are lucky enough to get a job during the school year leave the pre-employment courses."

UNEMPLOYMENT

"Parents are very anxious to keep their kids off the streets. Kids are forced to take any job they can get. Many of them drift into the Free State army and do a three-year stint."

"Unemployment is widespread in Coolock and is a large contributory factor to the many other problems in the area."

"Our kids are at an enormous disadvantage when it comes to education opportunities. They cannot afford to remain on at school. The present unemployment crisis has made it very difficult to motivate kids to work hard and pass their exams as they know very well that good results are no longer a guarantee of a good job."

"Many of the kids have no hope left and only look forward to joining their parents, brothers and sisters on the dole."

"Many of the advances made in education

in the past 20 years will be wiped out by the cuts."

"In my own school we will be ten teachers over the quota and this will lead to most or all of the part-time teachers being condemned to life on the dole. There are no vacancies for teachers and student-teachers have no employment prospects."

"The academically weak kids in particular will suffer. Special efforts have been made to help these kids but with the increase in the pupil-teacher ratio small classes will have to be abolished. Educational trips will not be possible and some subjects will have to be abandoned."

Water strike to boil over?

BY EAMON TRACY

A DERISORY offer by employers to water and sewerage workers on the eve of the strike in Britain and the North, which began on Monday of this week, seems set to plunge thousands of homes in the North into an early crisis.

The offer, was for a 7.3% wage increase over 16 months and, as such, was no better than the 5% over 12 months previously offered.

This latest figure was rejected by union leaders in London and their decision was endorsed on Tuesday of this week by the 25 Amalgamated Transport and General Workers shop stewards who represent 60% of the North's 1,200 water and sewerage employees.

The workers are seeking a 15% increase in order to bring them into parity with gas and electricity workers — the comparable industries.

By mid-week, untreated water reaching many areas of the six

counties meant that all water needed boiling before consumption. And the dangers of untreated sewerage being pumped into Belfast Lough and other waters was becoming apparent as the situation deteriorated rapidly.

The trade unions have been greatly concerned at the consequences of a prolonged strike which could seriously endanger health, leave many without water as pipes burst and remain unrepaired, and eventually the collapse of mains, sewers and roads, leading to a total breakdown in home sanitary facilities.

The unions see such a situation



● The placard says it all

developing very quickly in a matter of days and are, therefore, feeling under considerable pressure as they weigh their own perceived responsibilities to the people against the

desperate need to improve inadequate wage rates.

In contrast, aware of the unions' attitude and not feeling anything near the concern of the workers

about any present and future hardships caused, the employers are playing down the dangers involved and have announced that they have made their final offer.