

AN
PHOBLACHT
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



Sraith Nua Imi 5 Uimhir 7 Deardain Feabhra 17

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Repression in action



THE HIGH level of harassment against republican political activists continues each week to throw up examples of the attempted repression of resurgent nationalism in Ireland — and this week is no exception.

In Derry, the Sinn Féin offices were besieged by British soldiers attempting to gain entry, and elected representative Martin McGuinness, with other Sinn Féin workers, was assaulted in the process.

In Belfast this week, elected representative Gerry Adams has described the systematic cam-

aign of detention on the streets used by the British army against Sinn Féin workers.

On each occasion, when people can be stopped for periods of over half an hour, it is made quite clear that the only purpose in detaining them is merely to cause them disruption while carrying out their constituency work.

In Turf Lodge, last weekend, a young Sinn Féin member, Margo Fitzsimons, was harassed along the street by British soldiers as she sold this newspaper and finally she was stopped and held for about ten minutes.

In Dublin, on Friday evening, the home of Sinn Féin's Director of Research, Micheal MacConmara, was raided by Special Branchmen and he was taken to the Bridewell for 24 hours.

DAILY

Just four everyday examples of the non-stop harassment of republican activists in Ireland which goes on daily, each hour, throughout the country. Some of it petty, some it more severe. All of it backed up by a whole technology of repression from telephone tapping to covert surveillance and a physical dimension of minor assault to arrest and beatings.

That harassment is shared to greater and lesser degrees by all the nationalist population in the North as well as Sinn Féin activists. But it is relevant to note that its increased direction against political activity is linked to the rising level of successful republican action — not only in terms of electoral progress but in the increased agitation on social and economic issues on the ground.

ELECTIONS

As Sinn Féin prepares for further entry into what our hypocritical opponents would describe as 'normal electoral politics' — including a local by-election in the North next month, the forthcoming Westminster elections and next year's EEC elections and twenty-six county local elections — this kind of repression from those who fear republican progress can be expected to rise.

But republicans will continue to resist it and expose it for what it is.



THE JAILING of workers in Dublin in the past week, without any major storm of protest from the powerful trade union movement, must come as a sign of indecisive timidity and as a discouraging omen for thousands of people faced with redundancy, or a possible enforced pay-freeze, and certainly general decline in living-standards over the next year.

The use of this legalised style of repression, in trade disputes where genuine grievances exist, is a powerful weapon in the hands of unscrupulous employers which can only be defused by an organised trade union campaign to remove all such penal sanctions from the area of industrial relations.

Such a campaign must first of all insist that occupations, and similar industrial protests, are protected from civil liability in the same way as picketing has been protected throughout this century.

It must also be aimed at ending the threat of criminal action being taken against workers in such circumstances as under the Forcible Entry and Occupation Act.

INJUSTICE

Trade unionists being sent to jail for indefinite periods, as the 14 Ranks workers have been this week, without even an opportunity to state the rights and wrongs of their case, but merely at the application to the court by their employers — or former employers — is an injustice of immediate impact.

Employers can use compliant company law to evade all personal responsibility for the liabilities they leave behind them when they arbitrarily choose to conclude an enterprise.

Banks and large creditors can secure money owing to them by means of mortgages on the company property. The government can, by virtue of legislation, claim preferential

treatment for debts owing to it.

No-one can say that workers in such circumstances — faced as they are now with long periods of unemployment — should be sent to jail for attempting, with genuine reason, to secure some leverage themselves in seeking settlement of their debts, or in attempting to rescue their jobs.

STRIKE-BREAKING

In the past, the Irish trade union movement has passively accepted the strike-breaking use of Free State troops in such disputes as the oil-tanker drivers' strike, the busworkers' strike and the dustmen's strike. Before now, and again this week, imprisonment has been made a tool of settlement in industrial disputes, with only the most muted protest.

Continued silence and inaction in these areas leads to more and more economic repression of all kinds, being heaped on workers. The time to shout 'Stop!' is now.

Jail switch avoids TV crew

THREE republican prisoners, Richard Glenholmes from Belfast, John McCluskey from Fermanagh, and Eddie O'Neill from Tyrone, who until two weeks ago had all been in Hull Prison in England, are now in prisons in Leeds, Durham and Liverpool under the notorious GOD (good order and discipline) rule for 28 days.

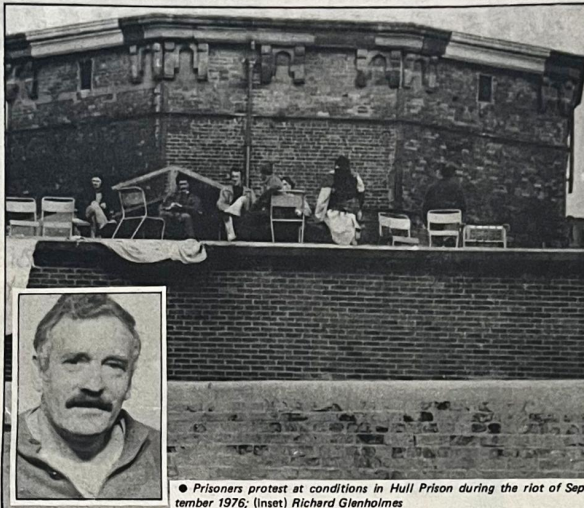
The reason for their hasty and unexpected move, however, has now come to light and was the result of a direct Home Office intervention to prevent the three prisoners from speaking to a BBC 'Newsnight' film crew who had been granted permission to film and speak to inmates in Hull Prison. The news item which was to be entitled 'This special prison life' and was to be slotted into the 'Newsnight' programme is scheduled to be broadcast sometime next week.

All three prisoners had put their names on the prison notice board as being available for interview by the BBC team. When AP/RN contacted the BBC's 'Newsnight' office in London, on Tuesday, Paul Norris confirmed that the three republican prisoners had requested to talk to them but that he believed the Home Office had stepped in and refused permission. He claimed that he was not aware that the prisoners had been moved to other jails.

COVER-UP

Commenting on this blatant censorship, in a statement issued on Monday, February 14th, Owen Carron, Sinn Féin spokesperson on prisons, accused the British Home Office of being "involved in a cover-up of conditions in English jails for Irish prisoners."

"The three republicans had offered themselves for interview and it is now obvious



● Prisoners protest at conditions in Hull Prison during the riot of September 1976; (inset) Richard Glenholmes

that the British government is afraid to allow them the right to free speech even in prison," he said.

"The authorities fear that an interview with three Irishmen would expose the inhuman treatment of Irish republicans in England."

Meanwhile, one of the three republican prisoners, Richard Glenholmes, who was moved from Hull on January 30th, is still undergoing 24-hour solitary confinement, plus loss of exercise and correspondence, in the strong-box of Walton Prison in Liverpool, being victimised for refusing to wear a degrading prison uniform covered in yellow

patches, and subsequently is wearing nothing but a towel.

Armagh women injured

FOLLOWING a visit to Armagh Jail on Wednesday, February 9th, to see one of his constituents, Dolores O'Neill, Danny Morrison, Sinn Féin elected representative for Mid-Ulster, has condemned the Armagh prison

administration, especially Governor Murtagh.

"Yesterday," said Morrison, "I was told how Catherine Moore was forcibly stripped by warders as she returned from a remand court hearing on Tuesday. She was thrown to the ground and punched and kicked."

"When she was returned to the wing, a Derry prisoner, Philomena Lyttle, saw how bruised she was and demanded to see Governor Murtagh. He appeared with a large number of male and female warders and I have been told that he was personally involved in forcing Philomena Lyttle back into her cell. She has injuries, the extent of which it is difficult to establish as she is locked up as punishment."

"Governor Murtagh is paying particular attention to the O/C of Armagh, former hunger-striker Mairead Farrell. He is continually putting her on report and issuing other restrictions — loss of remission, parcels and visits."

"This governor is trying to push the prisoners beyond patience and into confrontation in a vain attempt to break their republicanism but morale in the jail is high."

Portlaoise beatings

FURTHER reports of beatings in Portlaoise, which took place during extensive searching of the jail the weekend before last, indicate that several republican prisoners there were assaulted by warders.

In addition to the two already named — Paul Magee and Angelo Fusco — others beaten included Eugene Fanning, Michael McKee, George McDermott, Joe Whelan, Garry McGrath, Declan O'Leary and Patrick McVeigh.

Angelo Fusco has been given a period of two months in solitary confinement with no visits.

Crucial days for Palestinians

BY SEAN HALPENNY

TAKING place in Algiers this week is the first meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) since last year's Zionist invasion of Lebanon which dealt a severe blow to the Palestinian cause. It is their sixteenth meeting in the history of the Palestinian struggle, and perhaps their most crucial.

The PNC is the Palestinian people's government-in-exile and has 350 members, representing all levels of resistance. Delegates are attending from 90 different countries, reflecting the extent of the Palestinian diaspora.

Central to all discussions are the two current 'plans' for the Middle East, one mooted by the United States and the other by Saudi Arabia, both compromise plans which fall short of Palestinian aspirations and are engineered to guarantee the state of Israel, and maintain both United States' interests and the stability of certain Arab countries.

During the months coming up to the PNC meeting, stories of splits within the Palestinian ranks have been widespread, that the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, is in danger of being deposed within the Palestinian resistance movement.

George Habash, however, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of those named as an opponent of Arafat, declared in recent interviews:

"Our first task at the moment is to maintain Palestinian unity in spite of all these reactionary attempts. We must preserve Palestinian unity on a national basis."

DEFIANCE

In his opening speech to the



● YASSER ARAFAT

PNC, Yasser Arafat reiterated the will of the Palestinian people led by the PLO to continue fighting for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"We will hold on to our guns with great defiance," he declared.

Plans are already reported to be underway to unite all Palestinian fighters into a new Palestine National Liberation Army, commanded together the eight commando or-



● A Lebanese civilian cycles through the carnage of last September's massacre at Sabra

ganisations as well as the PLO. Nevertheless, tensions are sure to emerge at the PNC meeting after the mauling suffered at the hands of the Israelis in Lebanon.

In that country, a new Zionist offensive is expected against Palestinians still fighting there alongside Lebanese guerrillas against the Israeli occupiers.

There are still over 9,000 PLO fighters in eastern and northern Lebanon (as well as some 30,000 heavily-armed Syrian troops), and the Israelis have been suffering constant casualties from classic guerrilla actions, involving ambushes and bomb attacks. The Israelis, and their right-wing Christian Lebanese, Falangist allies have hit back

with bomb attacks against Palestinian civilian targets.

The Israeli-backed forces of Major Saad Haddad has this week taken, without resistance, the port of Sidon and a wide area of southern Lebanon, almost one-quarter of the country, sandwiching inside it the ineffectual United Nations peace-keeping force, and forming a buffer zone on Israel's northern border.

Meanwhile, inside Israel, controversy has surrounded the publishing of the report on the Beirut massacre of up to 5,000 Palestinians and Lebanese in the Sabra and Shatilla camps in September of last year.

The inquiry called for the sacking of Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon and censured Premier Menachem Begin. But Sharon's retention in the cabinet — albeit in a new post — and the appointment of the current Israeli ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens, to the defence post, spells clearly the power of the Begin government.

ATTACK

And peace demonstrators in Jerusalem, who were picketing an emergency cabinet meeting on the issue, were the victims of a hand-grenade attack which killed one leading member of 'Peace Now' and wounded nine others.

It is significant that the PLO recently had a top-level meeting with the leaders of the Israeli peace movement in Tunis. As a result of that meeting, one of the resolutions to be debated at the PNC meeting this week suggests "work with progressive Jewish forces who support the established rights of the Palestinian people."

...War News...War News...War News...War News...War News...

BRITS/RUC ESCAPE STILL DEATH

THE BRITISH army and RUC will certainly cast a cautious eye in future over any discoveries of 'illicit' poitin stills in the six counties, following the Tyrone Brigade IRA's near-miss with an elaborate booby-trap close to the village of Sixmilecross.

Republican Volunteers had apparently located the bomb some weeks back, packing 80lbs of explosives into a churn which was left as though forming part of a poitin still inside a derelict cottage at Lurganboy near Sixmilecross. The bomb was carefully placed in the corner of the cottage in order to maximise its blast force if detonated by being touched.

The IRA then attempted to lure enemy personnel to the cottage by sending anonymous letters to the RUC, 'informing' them of a still in the Lurganboy area.

One thing, however, the IRA had failed fully to take into account was the paranoia of both Brits and RUC about the risk of IRA attacks in rural areas of the North, and it was not until February 10th — almost two months after the IRA's first letter — that they edgily moved in on the still and discovered the booby-trap.

Of course, it really was less a case of 'enemy intelligence' than a case of 'once bitten, twice shy'. Last June 11th, in Derry's Shantallow estate, when British soldiers conducting a search of sheds and garages called in the RUC to ex-

amine what they thought was a stolen television, it blew up in their faces killing one RUC man and wounding two others.

UDR SOLDIER AMBUSHED

South Down Brigade IRA Volunteers mounted another successful attack, in what has been a steadily escalating level of military activity in the area in recent months, when they shot and wounded a member of the loyalist UDR on Thursday 10th February.

The ambush was mounted around 8.10am as the soldier was driving along the Castlewellan-Newry Road. As he passed by, a Volunteer who had been lying in wait opened fire, several shots hitting the car.

Despite subsequent media reports, such as that evening's *Belfast Telegraph* ('Murder bid on UDR man fails'), parroting RUC propaganda claims that the soldier was unhurt, he was in fact taken to hospital with an apparently serious chest wound.

BRITS ESCAPE DERRY AMBUSH

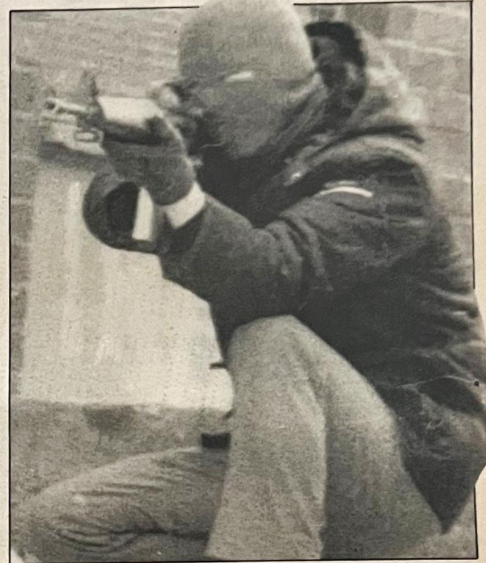
Several shots were fired by Derry Brigade IRA Volunteers at a passing Brit foot patrol in an ambush over the weekend, but there were no reports of enemy soldiers being injured.

The attack was launched on Saturday 12th February on the edge of the city centre, when Brits patrolling from Waterloo Place to William Street came under fire.

DROMORE LANDMINE DEFUSED

A massive IRA landmine hidden in a culvert on the Dromore-Edeney Road in County Tyrone was unfortunately discovered by British soldiers and defused on Tuesday night, February 15th.

The 600lbs of explosives were packed into six beer kegs and were designed to be detonated as a British army or RUC patrol passed over the spot.



Mid-Ulster by-election: Line-up in Carrickmore

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

WHEN former SDLP member Brendan Martin, from Carrickmore in County Tyrone, resigned his seat as a councillor for Omagh's Ward 'D', he probably did not expect the amount of interest the ensuing by-election would cause.

Days before the SDLP's annual conference, Brendan Martin's resignation was focussed on by the BBC 'Spotlight' team as an example of the SDLP's decline. And to date, more than a month before election day, it seems that five or six candidates, at least, will be contesting the seat.

Paddy Walsh, for the IIP, despite many local doubts, has apparently decided to throw his hat into the ring, a move which

many people rightly judge opportunistic since Walsh worked in the Sinn Féin election campaign last autumn.

SOLID

However, Mid-Ulster's well-oiled anti-unionist election machinery, which through the years has worked independently on behalf of various candidates, such as Bernadette Devlin and, later, IIP leader Pat Fahy when he opposed Paddy Duffy of the SDLP in May 1979, is now solidly ranged behind Sinn Féin which should make it difficult for the IIP to mount an effective campaign.

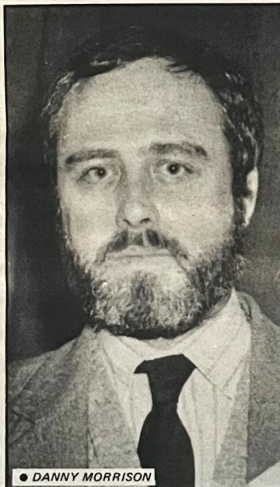
For the 'Sticky' Workers' Party, Frank McLroy, the humiliated local candidate in June 1981, has decided to run again. There is now a question mark over the candidature of the SDLP member Peadar Montague. While

he had agreed to be co-opted onto the local council, the fact that he will actually have to fight for the seat seems to have dampened his eagerness. The Alliance Party will be running, and it is rumoured that the Official Unionists may field a candidate to 'give the Protestants a voice'.

DYNAMIC

Republicans are holding an electoral convention this Sunday, February 20th, in Carrickmore, to select their candidate. Mid-Ulster's Sinn Féin elected representative, Danny Morrison, said that local republicans are "looking forward to the contest" which would be an "historic" one.

"We have a lot of party activists on the ground," he added, "and this will be a dynamic campaign."



Bobby Sands book for world-wide distribution

CONTRACTS for the publishing of the writings of Bobby Sands in the United States, where demand is extremely high for his work, are presently being negotiated by the Bobby Sands Trust, which holds the copy of all the dead hunger-striker's literary work. The move is seen as the first step to world-wide distribution.

The recently published Bobby Sands book, 'One Day in My Life', is understood to be selling well, in spite of efforts by the Eason's chain to block sales.

Later this year this will be fol-

lowed by the publication of 'The Writings of Bobby Sands' and by a biography written by John Feehan, which will, like the current book, be published by Mercier Press.

A recent meeting of the trustees,

which took place in Belfast, is also understood to have discussed the possibility of lodging Bobby Sands' original manuscripts, which were smuggled out of the H-Blocks, in the National Library in Dublin, so that the flimsy toilet-paper scripts can be preserved properly for the future. Conditions of such custody have yet to be decided.

Members of the Bobby Sands Trust are Gerry Adams, Tom Cahill, Tom Hartley, Brendan McFarlane (H-Block), Danny Morrison and Marcella Sands. Proceeds from publication of Bobby Sands' writings will go to the families of republican prisoners.



Shannon exchange campaign

SINN FEIN in Shannon, County Clare, have been campaigning for the establishment of an unemployment exchange in the town, where a considerable proportion of the working population are on the unemployment register.

The local Terence MacSwiney cumann say that when a person becomes unemployed in the Shannon area they must make the costly 14-mile trip into Ennis to claim their benefits and then sign on at the local garda barracks in Shannon every Tuesday.

Cheques are then sent out from Ennis to reach claimants on Thursday or Friday, but cannot be cashed until Saturday.

Sinn Fein say that on many occasions documents are misplaced or lost in transit so that people are left with no money until they can travel into Ennis on the Monday. The same thing occurs when any queries or difficulties arise about payments.

The cumann also points out that the fact that unemployment cheques are not cashable until Saturday causes a severe restriction to 'shopping for value' in the time allowed — with only one large supermarket in the town.

They suggest the establishment of a local office in the town for at least two days a week and say that temporary office space could be provided in the local health centre.

Ballybay inquiry call

IN A statement issued earlier this week, the Peadar Mohan Sinn Fein cumann in Ballybay, County Monaghan, called for an investigation into the recent tragic fire in the town which claimed the lives of two people.

The statement, which also called for a review of local fire-fighting arrangements, went on to say:

"The lack of urgency on the part of other political parties in Ballybay to see such an investigation launched demonstrates how obviously out of touch with the local community they are whose concerns and needs must be paramount."

A vote of sympathy with the bereaved family was passed at the cumann's inaugural meeting.

Monaghan arrests

TWO MORE members of Monaghan Sinn Fein are serving 14 days in Mountjoy Jail for refusing to sign bonds to keep the peace, arising out of an H-Block demonstration on the border in 1981.

Hensey McKenna and James Fox, of the Aine Ni Neill cumann in Smithsboro, were arrested on Thursday of last week, February 10th.

Two other Monaghan Sinn Fein members, Patsy McCourt and Jacimilín O'Caolain, were released from Mountjoy on Friday, February 4th, having served a similar sentence.

Cork protest

LAST Saturday, February 12th, Cork Sinn Fein mounted a picket of Eason's bookshop in Cork city's Patrick Street in protest at the refusal to stock the recently published 'One Day in My Life' by the late hunger-striker, Bobby Sands MP.

The protestors carried placards denouncing Eason's politically-motivated censorship of the book, which details a day in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, and reported that there was a favourable response from customers and would-be customers of the shop.

Waterford meeting

MORE than 150 people attended a public meeting in Waterford on Wednesday, February 2nd, addressed by Danny Morrison, Sinn Fein elected representative for Mid-Ulster. The meeting, organised by the local Cathal Brugha cumann of Sinn Fein was held in the republican centre in Peter Street.

In a speech which dealt at length with the current situation in the North, Morrison also slammed the Dublin government for spending millions of pounds on maintaining the border, whilst making cuts in the vital areas of health and education.

HARD-LINE POSITIONS TAKEN IN TULLAMORE CONCRETE STRIKE

Attempt to block unions

BY JACK MADDEN

AT CONDRON'S Concrete Works, in Tullamore, County Offaly, a battle is being waged for trade union recognition, despite a vicious campaign by the employer, John Condrón, to stop it.

Shortly before Christmas, 34 workers at Condrón's decided to join the ITGWU. When a union committee had been formed they called for a meeting with management to discuss wages and conditions of employment. This call was ignored and since then the company has persistently refused to recognise the union and has launched a campaign of harassment against individual union members in an attempt to force defections.

Amongst the first to suffer was the union shop-steward, a lorry driver with the company for seven years, who suddenly found himself demoted to a job with less pay.

Sean Sheehan, branch secretary of the ITGWU, says:

"Approaches were made to several members and they were offered substantial increases in pay if they left the union."

The Labour Court was approached by the union and asked to mediate but when they phoned the factory they could get no member of management to talk to them. The union, frustrated by these repeated attacks, gave notice of strike action. During the five days allowed for strike-notice, Condrón intimidated union members and offered increased wages and pensions to those who would leave the union. About 12 left. Others were told that they would have to choose between their jobs or the union.

PICKET

The result of the campaign was that only three workers were left to man the picket on Condrón's. Their fellow-workers are passing the picket but, says Willie Casey, one of the picketers:

"There is no animosity. Most of the men inside are young, with families, and they are



● Willie Casey with an ITGWU shop-steward on the picket line at Condrón's

afraid. We aren't used to this sort of thing. You might say that we are fighting their fight. They may not be here with us but they are behind us."

The extent of intimidation is seen by the fact that the picketers are constantly under surveillance by management.

While I spoke to the picketers they pointed out a car sitting across the road. In it sat John Condrón junior, keeping a watchful eye on the pickets, on any of the other workers who might stop to talk to them, and on cars which arrive with supporters of the strikers. All of this information is carefully noted to be used, no doubt, at a later date.

When I approached him and asked what he was doing he refused to comment. Nor would he comment on the strike. I asked to speak

with the manager, Pat Galvin, but was told that no member of management would comment.

CUT-BACKS

In an interview with the local *Tullamore Tribune*, the company claimed that its reason for laying off a number of workers was purely a question of necessary cut-backs. However, Willie Casey says:

"There was never any mention of lay-offs until the union was mentioned. In fact, the place was going a bomb."

The pickets have, to date, been passed by lorries from a number of firms including Goode Cement Company of Wicklow and the local Trump Oil Company, but the ITGWU has pledged its power to back the strikers and bring John Condrón to the conference table.

Belleek faces fragile future

BY SEAN MacSPARRAN

EFFORTS to keep open the world-famous pottery factory at Belleek in County Fermanagh are being frustrated by the company's management, according to local Westminster MP Owen Carron.

In October of last year, a promise of funds was obtained from the NIO on condition that the plant could be made viable. But in spite of the workers and their trade union drawing up viability plans for Belleek, management have not responded to them.

Last Wednesday, two consignments of pottery were ready to be transported for export but there was no money available to move them as the banks had refused further credit.

Workers are also angry and suspicious about a delegation to Northern industry minister Adam Butler on Friday of last week which was described to the media as a 'delegation of workers', but was in fact made up of management and Fermanagh Official Unionist

assembly member Raymond Ferguson.

RUN-DOWN

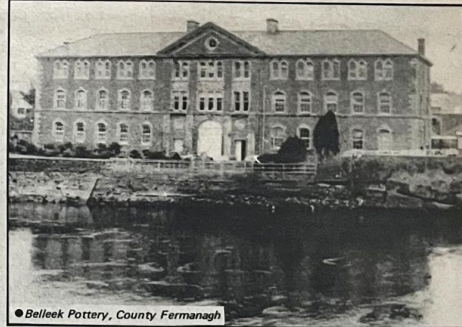
There is strong suspicion in Fermanagh that Belleek Pottery is being deliberately run down with a view to moving the operation to a new base in the twenty-six counties near Dublin.

In a statement this week, Owen Carron said:

"The crisis at Belleek Pottery has been allowed to go on too long and I am of the opinion that management are standing in the way of a solution."

"If the demands for cash were being made by Harland & Wolff, in East Belfast, there is no doubt that the money would be readily available."

"In proportion to its population,



● Belleek Pottery, County Fermanagh

economic development and manufacturing infrastructure, Belleek Pottery represents as important and irreplaceable industry to Fermanagh as Harland's does to East Belfast.

"The workers at Belleek possess skills that are also irreplaceable and to allow the pottery to be snuffed out is an act of economic vandalism."

Anger at Dunne's scab tactics

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

A STRIKE by the 22 workers at Dunne's Stores in Waterford is now nearing the end of its third week in a dispute over the sacking of a part-time worker on Saturday, January 29th.

According to Neville Colbert, area organiser of the Irish Union of Distributive Workers and Clerks, which is fully backing its members, the dispute has been aggravated by the drafting in of non-union trainee managers from Dublin and other areas to replace the strikers in an attempt to break the strike.



On Saturday last, February 12th, Waterford Trades Council organised a mass picket of the store which attracted 350 dual unionists and succeeded in closing down the store at lunch-time. The store has remained closed this morning.

The part-time worker, whose sack-

ing precipitated the strike, was given no reason for his dismissal when he was sacked at a moment's notice. He had been working for about 20 hours each week for the past 11 months and should not have been first in line to lose his job in the event of any cut-back.

Commenting on the strike, Waterford Sinn Fein spokesperson Ray Coady pointed out that the use of scab labour in this strike was causing particular anger in the city where such tactics have not been used since the Clover Mists strike, almost 50 years ago in which Waterford Sinn Fein had been active in support of the Dunne's workers.

CHILDREN IN DANGER

BY JOE KELLY

WITH TENSION still high in Belfast's Divis Flats following the tragic death two weeks ago of four-year-old Jim McGivern who fell into a storm-drain on the adjacent Link Road construction site, yet further disquiet is growing among residents concerning the danger to their children in crossing a partially covered footbridge which spans the M1 motorway link-up.

Several months ago, the footbridge, which runs from Cullingtree Road, across the motorway and into Durham Street, was opened for pedestrians but, from the beginning, the totally inadequate hand-rails along the length of the bridge, which only reach waist level, were causing residents to fear for the safety of their children.

MOTORISTS

Last week, when Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin elected representative for West Belfast, brought up the matter with the Department of the Environment, he learned that a recently constructed wire-mesh

grille covering the middle section only of the bridge was there "to protect motorists from stone-throwers", and that there are no plans to cover the footbridge along its length.

Commenting on the contrast between the concern for motorists and the lack of concern for the safety of the children of Divis, Adams described the Department of the Environment's attitude as 'disgraceful'.

"The bridge needs to be covered immediately," he said.

The drop at the centre of the bridge, which children cross daily to school, is about 30 to 40 feet.



● The partially covered footbridge spanning Belfast's M1 motorway link-up

Rats in Divis Flats

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG



● Mary Hanvey with a sweater eaten by rats

MARY HANVEY has been living in Divis Flats with her daughter, Tierna aged 15, and her 12-year-old son, Brendan, for almost ten years.

That alone is hardship enough, but last December, Mary Hanvey discovered that she and her family were not the only inhabitants of their Fasnet Walk flat. A rat was spotted in the bathroom and on further investigation, several large holes were found around the skirting board behind the bath.

Since then, rats have been frequently seen in the flat in spite of all efforts to keep them out. More holes have appeared, one of them actually through the bathroom wall and into the kitchen. Cupboard doors have

been gnawed through and clothes chewed into holes.

When the Belfast health department workers arrived to lay poison, they were surprised at the extent of rodent activity. But the poison has had no effect on the rats.

"If anything," says Mary Hanvey, "it has got worse."

BEDROOMS

Brendan Hanvey's large labrador dog is brought upstairs at night in an effort to keep the rats away from the bedrooms, which is not easy as the Housing Executive have failed to replace the bedroom doors after a fire four years ago.

The same thing happened downstairs after

the flat was flooded in the summer of 1981. Eventually those doors were rehung, but one has since fallen off.

Around the same time, the living room window was broken by a plastic bullet. The Housing Executive has refused to repair the window, claiming it is an RUC responsibility.

Two weeks before Christmas, the Housing Executive offered Mary Hanvey a new house in Jude Street, which she gladly accepted. She was told to prepare for a move at short notice. But now, two months later, with still no news from the Housing Executive, Mary's hopes have faded.

Meanwhile, she spends much of her days out of the flat and much of her nights lying awake listening to the rats running around the ground floor.

Rent strike against muggers

BY JACK MADDEN

AN UPSURGE in muggings and handbag-snatching has prompted tenants in Dublin's Charlemont Street Flats complex to call a rent strike. Locals are angry at the failure of the city's Public Lighting Department to repair lights in the area which, they say, has become a mugger's paradise. Old people have suffered most and one presently lies in hospital after a brutal attack.

Despite letters to the department no action has been taken. On Monday last, the committee of the Charlemont Community Association placed a picket on the Public Lighting Department's offices and the same day an elect-

rician was despatched to the flats complex.

"But," says Willie Ormonde, chairperson of the association, "he repaired only a few lights and left most still broken. Lights in a laneway leading to Richmond Street

were not repaired at all, although this is the area in which most attacks have taken place.

"Other Corporation departments are very helpful," adds Ormonde, "but the Public Lighting Department has ignored any letters we have sent to them. Despite the serious attacks our protests which began last September have been ignored. The only reason that anything was done last Monday was because we forced action with our picket. This rent strike will continue until the department responds positively to our demands and repairs all of the lighting in this area."



● The laneway leading to Richmond Street — scene of a number of attacks but still without lighting

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE TWO-YEAR campaign to have Belfast's Moyard Flats completely demolished is to continue, in spite of an attempt to defuse the protests by a Housing Executive concession at the end of December for partial demolition of the flats and a re-furbishing scheme for houses in the estate.

This half-way solution has been rejected by the Moyard Action Committee who are determined to press on for the complete demolition of all 204 dwellings in the complex.

Further dissatisfaction with the Executive plans arose at a meeting between officials and residents on January 21st when — only a month

MOYARD MUST GO



● Moyard residents have met with an overturning of the Executive's promises

after the announcement of partial demolition — the action committee was informed that no firm date could now be given and, in a

complete turn-about, the Executive also told the residents that the promised re-furbishing scheme for the houses had been shelved be-

cause of 'financial difficulties'.

DICTATED

And another storm is brewing

following a statement by the Housing Executive's regional area manager, Sean Gallagher, at a housing conference earlier this month, that the Moyard Action Committee was being "dictated to by outside bodies and political parties."

Action committee spokesperson Margaret Keenan has dismissed this as "a cheap ploy to try and discredit the work of the committee and the people of Moyard."

She says: "We will not tolerate Mr Gallagher's statement and we are demanding a public apology. If we have, or have not, political opinions, they are our own as individuals and we keep them to ourselves. The issue at stake here is people's lives and their future, not their politics."

The maternity conveyor-belt

BY RITA O'HARE

DANGEROUS medical trials on the mothers of spina bifida children, who become pregnant again, are being carried out in Ireland, according to a group of women campaigning on maternity issues.

And, says a Kildare doctor, maternity services have been "streamlined and stereotyped and conveyor-belted to a point where the unfortunate mother is now dehumanised beyond recognition."

Trials being held both in Ireland and Britain by the Medico-Social Research Board on neural tube defects (such as spina bifida) are presently being highlighted by the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services (AIMS). They say that only women who have already had one child affected by neural tube defects (NTD) — and are thus most likely to have another such child — are selected.

It is thought that folic acid plays a large part in preventing NTD, but in order to prove this these experiments are being carried out. The Medico-Research team divides the women into groups and gives some of them multivitamins and folic acid, some of

them folic acid only, and some of them (the control group), a placebo (dummy tablet) of minerals.

EXPERIMENTAL

For the trial to have a significant result, there will have to be an excess of NTD babies born to one of the groups and apparently the experimental standard assumes that the control group will have twice as many NTD babies as the others.

The AIMS group is very disturbed by these trials, and have been having great difficulty in getting any information about them. They have written to the Free State Minister for Health,

Barry Desmond, and are demanding a full list of hospitals in which these trials are being held; whether the women concerned are being given full information on the tests so that they understand the risks involved; and also what the legal position would be of any woman participating in these trials who gives birth to an NTD baby.

IMPROVED

The medical care of mothers and babies in Ireland's maternity hospitals has undoubtedly improved greatly in the last 10 years. The perinatal mortality rate (babies either still-born or not surviving the first week of life) dropped from 24.8 per 1,000 births in 1971 to 12.2 per 1,000 in 1981. The mortality rate for mothers is almost nil.

But the price paid for this

by pregnant women themselves is high, and some doctors and midwives believe that the streamlined, impersonal, 'high-technology' treatment of pregnant women is in many cases unnecessary.

In line with the overall centralisation of general medical care in Ireland, small maternity units and the traditional role of midwives have all but disappeared. Women from rural areas travel long distances, in many cases involving a whole day away from home, to the large maternity hospitals, for the pre-natal care.

Women from Nenagh in County Tipperary, for instance, have to travel to Limerick since the maternity unit attached to the county hospital was closed down in 1980.

The maternity unit in Dungarvan, County Waterford, has just been closed by the South-Eastern Health Board despite local opposition.

In Carlow the unit there had its beds reduced from 25 to 10; the unit in Trim, County Meath, is to be closed this year; and in Cork and Kerry, women have to travel to Cork city, Tralee or Dingle for much of their ante-natal care and for the delivery. And travelling to a clinic can mean a full day away from home.

FEARS

The practice in the big hospitals is to give everyone the same appointment time, which means that most patients have a wait of two hours before they see a doctor and then usually for about one minute. There is no time for the women to ask questions or express their fears or worries.

Many fully-equipped maternity units in rural areas are unused because the relevant health boards say they cannot afford to appoint a consultant.

In Letterkenny, for instance, the 14-bed neo-natal unit there is unused because they do not have a second consultant paediatrician. This means a journey to Sligo if there are any difficulties or complications in new-born babies, or the paediatrician from Sligo must travel to Letterkenny.

But in many cases maternity units that lie unused, because there is no consultant, could operate perfectly well without one. Local GPs and midwives could run the ante-natal clinics and refer women with any complications to a consultant.

Andrew Rynne, a general practitioner from Kildare, is one of the most outspoken critics of the present system operated by the



maternity hospitals. At a recent seminar in Dun Laoghaire he said:

"There is now far too much interference by obstetricians in what should be a very natural and smooth process of having a baby."

"Our maternity hospitals have gone hopelessly overboard with monitors and drips and ultrasound scanners. There is far too much shaving and enemas, episiotomies and epidurals, far too much meddling by experts who seem to have little else to do..."

"Pregnancy and labour in this country, as indeed in most other Western countries, has been over-medicalised, has been streamlined and stereotyped and conveyor-belted to a point where the unfortunate mother is now dehumanised beyond recognition."

Dr Rynne pointed out that most GPs had the training, ability and willingness to look after their pre-natal patients.

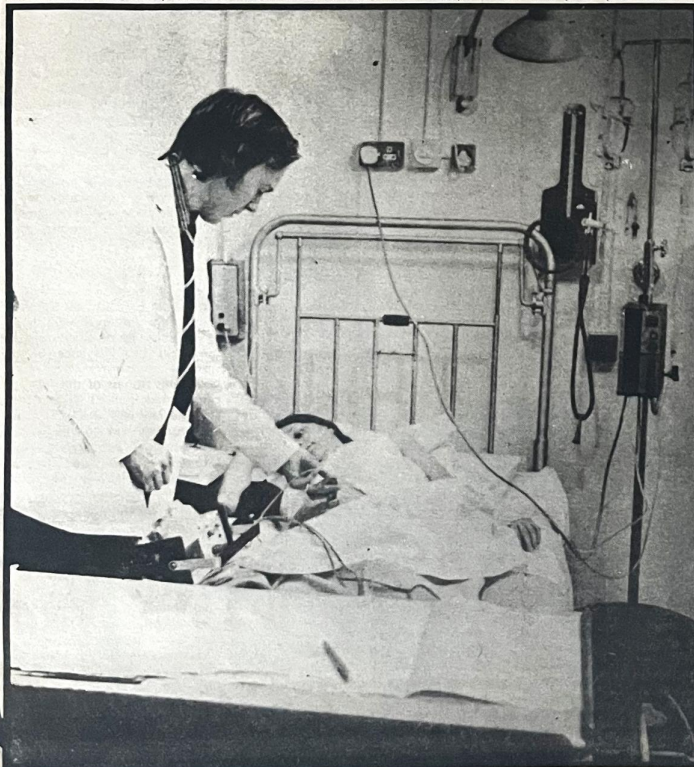
He emphasised that he was not advocating that all women should have a home-birth, or that the

consultants and hospital play a vital role in neo-natal death or birth complications. He said the obstetricians succeeded in making the obsolete, and criticising the lack of any part between the mother and the child.

MATERNITY

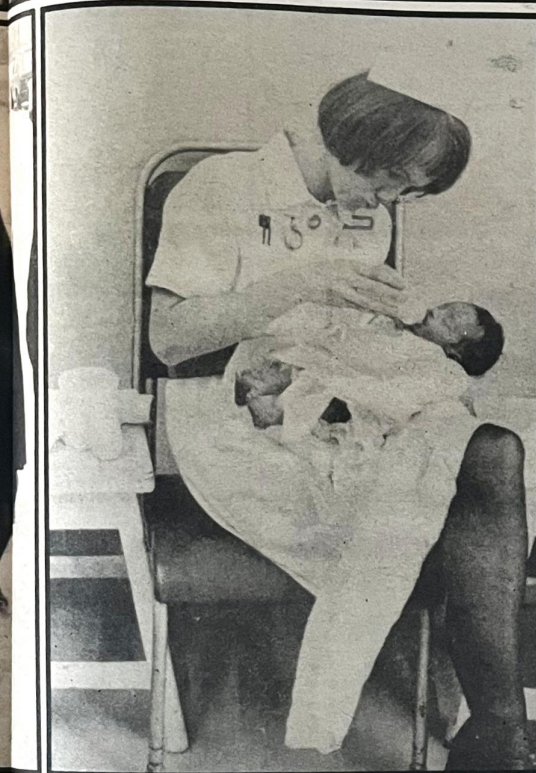
AIMS, which is a county organisation in Ireland by women who have suffered very badly in Irish maternity hospitals.

They drew up a list of 100 points. Almost all of these had varying degrees of their treatment. The actual medical care was not the best, but there were a few stories of infections or birth complications, and of hospital deaths, more important than





● Holles Street Hospital



hospitals did not
eliminating
damage and
on. But he did
cians had sug-
wives had most
strongly
Personal contact
other and those
and delivery.

of the mothers and the well-being
of the babies.

Comments such as "we were
treated like a herd of cattle" and
"they never listened to me" were
common. What came through was
the realisation by most of the
women that they had to get to-
gether and speak as an organised
pressure group.

They distribute a regular news-
letter and have published a "Con-
sumer's Guide to Dublin Maternity
Units". A questionnaire has also
been distributed in Belfast, and
other areas in the country are to
follow suit.

The Dublin guide covers the
Coombe, Holles Street, the Rot-
unda, St James's, Loughlinstown,
and Mount Carmel. Praise is given
where deserved and criticism where
there has been no attempt to ac-
commodate AIMS' suggestions for
improvement — such as partners
being allowed to stay throughout
labour and delivery, the mother
having the baby with her at all
times if she wishes, and any drugs

or other medical treatment being
explained fully.

MALE-DOMINATED

The fact cannot be escaped
that the maternity services are,
like all other fields of medicine,
male-dominated. The chief ob-
stetrician in Irish maternity hos-
pitals is traditionally called the
"Master". There are few women
obstetricians.

Out of 164 appointees to
hospital and health boards in the
twenty-six counties, only 9 are
women.

So a medical service that deals
exclusively with women is run
almost exclusively by men. And in
spite of their training and skill,
there is an obvious lack of under-
standing of the needs and wishes
of pregnant women, who want to
have their babies in the safest pos-
sible conditions but who at the
same time do not need to be treat-
ed merely as child-bearing objects
with no feelings or opinions of
their own.



RANK JAILINGS

BY JACK MADDEN

THE imprisonment of 14 workers involved in a trade dispute at Ranks flour mills in Dublin has highlighted the use by Irish employers of a legal system, heavily biased in their favour, against legitimate trade union grievances.

The jailings began on Thursday of last week, February 10th, when the shop-stewards leading the protest occupation of the Phibsboro mills, Harry Fleming and Alan Trimble, told the court that they were not prepared to abide by an injunction barring them from the factory.

They explained that they felt that they had a moral right, if they were being thrown out of work, to an adequate redundancy payment in line with previous redundancies at Ranks.

The two were jailed and in the following week were followed into Mountjoy by 12 more of their fellow workers.

Protest pickets have been held outside the jail and at the mills in support of the workers, who bitterly point out that the closure of Ranks, in Dublin and in Limerick, is being put down to the flow of imports from Britain.

Yet Ranks, who are claiming their inability to pay adequate redundancy, have themselves been involved in the importation of flour and its directors are involved in another company (Kipling Cakes) which is registered

as an import agency and is ready to take up Ranks' 30% share of the market by importing and distributing flour from the parent company in England, where Ranks mills have recently been updated.

PICKETED

Last Saturday, Ranks workers and supporters also picketed Liberty Hall, in protest at the ITGWU decision to withdraw official status from the dispute.

This decision was taken because, although the Dublin workers voted against the company redundancy offer, the Limerick workers voted for it, and Eddie Browne, ITGWU group secretary, insisted on aggregating the vote and thus justified withdrawing union sanction from the occupation.

This has been a major blow to the morale of the workers. But it has also left another situation where a most extreme form of repression against workers involved in an industrial dispute has been used with very little response from the trade union movement.

And although a compromise solution is, it is said, being looked for by the ITGWU, other concerned trade unions and the Dublin Trades Council have been told

to keep off their patch when they were anxious to mobilise support action.

INEXPERIENCED

The reality is, therefore, that the resistance to legal over-kill against trade unionists has been left to relatively inexperienced workers, whilst the powerful trade unions allow employers to abuse their legal powers with impunity.

With the rise in the number of factory closures and the practice of employers refusing to pay realistic redundancy, it would seem likely that the number of such occupations will increase.

Besides the Ranks sit-in and the recently ended occupation at Clondalkin Paper Mills, there have been a number of other sit-ins already in the twenty-six counties. Amongst them is the continuing sit-in by workers at Kingdom Tubes, in Tralee, because factory management refused to pay any redundancy at all when the factory shut on January 21st making 295 people unemployed.

PROPERTY

In disputes such as that at Clondalkin, Ranks or Kingdom Tubes, the employer will always have the law on his side no matter how just the grievance of the union.

As Des Bonass of the ATGWU commented:

"The law was written by men of property to protect their own interests, and their interests take little account of the needs of workers."



● Angry Ranks workers, families and supporters picket Dublin's Liberty Hall to demand action from the ITGWU leadership

•Mála poist...Mála poist.

ALL letters should be addressed to The Editor, An Phoblacht/Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, or 44 Pennel Street, Dublin 1. Letters should be written as clearly as possible, preferably on one side of paper only. Names and addresses should always be included, even when not for publication.

Repatriation

A Chara,
I would like to avail myself of the opportunity to thank all of those people who took the trouble to attend the picket outside this prison (Hull) on January 22nd. A special word of thanks to Sinn Féin (Britain) who have continuously organised pickets and demonstrations throughout England, Scotland and Wales, in order to highlight the refusal of the British government to transfer POWs to prisons in Ireland and also the 'special' treatment they receive.

It is common knowledge that the British government are holding the POWs as political hostages in a futile attempt to deter other Volunteers from continuing with the liberation struggle as determined by the Irish Republican Army, and in particular when the war is brought to England's cities.

The British Home Secretary, Whitelaw, has also admitted, in a letter to Robert Kilroy-Silk, that Irish political prisoners are being refused "their right" of transfer for punitive reasons. The possibility, therefore, of a POW being transferred whilst the Brits are allowed to continue with this discriminating policy is practically nil.

In refusing to transfer the POWs, they are contradicting their own prison rules which state: "that all prisoners will be held in prisons as close to their homes as possible in order to retain family relationships." Transfers according to this rule should, therefore, be available to the POWs on demand. In view of this situation, it is a welcome development that Sinn Féin (Britain) are re-organising their resources to spearhead the work pertaining to the rights of POWs in Britain.

Full support and encouragement should be given by all who support our movement and struggle; there is no half-way house, one is either with us or against us, the luxury of 'sitting on the fence' should not exist. Hopefully, with the real development of this work a nucleus of broad-based sections of the people and organisations, under the guidance and leadership of our movement, will emerge. They would demand our rights as Irish POWs not on humanitarian grounds but on political ones. The deaths of our ten comrades in Ireland, and of two in England, on hunger-strike, is a true reflection of what British government 'humanism' really means when determining the fate of Irish people.

Whilst I fully support Sinn Féin (Britain) in their pursuance of our rights as POWs it is my opinion that all issues of treatment of prisoners are secondary to the development of the struggle in Ireland.

When a successful conclusion to the war in Ireland is reached the whole issue of prisoners and the Irish people will be a thing of the past. It is to the develop-



•RONNIE MCCARTNEY

A Chara,

On March 8th, women throughout the world will celebrate International Women's Day. Here in Ireland, a demonstration of solidarity will take place outside Armagh Jail in recognition of the continued commitment and resistance of our women prisoners of war.

This country will also see a variety of events organised by women to draw attention to their unique struggle against oppression.

AP/RN has, to date, chronicled many specific and overt examples of the unique oppression of, and suffering of, women.

If we think for a moment of the range of such examples, we find a horrifying list: women sexually harassed and abused by the British army and RUC; women as victims of unspeakable housing conditions and unemployment; women subject to interrogation, imprisonment and torture, with methods used designed to defile their sexual, marital, economic and social status; women as victims of muggings and rape (often with a sectarian motive); women treated as second-class citizens and as 'objects' of male supremacy at work, in education, within marriage, within the law; women struggling in one-parent families — prey to ravages of state spending cuts, rising prices and inadequate social benefits and facilities; older women who have outgrown their 'usefulness' to men, and who lie in hospitals, state institutions, or who find themselves without a home.

However, this chronicling of the symptoms of the disease needs to be followed by an immediate determination to analyse the disease itself, and to create a commitment to curing it. The disease is, in fact, much more deeply established in our

A CHALLENGE



•Picket of Armagh Jail on International Women's Day

society than many people will admit.

A man recently said: "Show me the most oppressed man in the world, and I will show you one who suffers more — the man's wife." That perceptive statement sums up, in very few words, the fact that women still have a great struggle ahead of them, in order to achieve equality, justice and freedom.

Although the world-wide movement for women's liberation, and many active feminists, have done much to achieve some progress, women's unique struggle is largely regarded as either a low priority, or as something to be dealt with 'come the glorious day'.

Meanwhile, women are still

used in ways which reflect the male-dominated nature of most developed and sophisticated societies, and in ways designed to keep them subservient.

The Republican Movement has long acknowledged and upheld the right of our people to self-determination, and has keenly analysed the nature of cultural, economic and military imperialism. International Women's Day now gives us an opportunity to examine more deeply our society and to recognise, and cure, the sexual imperialism which we inflict on ourselves.

Women, and men, now have the opportunity to broaden the economic, cultural, and military struggle further, to begin with an examination of their everyday

lives, and to ensure that eventual victory is a full one, and that such victory lies in the hands of both women and men — in true, not token, equality.

William Thompson, an early Irish socialist and feminist, wrote the following in 1825, after John Mills dismissed political rights for women in his famous 'Essay on Government': "As your bondage has chained down man to the ignorance and vices of despotism, so will your liberation reward him with knowledge, with freedom and with happiness."

Let us remember those words on International Women's Day in 1983.

Aisling Dorce, Beal Feirste.

Bord na Gaeilige, Gaeltacht districts where Irish still prevailed accounted for 1% of the population of the twenty-six counties.

Outside those Gaeltacht districts, however, some 3% of the population of the Free State spoke and used Irish more than English and between 25% and 30% of the entire population of the country (if I understood him correctly) had a very good knowledge of Irish.

Sean O Tuama did not say that every survey over the past 20 years has shown a substantial majority of the people of the twenty-six counties in favour of the restoration of the Irish language; an indication that, perhaps, they might be prepared to make substantial sacrifices and even take on the job of learning the language, given a sound, practical, government plan. But, no doubt, he would agree.

I briefly spoke to him after his lecture and made the point that languages never die of natural causes: they are put to death. All languages are cannibals — they gobble each other up. What is needed in this country is language aggression and language intolerance as practised in every country over the past hundred years where a language in decline has been restored.

Belgium and Canada are good examples, as are Israel, Hungary and Finland.

O Tuama agreed in general with all this as a statement of fact and was beginning to outline a plan of action. The pressure of this nature from his left, while the moderates went ahead with their plan on the right, when we were interrupted by a Gaeltacht resident who, earlier, had interrupted O Tuama during his lecture.

This man, Michael O Cuaig, was upset by Sean's discourse. He was interested in his rights as an Irish-speaking person in an Irish-speaking region, a place where he was being treated by officialdom as a second-class citizen. The state continues to force English down the people's throats at every level (ever tried to make a telephone call using Irish through the local telephone exchange?).

O Cuaig managed to scare Sean O Tuama and that was that.

Although promises had been made that members of the school would be allowed to voice opinions or ask questions, the organisers 'ran out of time'. This may have been the truth or an excuse, a reluctance by Cumann Mearmian to stage, against its will, a platform of protest against the Free State and its long and consistent policy of killing the Irish language.

Evidence was presented by Dr Tomas de Bhaldraithe that the Irish language, despite all, was well able to cope with life and to serve well those who used it, even if pressure of English had reduced it to a not very attractive patois (bearlágar was the word used).

It was up to the writers, television and broadcasters, he pointed out, to be choosy about the way they expressed themselves.

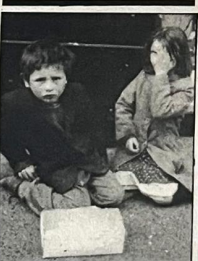
A language, like a river, cleanses itself relatively soon, all other things being equal (but they seldom are, in Ireland). Like evidence was given by Brendan Feirste that, given even a quarter of a chance, the Gaeltacht would not alone survive but expand.

Sinn Féin should organise a similar weekend but give an opportunity to speakers. It would be an ideal occasion for a fuller discussion of the cultural policy and adopting an attitude to the new Bord na Gaeilige 'initiative' (if it gets through the Fine Gael sieve).

Dessus Breatnach, Dun Laoghaire.

ment of our struggle and the politicisation of the Irish people that we should direct our resources.

Ronnie McCartney, Hull Prison, England.



•DAVID ANDREWS

estimated that questions submitted and answered in this fashion costs the taxpayer £70, are we not entitled to ask Mr Andrews if he takes us all for fools?

Mr Andrews should have acquainted the minister with the outrageous disparity in living conditions between those whom he claims are suffering great hardship, and those he claims are causing it. Did he think he could tell the minister and the public when he used the term "trader"? We are more concerned about the families of Irish Travellers living in grossly overcrowded and degrading conditions, without even the basic necessities of running water and toilet facilities.

We wonder what great hardships these people cause to families living in good housing conditions with more than the basic necessities of life.

Mr Andrews arrogantly assumes that the general public are fooled by his dishonest play of using the term "trader" to describe Irish Travellers who are re-

organised as a disadvantaged ethnic group within Irish society by the Council of Europe and who have suffered from a variety of abusive and dehumanising terms, the latest of which is "trader" so that property values and votes can be maintained at their expense.

The Committee for the Rights of Travellers calls on TDs to stop this extreme prejudice against Travellers.

Seamus Leonard, Committee for the Rights of Travellers, Tallaght, County Dublin.

Irish survival

A Chara,

Yet another plan is to be put before the Dublin government to halt the decline of the use of the Irish language in Gaeltacht areas, those districts with a virtually unbroken tradition of Irish.

This was announced in Galway during the last weekend of January in the Great Southern Hotel to hundreds of people brought together in the winter school of Cumann Mearmian. The subject for lectures and symposia was the Irish language and the Gaeltacht. Trá Ghaeilge a reachfaileadh achan ruid.

The announcement was made by Dr Sean O Tuama, the UCC professor, poet and dramatist, as head of Bord na Gaeilige, a semi-state body with all the attributes of Hamlet: great introspection, procrastination and some madness.

As the new plan was before the Dublin administration at present Dr O Tuama would not go into any great detail as to its

The Irish language



is there a future?

contents. If accepted and put into action, he forecast, some progress would or should be seen within four years. However, like any other plan, it would cost money, and the professor seemed to be in some doubt as to whether the present regime might be disposed to make that money available.

If nothing were done, according to the professor, no Gaeltacht districts would remain by even the middle of the next century.

According to surveys made by

Burke's at the back

BY KEVIN BURKE

Pulling a bank job

BANKS in the Sligo/Roscommon area have apparently decided to write off a total of £40,000 which is owed to them by a well-known former Fianna Fail minister, in order to avoid embarrassment all round.

The amount was raised in a series of 15 different loans of between £2,000 and £3,000 at 15 different bank branches in the area. The bank managers, who need no higher authorisation to grant such small amounts, were apparently only too pleased to accommodate such a powerful minister. And it was too late to do anything when the regional offices did some addition and discovered the size of the true debts.

Now just say, for example, if someone like, say, a Special Branchman or, say, an ordinary Fianna Fail non-parliamentary party deputy tried such a move. Would he have pulled it off so easily I wonder?

★ ★ ★

Two South Armagh men, Patrick McGennity, aged 45, and Daniel Farrell, aged 43, both of Dromintee, have been awarded a total of £4,000 against the British Ministry of Defence, by Newry County Court.

Daniel Farrell was pulled from his tractor and knocked to the ground with a blow from a rifle by British soldiers who then spreadeagled him in front of the tractor for 15 minutes when he described it as a cowardly assault.

Patrick McGennity was taken out of his car by British soldiers, made to lie down on the ground and then kicked in the chest and on the arms and legs.

★ ★ ★

Former British army paratrooper David Eaton claimed in Edinburgh High Court last week that memories of his days in the North were suddenly revived at the sight of a farmhouse gun cabinet — and set him on the road to crime.

He stole a .22 rifle, a shotgun and several hundred rounds of ammunition in the Scottish Borders area and set off to rob a warehouse. Whilst breaking in he was surprised by a woman police constable and beat her severely with an iron bar.

Continuing his 'Irish revival' he opened fire at her and her colleague with the shotgun and sped away, firing as he went.

Because he had previously put such methods to better use in Ireland, the judge looked leniently on his aberration and only sentenced him to three years' imprisonment.

★ ★ ★

Staying in Scotland, it has emerged that the SAS has been training a secret force within Strathclyde Constabulary to keep an eye on political dissidents.

A euphoric report in Glasgow's *Sunday Standard* says:

"Members of the support unit, all arms experts, some skilled in the use of long-range high velocity sniping rifles and gas grenades, have undergone intensive training with the SAS."

"They work to assimilate the life-style of the people they are tracking," the article states. "All this is backed up by files at the forces' Criminal Intelligence Unit, which details the movements, haunts and acquaintances of the many people suspected by the police."

The last time I mentioned such a story I passed some remark about British political activists getting experience of repression at first hand — and caused a wave of outraged protests.

So this time I'll make no comment.

★ ★ ★

The SAS Regiment's numbers in the North have been reduced by one following a car crash early last week on the M1 motorway near Lurgan, County Armagh.

Killed in the crash, which involved no other vehicles, was Corporal Tommy Palmer of the SAS Regiment. Palmer was on under-cover duty at the time of the accident. British soldiers and the RUC spent much of the next day searching the banks alongside the motorway, but all they would say was... that they



were searching the banks alongside the motorway.

The dead SAS man Palmer, had been decorated for his part in the storming of the Iranian Embassy in London three years ago, when the SAS shot down the hostage-takers in cold blood after they had thrown down their weapons and surrendered.

He had also been part of a team which parachuted into the Falklands/Malvinas.

★ ★ ★

A dramatic story involving the RUC and UDR was unfolded in a Lisnaskea court-room last week, when events late one August evening were recalled.

The UDR had mounted a roadblock outside Lisnaskea, in County Fermanagh, but, according to evidence given, were wearing much camouflage and could not easily be seen.

Along came a car, the driver of which failed to see them and therefore failed to stop. One UDR soldier was knocked down and injured.

When the car did stop, the rather drunk driver turned out to be one David Buchanan,

an RUC man from Newtownbutler.

Last week he was disqualified from driving and fined £25.

★ ★ ★

A British army foot patrol in the New Barnsley area of Belfast were overcome with curiosity last weekend when they heard suspicious noises at the back of a house.

After investigating further, and coming into stormy confrontation with the house-occupier, the Brits excitedly called up their base to report that they had found a horse.

Several very senior officers quickly arrived on the scene to decide whether Shergar had been discovered. After lengthy examination the two old nags which occasionally pull their owner around in a pony-trap were left where they were.

A bit unstable some of these Brits, you might say.

★ ★ ★

Monsignor Tomelty, of All Saints Church in Ballymena, has an aversion to paper-sellers it would seem.

Although not all paper-sellers, just some paper-sellers.

The good Monsignor has twice ordered the sellers of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* off church property on recent Sundays, yet at the same time he allows a local businessman to site a mobile paper-shop on the same church property.

And I can remember the days when the *News of the World*, *The People* and that class of paper were denounced regularly from the altar as 'occasions of sin'!

Perhaps a few pin-ups in our pages would solve our sales problem in Ballymena.

★ ★ ★

I see that the Young Fine Gael conference last weekend passed a motion condemning Section 31 as 'petty censorship', and calling for its abolition. Some of the speeches really went overboard in adjectival denunciation of the ban.

Ever since, I've had this uneasy feeling that maybe there is some advantage in retaining it after all.

★ ★ ★

A recent birth notice in the *Newtownards Chronicle* is worth passing on to a wider audience. It went as follows:

"Brooks — Loyalist Councillor Michael and Mrs Yvonne Brooks rejoice in the birth of a loyalist daughter, Catherine Sarah, a sister for loyalist son John. Another supporter for the loyalist cause and another vote for daddy, U Paisley. No surrender. Praise God from whom all blessings flow."



WHAT'S ON

- RANKS WORKERS BENEFIT SOCIAL**
Featuring local artists
8pm Thursday 17th February
The Spinning Wheel
Mary Street
DUBLIN
- POLITICAL CABARET & SOCIAL**
Featuring Cafe Despard
Saturday 19th February
The LESA Club
Short Strand
BELFAST
- MUNSTER SINN FEIN EDUCATION SEMINAR**
'The Role of Officers in Sinn Fein'
1.30 to 6pm Sunday 20th February
Ballyphehane Community Hall
- CORK**
All comhairli ceantair & cumainn officers to attend
- SOCIAL NIGHT**
Featuring The Broadway Ramblers
9pm Thursday 24th February
Upstairs Lounge
The Stag's Head
Linenhall Street
DUNDALK
Admission £1
Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach
- IRISH NIGHT**
Thursday 24th February
Thornlea Hotel
CUSHENDALL
County Antrim
Organised by Sinn Fein
- SING-SONG & DANCE**
8pm Friday 25th February
The Hibernian Hotel
- CLONES**
County Monaghan
Admission £1.50
Organised by Sinn Fein
- TESTIMONIAL DINNER**
(to honour veteran republicans
Clement Geaney & Liam Fagan)
8.30pm Friday 25th February
Castlebellingham Castle
COUNTY LOUTH
Tickets £10 (including 4-course
meal & free bus from Dundalk)
- IRISH NIGHT**
Featuring local artists
Saturday 26th February
Kiloran's Traditional Lounge
TUBBERCURRY
County Sligo
Admission £1
Organised by Sinn Fein
- SINN FEIN NEW MEMBERS EDUCATION SEMINAR**
11am Sunday 27th February
St Patrick's Hall
DUNGANNON
County Tyrone
- SINN FEIN DEPT. OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS FILM SHOW**
Featuring 'Women in Arms' —
Nicaraguan women and their struggle to
maintain and expand the freedoms won
during the revolution
8pm Sunday 27th February
The No. 5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Admission £1
- INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BELFAST/ARMAGH DELEGATION**
March 4th to 7th inclusive
Women only delegation from London
Details from
Armagh Co-ordinating Committee
374 Grays Inn Road
LONDON WC1
Latest date for registration
Sunday 20th February
- SOUTH LEINSTER SINN FEIN EDUCATION SEMINAR**
(Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow,
Kilkenny & Kildare)
'The Role of Officers in Sinn Fein'
1.30pm Sunday 6th March
Murphy Flossa Hotel
ENNISCORTHY
County Wexford
All comhairli ceantair & cumainn
officers to attend
- NORTH LEINSTER SINN FEIN EDUCATION SEMINAR**
(Louth, Meath, Longford,
Westmeath & Midlands)
'The Role of Officers in Sinn Fein'
11am Sunday 13th March
The Fairways Hotel
DUNDALK
County Louth
All comhairli ceantair & cumainn
officers to attend

Ard comhairle meeting

AT THE February meeting of the Sinn Féin and comhairle reports were given on a number of issues among which were the preparations being made for the next Westminster elections in the North and the 1984 local government elections in the twenty-six counties, which also coincide with the EEC elections.

The Southern election directorate raised the question of the meaning of the term 'suitable candidates' with respect to past discipline and proper political orientation.

Francie Molloy, Northern director of elections, gave a run-down of a number of conventions that had been held throughout the North and named the candidates who have been chosen to gear themselves for a Westminster contest which possibly may occur next May or June.

It was agreed to send a telegram to the Polish government, drafted by Ruairí O'Bradaigh, and signed by Sinn Féin's five elected representatives in the North, calling for the immediate granting of political status to Edmund Baluka, who has been on hunger-strike since January 24th protesting against his imprisonment in solitary confinement. Baluka was the chairperson of the Szczecia strike committee in 1970.

It was also agreed that the Director of Publicity would draft an information leaflet giving details of Sinn Féin offices and departments and to update the information hand-outs 'Freedom Struggle in Ireland'.

Volunteers remembered

DOWNPATRICK Sinn Féin held two wreath-laying ceremonies on Sunday, February 6th, to commemorate the deaths of two local IRA Volunteers who were killed in a premature explosion on February 10th 1973.

Wreaths were laid on the graves of Volunteer Leo O'Hanlon at Ardglais and Volunteer Vivien Fitzsimmons at Downpatrick.

In County Antrim, on Sunday, February 6th, a commemoration was held in honour of IRA Volunteers Phelim Grant and Charles McCann, both of whom died in a premature explosion on February 5th 1972.

Over 200 people and four bands took part in a march from the village of Cargin to the local graveyard where a ceremony was chaired by Kevin Agnew. The oration was given by veteran Derry republican Sean Keenan.

Belfast martyrs book

THE National Graves Association in Belfast are now in the final stages of compiling a book on Belfast republican martyrs but are having some difficulty in obtaining good quality photographs of a number of individuals who are to be included in the publication.

Photos are required of the following: Joseph McComiskey, Bernard Fox, Anne Marie Petticrew, Sean McKee, John Rooney, Teddy Campbell, Kevin McAuley, 'Tucker' Kane, Rosemary Bleakley and Teddy O'Neill.

If anyone has photographs of any of the above the NGA would appreciate their loan. They can be forwarded to the NGA, c/o Sinn Féin Centre, 51-53 Falls Road, Belfast.

The safe return of all photographs is assured.

Sinn Féin AGM

AT the recent AGM of the Worthington/Watters Sinn Féin cumann, Dundalk, the following officers were elected: chairperson: Sean Kenna; secretary: Maureen McArdle; treasurer: Joe Ashmore; PRO: John Clarke; education: Hugh McMahon.

Thanks

THE Sinn Féin POW Department, Dublin, would like to thank the Govan Shamrock Flute Band, Glasgow, for their generous donation of a typewriter in response to their recent appeal.

TU & RADIO

Political propaganda

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

"POLITICS and love don't mix," is one gem from the script of *Tales of the Gold Monkey*, on BBC1 on Monday and RTE2 on Tuesday, and the double dose is hard to take. Jake Cutter, the hero, is a sort of American Biggles living in the South Seas.

Unlike Biggles, however, Jake drinks, smokes and gets involved with women, hence the above remark. He falls in love with a German spy, a beautiful female German spy needless to say. A great struggle with his patriotic conscience ensues before he returns to the arms of his true friends, Sarah, Corky and Jack - the one-eyed dog who is at all times braver, cleverer and more likeable than any of the humans.

That was the BBC one. The RTE one was about a nasty native princess. The natives in this series are either weak, helpless and in need of protection by the gallant Jake, or cunning and devious and in need of a good thrashing.

This series is described as "a ripping adventure yarn" and is set in an imaginary island in the South Pacific in 1938.

The slightly cross-eyed Sarah is an American spy (only she is called an 'agent' - spies are nasty foreign people) and Jake's crew on this seaplane are Corky, a drunk with a heart of gold, and the dog. The dog is OK.

"He holds a grudge longer than any woman," says Jake in this objectionable mixture of imperialism, racism and sexism.

SUPERMAN

More 'truth, justice and the American way' in *The Greatest American Hero* on RTE1 on Mondays.

Ralph Hinkley is Superman with a difference. He wasn't born to it and doesn't use telephone boxes to change in. He

just found the suit that turns him into a superhero by accident.

He flies around (a bit awkwardly as he lost the instruction book), arresting villains, protecting politicians and, in the last programme, stopping evil experiments by foreign-controlled (of course) scientists. Ronald Reagan's blue-eyed boy in fact.

Unlike the above, *Masada* on BBC1 really is a 'ripping, gripping yarn'.

Now what does this remind you of? Foreign power invades, rapes the women, kills the children, bans the religion of the people, 'seizes the best land, evicts or murders the native owners and when the people try to fight back they call them terrorists.

ROMAN

No, it's Judaea in AD70 when the Roman army attack Jerusalem, slaying thousands of Jews and taking thousands more as slaves.

The Judaea resistance leader, Eleazar, retreats to the top of Mount Masada, with plenty of food and water for his people and waits and watches while the Romans below fry in the intense heat.

This serial is in four parts, with episodes three and four next Monday and Tuesday at 9.25pm on BBC1.

NUCLEAR

Less effective fighting back on the part of Jim and Ethel, the hero and heroine of Raymond Briggs' radio play *When The Wind Blows* last Monday



● Our all-American hero Jake (right) with his faithful friends, Corky and Sarah, and even more faithful pup

on BBC Radio 4. This was an adaptation of Briggs' cartoon strip story book of the same name. It is the story of how two ordinary people try to cope with the aftermath of a nuclear bomb attack on England.

Jim has read all the Ministry of Defence leaflets and built his pathetically inadequate shelter, stocked it with food and water and they both then

'hope for the best'.

When the three-minute warning comes, Ethel wants to wait for a cake to come out of the oven and take in the washing. Jim and Ethel, old age pensioners with a grown-up family, naively believe that if they follow all the instructions they will survive the bomb. They eventually die from radiation poisoning.

Raymond Briggs is famous for his children's books, and *When The Wind Blows* is typical of his style. But this is no child's fairy tale. In his quirky humorous style Raymond Briggs exposes the full horror of the effects of nuclear war, and the very ordinariness of the setting and people in his story make it all the more terrifying.

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

MAR is eol do chách, tá an Bhreatain ar cheann des na tíortha is mó le rá ar domhain atá ag ulmhú le haghaidh cogadh domhanda eithneach, agus is fuirist a shamhlú go bhfuil fianaise láidir ann go bhfuilid ag baint úsáid as an córas mílteach atá acu sna Sé Chontae sa scéim seo. (AP/RN 3/2/83)

Ní iomlán an scéil atá ansin, áfach. Tá eolas go leor ar fáil le léiriú go bhfuil córas teileachumarsáide an tSaorstáit nasctha go dlúth leis an drochobair seo. Ar ndóig, bheadh sé oiriúnach go leor dá mbeadh áiseanna dos na Sasanaigh sa chóras sin, agus bíodh gur minic gur mhaigh saineolaithe go bhfuil an comhoibriú seo ar siúl, níor séanadh riamh é go hoifigiúil. Mar shampla deirtear go bhfuil leaschraoladh dá dhéanamh ar chomharthaí radar trí Sáid Aindriú i lár Bhaile Átha Cliath go dtí an Breatain Bheag agus mar sin go Londain.

NATO

Caithfear cur san áireamh freisin go bhfuil éiginnteacht faoi staid na bpolaiteoirí ar an gceist seo, go háirithe Ó hEochaidh agus Mac Gearailt. Deintear tagairt don chengal mílteach leis an CEE, agus bítear ag caint ar 'neodrachas' an tSaorstáit le deireadh a chur leis an gcríochdeighilt, sé sin mar a bhíomar i 1978.

Tá tabhairt ag an CEE sa ghnó seo. Níl brí ar bith leis an neodrachas atá ag an Saorstáit i gcomhthéacs an eagrais seo, go háirithe nuair atá na tíortha eile in a mbailé de NATO. Tá an ceangal

Cogadh eithneach agus neodrachas an tSaorstáit



● Mairead i mBaile Átha Cliath in ádán airm eithneacha

seo níos nimhní fós nuair a chuirtear san áireamh gurb é príomhaidhm an Chomhghaigh ná aontas mílteach a bhaint amach. Caithfear a bheith amhrasach mar sin faoi iarrachtaí an Chomhghaigh 'cabhair eacnamaíochta' a thabhairt donsa Sé Chontae. Séard tá i gceist acu, anáil agus áiseanna NATO a bhuanu sa limistéar sin.

SIÓCHÁIN

An "neodrachas" seo go mbionn

polaiteoirí an tSaorstáit ag éileamh, neodrachas chogafóichta atá i gceist, sé sin, muna dtagann sé chun bheith ina bhall de NATO. Faoi mar atá, is beag 'neodrachas síochánta' atá ag baint leis; is gnáthai in aghaidh an lae don tSaorstáit vótáil sna Náisiúin Aontaithe in aontacht le tíortha eile an Chomhghaigh.

Le gach lá a imíonn thart tá guthanna le cloisteach ag iarraidh orainn páirt a ghlacadh i NATO. Tá

an-tiar ghinearál O'Sullivan a bhí trath ina cheannasáir ar arm na sé chontae fíchead le cloisteach go minic ag moladh dúinn a leithéid á dhéanamh.

Tá ar mhuintir na sé chontae fíchead a bheith aireach mar is cinnte go bhfuil fórsaí láidre ag déanamh a ndícheall chun an stát a bhrú isteach i NATO. Níl aon dealramh le neodrachas muna bhfuil sé dírithe ar shíocháin domhanda a bhaint amach.

Louth Sinn Fein and Paddy Duffy

SINN FEIN in County Louth has reacted strongly to what it describes as 'an orchestrated campaign of innuendo' mounted by a well-known former member of the party in Dundalk, Paddy Duffy, against the highly respected local Sinn Fein councillor, Fra Browne, who has been accused of 'working for Fianna Fail and not in the true interests of republicans'.

In an interview given to *AP/RN* at the end of last week, Louth councillor Sinn Fein has emphasised that since August 1982, Paddy Duffy - formerly an organiser of both Na Fianna Eireann and Sinn Fein in the area - has had no connection with the Republican Movement, despite his attempts to create an impression to the contrary among local republican supporters.

The smear campaign against Fra Browne, a member of both Louth County Council and Dundalk Urban Council, began during the last Free State general election campaign (which Sinn Fein did not contest) in November.

Chairing the annual Eadentubber commemoration on November 14th, Browne reiterated the Movement's

formal position that republicans should not offer assistance to any of the candidates involved in the election, to clear up the confusion caused by Paddy Duffy's active support of 'independent' candidate Mical O'Donnell and his involvement of some unwitting young republicans in the campaign.

Following Browne's statement, Duffy began circularising a series of letters to local republicans and supporters alleging that the real reason for Fra Browne's opposition to republican involvement on O'Donnell's behalf was that he was working for, and would shortly join, Fianna Fail. (In fact, Browne - a poll-topper in past local government elections - has received several invitations to join the loose coalition headed by 'independent



● COUNCILLOR FRA BROWNE

Fianna Fail' TD Neil Blaney, all of which he has rejected out of hand and reported to Sinn Fein.)

In order to clear up this deliberate confusion once and for all, Sinn Fein has put on record that Paddy Duffy is no longer involved in any way with the Republican Movement.

Coiste Cuimhneachain na Pobachtaí REPUBLICAN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

Applications for speakers at Easter commemorations should be made as soon as possible to:

An Rúnai,
Coiste Cuimhneachain na Pobachtaí,
44 Ceardóg Pharnell,
BACÍ.

EASTER LILIES

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

Irish Lesson

Cé (kay) - Who
Ag gol (eh gull) - Crying
Ag gaire (eh gaw-ireh) - Laughing
Ag the (ehg theh) - Eating
Ag ól (ehg ole) - Drinking
Ag caint (eh koint) - Talking
Ag obair (eh ubbair) - Working
Ag síd (eh shooid) - Walking
Ag rith (eh rih) - Running
Ag teacht (eh tyocht) - Coming

Cé tá ag gol? - Who is crying?
Tá an tsean (van) ag gaire - The woman is laughing.
Cé tá ag the? - Who is eating?

PRONUNCIATION: 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.

Níl Tomás ag ól - Thomas is not drinking.
Cé tá ag caint? - Who is talking?
Tá an capall ag obair - The horse is working.

Tá fear ag teacht - A man is coming.
Agus tá sé ag rith - And he is running.
Níl sé ag rith, tá sé ag síd - He is not running, he is walking.

PHRASES

1 - An bhfuil tú ansin, a Cháit? (un will thou unshin, uh Chawit?) - Are you there, Kate?
2 - Tá mé sa seomra (thaw mé sah showmrh) - I am in the room.
3 - Ach tá mé ag teacht (och thaw mé eh tyocht) - But I am coming.
4 - Meith an callín (moh un koleen) - Good girl.

REMEMBERING THE PAST In the nick of it

BY PETER O'ROURKE

BORN at Attybrack, Annacarty, County Tipperary, in 1890, Dinny Lacey, through the influence of Sean Treacy, was sworn into the IRB in 1914. He was also a member of the Irish Volunteers.

Bitterly disappointed that the fighting during Easter Week 1916 had not extended to the country as a whole, Lacey swore that should the fighting ever be resumed he would be in the thick of it, no matter where it took place.

With Sean Treacy and Dan Breen, he set about reorganising the IRA and Sinn Fein in Tipperary after the Rising. Under his supervision two small munitions factories were started at Knockharding and Shrough.

In October 1920, following the death of Sean Treacy, Dinny Lacey became O/C of the 3rd Tipperary Brigade's No.1 Flying Column, which operated throughout South Munster. He continued the Treacy tradition with an ambush at Thomastown the same month, in which three British soldiers were killed

and five wounded, and another in November at Lisnagall, in which two RIC men were shot dead and two injured.

Rejecting the Treaty, Lacey persuaded a large number of his men to join him and to continue to fight against the Free State during the Civil War.

In early February 1922, the 3rd Tipperary Brigade IRA, led by Lacey, raided Clonmel Barracks and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition. After holding the region around Carrick-on-Suir for a short time in December, they were forced back into the mountains.

Lacey was encircled in the Glen of Aherlow by about a thousand Free State troops, in one of the most extensive round-up operations undertaken to that date. Trapped in a house in Ballydavid, he fought his way out and was shot dead



● DINNY LACEY

as he tried to help a wounded comrade over a fence.

Dinny Lacey died on Sunday, February 18th 1923, 60 years ago this week.

Memoriam

BAILEY, Sean. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Vol Sean Bailey, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on active service on February 12th 1976. RIP. O God, it's been so lonely, so heartbreaking and so sad, but we will never forget to thank you, God, for the wonderful son we had. Always remembered by his loving parents, brothers, sisters and families.

BELL, Gerald; DORRAN, Robert; MAGEE, Joseph; STEELE, Gerard. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Gerald Bell, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died as a result of a premature explosion on active service on February 21st 1972. Thus sad a rash acú ag troid ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

BELL, Gerald; DORRAN, Robert; MAGEE, Joseph; STEELE, Gerard. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of four gallant Irishmen who lost their lives when the bomb they were transporting on an IRA operation prematurely exploded on February 21st 1972. They shall be spoken of among their people, and generations shall remember them and their blessed. I maeic iacra na nGael go raib a n-anamacha. Proudly remembered by their friends and comrades in the Strand and Markets areas, Belfast, and by their comrades in jails in England and Ireland.

BEST, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Paul Best, Sinn Fein, Belfast, who was murdered by renegade Irishmen on February 18th 1976. "Lay him away on the hillside, along with the brave and the bold, inscribe his name on the roll of fame, in letters of purest gold." Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, Belfast.

BEST, Paul. (7th Anniversary). Belfast Sinn Fein comhairle ceantair remember with pride Paul Best who was murdered by renegade Irishmen on February 18th 1976. Go ndána Dia trócaire a n-anamacha.

McAULEY, David. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan David McAuley, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Na Fianna Eireann, who died in action on February 19th 1972. Thus sad a shaol ag troid ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in Na Fianna Eireann, Belfast.

McGILLIN, James. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol James McGillin, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died while on active service on February 15th 1976. Fuair se bas ag troid ar son saoirse mhuintir na hEireann.

na hEireann. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

MCMULLAN, Danny. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear brother, Danny, who departed this life on February 7th 1982 as a result of a car accident. The will always be a heartache and often silent tears but always precious memories of the days when you were here, Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Always remembered by his dear and loving sister Rosemarie and brother-in-law Seamus.

MCMULLAN, Danny. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Danny McMullan, South Derry Brigade, IRA, who died as a result of a car accident on February 7th 1982. Sadly missed but never forgotten by his friend and comrade Seamus.

MAGEE, Joseph. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother, Vol Joseph Magee, who died on February 21st 1972. RIP. Masses offered. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Time may hide the sadness like the smile that hides the tears, but loving memories hold you close despite the passing years. Never forgotten by his loving sister Sarah, brother-in-law Con and all the McVarrack family.

MAGEE, Joseph. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother, Vol Joseph Magee, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed while on active service on February 21st 1972. RIP. Masses offered. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. The world may change from year to year, our lives from day to day, but memories I have of you, will never fade away. Always remembered by his sister Esther and brother-in-law Patsy Valieley and family.

MAGEE, Joseph. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother, Vol Joseph Magee, who died on February 21st 1972. Masses offered. St Joseph, pray for him. Parting comes and hearts are broken, a loved one gone with words unspoken, a special form a part of family we can never replace. Always remembered by his loving sister Chris, brother-in-law Des Managhan and nephew. **MAGEE, Joseph.** (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother, Joseph, who died on February 21st 1972. RIP. Masses offered. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Although we cannot see you, you are with us night and day, for the love that was between us, death cannot take away. Always remembered by his loving sister Peggy and brother-in-law Eddie Loughran.

SYMPATHY

DOONER. The Irish Northern Aid Committee, New York, extend their deepest sympathy to Jim and Marion Dooner on the sudden passing of their son, Thomas GOSS. The Louth Sinn Fein comhairle

ceantair and the Worthington Waters Sinn Fein cumann, Dundalk, extend their sympathy to the family of the late Patrick GOSS, father of Richard Goss who was executed in Portlaoise jail on August 9th 1941.

O'NEILL. Clasp Sinn Fein extend their sincere sympathy to the O'Neill family, Donagh, following the death of 'Master' Pat. Your loss is ours.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of the late Annie Conolly wish to thank all those who sympathised with us on our recent sad loss, those who sent sympathetic cards, wreaths

or attended the church service and funeral. A special word of thanks to our friends in the central committee and Walkinstown An Cumann Cabhrach. The holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

GREETINGS

CLARKE, Tony. (Albany). All the very best on your birthday, 'Red Flash' from Mary, Raymond and young Patrick.

CURRAN, Bernard. (H3-Block). Happy Valentine's, Bernard. Thinking of you always. Write soon! Love from Theresa Clancy, Philadelphia, USA.

DAVIDSON, Brendan. Happy birthday, Brendan. Hope your next one is spent in freedom. Tickety, Eddie. From Claran, Seamus and Bobby. UTP.

DAVIDSON, Brendan. Happy birthday and Valentine's greetings to the one I love. From B.M. xxxxx

DAVIDSON, Brendan. Happy birthday and Valentine's Day, Brendan. My love on this special day. Miss you so much. Love you. From J.M. xxxxx

DAVIDSON, Brendan. Happy birthday, Brendan. Hope you're out next year for your 40th (Hal Hal). So we will drink you drinks for you this year (Hal Hal). All the best. From your friends Joe (Logue) and Margaret. UTP.

DAVIDSON, Brendan. Happy birthday, Brendan. Hope your next one is spent in freedom. All my love, M.P. xxxxx

DAVIDSON, Brendan. Happy birthday, Brendan. All the best from your mate Noel.

DONNELLY, Mickey. (Cape 11). Happy birthday, Mickey. Wishing you all the best. From the Hardy family.

HARDY, Basil. (Cape 11). Happy birthday, Basil. Thinking of you on this special day. From mum, dad, all your brothers and sisters and wee Gary and Calvin. A special happy birthday from Leonard, Benny and Lily.

LEAHY, Ted. (Portlaoise). Happy 27th birthday, Ted. Fond regards and lots of love from mum, dad and all the family.

MCCOOL, Gary. (H3-Block). Valentine's and 'anniversary' greetings, Gary. Only our first of many more. All my love, Maury, Philadelphia, USA. xxx

MCCULLOUGH, Phil. (H3-Block). Valentine's greetings to you, Phil. All my love, Anne. xxx

Death of Eddie Thompson

THE DEATH has taken place on Tuesday, February 15th, of veteran republican Eddie Thompson, at the age of 64 years, in his Lurgan home after a long illness.

Eddie was interned in Crumlin Road Jail from 1940 to 1945. He was also jailed for one month in 1972 for refusing to fill in his census form as a protest against internment.

He had continued to support the prisoners over the years, attending all the street protests in Lurgan, and he was closely connected with the Tom Williams/Thomas Harte Sinn Fein cumann in the town.

Lurgan Sinn Fein have extended their sympathy to his wife Bridie, his daughters, Ann, Marie and Bridget, and sons, Jim, Maurice, Tony and Eddie.

Jaw broken by RUC

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A 21-YEAR-OLD Belfast man was the victim of a brutal attack on Friday, February 4th, by plainclothes RUC men, as a result of which he sustained a fractured jaw and was hospitalised for six days.

John Burns, a single man from Upper Meadow Street in the New Lodge area, was walking home along the Cavehill Road with a friend at around 3.30am. As they approached the junction with the Antrim Road a red Ford Cortina car sped across the road towards them, stopped, and two men jumped out.

BEATEN

Given the lateness of the hour and with the road being deserted, John Burns and his friend immediately assumed that they were about to be the victims of a sectarian attack. Without waiting to find out, they both made a run for it.

Immediately one of the men in the car shouted: "Police! Stop!" But when Burns went over to look at the men's identification he was severely beaten about the head with a revolver.

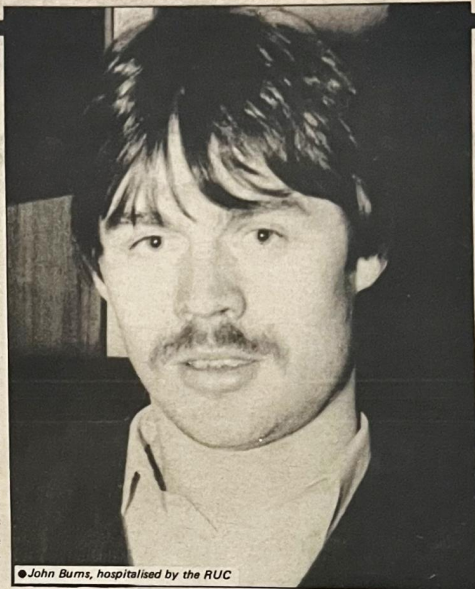
Then both men were bundled into the RUC car and taken to Fortwilliam Barracks where, covered in blood and in extreme pain, Burns was forced to stand for over an

hour against a wall.

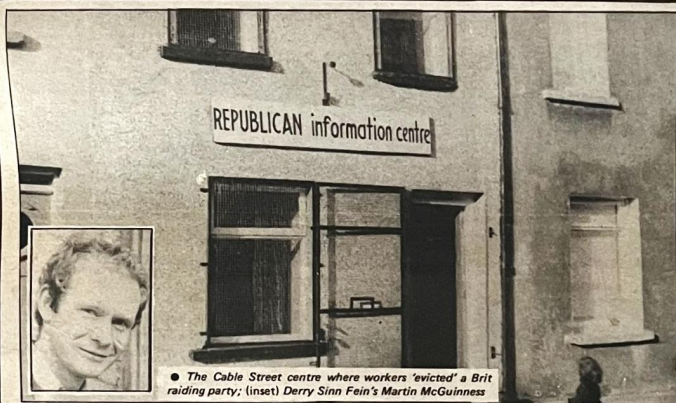
He pleaded for medical attention for his jaw, which he did not then know had been broken in two places.

From Fortwilliam he was moved to Townhall Street Barracks in the city centre where, regardless of his injuries, he was questioned and threatened with further assault by the RUC before he was eventually brought to the Royal Victoria Hospital, at 10.30am., 15 hours after the assault and arrest.

At the hospital a piece of his jaw had to be removed because of the extent of the injury and replaced by a metal disc. The interior of his jaw is supported by a wire structure and he will require long-term medical attention.



● John Burns, hospitalised by the RUC



● The Cable Street centre where workers 'evicted' a Brit raiding party; (inset) Derry Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness

Derry raid repulsed

BY PAT DEENEY

AROUND MID-DAY on Wednesday, February 16th, a forcible attempt was made by British soldiers to gain entry into the Republican Information Centre in Cable Street, Derry.

Two landrovers full of British soldiers stopped outside the centre and tried to push their way past staff members who blocked their entrance and in turn shoved them back out onto the street.

During the commotion, elected representative Martin McGuinness, who was attending a Sinn Fein meeting upstairs, arrived on the scene and told the Brits in plain language that Sinn Fein would oppose British army attempts to enter Sinn Fein premises and disrupt their legitimate political activity.

ity.

The British soldiers again tried to force their way into the hallway, assaulting several members of staff and tearing McGuinness's coat. Martin McGuinness was at this stage arrested by one of the Brits but the presence of a large crowd which had gathered outside unnerved the Brits who retreated outdoors.

Eventually, McGuinness authorised the admittance of one British army officer who, on summing up the hopeless situation of his soldiers, wisely called his men off.

In a statement, issued shortly after the incident, Derry Sinn Fein clearly stated their position:

"We will not permit the British army or RUC to disrupt Sinn Fein constituency business in this fashion."

PTA harassment

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

TWINBROOK woman Kathleen Deery and family friend David Doherty, from the Short Strand, are being held under the British Prevention of Terrorism Act in Stranraer police station in Scotland following their arrest on Tuesday afternoon, February 15th, by Special Branch detectives as they were about to board the Stranraer to Larne ferry.

Mrs Deery had been on family business concerning her 17-year-old son Mark who had appeared in Ayr Sheriff's Court earlier that

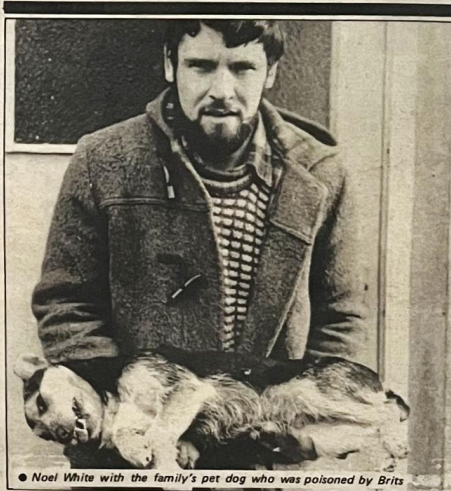


● KATHLEEN DEERY

1st, both Mr Doherty and she decided to return home.

This is the second occasion that Mrs Deery has been arrested under the notorious PTA. On the first occasion, in September 1976 while the family were on a caravaning holiday, both she and her husband, John, an ex-internee, were held for several hours and then given an escort to the ferry at Cairnryan.

On Wednesday, when Mr Deery rang Stranraer police station he was bluntly informed that they could give him no indication when his wife or Mr Doherty were being released or why they were arrested.



● Noel White with the family's pet dog who was poisoned by Brits

Sadistic intimidation

BY ANNE O'NEILL

THE systematic harassment of Noel White, aged 21, of Ard Ross, Crossmaglen, which both he and his family have endured almost daily for months now, took a more sinister and sadistic turn with the poisoning of the family's pet dog two weeks ago and the discovery last weekend of dead and mutilated cats, belonging to neighbours, outside the family home.

Noel White was released from the H-Blocks last May and since then has been regularly stopped and arrested by the RUC, UDR and British army.

Shortly after his release he was arrested, taken to Gough Barracks in Armagh, and severely beaten. He was then charged with having assaulted an RUC Special Branch man and is due to appear in court for trial next month. Just before Christmas Noel was threatened with death by a British soldier whilst making a phone-call.

In anticipation of the trial in March, the RUC and British Marine Commandos, currently in the South Armagh area, have increased their harassment of the White family.

Two weeks ago the family's pet Jack Russell terrier, Darkie, was poisoned by British soldiers. Last Sunday, February 13th, Noel

White's mother, Katie, was badly shocked when, on opening her back door late at night, she discovered a cat, with its throat cut, tied to the back-door handle.

The family found a second dead cat, jammed tight between the bars of the front gate.

The Sinn Fein elected representative for the area, Jim McAllister, in a statement, said:

"The brutality suffered by Noel White, and the callous nature of RUC and British army harassment of the White family, are, for the people of South Armagh, potent reminders of the sectarianism of the RUC and the inhumanity of the British army. Such actions serve to reinforce the determination of the South Armagh people to reject British imperialism and all its agents."