

AN
PHOBLACHT
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



Sraith Nua Imi 5 Uimhir 12 Deardain Mairta 24

Thursday March 24th 1983

(Britain 25p) Price 20p



Belfast rocket attack - see page 3

Sinn Fein top the poll



● SEAMAS KERR

WHEN SINN FEIN'S victory cavalcade swung into Carrickmore, County Tyrone, on Wednesday morning, following Seamas Kerr's landslide in the local by-election, the cars appropriately pulled up outside the joint British army/RUC barracks and blasted their horns and sirens in a gesture of republican defiance at the forces which had harassed party workers over the previous two weeks.

The Sinn Fein victory was total and devastating. Kerr romped home on the first count with 2,289 first preference votes out of a total valid poll of 4,093 cast, almost 1,400 ahead of his nearest rival, an Alliance Party candidate, who polled 907.

The SDLP, whose total first preference vote in the 1981 local government election was 984, saw their vote drop to a humiliating 654, and the Irish Independence Party (IIP), which topped the 1981 poll, this time received only 123 votes. Its candidate, like the Workers' Party with 120 votes, lost his deposit.

A serious question-mark must now lie over the future of the IIP, who for so long have played the 'republican' card without making the republican sacrifices.

CONTROL

But more importantly, a Sinn Fein victory poses serious problems for the SDLP and an immediate decision has to be made by loyalists, who have in the past refused to partake in debates with Sinn Fein. Should loyalists now pull out of Omagh District Council, when Seamas Kerr shortly takes his seat, then they will be potentially handing control over to republicans wherever they win council elections.

And if they choose to remain in the council then they have no excuse or pretext for not taking part in political debate with Sinn Fein spokespersons on television or radio.

SDLP PROBLEMS

The SDLP, on the other hand, face grave and long-term problems.

They had attempted, but failed, to avoid a by-election by co-opting their candidate onto the council. The election was eventually fought amid the propaganda thrust of their proposed 'Forum for a New Ireland', which excludes Sinn Fein and is specifically an electoral life-line to the SDLP.

But that back-fired on them and they were incapable of launching a dynamic campaign, the differences in approach and substance being described by an *Irish Times* journalist as "youth versus middle-age, working-class versus middle-class, and enthusiasm versus weariness."

VICTORY

The republican people of Tyrone have delivered a major victory for



● The UDR rounded off their election harassment campaign by detaining Seamas Kerr and Danny Morrison for an hour on polling day

the Republican Movement — Seamas Kerr is the first Sinn Fein councillor to be elected in the North in over 50 years.

No amount of UDR roadblocks,

RUC or British army harassment could stop people determined to be free from oppression and compromises, from demonstrating their will in resounding electoral terms.

They, and the youth who so actively and triumphantly raised the flag of freedom in this area, are a shining example of republican resistance to British rule in Ireland.

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

THE LARGEST St Patrick's Day parade seen in New York for many years was led down Fifth Avenue last Thursday by its grand marshal, Irish Northern Aid founder Michael Flannery, watched by crowds along the sidewalks estimated at up to two million.

The attempt by the Irish and United States governments to disrupt the parade by dubbing it a march in support of the IRA, had the opposite effect, and left no one in any doubt of Irish-American support for the armed struggle to get Britain out of Ireland.

American attention was riveted on the parade by the controversy leading up to it, and the night before, Michael Flannery appeared on three national news programmes, one of which also carried an interview with Derry elected representative Martin McGuinness.

At a Mass on St Patrick's Day morning, a crowded congregation at St Patrick's Cathedral gave Michael Flannery a standing ovation as he left the church, and he was cheered all the way along Fifth Avenue later in the day, as were the Irish Northern Aid (Noraid) units and the banners calling for British withdrawal.

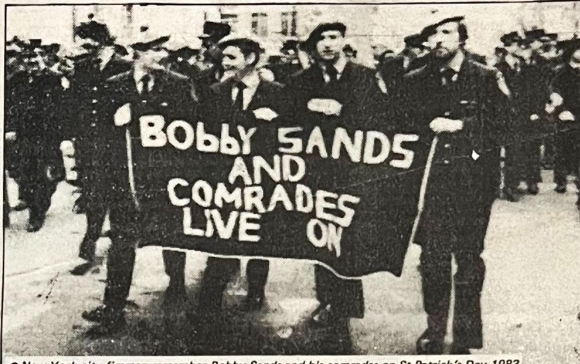
Cardinal Cooke of New York remained behind closed doors at the cathedral until Flannery had passed by, refusing to make his traditional appearance.

When he did appear on the steps, almost two hours later, he was loudly booed by the crowds and, obviously worried by the unpopularity of his pro-British attitude, sought to make amends by waving enthusiastically to the Noraid contingents as they marched past.

LIP SERVICE

In a poor attempt to divert attention from the parade, both the Irish and United States establishments staged 'initiatives' on St Patrick's Day, which inevitably amount to mere lip-service to Irish unity.

New York marchers give their answer



● New York city firemen remember Bobby Sands and his comrades on St Patrick's Day 1983

Coalition Foreign Minister Peter Barry was dispatched to Washington by the Free State government, which had already caused widespread Irish-American antagonism by withdrawing Aer Lingus and Bord Failte from the parade.

Having castigated Michael Flannery for his anti-oppression gun-running activities, Barry met with the major arms-supplier of all the

world's most oppressive dictators, Ronald Reagan, who at the Irish Embassy in Washington said he supported Dublin's "efforts to achieve reconciliation in Ireland."

HORSEMEN

As ever, the Free State government has attempted to make much of words, unsupported by actions, and has described

as "the most important Irish initiative since 1920" a motion put before the United States Congress by Senator Edward Kennedy, who, like his fellow 'Three Horsemen' — Moynihan, Carey and O'Neill — had attacked Michael Flannery and boycotted the parade.

In an obvious bid to divert this resurgent Irish-American support into mere passive verbalising, rather than active support for republicanism, Kennedy's resolution states:

"Congress condemns the violence on all sides in Northern Ireland" and "urges the parties concerned to seek an early settlement of the conflict."

The resolution concludes:

"Congress requests the president of the US to make known to the government of Britain and the government of Ireland the desire of the American people for early progress towards lasting peace in Northern Ireland."

STRATEGIC

Neither Kennedy nor the Free State government can seriously believe that such empty words will affect either Ronald Reagan's strategic alliance with Britain or Britain's attitude to its occupation of Ireland — nor is it intended to.

And those who it is aimed at, the Irish-Americans who have shown so clearly where their sympathies lie, are not going to be impressed by it either.

Balance or mistake?

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

A LOYALIST murder-gang met the fate usually reserved for unarmed nationalists when plainclothes RUC men of the Special Support Units opened up on a stolen car in the Queen's University area of Belfast, in the early hours of Wednesday, March 16th. The RUC attack resulted in the death of one of the occupants, William Millar, while another, Robert Morton, was seriously wounded. A third man was arrested.

Millar is the tenth victim of this recent spate of shoot-to-kill operations by the RUC and British army, since November of last year. The other nine victims were all nationalists, and unarmed, from Gervase Kerr, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns, mowed down in Lurgan on November 11th, to Neil McGonagle, murdered on the streets of Derry on February 2nd. William Millar, claimed by the UVF as one of their members, had been charged twice in the last five years with murdering innocent nationalists; the first, Patrick Devlin, shot dead in Craigavon in 1977, the second, Sadie Lamour from St James's in Belfast, murdered in October 1981 — twice, a Diplock Court cleared him.

According to the RUC, weapons and gloves were found in the car, a fact which the RUC claims justified their action, although no shot was fired at the RUC either before or during the whole incident. Furthermore, according to eye-witnesses the RUC shooting occurred not, as the RUC claimed, after uniformed members of the RUC had approached the car and seen one of the occupants carrying a gun, but rather at the end of what looked like a car-chase by plainclothes RUC men.

It is possible that Millar and his associates, well-known to the RUC, were deliberately chosen by them as an easy loyalist target for their 'kill, don't question' policy in what



● The car containing the UVF squad ambushed by the RUC on March 16th and (inset) William Millar who was shot dead

would be a cynical attempt by the RUC to balance similar killings of nationalists and demonstrate their 'impartiality', but for many nation-

alists a serious doubt remains. The car the RUC were chasing had been stolen, over a month ago, in the Oldpark Road area, near the nation-

alist enclave of the Bone. And there is strong speculation that the RUC, thought they were chasing republicans and caught loyalists by mistake.

POINTLESS EEC EXERCISE

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE EEC INQUIRY into the "political and economic problems of Northern Ireland" is to go ahead. Proposed by John Hume and some Free State Euro-MPs, the move had been strongly opposed by the two unionist Euro-MPs, Ian Paisley and John Taylor, and violently condemned by British and unionist politicians. Nevertheless, the EEC parliament, has ruled that its Political Affairs Committee could appoint a commission of inquiry.

However, the fact that the inquiry will have to confine itself to 'political and economic' issues and carefully avoid the problem of the constitutional status of the six counties means that the report is condemned to deal with the symptoms, rather than the cause, of the war in Ire-

land. The appointment of Danish Euro-MP Niels Haagerup as 'rapporteur' for the commission gives a further indication of how pointless the whole exercise will be. Niels Haagerup, a member of the Danish Liberal group in the parliament, and ac-

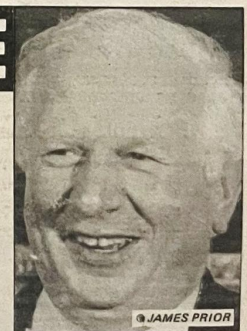
ording to press reports an 'expert in strategic studies' — a euphemism for counter-insurgency — is, according to some Fianna Fail Euro-MPs, more than sympathetic to the British Conservative viewpoint. It will not be Haagerup's first time in Belfast either: he was part of a fact-finding delegation which met Jim Prior in June 1982.

REACTIONS

Interestingly, Prior's reactions to the EEC inquiry were much more muted than Thatcher's. While she declared on March 10th that the EEC move was "widely resented" and that "we are ab-

solutely against it," Prior declared: "We have nothing to hide. If members of the European parliament wish to come, we are perfectly prepared to invite them on that basis, but we are not prepared to allow the European parliament to interfere in the affairs of Northern Ireland."

The British direct-rule administration will therefore, it appears, receive, wine and dine the visiting Euro-MPs, not as a committee of inquiry, of course, but as individual fellow-politicians. John Hume will give them his own brand of Irish nationalist thinking. A bland report will be produced. And another diversion will be over.



● JAMES PRIOR

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

Belfast RPG7 attack

FOUR Belfast Brigade IRA Volunteers took part in an RPG7 rocket attack on a Saracen armoured vehicle in West Belfast on Thursday, March 17th, seriously injuring one of its British army occupants and giving the rest of the patrol a bad attack of nerves.

The successful ambush was launched shortly after 10am when the ASU walked out of a house in Britton's Parade, in the White-rock district, where they had been waiting since 10.30pm the previous evening, and fired a single armour-piercing RPG7 rocket at the Saracen shortly after it drove out of Fort Pegasus and turned into the street.

The rocket pierced the right-hand side of the vehicle seriously injuring one soldier in the legs. Simultaneously, Volunteers opened fire with automatic weapons at the Saracen and continued firing as they withdrew.

A commandeered vehicle used by the IRA to leave the scene of the attack was later found not far away in Glenalina Crescent in Ballymurphy.

Fort Pegasus, situated on the White-rock Road and one of three massive British army bases in the greater Ballymurphy area responsible for heavy enemy patrolling and harassment, has been the target for several IRA attacks, the last being a devastating mortar attack at the end of last summer.

FERMANAGH MORTAR ATTACK

British soldiers manning a permanent checkpoint on the Ennis-



killen to Swanlinbar road at Mullan, County Fermanagh, had to dive for cover on Wednesday, March 16th, when they suddenly became

the target of an IRA mortar attack. Nine of the ten mortars, sited on the back of a lorry that had been commandeered earlier in the

day in County Cavan, detonated successfully and landed close to the target although, unfortunately, failing to score a direct hit.

Speculation denied

THE IRA, through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin, has denied a report in last weekend's *Sunday Press* speculating about the possibility of a unilateral IRA ceasefire.

In a terse comment, on Monday, the IRA stated that there is "absolutely no possibility" of such a move.

"The British government know the terms," they said.

The IRA has repeatedly made it clear that any future ceasefire can only be secured by a British declaration of intent to withdraw.

South Down IRA warning

THE SOUTH Down IRA has issued a warning to elements involved in criminal and anti-social activities in the Newry, Warrenpoint and Rostrevor areas.

In the statement, which also disclaims any IRA involvement in a recent arson attack on McCann's Bakery in Newry, the IRA says that it will take immediate action against individuals found responsible for increasing the hardship of the nationalist people, and warns particularly against anyone masquerading as a republican in order to carry out their activities.



● BISHOP CAHAL DALY

Bishop blesses Stormont regime

IN AN ADDRESS in Belfast on Tuesday night, the Bishop of Down and Connor, Cahal Daly, once again attacked republican resistance to British oppression in Ireland, claiming that unionists were "justified in defending their political institutions," claiming that the Stormont regime had "notable successes and achievements to its credit."

He went on to mildly rebuke the British government's complacency about the situation in the North, saying that "while direct rule tries to be just and impartial, good intentions do not amount to good government and direct rule has grave defects inherent in its very concept."

Commenting on the bishop's

address, Sinn Féin vice-president Gerry Adams, elected representative for West Belfast, said:

"Bishop Daly's statement has given the church's blessing to the RUC and UDR, and their political masters, to further repress the nationalist people."

"The bishop states that unionists are justified in 'believing in

the right and duty under law to defend these political institutions against the threat of overthrow by armed uprising'.

"These institutions referred to also presumably include the Stormont regime. Are the nationalist people being told by the bishop that internment without trial, Bloody Sunday, Castlereagh and the H-Blocks, the murder of children by plastic bullets, trial without jury and Diplock courts, the summary execution of nationalists by the RUC and UDR, intimidation and harassment of nationalists under the PTA and EPA, are all

therefore justifiable?

"The bishop was careful to use the term 'under law' in his address. The UDA is not a proscribed organisation 'under law'. No unionist politician has ever been prosecuted 'under law' for their shoot-to-kill speeches."

"I would remind the bishop that the six-county state itself was established under threat of armed uprising by unionists and has been maintained to the present day by a system of legal and extra-legal violence directed against the nationalist people, the victims of this violent unionist state."

Forum sham loses more credibility

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

AMIDST the usual condemnations and cries of 'conspiracy', the Stormont debate on the 'Forum for a New Ireland' on Tuesday, March 15th, showed gems of unusual clear-sightedness.

Said repentant maverick Official Unionist Robert McCartney — now safely back in the integrationist camp behind his party leader, James Molyneux:

"The Southern parties' support for the 'council' is motivated by a desire to help the SDLP at a time when they are in danger of losing support to Sinn Féin."

And Paisley's lieutenant, Peter Robinson, declared that the forum was a 'gimmick' designed by Southern political parties to "help the SDLP out of their political predicament."

Indeed, even before the first stage of preparatory meetings, which, it was announced last Monday, will take place in the week beginning April 11th, the Forum for a New Ireland has already been exposed as the political white elephant of the year: the forum will be to the SDLP's political credibility what De Lorean cars were to Mason's industrial policy.

USELESSNESS

The complete uselessness of the forum was further emphasised at the beginning of this week when British direct-ruler Jim Prior, probably on the instructions of Margaret Thatcher, went on record to firmly criticise the forum, and to reproach the Free State for not removing Articles 2 and 3 from its constitution, which contain the half-hearted claim to the North.

And in Dublin it was beginning to emerge that there was considerable anger among Fine Gael backbenchers for what was described as the party leader Garret Fitzgerald's "180 degree change in Fine Gael policy and adoption of SDLP policy" without any prior consultation with his parliamentary party.

There was certainly no help for Garret Fitzgerald in his short meeting with British prime minister Thatcher during the EEC summit meeting in Brussels on Tuesday.

First of all, British government officials kept him on a string, openly stating that Thatcher might not 'have the time' to meet him after all. And then, when the 45-minute meeting did take place, Thatcher insisted on total secrecy, so that not one crumb of comfort could be forced from it by the Dublin government for home propaganda.



● Thatcher and FitzGerald



Ballymurphy emergency

SINCE BEFORE Christmas the McAuley family have been complaining to the Housing Executive, the Gas Board and the Department of the Environment about a strong smell of gas at their home in Ballymurphy Drive. On several occasions workmen called out to the house and after a cursory examination declared there was nothing to worry about.

On Saturday, March 19th, Mrs Maureen McAuley contacted Sinn Féin's housing department in an effort to have something done. Sinn Féin contacted the Housing Executive's emergency service who gave an assurance that someone would be out immediately. After several phone calls workmen eventually arrived late on Saturday night and went away again, claiming there was nothing to worry about.

On Monday night Mrs McAuley's two-year-old son, James, was admitted to the RVH with a lung infection. Several hours later workmen from the Gas Board arrived and started digging around the house.

The DOE came out on Tuesday and also commenced digging at the back of the house. So far, a broken sewer pipe has been discovered and several broken gas pipes.

In a statement issued by Sinn Féin, Sean Keenan, housing spokesperson, said:

"This is a typical example of how uncaring the Housing Executive and the DOE are when faced with complaints from nationalist West Belfast. Sinn Féin intends to pursue relentlessly any complaints it receives against the Housing Executive, DOE or any other institution."

"We will not be brushed aside nor permit the nationalist people to be treated as inferior or as second-class citizens."

Snia catch

WORKERS at the Snia plant in Sligo, who were laid off on a temporary basis more than six months ago, have reacted angrily to queries from social welfare staff as to what attempts they had made to find alternative employment.

The workers feel that they have been put in a 'Catch-22' situation. If they look for alternative employment, as they are legally obliged to do, they will preclude themselves from re-employment by Snia; if they do not then benefit may be withheld.

When Sligo ITGWU official Tommy Higgins questioned the local social welfare officer he was told that a Department of Labour circular had demanded that these questions be asked of all recipients of benefit, whether on temporary or permanent lay-off.

Dublin rent-strike

SEVERAL tenants in Dublin's Fatima Mansions in Rialto have begun a rent-strike against the indifference of Dublin Corporation towards the maintenance of the flats.

The tenants, in Block H, who stopped paying rent on Tuesday, March 15th, are particularly incensed by deep holes dug in the pavements outside the flats, before Christmas, to carry out plumbing repairs, which have still not been filled in, leaving children, in particular, in danger.

They are also seeking new doors and locks on rubbish chutes which they want disinfected, along with the stairways, on a regular basis.

Another demand is for lighting on the stairs to be renewed. They are also demanding that 5mph speed limit signs be erected at the entrance to the complex and a pedestrian crossing at the shopping area, where last week a young child was knocked down and hospitalized.

Sligo family abandoned

BY JACK MADDEN

ON JANUARY 6th a Sligo family, the Williamses, lost everything when their corporation home was gutted by fire. Since the fire they have faced months of bureaucratic indifference as they attempt to have their house repaired or be rehoused in one of a number of corporation houses in the town known to be vacant.

After the fire the corporation sent the Williamses and their six children to an hotel. The owner would not let them stay, telling them that the corporation had failed to pay money owed to them on previous occasions. The family then moved to another hotel where they stayed for one week.

The corporation then moved the family into a mobile home and told them that they were to stay on Ash Lane, a derelict road with no shelter from wind or rain. The family, along with friends and neighbours, resisted this and, under pressure, the corporation changed its plans and put the mobile home inside a disused fire station in the town's Market Square.

CONDITIONS

Since then no member of the corporation has visited the family to see how they are or inform them of what is being done. Had they visited they might have noticed the conditions which the Williamses have endured for 11 weeks.

There is no heating system in the mobile home and the ceiling and walls are rotting with damp. The mattresses are damp also and have forced some of the family to set up make-shift



beds in a room off the fire station. Indeed, the only heat available is provided by a small stove left behind when the station closed.

"At night," says Jimmy Williams, "the cold is unbearable."

Damp blankets have to be dried during the day so that they can be used at night.

Sligo Corporation has boarded up the Williamses' home and their engineers have yet to submit a report to independent assessors so that an insurance claim can begin. When Jimmy Williams pleaded with the corporation to come

and see his condition they laughed at him.

RED TAPE

Tommy Higgins, a leading trade unionist in the area, commented that the case "demonstrates the strangulation that red tape has on action." He pointed out that in a similar case in Sligo, recently, the family was taken care of quickly since they were buying their house from the corporation. There is nothing, other than administrative will, stopping equal treatment for the Williams family.

No extras for leukaemia victim

BY EAMON TRACY

TURF LODGE mother of three, Mrs Christina Hale, of the Gortnamona estate in West Belfast, has been cruelly informed by the Falls Road social security office that she is not eligible for any special grants to help alleviate the plight of her two-year-old daughter, Josephine, who is dangerously ill with leukaemia.

Three weeks ago, after lengthy representation from the Royal Victoria Hospital, where Josephine attends twice a week for treatment, Mrs Hale, her husband, Gerard, and three children, were moved into a new three-bedroomed house in the still unfinished Gortnamona estate in Turf Lodge.

Gerard Hale, who is receiving invalidity benefit, applied in writing for an Urgent Needs Payment. This was necessary as the family had no cooker and

not enough beds or bedclothes.

In particular, the lack of a bed for Josephine, who is very fragile and for whom any knocks or bruises are highly dangerous, was uppermost in her parents' minds. For the same reason, Mrs Hale sought help in purchasing carpet to cover the bare floor.

VISITOR

Twice Mrs Hale stayed at home with Josephine, missing RVH appointments, to await the visit of a social security visitor to assess her claim, but none came out.

Finally, after approaches from Sinn Féin, a visiting officer eventually called to the Hales' home on Wednesday of this week. After checking Gerard Hale's invalidity income, the officer revealed that he was £3 per week over the supplementary level and so was not eligible for an Urgent Needs Payment.

"How am I expected to buy several new beds, a cooker and carpets, on £3 extra a week?" asks Mrs Hale.



Christina Hale with her daughter, Josephine

Padraic Wilson, of Sinn Féin, commenting on the case, said:

"The decision, given Mrs Hale's circumstances, is harsh and brutal. It reflects the inhumane side of those who are supposed to look after that section of our population who are in need. They seem more concerned with penny-pinching."

"Mrs Hale needs that payment and we intend supporting her right to receive it."

Protest at Newry bonanza

BY JANE PLUNKETT

NEWRY Sinn Féin members last weekend mounted a protest against overcharging by the town's main stores, which are capitalising on the current cross-border shopping bonanza at the expense of local working-class people.

Newry, like Strabane, Enniskillen and other border towns, is regularly congested at weekends with shoppers from the South, hard-hit by the Free State's rapidly rising cost of living. In recent weeks Newry traders have gleefully reported long queues forming outside their shops, and supermarket shelves clearing of goods as quickly as they are filled up.

Meanwhile, the Sinn Féin office in Francis Street has received numerous complaints that the big stores have greedily upped prices on many items, including food,

thereby increasing hardship in an area where unemployment is officially put at 32%.

On Saturday, March 19th, members of the John Mitchell Sinn Féin cumann picketed Newry branches of Dunnes, Stewarts and Wellworth's, with a good response from local shoppers, many of whom wisely decided against using those shops which are the worst offenders.

Cumann members plan to continue their weekend pickets and are starting a petition to demonstrate the extent of local anger at the price rises.



Members of Newry Sinn Féin picket profiteering shops

UDR HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION TACTICS

Campaigning against Sinn Féin!

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

DURING the by-election campaign for the vacant seat on Omagh District Council, the RUC, UDR and British army were busy harassing Sinn Féin election workers.

Last Saturday, the candidate, Seamas Kerr, and Sinn Féin elected representative Danny Morrison were stopped at Fallagh Hall, just outside Gortin, County Tyrone, where they were travelling to canvass houses. Twenty minutes earlier they had been stopped by the UDR, but, as they travelled on, a helicopter dropped off another UDR patrol in front of them which detained them for two hours.

While they were being detained, a car carrying Alliance Party election workers was waved through and stopped about 50 yards away to put up posters.

The previous evening three Sinn



● Despite UDR threats, election worker Sean McAleer (left) was not deterred from canvassing for Sinn Féin's Seamas Kerr (right)

Fein election workers, Eugene Grogan, Patrick McGurk and Paddy Gormley, were arrested at a border checkpoint in Middleton, County Armagh, on their way to collect posters. They were held for two hours and released after 5pm when the British army believed, wrongly, that the printers would be closed for the weekend.

However, one of the more

serious incidents during the campaign occurred the previous week on Saturday, March 12th.

Twenty-three-year-old Gortin man Sean McAleer was on his way to an election meeting at 8pm when he was stopped outside Greencastle by the UDR. They took his driving licence and told him to move on. When he asked for the licence back he was ordered out of the car and

spread-eagled against the car. He takes up the story:

"Four UDR men put guns to my head and others had guns poked in my back. They clicked their guns and one of them said: 'Let me shoot him, I'll fucking shoot him'."

"Another hit me a kick in the stomach and I fell to the ground. I was kicked again, this time in the leg."

His car was then searched and he was allowed back into the car, only to be ordered out yet again and the car was searched once again. A rifle was stuck in his back in order to force him to sign a 'no damage' form.

He was then allowed to go with a warning that they would 'get him again' if he reported that assault.

COMPLAINT

McAleer went to a doctor and then, on Sunday, lodged a complaint with the RUC in Omagh. But he adds:

"The man who took the statement was awkward about the details and I don't believe anything will come of it."

Undaunted, Sean McAleer was out canvassing the next day and continued campaigning for Sinn Féin during the election.

Harassment of voters on polling day, Tuesday, March 22nd, continued with the UDR setting up checkpoints close to the polling stations in Greencastle and Gortin.

Woman seized in cross-border kidnap

BY JACK MADDEN

VERA BANNON, a 39-year-old republican from Ballyshannon, County Donegal, was seized in a cross-border swoop by RUC men on St Patrick's Day. Her arrest, at Belleek, on the Fermanagh/Donagall border, has prompted protests at yet another violation of the Free State's 'territorial integrity' passing without objection from Dublin, and calls for her immediate release from custody in Gough Barracks, Armagh.

Every year Vera Bannon brings her children to the St Patrick's Day fair in Belleek, County Fermanagh. Under the terms of an

exclusion order, served on her in July 1979, she is unable to enter the six counties. Because of this she always waits on a nearby bridge which straddles the border, while her children go to the fair.

This year as she stood on the bridge she noticed an RUC man lurking close by on the Fermanagh side of the bridge. Quite suddenly, he made a lurch in her direction. Seeing him, Vera Bannon ran back further into Donegal. She had not gone far when she was grabbed and pulled to the ground by the RUC man who then called for assistance. Another RUC man arrived quickly.

DAGGING

Together they began dragging her into Fermanagh as she struggled and called for

help. To intimidate the bystanders, one of the RUC men produced his revolver and, as he continued to drag Vera Bannon along, discharged a shot. The bullet ricocheted hitting another woman, Olive McGrath, from Kesh, County Fermanagh, in the leg.

The RUC, in an attempt to cover up their recklessness, claimed later that Vera Bannon had grabbed the gun from the RUC man and had then fired the shot. This claim was not only an attempt to excuse the RUC men involved but provided them with a serious charge with which to accuse her.

The H-Block Martyrs Sinn Féin cumann in Ballyshannon has pointed out in a statement that this arrest was done in collusion with the gardai who were unusually absent from the bridge where they normally control



● Vera Bannon pictured after being beaten by gardai in Longford in October 1982

traffic. They add that Vera Bannon had two separate court cases pending against gardai — the first to come up next month — and suggest that this may be an attempt to disrupt these cases.

Warder breaks prisoner's arm

BY JACK MADDEN

AN ATTEMPT by republican prisoner Tommy McMahon of Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, to reverse an earlier decision of the Dublin Special Court which convicted him of killing Lord Louis Mountbatten in August 1979 was rejected in the Appeal Court on Wednesday of this week.

Before being brought to court each day from Portlaoise Prison McMahon had to undergo a body-search. This he did voluntarily on Monday and only began to resist when warders insisted on an internal probe. He was immediately grabbed by a number of warders and hung upside-down by the heels. One of the warders, John Keaveney, then began to twist McMahon's

left arm up his back until bones were heard to crack.

When McMahon arrived in the Dublin Court, it was pointed out that he had sustained an injury and the judge, Justice Hederman, ordered that he be taken at once to Mountjoy Prison's hospital wing for medical examination and treatment. On the following day, McMahon appeared in court wearing a

sling and it emerged that he had a broken bone in his left arm. On Wednesday morning he was taken to the Mater Hospital for treatment.

When Edward Conyn SC (for the Free State) claimed in court that the injury was sustained because McMahon refused to undergo a search, he was interrupted by McMahon who called out: "That is not quite true." Hederman ruled that the injury was irrelevant and so would not allow the truth to be told.

EVIDENCE

The appeal rested on a number of grounds, including the argument that evidence given during the

original trial by a Detective Sergeant Dunne, in which he alleged that McMahon was a 'known bomb-maker', was prejudiced and that the court should not have proceeded with the trial after that evidence.

A further reason for appeal was on the grounds that the original conviction was based on insufficient and purely circumstantial evidence, but despite clear legal irregularities the Special Criminal Court convicted McMahon.

On Wednesday last, the Appeal Court upheld the conviction and Tommy McMahon was returned to Portlaoise Prison where he has served almost four years of a life sentence.



● TOMMY MCMAHON appeal turned down



● BOBBY CAMPBELL

REPUBLICAN POW Bobby Campbell, who until recently was in Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight, has been suddenly ghosted away to Winchester Prison in similar circumstances to those which surrounded the removal of three other republican prisoners — Eddie O'Neill, John McCluskey and Dickie Glenholmes — from Hull in early February.

On that occasion the reason for the removal was because a BBC television crew were interviewing prisoners.

In a letter written by Bobby Campbell from Winchester Prison to his wife, dated Saturday, March 12th, Bobby explains that he was moved by the prison administration because another film crew were making a programme on Parkhurst:

"The authorities here see me as a threat politically, especially after my letter appeared in AP/RN calling

for anti-imperialist groups in Britain to unite.

"When word leaked out in Parkhurst that a television crew was coming, a lot of the prisoners asked me and other political prisoners what was the best way to get across to concerned people outside what was going on in these prisons. The authorities know that the Irish political prisoners are respected among the prison population and this was another reason for the move."

Bobby Campbell is now in 23-hour lock-up under the notorious Good Order and Discipline rule along with another Belfastman, Paul Hill.



HARDLY a week passes without a rash of articles in the establishment press dubbing social security claimants as 'scroungers' and alleging that massive sums are being lost through abuse of the system.

Evidence to substantiate these claims is hard to come by.

No doubt there is some fiddling but the class bias of the media on the whole subject is apparent from the fact that we never hear of the even greater amounts of money saved by government because people don't get the benefits to which they are entitled. The fact that millions of pounds are saved each year which should be paid out to people in need does not make the headlines.

We are deluged with arguments that the state does too much for people though anyone who claims supplementary benefits or tries to get a home-help for an elderly relative knows the welfare state provides meagre benefits and increasingly inadequate services.

Provision for the working class is being cut but no cuts are being made in the way the state provides for the better off.

They 'can't afford' to subsidise the rents of tenants — they must pay the full economic rent and more. They can afford to subsidise owner-occupiers with generous relief on mortgages. Employers 'can't afford' a minimum wage for low-paid workers but they can afford company cars, top-hat pensions and private medical care for the better off. The state can afford to employ special officials to intimidate and prosecute hundreds of claimants each week over trifling sums but they can't afford a similarly systematic attack on tax evaders.

They can afford the millions it takes to keep an occupation force in Ireland but they can't afford to end the scandal of old people dying because they don't have the money to heat their homes properly.

INADEQUATE

This idea of welfare is ungenerous and inadequate. It reflects the priorities and prejudices of those with power and wealth in society. It is a system which leaves millions in poverty and involves a massive use of means testing. Why? The answer is fairly simple, but first let

us define 'poverty'.

For all of the academic out-pourings on the subject, poverty is not that complicated a matter.

Poverty is not having sufficient income to meet the cost of the basic essentials of life in any given society. It is not being able to pay the electricity bill without missing on the rent. It is not being able to buy the uniform compulsory at your child's school. Poverty means young people leaving school early as parents can't afford to keep them on.

We know that many thousands live in poverty in Ireland because we know that thousands of people live at or around the supplementary benefit level and all of the evidence there is suggests that at such a level of income, families, in particular, cannot make ends meet.

For example, the amount allowed for heating in the supplementary benefits scheme in the North at the moment is £5.45 a week and there is no way a house can be heated adequately these days for that amount. Housing Executive charges for heating are more than double this.

So poverty is a product of low incomes, but of course it is more comforting and politically less explosive if people believe otherwise. Hence poverty is surrounded by myths and home-spun philosophy.

We are told that Mr X in West Belfast isn't poor because his income is higher than that of an Indian peasant. Mr X doesn't live in India. He lives in a smokeless zone in a cold climate and if his children aren't fed or clothed properly the argument that they are better off than children in Delhi won't go down very well with the social worker who has the power to take his children into care.

POVERTY

Why, therefore, are people in poverty? Basically there are two reasons.

Firstly, the economic system has failed to provide work for all who want it at proper wage-levels. Hence the two major causes of family poverty in Ireland are low wages and unemployment.

Secondly, the social security system is a failure. Insurance benefits are so low that many have to claim the means-tested additions provided under the supplement-

ary assistance scheme. Moreover, for some groups in need — most especially the long-term unemployed and single parents other than widows — there is no insurance benefit at all. So the problem is not just the lowness of benefits provided. The system is a failure because so many have to go through the humiliation of a means test to get even a poverty-line income and at the same time the system discriminates against and punishes certain groups.

MINIMUM WAGE

To solve the problem of poverty we need full employment with a minimum wage so that people don't find that at the end of a week's work they still can't manage. We also need adequate child benefits so that total family income is related to total family responsibilities.

For those who cannot work we need a new social security system. This would be a simple structure which people could understand. It would give adequate benefits without a means test (when benefits are assessed). It would be a structure concerned with aid and welfare rather than propping up the status quo. So the long-term unemployed, if such there were, would not be treated harshly to bolster the work ethic and separated or deserted wives would not be left to the means test and poverty in order to serve as a deterrent to others.

RADICAL

It follows from all of this that the long term aim must be to counter the myths about poverty in our society and work for major and radical changes resulting in a new social and economic system altogether.

This does not mean, however, that we ignore the system we have at present and the needs that exist.

In the short-term it is important that people at least claim what they are entitled to. It's not surprising that people don't claim what they are entitled to. The benefits and forms are so complicated they seem designed to deter applications.

The demystification of the social welfare system and the provision of information and aid to claimants is an essential part of radical political activity.

This article was prepared by Derry Sinn Fein's local government department at 15 Cable Street, Derry (telephone 68926).

Housing Battling

BY JANE PLU

WEST BELFAST tenants, who are forced to live in squalid conditions in Europe, are now regularly winning concessions from the bureaucratic and Executive — with the aid of Sinn Fein elected councillors and Belfast Sinn Fein's recently formed housing department.

The Sinn Fein housing department was set up in October in the aftermath of the assembly elections. Its present size reflects the mammoth scale of West Belfast housing need. Sinn Fein housing spokesperson Sean explains:

"After the assembly elections there were so many local complaints coming into our housing office we couldn't handle them all."

In every area there is now at least one Sinn Fein member whose main task is to deal with housing problems, in conjunction with their local council. At present, the housing department has about 30 members in West Belfast, with a committee, each of whose members takes responsibility for a particular aspect, such as regular weekly liaison with tenants' associations, ensuring that individual complaints are followed through, redevelopment areas, public relations, and research.

Members of the Sinn Fein housing department have already completed surveys of the housing problems of several areas, in particular Ballymurphy and Unity Flats, and within the next few months the department hopes to have a complete picture of the scale of housing disrepair and decay in West Belfast.

FULL-TIME

But despite this decentralisation, the West Belfast Sinn Fein housing office still requires three people to deal full-time with housing complaints.

Sean Keenan says:

"The housing conditions in West Belfast are the worst in Europe and the British have no intention of making them any better. We try to link our work in with the overall struggle, because bad housing is part of the British occupation of the six counties."

"We're trying to encourage people to organise for themselves. Once they get organised they have the political muscle so that they don't need political parties fighting their battles for them, they can do it themselves."

Since its formation, the housing department has offered advice and support to existing tenants' organisations, "and in areas like Unity Flats, New Barnsley and Whitecroft, to name just three examples, where there were no tenants' associations, we got the people to set them up themselves."

UNITY FLATS

Residents of Unity Flats, a small nationalist enclave situated at the foot of the loyalist Shankill Road and houses some 300 families, have now won concessions from the Housing Executive that will go some way towards alleviating their plight.

Over the past 20 years of indifference of bureaucratic government bodies to the needs of occupants of flats in storey flat-roofed maisonettes, the Housing Executive has been slow to deal with the damage to clothing and damage to the maisonettes. Repairs have been carried out only in a minority of cases and have generally been shoddy. When the residents began to fight for adequate repairs, the Housing Executive refused to meet on January 19th, 1983. Raftery admitted that a number of residents that Unity Flats was in a terrible condition but the Housing Executive



© The rear of some of the houses

ing action in West Belfast- g *against bureaucracy*

LINKETT

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early wringing small but significant
and hitherto unresponsive Housing
elected representative Gerry Adams
housing department.

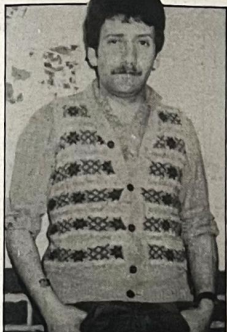
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On February 8th, some 15 local residents, accompanied by Sinn Fein elected representative Gerry Adams and Sean Keenan, again met Housing Executive off-



● SEAN KEENAN

grounds that "the bureaucracy within the Executive doesn't allow for an urgent repair scheme," residents formed a tenants' association and conducted a survey which revealed about 300 housing complaints.

houses in the Springhill estate



● A loaded rubbish skip sits in the centre of what's left of the children's playground in West Belfast's Springhill

icials, who this time agreed to carry out all the emergency repairs revealed by the survey within four weeks.

They also agreed to attend another meeting in five weeks' time to discuss whether all the repairs have been carried out satisfactorily and are considering the residents' demand that they site a sub-office within the complex, which would mean that, in future, tenants would be able to register complaints more easily.

The officials were apparently so alarmed at this determined and organised stand by the residents of Unity Flats that Housing Executive acting district manager J. Lavery subsequently sent an internal memo to the building contractors involved warning that if the repairs are not carried out properly "by the next meeting with Sinn Féin, questions will undoubtedly be asked and we would probably want yourselves to explain to Sinn Féin what happened."

The new Unity Flats tenants' association has already carried out a survey to find out in advance of this week's meeting with the Executive whether the promised repairs have in fact been carried out.

EMPHASIS

Sinn Féin's emphasis in Unity Flats, as in other areas, is on getting the people to fight their own battles. Sean Keenan explains:

"Sinn Fein's attitude is that if people have complaints about their housing, Gerry Adams can arrange a meeting with the Housing Executive, bring the people along and let them fight their case."

At a meeting held earlier this month in Andersonstown, residents of Culmore and Rossnareen Flats won a promise that in future, contrary to their past practice, the Housing Executive

● A makeshift fence of corrugated iron which is still to be replaced by the Housing Executive

will consult with residents before beginning any refurbishing programmes (see *AP/RN*, March 10th 1983).

And on Tuesday, March 15th, residents of the Springhill estate, together with Gerry Adams and Sean Keenan, met with Housing Executive officials to put their case for complete refurbishing of the estate.

The Executive had some time ago announced plans to refurbish Springhill, beginning in February of this year, including the installation of central heating, new doors and window-frames, and the modernisation of working kitchens. But then they announced that owing to lack of finance the entire project had been scrapped, with the exception of the central heating programme.

Residents, fearful that this could only lead to a drastic escalation in the cost of heating their draughty homes, responded by organising a petition which proved that about 95% of residents do not want the Housing Executive to install central heating unless it carries out the rest

of the original refurbishing programme.

At last Tuesday's meeting with the Executive, the Springhill delegation, led by Gerry Adams and including Fr Des Wilson, Seamus Keenan, a member of the Springhill Housing Action Association and a representative grouping of Springhill tenants, heard Housing Executive officials promise to make the Springhill houses wind and weather-proof. But they stated that the full scheme could not go ahead and that even the central heating scheme will have to be implemented over a two-year period.

Springhill people present at the meeting expressed anger at these inadequate proposals, which will be put to all residents at a public meeting in the very near future.

REHOUSING

Sinn Fein's housing department has also helped individual families win rehousing who had previously been reduced to despair by Housing Executive indifference.

Two such families, rehoused recently, are the Andrews and the

Dillons, who ten years ago moved into new houses in Beechmount Grove. Ever since that time the foundations of the houses had been slowly cracking and despite frequent complaints, the Housing Executive only carried out cosmetic replastering repairs (see *AP/RN*, October 14th 1982).

By last October, the Andrews family, who had noticed that the gable wall of their end house was now clearly leaning to one side and could actually hear it creaking at night, were waiting for their house to collapse about them.

Fortunately, this month both families were at last rehoused and the Housing Executive has started to carry out major structural repairs on their former dwellings.

Sean Keenan says:
"There are many cases like theirs where we have got people rehoused who had been trying for years to get rehoused themselves and were getting no satisfaction, so they involved Sinn Féin."

Of course, Keenan recognises the danger that the Sinn Féin housing department could get bogged down in individual cases.

"It's a must that every area is organised and has a tenants' association to fight for it. Then Sinn Fein can agitate on the major issues such as demolition of Divis and Moyard Flats and the Devonshire estate, refurbishing, central heating — central heating is not a luxury, it's a necessity — major issues like that."

For, as Gerry Adams pointed out in a meeting between himself and Billy Cameron, Belfast regional controller of the Housing Executive, on Wednesday, March 9th, any housing strategy for West Belfast is useless without demolition of the worst housing, large-scale refurbishing and a massive new building programme.



VAL LYNCH

Tom Smith commemoration

ST PATRICK'S DAY morning saw the commemoration take place of the eighth anniversary of the death of Dublin IRA Volunteer Tom Smith, who was shot dead by Free State troops during an unsuccessful escape attempt by republican prisoners from Portlaoise Prison on March 17th 1975.

Following a memorial Mass in Berkeley Road Church on Dublin's Northside, over a hundred people, including a contingent from Cumann na nGall and led by a colour party from Na Fianna Éireann marched to the grave of Tom Smith at the Republican Plot in Glasnevin Cemetery.

The commemoration, which was chaired by Peter Conlon, commenced with a decade of the Rosary in Irish by Joe Meehan, followed by the laying of wreaths, and a minute's silence in honour of all those who have died during the liberation struggle.

The oration was given by Val Lynch of Dublin Sinn Féin.

Martyrs committee

AT a recent meeting held under the auspices of the National Graves Association, to discuss a form of honouring the memory of the 23 hunger-strike martyrs who died for their republican principles, the following executive committee was elected:

Chairperson: Pírlas O'Duill; secretary: Sean Fitzpatrick; vice-secretary: Tess Kearney; joint-treasurers: Joe Stagg and Seamus MacClairman; committee: Vincent Conlon, Daithí O'Connell, Eamonn O'Gríofa, Eamonn Healy, and Uilleann MacEoin.

London march

SUPPORTERS of Irish Solidarity Committees marched through North London on Saturday, March 12th, calling for 'Victory to the Irish People Troops Out Now!' in a demonstration organised by one group of British socialist campaigning on Ireland.

Contingents from several of the solidarity committees in Britain, from the Revolutionary Communist Group, the Revolutionary Communist League, the Bangladesh Workers' Association, the Organisation of Iranian People's Fedai Guerrillas, Essex University Students' Union, Bristol Troops Out Movement and Luton Sinn Féin took part.

Fianna uniforms

NA FIANNNA Éireann (Republican Youth Movement) requests all former members who still have in their possession items of uniform to return them as soon as possible to Ard Oifig, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Fingal cumann

AT THE inaugural meeting of the Ashe/McCann/Hughes Sinn Féin cumann, North Fingal, County Dublin, the following officers were elected:

Cathaoirleach: Eoin O'Nuainn; leas-cathaoirleach: Pádraig O'Corraigh; rúnaí: David Power; chisteoir: Brian McManus.

Anyone wishing to join this new cumann should contact Pádraig O'Corraigh, 31 St Catherine's Way, Rush, County Dublin.

Easter Proclamation

A REPRODUCTION of the 1916 Easter Proclamation has just been issued by Republican Publications.

In green, red and yellow, the Proclamation costs Stg50p plus postage, or Ir60p plus postage. Bulk rates available on request.

Orders should be sent to John Connolly, Republican Publications, 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast (telephone 620768).

Mála poist...Mála poist.

Look again!

A Chars,

It has now become increasingly obvious, with record unemployment and high food prices, that people will have to look again at continuous government policies and their dependence on foreign investment to provide a livelihood for the Irish nation.

Ireland has always been rated as an agricultural country and it was only through the Lannas era that a base was laid for industrial manufacturing, but again this policy depended on foreign investment and 20 years later most of the multinationals have pulled out, leaving us back at square one and with many a white elephant, e.g. Poterz, Polairoid and Tynagh Mines, which when in full production employed about 300 people, and is now only a hole in the ground in County Galway. Irish taxpayers are still paying for these investments.

Ten years ago the two major parties advocated entry into the EEC, mainly on the agricultural programme. The few benefits went only to the farming community and again only for a short term.

The continuing hassle over our fisheries, when soldiers faced Irish fishermen in order to implement EEC policy, dictated by the more powerful and industrialised nations, speaks for itself.

The same nations have full control over our affairs and even the 'Buy Irish' slogan is now against Brussels' policy.

When, after ten years, we find ourselves importing vegetable foodstuffs it is time the Irish people had a good look at where we are going and who is controlling our future.

Peter Cunningham, PRO, Wolfe Tone Sinn Féin cumann, Tallaght, County Dublin.

Cheshire conduct

A Chars,

Many complaints have been received from residents of the Galbally/Cappagh area about the conduct of members of the British army's Cheshire Regiment, who in recent weeks have virtually occupied the area day and night.

There have been complaints of women and children being terrorised in early-morning raids, and people being roused from their beds at all hours of the night and being asked stupid and irrelevant questions.

Wanton damage has been caused to farming equipment, spring wells have been fouled, and bottles have been broken in fields used for grazing cattle.

Complaints from people to the British army are either ignored or met with foul and abusive language.

The actions of the Cheshire Regiment have been nothing short of provocative and as they are new to the area we can only assume that this has been part of their briefing.

We would ask anyone whose person, home or other property has been abused by the British occupation forces to contact Owen Carron MP at Enniskillen 26854 or Dungannon 25776 with full details as soon as possible after the event. All complaints will be followed through on to the end.

Now is the time to put a stop to this harassment so that people can go about their daily business without hindrance, and also sleep at night without fear for themselves or their families.

PRO, South Tyrone Sinn Féin.

Dear Editor,

I can understand Michael Doherty's frustration when he asks: "How genuine are these people?" in his letter about the British withdrawal movement (AP/RN, March 10th).

The main tactic of the British establishment is to divide the withdrawal movement between the 'pro-IRA' and 'anti-IRA', thus limiting its effectiveness. It is unfortunately true that many supporters of the Republican Movement fall into the very same trap.

The Troops Out Movement (TOM) is struggling to build the broadest possible withdrawal movement in England, Scotland and Wales. In opposing every aspect of British oppression in Ireland and calling for a complete military, political and economic withdrawal, we constitute the left-wing of that movement.

On the right-wing are those who say 'bring the boys home'; their most prominent spokesperson is the *Daily Mirror*. The right-wing may be much larger than the left, but the most important contradiction is between those who say 'smash the IRA' and those who say either 'troops out now' or simply 'bring our boys home'.

There are three main reasons why the left is not leading the British withdrawal movement:

- 1) Britain is saturated with imperialist ideology;
- 2) Very few people on the left have a clear analysis of the 'Irish question';
- 3) Most of the news from Ireland is censored, distorted, or presented in a context that makes it meaningless to outsiders.

Now for some facts about the two demonstrations around May 7th.

In 1982 the TOM decided to call a major annual demonstration in London to mark the anniversary of Bobby Sands' martyrdom and to demand a British withdrawal from Ireland.

We were sponsored last year by hundreds of individuals and organisations from Britain, Ireland and many other countries. Among them were MPs, MEPs and councillors, political parties, Constituency Labour Parties, campaigns, community groups, trade unions and trades councils, and many other public figures, including churchmen. Sinn Féin (Britain) participated and had a speaker on the platform. This year Sinn Féin (Britain) have called a separate demonstration in Birmingham, explicitly supporting the armed struggle. They are supported in this by the Revolutionary Communist Party who were thrashed 97 to 38 by the Raving Loony Party in last month's Bermondsey by-election.

We all support Michael Doherty's call for unity. But the question still remains to be answered: With whom is he prepared to unite? This is not a question of 'genuineness' but one of tactics.

I am confident that AP/RN readers can judge for themselves which approach is the most likely to build a mass withdrawal movement.

May I congratulate Sinn Féin's Department of Women's Affairs upon a very successful, well-organised International Women's weekend. In my view this annual event has now become the most important anti-imperialist occasion in the thirty-two counties for women to express their solidarity and support for the prisoners in Armagh, and to meet women from abroad — in particular, from Britain.

However, when all the messag-

Call to unite



● The level of unity shown for commemorations and future work will answer some of the questions posed to the British left.

Geoffrey Whittle, Troops Out Movement member, Manchester, England.

A Chars,

For clarification purposes, on behalf of Sinn Féin (Britain) I wish to reply, where required, to Michael Doherty's letter in AP/RN (March 10th).

I would stress that the national march and rally to commemorate the second anniversary of the deaths of the ten hunger-strikers was called by Sinn Féin (Britain), and this decision was endorsed by the ard comhairle. No other organisation was a party to our decision to hold this republican commemoration, which will now take place in Birmingham on Sunday, May 1st, not May 8th as previously advertised.

The reason for the bringing forward of our commemoration is to give all anti-imperialist the opportunity to support the Troops Out Movement's national demonstration on May 7th and also our own commemoration on May 1st.

Sinn Féin (Britain) will be giving their full support to the Troops Out Movement's demonstration and hope that all anti-imperialists will do likewise.

The mobilising for our commemoration and unconditional support is open to all anti-imperialists who want to assist and work for the success not only for this commemoration but anti-imperialist unity to defeat British imperialism in Ireland. The manner in which all anti-imperialists respond will, to some

extent, answer the questions posed by Michael Doherty.

In conclusion, and for information purposes, Sinn Féin (Britain), has now circulated its calendar of events which, with cooperation from those involved in the anti-imperialist struggle, will go some way towards preventing the clashing of all future events.

Vincent Thornhill, Secretary, Sinn Féin (Britain).

Dear Comrades,

I read with interest the letter 'Call to Unite' (AP/RN, March 10th), by Michael Doherty.

I agree wholeheartedly with his appeal for a broad-based movement in England, Scotland and Wales, for British withdrawal. Owen Carron MP made this point very clear when he addressed the Ban Plastic Bullets conference in Manchester on February 26th: microscopic groupings on the left were no use, he said, a broad-based movement on a minimum platform is needed.

But could I perhaps correct the impression given by Michael Doherty's letter, on the relative pro-British withdrawal groupings in this country?

First of all, the Troops Out Movement's May 7th national demonstration is not organised under the slogan 'Voices for Withdrawal'. It is calling for 'Britain out of Ireland — self-determination for the Irish people!'.

Secondly, the demonstration, although initiated by the TOM, is being organised by a broad-based committee comprising the Labour Committee on Ireland,

London Students Organisation, Armagh Co-ordinating Committee, Cumann na nGallachas, and the IRSP. The march is following the highly successful one held on the same weekend last year, on the same demands, also initiated by the TOM (see AP/RN, May 13th 1982). The TOM will be organising a 'Troops Out Now!' contingent on the march, as always.

Thirdly, if you read the newspapers Troops Out (TOM), The Next Step (RCP) and also Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! (RCGI) you will find a big difference. Troops Out is a paper of a movement of differing groups and individuals united around the two demands of 'Troops Out Now! Self-determination for the Irish people as a whole!'

Troops Out concentrates its fire on the enemies of the Irish people. It does not attack, slander, or enter into sectarian debates with the RCG, the RCP, etc.

But both The Next Step and FRFI are party papers whose primary aim is to build the English-based party that publishes the paper.

Therefore, both papers are full of attacks on other (most notably, attacks on TOM) that are based on a tissue of lies, distortions, half-truths, and half-baked conspiracy theories.

The problem comes down to this: both the RCP and the RCG think that the Irish people cannot win the war without the British working class rising up in revolutionary struggle beforehand. Therefore, they believe, the primary role for Irish supporters in Britain is to attack those who do not demand the total and immediate destruction of the British state.

TOM, however, says that the Irish people cannot wait until the working class of England, Scotland and Wales rises from its slumber. We say that the most important help that we can give to the Irish people is to do what we can to bring about the British withdrawal. That's why we agree with Owen Carron's call for a broad-based movement. And that's why the sectarian English groups try to prevent one (both the RCP and the RCG have stated that their intention is to 'smash TOM').

Finally, on the question of demanding the repatriation of Irish POWs from English jails.

TOM has campaigned on this demand for a number of years. But it is not true that it is a 'simple demand' as Michael Doherty suggests in his letter, because anyone who has read the letters page over the last year or two knows that some of the POWs have said they think a repatriation campaign is a diversion from the struggle and should not be conducted, whilst others clearly want such a campaign.

This is not an issue which those outside the ranks of the Republican Movement and its prisoners can decide.

I, for one, would welcome a clear call from both the prisoners inside and the Movement outside as to whether groups such as the one who has just asked to campaign on the issue.

Tony Harris, Leeds, England.

Councillors

A Chars,

May I congratulate Sinn Féin's Department of Women's Affairs upon a very successful, well-organised International Women's weekend. In my view this annual event has now become the most important anti-imperialist occasion in the thirty-two counties for women to express their solidarity and support for the prisoners in Armagh, and to meet women from abroad — in particular, from Britain.

However, when all the messag-



● International Women's Day, Armagh Jail, 1983

es of solidarity were read out on the march and at the Saturday social, it did strike me that there was none from the Sinn Féin councillors in the twenty-six

counties, who do, after all, represent a very considerable political presence, and one that is too easily ignored outside this island.

I wondered how many British

women attending the events in Armagh and Belfast were even aware of the existence of these elected representatives, and also of the hundreds of Sinn Féin cumann in active operation South of the border?

The thirty-two county nature of the Republican Movement should surely always be emphasised on these occasions, particularly in view of the possible consequences of the so-called 'new forum' of Hume, FitzGerald & Co with all its diversionary hypocrisy.

Margaretta D'Arcy, Galway city.

BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

WHO COULD fail to be moved by Garret FitzGerald's 'State of the Nation' address last Friday on RTE?

Tough measures must be endured, he told us, because foreign bankers would stop lending us money.

Higher interest rates had to be put up with because of speculative pressures in favour of the German Mark.

But, there is some hope because the American economy is showing signs of picking up.

And the EEC is beginning to think seriously about getting its economy moving again.

So if, as he put it, "people abroad see us tackling our problems with courage and self-discipline, accepting sacrifices which are now inevitable... they will be impressed."

"They will then be willing to go on lending us money to invest... and to go on themselves investing here and providing direct employment in new industries."

Why not just put the whole shebang up for auction to the highest foreign bidder?

★ ★ ★

Fianna Fail's youth, 'Ogra Fianna Fail' they call themselves, recently held a conference in Dublin, entitled 'The Youth Employment Challenge'.

Motions recognised "the primary role of private enterprise in providing employment"; believed "that state bureaucracy (including taxation, PAYE and PRSI forms) is one of the main barriers to employment in Ireland"; accepted "that trade unions are barriers in the way of the employment of young people"; accepted "that balancing the Budget and eradicating the national debt must take priority over any new employment drive"; agreed "with a wage freeze and recruitment freeze in the public service"; and called for the introduction of unpaid military service for young unemployed people.

Ogra Fianna Fail would be a more suitable title for them.

★ ★ ★

It wasn't until Danny Morrison reviewed Christy Moore's last single *The Time Has Come*, in this paper, that RTE realised that the very moving ballad was actually about the H-Block hunger-strike.

So it has been alleged, at any rate, and there is no doubt that the station immediately stopped playing it.

There will be no such difficulty for RTE in recognising the subtleties of Moore's forthcoming single.

It is entitled *Section 31*.

★ ★ ★

No wonder that the IRA is receiving so much money from Americans, if the headline of the news-sheet put out by the First Interstate Bank of California is anything to go on. It reads:

"IRA Proves Its Value as Tax-Savings Opportunity."

And its leading article tells how "the amount you contribute to the IRA can be deducted directly from your gross income on your federal income tax return."

And a chart headed "Illustrations of IRA Tax Savings" shows "how maximum IRA contributions can reduce your federal income tax bite."

In the States, IRA, it appears, also means Individual Retirement Account. But you have to read well into the small print before you discover that.

It's the alternative message that seems to be getting across.

★ ★ ★

Red faces among the SDLP in South Armagh and Newry. Local member John McEvoy was one of those engaged in organising a special trip for local folk to make this year's St Patrick's Day more memorable than usual.

And the SDLP raffled two free places on the trip as a fund-raising venture.

What am I bid...?

First Interstate Bank

First Interstate Bank of California

Investment Times

February/March, 1983

Investment Issue Update

Investment Times FREE

IRA Proves Its Value as Tax-Savings Opportunity

Figures Show How Investing in Your Retirement can Reduce your Taxes

Los Angeles The significance of an IRA as a tax-savings investment has been verified with the release of figures compiled by First Interstate Bank of California. The impressive advantages an IRA has to offer are illustrated in the chart below and throughout this article.

An IRA, or Individual Retirement Account, is a government-approved savings program allowing all wage earners to set aside a portion of each year's income for

taxable year. If your spouse is employed, he or she may also have an IRA, allowing you both to contribute up to \$2,000 in separate accounts for a total of \$4,000 each taxable year. All contributions, along with the interest they earn, remain deferred from federal income taxes until withdrawn after age 59½.

"Key Benefit: Tax Savings"

The amount you contribute to an IRA can be deducted directly from your gross income on your federal income tax return, which means you'll realize tax savings whether or not you itemize your deductions. The figures which appear on the chart below illustrate what contributing to an IRA each year could save you in taxes on either a joint or individual tax return.

Deadline Nears for '82 IRA Tax Savings

(Los Angeles) April 15, 1983 (or the date you file your federal return) is the final day for establishing an IRA and deferring your contribution from 1982 federal income taxes.

If your spouse earned income during 1982, he or she may also set up an IRA for the purpose of deferring income from 1982 federal income taxes. If, on the other hand, your spouse did not earn an income, you can create what is called a "Spousal IRA" and between two accounts you'll be able to contribute up to \$2,240 each year.

Details concerning IRA Investment

The trip, arranged many months ago, was to New York for the St Patrick's Day Parade!

★ ★ ★

St Patrick may have become the patron of the IRA as far as New Yorkers are concerned, but, surprisingly, it appears he was also helping out the British war effort in the South Atlantic.

During the last months, Irish Continental Lines, which in summer runs both the St Killian and St Patrick ferries between Rosslare and Le Havre, lent out the latter ship to a British ferry company to replace one of its vessels which had been diverted for troop carrying purposes to the Falklands/Malvinas.

★ ★ ★

Garda Task Force members operating in Castleblayney obviously don't like too much attention being directed on their activities, which is probably why they chose dawn as a suitable time to raid republican homes in the town last Saturday, trusting that neighbours would sleep on, unaware of the treatment being meted out to their friends.

Foolishly, however, they included in their visits the home of local Sinn Féin chairperson, George Poyntz. He, annoyed at being aroused by Uzi-toting thugs at that hour, took his

dustbin lid into the centre of the street and woke the whole neighbourhood.

The raiders quickly withdrew under a hail of early morning abuse.

★ ★ ★

Belfast Sinn Féin's Ardoyne advice centre was raided last Sunday morning by Brits following up on an ambush of a patrol the previous night.

On the premises during the raid was Tom Fleming of the centre who, a couple of hours after the Brits had come through the front door, went to investigate the sound of continuous hammering from the back of the building.

There he discovered several Brits, who had obviously been instructed to 'go in the back way', hammering their way through a bricked-up window.

★ ★ ★

Who can say that the British authorities are not caring and concerned?

Take the television licence fee, for example. According to a final reminder I have before me, the fee for a colour licence is £46.

"But," it adds, "registered blind persons pay £1.25 less on production of the local authority's certificate."



WHAT'S ON

EL SALVADOR PROTESTS
To mark the 3rd anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Romero, to commemorate the 35,000 murdered in El Salvador & to protest at US arms shipments to the Salvadorean regime!
Thursday 24th March
7pm Mass at Sacred Heart Church
8.30 to 9.30pm Protest at US Embassy
Donnybrook
DUBLIN

Organised by the El Salvador Support Committee

SOCIAL
Featuring The Irish Brigade
8.30pm Friday 25th March
The Swan Lake Hotel
MONAGHAN TOWN
Admission £2
Organised by Sinn Féin

GLASGOW
EASTER COMMEMORATION
12 noon Sunday 27th March
Assemble at Graigendmuir Street, Provanmill, for march to Roystonhill
GLASGOW
Organised by Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN ELECTION MEETING
8.30pm Monday 28th March
The Thornless Hotel
CUSHENDALL
County Antrim
All interested welcome to attend

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring The Jolly Beggarman,
Gerry Grilly & Gene Anderson
8pm Thursday 31st March
The Carolan Rooms
The Embankment
TALLAGHT
County Dublin
Admission £2

BUFFET & SOCIAL
Featuring Noel & the Wagonmasters
Sunday 3rd April
The Richmond Inn
CLONDRA
County Longford
Bar extension
Admission £2.50
Organised by Sinn Féin

BUFFET & SOCIAL
Featuring Hugo Duncan &
The Ramblers
Friday 8th April
The Melvin Hotel
KINLOUGH
County Leitrim
Bar extension
Admission £2.50
Organised by Sinn Féin

CEILI & OLD TYME NIGHT
Featuring The O'Hagan Family,
9pm Friday 8th April
Maghera House
MAGHERAHONEY
County Antrim
Admission £1
Organised by the North Antrim Green Cross Committee

WHY LABOUR NEEDS TO SPEAK TO SINN FEIN
PUBLIC MEETING
7.30pm Thursday 14th April
Trade Union & Community Centre
Brabant Road
(off Station Road)
LONDON N22
Speakers: Steve Rundle (IGLC councillor or who recently met Sinn Féin in Belfast) & Steve Bell (LCI)
Organised by the Labour Committee on Ireland

WELCOME HOME SOCIAL
FOR JOE McHALE
(on his release from Portlaoise Prison)
Friday 22nd April
The Welcome Inn Hotel
CASTLEBAR
County Mayo
Admission £5

HUNGER-STRIKE COMMEMORATION
(2nd anniversary)
2pm Sunday 1st May
Sparks Hill
BIRMINGHAM
Organised by Sinn Féin (Britain)

SEAN MacDIARMADA CENTENARY COMMEMORATION
Sunday 15th May
KILTYCOLGHER
County Leitrim

REVIEW PAGE

TU & RADIO

Not suitable for RTE

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

IN THE SHORT introduction to *Maevae*, the second film in the *Silent Voices* series of independent films about Ireland on Channel 4, shown on Monday of last week, viewers were warned about the 'abrasive language' and also about the fact that the film 'refused to provide any answers to the problems it raised.'

Maevae was made on a budget of £85,000 by Dubliner Pat Murphy, who also wrote the script, and John Davies and Robert Smith. Produced by the British Film Institute in association with Radio Telefís Éireann, it has not so far been shown on the latter channel, presumably because of the usual 'political sensitivity'.

It is the story of *Maevae*, a young woman from a nationalist area of Belfast, who leaves home to live and work in London. The main action of the film is during a week's holiday at home, interspersed with flashbacks to *Maevae's* childhood.

The accents and atmosphere in the film are unmistakably Belfast. The film catches perfectly the fear and anger of people constantly harassed and intimidated by the Brits and

loyalist gangs, but does go over the top occasionally.

FEMINIST

But *Maevae's* main concern is her confusion about her feminist politics and their relevance to the war in the North - a conflict portrayed in her relationship with Liam, a republican activist.

Maevae recognises British oppression and realises what forced people to rise up against it, but she cries:

"Men's relationship to women is like England's to Ireland. It's possession!"

Yet she cannot accept that the liberation of women cannot be won without the liberation of society, even though she knows that there are women involved in the struggle consciously fighting for both aims.

The questions and problems for women raised by *Maevae*, must continue to be analysed and discussed.

OUTLAWED

The third film in the series, shown on Monday of this week, March 21st, was a bi-lingual film made about ten years ago. *Lament for Art O'Leary*. An amateur dramatic group in Connemara are rehearsing a play-cum-film about Art O'Leary, a Corkman outlawed and murdered by the British 200 years before. It is claimed to be the first Irish independent film that attempted to relate Irish history to Ireland today.

The conflict between the actor who plays Art O'Leary and the English producer reflects the conflict between the real Art O'Leary and the English landlord. The producer is a patronising superior English actor trying to impose his interpretation of the story on the locals.

Their rejection of his cultural imperialism, instigated and encouraged by the modern



● Mary Jackson as *Maevae*, during one of the flashbacks in the film

O'Leary, was also the story of the legendary O'Leary refusing to bow down before military imperialism.

A somewhat painful production, nevertheless the message of the film is a very strong and real one. Acclaimed at the

Cork Film Festival in 1975 it, like *Maevae*, has not been shown on RTE. Again the reasons are obvious.

MAGAZINE

Information on informers

BY SEAN O'BRIEN

THE RUC's use of the 'informer tactic', which was the major new repression feature of 1982, has received many headlines and much superficial coverage, has had very little sober analysis of its effect and intention.

In the latest issue of the republican magazine *IRIS*, an in-depth article on the issue argues that, not only is this yet another method of 'taking out' republicans for lengthy periods on remand, with possible long sentences ahead if the trials are successfully concluded, but also a massive psychological propaganda offensive against the nationalist community.

To understand this new tactic is vital to successfully resisting it, *IRIS* argues, and the magazine's six-page article on 'Informers: The RUC's psychological war', is an excellent step towards that aim.

DEBATE

Developing its role as a republican magazine providing debate and research, as well as analysis, *IRIS*, in this issue, has

opened its pages to two contributions from outside the normal Irish republican orbit.

G.L.C. councillor Steve Bindred, who accompanied Ken Livingstone on his recent trip to Belfast, writes on 'The British Labour Party and the republican struggle', and an Irish solidarity member in France, Michele Bonnehers, writes 'A letter from France' on how the support for Irish freedom in France since the hunger-strike might be sustained.

In two excellent historical features, Liz Curtis, the London-based media-and-Ireland expert, examines the press coverage of the Bloody Sunday massacre of 1972; and Sinn Féin and comhairle member and trade union leader, Phil Flynn, writes on Liam Mellows and his particular and striking relevance to the

present struggle.

Flynn's contribution, which is the bulk of a public lecture he delivered at University College Galway on December 8th 1982, the 60th anniversary of the Free State's execution of Liam Mellows, is accompanied by extracts from Mellows' own writings which make fascinating reading.

COMMENT

Elsewhere in *IRIS* there is a strongly-worded comment on the repatriation issue by republican prisoner Brian Keenan, who is serving 21 years in the Special Security Block at Leicester Prison; there is an examination of the RUC's shoot-to-kill policy; there is poetry and book reviews; and there is the detailed review of IRA military operations over the previous three months.

IRIS, although only in its fifth issue, has quickly made an important position for itself as a stimulating and educational vehicle for the republican viewpoint. It is worthy of the widest



● STEVE BUNDRED possible readership.

● *IRIS* is available at the following rates (all rates are in sterling):

Ireland: £1 plus 35p postage; Europe: £1.50 plus 46p postage; USA & Canada: £1.50 plus 46p postage (surface) or plus £1.45 postage (air mail); Australia: £1.50 plus 46p postage (surface) or plus £1.64 postage (air mail).

All orders to be sent to *IRIS* Distribution, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast.



GAEILGE

Daichead bliain d'iriseoireacht na Gaeilge

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

TÁ DAICHEAD bliain imithe thart ó chéad tháinig Inniu ar an saol. Bliain i ndiaidh bliana, seachtain i ndiaidh seachtaine, foliódh Inniu. Gaeilge ghlán so-léite i gcofán ann. Tá Gaeil na tíre go mór faoi chomhaoin don dream a thosaigh agus a choinneáid beo í.

B'iad bail de Ghluin na Bualaidhe a thosaigh i dtosach f. Clárán Ó Nualláin agus Prolinsias Mac an Bheatha is mó atá le moladh againn as an éacht oibre a dhein siad chun an nuachtán a bhunú.

Má tá teange ar bith le mairceadháil tá sé riachtanach go mbeadh an teanga sin i ngníthiú agus daoine. Ní leor go mbeadh sí mar theanga labhartha amháin. Is gá go mbeadh an teanga sin á úsáid chomh maith i nuachtáin, ar an teilifís agus go mbeadh saothar-cruthaitheach é chur

ar fáil inti.

Ó thaobh na hiriseoireachta de, tá Inniu ar bheith ag léirí de daichead bliain ag déanamh éacht oibre. Murach í, ní dócha go mbeadh iriseoireacht ar bith i nGaeilge. Ní chóir é sin a ligint i ndearmad riannh. Ach mar is gnáth ní deiradh an scéil amháin.

Ó thaobh na polaitiúchá de, ní sásta, ná leathshlá atá poblachtaigh leis an dearcadh eagarthóireachta atá ag Inniu. 'Sé an dearcadh atá acu ná dearcadh Haughey agus a lucht leanúna. Saghais eise

cultúrtha d'Fhianna Fáil is ea an nuachtán. Ní hionann san is a rá nach bhfuil siad sásta Fianna Fáil a ionaí nuair nach bhfuil siad san dliis don Ghaeilge agus don náisiúnachas.

Tá Inniu dliis don Chríost-áocht agus le mian le seasamh moráite na heaglaise Cailteachaf a chur i réim sa tír. Deir Prolinsias Mac an Bheatha "Níl sé ina rogha idir an Cumannachas agus an Cailteachas. Tá sé ina rogha idir an nuag-héagacht faoi ghéill amháin nó géill eile den dá idialaíocht sin agus an Chríostaíocht."

RIALTAS

Ní nach ionadh mar sin griangrafanna agus teachtairteachtaí i gcló ar an bpríomhleathas. Anseo, ón na máir mhaithle sin,

an, Cairdínal agus Ó hIrghile atá in ainm is a bheith ina uachtarán. Flú, tá tagairt ina theachtairteach ag an gCairdínál do Rialtas na hÉireann. Ní hian anóla agus nórth iad Rialtas na hÉireann na síom airf fola síúd atá ag súl i dTeach Laighnean.

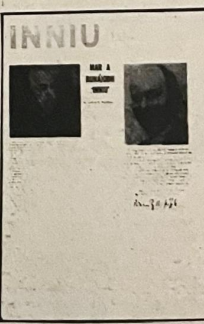
Admháinn Inniu go dearcach go bhfuil triocha dó chontae in Éirinn ach fós aithníonn siad in éineacht leis an gCairdínál, rialtas na sí chontae fíchead mar Rialtas na hÉireann.

Tá an dearcadh eagarthóireachta i leith an chogaigh soláir go leor. Tá siad dearg ina choinne. Is leor sampla amháin. Ceannleideaf a bhí ar aís i 1979 "Is míthéid do na 'Sealadhaigh' áirí ar". Ahf sin

mar cheannleideaf ar alt ag cáineadh na Sasanaigh i leith cúrsaí i mBloc H. Ach ní raibh an scríobhnóir sásta le sin agus ar eagla na míthuiscenach chéin sé "na sealadhaigh" chomh maith.

Ach, agus sin go léir ráite molaím d'ár leitheoirí an t-eagrán speisialta seo d'Inniu a cheannach. Tá go leor altanna seirliúsa ann atá tógtha as seirliúsa d'Inniu. Tá altanna ó 1943 annom i gcló.

Ar na daoine a scríobh altanna tá Risteard Ó Glasne, Nollaig Ó Gadhra, Tarlach Ó hUí, an t-Ath. Colmán Ó hUallacháin, Donnchadh Ó Ceilteachair, Niall Ó Donnail agus mírín eile. Dhá leathanach is caoga atá san eagrán seo agus cóig phingín is fiche a luach.



EASTER COMMEMORATIONS

COUNTY ANTRIM

1.30pm Toomebridge Cemetery
Beechmont Avenue
March to Milltown Cemetery

BELFAST

March to Milltown Cemetery

COUNTY CAVAN

2.30pm Curran Cross
March to Kilnavert Cemetery,
Ballyconnell

COUNTY CORK

3pm National Monument, Grand Parade
Cork city
March to St Finbarr's Cemetery

COUNTY DERRY

After 11.30am Mass, Bellaghy
Wreath-laying ceremony
2pm Bogside Inn, Westland Street
Derry city

1.35pm Ballyrobin Road, Loup
After Mass, Newbridge Chapel
Wreath-laying ceremony

COUNTY DONEGAL

3pm Johnston's Corner, Stranorlar
March to Drumboe Woods
via Ballybofey

COUNTY DOWN

4.30pm Bann Road, Castwellan

DUBLIN

2.30pm Pro-Cathedral
March to Glasnevin Cemetery

COUNTY GALWAY

11.30am After Mass, Oughterard
outside church
3.30pm Quelly's Cross, Doonpatrick
March to Doonpatrick Cemetery
7pm Pearse's Cottage, Roomac

COUNTY KERRY

3pm Fair Green, Cahirciveen
March to local cemetery
3pm Denny Street, Tralee
March to Rath Cemetery

All nationalist, cultural and sporting groups, and trade unions, are invited to take part in the Easter commemoration ceremonies, which are organised by the National Graves Association, but no banners are to be carried on the parades. People who wish to take photographs of the parades and ceremonies must first obtain permission from the organisers. In Belfast, press cards are available from the Republican Press Centre at 51/53 Falls Road.

COUNTY KILDARE

3pm Rathcoffey
March to Mainham

COUNTY LIMERICK

11.45am Bedford Row, Limerick city
2pm Town centre, Atha
March to local cemetery

COUNTY LEITRIM

3pm The Old Railway, Mohill
March to local cemetery

COUNTY MAYO

3pm Chapel Road, Islandeady
March to local cemetery

COUNTY MONAGHAN

3pm Fergal O'Hanlon Memorial
Clones Road
Monaghan town
March to Laturcan Cemetery
Also wreath-laying ceremonies at graves
of those on the County Monaghan
Roll of Honour

COUNTY OFFALY

2.45pm The Square, Clara
March to local cemetery

COUNTY ROSCOMMON

3pm Tibohine

COUNTY TIPPERARY

2.45pm Castleconnell
March to local cemetery
3pm Coolbawn Cross, Fethard
March to St Johnstown Cemetery
After 10am Mass, Nenagh

COULD all commemoration committees, in conjunction with the Republican Movement locally, please send photographs of the ceremonies, as soon as possible, to 44 Parnell Square, Dublin (telephone 747611); or 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast (telephone 246841).

COUNTY TYRONE

County commemoration
3pm Main Street, Carrickmore

COUNTY WEXFORD

11.30am Foley's Garage, Enniscothy
March to St Mary's Cemetery

3pm John Barry Memorial on quays
Wexford town
March to Republican Plot
Crosstown Cemetery

EASTER MONDAY

COUNTY DERRY

2.30pm Swatragh Chapel
March to Granahan

DUBLIN

2.30pm Baker's Corner
March to Dean's Garage

COUNTY CORK

11.30am Fire Station, Cobh
March to Republican Plot

GALWAY CITY

12 noon City Cemetery

In Memoriam

ALLSOPP, Robert. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan Robert Allsopp, Belfast Brigade, Na Flanna Éireann, who was killed in action on March 25th 1972. Active service on March 23rd 1975. I measc laochra na nGael go raibín siad. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade, Na Flanna Éireann.

CAMPBELL, Patrick. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Patrick Campbell, Belfast Brigade, Na Flanna Éireann, who was killed in action on March 25th 1972. Active service on March 25th 1972. Thus sé a raibín aige ag troid ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

CAMPBELL, Patrick. (11th Anniversary). In loving memory of our dear son, Patrick, who was killed in action on March 25th 1972. RIP. Mass offered. Will those who think of him today, little prayer to Jesus say I love my God over all he said, and then I loved my land, O mother dear I was true, to God to Ireland, and to you. Remembered always by his loving parents.

CAMPBELL, Patrick. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear brother, Patrick, who was killed in action on March 25th 1972. RIP. St Joseph, pray for him, "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 brothers Anthony and Brendan, sisters Anne and Patricia, and brother Gerard, Mary and Sean and Geraldine.

CAMPBELL, Patrick. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of the late Michael Campbell, Belfast Brigade, Na Flanna Éireann, who was killed in action on March 25th 1972. RIP. His name shall be spoken of among his people and the general public, and he will be remembered by all his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, County Cavan.

O'RIORDAN, Sean. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan Sean O'RIORDAN, Belfast Brigade, Na Flanna Éireann, who was killed in action on March 25th 1972. Active service on March 23rd 1975. Thus sé a raibín aige ag troid ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade, Na Flanna Éireann.

O'RIORDAN, Sean. (11th Anniversary). The memory of the Clonard/Colin Sinn Fein cumann, Belfast, remember with pride Flan Sean O'RIORDAN, Belfast Brigade, Na Flanna Éireann, who was killed in action on March 25th 1972. His name shall be spoken of among his people and the general public, and he will be remembered by all his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, County Cavan.

SMITH, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of the "Lough" Smith, Corrigall, County Cavan, who died recently. Sean will always be remembered for his life-long support for the freedom struggle and his steadfast belief in the ideal of a free and united Ireland. Saddy missed by all his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, County Cavan.

SYMPATHY Meath, who died recently. Saddy missed by the McConnell/McGeehan Sinn Fein cumann, North Meath.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT My Mr and Mrs Norrey and all his comrades in Long Lartin for their kind thoughts and sympathy on their recent death bereavement.

GERRY YOUNG (Lons Lartin), and family, would like to thank most sincerely.

GREETINGS

BOWE, Maurice. (Portlaoise). Belated birthday greetings, Maurice. Many happy returns. May your next birthday be spent in freedom. IWAIBE xxx

CORRIGAN, Bob. (H-Block). Happy 23rd birthday, son, for March 25th. We are proud of you and we can hold our heads high. God bless you. From mother, father, Seamus, Bernadette and Maria.

CORRIGAN, Bob. (H-Block). Greetings to you, Bob, on your 23rd birthday. Your grandfather would be proud of you, this day, from 1922 till 1983. From grannie Corrigan and granny Doyle.

CORRIGAN, Bob. (H-Block). Happy birthday, Bob. They may imprison your body but never your spirit. Thinking of you always. From brother Pat, Isabel and family.

CORRIGAN, Bob. (H-Block). Best wishes on your birthday, Bob. Thinking of you always. UTP. From your loving sister Sally Adams and family.

GUILFOYLE, Pat. (Gartree). Happy birthday, Pat. From your loving sister Sally Adams and family. An Irish wish, a birthday joy, we send to you to you.

H-Block. Greetings to you, Bob, on your 23rd birthday. Your grandfather would be proud of you, this day, from 1922 till 1983. From grannie Corrigan and granny Doyle.

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Irish Lesson

22

Ní fheicim (nee ekim) - I don't see.
An fheicfeá (un vekim) - Do I see?
Nach fheicfeá? (noch vekim) - Do I not see?

Práta (prawtuh) - A potato.
Cababiste (kabawsteh) - Cabbage.
An siúcra (un shookruh) - The sugar.
An t-áran (un turan) - The bread.
Gach (gach) - Every.

Ní fheicim an siúcra - I don't see the sugar.
An fheicfeá tú é? - Do you see it?
Nach fheicfeá tú an t-áran? - Don't you see the bread?

PRONUNCIATION

The pronunciation examples 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.

An fheicfeá an cababiste? Does she see the cabbage?
Nach fheicfeá sibh an siúcra? - Don't you see the sugar?
Ní fheicfeá Seán aná - We don't

see John here.
Nach fheicfeá siad an fear? - Don't they see the man?

PHRASES

- 1 - Feicim Máire gach lá (feikim maw-irah gach law) - I see Mary every day.
- 2 - Ní fheicim an cat gach maidin. (nee ekim un kot gach moydin) - I don't see the cat every morning.
- 3 - Gach rath ort (gach roh ort) - Every blessing (prosperity) on you.
- 4 - Le gach deagh-shúil (luh gach da ghuh-eh) - With every good wish.

REMEMBERING THE PAST A REIGN OF TERROR

BY PETER O'ROURKE

IN MARCH 1920, with the arrival in Ireland of the Black and Tans, a distinctive reign of terror, lasting 18 months, began against the Irish people.

In January of that year, a new force was recruited in England by advertisement for service in Ireland to supplement the Royal Irish Constabulary. It consisted mostly of demobilised British soldiers and men with criminal records - "the sweepings of English jails," they were described as at the time.

"Their dispatch to Ireland," wrote Dorothy Macardie in her history of the period, *The Irish Republic*, "helped to relieve England of a very dangerous type of unemployment - men of low mental ability whose more primitive instincts had been aroused by the war and who were now difficult to control."

Although established as a section of the RIC, they soon became a law unto themselves, answerable to no one, and allowed a very free rein by their political masters in London.

When they arrived, due to a shortage of RIC uniforms they were dressed in

khaki tunics and black trousers and were promptly nicknamed the "Black and Tans", after a once-famous pack of hounds in County Limerick.

Their only service experience had been in trench warfare, a training quite useless against the IRA's effective guerrilla war.

NOTORIETY

The notoriety which they have earned in Irish history stemmed from the outrages and atrocities with which they were associated. As well as the many individual victims they left in their wake, there were several major incidents including the murder of 12 people at Croke Park on Bloody Sunday, November 21st 1920; and the burnings of Kilmallock, County Limerick; Ballbrannigan, County Dublin; Cork city; Lahinch, County Clare; and Trim, County Meath.

The first batch of Black and Tans arrived in Ireland on March 25th 1920.



Black and Tan

THE death has taken place in San Francisco of Donegal republican Dudley Byrne, aged 73. A native of Kilcar, he came from a family of musicians and was himself a talented traditional fiddler.

He was a Gaelic speaker and a former Gaelic footballer. A lifetime separatist, he was one of the first to join Irish Northern Aid in the Bay Area.

It was strangely fitting that Dudley died on the birthday of Robert

Emmet, March 4th, just a few hours after the shouts of defiance of the protesters against the British queen had faded out over the streets of his adopted city.

Death of Nora O'Connor

THE death took place on Sunday, March 13th, of Mrs Nora O'Connor of the Castle Hotel in Dublin.

For many years, the Castle Hotel was a popular place for republicans, GAA and Conradh na Gaeilge people. There was always a great welcome there for released prisoners and the hospitality and generosity of both the late Donald and Nora O'Connor was unbounded.

Many old friends were present at the funeral on Tuesday last, March 15th. Sinn Féin was represented by Daithí O Connell, vice-president of Sinn Féin, and Joe Cahill, general secretary. A guard of honour was provided by the National Graves Association, the secretary of which, Sean Fitzpatrick, gave the oration.

Ar Dheis lámh Dé go raibín a h-anam,

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

Sectarian murder bid in Armagh

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

TWO ARMAGH men and a five-year-old boy were seriously injured in a loyalist booby-trap bomb in Armagh last Saturday, March 19th. The bomb ripped through a Ford Granada car belonging to Emmet Trainor, aged 32, as he, his only child, five-year-old Dermot, and a neighbour, John Rafferty, drove out of a car park 30 yards from the Trainor home and shop in Lower English Street.

Emmet Trainor is a cousin of Armagh man Kevin Trainor who was shot five times in a loyalist assassination bid in the city two weeks ago. Both attacks have been claimed by the so-called Protestant Action Force, a cover-name used by the UDA and the UVF in the past.

Five-year-old Dermot Trainor has undergone a series of operations in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital where his condition is reported to

be critical. His father, Emmet, is still in hospital with head and chest injuries and there is still uncertainty as to whether the eyesight of John Rafferty has been saved following an emergency operation.

The two loyalist attacks in Armagh follow closely on the RUC murders in the area which have claimed the lives of six nationalist men in the county under the shoot-to-kill policy.



● The wreckage of Emmet Trainor's booby-trapped car

RUC play Orange tune

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

RUC SECTARIANISM raised its Orange head in the County Down village of Killeel last week when they attempted to disrupt an 83-year-old St Patrick's Day tradition, in which the day has been marked by a local nationalist pipe band marching through the town.

The RUC informed the St Patrick's Band, Longstone, that if they intended to march this year they would first of all have to seek permission and sign a form guaranteeing that the band would take full responsibility for any disturbances or any damage resulting.

The band refused to comply with this blackmail attempt which would have left them open to prosecution in the event of any loyalist assault on the band.

Such attacks, by loyalist gangs along the route of the parade, have occurred in the past. In 1975, the RUC arrested 16 nationalists and only one loyalist after loyalists attacked the band causing £600 worth of damage to equipment.

In 1981, when loyalists again attacked the march, the RUC opened up on nationalist bystanders with plastic bullets causing serious injuries to two men.

The St Patrick's Day parade this year, in the event, went off without incident.

In sharp contrast, however, is the RUC attitude to the marching loyalist bands which from around this time each year begin their weekly ritual band practices.

Every Friday night, from now until July 12th, the centre of Killeel is cordoned off to allow the loyalist bands to march through, protected by the RUC.

One shopkeeper in the area says: "Our customers who would nor-

mally come to the town go elsewhere to avoid any trouble. We do very little trade on these nights. And the marchers frequently enter Catholic premises threatening to wreck and destroy them."

Returning home later at night, the bands march through nationalist housing estates playing their sectarian tunes, and intimidating residents, several of whom have been attacked. Windows are often broken as they pass by. One Killeel woman says:

"It is very disturbing that this can go on. They wake up all the children who are very scared. We are very annoyed about these parades but there is little we can do, especially when they have the RUC leading and protecting them."



● Killeel, County Down

BORDER DEATH THREAT

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A YOUNG Jonesborough man, 18-year-old Kevin Gallagher, has become the latest target for a British army death threat, an increasingly reported method of intimidation which has to be taken seriously in view of the number of threats later carried out under the shoot-to-kill policy.

The death threat was issued through Kevin's 23-year-old brother, John Gallagher, when he was detained by a British army foot patrol not far from

the Armagh/Louth border last Saturday night, March 19th.

John Gallagher was on his way to his local pub, the Border Inn, at around 10.20pm, when he was confronted by several British soldiers who took him to the side of the road and questioned him intensely about his movements, the movements of his friends and, in particular, the activities of his brother, Kevin.

WIDOW

It was very dark and he was off the main road and very aware that no one had witnessed his det-

ention. The British soldiers told him:

"If Kevin does not behave himself, within the next couple of months his girlfriend will find herself a widow before she marries him."

The Gallagher family are extremely worried about the British army threat as Kevin Gallagher regularly returns home late at night from his girlfriend's house about ½ mile on the Louth side of the border. Their fears are further heightened in view of the fact that people in the area recently arrested and taken to Gough Barracks have all been questioned about Kevin Gallagher.

Belfast youth assaulted

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Seamus Logue from Belfast's Iveagh district was viciously attacked by British soldiers on Tuesday night, March 22nd, while he was standing with a group of friends close to his home.

The incident happened at approximately 9.30 pm when the British soldiers approached a group of teenagers standing around the Willowbank Park. Seamus Logue was singled out and asked his name. As soon as he gave it he was thrown up against the wall and repeatedly struck with rifle butts around the face and body.

Seamus describes the scene: "I tried to get away but I couldn't, they kept laughing at me as they did it."

People from nearby Nansen Street

intervened and only for this Seamus' injuries would not doubt be extremely serious. He was carried unconscious into a nearby house where he was taken by ambulance to the Royal Victoria Hospital casualty unit. He sustained a broken nose, several broken teeth and internal cuts to the inside of his mouth and jaw which required stitching.

His mother, Mrs Bridget Logue, who brought Seamus to AP/RN's offices in Belfast, said:

"I am at the end of my tether. I am tortured with the Brits but this

is the first time I've tried to do anything about it."

INJURED

Mrs Logue has had two of her other sons, Gerard and Paul, shot by British soldiers and RUC. Paul was seriously injured when he was shot through the neck by the RUC in a joy-riding incident on the Broadway Road in July 1980 and her other son, Gerard, was grazed in the head when a car he was in was involved in a chase last April in the grounds of the Royal Victoria Hospital. On that occasion, another youth in the car was shot dead.

Not long before that shooting, RUC detectives in Castlereagh had told Gerard that the next time they saw him in a car they would shoot him, a threat which they carried



● SEAMUS LOGUE

through. Mrs Logue is extremely concerned for her sons' lives and says:

"Nobody knows what I've been going through. It's got so bad now they're shouting at the kids in the street. I've put the house up for sale. I just couldn't go on like this, I'm just waiting on one of them being shot dead."

Sadistic RUC taunts

THE COUNTY DOWN home of the Rice family, at Burren Bridge, Castlewellan, was raided by a large force of RUC and UDR last Wednesday morning, March 16th, claiming to be looking for 24-year-old Damien Rice who was not at home.

Instead, his 22-year-old brother, Donard, was taken to Gough Barracks for interrogation. There he was kicked and pushed about by RUC Special Branchmen.

They taunted him sadistically with photographs of his brother, Francis, who was knifed to death by loyalists in May 1973. One showed Francis lying in a ditch and another on a slab in the morgue.

Donard Rice was told that he would "end up the same way before Christmas." He was eventually released on Friday night. Whilst he was in custody, on Thursday, the Rice home was subjected to a second raid.