

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY

PHOBLACHT

Republican News

Sraith Nua Im 15 Uimhir 18

Deardaoín Bealtaine 5

Thursday May 5th 1983

(Britain 25p) Price 20p

Commemorative March and Rally in honour
of the 12 hunger-strike martyrs who died
during the present phase of Ireland's freedom struggle

NATIONAL MARCH & RALLY

BELFAST

Sunday 8th May

Assemble 2.30pm Dunville Park
March leaves 3pm sharp
Rally at Busy Bee

FRANCIS HUGHES COMMEMORATION

Assemble 2.30pm Ballyscullion Road
BELLAGHY
County Derry

CLEARLY DEFINED

THE CLASS DIVISIONS between the SDLP and Sinn Féin are becoming clearly defined in the run-up to the Westminster election as the nationalist middle class attempts to maintain its electoral sway and influence over the increasingly radicalised nationalist people, the bulk of whom are working class.

The last week has seen the Northern paper, the *Irish News*, throw its weight behind the SDLP and last Tuesday night Cahal Daly, Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor (which includes West Belfast), abused his office as spiritual leader by issuing an 'encyclical' on how to vote.

But the craven depths to which the SDLP are prepared to sink in order to ingratiate themselves with loyalists has seriously backfired on them in Derry. Last Tuesday, April 26th, SDLP councillors abstained in a vote on a motion that the hated prefix 'London' be officially deleted from the city's name and that the historic wrong be corrected. As a result the loyalist parties, who are in a minority, were able to defeat the motion.

ANGER

Within days thousands of posters were pasted on walls and they captured the general mood of anger and disgust. They said: "Would you vote for the Londonderry branch of the SDLP?" And on Tuesday an SDLP councillor, Owen Kelly, from South Armagh, broke the nationalist boycott of the Assembly and attended a meeting of the agricultural committee which is chaired by Ian Paisley.

Irish News backing for the SDLP came in an editorial on Friday, April 29th, supporting the party for refusing to talk to Sinn Féin about the Westminster election. It said:

"Any accommodation or deal with Sinn Féin would destroy the SDLP's credibility and negate their right to continue to represent constitutional nationalism in the North."

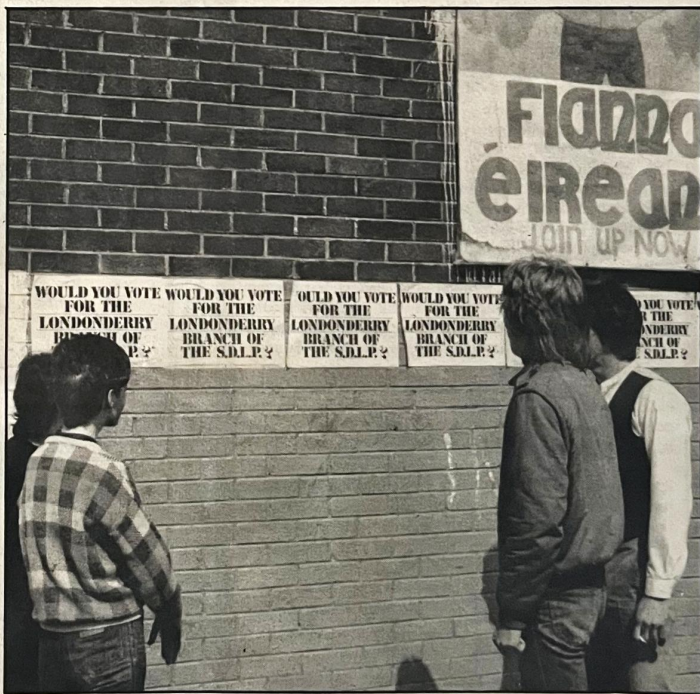
It condemned the republican policy of the boycott and waxed lyrical about 'the achievements of Gerry Fitt'. Unabashedly, the editorial said, "It is our hope that John Hume can make a similar impact in the next parliament."

The Catholic Hierarchy, seriously worried about the growing independent-mindedness of its flock, waded in with a speech from Bishop Daly to journalists in Belfast on Tuesday night. He said, "One of the greatest dangers we all face is republican violence," and went on to warn Catholics about the danger of their voting for Sinn Féin "being interpreted as a vote for violence."

He did not, nor would any Protestant minister, warn the Protestants that a vote for Paisley would be interpreted by Catholics as a vote against civil rights, for hillside Third Force gunmen and for hanging. Thus the bishop's remarks were a blatant political abuse of the respect his office earns him and an attempt to channel the nationalist electorate towards the 'more acceptable' SDLP.

RADICAL

What we are now witnessing is the Catholic middle class pulling out all stops in an attempt to stave off the radical representation of Sinn Féin who this week have announced 14 of their candidates for



the Westminster election. There is no way can the SDLP's representatives compete or compare with the efforts and sacrifices which republicans are prepared to make to see Ireland free, and in the meantime to fight with the people in their everyday social and economic bat-

les against the state.

The SDLP's representatives are either teachers, doctors, solicitors or big farmers and they will not and cannot give up those life-styles. Sinn Féin's representatives are all unemployed but they are certainly not unoccupied and the citizens of

Derry know, as well as the rest of the Irish people, know that had Sinn Féin been on that council last week then the workers and stationers would be busy putting up new signposts and changing headed paper to the proud and proper title of Derry!

OPINION

The marathon

BY PETER ARNLIS

LAST YEAR there were nationalist complaints that the route for the Belfast city marathon did not include republican areas and that this exclusion was politically motivated — that is, keep the ghetto poverty and republican resistance off the screens and out of the papers.

Well, last Monday the 3,000-plus runners of the city's second marathon made their way through republican West Belfast, up the Grosvenor Road, along the Falls and through parts of Andersonstown. All differences were set aside and there was a great Irish welcome by the thousands of spectators who cheered on the gallant entrants regardless of their political views or occupations. It was irrelevant in the carnival atmosphere, or so it would seem.

Come the radio and television reports that evening, and Tuesday morning's papers, one could see the relationship between sport steeped in politics.

Commentators were at pains to emphasise that among those occupying the silky shorts, and perspiring gallons of non-sectarian sweat, were — wait for it! — out-of-uniform members of the RUC or British army, and that the event showed that normality was dropping slowly like the peace at Lake Innisfree. The tolerance of the spectators, among whom the Sinn Fein elected representatives for West Belfast and Mid-Ulster could be counted, was further cited as evidence of growing stability.

The ghetto poverty and republican resistance did not feature at all, and nobody would make too many bones about that had the marathon been solely a 'fun-run'.

Now what was ignored was that the odd IRA Volunteer and quite a number of republican supporters jogged the 26 miles as well.

A republican POW relying solely on media accounts could not be blamed for reaching the depressing conclusion that normalisation by stealth was creeping in. And nationalist people generally could be forgiven if they felt that their hospitality had been violated.

However, we should not forget that no marathon could have taken place through West Belfast but for the indulgence of republicans. (In fact, the organisers would not even have contemplated a marathon against, say, a background such as the hunger-strike, or Easter Sunday or August 9th, etc.)

That the marathon was allowed to take place is an indication of the confidence of the Movement in its political and military strength and solid foundation, that is, that the marathon presented no threat.

But, the Brits and their propagandists used it and used it crudely as was later attested by the disgust of those who found their cheers being turned into claps of tolerance for the sectarian RUC and UDR on British television.

The following comments were typical of British media coverage:

'On a magnificent day of peace-keeping, the terrorists stayed their trigger-fingers' — *Daily Mail*; 'Running for peace in city of fear' — *Daily Express*.

There is a real relationship between sport and politics — either in promoting nationalist zeal or promoting normalisation or normality (South Africa's cricket and rugby tours being a case in point).

The only shot fired last Monday may have been the starting pistol but people need to be conscious of the wiles of an enemy (with 33,000 guns behind it) out to exploit their hospitality for political ends.

SINN FEIN

SINN FEIN decided this Thursday to announce 14 of its candidates for the next Westminster general election.

The candidates which include the five Sinn Fein elected representatives in last October's Assembly elections are Gerry Adams (West Belfast); Owen Carron MP (Fermanagh and South Tyrone); Martin McGuinness (Foyle); Jim McAllister (Newry and Armagh); Danny Morrison (Mid-Ulster); Joe Austin (North Belfast); Denis Donaldson (East Belfast); Sean McKnight (South Belfast); Richard McAuley (Lagan Valley); John Davey (East Derry); Brendan Curran (Upper Bann); Sean Laverty (South Antrim); Pearse McMahon (North Antrim); and Paddy Fitzsimmons (South Down).

There has been no announcement so far of candidates for the three constituencies of North Down, Strangford and East Antrim.

MAXIMISE

The decision to field so many candidates shows that Sinn Fein intends to maximise its vote which in October stood at 35% of the nationalist electorate, and is a firm indication of the party's intention to provide an alternative to the disillusioned SDLP voter in areas not necessarily renowned for republicanism.

Last week the SDLP dismissed an offer of talks by Sinn Fein and showed that they interpreted last October's voting patterns (where SDLP transfers to Sinn Fein were few and far between) as representing an ideological gulf.

However, when asked for an explanation why Sinn Fein were contesting the elections SDLP chief whip Eddie McGrady gave a reply so convoluted that it shows the

shallowness of SDLP thinking and is a pathetic attempt at felon-setting:

"It is more likely," he said, "that they are trying to get a back door from which to escape, because their gunmen don't like their own political frontmen, who are seen by the violent men within their ranks as the glamour boys of Sinn Fein."

The sense in that would escape any political analysis but McGrady and his associates found it more difficult to escape from a number of Sinn Fein youths last week.

DISCO

The SDLP had circularised schools and urged young people to attend a youth conference to be addressed by the 'big brass', John Hume and Sean Farren, on Tuesday, April 26th, in the Abbey Lodge Hotel, Downpatrick. Just to ensure that a crowd came along there was the added incentive of a free disco and refreshments and the possibly meeting the prospective

South Down SDLP candidate in the flesh, Eddie McGrady.

However, things did not go the SDLP's way as only four questions (besides those from Sinn Fein Youth) were put, and two of those were from a 23-year-old SDLP member planted among the 16-21-year-old invited audience.

John Hume when quizzed as to why people should back the SDLP when they failed to support their own branch chairperson, Teddy Rice, in Castlewellan, when his home was raided and daughter arrested, sat dumbfounded. Joseph Rice asked how the SDLP could reconcile the fact that they condemned the IRA attacks in Castlewellan and yet did not condemn the beating and threatening of his brother's life by the Brits. Hume sat crestfallen.

When Margaret Rice attempted to raise the prison issue dating back to their stance on internment and up to their tirades against the blanketmen Hume blurted out, *"Who did I ever intern?"* In fact, Hume is on record as saying that if the SDLP were in power they would intern republicans.

Paddy Fitzsimmons, Sinn Fein candidate for the area, has described the episode as 'an election gimmick which flopped'.

"The days when young Irish men and women can be bought for a loaf of bread or a free disco are over. Our youth are not fooled by razzmatazz or election gimmicks and will only respond to sincere hard work being carried out on the ground, such as that provided by Sinn Fein."

THE SEVENTEEN CONSTITUENCIES



'S FOURTEEN

North Antrim



PEARSE McMAHON is a 25-year-old single man from Loughiel and is unemployed. He was arrested in 1976 and charged with bombing and IRA membership. He was sentenced to eight years which he served in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh on the blanket. He was released in October 1982.

South Antrim



SEAN LAVERTY is a 26-year-old single man from Toombridge and is unemployed. He was arrested in May 1977 and charged with possession of incendiary devices and IRA membership. He was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment and was on the blanket in the H-Blocks. He was released in February 1982 and is a GAA member.

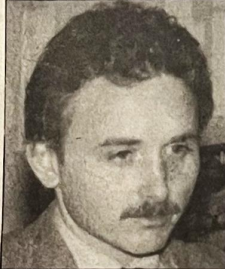
Upper Bann



BRENDAN CURRAN is a 33-year-old single man from Lurgan and is unemployed. He

was arrested in December 1974 and was charged with conspiracy to cause explosions for which he was sentenced to 15 years. He served his time with political status in Long Kesh and was released in June 1982.

East Belfast



DENIS DONALDSON is a 32-year-old married man with three children and is unemployed. He was arrested in 1971 for possession of explosives and was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, going on hunger-strike in 1972 for political status. He has also been held in Canada, England and France in connection with Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs business. He is presently an active member of the tenants' association in the Short Strand.

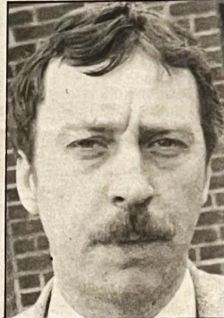
North Belfast



JOE AUSTIN is a 31-year-old married man with five children and topped the nationalist poll for North Belfast in last October's Assembly election. He is a full-time member of Sinn Fein and one of the party's spokespersons. In 1980 he narrowly escaped death in a loyalist assassination bid in which a friend, Brendan McLoughlin, was shot dead.

South Belfast

SEAN McKNIGHT is a 33-year-old married man with two children and is unemployed. He served two periods of internment in Long Kesh



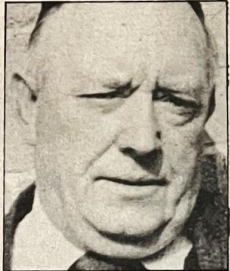
and was one of those involved in the recent opening of an advice centre in the Markets area of Belfast.

West Belfast



GERRY ADAMS is a 33-year-old married man with one child and is the Sinn Fein elected representative for West Belfast. A founder member of the Civil Rights Association he was interned twice, sentenced for attempting to escape and again jailed in 1978 on a charge of IRA membership which was subsequently dropped. He was among the republican leaders which met the British government in 1972 and was excluded from entering Britain last December for talks with the Greater London Council.

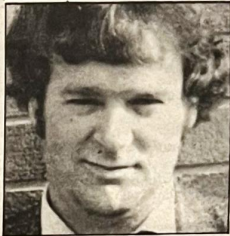
East Derry



JOHN DAVEY is a 56-year-old married man with three children and is unemployed. He lives in Gullaghduff, South Derry, and was interned in Crumlin Road Jail from 1958-61. He was detained in August

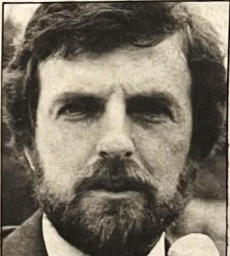
1969 and was again interned without-trial from August 9th 1971 until 1975 being seriously beaten and hospitalised in September 1971. He is a member of the GAA.

South Down



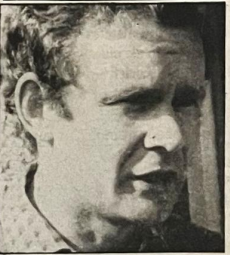
PADDY FITZSIMMONS is a 26-year-old single man from Downpatrick and is unemployed. He has been involved with the Republican Movement for 10 years and is also a member of the GAA.

Fermanagh/South Tyrone



OWEN CARRON is a 30-year-old married man with one child, and succeeded Volunteer Bobby Sands in the Westminster seat caused by his hunger-strike death in 1981. Last October he topped the poll in this constituency. He faces federal charges in the USA for attempting to enter the country and address the media in January 1982.

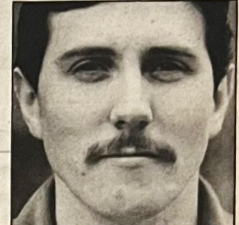
Foyle



MARTIN MCGUINNESS is a 32-year-old married man with three children and was elected in the Derry constituency last October. In 1972 he was part of the republican delegation which met the British govern-

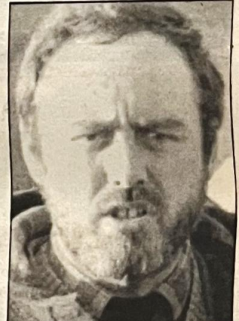
ment and since then has been imprisoned both North and South. He was one of those excluded from entering Britain last December, along with Adams and Morrison, though he had no intention of going.

Lagan Valley



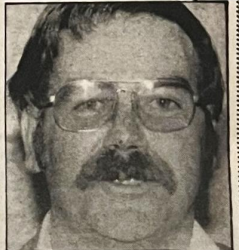
RICHARD MCAULEY is a 30-year-old married man with two children. He lives in West Belfast and is one of Sinn Fein's spokespersons. He was arrested in 1974 and served five years in Long Kesh for possession of a firearm.

Mid-Ulster



DANNY MORRISON is a 30-year-old married man with two children and is the Sinn Fein elected representative for Mid-Ulster. He was interned in Long Kesh and had a charge of IRA membership against him dropped in 1978. He is presently Sinn Fein Director of Publicity and is out on bail awaiting trial in the USA for attempting to illegally enter the country. He was one of those excluded from entering Britain by the British government last December.

Newry and Armagh



JIM McALLISTER is a 38-year-old married man with one child and lives in Cullyhanna, South Armagh, but is originally from Crossmaglen. He has been involved in republican politics from the early '60s though he spent a period working in England. Last October he was elected in Armagh as the Sinn Fein candidate in the Assembly elections.

FINDINGS POINT TO MURDER OF YOUTHS DERRY INQUEST

ON EASTER SUNDAY night two years ago, two British army landrovers drove at high speed into a crowd of teenagers at the junction of Creggan Hill and Infirmary Road killing two young Derry men, Gary English, aged 19, and Jim Brown, aged 18.

The inquest into their deaths was held in Derry on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The findings of the inquest jury flatly contradicted the verdict of a Belfast jury which had previously cleared two British soldiers of any deliberate attempt to kill the teenagers.

The Derry jury found that two landrovers had been driven at high speed into the crowd, knocking down both men and that subsequently one of the jeeps had reversed over Gary English as he lay on the ground.

During the proceedings it soon became

obvious that the RUC and the British army had colluded in suppressing evidence and in refusing to properly investigate the matter. A state forensic scientist, Mr Taggart, revealed in court that he had not noticed a tyre print on the back of Gary English's shirt. Professor Marshall, a state pathologist, was unable to state categorically that a large mark on English's back had been caused by tyre treads.

Professor Delgarde, a leading Danish pathologist and expert in traffic accidents, recently employed in the Helen Smith inquest in Sheffield, England, was adamant that Gary English's death was due to a jeep having reversed over him. Professor Delgarde was acting on behalf of the English family.

Despite the findings of this inquest, despite the evidence of such an eminent scientist and the evidence given by local people who had witnessed the incident, the two British soldiers involved in this deliberate murder remain immune from any accountability.



● Michael English (left), accompanied by Danish pathologist Professor Delgarde, carries the clothes worn by his son, Gary, on the evening that he was murdered by the British army

TUITE APPEAL REJECTED

BY JACK MADDEN

LAST Monday a Dublin court rejected an appeal by Gerry Tuite against his conviction and imprisonment by the Special Court on a charge of possessing explosives in London between June 1978 and March 1979.

Tuite appealed on the grounds that the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, under which he was charged, was non-applicable in the non-jury Special Court and that he had been deprived of his right to trial by jury.

Other grounds of appeal included the admissibility of evidence during the original trial, without the knowledge of the defence and the failure of the trial court to require the prosecution to call the evidence of a material witness. All this render-

ed the original trial unsatisfactory.

In rejecting these claims and refusing leave to appeal to a higher court, Justice McCarthy commented that the fact that the acts constituting the offence were committed outside the territory of the state was 'irrelevant'.

When Tuite appeared in the Special Court on Tuesday on a further charge of conspiring to cause explosions in England, his counsel, Sean MacBride, announced that he intended to pursue other avenues to ensure his client wins his right of appeal.

He would, he said, be contacting the Director of Public Prosecutions and Attorney General in an attempt to persuade them that an appeal should be allowed. Given the attitude of the 'Irish' legal system to date, it would appear unlikely that these bastions of injustice will overturn the decision of Justice McCarthy.

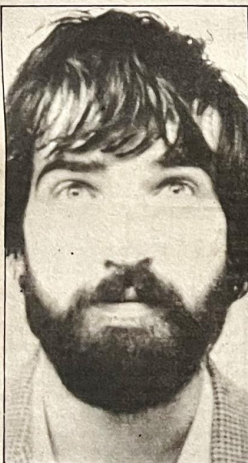
EDDIE GALLAGHER

A further example of the relationship between the judiciary and politics was revealed with the disclosure in the *Sunday Tribune* that a 'deal' had been arranged with Eddie Gallagher and Marian Coyle, in the course of the Herrema kidnap siege, that they would be guaranteed very short terms of imprisonment in return for the release of Dr Herrema.

This 'deal' was arranged by garda commissioner Edmund Garvey but it would appear unlikely that he could have negotiated such a deal without the consent of his boss, Justice Minister Paddy Cooney.

In an obvious attempt to cover up the affair, the ceann-comhairle in Leinster House would not allow the matter to be raised on the ridiculous and false grounds that the subject was *sub judice*.

It has now emerged that Gallagher sought a High Court declaration in 1980 that the deal was valid, but that his application had not been processed. His decision to contest the Donegal South West by-election will keep the issue alive in the media and, no doubt, reveal a few more skeletons in the Coalition's cupboard.



● GERRY TUIE

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

IS TRÁTHÚIL ag an aimsir seo agus muid ag macnamh ar fobairt na bhfeair a thug a mbeatha ar stailc ocras ar son na Poblachta, smaoineamh ar na hÍobairtí a dhéanann muintir na poblachta lá i ndiaidh lae. Mar níl duine ar bith de mhuintir na poblachta nach bhfuil ag déanamh fobairt ar son a mhuintire.

Cé acu, ag féachaint ar an teilifís, ag eisteach leis an raidió nó ag léamh na nuachtáin, ní bheidh faic na fríde ann ag tabhairt le fios go bhfuil muintir na poblachta ag fulaingt agus ag síorfhulaingt ar son idéal an Phlarsaigh agus an Chonghailéach.

Ar eagla na míthuiscéana, 'sé atá i gceist agam leis an téarmaíocht 'muintir na poblachta' ná an dream daoine a d'fhan dílis don phoblacht a ghairmeadh i bhFóirge an Poblachta. Óg agus aosta níor fhaic siad an ghluin roimh Dia bréige stát na se chontae fíchead. Sin iad an t-aon dream go bhfuil sé tuille acu poblachtaigh a thabhairt orthu féin.

PRIONSABAIL

Bá lóchrann ar fud an domhain fobairt na bhfeair a thug a mbeatha ar stailc ocras. Shóisiligh siad an fhírinn do chách. Thápeán siad go raibh prionsabail agus idéalachas go smíor iontu agus go raibh poblachtaigh sásta gach rud a chailliúint, fú a mbeatha féin chun fanúint dílis do na prionsabail sin. Táispeánadh ar fud an domhain nach raibh i gcaint uile Shasana faoi 'god-

ÍOBAIRTÍ



● Luionn bron agus cra - chroí go trom ar Phoblachtaigh ach ta tuiscint againn d'íobairtí ar laochra

fathers of violence', 'terrorists' agus 'criminals' ach raimís.

D'fhulaing siad báis danartha agus shár-aigh siad bréga Shasana.

Gach seachtain sa nuachtán seo is féidir linn chomhneacháin orthu síd a fuair bás ag troid ar son na Poblachta a léamh. Fir agus mná a chuir a mbeatha i mbeol agus a fhios

acu go maith go raibh seans láidir ann go n-íobairtí lena mbeatha chun saoirse a bhaint amach.

GAOLTA

Tá na príosúin lán de phoblachtaigh. Ní ar a son féin atá na fir is mná sin i bpríosúin ach ar son pobal uile na hÉireann. Dhein fobairt ar mhaith le linn go láir.

Smaoinigh ar fhulaingt na ngaolta. Sna leatheanta agus sna hoicheanna fada tá íobairtí á dhéanamh acu ar mhaith le saoirse na hÉireann. Féigtha aonarach agus uaigneach níl siad le clos ag gearán. Leanann an saol agus leanann an fulaingt.

Ach tá gach poblachtaigh ag déanamh fobairtí, dá mhéid nó dá laghad láir. Tá fórsaí stáit, thuaidh agus theas sa mhullach orthu. Tá baol i gcónaí do Phoblachtaigh an Tuaiscirt ó fhorasí tacaíochta an stáit sna se chontae mar an UDA agus an UVF.

FEAGRA

Cen fath a léitheoir go bhfuil poblachtaigh fós ag troid ar son saoirse? Mar, a chara, tuigimid an cás ina bhfuilimid. Tuigimid chomh maith an réiteach atá ar an bhfadhb seo. Agus mar atá feicthe go minic cheana i dtaca le Sasana de, níl ach an t-aon mhódh amháin atá siad sásta aird a thabhairt air.

Tá daoine ann a d'éiríodh liom. "Ach níor níor larr muid ar phoblachtaigh é seo a dhéanamh." 'Seá, ach 'sé loighic na staire agus loighic an staid ina bhfuilimid go ndéanfadh poblachtaigh mar a dhéanann. Níl bealach ar bith eile chun an fhadhb a fhuascailt.

Béid muintir na Poblachta sásta leanúint orthu go dtí go mbeid saoirse againn.

POLITICAL JEALOUSY

SDLP MAYOR OF DERRY PUTS HIMSELF ABOVE THE NEEDY

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

THE SDLP Lord Mayor of Derry has been called upon to resign following the withdrawal of his signature from an all-party petition in support of a housing extension for a handicapped teenager.

The resignation call was made by elected representative Martin McGuinness after the mayor, William O'Connell, accused Sinn Fein of exploiting the case.

Three years ago the regional controller of the Housing Executive made a commitment to Mr John McCarthy of Silvermore Park in Derry to build an extension to his house to accommodate the needs of his handicapped son, John, now aged 18.

Mr McCarthy had enlisted the aid of most of the political parties but still the Executive refused the extension.

LOBBY

Martin McGuinness, asked by the family, then took an active interest in the case and proceeded through all normal channels to lobby the housing authority.

"It was only when this political approach failed," said Mr McCarthy, "that it was decided to use publicity to highlight the case."

Three editions of the *Derry Journal* in April mentioned Sinn Fein in connection with the case and it was then that Mr McCauley, and an action committee formed for the purpose, decided to enlist the aid of all the political parties and this was done. However, the *Derry Journal*, of which the Mayor is, incidentally, an employee, headlined the



● MARTIN MCGUINNESS called on the Mayor of Derry to resign petition: 'Mayor claims McGuinness making family's misfortune a political matter'.

Mr McCarthy is extremely bitter that his

hard campaign was squandered in this manner. He said:

"Far from seeing an article headed something like 'Majority of city council support McCauley cause', I found that the Mayor, Alderman William O'Connell, had taken a campaign I had gone to great pains to make non-party political and turn it into a political battlefield, in the process transforming a very strong point in our favour into a not only deleterious but positively prejudicial handicap."

'DESPICABLE'

Mrs Dolores McCarthy said that she believed that the Mayor had "seriously damaged an objective we have been fighting for three years to achieve and I believe his conduct in this matter is despicable."

Martin McGuinness has accused the SDLP Mayor of 'political jealousy' and said that it was an abuse of his position as Mayor. He called upon him to resign in public acknowledgement of the hurt caused to the McCarthy family.

However, the thick-skinned O'Connell said he had no regrets about withdrawing his name and placed a condition on his name being associated with Martin McGuinness 'in any humanitarian cause' — McGuinness's condemnation of all IRA activity. Even the Official Unionists and Democratic Unionists did not demand that!

Nevertheless, with all the dust kicked up by O'Connell the fact remains that the other villains of the piece — the Housing Executive — have escaped from under the public spotlight.



IRA ATTACKS

DERRY Brigade IRA opened fire on an RUC inspector in an early morning attack almost under the shadow of Strand Road Barracks. The attack took place last Thursday week, April 21st, and involved the commandeering of a house in Oakfield Road from where the Volunteers stepped into the adjacent Princes Street.

They fired 10 shots at the inspector who was leaving the barracks but despite hitting his car he escaped uninjured.

Later that evening, IRA Volunteers belonging to the 2nd Battalion of the Armagh Brigade attacked a mobile RUC patrol on the city's Dingle Road at 10.30pm.

A single hand grenade was thrown but no casualties were claimed.

Arbitrary decision

AN ARBITRARY decision of an insurance officer in turning down a sickness claim by a Cookstown man has been described as a serious development because of the circumstances of the disallowance.

Twenty-six-year-old Kieran McGrail from Rathen in Cookstown was called to a medical referee last week after just three weeks 'on the sick'. The doctor turned down his claim in connection with a recurring pain in a knee joint which disables Mr McGrail and for which he is awaiting word to go into Musgrave Hospital for treatment.

The usual practice is that because the claimant's own doctor and the first medical referee disagree the claim continues until a second board doctor recommends that the claimant is capable for work. But in this case an insurance officer at Stormont's Central Benefit Branch took the unusual decision to dismiss the claim.

Danny Morrison, Sinn Fein representative for the area, contacted the CBB and complained about this arbitrary action and was told that it was made in light of previous medical reports on Mr McGrail's condition in relation to a separate claim in the past.

"I asked how could the officer know if Mr McGrail's condition had not deteriorated in between times and was told that the officer had this discretion and was exercising it."

"While the officer's supervisor told me that he did not believe that such action could become common practice I am worried that it is yet another attack on people's rights and on safeguards which allow a sick person the benefit of the doubt until a second examination. In many cases you almost need to prove that you have ordered the coffin before you can claim sickness benefit, such are the restrictions associated with this Tory regime."

To add insult to injury, on Monday, April 26th, Mr McGrail received a letter asking him to explain his absence from the medical examination which he had attended and which had turned him down!

Photo thieves

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

A 21-YEAR-OLD County Tyrone man had the photograph of his driving licence stolen at a UDR checkpoint on the road between Pomeroy and Carrickmore last Thursday, April 28th.

Christopher Rafferty from Carrickmore was driving home in his Datsun car when he was stopped by about six UDR soldiers.

He was asked for identification and gave over his licence. He was ordered to get out of the car. After the boot and engine and inside of the car were searched he awaited the return of his licence. A UDR soldier came up to him and said, "What about the photograph of this licence?" Christopher replied that his photograph was attached.

"In fact," he said, "I had been stopped by the RUC on Saturday night (April 23rd) and my photo was on the licence."

The UDR man became argumentative and told Christopher that if he was going to complain then they would send for the RUC, which often in practice means a thorough check on one's car by the RUC for proper lights, brakes, tyre gauges, etc.

Nevertheless, Christopher stood his ground and the RUC were sent for and arrived about half an hour later.

"I asked for the soldiers to be searched and the UDR men all laughed. The RUC asked me did I want to push this licence business and I said yes and he said, 'This car of yours is in rough condition; we'll have to pull you

for it'." "I still demanded that they be searched but the cops wouldn't bother. You could see where my photograph had been ripped off, with the paper frayed and that it hadn't just fallen off accidentally. "I wasn't getting anywhere and I had to go on."

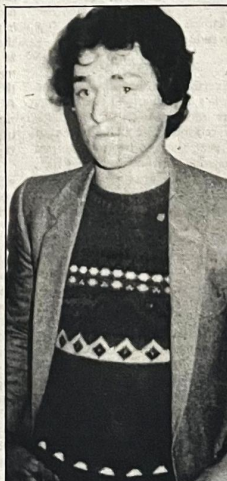
"The same UDR men about three months ago threw my spare wheel and tools out into the middle of the road and ordered me to put them back. This is the sort of petty, sectarian harassment which is going on all around the place," said Christopher.

CHALLENGE

When Sinn Fein elected representative for Mid-Ulster Danny Morrison was contacted in connection with the incident he challenged the RUC and spoke to an Inspector Woods from Pomeroy and asked for an explanation of why the UDR men were not searched.

"The inspector was typically dismissive. He said that when the RUC men arrived at the scene Christopher did not make an allegation that his photograph had been ripped out, just that it was missing and he wasn't in a position to say where the photograph went to."

"Besides," the Inspector said impudently, "if the UDR wanted



● CHRISTOPHER RAFFERTY

a photograph of him they could've taken one on the spot or could get one elsewhere. I don't see what benefit a photograph would be to them."

Morrison condemned the incident and said that as the RUC and UDR were pushed to the forefront under the 'Ulsterisation' policy one could expect a big increase in sectarian harassment.

Tyrone assault

IN County Tyrone, Sylvester Kane, a farmer from Aughnaskea, Cappagh, was physically assaulted by members of the UDR from Aughnacloy on Tuesday afternoon, May 3rd, as he went about his own business on the main Aughnaskea Road.

The incident occurred at approximately 3pm as he was driving his tractor on his way to a nearby field where he intended to draw manure for the remainder of the day.

However, he was confronted by a UDR patrol which demanded his name in a hostile manner and then dragged him out of the cab of his tractor by the throat. His arm was then twisted up his back and the keys of his tractor were removed, presumably because they feared he might make a quick getaway!

He was held and abused for over 2½ hours during which time the RUC, members of Dungannon Sinn Fein and Sylvester Kane's brother, Sean, arrived on the scene. Several heated discussions commenced between the various parties but at no time was Sylvester Kane arrested and, ironically, he was then charged with obstruction and petty theft to produce his tax-book and licence to the RUC.

This example of sectarian victimisation by the RUC and UDR was also echoed by British soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment in the town of Cappagh on Monday, May 2nd, when members of the nationalist community were subjected to various recitals of *Rule Britannia* and *God Save the Queen* while others were stopped and verbally abused during questioning.

On the march for jobs

IN 1979 fewer than 200 people attended a protest march organised by the Dublin Council of Trade Unions on the issue of unemployment. The repeated failure to mobilise large demonstrations on this issue has been blamed on the organised trade union movement and on the isolation and despondency of the unemployed themselves.

To combat this isolation, unemployed people's action groups have begun to appear in towns and cities throughout Ireland. Last week a number of these groups joined forces in a March For Decent Jobs '83 which left Cork on Monday 25th April and ended at the May Day rally in Dublin. Jack Madden joined the march and compiled this report for AP/RN

CORK is as bleak as any other city on a cold and wet Monday morning. When a stranger asked me what I thought of his city I replied that it was a grand place, more out of courtesy than truth. "Don't let it fool you," he warned, "the real Cork is a rotten place."

He was not quite 21 years old but he had already despaired of finding work in his native city and was planning to emigrate to America after his birthday. The thought struck me that John Kelly, self-appointed Coalition Minister for Emigration, would be happy to see him go.

We were both taking shelter in the doorway of a city-centre shopping arcade. A torrential rainstorm kept everyone, with sense, off the streets, and I was regretting the mad notion which had persuaded me to join the People's March For Decent Jobs '83. It was already after 10am and, since nobody else had arrived, I wondered, not unhopely, if the march had been postponed.

Eventually a knot of people wearing yellow oilskin jackets gathered close by. Collection boxes and leaflets appeared which were offered to the few people passing by. Banners were unfurled identifying unemployed action groups from Dublin, Finglas, Cork and Waterford.

As the 25 marchers left Cork in driving rain, with a public address system reminding onlookers that there are 10,000 unemployed men and women in their city, it looked a pitiful procession. I was tempted to stop at the railway station, catch the next train back to Dublin and dismiss the People's March as a fiasco. Over the next few days I was happy to be proven wrong when I found that what the march lacked as a spectacle was more than compensated for by the enthusiasm of those taking part.

MOTLEY CREW

They were a motley crew, ranging in appearance from punk rockers and skinheads to hippies, and ranging politically from anarchists to Stalinists, with a number of republicans from Na Fianna Éireann and Sinn Féin. Some had no political affiliation whatsoever and participated out of frustration and anger against life on the dole. A remarkable feature of the march was the way all these people managed to get along with one another. Social events each evening included a punk dance in Cork, a traditional session in Waterford and a reggae gig in Dublin.

By rights it should have been called a Drive Against Unemploy-

ment since marching was confined to the cities and towns along the route and transport was provided through the countryside. Responding to the sneers of those who denounced the march as a fake, the organisers correctly explained that the purpose of the march was to meet people not cattle. In any case, few of us complained as we clambered into the back of a transit van and headed for Dungarvan in County Waterford, stopping along the way in Middleton and Youghal.

As we entered Dungarvan we were joined by the local unemployed action group, and, with a pipe to lead us and Special Task Force members Molloy and Kiely to watch over us, we marched through the town. It was reassuring to find ourselves protected by this political police force in every town we visited, and to know that Ireland has at least one growth industry — repression.

Dungarvan has suffered more than its fair share of unemployment with almost 1,000 people signing on the dole.



● Brian Foley and Helen Leahy take a well-earned rest



Christy Power is one of those unemployed who has identified a problem common in many parts of Ireland. He worked in Dungarvan Leathers which was owned by a company with branches in Gorey, Portlaoise and Carrick-on-Suir. In 1979 the company decided to wind down its operations and introduce selective redundancies.

"Some advocated that workers in all the areas come together and fight the closures on a united front," says Power, "but this was rejected by the others because the company used that well-known tactic of divide and conquer."

Since then many of those who rejected this united front have themselves been let go and the workforce of 250 in 1979 has been reduced to 50 today.

HARDSHIP

Everywhere that it went the People's March urged workers to resist redundancies, even voluntary redundancies. They pointed out that the short-term financial gains soon run out, as does PRSI, and it is then that the real hardship begins. Furthermore, by allowing redundancies or cut-backs in staffing through early retirement schemes, workers are reducing the number of potential vacancies for young school-leavers who have no work.

Waterford has become the centre of militant opposition to attacks on the working class. There the marchers split up into smaller groups each visiting a number of local industries in the city. The message was emphasised by the marchers that the government should be ignored when it warns that by withholding PAYE and PRSI workers will cause hardship to those on social welfare. The government and employers use the unemployed and the threat of unemployment as a big stick to intimidate workers fighting for justice. By encouraging the image of the social 'scrounger' they drive a wedge between workers and the unemployed whose interests are the same.

As if to emphasise this unity, the marchers joined the picket line at Ardkeen General Hospital

in Waterford where women workers were protesting at the victimisation against a shop-steward. Later in the week they joined protests in Dublin city at Pizzaland restaurants, and in County Dublin joined the Teletron workers who are facing redundancy.

In Waterford a ship was being loaded with live cattle for export while further down the river the workers are being laid off in a meat-packing factory. A wonderful system known as 'free enterprise'.

KILKENNY

Whatever about Waterford you can rest assured that the revolution in the twenty-six counties will not begin in Kilkenny. So unused is this garrison town to subversion that the local gardai were at a loss to know how to react when marchers occupied the offices of the South Eastern Health Board. At first they threatened the full rigours of the law, but within minutes they were begging the protestors to leave quietly.

The occupation of these offices was a symbolic protest against government cut-backs in expenditure on social services. At a time when more people than ever are in need of houses there are 35,000 building workers on the dole. Cut-backs are not due to lack of finance, as governments constantly remind us, but are due to the perverse logic which allows European Commissioner Dick Burke to 'earn' as much money in a year as is needed to maintain the Maternity Unit in Dungarvan, which has been forced to close this week.

Carlow town seemed to offer little encouragement when we arrived there on Wednesday 25th April but by the time we had left on Thursday morning we had changed our minds. Representatives of workers in the Carlow Sugar factory visited the marchers before they left the town and pointed out a number of recent attempts by management to reduce the workforce in the factory.

Unemployed people on their way to the dole were enthusiastic about the prospect of establishing an action group in this town and local trade unionists attended a

meeting on the previous night on the issue of unemployment.

These meetings were also held in Waterford and Dungarvan and gave people on the march a chance to discuss the purpose of the march and a chance to build local contacts. In line with the aim of the march they were intended to encourage the unemployed to organise themselves and to outline the issues which they could fight on. Trade unionists were asked to recognise that unemployment should be an issue on the shop floor and that active support should be given to the local unemployed action groups.

INCOMPETENCE

Arriving in Dublin, the seat of government incompetence, the marchers occupied the offices of Manpower in d'Olier Street. This job-finding agency has done nothing to find jobs for people like Richie Power and George White who had marched from Waterford. They were both registered with Manpower, but, in the case of Richie Power, had not had a single notice of a job vacancy in 18 months. Thinking that they might have lost his name he went down again to register a month ago but was told that his name was already on the register and that they would be in touch if a vacancy arose.

On Sunday the march ended with the traditional May Day rally. This proved very disappointing with a turnout of less than 1,000 people marching through the deserted streets of Dublin. The rally at the GPO was addressed by Ben Kearney, Sam Nolan and Sally Shiels of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions but the warmest welcome of the day was reserved for Alan MacSimoin who represented the People's Marchers.

In his address, MacSimoin pointed out that government training schemes for youth such as those provided by AnCO are of no long-term value to those who do them since a job is rarely found when the course is finished. Indeed, these courses are often used by employers as a way of getting cheap labour and are a means by which governments hide the true

extent of unemployment. The march called for meant real jobs with

WHY THEM
As the People's March ent Jobs '83 drew to end some of those why they had gone whether it had been

For Gusto O'Shea Grath of Dungarvan of the march had contacts it establish unionists along the way

This view was shared marchers including from Rathfarnham in saw the march as in cause the unemployed and fed up and down out. Meeting other same situation you're not on your own

Helen Leahy re Liverpool to her native has been on the dole last. She felt that woken some people Dan Daly also from had worked for Munsil January when the locked out after march



● Workers from the Carlow Sugar factory with marcher John

May Day

march in Derry



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MARCH?
The March For Dec-
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Carlow Sugar factory discuss the battle against unemploy-
ment. Cluno of Waterford

used to pay them money they
were owed. He was sponsored on
the march by his union, the Cork
Operative Butchers' Society.

Amongst the contingent from
Finglas were Geraldine Fitzgerald,
an unemployed commis-chef, Alan
Fitzpatrick who worked in the
Irish Glass Bottle Company in
Ringsend until he was laid off in
September last, and Brian Foley
who was discharged from the Free
State army after three years' ser-
vice. Geraldine Fitzgerald pointed
out that the only work she had
got since she was laid off had been
on an AnCo course studying un-
employment in Finglas. It was out
of this study that the local action
group had grown.

The People's March For Decent
Jobs is not a mass movement and
critics will argue that it is doomed
to failure. That may be so, but
sooner or later the unemployed
will have to unite to defend their
interests and while this campaign
may not be spectacular it is a
start. As Brian Foley pointed out:

"I don't think it's going to
change anything, no marches will.
But that's not the point. It's im-
portant to make a stand and that
is what we have done!"



ABOUT 1,500 people, four times as many as last year, marched in the second (and now annual) republican May Day march organised by Derry Sinn Fein last Monday.

At the Bogside Inn a high-spirited crowd fell in behind banners some of which read, 'Self Determination', 'The Right to Work' and 'Ireland's Struggle, Women's Struggle'. Another banner also carried by women read 'Ireland's Struggle Liberates Women; Women's Struggle Liberates Ireland'. There was a Strabane Sinn Fein banner and there were 10 bands, some from as far away as Cookstown and Toomebridge.

Daisy Mules of Derry Sinn Fein's Trade Union Department chaired the meeting in Guildhall Square. Leading republican Martin McGuinness was the first speaker and he said:

"We stand in front of Derry City Guildhall, headquarters of Derry City Council — at least that's what it will be called when we get in in 1985."

In a more serious mood McGuinness recalled Connolly's famous words about the worthlessness of removing the Union Jack from Dublin Castle and replacing it with a Tricolour unless the social and economic system was changed as well.

"We must not simply change a name or a flag over the Guildhall. By replacing unionism with the Catholic unionism of the SDLP, nothing has changed. What is needed is a republican party to change everything that is inside that building — that is exactly what we intend to do in two years' time."

HUNGER-STRIKE

He recalled the sacrifices made by the 10 hunger-strikers, "especially Patsy O'Hare and Micky Devine, two young unemployed working class men," and pointed out that the march was held in recognition of the intertwining of their struggle with the struggle of working class people throughout the world for justice.

"We recall," he continued, "the people of El Salvador, Palestine, and especially Nicaragua, now under attack from US forces. Their struggle is our struggle, their enemies are our enemies."

McGuinness said that the Republican Movement had undergone changes in recent years:

"The Republican Movement is becoming the Republican Movement of James Connolly, struggling for old

people, the downtrodden, the dispossessed, handicapped people, single-parent families. Ireland today is not the type of Ireland the leaders of the 1916 Rising died for."

He concluded by stressing:
"It is up to us to win that total victory. The dead hunger-strikers paved



● Mary McMenamin: "We are saying 'no thanks' to being used as cheap labour in Youth Training Programmes. We know we're being conned."

the way for the present generation to continue the struggle until Ireland becomes a democratic, socialist republic."

'NO THANKS'

Mary McMenamin, an unemployed youth, spoke of the experience of young people under the present system, noting, "We are saying 'no thanks' to being used as cheap labour in Youth Training Programmes. We know we're being conned and we must refuse to accept it. We are the future the hunger-strikers died for, the future today's Republican Movement is fighting for, and we must help create an Ireland where every man, woman and child will be free to determine their own future."

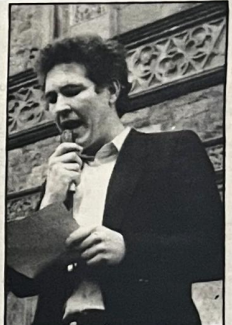
Patrick Coyle, who spent five years as a protesting political prisoner, read a message of solidarity from the H-Block POWs.

Eamonn McCann, shop-steward and member of the NUJ, was then introduced. He said:

"I'm particularly pleased to be standing on a republican platform on May Day. Although I'm not a member of the Republican Movement I feel there is something singularly appropriate and right about a republican march on May Day."

He recalled his own experience with the movement for civil rights and housing action:

"We said then that it didn't have anything to do with national liberation or self-determination. Well, we were wrong. We learned we couldn't reform the six-county state — it had to be destroyed. This must be said to others



● Patrick Coyle, former blanketman in Long Kesh, reads the solidarity message from the H-Block POWs

who purport to represent working people. I refer to the trade union movement. Their failure to confront the political issues had on, to avoid dividing the working class, meant that there wasn't a Catholic worker left alive in Belfast shipyard for anyone to be divided from."

Next year Derry Sinn Fein hopes to mobilise even more workers for the May Day march as part of the increasing politicisation of the people and to demonstrate and highlight the political, social and economic ends which freedom through the armed struggle will deliver.

Connolly Rally

ABOUT 200 people gathered for a Sinn Fein rally last Sunday outside the Falls Road home once occupied by the 1916 leader, James Connolly, when he lived in Belfast.

Sinn Fein's national organiser, Paddy Bolger, who had been released on bail on a charge of IRA membership in Dublin, addressed the crowd. He said:

"We as republicans and revolutionary socialists remember Connolly, not just for the inspiration of his actions but for the clarity and power of his political writing and theory."

Bolger then gave an analysis of Connolly's attitude to labour and republicanism and his prophetic views on partition. He confidently stated that if Connolly were

alive today he would have no moral or political objection to the use of force, "he would be in the thick of our struggle."

He continued:

"At the same time, he was not an ultra-leftist seeing workers' revolution around every corner. He saw the trade unions as industrial organisations working in tandem with a revolutionary political party which would use every opportunity to push on to greater gains."

Bolger concluded:

"Armed with the iron logic of Connolly's socialism and believing that nothing has changed to alter his conclusions we must organise with an iron will to achieve the objectives he set himself."

Hoover does the dirt

THE Association of Scientific, Technical & Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) has promised to investigate claims that some of their members are engaged in strike-breaking antics at the Hoover plant in Glasnevin, Dublin.

Members of the No. 2 Branch, Irish Transport & General Workers' Union (ITGWU), who have been on strike since April 12th, are angry that members of another union are doing their jobs while they are fighting for better wages and conditions for their members.

According to ITGWU shop-steward Peter Kernan, the wages at Hoover were as low as £52 a week in the case of some women workers. A claim for realistic wages was submitted in August 1982 and a Labour Court hearing last January supported the workers.

The company eventually offered an increase of 17% which was described in the media as "the highest settlement of the new pay-round." Peter Kernan says: "But this would still leave us 30% below the national average."

Strike notice was served, but days before it was to begin management arrived from England. They asked for more talks and the union agreed to defer the strikes for another two weeks. However, in subsequent talks, it emerged that management were offering less than had been conceded originally.

The strikers hope to win sanction for an all-out strike when the Irish Congress of Trade Unions meets today (Thursday) but they are not over-optimistic, given the attitude of members of the ASTMS to date.

In any event, they expect members of a third union in the factory, the Federated Workers' Union of Ireland, will intensify their support for the strike.

Telectron

THE SHOCK decision of American Telephone and Telegraph International (ATTI) to close the Telectron factory in Tallaght, County Dublin, has attracted widespread criticism, not least from the 500 workers who stand to lose their jobs.

Telectron has had a very successful history since it was established and has managed to remain profitable for nearly 20 years. It catered for the needs of a fast-growing electronics and telecommunications industry and few deny the necessity of its work.

ATTI have now followed the example of many more multinational companies and have hoodwinked the Dublin government and the Industrial Development Authority out of massive financial incentives before pulling out with their winnings.

The workers, 'shocked, demoralised and frustrated', took to the streets of Tallaght last Tuesday, May 3rd, to protest at the closure and call for the company to be taken into state ownership. Conscious of the level of local concern which the closure has caused in Tallaght, establishment politicians have been quick to join and indeed hijack these protests.

It will be interesting to see whether their 'concern' will lead to realistic pressure on their Leinster House colleagues to win state ownership.

Excessive!

FOLLOWING the incident three weeks ago involving republican POWs and loyalists in the Cate 8 workshop, 26 republicans were moved to an isolation wing, in the otherwise empty H-Block 7. Another POW, Damien Lennon, was taken to the boards and charged with 'threatening language' towards a senior warder.

The next day he and another warder fabricated evidence against Damien, and the governor found him guilty of the allegation. The ironic side of the story is that within a week, the same warder, from his workplace and threatened to have him killed. No action has been taken by the Northern Ireland Office against the warder for this death threat, which is being taken very seriously there.

For allegedly using 'threatening language' Damien Lennon was sentenced to 28 days loss of remission; four visits and four parcels stopped; 28 days loss of all privileges; and running consecutively, 50 days loss of evening recreation. For the next 78 days, Damien Lennon will be locked up for 23 hours each day, and isolated from other prisoners.

In comparison to punishment given to loyalist prisoners, this vindictive sentencing of Damien Lennon is excessive and totally unjustified.

Loyalists threaten travellers

-Sinn Fein man gets death threat

PAISLEYITES in the Mid-Ulster area have launched a campaign to evict a number of travellers from one of their sites on the Tattykeal Road about three miles outside of Omagh and the move has been accompanied with a written UVF threat on the life of Sinn Fein Councillor Seamas Kerr.

There are about five families on the site, which is actually bogland, mostly from the McDonagh clan. Anne McDonagh, a middle-aged woman originally from County Roscommon, who bore 16 children, mostly in the North, has lived in the area around 30 years and says that despite the intimidation they intend to stay put.

A few weeks ago Omagh District Council compulsorily purchased land from an Omagh businessman, Patterson Stewart, who had refused to sell land to the council because of their intention to erect some modest permanent dwellings and install a water supply. At present the families have to travel on a daily basis to Omagh fire station where they fill creamery cans with drinking water.

This fairly radical and humanitarian move by the council resulted in loyalist protests and last week's loyalist *Tyrone Constitution* carried an advertisement complaining about the spending of local rate-payers' money and alleged that the travellers were all from the Free State. In fact, Sinn Fein, by putting the travellers on the electoral register established that almost all of them were born either in Tyrone or Derry. The advertisement in the *Constitution* announced a protest march for the following Monday night.

Sinn Fein mobilised a number of activists to go to the site but those who arrived after the RUC



● Loyalists vent their racist hatred of travellers

set up roadblocks were only allowed in on foot and could not run the risk of abandoning their cars to loyalist vandalism. Nevertheless, a number got through including Councillor Kerr. Some other local politicians and a parish priest were also present.

About 200 loyalists with two bands and carrying flags were allowed to provocatively march past the site beating drums. They were addressed by William McCrea, a DUP elected representative for Mid-Ulster, but who comes from Magherafelt in South Derry. Other DUP members and supporters were dressed in from as far away as Strabane.

The day after the march, on Tuesday, there was a knock at one of the travellers' doors. When it was



● 'We shall not be moved' is the slogan of these travellers

answered a letter was found slitting underneath a stone. Purporting to come from the UVF the letter said that Seamas Kerr was sentenced to death and would be killed within two weeks.

The racist action of the loyalists has disturbed the travellers but they are determined to stay where they are and Sinn Fein have promised them their wholehearted support.

FOR TWO YEARS the occupants of six tiny West Belfast flats have been forced to live in squalid conditions by their landlord, the Housing Executive, which during that time has failed to rehouse them or to carry out essential repairs, even when ordered to by the public health authorities.

None of the flats in the rat-infested building in Harrogate Street, in the Cavendish Street area, have running hot water or a working bath. The seven adults and three young children who live there share two smelly toilets.

Another toilet is broken, filthy and unusable. The 53-year-old occupant of the flat beneath it, Jim Gough, has been forced out of his bedroom by sewage seeping through, which has left the paint hanging in ribbons from the damp ceiling and fills the flat with a nauseating stench. Mr Gough, who was born in the flats, now has to sleep on the floor of his tiny kitchen-cum-living room.

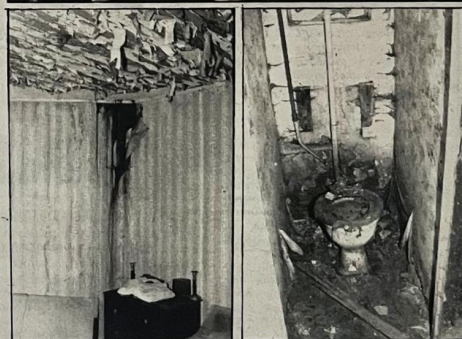
The entire house is decaying, with numerous faults. The building's original window frames are rotten and leak. In wet weather water drips through the leaking skylights of the two attic flats. In one of these a young mother has to share a single small bedroom with her seven-year-old son and three-year-old daughter.

On the ground floor, Marie Barr has brought up her six-year-old son in a one-bedroomed flat, which, like all those in the building, is extremely damp. Her back door hangs open, filling the rooms with stench from a permanently blocked drain in the yard.

She admits, "I don't think I could take much more of this. The Housing Executive have done nothing for us. Not one thing, only take money off us. I said to them one day, 'You should be paying me for living in here.'"

When the Housing Executive bought

Slum conditions



● The decaying and rat-infested flats in Belfast's Harrogate Street

the building in 1981 residents say that they were told that they would be put on the priority housing list, and that the flats would be refurbished since they fell within a housing action area.

Since then the Housing Executive has put their rents up but on several occasions, the occupants say, failed to carry out promised repairs that might have alleviated the worst health hazards.

In desperation, realising that on their own they were getting nowhere, the residents contacted the tenants' association in the nearby new Beechmount estate, who in turn contacted Sinn Fein, the welfare authorities and the public health department.

The latter, after inspecting the flats, served seven public health orders on the Housing Executive, including a one-day order on the outside drain and a three-day order on the blocked toilet. By Wednesday, May 4th, almost two weeks later, work had not begun. The three-storey building, which has no fire escape, fire doors or communal back entrance, is also currently the subject of a Fire Department report.

Meanwhile, at a meeting on Tuesday, April 12th, arranged by Sinn Fein's housing department, and attended also by residents, tenants' association representatives and the Housing Executive, Executive officials said that the occupants of the Harrogate Street flats have been allotted A3 status, below 'Emergency' and 'Special Health and Social Needs' on the Executive's priority housing list. With the emergency housing list in West Belfast extremely long, residents fear that it could still take several years before they are rehoused.

Sinn Fein housing spokesperson Sean Keenan commented:

"The fact that people living, through no fault of their own, in the most appalling slum conditions do not qualify for emergency rehousing, exposes yet again the total inadequacy of housing provision in nationalist areas of West Belfast."

Ironically, a housing association is keen to refurbish and convert the building into two flats for single-parent families, but cannot proceed unless the Housing Executive rehouses the existing residents.

Restricted alternative

BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

THE Criminal Justice Bill, presently making its way through Leinster House, proposes to provide community service orders as an alternative to prison sentences.

A truly commendable and liberal reform, you may say, in keeping with Coalition concern for the down-trodden masses. But who exactly is this reform going to benefit?

George Birmingham, Coalition Minister of State for Justice, shed some light on the issue in Leinster House on Tuesday of last week. He said:

"The district courts are faced with the difficulty that a custodial sentence usually involves loss of employment for the offender and the community service order would be one way of getting around this. A conviction meaning loss of employment could be greatest in middle-class families."

Two days later, on Thursday, the Finance Bill was introduced into the house promising stiffer penalties for tax-evaders including prison sentences.

Or, as an alternative, community service orders....?

☆☆☆

In the Ring Gaeltacht of County Waterford, Mass on Sunday has over the years, naturally enough, always been in Irish.

That is until the appearance there of the new parish priest, one Conor O Dalaigh, who since his arrival has insisted on saying the Mass in English.

When his parishioners answered in Irish last Sunday, he turned on them and informed them that to answer prayers in Irish when the priest says them in English is blasphemy.

☆☆☆

I see that Pope John Paul has called for the release of all political prisoners before he visits Poland next month.

I do not recall a similar demand before his visits to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala.... or Ireland.

☆☆☆

Sport and politics are well-known as bad mixers and when you throw in a family angle there just has to be trouble.

Very strained relations then in the Morrow household in Bessbrook after last week's Armagh versus Down GAA National League football final at Croke Park.

Councillor Ronnie Morrow and his brother-in-law, Councillor Moffat, are both staunch unionists who in Newry and Mourne District Council, before the match, voted against a civic reception for both county teams on their return from Dublin.

Moffat condemned the GAA severely as a sectarian organisation.

But on the fateful Sabbath Ronnie Morrow's wayward son, Clarence, was observed in Croke Park, not only watching the match, but actually enjoying it.

☆☆☆

If you are passing through Antrim town and feeling thirsty, resist the temptation of calling



James Connolly looks on as Paddy Bolger goes on... and on... and on...

into Paul McKenna's Bar in Castle Street.

It has nothing to do with the beer or the lack of hot water and soap in the toilets however.

A 'Pub Spy' with a difference informs me that the place is a favourite watering-hole for Brits and RUC, and as such is best given a wide berth in these turbulent times.

☆☆☆

Austin Currie's decision not to stand for the SDLP against Owen Carron in the next Westminster election has earned him a new nickname amongst some of his erstwhile supporters in the Fermanagh/South Tyrone party - 'Chicken Currie'.

☆☆☆

Detained, as they say, in the Bridewell last week, Sinn Fein's national treasurer, Brendan Swords, was not deprived of his trouser-belt

until just before tea-time on the second day.

It was only then that the significance of some graffiti on the wall, left by a previous occupant, struck him. It read:

"I thought sensory deprivation was bad till I discovered the Bridewell breakfast."

☆☆☆

Republican supporters swear that something akin to a visitation occurred on the Falls Road last Sunday during Sinn Fein's May Day rally outside the house formerly occupied by James Connolly.

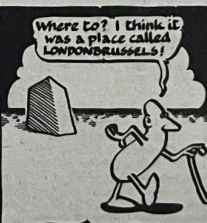
Paddy Bolger's half-hour tirade against the bourgeoisie and in explanation of scientific socialism strained one's patience on such an abnormally cold and blustery day.

It was during Bolger's speech that people attest that Connolly, a bust of whom is mounted above the door, was seen to repeatedly yawn and then smile as Paddy Bolger finished!

NOTES



BY CORMAC



WHAT'S ON

FUND-RAISING SOCIAL
(for the Gael Scoil, Beal Feirste & Gael Scoil, Inchicore, Dublin)
Featuring Christy Moore & Friends
8.30pm Friday 6th May
The Belgard Inn
TALLAGHT
County Dublin
Admission £3

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring The Irish Brigade
9pm Friday 6th May
Swan Lake Hotel
MONAGHAN TOWN
Admission £2
Organised by Sinn Fein

UNEMPLOYED/UNWAGED CONFERENCE
9.30am to 5pm Saturday 7th May
Rosemary Street Hall
(off Royal Avenue)
BELFAST

BOBBY SANDS COMMEMORATIVE WORKSHOP
(featuring photographic exhibitions, lectures & videos)
12 noon to 5pm Saturday 7th May
West County Hotel
Chapelizod
DUBLIN
Buses 25, 26, 66 & 67

RELEASE NICKY KELLY RALLY
2.30pm Saturday 7th May
Parnell Square
DUBLIN

IRISH NIGHT
Featuring The Irish Brigade
Saturday 7th May
GAA Hall
BELLAGHY
County Derry
Organised by Sinn Fein

SOUTH DOWN BUSES FOR BELFAST MAY 8th RALLY
Leave Rostrevor 12 noon travelling via Hilltown, Kilcoo & Downpatrick.

TWINBROOK MARTYRS ANNUAL COMMEMORATION
12.30pm Sunday 8th May
Milltown Cemetery gates
BELFAST

TONY AHERNE COMMEMORATION
(10th Anniversary)
2.30pm Sunday 8th May
Carrigaline Church
CARRIGALINE
County Cork

'SOCIALISM & IRELAND' PUBLIC DEBATE
8pm Monday 9th May
Minor Hall
Guildhall
DERRY
Speakers: Gerry Adams & Fr Des Wilson

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring Brimmer & guest artists
Friday 20th May
Rosaire Hotel
Dublin Wood
DROGHEDA
County Louth
Admission £1.50
Organised by Sinn Fein

ANNUAL WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION
2.30pm Sunday 19th June
Sallins
BODENSTOWN
County Kildare

Draw results

Fermanagh Sinn Fein Monthly Draw
£100: Caroline Reilly, Killafinta, Enniskillen; £50: Cathal Murphy, Clontarf, Enniskillen; £10: James Lee, Derrylin, County Fermanagh.
S. Down Sinn Fein
£100: Kathleen Mallon, Annalong; £50: G. McDowell, Downpatrick; £20: M. Murphy, Rostrevor; £10: Kevin Rooney, Lattin.
S. Tyrone Building Fund Draw
Week 8
£100: Norrie McCaughy; £30: Margaret Dalley, Coalisland; £20: Helen Donnelly, Dungannon.

Death of John McKeown

THE DEATH occurred on Monday 18th April of John James McKeown at his home in Mullaghnameels, Fenagh, County Leitrim.

John, who was in his 60s had been a life-long supporter of the Republican Movement, having been a member of the IRA in his younger years.

He was also a keen GAA man and played for Carrigallen and Drumreilly football clubs as well as county football for Leitrim.

In the late '40s he went to America, where he was active in Irish Northern Aid, and returned to Leitrim in 1975.

To his wife, Kitty, and his brother and sisters the Republican Movement extended their deepest sympathy.

Birmingham commemoration

LAST Sunday, May 1st, despite adverse weather conditions, about 800 people took part in a Sinn Féin commemoration in Birmingham, England, to honour the 10 H-Block hunger-strike martyrs.

Following a march from Sparkhill to Digbeth, supported by various Irish solidarity groups, trade unions, trades councils, Asian and Iranian organisations, and the John O'Connell and Twinbrook Martyrs flute bands from Glasgow, a rally was held.

Kevin Collier of London Sinn Féin chaired the proceedings which was followed by Caoimhín Ó Caoláin who had flown in from Dublin to address the rally.

After Ó Caoláin's speech, which stressed the need for unity amongst anti-imperialist groups in Britain, there were speakers from Scotland and immigrant groups and the rally ended with a speech from Robert Hughes, brother of the late hunger-striker, Francis Hughes.

Unemployed conference

AN unemployed / unwaged conference will be held in Belfast's Rosemary Street Hall (off Royal Avenue) this Saturday, May 7th, from 9.30am to 5pm.

The idea of the conference is for unemployed/unwaged people to meet, discuss problems and possibly form groups throughout Belfast which will work together in the future. The organisers say:

"As long as unemployed people remain isolated, stay quiet, stay apart, things won't change of their own accord. We see our need as being a decent standard of living for all, rather than simply demanding the 'right to work'. No one should have to suffer poverty simply because they don't have a job."

Three main areas will be discussed at the conference:-

1. Unemployment areas in which people are affected, e.g. housing, rents, electricity payments, etc.
2. What has been, and could be, tried to change things — marches, pickets, through trade unions, direct action, co-ops, alternative work schemes, etc.
3. The best way to organise and what structures. A union? A federation of local groups?

The conference is open to all unemployed people and full creche facilities are available for those with children. Food, tea and coffee will be also available. There will be a social/fund-raising event at the Queen's University Students' Union at 8pm with a band and disco.

Further details are available from Jim (telephone 225426) or John (telephone 231365).

Armagh POW released

FRIDAY, April 29th, saw the release from Armagh Jail of Sadie McGilloway, from Derry's Creggan, after serving 5½ years, her second term of imprisonment during this phase of the struggle.

As part of prison governor Murtagh's campaign to degrade and humiliate the Armagh prisoners, even on the verge of release, Sadie McGilloway was strip-searched once again, a practice which, she says, "is causing a lot of tension inside the jail."

New advice centres

THE Armagh city Sinn Féin advice centre, at 43 Ogle Street (telephone 526-619), is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 5pm.

There is also a new South Down centre open in Main Street, Hilltown, which is open all day every Saturday.

TV

Focus on foreign fields

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

MRS DING is nearly 70 years old, and is head of the silk-worm section of the Wong Tong commune in rural China. She remembers what life was like before the Revolution:

"We didn't have to beg, but we never had enough to eat."

There were no boys in the family, which was a source of shame in the old China, and girls were not considered worth educating. Now Mrs Ding is one of the most respected members of her commune.

Inside China — *Living with the Revolution*, on UTV last Wednesday, was about the everyday lives of the peasant families in Wong Tong commune. It contrasted their old lives, where most of the food they grew went to pay rent to the landlords, to their lives now, no less hard-working but no longer exploited.

The film concentrated on the 'new prosperity' of communes like Wong Tong, and

hinted heavily that 'problems' were arising because the peasants now had surplus goods and money to buy more than the bare necessities of life. The inference being that the Chinese are 'like the rest of us' after all — materialists at heart, only interested in storing up extra cooking pots and quilts.

AGENT

Quelmade, the late film on BBC on Friday, starred Marlon Brando as Sir William Walker, a British agent provocateur who is sent to a Caribbean island in the late 1800s to break the Portuguese control of the island's main crop, sugar cane. He instigates a revolt against the island's governor, using a cane-cutter, Jose Dolores, to rouse the natives.

In typical British fashion, the cane-cutters are betrayed by Walker and the English sugar merchants who take control of the island. Ten years later, Walker is again sent to the island, this time to smash a revolt led by Jose Dolores.

He captures the rebel leader but his 'conscience' bothers him and he tries to set him free. Dolores refuses to escape, and the film ends with Walker being killed by another cane-cutter as he boards a ship for England.

Quelmade was made by Gillo Pontecorvo, who also made *Battle of Algiers*. Jose Dolores, the rebel leader, is portrayed as a Christ-like figure who chooses martyrdom rather than betray his people. The British use of wholesale murder, burning out villages where the rebels have support, is well-chronicle in the film, with Marlon Brando riding through the smoke and flames, unmoved by the carnage around him.

MENTAL

Rona Fields is an American psychologist who has written two books about the North of Ireland, *Society Under Siege* and *Society on the Run*. Her conclusions about the mental state of children living in Belfast was the subject of *Nationwide* on Friday night on BBC1.

Rona Fields claims that the



● Sir William Walker (Brando) and Jose Dolores in *Quelmade*

majority of children living in the areas affected by the war are psychologically damaged. She apparently bases this assertion on the fact that children she interviews interpret pictures she shows them in 'violent terms'. Pictures of men lying in a field are either dead soldiers or soldiers waiting in ambush, a woman peering round a door is watching out for soldiers coming to the house.

Rona Fields does not think it at all normal that children who have lived with soldiers kicking their doors in and dragging away members of their families should relate their experiences to their lives, and talk about them, during Fields' sophisticated psychological probes!

A strong whiff of banality

BY EDDIE STACK

THERE is no sight less edifying than an American writer out to 'take on' the Holocaust.

Here the said scribe will aim to 'pull out the big one'. At last he has found a subject worthy of his talent and he sends himself to sleep each night counting the Pulitzer Prizes he knows are waiting his way. This will be the book that he was born to write, that comes from the heart. This will be a book not afraid to plumb the depths of the human spirit.

Not afraid, and not qualified.

Sadly the Holocaust is big business in America. In a revealing incident concerning the so-called Hitler diaries, *Starmagazine*, in an attempt to peddle the diaries abroad, and salvage some of their considerable investment, offered the American weekly *Newsweek* exclusive rights, on one condition. This was that *Newsweek* begin publishing the extracts with the mad flight of Hitler's deputy to England during the war. *Newsweek* were amazed. They replied that it was the Holocaust that interested their readers

and around which they wanted to tell the Hitler story.

MASS MURDER

It is this desire to give the market what it wants (and to 'pull out the big one') that has produced so much shock from America on the Holocaust. In *Judgement at Nuremberg* in 1961 a generation of young film-goers were left with the impression that the Nazi regime did bad things to Judy Garland. In *QB VII* we were led to believe that the Holocaust happened so that a bad Hollywood writer could give up his drink problem and in writing about mass murder suddenly become a genius.

Therefore, it is in a world packed with rubbish that we come to *Sophie's Choice*. Set in a dreamy Brooklyn in 1947, it tells the tale of an ill-fated love triangle containing Sophie, an immigrant Polish Catholic who had been sent to Auschwitz and survived, her lover, Nathan, who had saved her from death as she arrived in America, and Stingo, a farmer's

FILM

boy from the Deep South who has come to New York determined to be a writer and 'pull out the big one'.

Stingo is entranced by Sophie's past in Auschwitz and her choice. It is then that things become more, not less, confusing.

Beautifully photographed, magnificently acted, what begins as a fascinating tale of passion and magnetic personalities keeps over under the weight of persistent re-runs of Sophie's concentration camp life. The whole second half of the film plays like a post-mortem and the film ducks out of showing real squalor into what is really a 'pretty story'.

BRITTLE

What lifts this film into a sphere greater than it deserves is the performance of Meryl Streep as Sophie.

Because she plays Sophie in a chilly and distant manner, as if distracted by the New York sunshine from the smoke of the Auschwitz ovens, she



● Sophie (Meryl Streep) with her lover, Nathan (Kevin Kline), during a lighter moment in *Sophie's Choice*

has managed a surprisingly un-sentimental portrait of someone made brittle by cruelty. It is a stunning piece of acting. And it is her alone that makes *Sophie's Choice* worth going to see.

One last point: the Holocaust must never be forgotten, but artistic attempts to cover the horror of it all have left

From Clare to here

BY ANDY MORRIS

THE WAR IN CLARE, by Michael Brennan, is a simple account of the Tan War in the Banner county, told in a neat but pricey hardback version.

It is more the story of Brennan's war in much the same vein as Dan Breen or Tom Barry, rather than a serious attempt to put that phase of the struggle into a relevant or historical context.

These personal memoirs measure in a somewhat romantic way through Michael Brennan's experiences as a young Volunteer, political prisoner and guerrilla commander.

However, the book does occasionally come down to earth when we are told of the regular casualties inflicted on the Brit-

ish during skirmishes and the standard activities of the Black and Tans.

It is surely ironic that at the time of writing this re-published memoir in the '30s, the author was Chief of Staff of the Free State army overseeing the continued repression of republicans.

ROSE-TINTED

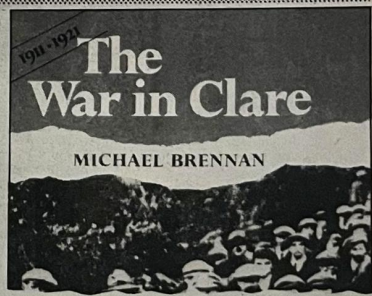
Michael Brennan's writings strongly assert the 'honourable war theory'. His chapter 'Entertaining General Lucas', recording the generous treatment given to the captured British officer,

BOOK

displays the rose-tinted nostalgia for the war — not shared by Breen and Barry — which is expounded by those who now claim that the IRA would not have done 'such things' in the old days as they do today.

While Brennan touches on the need for political consolidation as a necessity in the war during those years, no attempt is made to outline the real motivation for the fighting.

Indeed, reading through the often light-hearted chapters, one could be forgiven for believing that the Clare brigades were simply marking time and only engaging the enemy in order to



capture arms and ammunition and not to drive the British out.

Whilst it might also be true that the memoirs are merely written to record Brennan's own part in the war, one is constantly reminded by his talk of ambushes, internment, reprisal killings and hunger-strikes of the continuing war in Ireland. And

there is more than enough in Brennan's account to encourage the reader, particularly one with a local interest, to look closer at the war in Clare.

● *The War in Clare*, by Michael Brennan, is published by Four Courts Press, 3 Sarpentine Avenue, Dublin 4. Price IR£5.

Nicky Kelly is innocent

NICKY KELLY, who is serving a 12-year sentence in Portlaoise Prison for his alleged involvement in the Sallins mail train raid in 1976, began a hunger-strike on Sunday, May 1st, to protest his innocence.

The case of Nicky Kelly has attracted widespread public attention since he, along with Osgur Breathnach and Brian McNally, was convicted solely on the basis of incriminating statements which were signed after sustained and brutal beatings while in garda custody.

Dreading the prospect of serving a sentence for something he did not do, Kelly jumped bail and absconded to America. Following the release of Breathnach and McNally on appeal, he decided to return and clear his name. After landing in Ireland he was immediately arrested and sent to Portlaoise to serve his sentence.

IRA

Repeated appeals to the courts have failed to overturn his conviction as has a claim by the Irish Republican Army that they carried out the mail train raid. As Kelly began his hunger-strike the IRA in a statement repeated that "it was our Volunteers, our organisation which carried out the Sallins mail train raid for which this innocent man is serving 12 years."

The statement continued: "The travesty of justice in this case is well known: the media know it, the judiciary know it and those in government are well aware of the innocence of Nicky Kelly, a victim of the 'Heavy Gang', whose continued imprisonment is nothing short of political vindictiveness."

To highlight the case of Kelly, and in support of his release, the Release Nicky Kelly Committee has organised an intensive



Christy Moore re-unites with Moving Hearts briefly to round off the Nicky Kelly is Innocent gig in Dublin on Tuesday night

protest campaign. Support has already come from musicians such as Christy Moore and Moving Hearts both of whom have released records about Nicky Kelly. A street theatre group in Dublin is performing an excellent play which portrays his interrogation and conviction.

DISTURBING

A concert which was held in Dublin on Tuesday night to help launch the campaign

was addressed by Dr Ivor Browne of University College Dublin and Bernadette McAliskey and was televised by the independent British television station Channel 4.

Browne stressed his reluctance to become involved in what he called a 'political campaign' especially when Kelly had been tried and convicted. Disturbing medical evidence convinced him, however, that there had been a gross miscarriage of justice and that Kelly was wrongly convicted.

Bearing this in mind it would, he said, be wrong for him, or for any fair-minded individual to remain detached from the campaign to free Nicky Kelly.

More pointed was Bernadette McAliskey who said that "nobody can say that this man should be in prison but they (the government) can't find a way of releasing him that will make them seem right. Because of their petty-minded meanness they are prepared to let Nicky Kelly die."

Dublin arrests Sinn Fein members charged

AT 10 O'CLOCK on Wednesday, April 27th, about 20 gardai forced their way into a house in Carlingford Road, Drumcondra, Dublin. They pushed past Liam Connolly, one of the tenants of the house, and into a room where a meeting to discuss Sinn Fein electoral strategy was in progress.

Present at the meeting were Paddy Bolger from Dublin, a member of Sinn Fein's ard comhairle, the national organiser and a member of the 26-counties election directorate; Pat Doherty from Donegal, Brendan Swords from Westmeath (both on the ard comhairle and the directorate); Gerard 'Dickie' O'Neill, vice-chairperson of Dublin Sinn Fein; and John McCallum, Noel McLoughlin, Martin Ferris and Gerard FitzGerald, all full-time Sinn Fein organisers attached to the national organiser's office.

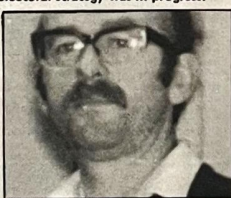
The meeting had been convened to discuss organising for the 1984 local government elections, the EEC elections and the general state of Sinn Fein in the 26 counties. All the men present, including Liam Connolly who was not at the meeting, were arrested under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act and taken in handcuffs to the Bridewell. About an hour later seven young people who called at the house to visit friends who lived there were also arrested.

ATTITUDES

On Friday morning, April 29th, the first nine men arrested were charged with IRA membership. These charges are strangely at variance with the attitudes displayed to the men in the Bridewell, as there was little attempt at interrogation, most of them merely being cautioned and then returned to the cells when they refused to speak.

Indeed, the only attention paid to them were the tirades of abuse directed at them through the cell doors at intervals during the day and night by the Special Branch.

Most of the men arrested are used to the constant harassment of the Free State gardai, Martin Ferris from Tralee, for example, being arrested almost every week. Paddy Bolger, national organiser, has his work continually interrupted and has been arrested four times in the past six weeks, being held for periods up to 34 hours. Noel McLough-



●BRENDAN SWORDS



●PAT DOHERTY

lin, another Sinn Fein organiser, spent almost the whole of last week in custody, having been arrested on Tuesday, April 26th, released on Wednesday afternoon, only to be arrested again on Wednesday night.

This obvious attempt to disrupt Sinn Fein's expansion in the 26 counties, especially their organising of election workers, has moved to a second stage with the charging of Sinn Fein activists with membership of the IRA, and is condemned by Sinn Fein as a campaign of calculated harassment.

Sinn Fein's advice centre at 5 Blessington Street has a substantial file of complaints from Sinn Fein members in Dublin who have been constantly subjected to this cat and mouse game of arrest and release for the past year.

ALTHOUGH the loyalists' so-called twelfth of July 'celebrations' are more than two months away, already nationalists are beginning to get a taste of things to come with several sectarian attacks in Belfast recently and a provocative Orange band parade through the centre of Lurgan last Friday night, April 29th.

On Thursday night, April 28th, a married couple from Dilis Flats and a neighbour were attacked by two loyalists wielding crowbars at the corner of Northumberland Street, close to the loyalist Shankill Road in Belfast. The woman, who is four months pregnant, was kicked between the legs by one of the attackers and was in a state of hysteria before several nationalist youths arrived on the scene and chased the loyalists back up Northumberland Street.

ANOTHER BRAND

And in another brand of sectarian violence, this time displayed by the RUC, 14-year-old Monica Toman from the Shankill estate in Lurgan was violently accosted last Friday night, April 29th, during a loyalist band parade through the predominantly nationalist town

Sectarianism!



which had been typically sealed off for the occasion by a large force of RUC.

Monica was standing at the junction of Charles Street/Shankill Street when a number of curious nationalist onlookers when the RUC approached and ordered her bluntly to 'move on'. She was then grabbed by her hair and dragged down Charles Street where she was lifted by

the throat and thrown into the back of an RUC landrover.

When her mother, Mrs Betty Toman, demanded her daughter's release she was sarcastically informed by the RUC that they were not aware of having anyone in the landrover. Twenty minutes later, and with visible bruises around her neck, Monica was eventually released.

DAY OF HARASSMENT

LAST TUESDAY, May 3rd, at six o'clock in the morning, the nationalist Head of the Town estate in Strabane was invaded by a large force of RUC. Backed up by reinforcements from Derry, they imposed a virtual curfew on the estate, and embarked on a systematic raid of about 50 houses in the area.

In their usual arrogant fashion, they informed anyone who protested at their homes being ransacked that "nationalists have no rights" and the 12-hour search operation was accompanied by the typical RUC terror tactics of verbal abuse, arrests and wilful damage to fittings and furniture.

The home of Mrs McNulty, a widow, in Fountain Terrace, was raided. Her 12-year-old daughter and a one-year-old baby were alone in the house, but this did not deter the RUC from forcing their way in and searching. Concerned neighbours who knew Mrs McNulty was not at home were prevented from going into the house to be with her daughter during the raid.

The McShane family of St John's Park were not in when the RUC came to raid their home at about noon. They broke into the house, and when Mrs McShane and her sister arrived home, Mrs McShane was

arrested and taken to Strabane Barracks. When her husband went to the barracks to find out why she was arrested, he was also arrested and the couple were held for several hours and threatened with being sent to Castlereagh.

THREATENED

The Breslin family of Inisfree Gardens suffered two raids during Strabane's day of harassment. A joint RUC/Brit patrol raided the house at 6am, and that afternoon, when Sinn Fein elected representative Martin McGuinness and local Sinn Fein worker Raymond McGowan were leaving, having called with the Breslins about the earlier raid, two RUC landrovers pulled up at the door and announced that the house was being raided again.

When Mr Breslin protested he was threatened with arrest. This was obviously to intimidate anyone seen speaking to Martin McGuinness or any of Sinn Fein's workers.

Later, the British army turned their attention on children in Fountain Hill Community Centre. They raided the centre at 6pm when it was full of local children, refusing to allow any of these young children to leave, or to let any of their angry and worried parents into the building.