

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT

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Exclusive

interview with

IRA escapees

WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS

IRA bomb attacks across the North

IRA active service units throughout the six counties launched a series of bomb attacks last week, causing many hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage.

A five-person IRA active service unit of Tyrone Brigade placed several incendiary devices at a pub in Main Street, Pomeroy, in the early hours of Thursday morning, September 29th. The premises were severely damaged when the bombs exploded around 3am and it took the local fire brigade five hours to control the resulting blaze.

DUNAGANNON COMMERCIAL ATTACKS

In one carefully planned, meticulously executed operation, four active service units comprising over 20 IRA Volunteers from Tyrone Brigade launched a devastating attack on business properties in Dunganannon on Thursday night, September 29th.

The blitz, which is estimated to have caused hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of damage and took the combined resources of the fire service from Dunganannon, Strabane, Cookstown and Omagh to deal with it, commenced at around 10.30pm with a bomb attack outside The Wool



● A fireman climbs through the smouldering wreckage of one of the commercial targets in last Thursday's IRA bomb blitz

Shop in Barrack Street. The building was totally destroyed.

Less than five minutes later, the Cabragh filling station on the Ballygawley Road was destroyed by a second bomb.

A short time later, several fire bombs, carefully placed by six armed Volunteers, exploded at McGowan's service station on the Dunganannon bypass. Again the premises were totally devastated.

Thirty minutes after the

first bomb exploded, another detonated in McManus's shoe warehouse at Beech Valley. A store was gutted while the remainder of the premises suffered extensive damage.

Shortly after 11pm the County Buildings in Barrack Street, Strabane, were seriously damaged in a bomb attack.

Two hours later, around 1am, several fire bombs exploded at Lamont's supermarket in Cabragh, causing

slight damage.

SION MILLS BOMB

On Saturday, October 1st, a 400lb bomb was used in an attack on the RUC barracks in Sion Mills, Tyrone. Unfortunately only the detonator exploded and the bomb was eventually defused.

On Saturday night, Kingsway Carpets in the Kingsway Shopping Centre in Duncurry, was damaged by an incendiary bomb placed by

an active service unit from Belfast Brigade.

Two shops in Lisburn, Warwick's furniture shop in Ant-rim Street and Gordon Clarke's menswear in Market Square had three incendiary devices defused on their premises. A fifth bomb was placed in Kill-wee Industrial Estate in a cash and carry shop. Slight damage was caused when it detonated.

SOUTH DOWN ATTACKS

On Monday night a four-person ASU from South Down IRA, supported by a second unit, placed four fire bombs in Sands' Mill, New Street, Newry. The resulting explosion at around 10.30pm caused slight damage. Several miles away, a third ASU from South Down placed a fire bomb at Campbell's garage in Rostrevor, but the bomb was defused.

CROSSMAGLEN SHOTS

On Tuesday, October 4th, two IRA active service units, comprising 12 armed Volunteers from South Armagh Brigade attacked two British army checkpoints in the Crossmaglen area.

Several shots were fired at the roadblock on the Creggan Road shortly before 4pm. The IRA claimed that at least one enemy soldier was hit. At around the same time, a second roadblock was fired at on the Dundalk Road.



BREAK-OUT

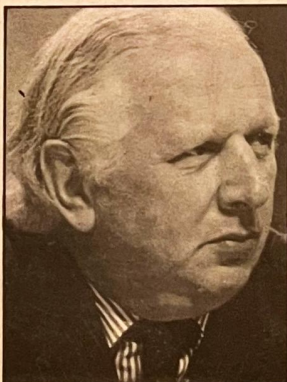
QUAKES CONTINUE

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE FURY caused within the unionist establishment by the H-Block escape continued to boil over throughout last week, with the Brits, prison warders, and unionist politicians at each other's throats.

Enraged by the exploits of the republican prisoners, the unionists members of the Stormont Assembly called for an emergency meeting on Tuesday, October 4th, during which Ian Paisley and many others asked for the resignation of James Prior and his prisoners' minister, Nicholas Scott. While James Molyneux and most of the Official Unionists preferred to blame the escape on the "insufficient financing of security", OUP maverick Robert McCartney joined with the DUP in their call for heads to roll.

Stormont's self-styled 'security committee' also held an emergency meeting on Wednesday, October 5th, before they met Nicholas Scott. Meeting him was the condition laid down by Prior before he would address the Assembly himself — some climb-down from his earlier refusal to say anything or release any details of the escape until the inquiry report was compiled. However, some details mysteriously found their way to the desk of the London Evening Standard which, on September 29th, claimed that severe negligence by the warders allowed republican prisoners to take total control of the H7-Block and



● James Prior and Nicholas Scott — in the firing line

drive away unhindered. This Stormont-inspired story was little more than a pathetic attempt by James Prior to salvage his shattered political career by laying the blame on the lower echelons. However, the Standard story, along with Ian Paisley's 'collusion' remarks on Monday, September 26th, drove the warders into a corner. On Thursday, September 29th, the



day of the funeral of their colleague Ferris, who was killed during the escape, John Hall of the Prison Officers' Association accused Paisley of scoring political points while pointing to the 'heroic sacrifice' of Ferris as proof of the 'Screws' 'professional zeal'.

The Brits' laconic statement, saying that there was no 'willful collusion' between the prisoners and the warders leading up to the

escape, could only rub salt into the wounds. In Magilligan, a "small quantity of explosives" was miraculously found, as if to emphasise that the warders were really doing their job, understaffed as they said they were — more egg on Prior's face.

BLACK PROPAGANDA

Another escape story which made its way to the news agencies last week alleged that the prisoners' escape plans had been retrieved: "Escape plans dropped in prison melee" announced Fabian Boyle of the Irish News who went on to recount how "top IRA criminal Brendan McFarlane" had forced other prisoners to escape with him under threat of violence! The story — an obvious 'black propaganda' effort — was later denied by the Brits.

Concern about the media coverage of the escape caused the Brits to kidnap one man and to prevent media access during the arrest of two escapees. John Thomas, a republican prisoner in H7, due for release on September 26th, was taken to Castlereagh hours after the escape, and released only on September 29th — thereby preventing him from giving the outside world an immediate first-hand account of what happened in H7 that Sunday afternoon.

And on Tuesday, September 27th, RUC cameramen were the only ones allowed near a Castlewellan farmhouse to film the recapture of Hugh Corey and Patrick McIntyre, two of the republican escapees: a dangerous precedent which seems to have sparked off little or no protest in media circles.

VIEWPOINTS

In the middle of the hysteria, two nationalist viewpoints stand out, the only two which, apart from Sinn Féin, express the thoughts of the nationalist community in the North.

Sunday Press columnist Fergus Hall wrote of the 'delight' of nationalists at the news of the escape, while Ballymurphy priest Fr Des Wilson, in an RTE interview on Sunday, October 2nd, refused to condemn the escapees for resorting to force.

"The prisoners had every right to escape," he said.

"If you want to save the lives of prison officers, then you must create a different political situation. That is the only way."

SINN FEIN AT BRIGHTON CONFERENCE

BY JACK MADDEN

A FRINGE MEETING at the British Labour Party conference in Brighton, on Wednesday this week, responded enthusiastically to an address by Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast, which called on the labour movement in Britain to re-examine its attitudes and to work for Irish unity.

Although mention of the meeting was excluded from the conference agenda, it was the best-attended of all the fringe meetings with almost a thousand from all sections of the British Labour Party and from all parts of Britain, turning up to hear the republican point of view on Ireland.

The Sinn Fein delegation — consisting of Gerry Adams, Tom Hartley, Chrissie McAuley and Sile Darragh — was welcomed in Brighton on Wednesday by two MPs, Harry Cohen and Ernie Roberts. Throughout the afternoon they had talks with numerous political activists including rank and file members of the Labour Party while Chrissie McAuley and Sile Darragh also met women activists to discuss the oppression of women in Ireland.

A press conference attended by 60 to 70 journalists was followed by the fringe meeting which was opened by Clare Short MP and included on the platform Richard Balfe MEP, Angela Dirlt of Camden Women's Council, Jeremy Corbyn MP and Nick Blake of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, along with the four Sinn Fein visitors.

Chrissie McAuley spoke about the women's role in the struggle in the six counties while Sile Darragh outlined the current position in Armagh women's jail, giving a graphic account of strip-searching.

MAIN ADDRESS

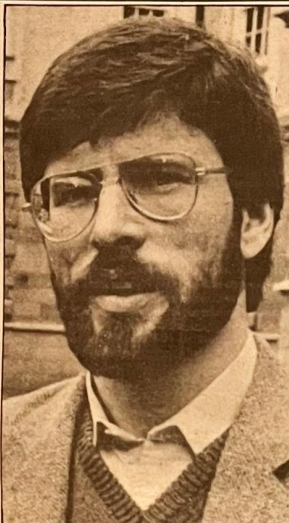
In the main address, Gerry Adams thanked both the Labour Committee on Ireland and the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society's political committee, who jointly organised the meeting.

Pointing out that it was 15 years exactly since the RUC split Civil Rights marchers' blood in Derry's streets, he then spoke of the armed struggle and the question of British violence before and throughout the Civil Rights campaign to today, adding that the Irish people don't blame the British people for the crimes committed in their name by successive British governments. He said:

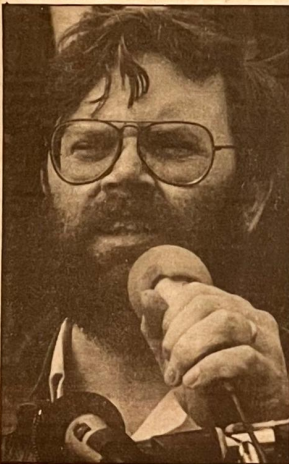
"One could go through the whole litany over the centuries of famine, dispossession, division and massacres. In fact, in the outline of the techniques used today by the British government against the Irish, we give a clear warning that the British establishment is going to use the same methods against you. We are the guinea-pigs."

Describing the role of the Labour Party leaderships in Ireland as 'disgraceful', he added that much of the oppression in Ireland was "sanctioned and directed by Labour governments." He continued:

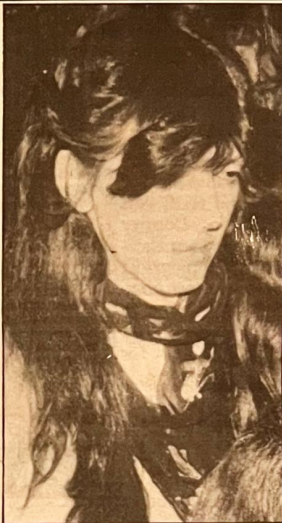
"British Labour governments — the 'government of the working-class' — have murdered Irish workers and their children



● GERRY ADAMS



● TOM HARTLEY



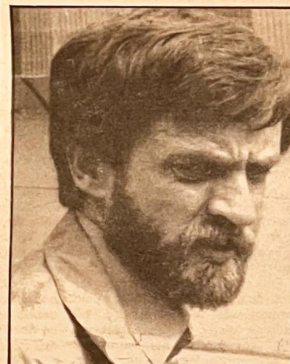
● CHRISIE McAULEY



● SILE DARRAGH



● RICHARD BALFE



● JEREMY CORBYN

Labour activists are working on the question of Ireland. We welcome the fact that you are raising the question of ill-treatment and strip-searching of women prisoners in Armagh Jail, that you are opposed to plastic bullets and that Labour MPs voted against the PTA.

"There is still much more which needs to be done. These meetings and the ongoing dialogue between Sinn Fein and Labour Party activists is part of the process of getting more done. We have more to unite us than to divide us and the involvement of sections of the British working-class in the struggle for Irish independence will forge links which will result in the overthrow of capitalism in Ireland and Britain.

"The first step in that process is for a British government to acknowledge the Irish people's right to national self-determination and then to abolish the loyalist veto.

"There should be consultations between the British government and the Irish people on the military, constitutional and economic arrangements for a British withdrawal. Then, and only then, will the conditions for a peaceful, stable, independent and united Irish society be established. Then, and only then, will relationships between the Irish and British people be normalised.

"That day will come, because, if nothing else, the last 15 years have proved that Irish republicanism cannot be defeated. That day will come more quickly with your assistance and support."

and are dividing the working-class. Labour governments, because of their colonial attitude to Ireland, deny the Irish people their social and economic rights, as well as their democratic rights.

"The key question which British socialists, progressives, and democrats have to answer is whether the right to sovereignty and national self-determination is vested in the Irish people or in the London government. The reply to that question for socialists, progressives and democrats is obvious.

SOVEREIGNTY

"Ireland is a foreign country. The British government have no right to any claim upon Irish sovereignty. It is the failure of the British Labour Party to recognise, and to support, this democratic right of the Irish people which has led Labour governments to support a national political minority and to defend partition by the methods

I have described.

"You don't have to support Sinn Fein. You don't have to support the IRA. You merely have to acknowledge that our people have the right to be free and it is British involvement which is obstructing and denying us that freedom.

"You should also consider as socialists that there will never be a socialist society in Britain or Ireland while Britain enslaves Ireland, and the enslavement of the Irish can only be attempted by the use of violence, coercion, show trials and murder.

"The Labour Party needs to get away from its first and contradictory position: in favour of re-unification 'by consent'. It is a non-policy at the moment and the right of a loyalist veto contained in it is in itself an extension of the British government's unjust claim to Ireland. The loyalists have no right to a veto.

"Sinn Fein welcomes the fact that

BROAD-BASED CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Broad-based campaign launched

BY EAMON TRACEY

A MAJOR new development in the campaign to counter the use of paid perjurers by the RUC was agreed at a conference in Dungannon, County Tyrone, on Sunday last, October 2nd, when delegates accepted a motion that such a campaign be "broad-based, aimed at mobilising the widest possible support and led by a committee elected at open conference."

The conference, attended by over 300 people, was opened by Maura McCrory, chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee set up at a previous meeting in Belfast. In pointing out the fundamental difference between an 'informer' and a 'paid perjurer', she said:

"There have always been some people who could be induced, or threatened, into telling real information that they knew. But what is happening today is that the RUC is seeking out people and offering them immunity from prosecution, or reduction of sentence, massive cash pay-outs, a new identity and a new life, in return for getting up in court and swearing false evidence against people they want to put away."

One of the major difficulties for those charged on the word of a paid perjurer was pointed out by Phil Mulgrew, sister of Kevin Mulgrew who was recently sentenced to 963 years' imprisonment on the uncorroborated evidence of the perjurer Christopher Black.

Speaking of the difficulty in providing alibi witnesses at show trials, she said:

"The accused are not very often given specific dates for the alleged offences and they are often being asked to recall incidents that happened two years or more ago. Where witnesses have been produced they have been ignored by the judge or sidely referred to as 'unconvincing' and their evidence classed as 'highly suspect'. Those accused on the word of perjurers are reluctant to give the names of friends or associates as witnesses as they are then subjected to harassment such as arrest and house raids, surely an ironic twist when the Diplock courts were allegedly introduced to protect witnesses."

While People's Democracy supported the proposal to establish a broad-based campaign, repeated spokespersons from the IRSP, including Ray Collins on behalf of their ard comhairle, argued that no new committee be established but the Relatives for Justice be strengthened.

SUPPORT

After pledging support to "whatever committee is elected here today", Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin elected representative for Derry,

pointed out that the use of paid perjurers is the third phase of the British campaign to destroy resistance to its presence. The first was internment, the second was the conveyor belt beginning in Castle-reagh and ending in the H-Blocks.

Answering allegations made by Fr Denis Faul that Sinn Féin was attempting to take over the Relatives for Justice, McGuinness said:

"We are not intending to do that whatsoever. We stand on our own two feet in relation to British policy in Ireland. We don't need issues like this to point out to anyone that British rule in Ireland is wrong."

On the release of Patrick Gilmour, father of perjurer Raymond Gilmour, by the IRA, he added:

"It would have been madness if Patrick Gilmour or any other of the relatives had been shot dead as a result of what their son or brother had done... if we do get into a situation where people like that are to be hurt then I feel that we defeat our own struggle."

In its afternoon session the conference got down to the business of outlining the objectives of the campaign, its title and structures.

After voting that the campaign be broad-based, delegates agreed that it should be called the Stop the Show Trials Campaign with three demands: 'Stop the use of hired perjurers', 'Stop the show trials', and 'Release the victims of these trials'.

CRITICISED

A motion from People's Democracy that the central demand of the campaign should be for an end to the 'supergrass system' was criticised by Sinn Féin speakers as representing an acceptance of a term used in the sensationalist English press to describe an informer. To emphasise that these people are not informers but paid perjurers, PD agreed to amend their motion replacing the term 'supergrass' with 'show trial'.

A lengthy discussion centred on the make up of the proposed committee and how best to allow for representation from relatives and other groups such as trade unions. A composite motion made up from motions proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Citizens Against Show Trials organisation from Derry was eventually accepted. It called for the election of a seven-

member committee plus two relatives and allowed for the co-option of five additional people. As the meeting was already running late it was decided to refer

all the other motions to the incoming committee and ended with the election of this committee. Those elected were: Maura McCrory, Richard O'Rawe, Liam Mc-

Cartney, Kathleen Gleeson, Fergus O'Hare, Bernadette McAliskey and Michael English. The two relatives elected were Phil Mulgrew and Doris Vincent.



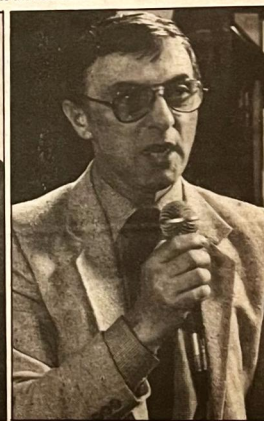
● Maura McCrory (standing) addresses the conference



● MARTIN MCGUINNESS



● PHIL MULGREW



● MICHAEL ENGLISH



● BERNADETTE McALISKEY

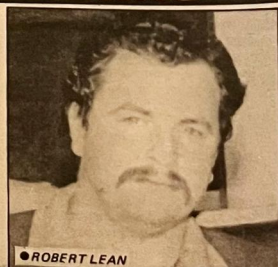
LEAN'S WIFE RETURNS

GERALDINE LEAN, wife of the RUC's latest paid perjurer, returned home on Thursday, September 29th, having spent the previous three weeks with her husband and five children under the control of the RUC.

The previous week Geraldine Lean had had a visit with her family in the Castlereagh Interrogation Centre. Last Thursday, September 29th, she again contacted her family and arranged to go home. She and the children were picked up from a local British army base in West Belfast. In a statement issued the follow-

ing day, she said: "I just hope to God he retracts, but I don't know if he will. I told him all those people he has informed on were our friends who had stood by me when he was in prison."

She added: "I think he is just being used, and he knows that himself."



● ROBERT LEAN

Token acquittals?

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THE RUC tactic of using paid perjurers suffered an apparent set-back on Wednesday of this week when a number of the charges implicating 10 men in serious offences were thrown out of court and Justice Lowry described as "unsatisfactory and inconsistent" evidence presented by perjurer Kevin McGrady.

Despite this judgement, only one of the accused, John Fitzpatrick, actually walked free from the court. The other of the two acquitted, Anthony McIntyre, was detained as he is presently serving another sentence.

The other eight men, however, continue to face a range of other charges, also based on McGrady's testimony. Although two charges of killing were dropped against a number of the accused, a further charge of killing remains against Jim Gibney and John McConkey, and a charge of conspiracy to kill remains against Jim Gibney and Brian Davison.

DISCREPANCIES

Defence lawyers last week highlighted the fact that in McGrady's testimony, which constitutes the sole evidence against most of the defendants, there have been glaring discrepancies with his original statements. They added that the RUC had used the 20 months

since the defendants' arrest to feed McGrady with 'facts' in the hope of securing convictions.

Despite obvious 'schooling', McGrady had at times become fidgety during testimony and was quite often unable to remember any physical details of houses in which incidents supposedly took place. Indeed, on one occasion RUC men had to prompt McGrady when he was unable to name Fitzpatrick and McIntyre. This assured the acquittal.

The incredible delay between McGrady's alleged religious conversion at the hands of a right-wing Christian sect and his return to the North, four years later, 'to clear his conscience' and secure the release of his innocent brother Sean, was also questioned by the defence. Even in accounting for his motives in returning home he proved contradictory.

During the course of the trial, Justice Lowry had shown increasing irritation at the weakness of

the crown's main witness. At one stage he leaned forward to ask McGrady:

"Which if any of these two versions is the truth?"

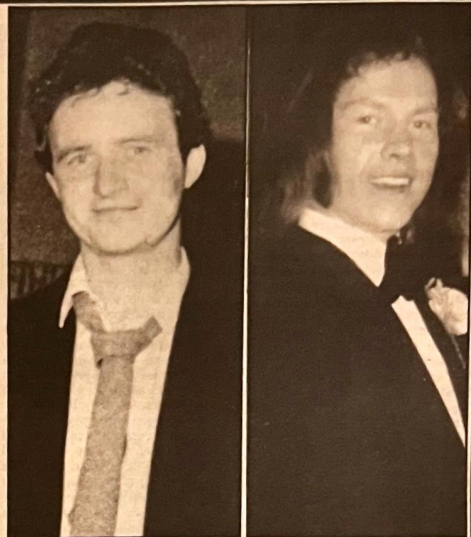
DEBUNKING

Faced with the debunking of the RUC's main witness, Lowry, a former British intelligence officer who is known as a tough sentencer in the Diplock courts, decided that token acquittals were inevitable to prevent the perjurer strategy from being totally discredited.

In throwing out charges relating to two killings and four attempted killings, Lowry, in his summary, said:

"I find the evidence to be so unsatisfactory and inconsistent that I could not contemplate allowing a jury or permitting myself, as a tribunal of fact, to say that guilt had been proved beyond a reasonable doubt in these cases."

Even though he expressed such dissatisfaction with McGrady's evidence, Lowry chose not to drop all the charges against the accused and defence lawyers are expected to apply for such an acquittal when the court resumes today (Thursday).



● Jim Gibney and Brian Davison, both still being held on serious charges

Recruitment bid fails

BY JANE PLUNKETT

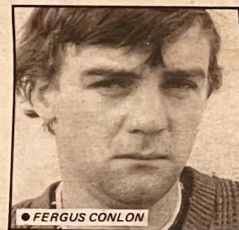
A 28-YEAR-OLD Newry man detained in Gough Barracks last week has revealed that the RUC offered him free licence to carry out petty crimes, with immunity from future prosecutions if he would agree to gather information about republican activities in the Newry and Dundalk areas.

In recent months the RUC have singled out Fergus Conlon for persistent harassment, on occasions stopping and searching his car as many as 15 times in a single day. On September 12th, the British army and RUC, apparently acting in collusion with the gardai, broke into Conlon's home in the Carnaget area of Newry while Conlon himself was being held for several hours in Task Force custody in Dundalk.

In the latest incident, Conlon was arrested under Section 11 of the Emergency Provisions Act and taken to Gough Barracks, Armagh, after an RUC dawn raid on his home last Tuesday week, September 27th.

In Gough, RUC detectives slapped and verbally abused Conlon when he refused to answer their questions. His interrogators then attempted to bribe and threaten Conlon into infiltrating and supplying information about republican activities in the Dundalk and Newry areas.

Fergus Conlon was warned that they could "make things very difficult" for him with his car if he



● FERGUS CONLON

refused. He recalls:

"They were very serious about it. They were offering me a waiver of prosecutions on things like motor-ing charges, a free hand to do anything."

One of them said: "You can do wee small robberies and there will be no charges."

INDUCEMENT

The RUC detectives, obviously calculating that the offer of a large sum of money would be little inducement, as last April Conlon received a substantial compensation award following an accident at work, nevertheless claimed:

"When you run out of your money, you'll be looked after."

Conlon was given a date on which to phone the RUC in Newry with a coded message. This, he was told, would be passed on to his Gough interrogators who would then arrange to meet him in Rathfriland, paying for a meal and drinks.

Conlon was released the next afternoon and sensibly informed Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllister of his unnerving experience at the hands of the RUC.

McAllister, stressing that publicity is the individual's best defence against RUC bribery and threats, commented:

"This incident demonstrates once again the RUC's cynical contempt for the laws they purport to uphold. Anyone finding themselves in a similar situation to Fergus Conlon should, on their release, immediately contact a solicitor, Sinn Féin, or go straight to the media."

US COURT REFUSES EXTRADITION

PRESSURE from the British government has persuaded the United States Attorney's office to enter an appeal against last Monday's decision by an American district court judge to free 35-year-old Liam Quinn and reject British demands that he has to be extradited. Quinn continues to be held in custody, despite the judge's ruling.

The ruling by Judge Robert Aguilar overturns an earlier decision by a lower court to grant the extradition of Quinn who is being sought by Scotland Yard in connection with the killing of a London policeman in 1975 and conspiring to cause explosions. The acquittal is seen as a major set-back for the British as it is the third such case in as many years.

Quinn, an American of Irish descent who served a sentence in Portlaoise Prison in 1975 for IRA membership, was again arrested at his San Francisco home on September 30th 1981 and since then he has

fought attempts to extradite him.

In his ruling, Judge Aguilar was very critical of the decision by the lower court magistrate, Langford, to extradite Quinn, pointing out that, contrary to what Langford claimed in his judgement, Quinn did not have to prove he was a member of the IRA at the time of the alleged offence.

Other charges against Quinn in the extradition file claim that he was a member of the 'Balcombe Street' IRA unit and was responsible for sending a number of letter bombs to leading British figures.



● December 1976: armed British police at the Balcombe Street siege in London

Prisoner victimised

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

YET ANOTHER Irish republican prisoner serving a sentence in England has been 'ghosted' from one prison to another. In letters to his wife and mother, the prisoner, Roy Walsh from Belfast, has outlined the victimisation which he continues to suffer.

Walsh, who was recently sentenced to 56 days' solitary confinement in Gartree Prison for objecting to constrictive visiting conditions, was suddenly, and without notice, transferred to Winson Green Prison in Birmingham on September 8th for 28 days under the notorious Rule 43 — 'Good Order and Discipline'.

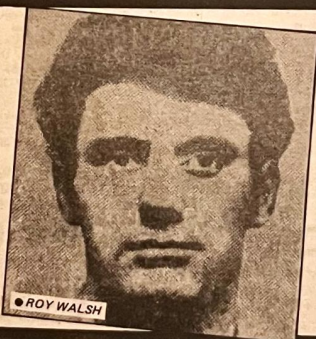
There, his clothes are taken from him at night and in his cell a red light is continuously left on, making it difficult to sleep. The

plastic knife, fork and spoon which he uses and his razor are removed every night, as is the makeshift mirror which he made from silver paper, under the excuse of 'security reasons'.

Coupled with the strict censorship of personal letters, he has been refused the *Irish News* and *AP/RN*, adding further to his overall isolation.

His right to participate in religious services has also been denied Roy Walsh because the authorities regard it as a privilege. Unwilling to challenge this act of discrimination the prison chaplain merely commented that it was out of his hands, that "the governor has the last say."

Walsh views this and all other acts of discrimination as retaliation for his demanding his right to humanitarian visiting conditions while in Gartree.



● ROY WALSH

SLUM HOUSING TRAP

BY JACK MADDEN

A SLUM LANDLORD in Dublin is to appear in court shortly on a charge of letting flats to tenants in a house which has been condemned for demolition by Dublin Corporation officials, and which was described by a health inspector as "unfit for human habitation."

Tom Cullen, who owns premises at 62 Bolton Street is guilty, say tenants, of a wide range of offences from letting flats to tenants without first informing them that the house was condemned, to opening and reading their private letters.

Neglect hardly describes conditions in the house where a rickety stairway leads to the top-storey flat of David White and his wife Sandra. Old and tattered wallpaper hangs off, rather than on, the walls, while gaping holes and rotting wood show how rainwater regularly floods the house.

In the Whites' flat, where the floors are sinking at a slant, rainwater actually flows across the lino on their living room floor while the walls are constantly damp. Indeed, since the Whites moved in last February, corporation workmen have visited the house on no less than eight occasions when parts of ceilings or walls collapsed.

Besides having a bath which doesn't work, the Whites have no hot water. Furthermore, as David White pointed out, "the place is littered with rats and mice" while

the cold and damp conditions have led to illness for their 10-month-old baby.

BULGING WALLS

Most serious are the structural faults in the house, with cracks and bulging walls (sometimes concealed by hardboard) threatening to topple the front of the house into the street below. This happened at a nearby house in the same street in 1960 and another couple, also named White, lost their lives.

When asked why they had taken the flat in the first place, David White explained that they had been living in a squat but were forced to move following a court eviction order. Desperate, they were forced to take whatever was going and moved into Cullen's unfurnished flat at a cost of £15 a week in rent:

"When we moved in the place was in bits. Any improvements since then came from our own money. When we ask the landlord for something he doesn't want to know. The flat has been visited by people from the corporation, the fire service and a health inspector,

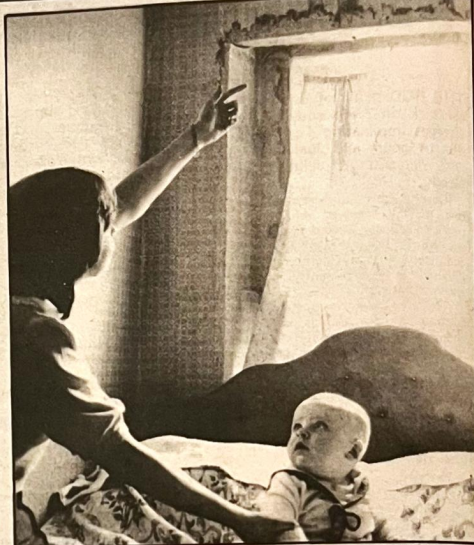
while every time a lorry passes in the street below the walls shake and you wonder if the building is going to collapse."

CONDEMNED

When they moved in last February, Cullen failed to mention that the building had been condemned the previous November. This they learned from neighbours later, as did another couple of newly-weds who moved into a flat only a few weeks ago. A sign which the corporation had to put up about six weeks ago describing the building as dangerous was torn down, presumably by Cullen.

Had they remained in their squat, become homeless or moved into a hostel, the White family would have been high on the housing list and would have been rehoused by now. Because they moved into a flat in a condemned building, however unwittingly, their names have been dropped from the points scheme and the most they can hope for is a flat in a low-demand area of the city.

Although Cullen is being taken to court, Sinn Féin community worker Christy Burke points out that, even if he is found guilty, Cullen will simply be fined about £50 (less than one week's rent from the flats), hardly a deterrent to him or other landlords.



● Sandra White points the damp patches where the rain seeps through and falls on to the family's bed

Child victim of Housing Executive neglect

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL narrowly escaped death in Belfast last Tuesday night, September 27th, when she fell from a bedroom window onto the concrete below when she tumbled from a faulty window which had been reported by her parents to the Housing Executive within the past year.

Little Cathy Toner from Seavastopol Street, off the Falls Road, hit the ground and landed face downwards, her forehead taking the full impact of her fall. Minutes before, her father, Danny Toner, had gone into the bedroom to check on the two children who had been taking some time to settle down for the night. A few seconds later, he recalls:

"I heard a thud and Cathy screaming. I ran outside to the yard and she was lying down on her face. I didn't know what to do. She lay still until I called her name."

Cathy was rushed to the Royal Victoria Hospital by a neighbour with blood gushing

from her head, and was detained for two days, sustaining a deep gash on her forehead which required five stitches, a fractured skull and bruising to her legs, thighs and arms.

At one stage doctors feared that a segment of bone in her skull had damaged the brain tissue but fortunately this was not the case.

IGNORED

An angry Mrs Kathleen Toner, who lives in the Springfalls redevelopment area where tenants' repairs have been neglected for years, criticised the attitude of the Housing Executive, which has contemptuously ignored her appeals to have both the old-fashioned windows repaired.

In particular, in Cathy's bedroom the window frames into which the windows are slotted have completely rotted away, leaving only a small catch to hold the upper and lower frames together.

"When the wind blows," explains Kathleen, "the windows rattle violently and in a recent storm I thought they were just going to fall out altogether. I lay the blame for my child's injuries with the Executive. It could

have been prevented if the windows had been repaired."

In typical bureaucratic unconcern, an Executive representative called to the Toners' home on Friday morning — a full three days after the event — not, however, to repair the window but to merely take note of what repairs were needed.

The following Monday morning, when workmen again failed to appear, Mrs Toner demanded action at the Housing Executive's headquarters, but she was informed that they as yet had no record of the accident nor the repair sheet from their representative.

Almost a full week after the incident, and as AP/RN goes to print, the Toners' front bedroom window — where their two-year-old daughter Sonia sleeps — cannot be locked and remains open to the elements while the back-bedroom window is still in a deplorable and dangerous state of repair forcing little Cathy and her brother to sleep at night with relatives.



● Young Cathy Toner, who suffered a fractured skull and bruising and required stitches to her head

Dunlop workers deflated

BY JACK MADDEN

A TOTAL of 680 employees of the Dunlop factory in Cork city have lost their jobs following a decision by the multinational company to rationalise its operations.

The closure has caused widespread anger and frustration amongst the workforce who, with an average of 21 years' service, have been offered what they regard as a derisory redundancy settlement.

In allowing only £4.3 million for redundancy payments the company is offering the lifetime workforce only 1½ weeks' wages per year above the statutory allowance, well below the norm of four to six weeks.

Despite claims by Dunlop's spokesperson, John Fitzpatrick, that more money is simply not available, the workers are dissatisfied and in the past week have launched a campaign to

highlight the huge sums paid by Dunlop to sports personalities and massive financial transactions which counter the "poor mouth" claims which Fitzpatrick has made.

The occupation of the Cork factory by workers on the day of the closure was complemented by a picket of a tennis championship in Dublin which featured John McEnroe. He is being sponsored to the tune of £3 million on a five year contract simply to use a Dunlop racket. Attempts to secure a meeting with McEnroe failed but, according to one worker, they succeeded in highlighting the vast sums paid to a myriad of stars, such as McEnroe

or Larry Hagman (Dallas's J.R.), in contrast to the rough justice they received.

Following an occupation of the company's head office in Dublin, shop stewards Bob Quinlan and Liam McKeown talked of the deals recently negotiated by Dunlop such as a Japanese deal last week when assets to the tune of £82 million were disposed of. A further deal which was negotiated through Malaysia was worth £79 million and included the co-opting of two members of the Malaysian group Pegi to the board of Dunlop.

Although the Cork factory made a profit of £1 million last year, in sharp contrast to operations elsewhere, it was the one to suffer because attempts by Dunlop to close its factories in France were quickly dropped when the French government told Dunlop that



if they went ahead and closed they would never sell their products in France again!

Realising that they are being made the scapegoats for losses elsewhere, the Cork workers have other causes of complaint, as Liam McKeown points out:

"Basically we feel that with the age group being put out of Dunlop most of us will never work again."

"People are coming out of that job with illnesses related to rubber,

including cancer of the bladder, a high rate of dermatitis and deafness."

Management threats to withdraw all current redundancy offer and close all operations in Ireland if the protests do not end by 6pm on Friday may have influenced the ballot amongst workers on Wednesday this week, but whether the protests continue or not, the Dunlop experience has left a bitter legacy in Cork and may, as some workers have pointed out, have set a new precedent for future redundancy settlements in the region.

LIMERICK CORPORATION STRIKE

CLAIMS by a Labour Court inspector that seven men employed by Limerick Corporation were working in "appalling" conditions were not enough to convince the court that they should be compensated.

Now the men, who are responsible for the mechanical work in maintaining

the Corporation's vehicle fleet, have called a strike with the official backing

of their union, the ITGWU.

Construction of a new garage over and around the old building in which the men worked entailed the breaching of holes in the roof and doors being left constantly open. Completely ex-

posed to cold and wet conditions some of the men fell ill.

The Labour Court decision that the men's situation resulted from efforts to improve conditions and should not involve compensation was rejected by Sean Buckley, secretary of the Limerick No. 1 Branch ITGWU, who commented that it creates a bad precedent for future

cases.

Although the union has not yet placed pickets on the Corporation's department at the Strand Barracks, it is certain that the dispute will affect other services including the Cleansing Department and may, if the strike is prolonged, lead to a general shut-down of some services.

H-BLOCK BREAK-OUT EXCLUSIVE

HOW WE DID IT -Long Kesh escapees

POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS of the mass break-out from the H-Blocks continue to be felt, almost two weeks after the successful escape of 19 former prisoners who are now safe and secure. The outcry continues because months of propaganda advantage given to the RUC by the appearance of paid perjurers were overturned by the IRA in one single incident, solidifying republican morale, and, indeed, has led to calls for the resignation of direct-ruler James Prior.

There can be no doubt from the actual account of the escape that had all gone according to the meticulous planning then Prior would certainly have been forced to resign, such would have been the humiliation of the British at the audacity of the escape.

Whilst the British have promised a full and rigorous inquiry under Sir James Hennessy, their chief inspector for prisons in Britain, there can be no doubt that many aspects of the escape will be suppressed in the forlorn hope of minimising the courage and military discipline of the IRA Volunteers involved.

Four months of planning had

gone into the incredible break-out and whilst all of the planning had come from inside there was substantial back-up from the GHQ of the Irish Republican Army.

The prisoners had decided upon a Sunday for a number of reasons. There is the least amount of activity in the jail (normally escapes involving deception require a high level of background activity); no visits, no work shops are open (which means there is little vehicle traffic through the phases of the jail); no football; and, of course, consequently there are less prison staff on duty.

The escape was also scheduled to avoid the Sunday on which either the All-Ireland football or hurling final occurred as it was

felt that the sectarian RUC were likely to mount extra roadblocks to harass Gaelic sports fans. Another delay was caused by the industrial action of warders which lasted a week and disrupted visits and communications.

The timing was furthermore decided upon by the fact that H8, opposite H7, had been under renovation for some time and was soon to be filled with transfers from H1. H8, being empty, gave the republicans in H7 the advantage of knowing that once they took control of their two gates the gates of H8, which they could not have neutralised, were deserted.

Finally, despite the fact that not all their weaponry had been smuggled into the jail, for example they were short of several silencers, they decided, in collusion with the IRA on the outside, to strike on the afternoon of Sunday, September 25th.

An *Phoblacht/Republican News* has interviewed the key active service unit personnel involved in the planning and execution of the escape and reveals here, exclusively, the story of the escape.

Exclusive interview

Q: What was the most important factor essential to success?

A: We perceived the escape as a military operation from beginning to end. It could not have been achieved in any other way and the ASU, as Volunteers in the Irish Republican Army, were under strict orders throughout from an operations officer whose judgement was crucial and whose every order had to be obeyed. Every Volunteer was under a tight brief.

Q: There have been loyalist allegations that the changes in prison administration at the end of the second hunger strike directly aided the escape. Is this true?

A: Not exactly. Once the regime settled in and routines were established we began to exploit the system. Men sent to the workshops and elsewhere gathered intelligence on the lay-out of the prison camp.

Screws no longer looked upon us as highly suspect. We exploited the work. For example, we set precedents by getting volunteers to clean and brush areas where they should not have been. Screws got used to seeing men cleaning the circle. So, in this regard, the Brits' insistence that prisoners carry out work has certainly rebounded on them. We were confident that we were breaking down the security of the jail.

Q: What weapons were used in the operation?

A: We had six pistols, five .25s and one .22, with silencers for

use in sensitive areas where the noise of shooting had to be minimised — for example, for the securing of the front hall in H7 and the gates of H7, and later in the tally areas.

Q: How exactly did you take control of the inside of H7?

A: At 2.15pm three secretly armed Volunteers moved into the 'circle' area, that is the central administration of the Block, on the pretext of cleaning out the store, and the MO's (medical officer's) office. A Screw let them through two locked wing grilles and then the circle grille. Whilst men in the four wings could overpower the Screws, we had to ensure that we could prevent any of the Screws in the circle area from hitting an alarm bell, of which there are 15 inside a block, two on the outside and another at the gate.

There was an alarm button in the welfare office, plus a phone that they use for making personal calls. On Sunday, the Screws were flying in and out, phoning their wives and their girlfriends, so we had to throw water on the floor and start polishing it to shift them from there.

The store inside the circle was our rendezvous point. At half-two by our watches — which were also smuggled in, as prisoners aren't allowed watches — another armed Volunteer came out of 'B' Wing through two locked grilles and the circle grille, on the pretext of getting some stuff from the store.

At a signal, 'A' and 'B' Wings, and 'C' and 'D' Wings, would know to go into action. One of the Volunteers inside the circle was to ask for a bumper (an electric polisher). He shouted for it into 'A' and 'B'. A man in 'A' Wing, upon hearing this, was to time three minutes, and another man to shout 'No, it's not here!' The Volunteer would then shout the same into 'C' and 'D'.

An armed Volunteer in 'C' Wing shouted that he had it and would bring it out. As soon as he said this another Volunteer in 'D' Wing was to time one and a half minutes. The bumper was then brought through the three locked grilles and this Volunteer came into the store.

That meant we had now five armed Volunteers in the circle and could tackle most of the Screws, except the one who sat behind a steel grille in the control room and which should have been locked but which was just barred. To physically prevent him from hitting the button would have been impossible and we were going to have to rely on reason or force.

The Screws in this area were: one Screw manning the circle, two senior officers in the PO's office, the MO in his office and five or six Screws in their mess drinking tea.

When the first three minutes expired, a prisoner from 'A' Wing, with a hidden chisel, brought out left-over food trays

from the 12.30 dinner. He was allowed through the three grilles. Next, another armed Volunteer from 'D' Wing came out with trays, and the Screws let him through the grilles to go to the front door and set down the trays.

These two men then slowly made their way back. They went through the first locked grille of the circle but loitered in the corridor, one between 'A' and 'B' Wing and the other between 'C' and 'D' Wing. This was to allow them to take the two Screws in each of the corridors, who were near alarm bells and who had the keys for entrance to the wings through the grilles.

Brendan 'Bic' McFarlane, whose

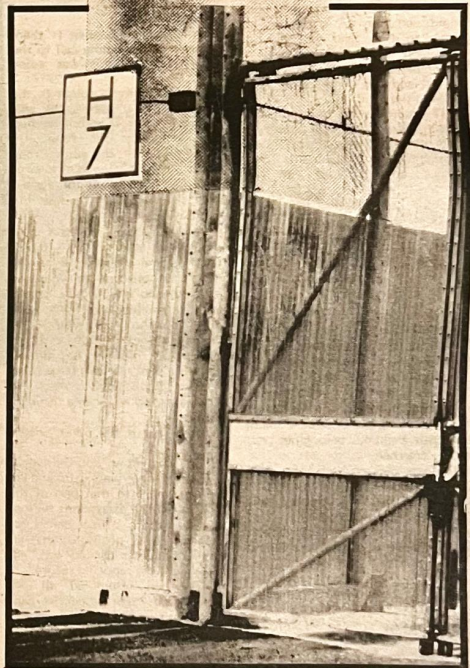
orderly duties included sweeping the yard, and who was one of those in the circle, was allowed through the two locked grilles at the entrance. He had a brush, a shovel, a basin of water, and, of course, a gun. He had to arrest the Screw in the hall without the Screw on the front gate seeing it.

Q: What was the signal?

A: When everyone was in position one of the prisoners in the circle called the circle Screw and told him nicely that there was a cup of tea in the mess for him.

As soon as he went to the mess he was followed by two armed Volunteers who stuck a gun in

(Continued on next page)



H-BLOCK BREAK-OUT EXCLUSIVE

(continued from previous page)

his back and arrested the half-dozen others who were having refreshments.

The two prisoners loitering in the two corridors between each of the two wings arrested the two Screws there and other prisoners, strategically placed and armed with hammers and chisels, overpowered the Screws in the canteens and in the wings, about three or four in each wing.

In the circle the PO's and MO's offices were successfully taken and it was the crucial control room where, as expected, the difficulty arose.

Q: What happened?

A: The Volunteer detailed to immobilise him was under strict instructions and carried them out thoroughly. The Screw was ordered not to move — he was only feet from the alarm button, just above head height, and to his right was an intercom linking him with central security control. Another intercom behind him connected him to the gate at H7, and, lastly, there was a phone on his desk.

The Volunteer pointed the gun through the grille and informed him that H7 was under the control of the Irish Republican Army. If he did what he was told and acted sensibly no harm would come to him. He was told to lie down on the floor. Instead he made a move for the alarm button and was immediately shot twice in the head.

The commotion was audible in the hall but the dull sound of shots attracted the attention of the Screw on the outside. Bic stepped out, grabbed him by the scruff of the neck and at gunpoint put him on the floor and hooded him. With the Screw's keys he opened the first grille and then we opened the second grille with other keys and let them back in.

We got the MO for the wounded Screw and told him he could have any medications he wanted — all would be made available.

All Volunteers were under strict instructions which stated that no Screws were to be mistreated or humiliated, or injured unless it was absolutely necessary. None of their personal belongings were to be touched.

Q: Where did you hold them all?

A: The Screws in the wings were taken to the large double cells, told to undress and were tied. Their hands were tied behind their backs and then the Screws were tied to each other by the arm. They were offered blankets to drape over themselves to maintain their dignity, as we, some of us are former blanket-men, are conscious of the humiliation involved in mirror and strip searches.

When the wing Screws were secured the Screws in the mess in the circle, who had also been ordered to remove their uniforms, were tied and moved one at a time to the classrooms. Their feet were not tied and eventually they were all seated comfortably on chairs and benches.

Q: How did you take the gate?

A: Two Volunteers dressed as wardens and one carrying a blanket then went out through the hall and into the yard with Bic McFarlane who began brushing around. No prisoner is allowed near the gate unaccompanied so the presence of the 'Screws' would have been normal. We were amazed at the transformation which the uniforms gave us. It was really difficult to recognise

comrades!

Bic approached the gate and asked the Screw if he could brush the enclosure. The Screw unlocked the gate, was suddenly arrested and then accompanied back to H7. Our men were now in charge of the gate. One of them threw the blanket on the ground, looked under the gate and that confirmed for us that there was no one on any movement outside of H7. We now awaited the arrival of the food lorry.

Inside the block, other men detailed to dress as Screws found the best fits and put on the uniforms. Screws were interrogated about the make, registration number and position of their cars in the car parks and where their keys were kept. Other Volunteers had to read and assess the internal security files on ourselves, destroy what we thought would enable a quick identification of the escapees, 38 in all, and bring out with us to IRA intelligence any information or papers thought to be of value to them.

We needed a car for the last five men out, who were to take and hold the tally lodge until the food lorry was clear of the jail. Most of these Screws' cars were, however, in an area near the football pitches and not very accessible.

Q: What would happen if there had been an incoming call to the block while all this was going on?

A: If a call came through to the control room it was to be answered by a Screw whom we had there, lying on the floor. He was told that if the phone rang we would be having him answer it. If the caller asked for a particular Screw he was to ask the caller to hang on.

We would have got the particular Screw and explained to him that if he made a mistake on the phone the colleague to which he was tied, and who would have a gun with a silencer in his mouth, would be shot. He would also have been told that if he didn't correct his blunder he himself would be shot. At this stage there were no 'Doubting Thomases' and fortunately no calls came through, not one.

Q: What about the other prisoners?

A: It was now approximately 2.45pm. Things were calm and we then moved into that part of the plan called the assessment period. The operations officer called for a check on all positions; that all tasks had been carried out. All positions were reported secure.

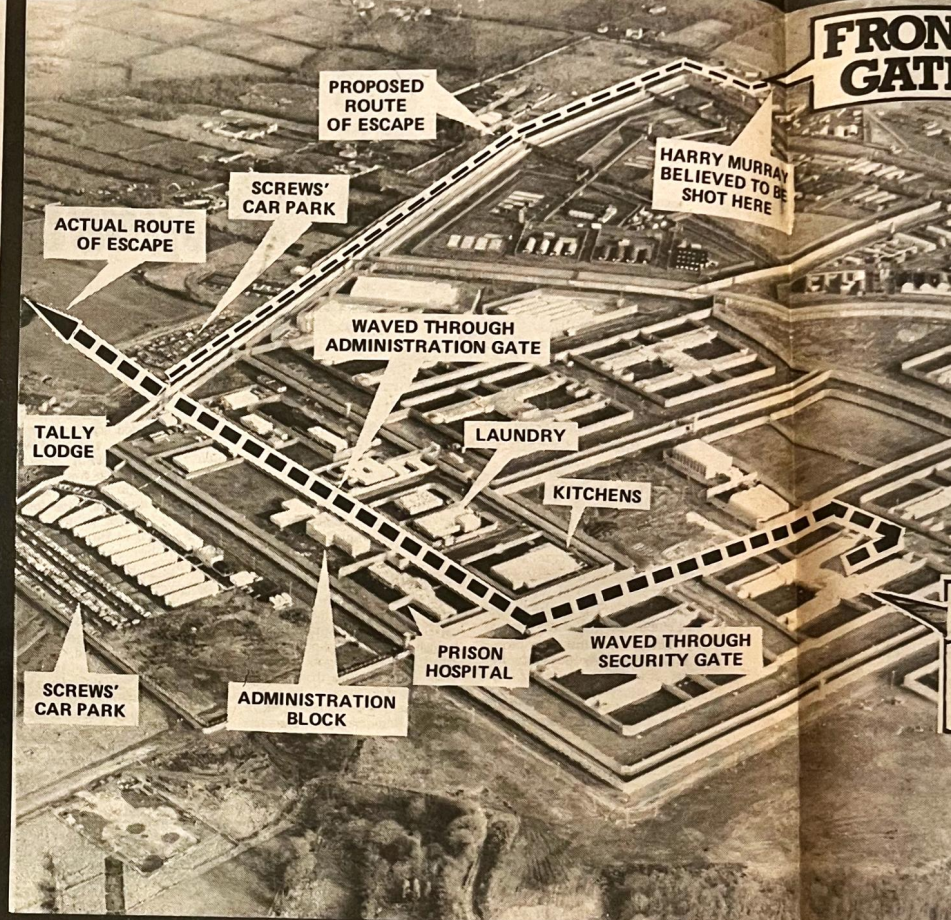
We then assembled all the prisoners in their respective canteens and read out a prepared statement which explained that an Irish Republican Army military operation was taking place and that prisoners who had not been briefed and who were not involved were to return to their cells for their own safety, were to lock their doors and switch on their radios.

Q: Where was the food lorry coming from?

A: The food lorry was coming from the kitchens to drop food off at H6. It then came to H7 and would then deliver meals to H1 and H2.

It arrived and the two Volunteers on the gates waved it through. Aboard was a Screw and his helper, a sentenced prisoner, who, we later learnt, had his front teeth kicked in as an act of revenge by the Screws.

The lorry reversed up to the front door and when the Screw



got out he was told:

"You are under arrest by the Irish Republican Army."

His reaction was one of total disbelief but we brought him in, showed him his wounded colleague and then, deliberately, brought him around and showed him the Screws taken prisoner and tied. This had a salutary effect on him, as we planned, and the operations officer then brought him into the MO's office, told him to lie down on his back and gave him instructions which he agreed to carry out. His helper was also given strict instructions.

Q: How did the 38 leave the block?

A: A Volunteer dressed as a Screw lay down on the floor of the cab of the lorry with a gun pointed at the Screw. The Volunteer — who was doing life — told the Screw that he had nothing to lose. The Screw was also told that there was a bomb under his seat, and, just to make sure he didn't run away, his door was also tied. The orderly was then told to sit in the cab as though everything was normal and the other 37 men, 9 of them uniformed, climbed into the back of the van which had been emptied. The shutter was then drawn.

The van then left on the first part of its journey. We passed through the two gates of H7 and turned left, leaving behind

two Volunteers in prison uniform who were part of a disciplined rear-guard which continued to secure the block.

The van turned left again and drove past H6. We turned right and pulled up at two gates and were waved through. The only thing that was unusual about it was that the shutter was down. Screws, being lazy creatures, usually leave the shutter up.

The driver was told to drive very slowly past the kitchens and his helper, who should not have been beyond this point, was put on the floor. We then drove past the hospital where our comrades had died on hunger-strike two years ago.

Q: What was the atmosphere like?

A: Everyone in the back of the van was tense during the 'long' drive — two knife-edge minutes. Everyone was sitting on eggshells and there was complete and utter silence.

We then passed the laundry and reception and got waved through the administration block.

Q: What if you had been challenged at these gates?

A: Well, we had made provision to bluff it out, arrest any difficult Screws and replace them on the gate with picked men from our ranks. But at this stage that did not happen.

The lorry drove into a van

pool and here there were about 15 transit vans and buses parked adjacent to the tally lodge, the taking of which was our next objective after another short assessment period.

We parked in a blind spot away from the British army sentry post and then a uniformed section of the active service unit dismounted, 11 men in all. It was here that our plan went awry.

Q: Well, what was supposed to happen?

A: The driver was to take the van and drive out of the van pool and into the 'movements area', directly in front of the tally lodge. There are two gates here — 'movements gates', the external one of which has huge, hydraulic metal doors leading to the road which encircles the whole prison camp.

The duty Screw was expected to come out of gate two, along the front of the tally lodge, unlock the padlock and open the gate. When he had come out to do this, two Volunteers were to arrest him.

Simultaneously, four Volunteers, led by the operations officer, were to slip into the corridor at the front of the tally lodge and arrest the PO and Screws there. Seconds later, three other Volunteers were to go down the back of the tally lodge, which is

the exit corridor. One was to secure a position at the back of a turnstile by arresting a Screw there and the other two were to proceed through the turnstile and out the walkway for pedestrians which was manned by a Screw with responsibility for two TV monitors.

If he offered resistance or raised a noise he was to be shot with a weapon and silencer because he was only 15 yards from a British soldier in a look-out post.

When arrested he was to be brought back to the tally lodge, as were all other of our prisoners, while the other Volunteer took over the monitors.

Another Volunteer was to man the movements area, let Screws arriving or departing to come in to be arrested.

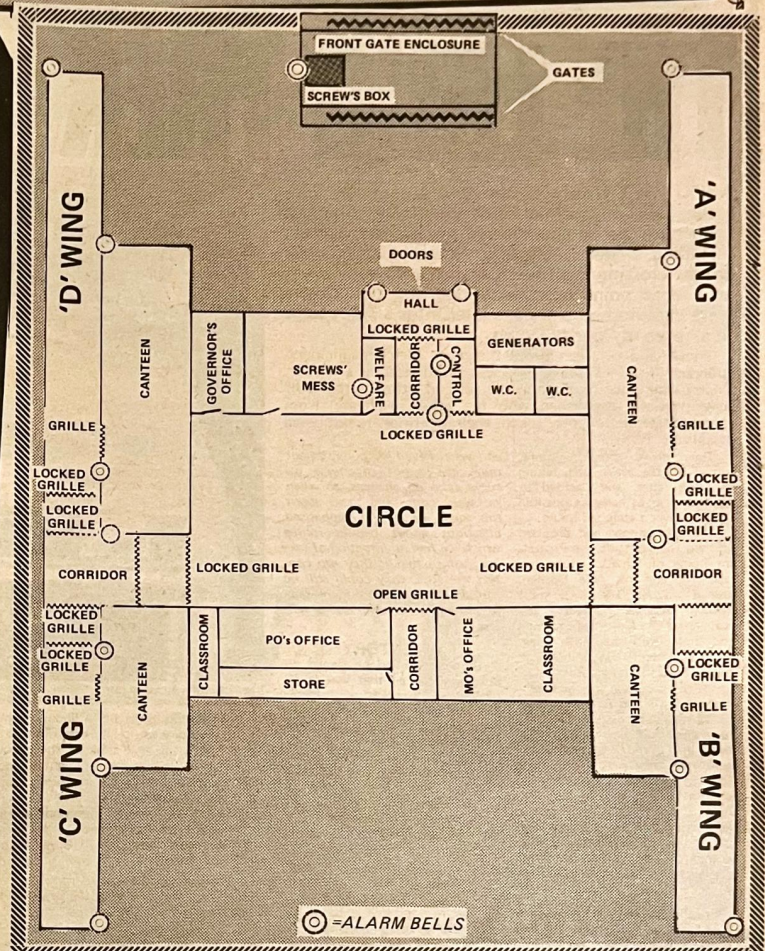
Once the tally rooms were secured the lorry helper and driver were to be taken from the van, into the building and tied.

All Volunteers, apart from five who would stay behind for 10 minutes, would then travel in the lorry, through the hydraulic gate, turn right and head for the barrier/cleanse area about a quarter of a mile away, at the front of the camp, where there is another tally unit and the last gate to freedom, manned by one Screw and one Brit.

FRONT GATE

USIVE H-BLOCK BREAK-OUT

FRONT GATE



One was to be at the back of the lorry he was to be allowed to go to the back of the lorry, which would be at a narrow blind spot from the last gate, would be arrested and then escorted to the small tally hut. The staff of three or four Screws here would be arrested and held by two men and the Volunteers in the van would then be given white external passes and a 'playing card', which is changed regularly for security reasons. With these passes the van would be allowed through the last gate, and assumed to have been searched and found empty by the Screw and Brit.

Now, the five men in the tally lodge back in the camp were then to take one of the cars which had been located as a result of the interrogations, or were to take an arrested Screw to one of the internal car parks, and make him bring his car to the tally lodge.

He would then have been tied up and the tally lodge would have been abandoned. The five Volunteers, one of whom would be on the floor of the car, would then have driven to the tally hut in the barrier/clearance area which two other Volunteers were still in control of. A Volunteer would have stopped the car to carry out a search

Once here, if a Screw insisted on searching the back of the lorry he was to be allowed to go to the back of the lorry, which would be at a narrow blind spot from the last gate, would be arrested and then escorted to the small tally hut. The staff of three or four Screws here would be arrested and held by two men and the Volunteers in the van would then be given white external passes and a 'playing card', which is changed regularly for security reasons. With these passes the van would be allowed through the last gate, and assumed to have been searched and found empty by the Screw and Brit.

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and the visible passengers would go into the tally hut for their passes. The two smallest men on the operation would have climbed into the boot and they would have all driven out the gate.

Q: Would four Screws in a car not be suspicious looking?
A: No, not at all. Because of the cut-back in travel allowances and the industrial action, they had recently been coming and going with four and five in a car. All you could ever hear them moaning about was the price of petrol. We had it all worked out.

As soon as we were clear of the camp it would have been only a matter of minutes before someone would have passed through an area where we had left behind tied prisoners unguarded. And when this commotion and activity was seen and as soon as we had made our pick-ups to billets — because there was extensive back-up from outside — the Irish Republican Army was to issue an immediate statement publicly announcing the escape before Stormont Castle would have had a defence ready or even heard about it. It had the potential for bringing Prior down.

Q: Well, what actually happened at the tally lodge?
A: There were far too many Screws coming on and off duty,

which meant that instead of having six we kept on making arrests and took up to 20 or 30 who were all on the floor of the tally lodge.

In fact, we began to feel like Screws, what with the prisoners we had in H7 tied up and then this. Although 90% of them were co-operative, one or two kept cracking and tried to have a go at some Volunteers.

We had a contingency plan for any congestion in this area which would foul up a clear and total getaway and that was that a number of chosen Volunteers would sacrifice freedom, stay behind and give the lorry, which was the priority, the chance to get away.

Throughout this period, Volunteers in control in certain areas were dealing with the odd fight, but you must remember that those 26 in civilian clothes in the back of the lorry were still hidden from sight and the Screws didn't know the extent of the break-out and once they were seen the Brits in the sentry posts would have known what was happening.

Three Screws attacked a Volunteer, who, on his own, was guarding an emergency bell. They were forced back at gunpoint but were screaming and shouting. Another Screw refused to come into the tally lodge and we were coaxing him at gunpoint but he ran off towards the administration block blowing a whistle.

On the television monitors we could see about six more Screws coming on duty and behind us another five or six coming off duty. The operations officer then took a decision that that section allocated to stay had to stay and 'hold the area' and the lorry was given the green light.

But more incoming Screws, realising what was happening, resisted arrest. The telephone was ringing and ringing and when we got these Screws under control and answered the phone the line was dead. We now knew that the alarm, which is silent, had been raised.

As the hydraulic gates were opened and the uniformed Volunteers appeared on the perimeter road of the blocks they were confronted by more Screws, many of whom could have been carrying arms, because they do not dispose of them until they enter the armory. So we faced extra dangers.

Just as the lorry was pulling out two cars driven by Screws sped in front of it and blocked its passage. A full-blown row erupted and Screws drew batons. The Screws in the tally lodge got more cocky and began issuing threats.

We probably could have rammed the cars out of the way but the lorry would have had to pass four Brit sentry posts, alerted to the mission it was on, and it would have been riddled, with heavy loss of life.

Big Bobby Storey then shouted that we had been compromised. It appeared like a surrender but was a bluff. Serious fighting had broken out and a number of Screws were stabbed. Bobby called for the senior officer to come out of the tally lodge and sort things out, that they had won. He called upon our men to calm down and when the 26 men climbed out of the lorry and the Screws saw how many men confronted them they momentarily stalled.

It was then that big Bobby shouted 'Go!' Everybody dashed across fields, trampling down barbed wire, and a couple of pistol and rifle shots were heard. Because some of the Screws were dressed as tradesmen and in civvies, and some of us were dressed as Screws, the Brits couldn't make out who was who.

We believe that some of the men commanded a Screw's car and made for the barrier/clearance area at the front gate. We think that it was at this gate that Harry Murray was shot and that the photograph of the car which appeared in the newspapers, apparently across the gates, was the car he was in, or another Screw's car which blocked his exit.

Once on the road, cars were waved down and commandeered and some Volunteers evaded the RUC dragnet thrown around the jail. All 19 of us who cleared the area are now safe and secure.

H-BLOCK BREAK-OUT EXCLUSIVE

THE LONG TREK

ABOUT A DOZEN of the IRA Volunteers who made their way across fields eventually entered a farm-yard and commandeered a van and two cars, including a green Mercedes. Some escapees were caught crossing the River Lagan, some were caught at a checkpoint near Banbridge and two others were captured several days later after a short siege in a house in County Down.

Those who commandeered the green Mercedes included Brendan 'Bic' McFarlane, who was still dressed as a warder. There were eight of them in the car and although the RUC have possibly established who the other seven are, from fingerprints subsequently taken, their identities are not being disclosed.

They drove towards Moira, turned off the main road, taking to small lanes, and decided to ditch the car as early as possible and take over a secluded house.

The car stopped and dropped off two men outside the Protestant home of Ian McFarlane (no relation), and his wife Doreen, near Dromore. The men went through the back, arrested the family and the Mercedes returned and drove into the yard a few minutes later. They announced themselves as IRA escapees.

"We apologised for inconveniencing them and said we would go as early as possible. We told them they had nothing to worry about and if they did what they were told they would be okay. The man was fairly nervous but Mrs McFarlane was quite composed. We shifted a fridge and some cupboards in a workhouse and drove the Mercedes inside so that it would not be spotted by a helicopter."

MONITOR

Volunteers then took up position at windows to monitor the traffic but there was no sign of the RUC or foot patrols and when they quizzed the family they realized that they were only a few miles from the jail and possibly within the first circle of road-blocks.

They learnt that a man was to call to the house for maps — Mr McFarlane is a quantity surveyor — and decided against taking him prisoner, allowing Mrs McFarlane to pretend that her husband was not at home but had left material for the caller. He came and left.

The Volunteers told the family that they could only protect themselves by either taking with them one of their sons — 14-year-old Alan or 12-year-old Neil — or by leaving behind an armed Volunteer, to ensure that news of their whereabouts did not reach the RUC. The family, naturally distressed, agreed and swore on the bible not to inform the authorities for 72 hours that the escapees had stayed there if the Volunteers left without taking any guarantors.

They then searched the house and Brendan McFarlane changed into some of the owner's clothing. They discovered that the two boys were in the Boy Scouts and took a compass, a pocket torch and maps of the area. Haversacks were packed with biscuits and cheese, soda and potato bread, chocolates, bottles of water, and a digital clock.

What was their opinion of the family?

"They were a Christian family

and we believed the commitment they gave us but, of course, we could take no chances, so when we were consulting them about the roads we subtly emphasised questions about certain routes which we had no intention of taking, just so that if they did contact the RUC they could still be thrown off. We also put the telephone and a CB radio out of action."

INVENTORY

Brendan McFarlane signed an inventory for all that was taken (although in the light of the family's receipt of a considerable sum of money for giving the Daily Mail exclusive rights on the story they will probably keep the signed list as a souvenir), and an hour after the family went to bed the Volunteers left, at 11pm.

"A thick fog had descended and it hampered the probing searchlights of helicopters. We took to small and winding lanes and crossed fields but only managed three or four miles. One of the lads tripped and sprained his ankle and we had to help him."

"At about 5am we decided to dig in for the day. We found a clump of bushes, overgrown on a lane. We put the radio on for the news and listened to details of RUC activity."

During the day they watched the helicopters criss-cross the country and were once disturbed by two farmers and a dog in a nearby field. It was while they were here that they heard on the radio of Garret Fitzgerald's assurance to Thatcher that if they entered the Free State they would be hounded.

"Here we were fugitives in our own country. The choppers were looking for us and there were roadblocks everywhere. The food had run out and we were hungry. We don't expect anything from the Free State government but Fitzgerald was absolutely crawling."



Part of the intensive search for the IRA escapees

At around 8pm on Monday night they picked up any rubbish they had made and took to the fields again. It was a clear night, but, despite using the compass and the North Star, they believe they took the wrong directions a number of times. In fields close to the roads, they saw RUC vehicles on patrol.

"Everybody was in bad form. We were tired and sore. We saw the lights of Gifford and had to circle the town. We were close to the Bann but couldn't cross and then we came upon a manor and a forest where there were four apples which we ate. We were in thick undergrowth but couldn't afford to go past the manor house. One of the lads was constantly throwing up. We had no water and were drinking out of cow troughs."

"We moved further into the estate and came upon a greenhouse. At the side of it was a huge overflowing tree beside a slope. In the undergrowth we made a bed of leaves and made blankets with our coats. We then took two hours turn apiece at resting and sleeping."

ENGLISH ACCENT

The next morning, Tuesday, a man and woman arrived in a car and went into the greenhouse.



The McFarlane house in Dromore

Shortly after 3pm a man with two dogs also went into the greenhouse. He had an English accent and his dog, a black labrador, kept coming over to the bushes and barking. The owner came over and dragged the dog away but it came back with two more dogs. The woman left the greenhouse and drove off and the Englishman went round the back with the dogs.

"About 15 minutes later an RUC patrol pulled up in the drive. A cop got out and everybody groaned and became agitated. We got our shoes and socks on. Another two cops got out and paced around."

"The first cop approached the bushes and stopped at about 20 yards away and stared at us, but we sat still. They were there for about five minutes and everybody was ready to run but we were told to stay put."

"The cop was smoking, finished his cigarette, stubbed it out and walked towards the car. They got in and left and we knew we had survived again, although we still thought it might have been a ploy."

"We then broke our very first rule, which was not to move in the daylight hours. We crawled through the undergrowth on our bellies and by this method, over a period of hours, made our way through the estate, cut and ripped by brambles and bushes."

"There was a ford in the Bann but we didn't dare risk crossing it as it was too visible. We were also so hungry that we came out to a lane to pick berries. One of the lads said that it looked like an area where there would be fishermen and we decided to move back into the bushes. Two young lads carrying fishing rods then came round the lane, saw two of us and turned on their heels."

"We went up the river and waded across it, even though it was deep and fast-flowing. We climbed a hill overlooking the whole area. It was about 5.30 or

6pm and we then waited till dusk.

"After a long walk in the darkness we reached Scarva, where we earmarked a house which we were going to take over. The family had visitors who left at around midnight. But the way the owner milled about the house and then locked and checked the doors gave one of the lads a sort of superstitious feeling that we shouldn't touch it."

"There was the other consideration that we would be starting a fresh trail and giving the RUC new leads. We were confident that the RUC didn't know where we were and that the Protestant family had kept their word."

SURVEILLANCE

Brendan McFarlane had £150 in his possession and they considered phoning a safe house in Belfast. But they then decided against it because of the widespread surveillance and the likelihood of massive telephone tapping.

"We walked and walked until we got to Poyntz Pass and saw a signpost for Newry, ten miles away. We went on to the main road, which was a calculated risk, but we wanted to put in the miles. It was close to dawn so we picked a resting spot — a thicket of whin bushes on a small hill."

"We had no food or water but morale was exceptionally high. On Wednesday night, at about 8pm, we headed across fields, using the compass for south-west until we met the railway line. We walked along it, looking for a siding, but couldn't find it. Way above Newry's lights we crossed the Egyptian Arches and marched on and on until the light lay behind us."

"We used the railway line as a guide but took to the fields and, were so close to our objective that we pushed ourselves on, drinking milk out of a creamery can at the bottom of a lane."

"It was dawn now and we had made it. We were free and had beaten the Brits!"

BALLYBAY POLLUTION

BY TONY McKENNA

RESIDENTS of two housing estates at O'Duffy Terrace and Loughmor Avenue, in Ballybay, County Monaghan, have expressed fear and anger following disclosures earlier this week that dangerous pollution now threatens their locality.

Acid waste from a nearby factory, M.I. Metals Ltd, which manufactures aluminium frames, is being discharged, untreated, into the local 'Tannery' Lake. Trees, shrubs, the rushes at the lake's edge and the lake itself are all dead, poisoned by the effluent, which includes sulphuric acid.

Although the lake was already polluted some years ago by effluent from the Ballybay Tannery which is now closed, no lessons were learned and it now appears that of five treatment tanks at the M.I. Metals factory only one is working. Inadequate controls of this treatment plant, and the unpreparedness of Monaghan County Council's pollution control officer to enforce the environment protection laws,

has led to bitter local condemnation.

FISHING

A further cause for concern is the pollution in a small stream which connects the Tannery Lake to Lough Major, one of the foremost fishing lakes in the Midland region. Despite a filter system, acid seems to be seeping into the lake.

This has been confirmed by locals who say that fish are being caught in the lake which have skin irregularities which they describe as 'acid burns'. Plans for an international angling competition, to be held at the lake next year, have heightened local awareness of the dangers posed by pollution.

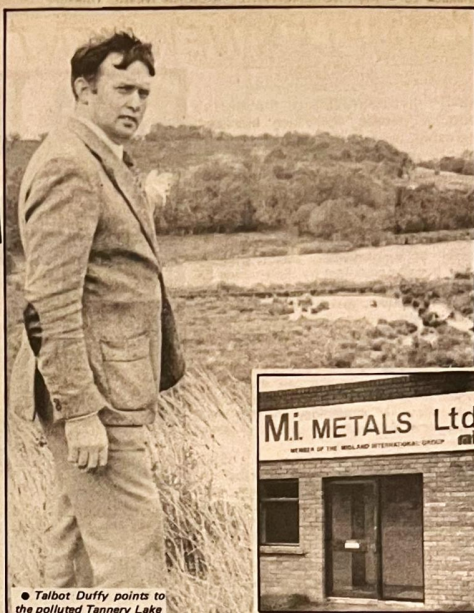
Other disturbing reports include the death 'in mysterious circumstances', a year ago, of a number of cattle at the lake's edge, while homes in the area have had roof-slates discoloured and some claim that roofing materials have actually eroded.

If this claim is proven, and a court action is likely by one or more of the families concerned, then questions will be raised about the possible pollution of the atmosphere in the area and how this might affect the people themselves.

ATMOSPHERE

Calling for immediate action by Monaghan County Council to investigate the atmosphere in the vicinity of the factory and to enforce stringent controls to counter pollution in the future, Talbot Duffy, secretary of the Peadar Mohan Sinn Fein cumann in Ballybay, added:

"Monaghan County Council are



● Talbot Duffy points to the polluted Tannery Lake

to blame for this situation. Ballybay has no proper sewage treatment at all and an intolerable situation is now worsened by the pollution of our natural resources. The County Council have appoint-

ed a pollution control officer in recent years but it is widely believed that the influence of big business and ranchers' interests are rendering this man's powers totally useless."

GLASVEY RIVER HAZARD

BY SEAN TRACEY

HOUSING EXECUTIVE tenants in the Glasvey area of Twinbrook, Belfast, face an uphill battle in trying to force an intransigent Department of Agriculture to culvert a river which runs past their homes and which is generally accepted as a major health hazard in the area.

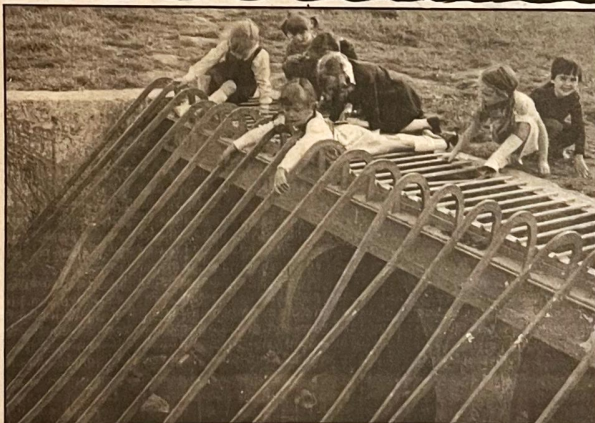
For some weeks now a group of residents in Glasvey have made several efforts to talk to the Department about the river without much success. Mr Lamont of the Public Health Department, who was commissioned by the residents, confirmed that the river is the source of a plague of rats which have colonised so-called landscaped bushes, just in front of the houses in Glasvey Drive.

Initially the residents got together to have these bushes either removed or cleaned on a regular basis. They quickly realised however, following several contacts with the Public Health Office, that the real problem was the river and its close proximity to the houses.

A petition has been circulating asking people to show their support for the culverting demands and this petition is receiving widespread support.

Commenting on the issue, one Glasvey Drive resident, Mrs Wilson, said:

"Apart from the obvious health risks, this river is also a physical danger to young children who are attracted to it in large numbers. They view it as a source of adventure and it is therefore only a matter of time before one of them is seriously injured."



● (Above and right) The Glasvey River poses a serious danger to children in search of adventure

ren who are attracted to it in large numbers. They view it as a source of adventure and it is therefore only a matter of time before one of them is seriously injured."

"Only last week Aisling Kennedy, who is

only four years old, fell into the river as she walked home from school. The child's head slipped down between the bars that cover the culverted section of the river. The bars gradually close as they descend and, but for



the quick action of a passing woman, Aisling would almost certainly have choked. This river is a danger to our children and we want it properly culverted."

Sinn Fein's Lagan Valley representative, Richard McAuley, says:

"Several years ago, Sinn Fein organised a petition to have the river culverted but public bodies at that time dragged their feet on the issue and constantly passed the buck back and forward. Today it emerges that the Department of Agriculture are the responsible body and is therefore their responsibility, indeed their duty, to ensure the river poses no threat to the community around it. To do this properly they must culvert the river and landscape the surrounding area. We in Sinn Fein will be pressing these demands."

Clonard traffic action

BY JANE PLUNKETT

PLACARD-CARRYING women and children are regularly blocking off streets in the Clonard district of West Belfast in protest at the Department of the Environment's refusal to construct ramps in the area.

Local residents are angry that heavy traffic is increasingly using the narrow streets as a short-cut to avoid traffic lights on the nearby Springfield Road. The old 'kitchen houses' in the area have no gardens and, with no safe communal play facilities for children, in recent weeks two young children have been seriously injured in traffic accidents, requiring hospitalisation. 'Lucky escapes', residents

say, are an almost daily occurrence.

In addition to ramps, local people want a patrol man to be employed to safeguard children on their way to school and a pedestrian crossing for older people.

A mass petition collected two months ago produced no response from the DOE and local people have recently gathered numerous letters from local teachers, clergy

and shopkeepers in support of their demands. Local Sinn Fein youth have painted and erected traffic warning signs on lamp-posts.

In a statement pledging Sinn Fein's support to the residents' protests, housing spokesperson Sean Keenan pointed out:

"Despite the danger to local children and the near-certainty of serious accidents, the DOE have consistently ignored the pleas of the local residents to erect ramps in an effort to cut down the speed of the traffic. The attitude of the DOE displays a total lack of concern for the welfare of the people of Clonard."



COMPLEX NEW RENT SCHEME TO INCREASE POVERTY

BY JANE PLUNKETT

MANY THOUSANDS of the North's poorest people will face increased hardship when the British government's widely condemned new Housing Benefits system comes into operation in the six counties on November 21st.

Under the scheme, which will affect more than one in three households in the North, people on supplementary benefit will have their housing costs met by the Housing Executive rather than the DHSS, as at present. In future, private tenants, as well as Executive tenants on low incomes, must look to the Executive to obtain rate rebates and allowances.

The scheme has already been in full operation in Britain for the past six months, where it has been condemned, in the *Guardian's* pompous phraseology, as "the worst example of administrative chaos to have befallen the welfare state."

In Britain, hundreds of thousands of tenants have had to wait months for benefits to which they are entitled. Preliminary evidence gathered by the London housing organisation SHAC suggests that the numbers losing money under the scheme are significantly greater than official predictions.

The Northern Ireland Office has, despite protests, refused to make its statistics available to interested bodies. But its own figures, which almost certainly underestimate the true losses, indicate that the extra suffering imposed on many needy families will be severe.

WORSE OFF

Although about 17,000 pensioners living marginally above supplementary benefit level will be slightly better off, gaining on average £1.40 a week, changes in calculation methods mean that the currently 'better-off' one-third of households receiving benefits under the 'rent rebates and allowances' scheme will be worse off.

Over 4,000 of them, including pensioners, will eventually lose more than £1 a week, though these losses will be phased in over a two-year period.

In addition, many of the 14,500 householders on the scheme who have non-dependants living with them, for example grown-up sons and daughters, will also lose money, some of them as much as £2 a week. A probably much smaller number will gain.

About 3,000 people, mainly pensioners, will come off supplementary benefit and so will no longer be entitled automatically to free prescriptions, free spectacles and dentures, free school meals, help with the cost of prison visits etc. These 'passport benefits' would probably be worth far more to them than the £1.85 they will on average gain in financial terms.

Some of these people will no longer be eligible for 'passport benefits'. Others will have to apply for them, a procedure which will inevitably add to the already large numbers who, uninformed of their rights, fail to take up benefits to which they are entitled.

CONTROL

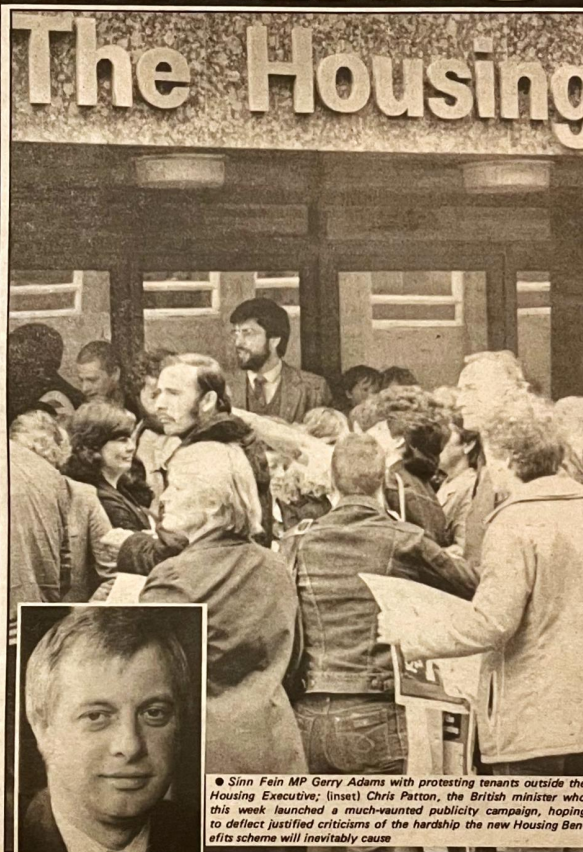
Perhaps most seriously, all of the 70,000 Housing Executive tenants who remain on supplementary benefit will be deprived of the right to control their own incomes (several thousand have already lost that right under the 'rent-direct' system). In future, instead of receiving an amount to cover rent and rates in their DHSS giro, their housing charges will be 'rebated' at source, that is, cancelled, by the Housing Executive.

Rebating at source will severely reduce the ability of those on grossly inadequate benefits to juggle their bills, by delaying a week's rent payment, for example, to pay the electricity bill or provide shoes for the children.

The problem is made worse by previous Thatcherite cuts in the value of supplementary benefit and because families in the six counties receive the same basic benefit as those in Britain, despite the higher cost of food and fuel in the North. And many families are already forced to live below even supplementary benefit level by the Payment of Debt Act, under which £1.30 is deducted from their benefits every week to cover past arrears. (This deduction will be raised to £1.35 in November.)

The housing group Shelter, which argues that the 'rent-direct' system discriminates against public tenants, points out that debt problems for many people will be intensified under the new Housing Benefits scheme.

BRITAIN'S BENEFITS



● Sinn Féin MP Gerry Adams with protesting tenants outside the Housing Executive; (inset) Chris Patton, the British minister who this week launched a much-vaunted publicity campaign, hoping to deflect justified criticisms of the hardship the new Housing Benefits scheme will inevitably cause

Shelter spokesperson Donald Graham argues:

"Rebating at source is only likely to shift debt problems elsewhere, such as to electricity, and hire-purchase. The real problems and sources of poverty are neither tackled or alleviated by this ill-thought-out scheme."

As the Poverty Lobby and the organisation for one-parent families, Gingerbread, have pointed out, rebating at source also deprives tenants of an important sanction against the Housing Executive — the right to withhold rent if it fails to carry out essential repairs etc.

The new scheme also increases the circumstances under which rebates and allowances can be paid direct to private landlords and housing associations by the Executive.

The British government has ignored such criticisms, for rebating at source is essential to the scheme's main aim — freely admitted by Brit direct-rulers — which is to cut state spending in the North. They expect to reduce rent arrears by some £660,000 a year, by ending the situation where the DHSS made rent payments to many claimants who, because they could not maintain their families otherwise, did not pass on these amounts to the Executive. At least £105,000 will also be saved in rent collection charges.

The new scheme, the British government

scheme.

Claimants whose income, less allowance deductions, equals their needs allowance will receive a 60% rent and rate rebate or allowance. Their benefits will taper up or down according to how far their income is above or below their needs allowance.

A 'topping-up payment', known as 'housing benefit supplement' (HBS), will be payable to people who would have an income below supplementary benefit level after paying what rent they still owe after their rebate or allowance.

If someone makes an unsuccessful supplementary benefit claim to the DHSS, the latter will supply the Executive with the information necessary to calculate whether the claimant can top up his or her partial rebate with HBS.

But claimants who go first to the Executive may miss out on this important benefit, which entitles recipients to 'passport benefits' such as free prescriptions. To identify entitlement, as welfare rights organisations have stressed, requires a familiarity with the complex supplementary benefit system which Executive staff are hardly likely to have. In Britain, an estimated 200,000 households who have not been told about HBS are believed to be losing money, over £5 in the case of some pensioner couples with incomes of around £60 a week.

OPPOSED

Hardly surprisingly, in the light of the disastrous British experience, the extension of the Housing Benefits scheme to the North has been opposed by the ICTU, voluntary organisations and even the Assembly, which displayed particular vehemence at the government's proposal that squatters holding use-and-occupation rent books should obtain rent rebates in future. However, a few temporary concessions, which will marginally reduce some tenants' initial losses, were sufficient to buy off the Official Unionists and, last July, Westminster, showing itself predictably unconcerned at the fate of 171,000 families in the North, overwhelmingly passed the legislation after a brief and sparsely attended late-night session.

The Housing Executive, which will bear the brunt of administration, have already, last month, had a damaging industrial dispute with the white-collar workers' union NIPSA over the introduction of computers to deal with Housing Benefits.

The Executive, as well as welfare rights bodies, have been hampered because the British government have only recently, at less than two months' notice, published the regulations which will govern the scheme's detailed implementation.

Many welfare rights workers believe that the Executive has failed to recruit sufficient qualified staff, and dismiss the claims that existing workers will be able to take on some of the workload.

Nevertheless, senior officials at the Executive, which last week began training courses for staff which will last just one day, are bravely maintaining that they will be able to cope. Given the inadequacies of the scheme, Shelter's Donald Graham is not so optimistic:

"The real test will be at the desk-top. We believe that trade union members at the desk are going to feel the brunt of the justified abuse and anger of claimants who suddenly find themselves deprived of money or waiting long periods of time before they receive their benefits."

SINN FEIN

In the course of a lengthy statement commenting on the new scheme, Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin's West Belfast MP, said:

"In working with the people of West Belfast, Sinn Féin have found that the present record of the Housing Executive on dealing with rent rebates has proven their inability to cope with such a complex system as the new Housing Benefit scheme."

"The delays experienced by many people who are waiting for their rent rebates to be assessed will be nothing in comparison to the delays which will occur when the Housing Executive attempts to cope with calculating housing benefits and housing benefit supplements."

"We are now preparing our workers to cope with the inevitable influx of complaints in an attempt to alleviate further hardship being inflicted on an already overburdened people."

has insisted, will cost no more than the system it replaces, so small benefit increases for the worst-off pensioners will be at the expense of those marginally less poor.

A 'no-losers' scheme would have cost less than £2 million, which represents a tiny fraction of the total yearly cost of the six-county scheme, and which is, according to Shelter, less than the extra mortgage tax relief enjoyed by the very rich.

COMPLEXITY

So disastrous has been the scheme's introduction in Britain that the Northern Ireland Office has abandoned its original claims that the scheme would be 'unified' and therefore simpler for both claimants and administrators. Because of its bewildering complexity, it will almost certainly boost the numbers of people who do not obtain the meagre benefits to which they are entitled.

People not in full-time work whose sole or main income is supplementary benefit will continue to receive this benefit, and will have their total housing costs paid, less deductions for non-dependants.

Those with incomes above this level will have their claims assessed by the Housing Executive according to a higher set of so-called 'needs allowances', as they would under the current rent rebate and allowance

Kelly's Eye

BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

ONE young Dublin republican seems to have got the better of Special Branch man Chris Kelly, unpopularly known as 'Constable Chris'.

Two months ago, Kelly stopped the youth in question and asked him for his name and address. He gave it in Irish but refused to spell it, merely repeating it in Irish.

This week, Kelly stopped the youth again. "What's your name and address? And give it to us properly this time, because we could find no trace of you the last time," said Kelly.

But the youth replied again in Irish and again refused to spell out his name and address, in spite of Kelly's threats of arrest. Eventually the young republican was allowed to go, and Kelly retired in frustration.

Obviously Kelly does not want his superiors to learn that lack of knowledge of Irish is yet another gap in his sparse array of talents.

☆☆☆

Yet another 'scandal' involving the crown forces in the North, with the charging in the Belfast High Court of a British army cadet sergeant, 34-year-old Albert Johnson, on Friday last.

Johnson, who was also described as a youth leader, was charged with buggery involving a young boy, but an RUC 'investigation' has now begun into sexual offences involving young boys over a 15-year period. Between 200 and 300 people are to be interviewed.

☆☆☆

Councillor Dodds, of the DUP in Craigavon, is not a man to mince sectarian words.

In a recent letter to the papers supporting segregation for loyalist prisoners he wrote:

"I freely admit that some ordinary criminals did join the ranks of the Protestant paramilitaries, but, accepting that, at no time could they be described as terrorists on an equal footing with the republican terrorists."

"The Shankill Butchers gang has admitted crimes, but, according to a senior army officer, it saved many lives of soldiers and police as the streets in republican areas were deserted at the height of its activities."

Councillor Dodds is a former member of the RUC.

☆☆☆

What have the following in common?

Garda Assistant Commissioner Edward J. Doherty; RUC Chief Inspector Daryell Beaney; Orlando Ver Dizon of the Philippines Secret Service; Sevret Avaz, Chief Commissioner of the Turkish National Police; and Alfredo Zapata, Commander of the Chief Detective Section of the El Salvador National Police.

All are graduates of the FBI's National Academy, that's what.

It's amazing what tit-bits are now available under the United States freedom of information legislation.

☆☆☆

One secret society which has been in the

news more than it would like recently is the right-wing Catholic organisation, the Knights of St Columbanus.

Many would accuse it of being sectarian, but not when it comes to business, brother. One prominent member of the Knights is also a top salesman at Baird's Cars in Belfast and has just negotiated a deal for the supply of several second-hand Talbot Solaras to the RUC.

☆☆☆

The Sinn Féin delegation en route to the British Labour Party conference in Brighton seemed to fascinate the Garda Task Force in Dublin.

On Tuesday evening the group were stopped twice in the space of a few miles and a few minutes whilst travelling to their overnight stop in the city. And on Wednesday a large number of Task Force members were at Dublin Airport to see the party off.

☆☆☆

I see that the Workers' Party chairperson, Seamus Lynch, was over in Brighton and, at a fringe meeting on Tuesday night — at which he shared a platform with another Belfast political failure, Lord Fitt — urged the British Labour Party to "stop treating Northern Ireland as a side issue."

Perhaps Lynch will travel to Dublin next to urge his Workers' Party comrades there to stop treating the North as a non-issue.

☆☆☆

It will come as no surprise to its readership to find that the *Belfast Telegraph* is the latest employer to be found guilty of religious discrimination by the Fair Employment Agency.

Of 295 people employed in its production, only 14 are Catholics; of 118 editorial staff, 23 are Catholics.

I read all about this in the *Irish Times*, and there are some who believe that the Dublin-based newspaper may one day have its first Catholic editor.

☆☆☆

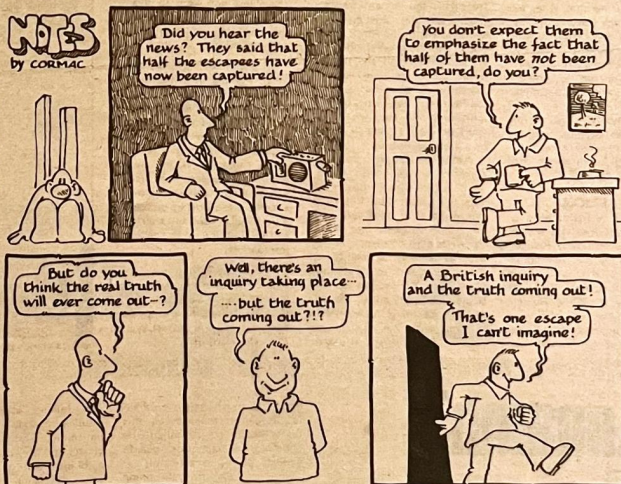
Last week the Catholic publication *The Tablet* came out in favour of the use of paid per-



● 'Constable' Chris Kelly, looking his usual bright and sparkling best

jurors by the RUC. This week it is the turn of the *Church of Ireland Gazette* to defend the Judas Iscariot system.

Who said ecumenics was dead?



SANDS ESSAY PRIZES

PRIZES totalling £900 in the Bobby Sands Essay Competition will be presented at a ceremony in Dublin this weekend by veteran republican Sighle Bean Uí Dhomhachda.

The first prize, of £400, goes to Colm O Snedagh, whose essay was entitled *An scailt idir O Connall agus Fintona*. Second prize was won by Richard Humphreys with an essay entitled *The philosophy and poetry of Patrick Pearse*. Third prize went to Paula Shields for an essay entitled *The hunger-strike — victory or defeat?*

Four consolation prizes will also be presented, and, because of the high standard of entries, a further three prizes of book-tokens will also be awarded.

There were nearly 400 entries in the competition which was organised by a committee which included Unseann Mac Eoin, Sean MacMathuna, Aine de Barun,

Sighle Bean Uí Dhomhachda and Brendan O Cearrbhail. Because of the success of this year's competition, it has been decided to make it an annual event.

The competition is open to young people between the ages of 13 and 16 of Irish birth or descent. The subject matter can cover any field or personality with an underlying theme of the 'Spirit of Irish Freedom'.



WHAT'S ON

RELEASE NICKY KELLY ALL-NIGHT VIGIL, FAST & PICKET
Friday 7th October &
2pm Saturday 8th October
Portland Prison
PORTLAISSE
County Laois
Dublin bus leaves Parnell Square at 11.30am, Saturday, fare £2

DISCO NIGHT
8.30pm Friday 7th October
The Ashley Arms
Shopping Centre
DUNDALK
County Louth
Taille £5 (includes turkey & ham salad)
Admission by ticket only

HOUSING PROTEST MARCH
1pm Saturday 8th October
Assemble at Junction of Falls Road & Whitecross Road
for march to City Hall
BELFAST
Organised by the West Belfast Tenants Action Committee
Everyone welcome

SECTION 31 PROTEST
3pm Saturday 8th October
GPO
DUBLIN
Organised by Fionna Eireann (Republican Youth Movement)

VOLS DERMOT CROWLEY & TONY AHERNE COMMEMORATION
Memorial stone to be unveiled
3pm Saturday 8th October
Connolly Hall
CORK CITY
Orator: Owen Carron
All Munster curmish to attend with banners
COMMEMORATIVE SOCIAL
9pm Saturday 8th October
Metropole Hotel
CORK CITY
Taille £5

PRISON PICKET
(7th anniversary of Noel Jenkins)
1pm Sunday 9th October
Leicester Prison
Welford Road
LEICESTER
England
Organised by Sinn Féin

CORK SINN FEIN ANNUAL 10-MILE ROAD RACE
(Held under NACAI rules)
3pm Sunday 9th October
DILLON'S CROSS
County Cork

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring The Dublin City Ramblers
Friday 14th October
McAllister's Hotel
BALLINAMORE
County Leitrim
Organised by Sinn Féin

RELEASE NICKY KELLY MARCH
2pm Saturday 15th October
GPO
DUBLIN
Followed by a social at 8pm, The Fleet, Fleet Street, and video
Open those Gates

LETTERKENNY SINN FEIN ELECTORAL AREA CONVENTION
2pm Sunday 16th October
Jackson's Hotel
BALLYBOFEY
County Donegal

VOL SEAN TRACY COMMEMORATION
3pm Sunday 16th October
KILFEAKLE
County Tipperary
Orator by Richard Behal

INISHOWEN SINN FEIN ELECTORAL AREA CONVENTION
8pm Sunday 16th October
Lake of Shadows Hotel
BUNCRANA
County Donegal

TESTIMONIAL SOCIAL FOR DINNY CASEY
Featuring Shandy
8pm to midnight Monday 17th October
Hollybrook Hotel
Hollybrook Park
Clontarf
DUBLIN
Taille £2
Organised by Sinn Féin

REVIEW PAGE

TU

Cut and thrust on Channel 4

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE PARANOIA that afflicts the broadcasting authorities when anything about Ireland is to be shown on British television was evident once again on Monday.

Four cuts were demanded by the Independent Broadcasting Authority before the screening of *The Cause of Ireland*, on Channel 4, and though the cuts did not lessen the significance of the film's message, in themselves those cuts are an indication of the British establishment's unceasing efforts to obscure the truth about Ireland for British viewers.

The Cause of Ireland, made by Platform Films, was shown on Channel 4 in the *Eleventh Hour* series. It was made by a group of British and Irish socialists in an attempt to show what is really happening in Ireland and why.

Made for a British audience, this film did not tell republicans anything new, but for anyone whose knowledge was based on media coverage it must have been a revelation.

Starting with a short history of the setting up of the Orange state, the film explained the start of the present 'troubles', with old film of Civil Rights marches and loyalist rallies. The result is a film unlike most that have been made about Ireland. It dismisses the usual interpretation that what is happening in

the North is a problem of 'law and order', or a religious war. Instead the film shows clearly that the cause of the trouble is the British presence.

CONFUSION

In its interviews with loyalists, the film explores the breaking up of the traditional support of working-class Protestants for the landed gentry who ruled the North, and the subsequent confusion of identity for loyalists who have always considered themselves British.

Jim Birch, a Protestant, told how he unquestioningly believed that he was as British as anybody in England — until he had to go there to look for work. He found that to the English he was just another 'Paddy', and that the 'No Irish' signs in the boarding houses were applied to him as much as to a Kerryman. The betrayal of the loyalists by the British, as the loyalists see it, resulted in the rise of the DUP and the UDA. Spokesperson for the DUP, George Seawright, poured out a stream of hostility that must have chilled the heart of even the most anti-Irish viewer, saying:

"I would maintain, and I

would contend, that the only useful purpose and the only useful contribution that the IRA and the INLA can make to Northern Ireland is to provide fertiliser for the agricultural industry."

John McMichael, of the UDA, also touched on the identity crisis and confusion of loyalists, and said that, in spite of the economic crisis which denied jobs to people who were once guaranteed one, "people here will vote on the basis of the constitution — they will vote unionist."

SECULAR

Interviews with republicans emphasised the secular, socialist nature of Sinn Féin, and included criticism of the Southern state by Sinn Féin's Marie Moore, who condemned particularly the Free State laws that oppress women.

Before this film could be shown it had to be passed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, a body set up by the British government to supervise the independent television companies. They demanded two cuts in the commentary. The significance of these cuts, and the reason for the IBA demanding them, is best judged by quoting them in full. The first missing piece was:

"For while the firepower of

republicanism is usually aimed at the security forces or public representatives of the British state, loyalist violence has been directed indiscriminately at the Catholic community."

The next cut was right at the end of the film. The commentator, talking about the possible aftermath of a British withdrawal, says that there has been talk that the violence would not end there. This is followed by a silence, which in the original was filled by the words:

"Those Protestants who have been trained in the UDR and the RUC would remain a real threat to Catholics in the North of Ireland."

PRESSURE

The two other cuts in the film were made after pressure was put on the IBA by two people who had appeared in it.

They were contacted by a journalist working for an Irish daily paper who had been at the preview, and, horrified at the hard-hitting truths, decided it was his duty to tip off his buddies and advise them not to be seen in it.

So Richard Gordon, of the Confederation of British Industry, rang the IBA and demanded that his interview be cut. Bill Montgomery, Master of the Hunt in County Down, was filmed in his mansion getting ready for a fox-hunt.



● Belfast's Lily Fitzsimons, one of the participants in *The Cause of Ireland*: 'Life under British rule in the six counties is anything but normal'

The following hunting scene, with the rich Protestants of the North cavorting on their beautiful horses, was one scene that would have brought home the message of the difference between the loyalist working-class and their masters, but Bill

Montgomery had enough 'pull' to get the entire scene cut.

And as an appropriate background to this clip, Ronnie Drew sang *The Captain and the King*, so we missed that too. But then think what RTE would have done with it.

Educating Rita

BY EDDIE STACK

IT IS SUMMER in the North of England. The branches on the trees sway softly in the balmy hush of the university square. Students walk back and forth, great tomes of dusty books and ledgers slung under their arms. All appears well in this distinguished seat of learning.

But hark, what is this we see?

A young woman, hair a sea of dye, walks awkwardly into this sea of scholarship. With six-inch stilettos clattering off the cobbles, she goes steps across the square and hurls herself in the doorway of her tutor's office ignoring totally, I must add, the Latin inscription within.

Addressing her stunned professor with a voice like the metallic twang of a banjo string, she asks:

"Ere chuck, is this where I do me learnin' with the Open University?"

The horror on the face of her tutor speaks volumes: bloody Labour professors!

I recount this section in detail because it is likely that if you go to see this film you have your attention totally diverted by the fact that this so-called Trinity of England university is actually Trinity College Dublin.

In fact, all this film was shot around Dublin last year — even the scenes in 'sunny France'. There sits our heroine, Rita, laying on her thick Scouse working-class accent and trying to convince us we are in the heart of Merseyside when a CIE bus trundles past on the way to 'An Lar'. Even the hardest republican will be unnerved by the sight of a British Rail carriage pulling into Heuston Station, and the flashing glimpse of a red telephone box plonked on the edge of O'Connell Street.

BASTION

Perhaps it is fitting after all that *Educating Rita* was shot at Trinity, that particular institution being a bastion of middle-class privilege. Rita is fish from a different pond here. Based on the hit play by Willie Russell, *Educating Rita* tells the story of a working-class hairdresser determined to get herself edu-

cated and 'discover herself'. Stuck at home with a husband who merely regards her as a baby machine, Rita wants to know more about a world denied to her by her social status.

Amused by his new student's unbridled enthusiasm for the arts and literature, her tutor, Frank, played by Michael Caine, agrees to help her with the subjects he has long ago himself become cynical and bored with. However, Rita's husband is now too pleased with his wife's new activities. He is more eager to hear the patter of tiny little feet than the semantic subtleties of the Shakespearean sonnets. He burns Rita's school books and she takes the decision to leave him and the life she knew. But as her learning increases so does her pretentiousness, and her tutor, once so impressed by her straightforward honesty, finds her now to be a pretentious bore.

Does education make her better? Are we educating Rita?

As a film on the power and defects of education I'm afraid *Educating Rita* does very little but point a moral. Rita is portrayed as a bit of a freak, as devoted as an adoring member of the Hitler Youth to an implausible cause of tearing up her home and family all for the sake of Great Learning. We are meant to side with her against her tutor's patronising affection,

but it must be said that the writer really wants us to have these same feelings towards her so that he can better turn our amusement into concern for his rather dodgy story-line.

HIGHLIGHTS

All the stereotypes are here: the cynical tutor bored with life who hates the Man He Has Become, the stuffy Administration of the College Who Do Not Understand, the drunk, the suicide, etc., etc. Because it highlights the fact that learning is for the few and ignorance for the many, you want to give *Educating Rita* a chance, but in its sentimentality it just lies there and dies there.

If anything, it shows the limits of literacy in a literate society. In Chad or some other far-flung desert, the ability to read and write gives a person enormous power amongst his colleagues. However, in the West, where literacy is high, knowing about Shakespeare and the like will probably make little difference to one's pocket unless it is a knowledge specially trained to fulfil a function on the capitalist job market.

But here's the rub: even when you have gone off to train yourself in a special skill, capitalism still says there's no work for you. It's the dafest system I've ever heard of.



● Rita stands in the hallowed halls of privilege

Úrscéal Annamh

LE SEAN MACAINDREASA

AN CHÉAD rud a mhothaigh mé faoin leabhar seo go ndeachaigh an t-údar i gcomán a scéil go stamhaileach, éiginnte agus i ndiaidh tamaill ghairid gur lean sé leis go réidh scotha. B'annlaith don leitheoir é; i ndiaidh dó cúpla leathnach cíotach a chur de, fuair sé leabhar só-áite aige a mba deasair dó a chur uaidh.

Is é atá sa leabhar, síocht as saol fir óig, é poillínach, cráifeach, gan a bheith ró-dhúna, a thit i ngrá, a rinne breithiúnas éagorach ('iomraíl' an teidil), a chaith seal le hobair, seal le nól, seal le machnamh agus a d'fhág a deirleadh.

Abhar úrscéil gan amhras, ach amháin gur mhothaigh mé nár

bheadh siad breacsa ar an chéibhrat. Le úrscéal ceart a dhéanamh de, mbeas mé ag caithfí na daoine agus na cúiseanna a thaispeáint go soiléir agus ina mbeatha.

CROÍ

Cé nach bhfuil ann ach úrscéal gairid bhí na carachtair agus cúiseanna ríthábhachtach le go bhféadfaí ar an uaigneas iad mar a fágadh. Ós a choinne sin, caitheadh i bhfad barraíocht ama, shíl mé, ar Phóinnach éiríthe nach láir, domhas ar scor ar bith, caláid an gnóithe atá aige sa scéal.

Ach shíl mé go raibh croí

an scéil, an chuid sin a bhain le saol agus smaointe an fhir óig i Sasain, go han-mhaith de ghnáth. Tá cur síos déanta aige ar éil, ar mhachnamh, ar chéir, ar dhéistín an duine óig atá dar, mothlach agus i gcoáil sólúite.

Cleachtann sé gléas a theipne go minic ar scríbhneoir is mó agus is faide san fhicail ná é, is é sin, sleamhnú ón aimsir láithreach go dtí an aimsir chéite agus ar ais arís; agus éiríonn leis, de bhabh a ghéire intinne agus a scéil, an scéal a choinneáil díúite ina son phósa amháin. Bua nach beag é sin.

NÓS

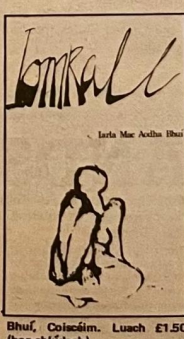
SCRÍBHNEOIREACHTA
Tá nós glan scríbhneoireachta ag an údar gan chuid ar bith

den doiléire aonturach sin a mhléann scríbhneoirí Gaeilge go minic, ó sheanfhuiridí ar cheart dóibh fios a mhalairt a bheith acu go dtí na gearcaigh atá ró-óg le fios a mhalairt a bheith acu.

D'fhéadfaid an t-údar a phrós a lómhad in áiteanna (corruair, dar leat, b'rioseoir é ag iarraidh a chloídn leathúil a lónadh) ach tríd is tríd, tá an scríbhneoireacht teann ach éasca, agus sin rud annamh i nuascríbhneoireacht na Gaeilge.

Mar a dúirt mé, ba deasair domh an leabhar a fháil uaim. Níl ann ach leabhar gairid (96 leath), ach is fada ó casadh orm leabhar Gaeilge nach leagfaínn uaim le fonn in imeach achair ghairid ama.

● Iomraíl, le Seán MacAodha



Bhuf, Coiscéim. Luach £150 (bog-chúidach).



● Martin Flannery unveils the H-Block martyrs memorial plaque in Nenagh

Noraid leader in Tipperary

DURING the course of a visit to his native County Tipperary last month, Irish Northern Aid leader Michael Flannery addressed two large gatherings at ceremonies in commemoration of IRA Volunteers.

Almost one thousand people attended the unveiling by Michael Flannery of an impressive marble plaque in memory of the 10 dead hunger-strikers on the

republican memorial in Nenagh's Banba Square. Other plaques on the memorial commemorate IRA Volunteers of the North Tipperary No. 1 Brigade who died in action in the Tan and Civil Wars.

The Nenagh ceremonies began with a parade from the railway station led by the Dromitee Band from County Armagh. Jim Morris of Nenagh presided at the unveiling ceremonies and introduced relatives of the hunger-strikers. Veterans of the Tan and Civil Wars were also present and Dan Gleeson spoke on their behalf.

NO COMPROMISE

In his speech, Michael Flannery criticised successive Dublin governments for their attitude to the North. He said:

"People are always preaching about compromise and peace. Have they not learned that you cannot compromise right with wrong, truth with lies. Truth, justice and liberty must be vindicated before we have peace in Ireland."

Sinn Féin vice-president Daithí O Conaill also addressed the crowd. Others in attendance included Sinn Féin's president, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, general secretary, Cathleen Knowles, Seamus Twomey and J. B. O'Hagan.

Michael Flannery also spoke at the annual Liam Lynch commemoration in the Knockmealdown mountains in South Tipperary which was also attended by 1,000 people. On that occasion, the main oration was given by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh.

Benbulbin commemoration

THE LARGEST crowd in decades attended the commemoration of Sligo's 'Noble Six' — IRA Volunteers who were murdered by Free State troops on Benbulbin Mountains in September 1922.

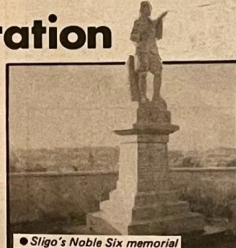
A six-strong colour party led the parade from Rathcroick Church along the three-mile route to the foot of the mountain where a wreath-laying ceremony took place.

The proceedings were chaired by Sean McManus of the Sligo National Graves Association. A decade of the Rosary in Irish was recited by Sean McGoldrick. Gerry Kilgannon laid a wreath

on behalf of the Republican Movement.

Among several relatives of the six dead Volunteers who attended the ceremony and laid wreaths were Kathleen Carroll, a sister of Paddy Carroll, and Mrs Smiley, a sister of Joe Banks.

Larry O'Dowd, who played the pipes during the march and ceremony also read the 1916 Proclamation. The oration was given by local republican Con Darcy.



● Sligo's Noble Six memorial

Irish Lesson

48

THE pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound. CH is sounded as in LOCH ERNE. D and T before A, O and U are thick, spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth. DH and GH are like a G far back in the throat almost a gurgle.

Caithim (kohim) — I wear. (Also I throw, spend, smoke).
Caithéann tú, sé, sí (kohun thoo, shay, shee) — you wear etc., he, she wears, etc.
Caithimid (kohimeed) — we wear, etc.
Ní caithim (nee chohim) — I don't wear, etc.
Ní caithéann tú (nee chohun thoo) — you don't wear etc.
Ní caithimid (nee chohimeed) — we don't wear, etc.
Níor chaith mé (neue choh may) — I didn't wear, etc.
Níor chaithamar (neue chohumur) — we didn't wear, etc.

Na fir (nuh fir) — the men
Na mná (nuh mnaw) — the women
Díon (deun) — a roof
Uiríor (urriawr) — floor
Na páistí (nuh pawstee) — the children
Toitíní (tuteenee) — cigarettes

Caithim cois ar lá fluich — I wear a coat on a wet day.
Caithéann sé cloch ar an ndíon — He throws a stone on the roof.
Caithéann tu ar pópá sa bhaile — You smoke the pipe at home.
Ní caithimid toitíní anois — We don't smoke cigarettes now.

Níor chaith mé mo leabhar an uiríor — I didn't throw my book on the floor.
Níor chaithamar bróga riamh — We never wore shoes.
Caithéann Áine gúna ar scoil — Ann wears a dress at school.
Chaith na mná an lá i Liumneach — The women spent the day in Limerick.
Caithéann na fir airgead ar stocáil — The men spent money on stocks.

PHRASES

Is baig a chaith sé (lis behg uh choh shay) — 'Tis little he spent.
Chaith sé a shao ag obair (koh shay uh hayul egg ubur) — He spent his life working.
Caith uait é (koh oolít ay) — Throw it away.
Ag caithéamh a goda (egg kohuv uh gudduh) — Eating their meal.
Chaith sé a shao ag troid ar son na saoirse (koh shay uh hayul egg tridge air son na seershuw) — He spent his life fighting for the cause of freedom.

Memories

DONAGHY, John (McKinney, Joseph; Maguire, Paddy, (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Donaghy, Joseph McKinney and Paddy Maguire, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died as a result of an accidental explosion while on active service on October 10th 1972. Fully paid his ag obair ag troid ar son saoirse multipl na hÉireann. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

JENKINSON, Noel (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Noel Jenkinson who died in Leicester Prison on October 9th 1976. "There is no outside force capable of enforcing slavery upon a people really resolved to be free and valuing freedom more than life" — James Connolly. Remembered always by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

JENKINSON, Noel (7th Anniversary). The Republican Movement (Britain) remembers with pride their friend Noel Jenkinson who died as a result of his treatment in prison on October 9th 1976 in a Special Unit in Leicester Prison. "All Volunteers, all funds, all equipment to the Provisionals. Let the fingers of the anti-imperialist forces unite into a mighty fist to crush the aggressors." (Noel Jenkinson).

MCAREEVEY, Daniel (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Danny McAreevey, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who was shot dead by British occupation forces on October 6th 1972. "Thug sé a raibh aige ag troid ar son na saoirse. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade."

MCAREEVEY, Daniel (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear son and brother Daniel, who died on October 6th 1972. Sadly missed by his father, brothers sisters and family circle.

MCAREEVEY, Daniel (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my brother Daniel who was shot dead on October 6th 1972. Always remembered and sadly missed by his loving mother Margaret and brother-in-law Frankie McKinney.

MCAREEVEY, Daniel (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Daniel McAreevey, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on October 6th 1972. Mary, Queen of the Gaeil, pray for him. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.

MCAREEVEY, Daniel (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our brother Vol Daniel McAreevey, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on October 6th 1972. Mary.

Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered everyday. Always remembered by on active service, sister-in-law and family. Also by his brother Paddy (H6).

MCINNEY, Joseph (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear nephew Vol Joseph McKinney and his friends Vols John Donaghy, Paddy Maguire, Edward O'Sullivan, Jimmy Quigley, Danny McAreevey and Michael Marley, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service. "While Ireland holds these graves Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Always remembered by his uncle Joe, sister Geraldine and friend Paul Hill (Wormwood Scrubs).

MCINNEY, Joseph (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear nephew Vol Joseph McKinney, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on October 10th 1972. RIP. Masses offered. St Jude, pray for him. "They laid him in a grave where the weeping willows wave. Oh son of Erin, brave farewell to thee." Always loved and remembered by his loving aunt Mary.

MCINNEY, Joseph (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear son Vol Joseph McKinney who gave his life on October 10th 1972. RIP. Masses offered. St Martin, pray for him. Always remembered by his loving mother, sisters, brothers-in-law, nephews and niece.

MCINNEY, Joseph (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear nephew Vol Joseph McKinney, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on October 10th 1972. RIP. St Joseph, pray for him. Masses offered. "May heaven keep the men who sleep, from the ranks of the Old Brigade." Always loved and remembered by his aunt Lizzie.

QUIGLEY, Jimmy (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Jimmy Quigley, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on September 29th 1972. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.

REILLY, Jim (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Jim Reilly, a republican and socialist in thought, word and deed. Always remembered by your friends and comrades, George and Phyllis Lynch, Dublin.

REILLY, Jim (3rd Anniversary). In loving memory of Jim Reilly, a tireless worker for freedom and justice. Always remembered by Billy Moreland, Brisbane, Australia.

SYMPATHY

McGLONE, Richard and Chris deeply regret the death of our friend Ella McGlone.

McGLONE, All the members, staff and

committee of the Andersonstown Social Club extend deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Ella McGlone.

McCLUSKEY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the McCuskey family, County Fermanagh, on the recent death of their father. From Tim and Helen O'Sullivan, Leicester.

GREETINGS

BANKS, David, (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings, David, for October 8th from mother, father and sister.

BANKS, David, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, kid. If you'd chosen the Kesh you could have been out celebrating your birthday. Best wishes from Mical and all at the office.

BANKS, David, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, David. Thinking of you. Love from Siobhan, xxx.

BANKS, David, (Portlaoise). The Govan Shamrock Flute Band, Glasgow, Scotland, sends birthday greetings to David Banks.

BANKS, David, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Banksy. We're looking forward to the drink you'll buy us with the mon-

ey you've saved. From Blairy, Tony and John.

MULGREW, Kevin, (H-Block). Happy birthday, dear brother. We think that it is a good omen that the skipper of the successful Australian team in the recent American boat race was also dubbed 'Little Napoleon' by the Brit press. From Phil and family.

MULGREW, Kevin, (H-Block). Best wishes, Kevin, for your birthday. Tiochfaid ár lá. From Mary and Bernadette.

STEWART, Sean, (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings, Sean. From your brothers and sisters-in-law.

STEWART, Sean, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, uncle Sean. From nieces and nephews: Joanne, Joseph and Sarah Jane.

STEWART, Sean, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Sean. From godmother Marie, Joe and Anne Marie.

Kevin Coen Cup

AMONG the trophies won by 17-year-old Máire Úna Ní Uallirig, of Riverstown, County Sligo, at feisanna and other competitions is the Kevin Coen Cup which she values most of all.

The cup was presented to Ballrush Feis Committee by the Coen/Savage Sinn Féin cumann, from the Riverstown/Ballisodare area, as a memorial to IRA Volunteer Kevin Coen who was killed by the RUC in County Fermanagh on January 20th, 1975.

Máire is currently on a six-week concert tour of the USA and Canada with Ceoltóirí Maghlocha.

Draw results

Derry Sinn Féin £100 Note Draw
Theresa McDevitt, Shantallow.
Dublin An Cumann Cabhrach
September: £100: No. 126; £50: 333; £25: 40; £10: 99, 268; £5: 15, 89, 237, 267, 317, 395.
Lagan Valley Sinn Féin
Róisín Martin, Aspen Park, Twinbrook
Mid-Ulster Sinn Féin
Week 13: £100: Nora Devlin, Cooks-



town: £15: Eileen Maglinch, Carrickmore; £5: J. Lagan, Kilcuan, Cookstown.
Week 14: £100: Eugene Walsh, Castle-Inn Park, Castlederg; £15: Anne Quayle, Ballyroy, Moortown; £5: Charlie McHugh, Castlederg.
Sligo Sinn Féin
Week 1: £50: Sean Cadden, Ballisodare, Sligo.
West Belfast Sinn Féin
£200: Jimmy McShane, Rodney Drive; £100: Ray McLaughlin, North Wall; £50: B. Hughes, Ladybrooke Park.

REMEMBERING THE PAST Workers unite in Belfast

BY PETER O'ROURKE

IN OCTOBER 1932, for the first time in the North since the era of the United Irishmen, Protestant and Catholic workers were united in opposition to a common exploiter.

In the six counties a large number of the 100,000 unemployed did not qualify for social welfare and were thrown on to the Victorian system of Outdoor Relief organised by the unionist-dominated Poor Law Guardians.

Payments made under the Poor Law's provisions for Outdoor Relief were painfully low. A married couple with one child received 12 shillings (60p) per week. In addition, recipients had to do two and a half days' 'task work' each week to qualify for this pittance. If there was no 'task work' to be done, or in the case of single unemployed men and women who did not qualify, the only alternative was to go into the workhouse.

On October 4th, the Outdoor Relief workers went on strike and tens of thousands of unemployed marched in protest demanding "work and wages not charity."

On October 6th, 10,000 unemployed from the Shankill, Falls and Sandy Row

united and marched to the workhouse on the Ljaburn Road (now the City Hospital) seeking admission. Here as a gesture of protest 300 single men demanded admission but they were all expelled the following day.

A new wave of protest meetings was called for October 12th all over the Protestant and Catholic working class districts of Belfast. The unionist regime was terrified at seeing the workers uniting in a common cause. All meetings were banned under the Special Powers Act, and when crowds assembled the RUC was sent in. Following three days of riots and curfew in the Lower Falls two men were dead, 14 injured and 100 were imprisoned.

Frightened by the threat that united working class agitation presented to their interests, and branding it a republican conspiracy to subvert the state, the government announced new terms for the payment of the unemployed. On October 17th the workers returned to work.



● A Falls Road youth breaks up celebrations for use against the RUC in the Outdoor Relief protests



Vicious beatings follow escape

BY JANE PLUNKETT

IN THE DAYS following the great escape, loyalist warders in the H-Blocks have enacted a brutal vengeance for the humiliation inflicted by the determined and disciplined IRA escapees. Warders have carried out severe beatings on scores of republican prisoners, many of them uninvolved in the break-out, and have smashed prisoners' possessions, including handicrafts, and imposed 23-hour lock-ups and other unauthorised restrictions on the prisoners.

Following the mass break-out from H7-Block, RUC men and warders came into the block at around 6.30pm. The remaining POWs, about 89 in number, were forced to spread-eagle against walls at gunpoint and were then searched. About two hours later, the RUC and Screws returned and started to move the men to the adjacent H8-Block in a violent manner, characteristic of wing shifts during the period of the 'no-wash' protest.

The prisoners were told to take off their shoes and socks and were then forced to run a gauntlet of warders the full length of the wing, being badly beaten as they ran. At the top of the wing they were stripped naked, some having their clothes torn from them, and were beaten again. After some of their clothes were returned, the men were then made to run under a hail of blows to the administrative area of the block.

Throughout this time an assistant governor was present and was aware of what was happening.

DOG BITES

The barefoot POWs were then handcuffed and made to run a gauntlet of both warders and dogs in H8.

17 men suffered dog bites and 40 were badly beaten, but all were denied medical attention. Days later, Gary Roberts, from West Belfast's Andersonstown, required four stitches to his eye as a result of the beating he received.

In a destructive follow-up operation, prisoners' clothes and other personal possessions were strewn over the yard outside H7.

Eyewitness accounts of the visible results of these beatings are emerging slowly from relatives and priests, despite the vain attempts of the Northern Ireland Office and prison authorities to prevent details of the escape and the subsequent brutality of warders from becoming public.

Since visits to Long Kesh were resumed last Friday, all those now held in H8, as well as the captured escapees now held in solitary con-

finement in punishment blocks, have been allowed only closed visits, separated from their relatives by a glass screen, and within the hearing of up to 10 warders who terminate visits when the escape is discussed. Although few details have so far emerged, it appears that all but one of the captured escapees were severely beaten on their return to Long Kesh.

BEATEN

Bobby Storey, also from Andersonstown, was among the 15 POWs captured shortly after the break-out who, on being brought back to the prison, were systematically beaten by enraged warders.

Bobby Storey suffered bruises to his body and numerous graze 'burns', having apparently been trailed across gravel by his captors. His parents saw one bruise on his face, still visible after over a week.

His father, Robert, describes their two minutes together:

"There were six warders behind him and four warders behind us, even though we're both 54 years of age."

After exchanging greetings, Bobby had time only to tell his parents that about 60 warders had jumped on him. His horrified parents then watched as the visit abruptly ended and Storey was forcibly flung against the wall by warders while they were made to leave.

Harry Murray, from Lenadoon, West Belfast, and who was shot as he ran from Long Kesh, suffered a triple fracture to his thigh bone, was taken to Musgrave Park Hospital where, having undergone several operations, he is expected to



● PAUL KANE remain for at least three months.

NOT INVOLVED

Desmond Armstrong, an orderly on the meal lorry commandeered by the escaping POWs, was severely beaten by warders who knew he had not been involved in the escape. Armstrong, along with three captured escapees, was reportedly stripped naked, made to lie on the ground and then beaten. He lost two teeth in the attack.

The four prisoners who managed to reach the Castlewellan area before capture were taken to Castle-reagh Interrogation Centre following their re-arrest. On their return to Long Kesh, several days later, all were apparently badly beaten by warders.

Paul Kane, from the Ardoyne area of North Belfast, and Brendan Mead, from the Falls Road, were captured less than 24 hours after their escape, on Monday, September 26th, after their commandeered vehicle had unfortunately run out of petrol. They were spotted walking along a deserted road by a plain-clothes RUC patrol, arrested and taken to Castlereagh.

Both were brought back to Long Kesh last Friday evening and taken to the punishment block in H8 where they were beaten by about 10 warders.

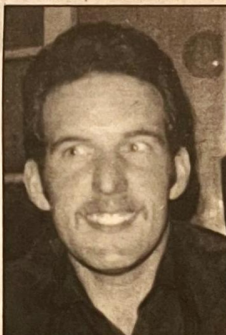
Paul Kane's 26-year-old wife, Vicki, saw some of his injuries the next day during a closed visit. According to Vicki:



● HARRY MURRAY



● PETER 'SKEET' HAMILTON



● BOBBY STOREY

"He seemed to move stiffly, as if he was in pain. His lip was busted, his eye was badly bruised and his head was marked."

She also saw red scrape-marks around his neck, where a holy medal has been ripped from him, and cuts to his hands. Vicki also observed the mark of a boot on the back of his shirt.

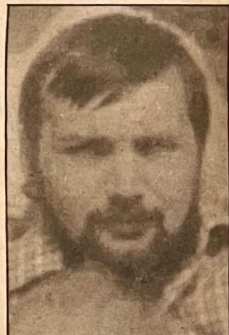
ON THE BLANKET

After the beatings, the escapees 'on the boards' had their clothes removed and they were forced to go 'on the blanket', some of them for a week, rather than wear prison-issue clothing.

The warders' vindictiveness has been exercised against all republican prisoners in the H-Blocks.

Last Monday week, the day after the escape, the POWs moved to H8 were not allowed to wash, cells were again searched and their clothes were not returned to them for several days. Despite their injuries, throughout the week the men were refused access to the prison doctor and the governor.

Last Thursday, September 29th, after warders had put wire wool and powder into the prisoners' food, the men refused meals for 24 hours. Reports have emerged, from several blocks, of prisoners being injured as a result of provocation by warders. Several have been put on the boards as a result. Handicrafts and other personal possessions have



● SPIKE MURRAY

been deliberately smashed during perfunctory cell 'searches'.

Both republican and loyalist prisoners have claimed that the H-Blocks are now being run by a committee of the Prison Officers' Association, as a result of which all prisoners last week were locked up for nearly 23 hours a day, being allowed out of their cells only to wash and take one hour's exercise. Also on the instructions of the POA, all prisoners were denied access to the prison doctor or governor for four days.

HARSHER REGIME

Although prisoners are now being allowed evening association, it appears that the POA, which on Tuesday, October 4th, began 23-hour lock-ups in Magilligan Jail, is intent on forcing the introduction of a harsher regime in the North's prisons.

In a statement this week, Gerry Adams, MP for West Belfast, dismissed the NIO's claims that no beatings have occurred in Long Kesh as a "deliberate lie." As Adams pointed out:

"Everyone knows that following any incident in any of the British prisons, POWs are ill-treated and harassed. Any ex-internee or former political prisoner will confirm this fact. The NIO's attempt to deny such beatings occurred after last Sunday's great escape is a patent falsehood and a deliberate lie."