

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY

**AN
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1983 SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS
Saturday 12th/Sunday 13th November
Mansion House
Dublin



**PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND
BALLAD SESSION**
Featuring Christy Moore &
The Fair Isle Folk
Sunday 13th November
The Embankment
TALLAGHT
County Dublin
Tallie £2



**Lawyers
to quit
perjury
trials?**

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**Anger at
customs
post site**

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**COLÁISTE
POBAIL
COSANTA**

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SINN FEIN TO RUN IN DUBLIN

SINN FEIN is to contest the forthcoming Dublin Central by-election and has selected Christy Burke, a community worker in the constituency, as its candidate.

The decision to return to electoral intervention in the twenty-six counties, after standing aside in the general election last November, can be interpreted as a renewed determination by Sinn Féin to achieve significant political progress and organisational expansion in the South, complementary to the electoral success so dramatically won in the North.

The by-election follows the death of Fianna Fáil's George Colley and is expected to take place before the end of this month. The constituency returned two Fianna Fáil deputies, two Fine Gael deputies and independent Tony Gregory at the last general election, in November 1982, and the 'Gregory factor' is predicted to have a decisive effect in the by-election, when the direction of his votes will be a crucial element in deciding the seat.

It will be the second time Sinn Féin has contested this constituency in 21 months and Christy Burke was also the candidate in February 1982. Sinn Féin will be seeking to increase the 1,500 votes won on that occasion.



● Christy Burke discusses with an inner-city evicted family what action to take

OPINION DUBLIN CENTRAL

THE DECISION by Sinn Fein to contest the Dublin Central by-election will be welcomed by republicans and their supporters as a significant development of the party's political strategy in the twenty-six counties.

The candidate chosen, Christy Burke, represents the encouraging progress in social and economic agitation, as well as principled constituency service, which Dublin Sinn Fein has made around its Blessington Street advice centre.

When Sinn Fein intervened in the February 1982 general election, in nine constituencies, there was some disillusionment at only being able to hold half the H-Block vote of the previous June, when two Leinster House seats were won so dramatically.

But Sinn Fein's vote in that election, without the high nationalist emotion, in a time of economic panic, and with the prospect of a hung parliament, showed in fact a very significant support base for a party which had not involved itself in electoral politics in two decades.

Perhaps for republicans in the South, the dynamic electoral progress in the North has appeared frustratingly unattainable. Undoubtedly, in the twenty-six counties Sinn Fein faces a much more daunting task — but has never failed to raise the spirit for such tasks.

In entering this new contest, Sinn Fein is clearly stating that it is not seeking an opportunistic vote or campaigning on just one issue. It is saying that it has policies to put before the people, and it is accepting the reality that it needs to do so in a way and by a method that is widely accepted and comprehended — at the ballot box.

Those policies cover the whole image of economic, social and cultural issues and offer a radical and revolutionary alternative to the failed capitalist policies of the establishment parties. Central to these republican policies is the irrefutable argument that partition is the major barrier standing in the way of progress for the Irish people.

Sinn Fein will also be stating plainly, as it always has done, that it supports the right of the Irish people to use armed force to remove the British occupiers from this island, as thousands of Irish nationalists have always done. But it will also refute, if necessary, any attempted diversionary claim that it foresees or advocates the use of armed force to create a revolutionary situation in the South.

Sinn Fein, as a developing political organisation, is no longer willing to be isolated or pigeon-holed as a single-issue organisation; it is going to state its case, win and retain support, use the by-election to strengthen its organisation, and, hopefully, come back and build on that support.

There is a long-term commitment required in following such a course, but republicans are not short on stamina. There are many different problems to be surmounted, including censorship and harassment, but none are insurmountable.

In the few weeks before the as yet unfixed polling day, there is the opportunity for a major effort which could be seen, in future years, as a turning point in Irish politics.

WAGE SHOCK

THE DECISION by the Coalition government to give itself and the rest of the Leinster House politicians a 19% boost in their already inflated salaries can only be described as an act of obscene cynicism.

Ministers who have preached and practised the most stringent belt-tightening for the people — and are even now plotting £500 million in public service cuts, whilst unemployment is officially at 200,000 — have given themselves an extra £5,500 per annum.

The increase alone is almost four times what a person on the dole is expected to live on.

Just back from three long months' summer holidays, and a long bank holiday weekend which lasted from Thursday to Wednesday, the politicians' new proposed salaries are: Garret FitzGerald: £44,350; ministers: £34,794; deputies: £16,413.

Only half of these salaries are subject to tax.

In addition to being paid a salary, the politicians will also pay themselves £27.50 for every day on which they turn up for work, as expenses. And they will double their travelling expenses so that they get 51p for every mile they cover, coming or going.

It must also be remembered that for the majority of deputies the parliamentary job is only a part-time interest, and they take as much, if not more, from a range of jobs which includes professional practices such as doctors, solicitors and accountants, high commissions as auctioneers (often on insider deals), and lucrative businesses like public houses and farming.

This latest act of arrogance from Free State politicians is a measure of the contempt in which they hold those who elected them. It is also an illustration of the more subtle selfish profiteering which governs their manipulation of the twenty-six county economy in their own interests and that of the capitalist class they represent.

Perhaps they are hoping that the people will be too stunned by their affront to respond. They could well be making a very serious misjudgement.



RUC under fire, Armagh blasted in IRA attacks

AN RUC MAN was shot dead in Derry on Friday, October 28th, in a carefully planned operation by the IRA's Derry Brigade.

The RUC man was a regular visitor to 32 Sheelin Park, in the Ballymagroarty estate, and on Friday last week arrived at the house to meet with several local women.

He remained in the house for two hours before emerging to get into his silver Volkswagen Polo car. The IRA active service unit of two men and two women, who had been watching the house, moved forward firing 15 shots at close range.

The RUC man died instantly and the Volunteers commandeered a car from nearby St John's Park and made their escape.

ARMAGH CAR-BOMB

On the same night, the commercial heart of Armagh city was devastated by a

500lb car-bomb which exploded in Scotch Street, causing damage in excess of £1 million.

The car used in the attack, a beige coloured Audi with false number plates fitted, had been taken in South Armagh in September by four armed IRA Volunteers. The five-strong ASU involved in planting the car-bomb cut off a lock on security gates at Ogle Street/Irish Street in order to place the device behind the security barriers, outside Garden Stores.

An hour before the bomb detonated at 7.30pm, telephone warnings were given to several pubs in the area to ensure no civilian injuries.

The resulting explosion so badly damaged premises in the

area that Scotch Street was sealed off for almost one week after the attack.

SOUTH ARMAGH AMBUSH

In a daring ambush on an unmarked RUC vehicle in South Armagh, the IRA shot one RUC man and injured a second, on Monday, October 31st.

The RUC armoured car with its three occupants was travelling along the Ballymoyer Road between Whitecross and Newtownhamilton around 11am when a blue Toyota van pulled out ahead of them.

As they drew up behind the van the back doors opened and four armed Volunteers using automatic rifles opened fire. One RUC man was hit in the shoulder, while a second suffered injuries from flying metal. The third had to be treated in hospital for shock.

Christy Burke to contest Dublin by-election

BY JACK MADDEN

CHRISTY BURKE, an inner-city community worker, is to be the Sinn Féin candidate in the forthcoming by-election in the Dublin Central constituency, which is expected to take place at the end of this month.

Christy, who is 36 years old and married with five children, is an ex-docker, born and reared in the Hardwicke Street area of Dublin's inner-city. He was the obvious choice, given his successful record as a voluntary full-time community worker in the constituency through the Sinn Féin advice centre in Blessington Street.

His involvement in the advice centre began in November 1981 and within a month Christy Burke was already showing the determination which has been a feature of this particular centre when he staged a sit-in with 12 homeless families and got them rehoused.

Months later, during the general election in 1982, he was chosen as the Sinn Féin candidate in the Dublin Central constituency, winning a creditable 1,458 first preference votes.

Since then the work-load of the Blessington Street advice centre has increased dramatically to the point

where two more full-time workers were recruited to help Christy Burke with a vast array of social and trade union issues. Thousands of problems affecting people in the inner-city, ranging from housing difficulties, abuse by landlords, taxation, social welfare, redundancies and evictions have been attended to by the centre.

DRUG ABUSE

Perhaps Burke's most notable work has been in dealing with the problems of drug abuse in the inner-city, supporting and becoming involved with community-based efforts in Hardwicke Street flats and Ballybough to rid their areas of heroin pushers and the attendant misery of drug-users by securing detoxification and rehabilitative treatment. Besides his role in the North Central Support Group on drug abuse, he has fought to win more drug treatment centres from the Free State government and made recommendations to the 'task force'

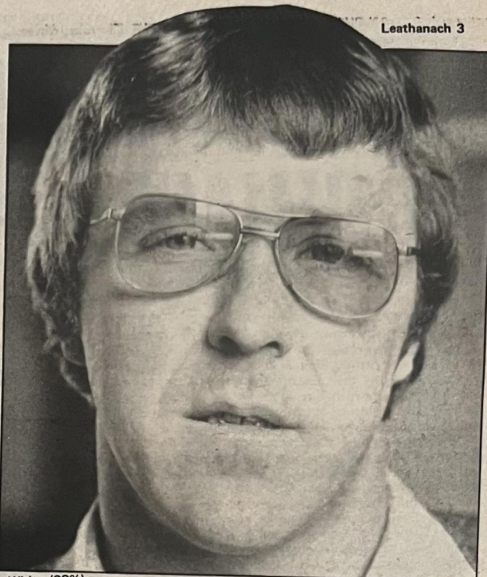
on drug abuse.

With practical experience as his principal teacher, he has just completed two years of studies and secured a diploma in two courses specially designed for voluntary social workers.

Burke's community work record is evidence enough of his commitment to helping people achieve their rights, even in the face of a hostile and bureaucratic social welfare system, and despite regular harassment by the gardai. However, the work by the centre not only offers a constituency service but strives to encourage people to campaign together for their entitlements, rather than pretending to win people favours in the fashion of establishment party clientelism.

ELECTIONS

The breakdown of the votes in the February 1982 election shows that Fianna Fáil won 43.1%, Fine Gael 28.4%, Labour 11%, Workers' Party 3.7%, Sinn Féin 3.2% and Tony Gregory 10.3%. Following Christy Burke's elimination, after the 6th count, the Sinn Féin vote, with the exception of 17.5% which didn't transfer, went in the main to Tony Gregory (37%) and to the Workers' Party candidate, Michael



White (23%).

In the following general election, in November 1982, when there was no Sinn Féin candidate, Gregory's vote dramatically increased by 33% while the Workers' Party vote increased by 29%.

With Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael commanding 42% and 32% respectively of last November's vote, they will be considered to be front-runners in this by-election. But, with Gregory elected, and his

grouping not expected to put forward a candidate, the main focus will be on how his 6,237 votes will spread.

Given the sizeable transfer from Sinn Féin to Gregory in June 1982, Sinn Féin will be hoping to gain a good proportion of those now floating votes, vying with the Labour Party and the Workers' Party.

DUBLIN CENTRAL ELECTIONS

FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES

	June 1981	Feb 1982	Nov 1982
Fianna Fáil	20,020 (43%)	19,713 (43.1%)	18,560 (42%)
Fine Gael	13,409 (28.8%)	12,994 (28.4%)	14,181 (32%)
Labour	8,146 (17.5%)	5,042 (11%)	3,337 (7.5%)
Workers' Party	1,803 (3.9%)	1,672 (3.7%)	2,161 (4.5%)
Gregory	3,151 (6.8%)	4,703 (10.3%)	6,237 (14%)
Sinn Féin	-----	1,458 (3.2%)	-----

'Media are troublemakers'-clergy

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

TWICE in one week, the media have come under attack from clerics who accused them of exacerbating 'violence' by 'irresponsible' reporting of events.

On Tuesday, October 15th, Dr Cahal Daly, the Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, while addressing a congress of the International Catholic Union of the Press, in Dublin, accused the media of having a 'pre-dilection' for confrontation and contestation. The 'moderate point of view', he said, got lost in the search for a good story, and such attitudes from the media showed a 'great lapse from journalistic responsibility', and 'could serve to increase polarisation rather than promote understanding and reconciliation'.

And on Sunday, October 30th, speaking at the funeral of an RUC man killed by the IRA, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Dr James Meahaffey, hit out at 'subtle and insidious' attacks against the RUC by the media. He quoted incidents in which TV cameras had shown the RUC attacking demonstrators:

'The impression can easily be conveyed that far from being an isolated incident, as most people would regard it, the incident in question is in fact typical of police behaviour.'

SCANDAL-MONGERING

Dr James Meahaffey further accused the media of 'scandal-mongering' by hinting at an RUC cover-up in the Kincora scandal.

'Such irresponsible journalism,' he concluded, 'tends to undermine the credibility and authority of the lawfully constituted process of the state.'

Such declarations, made in the emotionally-charged atmosphere of a funeral, are tantamount to accusing the media of encouraging people to shoot at the RUC by providing



● BISHOP JAMES MEHAFFEY

them with excuses for doing it. Daly's criticisms are of a similar nature, in that he blames the media for reporting violent acts instead of promoting the 'moderate point of view'. However, both Daly's and Meahaffey's attacks are based on three false assumptions.

The first is that the media report 'contestation and confrontation' at the expense of other events. While it is true that riots and explosions are 'telegenic', the commentary behind such pictures is always favourable to the British army or the RUC. Furthermore, since the mid-70s, and the British Labour government's normalisation policy, there has been a conscious effort by media chiefs



● BISHOP CAHAL DALY

operating in the six counties to promote 'the other side of Northern Ireland', 'the brighter side of the province' and 'the decent people who get on with their lives.'

More recently, a series of features in the *Irish Times* was entitled, precisely, *The other side of Northern Ireland*. The BBC's *Summer Scene* programme, which replaced *Scene Around Six* during the summer months, worked under the declared objective of highlighting the 'bright side of the province', as commentator Diane Harron cheerfully announced. Every day brings further examples of this policy: British soldiers rescuing a cat trapped at the top of a tree, young

unemployed starting their own pottery business, and so on.

TERMINOLOGY

The second myth is that the media are biased against the RUC, and state institutions in general. Apart from media terminology, such as 'terrorists' or 'atrocities', used exclusively in reference to republicans and IRA operations, the media have always been, on the whole, willing, even eager, to accept the British government's view of things, and to use British army, RUC and Northern Ireland Office press releases. After several people had been arrested last September on the word of Robert Lean, many journalists were quick to print as facts allegations leaked to them by the RUC as to the supposed rank in the IRA of those detained, before they had even been charged.

The third falsehood, — that the media have a duty to promote the so-called 'moderate point of view' — is even more ludicrous. First of all, it is a dangerous assertion, as the media's first and only duty, it would seem, should be to report facts as accurately as possible. And secondly, what is a 'moderate point of view'? The British government has always tried, and sometimes succeeded, to project itself as the 'honest broker' between 'warring factions', as the champion of the 'moderate point of view' in a conflict between 'extremists'.

What the bishops are implying here is simply that the media should be even more biased in favour of the British government's viewpoint, that they give even less airing to the republican viewpoint, and carefully hide all the areas of conflict. The 'moderate point of view' in fact, as expressed by British and Free State government officials, the RUC the British army, clerics, and constitutional politicians, is practically the only one which gets reported. And the courageous voices of dissent are as rare among the clergy as they are in the media.

DOWNPATRICK DEMAND

A GUARANTEE made by the Housing Executive in May to residents of Downpatrick's Kennedy Square flats, promising that action would be taken in combatting an alarming influx of rats, has been reneged on and tenants are complaining of further deterioration in the standard of living conditions.

Following approaches by residents to Downpatrick Sinn Fein, a meeting with the Executive was arranged at which Sinn Fein outlined the residents' grievances and were given an assurance that the problem would be investigated. Sinn Fein have had several meetings since with the Executive, on behalf of Kennedy Square's tenants, at the latest of which a Housing Executive representative named Sharvin tried to pass the responsibility on to the Department of the Environment.

Sinn Fein pointed out the scale of neglect and lack of even basic maintenance repairs being carried out which have forced desperate residents to carry out repairs at their own expense. They also had to remove a pile of rubble and timber which had been dumped on their doorsteps by Executive workmen over three years ago.

Sinn Fein spokesperson Paddy Fitzsimmons has called for immediate steps to be taken by the Executive to prevent further hardship and misery and eradicate the health risks to the residents of Kennedy Square by taking urgent steps to deal with the rat problem.



● Lack of even basic maintenance in Kennedy Square is just one problem facing residents



● Margaret McGivern looks at the fire damage to her Divis Flats home

BY JANE PLUNKETT

A WEST BELFAST family narrowly escaped death on Saturday last when fire, apparently caused by an electrical fault, engulfed their Divis Flats home, a near-tragedy which has highlighted yet again the grave risks which local people are exposed to by the Housing Executive's continuing refusal to demolish the shoddily built and fast-decaying complex.

And in another alarming incident on Monday, October 31st, members of the Rooney family discovered that a plug in use in their St Brendan's Row flat had become burned and blackened by severe overheating. Had a fire broken out, the consequences could have been disastrous in the overcrowded two-bedroomed flat, which is occupied by Mary Rooney, her husband and five children.

Saturday's fire destroyed the Gifford Walk flat occupied by Margaret McGivern, her children Joseph, aged 16, and Elaine, aged 15, and Margaret's 26-year-old sister Mary.

At about 1.30pm, when Margaret McGivern went downstairs to make Joseph's bed, all was well

in the bedroom. Margaret came upstairs and made a cup of tea. At 1.45pm, less than 15 minutes later, Joseph left the room and saw smoke coming from his bedroom. Margaret recalls:

"We ran down the stairs. The minute we opened Joseph's door, the whole lot went up in flames."

A pensioner, she points out, could never have escaped in time up the awkward stairs. Days after the fire, Margaret was still badly shaken:

"We're lucky we're living. The fire brigade man said, 'If it had happened in the middle of the night, we would have been shovelling you out'."

ELECTRICAL

A fireman told Margaret that the blaze had started in the area of a switched-off electrical socket where a stereo was plugged in. The next day, Sunday, Electricity Board officials and a Housing Executive electrician separately examined the flat, presumably believing that an electrical fault was responsible for the disaster.

The fierce fire had rapidly destroyed virtually all the family's possessions, including Christmas presents that Margaret, who is unemployed, had been gradually buying in.

The homeless family of four, whose plight was ignored over the weekend by the Housing Executive's emergency service, had no choice but to stay with Margaret's married sister, who lives in already overcrowded conditions in a nearby two-bedroomed flat with her husband and four young children.

In recent months, Sinn Fein's Divis advice centre has received a number of complaints from residents worried about electrical wiring in their flats. Commenting on the issue, Sinn Fein's Lower Falls spokesperson on housing, Gerard Fusco, stated:

"As a matter of urgency, the Housing Executive must check the entire Divis complex for further wiring faults to prevent similar incidents occurring. But obviously, the only long-term solution to the problems of Divis Flats is the total demolition of the complex."

Beechmount homes under threat

BY JANE PLUNKETT

RESIDENTS of two small streets in the Beechmount area of West Belfast are growing increasingly angry that the Housing Executive has continually broken promises to consult with them about the future of their homes, which 18 months ago were placed under threat of demolition by the Executive.

The 46 houses in Brighton Street and Shells Street, though old and, in many cases, lacking in modern facilities, are well-kept and generally in good order. Their occupants are part of the very close Beechmount community.

The Executive generally favours demolition as a cheaper option than the rehabilitation of old houses and when officials announced, about 18 months ago, that the two streets were being examined for redevelopment, anxious residents immediately formed a tenants' association. Two door-to-door surveys carried out by the association since then show that virtually all the residents reject demolition. The chairperson of the association, Brighton Street resident Tom Gough, says:

"The people in the area want the houses refurbished and brought up to a standard with an extension added to give a bathroom and extra bedroom."

The Executive, which initially promised full consultation, have never asked residents what option they prefer. For months, despite several meetings with the tenants' association, Executive officials refused to discuss the issue on the grounds



● Beechmount's Brighton Street

that an architect's report was pending.

REPORT

After a long struggle, the association finally obtained a copy of the report, possibly the first time West Belfast tenants have ever achieved this.

The survey confirmed that the condition of the houses in Brighton Street and Shells Street is generally structurally sound though, with a large proportion owned by private landlords who had not taken up the limited grants available, few had been renovated. (Following the survey, two streets originally proposed for redevelopment, Islandbawn Street and Islandbawn Drive, were relieved.)

The Housing Executive which, tenants believe,

had hoped that the report would condemn many houses, again stalled. A delegation of tenants led by Sinn Fein MP Gerry Adams was promised easier access to Executive officials but was given no real information. And in another apparent move to have houses condemned as unfit, the Executive several weeks ago called in public health inspectors to examine the houses.

Tom Gough is sickened by the Housing Executive's attitude:

"They give all this spoof about consultation but they're not talking to the committee whatsoever. At the end of the day, the Executive are going to try to walk over the people, it's as simple as that."

The tenants' association has presented the Executive with detailed proposals for the refurbishing of the houses and is calling for Islandbawn Street and Drive to be given 'housing action area' status, which would entitle residents to 100% grants.

UNDERMINE

The Housing Executive has apparently attempted to undermine the tenants' association and the residents' united opposition to demolition by approaching residents, offering to buy their houses and spreading rumours about vesting orders being in the offing, reducing values.

The Housing Executive's long delays have prevented many families from carrying out planned improvements to their homes. Alice Kennedy had applied for an extension grant which would have added an extra bedroom to the two-bedroomed house in Brighton Street she lives in with her husband, nine-year-old daughter and seven-year-old son, but the Housing Executive subsequently suspended grants when it announced its redevelopment proposals.

Many residents have spent all their lives in the area and refuse to leave it. With the North's low wage levels, others, including 40-year-old father-of-two Tom Gough, say that they would have to give up work if they had to move to a high-rent area such as Poleglass.

The Housing Executive's lack of frankness about their plans was condemned this week by Sinn Fein's housing spokesperson, Fionnuala McCaughy, who stated:

"Sinn Fein supports the residents of Brighton Street and Shells Street and their committees in their fight for full consultation over the future of the area and in their fight to save their homes."

Lawyers to quit perjury trials?

SOLICITORS involved in the paid perjury trials in the North have been advised to withdraw from such cases "in view of recent court decisions".

The Solicitors Criminal Bar Association issued the recommendation following a meeting on Tuesday this week of 21 of the lawyers who are involved in the paid perjury cases presently underway.

On Wednesday the Association issued a statement condemning "the use of uncorroborated accomplice evidence" and said it would consider as a matter of urgency the most effective

means of ending informer trials and other abuses in the Diplock system:

"In particular, the Association recommends to its members that, in view of recent court decisions, they should withdraw from participation in such trials."

The Association added that they will be contacting concerned members of the legal profession in Britain "as a matter of urgency" and will be seeking an immediate meeting with the British Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, "to express the grave concern of the Association at the continued use of uncorroborated accomplice evidence".



KINCORA COVER-UP COVERED UP

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

AN ENGLISH policeman has cleared the RUC of any involvement in a cover-up, or any breaches of discipline in its handling of the Kincora Boys Home sex scandal, in a predictable whitewash report.

Sir George Terry, former chief constable of Sussex, began an inquiry in early 1982 and his final report released last Saturday, October 29th, was never expected to re-open the case. As early as May of this year, the Director of Public Prosecutions was reported as having already decided not to bring any further prosecutions in connection with the case. In particular, allegations that the RUC had destroyed evidence, or that some unionist politicians knew what was happening at Kincora, or that a prostitution ring was operating from the boys' home, were firmly discounted by Terry's inquiry. He also claimed that he could find no evidence of any involvement by British civil servants, RUC men, military personnel or anyone else and stated that British Military Intelligence were unaware of what was going on.

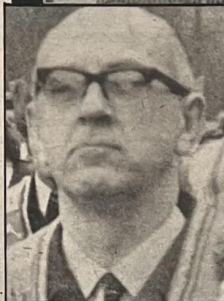
Sir George Terry even went so far as to claim that the loyalist paramilitary group Tara — of which Kincora housefather William McGrath was a leading member — was not involved in any criminal activities. This when the organisation was linked with the burnings of a number of Catholic schools and churches and with a large arsenal discovered in County Down in 1981. Tara was also known to have the closest possible links with the UVF throughout the 1970s.

The Terry report blames the media for failing to reveal their sources, implying that journalists who did so had 'no real evidence', only 'fictional allegations'. The report also blames the Department of Health and Social Services for refusing to take notice of what was going on. The report concludes that any further steps — such as a judicial inquiry for example — would serve no purpose other than that of providing a platform for publicity-seeking politicians.

SILENCED

The report has already been called a 'whitewash' by journalists and politicians. In particular the *Irish Times*, which at the beginning of 1982 had carried out its own investigation into the political connotations of the case, has accused the Terry inquiry of having ignored a major witness, a former British army PRO in Lisburn HQ, Colin Wallace, presently serving a jail sentence in England for murder. In the early '70s, Wallace had leaked to the press information concerning Kincora and certain well-known unionist politicians. The *Irish Times* reports that Wallace was refused legal assistance which he requested in order to be able to give information to the Terry inquiry.

"Whitehall is less than enthusiastic about the disclosure of any-



● WILLIAM McGRATH
thing to do with Kincora," Wallace wrote in a letter to an Irish lawyer.

In a stormy session in the Stormont Assembly on Tuesday this week, the Alliance Party, seeking an emergency debate on the report, accused the OUP, DUP and Speaker James Kilfedder of seeking to prevent discussion. However, a debate has been set for next Wednesday.

Although DUP leader Ian Paisley has been calling for a public judicial inquiry into Kincora, his reaction, like most unionist politicians, is undoubtedly one nearer to relief at the Terry report, and they will now feel free to indulge in yet another Stormont debate similar to the one which took place last

March, in which little more than innuendoes were exchanged, and threats that names would be named came to nothing. Relieved also will be British direct-ruler James Prior, who has now been provided with an excuse not to hold the public inquiry which he promised in 1982. All those involved in the Kincora affair, from British army and RUC officers to civil servants and politicians, can now sleep soundly, under the triple protection of the Terry report, the Official Secrets Act, and the fear of many to reveal what they know.

● Kincora Boys Home

FERMANAGH BOUNDARY BATTLE

BY AINE MOORE

THERE WERE lively and often heated scenes at Enniskillen Courthouse on Thursday and Friday last week during a public hearing of the Local Government Boundary Commission convened by Sir Frank Harrison.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss the commissioner's recommendations for local government electoral boundaries in Fermanagh. At the

moment the county is served by 20 councillors representing 20 wards.

The major discrepancy in the situation is that the electorate of 37,310 people

has a sizeable nationalist majority and yet the local council representation is split 10 to 10 with unionists and in fact is unionist controlled.

All parties were represented at last week's hearing, which quickly flared up with sharp criticism of Sir Frank Harrison's arrogant and patronising conduct, with one local independent

councillor accusing the commissioner of "adopting a typical top-of-the-hill Stormont attitude towards the rural people of Fermanagh".

PROPOSALS

Michael Lavelle of Sinn Féin presented the party's proposal for a re-drawing of the boundaries, giving a fairer representation of the electorate and increasing the

number of councillors. He referred to Moyle District Council in County Down where there are 648 voters per councillor, compared to the 1,619 voters per councillor in Fermanagh. In Fermanagh the average area each councillor covers is 68,525 hectares — again in sharp contrast to the 3,918 hectares given as the average area for the North.

Sinn Féin presented a map of the suggested re-drawn boundaries to a noticeably mellowed Harrison on Friday morning. The commissioner continued to argue, however, that Fermanagh only warranted two more seats, one at Donagh, the other at Enniskillen. The commission's findings are expected to be announced early next month.

DUNNES DISMISSAL PROVOKES STRIKE

BY JACK MADDEN

DELIBERATE provocation by management and repeated violations of agreements made with the staff union, the Irish Union of Distributive Workers & Clerks (IUDWC), has led to a strike by women workers at Dunnes Stores' headquarters in South Great Georges Street, Dublin.

For the second time this year Dunnes have shown their contempt for agreed work practices and are trying to bully women into accepting management's right to move them from one job and grade them into another. In the incident which directly started the strike, one woman, Flora Hannon, was sacked when she refused a management order that she transfer from clerical to shop assistant duties.

Such an order was in direct contravention of a 1978 productivity deal which states:

"Non-sales staff may take part in cash duties and stock-taking at certain periods subject to mutual agreement and prior consultation."

CLAUSES

Shop steward Linda Kenny says: "Dunnes have always claimed their own terms of employment and although they implemented some clauses in the 1978 agreement they ignore those which don't suit them. Since the agreement they



have been getting new girls to sign a form saying that they will come down to the shop floor when told. A new person will sign any form to take a job and only find out the truth later."

The company has breached

three of the nine clauses in the 1978 agreement, and continues to deny sole negotiating rights to the IUDWC, insisting on verbal rather than written agreements, and refusing even to join the Federated Union of Employers' because of

their determination to keep control of labour relations firmly in the hands of the Dunne family.

Besides ignoring their agreement with staff, Dunnes have needlessly caused a dispute because, says Linda Kenny, "they approached all

clerical staff and quite a few agreed that they would transfer to other duties if needed. Yet they deliberately asked a woman they knew would refuse. Besides this, at the same time as they say they need more staff on the shop floor, they cut back on the hours worked by part-time staff."

To emphasise their grievances, women on the picket line entered the Halloween spirit last weekend. While a number of them dressed as slaves, two others dressed in a single overall with 'clerical worker' on one side and 'shop assistant' on the other showing how one worker is told to do two jobs.

Despite invitations from the union, the company has refused to enter negotiations, and because of the weakness of their position, will not allow a Labour Court hearing. Their tactics, as in last February's dispute, rely on intimidation, spreading scare stories of redundancies to frighten the women and using the strike to close down the grocery section in the store. This closure may be simply to allow renovations, but it has been used to scare the women.

The strikers, who are anxious for a settlement, say that they will go back to work if their dismissed colleague is reinstated and management agrees not to send anyone from the clerical staff to the shop floor, pending a Labour Court recommendation on this issue.

Strike for union recognition

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE POINT-BLANK refusal by management at Downpatrick's Irish Chamois Ltd to recognise the workers' trade union has resulted in a walk-out by all 12 of the workers at the factory following the sacking of two of their number — one of them an ATGWU shop steward. They have been officially picketing the premises since Wednesday last week, October 26th.

Sinn Féin's Downpatrick spokesperson, Paddy Fitzsimmons, met manager Keith Bradford to emphasise the reasonable demands of the workers and was informed that they knew his terms of employment, pay

and conditions before they began work. He had not, he said, reckoned on a union.

Fitzsimmons described the factory, owned by the Industrial Development Board but rented to Irish Chamois, as resembling "a workhouse in the 19th century." He said:

"There was water all over the floor where workers are expected to stand all day, there was no heating, the place was like an ice-box and there were no toilet or washing-up facilities."

One of the picketers said:

"The working conditions are appalling. There are no overalls, no heat, no toilet or washing facilities, no first-aid or accident report books. The wages are lousy. I get £32 for a 40-hour week. We intend to stay out until we get satisfaction from Bradford."



Anger at customs post site

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

PLANS for a new British Customs and Excise post at Killeen Bridge, South Armagh, on the main Belfast to Dublin road have caused alarm and anger to local residents.

Planning applications for the original 27-acre site, announced in a local paper last October, were the first indications local people got, though several absentee land speculators had received official notice of the plan. Newry and Mourne District Council made a token protest to the British authorities at not being informed but have done nothing more to date.

The first proposal, for a 27-acre site, was then extended to take in a further 20 acres of prime agricultural land in a well-known South Armagh beauty spot.

In June, local farmers and residents formed the Killeen and District Residents' Association, inviting Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllister and Sarah Murphy from the local Sinn Féin cumann.

Over 100 people attended and voiced their fears at the siting of the customs post. A list of objections was presented to the Newry and Mourne District Council, whose members agreed with

the objections in principle but have done nothing more about the issue.

An article in the *Newry Reporter*, in August, by SDLP councillor John McEvoy expressed the SDLP's position, saying:

"There may be objections to the proposed new site at Killeen Bridge, but there is no doubt that it is a better site than the present one."

The statement was directly in opposition to the views of local people who do not want a customs post at all, as it brings an increase in Brit/RUC activity to the area, a danger to lives and a whole series of connected problems.

McEvoy has since called for a joint Brit/Free State post, a sharp reminder of his party's collaborationist politics.

PRESSURE

A public meeting organised by the residents' association, held in Newry last week to put pressure on the council to act, was attended by only seven of the coun-



● Killeen Bridge residents standing in one of the fields where the proposed customs post will be built

cillors, though invitations had been issued to all 30 members. The association's PRO, Sarah Murphy, said:

"They suggested that we should call for a public inquiry into the site, as there was nothing they could do, but we call

on the council to do this themselves. After all, they are supposed to represent people's interests, yet all they have done is drag their heels."

The siting of the post has already caused financial hard-

ship in the area.

One man had a new house half-built when he discovered that the post would be situated in his backyard. Other people have had planning permission for necessary barns and yards rejected because of the proposed post.

A farmer who has land on both sides of the main road will be forced to sell up if the plans go ahead.

The chairperson of the association, Paddy Matthews, explained to *AP/RN*:

"If and when this customs post goes ahead, small farmers will be deprived of a living. Small poultry farmers cannot get stocked as no company will give them a contract. People who have built new homes which will be on the perimeter of it will be in danger. There is also the risk from lead fumes because of the heavy traffic, more accidents, the high noise level from refrigerated lorries and danger to local schoolchildren. There's also talk of cattle pens being built here which could bring in TB and then spread to the herds of local cattle farmers."

SPECULATORS

Matthews hit out at the absentee land speculators who own the majority of the land and who are only interested in the money they will make.

Vice-chairperson Una McFerran recalled:

"Five years ago, when we were applying for planning permission, we were tortured by planners from Craigavon about what way our roof would be, would the roof blend in with the general environment, even what colour our tiles would be. I wish someone would explain how this post will blend in with the countryside."

Visa visitors continue tour

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

BRITISH direct-ruler James Prior's publicity tour of America has been turned into a debacle as Sinn Féin elected representatives Danny Morrison and Owen Carron continue to expose the truth about British rule in Ireland, using Prior's presence to great advantage.

While waiting trial for illegal entry in 1981, having been refused visas, Morrison and Carron have confronted Prior at every public appearance, much to the British minister's annoyance.

On Wednesday, October 26th, for the second day in succession, Prior was forced into a debate with a Sinn Féin elected representative when Owen Carron attended a meeting of the Irish Forum in San Francisco, where Prior was the guest speaker. Carron detailed the policies of British army shoot-to-kill, sectarianism and sham show trials which Prior uses to perpetuate British rule in Ireland and said that the only service Prior could render would be to bring about a British withdrawal.

Before leaving San Francisco, Owen Carron was presented with a formal motion of welcome to the city by the Board of Supervisors. On his way back to the East Coast, he visited Michigan where he met with State Senator Kelly who promised to issue a formal state resolution opposing British terrorism in Ireland and opposing American investment so long as the British remain.

CONGRESS

Meanwhile, Danny Morrison, who had confronted Prior in Boston on Tuesday last week, travelled to Washington DC for the second time to meet congressmen and congressional leaders who are seeking a meeting with Prior to condemn British army policies in Ireland.

Both Morrison and Carron spoke at a public meeting in New Jersey on Friday, October 28th, attended by more than 300 people, including local elected official John Curran and State Supreme Judge Jeremiah O'Callaghan.

On Saturday, October 29th, Carron and Morrison challenged Prior to a public debate about British colonial rule in Ireland during his visit to New York on Monday, October 31st. In a telegram to the British Consulate in New York, they said:

"We suggest, as elected representatives of the Irish people and members of Sinn Féin, that the most expeditious way to give Americans a truthful picture is to engage in a public debate with us open to the media. We are confident that, as in our debates in Boston and San Francisco, the truth about British army terrorism, sectarianism and

PRIOR EXPOSES FORUM

BRITISH direct-ruler James Prior has criticised the New Ireland Forum during his American tour. And in so doing he has unwittingly hindered the efforts of his allies in the Irish establishment.

Last week Prior told a San Francisco audience: "Whatever the Forum report says, it will not itself change the basic political reality that the best part of one million unionists simply do not wish to leave the United Kingdom."

It is not a certain type of unity which they object to, he added, but the principle itself. By this statement, probably the only accurate one of his address, Prior has angered the SDLP, who along with Free State constitutional parties have been travelling to the States several times each year to try and convince Irish-

American opinion to stop supporting the IRA, and that Irish unity by consent was just around the corner.

By stating clearly the unionist position, Prior has not only revealed himself as a good advocate of their cause, but he also has exposed the New Ireland Forum for what it is: a lot of big mouths with no teeth, powerless against the unionist veto.

In that respect, the SDLP reaction to Prior's statement is revealing, as it sounds more like a cry for help. Expressing his shock and anger at Prior's words, Denis Haughey of the SDLP added:

"We need to know, and soon, what steps the British government proposes to accommodate our interests on an equal basis with those of the unionists."



● Owen Carron is presented with a formal motion of welcome in San Francisco by City Commissioner Jack Webb and Carol Ruth Silver (Board of Supervisors) while Seamus Gibney of Irish Northern Aid (right) looks on

sham informer trials will emerge."

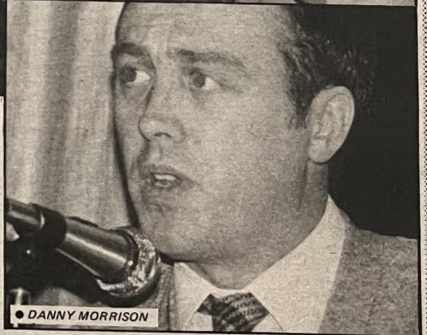
PICKET

When their challenge to debate was not accepted, Carron (who had returned from addressing a large gathering in Philadelphia) and Morrison led several hundred demonstrators in a picket at the British Consulate in New York on Monday.

That night, they left for Wash-

ington DC where several congressmen, including Mario Biaggi, have indicated that they will address such issues as censorship by visa denial and sectarianism from the floor of the United States Congress, timed to coincide with Prior's arrival in Washington.

The Sinn Féin elected representatives were then due to return to Buffalo for the resumption of their trial.



● DANNY MORRISON

New evidence in Kelly case

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

JOHN FITZPATRICK, one of the six people arrested in 1976 for questioning about the Sallins mail train robbery, appeared at a press conference organised by the Release Nicky Kelly Committee, who are claiming that his experience constitutes 'new evidence' as required by Coalition Minister for Justice Michael Noonan before he is willing to reconsider the Kelly frame-up.

Fitzpatrick had signed a statement after his hands were handcuffed behind his back and he was beaten until he could not take any more. The statement he signed

incriminated not only himself but Nicky Kelly as well.

Michael Barrett was also arrested, but he and John Fitzpatrick were able to produce four witnesses who testified that both men were in Limerick on the night of the robbery and could not have been involved.

Three of the witnesses were arrested, interrogated, threatened, and verbally abused in an attempt to make them change their evidence; one was physically assaulted as well.

All six people originally charged were released after the charges were dismissed at the District Court in December 1976, but four were re-arrested, including Nicky Kelly, Oscur Breatnach, Bernard McNally and Mick Plunkett. Only John Fitzpatrick

and Michael Barrett went free. The case against Plunkett was dropped early in the trial, McNally and Breatnach were released on appeal.

This is perhaps the most extraordinary contradiction to emerge in this case so far. John Fitzpatrick's statement, in which he named Nicky Kelly as being involved in the robbery, was not used by the prosecution as it would have supported Kelly's claim that he was forced to sign the incriminating statement.

John Fitzpatrick stated that he had come forward in the absence of any action by the Free State Minister for Justice and in view of his demand that new evidence be presented to him before he would consider releasing Nicky Kelly.



● Nicky Kelly enters Dublin's Four Courts

SIX YEARS IN ARMAGH

BRIEGE BROWNLEE was released from Armagh Prison in October after 6 years' imprisonment. In an interview with *Siobhan O'Malley* of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* she talks about the protests, the solidarity between the women prisoners, and the continual attempts to break that solidarity by the prison authorities.

I was lifted in 1977 and taken to Castlereagh. I was charged with possession of, and planting, incendiaries, and with attempted grievous bodily harm. I was on remand for 13 months and then sentenced to eight years. I would have got half remission, but lost two years' remission because of the protests.

I was arrested in my own house at about 5.30am. They told me I was going to Castlereagh. That was a big enough shock, and when I got there they put me in a holding cell for a few hours. Then the interrogations started, one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. They lasted about two hours at a time.

The 'nice guys' would come in first, being friendly — one even offered me tickets to a football match.

Then the nasties came in. One of them looked like Al Capone, double-breasted suit and all. He sat on the table in front of me and ran a lighted cigarette up and down in front of my face. He asked did I think he would burn my face, and, as there were more than burnings going on in Castlereagh at that time, I said I wouldn't be surprised. These two used a lot of dirty talk, sexual abuse, to try and frighten me.

The third team of interrogators were two women. They kept asking me about the area I lived in and who I knew. They said they had statements from other people incriminating me.

On the third day, I signed a statement. I had had very little sleep and I was confused and scared. They had made threats against my family as well as against me, saying they would arrest my mother and father and 'get' my brothers. They wrote the statement and I signed it. There was no other evidence against me, but I had seen no one in the three days and I believed that other people's statements would convict me; they told me that. So I signed the statement to stop the interrogations.

SENTENCED

I was 13 months on remand, was found guilty and sentenced to eight years. I was 18. The no-

work protest was already on and I joined it when I was sentenced. All the prisoners on protest were on B Wing. Scott was the governor or then.

During the no-work protest we were locked up during the day but got out for association. There was a lot of tension and Scott was trying to impose all these niggly rules. The day the no-wash protest started we came down to collect our dinner as usual, there was no warning that anything was happening. As we queued up to collect the plates, suddenly the door to the tunnel connecting A and B Wings opened and all these male Screws appeared. They lined up across the wing and then more women Screws lined up behind them. Scott made his entrance then and announced a search, he said he wanted all black clothing. One of the girls had her dinner in her hand and she went in to the association room to set it down. A male Screw jumped on her and that started it. There was a fight, they all attacked us.

We were locked up and they would not let us out to go to the toilet all day or night. We did the only thing we could, we emptied the pots under the doors of the cells. The next morning they moved us to A Wing and we were there together for the whole time of the protest. The no-wash protest ended in March 1981, and the no-work protest went on until October 1982.

MORALE

The year since the protest ended was the worst of all. The no-wash protest was hard. It was particularly hard for women and quite a lot of prisoners became ill but our morale was so high, there was real spirit there. You had that block between you and the Screws. You had no dealings with them at all, they never even tried to talk to us. But when we were split up into different wings, we

●BRIEGE BROWNLEE

had to deal with them then. When we ended the no-work protest the governor tried to force us to actually say the words, "I am conforming." Of course, none of us would.

We were trying to work out an acceptable system in the jail but the Screws kept trying to order us about and tell us what to do. It was very hard to take. The only work to do is cleaning the wing or sewing in the workroom. They try to make us sew prisoners' uniforms but the women deliberately sabotage this by sewing the seams wrong.

Craftwork and educational classes were restricted to what they thought we should do, like English for education, and making trays for craftwork. If you were mopping the wing the Screws would walk over it deliberately. They were pushing us all the time.

It was degrading. Physical conditions might be better, but it is a matter of pride.

SITUATION

The present governor, Murtagh, came at the beginning of 1982. At first he seemed as if he wanted to work something out that was acceptable to us, but we quickly saw that he was just sizing us and the situation up.

Five of us came off the no-work protest to see how it would go. He had promised concessions and changes but he immediately set about splitting us up. I was put on B1 Wing on my own. No reason was given. I had no contact with any other prisoners except at association and exercise time and then it was loyalists and ordinary prisoners. There were attacks on republican prisoners by loyalists but it was always us who were

punished.

Murtagh was intent on breaking us. He tries to do it by splitting us up, hoping that lack of communication and isolation will do it — but he will never succeed.

He keeps holding up C Wing as a reward for being a 'good girl'. He would tell us about the soft armchairs they had in the cells in C Wing, and how he was getting colour televisions for the prisoners. There it was all rubbish, there were no privileges really on C Wing, but he kept dangling these carrots in front of us, talking about parole and so on.

They stop books coming in. A box of books was delivered to the prison and when we asked for them the Screws told us they were 'dirty'. When we queried it, they said they were dusty and torn, and they had burnt them. But

they were brand new books donated by publishers to the Felons' Book Resource. They just did not want us to get them.

STRIP-SEARCHES

The searches, especially strip-searches, became more and more frequent. We were strip-searched before and after visits or any time we left the wing. Even going to and coming from classes we were searched, and often for no reason at all.

The night before I got out they let me have a few minutes' visit with Christine Beattie who I'd shared a cell with for nearly five years. She was on a different wing then. They searched us before and after, even though there were 15 Screws around us during the few minutes we had to talk.

Coming out of jail I was strip-searched twice.

Communication was difficult after the protest ended with a few of us on each wing of the prison, but still the important things got through. Murtagh has built this isolation unit on A1 and it is totally cut off from the rest of the prison. We think it is to divide the republican prisoners even further. Several prisoners have been held in it already, for months or weeks at a time. No reason is ever given.

We think it is to be a solitary confinement unit, not for punishment but to hold women Murtagh thinks are stropky to see what effect solitary will have on them. But nothing will destroy the unity and closeness that we have, and that was never more evident than during the protest. He knows that too, that's why he has to keep trying all these new tricks.

SPIRIT

The spirit that was there during the protest and our anger during the hunger-strikes is still there. We know we are not criminals, and they know it too; they know that they can't break us. They tried to push criminalisation on us and they couldn't.

It's not just because of the structure that we have in the jail, it's because of what we are there for. When I got into prison, first, though I have a republican background, my family are republican, it was more a personal reaction to what was happening on the streets, what I saw myself. Now I feel part of an organisation, part of something that is progressing politically. Our own, our struggle in the prison, was part of that political development. We saw it all as one. Our grief and anger at the time of the hunger-strikes was terrible, but it carried us through.

On the first hunger-strike, watching our three comrades, Mairead Farrell, Mairead Nugent and Mary Doherty losing weight and getting weak, we felt so bitter and getting weak, the realisation of about them. The realisation of what a hunger-strike really meant what you like a black wall. But it hit you like a black wall. But it was all part of our fight, and that determination will never be broken, ever!

PRISONERS INJURED IN PORTLAOISE

BY MAIRE DE BARRA

MORE THAN 80 republican prisoners in Portlaoise Prison were injured last Sunday, October 30th, 39 receiving substantial injuries and over 40 more sustaining cuts and bruises, according to reports received by Dublin Sinn Féin.

Just before 1pm, when the prisoners were locked in their cells at lunch-time, warders entered the cells of two prisoners, Tommy McMahon of Carrickmacross and Johnny Johnston of Dublin, and informed them that they were to be strip-searched.

When the two men refused, a number of warders and gardai entered their cells and set upon them, half-choking them in arm-locks, beating them with batons and dragging their clothes off.

When other prisoners on the wing realised what was going on they began to bang on their cell doors and, in response, hundreds of warders and gardai, under the direction of deputy-governor John Keavney, began strip-searching and beating all the prisoners individually. They then threw all the men's personal belongings and furniture out of their cells and left them with only a couple of blankets to sleep on the floor with that night.

Contrary to the claims by the Free State Department of Justice that they were carrying out

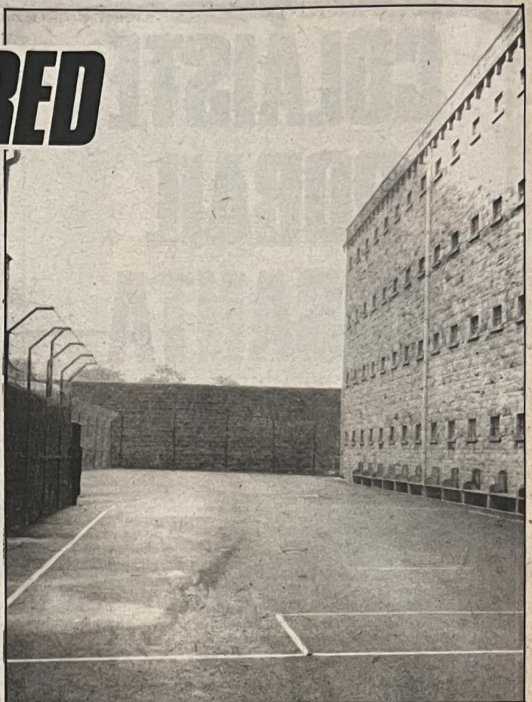
a general search, all the injuries took place during strip-searches. The Department also falsely reported that only two prisoners had been injured.

HOSPITAL

Three prisoners who were most seriously injured, but have been released from hospital, are now being held in solitary confinement. They are Dessie Ellis from Finglas in Dublin, Philip Campbell of Balfast and Kevin Campbell of Portadown.

Ellis was set upon by 20 warders and gardai and was systematically beaten in his cell, on his way to solitary confinement and again in solitary where he was strip-searched for the second time, before being transferred to hospital.

Those who were not hospitalised had to wait for two days before the prison doctor came to tend to their injuries.



BARBARIC REGIME FOR POWs IN ENGLAND

THE BARBARIC prison regime in which Irish prisoners are held in English jails has been highlighted this week in a detailed statement from Sinn Féin's Belfast MP, Gerry Adams. He said:

A constant stream of letters from Irish political prisoners held in English prisons, supplemented by contact with their relatives, and despite the continuation of the Home Office ban on visits to these prisoners by myself, provides an accurate picture of their situation and that of their long-suffering families.

The most draconian and restricted classification under which a prisoner can be held is Category 'A'. Of the 40,000 prisoners in English jails, 300 are in this category. Almost a quarter of these are Irish political prisoners.

Despite being subject to this regime, with the denial of 'rights' and 'privileges' offered to other prisoners, Irish POWs bear the brunt of individual acts of vindictiveness by prison administrations.

For example, Roy Walsh, who is in Winson Green, Birmingham, is only permitted to attend the same Mass as other prisoners if he is handcuffed during the entire service.

Ronnie McCartney, who is held in Parkhurst, is denied the right to have his fiancée's father and mother visit him, in spite of the fact that his own parents are dead and Ronnie has named these people as his next-of-kin.

ORDERS

Rule 43 (Good Order and Discipline) of the prison authorities' standing orders is widely practised, for punitive reasons, against Irish prisoners. This regulation allows the authorities, without notice or explanation, to move a prisoner from a 'high security prison', where most Irish prisoners are held in special control units, to what is termed

a 'local prison' for an indefinite period.

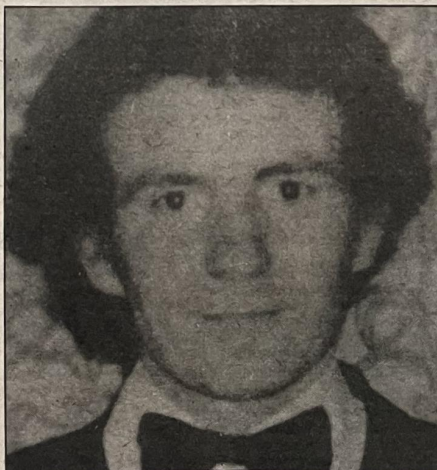
Prisoners are then housed in total isolation and locked up 23 hours a day. Cell lights are kept on throughout the hours of darkness, constant visual checks are made every 15 minutes, with the accompaniment of a great deal of noise day and night, and a warder sits outside the cell door at all times.

RELATIVES

Although the Irish POWs' burden is indeed a heavy one, a constant theme in all correspondence is the repeated expression of deep concern for their relatives outside the prison walls.

This concern is entirely justified, given the particular sense of isolation suffered by their relatives who are forsooth to make long, lonely and expensive trips to English jails, in many instances accompanied by young children. Even the journeys on the prisoners' welfare bus to the six-county prisons provide at least a sense of common suffering and comradeship.

Many prisoners have expressed grave anxiety about the vulnerability of their relatives travelling to England, which is understandable given the operation of the racist PTA. Not only is there a fear that relatives might be arrested, but there are



Patrick Hackett, who lost an arm and a leg in a premature bomb explosion who spent six months on remand in Brixton Prison, depriving his young family in Belfast of both parents.

A visit, bringing with it the prospect of seeing loved ones again, should be a source of comfort for both a prisoner and their family. Instead, in the case of Irish POWs, it is a source of

tremendous strain and for many, especially the elderly and those with a young family, it is a major ordeal. The Home Office's obstinate refusal to repatriate Irish prisoners is clearly intended to have these effects and is in flagrant contradiction of their own stated policies.

TRANSFER

The immediate transfer to an English prison of the British soldier who gunned down young Thomas 'Kido' Reilly to ensure that family visits could 'more easily be accommodated' is an illustration of this political double-think.

The Irish prisoners in English jails have five very reasonable demands:

1. The release of Paddy Hackett on medical grounds.
2. The release of prisoners framed by the British police.
3. An end to solitary confinement and special control units.
4. The abolition of the PTA.
5. Repatriation of prisoners to Ireland on request.

The fact that the British government have totally ignored these demands makes it obvious that they not only inflict the full rigours of their barbaric prison system on Irish prisoners but are deliberately inflicting suffering on totally innocent families.

COLÁISTE POBAIL COSANTA

LE CIAN MacAODH

MAR fhreagra ar na húdaráis oideachais a bhagair go ndruidfí scéim oideachais pobail i Scoil Naomh Louise, Béal Feirste Thiar, tá muintir an cheantair ag iarraidh, chan amháin nach mbainfí den scéim, ach fosta go mbunófaí coláiste oideachais tríú leibhéal in iarthar na cathrach.

Tá thart fá trichéad dála ag freastal ar an choláiste pobail i Scoil Louise ar Bhóthar na bhFál. Is daoine fásta iad a mbunús atá díomhaoin agus a d'fhág an scoil gan cáiliúchtaí oideachais de shórt ar bith. Téann na scolairí fásta seo isteach i ngnáth-vanganna na scoile agus le blianta beaga anuas thuill an scéim ardmholadh ó mhúinteoirí, ó dháil agus ón phobal i gcoitinne.

Nuair a tugadh le fios ar na mallabhb, mar sin, go raibh baol ann go ndúnfaí an choláiste pobail labhair grúpaí pobail, scolairí na coláiste agus an nuachtán áitiúil

amach ar son na scéime. Thacaigh siad le dearcadh ceannasaí na coláiste pobail, Pauline Murphy, gur cóir don rialtas a bheith ag cur le háiseanna oideachais in iarthar Bhéal Feirste.

In alt ar eagrán Deiradh Fómhair den iris phobail, *Scope*, dúirt Pauline Murphy gur ceart an ceathrú coláiste tríú leibhéal atá beartaíte ag na húdaráis oideachais a thógáil, nó a shuífomh, in iarthar Bhéal Feirste, an áit is mó d'fhostaíochta san Eoraip, le riar ar na slóite ansin atá ag iarraidh cur lena n-oideachas.



● Tá Sinn Féin ag seasamh leis an éileamh go mbeadh Coláiste Oideachais den tríú leibhéal in iarthar Bhéal Feirste

Tá trí choláiste breis-oideachais i mBéal Feirste, beirt i lár na cathrach agus ceann amháin Coláiste Rupert Stanley, i gcroí-lár ceantair Protastúnach in oirthear na cathrach. Glactar leis go bhfuil gá leis an ceathrú coláiste ach gurb iad údaráis Rupert Stanley is mó atá ag cur in aghaidh an phlean leis an

choláiste sin a lonnadh in iarthar Bhéal Feirste.

I ráiteas a d'éisigh comhairleoir Shinn Féin sa cheantar, Alex Maskey, dúirt se:

"Tá Sinn Féin i bhfáthach leis an éileamh ar son coláiste breis-oideachais in iarthar Bhéal Feirste. Is ocl linn na hiarrachtaí atá ar bun ag polaiteoirí aontachaithe, agus go háirithe ag

Sam Wilson den DUP, le seichteachas a tharraingt isteach i gcúrsaí oideachais sa cheantar seo.

"Is ceart agus chan prabháid an t-oideachas. Sa cheantar s'againne, ina mórúitear cearta na ndaoine faoi chois go mion le go minic, tacaíonn Sinn Féin le ceart gach duine oideachas a fháil agus seasaimid leo síúd atá ag éileamh go mbeadh Coláiste Oideachais den tríú leibhéal in iarthar Bhéal Feirste."

Coolock faces closure

BY ANN O'BRIEN

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE on Thursday, October 27th, in Dublin, the management committee of the Coolock Community Law Centre announced that, "with great regret coupled with very considerable disappointment", they find themselves faced once again with closure in the new year due to lack of funds.

The support promised by politicians from all the establishment parties has not, as usual, been backed up by the provision of funding for the Coolock Law Centre and, as in the last few years, the buck has been passed from one government department to another when the question of the Law Centre's funding is raised.

After the general election in November 1982, the management committee were informed by the new Free State Minister for Justice, Michael Noonan, that there were no funds available for the Centre. In February 1983, after months of uncertainty, they were informed that funds would be made available from the Department of Social Welfare.

ment of Social Welfare.

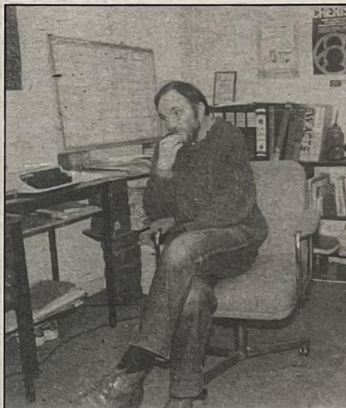
Despite requests by the committee for a meeting with that department to discuss the need for a long-term plan for the funding and operation of the Centre, no meeting took place, and, in October 1983, they were informed that the grant from the Department of Social Welfare would not be renewed in 1984.

ARRANGEMENT

In his letter to the committee informing them of his decision, Barry Desmond referred to the 1983 funding as 'a special arrangement' and says that an 'anti-poverty agency' will be set up 'at an early date' and which will be "the only possible source of funds" for the Coolock Law Centre.

In a press release, the committee states:

"This then is the position which the Centre finds itself in going into 1984, apparently isolated between two government departments in a limbo-land with a government which is comprised of two parties who for years have spoken of the need for a comprehensive legal aid scheme, yet when asked to put words into action have been found absolutely lacking in commitment."



● Dave Ellis of the Coolock Community Law Centre

LIMERICK AGAINST WATER TAX

A MAJOR campaign has been launched in Limerick to oppose the £50 yearly water tax that has been levied on households in the city by the city manager, over the heads of the city council.

The latest protest in the campaign was on Saturday, October 22nd, when over 1,000 people blocked the city centre for over an hour at peak shopping time.

The campaign is spearheaded by the Co-ordinating Committee Against the Water Tax which was set up at a public meeting attended by representatives from nearly 30 tenants' and residents' associations. The committee's aim is to get the tax rescinded and the recently enacted legislation which allows such taxes to be levied by city and county managers repealed.

Many organisations in the city are backing the protests, including the Limerick Trades Council who have vowed to support any persons who may be jailed for refusing to pay the tax although Limerick Corporation recently announced that it would not take legal action against any such person.

Limerick Sinn Féin are also supporting the campaign and have linked it with the overall issue of taxation and the campaign on PAYE.

The co-ordinating committee is planning further protests and is currently collecting demand notices for the tax which it will send to Free State Environment Minister Dick Spring with the demand that he initiate the repeal of the relevant legislation.

LICENCE PROTESTS

CLIONA MHIC GIOLLACHADA, a member of Tallaght Sinn Féin, appeared in Rathfarnham District Court on Tuesday, November 1st, charged with having an unlicensed television set.

Cliona, the mother of five children, and an Irish speaker originally from An Rinn Gaeltacht, is refusing to buy a television licence in protest against Section 31 of the Free State Broadcasting Act and also the lack of programmes in Irish on RTE.

A fine of £20 was imposed which she has stated she will not pay, nor will she buy a licence, until Section 31 is lifted and 50% of programmes on RTE are in Irish, or an Irish language channel is provided.

In Clare, James McNulty of Ballinagun, who has four children, appeared at Kilrush Court

on Tuesday, October 18th, also charged with having no TV licence. He too is protesting about the censorship of Sinn Féin by RTE through Section 31, and for more programmes in Irish.

A fine of £19 was imposed in James McNulty's case, with two months to pay or one month's imprisonment.

"I will not be paying the fine," declared McNulty.

Pickets were placed on both courthouses by local Sinn Féin members.



● CLIONA Mhic GIOLLACHADA

US lies exposed on Grenada

BY VINCENT MCGARRY

THE United States military occupation of Grenada continued this week as the excuses used by President Ronald Reagan to justify the assault on this tiny Caribbean island are exposed as lies.

Unexpectedly stiff resistance from Grenadian soldiers and some Cuban civilians working on the island have proven a more difficult obstacle to the Americans than was expected and even over this past week sporadic resistance has continued.

In an act of particular barbarity, in the course of their attacks last week, it has been revealed that US warplanes bombed a mental hospital, killing up to 80 people. If American claims that they were unaware that it was a hospital are to be believed, then it would appear that their much-vaunted intelligence network, used to justify the invasion, was a sham.

The week has also produced more evidence that the assault was simply an attempt by Reagan to regain the badly shaken esteem of the US marines following the Beirut bombing while at the same time crushing a progressive socialist state in their own backyard.

Revelations by a British

company involved in the construction of the new airport facility on Grenada destroyed Reagan's claims that the island was to be used as a Soviet/Cuban military base. According to a spokesperson for Plessey, the construction company, the new airport at Port Salines would not have been suitable for military use, but was specifically designed to cater for tourists in accordance with the regulations laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation. The terminal building, with its duty-free shop, catering facilities and passenger and baggage handling facilities, was, according to Plessey, clearly for civilian use, while the navigation equipment in the control tower didn't even include a radar.

International opinion is increasingly hostile and in the light of the fabrications in earlier allegations the US would find it difficult to convince anyone that they had in fact uncovered mis-

ile bases under construction on the island. The fact that such bunkers would, if they had existed, been photographed by satellites, has added to the justifiable scepticism of the world in US claims, as has the reluctance of Reagan to release the imaginary documents which he says were uncovered by his invading force and which are supposed to reveal a proposed build-up of Soviet and Cuban military strength on the island.

SECURITY COUNCIL

A UN Security Council motion condemning the US invasion was predictably defeated by an American veto, but pressure will be maintained during a debate on the issue this week. It will be difficult for the US to justify their act of international terrorism in this area given that foreigners resident in Grenada throughout the chaotic events in recent weeks have said that at no time did they feel that their safety was in danger. But the reality is that none would dare impose sanctions against the US of the kind that followed the Argentinean recapture of the Falklands/Malvinas.



● Belfast Sinn Féin members picket the US Consulate in protest at Reagan's imperialist aggression

While many countries have unreservedly condemned the US action, a number of others, spearheaded by Canada and Britain, are obviously intent on using the invasion for their own political and economic ends and proposals for a new Commonwealth policing force to oversee the island for a period

following US withdrawal will simply reinforce the imperialist stranglehold on Grenada. Such a force will undoubtedly ensure, with the 'constitutional approval' of Sir Paul Scoon, the British monarchy's representative, that socialist politics will have no place in the new order

in Grenada. Such a force is as unwelcome to anti-imperialists as is the American invasion and must be viewed as part of the anti-socialist onslaught of conservative governments against isolated progressive revolutions everywhere.

NAMIBIA SANCTIONS CALL

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS against Namibia are essential if South Africa's puppet government there is to be destroyed, a meeting in Dublin organised by the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement (IAAM) on Friday, October 28th, was told.

Solidarity with the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), was the theme of the meeting in the Con Lehané hall in Dublin which was chaired by Rev. Austin Flannery of the IAAM and addressed by a member of SWAPO's women's executive, Bience Gawanas, and by Marga Holness on behalf of the Angolan government.

Numerous calls for sanctions by the United Nations and by SWAPO in recent years have gone unheeded by governments in the West who are greedy to purchase the vast uranium deposits in Namibia for the growing nuclear industry, and it is this continued economic support which has maintained South African control in the region.

In Namibia the liberation struggle waged by SWAPO has continued unabated despite the vastly superior fire-power of racist South Africa. In an attempt to counter SWAPO attacks, the South African army has recently resorted to chemical warfare, using a powerful defoliant spray to eliminate vegetation along a strategic road and

bulldozers to clear bush along the roadside.

EXHIBITION

Alongside the meeting in Dublin was an exhibition of the SWAPO struggle for liberation which has not simply been fighting a 17-year-old bush war against the illegal occupation of their country by South Africa, but has also developed a radical political consciousness amongst their people who are invariably the under-paid workers in white-owned mines.

Stressing the need for publicity, Marga Holness said that South African incursions in Angola since 1978 had left tens of thousands of civilians dead, while 'more than 100,000 Angolans are refugees in their own country and material damage now exceeds \$10 billion.'

In a welcome highlight to the meeting, which was organised as part of the UN International Week of Action on Namibia, the SWAPO representative was given £500 by Phil Flynn on behalf of the Local Government & Public Services Union. This money will purchase five medical kits which are urgently needed by SWAPO.



● Bience Gawanas of SWAPO's women's executive, flanked by Rev Austin Flannery and Marga Holness, addresses the Anti-Apartheid meeting held in Dublin last week

Apartheid refined

RACIAL OPPRESSION in South Africa has been given a further boost this week with the virtual certainty that the country's all-white electorate have voted in favour of new apartheid laws which will allow political 'representation' to the Asian and coloured (mixed race) minorities, while denying the same right to the black community who constitute 72% of the population.

This week's referendum, introduced by the racist Botha administration, will simply strengthen apartheid, for although it extends rights hitherto denied to sections of the population, it also involves the dismantling of the existing parliamentary system, to replace it with separate assemblies for whites, Indians and coloured people.

Thousands of black people took to the streets last weekend in a mass protest against the new constitutional plan. Their protests were the culmination of a campaign begun in August last by the United Democratic Front in opposition

to apartheid and the provisions in the new plan.

FEATURE

One welcome feature of the plan is the disarray it has caused amongst the most extreme racists in the white community, with a split in the ultra-rightist Afrikaner Broederbond, the semi-secret society of the South African elite. Many of them, including former chairman Professor Carl Boshoff, are openly hostile to the provisions of the new constitutional plan, not because it denies

rights to blacks, but because they remain unconvinced by assurances that the proposed marginal powers being accorded the Indians and coloureds will not jeopardise white supremacy in the state.

Even those within the white community who oppose apartheid appeared confused in the run-up to the referendum, afraid to vote 'no' since that would jeopardise even the marginal gains which the plan allowed, and uncertain if they should vote 'yes' since that would be contrary to the advice of the anti-apartheid organisations. This advice was clearly given during last weekend's demonstrations by Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, who said there 'should be no doubt that anything planned within the context of apartheid should be answered with a 'no'.



● A black protestor is arrested; the marginal reforms in the referendum will not jeopardise white supremacy

Repatriation picket

SIXTY people picketed London's Wormwood Scrubs Prison in support of Irish POWs on Sunday, October 30th.

The picket was the latest in a series of protests organised by Sinn Féin and, despite police harassment, continued for two hours.

The main demand of the protesters was the right of Irish POWs to be repatriated to prisons in Ireland.



Republican Resistance
CALENDAR
1984

1984 calendar

THE 1984 Republican Resistance Calendar is now available from Republican Publications.

It features exclusive full-colour photographs of IRA Volunteers in action and wall murals, and significant dates in Ireland's history and the latest phase of the struggle for freedom.

This excellently produced and colourful calendar is available from 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast (telephone 620768), price Stg£1; or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 (telephone 726932), price Ir£1.20. Please add postage when ordering.

Christmas cards



CHRISTMAS CARDS (illustrated above) are now available from the Sinn Féin National Finance Committee, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, price £2 for 12 (including postage) for orders from Ireland and Britain.



Fianna Christmas cards

FIANNA EIREANN (Republican Youth Movement) have issued a set of three Christmas cards bearing scenes of Bunratty Castle, County Clare; Cashel, County Tipperary; and Lissadell, County Sligo (home of Countess Markievicz).

The cards cost 15p each (plus postage) and can be obtained from Sally Walsh, Lurgan, Patrickswell, County Limerick (cash with orders please).

mála poist

Armagh support

Dear Friends,

This is to let you know about recent happenings in the New Zealand Stop the Strip-Searches in Armagh Jail campaign.

We have circulated pamphlets and petitions to about 150 women's groups throughout New Zealand and are receiving a favourable response. We've found that the material we sent out has provoked a great deal of discussion, often for the first time, about the whole Irish situation in general and Irish women in particular.

On September 3rd/4th the YWCA held a conference, attended by 600 women, on Violence to Women and Children.

We held two workshops on Women and War, with the main emphasis on Ireland. From these workshops came two resolutions which were unanimously supported by conference:-

"1. That this conference condemns the use of sexual assault, including forcible strip-searching, of women prisoners all over the world."

"2. This conference supports the struggle of women in Armagh Jail, Northern Ireland, to stop the escalation of the harassment of women prisoners by forcible strip-searching."

Kathleen Byrne,
NZ H-Block/Armagh
Committee,
PO Box 50466,
Porirua,
Wellington,
New Zealand.



Hell's Bells

A Chara,

In your edition of October 20th Kevin Burke referred to Lord Gerry Fitt and his choice of title.

I can understand the consternation of the Planter in County Down when he heard that 'our Gerry' had hijacked the name which his ancestors had brought over with them from Scotland centuries ago, and I sympathise with him.

However, as Kevin Burke says, Fitt won't change the Bell's Hill title so perhaps a small alteration to Hell's Bells might be acceptable. But might I humbly propose an alternative? As Bell suggests a female name, and Hill a gentle slope, the 'honourable gentleman' might accept the title of Lord Fitt of Dolly's Brae.

No Planter could object to that and those of us who have watched him for the past 30 years or so would not be the least bit surprised.

F. McCarr, County Antrim.

A Chara,
Declan Foley's excellent article *Chips with everything* (October 20th) shows that one modern feature of capitalism has been the ruthless application of new technology, technology which has been partly responsible for the mass unemployment suffered by nearly 400,000 Irish workers.

Bosses have skillfully used all kinds of computer-based devices, from word-processors in the office to automatic assembly and test equipment on the production-line, to erode the organised power of workers. Not surprisingly, trade unions have responded defensively with such tactics as blacking equipment, negotiating new wage rates for using new equipment and campaigning for improved redundancy payments. While understandable, these tactics are totally inadequate in defending workers' rights, as increasing unemployment and decreasing take-home pay demonstrate. Even worse, with the help of a censored media the hope attitude has rubbed off on many workers who have become brainwashed into thinking that there is no alternative.

But it doesn't take an economics expert to see that there is a more sensible way of running our country. With our massive housing shortage, our backward medieval and education systems, our huge imports bill and our relatively small population, there should be plenty of work for all our people. Of course, socialists know that this can't happen until the present exploitative system is changed to one in which workers directly control the means of production and services. But we must also convince Irish workers that socialism will work and to do this both long-term and short-term strategies are needed.

For the long-term we need to update our industrial/economic policy. Obviously a great deal of research is needed, but outside Ireland much has already been done, such as the plan of the Lucas Shop Stewards Combine in Britain, the Mondragon Co-op in Euskadi (the

MICRO-CHIPS



● Unemployed action groups have made a start in showing that unemployment is caused by the capitalist system with its inherent injustice.

Basque country) and the Economic Policy Unit of the Greater London Council. Sinn Féin could do worse than form a working group to draw all the available information together and develop it to suit our needs.

In the short-term, the unemployment action groups have made a start in demonstrating that unemployment is caused by the capitalist system with its inherent injustice. But we also need to show that this greed-based system can be replaced by a worker-owned, worker-controlled means of production, even if only in a small way. This would not only increase the confidence of workers but would also increase their economic power and therefore their ability to eventually overthrow capitalism.

In the present set-up, which is hostile to worker-controlled industry, workers must campaign for the same resources (education, research etc) that are available to the present owners of industry.

A start could be made by

setting up networks consisting of socialist staff and students in educational and research institutes, progressive trade unionists and community groups in working-class areas. These networks would enable unemployed workers to use the research, development and educational resources which are paid for by public taxes. For example, workers who have been made redundant by the ruthlessness of capitalism could obtain financial, managerial and technical know-how to enable them to take over the failed enterprise.

I hope Declan Foley's article will begin a debate among republicans on the implications of new technology. If any of the resulting ideas bring a socialist republic any closer, then the debate will be very much worthwhile.

Sean O Mearthaile,
PRO,
McCabe/Quigley
Sinn Féin cumann,
Ballymun,
Dublin.

Conference controversy

A Chara,

The NUS Lesbian and Gay Liberation Conference, held in Queen's University Belfast over the weekend of October 22nd/23rd marked a milestone in the debate over whether there is a link between lesbian and gay liberation and the struggle for national liberation in Ireland. Throughout the conference, controversy raged over the decision by the executive of the National Union of Students to ban speakers from Gays Against Imperialism from talking about the situation in Ireland, while allowing unionists from the NI Gay Rights Association to voice their views.

In response to these attempts at censorship, the delegates overwhelmingly passed a motion, by a 4 to 1 majority, condemning "the executive have used this conference to further the interests of British imperialism in Ireland". The motion also declared that the struggle for lesbian and gay liberation was but one of the many struggles in Ireland and was inseparable from the ongoing national struggle.

The 150 delegates, who came from all over Britain and the six



counties, also unanimously passed a motion demanding an end to "the degrading, humiliating strip-searches of women political prisoners in Armagh Jail", and instructed their committee to actively campaign on this issue.

The conference came under attack from the DUP, who staged a picket and prayer-meeting outside on Friday night. They declared their intention of continuing

their protest around the clock until the conference was over and so a counter-demonstration was organised for Saturday afternoon and pledges of support were given by the major anti-imperialist organisations — Sinn Féin, IRSP, and PD. However, the Paisleyites backed down so no counter-demonstration was necessary.

Tarlach Mac Niallais,
Belfast.



TOM credibility

Dear Editor,

I should like to register my disquiet at the decision by the controlling committee of the Troops Out Movement not to sponsor or support the annual commemoration in honour of the Manchester Martyrs in November.

I have always been led to believe the Troops Out Movement are an organisation whose aims basically are to campaign for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. In the past, the Troops Out Movement have shown their solidarity with the Irish people's struggle against tyranny and oppression by supporting such demonstrations and rallies.

If the Troops Out Movement are to retain any credibility of being in support of — or of being in solidarity with — the Irish struggle they must surely rethink their present strategy regarding demonstrations and rallies which are obviously called to draw attention to the rôle the British government has embarked on in Ireland and the terrible suffering it is causing.

Christine Maron,
Warford,
England.

Dublin ceremonies

A Chara,

The National Graves Association in Dublin are holding their annual November ceremonies this coming Sunday, November 6th, as follows:-

10.45am: Mass will be offered at St Joseph's Church, Berkeley Road, for those who died for Ireland.

11.45am: Visit to the patriots' grave, Mountjoy Prison.

12.30pm: Tribute at Pat O'Donnell's and Indian Mutineers' Cenotaph, Glasnevin Cemetery.

Sean Fitzpatrick,
NGA,
Dublin.



Milltown Cemetery

A Chara,

The committee of the National Graves Association is presently engaged in the process of covering over the graves in the new plot in Milltown Cemetery, Belfast, and would appeal to the families of the dead Volunteers interred there to remove any pots or other ornamental decorations as soon as possible, so that this work can be completed without delay.

NGA,
Belfast.

Trigger-happy

Task Force

**BURKE'S
AT THE BACK**

By Kevin Burke

THE WESTON TRIAL which has opened in the Dublin Special Court this week has revealed the Garda Task Force as not only a bunch of trigger-happy lunatics, but also, thankfully, incredibly bad shots.

Five men are charged following the garda ambush, four were wounded, two allegedly were shot whilst lying on the ground. Although the injuries were serious enough, again thankfully they were not fatal.

To achieve this, the gardai have admitted in court to have fired 185 rounds. Of the five weapons recovered at the scene, however, they have had to admit that one was not loaded and two had not been fired, but they were claiming that at least one shot had recently been fired from each of the other two guns.

The conclusions are obvious and support the claims by the defence that the gardai opened fire without warning and continued to fire even when the men realised the game was up and surrendered.

One garda witness in the court on Wednesday told how he had emptied his pistol, re-loaded and fired off all but one shot again. Asked why he had one bullet left, the disappointed Taskie replied:

"I couldn't see anyone to shoot at."

☆☆☆

Sergeant Peter Diviney of Shercock garda barracks in County Cavan is in court this week charged with the assault and false imprisonment of Peter Matthews, who died in garda custody in April 1982.

The Criminal Justice Bill, giving more extensive power of arrest, detention and interrogation to gardai, is in Leinster House again this week.

Had it been law at the time there would presumably be no grounds for charging Sergeant Diviney.

☆☆☆

Another garda in the court — this time accompanied by his wife — was Garda Thomas Quinn of Tallaght barracks. The couple face a total of ten charges relating to brothel-keeping and appeared briefly in the Dublin District Court on Tuesday this week to elect for trial by jury.

A broth of a boy is Garda Quinn; but he could yet end up in the soup.

☆☆☆

And two Brits ended up in hot water after a drinking spree in Wanchai, Hong Kong's red-light district.

Malcolm Chambers of Omagh, County Tyrone, and William Downs of Glasgow, both members of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, and carrying guns, took two policemen hostage at the island's Kai Tak Airport and closed it down for two hours before surrendering.

☆☆☆

The economies of paid perjury and the sums offered for false evidence can be balanced against the cost of keeping one prisoner behind bars in the North.

According to a British government report, it costs nearly £24,000 per prisoner per year.

The report also shows that there are now more prison staff than prisoners in the North's jails. At the end of last year, 3,000 warders were guarding 2,453 people in custody.

☆☆☆

Official Unionist MEP and Assembly member John Taylor had accepted an invitation to speak at last week's Literary and Historical Society Debate at University College Dublin, but at the last minute wrote to the organisers and withdrew.



● Belfast man Sean Stewart requests two copies of this photograph from an AP/RN cameraman as he leaves the Dublin Special Court on Wednesday where he is appearing on charges following the Task Force's trigger-happy ambush at Galen Weston's Roundwood home in August

He explained that owing to the H-Block escape, he considered it too dangerous to travel to Dublin at the present time.

☆☆☆

Among the 9,000 runners in the Dublin City Marathon on Monday this week was Gerry Small, a former republican prisoner in England, who ran to raise funds for Sinn Féin's POW Department. He completed the 26 plus miles in 3 hours 39 minutes.

It did not come as much of a surprise to spot him among the hordes as I recall he was 'on the run' for several months before his capture in England in 1974.

☆☆☆

The film entitled *The Cause of Ireland*, which the IBA cut chunks out of before it was shown on Channel 4 on October 3rd, and which provoked furious phone calls from irate unionists, won first prize at the Tyneside Film Festival for its maker Chris Reeves.

The prize was presented on Sunday, October 23rd, by Julie Christie.

The international festival is for independent

films and there were about 130 entries from all over the world. Apparently the prize — the Tyne Award — is much sought after and the festival is very prestigious.

The prize was, of course, awarded for the unexpurgated version.

☆☆☆

The recently published book by Derry's former SDLP mayor, Dr Raymond McClean, entitled *The Road to Bloody Sunday*, has apparently caused annoyance to the family of another Derry doctor, Donal McDermott, to whom McClean was assistant at the time.

Apparently, McClean, for the sake of a flowing narrative, expansively attributed to himself events which actually happened to McDermott.

In one instance McClean relates how he got a phone call from Cardinal Conway asking him to attend the Widgery Tribunal as an observer. The call was really made to McDermott.

Similarly the studies on CS gas recounted in the book were conducted by McDermott while McClean played a minor role.

The scalpels are out in Derry, alright.



WHAT'S ON

**DUBLIN CENTRAL ELECTION
FUND-RAISING SOCIAL**
Featuring Tommo
9pm Every Friday
The No. 5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Organised by Inner-City Sinn Féin

SOCIAL
Featuring Mixed Spice
Friday 4th November
Community Centre
JAMESTOWN
County Leitrim
Taille E2
Organised by Sinn Féin

PRISON PICKET
10pm Sunday 6th November
Gartree Prison
Leicester Road
MARKET HARBOROUGH
Leicestershire
Organised by Sinn Féin

**RELATIVES OF PORTLAOISE
POWS MEETING**
2pm Sunday 6th November
51/53 Falls Road
BELFAST
Organised by Sinn Féin
POW Department

**BI-MONTHLY EDUCATION
MEETING**
2pm Sunday 6th November
Gulladuff Hall
GULLADUFF
County Derry

**POPPY DAY PROTEST GROUP
PUBLIC MEETING**
(to protest against Free State army
participation in Poppy Day ceremonies)
8pm Sunday 6th November
Russell Hotel
NAVAN
County Meath

**STOP THE SHOW TRIALS
PUBLIC MEETING**
(to organise a West Belfast committee)
8pm Monday 7th November
Crescent Community Centre
St James's
BELFAST
Guest speakers

**PLAY: 'ACCIDENTAL BIRTH OF
AN ACTIVIST'**
8pm Wednesday to Friday
November 9th to 11th
LGI Arts Block
University College
Belfast
DUBLIN
Taille £2.50 (unwaged £2)

**PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND
BALLAD SESSION**
Featuring John Byrne
9pm Thursday 10th November
Upstairs Lounge
Dixon's Bar
Bridge Street
DUNDALK
County Louth

**PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND
BALLAD SESSION**
Featuring Patsy
Friday 11th November
The Traveller's Rest
Huntstown
ARDEE
County Louth
Taille £1.50

**RELEASE NICKY KELLY
SOCIAL**
8pm Saturday 12th November
Fleet Bar
Fleet Street
DUBLIN
Taille £2 (unwaged £1)
National draw will also be held

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring The Main Attraction
Friday 12th November
Hunter's Moon
ASHBOURNE
County Meath
Taille £1.50
Organised by Dunboyne Sinn Féin

EDENTUBBER COMMEMORATION
2.30pm Sunday 20th November
Border Inn
Newry Road
EDENTUBBER
County Louth
Speaker: Jim McAllister
Buses will run from the Square,
Dundalk, at 2pm

REVIEW PAGE

TV

Creeping terror

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE CREEPING TERROR was the second film in Channel Four's Saturday night series *The Worst of Hollywood*. A space-ship is stranded on earth and unleashes a monster on the unsuspecting population. The monster looks like (and actually was) a moth-eaten carpet with vacuum cleaner hoses dangling off it. It is very partial to stockings-tops. There are numerous shots of the carpet with young women's legs protruding, complete with high heeled shoes and stockings.

The film was also very heavy on 'the moral message'. The voice-over commentary spoke solemnly about marriage and the responsibilities it brings, but still lets mommy be eaten by the carpet while hanging out the baby's nappies. It eats mommy and leaves the nappies — we aren't told what happens to baby. Daddy, who is the carpet's main enemy, isn't long in getting another partner, in spite of the film's views of the sanctity of marriage.

The monster shuffles up to a 'neighbourhood hootenanny' exposing on the way about 20 pairs of feet in white runners underneath, and, for starters, eats a pair of lovers who have sneaked off into the bushes. In spite of being attacked with a

guitar, it has the whole party for the main course. Captions on the screen, accompanied by piano music, read: "Death — no more guitar music."

This film is so awful and so badly made that it is pure entertainment to the last heaving death-throes of the moth-eaten monster. Don't miss *The Wild Women of Wonga*, which is scheduled for showing in this series.

NUCLEAR FUEL

A creeping terror of a truly frightening kind was the subject of *First Tuesday*, on UTV on Tuesday. This special film report was about the world's biggest nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Cumbria on the north-west coast of England.

Called 'Britain's nuclear laundry', it handles nuclear waste from Britain, Japan and all over Europe.

The people who live near Windscale have been living in the shadow of radiation disease, and, especially among the children of the area, there is a high rate of cancer among the population.

The authorities claim that there is no danger but with millions of gallons of nuclear waste being dumped into the Irish Sea there is an obvious threat to the lives of people living on the coasts of Wales and Ireland where it is carried by the tide.

The programme produced evidence of high incidences of cancer and tests carried out on fish caught off Ireland's east coast showed massive levels of pollution from nuclear waste.

GREENHAM

The showing of this programme was particularly timely, after the events at Greenham Common where 187 of the women protestors were arrested last weekend and the threat of



them being shot if they breach the fences surrounding the site, which is being prepared for the imminent arrival of the Cruise missiles.

On Wednesday's *Breakfast Time*, on BBC1, British Labour

Party MP Harriet Harman introduced the *What's in the Papers* section and concentrated on the stockpiling of nuclear weapons and the arrests of the Greenham Common women. She contrasted the emphasis on

nuclear arms and energy with the news that some of Britain's coal mines are to be put up for sale, making the point that a natural resource was being run down while dependence on nuclear energy was being promoted.

Travels with a Yankee

BY EDDIE STACK

FILM

AMERICA is a mistake, a giant mistake! So said no less a man than Sigmund Freud, the world's most famous psychologist. If he were alive today I doubt that he would find anything different to change his mind.

This has been a big week for Mad Ronald, the man from Marlboro country. Not only has this week given him the excuse to 'pile more "peacekeeping" troops in the Lebanon — I wonder if they're keeping the pieces? — but he's also managed to have an invasion of his very own. The people of Grenada now wake to find D-Day on their doorstep, the Americans claiming to have been 'invited' in by Grenada's neighbours. Very friendly people the Americans, you must admit, you can invite them anywhere.

Americans cross the world to fight for freedom, but they wouldn't cross the street to vote in an election.

What the people do on holiday in the world's leading capitalist state is now the subject of a new film from *National Lampoon*, the comedy magazine

which seems to sell nowhere else except America. The staff of the magazine, made up of former Vietnam protestors, former drug-takers, former Beate fans and former every cause and grievance that came up in the '60s, they now earn their money lampooning the great monstrosity that is the American middle-class. And because they have sold out on their '60s idealism they know just what the middle-class is like because they are right in there with them.

MILLIONS

National Lampoon's Vacation tells the tale of Clark W. Griswold and his white family of wife and 2.4 children. They, like millions of God-fearing Americans, intend to drive across the States in their family station-wagon on a

pilgrimage to 'Wally World', a pseudo Disneyland where children will play and hop and skip and laugh until they're old enough to be drafted. The head of the family, Clark Griswold, is a vision in polyester and is a youthful model of those Americans who wander like stray elephants around your local tourist spot, holding 69 cameras and inquiring if you are their ancestor.

The drive across America is more than a means to get from A to B, it is a quest, like those wagon train drives in the previous century. The film is a spoof of that quest and of the Great American Dream, and goes out of its way to show just how awful this type of holiday really is. Here the adults are stupid and the kids are wise and mature. (During one horrible homey car singalong the kids exchange glances and then put on their Sony Walkman headphones to tune into some punk-rock leav-



● All in all, *National Lampoon's Vacation* is a good laugh for their parents to sing along dutifully.)

There is plenty of nice bad taste as well. Along the journey the Griswolds pick up a dog which they mistakenly tie to the back of the car and drive off. The dog's owner, aunt something or other, actually dies in the back seat. The Griswolds, keen not to disturb their schedule, leave her corpse outside a

house with a note to explain what happened. On this level, *National Lampoon's Vacation* is a very funny movie.

MODEL

What doesn't work so well for an Irish audience is the numerous in-jokes in the script which can only really be picked up by a real honest to goodness Yankee. For example, super

model Christie Brinkley challenges Clark Griswold to a nude swim. But Christie Brinkley is famous in America for modelling swim suits! Get it? Yes, exactly.

But all in all *National Lampoon's Vacation* is a good laugh. Let's hope they do a *National Lampoon are Invited to Grenada* and really stick the boot in.

Dílis do saíocht na nGael

LE CARRANACH

LEABHAR

LEABHAR fá shagart é seo — sagart a thug a shaoil do Chríost agus d'Eirinn, agus ba mhaith liom anseo an bhréag a thabhairt don tuairim go hÉireann frith-Ghaelach agus frith-náisiúnta ariamh anall.

Is fíor, ar ndóighe, go raibh eaglaibh ann a bhí báidhúil le Gaeiligh nó a leaghad a bhí ar nós cuma liom fá phianphás ár dtíre. Maolmhuire MacCraith, an rógáire easbaig, mar shampla a d'fheall ar Chríost agus ar Éirinn; an tAthair Ó Dónaill a thréig a chraideamh agus a d'íompaigh ina mhinistir; agus an t-easbaig a dúirt, máis fíor, nach raibh Éireann te go leor, ná an tsíoraíocht fada go leor leis na Finíní a phionósú.

Ach ina dhiaidh sin is uile ba bheag a líon; ba mhó ar fad an méid sagart a bhí dílis do Róisín Dubh agus a d'obair go dícheallach a son agus a d'fhulaing a lán ar mhaith léi. Sagart a bhí i Seathrún Céitinn a scríobh *Foras Fessa ar Eirinn*. Bhí Sean MacÉil (Leon Theabhláid) ina ard-easbaig i dTuairim na Gaillimhe.

Throid sé go cróga ar son na Gaeilge agus scríobh sé agus d'aistrigh sé é lán.

Fíú amháin go dtí an lá atá inniu ann, tá sagartí Ghaelacha ag saothrú ar son saíocht na nGaeil. An Cairdinéal Tomás Ó Fiaich, Comharba Phadráig, atá i dtóilamh reidh le cuidiú le cúis na Gaeilge. An tAthair Pádraig Ó Dónaill C. S. R., an tAthair Breandán MacMaoilín agus na céadta eile.

COMAOIN

Ach is ar an tAthair Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh a tharraing mé mo scéal, agus tá Gaeil Chúige Uladh faoi chomhaoin go mór ag an tAthair Anraí MacGiolla Chonhail — sagart Gaeilch eile — a chuir an leabhar suiméil seo Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh — *Sagart agus Scoláire* ar fáil, ina bhfuil cur síos ar shaoil agus ar

shaothar an Athair Lorcán nó 'Muireadhaigh Méith' mar a thug sé féin air. Comhathas Uladh a d'fhoilsigh an leabhar.

Casadh orm é cúpla uair sna triocháid' liom nach raibh ionam ach stóic agus ach mórán Gaeilge agam an uair úd agus caithfidh mé a admháil nach raibh dúil agam ann. Chonaithas domh gur duine borb garbh a bhí ann ach ní bhfuair mé amach go dtí blianta ina dhiaidh sin cad í ba chúis lena bhoirbe agus lena gairbhige, agus sin nuair a léigh mé *Saoi Corrach* le Seamas Ó Grianna.

TEAGASC

Tá caibidil sa leabhar ina dráchtann 'Máire' ar theagmháil a bhí aige le Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh in Ó Máith. Bhí meas mór ag Mac Uí Ghihrnna ar lírthocht Bháirle na hÉireann go mór mór ar na leabhair scríobh An Canóich Ó Siócháin agus ar *Irisleabhar* Príosúin



an Mhisteáiligh ach is é a dúirt An Sagart Ó Muireadhaigh: "Is mór mo mheas ar Mhisteáil agus ba fíor a ghoillfeadh sé orm dá ligf a shoiscéal agus a ainm chun dearmad. Ach dá fheabhas an Jail Journal b'fhearr liom Beatha Choluim Gille ná é. B'fhearr liom Dia lúibh a Laochra Gael ná an méid Fontenoy is Clare's Dragons a cumadh ariamh, agus b'fhearr liom Éimhear ag caoiniadh Chdúchlainn ná lasta loinge de bhuinneala cianacha ag criongan i nglórtha coimhthíocha."

"She is far from the land where her young hero sleeps"

● An tAthair Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh agus a charr i dtír Chonail sna triocháid'

"And lovers around her are sighing." Mhíadhaigh sin mo mheas ar Lorcán Ó Muireadhaigh. Duine

de Gaeil mhóra ár linne é a theagasc agus a spreag na mílte. Is fiú go mór an leabhar seo a léamh agus a athlámh.

Sectarian murder on Shore Road

BY EAMONN TRACY

A 26-YEAR-OLD North Belfast man, David Nocher, was shot dead outside the butcher's shop where he worked, on Saturday, October 30th, by two armed men, in what appears to be a blatant sectarian attack.

Nocher, who was married with three young children and lived in the nationalist Bawnmore estate, was an active member of the Workers' Party and a former Long Kesh prisoner.

On Saturday morning, around

9.15am, he was outside the shop, at the junction of the Mill and Shore Roads, cleaning the window. Two loyalist assassins approached on foot and their victim, apparently spotting them, attempted to run off. At least four shots were fired,

hitting David Nocher several times as he tried vainly to hide behind a parked meat delivery van. He died instantly.

Several customers who were in the shop at the time jumped for cover and a 15-year-old girl, the daughter of the owner of the shop, had a lucky escape when a stray bullet grazed her neck as she cleaned the inside of the window.



● Scene of the sectarian murder of David Nocher



● JIM McALLISTER

McAllister arrested

THE RUC in Crossmaglen, South Armagh, arrested and assaulted Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllister last Thursday, October 26th, following an IRA bomb attack in the village the previous day.

Crossmaglen was virtually sealed off for 24 hours after the explosion as a futile search was carried out of the immediate countryside. The next morning, McAllister was leaving his mother's house in the town's square, having called there en route to the Sinn Féin constituency office nearby, when he was ordered back inside by an RUC man.

When McAllister refused to obey, three RUC men grabbed him twisting both his arms up his back, tearing buttons off his shirt and catching him around the throat.

They then frog-marched him across the square into Crossmaglen Barracks.

An RUC man told him he was being arrested for assaulting one of their men, when in fact the reverse had occurred, and another RUC man sarcastically told him that he was being arrested for his own personal safety which, from McAllister's point of view was — to say the least under the circumstances — a bit hard to swallow.

Jim McAllister was released almost an hour later, having refused to be fingerprinted, and was warned that assault charges would be referred to 'higher authorities'. Later that evening, when he returned home, one of his front teeth, which had taken the full force of an RUC man's fist during his arrest, fell out as he was eating dinner.

Couple terrorised by Brit/RUC raiders

BY AINE MOORE

A FERMANAGH couple were assaulted and terrorised in their home by British soldiers and members of the RUC's mobile support unit over a seven-hour period on Wednesday last week, October 26th.

The large raiding party — some in riot gear — arrived at the secluded farmhouse home of Paddy and Claire Foster near Lisnaskea at 8am and told them they were going to search it. Claire Foster immediately phoned her solicitor and as she did so the RUC broke down the front door. Seeing her on the phone, they

hit her in the face, banging her head off the wall behind her and leaving her shocked and dazed.

When she attempted to accompany British soldiers searching upstairs she was pushed into a ground-floor room. Her husband, going to her assistance, was knocked to the floor and kicked by several RUC

men who then dragged him by the heels into the same room. There they held him upside down, kicked him several times and bated him.

Throughout the siege Claire Foster was repeatedly abused verbally by an RUC woman named June Crampton.

The couple's solicitor, a doctor, and a local newspaper reporter and a local councillor who arrived on the scene were blocked at the lane leading to the Foster home and only got access at 1pm. The raiding party eventually left two hours later.



● CLAIRE AND PADDY FOSTER

Lisnaskea assault victim

BY AINE MOORE

A LISNASKEA man, Desmond Monaghan, was admitted to the Erne Hospital in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, in the early hours of Sunday morning, October 30th, and received 17 stitches to head wounds sustained as a result of a savage assault by RUC men.

The RUC were harassing youths outside a chip shop in Lisnaskea's Main Street and had arrested several of them when Desmond Monaghan, leaving the shop with his wife, objected to the rough handling

the youths were getting and called to the RUC: "Leave the young people alone."

He was immediately attacked by several RUC men who rained baton blows to his head. When the RUC

realised the extent of Monaghan's injuries they released the youths and left.

Desmond Monaghan has lodged official complaints and is taking legal action against the RUC, who have since visited him and threatened that he might be charged with assaulting an RUC man and damaging the windscreen of an RUC car (which, according to eyewitnesses, was smashed by a poorly-aimed baton blow during the assault).