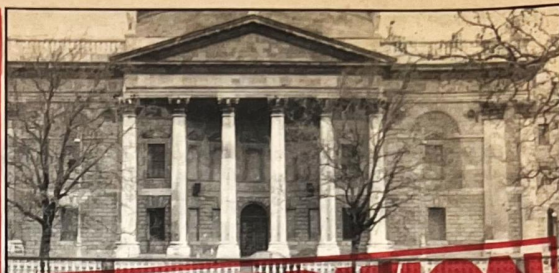


AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



EXTRADITION

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— THE ULTIMATE
COLLABORATION
— SEE CENTRE PAGES

THE SECRECY surrounding the visit of Northern direct-ruler James Prior to Dublin, for talks with the Coalition Minister for Justice, Michael Noonan, cannot hope to hide an all-too-obvious fact of Dublin government policy with regard to the North.

The Dublin government has totally and absolutely surrendered itself — without any of the traditional face-saving pretence — to be a willing, abject tool of British military and political strategy in Ireland.

For the first time ever, a Dublin Minister for Justice met with a Northern direct-ruler alone — to discuss one topic only: joint repression — without any of the usual accompanying ministers of other departments to make the point that Dublin is supposed to be looking for a political, as well as a military, solution.

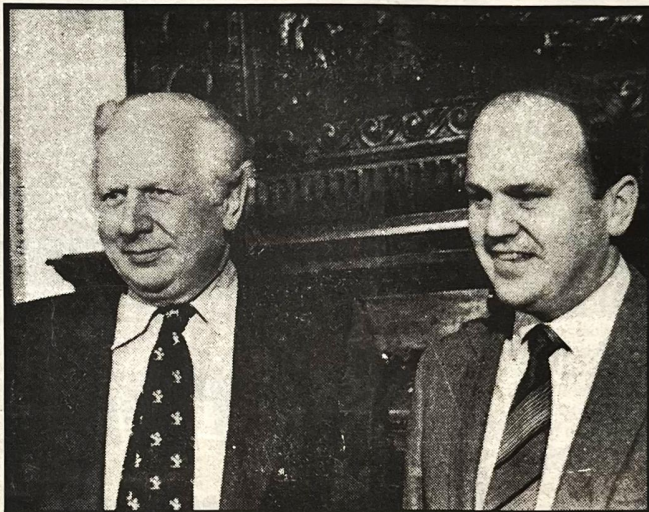
The lesson is plain to be seen: secrecy or not, the Coalition, uncertain and unsure of how to repress republicans in the South, is going to be 'guided' by the Kitsonian strategists in London, and, in the circumstances, cannot face the supercilious British scorn which would greet their pretences at the political suggestions which usually accompany these sessions.

USED

By meeting Prior this week, solely on the subject of repression, Michael Noonan has allowed himself to be used as part of the Prior/Hermon meetings with the unionists on 'security', the purpose of which is to woo the Official Unionists back into the Stormont Assembly and thus save it from immediate oblivion.

Dublin is therefore lending itself to the rescue of an assembly which the total nationalist population of the North — whether Sinn Féin or SDLP — has totally shunned and rejected.

The other obvious part of the meeting — and obvious because Noonan and other Fine Gael ministers have been saying it publicly for the last few weeks — was the even greater forging of collaborative links on the ground in the extremely de-



PRIOR'S PUPPET

tailed exchange of information between Free State and crown forces about the movements of republicans on either side of the border.

INTELLIGENCE

This further step-up in the exchange of intelligence comes, let us remember, at a time when the involvement of those crown forces

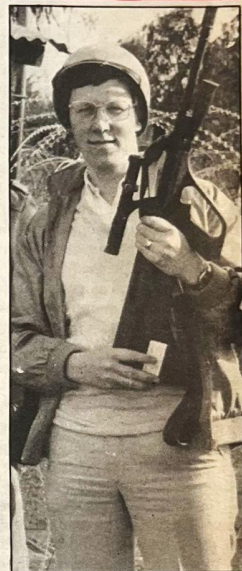
in sectarian murder has been exposed more clearly than ever.

And we might note also that the meeting between Prior and Noonan which discussed this targeting of republicans, on Tuesday, January 10th, took place nine years to the very day of the death of a Lurgan man named John Francis

Green.

On January 10th 1975, an SAS gang, which included Captain Robert Nairac, crossed the border and murdered John Francis Green in a house in County Monaghan.

Is that the kind of solution which Prior and his puppet are keeping such a secret?



DUP in Israel

SEE PAGE 3



Datsun driven to negotiate

SEE
PAGE
FOUR

OPINION

A touch of reality

RTE's *Today Tonight* current affairs programme, not satisfied with Section 31 perhaps, has proven to be a regular vehicle for the most vicious anti-republican propaganda and the total distortion of the Northern situation.

Its programme on Tuesday night of this week, on Ballinamore, obviously set out to be more of the same, but fell down in the face of the reality of the sound nationalist spirit of those it sought to use.

It also gave some clues to the Coalition government's hesitancy to launch an all-out attack on republicanism in the twenty-six counties. And, inevitably, it has caused protests from those who shun reality at all costs.

One of the first things it established was the operational skills of the IRA unit involved in the operation, as opposed to the apparent chaos of the Free State forces involved — a grave embarrassment.

It also exploded many of the lies put out by official garda and government spokespersons at the time and repeated so willingly by the media.

But perhaps most significantly of all, it showed ordinary people, some even from the main political parties, steadfastly refusing to join in the empty one-sided condemnation of violence that the establishment demands — and also making it clear that 'turning informer' is as alien to the Irish conscience as it has ever been.

The faces of those who refused to comply with the RTE reporter's demands were clear enough evidence that it was not intimidation that was influencing their opinions.

This understanding of the real situation in the North, which is so obvious in border counties, is certainly not confined there, and is strengthened in counties at the other end of the island by the clear popular memory of Black and Tan atrocities (and indeed Free State ones) which are inseparable from today's struggle.

But not only should this reality serve as a warning to Free State governments, however anxious they are to repress republicans and collaborate with Britain, it should also serve as an encouragement and source of confidence to all those, nationalists and republicans, who have not lost faith in Ireland's spirit of freedom.

Allagar an bháis

ÁBHAR inní do mhuintir uile an domhain seasamh Ronald Reagan, uachtarán Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá (SAM) i gcúrsaí eachtracha nach mbaineann lena thír féin. Seabhach is ea é atá ag tabhairt an domhan níos cóngaraí do bhrúach a scríosta. Ait ar bith inar sháigh sé a ladhar is chun donasa a chuaigh an scéal.

Ina thír féin tá sé léirithe go bhfuil bochtaineacht forleathan agus go bhfuil ocras ar mhórán daoine. Mar sin féin tá na milliúin punt á chaitheamh aici ar airm agus ar thacaíocht do rialtais brúidiúla ar fud an domhain.

De réir na figiúirí is déanaí tá ocht arm eithneach á dhéanamh i SAM ar gach lá oibre. Tá armáil ar siúl acu de shíor cé go bhfuil an cumas acu an domhan a scríos cheana féin. An buama is mó atá acu tá sé céad uaire níos láidre ná an buama a leagadh ar Hiroshima.

I Meiriceá Láir tá Reagan ag tabhairt tacaíochta dos na fórsaí atá ag iarraidh an rialtas a bhriseadh i Nicearagua. 'Siad sin na daoine ceannann céanna a choimeád pobal Nicearagua beo bocht a fhad is a déirigh siad féin saibhir. Tá tacaíocht an phobail ag an rialtas anois ach is cuma sin le Reagan. Tá an CIA ag déanamh a ndícheall deireadh a chur leis an rialtas toisc go bhfuil sé sóisialach.

Tá an rialtas fuilteach in El Salvador á choimeád i gcumhacht le cabhair Reagan in ainneoin toil mhuintir na tíre sin. Níor dhein Reagan iarraidh ar bith cosc a chur le gníomhachta na díormaí báis atá ag marú duine ar bith a meastar a bheith in éadan an rialtais.

Tháispéan Reagan a mheas ar shaoirse agus ar fhlaithéis tíre eile nuair a ghabh sé Grenada. Ní raib ceart ar bith nó ní bheid ceart ar bith ag SAM a bheith sin oileán sin.

Ach, léirigh an gníomh sin dearcach Reagan níos fearr ná míle focal. Creideann sé go bhfuil an ceart ag SAM iadhar a shá isteach i ngnóthaí innéachacha tír ar bith má mheasann sé go bhfuil gá leis sin. Sin an dainséar.

Cheana féin tá páirt níos mó agus níos mó á ghlacadh aici sa Lioabáin. Ní chun leasa na tíre sin SAM a bheith sínte ann.

Níl le cloistóid ó Reagan ach allagar an bháis. Ní spreagann sin dóchas ar bith gur féidir teacht ar réiteach ar bith ar mhórfhadhbanna an domhain. Ní thiochfaidh teabhas ar bith go dtí go mbeidh SAM sásta cearta tíortha eile a aithint.

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



● The latest appointee to the colonial judiciary, Robert Carswell (inset), was badly shaken by an IRA attack before even officially taking up his duties

Wide range of targets

WITH the New Year barely two weeks old, IRA attacks in the North have continued to hit hard at a wide range of targets, leaving one RUC man dead, several more injured, thousands of pounds worth of damage to business premises and the Northern judiciary badly shaken after an unsuccessful attack on a newly appointed judge.

In Belfast, on Thursday, January 5th, a newly appointed judge to the North's colonial judiciary, was the target of an unsuccessful bomb attack. Robert Carswell's appointment to the bench had been publicly announced the previous weekend and yet the RUC had failed to provide the normal bodyguard because Carswell was not to be sworn in until Friday, January 6th. In the intervening period, just the day before the swearing-in ceremony was due to take place, the IRA's Belfast Brigade placed an explosive device under Carswell's BMW car in the driveway of his home in Massey Avenue, only yards from the heavily guarded Stormont parliament buildings.

Carswell spotted the bomb as he was leaving for work and eventually, after several hours, it was defused by a controlled explosion.

CITY CENTRE BOMBS

The same evening, the IRA's Belfast Brigade claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on the Haymarket Arcade, off Royal Avenue, which destroyed a jeweller's shop and damaged several others, and a series of hoax calls which paralysed commercial life in the city centre. A second bomb outside a carpet wholesalers in King Street

was eventually defused after many hours.

RUC INJURED IN DERRY

Shortly after 7.30am on Monday morning, January 9th, the IRA's Derry Brigade detonated a concealed bomb which injured two members of the RUC.

The bomb had been hidden behind a wooden hoarding at the front of a disused building in Shipquay Street, near Derry's city centre. In a supplied statement, Derry Brigade said:

"Late on Sunday night, one

Black propaganda

IN A statement issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin, the IRA has rejected a 'black propaganda' story from the West German police.

The statement says:

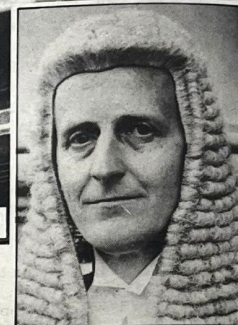
"The Irish Republican Army denies the black propaganda story from police sources in West Germany that we are linked to any armed group in Germany or that we would support attacks on United States personnel stationed there."

"The Irish Republican Army views the timing of this scare story as being connected with the increasing concern shown by US politicians about British repression in Ireland."

Kneecapping denial

THE IRA in South Down has denied any involvement in a recent kneecapping in Newry. In a statement, they say:

"A number of weeks ago, a 14-year-old boy was kneecapped in Newry. During the past week, rumours have been circulating that he was kneecapped by the IRA. The South Down Command IRA wish it to be known that the IRA was in no way involved in this incident."



of our units placed a mine containing 20lbs of gelignite between wooden hoardings in Shipquay Street. The unit engineer connected a detonator which ran to a vantage point in Magazine Street. The unit remained within the city walls throughout the night before detonating the mine at approximately 7.30am.

"The early days of 1984 have seen the concentration of IRA operations in Derry city. This particular attack in the heart of the city centre demonstrates the ingenuity and courage of our Volunteers, emphasising once again that there are no safe areas for British occupation forces."

On Wednesday, January 11th, IRA Volunteers from the South Down Command ambushed and killed an RUC Reservist as he drove along the Warrenpoint Road about one mile from Newry town centre.

The RUC man had just left the RUC barracks at Warrenpoint, where he was permanently based, and was driving to Newry when attacked.

In a previous unreported attack, on Saturday evening, December 31st, Volunteers from the South Down Command threw a hand grenade at an RUC patrol in Marcus Street in Newry. One RUC man received a leg wound in the attack.

LANDMINE IN TYRONE

Two RUC men narrowly escaped death on Wednesday morning, January 11th, when Volunteers of the IRA's Tyrone Brigade exploded a landmine under their armoured vehicle.

The attack took place shortly after midnight on a narrow road between Plumbridge and Donemana. The landmine was concealed in a culvert under the road and detonated by a command wire from nearby fields.

The blast left a ten-foot crater in the road and uprooted a number of trees, and it is believed that what saved the RUC members was the high speed at which they were travelling — their car was only thrown into the side of the road, and although it was wrecked they escaped with minor injuries.

Hermion enlisted in salvage operation

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

A MEETING with the chief of the RUC has been used as bait by British direct-ruler James Prior to try and lure the Official Unionist Party back into the Assembly — which it left on November 21st.

On Tuesday, January 3rd, it was revealed that after more than two years of refusing to meet party leaders personally the RUC chief constable, Sir John Hermion, had finally met with OUP leaders to 'discuss security'. The meeting was overtly managed by the RUC's whitewash body, the Police Authority, which announced its intention to hold similar meetings with the Democratic Unionist Party, the Alliance Party, the SDLP and the Workers Party.

Two days after that meeting, which was seen by the OUP as a vindication of their Assembly boycott tactics, Prior himself met a joint delegation of the OUP and DUP, who announced afterwards that they had, again, been 'discussing security'.

And on January 6th, Prior met the Alliance Party leader, in order to try and show that, far from attempting to woo the OUP back to Stormont, he was only holding a series of talks with party leaders. The Alliance leader, Oliver Napier, inci-

dentally, used the meeting to beg Prior not to close the Assembly, such is Alliance's fear to lose their only public forum and the ten cushy salaries that go with it.

Hermion's decision to speak to the party leaders cannot have been arrived at without a lot of pressure — mostly from Prior, who is desperate to salvage the wreck of his Assembly. But pressure also came from within the RUC, and consequently from the unionist establishment, furious at the recent arrests and charges of RUC and UDR personnel and enraged at the IRA's continued ability to strike where and when it chooses at military and economic targets.

PRESSURE

Under pressure too was the SDLP. At a time when the Free State parties it associates with — Fianna Fail and the Coalition — are toying with ideas such as proscription, internment and increased powers for the gardai, the SDLP was forced to publicly refuse to meet with the RUC chief constable. The electoral threat posed by Sinn Féin means that the SDLP cannot afford further alienation from nationalist voters,



● DUP gunman Peter Robinson with William McCrea and Jim Allister in Israel



● RUC CHIEF JOHN HERMION

and a chat with John Hermion would have done just that.

However, given the political climate in Dublin at present, the SDLP could not argue that they did not wish to give the RUC any ill-deserved credibility. Instead, SDLP leader John Hume made the feeble excuse that the SDLP would not see Hermion because it refused to lend itself to a manoeuvre aimed at ending the OUP's boycott of the Assembly.

The Workers Party, which has no electoral credibility anyway, announced on Tuesday this week that it would be meeting Hermion. Its Northern chairperson, Seamus Lynch, explained:

"We see policing as a very important service for this community."

Following the Workers Party collaboration in the British government-inspired *World in Action* attack on Gerry Adams on December 19th, their latest involvement came as no surprise and they obviously assess their rewards in other than electoral terms.

ISRAEL

Meanwhile, a delegation of five DUP members who flew back from Israel last Sunday had revealed its masterplan to beat the IRA: more 'clout' and an electric fence along the border ...

The DUP members, who claim to have had 'high-level talks' with 'experts', were obviously impressed by the Israeli military machine. Which suffers most under the comparison, Israel or the six-county state, is debatable, but the idea of an electric fence along the border reveals in both states a similar siege mentality born of colonial rule under threat.

FORUM: The SDLP's nightmare

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

AS IT re-assembles this week, on Thursday, January 12th, after its Christmas recess, the Forum at Dublin Castle is entering its last and most controversial phase.

Its business so far — producing financial reports, assessing the 'cost of violence', hearing lengthy submissions from obscure Presbyterian ministers on the unionist ethos — involved uncontroversial tasks and benign occasions when words such as 'understanding', 'compromise' and 'reconciliation' were used by the sackful.

But the actual purpose of the Forum, which is to produce a 'blueprint for a new Ireland', constitutional settlement and all, has yet to be touched on. By March of this year, a report must be produced which will be a credible compromise between the views of Fine Gael, Labour, Fianna Fail and the SDLP. If a clear blueprint is not produced, the Forum will be deemed a failure and this will be fatal to the SDLP's dwindling credibility in the six counties.

So close to the EEC elections, Hume's party is beginning to fret, as illustrated by the motions proposed by different branches to its coming annual conference begging all concerned to please come to an agreement.

DIFFERENCES

As early as May 30th last year, on the Forum's opening day, dif-

ferences between the approaches of the Free State parties emerged clearly in their leaders' addresses. FitzGerald stressed 'reconciliation' in the North as a prerequisite for peace. Spring was more concerned with church/state relations in the South, an incidental inducement to Northern unionists. Haughey, faithful to his verbal republican stance, advocated a united Ireland or nothing.

Those political differences are bound to resurface now, exacerbated by Free State internal politics. The SDLP is the only party whose very survival depends on the Forum report. The other three, united only by their fear of Sinn Féin, and presently resolved to tackle Sinn Féin by courts and jails rather than the ballot box, may feel free to use the Forum as a platform for their own political interests.

Furthermore, the report must



● Even the Forum's opening day, May 30th last year, showed differences in the parties' approaches

also be acceptable to Northern nationalists since they are the group that SDLP voters are drawn from. Most of them know the six counties to be irreformable and would therefore see FitzGerald's federation of the six and twenty-six counties as a mere continuation of unionist rule under another name.

A third option, 'joint sovereignty', has also appeared in newspaper columns. What is meant is joint administration of the six counties by London and Dublin — presumably with nationalist areas

under the Free State Task Force. 'Joint sovereignty' is the ultimate sanitary cord and seems to involve mostly Britain and the Free State insulating themselves from the fall-outs of 'the Troubles', with Dublin meeting the cost of repression and upkeep of the border. This would probably be the Brits' favourite option but is unlikely to be retained due to it not being in the SDLP's immediate interest.

DILEMMA

The Forum is therefore faced with a dilemma: the unitary option — favoured by Fine Gael, Labour and the SDLP

as Seamus Mallon, and a few Fine Gaelers such as Peter Barry — would probably suit the SDLP best as being the easiest to sell to the Northern nationalist electorate. But it is also the option most likely to cause hostile reactions from the unionists and the British government.

The gradual approach to a federation, favoured by FitzGerald and most of Fine Gael, the Labour Party and people like Hume, would probably be more acceptable to the Brits, and therefore, Hume might argue, more achievable. But it may lead to the Forum breaking down into arguments and this would be fatal for the SDLP.

BY JACK MADDEN

MORALE is high amongst the 28 workers occupying the Datsun motor assembly plant on Dublin's Naas Road. Since December 15th they have prevented the removal of assets valued at up to £3 million, and, with the co-operation of trade unionists in Irish ports, they have prevented the importation of any Datsun cars.

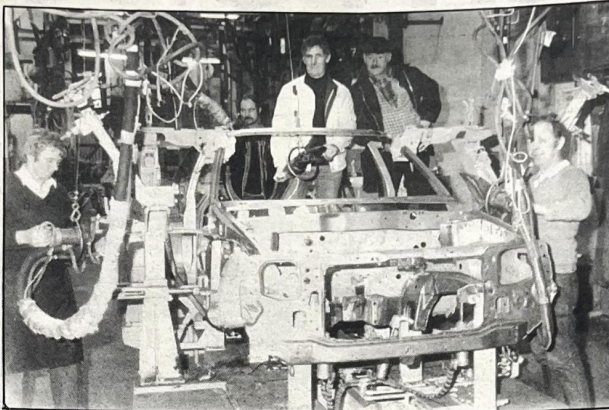
In March last, the Datsun company decided to cease car assembly in Ireland, opting instead to import all cars directly from Japan. A total of 213 workers were affected by this decision but the temptation of a redundancy settlement persuaded most to accept the company's terms.

A smaller group of 29 workers, one of whom subsequently died, refused all cash offers, arguing that jobs were more important. At this stage the managing director of Datsun (Ire), Gerard O'Toole, placed a number of options before the 29 workers. Firstly, they could accept a more 'generous' redundancy settlement; secondly, they could have a lump sum which would enable them to establish a co-op; or, thirdly, they could remain with Datsun but diversify into PDI (correcting damage caused during the shipment of imported Datsun cars).

DIVERSIFY

The proposal to establish a co-op, which would also have to diversify from car assembly into PDI, had obvious attractions, but while Datsun was prepared to sign a two-year contract with such a co-op, the workers would have to find their own way after that and would have the added difficulty of find-

Datsun driven to negotiate



● Morale amongst Datsun workers occupying their struggle will win them an acceptable settlement

ing new premises and investing £4,000 each.

But before this or either of the other options could be properly considered, they were withdrawn by O'Toole, who told the workers, after only three hours, that he had run

out of time and that they were sacked from December 15th.

An immediate occupation of the factory effectively prevented the removal of both car parts and those vehicles almost com-

pleted on the assembly line, but the occupation only became really effective when Datsun attempted to import three shiploads of cars through Belfast port.

BLACKED

In Belfast, the transport union blacked the cargo and, after docking in Belfast harbour over Christmas, the ships were eventually forced away from Ireland.

"Even had they attempted to use another port, they wouldn't have got in because they are blacked throughout the country," said Terry Bolger, a member of the union branch committee and one of those occupying the plant. He added:

"Without the blacking, Datsun would have let us rot here, but when the cars couldn't be imported O'Toole initiated a meeting and agreed to put the three options back on the negotiating table."

A feasibility study has now been commissioned by the workers' union, the ATGWU, to determine whether a co-operative could be viable; the results of this study are expected this week.

Dismissing the first option, a redundancy package, Terry Bolger added:

"When a settlement is reached, it will be on the basis of one of the two remaining options and we are very confident that a settlement will be reached."

ABUSE OF ACE WORKERS

BY AINE MOORE

IN JULY 1983, Owen Carron described the working conditions at the Marble Arch Show Caves at Florencecourt, County Fermanagh, as "reminiscent of the coal mines in Victorian England".

At that time, ten ITGWU members were on strike at the caves, demanding better pay, better working conditions and the reinstatement of a deputy shop steward who had been arbitrarily dismissed.

Fermanagh Sinn Féin supported the strike and also protested at the misuse of workers employed under the Action for Community Employment (ACE) scheme in a project like Marble Arch.

Now Fermanagh District Council has called for the withdrawal of ACE workers on the grounds that the Department of Economic Development has refused to ex-

tend the workers' contracts for a second year. In effect, the scheme has been a source of cheap labour on a short-term basis.

Workers employed under an ACE scheme are supposed to provide a community service not otherwise available; in contrast, the project at Marble Arch is a major building and engineering programme costing £500,000 and is funded by the EEC Regional Development Fund. Instead of the workers getting a decent wage that reflects the difficult working conditions, mostly underground and in water, the ACE workers receive a paltry £55 each, inclusive of a £10 supplement.

Only two members of the workforce, McGrath and Roche, are considered 'key workers' and so merit an extension of their contracts for three years — McGrath and Roche also happen to be the only two non-union members employed.

The high unemployment rate in Fermanagh, over 26%, seems to be viewed by Fermanagh District Council as an opportunity to use slave labour.

In another incident, ACE workers refused to collect litter because this would undermine Fermanagh District Council's own workers employed in the Technical Services Department.

Fermanagh Sinn Féin has said that it will continue its support for the workers at Marble Arch and demands an end to the abuse of ACE workers by Fermanagh District Council.

Fermanagh District Council MARBLE ARCH SHOW CAVES

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
THIS PROJECT IS BEING ASSISTED BY THE
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



NO ADMISSION
TO THE PUBLIC

Youth training scandal

BY JANE PLUNKETT

APPALLING working conditions and autocratic management practices at a West Belfast Youth Training Scheme finally resulted this week in a strike by 13 supervisors of the scheme and the apparent victimisation of three trainees.

Teachers at the Scala Community Workshop on Springfield Road, who are members of the ATGWU, went on strike on Monday after they were stopped a half-day's pay for refusing, in line with factory legislation, to work in unheated premises on a day when there was snow on the ground.

On Wednesday afternoon, the in-transigent manager of the workshop had still refused to back down, despite the evident justice of the supervisors' case. Talks were in progress with the unions' representatives and the management committee.

The dispute has brought into the open many longstanding grievances which affect both supervisors and trainees. The heating system does not work in several workshops in the old building, which is infested with mice, the

flooring is inadequate, and the dilapidated roof lets in water.

The supervisors say that until the strike they had never met the management committee and they are highly critical of the high-handed and authoritarian methods of the scheme's manager, a local man called Joe McCann. According to a spokesperson for the strikers, who declined to be named for fear of victimisation:

"We are never consulted by the manager, he makes all the decisions by himself. His high-handed attitude has led to this dispute."

ENTITLED

The 60 trainees at Scala, who as YTP trainees are entitled to a mere £25 per week, frequently bear the brunt of McCann's authoritarianism. Draconian punishments for minor time-keeping infringements mean that, according to



supervisors, many trainees 'very regularly' would be left in a week with only what they are entitled to on social security.

According to 17-year-old trainee Hugh Quinn, from the Markets area:

"You clock in ten minutes late and you lose half a day's pay. Before Christmas I arranged to take half a day off to go shopping with my girlfriend, but I was stopped a whole day's pay."

PICKET

On Tuesday morning the trainees refused to cross the supervisors' picket

line but were eventually forced to go to work under threat of losing a day's pay. Nevertheless, McCann, apparently breaking an earlier agreement, refused to pay the trainees, and after Quinn and Harte, who in the past have acted as spokespersons for the youth, protested at McCann's decision, all three were summarily suspended.

Soon afterwards, two other trainees, Thomas O'Callaghan and Pat Wilson, also aged 17, were suspended, but they were reinstated on Wednesday after representations from West Belfast MP Gerry Adams.

Nevertheless, McCann, who apparently has no authority to dismiss trainees, juggled with words and insisted that the other three were 'suspended indefinitely'. All three intend to appeal against their dismissal to the YTP administration at Gloucester House.

Condemning the treatment of youth trainees at Scala as 'scandalous', a spokesperson for the local Clonard/Clonagh Sinn Féin cumann, Eamonn O'Doherty, urged youths working on YTP schemes to organise themselves to approach trade unions or Sinn Féin for advice and support.

MARCH FOR JOBS



A PRE-BUDGET campaign against rising unemployment is planned by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) who, in a memo to trades councils throughout the twenty-six counties, have called for a work-stoppage and demonstrations on Friday, January 20th.

With unemployment levels reaching an all-time high this week — officially 208,041 — the need for a vigorous campaign is obvious and, according to leading trade unionist Des Bonass, one of the demonstration organisers, unemployment rather than taxation will be the major issue facing the general public this year.

Admitting that last October's campaign launched by the Dublin Council of Trade Unions (DCTU), to mobilise shop stewards and workers on the factory-floor on the issue of unemployment, was slow in building up, Bonass added that this campaign would continue.

The ICTU had originally hoped to begin a week-long series of protests and work-stoppages, culminating in a general shut-down on January 20th, but it was then realised that if the initial protests proved unsuccessful this might hinder the final big protest.

In previous unemployment demonstrations up to 20,000 people have marched, but this has been a far cry from the hundreds of thousands who took to the streets to protest against inequities in the taxation system. Union leaders are, however, confident that the rising



•DES BONASS

level of public awareness on the unemployment issue will significantly increase numbers at next Friday's demonstration.

With the Budget proposals already formulated by the Coalition government, Friday's work-stoppage and march, which will assemble in Parnell Square at 1pm, will have to be a huge success if they are to have any prospect of altering the severe economic measures which Garret Fitzgerald has ominously promised, and a long-term campaign has to be undertaken to avoid such marches becoming an annual letting-off of steam.

Lear Fan to crash?

DOLE QUEUES have increased again in the six counties as fear grows that the American aircraft manufacturer Lear Fan, which came to Newtownabbey in 1980, may turn out to be yet another white elephant — in the Strathern Audio and De Lorean mould.

Lear Fan was attracted to the six counties by low wages, weak trade unions and offers of government grants. It has received, so far, £50 million in public money for a so-called 'revolutionary product', a carbon-fibre aeroplane, for which all airworthiness tests have failed so far.

In spite of rumours last May that Lear Fan was look-

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

ing for another site to expand its production, and its 530-strong workforce, the company not only did not expand but it has just announced that it is going to make 91 people redundant because of a 'cash-flow problem' which is due to the delay in the prototype



• Despite claims that the Lear Fan plane (inset) will be a success, earlier predictions of an increased workforce, and the investment of public money, the future of Lear Fan workers is less than air-tight tests.

Meanwhile, according to the artificially reduced figures published by the British gov-

ernment, the jobless total in the six counties has reached 118,430, or 21% of the total working population.

Among the worst hit areas, all the towns west of the Bann and those with the highest proportion of nation-

lists: Strabane now has more than 40% unemployed, Cookstown 36.2% and Newry 33.1%.

EEC HOUSING BLUFF

BY FAMON TRACY

THE financial package promised by the EEC for 'urban renewal', firstly last June and then again on Tuesday of this week, will not include house-building programmes, despite assurances from Geoffrey Martin, head of Belfast's EEC office, that the first cash instalment of £18.7 million "will mean the construction of 750 new homes in the city, houses that would not have been built if the EEC aid had not been paid".

In fact, no definite proposals have been advanced by the Department of the Environment (DOE) as to what the money will be spent on, but the EEC Commission has already decided that it cannot be used to build houses, since this would break its own rules.

Although EEC Commissioner Richard Burke

told a meeting of Belfast City Council on Monday last that any money advanced by the EEC would have to be matched by expenditure by the British government, and that such expenditure would have to be proven, the reality is that the British government will simply use EEC money for any spending without paying its share.

As Alex Maskey, a Sinn Féin councillor in Belfast, pointed out:

"In the past, EEC grants to the North, which since 1973 have amounted to more than £360 million, have been used by successive British governments as part of their normal expenditure and not as additional funding as they are intended to be."

PLEDGES

Despite the pledges of Richard Burke, or those of Geoffrey Martin, 'who last year' in-

sisted that the EEC money would not be stolen by the British exchequer, the British government has had plenty of advance warning of the EEC funding to cut back on any spending it might have planned, knowing that these plans could be implemented later, with the EEC bearing the financial burden.

The EEC funding, which totals £60 million, the first instalment of which is £18.7 million, will be used to bolster the six-county statelet in that a large part of the money will, according to Richard Burke, be spent "in measures planned to provide for the supply of Kinsale gas to Belfast under the recent agreement between the British and Irish governments".

As with most EEC subsidies and grants, the monies being given to Belfast will simply be used to cover the cracks behind which the poverty and neglect of Belfast people will remain.



•GEOFFREY MARTIN

CLONDALKIN EVICTION

BY JACK MADDEN

AN EVICTED family from Clondalkin, County Dublin, cannot hope to be rehoused for at least another month and no temporary accommodation can be given them, according to a spokesperson from Dublin County Council. Now the family, living in a makeshift tent, have learned from authorities at Crumlin Children's Hospital that their two-month old child cannot be released from hospital care until they get suitable accommodation.

The nightmare battle to win a home began for Patrick and Ann Geraghty in 1982 when they had no alternative but to move into an old caravan on the side of the road. Here they lived for seven months, without basic hygiene facilities, and despite being told by officials from the Eastern Health Board that they needed a new home, they

could not move because they were just short of the points needed for a council home.

During particularly bad weather the roof of the caravan finally blew off and the Geraghty family, which included one child and another on the way, were forced to squat in the first empty house they could find.

Unfortunately, however, the house they chose, at 2 Lealand Avenue, in Bawnoge, is part of a house-purchase scheme. The owner, who was away receiving treatment for a medical complaint at the time, naturally wanted to return to his house when he recovered.

CONDEMNED

Because they had squatted, the Geraghtys were now condemned to the bottom of the housing list. When the eviction order arrived on Christmas Eve, and the family and their furniture were moved out on January 6th, they were left with nowhere to go. A suggestion from the Health Board that they move



Patrick and Ann Geraghty in their new home — a roadside tent

into hostel accommodation has been rejected as the parents would be forced to live in separate hostels.

Hugh Boyle, a Sinn Féin activist in the Clondalkin area, contacted the housing section of the County Council on Wednesday last. He was told that temporary accom-

modation simply does not exist in West County Dublin and that the Geraghtys would have to wait for some time until they could be allocated a house.

Until then, the Geraghty family have no choice but to live in a roadside tent.

Divis desperation

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE REMAINING tenants in the Whitehall block in Divis Flats, due for demolition this autumn, are living in rapidly deteriorating conditions of damp and cold.

The majority of tenants still living in the Whitehall block have been reallocated houses in the Ardnullan Estate since last August, when they were promised that the new houses would be ready 'in a few months' — but six months later they still have no information about when they can move in.

On Sunday evening, January 8th, Whitehall Walk tenants Patrick and Rosaleen McKiernan were flooded out of their two-bedroomed flat when a water

storage tank in an adjacent blocked-up flat burst and water poured into the bathroom, hall and living-room. Their children, five-year-old Peter and 11-month-old Daniel, had to sleep with relatives while their parents cleaned up the flat yet again.

The McKiernans' flat is typical of the conditions their remaining neighbours live with: the daily threat of flooding, faulty electricity and dampness.

A few doors away lives old age pensioner Mary Delaney and her

son Peter, who have to sleep in the living-room as both their bedrooms are uninhabitable. Water drips down the window frames, fungi grows on the ceiling, and the cold is almost unbearable.

Mrs Marie Graham lives alone and is surrounded on all sides by derelict flats. She too sleeps in the living-room because of the cold and damp in her bedroom.

INFORMATION

AP/RN contacted Housing Executive information officer Alex Ritchie on Wednesday, January 11th, at Belmont House.

At first, he said he did not know what was causing the delay, but later rang back with the in-



Rosaleen McKiernan mops up after her flat is flooded



Pensioner Mary Delaney and her son Peter have to sleep in the living-room as their bedrooms are uninhabitable

formation that a culvert had collapsed under the new houses and had damaged the underground electric cables.

He added that the Electricity Board have promised that the cables will be repaired and says that the Divis tenants will be moved in one month.

It remains to be seen whether the promise, this time, will be kept.

Pensioners in peril

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A BURST water pipe on Belfast's Falls Road, neglected by the Water Board for the past two weeks, flooded the hallway of an old age pensioner and was also partly responsible for causing injuries to another pensioner.

Arthritis sufferer Mrs Sarah Toner, aged 73, was flooded in her Ross Road home two weeks ago when the water level rose over her front doorstep. Carpet in the hallway was soaked and damaged by the dirty water which was unable to escape because a number of drains in an alleyway at the rear of her home were blocked. The burst pipe was reported to the Water Board on two occasions by Sinn Féin, on Mrs Toner's behalf, who had to wade through several inches of water to go anywhere.

Then last Thursday night, January 5th, Sarah's friend, Margaret Quinn from Divis Tower, who had been visiting, fell over a chunk of concrete which had been blocking one of the drains. She was badly shaken, broke her glasses and sustained a black eye and bruised ribs.

Although she had been ac-

companied by Mrs Toner's daughter, neither of them noticed the concrete block until it was too late because of the inadequate standard of lighting supplied by the Department of Environment in the Ross Road estate.

Built over seven years ago, many of the houses are designed in separate cul-de-sac formations with numerous unlighted alleyways being the only means of access to the Falls Road. Subsequently there have been similar incidents in the past, involving pensioners unable to see clearly where they are going.

Margaret Quinn is taking legal proceedings for compensation, an often lengthy and unrewarding procedure, but in the meantime she will not only have to pay for replacement glasses out of her meagre pension but will remain nervous, the maintains, of going outdoors alone for weeks, if not months.



Sarah Toner (above), and Margaret Quinn



A boarded-up house in the Kilmacormack Estate

Enniskillen neglect

BY AINE MOORE

AREAS of historical interest in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, are being sacrificed in the interest of local business people, as are the interests of the townspeople themselves who are being forced from the town's island centre into ghetto estates elsewhere.

Car parks and offices have been given priority by the town planners, while in Housing Executive

areas such as Kilmacormack and the higher income Hillview estates, urgently needed house repairs, derelict houses and litter are conveniently forgotten.

Although windows in the Kilmacormack Estate were replaced this week, the Housing Executive has refused to compensate tenants for damage caused by the work to interior decorations, even though similar compensation has already been given to tenants in another area.

The impressive new car park under construction in the town centre is small consolation to those who lost their homes and are now rehoused in areas from which there is virtually no hope of obtaining a transfer.

Louth 'red tape'

BUREAUCRATIC 'red tape' has been blamed for the intolerable conditions in which a family in Dunleer, County Louth, are forced to live.

Ray Weldon, his wife and two children live in a small caravan with no water or sewerage facilities, despite repeated representations to, and promises from, establishment politicians from various parties, that they should be rehoused.

Now their case has been taken

up by local Sinn Féin activist Jackie McGahon who, in conjunction with Sinn Féin County Councillor Fra Browne, intends to highlight the plight of the Weldons and expose the totally inadequate provision of housing in County Louth.



The Weldon family, flanked by Sinn Féin's Fra Browne and Jackie McGahon

SHOW TRIALS SLAMMED

BY JACK MADDEN

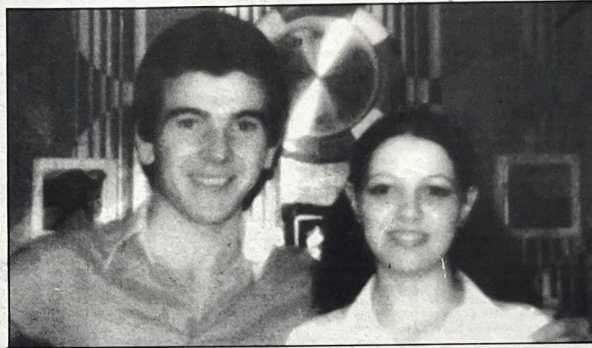
IN A DAMNING indictment of the show-trial strategy in the six counties, a British research group, the Cobden Trust, has, in a report released today (Thursday), concluded that perjurer evidence "can lead, and has led, to the telling of lies and to the conviction of the innocent", and calls for an end to the acceptance of uncorroborated evidence.

This report, prepared by Lord Tony Gifford QC, provides a detailed background to the paid perjurer syndrome, beginning with an account of the development of the system in Britain where underworld criminals were sentenced on the evidence of alleged accomplices.

Gifford, however, delineates the clear difference between such cases and those now pertaining in the six counties, where the existence of non-jury Diplock courts considerably diminishes the chances of a defendant getting a fair trial.

Interviews with a wide range of people connected with the system — including its victims — were used as the basis of this report which traces the deterioration of judicial standards in the Diplock courts from the trial of RUC Detective McCormick, who was acquitted on 20 of the 24 charges levelled against him by an informer because no corroborative evidence existed, to the McGrady trial, where a witness who had patently told lies had his 'evidence' against a number of defendants accepted.

Concern is voiced at the duration of remand in show trials, the obvious 'schooling' of perjurers and the ridiculous position where a judge, under pressure from his political and military masters, is left to decide the credibility of a witness, without a jury.



● Robert Quigley with his wife Linda

That judges have accepted uncorroborated evidence and convicted people after "the somewhat unreal mental operation" of warning themselves of the weakness of such evidence, is the most worrying feature of these trials and the report argues that "trial by jury should be restored..."

Besides examining the motivating factors which persuade certain individuals to give perjured evidence, Gifford includes useful statistics on the numbers convicted, those acquitted and those released after the perjury was retracted.

Against this, he outlines the 'official' position, including that of prisons minister Nicholas Scott who "claimed that there had been no policy, at least at ministerial

level, to start using supergrass evidence. People started to come forward but he did not know why."

UNITY

Calling for unity against the "conspiracy of injustice in the six counties", Sinn Féin's elected representative in Derry, Martin McGuinness, has warned in a statement that despite the set-backs which the show-trial strategy has suffered in recent months, another show trial begins in Derry today where Robert Quigley will give perjured evidence against 20 people.

Referring to the men released after witnesses retracted their perjured evidence in the final months of 1983, McGuinness said: "Many of these revealed that the RUC

had offered them sums in the region of £300,000 plus new identities to incriminate republicans like Gerry Adams, Danny Morrison and myself; clear proof of the British government's determination to smash all opposition to its occupation of this country.

"Some of these men had been held on remand for up to 22 months, the equivalent of a four-year prison sentence, and not one of them will ever receive compensation for their deliberate internment."

Despite the alignment of opposition to the show trials "the RUC is still seeking to recruit perjurers", and "the highest levels of the British government have lent their full support to the strategy despite all the criticism it has evoked", said McGuinness.

MANIPULATION

Denouncing the deliberate "manipulation of disturbed individuals" as perjurers — as in the case of John Morgan, Kevin McGrady and John Grimley — he continued:

"Referring to Kevin McGrady's evidence as 'contradictory, bizarre and in some respects incredible', Judge Lowry still found it appropriate to convict seven men who are now serving lengthy sentences. Lowry's ruling means that the six-county judiciary can now convict on the uncorroborated evidence of paid perjurers, be they in need of psychiatric assistance or not.

"All those who profess an interest in justice should unite to expose and end the show-trial system.

"The first show trial involving Derry people is scheduled to begin today (Thursday) when Robert Quigley will give Queen's evidence in a system which has already been discredited."

Leabharlanna faoi léigear

LE COLLA Ó MUIRÍ

FÓGRAÍODH ar na mallabha go bhfuil deich leabharlann i gceantar Bhéal Feirste i mbaol an dúnta de thairbhe polasaí rialtas na Sasana. Tá naoi leabharlann acu siúd i gceantair an lucht oibre.

Tá an t-Uasal Ivor Crawley, Príomh-leabharlannai de chuid Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlann Bhéal Feirste, ag moladh go ndúnfaí na leabharlanna i rith na ceithre bliana seo atá ag teacht. Ar an triú lá is fiche de Mhí Eanáir tiocfaidh an Bórd le chéile le socrú a dhéanamh i leith an mholta seo.

Is iad na leabharlanna atá faoi bhagairt ná na craobhacha i Lag an Aoil, An Tobar Bán, Ceantar na Sean Páirce, Carr Mháirtín, Bóthar na bhFál, Bóthar na Sean Cille, Bóthar Dhún an nGall, Baile Andarsan, Sráid Euston agus Bóthar Ard Mhic Nasca.

AN PLEAN

Dá gcuirfí an plan seo i bhfeidhm bheadh gearradh siar de £400,000 ar chaiteachas Seirbhís na Leabharlann a dhéanamh sa tréimhse ceithre bliana sin. Is léir, mar sin de, go bhfuil na leabharlanna seo faoi bhagairt an dúnta mar gheall ar na gearrthacha mallaithe.



● An leabharlann poiblí ar Bóthar na bhFál

de chuid Rialtas Thatcher thall i Sasain. Lucht an rachmais, a bhfuil sé ar a gcumas leabharlanna príobháideacha a bheith acu, ag iarr-

aídh leabharlanna poiblí a shéanadh ar dhaoine nach bhfuil obair acu, ar phinsinéirí agus ar pháistí. Tá deich leabharlann eile i

gceantar Bhéal Feirste nach bhfuil faoi bhagairt ach glactar leis nach leor sin don chathair uilig. Bhí an méid sin á aithint ag an Uas-

lan Montgomery, Príomh-leabharlannai Cúnta de chuid Bord Bhéal Feirste nuair a labhair sé in éadan moladh Ivor Crawley.

Dúirt sé gur cnuasach pobal a bhí ann, mar Bhéal Feirste, agus go mbeadh sé níos seacht leabharlann déag de dhíth chun freastal orthu mar ba cheart.

LIMISTÉAR

Tá leabharlann áitiúil tábhachtach do limistéar cathrach. Tá cuid mhór tuismitheoirí ann nach ligfeadh dá bpáistí a gceantar féin a fhágáil. Tá daoine ann, seandaoine go mór-mhór, a mbeadh sé róchostasach is ró-chrua orthu dul isteach go lár na cathrach go rialta le cuairt a thabhairt ar an leabharlann.

Tá Sinn Féin in éadan gearradh siar ar bith i Seirbhís na Leabharlann. Dúirt Gearmí Mac Adaimh, feisir tofa do Bhéal Feirste Thiar:

"Is scannal é go bhfuil deich leabharlann i mBéal Feirste faoi scáth an dúnta mar gheall ar luachanna chaipíteilacha Rialtas Shasana. Cuidíonn Seirbhís na Leabharlann le daoine forbarait a dhéanamh ar a gcuid oideachais, agus dá ndúnfaí na leabharlanna seo dhéanfadh sé an bearna idir saol lucht an tsailbhís agus saol an lucht oibre a leathnú."

THREE cases shortly to come before the Dublin courts on the question of extradition for political offences are causing growing concern among many people interested in civil liberties and the national question.

The courts, now apparently being influenced by a campaign for the enforcement of extradition, which has been conducted by politicians for purely political objectives and which is based on non-legal considerations, seem to be about to reverse the rules applicable to extradition cases which they have applied over the last decade — this will result in the destruction of the legal protection hitherto extended to political refugees.

It appears that the courts, by attempting to redefine what is a political offence, are on the verge of usurping what is clearly a political question.

Dublin governments have, over the last decade, resisted constant British and loyalist pressure to allow extradition. But it could well be that the present Coalition government is happy to see the courts doing the 'dirty work' for it. The recent confident utterings of Margaret Thatcher, James Prior and other British and loyalist politicians about the future availability of extradition appear to confirm this view.

But the dangers to civil liberties and the political implications of this latest move towards collaboration with Britain's military occupation of the six counties are endless. They must be resisted.

POLITICAL OFFENCE

The legal reasons for the ban on extradition from the twenty-six counties for political offences were put most clearly by a legal team representing the Dublin government on the Law Enforcement Commission in 1974. They argued strongly for the validity of the ban.

This commission, which included Mr Justice Walsh, Mr Justice Doyle and Mr Justice Henchy on the Dublin side, was composed of British and Irish lawyers who were to report on the difficulties surrounding the question of extradition. The commission was established by the ill-fated Sunningdale agreement.

The existing arrangements for the delivery of persons sought in one jurisdiction to another is covered in the South by the Extradition Act 1965.

Sections 44(2) and 50(2) of that Act provide for the refusal of extradition where the warrant relates to "a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence."

[The equivalent Act in the North, the Backing of Warrants Act 1965, which permits extradition to the South, also contains an exception in its section 2(2), compelling the release of a person sought if the offence is "an offence of a political character".]

INTERNATIONAL LAW

The South's Extradition Act, in exempting political offences, is in harmony with the 1937 Constitution which, although not referring directly to extradition, does, in Article 29.3, state:

"Ireland accepts the generally recognised principles of international law as its rule of conduct in its relations with other states."

These "generally recognised principles of international law", as regards the non-extradition of political offenders, are ascertained by the practices of other states.

Ironically, the British government has been one of the strongest defenders of its right to refuse extradition for 'political offences' when it sees fit.

At the time of the British and Irish extradition acts in 1965, the then Solicitor General for England, Sir Dingle Foot, informed the House of Commons, while explaining the relevant provisions of the British legislation:

"The exception relating to offences of a political character is

thoroughly familiar and has been included in our extradition legislation ever since 1870. Indeed, the tradition that we do not return to the country of origin persons who are accused of political offences goes back to the Napoleonic wars."

The almost universal acceptance of this principle of not extraditing political offenders is very important to understand.

It is not a particular piece of Irish 'stubbornness' as the British politicians and media would have us believe.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION

The European Convention on Extradition 1957, of which the Dublin government is a signatory, also exempts "a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence."

All the published authorities accept this basic rule of international law. Lauterpacht, in *The Law of Nations and the Punishment of War Crimes*, is just one of many qualified authors to make the point:

"We are confronted with the impressive fact that in the legislation of modern states there are few principles so universally adopted as that of non-extradition of political offenders."

It was in accordance with this international principle that the United States Federal Court in San Francisco, only a few months ago, refused a British extradition attempt for the return of William Quinn, a former IRA member who was wanted for the killing of a policeman in London while escaping during a bombing operation.

The principle on which that refusal is based is part of the Anglo-US extradition treaty of 1972.

CRIMINAL LAW JURISDICTION

In order to circumvent this international ban on political extradition, the Sunningdale-inspired Law Enforcement Commission came up with a compromise which would allow the trial of political offenders in the South for offences committed in the North and vice versa.

This proposal was later enacted in the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act 1976 — which amounted to a major political concession to British demands for more collaboration in repression by the Dublin government.

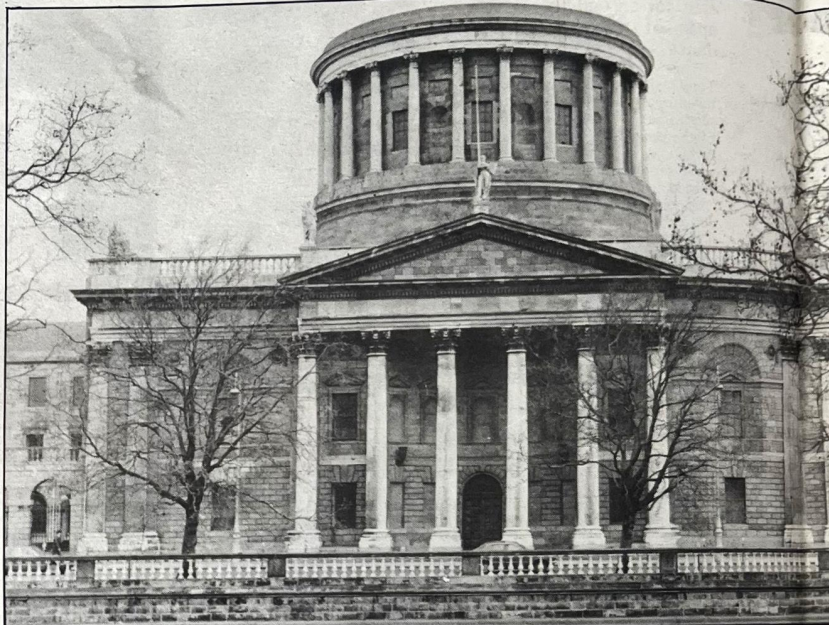
It was in fact the only Sunningdale proposal which survived — the 'concessions' on the British and loyalist side, in the form of 'power-sharing' and a 'Council of Ireland' and so on, were either short-lived or never implemented.

Only a handful of cases have been brought under the legislation — there are a number of reasons for this.

Firstly, such concessions to

EXTRA THE ULTIMATE C

BY KEVIN BURKE



Britain by Dublin are seen in London and Belfast as more of a political act than a practical matter. The surrender to the British will on such a controversial issue has psychological side-effects in widespread collaboration and political weakness in Dublin's relationship with London and which go far beyond the direct effects of the particular legislation.

Secondly, the RUC, which is required to pursue cases under the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act, is reluctant to do so for what it regards as practical considerations.

POLITICAL DELICACY

Although the Special Court is, like the Diplock courts in the North, a non-jury court, and has come in for equally severe criticism for the standard of evidence which it is prepared to accept, it is nevertheless felt that it would be extra careful in regard to the standard of evidence being brought before it by RUC witnesses — because of the obvious political delicacy of such cases.

This was borne out by the first case brought under the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act, in 1980, when three men were acquitted in Dublin because the forensic evidence brought by the RUC was rejected by the Dublin Special Court as inconclusive.

It is also a fact that the RUC have relied on two methods of obtaining 'evidence' for their own Diplock courts which they would be reluctant to air in Dublin. The majority of convictions in the last decade in the North have been

based on either 'confessions' extracted from a 'suspect' by infamous methods of Castlereagh interrogation or more recently by the equally outrageous use of 'informers' or, more properly named 'paid perjurers'.

A person held in the South cannot be 'interrogated' by the RUC, and the use of Northern paid perjurers to secure convictions in a Dublin court would be far too politically explosive to risk.

ESCAPES

All but one conviction under the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act in the South has therefore related to the escape of political prisoners from jails in Belfast and London — seven in all.

The only other conviction, of Seamus Soraghan, in December 1983, was based, ironically, on a 'confession' extracted in questionable circumstances by gardai and related to the same offence as that for which the first three men charged under the Act were acquitted because of the unreliable RUC forensic evidence.

The third reason why the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act has not been used or sought to be used by the RUC — except in those very few cases — is also because its successful use would do much to reduce the strength of the British demand for what is seen as the final act of collaboration by Dublin — the agreement to extradition for political offences.

By conceding extradition Dublin would make a final servile acknowledgment of, and compliance with, Britain's view of Ireland that a solution lies in a combined policy of repression North and South.

A military solution aimed at concretising partition and Britain's occupation rather than a political solution aimed at securing a united Ireland.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

It must be emphasised, however, that not only does extradition represent this total political concession to British policy by Dublin — which is its major attraction to London and Belfast — it also allows in its practice a major incursion by the RUC against the civil liberties of people living in the twenty-six counties.

There is no doubt that if extradition of political offenders was won by the RUC, it would be used with much more enthusiasm, and with much more frequency, than the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act.

Indeed, this is the most sinister effect of the process of extradition.

The terms of current extradition legislation between North and South are such that — unlike normal extradition procedures between other states — they allow extradition of a person, sought for an ordinary offence, merely on the basis of the validity of the warrant issued by the RUC. A 'prima facie' case does not have to be made.

In other words, not one iota of evidence of guilt of the offence needs to be produced in the

Southern court to support the tradition of the person sought.

In the event of political extradition being allowed, then would be that a living in the twenty-six counties could be the subject of extradition order if the British administration political activity to be.

Once in the North could either be examined of the extradition method constructed by the use of juries.

MCGLINCHY

The basis for fears in the present ban extradition rests on made by Chief Justice in the Dublin Supreme Court in December 1982 in the McGlinchey case.

Before considering the implications of it, worth noting the meaning of McGlinchey as a 'loose', allegedly for almost every man in the twenty-six counties in the course of the campaign, that, if carried in the South, would be immediate over to the RUC on the extradition order the Supreme Court are not called to account of alleged offences in the North. Whilst that extradition

ADDITION- COLLABORATION



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person to the Nor-

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CHEY CASE

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Justice O'Higgins
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●CHIEF JUSTICE O'HIGGINS

fore obviously an important one
for both Dublin and London colla-
borationists, it should be under-
stood that it is not in fact a legal
departure from the traditional posi-
tion, because during the Supre-
me Court hearing, McGlinchey's
counsel withdrew the defence
argument that his action was a
political one. The extradition order
was therefore granted on the
basis that the offence in question
was an ordinary, non-political
one, and therefore the decision
did not alter the situation.

SIGNIFICANT

But what was most significant

were the remarks by Chief Justice
O'Higgins in the case about how
he might decide any future case
where the plea of political motive
has previously been accepted.

The case in the Supreme
Court concerned an appeal from
the High Court against extradition
by McGlinchey, a former IRA
member. He was claiming that the
death of a Toomebridge woman in
1977, in a gun attack on the
house where she lived, was a political
offence because at the time
he was operating as a member of
an IRA unit.

As we have said, he withdrew
this argument of political motive,
but Chief Justice O'Higgins made
some dramatic statements as to
his future rulings, observing that it
"should not be deduced that if
the victim were someone other than
a civilian who was killed or
injured as a result of violently
criminal conduct chosen in lieu of
what would fall directly or in-
directly within the ordinary scope
of political activity, the offence
would necessarily be classified as
a political offence or an offence
connected with a political offence".

He went on to say:
"The judicial authorities on the
scope of such offences have, in
many respects, been rendered
obsolete by the fact that the modern
terrorist violence, whether un-
dertaken by military or para-
military organisations, or by in-
dividuals or groups of individuals,
is often the antithesis of what
could reasonably be regarded as
political, either in itself or in its
connections."

"The court," he continued later,
"is invited to assume that be-
cause of widespread violence or-
ganised by paramilitary groups in
Northern Ireland, any charge as-
sociated with terrorist activity
should be regarded as a charge in
respect of a political offence or an
offence connected with a political
offence. I am not prepared to
make that assumption."

"Under the Extradition Act
1965, the onus of establishing
that the offence in question is
either a political offence, or one
connected with a political offence,
as a reason for not hand-
ing over a person sought on a
warrant... is upon the person
who seeks asylum in our juris-
diction."

What O'Higgins seemed to
be saying is that republican ac-
tions against even British army and
RUC targets would need to be
proved to him to be political be-
fore he would dismiss an extra-
diction case in the future.

REDEFINITION

But also, very significantly,
O'Higgins' line of argument was
very much in line with the British
redefinition of what it chose to
be the meaning of a 'political
offence' in the context of the
Irish struggle.

Britain would attempt to argue
— and O'Higgins appears sympat-
hetic to this argument — that re-
publican actions in the struggle
against Britain's presence in the
North are not actions which arise
from a political situation or with
a political motive. Britain would

claim that actions in response to
occupation by a foreign power
and to massive discrimination and
repression can be branded as
'terrorism'. That the 'Irish prob-
lem' is therefore a 'law and order'
one, not a political one, and that
Dublin should not seek a political
solution but merely co-operate in
achieving a 'law and order' one.

This interpretation would —
quite illogically and ridiculously
in the minds of nationally-minded
Irish people — equate activity aimed
at achieving national freedom
with the socially-motivated ex-
tremism of such European groups
as the German Baader-Meinhof or
the Italian Red Brigades.

TERRORIST CRIME

The countries of Western Eu-
rope have also sought to exclude
this type of terrorist crime from
the definition of a 'political off-
fence'. The European Convention
on the Suppression of Terrorism
was concluded in 1975 and in
1978 Britain passed the Suppres-
sion of Terrorism Act to ratify the
convention.

Dublin has, so far, refused to
ratify the Convention because of
the political implications of ac-
cepting the British interpretation
of republican actions in the
North.

It is worth noting in passing,
that, for all its arguments on
extradition, in its own anti-Irish
legislation, the so-called Preven-
tion of Terrorism Act and the Em-
ergency Powers Act, Britain de-
fines 'terrorism' as meaning "the
use of violence for political ends".

Nevertheless, the overall thrust
of Britain's argument for extra-
diction of republicans appears to be
sympathised with by O'Higgins,
and in doing so the court seems to
be taking on itself, or having un-
loaded onto it, what has been
previously regarded as a matter
for government decision and
ultimately only alterable by a
constitutional referendum passed by
the people.

CURRENT CASES

The current cases before the
courts have shown that O'Higgins'
message has not gone unheeded
by other judges.

In August 1983, the High
Court in Dublin affirmed an extra-
diction order against Philip Mc-
Mahon, who escaped from Newry
Courthouse in 1975 whilst on trial
for attempting to escape from
Long Kesh where he was acknowl-
edged by the British at the time to
be a political prisoner.

Moreover, the High Court
judge ignored earlier High Court
decisions, in 1975 and 1976,
when the extradition of five fel-
low escapees was refused on the
standard grounds that they were
engaged in political actions.

McMahon's last appeal against
being handed over to the RUC
will shortly be heard in the Supre-
me Court — the court of Chief
Justice O'Higgins.

In July last year, a district
court at Balbriggan endorsed an
RUC extradition application for a
Monaghan man, James Shannon,
in connection with the IRA's ex-
ecution of the former speaker of
the Stormont parliament, Sir Nor-
man Stronge, and his RUC son
James Stronge, at Tynan Abbey
in January 1981.

Shannon has lodged an appeal
against the extradition order and
is at present in Portlaoise Prison
awaiting his case in the High
Court.

Also appealing a district court
extradition order — made by
Drogheda District Court in Septem-
ber — is a third man, Hugh
Torney.

TORNEY

His extradition is sought to
face charges in Belfast based on
the 'evidence' of the paid per-
jurer Harry Kirkpatrick — and we
must remember that no evidence
of any kind needs to be brought
by the RUC in the Southern
courts to support the extradition.

Torney's appeal will also be
coming before the High Court
very soon.

URGENCY

The urgency of organising op-
position to these developments is
therefore obvious. Since it would
appear to be political pressures
which are attempting to influence
the courts into making major po-
litical changes, based on non-legal
considerations, it would seem that
only the display of political op-
position can halt this process.

The consequences of allowing
extradition for political offences
go beyond the plight of the three
men currently at risk. They even
go beyond the dangers to civil li-
berties which would ensure the
handing over of people to the
mercies of the RUC and the cor-
rupt legal system in the North.

They extend to a major polit-
ical victory for Britain in Ireland
— the total acknowledgement by
the South of the RUC as an 'im-
partial police force' (something
even the SDLP will not acknowl-
edge); the total acceptance by the
South of Britain's attempts to
criminalise the Irish struggle for
freedom; and the final fusion of a
common London/Dublin policy
on the North in approaching it
first and foremost as a 'law and
order' or 'security' problem rather
than a political one — the ul-
timate acceptance of Britain's
presence as unchallenged occupier
of six counties of Ireland, and the
abandonment of the national ob-
jective.

Defeat the Bill

A Chara,
A campaign to defeat the Criminal Justice Bill will be launched on Friday, January 13th, in Dublin. The Sinn Féin Ardcomhairle has decided to support this campaign.

This Bill has its origins as far back as 1982 when the Garda Representative Association and the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors mounted a very public and sophisticated campaign calling for extra powers for the gardai. The Garda Commissioner threw his weight behind this campaign and with help from the 'law and order' lobby within the media, considerable pressure was put on Free State politicians in Leinster House to come up with some Bill.

This Bill was drawn up by the Department of Justice in conjunction with the gardai. The Bill gives extra powers to the gardai, does away with the right to silence and opens the door to the introduction of the system of paid perjurers in the twenty-six counties.

Sinn Féin proposes that cumáinn and comhairli ceantair should:

1. Acquire a copy of the proposed Bill.
 2. Encourage and participate in the setting up of broad-based action groups in local areas to defeat the Bill. Membership of such groups should be based on the individual(s) rejection of the Bill.
 3. Letters should be written outlining the erosion of civil liberties etc, and sent to newspapers and radio stations.
 4. Trade unionists should try and get motions passed at branch level against the Bill (highlighting the dangers of the Bill to trade unionists on strike etc).
 5. Local opinion leaders should be questioned on their positions on the proposed Bill; if sympathetic they should be encouraged to take part in this campaign.
 6. Sinn Féin councillors should table motions condemning the Bill and attempt to get them passed.
- All Sinn Féin members and supporters should become involved in this campaign and help defeat the Criminal Justice Bill.
- Seán Core, Comhairle Atha Cliath, Sinn Féin.

World in Action

A Chara,
As an independent-minded nationalist, I am convinced that the recent *World in Action* programme on Sinn Féin (ITV, December 19th) has done no damage to the reputations of Gerry Adams or Danny Morrison amongst self-respecting Irish people.

The *World in Action* programme demonstrated the abject failure of bribery and intimidation by the 'forces of law and order' to make any charges stick — even in a Dáil court!

It was an appeal to that species of wild Englishman who refuses to let mere facts interfere with the prejudices from which his actions spring. And its star witnesses, one of whose movement's leaders once described it as 'today's Invincibles', proved themselves to be 'today's Contemptibles'. Foremost among them was the only member of the programme's cast I have ever met, Des O'Hagan of the Workers Party.

I met O'Hagan at a meeting he addressed in England about a decade ago. I applauded him on his entry but did not applaud at the end of the meeting during which I had challenged him on certain points of fact — which he conceded — and questioned the vagueness of the strategy he so frequently alluded to but did not explain.

Naive young man that I was, I thought if persons described themselves as Marxists they would present coherent arguments from

mála poist

AN IMPORTANT YEAR

A Chara,

The republican POWs in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh send solidarity greetings at New Year to our imprisoned comrades everywhere, to our comrades on the run, to the active service units of Ogligh na hEireann, to the workers of Sinn Féin, Green Cross and Prisoners Dependents Fund, and to republican friends, supporters and relatives wherever they may be.

1983 has been an important year in the struggle for freedom. Militarily, the IRA has overcome the British challenge of the paid perjurers in the sham court system in the six counties and operations have continued to instil fear in the heart of the British establishment in our country.

Politically, Sinn Féin has gone from the strong position of 1982 to a position now on the brink of toppling the SDLP as the representatives of the nationalist parties in the six counties, while in the twenty-six counties the Movement's willingness to struggle alongside the people for their rights will ensure the future progress of Sinn Féin as a real and radical alternative to the establishment parties.

Marxist premises — whether these premises were themselves valid or not. Instead, there was a hotch-potch of slogans interspersed with some vulgarity, no doubt to show the earthy proletarian credentials of a horny-handed son of toil. There was also an unconscious element of hypocrisy.

O'Hagan's thesis started with the proposition that the British were conducting 'a war of genocide' against the nationalist population. From there it transpired that armed resistance was not an appropriate response. Instead, we had to accept as a matter of faith a revolutionary strategy which was so precious that its adherents could not even give its outlines. (Incidentally, Leinster House was described as a British puppet with no power of its own.)

As I said, I am an independent-minded nationalist. I do not believe that the Harrods bomb will win friends or influence people in Ireland's favour. Similarly, many good Irish people did not approve of the killings of Cavendish and Burke, but recoiled in horror from the 'supergang' Carey.

I would not wish Mr O'Hagan to share Carey's fate. Nevertheless, there must be some of your readers, even today, who could dip into their pockets and have a Mass said for him.

Hibernicus.



● DES O'HAGAN one of 'today's Contemptibles'



Sadly, 1983 has seen the murder of many republican volunteers and sympathisers by British and loyalist terror gangs. To their families we extend our deepest sympathy; to their memory we pledge our commitment to the cause for which they fell. Ní bheidh a n-obair gan toradh. In this prison also, republicans

have shown the will and determination to succeed. The gallant escape by 38 POWs in September crushed Britain's bloated ego and proved that republicans will not be broken by imprisonment.

The retributive collective punishment meted out to POWs in the three months since the escape will not deter us. The

antagonism shown by Screws towards our families on visits, the mass brutality against POWs are all signs of the confusion and bigotry of the loyalist Screws in the wake of the escape. They hoped to provoke us into a protest action which could have defeated our unity. They failed, and the unity of POWs in facing whatever is thrown against us remains firm.

In 1984 we expect to continue moving closer to our objectives of freedom and peace. We ask our friends and supporters to remember our comrades imprisoned in Ireland and abroad, not only at this time of year but throughout the coming year. We ask them to remember the hundreds of republicans imprisoned on the word of paid perjurers.

Finally, we ask them to help secure the repatriation of prisoners abroad, freedom of our imprisoned and the well-being of those among our own number who are denied medical care.

1984 has long had an ominous meaning, let us all work to ensure that it is ominous for the British and all enemies of Irish freedom.

Beirgí bua.
OC/PRO,
H-Blocks,
Cais Fhada.

Question of culture

Dear Editor,

I must take exception to connotations set forth in the November 24th article concerning the expansion of Irish classes in Belfast. The segment in question concerns the assertion that Ireland is reeling in 'Anglo-Americanism'.

I am an American of Irish, Italian and Spanish descent. I work steadily for the cause of Irish freedom as those of both nations who know me can attest. Yet the concept that English and American culture are one and the same is very disturbing.

True the term 'Anglo-American', exists in the dictionary where it is defined as 'an American of English birth or ancestry'. This applies to so small a segment of our society that the concept is invalid. To most inhabitants of this world America is the great exponent of synthetic food and false righteousness, coupled with an unfeeling loyalty to the corporate infrastructure. This view is tragically naive as any student of American heritage will testify to.

Unfortunately Americans have a tendency to sustain these misconceptions by doing little to alter the myths. We have, as a society, an inferiority complex when weighed against other cultures. The notion that American culture is somehow perverting the Irish is tragically simplistic. There is nothing wrong with American culture or being American.

In fact, Ronald Reagan aside, I'm pretty damn proud.

Diane Simercoz,
Sunland,
California,
USA.

Service, not lip-service

A Chara,

I am writing to express, through your letters page, my gratitude to North Antrim constituency

representative Pearse McMahon and the members of North Antrim Sinn Féin for their endeavours on my behalf since June 1983.

Having been forced to leave my job, I contacted the North Antrim Sinn Féin Advice Centre and not only did they advise me of my rights under the Industrial Relations Act, but actually prepared my case and successfully represented me at an industrial tribunal, held in Ballymena Court-house in October 1983. I have just been informed (December 13th) of the compensation awarded to me, which totals £502.50.

It is gratifying, to say the least, that a political party should spend so much time and effort in ensuring a successful conclusion to a constituent's problems and not, as is usual, simply pay lip-service to them at election-time.

Gerry Phillips,
North Antrim.



● Bloody Sunday

Wake up

A Chara,

In all the cacophony of insane condemnations of recent violence in the six counties and London there was not the faintest reference to the role of the real culprits, namely the British government and their subversive collaborators in Leinster House.

Such unjust and traitorous exculpation of the British gives them inestimable advantages while causing incalculable damage to Ireland's cause throughout the world.

Have the British news media or public representatives ever disgraced themselves and their country with paranoic howls of self-denigration over their 800 years of crime in Ireland?

Have they ever even expressed regret for the heinous crimes they

have been committing in the six counties during the past 12 years?

For over 60 years the Westminster and Leinster House politicians, through their continual criminal collusion, have maintained violence in the six counties for their own sordid ends and will continue to do so indefinitely if we, the people of Ireland, do not wake up to reality and stop them.

We must also wake up to the fact that Garret FitzGerald's move to ban Sinn Féin, under the pretext of preventing violence, is simply another sinister attempt to resuscitate the Blueshirt dream of a one-party fascist state. Let us not forget the reprehensible effort made by the then Coalition to make that dream a reality when, in the 70s, they deprived us all of our basic human rights by using a fraudulent declaration of a state of emergency to suspend the Constitution so that they would be in a position to use internment without trial — the greatest crime any ruler can inflict on citizens.

To make their plan complete, they established the 'Heavy Gang' and had them ready to go throughout the country and fill the concentration camps in true Gestapo style.

Let us not be fooled or try to fool ourselves: Sinn Féin is the only truly nationalist democratic party having able leadership and a nationwide organisation capable of challenging the Leinster House junta, therefore they must be suppressed by even the foulest means, including Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act and the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act which is in reality legislated treason both in its purpose and every action of its implementation.

In all this Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil gang up as one, which leaves Sinn Féin as the only trustworthy alternative and if Sinn Féin's political rights are abolished, within a few short years the Irish people will be suffering the same horror as the Philippines, El Salvador, and all the other countries in the world in which political freedom has been extinguished.

Freedom in Ireland is in its death agony and only enlightened courageous people can save it.

Patrick Sanderson,
Dun Loughaire,
County Dublin.

Stailc ocras agus sli beatha

A Chara,

Tá stailc ocras na noibhríthe i gCluin Dólaín críochnaithe anois agus, buíochas do Dhia, ní bhfuair ceachtar den bheirt fear bás. Bheadh náire an domhain ar Rialtas an tSaor-Stáit dá náfádh duine ar cásalcan ar son oibre.

Thaispeáin an eacra sin cé chomh faillíteach is atá Rialtas na 26 Chontae. Lig siad don mhúileann páipéir lúf gan gnó ar feadh dhá bhliain. Dhúlaigh siad achainí na noibhríthe go soláthrófaí an tairgead a shabhádhfaí an mhonarcha. Agus, i ndeireadh na dála, níor ghlaiss siad go dtí go raibh brú na stailce orthu.

Dar liomsa ba é an masla a ba mhó ná gurbh é linn na míosa ceanna a d'fhógair an Rialtas na tuarastail nua do Theachtar Dála. Is léir nach raibh easpa airgid ann nuair a d'fhrích ceist tuarastail na ndaoine sin.

Ta rabhadh Liam Uí Mhaoliosá a m'intinn nuair a scríobh seisean faoin dhéigh a chuirfeadh lucht an bhreagáltais coimrice thart orthu féin nó sin díreach an rud a rinneadh ariann anall. Méadóinn líon na bpoitáirí agus na nárphoitéirí ar pinsean. Tá Teach Laighin ag dearbú gur luachmaire arís a goid pinsean féin sna laetha atá le teacht.

Tá siad mar a bheadh bainisteoir mídhílis ann a chuirfeadh toradh a chuid gadaíochta i dtuaisce agus fíos aige gur állas a noibhríthe maonáta a chruinnigh sé an taise sin.

Chruthaigh an fo-thoghchán i mBaile Átha Cliath nach bhfuil lucht oibre na 26 Chontae fíchead sásta le cás na mímhádháil. Anois, tá oráinne i nGluais-eacht na Poblaíochta a chinntú go gcuirfeir leis an seach faoin chad a fuair Christy Burke. Tá an cheannasáocht ag Sinn Féin le polasaithe shíosalacha a oibreodh in Éirinn a chur le chéile. Agus is cinnte go bhfuil na noibhríthe chéanna againn leis na polasaithe a chur i bhfeidhm.

Eoghan Mac Cormac,
Na Bliocanna-M.



Bobby Sands Memorial Essay

A Chara,

The Bobby Sands Commemoration School Prize Essay Committee has launched the 1983/84 competition. It will be for two age groups with corresponding prize money:-

Age 10-13 years: 1st Prize: £100; 2nd Prize: £50; 3rd Prize: £25;

Age 13-16 years: 1st Prize: £300; 2nd Prize: £150; 3rd Prize: £50. (A number of consolation prizes will also be awarded.)

The length of the essay should be one thousand words or more for the 10-13 age group and two thousand words or more for the 13-16 age group.

The topic will be any theme or personality from the political, cultural or other area from 1169 to 1984 on the theme of 'The Spirit of Irish Freedom'.

The latest date for entries is April 29th. Entry forms are available from the address below.

Jim Monaghan,
57 Arnold Grove,
Glenageary,
County Dublin.

Conflict in Castlebar

BY JACK MADDEN

WOMEN WORKERS laid off from their jobs in a clothing firm in Castlebar, County Mayo, in November last, have lodged an angry appeal against local social welfare officials who have refused them unemployment benefit on the grounds that their lay-offs were the result of a trade dispute.

Against this, the women insist that while there was a trade dispute in their factory, Heritage Knitwear Ltd, this had been used by employer, Dermot McShane, as a pretext to enforce lay-offs and get rid of what he called 'troublesome' workers.

Heritage Knitwear Ltd was opened in August 1982 by McShane, who had formerly been employed by Gaeltarra Eireann. Although the employees of the new firm were recruited to the ITGWU, who hammered out a pay and conditions agreement with the company, the union remained unstructured within the factory until February 1983 when two women, Deirdre McKenna and Ann Lavelle, were elected as shop stewards by the workers.

Within weeks, the union successfully met its first challenge when they resisted an attempt to sack one worker who declined to do overtime work after returning from maternity leave. A 20-minute stop-

page by her colleagues and advice from McShane's own representative organisation, the Federated Union of Employers, persuaded management to concede and the woman kept her job.

Although the agreement between the company and the ITGWU was scheduled to last two years, until July 1984, this was changed in June last when a 10% pay increase was negotiated under the terms of the 23rd wage-round.

Management also included a clause reserving the right to withhold the pay increase normally due to an employee after nine months in the firm if they felt her work was 'not satisfactory'. Before this, women were automatically entitled to four quarterly pay increases in their first year until, after 12 months, they qualified for full basic pay. Under the new clause this was reduced to three phases over nine months, with management arbitrarily deciding whether a woman was entitled



● Heritage Knitwear boss Dermot McShane used a legitimate strike by Deirdre McKenna (inset) and her workmates as an excuse to lay off staff

to the final increase.

NEW SCALE

This scheme caused no problems at first as each of the initial seven women was promoted onto the new scale, but at this stage management recruited a Philip Mulally from AnCo to revise the target performance figures of each worker. Following his report, the time allowed to perform a specific task was drastically cut. Where 40 items might have been produced by a worker before this, she would now have to produce 60 to reach her target.

Therefore when the eighth worker, Grace Reilly, had completed nine months' employment, she was refused a wage increase on the grounds that she had failed to

reach 85% production on target. For weeks afterwards she was told that this 'target' would have to be reached before her performance could be deemed 'satisfactory'.

According to shop steward Deirdre McKenna:

"The women just couldn't reach the new high-figure targets. When Grace still hadn't got her increase after six weeks, a meeting was arranged between the ITGWU and McShane at which we told him we couldn't accept any arbitrary performance figures in a situation where everybody was already working their best."

"When my own turn for the increase came in November, I was also told I wasn't getting it. I was getting 90% performance but he told me I was agitating bad feel-

ing on the shop-floor."

The women warned McShane that if the pay increases were not paid he would have a strike to face. This he shrugged off, but he later called the women to his office individually, at times cajoling them and at other times verbally abusing them. This last treatment was particularly reserved for the shop stewards, one of whom he called an 'anti-Christ'.

PICKET-LINE

In response, a strike began with 15 of the 17 employees joining the picket-line. Of the two who did not join, one was a supervisor and the other a young girl on a work experience programme. Within days a meeting was arranged with the FUE who threatened the women that if they didn't return to work the factory would close.

Further pressure was put on the women because McShane was ridiculously accusing the IRA of having a part in creating worker unrest in the factory through Deirdre McKenna, who is a member of Sinn Féin! However, when she offered to resign her position as shop steward the women re-elected her as their representative.

With these difficulties facing them, the women agreed to return to work and to pursue their grievances through the Labour Court. When they went to the factory the following Monday, however, McShane told them they were being laid off and had only themselves to blame — they had been on strike less than a week.

SENIORITY

He did agree that when taking the women back he would do so in order of seniority, but as the factory re-opened and production rose in the following weeks, the women discovered that recruitment was selective and that those whom McShane objected to were not being taken back. When this was raised he answered that this was their own fault and that he would be sending a letter to the Department of Social Welfare urging non-payment of benefit.

On the day they were laid off, November 25th, all of the women signed on for social welfare assistance, but three weeks ago they were told that because they had 'forced the closure' of Heritage Knitwear Ltd through a trade dispute, they were not entitled to benefit.

According to ITGWU branch secretary Michael Kilcoyne:

"There is no doubt that the company used the strike as an excuse to get rid of staff. But we will be going to a Labour Court conciliation conference on January 26th and will be insisting that all these women are taken back."

Sinn Féin meets US politicians

IN THE course of a week which saw fact-finding trips to the North by several American politicians, US Congressman Robert Torricelli met Sinn Féin elected representatives Gerry Adams MP and Danny Morrison in West Belfast on Tuesday. Also present on behalf of Sinn Féin were Joe Austin and Tom Hartley.

Topics discussed with Torricelli, who was accompanied by his aide James Fox, included Sinn Féin's attitude to the British occupation of the North, loyalism and the Dublin Forum. During the hour-long meeting, Torricelli, who is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and a member of the subcommittee dealing with European and Middle East affairs, and who in the USA has expressed support for Sinn Féin spokespersons being granted visas to enter that country, told Sinn Féin:

"Congress has as much right to hear Sinn Féin as the State Department has to deny republicans visas to America."

The New Jersey congressman, who had earlier come under strong pressure from the Northern Ireland Office to cancel his meeting with Sinn Féin, later accompanied by his aide, toured the Divis Flats complex with Gerry Adams, where the visitors were visibly impressed by the agreement among residents they questioned that nothing less than British withdrawal would provide a solution to their host of social and economic problems.

DISCUSSIONS

Torricelli, who during his two-day visit also met SDLP leader John Hume, Harold McCusker of the Official Unionists and Alliance's Oliver Napier, had earlier criticised 'the intransigence' of the Democratic Unionist Party's Jan-



● (Above) Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison with Nassau County Comptroller Peter King; and (right) US Congressman Robert Torricelli talks to reporters as James Fox looks on

Paisley, who declined a meeting because of the visitors' discussions with Sinn Féin.

Earlier the same day, Adams and Morrison had met an elected representative of Nassau County, New York State, Comptroller Peter King, who was in Ireland to investigate the British government's paid perjurer system. And on Monday, January 9th, Sinn Féin's Joe Austin met Gene Turner, an aide to US Congressman Morrisson, Len-

Regional meetings

AT the inaugural meetings of various Sinn Féin regional committees, the following officer boards were elected.

CONNAUGHT

Chair: Frank Guckian; vice-chair: Dermot Mullooly; secretary: Brid McKelvey; PRO: Mrs Mullooly; treasurer: Gerry Farrell; education: Joe McHale; culture: Helga Keogh; trade unions: Tim Newell; agriculture: Cathal Quinn.

DUBLIN

Cathaoirleach/Timire: Sean Crowe; leasathaoirleach: Dickie O'Neill; runat: Ursula Quinn; OCP: Aine Nic Mhuirchadha; cultúr: Donnacha Mac Suibhne; oifigeach ban/oidreachas: Eileen Harris; airgeadas: Mick Quinlan agus Peter Farrell; cisteoir: Tony O'Leary; oifigeach eolais pobail: Ger Condon; leas-pobail: Ann O'Sullivan.

Sinn Féin AGMs

AT the AGMs of the following Sinn Féin cumainn, new officer boards were elected.

BALLYSHANNON

H-Block Martyrs cumainn: Chair: Conal Gallagher; vice-chair: Gerry Sheeran; secretary: Brendan McGinley; vice-secretary: Mary Sleavin; education: Tom Bannon; treasurers: Anthony O'Malley, Daly and Margaret McGinley; PRO: Vera Bannon; comhairle ceantair delegates: Brendan Magill, Conal Gallagher and Margaret McGinley.

BLESSINGTON

Frank Driver cumainn: Chair: Christopher Nolan; rúnal: Kitty Hawkins; treasurer: Gordon Darker.

CARRICK-ON-SUIR

Maurice McGrath cumainn: Honorary president: Terry O'Donovan; chair: Liam Walsh; secretary: Eddie O'Doherty; treasurer: Michael O'Doherty; PRO: James Smith.

DUNDALK

Duffy/Downey cumainn: Chair: Liam Cassidy; vice-chair: Frank Duffy; secretary: Jean Lalor-Fitzpatrick; vice-secretary: Mary Duffy; treasurer: Frank Duffy; PRO: Martin Sharkey; education: Kieran McBride; finance: Michael Hearty; youth: John Buckley.

Gos/Gaughran cumainn: Chair: Rory Duggan; vice-chair: Liam Bird; secretary: Angela Cunnane; vice-secretary: Brieghe Duffy; finance: Jimmy Browne and Joe Dullaghan; PRO: Liam Bird; comhairle ceantair delegates: Fra Browne, Rory Duggan and Liam Bird.

Worthington/Watters Brothers cumainn: Chair: Sean Kenna; vice-chair: Tommy McDermott; secretary: Seán Ó Cléirigh; PRO: Olivia Kenna; treasurer: Hugh McMahon; vice-treasurer: Geraldine Kenna; education: Maureen McArdle; women's officer: Ann Shields; comhairle ceantair delegates: Geraldine Kenna and Kenneth Costello.

ENNISCORTHY

Sabbat / O'Nanlann / MacAdagáin cumainn: Chair: Michael Nolan; vice-chair: Kevin Sheehan; secretary: John Byrne; treasurers: Ed O'Connor and Sean Doyle; PRO: Sean Doyle; comhairle ceantair delegates: Ed O'Connor and Sean Doyle.

ENNISSYMON

Conway/Campbell/McGirr cumainn: Chair: Denis O'Connell; secretary: Marie Quigley; treasurers: Donal Quigley and John Hynes; PRO: Richard Curran.

INCHICORE

Robert Emmet cumainn: Chair: Sean Halpenney; secretary: Tricia Quinn; treasurer/trade unions: Sean Flannery; organiser/women's officer: Sean Flannery; PROs: Joan Quilligan/Andy Connolly; education/culture: Joan Quilligan.

INNISKEEN

Megan/Harvey cumainn: Chair: Patrick Daly; vice-chair: Martin Kirke; secretary: Eoin MacDhaibhit; vice-secretary: Mary O'Callaghan; treasurers: Patrick Rogers and Colm Reilly; PRO: Charles McShane.

LETTERKENNY

George McBrearty/Charlie Maguire cumainn: Chair: Eddy Heuston; vice-chair: Liam Molloy; secretary: Veronica Molloy; finance: Rosie Diamond; PRO: Dennis O'Donnell; education: Sean Gallagher; treasurer: Carmel Kelly; comhairle ceantair delegates: Danny McBrearty, Sean Gallagher and Eddy Heuston.

LOCH GARMAN

Cumann Padraig Ó Pearáil: Cathaoirleach: Peter Rudmond; rúnal/OCP: Seamus O'Sullivan; cisteoir: Billy Phelan.

NEW ELECTIONS DEMAND IN JAMAICA

Caribbean power-play

BY BOB RUSSELL

BOTH the opposition Peoples National Party (PNP) and the powerful Jamaican Council of Churches have called for fresh elections in Jamaica, where a political backlash is growing against Prime Minister Edward Seaga whose right-wing Jamaican Labour Party (JLP) was returned to power unopposed in a sham general election on December 15th.

In calling the December election, Seaga was capitalising on his intervention in support of the US invasion of Grenada and on the disorganisation of the PNP, but in doing so he broke a pledge to await the updated electoral register. An estimated 150,000 18-21 year olds were therefore disenfranchised. Under pressure to call new elections on the basis of the updated register, the virulently anti-socialist Seaga replied:

"Whenever elections are called they will come upon us like Nicodemus in the night."

Although the December election was boycotted by all the opposition political parties, independent candidates stood unsuccessfully in six of the 60 constituencies. Even this token opposition was resisted by the right-wing JLP, and in an editorial before the election, Jamaica's Daily Gleaner commented:

"We were disappointed that in one or two cases independent candidates were prevented from handing in their papers by over-enthusiastic JLP supporters."

WESTMINSTER

The Westminster-style democracy which determines Jamaica's electoral process discriminates against true representation as in the 1980 general election when, despite winning 40% of the vote, the PNP got only 15% of the seats.



● EDWARD SEAGA

Violence is endemic in Jamaican politics, and while PNP leader Michael Manley steers his party towards a 'moderate' social democratic position to try and win much-needed financial support from sections of the business community, PNP supporters sing at rallies:

"We don't want no moderation, 'Stand firm!'"

It is these supporters who bear the brunt of attacks from JLP assassins. In fact, the author of the 'no-moderation' song, Prince Far-I was killed recently in a political murder, while another poet, Michael Smith, was stoned to death by JLP supporters the day after he questioned the JLP education minister at a public meeting.

The PNP has suffered untold damage as its leadership has shifted to the right, alien-

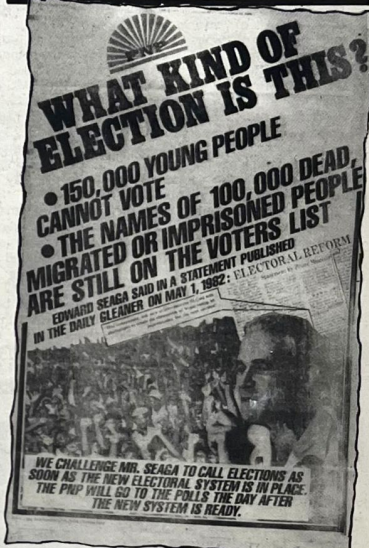
support. Even the recent proposal to set up monthly 'People's Forums' as an alternative to the boycotted parliament will hardly reverse this trend since the forums will be in the luxury Pegasus Hotel, situated in the heart of rich New Kingston and out of the reach of the majority of Kingston's poor.

GAIN

The party most likely to gain from this disenchantment with the PNP is the Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ). Probably suspecting this, the authorities have already raided the WPJ headquarters and arrested some of its members. The intensive Marxist-phobia which has been created in Jamaica, to the delight of the Reagan administration, is a major stumbling block to any development of a radical political alternative.

One of Seaga's alleged reasons for holding the December 'election' was to win a comfortable majority, thus giving the impression to foreign investors of stability within Jamaica. The boycott of the election by the PNP, which Seaga did not expect, has, however, had the opposite effect, and the unstable nature of Jamaican politics has become clear.

The pre-election devaluation of Jamaica's currency will drive up prices for imported goods in the coming year and, added to the sluggish demand for Jamaica's chief export, bauxite, on the world market, will cause further hardship for the poor. Faced with economic decline and mounting political opposition, Seaga's re-election may yet prove a Pyrrhic victory.



AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA

BY SEAN HALPENNY

DURING recent weeks more than 10,000 South African troops, with ground and air support, have invaded the Peoples Republic of Angola, penetrating to within 100 miles of the capital, Luanda. And in a simultaneous act of aggression, the South African-backed UNITA launched a series of terrorist attacks against the people and government of Angola in an attempt to destabilise the socialist administration of the MPLA.

Initially described as an attempt to "flush out SWAPO guerrillas" (who are fighting to free neighbouring Namibia from South African occupation), the South African invasion soon became a "month-long sweep through Angola" in the largest operation of its kind since 1975, when South African forces vainly attempted to topple the MPLA government by backing the dissident UNITA and FNLA armies.

While this attack was eventually repulsed in March 1976, South Africa launched a further offensive in August 1981. Using 11,000 troops, they occupied the Angolan province of Cunene and have remained there since, "to protect South Africa's borders" and to maintain a launching pad for future attacks deep into Angolan territory.

In claims reminiscent of those emanating from Israel following the invasion of Lebanon, the South African regime stated that in recent days their forces have en-

gaged Cuban, Angolan and SWAPO opposition near the town of Cuvelai, killing hundreds and capturing military equipment including dozens of armoured vehicles, suffering the loss of a mere 21 troops.

Replying to these fanciful accounts, the Angolan Ministry of Defence issued a communique accusing the South Africans of dropping bombs containing 'toxic products' in and around Cuvelai. This claim is supported by previous South African actions, such as in May 1978 when chemical warfare was used to massacre 600 Namibian refugees at Kassinga in Angola. Both the United Nations and the World Health Organisation later accused the racist Pretoria regime of using a paralysing gas in order "to incapacitate a number of the victims prior to their being killed".

The South Africans have set up a special 'chemical and biological unit' in their army which is currently developing new chemical weapons at the Military Medical



● South African troops occupy the Angolan province of Cunene

Institute in Pretoria. A recent development in this laboratory is a binary nerve-gas shell which contains Sarin, a highly toxic nerve-gas developed in Nazi Germany in 1938.

Recognising the further threat to security which South Africa now poses in the region, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution on Friday, January 6th, demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. Britain and the USA abstained on

this motion, although it was considerably weaker than the original proposal to impose sanctions.

After dismissing the UN move, the South Africans now claim that they are 'phasing out' their Angolan presence, but they have also threatened to escalate the war in Angola 'regardless of the consequences'. Since South Africa has already developed frightening chemical and nuclear capabilities its threat of 'total war' concerns not only the immediate region but the whole world.

BURKE'S AT THE BACK By Kevin Burke

TWO MORE 'bad apples' have emerged from the ranks of the British army's ultra-sectarian Ulster Defence Regiment.

In Belfast Crown Court on Wednesday of this week, William Orr and Stephen Watson, both of the UDR, and Colin Doak, a member of the Royal Air Force, admitted the killing of a young nationalist, John McConville, in Lurgan on Easter Sunday morning last, as well as the assault of his friend, Jerome Heatley.

The three had been drinking and decided to 'beat up a Catholic' before going home to bed. John McConville's jaw was broken with a crash-helmet and he died from his injuries.

However, with typical sectarian leniency, the crown prosecutor stated in court that there had been 'no intention to kill', and accepted the killers' plea of not guilty to murder but guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter. The three therefore got off with light sentences of ten years, seven years and five years respectively — and will only serve half that time under the standard remission process.

What both the crown prosecutor and the judge know full well, of course, is that the intention necessary for murder is one of intention to kill or to cause grievous bodily harm.

But when loyalists, are in court, particularly uniformed ones, the legal memory often becomes defective.

★★★★

Three more members of the UDR are being questioned in Castlereagh about UVF activity around Ballymena in County Antrim.

The latest 'bad apples' are among six men arrested on Tuesday of this week, and following the arrests a large arms cache was discovered in the area. The cache consisted of home-made sub-machineguns, two shotguns, nine hand guns, 4,000 rounds of ammunition and ten rifles including First World War German Steyrs and Italian Martinis which were among the thousands of weapons imported to arm the original UVF.

★★★★

Staff-Sergeant Kenneth Clydesdale of the British army's Royal Engineers has been charged at Aldershot Court last week with threatening to kill his wife.

In apparent preparation for this 'threat', he stole from army stores ammunition, blank cartridges, two trip-wire flares and three explosive smoke generators.

★★★★

Official Unionist Party deputy-leader Harold McCusker has discovered subversives in the Brownlow library in Craigavon, the tape section of which has been offering for loan a cassette entitled *The Guns and Songs of the IRA*.

In response to McCusker's demands, the Southern Education and Library Board has ordered the removal of all such tapes from public view. But it will continue to purchase such tapes in future "so that in years to come historians will have material available to study".

★★★★

The well-known gospel songs of the DUP's Rev William McCrea, MP for Mid-Ulster, seems to have had an interesting effect on one member of the RUC.

The RUC man who was assigned to guard McCrea's home shot himself in the finger on Monday night of this week and had to be removed from the unpopular duty.

He is now recovering — out of earshot.

★★★★

One-time SDLP big-noise Ivan Cooper was back in court this week in Donegal to face seven charges, including cruelty to animals, assault, breach of the peace and malicious damage.

One of the charges involves causing unnecessary suffering to three Alsatian dogs, and another is of terrorising a terrier belonging to the wife of a garda sergeant.

Cooper will appear in court again at Dungloe on February 14th when these charges, along with others of dangerous driving and being drunk and disorderly, will be heard. Please book your seats in advance.

★★★★

The British lefties of the Workers Revolut-

A rotten orchard



● The UDR — a thoroughly rotten bunch

ionary Party — through the medium of their meaty mouthpiece *News Line* — have declared themselves (again) outraged by the IRA's London bombings.

When things were quiet in Britain, the WRP grandly declared that it "unreservedly supports the right of the IRA to struggle against British imperialism by whatever means they see fit". But when the 'means' get too close for comfort they tend to forget their 'principles' and hurl all kinds of abuse, the equal of any Fleet Street hysteria.

Perhaps you could sympathise with them if it was only drastic measures like bombs which they object to, but the revolutionaries are ready to scream abuse at any forelinked activity which encroaches on British comforts — even the price of a cuppa!

In *News Line* on January 4th, they slam the Indian government for restricting tea exports so as to reduce the price of tea at home, whilst causing a rise in price in Britain.

Most of us would hardly begrudge the Indian people cheaper tea, even if it is a temporary election gimmick by Mrs Gandhi — and perhaps we should concern ourselves more with the exploitation of tea plantation workers to produce our favourite beverage.

But not *News Line*. Claiming that tea prices will 'rocket' by 4p a packet in Britain, they warn that it will 'hit the pocket' of 'millions of working-class families'.

★★★★

I find the various divisions among British lefties yield hours of honest entertainment, accompanied by a large amount of confusion.

I am not alone in the confusion. Take *News Line* again, for example.

In their editorial on Saturday, December

17th, they described the comrades of the Socialist League — formerly the International Marxist Group — as 'heroes of the class struggle'.

On Monday, December 19th, *News Line* carried a correction stating that this description was an 'inadvertent error'. They had meant to describe them as 'refugees from the class struggle as it more aptly sums up these anti-working class petty bourgeois pessimists'.

What on earth happened on Sunday?

★★★★

The sting in the tail for Danny Morrison in securing an acquittal on a careless driving charge, in Belfast Magistrates Court last week, was the magistrate's admission that he had never heard of him!

Morrison, ably defending himself with the aid of photographs of the scene, showed how overtaking another car on the brow of the hill whilst approaching an RUC checkpoint could not be careless driving.

(Having been driven by the accused, I prefer to reserve judgement.)

The magistrate, John Edwards, asked Morrison why he had said to the RUC: "I knew you'd get me for something," and was informed that it was because he was "a republican and a Sinn Féin elected representative".

The magistrate replied: "That's the first I've heard of it. Congratulations to you."

Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley has since written to the British Lord Chancellor demanding Edwards' immediate removal from the bench for expressing good wishes to a man "who says he has an Armalite in one hand and a ballot box in the other".

And can still overtake on the brow of a hill!

NOTES
©CORMAC



WHAT'S ON

IRISH BRIGADE ON TOUR
Friday 13th January
The Ban Bo
MANORHAMILTON
County Leitrim

WELCOME HOME KEVIN DUNPHY DINNER DANCE
(on his recent release from England)
Friday 13th January
Bessborough Arms
CARRICK-ON-SUIR
County Tipperary

VOL JOHN FRANCIS GREEN 9th ANNIVERSARY MASS
8pm Saturday 14th January
St Mary's Church
CASTLEBLAYNEY
County Monaghan

IRISH NIGHT
Featuring The Irish Brigade
9pm Saturday 14th January
The Welcome Inn
SWANLINBAR
County Cavan
Táille £2

DONEGAL SINN FEIN COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR MEETING
2.30pm Sunday 15th January
Jackson's Hotel
BALLYBOFEY

DUBLIN SINN FEIN EDUCATION OFFICERS MEETING
8pm Tuesday 17th January
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
All Dublin education officers must attend

SINN FEIN EEC ELECTORAL CONVENTIONS
(All members of the Republican Movement must attend their area conventions)

SIX COUNTIES
2pm Sunday 15th January
BELFAST

DUBLIN
1pm Saturday 21st January
West County Hotel
Chapelizod
DUBLIN

LEINSTER
(excluding Dublin)
1pm Sunday 22nd January
West County Hotel
Chapelizod
DUBLIN

CONNAUGHT/ULSTER
2pm Sunday 22nd January
Village Inn
STROKESTOWN
County Roscommon

MUNSTER
2.30pm Sunday 22nd January
Dobbin's Hotel
TIPPERARY

VOL KEVIN COEN COMMEMORATION
After 8pm Mass
Friday 20th January
Torchlight procession from church to the Coen Memorial
SOOEY
County Sligo
Speaker: John Joe McGril
Organised by Sligo National Graves Association

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION
10am Saturday 21st January
Greenhead Road
WISHAW
West of Scotland
Supported by Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN NEW MEMBERS EDUCATION COURSE
'Roles for Sinn Féin activists'
Saturday 21st January
DERRY
Phone Derry 268926 for details
Everyone welcome

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION
(12th anniversary)
1pm Sunday 29th January
Carlisle Street/Spittal Hill
for rally at City Hall
SHEFFIELD
Yorkshire
England

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION
2.30pm Sunday 29th January
Following original route of Creggan Estate to Free Derry Corner
DERRY

REVIEW PAGE

TV

Ethics and epics

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

JOHN WAYNE was dying from cancer himself when he made *The Shootist* in 1976, shown on BBC1 on Thursday, the story of an ageing, but still famous, gunman, JB Books, who finds out he has cancer and arranges an appropriate death for himself.

The small town he chooses to die in has never had anybody as well-known in it, and the fear and excitement the townspeople feel is reflected in the differing attitudes of the other main characters to Books.

Lauren Bacall is the landlady who fears having Books in the house but whose sympathy for him overcomes her apprehension. Ron Howard is Gillom, her young son, who hero worships Books and helps him to arrange his death. Books wants to go out, literally, with a bang, and take the town's three 'baddies' with him.

Euthanasia in the American way — let's hope Ronald Reagan doesn't get any similar ambition.

The *Conqueror*, on Channel 4 on Saturday, also starred John Wayne, but there could be no drawing of comparisons between actor and character here. Wayne played Genghis Khan,

the Mongol chief, and the story was centred on his love for Bortai (Susan Hayward), a Tartar's daughter. Mongols and Tartars didn't get on, so things are difficult in the Gobi Desert for a while, until love triumphs and the unlikely pair ride off into the sunset.

But John Wayne playing ancient historical roles just doesn't work — remember him as the centurion in *The Great-est Story Ever Told*? — and his drawing Genghis Khan is no exception.

The location for the film was the Utah Desert, near an A-bomb test-site. A considerable number of the cast and workers on this film subsequently contracted cancer, including Wayne himself, and it was claimed that this was due to fall-out from the atomic tests.

The *Far Pavilions*, *The Jewel in the Crown*, *Masada*, *The*

Thorn Birds — every channel has a so-called 'blockbuster' serial at the moment.

The first two are the 'decline of the Empire' type, and set in India.

The *Far Pavilions*, on Channel 4, is the story of the child of an Indian mother and an English father who is rescued by a Hindu woman when he is lost as a baby. He grows up and joins the British army. Now there's gratitude for you.

The rest is about beautiful young Indian princesses and the Indian uprising.

The *Jewel in the Crown* started on Monday on ITV and is more of the same.

The *Thorn Birds*, on BBC1 on Sunday, is described as an 'epic' and is adapted from Colleen McCullough's best-selling novel. Set in Australia, it is the story of a Catholic priest whose ambitions to be a cardinal clash with his love for a young girl — controversial stuff.

These best-seller block-busting epics, though full of beautiful scenery, lavish costumes, big-name actors and beautiful women, have almost interchangeable plots, just like any run of the mill soap operas. The theme is always the struggle between money and power and romantic love, and whether set in India, Australia, or Dallas, becomes banal.

The *Outcasts*, on RTE on Friday, was a relief because it



● **Ralph de Brissart (Richard Chamberlain) is torn between his ambition and his love for Maggie Cleary (Rachel Ward) in *The Thorn Birds***

was so different.

Though a bit too magical-mystical, the atmosphere of a pre-famine village in Ireland was captured well, perfectly portraying the prejudice and superstition that ruled people's lives then and even remains in this century.

Mary Ryan played Maire, whose physical disability and 'oddness' set her apart from the other village girls. She becomes

the scapegoat for all the ills in the village because of her friendship with the travelling musician, Scarf Michael, whom she refuses to denounce as evil.

He rescues Maire from death at the villagers' hands, but they both realise that death is Maire's only real escape from the people who persecute her — *Ballrooms of Romance*, 1950s style.

The James Connolly Flute

Band, from Glasgow, is the subject of a film on Channel 4 on Monday, January 16th, in the *Eleventh Hour* series.

Green Flutes is about the band, their music and their place in their community. It also films them in action at commemorations and marches in the six counties, where the James Connolly band is as well-known as in Glasgow, and is a particular favourite of Northern nationalists.

Never again

BY EDDIE STACK

THE PEOPLE of Ireland are a hardy race but even the most optimistic amongst us cannot have failed to notice how bad our luck has got recently. Even I — a man who has sat through humiliation, torture and intimidation, and come through holding my head high — even I was brutally demoralised by this the latest blow. But I still call on you, hoarsely, to rally round for the good of the cause. For we are, after all, a great nation. Our spirit cannot be broken so easily.

What kind of people do they think we are? We have survived Roy Mason, the bread strike, the toilet paper strike, even the Osmonds. What makes them think they can break us now by releasing the second James Bond film in the space of a year?

There was a time when Bond films visited your cinema at regular intervals, rather like a passing comet. The average citizen was given good warning as to when to brick up his windows and lock the goldfish up in the coal-shed. When the appalling piece of celluloid had moved on, mankind could clamber out blinking into the light to discuss its enforced confinement with passing strangers in a unique spirit of comradeship. However, this cycle has been disrupted and a new Bond has been sprung upon us. It arrives as welcome as an

earwig in your meringue. The point about this 'new' Bond is that it is the old Bond. Sean Connery, who spent the '60s saving the earth, in between leaping in and out of bed, has emerged from the old folks' home to play his old role once again. Carrying his stomach around him like an expectant Princess Diana he still manages to reduce to quivering pulp several bruisers who look as big as a Coca Cola warehouse, and this with a wig precariously balanced on his bald dome.

OVERBLOWN
"Ah, James, I love your body," purrs one overblown window dummy with eyelashes long enough to catch flies, but when Bond's body rolls over on top of her she vanishes under a ton of tummy.

FILM

Sean Connery has made much of the fact that he wanted to inject some long lost quality into the Bond films. Citing his approval of the first two Bonds, he mourned the loss of characterisation and special effects over-kill that is now the sole ingredient of the Bond formula today.

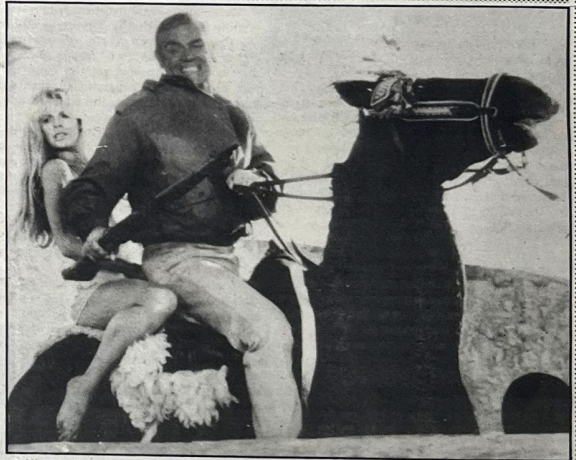
So here he was, now going to make Bond a real person again, not a fantasy figure. Someone we could identify with and share our hopes and fears, a man to whom we could look up to and respect. You know, like Gandhi.

Alas, it must be recorded that no such magical transformation has taken place and *Never Say Never Again* is just as truly awful as anything that Roger Moore, or Ronald Reagan, has ever appeared in.

To talk of the plot, for those of you who write these things down so that they can be stored for after the Bomb, James Bond is a secret agent with the British Secret Service. He has been taken off operations by his new boss 'M' who thinks that, frankly, 007 is a cracked secret agent.

Sound man, this 'M', you may say — a pity he's not directing this film.

PLUCKED
Either way, Bond is soon



● **Kim Basinger emerges with some dignity from *Never Say Never Again*, but Bond and the producers take the paying public for a ride in this latest piece of Bondage**

plucked from retirement by the fact that two Cruise missiles have been stolen by the dreaded SPECTRE. Who can save the earth from the use of these weapons? Or, at least, who can regain them for future use by their rightful owners?

"Send for Bond!" goes the cry, and our hero leaps into

life. Several sex scenes, three car chases, five shoot-outs, three shark fights and eight brawls later, the earth is saved. More remarkably, Bond's wig is still intact.

Never Say Never Again is enough to put anyone in a black mood for a week, but if only to save something from the

wreckage, let me tell you that an actress called Kim Basinger emerges with some dignity from the well-chewed bubble gum. She stands head and shoulders above all those Bond beauties who are supposed to entice us into the cinema with their charms. Stan.

Offshore rock

BY SEAN O'BRIEN

AN ALBUM of modern rock music in Irish — the first of its kind — released on the Gael Linn label, might appear, at first sight, to be a rather tired attempt at novelty by language campaigners.

But that is certainly not a true verdict on the album in question — *Trath* by Barry Ronan.

Not only does he produce a natural sound in his lyrics and music equal to any contemporary, mainstream rock composer, but he breaks new ground in Ireland in musical technology.

All the music on the album — apart from added drums and percussion from the experienced

Don Harris — are performed on the Fairlight Computer Musical Instrument, a technological miracle of limitless sound and creation. It has been used by groups such as Depeche Mode and Human League, but surprisingly given the considerable saving in costs, this is its debut in Irish recording studios.

MAINSTREAM
Ronan, who is from Cill Ronan, on Inis Mor in the Aran

Islands, and, therefore a native Irish-speaker, produces music which finds its home in the category of mainstream or soft rock. Indeed, the opening track on the album, *Cead*, immediately redeems itself, and from there on each track is an added pleasure.

His lyrics too, even to the ear of a mediocre Gaelic-speaker, are definitely a cut above the norm. Sung in a distinctive and interesting voice, they cover the usual topics of sadness, joy, loneliness and desolation, without sinking into mushy banality.

As well as the tracks like *Elaine*, *Siar*, *Sios* and *Bother* and *Buachaill Feadhearta* (the latter now released on a single), which would more than hold their own in any disco, there are slower numbers which display a depth of

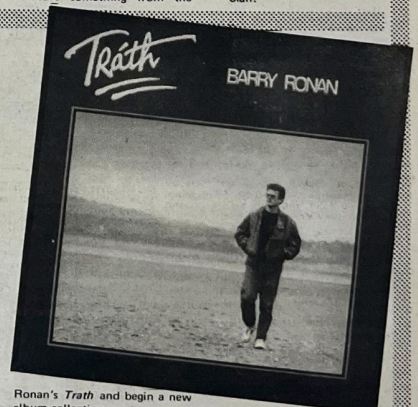
musical talent promising exciting future development.

ABILITY

Ar an *Tra Fholamh*, the last track on side one, not only allows the amazing musical computer to show off its ability, but clearly displays a fascinating side of Ronan's music — detectable elsewhere on the album — as the traditional concept of 'Irish music', almost a *sean nos* style, breaks through into modern rock.

After saying all of this, it is perhaps the final irony that, for me at least, the last track — the only one which could be more properly filled under traditional music rather than rock — is the most gripping. Entitled *Mairin*, it is a slow and emotional song of considerable quality and a satisfying end to a most enjoyable album.

Go out and buy Barry



Ronan's *Trath* and begin a new album collection.

Deaths of Michael Hughes and Jim Vallely

THE death took place in Merlin Park Hospital, Galway, on December 20th 1983 of Michael Hughes, Kibbinn, Tuam, County Galway.

Michael, who achieved world-wide fame when his photograph was printed in Bill O'Leary's book *A Terrible Beauty* under the heading *The Eternal Republican*, joined Fianna Éireann in 1920 and was later interned for six years during the 1940s. He remained with the Republican Movement until his death.

At the funeral in Kibbinn Churchyard, two miles west of Tuam, Ruairi O'Bradaigh gave the oration on Thursday, December 22nd.

Also in the same Tuam area, Jim Vallely (36), of Tuam Sinn Féin, died on December 27th after a long illness. He leaves a widow and five children.

Ar dheis De go raibh a nanamnacha.

• MICHAEL HUGHES

Irish Lesson

Ar mhaith leat? (err voh lyat) - Would you like?
Ba mhaith liom (buh voh lyum) - I would like.
Ní mhaith leat? (nawr voh lyat) - Would you not like?
Ní mhaith liom (nee-u voh lyum) - I wouldn't like.
Dí (doo) - an apple
deoch (dyuch) - a drink
tointín (teen) - a cigarette
oráiste (lowa-ravshyeh) - an orange

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

deoch oráiste - an orange drink
míseán (mishawn) - a sweet
cupán té (kupawn thay) - a cup of tea
Ar mhaith leat dí? - Would you like an apple?
Ní mhaith liom, go raibh maith agat - I wouldn't, thank you.
Ach ba mhaith liom oráiste - But I would like an orange.
Ní mhaith le Seán dí? - Wouldn't John like an apple?
Ba mhaith leis deoch oráiste - He would like a cup of tea.

like an orange drink.
Ba mhaith le Bríd tointín? Wouldn't Brid like a cigarette?
Níor mhaith léi - She wouldn't.
Ach ba mhaith léi míseán - But she would like a sweet.
Ní mhaith le deoch? - Would you not like a drink.
Ba mhaith leo cupán té - They would like a cup of tea.

PHRASES

1 - Chomh fada agus is maith leat (choo fadda oguss iss moh lyat) - As long as you like.
2 - Maith mar thárla (moh mar horliuh) - It happened for the best.
3 - Nuair is maith leis (noo-ir iss moh lish) - When he likes.
4 - Ba mhaith ann é (buh voh own ay) - It was a good job I was there.

REMEMBERING THE PAST The Irish Confederation

BY PETER O'ROURKE

THE Irish Confederation, a 19th century revolutionary organisation, though only in existence for 18 months, had a profound effect on Irish republicanism.

In 1846, with the country reeling under the impact of the famine, it became clear that a confrontation within the Repeal Association between O'Connell's constitutionalists and the more radical Young Irelanders over the use of physical force, was inevitable. In July, O'Connell forced the issue to a head by proposing to the Association a motion demanding a declaration that physical force could never be justified.

Unable to accept this policy, the Young Irelanders withdrew from the Association and at a meeting in the Rotunda, Dublin, on January 13th 1847, they established the Irish Confederation.

The Confederation, led by William Smith O'Brien, promoted the establishment of Confederate Clubs throughout the country, whose members included Charles Gavan Duffy, John Blake Dillon, Thomas Francis Meagher, John Mitchell and Michael Doheny.

right of Ireland to self-government and the need for self-reliance. While it did not advocate the use of physical force, it did not rule out the possibility that only by force of arms could its object be secured.

REVOLUTION

The outbreak of revolution in France, in February 1848, gave a new impetus to the Confederate Clubs. O'Brien, Mitchell and Meagher went beyond the call for repeal of the Act of Union to demand the establishment of an Irish republic and published a series of articles outlining military tactics for a proposed rising.

In May, Mitchell was arrested, tried under the Treason Felony Act and sentenced to 14 years' transportation. In July, habeas-corpus was suspended, Duffy, Dillon and Doheny were arrested and membership of the Confederate Clubs was declared an offence.

The suspension of habeas-corpus

• JOHN MITCHEL

provoked the Confederate leaders still at liberty into calling for an armed insurrection. O'Brien's tour of the South-East produced little support, and the Young Irelanders' rising ended with a small skirmish at Ballinagary, County Tipperary.

Although the Irish Confederation folded, its legacy was considerable and the Young Irelanders' ideal inspired future generations of republicans.

Liz, USA.
MURPHY, Patrick, (H-Block), Happy birthday, PJ. I hope you have a very special day - somehow. Take care and God bless. Love from Brid, USA.

LOVE & SOLIDARITY in 1984 to the women republican prisoners in Armagh Jail. "A good nationalist should look upon slugs in the garden in the same way as she looks on the English in Ireland!" - Markievicz. Only two months to Women's Day - see you then. From the Armagh Co-ordinating Committee, London.

NEW YEAR greetings to all Irish republican POWs at home and abroad. From the Bobby Sands Sinn Féin cumann, Tuam, County Galway.

NEW YEAR greetings to the 'Blessing of the Five' - better late than never! - David Douglas, Gerry Meahan and Sean Mulligan. From the Chiseller (Dickie).

SOLIDARITY GREETINGS for 1984 to all republican POWs everywhere, especially Seamus Swan, Daithi Kavanagh, Peter Rogers, Jim Mythen, Rab and all the lads in Portlaoise. From Anóin Mac Uaid agus a chliann i Loch Garman, UTP.

memories

BLEAKLEY, Rosemary, (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Rosemary Bleakley, Belfast Brigade, Cumann na mBan, and Martin McDonagh, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died as a result of an accidental explosion while on active service on January 13th 1976. Thug slá raibh acu ag tróid ar son na saoirse. Never forgotten by their friends and comrades in Cumann na mBan and Óglagh na hÉireann.

BLEAKLEY, Rosemary, (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Rosemary Bleakley, Belfast Brigade, Cumann na mBan, who died on January 13th 1976. Always remembered by her friends Mary and Martin. BLEAKLEY, Rosemary, (8th Anniversary). In loving memory of Vol Rosemary Bleakley, Cumann na mBan, who died on January 13th 1976. Go ndána Dia tróicare ar a hanam. Always remembered by her friends and comrades in the North Armagh Brigade.

GREEN, John Francis, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Francis Green, North Armagh Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who was assassinated by British undercover agents on January 10th 1975. Thug sé a raibh aige ag tróid ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the North Armagh Brigade.

GREEN, John Francis, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Vol John Francis Green, 2nd Battalion, North Armagh Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who was assassinated at Mullagh, Castletown, on January 10th 1975. Mary, Quirke, and I pray for him. Always remembered by his loving mother, brothers, sisters and family circle.

GREEN, John Francis, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Francis Green, Óglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered on January 10th 1975. He died as he lived, true to God and to the land which he loved. Always remembered by his brothers Leo and Laurence, (H2).

GREEN, John Francis, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Francis Green, Óglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered on January 10th 1975. Always remembered by his aunt Theresa and family. Mary, Queen of the Gaa, pray for him.

GREEN, John Francis, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Francis Green, Óglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered on January 10th 1975. Always remembered by his aunt Theresa and family. Mary, Queen of the Gaa, pray for him.

Vol John Francis Green who was murdered by the SAS on January 10th 1975. Always remembered by the John Francis Green, Sinn Féin cumann, Leilig, County Dublin.

GREEN, John Francis, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Francis Green, Óglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered on January 10th 1975. I measc laochra na ndéag go raibh acu. Always remembered with pride by the Monaghan Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair.

GREEN, John Francis, (9th Anniversary). A moment's thought of a man so true, who laid down his life for me and you. Always remembered by his friends in Castletown and throughout North Monaghan, especially Jackie and Bernie Crowe and family, and Kathleen and Eamon McGuigan.

GREEN, John Francis, (9th Anniversary). In remembrance of a fond friend and comrade who was brutally murdered by British crown forces at Mullagh, Castletown, County Monaghan on January 10th 1975. You died as you lived. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the John Francis Green Sinn Féin cumann, Castletown.

HARVEY, Seamus, (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Seamus Harvey, Óglagh na hÉireann, South Armagh, who died while on active service on January 16th 1977. Fuair sé bás ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in Óglagh na hÉireann. NEWMAN, McCormick, Eamon, (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Eamon McCormick, Belfast Brigade, Fianna Éireann, who died while on active service duty on January 16th 1972. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade, Fianna Éireann.

MOYNE, James, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of James Moyne, Derry Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died in Long Kesh on January 31st 1975. Thug sé a raibh aige ag tróid ar son saoirse mhuintir na hÉireann. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade. MOYNE, James, (9th Anniversary). Derry Sinn Féin remembers with pride, Vol James Moyne, Derry Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died in Long Kesh on January 31st 1975. I measc laochra na ndéag go raibh a nanam asal.

O'DONNELL, Phil, (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Vol Phil O'Donnell whose anniversary occurred last month. Always remembered by the Dublin Sinn Féin cumann, Tuam, County Offaly.

SLOAN, Michael, (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Michael Sloan, Belfast Brigade, Fianna Éireann, who died on active service duty on January 11th 1972. I measc laochra na ndéag go raibh a nanam asal. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade, Fianna Éireann.

SYMPATHY

FORTUNE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Finn family, Mount George, Wexford on the occasion of their recent bereavement. Go ndána Dia tróicare ar a hanam. Deeply regretted by the Wade family, Wexford.

HEHIR, The Republican Movement in Limerick. Kerry and Ck extends sincere sympathy to Hughie Hehir and family on the accidental death of their young daughter. Thair air. Go raibh a hanam.

HUGHES, The Republican Movement in County Galway extends sincere sympathy to the family of Michael Hughes, Kibbinn, who died recently.

KELLY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Joe Kelly (Portlaoise) and family on the death of his aunt. Sincere condolences from the Sinn Féin POW Department, Dublin.

KELLY, Dublin Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, extends sincere sympathy to Joe Kelly (Portlaoise) and family on the recent death of his aunt. Go ndána Dia tróicare ar a hanam.

MCALDER, MCCLAVE, WATSON. North Monaghan Sinn Féin offers its sincere sympathy to the families and friends of Barney McAlder of Pomory, Micky McClave of Ballinade, and Eddie Watson of Ballyislin. Their recent deaths have been a sad loss to their communities and to their many friends in the Republican Movement in their area.

MCCALLY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late Brian McCally who died on Friday, January 6th. Go raibh a nanam dháils. Sadly missed by his friends and comrades in the Robert Emmet and

Maire Drumm Sinn Féin cumann, Inchicore and Clontarf, Dublin.

MORGAN, The Gos/Gaughan Sinn Féin cumann, Dundalk, extends deepest sympathy to Arthur Morgan (H8) on the death of his father. Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Morgan family circle.

MULLEN. The republican POWs in the H-Blocks and Cages of Long Kesh, Armagh, Magilligan, and Crumlin Road extend their deepest sympathy to their friend and comrade Pat Mullen (H1) on the death of his father. Go ndána Dia tróicare ar a hanam. Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Mullen family circle.

MULLEN. Dunganonn Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to our friend and comrade Pat Mullen (H1) on the death of his father. Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a nanam dháils.

VALLEY, GORMLEY. The Republican Movement in County Galway offers sincere sympathy to the Valley and Gormley families, Tuam, on the recent death of Jim Valley.

WHELAN, Dublin Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, extends heartfelt sympathy to Joe Whelan and family circle on the death of his father. Go ndána Dia tróicare ar a hanam.

WHELAN, The Russell/McConnell Sinn Féin cumann, East Wall, Dublin, extends sincere sympathy to Joe Whelan, his mother and family circle on the death of his father.

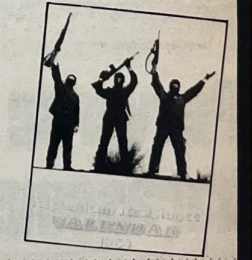
WHELAN, Deepest sympathy to Joe Whelan (Portlaoise) on the death of his father. Sincere condolences to all his family from the Sinn Féin POW Department, Dublin.

WHELAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Joe Whelan (Portlaoise) on the death of his father. From Christy and Anne, Sinn Féin Advice Centre, Dublin.

Republican calendar

THE 1984 Republican Resistance Calendar - containing exclusive full-colour photographs of IRA Volunteers in action, wall murals, and significant dates in Ireland's freedom struggle - has proven to be one of Republican Publications' most popular items.

This excellently produced and colourful calendar is available from 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast (phone 620768), price 50p; or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 (phone 726932); price 10p. Please add postage when ordering.



GREETINGS

BUTLER, Eddie, (Leicester). Happy New Year to our son, Eddie. From Mam, Dad and John, and from his brother and sister in New York.

LEACH, Paul. Birthday greetings, Paul. From Mother, Mary, Geraldine, Christy,addy, the Collins and Brogan families, and the Bobby Sands Sinn Féin cumann, Drogheda. Any wild parties over the Christmas?

MCGLINCHEY, Paul, (Magilligan). Birthday greetings, Paul, for January 16th. Hoping your next one is spent in freedom. God bless. From the Bellaghy Republican POW Welfare Association.

MACMANN, Martin, (H2). Best wishes for the New Year, Martin. Love from

Mother, Father and all your relatives in Lisnakea.

MURPHY, Gerry, (H-Block). Happy New Year, Gerry. From all the family and all your many friends in Castletown, Roll on 1984!

MURTAGH, George, (H-Block). May 1984 bring what we all want. See you in May, 1985!

O'HAGAN, Felim, (Portlaoise). New Year greetings, Felim. "It is not those who can inflict the most, but those who can endure the most who will be victorious." Thinking of you at this time. Love from Eleanor, Jonathan and David.

O'HAGAN, Felim, (Portlaoise). New Year greetings, Felim. Thinking of you. Love from Helen.

O'HAGAN, Felim, (Portlaoise). Happy New Year, Felim. Thinking of you. Love from Helen.

O'NEILL, Eddie, (England). Best wishes to a staunch republican. From the one that got away, comrade. From Raymond, Mary and Patrick.

SHEEHAN, Kevin, (Magilligan). Best wishes on your birthday, Kevin. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love from

O Bradaighs injured in accident

RUAIRI O BRADAIGH, former president of Sinn Féin, and his wife **Patsy**, are recovering in hospital from serious injuries sustained in a car crash last Saturday afternoon, January 7th, on the Maynooth to Kilcock road in County Kildare.

Patsy O Bradaigh is suffering from a fracture of the neck, two broken ribs and severe bruising of her shoulder and face. The O Bradaighs' daughters, Eithne and Deirdre, were also taken to hospital, as were their two friends who were in the car with them, Una and Caoilfhionn Quinn. All received serious bruising and suffered from shock.

Most seriously hurt was Ruairi O Bradaigh who has three broken bones in his ankle which will require surgery, three broken ribs, one of which punctured his lung and his face badly cut by broken glass. However, he is out of danger and expected, in time, to make a full recovery.

The driver of the other car involved in the crash, John Sills, was killed and his passenger, John Reid, both of Booterstown, Dublin, was injured.

The O Bradaighs and their friends were returning from a Club na bhFiann Irish language course in Dublin when the accident happened.



● PATSY O BRADAIGH



● RUAIRI O BRADAIGH

Coalition blocks Kelly's case

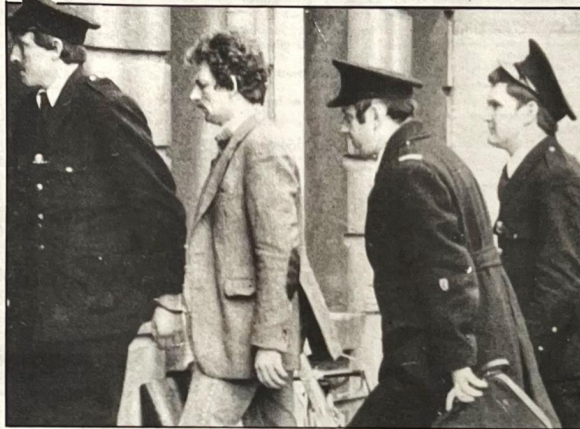
BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

IN SPITE of, at first, promising a review of the case of Nicky Kelly if elected and then, after election, and Kelly's hunger-strike, merely suggesting a method by which Kelly could bring his case back into the courts, the Coalition government has shown itself to have viciously reneged on its undertakings and appears determined to keep the innocent man, framed for the Sallins train robbery, in jail for his full prison sentence.

When Nicky Kelly ended his hunger-strike, on June 7th 1983, the Dublin government issued a statement saying that it was open to him to take a civil action to establish that he had been assaulted in custody and thus show his statements to have been made involuntarily. The Coalition Minister for Justice, Michael Noonan, said at the time:

"If a jury found in his favour in a civil case, that would change things."

Since then, there have been constant delays in Kelly's civil case coming to court, in spite of the claim by the government that a person in custody is given priority over cases where nobody is in custody, and only in December did the Free State enter its defence, not only denying ill-treatment of Kelly but also asking the court to prevent



● Nicky Kelly — the Coalition wants £1,200 to take him to Dublin

Nicky Kelly taking the civil case on the grounds that the charges had already been dealt with in the Special Court!

Kelly is also being prevented from attending the Eye and Ear Hospital in Dublin for

specialist examination of injuries suffered in custody, required as evidence. Michael Noonan's Department of Justice says that Kelly will be allowed to attend if he personally pays the cost of the security escort

which they deem necessary, estimated to be between £800 and £1,200.

NEW EVIDENCE

Noonan is also reneging on his statement that if new evidence were presented the case would be examined, as he is refusing to act on new evidence revealed by Limerick man John Fitzpatrick last October.

John Fitzpatrick was also forced to sign a statement admitting that he took part in the Sallins robbery, but he was able to produce four alibi witnesses to state that he was elsewhere on the night in question. Fitzpatrick was named in the statement which Kelly was forced to sign. When the gardai failed to intimidate these witnesses into withdrawing their statements, John Fitzpatrick was released. The obvious falsehood in the statement was never raised at Kelly's trial.

APPEAL

Nicky Kelly gave himself up on June 8th 1980, after his co-defendants had been released on appeal on May 22nd after 18 months' imprisonment. He had jumped bail before sentence was passed in his trial and gone to the United States. He is now serving his fourth year in Portlaoise Prison, in spite of his obvious innocence and the sponsoring of his case by many eminent members of the legal profession, public representatives, trade unionists and trades councils.

Short Strand shooting

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

IN WHAT bears all the hallmarks of a loyalist sectarian attack in the beleaguered Short Strand area of Belfast, a 15-year-old youth was recently shot in the groin and rushed to hospital. Just a few weeks ago, Short Strand man Tony Dawson was gunned down by a member of the sectarian RUC who has since been charged with his murder.

Shortly after midnight on Thursday, December 29th, Thomas Smith, from Beechfield Street, was leaving rubbish bags in an entry at the rear of his home, when two men, one wearing a duffle coat and the other a green pilot jacket, overpowered him and pulled out a gun. His mother Mrs Molly Smith said:

"They tried to shoot him, he told me, but the gun jammed twice. On the third attempt they shot him in the groin."

Mrs Smith heard her son shouting, and when she and her husband went outside he came round the corner bleeding profusely from the wound.

Meanwhile, his elder brother Bobby, who was returning home, heard the shot and actually passed the two men who ran into a nearby loyalist estate.

Thomas Smith has undergone two operations in the Royal Victoria Hospital.



● THOMAS SMITH

Derry veteran arrested

ON TUESDAY morning, January 10th, at 10am, an RUC raiding party arrived at the home of veteran Derry republican Sean Keenan to arrest him for the non-payment of a £41 fine dating from the H-Block protests.

Sean, now aged 70, has been a prominent member of the Republican Movement for many years. He was recently released from hospital after suffering a heart attack.

Sinn Féin elected representative Martin McGuinness, on hearing of Sean's arrest, arrived in time to



● SEAN KEENAN

see the RUC remove him from his home, and was told by Sean that on no account was any fine to be paid for him. Within an hour, Sean

was released from custody, having been told that the fine had been 'paid anonymously'.

Commenting on Sean Keenan's arrest, Martin McGuinness said:

"It seems that the RUC are intent on getting their pound of flesh from this man who has spent over 14 years in internment camps without even a semblance of the court proceedings which imposed this fine. It is equally clear that the RUC, realising how disadvantageous the arrest of Sean Keenan would turn out to be, decided to waive the fine to avoid further embarrassment."

Perverse harassment

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THREE nationalist youths, aged from 19 to 22, were subjected to a highly embarrassing body-search by RUC men last Wednesday week, January 4th, in Cookstown, County Tyrone.

The three people involved, from the Rapheen/Greenvale area, were returning home around 8pm from a snooker club when they were stopped by several RUC

men driving an unmarked car.

They were ordered to spreadeagle against a wall and when they reluctantly did so the RUC men proceeded to put their hands down the front of their trousers, around their privates. The three youths were very frightened and unnerved by the incident, but were further humiliated by having to answer questions for a full half-hour before they were finally permitted to proceed.

The local Colm Keenan Sinn Féin cumann strongly criticising the RUC's be-

haviour said:

"This latest and most perverse form of harassment being meted out to nationalist youths in the town is not only nauseating but suggests that a general directive of this nature has been issued to the RUC to use as an additional form of intimidation."

"Parents in the area also fear that there are individual RUC men within the ranks bent on stepping up incidents like this and we would call on anyone victimised to contact Sinn Féin immediately."