

AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



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**Ballymun
takes on
pushers**

— PAGE 10



SINN FEIN is to contest all five Irish constituencies in the forthcoming EEC elections and is confident of emerging with increased political credibility as the only thirty-two county party pursuing the national objective of unity and rejecting the economic, social and cultural effects of EEC membership.

The re-emphasis of Sinn Fein's position as a major political force in Ireland — with proven electoral backing — will be an embarrassing rebuff to those in Dublin, Belfast and London who seek to dismiss or ignore the voice of republican voters and the reality of their viewpoint.

In maintaining its electoral strategy — and particularly in developing it in the twenty-six counties — Sinn Fein is pursuing a clear-sighted course. It is not going to be backed into narrow corners or take up defensive positions in the face of establishment hostility.

Instead, during the course of the EEC elections, Sinn Fein will be putting forward its analysis of national, economic, social and cultural issues, the disastrous effects of EEC membership and its positive proposals for an alternative.

Sinn Fein is neither a one-man nor a one-issue party.

No doubt that fact is the primary reason for the panic in establishment circles at republican progress and the desperate efforts both to rescue John Hume's SDLP in the North by means of the Forum and to crush Sinn Fein in the South by means of repressive legislation.

It appears inevitable that the more Sinn Fein pursues its policies at the ballot box, the more that the so-called 'democratic' parties turn to repression as a response. We can expect more as EEC polling day approaches.

But such tactics, in

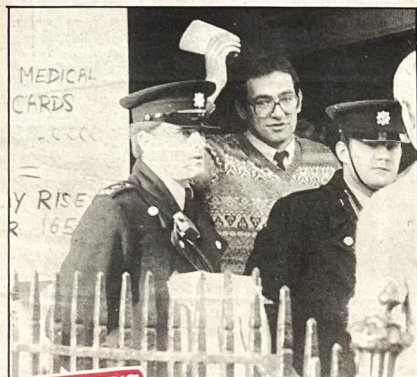
the end, rebound on those who use them and serve only to clear up the confusion, presenting a choice between freedom in a radical new political future or the stagnant policies of repression and hardship.

When all the votes

are counted in June, and Sinn Fein's tally compared to the votes of other parties, we can be sure that the establishments both here and in Britain — already showing stresses and strains — are in for another shock-wave.

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SINN FEIN'S EEC POLL PLANS



**BURKE'S
AT THE BACK**
By Kevin Burke

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little helper**

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barren
budget**

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**BLOODY SUNDAY
COMMEMORATION**

DERRY

2.30pm Sunday 29th January

From Creggan Estate to Free Derry Corner



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



British troops cordon off Belfast's Clonard Street following the IRA bomb attack on Monday which injured one Brit

Belfast bomb-blast

A BRITISH soldier was injured in the head and arm when a bomb was detonated by an active service unit of the IRA's Belfast Brigade on Monday, January 23rd.

The device was hidden behind the wall of a semi-derelict building in Clonard Street, West Belfast, and set off as an eight-strong joint British army/RUC patrol passed by around noon.

On Wednesday of this week, January 25th, Volunteers of the Belfast Brigade injured a member of the RUC Reserve in a gun attack on the Springfield Road.

DUNGANNON ATTACK
Volunteers of the IRA's Tyrone

Brigade placed an incendiary device in furniture showrooms in Union Place, Dungannon, on Monday week, January 16th.

The bomb exploded shortly before 9.30pm, causing a fire which extensively damaged the premises. A hoax bomb had been left outside the showrooms to prevent any interference with the device inside.

DUNDALK DENIAL
The IRA has issued a statement



denying that any of its members have been involved in a recent spate of robberies in the Dundalk area in which a number of taxi-drivers have been attacked.

The statement says:
"Those involved have been using the name of the IRA for criminal purposes. This situation will not be tolerated and we now warn these people to desist immediately."

KINCORA:

Fourth cover-up on the way

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

BRITISH direct-ruler, James Prior announced on Wednesday, January 18th, that a limited, public judicial inquiry would take place into the Kincora scandal.

However, the inquiry committee, which is to be headed by former English judge William Hughes, will be restricted under the terms of the Health and Personal Services (Northern Ireland) Order of 1972, and not by the 1921 Tribunals of Inquiry Act.

In practice this means that the inquiry will have to confine itself to matters concerning the administration of Kincora House and the care given to the boys. The inquiry will not be able to look into allegations of a homosexual racket, of links with the British authorities, and of an RUC cover-up.

In particular the inquiry will not be in a position to take evidence from former British army PRO Colin Wallace, presently serving a jail sentence in England for manslaughter, and who, in the early '70s, had leaked to the press, stories about Kincora housefather, William McGrath. The link with paramilitary loyalism will also be outside the inquiry's brief.

ATTEMPT

After the RUC investigation in 1980-81, which resulted in the conviction of three Kincora house-



Kincora House

fathers; after the private inquiry set up at the beginning of 1982, which collapsed when three of the five members resigned in protest at the restrictions; and after the Terry Report, published last October, which exonerated the Brits and RUC; this new inquiry is the fourth attempt by the Brits to mount a cover-up operation on the Kincora scandal, and finally put the lid on this affair which just won't go away - and which, if a quarter of the allegations are true, has the power to seriously shake the British / unionist establishment in the six counties.

SINN FEIN

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

SINN FEIN will be fielding candidates in all five Irish constituencies at the forthcoming EEC elections following the endorsement by convention last weekend of an ardcchomhairle recommendation that Sinn Fein contest the election on an all-Ireland basis to maximise its anti-EEC message.

Candidates have been chosen in several constituencies and the names will go before next month's ardcchomhairle meeting for ratification. Further names are expected to have been put forward by then.

In the North, Danny Morrison, Sinn Fein's elected representative in Mid-Ulster, was unanimously chosen to continue the dramatic electoral progress of Sinn Fein, which last October won over 40% of the nationalist vote.

In the Connaught/Ulster constituency, two candidates have been chosen: Eddie Fullerton of Donegal and Caoimhghin O Caolain of Monaghan. It is thought likely that a third name, from the west of the constituency, will be added to take account of the vast geographical spread.

In Dublin, last weekend's convention chose John Noonan as the Sinn Fein candidate, a former Northsider he now lives in Tall-

aght where he has been involved in building a strong Sinn Fein base.

In Munster, the election convention is to reconvene shortly when it is hoped that Richard Behal, who was chosen last weekend as candidate, will confirm that he is in a position to go forward.

CONSTITUENCY

And at a preliminary election convention for the Leinster constituency on Sunday, delegates took a decision to field two or even three candidates to take account of the sprawling constituency which takes in Louth in the north and Wexford at the southern end.

A second convention is to be held to confirm the Leinster candidates.

The Sinn Fein decision to contest in all five constituencies follows resolutions at last November's Ard-Fheis which decided to contest the EEC elections on an attendance basis, but with an "anti-imperialist policy of opposition to the EEC".

DUKES' BARREN BUDGET

BY KEVIN BURKE

ANOTHER attack on the living standards of the unemployed and workers has been packaged into what is being presented as a 'bland' or 'neutral' 1984 Budget in the twenty-six counties.

The Budget, introduced by an iron-faced Alan Dukes on Wednesday of this week, may contain nothing imaginative or inventive, but it does continue to place an ever-increasing burden on those with an ever-reducing ability to pay.

So, the reality of the 7% or 8% increase in social welfare payments is that it must be compared to the

projected inflation rate of 9% or 10% - at the most optimistic. Given the fact that the increased benefits will not be paid until July, that represents a very savage cut in the real incomes of the unemployed, disabled, aged, widowed and deserted.

The measly 7% increase in children's allowances - postponed until August - ignores the years when no

(continued on next page)

ENTERS EEC BATTLE



● Danny Morrison, Sinn Féin's candidate in the North, at last Sunday's Belfast convention

The Ard-Fheis also decided that any successful EEC candidates would attend the EEC assembly "under the guidance of the ard-chomhairle" and "with the declared intention of working for the disbandment of the EEC as a European capitalist power-bloc".

Speaking about Sinn Féin's anti-EEC policies, which it will be putting forward at the elections, the party's president, Gerry Adams MP, said:

"The EEC was formed as imperialism changed. Following the Second World War, in order to pre-

serve their interests, the colonial Western European powers set about forming a political and economic unit.

"Ireland, as ever, went in on the coat-tails of Britain.

"The EEC, we believe, denies Irish national sovereignty, and rec-

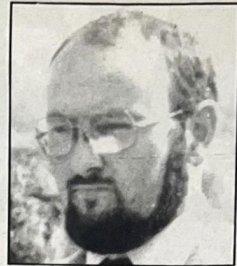


● EDDIE FULLERTON

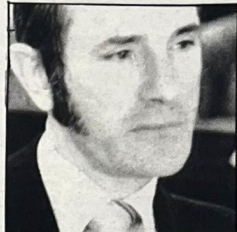
ognises partition and institutionalises it. It ignores our unique cultural identity and spurns our national language.

"It takes away all of the tools of economic development. The monetary system has a crippling effect on smaller states and the free trade agreement works to the advantage of the big states.

"In agriculture, big farmers have benefited while the small farmers have suffered immeasurably. Irish fishing rights have been opened up to everyone, with resulting massive exploitation and violation



● CAOIMHGHIN O CAOLAIN



● RICHARD BEHAL

of our fishing stock by continental nations.

"The EEC has destroyed local industry, increased unemployment, depleted our fishing stock, and seriously damaged our farming community.

"Sinn Féin opposed joining the EEC and pointed out all of these dangers.

"Our present electoral platform will be one of withdrawal from the EEC, anti-imperialist and anti-EEC and will therefore be diametrically opposed to all the other political parties who support membership."



● ALAN DUKES



● FitzGerald's fixation of small adults avoiding VAT is apparently still with him

(continued from previous page)

increase at all was given in this often-vital income.

And a family income scheme is promised — for neither July nor August, but for November.

MINIMAL

In the same way, the slight improvement in the position of the PAYE worker, with the 'temporary' 1% levy beginning to look permanent and with only minimal adjustments, will quickly be reversed by the inflation rate within a few short months.

So, once again, for all the protests, the PAYE workers are given the familiar two-fingered response to their justified complaints that they are carrying a massively unfair share of taxation.

Nor does the Budget make any effort whatsoever to widen the tax net and draw in those who in fact own vast amounts of wealth in the state, yet escape virtually tax-free.

But although there are no new capital taxes introduced by this Budget, a new tax is imposed on clothes, which will inevitably hit regressively at the less well-off, absorbing a higher proportion of

their meagre incomes than of the wealthy.

CLOTHES

The new 8% VAT rate on clothes is supposedly 'humanised' by exempting 'children's' clothing. But Garret FitzGerald's fixation with the possibility of small adults avoiding VAT — which caused the fall of his government in February 1982 — is apparently still with him.

So the age of majority, economically speaking anyway, has been reduced and, for VAT purposes, a child becomes an adult at the age of ten!

For those scraping along on social welfare, it is an almost universal truth that whilst the weekly payments go on the basic rent, heating, light and food, the monthly children's allowance goes on clothes.

Those with 'children' over ten years old will find the equation a bitter one. Allowance increased by 7%, clothes increased by 8%, add on a minimum 9% inflation price-rise and you are short 10% compared to last year.

But how would Alan Dukes, on a salary of £34,794, or Garret FitzGerald, on £44,350 (neither figure including perks and expens-

es), relate to such mundane working-class calculations?

CONTEMPT

To show their total contempt for the rest of us, the Leinster House deputies, who voted themselves a 19% pay-increase, are being asked in this Budget, to vote a total pay-freeze for the year for those in the public service.

And whilst the non-indexed unemployment rates are defended arrogantly as an 'incentive to work', only two-thirds of vacancies arising in the public service will be filled this year, and however much incentive you have to work you will not find one job created by this Budget.

Indeed, the effects of VAT on the native clothing industry can only throw more onto the dole queues.

FEATURE

But after all this, perhaps the most damning feature of the Budget, and indeed last year's even more blatantly bludgeoning one is the failure of the Coalition to even approach its own much-vaunted monetarist objectives.

The obsession with book-keeping has become rather muted as the Coalition — under the protection of a sympathetic media — forgets its proud projections of a mere 12 months ago.

They were going to completely clear the Budget deficit over five years. At the last Budget it was £988 million, this year it was £960 million. Some achievement after all the pain inflicted!

The Coalition — even in its own capitalist monetarist terms — has shown itself devoid of ideas, energy or ability and waits, as successive governments have always done, for economic recovery to take off abroad and trail with it the Free State economy.

Meanwhile, without any economic plans for the future, the members of those governments, and the vested interests which they represent, relax in expectation, cushioned by the enforced hardships of the less well-off.

Warning from workers

BY JACK MADDEN

DISENCHANTMENT amongst workers with one-off street protests was blamed by leading trade unionists for the lower than expected turn-out at demonstrations throughout the twenty-six counties, on Friday, January 20th, against rising unemployment and inequities in the taxation system.

Organised by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), this year's pre-Budget campaign attracted support in many regional centres, including Cork, Sligo, Nenagh, Galway, Castlebar, Ennis, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford and Dublin; but in Dublin, as elsewhere, the thousands who participated were in marked contrast to the hundreds of thousands who marched in previous years.

Following a march past Leinster House, the workers were addressed at the GPO by representatives of the ICTU and the Dublin Council of Trade Unions (DCTU). Speakers had to contend with heckling from a section of the crowd which demanded a more militant campaign against the government.

Attacks on Labour Party participation in the Free State Coalition government were led by the first platform speaker, Ben Kearney, president of the DCTU, who said that ministerial positions in government are "the current price of support" demanded by Labour representatives. He added:

"I am reluctant to issue threats about the trade unions leaving the Labour Party, because that threat has been devalued by the Labour Party over the last number of years by their actions and by their non-support for the working-class

of this country."

Donal Nevin, general secretary of the ICTU, estimated the cost of unemployment at over £100 million per year and called for planned policies by the government, adding that the Coalition would be on trial in the Budget and should remember that the patience of the trade unions is not inexhaustible. He continued:

"These demonstrations are more than a gesture of solidarity with the unemployed, they are more than simply a reflection of dissatisfaction with the amount of taxes deducted from our pay-packets. They must be seen as a warning to the government that Wednesday's Budget must deliver on the demands of the ICTU. We will not accept excuses or alibis."

RESPONSIBILITIES

An unemployed representative on the DCTU, Claire Bulman, described unemployment as "a degrading and humiliating way to be", adding that it has "a destructive and damaging influence on everyone it touches". Calling for government measures to create jobs, she said:

"Our natural resources — our gas, our mineral reserves and the land — must be used to give our people jobs, and not in quick

profit-making ventures to benefit the wealthy few. The state has a final responsibility to provide employment. Anything less is an admission that the government has failed in its responsibilities to all of us and a denial of a most basic human right — the right to work."

Sam Nolan, secretary of the DCTU, said that governments had repeatedly chosen to ignore the demands of trade unionists and that he believed that "a con-job has been done" on the workers who ended their occupation of Clondalkin Paper Mills after they were promised jobs. Urging others to follow the example of workers occupying factories rather than accepting redundancy payments, he said:

"Let us hope that when other workers are made redundant this year, that they will sit-in and that they will force the government and the employing class to provide jobs for us."

FRUSTRATION

Closing the meeting, Matt Merrigan, vice-president of the ICTU, said that whilst he understood the frustration of the working-class who "walk up and down O'Connell Street" once a year to deliver a letter at Leinster House which governments invariably ignore, "somebody voted for this outrageous government!" He continued:

"I can tell you this. If you want to change the taxation system, if you want to get a government that's going to create employment



● Donal Nevin (ICTU) addresses last Friday's rally

and use nationalisation in the public sector to get it, you're not going to get it with the Coalition and it's unlikely you're going to get it with Fianna Fail either.

"Those of you who are disenchanted with the Labour Party, and you are entitled to be disenchanted, you should take it up with your union. If you're not happy with unemployment or taxation, you are all members of trade unions and you can raise the issue of disaffiliation."

In a scathing attack on a section of the crowd who cried for a general strike, Merrigan reminded them that, if they were to look realistically at the situation, the DCTU has 140,000 affiliated members in the greater Dublin area, while there are 40,000 unemployed in the city:

"I don't see 200,000 people on the street today. FitzGerald and Haughey have more influence

with the working-class than the trade union movement has. You would want to cop yourselves on. If you want socialism in this country you won't get it from Fianna Fail, you won't get it from Fine Gael, and you won't get it from the Labour Party!"

LETTERKENNY

At a march and rally in Letterkenny, attended by over 400 trade unionists in spite of Arctic weather conditions, Denis O'Donnell, secretary of the local trades council, called for a boycott of shops, pubs and businesses in County Donegal owned by establishment party politicians if they refused to listen to the demands being made on unemployment and taxation. He said:

"After clapping each other on the back by giving themselves a 19% wage increase, these are the people who tell us to tighten our belts — and they only pay tax on half their own wages!"

BY JACK MADDEN

ESTABLISHMENT politicians from the Coalition parties, Fianna Fail and the Workers Party showed a rare unanimity on Monday last when, at a meeting called to protest against the closure by ESB management of Ringsend power station, they were forced to admit that they knew little or nothing of the plight of almost 280 workers in the station who face the threat of unemployment.

Condemning the 'economic madness' which governs ESB management, the workers outlined their case that the massive Moneypoint electricity station, now under construction at a cost of £167 million, was planned in the mistaken belief that the demand for electricity would rise dramatically in the 1970s and afterwards. The reverse has been the case and Moneypoint is doomed to become yet another 'white elephant'.

Ringsend power station has, under the ESB five-year plan, been "put in mothballs for an indefinite period as it will not be required to generate for some time due to Moneypoint being completed shortly", according to a statement from the workers. They point out that over £2 million was already spent in refurbishing a section of their plant and that a further investment of £5.7 million "would put Ringsend-A station back running on coal".

Politicians, including Gerard Brady, Joe Doyle, Alexis FitzGerald and Mary Freehill, responded to the workers' statement, which contained a break-down of the 3,500 jobs lost in the Ringsend area over the past four years, by promising to do "all in their power" to back the Ringsend ESB workers, but, as the meeting was thrown open to speakers from the floor, blistering attacks were made on another politician, Tomas Mac Giolla of the Workers Party, who said:

"The battle is nearly over, as far as I can see."

RURAL CLOSURES

Mac Giolla argued that the Ringsend

WRATH AT RINGSEND



● Paul Thompson, ESB shop steward, argues that there are clear economic advantages for keeping Ringsend power station open

workers had begun their fight too late and that they should have made their protest at the same time that rural turf generating stations were resisting threatened closure.

Pointing out that they were not in competition with workers in the other generating stations, one worker, Gerry Breathnach, retorted:

"It was never in our nature to jump on the backs of other people's struggles."

Emphasising this, Ringsend shop steward Paul Thompson said:

"We weren't going to shift our prob-

lems from Ringsend down to the Midlands."

Thompson said that the battle to retain the turf generating stations was fought as a political, as much as a trade union, battle. In Ringsend, he continued, there are clear economic advantages for retaining the power station and it was through these arguments and the trade unions that they had challenged management's decision to close the plant.

He added that a further reason for reverting to coal generation, which was stopped in 1967, was the saving

of £33,500 a day over the use of oil and Ringsend is better equipped than Moneypoint to control the pollution which the use of coal causes.

This claim was supported by Seamus Murphy of the Marine Port & General Workers Union, who said that the Ringsend station had been planned because of its strategic advantages in relation to both Dublin port and the prevailing winds which blow pollutants away from the city and towards the sea. Responding to Tomas Mac Giolla, he commented:

"It's never too late, and all the political parties, rather than just politicians from individual areas, should be involved in this campaign."

APPROACHES

Eddie Glacken, Workers Union of Ireland representative, pointed out that, despite what the politicians on the platform had said, the unions had lobbied Leinster House to highlight the plight of the Ringsend workers. Neither the politicians nor ESB management had responded to these approaches. He said:

"There hasn't been a meeting between the ESB and the unions for months because the ESB management have refused a meeting. When we asked for a meeting Moriarty (ESB chief executive) told us: 'This is not a workers' co-operative'."

"And you'd think that nobody in Dail Eireann had ever heard of Ringsend power station before tonight. This is untrue. If we had got the response from the politicians we were led to believe we would get three months ago, you wouldn't have had to call this meeting here tonight."

Outlining the loss to the community of Ringsend which the continued closure of the power station would mean, Glacken continued:

"Three million pounds a year is being lost to Dublin Port & Docks Board while Ringsend is shut down, and the impact on the whole mini-economy of service industries and businesses shows the social and economic consequences of closure. Don't talk about imaginary jobs in the future at Moneypoint and sacrifice real live jobs now."

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

DUBLIN FORUM:

Will the Brits play ball?

HAVING barely recovered from the shock caused by the Catholic Hierarchy stating their Catholic views, members of the Dublin Forum assembled for a public session on Thursday, January 19th, and listened with great relief to the more 'respectable' views of some unionists and a British politician.

The unionists — two members of the Official Unionist Party who went to Dublin without the party's official approval — reiterated the predictable call for extradition, arguing, rather deceptively, that its systematic use would placate the DUP and strengthen the hand of moderate unionists, thereby hastening the day of Irish unity.

Also on Thursday, a British Labour Party spokesperson on the North, Clive Soley, attempted to explain to the Forum the delicate concept of 'Irish unity by consent', which amounts to waiting for the unionists to agree to reunification, but without giving them the right to refuse it outright...

This keystone of British Labour Party policy on Ireland, which is the result of patching up annual conference amendments, allows the British Labour Party to verbalise on Irish unity, safe in the knowledge that their policy won't actually make it happen.

Soley advocated his usual points about a Dublin-London council, joint citizenship for 'Northern Ireland' citizens, economic measures, and — the only all-Ireland venture of the lot — an all-Ireland police force. Soley's plan has many common features with Fitzgerald's joint-sovereignty idea, and must have pleased those in Fine Gael on the Fitz-Gerald/James Dooge wavelength, the Free State Labour Party, and the Hume wing of



● JAMES DOOGUE

the SDLP.

Incidentally, James Dooge, a former Foreign Affairs minister, was appointed by Fitz-Gerald at the end of 1983 to oversee the Dublin-London relations.

DELEGATION

It was to discuss all the Forum's options with the Brits that the four Forum parties sent a delegation to London on Monday, January 23rd. The eight-strong delegation,

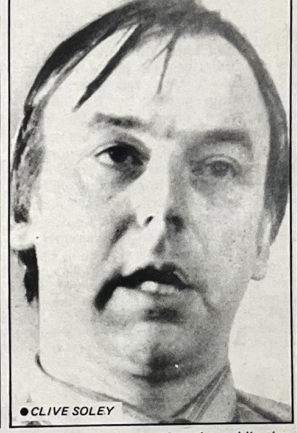


● JOHN HUME

which includes James Dooge, has been described as 'informal' and 'private'. They would, they said, brief British politicians on the Forum's aims and impress on them the importance of making sympathetic noises about its final report.

The delegation was also there, very probably, to put out some feelers to find out which solution the Brits would prefer the Forum to come up with.

It would, of course, be better for the



● CLIVE SOLEY

SDLP if, some weeks after the publication of the Forum report, and shortly before the EEC elections, at the next Dublin-London summit, the Brits could issue some communique announcing, for example, that they agreed in principle with most of the report, and were seriously studying it. Such phrasing, whilst not committing the Brits to anything, would be a propaganda coup for Hume who could go to the polls describing himself as the artisan of Irish unity in the '80s.

Cracks and contradictions

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

MORE CRACKS have appeared in the Irish establishment since Cardinal O'Faich made those remarks about membership of Sinn Féin being a 'matter of conscience' back on Sunday, January 15th. And as newspaper columnists and radio producers debated the impact of Sinn Féin's 'community activities' on the republican vote, a rift developed within the SDLP about the cardinal's words.

The Irish newspapers were predictably split along party lines. Close to Fine Gael, the *Irish Independent* wrote:

"Cardinal O'Faich has only himself to blame for the criticism he has attracted", while *Fianna Fáil's* paper, the *Irish Press*, scolded the Free State government for "jumping all over the cardinal".

The *Irish Press*, apologising for O'Faich, spoke of the 'complexities' and the 'confused circumstances' the cardinal had to deal with 'in the heart of Armagh'.

The same view was elaborated on the same day, Wednesday, January 18th, by Fr Denis Faul, in a typically condescending manner. Describing Northern nationalist voters as 'confused', 'leaderless', 'marginalised', and 'in need of delicate pastoral care', Faul added:

"The ordinary, confused man is entitled to the privacy of his conscience."

And the next day, Bishop Newman placed the Hierarchy even more firmly in the opposition benches by calling 'criticisms

of O'Faich 'unduly simplistic', given the 'complicated' nature of Northern politics — a view often favoured by those partitionist favoured by Free Staters who are verbalising about Irish unity while trying to shut the sufferings of Northern nationalists out of their minds.

ABUSE

Whilst unionist and British papers rejoiced in the Free State Cabinet's rebuke of O'Faich, the *Irish News* took O'Faich's side, pointing to the obvious contradictions of the Free State Coalition which on one hand advocates a secularisation of the Free State, while on the other asks the Catholic Hierarchy to pronounce on political matters in order to back its own effort against the Republican Movement.

In Britain, the usual torrent of abuse came gushing out: "weasel words", snarled the *Daily Mirror*; "appalling", said the *Daily Telegraph*; "muddled" and "notoriously 'ambivalent'" wrote the *Daily Express* about O'Faich.

"The cardinal had the effrontery to argue that Mrs Thatcher had 'insulted Ulster Catholics',

the *Sun* cried, telling O'Faich to shut up in future.

However, by last weekend, Irish newspapers had turned to the next question: does Sinn Féin deserve votes because of its community activities? Columnists in almost every Sunday newspaper, and RTE's *This Week* programme, on Sunday, were devoted to questions such as: how many advice centres has Sinn Féin? Who votes for Sinn Féin and why?

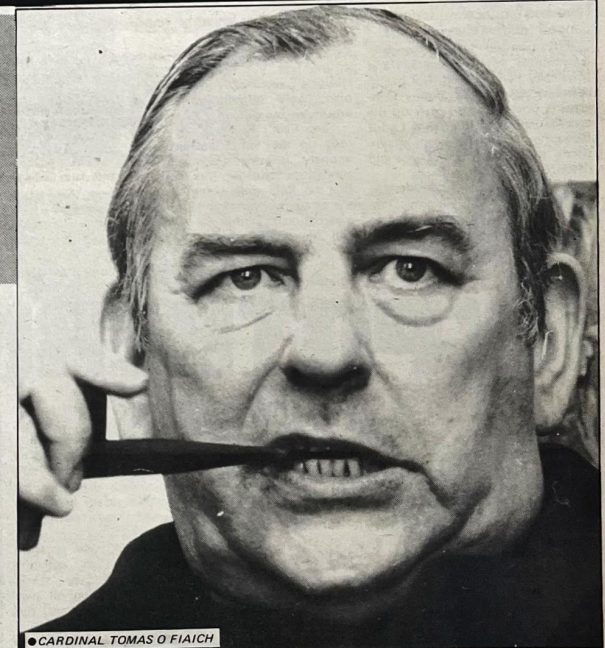
The SDLP must have been gnashing their teeth.

RIFT

By mid-week, the contradictory SDLP reactions were revealing how unsettled the SDLP is about Sinn Féin's challenge to their position. On Tuesday, January 17th, SDLP chairperson Sean Farren called the cardinal's words 'incomprehensible', while the party's new general-secretary, Eamonn Hanna, likened Sinn Féin to the Mafia:

"Just because the Mafia gives money to charity does not mean that you back the Mafia" — a theme incidentally which was picked up word for word by Conor Cruise O'Brien, in his *Irish Times* column on Tuesday, January 24th. Hanna contrasted Cahal Daly's clear denunciation of Sinn Féin with O'Faich's more ambiguous remarks.

Belfast SDLP Councillor Joe Hendron, obviously embarrassed into reacting by his party colleagues, said he was 'disappointed' by the cardinal's 'choice of words'. All the while, no condemnation



● CARDINAL TOMAS O'FAICH

was coming from the leader himself, John Hume, who had found it tactically wiser to go to Westminster and raise the issue of Thatcher's Christmas visit to the UDR — a sure vote-catcher in the Armagh area, where a condemnation of O'Faich would have been, on the other hand, disastrous.

Meanwhile, SDLP deputy-leader Seamus Mallon, speaking on RTE on Thursday, January 19th, called the criticism of O'Faich 'unfair'.

CONTRADICTION

This divergence within the SDLP, on the other hand, every con-

demnation of Sinn Féin runs the risk of further alienating Northern nationalists, already embittered by years of sell-outs and betrayals by their own establishment, and who have come to see politics in terms of power-blocs — a view the Brits would call 'sectarian'.

It does the Hierarchy no good to show open support for the British-unionist viewpoint, and it does the SDLP significant electoral damage. These contradictions will become even more acute for the Hume party as election time approaches.

Dungannon neglect

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE NATIONALIST Lisnall Estate, in Dungannon, County Tyrone — which houses approximately 300 families — underwent a major heating reconversion a year ago after three houses being gutted by fire. And, almost three years after the fire, the burnt-out shell of one of the gable houses has created serious dampness problems for tenants in the adjoining house whose single bricked side wall — as opposed to the normal double-cavity walls, standard in gable houses — has become exposed to the elements.

With a severe housing shortage in Dungannon, 50-year-old Eamonn Scullion accused the Housing Executive of 'neglect and incompetence' by leaving the house blocked up and unrepaired for so long.

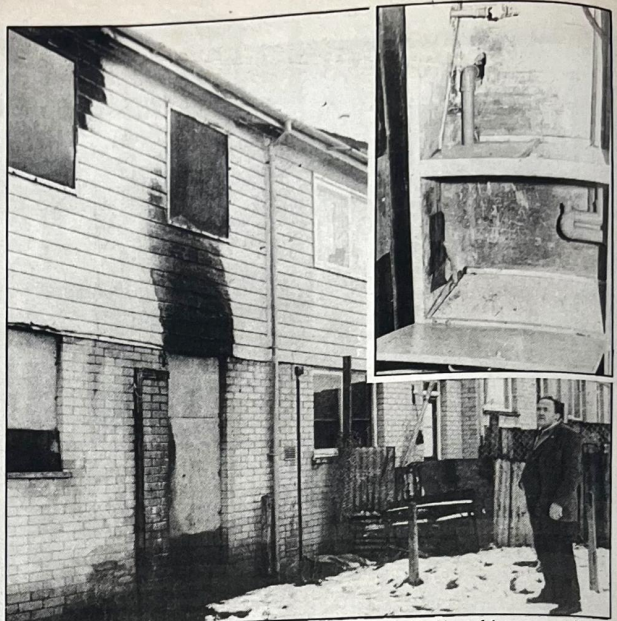
Eamonn Scullion, who has a heart condition, told AP/RN that dampness in his work-

ing kitchen, which causes a foul smell and destroys food, began after the adjacent house burnt down. His house was also badly smoke-damaged and several rafters were burnt in the roof space.

He has made several complaints to the Executive asking them to reinforce his outside wall and carry out long-standing repairs but to date all his efforts have fallen on deaf ears.

He also pointed out that many of the houses in Lisnall had faulty electrical wall sockets which tended to become overheated even after a short period of use and to add to his problems, Mr Scullion was plagued by rats which gained entry to his kitchen through the back of his sink unit. He comments:

"I am not going to do these repairs myself. After all, I'm paying £17 a week to the Executive and get nothing but lies back in return."



● Eamonn Scullion stands outside the burnt-out house which has created problems of dampness; and (inset) his sink unit through which rats gain entry

New Lodge necessity

BY JANE PLUNKETT

AFTER frustrating years of delay and double-dealing, a Belfast pensioner couple at last, with the aid of Sinn Féin, have won a verbal promise from the Housing Executive that they will be rehoused in accommodation suitable for the severely handicapped relative they care for.

Fifty-year-old Sally McLoughlin is immobile, severely mentally and physically handicapped. Her brother-in-law, 68-year-old Jimmy Doherty, is unable to carry her up the awkward stairs of their New Lodge Road home, so she sleeps downstairs, minded by her 60-year-old sister Nora, Jimmy's wife.

To alleviate their considerable problems, Nora and Jimmy Doherty have asked to be rehoused in a new estate being built in the area, in a ground-floor flat close to the road as they can only travel with Sally by car. The family, who

have had to move house twice in the past year to facilitate the Housing Executive's redevelopment plan, were initially offered an unsuitable bungalow.

Sinn Féin's Bobby Lavery, who took up their case, was last week wrongly informed by the local allocations manager, Mrs Younger, that no flats were being built on the estate, but now he has received a verbal promise that the Executive will 'do their best' to meet the family's needs.

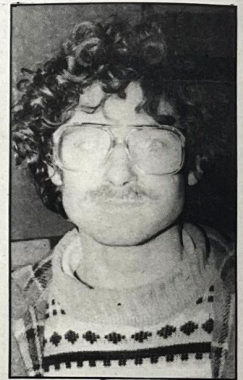
However, it seems uncertain whether the Dohertys have finally



● Jimmy and Nora Doherty with Nora's sister Sally McLoughlin — the family have little faith in the Housing Executive's promise to 'do their best'

won their battle with the Executive. There is an acute housing shortage in the New Lodge area, and the Executive is strongly criticised locally for making promises to its numerous needy tenants which it does not keep.

Two doors away from the Dohertys, a family of seven is living in a two-bedroomed house. The Burns family believed they had been promised a bigger house in the new estate. However, they received no confirmation of the



● BOBBY LAVERY

offer, and were recently told that they will not now be offered a house.

Nora Doherty has little confidence that the family's troubles are nearly over. She says:

"We have been fighting for 18 years for a flat, but how far have we got? I don't trust them now after waiting so long."

HYPOTHERMIA VICTIM

BY JANE PLUNKETT

ELDERLY Short Strand resident Margaret McCann was rushed to the intensive care unit of Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital on Saturday, a victim of hypothermia. She is just one of many thousands of people across the six counties whose lives will be at risk during the severe winter months, people who are denied the right to a warm home by poverty, bad housing and the indifference of British government agencies.

An epileptic, 51-year-old Margaret McCann lives alone and uses only the ground floor of her tiny old house in Seaford Street. The back room she uses as a bedroom is rotting with damp. The floorboards have collapsed and paint is peeling off the ceiling. Bedclothes and a mattress have been ruined by dampness.

Mrs McCann has been waiting since July 1982 for the Housing Executive to repair her only fireplace. The Executive has also failed to mend the bedroom window, which has been broken for several months, or to replace the ill-fitting front door, which lets in chilling draughts.

Living on supplementary benefit, Mrs McCann is simply unable to heat her home adequately in cold weather. On Saturday afternoon, she was discovered lying unconscious on the living-room floor by a neighbour. Her only form of heating, an electric bar fire, was switched on, but the house is so damp and draughty that its minimal heat could not prevent the onset of hypothermia.

Mrs McCann is expected to remain in hospital for several weeks.

FAILURE

Following this near-tragic incident, Sinn Féin consti-

tuency representative for East Belfast Denis Donaldson has condemned the Social Security commissioners for their failure to declare this to be an 'exceptionally cold winter', which would enable people on supplementary benefit to claim additional heating allowances.

Donaldson, who stressed that Sinn Féin cumainn should, during the severe weather, check on all pensioners and others at risk in their area, pointed out:

"The current minimum heating allowance of £2.05 is totally inadequate to cover the high cost of domestic fuel in the North. The Tory government insists that market prices for fuel should be charged, whatever the hardship and consequences to the consumer. This policy is being callously imposed on an area with the worst housing conditions in Europe."

"Sinn Féin demands that the statutory bodies carry out their responsibilities to prevent any further cases of hypothermia."



● Ann McCann inspects the bedroom used by her mother, a 51-year-old epileptic, which is rotting with damp

Dangerous Bill

warning

BY JACK MADDEN

OPPOSITION to the controversial Criminal Justice Bill has mounted in the past week, with the formation of a broad-based Campaign Against the Criminal Justice Bill at a meeting in the ATGWU offices in Marlborough Street, Dublin, on Thursday, January 19th. And at a further meeting against the Bill the following day, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) said that they would back the new campaign.

A publicity campaign to heighten public awareness of the dangers of the Bill was discussed at Thursday's meeting and it was agreed that such a campaign should concentrate on the trade union movement, local and statutory bodies, the legal profession and the churches.

Joe Costello, of the Prisoners Rights Organisation, told the meeting that with the passing of the second stage of the Bill in Leinster House (also on Thursday), the campaign had only a matter of weeks to get its case across.

The Liberty Hall meeting, organised by the ICCL, further underlined the dangers which the new Bill poses. Chaired by Michael Kelly of the ICCL, speakers included TCD lecturer David Norris, Leinster House senator Catherine

McGuinness, ITGWU official journalist Des Geraghty, Eamonn McCann and Joe Costello.

Describing the Bill as "a threat to fundamental freedom and human dignity", David Norris added that it would simply "give the average voter the illusion that something is being done about crime. Making an inefficient machine more powerful does not make it more efficient. It just makes it extremely dangerous".

He continued:

"I think the name Criminal Justice is a very appropriate one because the justice that is handed out in this country is so frequently criminal in its method of application."

SILENCE

Catherine McGuinness pointed out that although the Bill removed

various safeguards such as the right to silence in an attempt to increase the conviction rate "these safeguards are basically safeguards for the innocent persons as well, and this is conveniently ignored".

"And there is no problem about securing convictions in court. Up to 90% of cases result in a plea of guilty anyway, so the courts do not, in fact, let many people go," she added.

Referring to the easy passage which the second stage of the Bill had through Leinster House, without a vote being taken, Des Geraghty said:

"No matter what is said about the legislation, no matter what we feel about it, we're very likely to have it foisted upon us."

"If we have been remiss up to now in making our feelings known about this Bill, we must begin to organise and campaign strenuously to ensure that this legislation will not go through by default."

HABIT

Eamonn McCann emphasised that emergency legislation has a nasty habit of becoming part of the normal operation of 'law and order' and is used in a 'broad and general way'. He continued:

"People are, at this moment, being held for periods of 48 hours under the Offences Against the State Act, and not just people suspected of political offences but even youngsters in the inner city."

Describing the situation as 'very



EAMONN MCCANN

serious', Joe Costello said that the course of justice was being 'subverted' and that the Bill should therefore be rejected in its entirety.

When asked whether the Bill would herald the introduction of an 'informal' system more dangerous than in the six counties, in that

prosecution witnesses might not have to appear in court to give evidence, Catherine McGuinness replied:

"This is possible. The drafting of the Bill is highly ambiguous in many places. In fact, it is a minefield of ambiguity."

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE ANNUAL RTE ban on Sinn Féin was renewed on Thursday, January 19th, when the Free State Minister for Communications Jim Mitchell made a statutory order extending Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act for another year.

Section 31 of the 1960 Broadcasting Act gives the Free State government the power to "direct the (RTE) Authority in writing to refrain from broadcasting any particular matter or matter of any particular class and the Authority shall comply with the direction".

It was in July 1970, when coverage of the events in the North were exposing the Fianna Fáil's government's lack of action, that Section 31 was first invoked against republicans.

In 1970, the then Minister for Justice in the Fianna Fáil government, Dessie O'Malley, complained to the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Gerry Collins, about the "irresponsible behaviour of RTE in glamourising persons who are well known to have engaged in subversive or criminal activities". This indirect warning to RTE was followed in October 1971 by a directive from Collins instructing RTE to refrain from "broadcasting any matter that could be calculated to promote the aims or activities of any organisation which engages in, promotes, encourages or advocates the attaining of any particular objective by violent means".

No specific organisations were named — that was to come later.

O'KELLY

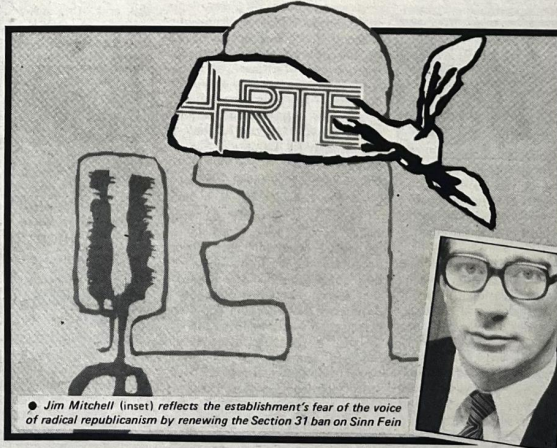
In 1972, the RTE Radio news features editor Kevin O'Kelly broadcasted a summary of an interview with Sean Mac Stiofain. Mac Stiofain was subsequently charged with IRA membership and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and O'Kelly got a three-month sentence (later reduced to a fine) for contempt of court when he refused to identify Mac Stiofain's voice on tape.

The Fianna Fáil government demanded that the RTE Authority 'discipline' O'Kelly, and when they refused, the nine-member Authority were sacked.

The new Authority were quick to issue a set of 'guidelines' to RTE broadcasters to show their eagerness to comply with the

RTE GAG

RENEWED



● Jim Mitchell (inset) reflects the establishment's fear of the voice of radical republicanism by renewing the Section 31 ban on Sinn Féin

Section 31 ruling, saying:

"In view of the consequences which can be anticipated if RTE is again judged to have contravened the directive, it will be clear to all concerned that the strictest care must be taken in all these matters and that action will be called for where the individuals are deemed to have disregarded the instructions or to have been careless in ob-

serving them."

The self-censorship operated ever since by RTE journalists is a direct consequence of the fear engendered by the obvious threat in those 'guidelines'.

CRUISE O'BRIEN

In 1973, the Fine Gael/Labour Coalition government's Minister for Posts and Tele-

graphs was Conor Cruise O'Brien, who responded to a programme broadcast by Seven Days about the torture of internees by accusing the programme makers of "promoting the activities of the IRA", even though the internees' case was being pursued in Europe by the Dublin government.

In 1976, O'Brien introduced the Broadcasting Authority (Amendment) Act which banned specified organisations from RTE. The named organisations included the IRA and Sinn Féin, and the amended Act has been renewed, extended and strengthened by both Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael/the Coalition every year since.

During the 1982 general elections in the Free State, Sinn Féin's seven candidates entitled them to a party political broadcast on RTE. Patrick Cooney, Free State Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in the Coalition government, ordered that Section 31 be extended to include any electoral broadcasts by Sinn Féin.

The Sinn Féin candidate in Cooney's constituency, Longford/Westmeath, Sean Lynch, took an action in the High Court claiming that Section 31 was unconstitutional. The High Court found for Lynch, but Cooney appealed to the Supreme Court where the High Court judgement was overruled and Cooney's ban on a Sinn Féin election broadcast was upheld.

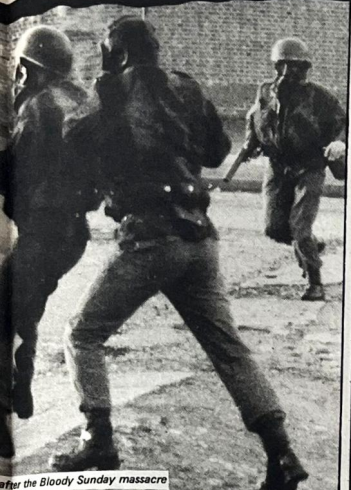
Sinn Féin elected representatives Owen Carron, who succeeded hunger-striker Bobby Sands as MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone in 1981, and the five Sinn Féin Assembly candidates elected in 1982, were all banned from RTE under a Fianna Fáil government.

HAUGHEY

During the Westminster elections in 1983, RTE asked the Coalition government to lift the ban for the purpose of election coverage, but were refused. Charles Haughey, whose government had banned Carron and the other Sinn Féin elected representatives, claimed in a statement that he had always "taken the view that elected representatives should have the fullest possible access to the public media".

Section 31 now orders RTE to refrain from broadcasting any interviews with members of the IRA, Sinn Féin, Fianna Éireann, the UDA and the INLA, as well as all organisations proscribed in the North under Britain's Emergency Provisions Act.

AY— SOUTH



after the Bloody Sunday massacre

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Sympathy notices from trade unions and private businesses appeared in the daily newspapers and lined with heavy black borders. In later days, such notices were to fill up to three pages in the *Irish Times*, as did notices announcing the cancellation of concerts and plays as a mark of respect for Derry's dead.

Bombing incidents against both the British Embassy and British-owned premises in Dun Laoghaire, Waterford and, at a later stage, Mayo, became a feature of the protest action from Tuesday onwards, a phenomenon which no establishment politician commented on until after Wednesday's funeral, when they used such attacks to justify an increasingly conciliatory line with the British.

Political activity by these politicians centred on the continued 'diplomacy' of Hillery, who arrived in New York for a meeting with UN Under Secretary General Chakravarti Narasimham. Far from the constraints of party discipline, he felt free to make statements which actually got to the root of Ireland's British problem.

In an interview at Kennedy Airport, he said that his mission in going to the UN was "to end the reign of terror which Britain is perpetrating on our people... What has been done in Ireland by the British is an affront to justice in the world. If they get away with it this time, we can have little hope for justice."

Asked about his attitude to the IRA, he replied: "The IRA are not for me to explain. They are a response to Britain's policy."

ADDRESS

Back in Ireland, Leinster House politicians were treated to an address from each of the party leaders, but no discussion of the situation was allowed. Lynch's speech, which one commentator later said "was, frankly, unreal and utterly simplistic" and had "reached back beyond the centuries of Celtic mystery for Colmille of Derry to sail him out again on the apostolic tide to Iona", offered no suggestion of further



● The anger of the Irish people at yet another British atrocity in the occupied six counties erupted at the British Embassy in Dublin

action.

At best, Lynch said he would "resolve now to make every effort to ensure that these days, months and years of refusal to govern justly in Northern Ireland would never again recur".

Corish was more strident in his remarks but said that he agreed with the steps which Lynch had taken in withdrawing the ambassador and in sending Hillery to the UN because, he said, "dramatic action must be taken to shake the British government out of its insolence, indifference, lethargy and apathy".

Considering the apathy which Leinster House had demonstrated towards the six counties for 50 years, it was obvious that Corish was playing to the gallery, as indeed were Lynch and Cosgrave in their speeches. Cosgrave did, however, reveal the primary motive of those leaders in directing their actions. He said:

"If there is one reason more than any other... it is to make it quite clear that only Dail Eireann and the organs (sic) responsible to the Dail can speak and act for the nation."

In this he made it equally clear that the establishment was very concerned that they might lose control to forces outside their influence.

Already, by Tuesday evening, the first diplomatic initiative of an Irish party leader collapsed, when Conor Cruise O'Brien failed to secure an international inquiry, the British deciding to appoint Lord Widgery to lead a White-wash on the Derry massacre.

MOORNING

Wednesday was a day of unprecedented national mourn-



ing with shops, factories, schools and offices closing as a mark of respect while Derry buried its dead. Throughout Ireland, thousands attended marches, rallies and religious services while the politicians converged on Derry to deprive ordinary people of their rightful place at the funeral service.

In the South, attention again focussed on the British Embassy. From early morning, crowds arrived in Merrion Square and stayed there, while, later in the day, a huge demonstration arrived from Parnell Square. Led by marchers carrying 13 coffins and a muffled drum, they carried hundreds of placards demonstrating their opposition to British rule in the North.

As the marchers, who were joined by thousands more along the route, reached the embassy, they watched as a Union Jack and the effigy of a pig were burnt. A short while afterwards, the steel shutters protecting the building were smashed and a few well-aimed petrol-bombs set it alight and the ensuing flames gutted the embassy.

Faced with so great a crowd, the gardai made only a half-hearted attempt to intervene. Even the British ambassador, John Peck, was unperturbed, expressing amazement that it hadn't been

burnt sooner. Later that evening, during another march to the embassy, an attempt to petrol-bomb the British Passport Office led to repeated baton-charges by the gardai.

ACTION

Throughout the twenty-six counties, protests, if less dramatic than those at the British Embassy, were nevertheless further proof that the Irish people wanted firmer action from the Dublin government. But, as the editorial in the *Irish Times* commented, the purpose of the day's protests "was, calculatedly, an opportunity for people to let off steam".

Although Conor Cruise O'Brien continued his meetings with British politicians, including Home Secretary Reginald Maudling, to whom he confided that he no longer believed that the retention of British troops in the North was acceptable, and although Hillery continued his mission "to win friends and influence governments", Wednesday, the day of the funerals, marked the last day of even token government opposition to British rule.

By Thursday morning, a full apology for the embassy burning had been handed to the British authorities through the Free State's Department of Foreign Affairs, and compensation for the damage was promised. Jack Lynch met British ambassador John Peck in what were described as "friendly and cordial discussions" before he delivered a speech in Leinster House analysing the protests.

In marked contrast to his earlier silence, he commented:

"A small minority, men, who, under the cloak of patriotism

sought to overthrow the institutions of the state, infiltrated what was a peaceful demonstration... and fomented violence.

"In the days immediately ahead, there is no doubt that those to whom I have referred will seek to play on the sympathies and emotions of ordinary decent people to secure support for their own actions and objectives... Those who seek to usurp the functions of government will meet with no toleration."

As if to emphasise the point that republicans could expect no change in the hostility of the Free State authorities to the armed struggle for Irish freedom, seven republicans appeared in a Monaghan court charged with possession of weapons in County Louth a week earlier.

ATTENTION

Instead of concentrating on steps to be taken against the British for Bloody Sunday, the Free State leaders suddenly shifted attention towards the next big Civil Rights march in Newry the following Sunday, at once raising the expectancy that another tragedy would occur and at the same time taking the public mind off the events in Derry.

Despite denials from Patrick Hillery that his approaches to the UN and the Canadian and French governments were rebuffed, it was quite clear that Lynch's much-vaunted 'diplomatic pressures' had ended as a damp squib with no international outcry against the British.

Nor was the 'five-point programme' pursued, and, as the days passed without any British response, the Free State government again crawled back in the hope that talks might be arranged at an unspecified date in the future.

Newry passed without incident and with it the momentum which had built over the previous week. There was no release of republican prisoners, no march across the border to challenge British rule in part of Ireland, and no change from the few limited protests which the Free State government had felt it politic to make.

By making these protests, Lynch, Corish and Cosgrave had effectively created the illusion that progress was imminent and this, no doubt, satiated many of those who, as they saw it, believed that something was being done and that the government could pressurise the British.

FERVOUR

But what of the hundreds of thousands who demanded more drastic action and marched through the streets and towns of Ireland? No doubt the three-day period of mass protests was an effective means of reducing the emotional fervour of the general populace. Such intense emotion could not be sustained and, because the Republican Movement was unprepared to garner and mould this emotion into positive political action, the opportunity which had tragically presented itself was lost. It must be remembered, however, that the efforts of republicans, who had a short time before been forced to rebuild the Movement after the desertion of erstwhile comrades, were mainly concentrated on the war effort in the occupied six counties.

But there can be no doubt that the national consciousness raised by Bloody Sunday — and the potential for averting the decade or more of suffering since — was cynically defused by the Dublin government, which later the same year was introducing the extension of anti-republican legislation in the form of the Offences against the State (Amendment) Act, and continuing on its repressive route which has reached the heights of collaboration we know today.

Ballymun takes on pushers

BY BRENDAN KERR

COMMUNITY ACTION against drug pushers in Dublin's working-class areas continues to spread, and last Thursday, January 19th, saw the first meeting in Ballymun to combat the menace of the pushers.

Ballymun is a sprawling estate of some 3,000 grey concrete high-rise flats and tower blocks which house about 18,000 people. Despite the planners' dreams of an ideal showpiece estate, Ballymun, due to the Free State's housing crisis and bureaucratic indifference, has become a stop-gap solution for families in urgent need of accommodation or a dumping ground for 'problem' families and unmarried mothers.

With a disproportionately large youth population, many of them unemployed and living on an estate starved of facilities, Ballymun is a tempting prospect for drug pushers ready to prey on bored youths with very few prospects.

A crowded hall in the Holy Spirit School, Sillogue Road, heard speakers from other Dublin areas detail their experiences of combating drug pushers and formulate ideas on how to begin the fight-back in Ballymun.

Opening the meeting, Sean O Mearthaile, of the newly-formed Ballymun Drugs Action Group, stressed that community action should be directed against drug pushers, not drug addicts, a theme taken up by all of the following speakers.

"Our target," said O Mearthaile, "should be the people who make a huge profit from drugs, not their victims."

ACTION

Pat Brophy, chairperson of the Hardwicke Street Tenants Association, pointed to community action being the only way to get rid of the pushers:

"We neglected the drug problem in Hardwicke Street from 1979. When we started our campaign, in May 1982, we didn't realise the problem was so great.

"Firstly, we approached the known pushers and told them that they either had to stop dealing or get out. Some just continued to push. They were ostracised by the entire community and we got everybody in the flats to march to the pushers' flats, stand outside their doors and chant their names."

One Hardwicke Street activist testified that this simple tactic was so effective, and frightening, that pushers had approached community workers and said they'd stop pushing if the protests ended.

Brophy continued:

"It's not easy, but you must keep the pressure on the pushers. Hail, rain or snow — keep after them!"

HARASSMENT

Anti-drug campaigners from the Dolphin's Barn Flats complex have constantly been the subjects of harassment by the gardai. Noel Sillery, who had been released from garda custody only the day before the meeting, after being held under the Offences



● Part of last Thursday's packed meeting in Ballymun

Against the State Act for 48 hours because of his involvement in the anti-drug campaign, highlighted the need for unity against the pushers:

"Intimidation of our committee members by the pushers didn't work. We stood up to them and if enough people stand up, the pushers will back down — they're gutless."

"From six months ago, when we had junkies lying all over the place, Dolphin House is 90-95% drug-free. The pushers are feeling it so hard that they're complaining to the gardai about harassment!"

Pointing to the future dangers for the youth of Ballymun, Sillery warned parents that pushers have long-term, as well as short-term, policies:

"Pushers have no scruples about the age of their victims. Twelve-year-old kids are started off by being given a free pack of heroin, not realising the dangers. When they're hooked they go back to the dealer for a fix, they're told it will cost them £5, then the price goes up to £10.

"Even if your kids aren't victims now, in six or seven years' time they could get hooked on heroin — if the pushers are allowed to get away with it."

TRANSFER

Ger Condron, of the Inner City Drugs Action Group, spoke of how drug pushers, when cleaned out of the flats complexes,



● JOHN NOONAN

tried to transfer their business to pubs and shop shops:

"If this happens, you should approach the owner and tell him that if the pushers aren't put out then his licence will be opposed by the community when it comes up for renewal."

John Noonan, a former tenant in Bally-

mun and now involved in the anti-drugs campaign in Tallaght, emphasised that the aim was not solely to isolate the pushers but help addicts and educate young people about the dangers of drugs.

PROPOSALS

Following an open discussion from the floor, several proposals were made:

1. That local councillors be lobbied to introduce regulations allowing the eviction of known drug dealers.

2. That Dublin Corporation close the numerous open basements in the flats which are used for drug deals.

3. That the Taxi Federation be approached to ask all its drivers not to bring addicts in from outside the area.

4. That the Health Board be contacted about the danger of local doctors freely prescribing legal addictive drugs, such as valium, which were 'being dished out like Smarties'.

An open-air meeting in Ballymun Shopping Centre is to take place tonight (Thursday) and a public meeting will be held next Thursday (February 2nd) at 7.30pm in the Virgin Mary School on Shangan Road.

A community-run drugs advisory centre is open in Ballymun, at 8pm every Monday at 1a Balcarris Road, where addicts, or relatives and friends of addicts, can seek advice or help in total confidence.

Tuam reprieve turning sour?

BY NUALA JOYCE

THE PROSPECT of drastic cut-backs in staffing levels at the Tuam sugar factory in County Galway has somewhat dampened the elation in the local community following the success of their campaign to save the factory from total closure.

The announcement that the Irish Sugar Company had abandoned its plans to close the Tuam plant, came on December 20th last, when the Coalition government, responding to intense pressure from trade union, farming and community interests, rejected a drastic rationalisation plan which the Sugar Company had proposed.

Successive Free State governments have been blamed for the threat of rationalisation which was first publicised two years ago. Since the Sugar Company opened 50 years ago it has paid, up to £76, over £11½ million to suc-

cession, while contracts for transportation to local haulage firms are worth £7 million a year.

PROFIT

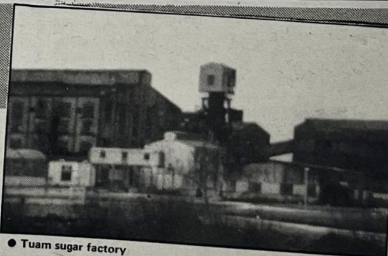
The extent of PAYE and PRSI payments made by workers to the exchequer over a 50-year period was another reason to justify further investment long before 1980 when the company failed to make a profit for the first time. Such funding had been sought by the company chairperson, John McEllis, as long ago as 1968. In the annual report, he stated that the cash-flow was insufficient to finance modernisation investment.

Successive Free State governments ignored the impending crisis facing the Sugar Company, even though the Lemass administration had solicited help from

the company in developing the food industry. This area suffered huge losses, as in Tuam, where a potato plant closed down both because of the unavailability of sufficient potato supplies locally and because attempts to establish the company as a co-operative failed to materialise when local capital was not forthcoming and disagreements arose between farmers and management over the extent of profits.

Because of such investments, the Sugar Company was left with a low capital base and, after being forced to borrow from the banks when money could not be got from governments, they had to contend with short-term repayments and rising interest rates.

Between 1978 and 1983, interest repayments rose from £1.9 million to £15.5 million; this neutral-



● Tuam sugar factory

ising operating profits which fell from £5.14 million to £3.5 million in the same period.

OUTRAGE

Although the Sugar Company was effectively deprived of the means to reinvest in modernisation because of the inaction and lack of support by both Fianna Fail and Coalition administrations, it eventually took the combined outrage of the community in East-

Galway to force a change.

The Coalition decision to give Tuam backing and prevent closure, even if it is belated and very limited support, has been welcomed by the secretary of the Tuam factory's workers' group, Jimmy O'Mara, and John Donnelly, chairperson of Galway Irish Farmers Association. But many Tuam workers believe that this has come too late to maintain realistic employment levels.

PERJURER IN THE BOX

BY JANE PLUNKETT

WEARING a three-piece suit, shirt and tie, and surrounded by RUC men, 24-year-old Robert Quigley entered Belfast Crown Court on Tuesday, January 24th, and began giving perjured testimony against 16 Derry men, who face a total of 34 charges, including alleged killings, attempted killings and IRA membership, on his uncorroborated word.

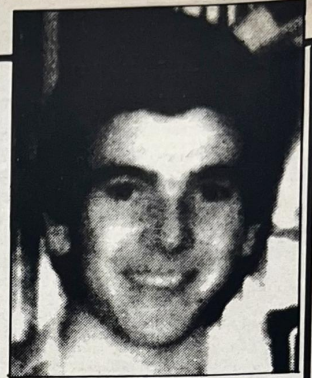
So far, prosecution lawyers have been able to avoid revealing in open court any details of the immunity from prosecution and financial deal offered to Quigley by the RUC, using the simple expedient of passing writ-

ten statements to trial judge Hutton.

Quigley's cross-examination had not, by Wednesday evening, started. But already the opening stages of the trial have exposed the RUC's contempt for basic legal procedures, in particular for matters of identification.

All the defendants, it emerged in court, were charged after one-to-one confrontations with Quigley during which RUC men identified them individually by name. As defence counsel pointed out, one of the accused, Bernie McFadden, prior to the confrontation, had requested, and been denied, a formal identification parade. Although this claim was denied by a succession of RUC witnesses, the written RUC records of McFadden's interrogations, which were produced in court, have proven to be conveniently incomplete at this point.

The RUC detective taking notes offered the lame excuse that "sometimes it is hard to take notes of someone else's questions".



● ROBERT QUIGLEY

and arrogantly added that, despite McFadden's protestations that he had never met Quigley before, any request he made for an identification parade would have been denied in any case.

The show trial continues and is expected to last for a number of weeks.

THERE are a total of 58 Irish political prisoners in top-security prisons in various parts of England including a number of totally innocent people and one remand prisoner, Belfast man Tommy Quigley, who is in Brixton Prison.

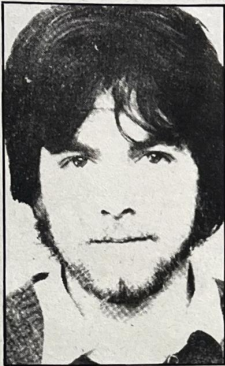
MAEVE ARMSTRONG

Of these 58, 18 prisoners are serving life sentences while others, like Gerard Conlon, whose father Giuseppe was framed by the judicial system and subsequently died in an English prison, Donegal man Hugh Doherty and Ronnie McCartney (Belfast) are serving 30-year sentences and, as such, have no release date. Ardoyne man Paul Hill is in a similar situation, serving a recommended natural-life sentence, while Carol Richardson, one of four people framed for the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings, is subjected to indefinite detention.

There have been several prisoners released from English jails in recent months, one of whom spoke to AP/RN about the conditions and how he viewed the issue of repatriation.

After long discussions in the jails, he said, the prisoners felt that "the issue of repatriation must be fought as a purely political battle against the British by exposing their policy of admitted discrimination against Irish prisoners while on the other hand flaunting their own rules by transferring 55 members of the crown forces to England for serious crimes, including murder, committed in the North, using the flimsy excuse that their lives were in danger. Apparently our safety isn't taken into consideration and many republican prisoners have received serious beatings from Screws over the years". He continued:

"Repatriation is a long-term objective of Irish prisoners in England for a number of reasons. It is an objective which the prisoners will continue to agitate for. At present, there is a lot of concern for the lads



● RONNIE MCCARTNEY serving 30 years

doing life sentences as they have no release date, and especially in light of a recent statement by British Home Secretary Leon Brittan saying that life would mean life."

SUFFERING

These long sentences, and the refusal to repatriate Irish prisoners, inflict unnecessary suffering on the families of prisoners as well as the prisoners themselves. The stress and expense of travelling long distances for visits, quite often to be told on arrival that the prisoner has been transferred to a prison hundreds of miles away, puts severe strain on families already suffering because of a relative's imprisonment:

"In the case of Martin Brady,

REPATRIATION a political battle



● BILLY ARMSTRONG serving life

Roy Walsh and Billy Armstrong, they've been over there for 11 years while their families are over here. It's really difficult visiting. AP/RN did an article a few months back on Roy, he was only in for his visit and he had to 'chin' a Screw. This type of provocation happens in some of the prisons.

"In the like of Wakefield, you sit at a table facing a piece of hardboard about 18 inches high, running along the table between you and your visitor. There is a Screw behind the family and a Screw behind the prisoner."

"In Albany, visiting conditions are very bad. They get a policeman to search visitors and in



● GERARD CONLON serving 30 years

fact one was asked to pull her little girl's pants down. All our prisoners are stripped coming back from the visit and in Gartree we had to send our clothes out to be searched the day before the visit."

Following the Albany roof-top protest last May, and for which prisoners faced mutiny charges, a High Court decision ruled that prisoners are entitled to legal representation during Board of Visitors' hearings. But three prisoners involved, Paul Norney, Stephen Blake and Eddie O'Neill, have been held in total isolation and 23-hour lock-up in Durham, Wakefield and Brixton Prisons.



● TOMMY QUIGLEY on remand in Brixton



● ROY WALSH serving life

Jailed for speaking Irish

LE BRIAN MacAODH

THE detention of a Derry Irish speaker on Tuesday, January 17th, for refusing to pay a road traffic fine, has highlighted the hostile attitude of the six-county authorities towards the Irish language and led to a series of protests by cultural activists.

In March 1980, Seán Ó Canainn, a married man with five children, was summoned to appear at Derry Magistrates Court to answer a charge of having failed to tax his car. Before the case came to court, in May of that year, Ó Canainn informed the court clerk that he would be conducting his defence in Irish and requested an interpreter.

However, when the case came to court, the presiding judge, Terence Gibson, in-

Dolan branch of Conradh na Gaeilge, which was established in Derry last year, and is president of Na Magha Hurling Club. He is also the oifigeach Gaeilge of the city's Fonn na Saoirse GAA Club and was working with the cultural department of Sinn Féin in a street-name survey in the Bogside.

Since 1980, Ó Canainn had been trying unsuccessfully to have his case brought before the County Appeals Court. His arrest, almost four years after the court case, has served to heighten criticism of the British government's attitude to the Irish language in the six counties by cultural groups and Sinn Féin.

CONRADH

Seán Ó Canainn was a founding member of the Seán Ó Canainn

CAINEADH

Ag tacú leis an Úisde, Ó Canainn

aínn dúit feisiré Sinn Féin do Bhéal Feirste Thiar, Gearóid Mac Aodh, gur "cruthú eile an ghabháil seo nach bhfuil meas ar bith ag údair na sé chontae ar an chultúr nó ar an tsaoicht Ghaelach."

"Is léirú eile, cás Sheain, go bhfuil dhí dírl sna sé chontae, dírl amháin dona Dlíeoirí agus lucht a leanúna agus dírl eile don phobal náisiúntach."

I ráiteas ó Ghaeil an Tuaiscirt, a d'eagraigh an pictad taobh amuigh de Charair Bhóthair Chroimghlinne Dé Sathairn seo chuigh thart, dúradh:

"Eilíonn Gaeil an Tuaiscirt go ligfí saor Seán Ó Canainn gan mhoill agus go mbeadh an ceart dleathach céanna ag Gaeilgeoirí a d'eagraigh náisiúnta a úsáid go hoifigiúil. Is aile ag Breataingh, chun na Breatnaigh ina dtús féin."



Cuirfidh Gaeil an Tuaiscirt pictad leis ar Charair Bhóthair Chroimghlinne Dé Sathairn, Eanáir 28ú, an 2pm, chun cás Sheain Uí Canainn a chur ós comhair an phobail. Tarrtar ar gach duine agus ar gach dream d'aoine ar suim leo leas na teanga-bheith i lárleas.

Lebanon — victim of power-play

BY SEAN HALPENNY

LEBANESE Druze and Shia Muslim militia launched a full-scale attack on the Israeli-backed government of Amin Gemayel last weekend, clashing with Gemayel's Lebanese army and launching an intense bombardment on his Beirut stronghold.

And in South Lebanon, Israeli forces, who invaded the country over 18 months ago to attempt "the liquidation of the PLO in Lebanon", are coming under daily attacks and reports of heavy casualties have led to the growth of an anti-war movement in Israel.

Armies from the USA, Britain, France and Italy, jointly pose as the 'multi-national peace-keeping force' but, like Israel, their continued presence in Lebanon is simply to preserve imperial interests. It was, in fact, Britain, France and the USA, who set up the politico-economic territories comprising Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Transjordan when they carved up the Ottoman Empire after the First World War.

Ranged against all of these forces are the Syrians, the Druze, and Shia militia and the PLO. Syrian backing has led to in-fighting between pro and anti-Arafat groups within the PLO, but while this internal battle is watched with glee by the Israeli and US governments, neither would like to see the more moderate Arafat leadership overthrown.

And the United Nations Interim Force in the Lebanon (UNIFIL), also there allegedly to 'keep the peace', have proved to be nothing more than inept observers.

CEASEFIRES

Whilst there have been nearly 200 'ceasefires' since the Lebanese civil war of 1975-76, the conflict seems no



● Members of the left-wing Lebanese militia and the PLO face the combined offensive of the Lebanese Phalangists, the Zionists and the Western 'peace-keeping' force

nearer a conclusion and the presence of the Western armies, far from alleviating the situation, has actually made it worse. For that reason, many of the attacks in recent weeks and months have been directed

at US and French troops in particular.

Lebanon is fast becoming the central pawn in the desperate attempts by Western powers to retain their influence in the developing and Third

World countries. Attempts to justify their presence as peace-keeping forces are daily contradicted by their open support for the Gemayel regime and their failure to condemn the Zionist occupation.

Loyalist lament for London

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

UNIONISTS on Derry City Council overthrew their treasured principle of 'majority rule' on Tuesday this week as they stormed out of the council chamber in protest at the changing of its name from the British-style 'Londonderry' to the original Derry.

And 'law and order' went out the window too as unionist politicians promised extra-legal activity to restore 'London', even if it meant a return of the Apprentice Boys and another siege.

Derry unionists had been sent reeling at the announcement, earlier in the day, by direct-rule minister Chris Patten that he had agreed to the council being renamed Derry City Council, following a resolution passed by a majority of its members.

Whilst the official, and offensive, city name remains unchanged, a monument to over three centuries of British oppression, the change in council name was enough to

cause DUP Assemblyman and arch-bigot Gregory Campbell to appeal to Derry loyalists for support for whatever form of action the DUP would decide on. The Official Unionist councillors called the move 'appalling', and said that they were considering withdrawing from the council altogether.

EXCUSES

The SDLP, according to SDLP mayor of Derry, Leonard Green, "welcomed the news", as indeed it may.

In March 1978, a motion in favour of a name-change had been passed by the SDLP majority on the council. Five years later, the SDLP hadn't made a move, and in April 1983 the Irish Independence Party lost a similar motion because of SDLP abstention. The excuses given were that it would inflame sectarian tension and that the SDLP would refuse to petition the British queen for a name-change — a flimsy excuse since Hume did not seem to mind swearing allegiance to the same queen some weeks later, in June, when his political career so demanded.



● Now all that remains is for the city to officially revert to its original name of Derry

However, Sinn Féin's campaign on the SDLP's timidity put embarrassing pressure on that party to acknowledge the wishes of

nationalists, who have always viewed the London prefix as a symbol of their second-class status in the Northern statelet.



Student protest

IN a pre-Budget demonstration in Dublin against the decision by the Coalition government to withdraw medical cards from young people aged between 16-25, students from the twenty-six counties marched on Leinster House on Wednesday last.

At the same time, a group of students, including members of the Trinity College Dublin Sinn Féin cumann, occupied the Fine Gael headquarters in Mount Street in a further protest against the cut-backs in health and education spending.



BURKE'S AT THE BACK By Kevin Burke

Hume's little helper

THIRD-LEVEL students are expressing some astonishment at the departure of the Union of Students in Ireland vice-president, Mark Durkan, in mid-term, to take up a position as personal assistant to John Hume.

With students embroiled in a major conflict with government over the massive increase in fees and the withdrawal of medical cards, Durkan's departure has caused more than a little fury amongst some of those who put him into the vice-presidency last year.

Durkan himself claims that he received a standing ovation when he announced his decision to leave at a national USI meeting recently, so some at least are pleased at his departure.

Durkan's salary as Hume's assistant will be paid out of the latter's large expense accounts from his numerous part-time positions, which are also supporting another personal assistant in the form of South Derry SDLP's Denis Haughey, who staffs Hume's Brussels office.

His job is apparently to keep the ballot-box fodder happy at home while the boss lives it up in the more congenial atmosphere of London, Brussels and Washington.

However, even before Durkan has taken up his job, he appears to have become a political embarrassment to his new master.

Free State Labour Party leader Dick Spring is reported to be far from overjoyed that the latest recruit to his party's sister organisation North of the border marked his departure from the USI by leading a bunch of noisy students into a sit-in in the Labour headquarters in Dublin's Gardiner Place in protest against the withdrawal of medical cards.

Also of interest to Hume supporters is the fact that Mark Durkan's father was the late Detective Inspector Durkan of the RUC.

★★★

With an expensive election campaign coming up in May, the fund-raising wing of the Workers Party — a military grouping which, of course, does not exist because Tomas Mac Giolla has declared it so — has been in the news again.

Last November, a printing press and £1.7 million in counterfeit £5 notes was uncovered by gardai in Dublin's Ringsend area and subsequently a Fraud Squad raiding party spent a fruitful four hours in the Sticks' headquarters at Gardiner Place among the production equipment of those better known 'money-spinners' such as the *Irish People* and *Lurker's Wife*.

A prominent member of the party — who, it is rumored, could have helped gardai with their enquiries — has unaccountably absented himself from his regular haunts since then, and the Dublin media have finally begun to take an interest in the case.

Popular political folklore in the twenty-six counties has it that the Sticks financed their 1979 EEC elections by an 'involuntary contribution' from CIE's Inchicore wages department.

Obviously they were planning an even bigger and better campaign this time to convince the voters of their principled political position on such things as the need to support the RUC and the urgency of getting more gardai on the streets.

★★★

Another money-spinning scheme by the Sticks also seems to have run into trouble.

The RUC this week raided a flat in Twinbrook and removed several thousand pounds, tax exemption forms and other documents. They claim to have uncovered a major swindle in the building trade in Belfast operated by a joint network of 'republicans and loyalists'.

In fact, 'republicans' referred to are, yet again, Workers Party fund-raisers of the non-existent kind.

Makes Tomas MacGiolla's PAYE protestations sound a bit thin, does it not?

★★★

Could a Thatchergate scandal see the British premier slide from power as dramatically, and as soon after re-election, as Richard Nixon?

The 'lobbying' done in Oman by Margaret Thatcher on behalf of her son Mark, to secure a £300 million contract for the company he was representing, Cementation, is certainly showing



● Mark Durkan — leading his members into conflict... and leaving them there

signs of developing into major corruption claims.

Having already caught Thatcher out in several lies on the issue so far, Labour Party MPs are sure that this is only the tip of the iceberg. And they are enthusiastically investigating a number of deals which involve husband Denis.

★★★

Those involved in trying to keep Seamus Shannon out of the hands of the RUC can hardly have been encouraged by a judicial slip of the tongue during his extradition case in the Dublin High Court last week.

Mr Justice McWilliams ordered that Shannon be detained in prison at 'Maryborough', whilst awaiting the court's decision.

'Maryborough' was the name of a prominent Midlands town during that period when the British retained an overt presence in the twenty-six counties.

Sixty years later it is better known under its now official name of Portlaoise.

★★★

Sergeant-Major Donald Poxton was decorated for his outstanding acts of terrorism with the British army's Royal Marines in the North a few years ago, but is now beginning a seven-year prison sentence in a French jail.

'Poxie' Poxton, as he is known to his close acquaintances, had enlisted in the French Foreign Legion and was apparently determined to uphold a British 'code of honour' in that famous force, a French court was told last week.

'Poxie' and two other Britons apparently held a kangaroo court and sentenced to death another Brit comrade, who, they claimed, had indulged in homosexual acts with Arab Legionnaires.

'Poxie' told the court: "British standards were strictly enforced. "We started strangling him with a Legion lanyard, but it broke. We then knifed him in the throat and left him for dead."

★★★

A 69-year-old South Derry pensioner has won £2,000 damages against the British Ministry of Defence for his treatment at the hands (and feet) of a UDR patrol.

The 'routine' patrol, manning a checkpoint near Draperstown, stopped a car containing Peter Convery, his two sons, daughter-in-law and grandson. They were ordered from the car and the old man was pushed to the ground, hit on the head with a rifle butt and kicked by at least three UDR men.

★★★

A rumour in Lurgan last March ended up in court this week when Michael Orr was found guilty of disorderly behaviour.

Orr was at a party upon which an RUC patrol descended, attracted by the sounds of drunken revelry and riot. Orr attempted to take

a sub-machine gun off one of the RUC men and, when, arrested and charged, stated:

"I am only suspended from the UDR but when I get back I will be coming into the station with an SLR, and if I see you I will put a round into your pretty head."

Orr was fined £40. Let's hope he is soon reinstated.

★★★

Leaving the UDR for good last weekend was William McShane, of Dungiven, who was found dead in his car on Sunday night.

McShane shot himself through the head with his service revolver on his way from a spell on duty. He joins the increasing number of RUC and UDR men who have taken this way out of their sordid profession.

A study into the phenomenon is currently being conducted by psychologists on behalf of the RUC Federation.

★★★

Armagh District Council, which until recently was presided over by UDR Major Charles Armstrong has really taken heart from Margaret Thatcher's endorsement of the major's former barracks at Dromadd, hot-bed of sectarian murders.

On Monday of this week, the council passed a motion calling on James Prior to ban a panel of international lawyers from entering the North next month. The lawyers are planning to investigate the murder of civilians by members of the crown forces.

The SDLP apparently do not want such a visit either as they abstained on the vote, allowing it to be passed without protest.

However, the SDLP did lead a demand by the council for an investigation into how the IRA were able to breach heavy security at the council chamber and plant the booby-trap bomb which killed Major Armstrong.

★★★

The elders of Limavady's First Presbyterian Church may have backed off under pressure, but their immediate reaction of sacking their minister for wishing the congregation of the Catholic church across the road a happy Christmas was the real face of bigotry.

And these are the people to whom Garret FitzGerald and his Dublin Forum would have us all bowing and scraping and apologising.

★★★

Also flexing their sectarian muscles were unionist councillors on Fermanagh District Council, who attempted to stop the council from supporting a grant application from a local GAA club to the Department of Education.

"The GAA is the political wing of the IRA", declared DUP councillor Bert Johnston, to roars of approval from his loyalist colleagues.

★★★

Limerick-born actor Richard Harris is likely to get the PTA treatment and a deportation order next time he sets foot in Britain.

In Fort Lauderdale, America, this week he told the local newspaper that he considered the Harrods bomb attack as 'wrong but understandable'. His remarks have been taken up with the usual venom by the British media.

Harris said: "I'm not saying it's right to bomb Harrods, but the provocation comes from the other side. That arrogant lady Margaret Thatcher wants to keep the trouble going."

"You think she gives a fuck about those innocent people getting killed? She says: 'Perfect. Great. Now they're going to lose support in America.'"

"You talk about Russians in Afghanistan. If those were Russian troops in Northern Ireland, the US would consider the IRA freedom fighters."

"The censorship is unbelievable even in this country. Why? Because President Reagan and Maggie Thatcher are in bed together politically."

WHAT'S ON

READERS are reminded that all notices for the What's On, Memoriam, Greetings or Sympathy columns must reach our Dublin or Belfast offices by 5pm Monday to ensure inclusion in that week's edition. This deadline will be strictly adhered to in future.

SPIRIT OF FREEDOM WEEK

(exhibition, video & talks)

Ends at 1pm

Saturday 28th January

University College

DUBLIN

Admission free to all events

Organised by UCD Sinn Féin

IRISH NIGHT

Featuring The Irish Brigade

Friday 27th January

National Foresters Hall

COOKSTOWN

County Tyrone

Táille £1

Organised by Sinn Féin

DUBLIN BUS TO DERRY

FOR BLOODY SUNDAY

Leaves 5 Blessington Street

12 noon Saturday 28th January

Seats must be booked in advance

Phone 308783 for details and

to arrange billets

Táille £10 (£15 unwaged)

SINN FEIN EDUCATION DEPT

NATIONAL MEETING

2 to 6pm Saturday 28th January

15 Cable Street

DERRY

All regional education officers

must attend

Open to comhairle education officers

RELEASE SEAN O CANAINN

PICKET

2pm Saturday 28th January

Crumlin Road Prison

BELFAST

Fáilte romhaibh

BALLAD SESSION

Featuring Martin & Hilary

Saturday 28th January

Cassidy's Lounge

COLLON

County Louth

Táille £1

Organised by Sinn Féin

BELFAST BUS TO DERRY

FOR BLOODY SUNDAY

Leaves Dunville Park

10am Sunday 29th January

Bookings with Bairbre de Brun,

Connolly House (phone 619719)

SOUTH ULSTER/NORTH LEINSTER

SINN FEIN REGIONAL MEETING

2.30pm Saturday 29th January

White House Hotel

COOTEHILL

County Cavan

BALLAD SESSION

Featuring The Irish Brigade,

Brian MacCormack & surprise guest

Monday 30th January

The Embankment

TALLAGHT

Organised by Sinn Féin

WEEK OF ACTION ON IRELAND

Featuring exhibitions, films,

meetings & guest speakers (including

Gerry MacLochlainn, ex-POW)

Monday 30th January to

Saturday 4th February

Essex University

COLCHESTER

Essex

England

VOL PEADAR MOHAN

COMMEMORATION

(3rd Anniversary)

11.30am Sunday 5th February

The Churchyard

CLONTIBRET

County Monaghan

RE-CONVENED LEINSTER

SINN FEIN EEC MEETING

All members of the Republican

Movement in this constituency

must attend

4.30pm Sunday 5th February

West County Hotel

Chapelizod

DUBLIN

Buses 25, 26, 66 & 67

from city centre

Death of Michael Mullin

THE death occurred on Tuesday, January 10th, of one of Tyrone's most respected republicans, Michael Mullin.

His death, after a long illness, took place at his home at Foremass, Sixmilecross. Throughout his life, Michael had earned the respect and admiration of all who knew him. No matter how hard-working republican, no matter how great the task, Michael Mullin could cope with a quality of quiet resilience and fortitude that few have ever come across, let alone possessed.

His passing leaves a void in republican circles in Tyrone which will be difficult to fill, but it is acknowledged that many Tyrone republicans became active as a result of Michael's encouragement and example.

The number of callers to his home subsequent to his death and who attended the funeral to Dunmoye Chapel was reflective of the esteem in which the deceased was held.

Sympathy is extended to his wife Cissie, three daughters and seven sons, one of whom, Patrick, is currently serving a sentence in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

The British authorities, in a cold and calculated act of barbarity, refused Patrick Mullin compassionate parole to attend his father's funeral.

Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

Leitrim meetings

CONTINUING harassment and intimidation in County Leitrim was slammed at after-Mass meetings in the county by Sinn Féin elected representatives Owen Carron, from Fermanagh/South Tyrone, and Jim McAllister, from Armagh.

At meetings in Aghnasheelan, Rantogue, Corraleeahan, and Aghamillan on Sunday, January 22nd, they pledged support for the people of Leitrim against Garda harassment, which has now extended to systematic questioning on whether people voted for Joe McDonnell and Sinn Féin at general elections in 1981 and 1982.

The speakers referred to the new threats of repression in the form of the Criminal Justice Bill and extradition and the heightened collaboration between the Gardaí and the RUC / British army / UDR.

Sinn Féin AGMs

CLARE

Terence McSwiney cumann, Shannon; president: Charlie Murray; chair: Paddy Rowe; secretary: Peter Flanagan; treasurer: Kathleen Murray; vice-treasurer: Frank McLaughlin; PRO: Eugene Logan; youth: Laurence Murray.

DONEGAL

Jim McGinn/Robert McLoughlin cumann, Lifford; honorary president: Liam McElhinney (Portlaoise); chair: Barlow McGavigan; secretary: Joan McDaid; treasurer: Sean Brennan, Edmund Devenney; PRO: Tony McDaid; AP/RR sales: Michael Brennan.

LIMERICK

Clancy O'Callaghan cumann, Limerick; cathaoirleach: Emer Quinlivan; leas-cathaoirleach: John O'Hehir; rúnai: Anita Wharton; cisteoir: John Moloney; PRO: Padraig Malone.

MONAGHAN

Monaghan comhairle ceantair: chair: Vincent Conlon; vice-chair: Sean McCoy; secretary: Padraigín Uí Mhurchú; joint treasurers: Jackie Crowe and Thomas Donaghy; PRO: Caoimhghín Ó Caoilain; education: Rose McMahon; county organiser: Malachy Woods.

WATERFORD

Keating/Sands cumann, Portlaur/Kilmaree; chair: Jackie Phelan; vice-chair: Anthony Walsh; secretary: Gerry Rockett; treasurer: Louis Kennedy; rúnai: James Fitzgerald; PRO: Philip Graham; education: Richie Roche.

WEXFORD

Michael O'Hanahan cumann, New Ross; chair: Nick O'Reilly; vice-chair: Richie Roche; rúnai: Sean Cullen; organiser: Jim Dwyer; treasurer: Paschal Warren; PRO: Mick Kane; education: Eileen Flynn; comhairle ceantair delegates: Jim Dwyer and Mick Kane.

Rights and wrongs

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

SEAN MacBRIDE was guest of honour on Gay Byrne's *Late Late Show* on RTE1 on Saturday. The first part of the show was devoted to Sean MacBride talking about his life, his childhood in France, his return to Ireland, his involvement in the IRA, and his subsequent career.

The second half was a panel discussion, with MacBride joined by Mary McAleese, Professor of Criminal Law in Trinity College Dublin; Michael Farrell, a former member of Peoples Democracy and now a journalist; Richie Ryan, Fine Gael MEP, and Donal Donnelly of the National Land League.

Richie Ryan, expounding on the necessity for the workers to tighten their belts and stop asking for a decent wage, was most annoyed when Michael Farrell pointed out that he would hardly feel the pinch with his £14,000 pension plus a MEP's salary and enormous expenses.

Mary McAleese, talking about the 'more over' over Cardinal O'Flaherty's statement about Sinn Féin membership, compared the Free State government and media reaction to "killing the messenger for bringing the message", and said that the reality of the massive support for Sinn Féin would have to be recognised.

Occasionally, the *Late Late Show* breaks out of the second-rate cabaret acts, book-promotion visitors and wandering snake-charmers and produces a discussion programme of this calibre which puts RTE's current affairs department to shame.

It should try it more often.

RTE1 had another highly entertaining programme on Sunday morning, John O'Donoghue had Patrick Lindsay, recently retired Master of the High Court in Dublin, as his guest on *Sunday Review*.

O'Donoghue and his other guests, Desmond O'Malley, Michael D Higgins and Irene Daly, made sure that their amusement at Lindsay's pronouncements was caught by the camera.

He had Michael rolling in the aisles with his "no respect for authority any more" speech, knocked Dessie dead with "the Blueshirts were anti-fascist and were formed to protect democracy", and left Irene gasping with "real feminists demand respect by standing back and letting men open doors for them" and "women should appreciate and be grateful for the 'special place' accorded to them".

They were laughing out loud as Lindsay expounded on his theory that "claiming rights does people harm", and his assertion that in all his years in the legal profession he had never come across a case where a member of the Gardaí had abused their position or had an advantage over a defendant was greeted with muffled laughs from the camera crew.

Patrick Lindsay might seem a bigoted old buffoon on TV, but the fact that he held a position of some power for many years should make the laughter die out quickly.

And O'Malley certainly got over his giggles in time to propose a Free State-type UDR in Leinster House on Tuesday.

TV

And when Irene Daly, the only woman on the panel, tried to reply to Lindsay's remarks about women, John O'Donoghue, who had himself treated the remarks with derision, literally cut her off in mid-sentence - time was up, the programme was over, Irene, being a woman and knowing her 'special place', obediently shut up.

BBC2's *Newsnight* on Monday showed a report on the controversy raging in America over the 'right' of parents of newly-born handicapped children to decide whether they should be treated or not.

It centred on the case of a baby girl born in Washington whose parents instructed the hospital not to give her any medical treatment for spina bifida and associated conditions.

The US government took the case to the Supreme Court in an attempt to override the parents' wishes, but the parental right to decide the fate of the child was upheld.

The programme was extremely distressing, particularly when the case of another baby was examined. This child was born with Down's Syndrome and a blocked oesophagus. Simple surgery would have cured the physical disability but the parents refused treatment. They insisted the hospital not to feed the baby but to leave him to die.

Both sets of parents felt that their children would not have a life worth living.

Doctors interviewed on the



● RICHIE RYAN

programme gave the view that parents were not getting full information on the recent advances in surgery, especially for spina bifida babies, and claimed that in the majority of cases, if the proper treatment was given immediately, these children could have a relatively normal life.

Newsnight's report could not be called unbiased, as they gave the views only of people obviously very much opposed to

the parents' decisions, and showed a great deal of film of appealing children on crutches. But, undoubtedly, the words of a nurse who had refused to agree to withhold food and water from the Down's Syndrome baby could not be ignored. She said that, though mentally handicapped, the baby was healthy and would have lived, and also that the sight of him put away to die was something she could not forget.

Disturbing viewing indeed.

Leabhar alainn aduaidh

LE CARRANACH

IS FADA Gaeilgeoirí Bhéal Feirste ag triall ar Ghaeltacht Thír Chonail, agus cuirfidh siadsan suim ar leith sa leabhar seo ó pheann Sheáin 'ac Fhionnlaíoch - an leabhar deireanach a scríobh sé sular bhfuair sé bás athrú anraidh - ach ní ag muintir Bhéal Feirste amháin a bhás an leabhar seo speisialú ach ag duine ar bith a thug cuairt riamh ar Ghaeltacht Dhún na nGall.

Níl le déanamh ag duine ach sracfhéachaint a thabhairt ar liosta na gcaibidil agus beidh a fhios aige go bhfuil ábhar in-éide leitheoireachta aige: An Chianaois, An Mheánaois, Méadó Pobail, Anró agus Ocras, Dhá Laoch Mhóra, Tiarnaí gan Trócaire, Padraig Ó Dónaill, Marú an Mháirtínigh, agus a lán eile.

Tá tuairim is fiche seanghriangraif ann agus cuirfear siad go mór leis an leabhar.

Nuair a bhí mé ag léamh na caibidil féadraig Ó Dónaill, tháinig seanamhrán i mo cheann a chuala mé ag mo mháthair breis is seasca bliain ó shin:

My name is Pat O'Donnell,

and I come from Donegal. I am, you know, a deadly foe, of traitors one and all.

For the shooting of James Connolly, I was tried in London town.

And on the dreary scaffold high, my life I must lay down.

Cúisíodh an Dálach (Padraig Mhícheál Airt) as dinnmharú Shéamus Uí Chára - fealltóir a sceith ar na Invincibles a mharagán an Tiarna Caibheidh i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce i mBaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 1882 - agus daoradh chun a-chrochta é; tá an scéal uilig sa leabhar seo.

Is minic a chuala mé féin

LEABHAR

Micé Sheáin Néill Ó Baoill i bPáirc na Feirste ag caint ar mharú an Mháirtínigh (William Limerick Martin) a bhí ina chigire ceantair san RIC. Gabhadh an tAthair Mac Pháidín, sagart paróiste Ghaoidh Dobhair agus cuirfear ina leith gur mharagán sé Ó Mháirtín. Tharla seo uilig in airmir Chonradh na Talún thart faoi bhliain 1882 agus tá cuntas suimúil ar na himeachtaí sin uilig ag Sean 'ac Fhionnlaíoch ina leabhar.

Tá cur síos chomh maith ar sheantaghlach Thír Chonail: Na Dálacha, Na Baollacha, Na Gallicdhacha, Na Dochartaigh, Clann tSuibhne, Muintir Fhearach, Clann Mic Giolla Bhride, Muintir Phrí, Clann Mhic Fhionnlaíoch, Muintir Rabhartaigh, Muintir Dhubhgháin, Clann Mhic Giolla Easpag, Muintir Dhubhair Clann Pháidín, Muintir Cholla,

Clann Mhic Aoidh, Muintir Chnámha, agus a lán eile a bhí ann. Tá an méid seo le rá ag na foilsitheoirí ar an chlúdach:

"Tá cuntas measartha iomlán le fáil i Scéal Ghaoidh Dobhair ar stair ceann de na dúichí is clúidí in Éirinn ó thús aimsire go dtí an lá inniu. Is léir ach a léamh gur cuntas cruinn fírinneach é i gcoitinne d'ainneoin fadfaidh na cuid ar bith eile de thearlach tuirsiúil na scoláirí a bheith ann.

Mar bhar ar a bhuanann eile cuideoidh an leabhar seo leis a chuireadh ar Ghaeltacht Thír Chonail agus beidh sé ina léamh-leabhar rianach na scoláirí samhradh, sna scoileanna agus i ngeach oifig riaracháin agus forbartha Gaeilteachta.

"I nGabbia a rugadh Seán 'ac Fhionnlaíoch sa bhliain 1910 Chaith sé mórchuid a shaoil ag teagasc ina phardiste dúchais - Gaoth Dobhair-gur éirigh se as sa bhliain 1973 de thairbhe drochshláinte. Údar Ó Ragharta go Mallmhuir, agus Is Glabha na Cnoic, fuair sé bás i 1981".



Bhain mé aobhneas agus pléisir as an leabhar alainn seo, agus níor mhaitht liom an t-aobhneas agus an pléisir sin a chait ar duine ar bith agus mar sin de, comhláirim do Ghaeil Uilig go mór, agus do Ghaeil Éireann i gcoitinne an leabhar seo a léamh agus a athléamh.

● Scéal Ghaoidh Dobhair, le Seán 'ac Fhionnlaíoch. Foilsíodh, Náisiúnta Teoranta d'fhoilsigh, luach £5 (clúdach cruai).

Comhaltas on tour

A 20-STRONG group of traditional musicians sets out for a concert tour of Britain next month and will perform at 15 venues between February 11th and 25th. It will be the twelfth annual visit organised by Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann.

This year's tour will contain a special segment to commemorate the centenary of the GAA.

The group includes Domhnall de Barra, accordion, whistle, flute; ballad singers Anne Mulqueen and Bill Flanagan; flautists Claire Burke and Michael Hart; fiddle players Brid

Harper and Fergus McTaggart; uilleann piper Joe Doyle; Claran Burns, concertina; Fiontan O Meachair, mandolin; dancers Nancy Higgins, Michael Ryan and Liam Boland and the King-Vaughan Clare Half-Set.

The venues in Britain are as follows: Luton, February 11th; Leeds, 12th; Sheffield, 13th; Newcastle, 14th; Motherwell, 15th; Glasgow 16th; Manchester, 17th; Coventry, 18th; Leicester, 19th; Kilburn, 20th; St Albans, 21st; East London, 22nd; Port Talbot, 23rd; Cheltenham, 24th; and Liverpool 25th.

The group will give a farewell concert at the Culturelram, Monkstown, County Dublin, on Sunday, February 5th.



● Fergus McTaggart, Michael O'Connell and Brid Harper aboard the MV Leinster recently

Death of Hughie McCormack

THE DEATH has taken place of Hughie McCormack of Dundrum, Dublin.

Hughie joined the Republican Movement as a young man in his native Kiltubrid, County Leitrim. He emigrated to England, where he was deeply involved in republican activities and was eventually deported and interned in the Curragh with his brothers Bertie and John, until the mid-40s.

During his internment, Hughie remained in the Gaelic-speaking hut, attending

language classes conducted by the late Martin O'Caighán and becoming a fluent Irish speaker.

During the same time, Hughie McCormack's father got a Land Commission farm in County Meath to which the family moved, but they always kept closely associated with Kiltubrid and County Leitrim.

Hughie was a violin-player who had a great love of Irish music and at his graveside a fellow musician played traditional airs in tribute to his memory.

The oration was given by Ballyshannon republican Brendan McGill.

Republicans meeting in Strokestown on Sunday at the Connaught / Ulster EEC convention extended a motion of deepest sympathy to Hughie, wife and family, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends.

A motion of sympathy was also extended to JB O'Hagan and family on the death of his brother.

Go ndeana Dia troaire ar aanamach.

Kilkenny welcome

THERE was an enthusiastic welcome home for Kevin Dunphy, of Mooncoin, County Kilkenny, at a packed reception in Carrick-on-Suir on Friday, January 13th. Kevin had been released at Christmas after serving 9½ years as a republican prisoner in various British prisons.

Present at the reception were Kevin's family, neighbours and friends from Kilkenny, Tipperary and Waterford.

Following dinner, Kevin received presentations from Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair in Waterford, Tipperary and Kilkenny.

Joe Cahill, joint-treasurer of Sinn Féin, spoke of the pleasure it gave republicans to welcome an Irish political prisoner home from jail, but "it gives even greater pleasure to welcome home a prisoner from British jails because, whilst the lot of any prisoner is hard, it takes a special dedication to stand up to the extra hardship of exile in the heart of British imperialism itself".

Two veteran South Kilkenny republicans also received presentations of plaques, made by republican POWs, for their long years of service to the cause of Irish freedom: Mr Joe Foran, of Mooncoin, and Willie Murphy, who has kept the annual Manchester Martyrs comm-

emoration going in his native Hugginstown.

Richard Behal, of Kerry Sinn Féin, described Joe Foran and Willie Murphy as excellent examples of the staunch republicans of South Kilkenny.

He went on to comment on the recent statements of Free State minister Ruairi Quinn, who had the audacity to try and lecture the people of Kilkenny on republicanism and how they were a 'peasant people'.

The fact that Ruairi Quinn could act in such a capacity in opening the new Fiddown Bridge was because people, like those he is now condemning, had gone out and shot the British army out of this part of Ireland. Behal continued:

"Of course, Ruairi Quinn is one of those who uses the RTE media to attack the truth but is afraid to let people hear the republican response by the opponent and cowardly use of Section 31".



KEVIN DUNPHY

Irish Lesson

Revision

TRANSLATE 1

- 1 - An dtánn sé thar leag chaiblain?
- 2 - Ní théimid cois trá sa gheimhreadh.
- 3 - Níor chuailf tú amach sa sneachta.
- 4 - Nár chuailf sí go dtí an baile mór inné?
- 5 - Nár chuailf sí ag síd ar maidin?
- 6 - Nár mhaith le Baid tóitín?
- 7 - Ba mhaith leo cupán téa.
- 8 - Thug sé cairthe bhliain déag don ghadai.
- 9 - Thug sibh trí phinginn déag ar gíl.
- 10 - Thug mé cúig phinginn déag don seandúine.

ANSWERS 1

- 1 - Does he go abroad every year?
- 2 - We don't go to the seaside in winter.
- 3 - You didn't go out in the snow.

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

- 4 - Didn't she go to town yesterday?
- 5 - Did you go walking this morning?
- 6 - Would Bridget not like a cigarette?
- 7 - They would like a cup of tea.
- 8 - He gave the thief 14 pence.
- 9 - You gave 13 pence for an apple.
- 10 - I gave 15 pence to the old person.

TRANSLATE 2

- 1 - I go to the seaside in summer.
- 2 - Does he go abroad every year?
- 3 - You don't go swimming in winter.
- 4 - We didn't go because we were tired.
- 5 - You didn't go out in the snow.
- 6 - Would you like an apple?
- 7 - He would like an orange drink.
- 8 - She would like a sweet.
- 9 - Patrick gave Mary a kiss.
- 10 - He gave the bloomerak 13 shoes.

ANSWERS 2

- 1 - Téim cois trá sa samhradh.
- 2 - An dtánn sé thar leag chaiblain?
- 3 - Ní théimid tú ag snámh sa gheimhreadh.

- readh.
- 4 - Níor chuamar mar bhí tuirse orainn.
 - 5 - Níor chuailf tú amach sa sneachta.
 - 6 - Ar mhaith leat gíl?
 - 7 - Ba mhaith léi deoch oráiste.
 - 8 - Ba mhaith léi mílseán.
 - 9 - Thug Pádraig póg do Mháire.
 - 10 - Thug sé trí bhrog déag don ghréasaí.

TRANSLATE 3

- 1 - Ní théann sé leis.
- 2 - Chuailf sé amach air go
- 3 - Maith mar tharla.
- 4 - Thug sí fogha faoi.

ANSWERS 3

- 1 - It doesn't go with it.
- 2 - It became known about him that
- 3 - It happened for the best.
- 4 - She attacked him.

TRANSLATE 4

- 1 - Going against the mainstream.
- 2 - We went astray.
- 3 - When he likes.
- 4 - I give it away.

ANSWERS 4

- 1 - Ag snámh in aghaidh easa.
- 2 - Chuamar ar fán.
- 3 - Níair is maith leis.
- 4 - Tugaim uaim é.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

The Thompson gun

BY PETER O'ROURKE

THE THOMPSON sub-machine gun, invented in America in 1920, was used in action, probably for the first time, by the IRA during the Tan War.

In a note typed on Ogligh na hÉireann notepaper, and dated January 27th 1921, Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence, wrote to Sean McMahon, Quartermaster General:

"I wonder if you saw the attached, having reference to the sub-machine gun. It looks a splendid thing certainly. I'd like to know what it costs."

Accompanying his note was a cutting of an article from an illustrated magazine on the newly invented Thompson sub-machine gun, beginning:

"A new type automatic weapon, the sub-machine gun, which is a machine gun in the form of a pistol, is shortly to appear on the market in the United States and on the battlefields of Europe."

Joseph McGarrity, a prominent member of Clan na Gael in America, was contacted and asked to purchase some of the weapons for use in Ireland. McGarrity, who made all the purchases

DEMONSTRATIONS

McGarrity then picked two Irish-born former US army officers, Patrick Cronin and James J. Dineen, to go to Ireland to train the IRA in the use of the new weapon. They travelled to Ireland with two Thompsons and demonstrationists to the headquarters staff of the IRA.

Other Thompsons were smuggled in and used in action, but the main supply purchased was 495 guns, 1,392 box magazines and 464 drum magazines and 45 calibre ammunition.



In 1925 the Thompsons were handed back to Clan na Gael representatives in New York. McGarrity sent the consignment to the IRA during the 1930s when Sean Russell was Quartermaster General, and for years these Thompsons were the main stock of the Army's armaments.

DELANEY, Kevin, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. St Jude, pray for him. Time may pass and fade away, but silent thoughts and memories always stay. Always remembered by John and Mary-Ann Stone and family; also Teresa and Eddie Butler and family.

DELANEY, Kevin, (4th Anniversary). In loving memory of Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, a true son of Ireland, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. RIP. St Teresa, pray for him. Dee, you will never be forgotten. Always remembered by dear friend, Mary Glenon.

DELANEY, Kevin, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. RIP. If you think of Kevin today, a little prayer to Jesus say. My dear friend, you may have gone, but you will never be forgotten. Always remembered by John, Kitty and family.

DELANEY, Kevin, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, who was killed on active service on January 17th 1980. Always remembered by Spike Murray (H8) and Flash McVeigh (Portlaoise).

DONAGHY, Gerard, (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Gerry Donaghy, Derry Brigade, Flanna Éireann, who was murdered on Bloody Sunday, January 30th 1972. Go ndeana Dia troaire ar aanam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

DONAGHY, Gerard, (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flannery Donaghy, who was murdered on Bloody Sunday, January 30th 1972. He died as he had lived, true to God and to the land whose cause he loved. Always remembered by Gerry Sinn Féin.

KELLY, John, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John 'Bap' Kelly, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. St Martin, pray for him. Will those who think of him today, a little prayer to Jesus say. Always remembered by John and Mary-Ann Stone and family circle.

KELLY, John; STONE, John, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John 'Bap' Kelly and John Stone, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann, who died as a result of a premature explosion while on active service on January 21st 1975. Always remembered by the John 'Bap' Kelly Memorial Accordian Band, Glasgow.

KELLY, John; STONE, John, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John 'Bap' Kelly and John Stone, who were killed on active service on January 21st 1975. Always remembered by Spike Murray (H8) and Flash McVeigh (Portlaoise).

MCARDLE, James, (6th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother and grandad, James McArdle, who died on January 26th 1978. Will those who think of him today, a little prayer to Jesus say. St Joseph, pray for him, Mass offered. Always remembered by his loving daughter, Lily, Joe Stewart and family, Ardoyne.

Sympathy

CURRIE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Pat Currie on the recent tragic loss of his parents. From Frankie Fennell, Seamus and Mary.

DONALDSON, The Short Strand prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh deeply regret the recent death of Mrs Donaldson and offer their sincere sympathy to her family.

DONALDSON, Sincere condolences are

MCARDLE, James, (6th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear grandad, James McArdle, who died on January 26th 1978. RIP. St Paul of the Cross, pray for him. Today my thoughts cross over the hill to a lovely grave, I know there is a great reward waiting to rest. God bless you, Grandad, you were the best. Always remembered by his loving grandson, Sean Stewart (Portlaoise).

MENULTY, Peter, (12th Anniversary). The Republican Movement, Castlewellan, County Down, remembers with pride our friend and comrade Vol Peter McNulty, Ogligh na hÉireann, who died on active service on January 26th 1972. Fuair sé bás ag troid ar son na saoirse.

MENULTY, Peter, (12th Anniversary). The McNulty/Cannon Sinn Féin cumann, Dublin, remembers with pride IRA Vol Peter McNulty, Castlewellan, who died on active service on January 26th 1972. Fuair sé bás ar son na saoirse.

O'NEILL, Danny, (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Danny O'Neill, who was killed on active service on January 7th 1972. Always remembered by Spike Murray (H8) and Flash McVeigh (Portlaoise).

SLOAN, Michael, (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flann Michael Sloan, Belfast Brigade, Flanna Éireann, who died on active service on January 11th 1972. Will those who think of him today, a little prayer to Jesus say. Always remembered by John and Mary-Ann Stone and family.

STONE, John, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flann son Vol John Stone, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. St Anthony, pray for him. It does not take a special day to bring you to our minds, for a day without a thought of you would be very hard to find. Always remembered by his loving mother and brother Francis.

STONE, John, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol John Stone, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. St Martin, pray for him. May you be at the door of your heart was true and tender, you simply lived for those you loved, and those who loved you. Saddy missed by his sister Kathleen, brother-in-law Mick and nephews Michael and Sean.

STONE, John, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol John Stone, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, who died on January 21st 1975. St Joseph, pray for him. A wonderful brother, a precious friend, what a treasure I lost when your life did end. Someone to turn to, kind and true, one in a million, dear brother, that was you. Always remembered by his sister Teresa, brother-in-law Eddie, nieces Martina, Anna Maria, Briden and new-born baby.

STONE, John, (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol John Stone, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. St Jude, pray for him. He may hide the sadness, like the smile that hides the tears, but loving memories will keep him close to the past years. Today your memory we treasure. Always remembered by his brother Louis, his sister Mary, his nieces Rosalind, Marie, Colette and Leane.

extended to the Donaldson family on their recent bereavement. From a very good friend, Dickie Glenhomies (Long Lartin).

MCALLUM, Sincere sympathy is extended to John McCallum on the sad death of his father, Go ndeana Dia troaire ar aanam. Deeply regretted by Ann and Michael, Sinn Féin, Civic Centre, Blessington Street, Dublin.

MCCARRON, Deepest sympathy is extended to the McCarron, McQuaid and O'Neill families on the death of John McCarron on Friday, January 20th. Ar dheis Dé go raib aanam usail. From Maghan town Sinn Féin.

kisses from your wee daughter Nicola. xxx

MCKEE, Eugene, (Portlaoise). All the best on your birthday, Eugene. Always thinking of you. Love from Aunt Deborah and all your cousins.

MCKEE, Eugene, (Portlaoise). Wishing you a very happy birthday, Eugene. Love from Francis, Mary and family.

MCKEE, Eugene, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Eugene. We don't see too much of you but we still think of you. From Ben, Pat and kids.

SMYTH, Claran, (H7). Greetings to my son and our brother Claran for his 24th birthday. They have you in their keeping but we have you in our hearts. From Mam, Seanny, Sean and Liam.

SMYTH, Claran, (H7). Birthdays greetings to you, Claran. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. God bless, From Granny, Grandad, Uncle Gerard, Aunt Anne and Roy.

SMYTH, Claran, (H7). Greetings to you for your 24th birthday. God bless your spirits up as always. From Deborah, Danny, Cara and Danielle, Raymond and Bernadette, and Dane and Elizabeth, Venceremos!

THE republican POWs in English jails wish to express our gratitude to all our comrades and supporters who sent us letters and greetings since the 1983. These messages are appreciated very much but, regrettably, we are unable to individually acknowledge them to all the people. Thank you very much for your support.

and sympathised with them in their recent bereavement. A piece of sympathy that is to John's comrades in Portlaoise Prison,

GREETINGS

BANKS, David, (Portlaoise). Solidarity greetings, Dave. A small Christmas box is on its way - better late than never. From the Ballymun Two.

GIBNEY, Jim, (H7). Best wishes, Jim. Hope you're keeping as well as you can be. From Dan the Man's merry workers at 44.

HODGINS, Gerard, Happy birthday for the 30th, Curly. Wishing you many happy returns. Love from Cathy and Seamus. xxx

HODGINS, Gerard. Many happy returns on your birthday. With love from your fond friend Ann. xxx

HODGINS, Gerard. Happy birthday on the 30th. Gerard, love from Siobhan, Lorraine and Mary. xxx

MCKEE, Eugene, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Eugene. Don't get too drunk. All the best from Phyllis and all the family.

MCKEE, Eugene, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday to my dear daddy. Love and

Ó BRÁDHAIGH, The Ó Duill cumann, Baile Átha Cliath, wishes a speedy recovery to Ruairi and Patsy Ó Brádaigh following their recent car accident.

Ó BRÁDHAIGH, Ruairi and Patsy. The republican POWs in English jails send best wishes for a quick recovery to Ruairi and Patsy. God bless them in their recent accident. Hope you'll be home soon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE WHELAN FAMILY wish to thank all those who sent Mass cards, wreaths

RUC blamed for boy's death

BY JANE PLUNKETT

IN A TRAGIC incident last Friday, January 20th, a 14-year-old traveller jumped into a Newry river to escape pursuing RUC men and drowned, apparently too terrified of being summarily shot dead to swim ashore.

Earlier that day, the boy, Patrick McDonagh, and a companion stole a van in Dundalk and headed north towards Newry, where the teenager lived until a month ago.

The gardai, obeying routine cross-border collaboration procedures, informed the RUC of the theft and at around 3.30pm the joyriders were spotted by the RUC who pursued them, sirens wailing, into the travellers' camp at Middlebank, where the van crashed into a wall.

Both occupants fled. McDonagh ran to the nearby Clanny River, ripped off his anorak and dived into the icy water.

The boy managed to swim to within a few yards of the far bank, some 30 yards away. Then, seeing armed RUC men awaiting him, according to eyewitnesses, he turned back and, near the middle of the river, rapidly went under.

An uncle, 21-year-old Thomas Ward, who

lives at the camp and witnessed young Patrick's attempt to escape, blames the RUC for the boy's death:

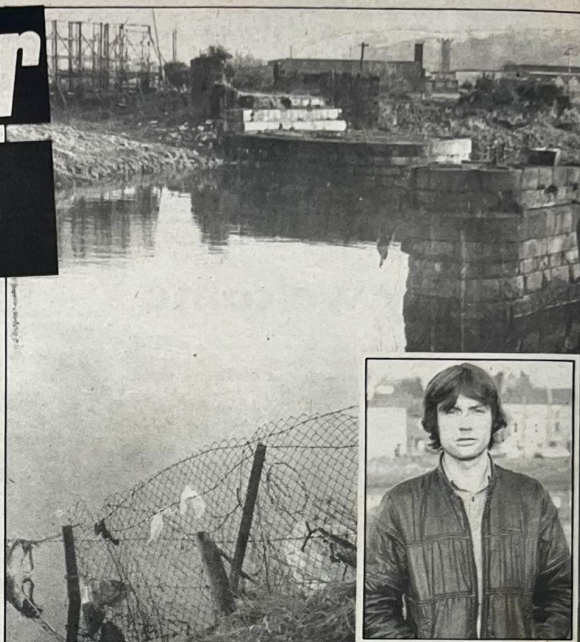
"The RUC on the other side were just standing there, shouting at him, with their rifles in their hands. It was frightening. They did drown him."

NO ATTEMPT

Ward himself dived in, in an unsuccessful bid to rescue his nephew. The RUC, who were nearer, made no attempt to save the boy, whose body still has not been recovered.

Following the tragedy, the chairperson of the Newry Committee of Travelling People, Jeremy Mullan, called for an investigation into the RUC's actions, pointing out that a successful rescue would have been 'very possible', and referring to allegations that the RUC later that evening threatened to shoot a member of the committee who was in the camp.

As Sinn Féin's elected representative for



● The river where Patrick McDonagh drowned despite an attempt by Thomas Ward (inset) to save him

Armagh, Jim McAllister, pointed out, young Patrick McDonagh's evident terror of his armed pursuers was "indicative of the attitude of nationalist youth towards the RUC".

Having lived at Middlebank, the boy was well aware of the persistent harassment, in-

cluding regular short periods of arrest, meted out by the RUC in Newry to travellers. And, according to Thomas Ward:

"A few months ago one RUC man threatened his mother that they would kill another of her sons."



● Adrian and Jonathan McGrath

Petty harassment

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

SINCE the discovery of an SAS undercover unit last June by two Coalisland youths, one of them, 14-year-old Jonathan McGrath, has been constantly harassed by the RUC using a series of petty pretexts.

The youth's mother, Mrs Una McGrath from River Park, told AP/RN that since he was involved in a minor motoring accident in August — from which all charges have subsequently been dropped — the RUC have called to their home at least once a week demanding a statement from Jonathan and personal information including his

name, what school he attends, fingerprints and what discos he goes to.

In October, the RUC turned their attention to harassing another member of the family, 13-year-old Adrian, whom they attempted to implicate in the disappearance of a donkey in the area.

Then on Wednesday night, Jan-

uary 18th, the RUC called again to the McGraths, this time accompanied by a plainclothes RUC woman who claimed she dealt with juvenile crime, deliberately giving the misleading impression that she was a welfare officer.

Mrs McGrath, who has since contacted her solicitor on the matter, refused to co-operate and accused the RUC of blatant intimidation, saying:

"I know what all this is about, they're getting their own back at Jonathan over the episode last year, but it won't work."

Crossmaglen curfew

BY JANE PLUNKETT

IN A MASSIVE propaganda stunt, apparently designed to boost the flagging morale of the UDR, the crown forces sealed off the strongly nationalist village of Crossmaglen for several days this week, carrying out numerous house-raids and conducting a systematic campaign of petty harassment against local people.

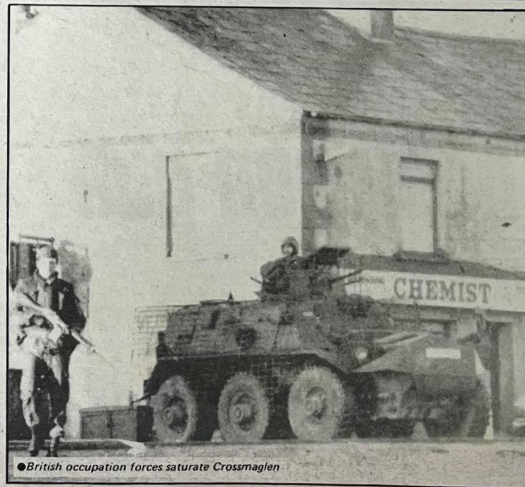
The operation started on Monday, when the British army, accompanied by the UDR, set up roadblocks and sand-bagged bunkers on all roads leading into Crossmaglen. Two empty houses, one of them on the Dundalk Road and owned by the Housing Executive, were taken over.

Since then, people travelling into the village have been subjected to long delays, with bread vans, coal lorries and even buses carrying schoolchildren, being stopped and searched. With heavy snow on the ground, numerous motorists turned

back from the barriers rather than see their children forced to stand out in the cold by the British Grenadier Guards Regiment.

Meanwhile, the RUC have been belligerently searching houses of Sinn Féin supporters, particularly in the Rathview, Ard Ross and Lismore areas, searching through attics, personal papers and clothing. The Ard Ross home of Ann Boyle, a worker in the Crossmaglen Sinn Féin advice centre, was one of those raided.

In a raid on Tuesday morning, an 84-year-old woman, Mrs Mary



● British occupation forces saturate Crossmaglen

Ann McArdle, and her partially handicapped nephew Tom, were confined by the RUC in the unheated kitchen of their Lismore home for 2½ hours, dressed only in their nightclothes.

Following a raid on another house in the estate, local man

Colman Hearty was detained in Crossmaglen Barracks for several hours before being released without charge.

The massive Brit/RUC/UDR operation, which was still continuing on Wednesday night, was condemned by local Sinn Féin elected rep-

resentative Jim McAllister as "pure vindictiveness" and "an attempt to introduce the sectarian UDR into the area". McAllister added:

"The exercise was intended as a sop to loyalists who are always screaming for more repression in republican areas."



● TOM McARDLE



● JIM McALLISTER