

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT

Republican News

Sraith Nua Imt 6 Uimhir 5

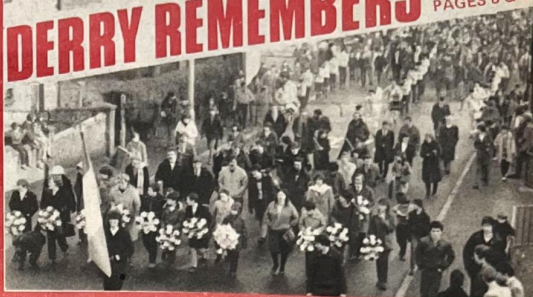
Deardain Feabhra 2

Thursday 2nd February 1984

(Britain 30p) Price 25p

DERRY REMEMBERS

SEE
PAGES 8 & 9



PRIOR BACKS HUME!



BRITAIN'S direct ruler in the North, James Prior, has urged Northern nationalists to vote for the SDLP!

Speaking on BBC radio on Tuesday of this week, Prior said:

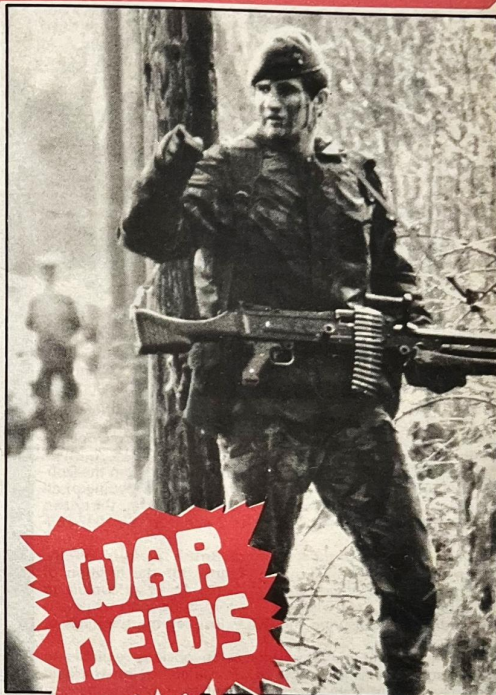
"I hope the SDLP will be able to regain lost ground and I believe it will do so."

And, ignoring Sinn Fein's 43% share of the nationalist vote last June, Prior claimed that the SDLP was the 'voice of the Catholics', adding:

"Sinn Fein is not a major political force, even if it has made some advances."

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**WAR
NEWS**

South Armagh landmine

SEE PAGE TWO



● Eddie Fullerton has exposed the petty-mindedness of the Dublin government

**Dundalk
cover-up?**



● MARTIN BEATTIE

— SEE PAGE 5 —

Coalition 'ban' backfires

THE COALITION'S first attempt to enforce their new 'shun Sinn Fein' policy appears to have quickly backfired, as their Minister for the Environment, Liam Kavanagh, emerged as a petty-minded begrudger after skulking in his office rather than come face to face with a delegation of Donegal elected representatives, because it included Sinn Fein Councillor Eddie Fullerton.

Far from having the effect of ostracising Sinn Fein representatives from the people, the Coalition's pathetic plans have caused outrage to people of all political persuasions in Donegal, who have recognised Fullerton's contribution to local affairs during the five years he has served as both a county and urban district councillor for the Buncrana area.

And the calm manner in which Eddie Fullerton dealt with the affront — insisting that Donegal interests be put before his own pride, and withdrawing from the meeting — is in sharp contrast to Kavanagh's shabby posing.

The repressive, anti-democratic nature of the Coalition's move has been speedily exposed.

FULL STORY PAGE 3

**MASS DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST EXTRADITION**
2.30pm Saturday 11th February
O'Hanlon Memorial
Clones Road
MONAGHAN
Prominent speakers
All bands and banners are welcome

OPINION

Schemes and stratagems

JAMES PRIOR'S expression of support for the SDLP, made on BBC radio this week, will hardly come as a surprise to the growing number of nationalists who are totally disillusioned with that party's continuous attacks on anyone who has offered resistance to British rule in Ireland.

Nor has John Hume's alliance with the pro-British Coalition government in Dublin in arrogantly slandering those who choose to exercise their democratic preferences in favour of Sinn Féin increased his standing amongst Northern nationalists.

Whilst such open support for the SDLP from James Prior would benefit them about as much as would the return of Lord Gerry Fitt, there is no doubt that the party feeds on tit-bits from the London government which it can portray to the electorate as signs of progress made by constitutional politics.

As the *Irish Press* editorial commented on Monday, the day after the SDLP's panicky annual conference:

"The SDLP is losing out to Sinn Féin, at least in the perception of the public, because the party has been crippled politically by the British government's refusal to offer it any hope of progress."

A party which claims to represent Irish nationalist interests but is dependent on British goodwill!

EMBARRASSING

Although Prior's continued open support would be gravely embarrassing to the SDLP, he was apparently spelling out the conditions on which the more subtle and tacit 'encouragement' from Britain might be forthcoming. For in the same broadcast he set the price of the SDLP's return into Britain's good books (after their refusal to co-operate in the failed Assembly).

That price will apparently be a final report from the Dublin Forum in March which will include the dropping of all claims by the Free State to jurisdiction over all thirty-two counties, as contained in Articles 2 and 3 of the 1937 constitution.

In exchange, Prior hinted at British pressure on the unionists, some time in the future, for the creation of "some system of government in the North acceptable to both minority and majority" — something short of power-sharing, but satisfying the SDLP lust for the trappings of office.

Prior's blunt remarks came as an obvious rejoinder to the strong demands at the SDLP conference last weekend — particularly from Seamus Mallon, to Hume's embarrassment — for the Forum report to be a consensus one, setting out a strong nationalist position.

Fine Gael leader Garret Fitzgerald has declared on several occasions that he favours the deletion of the 'offending articles' from the Free State constitution, and John Hume has drawn closer and closer to Fitzgerald's position.

A Forum report offering several options — unitary state, federalism, joint sovereignty and so on — is understood to be the first preference of Fitzgerald and Hume, who hope that, with something for everyone, such a meaningless report could, nevertheless, be kept alive until after the vital EEC elections in June.

ALTERNATIVE

But there is also an alternative idea being put about which might satisfy some more of Hume's 'republican' wing and still obtain benign recognition from London.

This plan would have the report set out the various lures and concessions which Dublin would make for the 'unionist tradition', set out the principle of the 'aspiration' to Irish unity — by unionist consent at some far future date — as a legitimate one, and, at the same time, as a 'gesture of goodwill', propose a referendum in the South to chop the claim to the six counties.

This, it is thought, might give the SDLP enough of a half-baked nationalist platform until reality returned after the June elections, would allow Fitzgerald to forget about the North again, in a statesman-like way, and even see the SDLP — accepting that unity would be a long way off — join some new dressed-up Assembly at Stormont, 'in the meantime'.

There are a number of major obstacles to this version of a final report, however.

Firstly, Fianna Fáil — for their own party political reasons in the South — are very unlikely indeed to go along with it. And, equally, a significant section of the SDLP would also be likely to rebel.

In addition, Hume would have to gamble that the Northern nationalist electorate is as glib as he is in placing their trust in British promises rather than Irish resolution.

That Hume, whether he looks to London or to Dublin is desperately relying on such empty schemes and silly stratagems, is a measure of what he has to offer to the long-suffering people he claims to represent.

And it compares very poorly with the clear-sighted, unashamed pursuit of Irish freedom and unity being put forward by the republican alternative.

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



Alwood's furniture showrooms, in Lurgan, blitzed for an hour before being destroyed

South Armagh landmine

TWO RUC men were killed, several others were injured and hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage was caused in a series of IRA attacks throughout the North in the past week.

The most devastating IRA operation so far this year took place on Tuesday this week, January 31st, at about 1.30pm, when an unmarked armoured RUC car was destroyed in a huge landmine explosion, in South Armagh, and its two occupants killed.

The RUC men had left Forkhill RUC Barracks, where they were based, and were driving between Meigh and Dromintee when an IRA active service unit, lying in wait at a vantage point about 500 yards from the road, detonated the massive culvert landmine which contained over 1,000lbs of explosives.

The explosion left a 20-foot crater in the road and was heard seven miles away.

In claiming responsibility for the blast, which occurred only days after a much-publicised RUC and British army search of the area, the IRA said:

"The attack indicates the ease with which the IRA can continue to strike in border areas in the war of liberation."

DERRY AMBUSH

In Derry city on Friday night, January 27th, a 20lb anti-personnel device injured two RUC men who had arrived at Stevenson's Bakery in Great James Street to investigate a report of a break-in.

In a statement later, the IRA's Derry Brigade said:

"Two active service units were involved in the operation. The first took over a house at Lisannon Park at around 7pm on Friday night and took a car."

"The second active service unit then took over Stevenson's Bakery at 10pm and all the workers were moved to a place of safety. Two Volunteers with automatic rifles covered the unit engineer as he placed the 20lb bomb."

"A phone call was then made to the RUC, complaining of a break-in at the bakery."

"The RUC arrived at 12.15pm and the mine was detonated from within the building, injuring two RUC men. The Volunteers then withdrew from the premises."

KILKEEL ATTACK

In Kilkeel, County Down, on Saturday evening, January 28th, an RUC Reservist was shot four times by IRA Volunteers at his cousin's butcher's shop, where he was working. The attack took place at about 5.20pm and the RUC man was seriously injured.

BELFAST VAN-BOMB

In a series of commercial bombings, the IRA gave an illustration of co-ordination by choice of targets.

On Thursday night, January

26th, Volunteers of the IRA's Belfast Brigade placed a van-bomb outside the Gillespie & Wilson furniture showrooms in the city centre's Chichester Street.

A 45-minute warning was given and the area was cleared before the bomb exploded, at 8.45pm, causing damage to several adjoining shops and starting a blaze in the furniture store.

A British army remote-controlled bomb-disposal robot was destroyed as it approached the van to examine it.

NEWRY INCENDIARIES

The following night, Friday, January 27th, a furniture store on Greenan Road in Newry was devastated when two blast incendiaries exploded. Armed IRA Volunteers placed the devices which detonated around 8pm.

LURGAN BOMBS

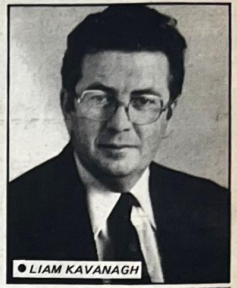
And on Wednesday, February 1st, armed IRA Volunteers placed two bombs in Alwood's furniture showrooms in Malcolim Road, Lurgan, at 10am.

Workers in the adjoining factory were evacuated before the bombs exploded. The ensuing fire totally destroyed the showrooms, the roof finally collapsing after firemen had been fighting the blaze for an hour.



Last Thursday saw yet another successful commercial bomb attack by the IRA's Belfast Brigade

COALITION LAUNCHES SINN FEIN 'BAN'



● LIAM KAVANAGH

BY JACK MADDEN

IN A CLEAR demonstration of the paranoia which has gripped the Dublin government because of rising electoral support for Sinn Féin, the Coalition Environment Minister, Liam Kavanagh, refused to meet a delegation of local councillors from Buncrana, County Donegal, last Wednesday, because included in the delegation was Sinn Féin's Councillor Eddie Fullerton.

Fed-up with the repeated failure of Dublin governments to help finance an urgently needed sewerage system in the Inishowen area of County Donegal, Buncrana councillors readily agreed to a proposal that they take their case straight to Leinster House. This proposal was, in fact, made by Eddie Fullerton.

Armed with a carefully prepared report which detailed the social and economic misery which the 30-year wait for a proper sewerage system has caused in the Buncrana area, the delegation, which included cross-party representation, arrived in Leinster House only to be told that Kavanagh would not meet them while Eddie Fullerton remained.

After a hurried consultation with other members of the delegation, some of whom were prepared to abandon the meeting rather than satisfy Kavanagh's petty attitude, Fullerton pointed out that he would prefer to leave on his own and allow the meeting to continue, since Kavanagh would clearly use any excuse to avoid meeting the delegation.

As Fullerton walked out of Leinster House, Kavanagh had no option but to honour his commitment to meet the remainder of the delegation and to concede that they should get the finance needed for the sewerage scheme.

TRAVESTY

Denouncing Kavanagh's refusal to meet him, Fullerton, who holds

seats on both the Urban and County Councils and is a Sinn Féin candidate in the forthcoming EEC elections, said:

"I think this is a diabolical travesty of democracy. This is the first time in my five years on the Council that I've ever come across this. Democracy has been turned round on its head."

Asked why he had decided to leave the delegation, Fullerton continued:

"I decided that if I stayed, then Kavanagh would have had his excuse to do nothing for Buncrana and, rather than let him worm his way out by scoring political points, I left."

"If he was going to deny me the right to represent the people who voted for me, I had no intention of giving him the excuse to deny them their needs."

SLAMMING

A Sinn Féin statement slamming the Coalition government for refusing to meet Eddie Fullerton said:

"It must be emphasised that the Coalition government was prepared to ignore altogether the Donegal proposals for a major sewerage



● Unlike Kavanagh, Sinn Féin's Eddie Fullerton puts principle before his pride and withdraws from Wednesday's delegation so that his Donegal constituents' case may be heard

scheme essential for the future development of housing, industry and tourism, in order to score party political points against the councillor who originated the scheme.

"It will be interesting to see how the Labour Party's Minister for Labour, Ruairi Quinn, behaves on his forthcoming visit to Wexford on Monday, February 13th, when faced with the prospect of meeting another Sinn Féin elected representative,

John Sheehan, who is chairperson of Gorey Town Commission.

"We note that the Labour Party leadership are also conducting a witch-hunt against members of their own party whom they find an embarrassment. How long will it be before this anti-democratic behaviour is extended against unacceptable independents or even the major opposition party?"

"Today's action by Liam Kavanagh is not only an insult to a respected elected representative but also to those who voted for him and to all those in Donegal who acknowledge his record of selfless hard work in the interests of all."

"Eddie Fullerton is a prospective candidate for Sinn Féin in the Connaught/Ulster constituency in the EEC elections in June and we will see then what the people think of the Coalition's creeping fascism."

HENNESSY REPORT

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

POLITICAL reactions came fast and furious after the publication, on Thursday, January 26th, of the Hennessy report on the H-Block escape last June, when 38 IRA prisoners dramatically broke out of H7-Block. Nineteen evaded the immediate round-up and remain free.

As Ernest Whittington, the prison governor, was handing in his resignation, and British direct-ruler James Prior was explaining why he was not going to resign, unionist politicians were issuing statements in support of the prison administration and demands for Prior to resign — a predictable reaction from unionists, who have always considered the Long Kesh warders as part of the big unionist family, like the RUC and the UDR and, like them, prevented by weak-kneed British politicians from 'doing their job', that is getting rid of republicans.

Paisley blames the escape on the "granting of greater freedom of association" to the prisoners, and similar statements were made by other unionists advocating a return to the days of systematic beatings, solitary confinement and visiting restrictions, and SDLP deputy-leader Seamus Mallon took Prior's side and described the prison as "inefficient".

It seems to be what the British government has in mind anyway, since Whittington's successor is the hated Stanley Hilditch, who was governor of Long Kesh up to the 1981 hunger-strike.

His return has already been greeted by a warning from the republican prisoners that they will not submit, and that the prison administration's "free hand of the blanket days" has gone.

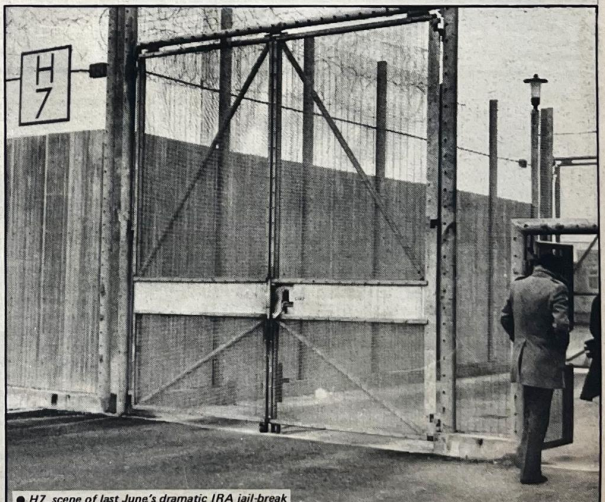
BLAME

Prior will have a struggle to ensure that none of the blame should attach to him as some Tory backbenchers, unionist MPs and Labour right-wingers, such as Roy Mason and Don Concannon, have banded together to push for a further debate on the escape report next week and for a ministerial resignation at the end of it.

A further problem for Prior will be the statement issued by the Prison Governors Association deploring Whittington's resignation and denouncing "the political constraints on governors in their day-to-day management of prisons".

Whilst the spectacle of Brits and unionists tearing one another apart will provide some light entertainment, it remains true that republican prisoners in Long Kesh are facing a battle to maintain their hard-won rights. They will need all the outside support they can get.

PRIOR UNDER PRESSURE



● H7, scene of last June's dramatic IRA jail-break

Irish apartheid claim

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

A GROUP campaigning for the rights of travellers has described as 'apartheid' the decision by Dublin County Council to shrug off its responsibilities for travelling families in the Dublin area.

A proposed plan for 13 halting sites for travelling families in County Dublin was rejected, by 16 votes to 11, at a meeting of Dublin County Council on Monday, January 30th.

The rejection of the plan means that 420 families will have to remain on the side of the road, with no facilities, for an indefinite period.

The 13 halting sites, which would have provided basic water and sewage facilities, would have been located at Lusk, St Margaret's, Swords, Malahide, Navan Road and Sandford; New Fortunestown Road, Killinarden, Willbrook, Firhouse Road and Tymon Lane, all in Tallaght; Pottery Road, Cabinteely; and Palmerstown.

CONDEMNED

The Committee for the Rights of Travellers condemned the decision and in a statement issued on Monday evening said:

"Dublin County Council, in shelving plans to provide halting sites for travelling families in Dublin, have condemned 420 travelling families to live in squalor on

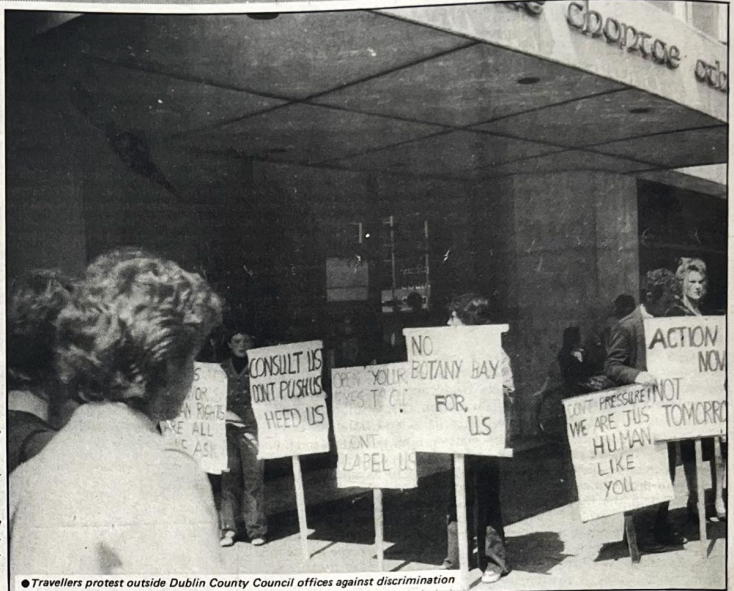
our roadside, deprived of even the basic rights of access to water and sanitation or schooling for their children.

"The review body report is now one year old in February. In that year, nothing has been done. The County Council report is now almost three years old, first commissioned on March 30th 1981, reviewed in May 1982 and yet again in 1982 and 1984. Each time it was shelved by our gutless politicians who have reneged on their responsibilities to travellers.

"In this country, we have not got apartheid in law, but decisions such as this ensure that we have apartheid and apart-hate in practice.

"The Committee for the Rights of Travellers believes that it is now time to get the Minister for the Environment to act and take responsibility for the provision of sites away from the County Council. Only then will the country ensure that travelling people and their children can be brought within the national claim to treat all the people equally.

"End this apartheid now!"



Travellers protest outside Dublin County Council offices against discrimination

Storm over repairs service

BY PAT DEENEY

THE inefficient response of the Housing Executive in providing emergency repairs to damage caused by winter weather conditions has again come in for strong criticism, this time in Derry.

On Wednesday, January 11th, the home of Mr and Mrs Porter in Linsford Drive in the Creggan area was ravaged by storm damage. A number of slates were blown off, leaving huge holes in the roof.

Mr Porter reported this to the Housing Executive and warned them that if repairs were not quickly undertaken the ceilings, in his home would be affected.

After two weeks, Mr Porter's

fears were realised and both the bedroom and sitting room ceilings started to collapse.

After contacting Sinn Féin elected representative Martin McGuinness, who publicly slammed the Housing Executive's attitude as "scandalous, negligent and uncaring", the Housing Executive's repairs team arrived and replaced the missing slates. Mr Porter is still waiting for the ceilings to be repaired and he plans to bill the

Housing Executive for compensation.

Commenting on the Housing Executive's response to the yearly emergency repairs occasioned by the severe weather, Martin McGuinness said:

"Year after year the same problems arise, and year after year the Housing Executive's response is entirely predictable. In my opinion, the Housing Executive has neither the will nor the ability to deal speedily with these repairs, and while it may consider its tenants of little concern, it is the Housing Executive's responsibility to ensure that emergency repairs are immediately carried out."



The ceilings in the Porters' home are collapsing due to Executive neglect

Inchicore damp demand

ST MICHAEL'S ESTATE in Inchicore is a Dublin Corporation complex of flats of the usual mass concrete/flat-roof type. Nearly all of the 500 flats in the various blocks are severely affected by damp, particularly the top-floor flats in each block.

Rain comes in through gaps in roof-joints and cracks in walls, with cracks on the roofs of some flats spreading to entire blocks.

Mrs Leahy and three of her children live at 159 St Michael's Estate, in a one-bedroomed flat. Every room in the flat is suffering from

damp, and water comes in through cracks in walls and gaps in window frames.

IGNORED

In spite of a Corporation office in the flats complex, complaints of damp and disrepair are largely ignored, and maintenance staff at the

office are alleged to have refused to deal with any more complaints as they cannot cope with the repairs.

Residents of St Michael's Estate claim that the futile efforts at patching the huge cracks in roofs and walls with mastic filler, which is a regular summer event for the Dublin Corporation, is ineffective, and they demand that a major programme be undertaken to eradicate the dampness by properly repairing the structural defects.



Flats in St Michael's Estate are suffering from appalling damp and cracks in the walls

EXTRADITION NEARER

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE APPARENTLY determined progression towards the introduction of political extradition in the twenty-six counties continued in Dublin's High Court on Friday, January 27th, when Justice McWilliam confirmed an order for the handing over to the RUC of Monaghan man Seamus Shannon.

The extradition is in connection with the killing of the former Speaker of the Stormont parliament, Norman Stronge, and his RUC Reservist son at their home at Tynan Abbey in Armagh, two years ago.

The appeal, heard the previous week, claimed that the offence, which Shannon denies any involvement in, is a political offence, as recognised under international law and the Free State Extradition Act, having been carried out by the IRA as part of the war of national liberation.

The judge rejected the claim, following Chief Justice O'Higgins' ruling in the McGlinchey case in the Free State Supreme Court and a High Court ruling on the McMahon case,

which signals that the courts are interpreting what is a political offence.

Commenting on the Shannon decision, a leading senior counsel, Seamus Sorahan, has said that it would seem that the courts are beginning to adopt a law-making role.

Both McMahon and Shannon are appealing their cases to the Supreme Court and Philip McMahon's final appeal is to be heard, in the Supreme Court, next Thursday, February 9th.

INVALID

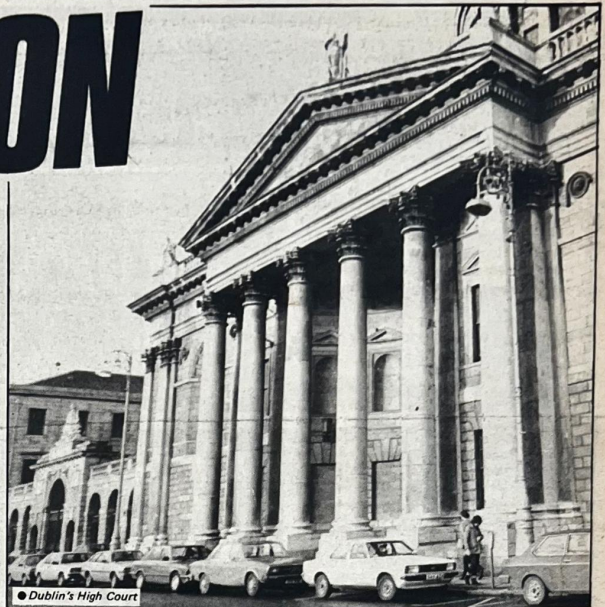
In a further application, yet to be heard by the High Court, Seamus Shannon is claiming that part three of the Free State Extradition Act 1965 is invalid under the Free State

Constitution as it provides for the making of an order handing a person over to the RUC without requiring that any evidence be produced against them.

He is further claiming that this section of the Act fails to respect or defend his 'constitutional rights', puts him at the risk of being subjected to RUC interrogation and torture, and places him within a judicial

system the practices of which are "incompatible with, and offensive to, the fundamental norms of fairness and justice."

A demonstration is being held in Shannon's home town of Monaghan, on Saturday, February 11th, to protest against the decision to hand him over to the RUC, and against the prospect of general extradition for political offences.



● Dublin's High Court

MYSTERY SURROUNDS DEATH IN GARDA BARRACKS

Dundalk cover-up?

BY JACK MADDEN

RELATIVES of a young man who died whilst in garda custody, on September 12th last, have denounced as 'one-sided and sickening' the inquest into the death which was held in Dundalk on Tuesday, January 24th.

Twenty-seven-year-old Martin Beattie was arrested by gardai following disturbances in a Dundalk pub on Sunday night, September 11th. Within hours of his arrest, he was brought to Louth County Hospital where he was declared clinically dead, having been found strangled in his cell in Dundalk Barracks a short time earlier.

Close relatives of the dead man were subsequently given different versions of the circumstances surrounding the death by a number of gardai, and this, added to bruising and lacerations on the body, persuaded the family to demand an inquest.

Two earlier inquests were postponed, however, the second because the case was supposed to be in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This investigation was reportedly ordered by Garda Commissioner Laurence Wren, after he had received a number of letters from members of the Beattie family. Nothing more has come from this investigation to date.

At last Tuesday's inquest, the state pathologist, Doctor Harbinson, detailed the extent of the injuries which he had discovered on the dead man's body. These included severe bruising on Beattie's shoulder, back and legs, a broken rib, internal bleeding, a deep gash on his left leg, three separate injuries close to his brain, and marks on his neck caused by strangulation.

Few of these injuries were satisfactorily explained at the inquest, however, even though Harbinson stated that the leg wound could

only have been caused by a very sharp instrument, adding that he could not understand how the broken rib and the internal stomach bleeding had been caused.

AFTER HOURS

Witnesses stated that Beattie had, in fact, objected to his arrest because he was singled out in a pub which was full of after-hours drinkers. One of the three arresting gardai admitted that he had used his baton but denied that the two other gardai had done so, even though the barrister who witnessed the arrest testified that all three gardai had used batons.

Beattie's mother, Gertrude, told AP/RN:

"Martin was only five feet seven inches tall and had a slight build. I can't understand how three gardai could not arrest him without beating him. There were witnesses who were afraid to come forward at the inquest who saw him being kicked and beaten on the footpath."

"One gardai got up at the inquest and said that the prisoner had 'got on his nerves' in Dundalk Barracks and admitted that he had turned the light off in his cell. When he was asked why he didn't call a doctor if the prisoner was distressed, the gardai said he didn't think there was any need."

Clear evidence that Beattie was seriously distressed while in custody was given by a number of gardai and yet no doctor was called and he was left alone in his cell. Even the details of this detention varied with clear discrepancies between the statements of a number of gardai.



● Gertrude Beattie and Jean McDonagh, mother and sister of Martin Beattie (inset) who died in garda custody

Martin Beattie was not admitted to Louth County Hospital until 1.35am on Monday, September 12th, even though one gardai stated that as early as 1.15am he had discovered Beattie unconscious in his cell, having apparently hung himself with his own shirt from a sitting position.

Indeed, two gardai were present in Dundalk Barracks at this time and yet neither one of them thought it necessary to call for an ambulance immediately. Instead, they took it in turns to attempt to revive the prisoner themselves.

Cross-examination of gardai witnesses was virtually disallowed at the inquest and therefore the background and contributory factors which undoubtedly led to Beattie's death remain unexplained.

Relatives of Martin Beattie are angry at what they see as a cover-

up and are determined not to allow the case to rest. Their anger was heightened following difficulties in retrieving the dead man's clothing from the gardai and their belief that some of this clothing, when it was returned, had been tampered with to remove bloodstains.

Jean McDonagh, a sister of the dead man, said:

"There were tyre or oil marks on the sleeve of his jacket and vomit on the back. There were also bloodstains on the band of his trousers and even on the hospital bed where he died. Yet none of this was brought up at the inquest even though the gardai claimed that he had not been bleeding."

QUESTIONS

There are many questions which remain unanswered surrounding the death of Martin Beattie, ranging from how he sustained his injuries

whilst in garda custody to an explanation of how somebody who had suffered such injuries, and who must have been considerably weakened as a result, was able to hang himself.

Dismissing the inquest as a farce which raised questions but didn't answer them, Jean McDonagh added:

"It was an awful ordeal to sit there and listen to them and know that you could do nothing."

BY JACK MADDEN

Students make Desmond sick

STUDENTS occupied Health Board offices in Dublin and Donegal this week in the continuing campaign against the decision by the Dublin government to withdraw medical cards from young people between the ages of 16 and 24. This decision, announced by Coalition Health Minister Barry Desmond last December, will deprive up to 120,000 young people of the free health care to which they have been entitled.

This week's occupations of the headquarters of both the Eastern Health Board in Thomas Street, Dublin, and the North-Western Health Board offices in Ballybofey, County Donegal, are the latest in a series of measures taken by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) to thwart the latest attack on the living standards of Irish students.

In recent weeks, student protests have included occupations of both the Fine Gael and Labour Party headquarters and the Department of Health & Social Welfare offices in Dublin. On Wednesday, January 25th, thousands of students marched on Leinster House in a massive pre-Budget protest against the cut-backs, only hours after letters demanding the return of medical cards reached students in the post.

With one group of students already facing prosecution for their occupation of government offices, those now occupying the Eastern Health Board offices may face similar charges if and when they are removed. Student leader Joe Duffy is amongst the group which entered the offices on Monday last, and in a statement he announced:

"We will end the occupation if work on the removal of the medical card from 120,000 second and third-level students is ended."



EDUCATION MINISTER'S PROGRAMME EVADES PROBLEMS

DISMAL DOCUMENT

BY TONY BARRY

THE COALITION Minister for Education, Gemma Hussey, has released her proposals for 'an improved educational system' in the twenty-six counties on Monday this week, January 30th. In a document entitled *Action Programme for Education*, she announces a few reforms in an otherwise dismal attempt to seriously tackle the severe problems facing the Free State's educational system.

Among the few progressive proposals outlined in the document are the expansion of boards of management of comprehensive schools to include teacher and parent representation and the amending of the 1930 Vocational Education Act to cater for teacher representation on Vocational Educational Committees.

However, the minister has avoided the question of student representation on governing bodies of third-level colleges, saying that this situation will be 'examined'. This type of cynical attitude prevails throughout the document where the minister excuses herself from challenging the severe problems facing the education system.

She promises a review to be undertaken to examine the extent to which Regional Technical Colleges have succeeded in achieving the goals originally set out for them. The minister will give 'greater flexibility' to schools to introduce 'alternative curricula' and the question of whether four-year degree courses can be reduced to three years without a lowering of standards will also be examined.

FUNDING

The funding of 'national' schools will be a priority, according to Hussey, though how serious she really is on this matter can be measured by the fact the such funds will come from 'available resources' already allowed for within the Department of Education's budget.

The Coalition also promises the



setting up of a new remand and assessment centre this year for girls referred by the courts. Such reactionary plans will do nothing to alleviate the alienation of young people from the education system, especially in working-class areas where truancy is very high.

The document steadfastly refuses to cater for the demands of students, particularly in the area of third-level participation where the minister will 'examine the feasibility' of allowing a greater number of students through the system without incurring major capital costs. Under this term of reference, the possibility of bringing the third-level participation rate of only 13% up to the European average of 20% is impossible. More worrying, however, is the

minister's determination to introduce a loans scheme for third-level students. This scheme is currently being considered by the Free State government and has been condemned by the Union of Students in Ireland on the grounds that it would bar working-class participation and would also discriminate against female students.

HEALTH

The most cynical suggestion from Gemma Hussey's plan is the urging of health education to be taught in schools throughout the Free State. She seems to have conveniently forgotten that her government has already threatened many students' health by dispossessing them of their medical card which allows them free medical treatment.

INSULT TO INJURY

PADRAIG Mac Fhearraigh of Gort an Choire, Contae Dhun na nGall, refused to buy a television licence in protest against RTE's failure to recognise its statutory obligation to provide a worthwhile television service for Irish-speakers.

To add insult to injury, Mac Fhearraigh, who lives in the Gaeltacht, was served with a summons in English only, even though those who were serving it knew that he speaks and uses Irish at every opportunity.

Mac Fhearraigh refused to acknowledge the validity of the summons and did not appear in Gal Carrach District Court on January 25th, when, in his absence, he was fined £50 or seven days' imprisonment in default of payment.

Conradh na Gaeilge has called for an apology to be made to Padraig Mac Fhearraigh from the Coalition Ministers for Justice and for Communications. Conradh say:

"It is intolerable that state officials should be forcing the English language on Irish speakers, particularly those living in the Gaeltacht."

SDLP CONFERENCE

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

SINN FEIN and the Dublin Forum predictably dominated the SDLP's 13th annual conference last weekend in Belfast. The Forum was described as "our hope for the future", while Sinn Fein were branded as liars, traitors, and just about everything else.

Caught between the urgency of Sinn Fein's electoral challenge, and the dubious hope of salvation represented by the Forum, SDLP delegates were left with no room for real debate, and the conference consisted mainly of pious wishes, self-congratulations and repeated attacks on republicans and on the media.

Indeed, delegates talked more about Sinn Fein than they did about their own party.

On the defensive from start to finish, the SDLP stage-managed their conference agenda in order to attempt the refutation of what they call the 'big lies' which a gullible press is printing about them - at Sinn Fein's instigation, of course.

For instance, age. The SDLP is visibly annoyed by the 'middle-aged' tag, and this year contrived to parade some 'young' speakers - that is a few youngish university types, mostly male, looking to be in their mid-20s. The SDLP even organised a 'fringe' meeting on 'Youth', to be addressed by Ruairi Quinn of the Free State Labour Party. However, those so readily described as 'Young Turks' were few and, come to that, rather docile.

At the fringe meeting, they contented themselves with querying points of party policy from senior party members. Later, they failed to get a motion passed asking for a "semi-autonomous SDLP youth party". Later again, they were at Hume's beck and call to run up to the rostrum and sing the praises of the leader and his Forum.

"Fantastic", is how Hume described his 'Young Turks' to the press.

WOMEN

Incidentally, another underprivileged sector of society was poorly represented at the conference: women. There were hardly any women speakers and no creche was provided at the conference.

The party literature and conference agenda - printed with the acknowledged help of the *Irish News* and EEC funds - reflected the middle-class moderate tone of the gathering. Out of 200 motions, less than a quarter of which were actually discussed, only nine called for the SDLP leadership or its members to actually 'do' something. The rest of the motions 'deplored', 'condemned', 'viewed with concern', 'supported', but proposed no action.

As for the five short policy documents, on social and economic issues, they were there to prove, as party chairperson Sean Farren boasted, the SDLP's "deep-seated social conscience".

ATTACKS

Attacks on Sinn Fein started early on Friday evening, as the first

The twin obsessions of Hume's party



JOHN HUME

speaker, Brian Feeney, a North Belfast councillor, speaking on TV coverage of the North, expressed regrets that the December 'anti-Gerry Adams' *World in Action* programme interviewed Sticks instead of the more representative SDLP.

The next day, during the session on the Forum, SDLP Free State Senator Brid Rogers blamed the IRA for all the deaths of the last 13 years, as well as for the economic recession.

Every major address contained repeated mentions of the arch-rival, Sinn Fein, coupled with a notable increase in 'republican' phrases and quotes - such as the conference's motto: "Cherishing all traditions equally", an allusion to the 1916 Proclamation.

Hume, in his keynote address, developed the idea of the Tricolour as symbol of the SDLP policy of compromise and 'reconciliation' - an idea which drew at least as much applause as his statement one year previously that "the SDLP is not a flag-waving party".

Seamus Mallon spoke of the SDLP's 'true republicanism'. Other delegates criticised the BBC for its lack of coverage of Irish culture. Yes, this year, the national flag was well and truly waved, in a last-ditch attempt to recover some credibility with Northern nationalist voters.

ADVICE

Another 'lie' about the SDLP,

Hume complained, was its alleged lack of involvement in 'community politics'. Hume went on to praise the 'tireless and unselfish' efforts of SDLP elected representatives to serve their constituents. Of course, they did it from home, after working hours. Unlike Sinn Fein advice workers, they could not 'afford' to be unemployed, nor could they afford all these advice centres, the fruit of 'robberies' and 'kidnappings'. Such drive will hold no water with the said constituents.

In fact, it wasn't believed by all SDLP delegates, as a few urged the SDLP to 'get in there' and work.

The fact that most SDLP elected representatives are employed, and a vast number of them are professional people, did not deter John Hume from boasting, having momentarily swapped the green flag for the red, that his was "the party of the workers, the unemployed and the small farmers". Hume would have been more accurate, or more honest, had he said "party of the teachers, the self-employed and lawyers".

Farren's claims about the SDLP's 'socialist policies', and Hume's grandiloquent tirades about the workers, show how worried the SDLP is of Sinn Fein's competition.

MILITANCY

In an attempt to polish its veneer of 'nationalist militancy', the SDLP passed a few motions on the

issue of paid perjurers, which concerned them more, it seems, because of its potential for further "erosion of law and order", further "disaffection from the law". The SDLP, it goes without saying, did not commit itself to any course of action on the matter. On Brit/UDR harassment, a few token speeches were made. However, no solution was offered to combat harassment by the occupation forces.

"It's time the party got a document together," one Armagh delegate proposed.

A sense of powerlessness seized the delegates as lawyer Paschal O'Hare recalled that in spite of the SDLP's representations to Thatcher, nothing had been done.

"Where do we go from here?" he sighed.

PRaises

Hume's address, and the session which followed, centred on the Dublin Forum. But the secrecy of the Forum's discussions, and, more likely, the dread that the parties would not succeed in producing a unanimous report, meant that for one solid hour, delegates did nothing but sing the praises of the Forum, without exactly saying, or even knowing, what the Forum could achieve - if anything.

'Fraternal delegates' from the Free State had conveyed cryptic messages of support, pledging to "continue to work with the SDLP" in the Forum - whatever the conclusion. The Free State Labour Party delegate remarked about the threat to the freedom of the press if the SDLP's rivals were to "come to power" - apparently not a reference to Section 31....

"The Forum will succeed," Hume promised. The Forum, a del-

egate enthused, is "a redefinition of this mystical term 'Irish freedom'".

More realistically, Mallon said: "I shudder to think what would happen" if the Forum did not reach a unanimous conclusion. Mallon spelt out every delegate's fear of the end of the road for the SDLP, a fear never expressed but always present, and one which had the whole conference on the defensive. The delegates were visibly worried, if not panicked, by the idea that their political survival hangs on that Dublin Forum in which the vast majority of them has no input whatsoever.

FEAR

Those two days of rather sterile speechmaking and of travesty of party democracy, which nevertheless got the SDLP glowing reports from the usual sources - 'rejuvenated', 'exuberant', 'idealism', said the *Irish News* - have shown the SDLP in a state of fear, the effect of which has been delayed by the Dublin Forum, in which the SDLP puts all its hopes of survival.

Expected boasts about the party's strength, about future election triumphs next June, could barely hide the fact that SDLP members are aware of their lack of involvement on the ground and their inability to match Sinn Fein in that domain. A party report describes the 1985 local elections as the 'make or break' elections....

The SDLP can be expected to fight a particularly nasty and personalised campaign in June against Sinn Fein, who they now view as public enemy number one - a political analysis with which, unfortunately for the SDLP, not many Northern nationalists would agree.

The Assembly's last gasp

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

PRIOR's 'rolling devolution' has long died the death due to the absence from Stormont of firstly two, and now three of the five parties. So it is now 'rolling participation' time, with the two remaining parties, Paisley's DUP and Alliance, looking for ways to lure the Official Unionists back to their seats.

The idea is to draw Assembly salaries for as long as possible, or rather, officially, to set up a committee to 'probe the possibility of administrative devolution' - not a chance - and invite the OUP to take part on condition they take their seats. Clever, those

unionists.

Meantime, as the IRA continues to mount successful attacks on the Brits and the RUC, the Official Unionists, minus one defector, Assembly member Willie Thompson, have decided to continue their boycott, started as a response to the Darkley killings and the lack of movement by Prior on devolution.

Posing as the repository of principled unionism, the OUP seem prepared to see the Assembly close down, as they content themselves to issue a call for Prior to resign after every IRA operation of consequence. But Prior himself is threatening not to keep the Assembly going for ever if unionists refuse to play.



OUP members, before their Assembly walk-out

Bloody Sunday Con

AFTER 12 long years, the slaughter of 14 Derry people by British army paratroopers and the cover-up by the British government has remained fresh in nationalist minds, a fact which they clearly testified to last Sunday when thousands of people – following in the footsteps of that Bloody Sunday Civil Rights demonstration – marched in an impressive display of opposition to continuing British rule in Ireland.

Just as Bloody Sunday focussed worldwide attention on British misrule, the event, instead of terrorising the nationalist people, backfired and escalated the struggle for national freedom. But Bloody Sunday remains an unforgettable and unforgivable watershed in Irish history.

Above the spires of Derry city, the distinguishable sound of drums announced the gathering crowds assembling at Creggan Heights, eager to be on the move.

Dozens of bands, including two Scottish bands and two new Derry bands, stepped out smartly as the marchers — by now the veterans of numerous such commemorations and demonstrations — positioned themselves behind scores of banners from all over the thirty-two counties, from England and from Scotland.

Taking the same route as the original march, the parade, led by relatives of the 14 dead, carrying wreaths and followed by 14 children holding black flags, wound its way through the Creggan Estate, down into the Brandywell and the Bogside. Hundreds more lined the route, joining to swell the ranks.

At Rossville Street Flats, where many of the 14 victims were shot, the marchers paused for a moment while wreaths were laid at a memorial cross erected by the people of Derry.

RESISTANCE

At Free Derry Corner, symbol of resistance to the old Stormont regime and today representing the undaunted spirit of resistance, Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin elected representative, welcomed those who had travelled to Derry and, as silence fell on the crowd, read out the names of the 14 dead.

He briefly recalled his own personal memories of Michael McDaid (one of those killed) whom he had grown up with, and outlined the British government's

slandrous attempt to disclaim responsibility for the shootings at the time by issuing a statement claiming they had shot 'gunmen and petrol bombers'.

He pointed out the theme of the day's march, against the use of paid perjurers and show trials, and reminded the crowd that just as people 12 years ago were marching against internment, which affected 12 people in Derry, "today there are over 50 Derry men and women on remand in Crumlin Road Jail on the word of two hired perjurers"

MEDIA

McGuinness introduced the first speaker, an English woman and authoress, Liz Curtis, whose latest book on Ireland concentrating on how the British manipulate the media, will be appearing this March.

Liz Curtis posed the question of why the events of Bloody Sunday meant so little to the British people and explained how the Brits, through the media, began an immediate cover-up of the truth by deliberately lying and distorting the entire circumstances.

In the face of public outcry in Ireland and the world, and recognising that their actions could not be morally justified, the British government began clearing up the mess by appropriately appointing one of their very own judges to head an enquiry: *"the government set up the Widgery enquiry, and, as you know, Widgery was a whitewash"*. She continued:

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

the British Ministry of Defence leaked the parts of it which flattered the British army to the British media and did not mention the criticisms.

"From then on, *Bloody Sunday in Britain* was written out of history and it became the day which one journalist, Chris Ryder, described in the *Sunday Times* as the day 'when 13 men died in shooting during a demonstration'.

"That, of course, tells you nothing about who killed those 13 men or nothing about the fact that they were unarmed."

By flaunting their own rules and making a nonsense of their own brand of 'democracy', the British government, Curtis said, in order to maintain its stranglehold on the six counties, "has repeatedly had to abrogate every principle of democracy. The list is endless: emergency powers, internment, torture, plastic bullets, show trials. But the British government doesn't want the world to know that Britain is constantly waiving the rules, so they do everything they can to cover up what is happening here."

RULES

There are two basic rules, she continued, which the British government pursued in its censorship on Ireland:

"You mustn't say anything nasty about the British government and you mustn't say anything nice about the Republican Movement."

DERRY



● *Relatives of the Civil Rights marchers murdered on Bloody Sunday lead the commemoration*

in television, the woman who is on the BBC board of governors representing the North is Lady Faulkner, widow of Brian Faulkner. And where the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which controls Independent Television, has as its member for the North a woman called Jill McIvor, whose husband Basil McIvor was Faulkner's colleague. This is the kind of people you have at top levels in the British media."

Also included in her attack on the media was RTE, which, she said, has imposed a form of censorship more blatant than in England, and claimed that RTE journalists are "a laughing stock to journalists from other countries."

Political developments, particularly since the hunger-strike and the election of Sinn Féin representatives, she believed, had greatly increased support for the Irish struggle. And Liz Curtis ended with a quote from William Walwyn, a member of the 17th Century anti-imperialist working-class movement 'the Levellers', who vehemently opposed Cromwell's army in Ireland:

rescue and freedom from the power of our oppressors."

NOMINATION

Following his recent nomination as Sinn Fein's candidate in the North in this June's EEC elections, Danny Morrison, elected representative for Mid-Ulster, told the crowd, to loud cheers:

"Then, (in 1972) they marched under the banner of Civil Rights, and today we march under the banner of Irish freedom. And we tell Margaret Thatcher that no amount of plastic bullets or lead bullets will stop us from taking to our own streets or from owning this country!"

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He continued:
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going bald!"

PERJURY Leading up to the trial of paid perjurers, the methods of recruitment by the British Security Services to attempt to silence a tide of support for the struggle, from international to political, became the torture of 'criminalisation' of persons. He said:

"It's no accident that in 1981, as we went up to the mass march on the H-Blocks, the government sat down



● *Free Derry Corner*

Commemoration 1984

REMEMBERS



Volunteers of the Margaret Thatcher can there and visit a barr-rush from where lers stuck out against st people."

decided that its policy of criminalisation was failing and that it had to come up with a new policy.

"Bobby Sands' election victory in Fermanagh/South Tyrone gave Sinn Féin the courage and encouragement to take on the SDLP, and it is no accident that it is from this period of the Sinn Féin movement that the Brits decided to launch the phenomenon of paid perjurers and show trials. This was meant to demoralise and disillusion the people because it meant a fracturing in community solidarity, community resistance."

He criticised the cynical comment of SDLP man Alistair McDonnell, whose party had until recently remained silent on the issue, for saying:

"Don't join the IRA because your O/C could become the next supergrass."

"He had a brass neck, coming from a party whose present leader said from this very road 12 years ago: 'It's a united Ireland or nothing!' A leader who, only last July, took an oath of allegiance to the British Queen; who, only four weeks ago, was ashamed of being Irish; and whose predecessor, Lord Fitt, is the biggest supergrass this country has seen this century!"

"We can break the show trials and we can break the perjurers. The Brits have had, and are having, reverses because their law is coming into contempt more and more in the eyes of international lawyers and observers. And as it comes into contempt, the ordinary people hold no respect for that law. And we can make it too expensive for the British."

ENGAGED

"It is no accident that, hand in hand with the show trials, the establishments, North and South, are engaged in an effort to give John Hume a leg up and over the fence in June's election."

"They want to stop Sinn Féin because the emergence of Sinn Féin has meant the emergence of a republican political veto over the SDLP which in turn has limited the collaborationist manoeuvrability of the Dublin government."

"They know that, and that is why you will have noticed so much talk these past months that everything's 'new' about the SDLP."

"They have the New Ireland Forum, John Hume has a 'new' Westminster assistant, they are opening 'new' offices — appropriately enough on Asylum Road —

and they have a 'new' general secretary, Eamonn Hanna."

Hanna, from Galway, was recently interviewed in the Belfast community paper, the *Andersonstown News*, and cockily predicted that the SDLP would retain 160,000 first preference votes in the EEC election, to which Morrison responded:

"Mr Hanna mustn't realise Sinn Féin is running. He has decided to come up here for three years and sort things out. Well, I've a message for Mr Hanna: with that prediction, he'll be back in Galway in July!"

PETROL BOMBS

About 15 minutes after the crowd had dispersed, in a spontaneous outburst of resistance to the presence of several RUC jeeps, around 50 youths threw stones and several petrol bombs at the William Street/Waterloo Street junction.

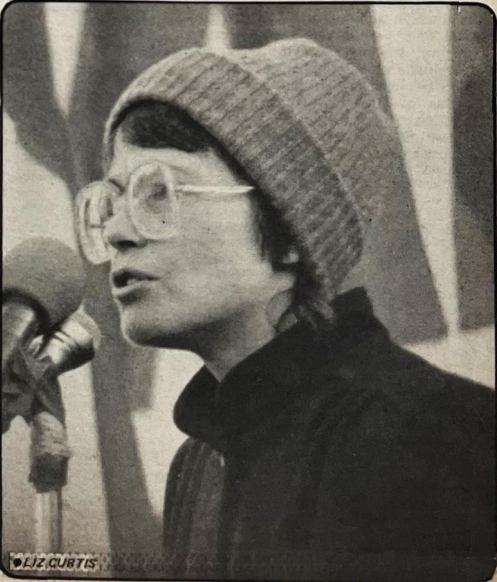
The RUC, who were backed up by large numbers of reinforcements on the periphery of the Bogside, fired a number of killer plastic baton rounds to disperse the youths who defiantly continued their protest for over an hour. Hostility also flared in the nationalist town of Strabane, when again plastic bullets were fired at between 80-100 youths.



● DANNY MORRISON



● MARTIN MCGUINNESS



● LIZ CURTIS

PERJURERS
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Shocking treatment of electricity users

BY JANE PLUNKETT

DURING last December, West Belfast mother-of-five Elizabeth Smith missed four weekly electricity payments, totalling £40 in all, which she had agreed under a 'voluntary agreement' with the Northern Ireland Electricity Service (NIES), in order to buy Christmas presents and much-needed clothes for her children. On Thursday last, January 26th, NIES officials attempted to enter her home to turn off the electricity supply, even though the Board knew that the house contains a four-month-old baby.

Elizabeth Smith sensibly refused to let them in and, with the aid of her local Sinn Féin advice centre and a solicitor, she has successfully fought the threatened disconnection. But the NIES has used the incident to impose further punitive debt-collection procedures on the family.

Over three years, the family had built up arrears of nearly £600, which they were gradually paying off. But Elizabeth Smith's brief default on her so-called 'voluntary' payments, which she was by now making up, was apparently sufficient to brand her in the eyes of the NIES as a 'bad manager' or 'scrounger'. Though they dropped their initial, unrealistic demand for £250 in cash, they insisted on installing a Coin-Operated Collection Device (COCOD), set at £10.50 a week. These COCDs are not the normal pay-as-you-use slot-meter. Unless the family can put in at least £10.50 each week, the supply will stop automatically.

OPERATIONS

Elizabeth Smith is still bitter at the Electricity Board's intimidatory tactics and their lack of concern for her children. Her five-year-old son Gerard has, in the last three years, undergone serious heart and kidney operations, having been born with only one kidney. She says:

"We had no other choice. If I had refused to put the meter in, they were going to turn the electricity off with a four-month-old

baby in the house.

"Our house is all electric and I couldn't afford to buy a gas cooker. They tell you to economise, but I was only heating the one room with a two-bar electric fire. I needed the heat for Gerard, who still has kidney trouble and has asthma too. But I couldn't afford to heat the upstairs.

"Two weeks ago we got in a coal fire, so my bill would have gone down anyway. But they weren't going to listen to what we had to say.

"The meter is another way of disconnecting, they don't even have to come into the house to do it."

Elizabeth's 40-year-old husband Peter is a semi-skilled worker and takes home around £80 a week basic wage. Out of that, £10.50 a week will go into the new electricity meter, more than half of it to cover the arrears. According to Peter Smith:

"All we're left with is £14 to feed the seven of us, and the family allowance. That more or less pulls you through. It's the poverty line. I'm only working for nothing."

RELENTLESS

The Smiths are one of thousands of working-class families in the six counties who have been forced into poverty and constant anxiety by the huge cost of electricity and the relentless NIES.

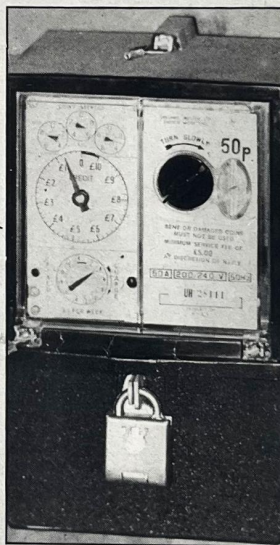
In the five years to 1982 the price of electricity in the North has more than doubled. And though state benefits, including pensions are no higher than in Britain, consumers in the North pay up to 13% more for their electricity. Thatcherite cuts in the real value of benefits, plus the higher average cost of essentials, ensures that many people cannot escape debt or disconnection even by living in inadequately heated homes.

Under the Board's new code of practice, old people generally cannot be disconnected during the winter months, but there is no similar protection for families with young or handicapped children. In 1983, a total of 1,655 households had their electricity supply cut-off.

But despite widespread poverty and debt in strongly nationalist areas such as West Belfast, the NIES rarely attempts disconnections there, following IRA warnings that stern and immediate action would be taken against NIES officials attempting to cut-off electricity supplies to homes.

CUT-OFFS

In the six counties as a whole, the number of cut-offs has fallen significantly in recent years, but many thousands of con-



sumers have been coerced, under threat of disconnection, into having COCDs installed, or making 'voluntary agreements'.

Load-limiters, which ration the use of electricity, forcing people to choose, say, between having the fire on or the cooker, are installed in around 1,500 homes. Recently, under pressure from the newly-formed Right To Fuel Campaign, the NIES has agreed, in future, to remove load-limiters at customers' request. But NIES is expected to insist that they will do so only if individuals agree to go into another scheme.

One major reason for the decreasing use of disconnections by the NIES is that nearly 11,000 households in the North, mainly those on state benefits, now have their electricity paid direct to the NIES by means of the 'fuel direct' system and the draconian Payment of Debt Act.

Under the latter, up to £4.05 can be deducted each week from state benefits, and £10.50 from the wages of public-sector workers, to cover rent and fuel arrears, a provision which has forced many families in the six counties to exist below even the

British government's official poverty line.

Under the 'fuel direct' system, up to a quarter of a claimant's basic benefit can be seized to cover both current fuel consumption and arrears payments of £1.35 a week each for gas and electricity. Some DHSS offices, apparently unaware of this limit, have deducted even more.

Though the amount deducted is allegedly based on the previous year's electricity use, many tenants complain that the NIES vastly overestimates their consumption. Though the NIES is notoriously quick to notice if that goes up, it is equally renowned for failing to respond when customers cut down on electricity. The British state is therefore able to recover arrears far more rapidly than it could otherwise do.

PENSIONER

Until recently, Springhill pensioner Mrs Phillips was paying £14.50 a week out of her £22.73 pension direct to the NIES. Exactly £13.25 of that was supposedly to cover current bills, yet Mrs Phillips uses coal for heating and recently had her immersion heater removed.

In desperation, early in December Mrs Phillips contacted the Ballymurphy Sinn Féin Advice Centre and, as a result, the DHSS has at least reduced her total deduction to £6.50.

Sinn Féin's advice workers in West Belfast, who have successfully helped scores of local people to renegotiate more satisfactory agreements, advise anyone who believes the amount being deducted from their benefits is too high, or anyone whose circumstances have changed, to inform the NIES or their local advice centre.

CRIMINALISED

The harsh debt-collecting policies and practices of the NIES were strongly condemned this week by Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams MP, who stated:

"Over the past decade, massive price rises have enabled the NIES to pass on much of the huge costs of the Kilroot project, and other of its own debts, to consumers who simply cannot afford to pay."

"But when those consumers themselves get into debt, they are criminalised and further oppressed by an arsenal of punitive debt-collection measures. By contrast, the law of Britain and other capitalist countries protects industries and businessmen who get into debt."

"Like other bureaucratic state bodies such as the Housing Executive, the NIES ignores the real poverty and hardship of the North's unemployed and low-paid."

Language rights demand

LECIAN MACAOIDH



● Sean O Canainn's wife on Derry's Strand Road picket

GAEL an Tuaiscirt, a Belfast-based group which has been organising protests to highlight the plight of Derry man Sean O Canainn, presently serving a 31-day sentence in Crumlin Road Jail because he refused to speak English during a court case in May 1980, are calling on all cultural bodies to launch a co-ordinated campaign around basic language rights for Irish speakers in the six counties.

The group spokesperson, Gearóid O Cearraí, speaking after a 60-strong picket of Crumlin Road on Saturday, January 28th, said that Sean O Canainn "has taken the first step in a campaign which Irish speakers and those concerned about the language

must now carry on."

"We would appeal to all Irish cultural organisations to come together and lay out the strategy for a campaign which will win full recognition for Irish in every aspect of life here."

Sean O Canainn was arrested

on Tuesday, January 17th, for non-payment of a traffic fine imposed in a 1980 court case during which he was denied the right to defend himself in Irish - an interpreter being refused by the court. Protests have been held at both Derry's Strand Road RUC Barracks and Crumlin Road Prison on each Wednesday and Saturday since his arrest and will be continuing until his release.

SUPPORT

Meanwhile, Sinn Féin in Belfast have expressed their

support for Sean Canainn's stance which "involves more than a point of law, for the repression Sean is experiencing is linked to the overall repression directed against Irish culture by the British government".

Explained cultural spokesperson Mairtin O Muilleoir: "The British government and its bigoted authorities here have a hostile attitude to all things Irish. Therefore, Sean's detention must be seen in the context of the overall cultural oppression in the six counties, such as the law



● 'The Irish language under the foot of the foreigner' reads this placard outside Crumlin Road Jail

which prevents the erection of Irish street signs, the lack of Irish language programmes on television and radio, the ban on the Irish language within prisons, and the neglect of Irish within the education system.

"It is essential then that, while working to obtain Sean's freedom, we realise every

aspect of cultural oppression must be removed.

"Moreover, Sinn Féin believes that the repression aimed at the Irish culture is but one facet of the overall repression directed at the nationalist people. Our aim then should be to defeat every type of imperialism which afflicts Ireland."

MORE LAWYERS SLAM BILL

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE Criminal Justice Bill will have "the most far-reaching consequences for every citizen" says a submission to Free State Minister for Justice, Michael Noonan, from the Association of Criminal Lawyers.

The Association is opposed to the Section of the Bill which extends the power of district courts to impose sentences of up to two years, saying:

"There seem to be no criteria

under which district justices are appointed and many of them do not have the expertise, experience or ability to deal with the types of cases which regularly come before the district court."

There is also strong criticism in the submission of the total absence of any consultation with the legal profession or community workers before the Bill was prepared. In fact, the only consultations were with the gardai, say the Association.

The powers of detention provided in the Bill, the virtual withdrawal of the right to silence, and the immunity from prosecution



● MICHAEL NOONAN

offered to accessories to crimes if they inform, are all attacked in the

Association's submission, which states that there is a new obligation on the accused person to establish innocence and the onus on the prosecution to establish guilt diminished.

The provision for a sentence of up to five years for the offence of stealing a car is viewed by the Association as 'excessive and unreal', and they point out that the majority of people who steal cars are young, unemployed, uneducated and delinquent, and could not pay the proposed penalty of £2,000.

The detailed submission is the latest of many strong criticisms of the proposed legislation made by influential representatives of the legal profession.

SEPARATISTS SUPPRESSED

BY SEAN HALPENNY

IN RESPONSE to worsening repression and increased collaboration between the Spanish and French governments in recent months, the Basque separatists of ETA shot and killed a Spanish general, Guillermo Quintana, in Madrid last Sunday.

High-level talks between the Mitterrand government in France and Felipe Gonzalez, Spanish premier, have been directed against militant Basque movements including ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna) and the Herri Batasuna. The French have agreed to prohibit 'illegal activities' by Basques on French soil and to prevent France being used as an ETA base.

Since December last, more than 40 suspected ETA members have been deported from the French Basque region, some to the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe; others to the island of Yeu, off Brittany's coast; and more than 20 to areas north of the River Loire. So far, the French have stopped short of deporting them to Spain.

ARRESTS

The Gonzalez government in Spain has initiated a wave of arrests throughout the Basque region as part of new repressive laws passed by the Spanish security council late last year. These laws allow the repression of any political, social or cultural organisation which can, either directly or indirectly, be connected with ETA or Herri Batasuna.

Newspapers and magazines supporting the



● Basque militants are facing increased repression from the Spanish and French governments

militant Basques are targets under this legislation, which goes even further in allowing amnesty to any suspected ETA member who agrees to give evidence against comrades

in court.

Victims of this legislation have included two Basque MPs, Inaki Ruiz de Pinedo and Jon Idigoras, who were arrested on Decem-

ber 27th along with a number of journalists. All were charged with 'acts of collaboration' and one newspaper editor has received six years' imprisonment for this offence.

And in a further move, the Basque region has been flooded with Spanish troops and police as part of an operation called 'Plan Zen' (Special Zone North).

ATTACKS

Besides official repression, Basque activists have become the victims of a terror campaign launched by a right-wing organisation called GAL, whose declared aim is to direct "systematic attacks against ETA members in France". Recruited from the ranks of the Spanish national police and the civil guards, and including French fascists, GAL has already killed two Basque separatists in France in December while a further three Basques have mysteriously disappeared.

Despite this repression, ETA has continued its attacks on the Spanish establishment, killing two high-ranking army officers and a number of paramilitary policemen in recent months. Sunday's attack was particularly significant as General Quintana was a veteran of Franco's fascist army and a member of the notorious Blue Division, which fought with Nazi Germany in the Second World War.

Basque separatists are preparing for elections later this month and are poised to increase their electoral support from 20% to 35% of the vote, which would seriously challenge the position of the more conservative Basque Nationalist Party (PNV).

An cairdinéal agus Sinn Féin

A Chára,

Tá an chospóid idir an Chairdinéal agus poiticeoirí frithphoblachtacha sa nucht le tamall anuas. Nuair a sheachain ceannaire na nEaglais Caitlicé d'ádh-eadh iomlána a dhéanamh ar lucht tacaíochta agus baill Shinn Féin cuireadh fearg dhearg ar na poiticeoirí céanna agus ar nuachtáin Sasanaigh.

Cá tuille, a dhéanadh doine go bhfuil siad seo go léir ag iontú le chéile i gcoinne an tsagairt seo? I ndeireadh an lae nach cairde iad an Eaglais, an Stát agus Preas an Stáit?

I dtús ama, scoitimís Fine Gael ón SDLP. Ní hionann na heasatais arís agus leis an Cairdinéal. Tá inni ar an SDLP roimh áirí Shinn Féin sna sé chontae agus shíl siad go seasfadh an Eaglais an tód go hionlána leo, le tacaíocht a bhaint de Shinn Féin.

Sna sé chontae fíchead chreid Mac Gearailt gur le hionann an eaglais agus púdar amháin ina armáinn i gcoinne dream ar bith a bhagóidh a stát. Bhí tacaíocht an Eaglais de dhíth mar chomhghualláir i bhfeachtas an Chomhairle i Shinn Féin a dhíorthú ón chóras polaitiúil. Nuair nár ionann an Cairdinéal agus an eaglais a dhéanamh réidh chuige sin, bhí fearg amach.

Maidir leis na díseoirí, is fíidir a ndearcadh a thaisc ar bhonn an Reilifiméise. Easataíonn siad le rud ar bith a deir sagairt, is furasta fós do chuid an phreais i Sasana a thaisc iad leor focal amháin - gráin. Is fuath leo Tomás Ó Fiaich agus mar is eol dúinn níl ciall ar bith i bhfuath.

Cá tuille ná chéin an Cairdinéil Shinn Féin go hionlána. Bhuel mar a dúirt sé is ceist coisniasa í go gach mac máthar agus an duine nach bhfuil dail chfridh sé an bóthar d'fáin. Ach tá tuairim eile ann fosta. An fíidir gur dhéacair é do mhaor fódú a ghlaicadh sna sheanghlaí? Tá sé an Eaglais a thaisc iad le hordáite don Saorstáit. Anois, agus a súmhois speisialta imithe, is searbh a mhalairt lea a imirt.

Tá ceacht amháin le foghlaim ag Fine Gael. Más maith leo an Eaglais a choinneáil amach as an bpolaíocht, ní chóir doibh a Eaglais a cheapadh ina teachtáir dala.

Eoghan Mac Cormaic,
H7-Bloc,
Ceis Fhada.

Dole danger

A Chára,

Some weeks ago, 25-year-old Joseph Craven from Newtownabbey Bawnmore Estate was shot dead by loyalist assassins as he was on his way to sign on at the local office of the DHSS on Church Road.

Immediately after this brutal murder, Sean McKnight, the chairperson of North, South and East Belfast Sinn Féin, demanded a meeting with the management of the Church Road branch of the DHSS to ask that nationalists from the nearby Bawnmore Estate who used this office, and whose lives are obviously at risk while doing so, be provided with an alternative venue within the estate.

Sean McKnight urged the management to allow for flexible attendance (i.e. that people could sign on at any time of the day and not be confined to a particular fixed time).

The manager of the DHSS acceded to the request for a meeting at which McKnight and Denis Donaldson, Sinn Féin housing and welfare spokesperson, argued the case on behalf of the Bawnmore residents.

The manager claimed that it was not within his power to provide a sub-office for the Bawnmore Estate but that the matter should be taken up with relevant Stormont department, which McKnight and Donaldson subsequently did and are still negotiating on.

The manager said that he would 'certainly' 'do his best' to

mála poist

Dear Editor,

Newspeak, according to George Orwell's 1984, makes all other modes of thought impossible. Leading articles in the London Times, we are told, were also written in Newspeak. Perhaps it was a typographical error, but that other venerable organ of the British establishment, the Sunday Times, should most certainly have been included amongst Orwell's examples of Newspeak usage.

On January 22nd a Sunday Times article entitled Wars of the World looked at 43 major conflicts presently taking place. They all involved some form of armed struggle and were described using various terms. In Iraq, for example, the government is fighting "Kurdish rebels" but in Pakistan it is "guerrilla attacks by ethnic minorities".

"Christian and Muslim militiamen" continue to kill each other in the Lebanon, whilst in Indonesia the government is engaged in its fight against "revolutionary forces". Mozambique has had to contend with "anti-communist groups" and in Spain "Basque separatists" continue their 21-year-old struggle.

In Namibia, "black nationalist fighters" offer armed resistance to South African forces, and the

ability in signing on times towards anyone who thought they were endangered. Any claimant wishing to make their time flexible should contact the manager of the DHSS office.

Whilst submitting that any concessions gained for the people of the area are to be welcomed no matter who gains them, nevertheless it was rather galling to see Austin Kelly, the local representative of the Workers Party, claiming that he was responsible for gaining these concessions from the DHSS.

Not for the first time, the party of "Peace, jobs and class politics" are not averse to telling lies to bolster their flagging political fortunes.

PRO,
Joseph Cunningham cumann,
Newtownabbey,
County Antrim.



● McKnight and Donaldson

Morals and the mayor

A Chára,

Recent statements regarding Sinn Féin by the mayor of Limerick, which have received widespread publicity, are hypocritical and partisan.

Councillor Kelly condemned Sinn Féin for its 'support for violence' and also expressed her 'disgust and outrage' at the failure of Cardinal Ó Fiaich to formally outlaw Sinn Féin.

In all her time as an elected representative, Councillor Kelly has never condemned the various unionist parties whose spokesmen have consistently called for a shoot-to-kill policy against the nationalist people; nor has she questioned the morality of membership of or support for these

parties. It is only the fact that she is a member of the Limerick City Council that makes her statements so hypocritical.



● In the Newspeak of the establishment press, Salvadoran FMLN militants (left) are described as guerrillas or rebels whilst IRA Volunteers (right) are described as terrorists; in reality, they and their causes are one and the same - freedom fighters for national liberation and socialism

1982 invasion of Lebanon, with its massive civilian casualties, was carried out by "Israeli forces".

"Rival ethnic and religious groups" are killing each other in India; political murders continue unabated by "right-wing forces" in Guatemala... and so. Surely you've guessed the punch line?

Yes, that's correct. In "Northern Ireland" there exists "violence between Catholics and Protestants and their respective terrorist armies" (my emphasis).

How subtle and subliminal is the use of language in either refusing legitimacy to, or exonerating the actions of, physical

force for political ends. But how equally sad that so few British readers with their deeply-rooted imperialist consciousness will even admit of such a distinction.

Claran O'Hara,
Vauxhall Labour Party,
London,
England.



● Free State politicians have been deafening in their silence on British state violence against nationalist people in the North

Councillor Kelly has not been noted for her condemnations of the killing of children by plastic bullets, the torture of hundreds of people by the RUC, or the system whereby hundreds of people have been arrested and jailed on the sole evidence of paid perjury.

Councillor Kelly supports a government which closely collaborates with forces such as the RUC and UDR, many of whose members have been found also to be members of such groups as the UDA and UVF, organisations which have been responsible for the deaths of over 600 innocent nationalist people. She has never questioned this collaboration in any way.

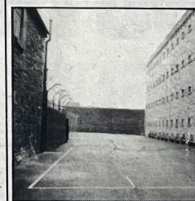
It is worth mentioning that politicians in the same mould as Councillor Kelly are quite fond of severely criticising republicans for not accepting certain views expressed by Pope John Paul II during his Irish visit in 1979, yet they have no hesitation in condemning out of hand the views of the Pope's chief representative in Ireland when those views do not serve their own political purposes.

Sinn Féin has never denied that it supports the right of the nationalist people in the six counties to engage in any form of resistance to British rule, including armed struggle. For over 50 years these people tried to oppose the sectarian and undemocratic Northern state through peaceful means, the response of this state was always repression and more repression. It is worthy to note that the nationalist people received little or no concrete help from any of those political parties in the South who now presume to lecture them on how they should or should not vote.

Sinn Féin is the only significant party that uncompromisingly opposes British rule, which is the root cause of all the violence

and oppression which Ireland suffers today and has suffered in the past. Sinn Féin will not abandon this principled stand, irrespective of all the hysterical campaigns waged against it by the Coalition and sections of the media.

Pedrag Malone,
Clanry O'Callaghan cumann,
Limerick.



Portlaoise relatives' meeting

A Chára,

The Sinn Féin POW Department will be holding a meeting this coming Sunday, February 5th, for all relatives of republican prisoners in Portlaoise.

The meeting, which will be attended by representatives from Sinn Féin, will be held at 57 Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk, at 2pm.

A Dublin bus will leave 5 Blessington Street at 12 noon. All relatives wishing to travel on the bus are asked to contact Blessington Street (phone 308783) as soon as possible.

Joe McDonagh,
Sinn Féin POW Department,
Dublin.

Twinbrook post office

A Chára,

The Sinn Féin representative for Twinbrook and Poleglass, Richard McAuley, recently contacted the Post Office and raised with them a number of criticisms relating to their service to the community in those areas. He said:

"The Twinbrook and Poleglass estates now have a population of well over 10,000 and yet there is only one sub post office, badly sited for the entire area and which is situated in Twinbrook."

"There are a number of problems with the Twinbrook sub-office which make it an unacceptable facility for the area."

"Firstly, in Twinbrook and Poleglass there is a significant section of the population on various types of benefit, and all of whom must use the post office. The Twinbrook office is small in size with most people having to stand outside in all weathers and for long periods of time. For elderly people and mothers with young children this is an unnecessary hardship and is unacceptable."

"Secondly, the office frequently runs short of money, forcing many to travel into the city centre. Such a problem occurred recently. One day, the office closed at 11am, leaving many pensioners and others with no money. Several mothers had to borrow money from a local house-shop in order to pay their fares into town."

"Thirdly, the Twinbrook office is badly sited to serve the whole district. A more central site, or a second office in Poleglass, is needed."

Sinn Féin is also critical of the once daily delivery service and the insufficient number of post boxes. The Post Office, in replying to the Sinn Féin criticisms, failed to address, in our view, the urgency of the situation. In one part of their reply relating to their Twinbrook office they talk of the inevitability of customers having "to queue for a short time during the busiest period each day".

Such an off-hand comment grossly underestimates the inconvenience to the many parents with young children who sometimes have to stand in all weathers for long periods of time. It also

neglects the many, particularly in Poleglass, who travel to West Belfast to cash giro's etc.

The Post Office have now said that whilst they accept that the present Twinbrook office is inadequate they intend to wait until the new district centre planned for the Stewartstown Road is completed towards 1987 or 1988 before taking any final decision about a new site.

Such a response is deplorable. Action is needed now. Sinn Féin will be demanding that a more urgent priority be given to this issue and we shall push hard for a temporary Poleglass office.

PRO,
Lagan Valley
Sinn Féin.



● Twinbrook post office

Always better than English

A Chaire,

The last four or five years has seen a revival of interest in our own culture, not only locally but nationally. This is extremely necessary if we as a people are to survive and shun all British ties in our land.

There are numerous men and women in and around areas in the North who voluntarily give all their free time to promoting our culture, in particular the Irish language. Already they have erected street names in Irish in competition with the anglicised versions which we have lived with for so long. They are also organising and teaching Irish classes in most areas which are well-attended. Their work and dedication is admired by us all here in the H-Blocks and I feel that we all have a duty to assist them in any way we possibly can.

Our culture is important to our identity as an Irish nation. The British invaded and have oppressed our land for centuries, and since then have attempted to destroy our identity and our culture. Our language has diminished and now struggles to exist in small Gaeltacht areas throughout Ireland while in towns only by the indefatigable dedication of groups like Conradh na Gaeilge, Cuan-Ard and Sinn Féin.

We have grown accustomed to the thought that the English language is our own. It is not - it is a foreign tongue! Irish is our national language. I think I can honestly say that we would all love to speak our native language (and wouldn't our land be the better for it), but we never bother to learn.

What the British have taken from us, it is our duty to recover. I don't expect anyone to rush out tomorrow and join an Irish language class, but I suggest you all buy an Irish newspaper, for example Preas An Phobail or Saoirse, but I feel that those of you who have any Irish, be it only a phrase or a greeting, have a responsibility to the survival of our culture. You should try to use Irish when you possibly can, thereby encouraging others to do likewise.

I remind you of the words of Padraig Mac Parais when he wrote:

"Is fear an Ghaeilge dá dhonach ná bheáil dá theabhas" (iss fear an Gailge da gunach na ber-la do ow-rass).

It simply means:

"No matter how bad your Irish is, it's always better than English."

Give it some thought. Sláin go fóill.

Saoirse Ó Muircheartaigh,
H7-Bloc,
Ceis Fhada.

JOHN HUME'S

BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

£140,000

JOHN HUME'S claim that Sinn Fein is spending £140,000 per annum on its 28 advice centres probably surprised the unpaid voluntary workers in some of those humble rooms, offices and caravans more than it did his well-heeled listeners.

On RTE radio, on Sunday, a panicky Hume claimed that the centres are packed with computers and other sophisticated electronic equipment!

"No other political party in the country can afford that sort of money, nor has access to the sort of money Sinn Fein has access to," alleged Hume.

Oh really?

Let us take Hume himself — the one-man party.

His salaries from the Westminster parliament and the EEC parliament add up to £40,000. His expenses from Westminster and the EEC are conservatively estimated at £32,000 (a very conservative figure). Attendance at the Forum in Dublin for at least 40 days, at £200 per day, comes to £8,000. And he has just received a gift of £50,000 from the EEC parliament in order to fight the elections.

Add that up and you get £130,000, before you take into account any business interests, fees for TV appearances, or payments for lecture tours in the United States — say another £10,000.

A total of £140,000!

★★★★

More news of circulation problems for the SDLP's election newspaper, the *Social Democrat*, 75,000 copies of which were printed to launch the give-away eight-pager.

SDLP members in the South-West Antrim branch are just as reluctant as any others to put in the foot-slogging required to spread the news.

And even after John Hume had delivered a pep talk at an SDLP dinner-dance in the Toome Hotel on Friday, January 20th, a bundle of 300 papers was found dumped when revellers had gone home.

★★★★

The slugging I gave the trendy lefties of the Workers Revolutionary Party in Britain for their fair-weather support for liberation struggles has not gone unanswered.

The reply comes in the form of a full-page article in their mouthpiece, *News Line*, on Thursday, January 26th, just two weeks after my comments were published in this column.

The incensed author begins the lengthy answer by referring to me as "the resident jester" of *AP/RN*. And then reaches the heights of truly socialist dialectic, several hundred irrelevant words later, with the following:

"Mr Burke," says *News Line*, firmly placing me among the ranks of the petit bourgeoisie, "is a dirty little liar."

The *News Line* scribe, Alex Mitchell, has much more of the same before concluding. But I have only one thing to say in my defence: My daddy's bigger than your daddy! Sucks! Ya boo!

★★★★

The courageous 'crime-busters' of the gardai were in dramatic action in County Leitrim again last week — this time in Corlara, near Drumsna, Carrick-on-Shannon.

The target, on this occasion, was John McLoughlin, a man in his late 60s — wanted across the country for non-payment of a £5 fine for taking up an H-Block collection in late 1980.

Not realising the danger McLoughlin had been living at home in the intervening period and was ultimately hunted down there by the hardened veterans of Ballinamore on Monday, January 23rd.

He was removed first to Carrick-on-Shannon garda barracks and later, under cover of darkness, transferred to Mountjoy Jail, where he had to sleep on the floor on Monday night due to overcrowding.

On Tuesday evening, no doubt following

high-level discussions, McLoughlin was whisked away from Mountjoy (foiling a possible escape attempt?) and driven back to Blacklion, County Cavan — the intrepid convoy passing within a half a mile of his Corlara home as it sped on through the night.

He was released the following Friday morning, having served 3½ days of his seven-day sentence.

Whatever the cost (believed to be somewhat in excess of the £5 unpaid fine), the battle to defend law and order continues.

★★★

One major effect of the proposed Criminal Justice Bill, which lawyers in the twenty-six counties are now predicting, is directly contrary to the Coalition's declaration that offenders will be put behind bars more speedily and efficiently than at present.

According to experienced practitioners in the criminal courts, the new provisions about 'inferences' from failure to make statements whilst being interrogated will lead to endless 'trials within trials' as lawyers argue over what was reasonable to mention at the time, whether the statutory warning was given and explained, and numerous other technicalities.

As a result, they forecast that trials will take up to twice as long, appeals will multiply, and the courts will become even more clogged up than at present, with accused persons wandering the streets on bail for two years or more before trial.

In addition, the increased sentences provided — particularly the five years for joy-riding — will mean the eventual explosion of the prison population, requiring even more early releases than at present.

Not a good reason to relax opposition to the Bill, but certainly another example of the stupidity of blind repression.

★★★

The British Department of Health's plans to computerise the social security system, by giving everyone a plastic personal identity card, has extensive implications, particularly in the North.

A magnetic strip on the card carries all kinds of information about the holder which can only be read by a computer scanner.

However, although the Brits are preparing to introduce the 'Big Brother' scheme, at a cost of millions, they have admitted that there is one big flaw.

By simply passing an ordinary toy magnet up and down the card's magnetic strip, the information can be wiped completely off or totally distorted.

★★★

Last July, a Brit, only a few days back from a tour of duty in the North, apparently forgot

NOTES
by CORMAC



JOHN HUME SAYS THAT BY VOTING SINN FEIN YOU ARE PROVIDING THE BRITS WITH AN EXCUSE FOR BEING ON OUR STREETS...



I AM RACKED WITH GUILT!



BUT NOW I SEE THE ERROR OF MY WAYS! FROM NOW ON I WILL VOTE FOR THE SDLP!



I WILL VOTE SDLP AND DRIVE THE BRITISH ARMY FROM OUR STREETS!



I WILL VOTE SDLP AND MAKE THE BRITISH RULING CLASS TREMBLE WITH FEAR!



I WILL VOTE SDLP... AND BE SICK ALL OVER THE POLLING BOOTH...



the subtle differences in 'peace-keeping' necessary in the home country.

Andrew Bish of the Royal Marine Commandos, a veteran of the North and the Falklands, appeared in court last week charged with assault against two women peace protestors at Greenham Common.

Bish attacked the women after they had laughed at his Union Jack running shorts as he jogged around the base.

He punched one woman repeatedly around the head and bloodied the nose of the other who went to her aid.

Senior officers gave Bish an 'excellent character reference' in the court and he was given a conditional discharge.

★★★

The much-publicised trip of Democratic Unionist Party members to Israel is not the only loyalist excursion abroad to countries which are experienced in the 'defence of democracy'.

The UDA has had two of its members visit South Africa to talk to "people involved with the fighting of terrorism".

According to UDA 'supreme commander' Andy Tyrie:

"What most impressed us about the border situation in South Africa was that the government had adopted a policy of putting farmers on the border who are allowed to fight."

"In South Africa the government does not worry about local or world opinion; it is a fight for survival."

Tyrie continued: "I am also convinced that there is an exchange of labour between terrorist organisations, including those in South Africa and Ireland."

Shouldn't be too hard to spot, I would have thought.

WHAT'S ON

SINN FEIN RURAL ULSTER WOMEN'S MEETING
2pm Saturday 4th February
MONAGHAN
Phone Monaghan 82635 for details

VOL PEADAR MOHAN COMMEMORATION
(3rd Anniversary)
11.30am Sunday 5th February
The Churchyard
CLONTIBRET
County Monaghan

RELATIVES OF PORTLAOISE PRISONERS MEETING
2pm Sunday 5th February
57 Clanbrassil Street
DUNDALK

See letters page for details

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
DUBLIN
Buses 25, 26, 66 & 67 from city centre

VOLS CHARLES McCANN & PHELM GRANT COMMEMORATION
(11th Anniversary)
2.30pm Sunday 5th February
Ballydugan Villas to the graveyard
CARGIN
County Antrim

VOL FRANK STAGG COMMEMORATION
(8th Anniversary)
1pm Sunday 12th February
Wakefield Prison
Love Lane
WAKEFIELD
Yorkshire
England
Organised by Sinn Fein

SINN FEIN & REPUBLICANISM PUBLIC MEETING
Speaker: Gerry Adams MP
8pm Thursday 16th February
Milford Inn
MILFORD
County Donegal
Questions will be invited from the floor

MEETING AGAINST CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL & EXTRADITION
3pm Sunday 19th February
Grand Hotel
TRALEE
County Kerry
Everyone welcome

PRESENTATION DANCE
(For Ann & Eileen Gillespie and Ray McLoughlin, recently released republican POWs from English jails)
10pm Thursday 23rd February
Milford Inn
MILFORD
County Donegal
Taille £2.50
Guest speaker: Danny Morrison

PRESENTATION DINNER & DANCE
(For Ruairi O Bradaigh & Daithi O Conaill)
Friday 24th February
Castle Hotel
BELLINGHAM
County Louth
Taille £11
Tickets from Mary Duffy, 46 Slievefay Park, Dundalk

JOIN SINN FEIN

SINN FEIN is dedicated to forcing a British withdrawal from the occupied six counties, the re-unification of our country, and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic.

There are Sinn Fein cumann throughout the thirty-two counties and a number of areas have established supporters' groups.

If you would like to join Sinn Fein, or find out more about our activities and our policies, fill in the form below and send it to: Sinn Fein Head Office, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Name _____
Sealadh _____

TV Rebel songs

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

WOMEN performers on *Top of the Pops*, on BBC1 on Thursdays, are usually in three categories only: singing solo, fronting a band, or going 'woo-woo' in the chorus.

But recently there have been more and more bands with women musicians, playing along using mainly decorative objects and have been able to get recognition for their ability as musicians?

The Belle Starrs (an all-woman band) had a hit song a short time ago entitled *Sign of the Times*. Very appropriate.

Playback, presented by Treasa Davidson, is on RTE Radio 1 on Saturday mornings and is a collection of snippets from programmes during the week.

Last Saturday, the programme ended with a song composed and sung by Fintan Vallely from Armagh. To the tune of *The Man From the Daily Mail*, it's a song on RTE's reporting of the events in Ballinamore and the reception accorded the gardai and Free State soldiers.

The entire country, according to *"The man from RTE"*, is a hot-bed of "Provo subversives" who go around, as one line describes them, with "British scalp around their tummy, pockets stuffed with stolen money - says the man from RTE".

In a perfect lead-in to Fintan Vallely's song, Treasa Davidson re-broadcast part of an interview with Frank Harte, a Dublin architect and collector of Dublin ballads, which originally went out on Wednesday morning, January 25th.

He was being interviewed by Marian Finucane, who was covering for Mike Murphy on his morning radio show. Questioned about his request for *The Bold Fenian Men*, "especially in these troubled times", Frank Harte replied that he abhorred the "double-think about our fight for freedom", and continued:

"It is as if we are supposed to be ashamed of it now. As if the Black and Tans were not that bad."

He talked about the "British propaganda machine that

REVIEW PAGE



The James Connolly Flute Band, the subject of Channel 4's *Green Flutes*

throws it back on us, as if it was our fault. It's not our fault, it's theirs. They left us with a divided country against the wishes of the people."

Harte said that popular ballads reflected how people felt at the time and were an important record of our history.

It's worth waking early on Saturday morning to listen to *Playback*, and congratulations to Treasa Davidson for broadcasting both pieces.

No such kudos for Channel 4, who have re-scheduled the film about Glasgow's James Connolly Flute Band, *Green Flutes*, for the third time.

The film was supposed to go out on January 16th on the *Eleventh Hour* series, but was withdrawn at the last minute. Can Channel 4, hailed as the 'liberal' and 'alternative' channel, be becoming the same as all the rest, and operating a system of panicky self-censorship?

After the Harrods bombing,

Channel 4 cut even a passing reference to Ireland, or even to Harrods, out of a number of Christmas programmes.

And it's not only references to Ireland that are being cut, censored or "re-scheduled" as Channel 4 calls it.

A series by Ken Loach (who made *Carthage Home* and is known for his left-wing views in films and documentaries), showing how British trade-union leaders have sold out the rank and file members has also been quashed.

Green Flutes is now promised for Monday, March 5th, and it will be interesting to keep an eye out for its appearance - or non-appearance.

Monday night's *Panorama* on BBC 1 had a report by Michael Cockwell on the "infiltration" of the British Conservative Party by right-wing extremists, most of whom have direct links to the fascist National Front and neo-Nazi paramilitary and pressure

groups. One set within the Conservative Party is called Tory Action, which includes in its membership 24 MPs, and whose head is George Kennedy Young, an MP and a former deputy-leader of British Intelligence's M16.

Tory Action advocates compulsory repatriation of black and Asian people, and wants "a Britain of white Anglo-Saxon Christians".

The regular hate-sheet published by Tory Action is full of racist filth and anti-working-class propaganda. It is peppered with references to 'coons', 'picanninies' and 'niggers'. One report of a Conservative defeat in a marginal by-election claimed it was 'not surprising, considering the large number of wogs and proletarians in the constituency'.

Don Mudie was a Conservative candidate in Cleethorpes in the last general election. He is also the former head of Column 88, a neo-Nazi paramilitary group which has held training exercises with European fascists

and the British army's Territorial Reserve.

Interviewed by reporters in his home, a shrine to Adolf Hitler which is full of Nazi relics, Mudie said:

"Hitler will go down in history as the saviour not only of the white man but of mankind."

The Conservatives, anxious to hide this aspect of their membership, have ordered an official report on neo-Nazi infiltration and claim that a small and insignificant group is involved, but Michael Cockwell's investigation showed widespread support for the National Front, Tory Action etc right throughout the party.

Don Mudie is not the only self-avowed fascist to have been run as a Conservative candidate, and the protestations from the Tory leadership that if they had known of the connections the candidature would not have been ratified rang hollow as *Panorama* showed photographs and film of many leading members of the Conservative Party at extreme right-wing racist marches and rallies.

Seeds of ascent

BY EDDIE STACK

ACCORDING to one acquaintance, I missed the immortal television moment of the week when David Coleman announced "Harry Commentator is your carpenter", so it was up to the cinema to inject some life into the dreary day that it was.

Ascendancy may not be everyone's idea of a night on the town, nor might it make up for missing the aforementioned TV boob, but it gives pleasurable exercise to the little grey cells, and is more than of passing interest to republicans seeing as it deals with Belfast in 1920 and the seeds of the unionist state that we have come to know and despise.

Firstly, *Ascendancy* is the art film par excellence. Already lauded by some far-flung film festival - Berlin I believe, where it picked up one of those arty awards - *Ascendancy* has trailed the art cinema of Europe, picking up the odd buck. True to form it has limped into an art theatre in Ireland as well and will no doubt be as welcome in your local cinema as a VAT increase.

The reasons for this are clear. Neither John Revolta nor Olivia Newton-Squire appear in *Ascendancy*.

Secondly, *Ascendancy* is very

much a sort of school essay on the part of its director-cum-writer, Ed Bennett. Coming from a Tory background and educated within the hallowed portals of Cambridge, our Ed felt pangs of guilt about doing so well out of Mater and Pater and sought his absolution in Marxist politics. At the time his interest in Irish politics was minimal:

"I had a sense of guilt. I had lived through the height of the fighting but like a lot of English people I would turn over the newspaper when it came to Northern Ireland. People on the left, where I would put myself, preferred struggles where good and evil were clearly drawn."

This pretty turgid point of view took a knock when our Ed was scrounging around looking for a good idea to make a film. When the British Film Institute put up the lolly for a film about a Protestant shipbuilding family in Belfast in

1920, our Ed took to the libraries to research what has turned out to be a modestly successful picture on that turmoil-ridden period.

ALLEGORICAL
As befits the school-essay style of this Cambridge graduate, *Ascendancy* is an allegorical drama where characters stand for a political opinion or trend of the times.

Thus, Connie Wintour, the daughter in this wealthy Protestant family, is paralysed in her right arm because she was shocked by the useless death of her brother who was killed defending the right of capital to run everyone's lives in the First Imperial War.

Her role in the film is of mankind's conscience or victim of the system, while her dad, a glib opportunistic businessman whose only concern is to get his ships made on time, stands for the grinding cog of capitalism which exists to chew us all up for profit.

Wintour Senior is forever self-righteously lecturing his workers about non-sectarianism, but uses the Protestant-Catholic sectarian divide to break up his workers' attempts to improve their living standards and pos-

sibly impede the delivery of the ships on schedule.

The film follows the 1920 riots and the arrival of a sympathetic British army lieutenant, ostensibly there to, ahem, "separate the combatants", but in reality to ensure the enforcement of the unionist state. He shares Connie's belief in the injustice of it all, but don't ask him to do anything about it.

Eventually, Connie becomes more and more physically ill as the sectarian poison is legitimated in the form of the unionist rejection. Dad does okay, though, elected by the Protestant workers he exploits in his shipyard.

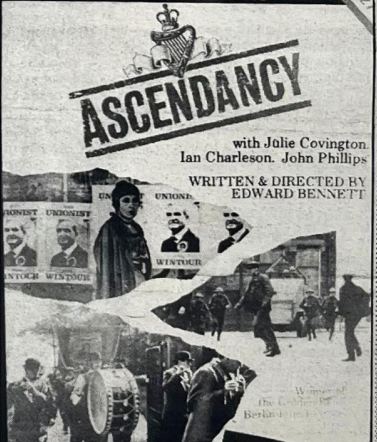
SIMPLISTIC
As can be seen, *Ascendancy's* plot leans towards simplistic ideas but the performance of Julie Covington as Connie (the singer of *Don't cry for me, Argentina*, would you believe?) is intelligent and moving. The crowd scenes are small-budget and the street rumbles look very namby-pamby, but the film makes a creditable start at the atmosphere of the period.

The film works best in its shorter scenes, such as when a Catholic servant is intimidated out of her job by her fellow Protestant workers when one of them deviously hides a broken bottle in a bucket of sand she is spreading with her bare hands.

Memorable too is the sight

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of a young baton-twirler practising for the Twelfth of July parade. The eminent behaviourist Desmond Morris has likened these parades to the African male baboon who tries to ensure his superiority over his fellow monkeys by bending over and sticking out his multi-coloured behind.

Cnuasach ceol

LE CARRÁNACH

IS DÓICHE gur annamh a iarrtar ar dhuine féirmeas a dhéanamh ar leabhar a foilsíodh sular rugadh é, ach sin go díreach an rud atá á dhéanamh agamsa anois.

Chuir Énrí Ó Muirghéasa fácht i gcoirch nuair a d'fhoilsigh sé an leabhar tuachmhair seo sa bhliain 1915 - bliain sula dtáinig mé féin chuig tsaoil. Chaitrí Mac Uí Mhuirghéasa a shaoi ag seothair ar son na Gaeilge, agus go mídhéanóir ar son bhéaloideas Gaeilge Chúige Uladh.

Cnuasach sé rannata, dánta agus seanfhocail as achán cheard den chúige a raibh an Ghaeilge beo go fóill, agus sa bhliain 1915 bhí cainteoirí dúchais in achán chondae in Ultaibh - féil

LEABHAR

ina mbéadh amhráin in ndaoine sin, ach tá dánta ann le Cathal Buí agus Ar Mac Bionaid agus ar ndóighe ba fhíil móra iadsan.

Tá amhráin ann chomh maith ó fhíil nach gcluintear tracht orthu go minic - Niall Mac Cana, Pádraig Plúinéad, Séamas Ó Teibhinn, An tAthair Cathal Mac Ruairí, Muiris Ó Mogaigh, Pádraig Ó Cearúill agus Liam Rua Ó MaoiChiarain - cuid eile ná chuala mé féin iomrá riamh orthu.

Tá amhráin ghrá, amhráin ghriinn agus clachas agus an rann chraibhaidh le fíil sa leabhar seo, caointe agus marbhaibh, dánta móra fada agus rannata beaga gearra nach bhfuil iontu ach ceithre líne. I measc na ndánta craibhaidh tá dánta na hAoine - dán fíil-dáinn a

chuala mé féin go minic ag Míic Shéain Néill Ó Baoil i Rann na Feirste:

4-Athair Shiorra, cad é tá tú gabháil a dhéanamh?

An bhfuil tú ar tí na flaitheis a bhéad?

Is mór an trua do shíol Éabha is Ádhmha

Bheith ag gabháil go hífreann ar bheagán ábhair.

SCÉAL
Tosaíonn an scéal ar neamh i ndiaidh pheaca ar tsinsir agus an Mac ag caint leis an Athair, agus 'ríochtaíonn sé ar Chnoc Chulhairne agus an Slíocht curtha i gcoirch.

Tá aithreachas Cathail Bhúir ann - an fear a dúirt:

"Nach trua an t-é tuair léinn an tsagairt is a thréig a chreideamh gar gheall ar mhá."

Anois is trath liom perlaí

a dhéanamh afeasta le Dia
Ag smaoineamh ar gach áit ina ndéanann peaca anamh
Och a Rí na nGrásta a ard-aois gealach is grian,
In éiric a ndéanann fíil mé bodhar dall liath.

Tá amhráin sa leabhar a bhfuil a bheagán ná mhórán de eolas againn uile orthu - macasamhail Is fada mo chosa gan bhróga, Caitrí Tráil, Máire Ní Mhaoláin, amhráin na gcluintear ach go nannamh agus amhráin nach gcluintear am ar bith. Tá síl agam go spreagfaidh an leabhar seo ceoltóirí an chúige le cuid de na sean-amhráin bhréasta a bhíodh á gcanadh ag í sinneir a dhéanamh coitianta arís.

Molaim mo sheancheara an Bráthair Beausang as an leabhar seo a chur ar fáil athair agus molaim do Ghaeil Uladh an leabhar a cheannachadh; ní bheid aithreachas orthu.

ENRI Ó MUIRGHEASA (1874-1945)



Ófod De Cheolta Uladh, le Enrí Ó Muirghéasa, athghearrtha ag an mBráthar T S Beausang agus athfhoilsithe ag Comhaltas Uladh 1983.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

CONSTANCE MARKIEWICZ

BY PETER O'ROURKE

COUNTRESS Constance Markiewicz, the first woman MP elected to the Westminster parliament, was born Constance Gore-Booth in Lisadell House, County Sligo, in 1868.

Educated privately, she later studied art in Paris where, in 1900, she married Casimir Markiewicz, a Polish count. The marriage, however, was not a success and the count left Ireland to live in London.

Madame Markiewicz, as she was known, became a follower of Sinn Féin, though she disagreed with the pacifism of its leader, Arthur Griffith. At Easter 1900, with the assistance of Maud Gonne MacBride, she founded the women's organisation Inghinidhe na hÉireann, and in 1909, at the suggestion of Bulmer Hobson, she founded Fianna Éireann, the republican scouting movement, in Dublin.

During the 'Great Lock-out' of workers in 1913, she organised soup kitchens in the Dublin slums and became an officer in the Irish Citizen Army, commanded by her friend James Connolly. She served as second-in-command to Michael Mallon at the St Stephen's Green gathering during the Easter Rising of 1916. Along with the other leaders of the Rising who were captured by the British, she was sentenced to death but the sentence was later commuted.

In the general election of 1918 she was returned from the St Patrick's division of Dublin as the first woman to be elected to the House of Commons. As a member of Sinn Féin, she refused to sit at Westminster and was among the 73 elected Sinn Féin representatives who founded the First Dáil Éireann in January 1919.

She was Minister for Labour from April 1919 until August 1921, although she spent much of her time in prison.

Madame Markiewicz was vehement in her denunciation of the Treaty: "It is the capitalists' interests in England and Ireland that are pushing this Treaty to block the march of the working people in England and Ireland."

From its inception she was an irreconcilable opponent of the Free State and supported the republicans during the Civil War, for which she was imprisoned until 1924. Three years later she contested the general election but died, virtually penniless after using her money to help Dublin's poor, one month later.

Constance Markiewicz was born on February 4th 1868.



Níl mac ná iníon ag an bhean sin - That woman has neither a son nor a daughter.
Tugann m'uncail míseáin dom - My uncle gives me sweets.
Thug do chaerthair buille dom - Your brother hit me (gave me a blow).
Thug d'ainéil díol dó - Your aunt gave him an apple.

PHRASES

- 1 - Is aít an mac é (is at an moch aye) - He is a strange type.
- 2 - Is mór an buille é (is more an bwísh aye) - It is a big blow.
- 3 - Dóirt m'athair é (dóirt mair aye) - My father said it.
- 4 - Tá do mháthair ag teacht (taw dú vavíur egg tyocht) - Your mother is coming.

MULLEN, Seamus. (H-Block). Wishing you all the best, Seamus. From 'Bottler' (Portlaoise).

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Charlie (Portlaoise). They may have you in their keepings, but I have you in my heart. Love you always. L.A. xxx

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Charlie (Portlaoise), for your 23rd birthday. We'll drink to it yet! From your future brother-in-law B.J.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Charlie (Portlaoise). Thinking of you always. Love and best wishes from your future family-in-law.

DAVEY, East Derry Sinn Féin comhairle chaird extends sympathy to John Davey and to the Davey family circle on the death of his father.

DAVEY, The Connolly/Hughes/McEivie Sinn Féin cumann, Bellaghy, County Derry, extends sympathy to John Davey and the Davey family circle on the death of his father.

GREETINGS

McCann/Grant Sinn Féin cumann.

DOHERTY, Martin. (Portlaoise). Happy first anniversary, Martin. From Derek, Palmstowntown.

MEEHAN, Bill. (Cage 10). Happy birthday, Bill. I hope Martin and you find a little way to celebrate. I'll have an Emma's Irish Creme or two for the celebration. Take care. Love from Liz. USA. xxx

SYMPATHY

DALY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Daly family, Kilmurry, Cullinville, County Monaghan, on the death of Mrs Margaret Daly. From the Keenan/Doherty Sinn Féin cumann, Carrickmacross, County Monaghan.

IRISH LESSON

Mac (moch) - A son
Iníon (ineen) - A daughter
Athair (ahir) - A father
Máthair (mahir) - A mother
Buille (bwísh) - A blow
Deartháir (darhaw-ir) - A brother
Deirfiúr (derfoo-ir) - A sister
Uncail (unkil) - An uncle
Ainíon (awteen) - An aunt
Mo (my) and do (your) become m' and d' before vowels.

CUSHINIAN, Brian. (Portlaoise). Birth-day greetings for the 5th, Brian. From Mum and Dad.

CUSHINIAN, Brian. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Brian. All the best. From Frances.

CUSHINIAN, Brian. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Brian. See you in March. From Henry and Clare.

CUSHINIAN, Brian. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Brian. From the McCloy's.

CUSHINIAN, Brian. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Brian. From the Laverty's.

CUSHINIAN, Brian. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Brian. All the best. From the

CURRIE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Pat Currie on the tragic death of his parents. Go ndána Dia trócaire ar a n-anamacha. From the Meegan/Harvey Sinn Féin cumann, Inniskeen, County Monaghan.

CURRIE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Pat Currie on the recent tragic loss of his parents. From Peter Conlon and family.

Official organ of the Republican Movement

REMEMBER 1916

AN PHOBLAC

THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

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Name

Address

BOYLE, Sean. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Sean Boyle, Óglaigh na hÉireann, South Armagh, who died on active service on February 1st 1975. I maeis laochra na nGael go raibh a anam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in Óglaigh na hÉireann, South Armagh.

CAMPBELL, Tony; MCCANN, James; SLOAN, James. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Tony Campbell, James McCann and James Sloan, Belfast Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who were shot dead by British occupation forces on February 4th 1973. Fuair sé bás ar son na hÉireann. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

DELANEY, Kevin. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of IRA Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. 'He who dies for Ireland lives.' Always remembered by Dóirín and the Golden family, Dublin.

GRANT, Phelim; MCCANN, Charles. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Phelim Grant and Charles McCann, Óglaigh na hÉireann, Toome, who died on active service on February 5th 1972. Fuair sé bás ar son na saoirse mhuintir na hÉireann. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Óglaigh na hÉireann, County Antrim.

HANNAWAY, Liam. (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Liam Hanaway, Belfast Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died of natural causes on February 2nd 1981. Chail sé a sháol in obair agus ar tróid ar son saoirse mhuintir na hÉireann. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

HANNAWAY, Liam. (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear husband Vol Liam Hanaway, Belfast Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died of natural causes on February 2nd 1981. RIP. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Always remembered and sadly missed by his loving wife.

HANNAWAY, Liam. (3rd Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear father Vol Liam Hanaway, Belfast Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died on February 2nd 1981. Always remembered by his loving son Kevin, daughter-in-law Lilian, grandsons Leo and Kevin and granddaughter Tracy.

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LURGAN MURDER

BY JANE PLUNKETT

IN THE LATEST in a series of sectarian attacks on North Armagh nationalists in recent months, a 28-year-old Lurgan man Daniel McIntyre was shot dead by a loyalist murder-gang in the early hours of Friday last, January 27th.

McIntyre, an unemployed coach-builder, was on his way to his Dingwell Park home in the nationalist Tegnaven estate. He had spent the evening at a local GAA club and then at a disco in the Ashburn Hotel.

At about 1.40am, as McIntyre walked along the Old Portadown Road near the junction with Manor Drive, a car pulled up alongside him.

Several shots rang out and Daniel McIntyre fell to the ground, fatally injured, having suffered four bullet wounds to the head and neck.

The loyalist gunman coldly held his weapon to McIntyre's head, as he ensured his victim was dead,

and then returned to the car, which drove off through the Tegnaven estate.

INVOLVEMENT

The confident marksmanship of McIntyre's assassin, and the indications that the gang had carefully staked out their escape route, at one part of which a large force of RUC had been positioned several hours earlier, have fuelled local anxiety at the possibility of RUC involvement, or connivance, in Daniel McIntyre's murder. It has also made eyewitnesses reluctant to come forward, especially as the RUC has markedly stepped up its harassment of local youth in the days following the shooting.

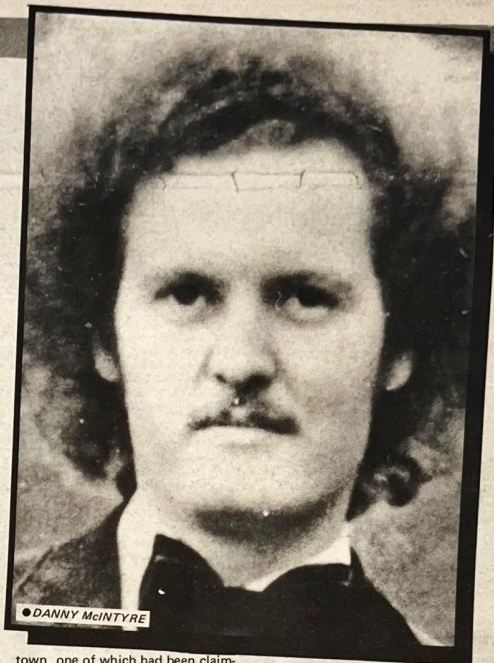
People on the scene that night,

including a local nurse who carried out first-aid on the victim, were also angry that there was a delay of 40 minutes before an ambulance arrived, an ambulance controller having stated that they would not send one without RUC confirmation of the incident.

The RUC themselves appeared only at 2.15am, some five minutes before the ambulance, even though an RUC armoured vehicle had been patrolling not far away shortly before the shooting.

Next day, after disquiet at the delayed arrival of the ambulance became public, the RUC issued contradictory statements in an attempt to obscure their role in the incident.

Subsequently, the Protestant Action Force was linked with the killing by the RUC, who stated that the weapon used to kill Daniel McIntyre had been used in other previous sectarian attacks in the

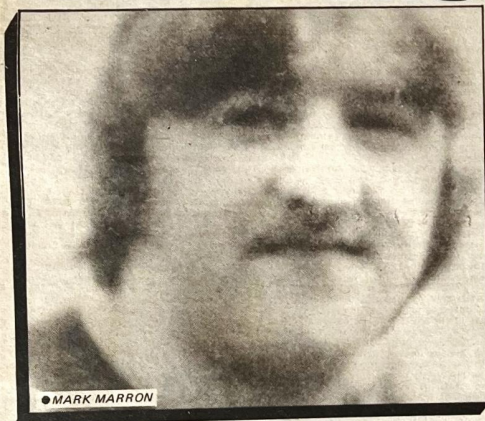


● DANNY MCINTYRE

town, one of which had been claimed by the Protestant Action Force. The name has been frequently used as a cover by the UVF, and members of the UDR are at present

facing murder charges for the killings of nationalists in Armagh which had been claimed by the group.

LATEST SHOOT-TO-KILL VICTIM



● MARK MARRON

CONTROVERSY surrounds the circumstances in which a 23-year-old Belfast man, Mark Marron, was shot and killed by a member of a British army foot patrol on Monday night last.

Contrary to initial media reports of the incident, which claimed that a British soldier had fired on a stolen car after it was driven through a checkpoint on Belfast's Springfield Road, it later emerged that there had been no checkpoint and it has been claimed that the car may have been stationary when the fatal shot was fired.

Local people who witnessed the shooting have confirmed that the car did not drive through a checkpoint.

According to the dead man's mother, Jean Marron:

"When the soldier stepped out in front of it, the car had already stopped. He pointed the gun through the driver's window and my Mark was supposed to crouch down and he got it in the back."

In a panic reaction the driver of

the car reportedly accelerated after the shooting and drove for a quarter of a mile before abandoning it and running off.

Condemning the shooting, West Belfast MP Gerry Adams said:

"British troops have no right to carry arms in Ireland, to be in Ireland, or to administer foreign laws in Ireland."

INVESTIGATION

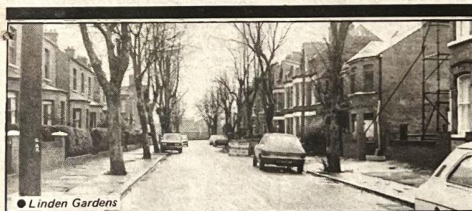
A major investigation into such shooting incidents will begin this weekend when a team of international lawyers will arrive in the six counties to launch an inquiry into the lethal use of weapons by crown forces.

This inquiry, which has been organised by a group of New York lawyers in conjunction with the Association for Legal Justice in the

North, will invite submissions from witnesses and organisations who can shed light on the circumstances surrounding more than one hundred instances since 1969 where crown forces have shot people dead in disputed circumstances. Very few prosecutions and even fewer convictions have followed such incidents.

Besides interviewing witnesses, the international tribunal will study the operation of the coroners' courts, the Director of Public Prosecutions in the six counties, and the British Attorney General. It will also examine the regulations governing the use of firearms by the British army, the UDR and the RUC.

Potentially the most embarrassing feature of the inquiry for the British will be an analysis of the 'investigations' which the RUC have conducted following controversial shooting incidents.



● Linden Gardens

Cliftonville death bid

A NATIONALIST couple and their three-year-old daughter narrowly escaped death in a sectarian assassination bid last Friday night, January 27th, in the Oldpark area of North Belfast.

The family, travelling home by car, turned off the Cliftonville Road into Linden Gardens and, as soon as they got out of their car at their front door, two shots were fired from a maroon-coloured car which had been travelling behind.

One of the bullets struck a door handle on the driver's side of the car while another bullet hit the back seat of the car where, just a few seconds earlier, the young child had been sitting.

The attacking vehicle then sped off into the loyalist Brookvale area.

Kilcoo intimidation

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

FOR A PERIOD of eight hours on Sunday, January 22nd, a UDR patrol attempted to intimidate a 63-year-old widow and her family who live in an isolated farmhouse in Kilcoo, County Down, an area which is frequently staked out by the UDR for days on end.

They positioned three landrovers in the laneway leading to the home of Mrs Anna O'Hare, which effectively cut the family off from the main road.

Members of the patrol thoroughly searched outbuildings behind the O'Hares' home, took a number of photographs, and pulled down a section of wall in the laneway.

Mrs O'Hare, who was extremely unnerved by the experience, and her daughter Theresa, attempted to go to 11am Mass, but, when they saw such a heavy presence, Mrs



● Dessie O'Hare, whose 63-year-old mother was intimidated by the UDR

O'Hare recalls: "I thought I shouldn't leave the house while they were hanging about so I didn't go. When I asked them what they were looking for and told them that we hadn't anything, they just said they knew that and would leave soon."

Several hours later, the patrol was still staked out around the farm and when her son Dessie O'Hare tried to drive his tractor out to feed livestock, he was jeered at by the patrol who delayed him for a period before he was allowed to proceed.