

REPUBLICAN NEWS

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CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN LONDON FOR REPUBLICAN PRISONERS

The first public meeting of the Irish Political Hostages Committee was held in the Conway Hall, Lions Square, London, last night. The speakers included Mr. Brendan Magill, National Organiser for Sinn Fein in Britain, Mrs. Maire Drumm, Vice-President and Mrs. Bernadette O'Hagan, wife of Mr. Joe O'Hagan, one of the 3 Republican leaders who recently made a daring escape by helicopter from Mountjoy Jail.

THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT TO CAMPAIGN FOR POLITICAL STATUS FOR IRISH REPUBLICAN PRISONERS IN BRITISH JAILS.

A spokesman for the committee said that it would campaign on behalf of all Republican prisoners in jail in Britain, including the Rev. Patrick Fell, the prisoners in the "Coventry Seven" case, and the nine young Republicans who were jailed at Winchester last week at the end of the London Car Bomb Trial, and all other Republicans in Prison.

It has been felt by some leading Republicans in Britain for some time that certain groups there who are not part of the Republican Movement, have been making use of the Republican prisoners plight to make political capital for their own ends and to raise finance for themselves. It is hoped that the new committee will put an end to these mal fractions.

Republican sources in London said on Tuesday night that they would not be surprised if the Republican Hunger Strikers were ordered by the Republican leadership to end their protests. The relatives of the men prisoners had not been told by the British Home Office up to Tuesday night where the seven were being held. The

two Price sisters were still in Winchester prison on Tuesday.

The aims of the Irish Political Hostages Committee are:-

1. Political status for Irish Republican prisoners held in Britain.
2. The return of Republican prisoners to serve their time with their comrades in the North, if they so desire.
3. Making a public issue of the political savagery of sentences.
4. Building up a body of opinion to put pressure on the British Government.

The I.P.H.C., will stage demonstrations, pickets and similar forms of protests throughout Britain, approaches are being made to trade unions, trade councils and leaders in every walk of life in Britain to enlist their support for their humanitarian demands.

It is expected that the new committee will work in close co-operation with the Belfast based Political Hostages Release Committee which has a firm mandate from the Prisoners Relatives Committee in Belfast.

We urge our readers in Britain to give the new Committee every possible support.

For our part, the columns of "Republican News" are open to the Committee. We look forward with confidence to a successful, vigorous campaign and regular reports with pictures so that our readers can be informed of progress.

**WE LOVE THEM YET, WE WON'T FORGET THE
FELONS OF OUR LAND.**

FAMILY KICKED PUNCHED AND BEATEN BY BRITS

Eye Witness to the Shooting of Mrs. Bannon by the military with a rubber bullet gun on 5th October, 1973, outside Mrs. Bannon's house at 21 Leeson St., Belfast.

By: Mrs. Reid,
11 Leeson Street,
BELFAST.

I was talking to Mr. and Mrs. Bannon outside their door at about 12.30 a.m. Friday 5th October 1973. I noticed a boy being searched at the corner by a foot patrol of the Green Jack Regiment. Then I saw a soldier being helped to his feet by two other soldiers, and I remarked to Mr. Bannon "look at the state that soldier is in." Now there had not been any trouble in the area at the time. Just as I made this remark a saracen drove into the street and the boy was then arrested and put into the Saracen. Someone banged a bin lid as the Saracen proceeded further down into the street. All the soldiers jumped out and ran down the street. A coloured soldier wanted to know who had been banging a bin lid. He asked Mrs. Bannon if she knew who banged it and Mrs. Bannon said she didn't know who it was. At that he butted her with his head against her head and Mr. Bannon said "that's my wife you are hitting" and her young daughter said "that's my mother leave her alone." When the young daughter said this, the dark soldier handed his rifle to one of the other soldiers behind him, and then he punched the girl and she fell. He then ran up the street and got into the saracen and the rest of the foot patrol came on down past us and one of the soldiers kept waving his hands about as though he was afraid of bumping into something. His eyes looked vacant and appeared larger than normal. They went down the street cutting down Cairns' Street into an entry. Mr. Bannon followed them down thinking that this coloured soldier was with the foot patrol. Mr. Bannon asked one of the soldiers why the dark soldier had punched his daughter for no reason. We all followed Mr. Bannon down the street because we were afraid he would have been lifted. When we reached the entry the soldiers started to get abusive and ordered us back. One of the soldiers started to swing his rifle around shouting at us to get back. Mrs. Bannon who was in the front of the crowd (about 8 people) called out to her husband to come back. He had been receiving rough blows from them and she was naturally anxious for him. Just then one of the soldiers - a blond one - put a rubber gun to Mrs. Bannon's cheek and fired a round. She fell backwards and whilst she was falling this soldier whom I'd seen earlier and who seemed to be drunk lashed out with his rifle and struck her on the forehead. They then ran out of the entry and we got Mrs. Bannon taken to hospital immediately as she seemed to be losing a lot of blood and was unconscious. She was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital where she still is. She is suffering from a broken jaw, severe bruising and had five stitches put in her forehead.

BLACK MAGIC — BLACK PROPAGANDA!

During Kenya's War of independence against Britain in the Fifties the British public were assailed with horror stories about the atrocities of the Mau Mau.

While the British and the colonialists murdered 20,000 Africans, beat eleven men to death in the Hola Concentration Camp and lied that they had died from drinking poisoned water, readers of the Daily Mail the Daily Express and other horror comics written for the establishment to terrorise the British people heard in thrilled fascination about dark rituals, witch-doctors, dreadful oaths, blood-curdling native barbaric magic.

It is an unfortunate fact that many people are easily aroused by such rubbish and lose all critical judgment, sanity, and sense of proportion when exposed to it. Of course it was all denied and disproved later, but since the freedom fighters only killed sixty whites something had to be invented as a cover story for British atrocities. The now internationally infamous Brigadier Kitson was carrying out these allegedly ritual mutilations with his "counter-gangs" of pseudo - Mau Mau.

It is not surprising that the same trick should be played on Irish people during their struggle. The British counter insurgency team has been working very hard on the black magic theme for some time now. It says a lot for the good sense of the Irish people that they are not taken in by their ham-fisted attempts. British soldiers or plain clothes agents may or may not have mutilated and burned animals. Since in such a situation everything necessarily has to be done by rumour there is no way of knowing. But their purpose is clear. It is first to suggest that diabolical influences are at work behind the freedom struggle. As in Kenya, the only diabolical influences come from Whitehall. Secondly, it is an attempt to impose a voluntary curfew on the anti-imperialist population and make them live in fear. The disgusting sensational press rumours suggest that mothers are keeping their sons in for fear of satanic ritual murderers. The only satanic murderers are the British Army, the S.A.S., M.R.F. and their helpers the U.V.F., U.F.F. and U.D.A. And their motives are not black magic. They are plain political. Their aim is now as it has been for centuries to keep the Irish people in subjection by concerted terrorism.

Nobody is fooled by all the clap-trap about black magic and witchcraft. Brigadier Kitson must be regretting he wrote his little books explaining his methods.

Bernadette McAliskey is inconsistent

Mrs. Bernadette McAliskey said recently that "The S.D.L.P. must decide: either it is part of the struggle against British Imperialism, or it is part of imperialism's scheme to strengthen its stranglehold. It cannot be both."

This is a remarkable naive statement. Mrs. McAliskey should be well aware that the S.D.L.P. has ALWAYS been a part of Whitelaw's plan for British Imperialism's control of Ireland, even when it abstained from attendance at Stormont, even when members of the Parliamentary party addressed the people on the streets of Belfast and Derry when they came out to express their anger at Internment. The S.D.L.P. then was riding the tiger, and until recently they thought the tiger would carry them all the way to cushy new Stormont. Like the British T.U.C. and all the other instruments of the capitalist state, the S.D.L.P. exist to harness the militant strength of those exploited by the state. They are basically good friends of Messrs Whitelaw, Faulkner and Co. (remember the 'Brian and Gerry' show?) and have the same aim, to make British imperialism work in

Ireland. They have never had any other. They hoped to use the people's protest as a lever to get themselves more power. Fortunately their hopes seem to be in vain.

But while this is clear from their record, it should also be obvious from the very nature of the beast. A Parliamentary party is just part of the state machine, and no matter how well intentioned it might be it cannot bring down the state or its imperial interests. If it were within a hundred miles of succeeding in this, world imperialist interests would close ranks, organise a coup and massacre the dangerous elements in such a party. This is what happened to President Allende of Chile, who was democratically elected, but being dangerous to American interests was bombed out of his offices, assassinated and thousands of his supporters interned and murdered. It happened earlier in the Dominican Republic, where the U.S. marines were landed to put down a democratically elected government whose reforms were too far for the U.S. It also happened in Venezuela. But before that it happened in post war Europe, where reformist parties such as the French and Italian communist parties were excluded from power by the U.S. threatening to withhold Marshall

aid. Money is more important than vote and much more powerful.

So, Mrs. McAliskey is being doubly inconsistent. First she is herself part of the British Imperialism's parliamentary trick to maintain control over Ireland. Secondly she was speaking in support of the Republican Clubs, who accept Partition, and contest elections. It would make sense to compare policies or to examine the S.D.L.P.'s record within its own imperialist framework. But to pretend that it has any choice other than to be an agent of Imperialism is ridiculous. And it is dishonest to pretend that the Republican Clubs or Mrs. McAliskey have any choice either. As parliamentarians or candidates for parliament they serve British imperialist interests and can do no other.

There might be some excuse for this if the people were not aroused and politically conscious and suffering now for their attempt at national liberation. But the Republican Movement is leading a campaign for the liberation of Ireland from British Imperialism. The place for all those who call themselves anti-imperialist is in the ranks of, or active supporters of, the Republican Movement.

LETTER

Realistic Socialist

A chara,

I read with interest an article in "Unfree Citizen" (19/11/73) attacking Sinn Féin and the political policies of the Republican Movement.

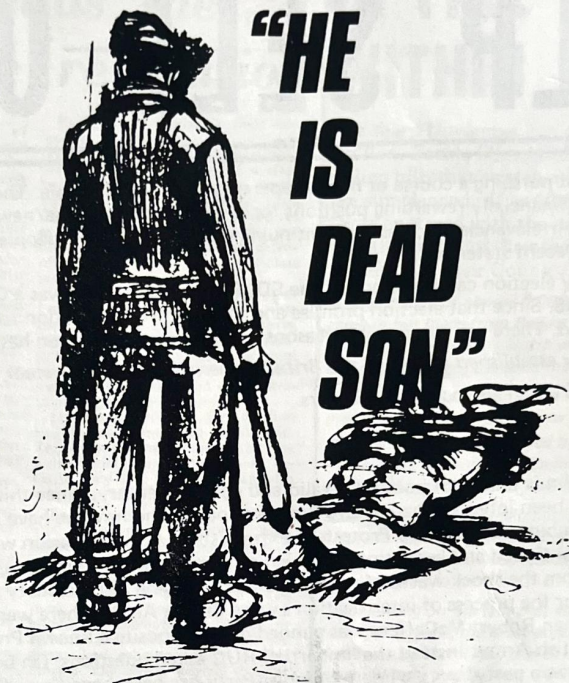
While I believe Sinn Féin could be more active and more positive, I think it would help matters if the unnamed author of the article would study this quotation by V. Lenin, (July, 1916):-

"Those who are waiting for a correct socialist revolution will never see it. Those people are armchair revolutionaries who just talk, but who do not understand what a revolution really is."

Mise,
'REALISTIC SOCIALIST'

It was damn cold on the hillside, too damn cold. Tom huddled into his combat jacket, pulling his head well down deep into the fur collar. His fingers and toes were the coldest. Three nights on the trot, he thought, and still no sign of them. What did they take him for a bloody statue! He thought of home, of the kids and the warmth, of the friends and what they would all normally be doing, only these weren't normal times, and he wasn't doing what could be termed as normal in any circumstances. He should be used to it by now, but he wasn't, he never would get used to it, couldn't ever see anyone becoming so hardened that they would dismiss it all so casually. With luck, the bloody irony of it he thought, with luck tonight he would kill someone. How the hell could you term that normal, in any language. Certainly, there were good reasons, but you would think that after all these thousands of years of killing that someone would have discovered a better way of settling things. Ah! What the hell. Trouble was in the summer you were too easily spotted and in the winter you had to freeze and then they didn't turn up. Hell roast them anyway, didn't they want to die for their beloved country. Big joke, thought Tom. Hard to imagine this situation, but it was true, he was there, a pacifist, or so he thought, he was a damn good electrician, he had worked hard all his life, he had studied hard to get his qualification and he had always prided himself in his secure knowledge that there were few who could teach him much about his own particular field. That was until that night. He had never given it much thought.

He peered down the twisting road shimmering in the low moonlight, nothing yet. Where was he, oh, yeah, that night he and Jean had gone home from the night out at the club, about half past twelve it was. They had gone to bed, within twenty minutes of reaching home. The noise seemed so far away from them then there was the shot. He had sprang out of bed and sidled over to the window, pulled the blind across and seen the lads struggling up the street with the body between them, trailing their rifles with them. "Bloody idiots" he had thought, "If the Brits come up from the road they will be caught in the open." He ran down the stairs and opened the front door "Over here" he shouted quietly, "Come on out of the middle of the street you bloody fools." They came. "My God" he thought "they are only children." He rushed them in through the hall and into the kitchen, they were panting with exhaustion. "Is Joe OK?" asked the smallest one of them. Tom only had to look at Joe once. "He's dead, son" he said "the young lad started to cry. "Shut up" Tom said "and take yourselves out through the back as fast as you can, I'll deal with Joe." They went, they went fast, like the frightened children that they were. Tom thought fast and then after some five minutes he opened the front door just as the Saracen pulled out, disgorging soldiers. "Stay put man" said a voice "listen" said Tom, "I have a body in here" A NCO came



BY SEAMUS LOUGHRAN

over to him, "against the wall pig" he rapped. Tom was spreadeagled against the wall, while he was searched, though he was only wearing his pyjamas. "What do you know about all this?" shouted the NCO. "Nothing Tom said, these guys came to the door and I answered it down from my bed I was, they rushed past me and left this lad lying in the kitchen" Tom was taken to the local barracks and put through the mixer. Only it was happening to him he wouldn't have believed it possible. But it was him and they were rough, damn rough. They threatened, cajoled, bribed and beat him. He told them over and over exactly what he had told the Corporal at the door of his own home. They let him go eventually.

He sat for a couple of days thinking about it all. He couldn't get it out of his head that they were only teenagers and yet there they were guns as big as themselves and a dead comrade they wouldn't leave behind. Must be more to it than meets the eye he had said to Jean, but he had never bothered with politics before and didn't want to. You only finished up in trouble. He lay back on the hill and peered at his watch, 2.25 a.m. he would give them another hour or so and then he would quit for another night. "Crafty bastards" he thought "Changing the patrols the way they do," he laughed to himself "No consideration for others." He started to recall the times immediately after the incident, they had given him a rough time, following him even to work until he had quit the job and a good job he had too. He had eventually become disgusted with the whole charade and had started to take an

interest in the Vigilantes and now here he was a member of the Organisation sitting on a hillside on the border waiting, all he ever seemed to do was wait. "However some day he would get his opportunity and then Joe, who ever he was, would be able to rest more peacefully."

God I am getting bitter he thought, must be the cold. Suddenly he saw the flash of light, away down the road, that would be the scout, a nice guy, he was probably frozen too. Tom felt the excitement rise in him. He heard the noise of the vehicles before he saw them. They would have a job seeing him. He turned over on his back and flashed his light up the hill to the ASU, he waited for no reply, but pulled the firing box over and under him, this had to go right, it had taken long enough to plan it and it was his plan. He pulled the cocking handle back on his sterling and set it handy to his right hand. He waited, the bastards had stopped, no they hadn't, they had definitely slowed though, still on the five times he had watched them they had always done that coming to the bend. He let the jeep through and then he ran his fingers over the firing box, the sky went on fire, the Saracen flew up and over the hedge at the side of the road, the second one went into the hole.

He turned and ran up the hill, as planned, the boys were firing like mad, the old Lewis was rattling like something out of hell, he stopped and turned to look at the devastation below him. It was his last look at anything in this world. He felt a stab in his side and felt the blood coming to his throat he fell, he heard a shout, then blackness. He died where he lay. Joe was avenged. Now for Tom.

IRISH CHILD USED AS A SHIELD

HUGH SAUNDERS aged 12, was playing with friends. Approached by a patrol of the Grenadier Guards who said: "You four get up and come with us." All refused. The Brits then pushed a rifle into Hugh Saunderson's back and forced him at gunpoint to go into a deserted house in front of them.

This was obviously to use the child as a shield should the house be booby-trapped.

Cumann Sean McCaughey-James Saunders, Sinn Féin, Belfast, regard this action as one of the most despicable from this regiment, who have excelled themselves at the Bone and Ardoyne by their sadistic behaviour towards children.

WE WARN parents to be on their guard and to report to us incidents of this nature. We intend to give this case the full glare of publicity.

Are you the winner?

From E. Purdy, P.R.O., Sinn Féin Midlands, 123, Princess Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham 5.

Dear Editor—The following are the winning numbers for the raffle held in Birmingham on October 7th. Green ticket number 541/545 with security number KS3617. The prize, as exhibited at the Sinn Féin social is a large Celtic Cross made in Long Kesh Concentration Camp and can be claimed by forwarding the corresponding ticket and name and address to the above address.

SDLP SELL-OUT

"The SDLP are at present pursuing a course of non-co-operation with their people. Their reason is quite simple. While they are engaged in moulding financially rewarding positions for themselves within the 'new' Stormont Assembly, they cannot afford to be distracted by irrelevancies such as the continuing repression of their people," say the Central Belfast Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair in a recent statement.

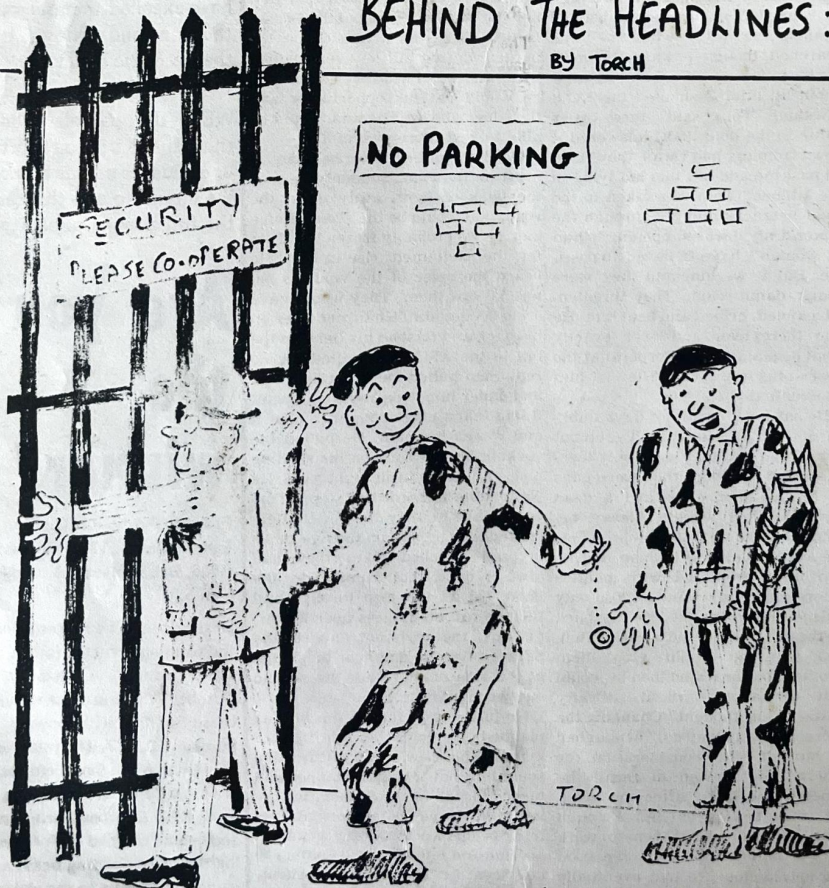
"During the pre-assembly election campaign one of the SDLP's main platforms was a GENERAL AMNESTY FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. Since that election promise and their avowed dedication towards achieving its end they have become ominously muted. There are two possible reasons why this transformation has taken place:—

- "(1) they are now firmly established as part of the British imperialist political system, and as such,
(2) they no longer CARE about the political prisoners.

Our view

"The view of the Sinn Fein is that both points are valid and complementary. Since this 'pledge' was made, MORE men and MORE women have been interned than at any time previously, and now we have internment for CHILDREN. In the face of a 'sectarian' bombing campaign by Protestant extremists in active collusion with the British forces of occupation, we have witnessed a continued and escalating campaign of harassment of Catholic areas. On the same day that these areas were recovering from the shock-waves of unprecedented bombing assaults forty CHILDREN from within their confines were arrested for the process of interrogation by the British Army. There were no reciprocal raids in known Protestant extremist areas. When Robert McCaffery was gunned down opposite a known Protestant extremist stronghold there were no raids by the British Army. Instead the 'impartial' RUC asked questions. On both occasions there was no public protest from the SDLP as a party. . . . A new Unionist Party has been born."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: BY TORCH



"THE TROOPS ARE DOING AN UNENVIABLE JOB!"

SUPPORT

The committee of Ardoyne Youth Band have issued an appeal for funds to help them in their voluntary work for young people in the Ardoyne area. The Committee say in their appeal: "Over the last three years many demands have been made on people's generosity in the name of Ardoyne. For all your help in the past, may we say, 'God bless you and yours.' Without this kind of help and encouragement who knows where we would be today.

"The children of Ardoyne have come through a bad time since August 1969. They have seen brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers, either shot dead or interned.

It is on behalf of some of these children, we make this appeal, the members of Ardoyne Youth Band. The cost of instruments and uniforms has risen steeply in recent months. It is difficult for us in these troubled times to use our normal fund raising ventures. Can you help us, please?

"If this appeal is successful, we intend to give the children in the band a real treat; a trip to New York for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES."

... (We commend this appeal to readers of "Republican News." Donations should be sent to the Band Organiser, Mr. Joe Parker, 21 Eskdale Gardens, Belfast. Joe is well known to some of our readers as an ex internee who took a very good stand when he was in Long Kesh Concentration

Priest heads the Philippine revolution

TO THE CONSTERNATION of many conservative bishops, the Catholic Church is becoming an increasingly important focus of resistance to the martial-law Government of President Ferdinand Marcos.

In its most extreme form, this resistance is expressed in support for programmes of armed revolution, including that of a Maoist liberation movement. A handful of priests and young Catholic laymen have actually joined the Communists. Others, belonging to a group called Christians for National Liberation, are said to be planning guerrilla activities of their own.

The Government has reacted by viewing social action programmes of the church on behalf of peasants, plantation workers and urban squatter colonies as potential sources of subversion. Churches and convents have been raided by military units and a small number of priests and nuns detained for interrogation.

The raids and detentions have alarmed a much broader group of Catholics than those who have been drawn into active opposition.

Pastoral letters issued by the Church hierarchy have complained of "harassment" and the suppression of human rights. Predictably, such statements have been ignored by the controlled press.

Nearly 85% of all Filipinos identify themselves as Catholics. The Church has not taken a united stand on secular issues since Spanish colonial rule ended in 1898, but if it ever did, it would obviously be a formidable force.

The most dramatic example of resistance in the church to the Marcos Government occurred last month in Bacolod where the richest sugar estates are located.

In a raid on a suspected hideout of the New Peoples Army which has been active mainly in remote mountain villages of northern Luzon — the military arrested an insurgent leader who operated under the name of Bernie Lopez and a woman said to be his wife.

Abandoning the alias, the rebel leader readily identified himself as the Reverend Luis Jalandoni, the former chairman of the social action committee of the diocese. A member of a family of wealthy sugar planters, Father Jalandoni is said to be one of the most brilliant and highly regarded young priests in the Philippines.

His supposed wife turned out to be a former nun of the Good Shepherd Order. In their possession were a .38-calibre revolver and various writings by Chairman Mao.

From jail, Father Jalandoni sent this message to his fellow priests: "I have accepted the national democratic struggle as the Christian answer to the Philippine situation. I am freely and voluntarily a member of the Communist Party. I have taken a leading role in the movement."

Far from condemning their colleague, a number of younger priests expressed strong sympathy for this stand. A statement drafted by priests in this region traced Father Jalandoni's efforts to work through the system on behalf of exploited plantation workers and subsistence farmers ruthlessly driven off their land by upper-class interests.

"No one can deny that Father Louis tried all the means that were then on hand: the law, the courts, the bureaucrats, the pulpit, persuasion and diplomacy, personal contacts and influence, even pressure methods like strikes and demonstrations," the statement said.

Despite his efforts, the situation had only worsened, the priests said. They could understand why he went underground, they said, because they felt the same "anguish and frustration".

To the authorities, this statement was even more alarming than Father Jalandoni's underground activities. When it was read out at Mass in some churches, further arrests were threatened. To head them off, the Bishop of Bacolod, allowed a constabulary officer to address a special meeting of the clergy and religious orders in his diocese. The officer warned that the "privilege of the pulpit" could be removed.

The cycle is often repeated. What the authorities regard as legitimate efforts to deal with subversion are taken by many Catholics as attempts at intimidation. A number of other recent incidents have aggravated the tension between the Church and the regime.

A large number of young priests, nuns and seminarians are familiar with the radical writings of church thinkers in other parts of the world, especially Latin America. "The Theology of Liberation", by Gustavo Gutierrez, a Cuban, is now being widely circulated.

"The pedagogy of the oppressed", by the Brazilian radical theorist, Paulo Freire, had a sale in the Philippines of 13,000 copies, almost entirely to priests, nuns and seminarians.

But only a tiny fraction of the 4,400 priests in the Philippines are currently active in the underground. One priest of the Government's wanted list, the Reverend Edecio de la Torre, was interviewed recently in Manila. He counted only six priests besides himself who had gone underground but estimated that there were 25 others actively involved in revolutionary activities.

But the pronounced shift to the Left of the younger clergy is bound to make Church-State relations increasingly uneasy. In Church circles it is widely reported that President Marcos has signed a decree that would permit — for the first time in the Philippines — the taxing of Church lands and properties.

According to the reports, he told a delegation of worried bishops that he would hold the decree in abeyance for now.

A FREE IRELAND IS WITHIN OUR GRASP

The sharp November sun glanced off the boulders of Slieve Gullion. Facing Slieve Gullion on the slopes of the softly rolling hills that stretch along the Louth/Armagh boundary, the sun glanced off another piece of stone, a granite Celtic Cross engraved with the names of five men. The inscription says they gave up their lives for a Glorious Cause . . . The Freedom of their Country.

A huge crowd of almost 6,000 gathered around the memorial. They came in bus loads from Belfast, Dungannon, Lurgan, Dundalk, Wexford, and other points North and South, to join with the farming people of South Armagh, the solid men, the back-bone of Ireland.

Up the hill came the sound of marching feet. Hundreds of uniformed men and women of Ogligh na h-Eireann and Cuman na mBan come into sight. They are followed by rank after rank of pure youthful face — na Fianna Eireann and gCailini. All are volunteers — no financial reward could purchase this love of Country.

Sean Keenan, a veteran Republican, who has served his country all his life, speaks of the generosity of the men who died at Edentubber 16 years ago. "I thank God," he said, "that we shall always have young men prepared to sacrifice their time and lives for Irish independence."

Commenting on the fact that whilst Republican spokesmen are banned from the screens, the most popular spokesmen on RTE were psychopaths like William Craig and Brian Faulkner, the architect of internment, Bloody Sunday and the Torture Chambers. He called on the people to support An Phoblacht and the Republican News, the papers which carry the true message of justice and freedom. A roar of approval broke from the crowd when he ended by saying: "The Provisionals IRA can beat the British Army any day."

The National/Joint Secretary of Sinn Fein, Mr. Malachy Foots, who gave a moving oration said: "Patrick Parle, Oliver Craven, Paul Smith, George Keegan and Michael Watters rekindled freedom's light. Their five glorious names will live on in the annals of our people. We stand here today a matter of yards from the thing that must be erased from our land forever; it is a line surrounding the Six North-Eastern counties . . . the Border. I say we are only yards from the Border, but in reality due to the magnificent push by Ogligh na h-Eireann, the Border is being pushed along with the depleted ranks of the British Army out of Ireland forever. IRELAND FREE IS NOW WITHIN OUR GRASP! It has been a long hard struggle borne admirably by Republicans. The suffering of the people at the hands of England has been terrible but our people remain unbroken!"

"Our major achievement in the present campaign has been the bringing down of Stormont. Now the SDLP are doing all in their power to rebuild it. But we will never be ruled from Stormont again. THE TASK AHEAD IS CLEAR — GET THE BRITISH OUT OF IRELAND. THE IRISH PEOPLE WILL THEN BE IN A POSITION TO SETTLE THEIR OWN AFFAIRS, WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE VILE THING WHICH IS BRITISH IMPERIALISM."

After a decade of the Rosary was recited in Irish by Mr. Frank McGeough, Dundalk, numerous wreaths were laid on behalf of relatives of the five men, as well as Sinn Fein Cumann. Present at the laying of the wreaths was Mr. Joe Clarke veteran of the 1916 Rising.

As the sounds of the Last Post and Reveille, played by members of na Fianna Eireann, echoed over the hills, a peace which is only to be found amongst the mountain regions seemed to descend. The crowd drifted away.

AFTERMATH

When some who had journeyed from Belfast and other places tried to obtain refreshment in Dundalk, they were attacked on the street by a large force of Free State Guard, drawn from all over the 26-Counties for the occasion. Some from Monaghan, Dublin, and other places

were recognised. One young girl was trailed along the street by the hair, and received a brutal kicking by these "British bootlickers" who were hiding in ambush positions in a side street and rushed out in full riot gear with batons drawn. This must be seen as an attempt to keep the people off the streets at any cost. No opposition must be allowed to Cosgrave and his British friends — no one may oppose the Government even in a peaceful

IT'S A FACT . . . **60,000 EVERY WEEK!**
READERS

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PLEASE INDICATE PREFERENCE & RETURN SLIP TO THE CIRCULATION MANAGER : —

M. Address

OF those magnificent spirits in the Presbyterian tradition who carried the intense democratic sentiments of the United Irishmen down into recent times, the Rev. J. B. Armour of Ballymoney is perhaps the most outstanding representative.

He stood forth as a beacon light for truth and sanity in the darkest days of Unionist reaction in 1912, when Lord Carson and English Tory politicians were whipping the Protestant people into a frenzy of imaginary fears about 'Popery.'

To the Rev. Armour falls the honour of having organised a great demonstration of Protestant people in favour of Home Rule in Ballymoney in 1913, at a time when the Orange reign of fear had silenced all but the bravest Protestant democrats.

It was a meeting held amidst threats from the Tories to summon Orange drummers in force to drown free speech, a meeting to which he invited only Protestant speakers, including Captain White of Connolly's Irish Citizen Army and Roger Casement, later hanged at Pentonville, England, for his efforts to secure Irish self-determination.

The Rev. Armour, who fought with a fiery tongue and a biting eloquence for the rights of the people, and who took that fight into the heart of the Presbyterian General Assembly to be hooted down amidst shrieks of "Put him out! Put him off!", saw in the Unionist anti-Home Rule campaign a "reign of political cant and prejudice."

He called the Carsonites "troglydites" and "scalliwags," and in an article headed, "The Ulster comedy — God's Silly People," he declared that "Ulster Day" when the Unionist Covenant was signed "ought to be called the Protestant Fools' Day."

Holding that the so-called "dangers" to Protestantism were imaginary, he declared: "The Belfast people are suffering from a bad attack of delirium tremens . . . Many sane men are listening to the ebullitions of furious folly with amazed pity. Political insanity is in the ascendant . . ."

Although the Rev. Armour differed considerably in outlook from many republicans and separatists, it was no accident that he should see in the achieving of self-government for Ireland the extension of that popular political and social democracy for which he fought all his life.

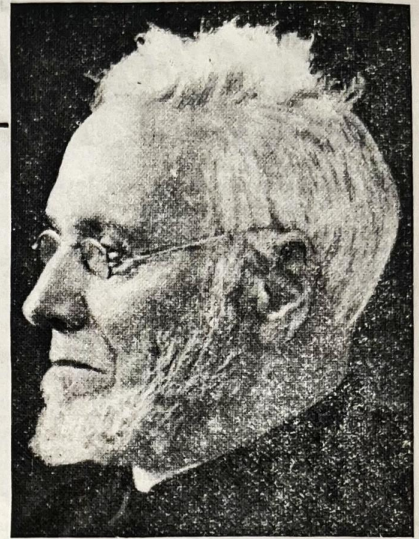
Born at Lisboy, near Ballymoney, in 1841, he associated himself with the cause of the people from the earliest days of his ministry there.

In 1798 the town of Ballymoney had been burned by the British soldiery, and as the Rev. Armour's son writes in his father's biography, "the hanging of alleged rebels, including the great uncle of President McKinley, in the town and neighbourhood was still a living memory to some of its inhabitants."

Throughout the early years of his ministry, the Rev. J. B. Armour appeared frequently on Tenant Right platforms, defending the small farmers against the exactions of the landlords, at a time when the Tory-landlord-Orange alliance was shrieking that justice for

ARMOUR OF BALLYMONEY

DEMOCRAT IN THE UNITED TRADITION



By

JOHN IRVINE

SALUTE!

*Soldier of Christ, you served your Master well
And Ireland too, that high courageous stand
For a lost cause, the leader of the few,
When strife and enmity bestrode the land*

*True democrat whom Lincoln would have loved
Yours was the lonely spirit, yours to know
The same fierce love for which our martyrs died:
Orr and McCracken, Porter and Monroe.*

the farmers was a "Molly Maguire" plot.

Abused from all directions and accused of "consorting with priests," this intrepid and courageous clergyman calmly met the irrational hysterics of the rabble-rousers with penetrating logic and truth.

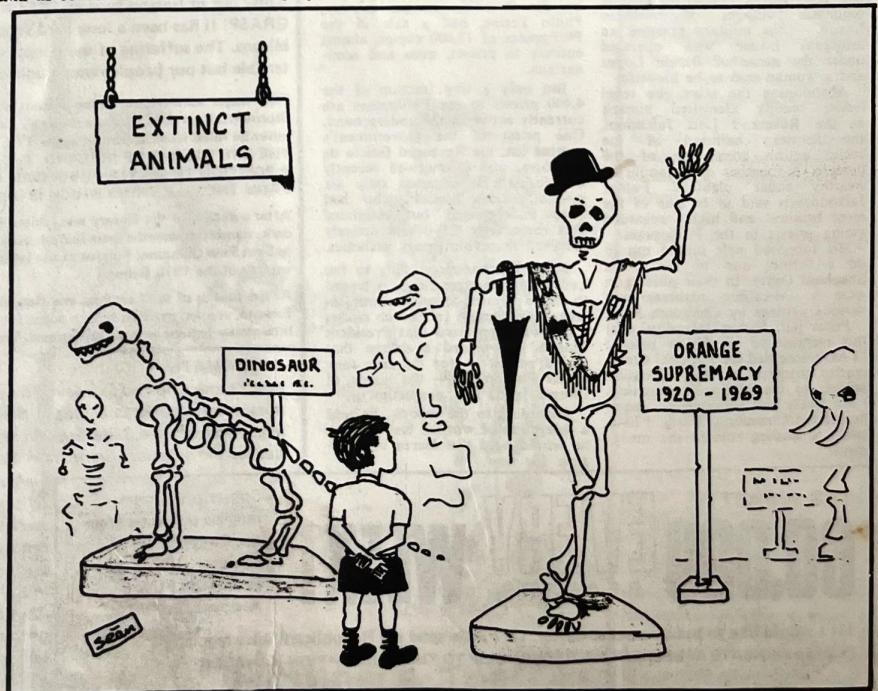
Always an ardent champion of the rights of the Catholic people, he also saw, like all true Irish democrats from Wolfe Tone onwards, that the struggle for Catholic rights was part of the struggle to liberate the Protestant people themselves; that by acquiescing in the oppression of their Catholic fellow-countrymen Protestants could only succeed in rivetting on more firmly the chains of their own bondage.

The Rev. Armour steadfastly opposed the partition of Ireland as commercial suicide and

as "an unnatural thing." He said it was anti-Unionist "in the sense that it made two Irelands, and apparently intended that two Irelands should remain to the end."

Many of his words, since his death in 1925, have proved to be prophetic. Perhaps we will yet see his most hopeful prophecy fulfilled:

"I am sure that a race of Presbyterians and Protestants worthy of the best traditions of our faith will arise in the near future, with their minds cleared of Unionist cant, and blood purified from the rust of serfdom—and that they will claim to dwell in the land, not under the protection of the Saxon, not by permission of the Celt, but in virtue of the services they will render to a country we love and for whose welfare we pray."





the liam mac page

Brian Walker

So Brian Walker of the N.U.M. is running away from the problems of the Six Counties to a well paid job as director of Oxfam. This character only came to life with 31 other business men when they signed a "support O'Neill" campaign at the beginning of 1969. Out of his activities there came the birth of the Alliance Party who disowned him for his know-all attitude and since then he along with another odd-ball character Brian McGuigan has merely passed his time in issuing pamphlets which condemned everyone and everything that didn't agree with Brian's cures for the ills that beset us.

It is interesting to note his remarks in getting his new job. "Oxfam is committed to the alternative of revolution. We are going to find a way of reshaping the world in terms of partnership and working together."

This was his philosophy in the Six Counties, with an added point, that the people here had to accept that they were 'British' and no question of them having any freedom of wanting their country to be free from British rule.

So in his new job he can carry on issuing his charity to the famine stricken people of the world on conditions that they should praise the British for their charity. The alternative that the people should try and fight the causes of poverty even if it is necessary to fight a bloody revolution to win. Brian will make sure they don't get that chance. What ever will happen now to McGuigan, the man who held on to Walker's COAT TAILS WHILE THEY BOTH SNEERED AT EVERYTHING Irish. Will this good old Castle Catholic retire and disappear? We hope so.

As a post script to the above it is interesting to note that big business in Britain appreciates the work of charities such as Oxfam from keeping the alternative of revolution from the people who suffer from famine and drought. Marks and Spencer gives £200,000 per year to charity. I.C.I. the multi national company £500,000 per year. Boots the Chemists £130,000 as also Court-alds the same per annum. And Walker will have a budget of £4 million per year to help to keep the world safe from revolution.

Headline in the Sunday Press 4/11/73. "Princess Anne now takes over from George Best."

Background

Before you read the paperback "Political Murders in Northern Ireland" by Martin Dillon and Denis Leane, two young newspapermen. I think you should know the background in the making of the book. Several months ago the editor of the Belfast Telegraph which employed the two men, decided to have them write a series of articles on the implications of the assassinations which had taken place.

When they had completed the articles, Wasson the editor had a fit when he realised the conclusions the lads had reached was that the U.D.A. and kindred Protestant organisations such as the U.V.F. and U.F.F. had killed and murdered Catholics merely because they were Catholics.

Wasson refused to print the articles because they were dynamite and he knew that his printers who are all 'loyal' Orangemen would not do the job. Instead he gave the job of writing a series of seven articles on the murders of two other journalists namely John Burns and Ted Oliver with instructions to name the series "Seven Baffling Murders." This series of articles have now been published in the Telegraph and they all implied that the murders had been committed by either the Provos or bigoted Catholics.

Dillon and Leane during this period had got in touch with Penguin Books who promised to publish their findings in the form of a book; on condition they carried on with their investigations to include the Republican Movement and the involvement of the British Army.

They carried out this assignment to the satisfaction of Penguin Books, but their objectiveness was lost and the result shows they also lost their honesty and integrity, which had got them into trouble with Wasson their editor.

In their foreward they state they "sought not to sit in judgement on anyone or any organisation." Then throughout the book they sit in judgement on the Provisional I.R.A. They of course do sit in judgement on the Occupation Forces, but it is merely to give them a clean bill of health.

Young Dillon who comes from Lesson Street should know better, but then a Penguin Book must also, to be a best seller and make money, reflect the mental conditioning and political simplification that the British people have had served up to them by the British press this past few years.

Carrying guns

About 30 of the 77 Assembly members are carrying guns, mostly Brownings, Webleys and Smith and Wessons. On arrival at Stormont, they leave their weapons with police at the door and collect them on the way home. It is only since last week that they are forbidden to take arms into the chamber, which was allowed in the old Stormont.

English Expert

The following extract from the interview Ulick O'Connor had with xlists this week which came from Jim Callaghan. (Sunday Independent the Nationwide programme when a ent 4/11/73) will give you an idea of London expert on statues failed to how even "an English expert on the Irish problem" as he loves to think at Brixham in Devon. The statue himself, understands so little of the was King Billy, of course. I would have thought that the whole world knew that." (Alf McCreary, Belfast Telegraph 3/10/73).

Ulick. Why had the Labour Government which had some such a monumental job of de-colonisation in India in 1946 not shown more interest in the Irish situation?

Callaghan. Well I don't think the people in the Government knew much about the situation in N.I. then. In the second place I don't look on N.I. as a colonial problem. Ulick. I argued that N.I. had the ingredients of a classical colonial situation, internment without trial, torture, assassination, rule by one party etc.

Callaghan. But in a colonial situation, you have an elite ruling without the consent of the majority. In the case of N.I. a majority which included the working classes had elected the Government.

Ulick. Here it was. I had touched on the English blind spot. Even a Socialist like Jim Callaghan could not see that the landed gentry-industrialist junta which govern N.I. was undemocratic, and they had been kept in power by a gigantic gerrymander which had ensured that the Protestant working classes for fear of losing their position of privilege would continue to vote for the class that exploited them."

Gun in his Hand

When Miss Jean Coulter West Belfast Assembly member told of her discussion with wee man Brian when he declared that if the Six Counties were ever forced into a united Ireland he would be out on the streets with a gun in his hand, at least he would be doing something to prove himself a hero, more so than the Arch-bishop Paisley who has stated that he in contrast would emigrate. . . Well, we will see when that day dawns.

"Mr. Nat Minford, who once made himself famous by shouting from a Unionist platform 'To Hell with his Holiness' has just announced with regret that he has decided to resign from the Orange Order, the Royal Balck Institution and the Apprentice Boys of Derry. He said he resigned so as to become completely impartial. What nonsense. What utter rubbish! This imposter resigned because he stands to gain £7,000 a year as chairman of the Assembly at Stormont." (Orange Cross Number 38).

Tit-Bits

"There was one sad note for all loyalists this week which came from Jim Callaghan. (Sunday Independent the Nationwide programme when a ent 4/11/73) will give you an idea of London expert on statues failed to how even "an English expert on the Irish problem" as he loves to think at Brixham in Devon. The statue himself, understands so little of the was King Billy, of course. I would have thought that the whole world knew that." (Alf McCreary, Belfast Telegraph 3/10/73).

"It will be more difficult for the S.D.L.P. to 'sell' Unionism to their supporters, and to explain that Brian Faulkner meant no real harm on the 9th August 1971, and is really 'a truly responsible and democratic man' But I hope that Gerry Fitt and John Hume will have the guts to try it." (John D. Stewart, Sunday News 4/11/73).

You are behind the times John D., these characters have already tried to sell Faulkner to the people, even some of their friends in the journalistic profession are supporting them in printing 'soft' profiles of the wee man Brian (see Irish Press But fortunately it is too soon for the people to forget the real Faulkner.

"A gaggle of would be loyalists is clamouring to be totally integrated into Britain. What vanity or stupidity makes Mr. Paisley, Mr. West or any of the others imagine that the London interests will keep faith with them once they are helplessly integrated?" (John Morrison, Sunday News 4/11/73).

"Prize idioy for raving rubbish came from a Vanguard member for Derry, Glenn Bar, who declared his faith in the impossible when he said that "Whether Ulster is inside or outside the U.K. it should still retain the link with the British monarchy." How? By kidnapping the Queen of England? (Claud Gordon, Sunday Press 4/11/73).

A call in the Portadown U.D.A. NEWSHEET FOR A NEW LOYALIST 'National Anthem to replace 'God save the Queen.' At a period when the English treat her with contempt, the Scots shrug their shoulders and the Welsh just couldn't care less. Until we in Ulster have the destiny of our own country in our own hands then let us make a start by getting our own national anthem. Don't trust the British. (U.D.A. Newsheet 4/11/73).

Sympathy

THE EDITOR AND STAFF DEEPLY REGRET THE DEATH IN ACTION AGAINST
BRITISH CONTROLLED FORCES, OF MICHAEL McVERRY, O.C., 1st BATTALION,
CROSSMAGLEN, OGLAIGH NA h-ÉIREANN. WE TENDER OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY
TO HIS FAMILY AND COMRADES. Go ndeanaidh Dia trocaire ar a anam.

Students' Demand

We, the students of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Colleges of Education, Belfast, note the particular savagery of the sentences imposed on the defendants at the London Car Bombs Trial. We demand their right of appeal on the grounds that the evidence at the trial was so highly circumstantial and that the news media could have had a prejudicial effect in the intermediate period between verdict and sentence. We also demand that they should have the right to serve their sentence in Northern Ireland.

Help us

The main aim of "Republican News" is to preach Irish Republicanism. Our main plank at present is to support efforts to secure the evacuation of the British garrison from Ireland.

"Eire Nua," the social and economic programme of Sinn Féin, while it provides a useful vision for the Irish people, is only pie in the sky and can never be implemented while there are foreign occupation forces on Irish soil.

This paper can be a better paper and we intend to do just that. We have our critics and we realise that we can not please everybody but we will always listen to constructive suggestions.

While we would like to receive more regular contributions, there has been heavy pressure on our space in recent weeks. At times we had enough copy to increase our present eight pages to twenty pages but printing costs and limited funds do not allow that with our present price of 5p.

Some of our readers will recall our Evening Editions published every Monday and Wednesday from 25th June until 28th August, 1973. We managed to produce 16 issues but had to wind up the project for lack of funds and capable manpower.

The project was not a complete failure; we gained experience and learned valuable lessons.

We hope to publish soon a Republican News Bulletin. In the beginning it will be published three times each week as a free handout. Later we hope to publish it on a daily basis.

We ask our readers to help us to make the Bulletin a success. Send us news and photographs which you consider might be suitable for publication. This request is directed especially to Press Officers of Sinn Féin Cumainn. Correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Editor, R.N.B., 182 Brompton Park, Belfast 14.

They could hardly tolerate it were it fully brought home to them that Ireland has long been reduced to the level of a harem slave forever being criminally assaulted by a depraved imperialist beast out solely to satisfy its own selfish whims and pleasures.

In the years following the Second World War the British press was full of stories about what it called 'the massive ransacking of Eastern Europe by Russia.' We had story upon story of how trains loaded with all kinds of goods were leaving Hungary, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria for Russia while only the empty wagons returned. There was good reason for the Red Czar to do this since most of these countries had joined forces with the invading Nazi hordes whose attack on the Soviet Union had left much of the western part of that country in a ruined and devastated state. Yet while the British press was putting its grossly-distorting searchlight beams on the short term Russian ransacking of former enemy countries British Imperialism continued to plunder Ireland in no less a piratical way — and get away with it.

This plundering of Ireland begun on a large scale around the time of Cromwell when the whole of Ireland's economic structure was twisted and bent to serve the needs of British Imperialism. Since then all economic development in our country has taken place in a manner determined by British interests; and our whole economy has become so completely warped and stunted as a result that it will need to be totally rebuilt from top to bottom in the course of severing the many tentacles of the writhing British reptile which envelop our enslaved land.

The effects of this long and carefully planned plundering of our country may be judged by such as indisputable fact as that the population of Ireland is now only half of what it was before the Great Famine of the 1840's. The Great Famine, during which Irish men, women and children died untimely and terrible deaths in their hundreds of thousands, was itself a direct result of our land being raped by Britain. To feed the Irish easily and cheaply while she took our grain crops and meat products, Britain had introduced the potato which her ocean-scavenging pirates had found in the course of their initial plundering of the New World. But the potato is notoriously sensitive to disease and when the first failure of the potato crop occurred in 1845 it marked the beginning of one of the greatest periods of agony for the whole Irish people. Yet this not need have been the case; for there was more than enough food available in Ireland at the time to feed everyone adequately. But the Irish economy, then as now, was geared only to serve the greed of the British Bulldog. And so while our people were slaughtered wholesale by the black angel of famine huge quantities of home-produced wheat, barley and cattle continued to flow across the Irish Sea.

And to get away from the hunger and the misery and oppression the Irish from the time of the Great Famine began to leave their homeland in tens of thousands — to work as slaves in Britain's industrial sweatshops, to build railroads and towns across the length and breadth of the United States, and to work in faraway Australia and many other corners of the Earth. Most of these emigrants were fully grown when they left — as they are when they leave to-day. Has anyone ever tried to work out the staggering economic loss to Ireland represented by the mass emigration of these sons and daughters of hers? Up to the time they were full grown these Irish people were non-producers, were drawing on the meagre resources of Ireland; and then when they were mature enough to begin giving something back they went abroad and so their labour power yielded value solely for British and Western capitalism. In Britain today it is reckoned that it costs something around the price of a small three-bedroomed house to produce a single worker — from the womb to the time he or she starts work. But whenever a young

From Michael Tobin OUR MAN IN AMSTERDAM

Irish girl or boy leaves Ireland and goes to work on the far side of the Irish Sea Britain gets a worker for nothing. In this, as in so many other ways, Britain's gain is Ireland's loss. So great indeed has Britain's gain been from Irish emigration alone since the Great Famine that even a rough calculation shows that it would be sufficient to fund the whole American manned space programme.

All the while John Bull has dominated Ireland he has always managed to find Irish Shawnees and Quislings to work for him — and against the true interests of the Irish people. Indeed so well adapted has Ireland under the leadership of John Bull's puppets become to serving the needs of British Imperialism and Western capitalism that this has become part of the Quisling Irish consciousness and is taken as an unquestioned fact of life by a great many Irish people of influence whose mental outlook conditioned as it is by the heavy chains of such an accepted assumption is unable to rise above the notion of seeing Irish economic development in terms of making Ireland a little England — which is why they rejoice so heartily whenever a foreign business concern consents to build yet another factory or a tanker terminal. All that such people are concerned about is the building of an many production units as possible and to hell with the long term consequences. For them progress consists in aping Big Brother Britain; and they are not at all interested in the fact that present day economic development in Ireland is oriented almost entirely in favour of foreign business concerns out to make a fast buck and as such is completely against the long term interests of the people of Ireland.

The controlling parties in Ireland today are leading our people towards nothing less than total disaster for the whole Irish nation and Irish culture. Because they accept the planned and organised plundering of Ireland by Britain everything that they do or say merely puts us as a nation closer to the grave. This is why Eire Nua — the Social and Economic Programme of Sinn Féin — is such an Important document. Because it sets out from the basic truth that Ireland's ills are the direct product of our country being a satellite of British Imperialism — and that unless we take Ireland out of its present economic orbit nothing can be done to alter fundamentally a situation in which our country is geared to serving the interests of Britain and capitalism in general.

In the proud tradition of our heroic fighters for freedom the Irish Republican Movement now aims to end at long last the slave status of our country and to make Ireland truly sovereign and truly free.

This is a mighty dream. But at the same time it is more than a dream because in Eire Nua we have a sound and down to earth set of proposals which if put into practice would very quickly turn this inspiring vision into a wonderful reality to be experienced and enjoyed in our daily lives. All that is needed is that this dream, this vision, should capture the hearts and imaginations of the Irish people and we could begin with the task of building a new and truly Irish Ireland — today.