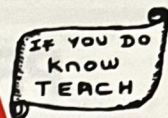


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IRSP
paper
Irish Republican
Socialist Party



SEPTEMBER 1984

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U.S. PROSECUTOR SLAMS PAID PERJURERS

**Exclusive
interview**



* NEW YORK PROSECUTOR DENIS
DILLON.

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**“the legal system is being
twisted to serve
political ends”**

PROTESTS

CONTINUE



Relatives For Justice staged a picket outside Crumlin Road Court House on October 9th, at the resumption of the Gilmore Trial, to protest at what they stated was another "rubber stamping exercise already taken by the political executive in Westminster to find men and women guilty on the sole word of a man known to have been coached by the RUC".

The group have demanded a suspension of all such trials pending a full investigation into the revelations made recently by ex-supergrass Barry Llewellyn that the RUC not only tutored him in his evidence but fed him supplied names of people to incriminate. RFJ claim that an independent public inquiry is a matter of vital urgency given the fact that Llewellyn's allegations have been born out by other 'supergrasses' such as Robert Lean and Jackie Grimley.

The RFJ call on the Churches, SDLP and other parties to start actively campaigning on the use of uncorroborated evidence instead of confining themselves by occasionally issuing press statements in order to gain credibility amongst a massively alienated community on both sides of the divide.

A successful three day protest organised by the Anti Paid Perjuror Group, Relatives For Justice, was held on the Falls Road, at the Allied Irish Bank, between Thursday, and Saturday, 18th - 20th October. The protest consisted of a token fast carried out out on a rota basis by men released on bail and facing trial in connection with the lies of Paid Perjuror Harry Kirkpatrick. A mock cell was built and cut out figures

of Thatcher, Kitson and several notorious Judges were erected. Among the prisoners out on bail who took part in the token fast were John O'Reilly and Gerry Mc Keever, who between them have served the equivalent of eight years on remand.

The signing of an Anti Paid Perjuror Petition by passers by proved to be most successful according to the PRO of Relatives For Justice, Brendan Brown, who said "The amount of signatures collected in such a short time, almost 2,000, coupled with this donations totalling £75.00 that were given altogether the response from people was very heartening and clearly shows the opposition from the community to this mis-use of law. We hope that this support can be built upon and that people will support the future activities which RFJ will be announcing shortly".

He went on to say "The Relatives For Justice would like to thank most sincerely the relatives of prisoners both sentenced and remand who attended the protest, in what proved to be atrocious weather conditions, also the men on bail, some of whom took time off work to attend".

Over the next few months, Relatives for Justice will be stepping up their campaign against the Paid Perjurors combining street activity with a lobbying campaign in England in mid-November. Another American observer will be arriving in Belfast within the next three weeks to monitor the Gilmore trial. We, the relatives, ask the people to come out and support all future activities.



Q. Dennis, could you tell us exactly what your job is in the US.

A. I'm the District Attorney for Nassau County. That's a State Prosecutor. I'm an elected Official for a State of 1.3 million people, and I've got 130 lawyers working for me. I've been a prosecutor for more than 20 years and I've headed the most successful 'strike-force' for prosecuting the Mafia in the history of the States. I've also been active on Civil Rights issues and have been a policeman.

Q. You've met several of the legal profession while you've been over here, what did they tell you about the supergrass system.

A. Well, they told me how the legal system was being bent in order to cover the deficiencies of what actually should be done in the political field. They explained to me that what exists here in the north of Ireland is not what we have in normal Western democracies. There is no consensus of the governed here. The Catholic population have never given their consent to be governed. This means that the British government has to use all sorts of repressive policies to maintain the status quo. The legal system it seems is being twisted to serve political ends.

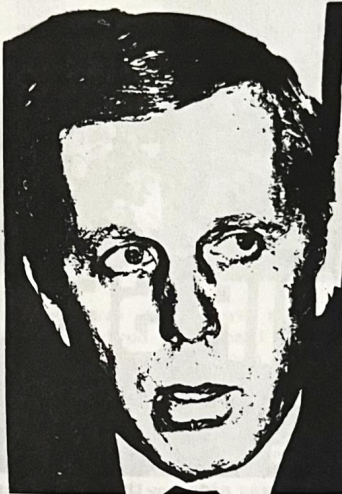
Q. You saw John Hume when you were here. What did he say.

A. Well, John Hume agreed that the supergrass system was very bad. He said that it should be scrapped. But I see a contradiction in John Hume's behaviour in the United States when he is over there and what he says here. When he is in the United States all he talks about is IRA and INLA violence. No one ever hears about the repressive policies being pursued here. He lets them off the hook everytime.

Q. What way do the British Government present the use of supergrasses in the US.

A. Well, there is not really much criticism or pressure on the British Government the whole issue needs more publicity and that is what I intend to do when I get back to the States.

DENIS DILLON WAS IN THE NORTH
ON A FACT FINDING TOUR ABOUT
THE USE OF PAID PERJURERS.
"SAOIRSE" GOT AN EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH HIM.



Q. What is the comparisons in the legal system here and that in the US that you could draw.

A. Well, first of all there are State Laws and Federal Laws, two separate systems of courts. In the Federal system of courts it is legally possible to convict on the word of an accomplice, but of course we would have the added safe guard of a jury. In practice they just don't convict. In New York State for eg., that's where I'm the Chief Prosecutor, evidence HAS to be corroborated before a prosecution can be brought: so you see even in purely legal terms, without the added aspect of the political use of the law, there are quite a few serious differences and deficiencies in the law here. What it does is allow a government intent on carrying out politically repressive policies the scope to do so.

Q. What do you think of the size of the trials here.

A. Yes, that's another very worrying aspect. The large number of defendants, thirty and forty are common numbers and make it very hard if not impossible for the individual to get a fair trial. I think the word 'Show Trials' have been used in connection with the system here and I think there is a large element of truth in that claim.

Q. Is there any comparisons with the Bill of Indictment in the US.

A. Well in some states you have it. But in New York you have to take it to a Grand Jury of 23 people to see if the proceedings go ahead.

Q. Some prisoners have been on remand for over two years now, in some cases almost three years. Is there any way you could see this happening in the US.

A. No. In the US there is the right to a speedy trial, and if the people are held in jail it forces the state to have a speedy trial. There is no such thing as a two to three year remand. In fact cases would be dismissed for undue delay.

Q. Bail is very hard to get here, why do you think that is.

A. The length of remand and the persistent refusal of bail is a fairly obvious way of keeping people the authorities don't like out of the way. The abnormal length of remand and refusal of bail amounts to internment by another name.

Q. What do you think of the deals the RUC offer the supergrasses

A. The granting of immunity is like buying testimony. Its a totally unreliable form of evidence. As for the deal Harry Kirkpatrick is supposed to have been offered, well thats really incredible. Not only that but the fact that Kirkpatrick is a five times convicted murderer, that's really hard to believe. That he's going to get into the witness box to give evidence against almost 40 people in a non jury court. What type of evidence is he going to give.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to say.

A. Just one thing. In our experience of resettling Mafia people who have given evidence it has always rebounded on the prosecution. It has often turned out they ended up blackmailing the Attorney General's office for more and more money or selling their story to the papers and saying their testimony was lies. Here, where you have a supergrass system being used for directly political purposes it is totally impossible to have any type of justice.

DEGRADING PRACTICE



● International Women's Day 1984, outside Armagh prison

November 11th, 1984, marks the second anniversary of the introduction of Strip Searching of Women Prisoners in Armagh Jail.

This policy involves prisoners being required to take off all their clothes in the presence of a number of screws, sometimes as many as six or seven. Prisoners are strip searched on each and every occasion they leave and return to the jail. Thus any prisoners who is attending court, can over a period of weeks be strip searched twice a day, every day!! Strip searching takes place regardless of whether a woman is having her period or pregnant. As was the case of one of the five Republican Socialist Prisoners in Armagh Jail, Jacqueline Moore, who recently gave birth to a baby.

Quite naturally the prisoners feel this policy is an attempt to humiliate and degrade them, and thus they frequently refuse to remove their clothing. In all such cases this leads to the screws forcibly removing all the womans clothing.

The reasons given by both the Governor and the Northern Ireland Office for the enforcement of this policy is that it is required for "SECURITY REASONS". They refuse to explain what security risk they are attempting to avoid and indeed it is impossible to imagine what risk there

could be, since the women are at all times in the custody of either screws or the RUC, and do not at any time come into contact with any member/s of the public while attending court.

PUBLIC MEETING.

In September of this year, a Public Meeting was held in Conway Street Mill, to discuss the issue of Strip Searching. Out of this meeting it was decided to organise a campaign in order to highlight and stop this degrading practice. At the meeting a Committee was elected and a campaign of lobbying and public demonstrations decided upon. The first of these was the Torchlight Procession on the Falls Road, on Wednesday, 24th October, 1984.

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BLOOD BAR.

The latest antic of the N.I.O. is to prevent prisoners from donating blood. When a number of Republican Socialist prisoners approached the prison governor about the matter they were told that it would not be possible and that "anyway, some people might object to taking blood from prisoners".

When Saoirse contacted the N.I.O. about their position concerning prisoners becoming blood donors they said there were practical reasons why they couldn't become donors, such as security and suitable sites where they could be bled. When asked how the chest x-ray unit was brought to the prison every year the N.I.O. spokesperson shrewdly replied "ah yes, but that is for the benefit of the prisoners themselves". He also added that they were currently examining petitions from several prisoners regarding blood donations and a decision was expected within a few days.

Saoirse also approached the Blood Transfusion Service and asked if they would have any problems about going into the Kesh to get blood. Mr Loughlin of the Service said they had been asked before to go into the prison but had been refused permission by the N.I.O. Although they had been to Crumlin Rd. Prison and Magilligan to bleed prison officers. When informed that the prisoners were again trying to donate blood and the N.I.O. were 'considering' their petitions, Mr Mc Loughlin said that they would be glad to go anywhere to get blood.

FAMILY'S ACTION PAYS OFF

A Family of Ten were forced to occupy the Moyard sub-office of the Housing Executive, and successfully pressurised the Housing Executive into finding them accomodation.

INTIMIDATION.

George and Eileen Wilson moved to Salford Lancs in 1963. They had four children and had another four while they were in England. In September 1984 they decided to come back to Belfast mainly because of the amount of intimidation the children were receiving. The children were being regularly beaten up and called "Irish Bastards" and told to go back where they came from. If the children retaliated the police were sent to the parents, at one stage Mr. Wilson told the police that if the older children kept hitting his children, he would hit them. He was told by the police that if he did, he would be prosecuted. It got so bad that the children could not go out to play.

RETURN.

Mr. and Mrs Wilson then decided to come back to Belfast. When they arrived here they stayed with relatives for the weekend. On the Monday they went to the Social Services on the Whiterock Road to see if they could be placed in a hostel. The Social Services seemed quite willing to accomodate the family. The Wilsons have eight children aged from 3 years to 17 years. They were told to come back to the Welfare Office the next day, but the following day

*OCCUPYING THE

HOUSING

EXECUTIVE.



the relative they were staying with received a call from the Social Services saying that they could do nothing for the Wilsons as they had made themselves homeless by leaving England. The only thing they were prepared to do for them was to pay their fare back to England...Of course the family refused as they didn't want to go back.

They went to the Housing Executive and filled in an application form to be housed here in Belfast. After waiting three weeks without any word from the Housing Executive and the Social Services refusing to help them, the Wilson family decided to take matters into their own hands.

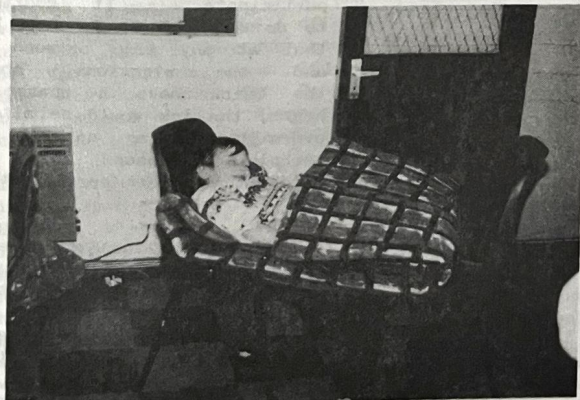
ACTION.

They moved into the Housing Executive sub-office in Moyard to squat. The family that they had been staying with lived in a three bed-room maisonette and with the Wilson

family staying there it meant that there were FIFTEEN people living in the one flat, ELEVEN of these were children. The family were in the sub-office for eight days when a maisonette was vacated in the Moyard hostel. Mr Wilson then phoned a Mr Dunn of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, and they were at last placed in the Moyard Hostel, where they are now waiting to be re-housed. Mr and Mrs Wilson would like to thank the members of the Ronnie Bunting IRSP cumann who both helped them and highlighted their case, while they were in the sub-office.

EXECUTIVE NEGLECT IN DIVIS

Following a very serious incident last week when a young boy nearly plummeted to his death down a rubbish chute in the Milford Block, the Loughran/Mc Larnon/Mc Cann Cumann of the IRSP has called on the Housing Executive to make sure that all rubbish chutes in the complex are properly maintained and secured to avoid any more accidents like this one. A spokesperson for the Cumann went on to say that all the chutes and rubbish containers should be secured especially the one in the St. Comgalls Block where the bins are regularly pulled out and tipped up on the streets by young children, creating a health hazzard. If the bins were properly locked away this problem would not occur.



*SLEEP-IN PROTEST.

U.S. Militarization of Central America



"NO DIALOGUE WITH THOSE WHO ARE MURDERING OUR PEOPLE"

Run up to the first free elections in Nicaragua.

Election day in Nicaragua is the 4th November, that is two days before the United States Presidential Elections. The registering of voters took place between the 27th and 30th of July, the Friday and Monday of which period were free days from work.

Of an expected one and a quarter million voters (out of one million six hundred thousand) who were expected to register, one million four hundred and fifty thousand had put their name on the list at the end of the specified time. Many of these are poor and poorly educated peasants who never voted before in their lives.

This massive turnout is seen as a huge vote of confidence by the people in the path the revolution in Nicaragua has chosen. Also of great significance is the threat which existed of a boycott by a large section of the right wing parties of the elections. Either a sizeable portion of their own supporters registered in any case, or their support is minuscule among the people....

Since the weekend of the 28th-29th, date set as the deadline for the inscription of political alliances (and technically political parties), has yet again been extended. On the 4th August, two more right wing parties declared themselves willing to think about participating, and the Government of National Reconstruction granted an extra day in the hope of a move. However, the situation remained the same - seven parties participating and a group of some five small right wing parties boycotting.

The seven participating are the FSLN, not yet technically a party, but rather a movement which led the Revolution to victory in 1979; the Independent Liberals; the Social Christians; the Socialist Party and the Communist Party of Nicaragua; the Movement of Popular Action-Marxist-Leninist (MAPML); and the Democratic Conservatives. Of these the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front) will have the overwhelming majority of votes, being as it is, the vanguard of the masses, and born directly from them. In the Mass Assembly that has been guiding the Revolution since 1979, the FSLN is in a large majority, through its members in trade unions, agricultural organisat-

ions, citizens defence committees and others. The Liberals, Christians and Conservatives above mentioned result from splits in their respective groups.

Of the parties abstaining, their titles consist of some four words inter-changed; Liberal, Conservative, Democratic, Independent, etc. Whats in a name? - they all represent business and landowner interests, and group themselves in the so called Democratic Union.

The Electoral Commission, set up at the outset by the Government of National Reconstruction, has been bending over backwards to try and accommodate this Union and thus have it participate. It continues to do so, and it is felt here that at any time between now and the elections, should the Union have a change of heart, the law would be altered overnight so as not to let technical reasons bar the broadest possible participation.

What cannot be changed, however, are certain popular measures, long decreed by the Revolutionary Government, which this Union now says are the obstacles to its taking part. Of these the chief is an absolute no! to peace talks with the counter-

revolution which has taken up arms under direction by the CIA, and continues to attack civilians in border areas - both on the Honduran border in the North, and on the Costa Rican border in the south. These bands, composed of ex-Somocist* National Guards and their sympathisers, are criminal mercenaries and not a political opposition. Their importance lies in the fact that the Reagan administration supports and finances their activities. The inevitable conclusion is that the Democratic Union is a direct agent of US Imperialist interests in Nicaraguan politics.

Other indications of this are offered if the remaining points of difference with the Revolutionary Assembly are considered:- a lifting of the state emergency, allowing for a full press freedom, freedom of expression and actions that could be damaging to the economy of the country. Some of these in recent days have been conceded, such as freedom to strike and right of appeal to the Supreme Court, but as yet, the Union has not been placated. The big difference that may not be getting through to European observers, between Nicaraguan politics and Social Democratic politics, is that the emergency measures in force are due to mass demand, embodied in the FSLN, and necessary because of the mercenary aggression against Nicaraguan sovereignty. The opposition thus represent an anti-patriotic tendency, who numerically in any case represent few people in Nicaragua: Its not a two party system any more.

Nevertheless, because of Ronald Reagans maniacal obsession with Nicaragua, the effect of the Union's boycott could be very serious, and indeed the door is open for Reagan to declare the Nicaraguan election "unrepresentative"

It is anybody's guess therefore, in this dramatic Central American Region, what the future has in store. One thing is sure and it may indeed prove Ronald Reagans undoing: to turn back history in Nicaragua, and again establish corruption, exploitation and poverty, will necessitate a war of Vietnamese proportions, and

LUCHAMOS PARA VENCER NO PASARAN!!

ultimately, the sacrifice of nearly the entire Nicaraguan population of 2.8 million people. Who then can we call the democrats, the maniacs, Reagan, Bush, Shultz and Casey, who regard the nations of the earth as just so much of US business's private property, or the valiant Nicaraguan people, forging ahead in the construction of a new and better society, and endeavouring to hold elections to say so?

*Somoza (Anastasio) was the dictator who ruled Nicaragua as his personal property from 1967 to 1979.

SANDINISTA TELLS OF CIA-BACKED TERROR.

In one raid by CIA backed counter revolutionaries a town in Northern Nicaragua had its health centres, radio stations and electricity plant destroyed and seven people killed.

A large audience in the Conway Street Mill on Saturday, 13th October, heard Azucena Del Rosario Antunez of the FSLN describe how the Reagan administration were paying for and training counter revolutionary gangs in an attempt to overthrow the revolutionary government of Nicaragua.

Rosario outlined the considerable achievements of the Sandinista government including a massive literacy campaign in which the illiteracy rate has fallen from 50.3% before the revolution to 10% now. She also explained how over 800 new health centres had been built in even the most remote rural areas and with free education there were now over 166,000 adult

students. These great advances were however being threatened by the US economic blockade and the CIA backed 'contras' operating from Honduras. The terror being waged by the contras had cost over 7,000 civilian deaths and 1,000 million cordobas in terms of economic cost.

In reply to a question about Salvadorean guerrillas's, Rosario said that the revolution there would probably have been successful by now were it not for the US plan to suffocate the revolution in Central America. To this end there were now 15,000 regular soldiers, 10,000 mercenaries and millions of dollars of US aid in El Salvador. Asked about the forthcoming elections in Nicaragua, Rosario replied that there were three left wing parties, one centre party and two right wing parties contesting the elections. The new Assembly will have the power to legislate and pass laws. The meeting ended with a collection in solidarity with the revolution in Nicaragua.



A delegation of young Nicaraguans will be in Ireland between November 21st and November 26th. A meeting will be held in Conway Street Mill on Saturday 27th October, to form a committee to help organise their tour.

STOPPING THE HOODS

JOYRIDING and the stripping of cars in the Ballymurphy Moyard area has become such a problem that parents in the area have gotten together and formed a committee to try and stop the young 'hoods'. The parents maintain that the area has become a dumping ground for stolen cars and that organised criminal elements are behind the systematic stripping of cars. The committee decided to go out and stop the young hoods in the cars.

The first car was stopped on Saturday, 13th October. Two strangers drove the car into the estate and the hoods from the area started to strip it. That's when the parents stepped in and chased them. They called the RUC and gave the registration number and waited for them to contact the owner and collect the car. They waited with that car for nearly four hours. The next one was on Tuesday, 16th October, the same thing happened, when they got in contact with the RUC. They could not trace the owner and the parents were with that car for over five hours. In the end the RUC told them that the only thing they could do would be to leave the car and after a lot of argument they finally drove the car away themselves. The next car the parents got was in the early hours of Friday morning, 19th October, 1984, when they stopped the car themselves with the hoods in it. They went through the same procedure as before, this time they were less than an hour with the car when the owner and the RUC collected it. After they were gone they had quite a bit of hassle from the hoods, some were carrying sticks but no one was hurt.

The IRSP recognise that a real social problem exists in Ballymurphy/Moyard with stolen cars and organised crime, and we support the decision of local parents to form an Action Committee, but we cannot support the bringing of the RUC into the



areas. They are looking for any excuse to try and divide and worm their way in. They will then only seek ways to repress and terrorise the Nationalist working class people. In the next few weeks we in the IRSP will be seeking to find a way which will try to stop the stolen cars and organised hood problem, without the involvement of the RUC.

The amount of money involved is relatively small in Exchequer terms. Ironically millions of pounds of allocated social security money goes unclaimed each year in N. Ireland. Not forgetting the billions of pounds of taxpayers money that multi-nationals have received over the years in order to window-dress capitalist reality (De Lorean etc).



SO YOU WANT THREE MEALS A DAY!!

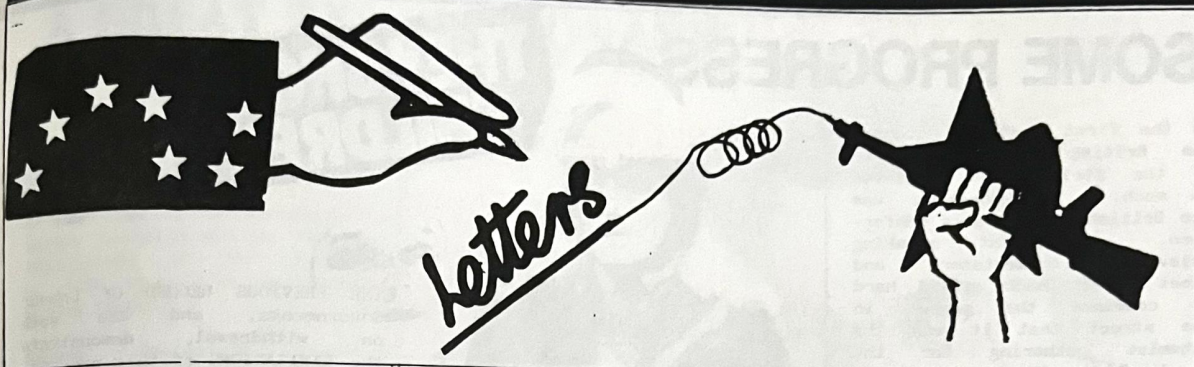
The excuse the D.H.S.S. have offered for the increasing hard-ship already experienced by un-employed single people, is that in the past some single people received grants and then simply disappeared. So the response by the D.H.S.S. to the actions of a few individuals is to introduce a repressive policy which will probably intimidate some people from applying for needs grants.

In Newry within the past few weeks at least five young single people were confronted by the return of a repressive policy with regards to obtaining Needs Grants. This requires the claimant to produce written evidence to prove that he/she tried to obtain private accommodation prior to receiving the tenancy of public sector accommodation. Failure to do this disqualifies the claimant from applying for a needs grant.

A claimant can be asked to produce up to 15 letters from estate agents, landlords but the Newry D.H.S.S. have "generously" been accepting four in most cases. However only three Estate Agents provided the necessary letter, others required fees of £1.00 and £2.00, which even the D.H.S.S. found unacceptable. Also it is hard to find many helpful Landlords.



IRSP
advice
392 FALLS Rd.
mon-fri 10



A Chara,

The Knights of St. Columbanus are blaming working women for taking jobs away from the young unemployed (Irish News 28/9/84). Such a suggestion is an insult to the women of Ireland, not to mention the young unemployed. The unemployed youth have suffered the brunt of Thatcher's Monetarist policies and the policies of her Dublin counter-part. The only woman guilty of keeping anyone out of work is Thatcher herself, this the working class know only too well.

Anti-women statements like this are hardly surprising coming as they do from a reactionary right wing Roman Catholic group like the Knights of St. Columbanus. The stifling dogma of Roman Catholicism so well propagated by people like the Knights of St. Columbanus contributes a lot towards the ruin of Irish youth. One only has to look at the tragic death of young Ann Lovett and her baby in a lonely churchyard last January to see this. Such tragedies will repeat themselves as long as the Church holds the views that it does.

After the graveyard tragedy we heard Gemma Hussey, Minister for Education, saying never again will such a tragedy happen in Ireland. But what has Mrs. Hussey or any Minister done to prevent such things happening again? Have they introduced Comprehensive Sex Education in Schools? Have they even the will to do so? No, because the church doesn't allow it. The whole system of education in Catholic Schools is geared towards pupils of middle and upper class origin with the working class indoctrinated in their role as wage labourers from day one. However, the workers are proud of their class, not least because of their great history universally

These Knights go on to say that they accept a women's right to work. The very nature of these Knights is that they see women just as they see working men and that is as profit making labour power and reproducers of profit making labour power hence their violent opposition to contraception and anything that might lead a woman's right not only to control her own body but to her own self determination.

The Knights of St. Columbanus are of a class who are more and more becoming aware that they can no longer supply the needs of the society they have created and with their dying breath try to blame who they mistakenly believe to be the weakest of the weak, namely the women. HOW WRONG CAN THEY BE! Because it will be with a strong women's movement united with a strong socialist movement who will finally deliver their class and system the coup de grace.

Is mise le meas.

Eamon Mc Callion, H1 Long Kesh.

A Chara,

I would like to reiterate my enthusiasm for the scientific socialism of William Thompson of Co. Cork (1775-1833).

It is hard to believe that he pre-dated Marx's Communist Manifesto by a quarter of a century and his Das Capital by forty odd years. It is a puzzle to me why Irish Socialists shy away from Thompson while on the continent he is revered as the Socialist, who before Marx, broke away from the Utopian Socialism of Hegel etc. This man, contrary to the Utopians of his day attacked the bourgeois class from pope,

kings and capitalists and fairly put the blame of the wretchedness of the workers and peasants where it belonged-on the laps of the wealthy classes.

Would it not be fair to say that we have underestimated the importance of Thompson's work because he was an Irishman from the class he was castigating or a non-entity in Ireland, thanks to the suppression of his works by that ruling-class.

Any Irish Socialist who wants to further his/her education should read Thompson and if I had my way I would make it compulsory reading for any aspiring revolutionary socialist alongside Marx, Engels, Lenin and Connolly etc. His works on Labour Value-Feminism and his book "Right to the whole produce of Labour" are certainly revelations to the first time reader who would be forgiven for thinking they had been printed in the last ten years.

We as a vanguard Party cannot afford to overlook such an important Irish Socialist

as Thompson. We as a nation haven't too many philosophers of this stature that we can afford to ignore him. All the deductions from his teachings lead towards the revolutionary action of the working-class.

My deductions are that the IRSP must rectify our ignorance of an Irishman whose scientific socialism, after all, pre-dated Marx.

David Williamson
HBlock 1

SOME PROGRESS

On the first week in October, the British Media had one of the field days it loves so much. The occasion was the British Labour Party Conference. Confident speaking television commentators and Fleet Street hacks tried hard to convince the person in the street that it was the schemist gathering for the year! Supposedly looney motions certain to alienate the average voter, were passed by the dozen. But why all the media fuss? More importantly, what relevance did it have for the underpaid, and unemployed here in Belfast.

The conference took place against the backdrop of the miners strike. For over six months the National Union of Miners (NUM) has been conducting one of the most significant strikes in Britain for the last 50 years. In relation to Ireland, recent events have highlighted to delegates the repressive situation here. This was particularly so with the case of plastic bullets, strip searching and the judicial system. Just in case any of those at the conference supposed that we enjoyed economic bliss, record unemployment figures for the artificial six county statelet were issued during the course of the conference.

IRELAND.

Class differences, evident in the miners' issue inevitably emerged again when Ireland was debated on the last day of the conference. Alex Kitson of the T.G.W.U. was once again wheeled out by the leadership to counteract motions on Ireland. Knowing that a motion which was critical of the UDR/RUC Brits would have a good deal of support he argued that it not be put to a vote - rather than calling on delegates to vote against it. Very interestingly he was unable to use the lack of justice in the Free State to back up his arguments. Referring to the call for a return to Jury Courts, he used the old bogey man of the intimidation of juries. As an alternative to Jury Courts but a supposed improvement on the single Judge Diplock Court? he suggested the use of three Judges per trial as used in the notori-



THEY SHOOT CHILDREN

THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF Labour Governments, and the vote on withdrawal, demonstrate the LIMITATIONS of this process.

NO SURPRISE

The IRA bomb in the Grand Hotel in Brighton has once again shown what Thatcher and Co. can expect as long as they continue with their Imperialist murder and mayhem policy in Ireland.

Even though the bomb failed to take out its intended targets, it was in no way a failure, all the talk of it being an election boost for Thatcher and a set back for Sinn Fein is nothing but dribble. Firstly if the Tories could get elected at the last General Election when Britain was in the depths of depression with unemployment at an all time high and their record of savage public spending cuts then the Brighton bomb won't make one iota of difference on whether they get elected again or not. The idea that its a set back for Sinn Fein can easily be dispelled by taking a trip round the Nationalist areas of occupied Ireland where you will hear people talking about "How unfortunate the Provos were". Contrary to what Fr. Faul said, i.e. that the majority of Catholic people were horrified by the bomb, instead they were dismayed that it was not fully successful.

Another cry that was uttered was that this was a diabolical attack on democracy. But what about the democracy of the 1919 election in Ireland and what about the changes of the rules after Bobby Sands was elected to Parliament? Attacks on democracy only seem to be relevant when they are directed against the British.

LABOUR PARTY CALLS FOR PLASTIC BULLET BAN.

ous Special Criminal Courts. However, the leadership's advice was rejected, plastic bullets, paid 'informers' and strip searching in Armagh were criticised by the conference. A call to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and to return to Jury Trials was also passed.

Unfortunately, the leadership's advice on one of the Irish motions was followed. This motion called for the withdrawal of Troops. Even one of the more 'radical' M.P.s, Martin Flannery, who chairs the back-bench committee on Ireland spoke against the motion. The motion was well defeated. Well worn arguments such as blood baths, etc. were used to justify the chauvinistic refusal to withdraw their occupying imperialist army from our country.

CONCLUSION.

The motions on the Miner's Strike, Plastic Bullets, Jury Courts, Strip Searches, Paid 'Informers', etc. are welcome. However, motions will neither secure victory for the Miners, or end repression here. Concrete action not words are what is needed. We should be encouraging the more radical sections of the labour Party to push for such action. HOWEVER,

A GREAT REVOLUTIONARY

ON OCTOBER 5th, 1977, SEAMUS COSTELLO WAS MURDERED IN DUBLIN, BY ARMED MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS PARTY.

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON.

At the time of his assassination Seamus Costello was the National Chairperson of the IRSP and an IRSP Councillor on Wicklow County Council.

Seamus Costello's history as a Republican Socialist dated back to 1950's. He first became interested in the struggle for National Liberation and Socialism in 1953, when he read of Cathal Goulding's arrest in Britain, following an arms raid on the Officers Training Depot at Felstead in Essex. At the age of 15 on one of his many visits to Croke Park he bought the 'United Irishman' and immediately applied to join the Republican Movement. However, he was told "to come back next year". Costello did and was accepted into the ranks of the IRA and Sinn Fein.

IRA CAMPAIGN.

During the campaign of 1956-62, Seamus Costello commanded an Active Service Unit in South Derry, their most publicised operations being the destruction of bridges and the burning of Magerafelt Courthouse. Those under his command described him as strict but radiating.

During the campaign of 1956-62, Seamus was arrested in Glencree, Co. Wicklow, 1957, and sentenced to six months in Mountjoy. On his release he was immediately interned in the Curragh for two years. Costello, as a prisoner, was described by fellow internee's as quiet, rarely joining others in play acting, preferring deep discussion and reading. He was a member of the escape committee which engineered the successful escape of Rory Brady and Daithi O'Connell amongst others. In later days Seamus Costello always referred to his days in the Curragh as "My university days".

He took part in the critical analysis of the 50's campaign, agreeing that it had failed due to the lack of 'popular involvement' as distinct from 'popular support'.

"Any revolutionary movement that cannot defend its own membership, and cannot demonstrate its capability of defending its own membership, goes out of business anyway. We are in business as a serious revolutionary organisation and we are not going to be put out of business by anybody. The IRSP is organised and it is here to stay."

— Seamus Costello, March 1975

HISTORIC ORATION.

In 1966, he gave the Historic Oration at the Wolfe Tone Commemoration in Bodinstown which marked a significant departure for the left of the Republican Movement. It was the result of years of discussion within the Movement ably assisted by Costello.

"We believe that the large estates of absentee landlords should be acquired by compulsory acquisition and worked on a co-operative basis with the financial and technical assistance of the State, ... our policy is to Nationalise the key industries with the eventual aim of co-operative ownership by the workers... Nationalisation of all Banks, Insurance Companies, loan and Investment Companies".

In this oration Seamus Costello went on to say that 'Armed Struggle' is not only justified but necessary to achieve the aim of National Liberation and Socialism, and this remained his position up until the time of his assassination.

Seamus Costello was also instrumental in getting Sinn Fein to drop its abstentionist policy and in 1967, he stood with Joe Doyle in Bray and due to hard work by Seamus and his comrades, they won two seats on Bray Urban Council and one on Wicklow County Council. Costello stayed with what became known as the Official Republican Movement in the split of 1969/70, which gave birth to the Provisionals. It was not that he disagreed with the use of armed struggle,

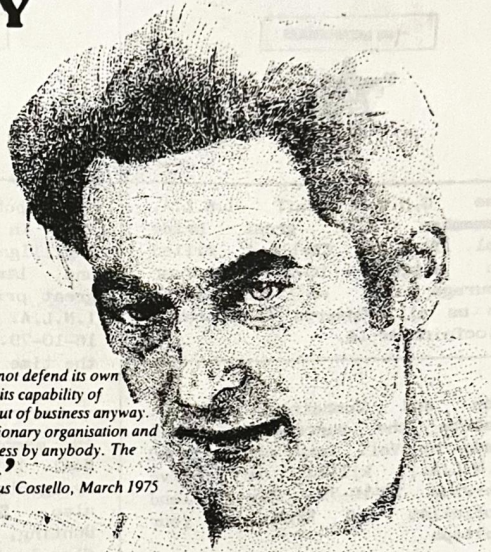
but he saw that the struggle for national liberation had to be linked to the struggle for Revolutionary Socialism. Costello also saw the necessity for a united Republican and Socialist front against British involvement and oppression in Ireland. So for the next few years he worked untiringly to try and unite the Movements into a cohesive attacking force, to gain National Liberation and Socialism.

IRREPLACABLE.

The failure of both the Officials and the Provisionals to budge from their positions thwarted any unitary moves, and with the drift of the Sticks into reformist and reactionary politics and their ceasefire, drove Seamus Costello to rethink his position within the Officials.

The formation of the IRSP in December 1974, was an historic step. It was a reaffirmation of the revolutionary ideals of James Connolly and a clear intention that a unity of the National and Social Struggles was the only way forward. Throughout his work in the Republican Socialist Movement,

Seamus Costello displayed great qualities of leadership and political principle. His contribution as a revolutionary republican socialist was irreplaceable, but if his murderers thought that they had smashed the Republican Socialist Movement then they have been proven to have failed.



IN MEMORIAM



The G.H.Q. Staff I.N.L.A. remember with great pride Vol. Tony mc Clelland, killed in action, 16-10-79. Your courage is an inspiration to us all. Onwards to victory. Tiocfaidh Ar La.

The Ard Comhairle I.R.S.P. salute the supreme sacrifice made by Vol. Tony mc Clelland I.N.L.A., killed on active service 16-10-79. May Ireland Socialist and Free be your epitaph.

The G.H.Q. I.N.L.A. remember with great pride Staff Officer Ronnie Bunting and Vol. Noel Little, assassinated by agents of British Imperialism 15th Oct. 1980. May their courage be an inspiration to us all and guide us in our aim of a 32 County Socialist Republic.

The Ard Comhairle I.R.S.P. remember with great pride Staff Officer Ronnie Bunting and Vol. Noel Little, assassinated by the British 15-10-80. We pay tribute to our Revolutionary comrades who were not afraid to hold the torch and show the way.

The Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair I.R.S.P. with pride and sorrow remember our fallen comrades Ronnie Bunting and Noel Little whose revolutionary zeal will remain an inspiration to us all

The Belfast Brigade I.N.L.A. salute their fallen comrades Ronnie Bunting and Noel Little, assassinated by murderous agents of the British 15-10-80. From the graves of Irishmen and women spring living nations.

The Tony mc Clelland cumann I.R.S.P. remember with great pride Vol. Tony mc Clelland killed on active service 16th Oct. 1979. The loss is great now, as then, but time has only increased our determination.

IN MEMORIAM



The Republican Socialist Prisoners in Long Kesh, Armagh, Magilligan, Crumlin Rd, Portlaoise and Limerick remember with great pride Vol. Tony mc Clelland I.N.L.A. killed in action 16-10-79. Onwards to victory the time has come.

In memory of my uncle Vol. Noel Little I.N.L.A. murdered by agents of British Imperialism, also Staff Officer Ronnie Bunting, 15-10-80. The peoples flag is deepest red, its shrouded oft our martyred dead, and ere their limbs grew stiff and cold, their hearts blood dyed its every fold. Always remembered by his nephew and comrade, Paul.

The Ronnie Bunting Cumann I.R.S.P. greater Ballymurphy, remember with great pride our comrades Staff Officer Ronnie Bunting and Vol. Noel Little I.N.L.A. Murdered by agents of the British 15-10-80. They never strayed, even onto the point of death. Let us draw our inspiration from them.

Bunting Ronnie, 4th Anniv. In proud and loving memory of my husband and our father Ronnie, Brigade Staff Officer INLA, assassinated 15th October 1980. You are with us always, deeply missed by his loving wife Suzanne and his children Fiona, Deidre and Ronan.

The Loughran, Mc Larnon and Mc Cann Cumann I.R.S.P. remember with great pride comrades Ronnie Bunting and Noel Little, murdered by agents of the British 15-10-80. They may kill the Revolutionary but never the Revolution.

We remember with great pride our friends and comrades, staff officer Ronnie Bunting and Vol. Noel Little, murdered by fascist agents of British imperialism on 15th Oct. 1980. Sadly missed and always remembered by Kevin, Joan, and family.

IN MEMORIAM

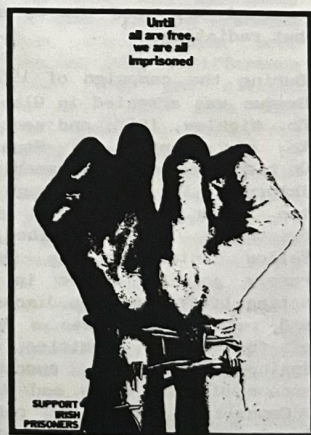


The Republican Socialist Prisoners in Long Kesh, Armagh, Magilligan, Crumlin Rd, Limerick and Portlaoise remember with great pride their comrades Staff Officer Ronnie Bunting and Vol. Noel Little murdered by agents of British Imperialism, 15 Oct. 1980. May Ireland Socialist and free be their epitaph.

We remember with pride our dearest comrade and friend Vol. Noel Little, murdered on 15th Oct. 1980 by agents of British imperialism " The loss is great now as then but time has only increased our determination. Never forgotten by Liz, Jim, and Ciaran.

We remember with pride our dearest comrade and friend, Staff officer Ronnie Bunting I.N.L.A., murdered on 15th Oct. 1980 by agents of British imperialism. The great only appear great because we are on our knees, Let us arise. Always remembered by his friends Liz, Jim, and Ciaran.

Until
all are free,
we are all
imprisoned



Little Noel, assassinated 15th October 1980. A true friend deeply missed, Suzanne and the children.