



REPUBLICAN NEWS

"THE VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

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republican Belfast honours patriot

dead



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In view of the current talk saying that the British White Paper establishes democracy in Ireland, we must remember our ultimate goals and how the White Paper fares in relation to them. It makes no step whatever towards a true solution of our problems, and in that spirit the following FACTS have to be borne in mind:

1—Two gerrymandered political satellites are still perpetuated in Ireland. The ending of such a deplorable condition depends on the goodwill of Messrs. Craig, Paisley, Faulkner and other Unionists' leaders. Some hope!

2—Legitimate political parties are either made illegal or harassed or both. Their members are shot dead, interned or jailed on trumped up charges (e.g. Ruairi O' Bradaigh). Harassment of Provisional Sinn Fein is a terrible obstacle. For instance, after a meeting at Andersonstown to form a 9-County Sinn Fein Executive, three Sinn Fein officers leaving were arrested and taken for screening. Sinn Fein spokesmen are all but banned from the media, North and South and across the Irish Sea.

3—Internment goes on, and has in fact been intensified to include Catholic girls and Protestant workers. The courts are a farce, depending too much on the dubious discretion of judges.

For example, Martin Meehan was cleared for escaping from lawful custody, since it was accepted that he was not in lawful custody at the time. Yet a man who escaped with him in similar circumstances got jailed for a considerable time.

Statements, usually phoney, which are tortured out of unfortunate people in the hell holes of Ballykelly and Holywood, are accepted.

Many Catholics are banned from juries on the basis of their religion. In effect, many are rigged.

4—The "arrest" by the RUC Special Branch of those lucky enough to get safely through the afore-mentioned chitade goes on. 37-year old Emmanuel McFarland from the New Lodge Road is one of many.

5—Many innocent people are arrested as "leading Provisional IRA Officers." William Reed (a fictional training officer for the Belfast Brigade) and Frank Cahill (a supposed finance officer for the Belfast Brigade) are two of many, whose cases have at least been revealed. The others are uncountable.

6—British soldiers continue to murder innocent Irish civilians. They get off Scot free, and their officers cover up for them.

The idea that many of those grievances will vanish if the Irish Republican Army calls a cease-fire is nothing short of an

The Facts points to be remembered

evasive attempt to force the IRA into a surrender to British blackmail. The issue is whether we must work a system that permits those atrocities; not whether we accept the daft... 'necessity' for them.

It is basely unfair to expect the Republican Movement to sacrifice the methods which will achieve their goals for the sake of an end to the ban on Sinn Fein, internment, etc. The onus would be undeservedly shifted.

For all that, what good is striving solely for an end to internment and general repression if one of the world's biggest gerrymanders (Britain's insurance) still stays? We would only be back to a frustration of true democracy. A concession on the Border MUST be made, whereby politics will be restored to a normal level, and Sinn Fein can put its "Eire Nua" — as it desperately wants to — before the entire Irish electorate. From the silence of the SDLP and others on this aspect of the aftermath of the White Paper it would seem that they are accepting this "democratic majority" rigmarole.

One thing is certain, and this motivates the Republican reason for not removing Britain's infantile "justification" for her repressive, anti-people policies; while repression and partition stay Irish freedom and democracy is a myth, and if we simply remove one of those two factors which would perpetuate the myth it still remains a myth. It also becomes as big a confidence trick as was the suspension of Stormont Parliament, for while that was a victory it was useless if it was not to be the first step to a full blown Irish Republic,

We must make a firm resolution now, with the Assembly elections coming up and the superb "private" Republicans of the SDLP mooching our votes. That resolution must be that whether the British try and beat us with their traditional big stick or, unlikely as it seems, if they resort to killing Republicanism "by kindness" we will stick by the *Irish Republic, we will tell England that we want our country and not our rights as concessions*. As General Liam Lynch said: "We have declared for a Republic and we will live under no other law."



Above: A Free State Army soldier searching a civilian in Mary's Lane, behind the Four Courts in 1922.



Above: June, 1922, Free State Army artillery pounding the Four Courts, Dublin, which caught fire and eventually exploded, allowing the Free State Troops to close in, forcing the IRA Volunteers and most of their executives to surrender.

EASTER STATEMENT 1973

FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

The message of Easter 1916 has relevance for the Irish people to-day which needs to be underlined. Pearse and Connolly declared:

"The right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible."

They stated that the long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government had not extinguished the right nor could it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people.

The essential truth of the Easter proclamation has withstood the test of time. Fifty years of so-called independence has been exposed and shattered for the evil it is, and Britain in typical Tory tradition, has assumed direct military control of the occupied part of our country, and indirect political and economic control of the rest. The arrogant British claim to rule our country now stands exposed before the world, and in conflict with it is the assertion in arms of the God-given right of our nation to be master of its own destiny.

The Republican Movement has been consistent in maintaining the fundamental right of freedom and sovereignty. Acknowledgment of that right by Britain has been and still is the key proposal of our peace plan. History, truth and justice sanctions no other course and bitter experience has taught us that without freedom there will never be peace in our land. Great sacrifices have been endured over the last three years for that basic truth: — almost one hundred of our Volunteers have died in action nearly a thousand linger in prison camps and heroic splendid people of the North have withstood the terror of an Imperial Army.

The enemy has paid a high price for its action against our people. The casualties inflicted and the toll taken of British wealth and prestige have demonstrated the capacity of the Irish people to win their country's freedom. Our Volunteers have fought hard, conscious of the obligation to protect civilian lives and unmindful of the sacrifices they themselves have incurred to achieve final victory. Their dedication, courage and fighting ability have made them the true successors of the men of 1916 and assured for all a future in a new and free Ireland.

The movement has outlined its political and economic proposals for the New Ireland. Account has been taken of the diverse traditions in our nation and we are confident that those Ulster Loyalists who have suffered insult and infamy at the hands of the Imperial Government will come to realise that their future lies with the family of the Irish people as a whole. The positive, practical proposals of our Movement surpass all others put forward to date and we urge all Irish people to work for their speedy implementation.

As in previous generations, certain sections of our people remain aloof from the struggle, while others actively oppose it. Church leaders in particular have developed a dual standard of morality, condemning the actions of resistance, while ex-

cusing the brutality and murder of the enemy. When this war is over, those people shall stand indicted before history for the wrong they do to their own people and the comfort they give to the enemy.

In conclusion, we affirm our pledge of loyalty to the people of Ireland. We are conscious of the grave responsibilities which weigh upon our shoulders. We are no different from previous revolutionaries in being condemned by the unthinking malicious and hostile. We are confident of the ultimate success of our struggle and we will pursue it until our ancient enemy recognises that peace must be based on justice; it cannot be founded on bayonets.

The struggle for Irish freedom has gone on a long time. It will be brought to a successful conclusion in our day with unity in our ranks, strength in our arms and the active support of our people. We have received it in the past, we enjoy it today and we ask for a greater measure in the future.

A new Sinn Féin Cumann was recently set-up to cater for the Drumcondra/Woodtown/Ardee/Collon area. At a well attended meeting the following officer board was elected:

Chairman: James Foy; Secretary: Marie Gibney; treasurer: Michael O'Donoghue; P.R.O.: Seamus Gaffney.

The Cumann was named after the recently deceased Peter Duffy. One of the first events organised was a very enjoyable Supper Function held recently. All proceeds from this function go to An Cumann Cabhach. It is hoped that in the coming months we shall be able to raise further funds for this very worthy cause. We wish to express our gratitude to all those who supported us and hope that we can continue to rely on their support for further functions. Mise le meas, Seamus Gaffney, P.R.O.

SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL

eíre nua

CO-OP

BRITISH POLICY WILL COLLAPSE

Mr. Whitelaw's address to a Conservative Conference in Westmoreland was a naive attempt to arrest the flagging morale of the British people and forces as a result of the war in the Six Counties. His proud boast that the security forces are winning the war is redolent of Mr. Faulkner's famous claims of the I.R.A. dying eleven times in 1971. Today, when Mr. Faulkner fights desperately to secure a nomination in the backwash of Unionist politics, the organisation he pronounced dead is a bigger threat than ever to British rule in Ireland. Mr. Whitelaw could do better than ape the futile propaganda exercises of his predecessor unless he has a death wish to take his place in the backwash of Tory politics.

Mr. Whitelaw is correct in stating that the scale of arrests over the last three months is unprecedented since internment of August 1971. The indiscriminate detention of innocent people has reached a level whereby the facile claims that the majority are 'Provo chiefs' is now well worn a joke in Belfast. Accuracy and integrity were never a part of British army propaganda and when the Secretary of State is reduced to peddling the outpourings of a panic stricken army, it indicates the seriousness of the British position.

Mr. Whitelaw could have told the Conservative Conference that British Forces killed 39 civilians since the beginning of the year. The massacre of six civilians in the New Lodge on February 5th was worthy of special mention. He could also have stressed that Kevin Heatly was gunned down in Newry on February 28th and the policy is still in force as witnessed by the cold blooded murder of Tony Hughes and Eddie O'Rawe. The failure to kill Geraldine and Damien Reel outside their home on Saturday night can be dismissed as a mistake on the part of the sold-

iers. It is no longer necessary to have "mysterious killings" since the British Army can kill at random with the knowledge that Mr. Whitelaw will stand over their actions.

The Secretary of State did not inform the Tory Conference that the I.R.A. had inflicted over 25 fatal and 100 non-fatal casualties on the security forces for the same period. The British Exchequer has a bill for over £1,000,000 as a result of economic sabotage.

Despite operation Motorman, British rule is still not possible in the Six County area and in fact it becomes more impossible and criminal each day. One would not expect Mr. Whitelaw to mention that only one civilian died as a result of IRA action and that fatality could have been avoided if the British Army had acted on the warning given.

Mr. Whitelaw has great hopes for the 'whiff of politics' emitted by the publication of the White Paper. The brutality of the security forces is rapidly turning the same 'whiff' into a very unpleasant odour. Even the sturdy nostrils of Curry and Hume, who have demonstrated a strong constitution for the stench of Stormont Castle, are beginning to twitch at the brutality inflicted upon the beleaguered people. Perhaps in time, Bishops Conway, Philbin and Daly may venture into the ghettos and realise what it means to live under the jackboot of British militarism.

Mr. Whitelaw is free to shout victory to the British Army as often as he likes. The media North and South guarantees him wide circulation. He should remember however, that oppression strengthens resistance and the Irish are not as gullible as the men who control the media. Truth eventually triumphs over falsehood and despite the rosy claims of British successes the facts point to an eventual collapse of British policy in Ireland.

BOYCOTT OF ALL ELECTIONS

The announcement by the Whitelaw Government that Sinn Fein is and will remain a proscribed organisation does not surprise anyone. In fact, it shows just what section of the working class people Whitelaw fears when it comes to the election field. The announcement spells out loud and clear that these croppies who are prepared to turn the other cheek no matter what the harassment from the unlawful occupiers of our country must at all costs be kept underground and their voices must not be heard.

We say to Willie Whitelaw now and until you and your band of British savages are driven from our country we will boycott your elections but when the time is right and when we can go into the ring without our hands tied behind our back we will contest elections, not on British terms but on terms laid down by fellow Irishmen. To these fellow Irishmen we say has the contents of the recent British White Paper not been well enough exposed these past few weeks. In the Carrickmore area alone numerous searches, arrests and harassments have hit many a working class family. This is only a sample of what is to come and what the ordinary man and his family will suffer if we are all brain-washed into voting another set of power seeking politicians into the new assembly in the forthcoming elections.

Don't forget our menfolk who while lying in the concentration camps are not allowed to print 'Long Kesh' on their handicrafts. Instead on orders from that well-known gentleman Mr. Truesdale they must have respect for the Queen of England and print 'Her Majesty's Prison Maze,' on their handicrafts.

I'm sure these men and boys who have had their freedom taken away for no other reason than being Irish care little for the Monarch of a foreign country or her feelings of having her name printed on their handicrafts so at the minute our menfolk are refraining from sending out handicrafts for this very reason.

the greatest team

They were a versatile team, those fifteen men of my youth
They came from the four corners of Ireland
And represented virtually all avenues of life
There was the Dublin barrister, teacher and poet named Pearse
And the ever smiling and gay McDermott whom Leitrim gave
There was the veteran Clarke and forceful Connolly
Ceannt and McDonagh of the Sweet Words
Plunkett was born for less arduous things, but he played
As did Daly, Mallin, O'Hanrahan and McBride
And Casement, princely Casement
And young Colbert from Limerick, and he only eighteen
Houston, too, was so young and gentle Willie Pearse
They all played – and lost
But never was defeat more glorious
From it was born a timeless dream which will never die
Yes, I reckon that they were the greatest team of all time
Those fifteen men of my youth.

VANGUARD BULLYBOY TACTICS

Mr. Malachy Foots, spokesman for the Sinn Fein Ulster Council, said he regarded the recent threats from Vanguard on the occasion of the opening of the Sinn Fein Offices at Andersonstown as typical bully-boy tactics.

"They have the hall-mark of typical Unionist tactics since the British partitioned Ireland against the will of the majority of the Irish people," said Mr. Foots.

"Vanguard are outraged because we are clearly making political advancement in spite of British Army harassment. It seems that they have only one philosophy, namely the old discredited Unionist war cry of 'not an inch,' he concluded.

A poster issued in May 1916, shortly after the deaths of the leaders of the rebellion.



BIRMINGHAM

SINN FEIN

WILL NOT GO

UNDERGROUND

Birmingham Comhairle Ceanntair, Sinn Fein, deplores the fact that members of a legal political party were roused from their beds in the early hours of Friday morning, 13th April, by British Security Forces," said Mr. Michael Gallagher, in a statement issued at Easter.

"The fact that personal belongings and party literature were taken away without a receipt can only be regarded as unjustified harassment of members of a political party."

Mr. Gallagher, who is Secretary of Birmingham C.C. said: "Sinn Fein in Birmingham will continue to operate as a legal political party and to expose the violence used by a totalitarian bureaucracy against our fellow-countrymen. We re-affirm our support for those who are struggling for freedom and justice.

"The deafening silence from Leinster House and so-called Irish organisations in Britain leaves an awful lot to be desired. However, we are sure that the harassment of Irish Republicans in England have made the Irish Community at least aware what it is like when you ask for your rights and are met with bayonet and jackboot."

ORATION GIVEN BY
MR. DAITHI O CONAIL,
VICE-PRESIDENT
SINN FEIN, AT THE
EASTER
COMMEMORATION
CEREMONY IN
MILLTOWN CEMETERY
BELFAST,
SUNDAY 22nd APRIL
1973

REMOVAL OF FOREIGN BODY IS FIRST STEP

Today we celebrate the victory of life over death. Throughout the Christian world people derive strength from the knowledge that the Redeemer of man conquered death and rose to give new hope and courage to all mankind. Here in Ireland we traditionally gather at Eastertime to remind ourselves of the great Resurrection and to remember those of our own race who sacrificed themselves down through generations for truth, justice and freedom.

As Republicans, it is but natural that our thoughts should dwell on those friends and comrades who have died in recent times and whose remains lie in the graves around us, one has but to glance at the newly dug graves and realise the tremendous price which has been paid by you the people of Belfast for justice and freedom to triumph over injustice and slavery. In communion of spirit with our departed comrades we join them today seeking God's mercy upon their souls and pledging our loyalty to the cause they so nobly served.

Let our thoughts dwell also on those not of our Movement who have lost their lives in the struggle for Irish freedom. Some were old, some were very young like Tony McDowell; men of different religious persuasions but all had one thing in common: children of the Irish race, our fellow countrymen and women. The pain suffered by their relatives was no less than that which we experience when our own comrades die.

It is appropriate for people to ask: why did they die? The answer is simple and yet so difficult to grasp: they died for freedom. For centuries, our people have hungered for freedom; in every generation the right to liberty has been asserted in the face of impossible odds and despite defeats and reverses not extinguished nor will it ever be, except by the destruction of the Irish people.

Today, the central issue in the war is one of conflict between Ireland's right to freedom

and England's determination to keep us in subjection. All other issues are subordinate to this basic point. There can be no compromise on the fundamental issue as to who should rule Ireland: the British Parliament or the Irish people. We have had 800 years of British ineptitude in ruling Ireland; we have never known rule by the Irish, of the Irish, for the Irish. Until we do, we shall never enjoy peace and stability in our land.

There are those who say it is too much to ask of Britain that she acknowledge the right of the Irish people to self-determination. We do not think so. We ask of England that which America gave to Vietnam, France to Algeria and Britain herself to her former colonies of Palestine, Cyprus and Aden. Britain gained in prestige by withdrawing from those countries; she will own universal respect by withdrawing from her first and last colony.

A British withdrawal can be secured by the Irish people North and South, at home and abroad acting in unison to achieve it. The need for unity of purpose was never greater in view of the proposals of the White Paper and the campaign of terror of the British Army. Mr. Whitelaw believes a whiff of politics backed up with the mailed fist will purchase one half of us and intimidate the other. Those who gave a qualified reception to the White Paper are horrified at the brutalities of the Paras in Ardoyne, Newry and Armagh. But expressions of horror are not enough; they will not restore to life the bullet ridden bodies of Eddie O'Rawe and Brian Smyth or console the grief stricken parents of young Tony McDowell. Let there be but one message for Mr. Whitelaw: we reject your White Paper and we will resist and defeat your terrorists.

The struggle has reached a stage where there is no longer any room for ambiguity. Irish people, no matter where they are, have a duty and obligation to stand shoulder to shoulder with the embattled people of this

war torn city. The enemy employs every weapon of discredit and demoralised force; the killing of defenceless citizens and failing of innocent people and the character assassination of those who spearhead the resistance. Mr. Whitelaw has proved himself an able successor to Mr. Faulkner, surpassing him in the head court of the dead, the roll call of the jails and in the plundering and wrecking of homes. He should not forget that Stormont was brought to its knees and so too shall his corrupt and cruel regime.

No significant section of our people want the British presence in Ireland today. Even those who formerly believed in the connection with England have suffered insult and injury at the hands of the British Government. The rejection of the White Paper by the loyalist community is a step forward towards identifying the common enemy. We can go forward to establish common interests bearing in mind that the essence of loyalty is unselfish service to ones family, community and nation.

There is but one nation in this island country. There are many diverse traditions which have been exploited in the past by an alien power to keep us divided. Removing the foreign body is the first step towards healing the wound in our divided nation. Respect for the positive traditions of our respective communities will take us far along the road towards formulating a new society which will guarantee peace and prosperity for all.

The future of Ireland is the concern of the Irish people as a whole. The future of Ulster can only be determined by the people of Ulster. We have outlined our proposals for a new Ulster and we look forward to the day when fruitful discussions can take place between the leaders of the loyalist and Republican communities. Then, and only then, will true peace, reconciliation and reconstruction take place.

God speed the day.

your man says

I liked the reaction of the shipyard steelworkers when they were told of the sell-out by their English-based leadership of their trade union. Said Sandy Scott "Direct rule from London is one thing, but to have it imposed from Newcastle is quite another."

The problem between the steelworkers and management is in relation to bonus earnings, and the Republican News criticised the other unions for not standing firm with their workmates, but it seems whether they like it or not the other unions are being sucked into the struggle against not only management but also the Tory Government in England.

In the Republican News 7/4/73, we quoted the new wage agreement for all workers in the yard, which could give them continual increases right up to 1974, and which would also do away with the differences in wages paid in the Belfast shipyard and those in England and Scotland.

It was this wage agreement that made Dan McGarvey the union leader sell-out the steelworkers, who wanted their bonus to be increased on top of the new wage agreement.

The new wage agreement, is now before the Pay Board, who only agree with wage increases which are in line with Ted Heath's Phase Two of the Pay Freeze.

Andy Barr, chairman of the Confederation Unions is sharpening his knives because he realises that all the unions in the Confed may be taking the same attitude as the steelworkers and withdraw all co-operation from management as a protest against the ruling of the Pay Board that the new wage agreement is not on.

The shipyard could then really shut-down and 10,000 workers would be roaming the streets foaming at the mouth against the Government.

As the Business News supplement to the Sunday Times (15/4/73) says . . . Harland and Wolff shipyard is a Protestant stronghold, and the prospect of these men on the streets with nothing to do, is frightening. Government intervention now seems likely, David Howell has called local union leaders to warn them of the danger."

TED HEATH fought against the Miners, the Gas-workers, the Hospital workers, can he give in to the Shipyard workers . . . because they are loyalists? We could have fun either way.

Identity

At a period in time when the 'loyalists' are running around in circles trying to find their identity - whether they are British or Irish or what-have-you' When even JOHN TAYLOR in reviewing a book on the B-Specials for Hibernia (13/4/73) has a go at the author for saying that he is British first and Irish second. To hell with that says John 'I'm Ulster first and British second' . . . but later poor John disclaims that as Ulstermen are also Irish he would recommend all Irishmen to read the book. Muddled did you say, how much then must be the ordinary rank and file unionist worker be, when he has been trying

to understand the type of leader he has had for so long!

Yet they must have got a shock when Professor Norman Gibson told them bluntly in a speech that . . . "Protestants have, I submit, to come to terms with the fact that they are native born Irishmen. This I believe means that they must accept and learn to build and contribute to a Greater Ireland." I only hope they start thinking as Irishmen and then stride forward to get an understanding that they should be proud of being Irishmen and they should also take their place in the struggle for an independent and free Ireland . . . A New Ireland where all Irishmen will have dignity and will join with all citizens of the Nation to build up that Nation.

Did they know that Norman Gibson is only following a long line of thinking people and Irish men who have faced up to the real situation.

In the 'Word' magazine a few years ago they got together the sayings of many leaders of loyalist thought on the subject of Irish unity and independence and came up with quite a few surprises.

LORD CARSON:

"The only way you can treat Ireland, having regard to her special conditions is to treat her as one entity. The moment you alter that, the idea of governing Ireland with anything like peace falls away."

LORD CRAIGAVON:

"In this island we cannot live always separated from one another. We are too small to be apart or for the border to be there for all time. The change will not come in my time but it will come."

WINSTON CHURCHILL:

"It would be a great disaster to Ireland if the Protestant population in the North stood aloof from a national parliament. Half a province cannot impose a permanent veto on the nation. Half a province cannot obstruct forever the reconciliation between the British and Irish democracies."

At least the speech of Professor Gibson

will have given food for thought to those loyalists hunting for their true identity. All we ask, the same as Professor Gibson, that 'loyalists' should commit themselves to the fact that they are native-born Irishmen and women and that their duty is to their own country.

Jim Kilfedder

Jim Kilfedder, Unionist MP for North Down really gets hysterical when Republicans or Republicanism is mentioned in his hearing and during the recent debate at Westminster on the White Paper he rampaged for 15 minutes screaming that once again the Tory Government was giving in to the IRA. Who smashed Stormont, asked our Jim. It was the Provos yelled Jimmy, and now we have the White Paper another concession to the Provos. Thanks Jim for the compliment, but we are modest people and we suggest, the next speech you make please include all the anti-Unionist people who have fought for many years against the police state of unionism and British imperialism. But the Republican Movement still sees that we have to finish the job as so we keep on fighting. Now Jim Kilfedder is an odd-ball - you remember when in 1964 he stood and won West Belfast with the help of his friend IAN PAISLEY . . . who caused McConnell the then Minister of Home Affairs so much trouble about the Tricolour flying above the Republican Election rooms in Divis Street, that the police smashed down the doors to remove the flag, because they said flying it was provocative . . . Yes . . . in Divis Street.

When Kilfedder had won the election he stood and praised big Ian and admitted that without his help he couldn't have won it. Unfortunately by the time the next election had come round Jim had lost favour in Ian's eyes and he had to

fight on his own. Gerry Fitt won the election in 1966.

In the 1970 election, Kilfedder was selected for North Down . . . and I remember well speaking to a member of the North Down constituency party, the morning after the selection, he told me that Kilfedder had been the most moderate of the panel of people put forward for selection. The rest must have been all Ku Klux Klan members if he was reckoned to be the moderate. It was later made known by Ian Paisley that Kilfedder had agreed to back Paisley's policies otherwise Ian had threatened to oppose him by putting up a candidate from his own party. Even when elected Kilfedder was reminded of his promise . . . by a letter from Campbell McCormick then Paisley's PRO in the County Down Spectator (26/6/70) which stated:

"Jim won West Belfast with Dr. Paisley's support originally, he then lost it when this support was withdrawn, and now he has won North Down with Protestant Unionist support and the non-intervention of a Paisley candidate. We hope Jim will remember this forbearance and justify the faith we have placed upon him . . . parliament's life is but a short span of years."

Is it any wonder poor Jim Kilfedder is getting more hysterical as time passes, he has to keep proving to Ian that he is being a good boy and following the party line, otherwise he will be redundant and have to hunt for a job after the next election . . . so please understand poor Jim when he has to make a fool of himself in asking questions about the IRA slogans inside schools.

DIFFERENT

ONE MYSTERY which puzzles the white Rhodesians (most of whom are born in Britain or are of British parentage) is that if Communist-trained raiders cross the border from Zambia, and lay mines to kill white Rhodesians, our British Press usually describes the raiders as "Freedom Fighters."

If any Irishmen leave bombs around London, they are described as . . . "Terrorists!"

C. E. Groom, Sandgate Rd., Folkstone.



do you care

ABOUT POLITICAL PRISONERS TODAY?

Apparently not many do, for after numerous statements in the Press concerning the appalling lack of medical attention, conditions are still the same for the women in Armagh Prison. On admission your 'thorough' medical examination consists of one question 'Are you fit and well?' Surely the correct procedure would be to try to find out the prisoner's previous medical record and if she is at present undergoing any treatment.

For instance one of the prisoners has been here for almost two years and has yet to be asked if she is allergic to any medicines. Some of the women were and still are in need of operations. But the Medical Staff seem to be under the mistaken impression that two pain killers will cure any illness. For permission to write to your own doctor, a board paper must be sent to the Ministry, which involves weeks of unnecessary waiting. The so called surgery which is a cell with a few cupboards, a sink, a table and two chairs, is really inadequate to cope with 31 prisoners. Peace and quiet are vital to someone who is ill, but this is impossible in a wing full of prisoners therefore a sick bay is needed.

Within the past three weeks, the urgently needed dental equipment has been installed in a cell in 'B' wing, which is presently used by Borstal Offenders.

The treatment is still not up to standard, as the dentist only comes for one hour a week. There is a back log of women needing treatment as well as the boys, and how could any dentist hope to treat so many patients in this short time. Surely due to this large number a full-time dentist should be immediately employed. We are entitled to the same facilities as the public, and yet this dentist does not use the sterilising equipment, he smokes in the surgery and has yet to be seen to wash his hands. We may be in prison, but we are still in need of proper medical attention. So if you do care, show us by giving us your support in this serious matter.

Republican Political Prisoners
'A' Company
Armagh Gaol.

Letters

Dear Sir,

Since 1969 I have read and listened to many of the different points of view both in newspapers, television and all other means of reaching the media. I never before put pen to paper. Not through lack of interest but from something common to many of the Nationalist people of this divided isle "APATHY". But I feel now I must voice my views.

For the last few weeks the Catholic population have been expressing views amounting to the demand of military actions by the Republican Army coming to a halt. Some people are now passing information to the British and RUC. They have been asking the Republican Army to give the White (wash) Paper a chance. I would like to answer these people.

Firstly the demand of a truce. The Republican Army didn't ask for this war, it was forced upon them. If the last few years are looked at objectively it must be realised that it started not in '69 but in June '70 when the British Army imposed the "Lower Falls Curfew." This was the turning point of Republican thinking. So they started retaliating tit for tat against the Brits and exploiters of the Irish people.

And with this the Republican Army started to gain more and more volunteers and public support. Now the Brits didn't like this so they had to TRY and stop it. They started leaning on the Catholic population (serches, physical abuse and so on). This didn't work so they brought in internment. This backfired and Republicans gained even more recruits as well as supporters.

For long enough the Republicans had the entire support of their community as the British Army declared total war on the IRA. What many people don't understand is by the term IRA the Brits mean the Catholic population as a whole. So when Republicans made mistakes the Brits tried their last resort. PROPAGANDA. At this the Brits are past masters and some Republican supporters didn't realise this so they too turned away from the Republican Army. Then we had the Brits last Ace "The White Paper" and with it the biggest propaganda effort ever to take place since the 1920's. Much of this has succeeded as any realist must admit. Some people are now openly speaking against the Republican Army.

But what did the White Paper really contain? Nothing.

Whitelaw says he wants peace. But when this chance was offered to him he shunned it. The Brits broke the truce in July '72 at Lenadoon and also in Portadown.

When David O'Connell offered the chance of a ceasefire in return for the recognition of Sinn Fein, Whitelaw refused this saying they were too close to the Republican Army. Yet the UDA are quite legal despite the fact they work hand in hand with the outlawed UVF. Together they are waging a war against the Catholic population. So where does Whitelaw really stand?

He wants Catholics to shun the Republican Army and turn informer against Republicans. If this happens what will be the outcome? When Republicans are in Long Kesh or shot or in Crumlin Road Jail. The UVF, UDA and USC will then do what they are threatening to do. With Republicans out of their road they will again attack a defenceless people. But while we have the Republican Army in our areas they will never launch a full scale attack on Catholic districts. They will just have the odd skirmish with us. But be in no doubt of this, the Republican Army will and have the resources to defend Republican areas. The UVF know this and are just wait-

ing in the wings until Republicans are out of the way.

So to all informers I say "Think what you are doing. You are leaving the Catholic population at the mercy of UVF extremists and will cause a repeat of 1969. Because the UVF will never openly attack us while we have the Irish Republican Army.

I would like to close by reminding the people of the political prisoners and internees, hoping they will not forget them and keep them in their prayers.

And to the Republican Army I say listen to your real supporters and carry on the fight for freedom.

But don't go too far, stop the high-jacking of supporters cars and treat the Catholic people with respect. They deserve it from Republicans.

I am sorry for dragging on so long but I felt all this had to be said.

Is mise le meas

Supporter from Silverwood.

MESSAGE FROM . . .

Long Kesh

We the internees in Long Kesh Camp, wish to express our sympathy with the families and friends of all our Volunteers who have given their lives in the struggle for freedom.

History will accord to them the honour that they have won -- it is for us to ensure that their sacrifice is not in vain. To this purpose, we pledge our total support to the Republican Movement, in the certain knowledge that only the consistent and honest policies voiced by this organisation can secure for the Irish people that which for generations they have sought -- Freedom, justice and peace.

No British imposed solution can hope to bring about a long term settlement to the problems of our tragically divided island. It is for the Irish people to decide their own future and to seek their own solutions.

We appeal to the people of Ireland especially the people of the warr-torn North to support the Republican Movement. No other organisation has given so much in terms of young lives and years spent in the Camps and prisons of British Imperialism. This alone, is surely the hallmark of sincerity and truth.

We send a sincere, simple and honest 'thanks' to all those who have helped and continue to aid the Movement. To all our comrades in British and Irish jails, we send greetings and solidarity. To the forces of occupation and to their quisling collaborators we say . . .
Ni Siocann go Saoirse!

WOULD THIS TRUESDALE BE ANY RELATION TO THE OTHER WE KNOW?

Two British soldiers on leave from their battalion camp in England were almost caught in 'flagrante delicto' delivering guns and ammo to the Shankill Road U.D.A. Their car, an orange Volkswagen, was spotted by a secret army observation post, 'acting suspiciously' on the Shankill Road area late on Friday night, 13th April, and was stopped at an Army Road Block. The two occupants of the car were drunk and when asked to identify themselves one presented credentials showing himself to be John Wells, 45 Greyhound Farm Walk, Speke, Liverpool 9. They other produced documents showing he too, was from Liverpool.

They both claimed to be civilians staying with a friend of Wells' father, Robert Truesdale of Westmoreland Street. Truesdale is a local UDA leader. They also said they were returning to Liverpool on Saturday night. After checking with Truesdale, who was drinking in nearby Westmoreland Street U.D.A. Club (he almost choked on his whisky when he saw the two Liverpoolians enter the club with uniformed soldiers), the Army decided to release the two men.

The British soldiers then ran a routine check on the registration number of the car and found it was registered as belonging to a British soldier who was on leave in Belfast. They decided to inform the S.I.B. (the army's Special Investigation Branch). After some discussion with the S.I.B. they were told the whole matter was to be investigated at a higher level and if they saw the car again they were to ignore it.

The S.I.B. detectives may care to know (if they don't know already) these two soldiers were using their military I.D. cards to enable them to smuggle guns and ammo into the Six Counties. Large quantities of 7.62 and 9 m.m. ammo and a small number of weapons have been pilfered from armouries in barracks all over England and sent via sympathetic soldiers 'visiting friends in Ulster' to Unionist extremists.

These two Brits had delivered their cargo and were driving to collect their 'expenses' when they lost themselves in the maze of back streets near Northumberland Street. Their drunkenness almost gave the game away and its doubtful if they will be invited to visit friends on the Shankill Road for some time to come.

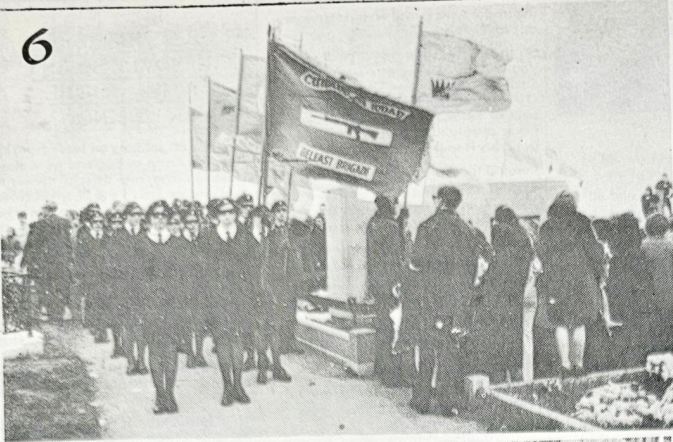
OUR PRESS FUND

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We acknowledge with thanks the following donations: K. McAteer, Belfast, £1; Mr. Mulvey, London, £13. Brenda O'Connor, London, £1.50, Mrs. Garry, London £1.20. The Fund now stands at £62.40

If you compare the enormous amount of money available to the British Propaganda Machine with the meagre amount available to us, you will realise the huge problems confronting us in answering British lies and deceit.

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easter sunday Belfast 1973

1

Daithi O' Conaill, Vice-President Sinn Fein, speaking in Milltown Cemetery on Easter Sunday, despite the presence of 25,000 British security forces in Belfast.

The arrow points to Republican veteran Sean Malone, one of the few survivors of the 1917 Belfast Commemoration.

2—Advance party in Beechmount Avenue before parade moved off.

3—At De La Salle Brothers' Home. Over 5,000 paraded watched by 30,000 spectators.

4—The impressive appearance and smart bearing of Cumann na mBan contingent attracted favourable comment from the vast throng of spectators.

5—Colour party at new Republican monument.

6—Flag of Cumann na mBan, Belfast Brigade, attracted much attention.

7—The colour party was one of the highlights in the parade.

8—Some of the wreath bearers.

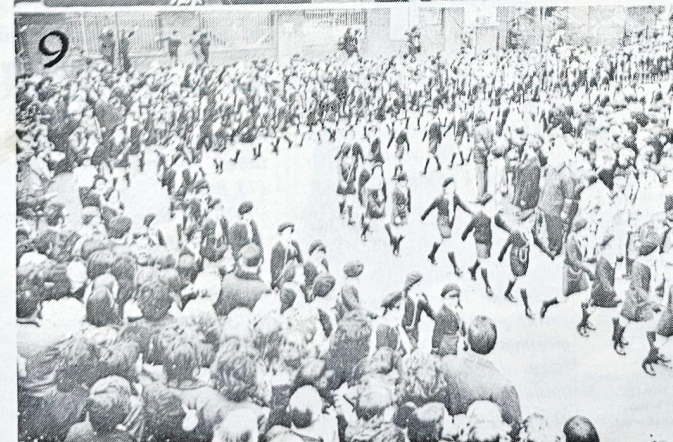
9—Hard work and planning produced a wonderful turn-out.

10—Picture shows marchers on Falls Road. Both sides were thronged from Beechmount Avenue to Milltown Cemetery.

8



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All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, Republican News, 182 Brompton Park, Belfast.

We would like to know what's going on in your area . . . you may send your comments, statements, photographs, cartoons and letters to the above address. Don't forget our letter page . . . we pay £2 for the best letter each week.