



AN CAMCHÉACHTA THE STARRY PLOUGH

NEWSPAPER OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY

SAMHAIN / NOVEMBER

15 PENCE

DON'T LET THE PRISONERS DIE!

AT THIS moment, seven prisoners are on hunger strike in the infamous H-Blocks of Long Kesh. They are demanding the restoration of political status — a status which was taken away from republican prisoners in 1976.

They believe that the only weapon remaining to them is that of the hunger strike. As of the 27th of October, seven blanket prisoners — six from the Provisional Republican Movement and one from the Irish Republican Socialist Party — began a hunger strike.

This strike will continue until their demands have been met or until their deaths.

This hunger strike has the active support of every republican and republican socialist prisoner in the Six Counties.

The time has come for all to voice their support for the prisoners. It is no longer possible to sit on the fence and allow the prisoners to suffer the degrading conditions imposed by the British Government.

Let your voice be heard!
Don't let the prisoners die!

STARRY PLOUGH EXCLUSIVE



Brendan Hughes



Tommy McKearney



Sean McKenna



John Nixon



Tom McFeeley



Raymond McCartney



Leo Green

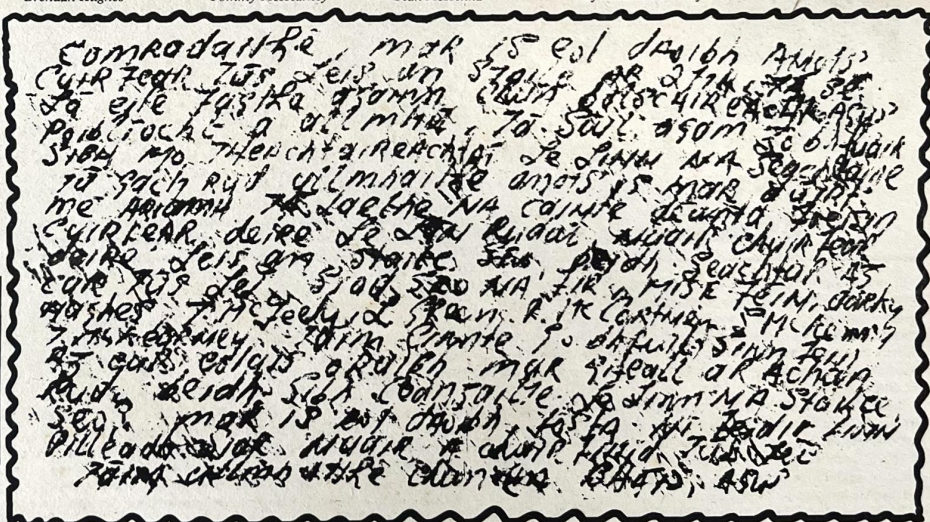
In the words of
a hunger striker...



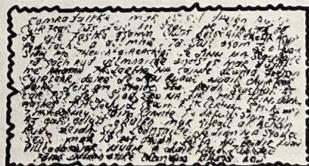
The days of talking are over — many things will be decided by this strike.

I and my fellow hunger strikers are prepared for death... we are depending on you and are sure that you will do your best to harness support for our demands.

With this support, we are confident that we shall win.



WE reproduce here part of a communication from Long Kesh hunger striker John Nixon. The communication, which was written in Irish, was smuggled out from the H-Blocks shortly before the hunger strike began.



Actual size of
the smuggled
message

SAS AT GRANSHA?

SEE BACK
PAGE



FREE NICKY KELLY

In mid-October Nicky Kelly one of the three IRSP members tortured and framed by the Heavy Gang and convicted in the juryless Special Criminal Court will have his application for leave to appeal against that conviction heard by the Chief Justice. He, like Brian McNally and Osgur Breatnach before him, is determined that his innocence be proven. His case is one which concerns all Republicans and Socialists.

Nicky Kelly, a native of Greignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny, but living in Arklow, prior to his conviction, has a record of involvement in national and local politics. He was active in assisting the beleaguered population of the 6 Counties to defend themselves against the Loyalist murder gangs. In addition he was involved in campaigns for adequate hospital and medical facilities in Co. Wicklow.

Disillusioned with the totally reformist politics of Official Sinn Fein, Nicky became a founder member of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, and was active in pursuit of its political objectives.

Nicky was arrested in Arklow on April 5th 1976, ostensibly in connection with a mail train robbery. He was taken to a Dublin Garda station and refused access to a solicitor. Like Osgur Breatnach and Brian McNally, Nicky was immediately subjected to intense psychological and mental torture in order to force him to sign an incriminating statement. At one stage his girlfriend was arrested and Nicky was told by the Heavy Gang, that she would be charged unless his signature was forthcoming.

He had been in illegal custody for 18 hours — when he signed a statement prepared by Detective Garda Tom Dunne of the Special Branch. It was 3 a.m. on April 18th. He had been tortured continuously for 48 previously.

TORTURED

The following are examples of the torture, taken from Nicky's evidence to the court:

"... rammed my head off the locker ... spreadeagled ... jabbed in ribs ... slapped in face ... legs kicked ... fell on ground ... spread-eagled behind door ... door opened ... fell on ground ... refused to get back up ... hit on back with chair ... hair pulled ... head put down toilet ... knee in groin ... spat in my face ... insulted ... told tomorrow's a long day ... eventually you'll sign ... back of ears hit, chair legs placed on my palms as I lay on floor ... Detective Finn sat in chair and spat in my face ... both ears hit simultaneously ... beaten by blackjack on biceps, above knee ... cried ... frightened ... didn't know what they were going to do to me ... very tired, sore, ears ringing, bad headache, stomach sick ... afraid for my life ..."

Two independent doctors and two prison doctors examined Nicky later on April 8th and 9th. These are some of the injuries they recorded:

"... extensive bruising on outer arms from shoulder to elbow, left shoulder blade, ribs, pubic bone, left hip and thigh, left ear, wrist, above nipples, buttocks and large bruises on his right arm continuing to the back of the same shoulders measuring 7" X 7" ..."

Nicky Kelly had been in illegal custody for 18 hours before signing the incriminating statement prepared for him. He had been tortured for nearly 3 days. He was held for a further 19½ hours before being charged in court.

On December 10th 1978, after two trials, his conviction imminent despite his innocence and his health still bad, Nicky Kelly jumped bail and escaped to the U.S.A. In his absence, he was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for a crime he did not commit. In fact, the Sallins mail train robbery, was later claimed by the Provisional IRA.

In the U.S.A. Nicky was treated in three hospitals for severe depression, chronic headaches, insomnia and concurrent nightmares that re-enacted the special branch tortures. Since last June, he has been undergoing psychiatric treatment.

In May of this year, following the successful appeal of Brian McNally and Osgur Breatnach, he was returned to Ireland to clear his name. He was arrested at Shannon Airport and jailed.

His forthcoming appeal will be based on the same grounds as those of his two co-accused who were freed on appeal — his conviction based, like theirs, on so-called "voluntary statements".

His health is deteriorating and he was recently brought to hospital for tests.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party demands:

The immediate release of Nicky Kelly.

A public inquiry into the torture and conviction of Brian McNally and Nicky Kelly.

The immediate abolition of the Special Criminal Court.

H-BLOCK CAMPAIGN NOTES

Dun Laoghaire

The Dun Laoghaire H-Block Action Group, which has been set up for over two months, has been very active in acquiring signatures for the National H-Block/Armagh petition. The group has a stand each Saturday outside Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre at which leaflets are distributed, signatures collected and literature sold.

On Friday, September 12th, the group had a concert in the town's Royal Marine Hotel which was attended by six hundred people. At the concert prominent artists such as Christy Moore, Matt Molloy, Mick Haney, Noel Hill, Mary Black and Tony Linnane performed.

The following day one hundred and fifty people marched from Dun Laoghaire to Bray to show their support for the blanket prisoners. The march, which was organised jointly by the Dún Laoghaire and Bray Action groups culminated in a meeting outside Bray town hall.

Bray

Bray H-Block Action Group has been going from strength to strength. The group has collected hundreds of signatures for the H-Block petition and is currently in the process of lobbying local councillors.

On Saturday September 13th, the action group held a public meeting outside the town hall, following the march from Dun Laoghaire. The meeting was addressed by Yann Goulet, the groups chairman, and by Kevin McConnell and Christina Carney of the National Smash H-Block Committee.

POLITICAL HYSTERIA AT LEINSTER HOUSE

The Autumn session of the Dail is likely to witness an orgy of denunciation and sanctimonious breast-directed at the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey for what could be described as the only positive action he ever undertook on behalf of the Irish people — his role in attempting to arm Northern Catholics against Loyalist mobs and murder groups, the militarised Northern State and the British army in 1970.

Amid all the clap-trap that will be spoken on the subject, hardly anyone will refer to the most important element in the situation that arose over a decade ago; the two nights of horror that saw 500 nationalist families burnt out of their homes, scores wounded and several shot dead in the Belfast pogrom of August 1969. The real culprits in the Dail are other than Haughey and Blaney — their crime was in trying to control and diffuse a political social revolution over all of Ireland and the real question to be posed is not who tried, for whatever devious purpose, to help beleaguered Northern Catholics, but rather who tried to isolate a defenceless population in the face of Orange Pogroms. The answer to that question, if it were posed, is so patently obvious that the peaceful democrats of Dail Eireann must scramble for cover behind the alleged need to safeguard the repressive institutions of a corrupt and undemocratic state.

One of the most pitiful sights in the Dail earlier this year was that of "Socialist" T.D. Noel Browne, leading the van for Fine Gael in his outraged criticisms of Haughey. For a would-be Marxist Browne is singularly naive. For one of the most obvious Marxist tenets underlined by the so-called "Arms Crisis" is the division and autonomy of parliament and the State Machine. Haughey, Blaney, Boland and even the whole of Lynch's cabinet were doing one thing. The department of Justice, the Gardai and Special Branch were doing another. That is to say they were bugging the phones of elected politicians, tailing government representatives and even spying on Army Intelligence Officer James Kelly (one of the few to emerge from the crisis with any honour as well as a ruined and broken man).

Noel Browne's unfortunate obsession with all things national — even the pseudo-republicanism of Haughey — places him on the side of imperialist reaction on this subject. Neither Browne nor any other of Haughey's pious critics, will address themselves to the burning question that raised itself in 1969 and remains today: precisely what are Northern Catholics to do in the face of armed Loyalist murder gangs and the Unionist military machine acting in complicity with the British Army?

It says much for the humbug of public and media debate that this most critical question — which more than anything explains the Northern crisis — is conveniently covered over. In



fact attempts are now being made by the same pundits, academics and second-rate intellectuals to excuse and rationalise loyalist murder and repression. The West-Brit syndrome has always been with us in the shape of Fine Gael and sundry elitist intellectuals who are quite literally ashamed to be Irish. They have bought the message of imperialist culture which teaches that the mere Irish are backward, incapable and given to savage murder for congenial reasons. Obviously any talented Irish person must detach himself from the common herd and its loathsome characteristics. The same aspirant must adopt the lifestyle, attitudes and culture of the nearest civilising agency — Mother England. But the latest crop of West British ideologues are more subtle. They have adopted a radical set of clothes. Borrowing from legitimate struggles elsewhere they adopt as champions oppressed women, workers, black people, Palestinians, American Red Indians, anyone except the exploited working-class milked by Imperialism in their own country.

Now these struggles are ones that socialist republicans identify with far more readily and genuinely than the smooth

female emancipation they complain — but not a word about the most oppressed and heroic women in the land, those in Armagh Jail. Working class trade union struggle is the real way forward, alongside our brothers and sisters in the British Trade Union Congress they claim — but silence on the undisputed fact of British Big Business exploitation of Irish economic resources and labour. Some even support the struggles of oppressed nationalities in the Middle East and South Africa, while branding their Irish counterparts as terrorists and murderers. Indeed it can be said that for some 26 County radicals socialism has become the last refuge of the scoundrel.

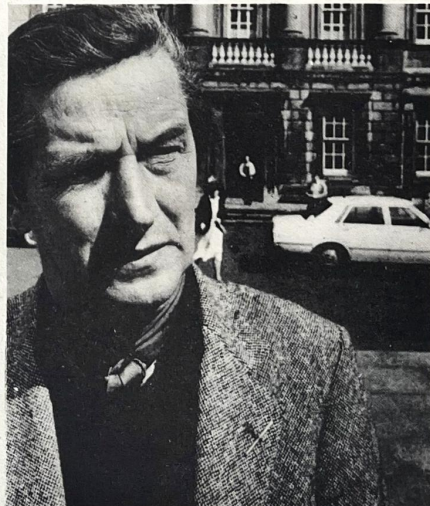
But the most reprehensible piece of political chicanery is that which seeks not only to ignore Republicanism and social oppression, but to actually turn socialist ideology upside down. In this scheme of things loyalist reaction is justified by the incorrigible backwardness of papist Ireland. As we emerge blinking into the cosmopolitan world of a benign, civilised Europe we are

ation, sexuality and that unfashionable ideology, Republicanism that prevents the secular broad minded Loyalist politicians from embracing a democratic United Ireland. Future historians will regard this as a joke in view of the evidence (one speculates with humorous apprehension on the reaction of our cosmopolitan liberals to a Southern Catholic equivalent of Ian Paisley's League Against Sodomy!). But the joke becomes a sick one when placed in the context of the Northern ghetto. The Loyalist ascendancy is based on privilege in every area of life in the 6 Co's; this applies particularly among the working class in the field of houses and jobs as even the recent report (Fair employment?) proves. That privilege is bolstered by the most incredible array of repressive legislation and armed forces ever amassed in such a small population; and it has led periodically to armed pogroms against the white niggers of the North whenever they get uppity and demand civil rights as in 1969.

Which brings us back to square one. It is a measure of the desperate need felt by Southern agents of British Imperialism to cloud those basic issues that the Loyalist ascendancy can be described as some misunderstanding yet well meaning phenomenon. But while the rhetoric and invective employed by Southern reactionaries against republicanism becomes even more hysterical it is their weakness, not ours, that is manifest. Such hysteria reflects a basic insecurity. The Northern was splutters on and a new, more educated (in the revolutionary sense) generation has taken the stage.

This generation of revolutionaries realise that the war in the 6 Co's is a legitimate one — one waged against the forces of occupation and the remnants of a governing apparatus lacking any democratic basis and maintained through injustice, corruption and patronage.

In the South, the storm clouds loom ever more ominous. The propaganda of the Irish middle class and professionals content to act as parasites on the coat tails of British Imperialism will become ever shriller as time goes on. Meanwhile, the slumbering giant of the Irish working class has yet to shrug off the stupefying somnolence of reformist ideas peddled by the Labour Party, the Stickies and Fianna Fail. Apart from the Northern Battlefield that is where the real fight for the Republic will be won and lost.



radicals so prevalent in today's Irish media. But the latter use these ideologies as an attack on the most revolutionary ideology in Ireland — militant socialist Republicanism. When the priest-ridden Irish are not able to grant

lucky to have those tutored in Paris, London and elsewhere to guide us away from our inherently parochial habits. We are told that it is our own narrowminded intransigence on matters such as transubstanti-

Ronnie and Noel were murdered but . . .

THEIR IDEALS

Ronnie Bunting and Noel Lyttle died as they lived — as revolutionary socialist republicans murdered in a conspiracy hatched by the combined military forces of British Imperialism in the Six Counties. The unashamed grief and sense of loss shown in Belfast's Milltown Cemetery last weekend is doubtless mirrored by gloating satisfaction in British militarist and other reactionary circles in these islands.

But in Pearse's historic phrase, they are fools. They understand neither the commitment that drove Ronnie Bunting and Noel Lyttle nor the inspiration that their example — in life as well as death — provides and will continue to provide to countless other Irish men and women. For it was murder on an even grander scale, in the same area and from the same source in August, 1969, that helped spur the two to resistance in the first place. And it was the continued bloody repression, from legal and semi-legal forces, coupled with an understanding that socialist policies were the only answer to such barbarity that brought them to the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

The IRSP mourns two more of its fallen comrades but determines to do no more and no less than they would have wished; to carry on and develop the struggle for an independent, socialist Ireland.

The style and method of the double assassination says

much about the source and inspiration of the crime. Carried out with orthodox military precision the killers had obvious knowledge of their targets and their local surroundings. It is normally unthinkable for any armed group to drive through West Belfast at 4 a.m. unless, of course, one has prior assurance of free access and safe exit. In the final analysis the exact identity of the killers is of secondary importance. For without at least the assistance, or even direct

prompting from the British war machine these and other murders of Republican activists would not have been possible.

Sinister and vivid confirmation of the methods now being employed by British, and British trained, agents came within days of the murders. Last Sunday week members of the SAS and RUC — masked in similar fashion to those who murdered the two IRSP men — smashed down the door of a house in Twinbrook, West Belfast — as they did to the Buntings' household — and tied up a fifteen year old girl in the same manner as was another IRSP victim, Miriam Daly, who was murdered last July. The similarity of methods applied in all three incidents do not prove a common identity but they do show a common pool of experience, training and resources between the British Army, the RUC and UDR,

and Loyalist murder gangs. John Turnley's murder in June, while less clinical and more random, also involved joint RUC and Loyalist killer group members. Given the show trials about to take place for Turnley's murder members of the same groups should take note that they appear to be expendable once their dirty work is done and the need for an exemplary and impartial RUC image is required by their British political paymasters.

In this regard, criticism from Paddy Devlin directed towards the SAS is particularly opportunist even for that SDLP reject. Having attached his colours to the reactionary concept of an independent six county Ulster, Devlin has offered the full weight of his waning credibility to the RUC. He is not so much opposed to the British Army as concerned about the impartial image of what he terms the "professionalism" of the RUC. Republicans and socialists should continue to exploit divisions between the two armed wings of British Imperialism; but we will never take sides between them.

Reaction from other quarters has been equally predictable although muter. The response of the Southern Establishment and media, so morally convulsed over the recent killing of Garda Quaid in mysterious circumstances, has been a loud and studied silence. The assassinations do not slot into the carefully

"THE DEATH THREATS"

Following his arrest and questioning in Castlereagh in August, Ronnie Bunting gave the following statement to the Association for Legal Justice, date 11-8-1980:

'I was arrested along with Sean Flynn and Francis Barry (Troops Out Movement) after a public meeting in the markets area (time of arrest 9 p.m. Friday 8-8-80).

We were all brought separately to the Grand Central. I was illegally photographed by the army despite my protests. I refused to answer any questions.

The three of us were transferred to Castlereagh under Section 11. First night no interrogations. I ate no food during my stay. On Saturday I was fingerprinted and interrogated. I refused to answer any questions, gave name and address. One plain-clothes man asked me to punch him. It would cost me six months in jail, but think of the satisfaction. The first two interrogators said I would be glad to hear a soldier was dead and fourteen police hurt, but many others were dead and injured.



S LIVE ON!



Second interview: Plainclothes about 45, silver hair and big beefy dark haired cop. I refused to answer anything but name and address. The young one said how would it go for me on the Shan-kill. It could be arranged that I would get three slugs in the head, then these people could inspect me on the slab in the morgue. The silver haired man had vainly but ingeniously tried to strike up a conversation with me. The beefy cop said twice 'You are a bad bastard and we'll get you'.

Third interview: I had requested to see the duty inspector twice to complain about the death threats. My requests were ignored. [plainclothes, early forties, country intonation]. When this person realised I wasn't going to answer questions he said I'd be killed by him. The method would be a shotgun. I would be unrecognisable in the coffin. When I got what I deserved, my 'daddy' wouldn't be there to 'hold my hand'. I got a lot of sardonic remarks about my father attending my court case. The coffin would be burned to destroy my lice-ridden and flea-ridden body.

The older cop's partner, straight-haired, blondish. The older cop said 'look at my face'. 'This is the face you'll see before I kill you.' I broke my silence and asked these cops their names. They refused to give their names. I was told if my father killed me, any Irish court would award him a medal. They wouldn't convict him.

I was told my family would suffer what the Trainor family in Portlaoise suffered. I complained to two doctors and the duty inspector. [uniformed] about these death threats.

T. R. Bunting

Following the recording of this statement, Mr Bunting made a formal complaint to the R.U.C. at Queen Street.

cultivated picture of Republicans as presented by the yellow press. In recent times every act of non political violence and crime has been falsely and deliberately attributed to Republican groups. The fact of Ronnie Bunting and Noel Lyttle's murders says too much about the motivation and reality of Republicans faced with sectarian murder that is sustained and encouraged by the British war machine.

Another reason for the absence of any outraged reaction from the peaceful constitutionalists of the Free State is their paranoia concerning the IRSP. Their usual hatred and fear of genuine republicanism is compounded tenfold when it comes to the socialist philosophy and practice represented by Bunting and Lyttle. The spectre of red republicanism stalks Southern capitalism nervous of both the social effects of the Northern war for a real republic and as a working class that could waken at any moment from a slumber caused by relative and artificially induced prosperity.

Leinster House politicians and Ireland's nouveau middle class, enriched by the 'terrorism' of previous generations and their own sell out deals with British and other multi-nationals are not sorry to see the likes of Ronnie Bunting and Noel Lyttle wiped from the map in such bloody fashion. They will

sleep easier for it and will privately thank the assassins while their paid script writers in the media prepare future reams of pious and high sounding denunciations of violence; Republican violence, that is.

The Catholic Hierarchy's sanctimonious voice is missing too in stark contrast to the usual chorus directed at Republican acts of warfare against Imperialism. Ronnie Bunting, in particular, would have expected that. While rejection of his Loyalist background was a clear decision to side with the Northern population against Imperialism he had, along with Noel Lyttle, an equal contempt for clerics of every denomination who sided with the Establishment against working people. The most sickening, if irrelevant comment came from Republican Clubs the Workers Party who denounced the assassinations as 'brutal and callous'. It is not so long ago that the stickies attempted to murder Ronnie Bunting themselves. Having failed to do so they gave the contract to the UVF who placed details of Ronnie's lifestyle and movements in their magazine Combat. Just in case any Loyalist assassin could not recognise him the stickies obliged by printing similar details in the 14th March, 1975 edition of the Irish People along with a photograph of Ronnie Bunting. In a cynical attempt to

disguise their active collaboration with the fascist murderers of the UVF they added: 'Although the two groups (RCWP and UVF) concur in their accusations it is likely that the UVF information comes from its own independent sources and not via the Republican Movement' (sic).

It is necessary to expose the hypocrisy of such groups in order to reach a true appreciation of the contribution made by the two to the Irish people's struggle for liberation. Regardless of their membership of the IRSP both men would have merited recognition from friends and foes alike. Noel Lyttle was an active socialist since the early sixties joining what many then saw as a socialist alternative, the now moribund Northern Ireland Labour Party. But involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, including the notorious Loyalist/RUC Burntollet ambush, convinced him of the need to leave that pro-imperialist party and he helped to found Peoples Democracy. Disagreement in PD on the National Question, Republicanism and support for armed struggle led him to break away and he became the most prominent member of the Red Republican Party. After detailed political discussion with Belfast IRSP members earlier this year he joined the Party. But his main contribution throughout the last decade was his tireless, almost superhuman efforts on behalf of Republican prisoners and their families for political status.

Politically, his work for the Relatives Action Committee, and latterly the National H Blocks Committee was of the finest quality and was backed up by a commitment that lasted 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. On a personal level Noel showed his concern for any and

every relative by offering whatever human comfort and attention possible no matter how trivial or inconvenient such demands may have appeared to others. Noel Lyttle would have been a target for reactionary murder gangs whether or not he joined the IRSP and our loss, and that of his family, is shared by hundreds of political prisoners and their relatives.

Ronnie Bunting followed a remarkably similar political course. Radicalised firstly by involvement in student politics at Queens University he soon applied such radicalism to the immediate situation. Refusing to shrink from the logical conclusions of his socialism, like so many would be middle class radical students he pitched himself into the activities of the Official Republican Movement after a brief attachment to PD.

When the Officials revealed the extent of their degeneration into a reformist, pro-imperialist rump he helped to found the Irish Republican Socialist Party. For his pains he suffered two murder attempts by the stickies armed lumpen proletarians and assisted by the latter's felon setting efforts became a prime target for the British Army, RUC and Loyalist killers. Ronnie too, was to the fore in solidarity work for the prisoners.

The IRSP offers it's sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of both men. They have joined the long ranks of martyred Irish revolutionaries and stand in the same mould as Seamus Costello, Miriam Daly and other IRSP members murdered by Imperialists.

We salute them. But the only real satisfaction and tribute we can offer to their memory is a renewed effort to build the Socialist Republic. This the IRSP pledges itself to achieve.

NATIONAL WAGE AGREEMENT

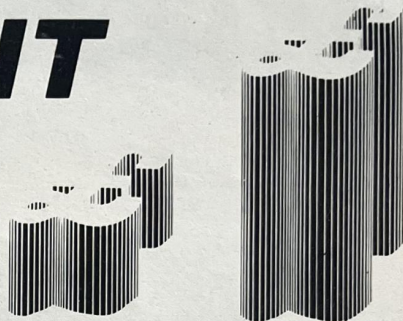
Once again we have a National Wage Agreement much heralded and praised. All is now well for the working class in Ireland. But all is not well and one of the biggest swindles ever is being orchestrated by the Unions, Employers and Government. The aim is to convince the working class that the second Agreement is the best thing to happen to them this year. But the Agreement doesn't bear close examination.

The first thing to consider is the basis for a National Agreement at all. Why are the Government and the Employers so much in favour of the National Agreements? Why do the vari-

ous Unions accept them? The main reason is that National Agreements are a brake on the working class. They are a device used by the Government and Employers to stem the militancy of the working class. They use the Agreements to contain that militancy, it is easier to negotiate with Trade Union Bureaucrats to whom the massive increases in inflation mean less than with a Shop Steward or Shop Floor Committee who feel each fierce rise as it is an attack on their standard of living, witness O'Malley's attack on the formation of a shop stewards committee.

Of course that last point

raises another reason for the rush for National Wage Agreements. That being the need for Ireland's totally centralised and bureaucratic Unions to ensure that they can control their own members. These Agreements increase the control of the full time paid officials and remove many powers from the shop floor. Thus the workers do not learn from their own and other workers' struggle. There is no contact at grassroots level and no co-ordination of strikes in sympathy. If all contacts are with Headquarters in Dublin or with the local Official, the Unions can exert a greater control over their members. It is



not unknown for the National Agreement to be sold to different workers with different excuses, blaming other Unions or set of workers for the lack of content.

Over the past few weeks the

head-lines of the National Press have been full of information that the increase is to be 15%. This is a straight lie as the Agreement covers 15 months and thus the rise for the year will be 12%. Now consider inflation and the 12% paces against the 20% infla-

Conradh fights for more Irish on R.T.E.



ONE OF the most scandalous aspects of RTE's programming is the continued neglect of the Irish language. In a statement Conradh na Gaeilge condemned this neglect, pointing out that the proposed Autumn schedule for RTE amounts to a renegeing by the RTE Authority of its promises regarding a greater number of Irish language programmes and a wider range of subject matter.

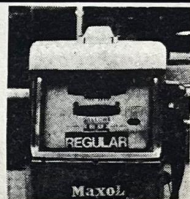
According to the Conradh, the schedule is contrary to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Irish Language Broadcasting — recommendations which have never been implemented. The statement goes on to say "the most obvious and most disgraceful neglect is in the sphere of children's programmes. But even in the sphere of programmes for adults, there is a wide spectrum of interests that are not being catered for at all e.g. sports programmes, films, economic affairs etc. . . . It is about time that RTE understood that Irish speakers are a broad community with a wide range of interests and that they are entitled to expect to have those interests catered for in Irish on RTE.

The statement concludes:

"We believe that RTE could broadcast a wide spectrum of programmes in Irish immediately if they had the will and set about doing it. They still have more than a month before the Autumn schedule comes into force. We challenge them to amend this schedule now in order to afford their rights to Irish speakers and to the rest of the community who would like to watch enjoyable programmes in Irish. We also ask them to set about drawing up a plan to set up an all-Irish TV channel as soon as possible."

In pursuit of this demand for greater coverage on RTE for the Irish language, the Conradh held a protest picket and meeting outside the G.P.O. on Saturday October 11th at 3 p.m. The march and meeting was supported by over 400 people. The main speaker was Gwynfor Evans who was instrumental in gaining a new all Welsh TV channel.

Oil Tanker Drivers Strike



On Wednesday 15th October the oil tanker drivers returned to work pending a job re-assessment. This has to be delivered before 14th November.

The oil workers dispute has raised many questions about the management or mismanagement of the twenty-six county economy by our so-called native self-Government. Everyone knows that the multinational oil companies reap astronomical profits out of Ireland's industrial oil needs. These profits make the wages of the drivers very ordinary indeed. The dispute arose because the oil companies broke a contract with the workers and the men retaliated by returning to the pre-contract working conditions. Thus they refused to deliver petrol until they were given assistance as was the case before they entered into this now broken contract.

Yet the dispute has been portrayed as purely the drivers fault. This picture has been drawn by the professional anti-union agitators inside Irish newspaper offices. Fleet Street style worker bashing has now replaced the comparative objectivity that used to characterise the Irish media.

The media would have been better off directing their gaze at the real blackmailers of our economy — the multi-national oil barons. But they are acting as latterday gomben men for they are doing well out of the foreign domination of Irish society. They continue to tell us that we should be grateful to these foreign masters because they give us a few jobs. The crumbs from the multinational table accrue to our modern middle class for acting as local messenger boys and industrial policemen against Irish workers.

The role of the ITGWU has also been less than perfect. The founder members of the Irish Labour Movement, Larkin and Connolly would heave with nausea at the responsible . . . disciplined attitude so lauded by the F.U.E. The highly paid officials in Liberty Hall have continuously tried to force the men to accept settlements which are not in their interests. All of this has been in the name of "industrial peace". The oil tanker drivers have merely been trying to keep pace with inflation and to enforce a set of working conditions which were agreed only 5 years ago between the companies and the men. They have also looked for proper assessment of the dangerous job which they do. The increase which the men had looked for was only a drop in the ocean when compared with the profits of the oil companies.

The oil men were correct in their stance against the oil companies, the Unions, the media and the whole Irish Army. The IRSP supports the men and will watch now to see if they will get a proper reassessment for their productivity.

THE GREEN MOLE

Last months Green Mole mentioned the case of the Amalgamated Bakery and Food Workers Union leadership's opposition to a motion from its Dublin No. 2 Branch in support "for humanitarian reasons" of the blanket prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and Armagh. The motion was to have gone to that Union's annual conference.

It didn't. Reason being the craven attitude of the leadership — particularly its Northern Secretary, Frank Mallon. Mr. Mallon who lives at 25, Suffolk Crescent in Andersonstown travelled

down to Dublin in order to persuade the Committee of the No. 2 Branch to withdraw the motion arguing that the motion would be divisive — in that it would hurt the feelings of Loyalist members.

He didn't mention the feelings of the Union's Nationalist members who are sick of having to bow to the ignorance of the pro-imperialist sections of the union and who feel that workers unity should be on a principled basis where members are free to express their opinions.

The Harrier

It seems that Harrier McPartland has taken a certain Dun Laoire branchman's claim of being "the swinging harrier" to heart.

The result is that McPartland has gotten himself a new hairstyle and a new image to boot. He has been lately seen living it up in the night spots of Rush — drinking in the Drop Inn and unwinding in the Cradle Rock.

Harrier Mick Nolan of Ballyfermot is rapidly acquiring himself a reputation in that area. Nolan has abandoned his addiction to hurling and had branched out on a less exhausting hobby.

tion rate this year. So in effect the Unions have got a deal which gives a reduction in the overall living standard of the average workers. The 12% also is only relevant to the industries which will pay. The Unions for the poorer paid have now to go to negotiate this deal with the various employers, usually ending up with increases below this 12%. This leaves the smaller Unions and poorly paid workers where they started, on their own.

Before last year's Agreement some of the Unions and especially the I.C.T.U. pushed for a National Agreement because they claimed that they could influence the Government in social matters outside the normal gambit of Union negotiations. This gave the Agreements a significance in the eyes of some Socialists but the Social Agreements have fallen on their faces. The Government has failed to live up to its part of the bargain to supply jobs and to cut unemployment. In fact the reverse is the case as unemployment has soared in the past twelve months and emigration has become a fact of Irish life

again. So how much faith can we put in the Government's assurance that they will provide 22,000 extra jobs in the next 2 years? A total of 66,000 will be needed to help balance job losses and give 22,000 extra jobs. With unemployment soaring throughout Europe and the U.S.A. where are these jobs to come from and at what price?

The rest of the social contract gives nothing to the homeless, the sick or the elderly, beyond a bit of tinkering. The Government provided the National Wage Agreement with a social contract which encompasses its own responsibility and nothing less. The section on housing will not provide one extra house for the already overcrowded housing lists. The increase of £1,000 on the lower limit for free medical care is a sop to the salaried worker rather than the vast bulk of the working class. The linking of the Social Welfare payments to the cost of living is the least the Government can do. What is needed is a sharp increase in these payments to bring them up to a proper level. Discard this National Wage Agreement.

Pauline McLaughlin in critical condition

ON MONDAY 13th October Pauline McLaughlin one of the Armagh women prisoners had a heart attack. This was the culmination of a long serious illness which Pauline has suffered for the past year. At the present time Pauline McLaughlin is only 5 stone (35 kilos) in weight and is only a shadow of her former self. The British Government have continually refused to release Pauline, as they would prefer for her to die in a prison cell than grant her the chance of proper medical treatment and some form of normal life in freedom.

On Monday 13th the Armagh Women Prisoners sub-committee started a series of nightly protests on O'Connell bridge in Dublin as well as a series of protests throughout the 32 Counties. The IRSP demands the immediate release of Pauline McLaughlin and an impartial inquiry into the medical services available to the Women in Armagh Prison.



THE AMAZING DR. BROWNE

Life is amazing! And one of the more amazing aspects of it was the recent amazing statement of psychiatrist Dr. Ivor Browne.

Dr. Browne, noted for his experiments with LSD, recently visited the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. Following his visit he stated that the warders in the

H-Blocks suffered more than the prisoners. It's some solace to the blanket prisoners to know that the warders who beat them up are actually suffering more than they themselves.

Or could Dr. Brown be mistaken? Maybe he should check again on his next trip!

IRAQ TO POLICE GULF FOR U.S.A.?

THE CURRENT attacks of Iraq against Iran is more than just two Muslim sects having a go at each other! Rather it represents an attempt by the U.S. backed Iraqi regime to act as Carter's policemen of the area, while allowing Hussein to become the "new Nasser".

Both the U.S.A. and Iraq have reasons to fear Iran. The U.S.A. would like to foist a regime on the Iranian people which would be more amenable to its pressures. It is no longer possible to put the Shah back in power - but many of the Shah's henchmen are residing in Iraq - eagerly awaiting the downfall of Khermeni, before assuming power.

The Iraqi regime of Hussin has for years contested Iran's control of the crucial river of Shatt El-Arab - the river used by both countries to transport oil. Border Skirmishes have taken place almost continuously since the Shah was booted out nearly a year ago. Now the fighting has been stepped up. And the powers that be in Iraq want more than just control of the river.

Instead, they want control of the region. And in this they are being supported by the United States. Jimmy Carter's National Security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski has declared "we see no fundamental incompatibility of interests between the United States and Iraq". As "Wall Street Journal" reporter Bill Paul recently wrote: "With revolutionary Iran creating so much tension in the Middle East, Washington would clearly welcome any role that the Iraqis



might play in stabilising the Persian Gulf."

Originally, the U.S. had intended this role for the Shah of Iran. Now the role has been handed to Hussein, who was recently canvassed for support for the so-called "Carter Doctrine" - which aims to safeguard Western interests in the Persian Gulf. In the U.S. media references to the regime in Iraq as a "radical" regime have stopped - not that the regime in that country has ever been radical.

Hussein's regime has been responsible for the brutal

murder and repression of thousands of Kurds and for the execution of hundreds of Communists and Socialists. It supported the right wing in the civil wars in Yemen and Oman.

The present Iraqi attacks against Iran are of benefit only to the ruling class in Iraq, to the U.S. Government which wants to protect its strategic interests and to the American, Japanese, British, French and German corporations who have investments in that region. It in no way benefits the exploited

masses of Iraq or anywhere else in the Arab world. In attacking the anti-imperialist revolution in Iran, the Iraqi regime tightens further the stranglehold of the world's bankers and businessmen over the oppressed masses of the Middle East.

The current Iraqi attacks are

also a severe blow to the Palestinian people - struggling for National Liberation - who inspired and were in turn inspired by the Iranian Revolution. The Iraqi policies give heart to Zionist Israel - which now welcomes Hussein as an ally to replace the Shah.



AN CAMCHÉACHTA
THE STARRY PLOUGH
NEWSPAPER OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY

BUY THE
STARRY PLOUGH
EVERY
MONTH

The STARRY PLOUGH, published monthly covers Irish economical, political and cultural affairs while also giving some foreign coverage. It represents the views of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. It has outlets in Europe and America as well as in Ireland. An annual subscription is available for only £3.00 (Ireland), £4.00 (Europe), and \$10 (United States).

Make sure you are getting the news from a republican socialist point of view by ordering your copies from 34 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1.



WOMEN AND LIBERATION

'A nation which enslaves another can never itself be free' ...

A human being that enslaves another can never himself be free.

In the last issue we examined the historic and economic roots of women's oppression in Ireland. This time we look at the position of women within the modern family; the present role of Church and State. The struggle for women's liberation and a socialist republic. It is the one struggle.

The report of the Commission on the status of women (May 1973) states that "The Irish educational system tends to reinforce this role conditioning so that by the time the average girl leaves school she sees her future life in terms of relatively short period of gainful employment followed by marriage and responsibility for looking after the home and caring for children." Those without any understanding or who have never thought about it may think that is all any woman should and does want. We still hear so often today that woman's place is in the home! Likewise our constitution!

Article 41.2

2.1 In particular, the State recognises that by her life, within the home, woman gives to the State a support without which the common good cannot be achieved.

2.2 The State shall, therefore, endeavour to ensure that mothers shall



not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home.

A farcical statement when you consider the abysmal pittance of children's allowances and social welfare, and other aid from the State to women with children.

Apart from that however, it gives credence by the State and officially sanctions the false notion that in Ireland a woman's place is in the home thus presumably she must ignore any desire she may have to find

fulfilment outside family life — and some say that women are not oppressed or discriminated against! Therefore there can be no real equal opportunities for women in employment or education, no child-care facilities, while this remains in the constitution, with all its attendant misconception and oppression. They'll kill us with kindness if nothing else!

Women make up over 50% of the population, yet they only represent 26% of the workforce in Ireland the numbers which have not risen for the last 50 years, are lower than any other developed country. In 1970, 40% of women workers were members of Trade Unions. Women still hold the lowest paid jobs in the lowest paid sectors, public services, clothing industry etc.

So far we have looked at discrimination against women outside the home or family life where the majority spent their existence. Some women would claim that its all mens fault that men dominate women in all spheres of life and therefore must declare war on men — possibly more correct to say that this is how some men prefer to see women's liberationists as it avoids all the real and solid political issues. Men however are also acting out their role which is one enforced by a capitalist society. Unfortunately they are also the instruments of women's oppression but not the root

cause. Thus some men think they are attacked solely because they are men which is a false way to view the difficulty, and often used by them as an easy way out.

Women's oppression has many forms, economic, ideological, sexual, and particularly the whole family structure. The family unit dictates to women what she must be; wife to her husband, mother to his children, cook, cleaner, maid, and tender to all his needs and those of his children — all this the woman does in isolation from other women. Hence, regardless of her status in the outside world or wider society, within the family the woman's relationship to the man has become that of exploited and exploiter. One important consequence of this being to weaken the capacity of men and women oppressed by society to struggle against it together. This applies particularly to the questions of women's oppression as most males have the false notion that a woman's gain is a man's loss. Certainly under present society this is true — who washes the clothes if not the women, who minds the children or cooks the meals? However this is the system which we are trying to destroy — women must be made conscious of their position within the family in society and its implications for them. The liberation of women from their private oppressive existence is important not only for women themselves but also in freeing them physically and psychologically and politically to take part in the wider struggle of national liberation and socialism.

Within the family itself, increasingly women are suffering from emotional problems, from isolation and lack of self-concept



and their role in life. More and more marriages are breaking down mainly because women will no longer accept unhappy conditions, or unsatisfactory relationships. They no longer accept the notion that for the sake of the family they will endure anything. They are now demanding a better life for themselves. There are several contributory factors to this new feeling of unease. Firstly, mainly within the last 20 years Ireland has developed into an industrial society. The extended family became reduced to the nuclear family unit thus increasing the isolation of the individual woman. Secondly, she has been taught all her life that marriage and motherhood should be her ultimate goals through which she will find complete satisfaction and stimulation. Through her daily boring toil she soon discovers otherwise. Lenin states that in order for women to even set about achieving their liberty ... The Chief thing is ... to free them (women) from their stupefying drudgery of the kitchen and nursery." Connolly calls women "the slave of the slave" and this is what women begins to feel. She is not allowed by the Catholic Church to control her own body and so regulate childbirth; so if necessary she must endure pregnancy, labour and childbirth every 10 months.

The woman not wanting more children, not wanting confinement to home and household duties often begins to feel guilty, inadequate and unfulfilled. More recently there has been a need (both on the part of the National economy and in the family unit itself) for the married woman to continue employment outside the home. The woman however will still be responsible for work inside the home and raising and caring for the children. I do not believe that the woman goes back to the factory conveyor belt because she finds it any more stimulating than dirty nappies — it does however help with two of her difficulties

1. her isolation and
2. her own economic independence and that of her family. It also makes her into a social being — a part of her society in which she can begin to demand equal rights for herself.

When in Britain during the 2nd World War women were

Interview with Tommy McGinn

19th September, 1980

After being arrested in July 1976 Tommy McGinn spent 6 months on remand in Crumlin Road prison. On January 14th 1977 he was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment. On January 15th he arrived in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and immediately joined the "blanket protest" — refusing to wear prison uniform or do prison work.

At the time of his release in July of this year he was the longest serving protest prisoner yet released having spent 3½ years on the blanket.

Q. What was the situation like when you began your protest in 1977?

A. At that time there were very few on the protest compared to now. I was in H1 at first, where I was kept in isolation. It was the only one in that wing on the protest but I had made up my mind to do it when I was on remand so I wasn't intimidated. There was never any question in my mind about going on the



protest because I was charged with a political offence and saw myself as a political prisoner. There was a great deal of harassment from the screws and prison authorities. I think they were trying to break the protest at an early stage. After a few weeks I was moved in with some other blanket men so there were about 19 or 20 of us together. Eventually all the protesting prisoners were moved into H5 because the protest was disrupting the prison routine too much.

Q. What was the situation when the "no wash" protest started in March 1978?

A. We had been driven to the stage where conditions couldn't get any worse. They had taken everything from us, we were being beaten, harassed and intimidated and we reached a



stage where the only form of protest left open to us was complete non co-operation.

Q. Could you tell us something about the medical conditions of the prisoners especially since the no wash protest started?

A. The vast majority of Blanket men are suffering from some medical complaints. There are different kinds of skin complaints. I had a rash all over me most of the time and some are much worse than that. Vomiting, diarrhoea and that sort of thing are very common.

Q. What is morale like among the Blanket men?

A. As the time goes by the prisoners seem to become more determined. They know they are political prisoners and they will never accept the "normal" prison regime.



"Rebellion, even in thought, produces a mental atmosphere of its own; the mental atmosphere the women's rebellion produced opened their eyes and trained their minds to an understanding of the effects upon their sex of a social system in which the weakest must inevitably go to the wall, and when a further study of the capitalist system taught them that the term "the weakest" means in practice the most scrupulous, the gentlest, the most humane, the most loving and compassionate, the most honourable and the most sympathetic, then the militant woman could not fail to see, that capitalism penalised in human beings just as those characteristics of which women supposed themselves to be the most complete embodiment." James Connolly.

Women's oppression is universal. However its existence in Ireland, although caused as elsewhere by the needs of capitalism and imperialism, has grown from a set of circumstances and culture which are specifically Irish. The famine is the single most important element in allowing and maintaining women's oppression.

In order for us to fight against this oppression we must understand its roots, the reasons for its growth, the role of the church the land question, all of which played a strong part in the changing status of women in Ireland.

This article attempts to pinpoint some of these aspects and to show the economic, political and ideological reality of women's oppression.



needed in industry the State was able and willing to provide nurseries - not for the benefit of the women or the children but for the "good of the nation". As soon as the need for women workers dropped - so did the nursery facilities.

In France, today French women are being offered more maternity leave and better child allowances to produce more babies - not because women need more maternity leave or financial help - but again because the State needs more potential workers. Is this the proper way to treat women - as workers or as human beings?

The position of women in society has certainly improved over the last 10 or 20 years. This is due to a combination of factors not least of which is the developing consciousness of women themselves and the fight for equality under the law, in employment, education etc.



The development of women's movements throughout the world, or more precisely in the advanced countries, has come hand in hand with industrialisation. Ireland's lack of high industrialisation together with the role of church education and family has hindered the growth of a solid women's movement in this country. Alongside this the most important battle in Ireland for centuries has been that against British Imperialism thus many capable and highly politicised women have seen their main role in the national liberation movement rather than in the women's liberation movement. However, the fact that modern society was founded on injustice and can only survive on injustice means that we must be prepared to fight that injustice wherever it occurs.

Irish women has consistently fought in the Trade Union Movement, in the Easter Rising, at the moment and for the past 11 years they have been fighting a heroic battle against the British army of occupation in the 6 Co's., the UDR, UDA, UVF, etc. The women in Armagh jail are suffering appalling conditions "inhuman and degrading treatment" because they are prisoners of war, because they are fighting for the liberation of their country and all its people both male and female.

There is no need, I feel to list the involvement of women in the fight for our liberation. What there is a need for however, is an understanding that women's liberation does not wait until after the liberation of Ireland. If this is to be the case women will be the first section to take up arms against their new oppressors.

Again from Connolly;

"Of what use to such sufferers can be the re-establishment of any form of Irish state if it does not embody the emancipation of womanhood."

We do not wish to change the social system to further facilitate the oppression of women and unless women's rights - specifically as women's rights - are fought for as part of our overall liberation and achieved as this our society will not advance.

"The militant women who, without abandoning their fidelity to duty, are yet teaching their sisters to assert their rights, are re-establishing a sane and perfect balance that makes more possible a well-ordered Irish nation." James Connolly.

Given that we accept this as being true we must consider how we can aid the development of both males and females seriously concerned with socialism in order to understand women's oppression and their potential. Many so-called socialists scorn even talk of women's liberation, make constant supposed jokes about "a woman's place," lack any conception of women's oppression, some even

going as far as to say its the womans fault! How do we as republican socialists combat such backward ideas.

1. By recognising that the oppression of women is a distinct category of oppression and that as such must be given serious consideration; that it influences all other forms of oppression, economic national, social etc. and that it continues to be used to undermine socialist struggles in all areas.

2. While realising that full liberation can only be achieved under socialism we must also realise that work must be undertaken immediately to make women conscious of their own oppression under a class society, and therefore sufficiently politically active and aware to ensure that such oppression will not continue in a socialist society.

3. We must seek issues on which to unite women in opposition to the present system as women and as workers which can become part of the broad struggle against general oppression.

4. All socialists, male and female should educate themselves not only in the material i.e. economic basis of women's oppression but also in the ideological oppression which has grown hand in hand with our development.

5. Both men and women must cease to be afraid of the whole question of women's liberation. Males seem to think it a weakness for them to attempt to behave in a non-sexist manner or to show any understanding of the problem. Women fear being branded as "raving feminists" whenever they raise the question. Such attitudes will not raise political consciousness



nor help build for a socialist revolution.

It becomes quite clear when we understand that in all aspects of liberation and the fight for socialism we are fighting a war. Whether this struggle be for women's liberation and quality, better housing or the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland those who have not are trying to extract better conditions, rights and control over their lives from

those who have. Those who have, be the bosses, army or state or for that matter males, do not part with their privileges easily.

All women are oppressed in some form under a class society. As revolutionary socialists we support all struggles of the oppressed against the oppressor - women's oppression must be no different. The fact that it cuts across class lines, as does national oppression, makes it no less valid than the oppression of workers as workers.

We claim Connolly as our political mentor, he advises us well -

"None so fitted to break the chains as they who wear them, none so well equipped to decide what is a fetter. In its march towards freedom, the working class of Ireland must cheer on the efforts of those women who, feeling on their souls and bodies the fetters of the ages, have arisen to strike them off, and cheer all the louder if in its hatred of thralldom and passion for freedom the women's army forges ahead of the militant army of Labour."

Armagh Women Prisoners Sub-Committee

The campaign for political status is being carried on in Long Kesh, Crumlin Road jail and in Armagh Women's Prison.

At this stage most people are aware of the conditions in the H-Blocks and the sufferings of the prisoners there. Not so many unfortunately are aware that there are 40 women prisoners on the same protest in possibly even worse conditions in Armagh Women's Prison.

Many people involved in the H-Blocks campaign felt that the case of the Armagh women was being neglected in the overall campaign and put forward the suggestion that a special committee should be set up. The National Smash H-Block Campaign therefore agreed to set up a sub-committee which will deal specifically with the plight of the Armagh prisoners.

The Armagh women prisoners

sub-committee was elected at a well attended conference held in Dundalk on Sundal 31st July. The 12 elected onto that committee are:

Naomi Brennan, Margaretta D'Arcy, Liz Lagrue, Mairead Logue, Rose McAllister, Martha McClelland, Marie McMahon, Eileen McMullan, Siobhan Molloy, Rita O'Hare, Mick O'Riain and Ruth Tailion.

It was unfortunate that there was very little discussion on Armagh itself, or the reasons for the necessity of the sub-committee or the best way forward for the overall campaign as a whole.

However, we welcome the development of this committee

in the sincere hope that it will unite rather than divide the issue of political status in Armagh and H-Block. The committee intends to hold public meetings, produce a pamphlet dealing with the women's histories, produce Christmas cards and a record, and in general publicise as much as possible the appalling conditions in which these women are being forced to exist.

The Armagh women prisoners sub-committee needs your financial support in order to carry out all these activities. The women in Armagh need your support - Please be generous. Send all donations to - 30 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1.

GRANSHA MURDERS:

The smell of the S.A.S.

AT 3.30 a.m. ON WEDNESDAY October 15th gunmen burst into the home of Ronnie and Suzanne Bunting in Downfine Gardens, Gransha. Rushing upstairs, they murdered Ronnie. They seriously wounded Suzanne, and murdered Noel Lyttle, who was staying in the guest room.

Both Ronnie and Noel were members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. Ronnie was the Belfast regional delegate to the I.R.S.P. Ard Comhairle, as well as I.R.S.P. delegate to the Toome co-ordination committee of the Relatives Action Committees.

Noel was the P.R.O. of the Belfast Comhairle Ceantair of the I.R.S.P., the R.A.C. representative on the National Smash H-Block Committee and P.R.O. of the R.A.C.

Both Ronnie and Noel had been threatened with death many times — by the British Army, the R.U.C., the U.D.R. and Loyalist murder gangs. The initial reaction of many to the murders was that they were the work of loyalists acting in collusion with the "security" forces.

Such collusion could have been necessary in order to obtain information on the security measures in the Bunting home and to escape unhindered following the murders.



Ronnie Bunting: death at the hands of masked assassins.

However, in the light of recent information received by the I.R.S.P. and in the light of the recent S.A.S. raids in Twinbrook, the murders are more likely to have been the work of the S.A.S.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party intends organising an independent investigation into the murders. We do not consider the R.U.C. as being in any way impartial or in any way capable of conducting an impartial investigation. Senior members of the R.U.C.

Special Branch have said that the deaths of Ronnie and Noel were "joyous occasions" and that they would welcome the day when a "few more fenian bastards would be going to join them"...

Such bigotry reflects the past and present collusion of the R.U.C. with the loyalist murder gangs, collusion which also exists between these same gangs and the S.A.S. in order to terrorise the nationalist population into submission.

Despite the murders of Ronnie and Noel, and the murder of Miriam Daly the I.R.S.P. remains determined to continue to organise and agitate for National Liberation and Socialism in Ireland.

COSTELLO COMMEMORATION

The annual Seamus Costello Commemoration was held on Sunday October 5th. Several hundred people marched from Bray Town Hall to St. Peters Cemetery, Little Bray where Liam O Comain, I.R.S.P. Cathaoirleach gave the oration.

On Friday, October 3rd., a very successful symposium was held in the Millfront Hotel Bray. The theme was the life and politics of Seamus Costello. Contributors included Niall Lenoach, Finbar O'Doherty, Fr. Piarais O Duill, and D. R. O'Connor Lyseight. The symposium was chaired by Osgur Breatnach.

Due to pressure of space, because of the hunger strike the full report on the symposium is being held over to the December issue.



OVER 1,000 people marched from Dunville Park to Milltown Cemetery on Saturday, October 18th to pay tribute to murdered Republican Socialists, Ronnie Bunting and Noel Lyttle.

At the Republican Plot IRSP Cathaoirleach Liam O Comain, Ard Comhairle members Gerry Roche and Sean Flynn and Maura McRory of the RAC's spoke.

ANNIVERSARY

Tony McClelland
The Tony McClelland Cuman IRSP Church Street remembers with pride Vol. Tony McClelland who was killed in an accident one year ago.

The ARD COMHAIRLE I.R.S.P. salutes the memory of Vol. Tony McClelland, I.N.L.A. who was accidentally killed one year ago while on active service.

RATHMINES H-BLOCK ACTION GROUP

Meetings every Monday night at 8 p.m. at Craobh Liam Bultin, Observatory Lane.

ALL WELCOME.

FUNDS FUNDS FUND

During the coming weeks, the I.R.S.P. will be distributing thousands of leaflets, organising meetings in support of the hunger strikers. A special hunger strike issue of "The Starry Plough" will be published on November 10th.

In order to do all this, funds are urgently required. Donations, offers of help with transport and distribution should be sent to: I.R.S.P. HUNGER STRIKE COMMITTEE, 34 Upper Gardiner St., Dublin 1. Tel: 721175.

392 Falls Road, Belfast.

Connolly House, 10 Chamberlain Street, Derry.

REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST P.O.W.'s IN THE 6 COUNTIES

REMAND CRUMLIN ROAD JAIL AND ON PROTEST FOR POLITICAL STATUS —

J. McNiece	Armagh
O. Grew	Armagh
B. McKenna	Armagh
J. Cusach	Portadown
Jackie Prior	Twinbrook
Martin Green	Portadown
Patrick J. Mulligan	Markets
B. Dorrian	
Stephen Hagney	Markets
T. Ramsey	Falls
P. McDonnell	Markets
D. Hagan	Portadown
R. Livingstone	Portadown
Paul Kelly	Beechmount
M. Devine	Beechmount
Fra O'Connor	Divis Flats

H-BLOCK — ON THE BLANKET:

Liam James McCloskey	10 years H3	Dungiven
Kevin Lynch	10 years H3	Dungiven
James O'Neill	10 years H5	Armagh
James Connolly Brady	6 years H5	Derry
Tony O'Hara	5 years H5	Derry
John Nixon	14 years H5	Armagh
Malachy Trainor	10 years H5	Armagh
John Cassidy	12 years H5	Derry
Mickey Devine	12 years H5	Derry
Justin Livingstone	8 years H3	Portadown
John Downey	4 years H3	Belfast
Brendan McManus	20 years H3	Belfast
Rab Collins	12 years H4	Belfast
Chris McArdle	10 years H4	Belfast
Kieran A. Toal	6 years H4	Armagh
Tony Rasey	4 years H4	Belfast
Harry Mullan	10 years H3	Glenullen
Tom McAllister	12 years H	Belfast
Peter O'Neill	6 years H3	Armagh
Patsy O'Hara	8 years H5	Derry

YOUNG PRISONERS:

Martin Meehan	Crumlin Road	Divis Flats
Gary Trainor	Millisle	Portadown

LONG KESH — COMPOUND 10:

Seamus Grew	14 years	Armagh
Harry Kilpatrick	9 years	Andersonstown
Joe McArdle	12 years	Armagh
Patsy McNeice	18 years	Craigavon
Neily Nixon	18 years	Armagh
Seamus McHenry	8 years	Lr Falls

H-BLOCK — SENTENCED PRISONERS:

Jim Hughes	9 years	Belfast
Brian Kelly	10 years	Belfast
J. McAdams	10 years	Derry
Desmond Walmsley	10 years	Derry
Robert Maguire	9 years	Belfast
Gerard Dowdall		Belfast
J. Gilmore	12 years	Derry
Seamus McReynolds		
J. Gillen	6 years	Dungiven
Michael Ferguson	10 years	Derry
Patrick Smith	12 years	Andersonstown
Finbar McComb	12 years	Turf Lodge
B. O'Kane	9 years	Belfast
J. Kelly	12 years	Derry
L. Logue	14 years	Derry
Kevin Trainor	8 years	Derry
	7 years	Portadown
Francis Corry	Life	Portadown
John Douglas	12 years	Portadown
Martin Savage		Belfast
John McCann		Belfast