

IRISH REPUBLICAN  
SOCIALIST PARTY

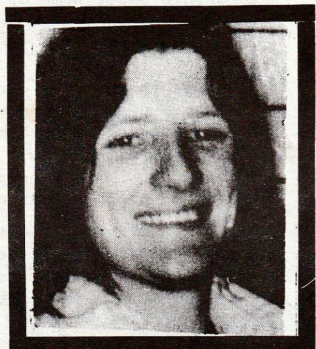
Paper of the  
IRSP

APRIL 1981



10p ■ 15p abroad

**BOBBY  
SANDS**



# POLITICAL PRISONER M.P.

On Thursday, 9th April, over 30,000 people in Fermanagh/South Tyrone elected Bobby Sands blanket man to represent them in politics at Westminster Parliament. Bobby Sands was elected on the issue of gaining Political Status for the prisoners in H Block and Armagh Jail. A majority of the constituents in Fermanagh/South Tyrone believe he should be granted this right, after all he is their politician. They obviously believe he's a political prisoner, nobody wishes to elect a criminal to represent them. Bobby Sands has shown with his comrades on Hunger Strike and his comrades in H Block-Armagh through  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years of determined resistance to criminalisation that he is a political prisoner. Now the nationalist people of the six county state have shown they support his claim.

No more can the British government fool the British public that the republican fighters are a handful of terrorists, with no support and consequently these 'terrorists' in prison have little support.

The British government showed its imperialist mentality when considering to unseat Bobby Sands from his democratic position as a member of Parliament. Only a serious look at the far reaching implications behind such a move prevented the ruling-class from taking such action. They are aware of the massive international publicity such a move would have caused. It would have exposed to the world and to the British public the hypocrisy, totalitarianism and complete disregard when it comes to Irish self-determination.

The awful reality of the situation has wider implications for Bobby Sands, his family, comrades on Hunger Strike, his constituents and his supporters in Ireland. As Bobby said when asked if he would resign, "it makes no difference, I will be dead within 2 weeks". This is plain fact as Bobby is nearly 50 days on Hunger Strike, he cannot walk and his eyes constantly pain just as Sean McKenna's did.

Bobby was elected to gain political status for his comrades, that is what

his constituents want. If he dies, no doubt the Brits will maintain he killed himself, but they will be responsible. His supporters demand he be given his rights and true to form the Imperialist rulers refused to recognise his political cause even when he's a fellow member of Parliament with them, something of a contradiction! Still they claim they occupy Ireland through the democratic wish etc. through the ballot box, not the gun or bomb.

Well, Bobby is a political prisoner through the ballot box yet he occupies a prison cell where he starves to death. He occupies this cell because he fought to free his country from British control and gain self determination for his people.

Let us, his supporters re-assert his claim vigorously and unstintingly with militant action in support of his stand with comrades on Hunger Strike. The British may refuse to listen to the democratic voice of Fermanagh/South Tyrone, so let them listen to the voice of an oppressed, militant people striving for freedom, demanding political status now!

## COME OUT AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT NOW



# READER'S LETTERS

(All contributions welcome, send to 392 Falls Road)

P2

Dear Editor,

The following is a timetable of events which took place in Divis Community Centre during the week ending 12th April. A playschool each morning for two hours attracting on every occasion no more than five children. A 1½ hour Disco on Tuesday and Thursday for under 12's with around 30 attending, one bingo session on Wednesday night with about 40 participating, a senior citizen's club for about 10 on Tuesday afternoon and that's it. The remainder of the time, the centre was a derelict building with the full time youth workers wiling away the hours probably completing red tape forms and upholding the bureaucracy.

Children are seen playing in the mounds of rubbish in Divis Flats and perilously hanging over balcony walls because they had either been turned away from the centre, (the front doors are normally locked) or they just refuse to use the place like the vast majority of the residents of the complex. The reason for this because Divis Community Centre is looked upon as a city council building where the dictatorial administration stamp their authority on the Divis people who have absolutely no say whatsoever in the running of the place. Even the many genuine, voluntary community workers who supervised the centre when it was the best community centre in Belfast, have now forsaken it because of the arbitrary clique who now languish in it.

Before the city council and their servants get their way and the only source of social amenities in the complex is closed down, moves are now underway to have the present administrator, Gerry Downs removed and the centre to be run totally by local people, who have the welfare of the residents of Divis at heart and whose interest isn't manipulated by a pat on the back from the city councillors and a monthly pay cheque.

Divis Community Centre will become a place for the people, run by the people and woe betide anyone who stands in the way.

Yours faithfully,  
Sean Stitt  
(Youth/Community Worker)

**SUPPORT THE  
PRISONERS**

A chara,

I wish to comment on your paper's policy concerning the tactics of the Hunger Strike campaign and the need for militant activity. Ireland's history and in particular the previous Hunger Strike campaign should prove to any open minded

supporter of the POW's that the Brits will never respond to peaceful protests, no matter how much mass support is shown to exist.

What forced the Brits to negotiate the settlement of the previous Hunger Strike was not mass peaceful marches whether they be up or down the Falls or in Dublin. But the fear of the violent reaction should Sean McKenna die.

It should also be remembered that the marches were getting smaller especially the local activities as the Hunger Strike approached its climax.

If we are really sincere in saying that we want to save Bobby Sands life and the lives of his comrades, then we cannot leave our only effective tactics until Bobby Sands dies.

Those so called revolutionaries who oppose a peaceful liberal campaign to militant activity are raising a tactic, which in Ireland's situation is totally ineffective, to a level of principal.

The brutal RUC attack on the attempted rally at the city hall and the activities of the UDA and DUP show what faces the HBlock/Armagh campaign and the nationalist people as a whole.

The Youth alone cannot successfully confront the Brits. All sections of the nationalist community who support the POW's must come onto the streets in support of the Youth and to confront the Brits if we are to save the lives of the Hunger Strikers and win the struggle for Political Status.

Is mise le meas,  
Divis Flats Resident.

A Chairde,

With the approach of the good weather there will be the inevitable race to the parks, baths etc., and it is this that prompts this letter. It has been brought to our attention by some concerned parents in the Springfield Park Area, that come the summertime a local woman in conjunction with the RUC helps to organize the young children of the area into groups who are then driven by plain clothes RUC men in one or two transit vans (followed by a Ford

Popular containing 4 more plain clothes officers) to Lisburn baths or other places. The kids are encouraged to call these people by their first name, "Jim", "Ken" etc.

The parents that I talked to wanted me to make it clear that at first they thought that these bus runs to the baths were just a local people's organised thing. It was only after

some young children told their parents about some of the strange questions they were being asked by these kind men, (Do you know any big fella's that drive up and down the street in the fast cars(stolen), then, did you ever see any the men with guns chasing them?), that the parents realised just who the kind men were. They then promptly stopped their children from going.

The I.R.S.P. realise that there are no community facilities in the Greater Ballymurphy Area and maybe a good way to get partially around this problem would be for local neighbours to get together and get some sort of weekly trip together. The conduct and carry-on of these "kind men" smacks suspiciously of some sinister new type of intelligence gathering, with young children being used as unsuspecting pawns in their war games. (There has been a recent upsurge reported of young joy-riders and petty-thieves being offered a deal in return for information on local Republican activists)

Their cohort in this activity, a local woman, has fairly changed her tune since she lived in Turf Lodge. Then she wasn't a bit adverse in going to the Republican Movements with any of her complaints or problems. Since coming to live in Springfield Park the change in her has included joining the Peace People, regular meetings with the RUC and also helping to set up a Blue-Lamp style disco in the Moyard area which closed very abruptly after local people found out just what was going on.

The I.R.S.P. condemn this evil and dangerous manipulation of innocent children to further the aims of the RUC's normalization policy. We also implore parents to be ever so observant of their children, not only with the steep increase of joy-riding and glue-sniffing in our area, but with the sinister elements within our midst who will help others to use our children to further their ends.

Is mise,  
P.R.O. Ronnie Bunting I.R.S.P.  
Cumann, Greater Ballymurphy.



# El Salvador

P.3

Since the attempted murder of Ronald Reagan, military repression of the EL Salvadorian rebels has been stepped up with the help of U.S. Military advisers to the ruling Junta under the guidance of U.S. secretary of State, Alexander Haig. Haig recently dispatched 20 more military advisers and doubled its military aid to the country to 50 million dollars.

In the mountains of El Salvador, peasant families are being massacred by the military. In the cities curfew time is 9pm to 5am, under martial law, this is in other words, killing time when political opponents and suspected subversions are dragged from their homes and murdered by the National Guard.

Everyday, an average of 30 bodies are dumped in the streets. Here are some examples of atrocities committed by the Right wing National Guard. Maria is 27, a catechist, the chief Catholic in her village. The military invaded her village for the 2nd time, everyone fled except her father and her uncle, who at 52 and 48 thought they were too old to be mistaken for guerrillas. Every house in the village was burned. They took her father and uncle to a stream, shot them and dismembered their bodies.



*Hugo Eduardo Aguero, a 24-year-old victim of the death squads, was found dead at dawn with his pockets rifled and his watch stolen.*

In the same area, two girls aged 12 and 16 were seized raped and beheaded. "It would be good if the world knew what was happening here", Maria said, "They kill the defenceless, they are afraid of those with arms."

Another woman aged 33 and 8 months pregnant recalls how last September one night the soldiers came to her house. They took her father and her daughter aged 14. They left her daughter aged 8 and her son aged 2 in the house. "They killed my father with machete blows and as he died he cried out our names. Although I was pregnant they violated me and hit me with the machete across the shoulders and wounded me. I fell to the ground and they threw grass over me, I didn't dare breathe. I heard my 14 year old daughter cry out me mama, me papito, before they took her away. I learned later they had violated her in front of the church and killed her! When the military had left the woman supposing her to be dead, she staggered from the spot, reached her home, took her two remaining children with her and sought the help of a religious community. Early the same year in June, the same

woman's brother, his wife and their daughter were also killed, their son escaped.

The Legal Aid organisation of San Salvador Archdiocese is called Socoro Juridico. It's disappeared person's file lists 754 names all documented cases, the actual numbers of "disappeared persons" - an official term, is closer to

4,000 according to Boris Martinez, The Director. Socoro Juridico also looks after 160 political prisoners. The reason for so small a number of prisoners is because suspects who fall into the hands of the National Guard are either killed or handed over to the Right Wing paramilitary hands for summary execution.

Their bodies usually carry an anti-communist slogan when found. The government says these people are murdered by persons unknown. Of the 160 prisoners some are from the media, community groups, trade unions, schools and universities, the kind of influential people the ruling Junta can ill afford to have, who would expose them to the media, the trade union movement and the world in general.

Sulphuric Acid is thrown over prisoners in order to obtain confessions and hallucinogenic drugs are used. Electric shocks is another common form of torture. One secondary school teacher was bare of flesh on his arms, legs, body and face, he was indecently assaulted and had acid poured over his testicles. The prisoners all live four to six in a cell.

The Irish people should stand beside the people of El Salvador and call for an end to the torture and slaughter of countless innocent people by the regime's soldiers. An end to American interference in the form of money and personnel, as it is American aid that is propping up the Fascist Junta. We cannot allow ourselves to be silent on the issue of El Salvador. We must support the freedom fighters against the ruling Junta so as to end the widespread indiscriminate massacres of their people.

## German Prisoners Near Death

The 30 prisoners of the Red Army Faction are now more than 54 days on Hunger Strike. Many of them are so weak they no longer can receive visits. Two prisoners, Siglinde Hoffman and Knut Follerts have been removed from Stuttgart - Stammheim to the psychiatric hospital in order to be force-fed.

The Federal Attorney has repeatedly told the relatives that he will not give in to the prisoner's demands. These demands are very simple, the minimal guarantees of the Geneva Convention to be applied to them, the associating of prisoners under conditions that enable them to live as humans which means the abolition of total isolation where at present the prisoners are confined on their own in a soundproofed cell for 23 hours a day.

It looks once again that Germany is determined to kill prisoners just like they have done in the past. Supporters of the Hunger Strikers are being arrested and thrown into jail, just for distributing leaflets.

It is common knowledge that the capitalist countries of the West have joined together to fight "international terrorism", exchange methods of torture etc.. If the West German government lets these prisoners die, this will surely give an added incentive to Maggie Thatcher to do likewise in the case of our 4 Irish Hunger Strikers here in the 6 counties.

## LATE NEWS HUNGERSTRIKER DIES

One of the hunger strikers died this week after 2 months starvation. Sigmund Debuss died to attain his just rights as a political prisoner. His comrades continue his fight. The I.R.S.P. salute our fallen cde



# PROFILE OF PATSY O'HARA

P.4.

My first memories of the troubles were some demonstrations organised by the young Socialist and other elements to highlight the chronic housing conditions, the first of which was in 1968. A young married couple who had a family had applied to the corporation for a house, over two years later they were still homeless and were forced to live in a small berth caravan. The father knowing they had little or no chance of attaining accommodation in the near future, with the help of some others, pushed the caravan to the junction of Hamilton Road and Ann Street and removed the wheels thus causing an obstruction. The protests continued and when the lower deck of the Craigavon bridge was completed, the opening ceremony was disrupted by a group of men carrying placards sitting across the road. As usual the men were quickly dragged away and arrested by the RUC, they appeared in court the next morning with an array of charges, two of them whom I knew I personally, one being my brother and the other Finbar. My brother Sean who was extremely young at the time was given a heavy fine, some of the rest received short terms of imprisonment. Although I was only 11 years of age these incidents remain vividly in my mind, but at this stage I didn't have any real idea of what the whole thing was about.

I, like most other Catholic school boys, had an inherent hatred of the bully boys wearing the black uniform, the RUC. This was imbedded in every young person's mind because of the oppressive tactics they used to suppress the people.

The early days brought a growth in the civil rights movement across the world and consequently it had its effect in Ireland. On October 5th 1969, tension had been building for sometime and the main topic of discussion was the big march to take place that day and the talk was that important people, MP's etc. would be in attendance. I knew my brother and mother and father would be attending, so myself and my other brother Tony asked them to bring us along. Eventually we arrived at the Waterside Station where large crowds were congregating to meet those who were arriving in the train for the demonstration.

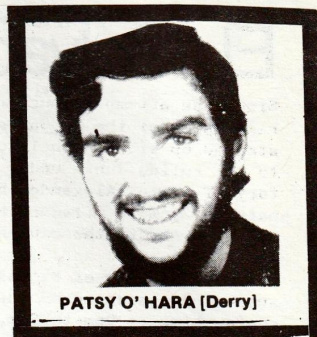
Even at the age of 12 I couldn't help feeling a sense of purpose, the mood of the crowd was one of solidarity, people who believed they were right and that a great injustice had been done to them. The crowds came in their thousands from every part of the city and as they moved down Duke Street chanting slogans (one man one vote) and singing We Shall Overcome, I had the feeling that a people united and on the move, were unstoppable.

The crowd was made up mostly of working-class people, but there was also some very well known personalities and as we moved along we could hear some of the crowd singing, Onward to victory with our brave leader Gerry. Gerry Fitt was at the head of the crowd, he was chanting and encouraging the people onwards. Eventually we came to the bottom of the street, across the road was a line of men in black uniform carrying riot shields and batons. Gerry Fitt addressed them, he said it was a peaceful demonstration and asked that they be allowed to continue, the whole event was being televised live. Suddenly a B Special swung his baton, it caught Fitt on the head, blood started streaming down his face. Then simultaneously the first baton charge of the present troubles was launched into the defenceless crowd.

The people terror stricken ran in every direction anywhere to find shelter from the baton wielding

## PERSONAL STORY PART 1

(continued in  
next issue)



PATSY O' HARA [Derry]

Specials but most of the doors were shut to them. They could only run up Duke Street in a futile effort to escape, but the forces of the crown had their tactics well planned, for the people were met with another charge from the top of the street. The people were sandwiched in another street with the Specials coming from both sides, swinging their truncheons at anything that moved. It was a terrifying experience and one which I shall always remember.

I could see people running towards me, I thought I would be crushed, I was so small and fragile then. There was mass hysteria all around me, I was lost and frightened and separated from my brother, I was thinking of what to do. The only thoughts going through my mind were to get across to safety, but what if the big men in black uniform get me? I was now running, I caught a glimpse of some of the 'B' men behind me, I was out of breath, they were right behind me. One of them made a swipe but missed, something else drew his attention away and he turned and went after another. I saw a side street and went, there were black uniforms everywhere, but I didn't have any choice. I made my way to the bridge there were thousands of people going across, all with the same intentions, to get to the relative safety of their own areas.

Now that the people were in their own areas there were fears for the safety of young and elderly, should the Specials come right into the Catholic areas, especially at night-time when they were alone and helpless. They had only one real alternative, to hold them at bay with force.

In the following weeks, the people of Derry showed they were more than a match for the forces of oppression, in what became known as the battle of the Bogside. But during it, the Catholic areas of Derry became covered in a blanket of CS gas. The old suffered the most, but it also had a lasting effect on the young. The riots in Derry became a part of life, there was always the fear that the 'B' men, if they gained entrance into the Bogside would slaughter rings around them. I can remember this era clearly, the gas hung in the air and one had a sickly feeling in the stomach, one's nose and throat was raw but after sometime the system became immune to it and as the cannisters were fired, the rioters threw wet rags over the, thus killing their effect.

The seige of the Bogside continued and confrontation spread to other areas, the worst of which was Belfast, where streets were burnt to the ground and the RUC used live rounds in Catholic areas. Because of the mounting international pressure, the British cabinet introduced some minor reforms and the troops were sent in, supposedly to protect the Nationalist people. During this time the Derry walls were lined with B men armed with 303's and stens, this was denied but there is photographic evidence to show this was the case. Some people would suggest that



# Paisley on the Election Trail <sup>PS</sup>

Following the election of Bobby Sands to the Fermanagh/ South Tyrone seat we have witnessed numerous outbursts from those "establishment politicians" who although elected by their own democratic process now voice their abhorrence at the fact that the nationalist population should return a nationalist candidate in support of the national liberation struggle in general and the issue of Political Status in particular. The most sinister and indeed dangerous reaction has come from both the U.D.A and Paisley's D.U.P.

The announcement by the U.D.A that they were "considering withdrawing from politics in Ulster altogether" is a direct appeasement to those Loyalists who believe that the vote for Bobby Sands proves "that there is no such thing as a moderate catholic". Talks of a Loyalist backlash coupled with the insecurity, fear and now the obvious lack of support amongst their own camp for the U.D.A/N.U.P.R.G. (New Ulster Political Research Group) policy on an independent Ulster, will surely mean a sharp rise in the U.D.A's sectarian campaign.

However far more interesting is the approach now being adopted by Paisley and the D.U.P. Mr. Ulster (or Lord Carson re-incarnate as he would be known) knows only too well how to play the numbers game. Having based his current strategy in his Euro-MP POLL of many thousands, Paisley and the D.U.P. are now preparing to 'sweep the polls' in the forthcoming council elections. His current boast of leading the fastest growing Political Party in Britain with 74 councillors and 3 MP's, has spurred him on to claims that they will now win in excess of 120 seats throughout the 6 counties, and in the Fermanagh area they will win 7 seats (they currently have only 1). In doing this Paisley seeks to undermine the victory of Bobby Sands and to again portray himself as the true leader of Ulster unionists. In order to do this Paisley must be prepared to lead the Ulster Unionists in whatever developments may occur. Of this he is also well aware as evidenced by his statement following the election of Bobby Sands, that the battle lines were clearly drawn and that Haughey's remarks were "a virtual declaration of war".

Mr Paisley has indeed a history (if not an obsession) with paramilitary (Loyalist) involvement as witnessed in the Loyalist bombings in 1969 and more recently with the 500 men waving firearms' certificates in the Antrim Hills. Paisley has indeed spoke of "dying for Ulster", a claim treated with contempt by the U.D.A. and the other Loyalist paramilitaries. Fully aware of their attitude and mindful of the bitter clashes following the failed Loyalist stoppage of 1977, Paisley now believes he can, if not must, take that ground currently held by the U.D.A. and U.W.C.. His attempts to arrange meetings with the U.W.C. towards the end of his 'Carson Trail' and their subsequent rebuff has left Paisley in the position that he must succeed in sweeping the poles if he is to claim support from amongst the ranks of the U.D.A. and the U.W.C..

It is highly probable that with the increasing successes of the anti-unionist population in combatting British policy in Ireland, the Loyalists will be driven further to the 'right' and towards Paisley. Yet given the very nature of Unionism, its history and ideology, its failure to offer anything other than the siege mentality of 'not an inch', the possibility of Unionists uniting behind one brand of Unionism does seem highly unlikely. The bitterness and divisions, the clamouring for the favours and gifts from the British Government, will continue to permeate the divisions inherent in the defensive political ideology of Unionism. Yet Paisley's action must be closely observed, with such a power crazed maniac, anything must be expected.

## BLANKET MAN SPEAKS OUT

Some people will be shocked at my asking such a question as this. I am shocked that I have felt that I have had to ask it at all! But ask it I shall and shock you I shall if it will save life and bring the reality of the situation into full focus and an awakening for the plight of those on Hunger Strike for justice.

### CAN YOU FACE THE TRUTH?:-

This may sound stupid but there are people who won't admit their short comings - even if lives of others are at stake. A terrible, terrible attitude, but to let it go on unchecked or discussed would be all the more terrible for us who recognise it and simply allow it to continue. Would you believe that there are those who on reading this and knowing I am talking about them; shall refuse to accept it and change their ways - others too, shall be afraid to read on for fear of finding out where they are going wrong. I challenge you to answer my question in all honesty and I ask you to act as your conscience dictates.

### '50' DAYS PLUS:-

As you are aware, the Blanket protest was born through the necessity on the part of the Irish Republican political prisoners in British gaols to smash the criminalisation policy. A policy of deception - a lie, and look at how many started (and even still do for that matter!) to believe it. It was a carefully and well "executed" plan to brain wash you, the public. It almost worked and would have, except for the sacrifice of the Blanket men and women and their supporters, undergoing 4½ years of great hardship, torture, degradation etc - to highlight the truth. At the present time, Bobby Sands, Frankie Hughes, Raymond McCreesh and Patrick O'Hara are engaged in a struggle to awaken your hearts and minds to the same truth - 50 days plus in this Hunger For Justice have so far expired. Can't you see they are quite literally dying to help you - yes, willing to die for you.





# INLA STATEMENT

The Irish National Liberation Army wishes to clarify misleading media reports in relation to a recent INLA attack on Mr. Kenneth Shimeld C.B.E., Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service, at his Malone Road home on Friday 3rd April.

First reports by the media implied that this was a motiveless attack as the then unnamed target was not a member of the Security Forces. Further attempts by the media in collusion with the Security Forces to suppress the facts about the attack were only thwarted by a detailed statement to Downtown Radio. However given the failure of Downtown to fully articulate the statement, the I.N.L.A. have issued the following statement.

The decision to execute Mr. Kenneth Shimeld C.B.E. was taken after careful consideration was given to the role played by Senior Civil Servants in the 6 counties. Mr. Shimeld, the Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service since 1976, served both the Labour and Tory Governments alike. In so doing he insured



Mr. Shimeld who has held many influential posts since coming to the 6 counties in the late 1940's, cannot be claimed to be an innocent abroad. After serving with the 'Signal Corps' during and after the war he maintained his contacts with British Intelligence, regularly attending Security briefings at Stormont Castle, acting as a central cog in the British machinery of repression in Ireland.

Attempts to portray Mr. Shimeld as a non-combatant are to ignore the many faces of repression witnessed daily by the oppressed working-classes. The violence of poverty, unemployment and inadequate housing are as much a part of the physical violence which the British government use to subject the nationalist people. For years the faceless men of Whitehall and Stormont have ruled uninterrupted by party political change. For years they have remained unknown and unexposed, this situation will not be allowed to continue. Those responsible for the repression of the working-class regardless of the form it takes must now suffer the consequences.

It is the policy of the I.N.L.A. to establish a 32 County Socialist Republic by whatever means necessary. Towards this end we have in recent months stepped up our attacks on member of the Security Forces and demonstrated our ability and determination to attack those Loyalist Politicians such as Sammy Millar who seek to terrorise, oppress and frustrate the legitimate aspirations of the Nationalist community whilst acting as an extension of legalised British oppression in Ireland. The I.N.L.A. see the need to mobilise and unite the people around both the class and nation-

al questions, in so doing we will expose and attack any section of the British bureaucracy who engage in the willful oppression of the Irish people.

The I.N.L.A. view the period ahead as crucial. The deterioration of the British and world economies coupled with the failure to find any settlement to the question of Irish unity by the British will inevitably lead to a worsening situation in which the nationalist people will be both socially and physically oppressed even further.

In the light of this development we urge a sincere and principled broad front for Anti-Imperialist unity. Warning that failure to get principled unity at this time is to ignore the fact that thousands of nationalist people throughout the country are now mobilising and seeking the necessary leadership to enable the building of a sound anti-imperialist movement capable of concluding the struggle for National Liberation in Ireland. It is in the light of this situation that the I.N.L.A. have organised and chosen its targets to date.

Signed,  
Daniel McHugh,  
Belfast Brigade I.N.L.A.

CONTD FROM P5

## WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?:-

This is going to be hard to accept but again its the truth. Within our areas there are not only districts, not only streets, but actually homes that don't have at least one member in a HBlock/ Armagh action group, youth group or such like. Yes there are people so close as own families who don't care. Harsh words you say - well think about it, it's not made up - it's fact. Does your neighbouring families on each side of your home understand what exactly is at stake here? Have you done what you should have done and taken time to ask them and explain that life is at stake. If there there is literature in the Advice Centre free (which there is), have you taken it round the doors in your street and sent it to your friends at home and abroad?

## WHY YOU AND WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Well, the answers here are simple enough, it's up to you because the responsibility is yours to see justice prevails, that a lie is cast aside, that the life of these our patriots of today, following in the noble tradition of Tone, Emmett, Pearse, Connolly. Only you can save these our political prisoners from being murdered. Only you, our people, can do this - our fight is just, our struggle is your struggle. These Irish Republicans rallied to your aid in your hour of need risking all to better your lot - We all must rally behind the H Block/Armagh Action Committee and make our concern seen and heard. Failure to do this to condone Brit occupation, murder and control of Irish affairs. Similarly it is to condemn these men to death at the hands of our foe - the Brit.

What you must do is firstly to organise, this is done for you in that the organization is already in existence - join and ask the organisers how best you can play a role. Put into motion their advice and start to gather support from all around you, in work or the dole-queue, in your street, particularly this will ensure grass root activity and understanding. Not only must you maintain your support, you must go out to others and open their eyes too. Turn to those around you now, yes now, and ask them are they doing enough? Thank you.

Republican Socialist Prisoner of War,  
H. Block 4



# PAY UP OR GET OUT!

The N.Ireland Housing Executive, now regarded as the biggest slum landlord in Europe, has a charming way of informing its tenants of rent increases - a short, but to the point letter states that the rent will be increased by a certain ammount. The next paragraph states that if this increase is not acceptable you can get out (giving the HE two weeks notice please) and the final paragraph reassures the tenant that this letter is not a notice to quit.

A fortnight ago every H.E. tenant received one of these letters informing them that the H.E. was putting up the rent (in May) by up to 40%, at the same time at which the rates would also be increasing.

PLACE	OLD RENT	NEW RENT	INCREASE
MARKETS (4 bedroomed)	£25.00p	£31.00p	£6.00p
DIVIS (2 bedroomed flat)	£7.89p	£10.36p	£2.47p
TWINBROOK (3 bedroomed house)	£13.62p	£18.73p	£5.11p

## PAYMENT FOR DEBT ACT

While most people's first reaction to the rent increases is to say NO, I can't pay it, I won't pay it, too many know to their cost the result of such action. They have become victims of the Payments For Debt Act which allows large sums of money to be deducted at source from their social security benefit. The P.D.A. which was originally introduced by the government as an "emergency" measure to combat the anti-interment rent and rates strike, was quickly turned into a weapon against all who owed money for rent, rates or electricity and it will not be forgotten that while the S.D.L.P. "shared power" with the unionists in the Assembly in 1973/74, they introduced a further penalty of 50p a week "debt collecting charge".



Since the Payments for Debt Act was first introduced it has been modified in various ways. The 50p collection charge has now gone but the most recent changes (Nov.1980) still allow for the deduction of a large portion of benefits at source.

Under the Rent and Fuel Direct Scheme (Nov.1980), the local social security office can deduct £1.10p for each debt (up to a total of 3 debts eg. rent, rates and electricity) PLUS current weekly rent PLUS estimated electricity consumption - the result is misery for many people left to feed and clothe a family on a few pounds a week.

## SLUM HOUSING

That misery is made worse by the bad housing conditions which prevail throughout the 6 counties. Conditions like those in Turf Lodge which drove Rosie Nolan, a woman caught in the debt-trap, to commit suicide. Conditions which in Divis Flats caused a small boy to fall to his death from an inadequately fenced balcony. These are the conditions in which the Housing Executive are now demanding we pay up to 40% more to exist in.

Meanwhile, corruption is rife within the Housing Executive with top officials handing out contracts to builders who are personal friends or who can give large enough backhanders. Just an example of this is the house in Limavady built for Mr. Gerry Ashton when he was an architect with the Housing Executive - by Lintans, a building firm which was in liason with Mr. Ashton, working for the H.E.

Corruption within the H.E. not only allows its top level employees to live in style but also leads to the mismanagement of large sums of money - through bent officials and contractors making false returns for number of hours worked and costs of building materials.

This money which is going to line their pockets comes from the harassed tenants of H.E. houses and flats who are now being asked to pay MORE.

## No Consensus

On Sunday, 5th April, mass burnings of British census forms took place throughout nationalist districts of the 6 counties. The burning of the census was part of a united protest against the Brits and in support of the Hunger Strike for Political Status. Several thousand people attended a rally in Belfast and thousands more marched in other areas of nationalist resistance.

The Belfast rally took place at the Lower Falls unemployment office and was addressed by speakers from the Smash HBLOCK/Armagh committee and Jim Daley. A bonfire with an effigy of Maggie Thatcher was lit with loud cheers from the crowd and chants of burn, burn, burn the census!

After the march dispersed militant youths engaged the Brits and the RUC in a riot at the Springfield Road Barracks and at the Divis Flats, the scene of last weeks march by the youth which ended in a similiar fashion. Youths blocked off the front entrance to the flats with large dust bins and kept the Brits from entering. Several plastic bullets were fired and some people received injuries. Later that evening, scores of Brits invaded the flats, verbally abusing local people who showed the Brits their answer, forcing them to withdraw once more to the safety of their saracens.



# FASCIST BASTARDS

P. 8

Once again the nationalist people of the Belfast ghettos face the blatant sectarianism and bigotry of the Orange Police Force. On Saturday last, a rally planned for Belfast's City Hall in support of the Hunger Strike was pre-empted by a vicious attack on protesters as they made their way to the rally. The police gave no reason for their prevention of the rally and needed no provocation to assault demonstrators en route to the city hall

The trouble started as supporters of the Hunger Strikers headed along Donegall Square to the City Hall. Police lines stopped them and told them to go back the way they came. When the people protested they proceeded to violently push them back. They continued this even as people walked slowly, shoving them along. During this, several people were brutally assaulted, being punched, kicked and trampled upon by the eager thugs of the RUC anxious to batter a few fenian's heads after Bobby Sand's victorious election. One person had to have eight stitches to his head, and another girl had a mutilated hand due to the door of the jeep being closed on it..

The RUC continued to roughly handle the demonstrators until they reached King Street where angry militant youth turned on them and stoned them forcing the RUC to run for cover. A riot developed as the youths resisted the RUC's and Brits attempts to disperse them. Plastic bullets never deterred the angered people who had been denied use of their own city for a rally, so violently. Buses were hijacked at Broadway and Divis Flats where barricades were erected for the 3rd week in succession. For several hours the youths kept the RUC at bay at Divis Flats until the RUC retreated.

The people of every oppressed area of Belfast know exactly why they are not allowed to enter the city centre, why they are brutally repressed. They constantly face the fascist response to the nationalist people's protests. Every attempt to campaign on behalf of the dying prisoners is met by differing forms of orange reactionary violence, legalised violence. Any individual who witnessed the callous attacks made by the uniformed fascists last Saturday will realise the reason why militant youths continue to support Political Status in the most effective way they know.

Arising out of Saturday's protest, people have been charged with riotous behaviour, assault, disorderly behaviour and obstruction. The case has been put back until the 23rd June.

Ireland is not alone in facing state repression. In the heart of British Imperialism's homeland, on the

same day as Belfast rioted, Black and White youths united in Brixton- London, to fight the English cops. Over 100 police were injured in that encounter, a fact which will enable leading police constables to call for the use in England of plastic bullet guns as in Ireland, so as to further repress the working-class, black and white.

## GPO DEMO

On Tuesday, 14th April, H Block supporters entered and took over Belfast G.P.O. in Royal Avenue. As happened last Saturday at the City Hall Rally, the sectarian RUC and UDR came upon the scene and a considerable amount of brute force to stop the protest from going ahead, was used. Van loads of cops and UDR soldiers attacked the protesters, arresting 15 and charging them with offences such as disorderly behaviour and obstructing the running of the Post Office, which is an offence. The police used their vans to block off the entrance doors, not letting protesters out for half an hour. Dozens of protesters were punched and kicked by vicious RUC men who obviously delighted in attacking some fenians.

Time after time, nationalist protest in Belfast city centre or any city centre in the 6 counties, have been prevented from taking place or if small, sent violently packing back to the ghettos of resistance.

## R.V.H. creche to close

The Health Board is to close the creche in the Royal which is one of the few workplace creches in the 6 counties. The creche which has for a decade provided a much needed service for the children of hospital workers, especially women, has become a victim of the cuts which the Brits and their local lackeys are imposing on the working-class people.

The I.R.S.P. see workplace creches and better child-care facilities as important services for women and are opposed to any cutback in such facilities.

**VICTORY  
TO THE  
P.O.W.'s**



**JOIN  
the  
IRSP**

## HUNGER STRIKE FIGHTING FUND

DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR OUR HUNGER STRIKE FIGHTING FUND IN ORDER TO PRODUCE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS TO COUNTER BRITISH PROPAGANDA AND ORGANISE SUPPORT FOR THE HUNGER STRIKERS.

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